

Personal finances taught at OCC

The business administration department of the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College will offer a course in personal finance during the coming winter session. The class will meet on Thursday at 7 p.m., beginning Jan. 15 for 15 weeks.

A list of guest speakers will discuss such topics as: how to save money on your income tax; consumer loans and credit ratings; consumer legal rights; life, auto and homeowner's insurance; stocks and bonds; buying furniture; family budgets; unusual investments; buying and selling a home; savings and checking accounts; buying a new car; and home mortgages.

Mail-in registration begins Nov. 10. Regular registration starts Jan. 7.



Featherless chicken may be bird of future

National Geographic Society

Featherless chickens are nervous birds, but they might mean cheaper dinners.

Raising chickens without feathers eliminates one step in processing birds for market. And since a fourth of the protein in a broiler goes into its feathers, a nude bird would yield more meat.

Research into featherless chickens began in 1953 when Uemura Akabito, a professor of bird genetics, found one in a batch of chicks she had ordered from New Hampshire.

Since then, scientific breeding has produced hundreds of the genetic freaks. Entire flocks in laboratories wear only an occasional wispy feather.

But there are several reasons why none of the smooth-skinned birds have appeared on supermarket shelves. The denuded fowl are extremely nervous and prone to develop stomach ulcers.

WITHOUT THEIR protective coats, they also are susceptible to chills. Their feathered brethren can survive even freezing weather, but naked chickens shiver if the greenhouse temperature dips even slightly.

"They get so miserable that they stop eating and simply waste away," reports Dr. Ralph Somers Jr., who is studying the mutants.

Although pre-plucked broilers could save processing costs, the birds use up so much energy rushing about trying to keep warm that they eat more than other chickens their weight.

Any profits to be made from featherless chickens are further reduced by the added cost of the fuel needed to keep their quarters adequately heated.

But the strange-looking birds may have a future. Scientists are experimenting with economical methods of fattening them for marketing.

Two professors have found that under the right temperatures (feed bills for featherless chickens need not be higher than for ordinary birds).

WHEN SLAUGHTERED, the featherless birds weighed up to six percent more than conventional chickens fed the same test diet. When cooked, the mutants provided up to 16 percent more meat.

The researchers believe that because denuded chickens are more energetic they develop less fat, which leads to less shrinkage in the oven.

Added servings delivered to the dinner table might more than make up for those higher heating bills.

'State-run auto checks are needed'

Despite recent court setbacks, state-run auto inspection/maintenance programs will eventually take their necessary place in EPA's total motor vehicle emission control program, said Roger Strelow of the EPA.

Speaking before the 1975 North American Vehicle Emission Conference, Strelow said, "In view of overwhelming state failure to act despite EPA's all-out effort to keep 1/M at the state level, EPA may have to think hard about the course of action suggested in the very thoughtful recent opinion of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals."

The court held that EPA can regulate the state as the operator of a transportation system with respect to subjects such as exclusive bus and carpool lanes. For the same reason, said the court, states may legitimately be required to forbid the registration and use on public roads of untested vehicles.

"In fact," said Strelow, "the only portion of EPA's 1/M regulations that the court struck down was the part requiring the State itself to run the inspection program. The court held here that instead a variety of choices must be left open, and specifically suggested that private contractors might be called on to do the inspecting and certify the results to the State."

"THIS," Strelow said, "is the franchise approach to 1/M that has been contemplated in Arizona, as an example. A qualified private entrepreneur could finance and run the inspection program, receiving payment through the system of inspection fees that would be paid by motorists under either a State or Federal regulation."

"We are just beginning," Strelow said, "to carefully evaluate the ramifications of the sort of Federally-franchised, state-enforced 1/M program suggested by the D.C. court of appeals."

"I do not mean to imply that EPA has decided to attempt such an approach in the District of Columbia or elsewhere—although I personally suspect that it might be more effective than our current policy in reaching the ultimate Congressional and EPA goal of state-run 1/M programs."

"Whatever it takes in the way of EPA, Congressional or court action, I am convinced that state-run 1/M will eventually take its necessary place in the total motor vehicle emission control program."

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Wednesday, November 24, 1975 THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

Kimball planning 1966 reunion

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