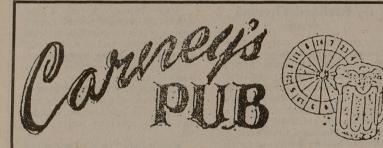
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# A&M team tests hormone to kill household fleas

The Battalion

By Patti Easterling Reporter

Two Texas A&M researchers have discovered a product that they hope will make that common household pest, the flea, no longer a bother.

A&M entomologist Roger Meola and his research assistant, Kathleen Palma, are testing a synthetic hormone known as an insect growth regulator that inhibits the fleas' maturation.

Palma said the synthetic hormone was created by a Japanese company and is intended to mimic the natural juvenile hormone the flea produces.

When an insect moves from the larva (childhood) stage to the adult stage, it loses the juvenile hormones it produces, she said.

The insect growth regulator, commonly called an IGR, acts on the insect at the larval stage and blocks further development, causing the flea to remain at

the immature stage.

It is not until the adult stage that the fleas become the bothersome creature that creates havoc in pets' and pet own-

Palma calls the reaction to IGR the 'Peter Pan Syndrome," because it actually stops the insect from growing up. The synthetic hormone interrupts the normal maturation process before the

flea is old enough to bite or reproduce,"

fleas, but it also is being tested on cockroaches and fire ants.

Meola and Palma have been testing the effects of IGR at A&M since the summer of 1987, but toxicity and safety studies of IGR have been in process for the last 20 years

Meola said the benefits of IGR should outweigh hose of conventional pesti-cides because of its safety and the amount of time it remains effective.

Palma said the hormone can work only

Meola said, "It has a very low rate of toxicity, which makes it safe for humans and other animals that conventional pesticides might harm.'

In the past, it was impractical to treat outdoor areas with pesticides because they break down and become ineffective when exposed to sunlight, Meola said.

"Testing being done on IGR has

shown it to be up to 30 times more effective than conventional pesticides when exposed to sunlight," he said. Field testing is being conducted in

yards of local pet-owners, and Palma has dicovered that IGR can reduce the number of adult fleas in a yard by as much as 90 percent. Palma estimates that it will be at least

another year before the product is available for commercial use

"It will probably be released in a small market area, such as for pest controllers and veterinarians, before it is released IGR seems to be most effective on for commercial use," she said.

# Deer hunters outgun, outman forest officials

manned, outnumbered and outgunned as they try to cope with problems caused by

the annual invasion of deer hunters.
"It's scary as hell," Billy Ball, special agent for the U.S. Forest Service, said Thursday. "These guys are carrying cannons, and we're regulated by policy with six-shooting pop pistols.
"You've got six shots. And some of

them have got bandoleers," shoulder belts with ammunition pockets.

prices for deer leases as reasons for increased pressure in the state's four national forests — Sabine, Davy Crockett, Angelina and Sam Houston — all in East

"I wouldn't go out there myself nor take my family," Carl Gidlund, a U.S. Forest Service public information officer, said. "It's turning into an arsenal out there.

Firearms deer season began last weekend and continues through Jan. 2. Last year, Texas for the first time moved past Pennsylvania to become the nation's leader in the number of hunting licenses issued.

For Forest Service officials, the first boy by a hunter firing at a wounded deer, woods.

Forest service officials in East Texas discovery of an unconscious hunter who say law enforcement officers are out- fell 30 feet from an illegal deer blind, investigation of illegal blockades set up by some hunters to keep other hunters off public land, and alcohol and drug use.

'What's changed on the forest is that we're seeing a lot of military weapons," Ball said. "We're seeing people moving away from the traditional weapons to a military look, dress, weapons. We call it 'the Rambo syndrome.' They get their faces painted up and they're wild looking

Officials point to shrinking availability of public hunting lands and rising gating incidents of nails spread over some federal forest roads.

> "We presume it's people trying to keep other people out of their 'exclusive' hunting areas," Gidlund said. "One witness said he picked up 20 pounds of nails.

On Wednesday night, three hunters told authorities they were ordered — at gunpoint — from national forest land by other hunters.

"It's locals who say 'My daddy and my granddaddy hunted here and you city slickers aren't hunting here,' "according to Ball. "And we have to referee these things

Ball said he advises his officers, who weekend included death threats against are equipped with six-shot .357-caliber officers, fights between hunters arguing Magnum pistols, to wear fluorescent over a deer, the wounding of a 14-year- orange vests so they will be seen in the

#### What's Up

#### Friday

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES: will have a Bible study at 6:15 p.m. at A

STUDENTS AGAINST APARTHEID: will meet at 4 p.m. at Rudder fouria an anti-apartheid march across campus and to city hall.

LATTER-DAY SAINTS STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: Richard E. Hall, is selor of the Houston Mission will speak during the sandwich seminaration.

HILLEL JEWISH STUDENT CENTER: will have a freshman at 6:30 p.m. and service at 8 p.m. at the Hillel Building.

ZEN MEDIATATION GROUP: will have a lecture on Buddhism at 4 p.m.

College Station Community Center. WESLEY FOUNDATION: will leave for the fall retreat at 5 p.m. from the

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: call the Center for Drug Prevention and Ed

tion at 845-0280 for details on today's meeting.

INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: John Watson will speak at "Finding Peace in a Christian Life" at 8:30 p.m. in 510 Rudder.

ET ALIA DANCE SOCIETY: will meet and practice from 7-9 p.m. in 266 Rest
STUDENT ACTIVITIES SEMINAR: Applications for the 1989 Speakers Seminare available through Nov. 22 in 208 Pavilion.

STUDENT Y YOUTH FUN DAY: Applications for counselors and coaches. WIBUR HAS Be available through Nov. 18 in 211 Pavilion.

#### Saturday

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS: will have a bridge workshop from 10 a.m.-noon and from 1-3 p.m. in 214 Reed McDonald Resentatives from KBTX-TV will answer questions and look at tapes and

TAMU VOICES OF PRAISE: will have a musical of gospel choirs from arm COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE: will have a chili cook-out and

games from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at Central Park.

CHINESE STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will have the 1988 Chinese Film Fer in 201 MSC. "Thank You! Sir" will be shown at 7 p.m. and "Rouge of the kill be shown at

### Sunday

BRAZOS VALLEY ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP cia DeBauge, a doctoral student from the College of Agriculture, will speak "Supportive environments for mentally impaired older adults" at 3 p.m. RIO BRAZOS AUDUBON SOCIETY: will have a bird walk from 8-10 am

CHINESE STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will have the 1988 Chinese Film fession 201 MSC. "Chopper and the Six Friends" will be shown at 1 p.m. and Paw Between Two Chinas" will begin at 3 p.m.

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will have a Bible study at 9:30 am a

#### Monday

MSC SCONA: will have an informational meeting for students applying for ulation in this considers at 8:30 p.m. in 224 MSC.

SOCIETY OF MANUFACTURING ENGINEERS: will meet at 5:30 p.m. in Crabb said. "The

BLACK AWARENESS COMMITTEE: will have a fashion show rehearsa!

8:30 p.m. in 226 MSC.
BRAZOS VALLEY GUITAR SOCIETY: Gerald Blakeman will play jazz # classical guitar selections at 7:45 p.m. at the Canterbury House, 902.\*

sey.
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: call the Center for Drug Prevention and Education tion at 845-0280 for details on today's meeting.

MSC VISUAL ARTS: will have a reception for artist Alfredo Bustinza at 7 pm.i.

OCA SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE: will meet at 6 p.m. in 231 MSC.

COLLEGIATE 4-H: will meet at 8 p.m. in 123 Kleberg. PHI ETA SIGMA: will meet at 6 p.m. at Mama's Pizza. FISH CAMP: applications for chairpersons will be accepted through Nov. 18.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battain 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired of date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no gas antee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

### Advance

### Christmas workshop registration open

Registration for Christmas workshop classes sponsored by MSC University Plus begins Monday at 10 a.m. in the University Plus Craft Center, located in the MSC base-

For an additional \$1 feé, registration by phone is available beginning Nov. 15 at 10 a.m. Classes will offer instruction some other state making ornaments, Christmas stot congratulate then gerbread houses and candy, among he other crafts and foods.

Registration is open to anyone ! years or older. For more information or to regi-

## Plan to seal cargo trucks instigates concern

EL PASO (AP) — U.S. Customs will trucks across the Rio Grande between allow trucks sealed in a Mexican factory Juarez and El Paso, which is the busiest to zip through inspection in a pilot program that one inspector called ludicrous and an open invitation to smuggling.

last month in Brownsville, U.S. Customs will allow security personnel employed by a Ciudad Juarez, Mexico wire factory to certify that the plant's trucks

are free of drugs.

The trucks' door locks will be sealed and most of the trucks will be waved through Customs without inspections. Mike Mack, Customs district director, said the idea is to speed up the flow of

port of entry along the U.S.-Mexican

About 650 to 800 trucks leave Juarez In a program similar to one instituted maquiladoras, or twin plants, daily to cross the bridge to El Paso.

Trucks have been known to wait more than six hours to clear U.S. Customs. Customs assistant district director

William Nowak said Thursday, "What we're trying to do (with the plan to seal cargo) is identify the safe shipments and expedite them through, which will give us more time to inspect the risky shipDuring a 90-day pilot program, 15 security employees at the Packard Electric twin plant in Juarez will inspect shipments of wire harnesses leaving the plant for the United States

They will seal the doors and the trucks will pass through Customs unopened, subject to spot checks.

"If during the security screening proc-ess, if (Packard employees) should find drugs aboard the shipments, they will notify Mexican aduana (Customs) and they have a number to call U.S. Customs," Nowak said.

Packard spokesman Richard Hamilton

said the company sends about 75 trucks to the United States daily. Mack said that if the program deemed successful, it might be expu

to other companies.

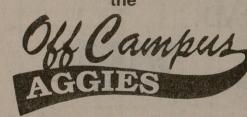
Although U.S. and Mexican cumo officials and Packard Electric seem fident drugs won't be "piggybate" aboard shipments, Customs inspec Charles Giunta isn't so sure.

"This is about the most ludicrous I've seen," Giunta, head of the local of the National Treasury E ees Union, said. "This is an open tion to smuggling.

#### **HEY OFF CAMPUS AGS!**

If your lease ends in December, give your apartment manager a written notice of your intent to vacate the unit 30 days before your lease expires. Do this even if you plan to renew your lease for spring. If you have anyquestions, visit the Off Campus Center located in Puryear Hall, or call 845-1741.

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