



Doctor in the Kitchen

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Oyster Safety Standards

I don't want to scare everybody about oysters, but a recent report in the Journal of the American Medical Association deserves attention. The report raises serious questions about the adequacy of shellfish sanitation monitoring systems.

We now know that oysters that had met government safety standards caused two outbreaks of hepatitis - in Houston, Texas, and in Calhoun, Georgia, in 1973.

The outbreaks were traced to oysters from two bays in the East Delta marshes of Southern Louisiana.

THE BAYS had been polluted by flood waters from the Mississippi River in the spring and summer, and had been closed to oyster harvesting for some weeks. Harvesting was resumed in

early fall after late summer tests found the waters to be safe again.

But even though the tests met government standards, they apparently failed to detect contamination of the shellfish with the hepatitis virus. This is what has raised the concern reported by physicians at the Center for Disease Control, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Present water safety tests measure the amount of coliform bacteria, but they do not reveal virus content of the water.

"The existing data raise serious questions about the adequacy of our monitoring for the purity of shellfish growing areas," one of the physicians states.

THIS IS an interesting problem because there is a program for oyster safety - the National Shellfish Sanitation Program. And prior to the reported outbreaks, no epidemic of clam - or oyster - associated hepatitis had been clearly traced to shellfish harvested in an area meeting the national standards.

WHAT IS involved is that oysters can filter as many as 40 liters of water per hour to

obtain oxygen and nutrients, and through this process they may be exposed to tremendous amounts of microorganisms in polluted water.

"Shellfish sanitation agencies must explore new techniques, particularly virologic systems, to aid in the certification of oyster and clam growing areas," say the Center for Disease Control authorities.

xxx

We are shaped and fashioned by what we love.
Goethe

xxx

When we were borrowing customs from other cultures, who was the idiot who passed up the siesta?

Quote

xxx

A woman had gotten a cat from the Cat Protective League. A few days later she called, saying she could not keep the animal. "I love the cat very much," she explained, "but he kills birds. I just cannot have a bird killer in my house. I'm sorry to inconvenience you, but to make it up to you I promise that I will convince my husband to make a contribution to the League, just as soon as he gets back from his duck hunting trip."

xxx



"DOES THIS LITTLE PIGGY GO TO MARKET, OR DOES THIS LITTLE PIGGY STAY HOME?"

Robert Gross, former president of Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, once explained to his supervisors, "It's one thing to build a product; it's another thing to build a company, because companies are nothing but men, and the things that come out of them are no better than the people themselves."

"We do not build

automobiles, airplanes, refrigerators, radios, or shoestrings. We build men. The men build the product."

xxx

One of the things I learned the hard way was that it doesn't pay to get discouraged. Keeping busy and making optimism a way of life can restore your faith in yourself.

Lucille Ball

We are only young once, but we can be immature indefinitely.

xxx

No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself, or to get all the credit for doing it.

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