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# A&M researchers: Low arsenic levels may be healthy

#### **By Tony Poncio** Reporter

The public's perception of arsenic traditionally has been negative, and mention of the compound in litera-ture only has helped to spread the myth. But research at Texas A&M University and elsewhere suggests that low concentrations of arsenic might be essential for the human body to function properly. Dr. Kurt Irgolic, an A&M chemis-

try professor, said seafood is relatively rich in arsenic compounds, al-though the levels and types of it are not considered dangerous.

Organic arsenobetaine, the form of arsenic found in seafood, is completely non-toxic, Irgolic said. "No ill effects have been noted in

people eating seafood with large concentrations of arsenobetaine," Irgolic said. "I think arsenic in very low concentrations will be known as an essential element in the future."

Dr. Rick Irvin, an A&M assistant professor of medicine and anatomy, has conducted research on rat embrvos.

Irvin found that arsenobetaine is completely harmless, although there is no way of knowing how it might be helpful to humans.

And other experiments with chickens, rabbits and goats have yielded the same results concerning the non-toxicity of some forms of ar-

senic compounds, Irvin said. Arsenic levels in water supplies are also of concern to chemists and

the public. The Environmental Protection Agency has set a limit of 50 micro-grams per liter as the highest acceptable level of arsenic compounds in drinking water.

Irgolic says water treatment plants are required by the EPA to check lo-cal levels and that the Bryan-College Station water supplies are well below accepted levels of arsenic concentration

However, some areas in Alaska, Oregon and California exhibit levels as high as 20 times above the EPA limit with no known negative effects on the population, Irgolic says.

Early in September, the American Chemical Society discussed extremely high arsenic levels in Taiwan at its symposium in New Orleans.

"Long term exposure in Taiwan has supposedly led to some ailments such as skin cancer and other skin le-sions," Irgolic said. Even so, Irgolic said, there is suspicion that something else in the water is causing the problems.

Irgolic is working on methods to determine the different forms of arsenic found in water and food in hopes of gaining better understand-ing of the possible biological functions of arsenic

## Defense contractor, union expect struggle in new negotiations

FORT WORTH (AP) - A ma- contractor - and one of the greedchinists' union will not precipitate a iest," said Bill Winpisinger, presi-showdown with giant defense con-tractor General Dynamics Corp. but expects tough bargaining with the company on a new three-year con-tract a national labor leader said tract a national labor leader said

Tot reunited with mother after abduction

HOUSTON (AP) - A Houston woman and her 14-month-old lines to save their jobs and the union daughter, who was kidnapped ear- called off the strike without achievier this month, were reunited in ing a single major bargaining goal Mexico and expected to return home Thursday, officials said. Mexican authorities, meanwhile, continued their search for a woman

"This will be just one more tough and difficult series of negotiations with the country's No. 1 defense Tat a series in Fort Worth this week to address the annual con-ference of negotiators and business

ference of negotiators and business agents in the union's aerospace industry division.

Officials said GD used tough tactics to break a three-week machinists strike at the company's San Diego di-vision this summer. About 700 ma-chinists lost their jobs after GD hired replacement workers.

Strikers streamed across picket and without winning reinstatement of replaced workers, officials said.

The union is holding its three-day onference in Fort Worth to show



#### Friday

SCONA: will feature Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Noma Borlaug at the World Food Day Fourth International Ter conference at 11 a.m. in 601 Rudder.

HILLEL, JEWISH STUDENT FOUNDATION: will meta 8 p.m. at the Hillel Building, 800 Jersey St

AGGIE ALLEMANDERS: will have a square-day workshop at 7:30 p.m. at the Pavilion.

YELL PRACTICE: will be held at midnight at the Wacous vention center parking lot.

A&M INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP: will meet a p.m. in 601 Rudder.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES: will have a peanut-bur fellowship at 11:30 a.m. at Rudder Fountain and a Bur study at 6:30 p.m. at the A&M Presbyterian Church.

TAMU BADMINTON: will not practice today.

### Saturday

COMMITTEE FOR CAMPUS DAY CARE: will discuss tablishment of a campus day-care center at 3:30 pm; Hensel Park.

One of his SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS: will her a rummage sale from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday and im noon to 3 p.m. Sunday at Woodstone Shopping Center include th

TAMU HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION: will have a Hurr Jumper show at 8 a.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Ju

Freeman Arena.

HILLEL, JEWISH STUDENT FOUNDATION: will have picnic and play volleyball at 10 a.m. at the Hillel Bulk 800 Jersey St.

## Sunday

- TEXAS A&M SPORTS CAR CLUB: will have Autocros at 9 a.m. at Parking Area 51
- TAMU INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS: will tea folk dancing at 8 p.m. in 212 MSC.
- st audien BRAZOS VALLEY ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE FAMIL nating inter SUPPORT GROUP: will meet at 3 p.m in 160 Medicals "My rare ence ie hobby

Weather Watch

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battin 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three working days fore desired publication date.

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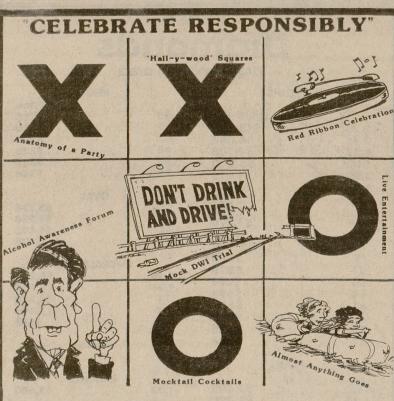
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## 4 = Lightning - Fog The = Thunderso •• = Rain = Snow 99 = Drizzle A = Ice Pellets

= Rain Shower m = Freezing Rui Sunset Today: 6:53 p.m.

sponsored by: Muslim Student Association.-



Aggie Alcohol Awareness Week October 18 - 22, 1987

Come join us for a week full of fun!!

Check the Battalion and MSC table for information on the individual activities during the week.

For more information contact the Dept. of Student Affairs, 845-5826

suspected of stealing the baby

Wednesday night was the first time Marina Reyes had seen her baby, Liliana, since the girl was discovered missing from a crib in her northeast Houston home Oct. 3

"I feel happy, thanks to God, because I have my daughter," a smiling Reves said.

Reyes and Houston police Sgt. se Selvera flew to Mexico City early Wednesday expecting to iden-tify the baby and quickly return with her to Houston. But Mexican officials delayed the return by a day to conduct their own investigation.

The emotional reunion occurred in the federal police station in the town of Puebla, about 125 miles southeast of Mexico City, said Stu Hoyt, assistant legal attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City.

support for the negotiations at GD's F-16 fighter plant. The talks are the last major aerospace contract nego-tiations for the machinists until 1989, Winpisinger said. He said the union was not looking

for a confrontation with GD and planned to conduct negotiations in the usual manner

'Obviously, the company comes out of San Diego thinking they have a stronger hand. (But) they may find they bump into stronger people" in Fort Worth, Winpisinger said in re-marks after a 45-minute speech to conference delegates.

He told the delegates Wednesday he expects an erosion of aerospace industry jobs in the 1990s as defense spending declines.

The GD negotiations have been put on hold during the conference.

Sunrise Saturday: 7:28 a.m.

Map Discussion: Fair weather will dominate the eastern states high-pressure system over Virginia moves slowly northeastwar showers will persist over southern Florida. The frontal system western Great Lakes to Kansas City will be quite active withsh while the southern part of the front will produce only scattered showers

#### Forecast

Key:

Today: Partly cloudy and warm with a high of 85 degrees. South winds 8 to 15 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy through the early morning, then over fog. Low temperature 66 degrees with southerly winds at 6 mp

Saturday: Mostly cloudy through the morning, becoming part with a 20 percent chance of rain. High temperature will be 84%

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Mobil

## Thanks for dropping in.

Our Career Day on Sept. 24th was an outstanding success. More than 5,000 Aggies visited the Mobil display in the Exhibit Hall of Rudder Tower. Our sincere thanks and appreciation for your participation in Mobil's Career Day. Mobil 1 Racing backpacks have been mailed to the following winners:

Mark Vacek Lori Durham Clara Artenburn Saul Laurel **Stefanie Squires** Kathey Leonard Mark W. Espenscheid **Kevin Stuteville** Jay Sansom Greg Martin **Rick Doan Brian Campion** Kaye Carter

**Delbert** Glass Julia Lenzer **Brian Seifent** James Marcus, Jr. Jana Gibson Melissa Samuel Joe McGee Mark Miller Zane Shadburne Masaharu Iwasa Jeri Wackler Ola Mae Moore **Rosa Mosley** 

Vanessa Giese Danny Guerra Daryl Spillmann Stephen Price Henryk Derek **Trey Jenkins Bob Kamell** Lisa Garcia Scott Campbell Steve Warren Lea Scott Debra Grooms **Chris Scott**