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[Editor's Note: For more information on bats, contact Josh Allen at (806) 742-2136.]

BATS: MORE THAN A HALLOWEEN ICON
By Myrna Whitehead and Josh Ben Allen

LUBBOCK -- Bats have been victimized by the media, according to a Texas Tech University researcher. The creatures are not villains that mysteriously appear to trick us at Halloween; they live among us year round, actually treating us to fewer insects.

"Bats are often misunderstood because they don't look like soft, cuddly things. But as scientists, talking about bats brings a feeling of happiness. We feel this way because we know the special role bats play in the ecosystem," said Robert Baker, Horn professor of biological sciences and director of the Natural Science Research Laboratory.

Bats help control the insect population by consuming up to half their weight in gnats, fruit flies and mosquitos nightly, Baker explained. Some bat species actually help pollinate flowers.

Only three of the 900 species of bats found World wide are sanguiverous -- they feed on animal tissue, or blood.

Because of these bats, all bats often are mistakenly labeled as "bloodsuckers," Baker said. Approximately 30 species of bats can be found in Texas, he said. Baker added that most bats are insectivorous -- they depend on insects for food. And, some bats thrive on fish, fruit and nectar.

All of the five species common to West Texas are insectivorous. The nearest vampire bats can be found near Del Rio.

Another misperception: the public thinks that bats are blind and are dependent on sonar to track their prey. This is not true, Baker said. Bats can see. The sonar simply aids the bats in catching insects.

Bats usually can be found easily hanging upside down in caves or trees. But it stands to reason, Baker said, because cave floors are often wet and cold and the bats choose to hang from the ceiling so they can sleep undisturbed.

No matter how cuddly they now may seem, no one who ever encounters a bat on the ground should try to pick up or handle the animal. When a bat is found on the ground, chances are that the bat is sick, most commonly with rabies, Baker warned.

Whether or not the bat is sick Baker explained, "When it comes down to it, bats are just as scared of humans as humans are of bats."

News & Publications

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
REF: 3-10-5-95
CONTACT: Charles Griffin

30 Seconds
Run: Oct. 5-16

TEXAS TECH STUDENTS, HELP
FEED 1 MILLION HUNGRY PEOPLE.
VOLUNTEER WITH THE BREEDLOVE
DEHYDRATION PLANT.

PREPARE A MILLION SERVINGS
OF DRY SOUP MIX FOR THE HUNGRY
IN THE UNITED STATES AND TIJUANA,
MEXICO. IT'S A "SOUPER SOLUTION"
THAT TAKES JUST 3 HOURS.

ALL TOTALED, 400 TEXAS TECH
STUDENTS CAN NARROW THE
GLOBAL HUNGER GAP IN JUST 24-
HOURS.

THE "SOUPER SOLUTION"
BEGINS FRIDAY AFTERNOON AT 4:30,
OCTOBER 27, AS A PART OF
NATIONAL MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT THE COMMUNITY ACTION
NETWORK OFFICE AT THE
UNIVERSITY CENTER AT 742-3621.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
REF: 4-10-5-95
CONTACT: Charles Griffin

[Editor's Note: Photos can be arranged by contacting Mike Genovese of the Community Action Network office at (806)742-3621.]

Lubbock -- With the assistance of volunteers from Texas Tech, Breedlove Dehydrated Foods of Lubbock hopes to accomplish its mission of producing a million servings of dehydrated soup mix for the hungry of Tijuana, Mexico, and other hungry people throughout the United States and the world.

The volunteer project titled, "SOUPer Solution," is a part of the fifth annual nationwide Make A Difference Day Oct 28. Sponsored by USA Weekend and the Points of Light Foundation, Make a Difference Day is a national day of doing good, in which people from all walks of life are encouraged to spend the day helping the less fortunate.

"SOUPer Solution has great potential of gaining national recognition for Texas Tech University as well as the Breedlove plant. Each year exemplary volunteer projects are recognized by a panel of judges consisting of celebrities as well as members of the Points of Light Foundation and USA Weekend. In addition awardees are given \$2,000 to donate to the charity of their choice. We think SOUPer Solution is a worthy endeavor and has great potential to win the award, however it will not work without the support of Texas Tech students," said Ben Hamilton, president of University Center programs.

"In order to make SOUPer Solution a success approximately 300 to 400 students must donate three hours of service during the 24-hour period. There will be 12 shifts with at least 30 volunteers needed for each shift," said Curt Bourne, Student Association president who is actively recruiting students to participate in "SOUPer Solution.

SOUPer Solution will begin at 4:30 p.m. Oct. 27 and will continue until 5 p.m. Oct. 28. Individuals as well as student organizations are encouraged to volunteer. Students can signup until Oct. 16, in the Community Action Network office (CAN) located on the second floor of the University Center.

Volunteers will mix and package dehydrated soup. Each package produced and distributed will bare a label that states it was "Produced by Texas Tech Volunteers." CAN members said they believe SOUPer Solution will be a tremendous opportunity for students to gain national attention for the university as well as to continue Texas Tech's tradition of volunteerism.

-more-

SOUPer Solution/Page 2

"Texas Tech and Breedlove have always been closely affiliated since the plant's conception. I hope that students will get involved and continue to work with Breedlove. The support of Texas Tech volunteers are essential to the production of the mass quantity of soup given the time constraint and the fact that Breedlove is not mechanically equipped to mix and package the soup. I want students to understand that without them, the soup mix cannot be produced." said Cheryl Shubert, the University Center coordinator of student activities.

Administrators at the South Plains Food Bank believe that in the future, dehydrated food, due to its long shelf life and nutritional value, will become increasingly important in feeding the hungry. Also dehydration has proved to be more cost efficient than canned or frozen food because it is far less expensive to transport because of its lack of water content and is relatively inexpensive to produce. "Based on a cost of 60 cents per pound of soup mix, one 8 oz. serving could be produced and shipped to a needy family for less than 2 cents," said Howard Mercer, Breedlove marketing director.

Recently, members of Breedlove were notified that the dehydration plant would appear in the "Guinness Book of Records" as being the largest non-profit factory drying surplus crops to feed the poor. The \$7 million plant went on-line in October 1994 with no federal assistance or aid from the United Way. The plant has drawn attention and orders from the American Red Cross as well as Friends of the Poor in San Diego, Calif., which assist Mother Teresa's programs and other non-profit organizations.

Texas Tech faculty and students played a significant role in the design and construction of the Breedlove Dehydration Plant, which is a division of the South Plains Food Bank. Industrial engineering students, as a part of their senior projects, worked to develop feasibility studies for the dehydration plant as well as to examine needs for the plant such as: the layout of a warehouse; equipment needs and estimates; kitchen and laboratory design; and special purchase and design considerations.

To become more involved or for further information, please contact the Community Action Network Office at 742-3621.

LUBBOCK -- Two Post High School graduates have received Kraft General Foods Scholarships for the 1995-96 academic year at Texas Tech University.

Freshman accounting major Jim Simpson is receiving the scholarship for the second year. The 1994 Post High School graduate is the son of Sherry Sappington of Post and Riley Simpson of Holiday.

Entering freshman Holly Hardin, a 1995 Post High School graduate, also is receiving the scholarship this year. The business administration major is the daughter of Charles and Barbara Hardin of Post.

The Kraft General Foods Scholarship Endowment was established in 1989 with \$3,500 matching donations from Kraft and from then Post Mayor Giles McCrary who originally contacted Kraft about contributing to the scholarship. The scholarships are available each year to Post High School graduates.

"The city of Post and Texas Tech have been longtime parts of the South Plains area. Kraft General Foods and I consider it a pleasure to strengthen the bond between the university and the city of Post through this scholarship program," said McCrary, who ended his 22-year tenure as mayor in 1991.

For the past six years, Kraft General Foods and McCrary each have given additional annual \$3,500 donations to the endowment which now stands at \$39,156.

The 1995 Post Founder's Day Celebration and Harvest Festival, held in September, marked the seventh anniversary of the 1988 public announcement about the scholarship establishment and partnership between McCrary and Kraft.

MEDIA ADVISORY



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HEALTH TIPSHEET
from
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
October 6, 1995

A PAT ON THE BACK -- When citizens think about health care only in terms of doctors and nurses, they exclude a large segment of the health care profession. That's why Allied Health Week is recognized each year to help highlight the contributions of the other health care professions.

Allied Health Week will run from Sunday through Saturday (Oct. 8-14) this year and will spotlight such professionals as medical technologists, occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, audiologists, paramedics and physical therapists, among others.

Texas Tech's School of Allied Health is involved in educating all of these professions whose contributions to your health are many times overlooked. To arrange coverage of Allied Health Week and how Texas Tech's School of Allied Health is benefiting West Texas, contact Rob Shive, assistant dean of allied health, at 743-3220.

GYMBOREE -- Ramps and stairs scaled down to kiddy size are some of the tools therapists will use to help handicapped children from the South Plains.

The equipment is part of the Children's Therapy Center, a charitable effort by the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, the CH Foundation, the University Medical Center Foundation and the UMC Forum.

"We will be helping children with orthopedic and neuromuscular disorders," said Mikell Bollinger from the TTUHSC Department of Orthopaedics. "This is a unique center because it was built completely with charitable gifts."

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new center will be from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday (Oct. 10) in Thompson Hall, Room C118, on the Texas Tech University campus. Photo and video opportunities will be available starting at 11 a.m.

For more information, contact Bollinger at 743-2465.

A-10-6-95

For assistance on these or other stories, contact Sandra Pulley or Preston Lewis at TTUHSC News and Publications, (806) 743-2143.