

# Chemists Develop New Food

(AFS) A few years ago, a British chemist announced to a world that wasn't really ready for it that he had made fuel for his automobile out of chicken manure.

As he later proved to the incredulous, he had done just that. But apparently industry -- and perhaps the public -- was just not ready to fuel three or four-thousand dollar autos with chicken manure.

However, the process of turning non-human waste into something palatable has hardly been abandoned. At the national meeting of the American Chemical Society in New York last week, plans were unveiled for converting cattle crap into a nutritious feed for livestock.

No one was saying whether cattle would be eating their own dung, but that seems to be the plan. An even more ambitious scheme yields enough methane gas from the dung to supply the heat and electricity needed to run the entire conversion process.

Since one of the companies involved, General Electric, has already opened a demonstration plant in Arizona to perfect the plan, it can hardly be written off as some pie-in-the-sky scheme.

The chemical key to the whole process, apparently, was the discovery by a General Electric biochemist of a particular strain of bacteria that thrives on cellulose and lignin, the primary fiber constituents of manure. The bacteria consumes the fibers, along with the rest of the manure, leaving a residue rich in protein. It also produces methane gas, which according to some chemists can power an engine generator.

All this raises the possibility that in the near future man may reap similar benefits from his own feces. Whether man is willing however, is another question. The cattle, of course, have little choice.

The chemists who tested the

processed manure claim it's free of harmful bacteria and is tasteless and odorless, but as nutritious as other protein supplements such as soybean, cottonseed and fish meals. Which might suggest to some a day when the ever-rising cost of meat will force man to breed livestock only for its manure. It takes little imagination to envision what the chemical-crazed food industry might do with an already nutritious substance that is odorless and tasteless. After all, examples already abound of

successfully marketed products that are neither nutritious nor tasty.

And if it all seems too far-fetched to imagine being propelled by gas derived from chicken droppings, how about horse manure, or bat droppings?

If the nation's economy were able to accomodate itself to such a conversion, an individual's ability to secure food and fuel would only be... well, his own fault. Undoubtedly, some critics will suggest such a scheme is a step backwards.

## COMING EVENTS

Salem College Presents  
Trio -- Recital  
Marcia Garrett, Piano  
Donna Bird, Organ  
Evie Yancey, Miscellaneous

Theme from "Lust Story" ..... John C. Bust  
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Variations on the Alma Mater ..... Traditional  
(Meditations on the Virgin Trees)

The Star Spangled Banner in All Keys ..... Stripinsky

Trio Sonata for Saw, Jew's Harp, and Washtub ..... J. S. Botch

The Pathetic Sonata ..... Ludwig fan Beethoven

Improvisation on "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder"  
..... Peter Saint

Fantasy and Fudge on B-A-T-C-A ..... List

Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faggot ..... Clod Debutantee

Flushed from the Bathroom of Your Heart ..... Johnny Brush

When I Was Laid ..... H. Parcell

I Saw That You Were Grown ..... Evie Antler, Soloist

Shehadazit ..... Ripsy Corsett-off

You are cordially invited to a beer and pretzel party immediately following the Recital (B.Y.O.B. and P.)

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—McLean, from p. 1

of the year, song of the year, and best male pop vocal performance.

He has made television appearances on the Dick Cavett, Merv Griffin, Sesame Street and other shows and has performed in such clubs as the Bitter End and Gaslight in New York and the Cellar Door in Washington.

He has worked with Josh White, Pete Seeger and others

and was a member of Seeger's Hudson River Sloop project. On their voyage from Maine to New York in 1969 the Sloop Singers made 27 stops and performed to about 100,000 people. Seeger has called McLean "the finest singer and songwriter I have met since Bob Dylan."

"American Pie" was McLean's first hit recording. His new album is titled "Don McLean."



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