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## NEWS

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### CANDIDA IS NO LONGER A HARMLESS YEAST

... "*Candida albicans* appears to live in most of us as part of the normal body flora. Billions of friendly bacteria help the immune system to keep the yeast under control... Within the past few decades, however, levels of yeast have increased dramatically in many people. Part of the reason may be that modern drugs and diets stimulate *Candida* growth. And after more than 20 years of clinical observations involving nearly 3,000 patients, Orian Truss [a Birmingham, Ala., internist] is convinced that this yeast is implicated in a wide variety of human ills, from depression and hormonal disturbances to allergic reactions and autoimmune diseases... Truss claims that according to mathematical calculations based on the number of antigens yeast produces, there may be trillions of strains of *Candida* in the world. 'And logic

says we probably pick up new strains constantly—from a doorknob; from sleeping in a hotel bed. Regular disinfectants won't kill it,' he says. 'Certainly it is spread by kissing and by sexual intercourse. And I don't see any way that a newborn baby won't have its mother's strains.' But exposure to the yeast does not always mean it will produce a health problem. 'The illness comes about only when a *particular* immune system cannot deal with a *particular* strain of *Candida*.'"

[(Sherry Baker in *OMNI* 7(6):84-8, 120-8, Mar 85). (Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*® , No. 21, May 27, 1985, p. 20. Published by the Institute for Scientific Information® , Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]

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### COMPUTER-CONTROLLED BUS TRAFFIC

A computer system to improve the operation of mass-transit facilities has been put to use in Kazan, capital of Tataria, a republic in the middle reaches of the Volga. Special sensors in city streets transmit to the computer information on the arrival of buses to a station. The computer fixes the time and monitors

observance of the traffic timetable.

Part of the new system are TV cameras, which observe the busiest parts of the one million strong city. They help the traffic dispatchers, who send additional buses to the busiest lines (*Soviet Features*, Vol. XXIV, No. 104, July 1985)

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