

Researcher says animal behavior may aid in early earthquake detection

Catfish jumping, cattle lowing and dogs barking might appear a pretty pastoral scene to a midwesterner, but to a resident of California, Japan or any of the global areas affected by earthquakes, it may be the prelude to destruction.

Many incidents of agitated animals preceding earthquakes come to modern researchers from Japanese literature and legend as well as reports from the 1890s and 1900s in the area around San Francisco.

John M. Logan, working in earthquake research at the Center for Tectonophysics at Texas A&M University, recently organized and chaired a California conference to determine the validity of this kind of earthquake prediction.

"All this reinforcement suggests that something is there," he added.

"A document distributed to the populace by the government of the People's Republic of China tells what to watch for: when cattle, sheep or horses refuse to get into the corral; when rats run out from their hiding place; when chickens fly up to the trees and pigs break out from their pens; when ducks refuse to go to the water and dogs bark for no obvious reason; when snakes come out from their winter hibernation; when pigeons are frightened and will not return to their nests; when rabbits with their ears standing jump up or crash into things; and when fish jump out of the water as if frightened, earthquakes may be imminent.

"Reports on animal behavior are similar from such diverse areas as China, Japan, the U. S., Italy and Guatemala, and such common observations come from people that could not possibly have had contacts with each other or have read reports from other areas," he noted.

"This provides credibility to their reports and presents a large body of evidence supporting the contention that animals do sense something before earthquakes," Logan explained.

"The second point to be made is that the response of the biological community is not restricted to a simple species or genus, but spans a very wide spectrum of biological forms.

"This suggests that there is either more than one stimulus or a major universal one that must be detectable by a great variety of organisms," he said.

Magazine entries due Feb. 1; publication set for April

Texas A&M students with entries for the MSC Arts Committee's literary magazine, "Moebius," should polish up their works over the semester break in time for the Feb. 1, 1977 deadline.

Moebius editor Susie Turner yesterday said the magazine should be published sometime in April, and will sell for about 75 cents. Turner said she expects the magazine to be about 100 pages long.

The committee met last week to choose section editors for Moebius, which is the first literary magazine to be published by a University organization since "The Commentator" in 1954. Editors for the first edition of Moebius include:

- Marty Wade — Poetry Board.
- Bob Shield — Prose Board.
- Rhonda Kay Reger — Business Board.
- Brad Foster — Photography and Art.

Turner said the editors will be responsible primarily for selections in their respective sections. Students will be assisted by English department faculty members Paul Christensen, Paul Parrish, and Richard Costa. The faculty members will review the selections before the magazine is published. The Arts Committee has received \$1,500 for the project from the MSC, and is soliciting sponsorships from faculty members and students to generate additional revenue.

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