

## Veterinary schools continue to grow in popularity

Entry into American medical schools may be notoriously competitive but, statistically, it is twice as difficult to get into veterinary college here.

The overall proportion of applicants accepted by the United States 120 medical schools has crept up from a low of 35.3 per cent in 1974/75 to an expected 38 per cent this year, as the pool of candidates has dropped slightly and universities have expanded their medical facilities.

Comparable figures for the 22 veterinary colleges are not available, but the most recent estimate of the acceptance rate was 15.3 per cent in 1975/76.

The American Veterinary Medical Association's Washington representative, Dr. W.M. Decker, who carried out the survey, says the percentage has not changed much in the subsequent two years. If at all, it may have risen slightly.

The veterinary profession is now widely regarded as the most difficult of all to get into, and there are frequent stories of students having to 'settle instead' for medical school.

Dr. Decker says that interest in the field has been growing steadily since the early 1950's. Successful applicants now have to be "academically outstanding".

One reason for the growth, he says, is that veterinary medicine is "a field in which one can still practise medicine in a non-institutionalized way".

Some students, Dr. Decker suggests, have been attracted to veterinary studies by the subject's "relationship to their ecological and environmental interests". He

mentions as a third factor its appeal for the rapidly growing number of women students. Others think James Herriot's best-selling books like All Creatures Great and Small have had an effect.

American higher education is always ready to respond to student demand, and the number of veterinary colleges in the United States has risen from 18 to 22 over the past five years, with several more at

various stages of planning. Total enrolment for all four years of the veterinary course is currently 6,900.

Canada has just three schools, at the universities of Saskatchewan, Montreal, and Guelph in Ontario, but a fourth has been proposed to serve the Atlantic provinces. The country has 1,000 veterinary students this year.

Traditionally, veterinary schools in the United States have been associated with the land-grant colleges, the originally agricultural state universities set up in the late nineteenth century, and 20

of the 22 colleges are associated with state universities. The two private schools are at Tuskegee Institute, an independent black university in Alabama, and the University of Pennsylvania (whose veterinary school is exception in being closely linked to the university's

medical school rather than the faculty of agriculture). A third independent veterinary college opens next year at Tufts University, Massachusetts.

States that do not have veterinary schools train veterinarians (as veterinary surgeons are known in the United States) by sending them to out-of-state schools and paying most of their tuition fees.

The states' motives for expanding veterinary education are two fold: to meet the student demand and to alleviate an alleged shortage of rural vets.

Farmers, especially those with dairy herds, maintain that there are far fewer vets prepared to come out to treat their animals today than there were 10 to 20 years ago. "We have a lot of veterinarians, but there are very few who will practise on large animals", said one farmer. "They can make a lot more money

seeing pets when the people bring the animals to them."

The American Veterinary Medical Association is sponsoring a manpower

survey of the profession that should answer some of the questions about vets' attitudes to rural work. It is due to be completed later this year.

However, the association does say that some of the advanced specialties like veterinary pathology and veterinary toxicology are suffering genuine shortages.

Indeed, the profession maintains there is a serious shortage of government funds to support research into the health and diseases of economically important animals. The 1979 Budget that President Carter announced last month caused further disappointment: the administration wants to cut back the limited support the Department of Agriculture is giving veterinary research.

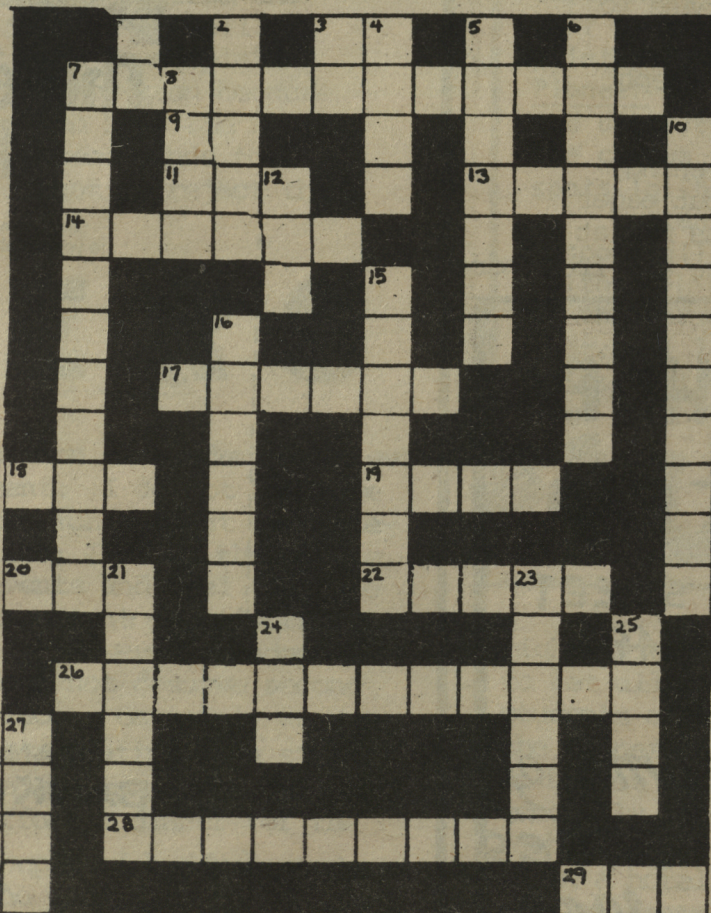
## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

HOW WITTY ARE YOU WHEN IT COMES TO KNOWING WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU??

To find out, try this nifty little crossword puzzle!

The food service students would like to remind you that this is **NATIONAL NUTRITION WEEK**. Do something nice for yourself — eat according to Canada's Food Guide. It's simpler than it looks!

Everytime you sit down to eat, just stop and think for one minute. Have you included a protein food (meat, fish, poultry, eggs, nuts), a vegetable (preferably a dark green or deep yellow one), and a bread or cereal food (whole wheat bread, macaroni, spaghetti). Then for dessert, just have a fruit (apple, orange or banana) and a glass of milk. There you have it — a completely nutritious meal. It wasn't that hard, was it?



Francine Pertus  
Food Service Supervisors

### Across

- 3. pound (*abbr*)
- 7. fruits with Vit. C
- 9. an article
- 11. a vitamin
- 13. Calcium makes these strong
- 14. Calories measure this
- 17. Prevents goiter
- 18. Feed
- 19. With 23 down; milk vitamin
- 20. 2,000 pounds
- 22. Salad vegetable texture
- 26. Sugar and starch group
- 28. Nourishment
- 29. Sweet Potato

### Down

- 1. Equal to 2 cups (*abbr.*)
- 2. Necessity of life
- 3. Same as 3 across (*abbr.*)
- 4. Root and Greens vegetable
- 5. Tissue growth necessity
- 6. Low calorie food
- 7. Pro-Vitamin A rich vegetable (2 wds.)
- 8. China cereal
- 10. Mineral needed by bones
- 12. Protein high food
- 15. Bones and blood building substance
- 16. No calorie beverage
- 21. A B-vitamin in meats
- 23. With 19 across; milk vitamin
- 24. Milk supplier
- 25. A plant's beginning
- 27. Hemoglobin builder

**ANSWERS ON PAGE 12**