

Skin temperature research done on A&M students

People who feel they are largely responsible for what happens in their lives may be more successful in increasing their skin temperature than those who feel that "powerful others" or "chance" controls results and reinforcements.

These are the conclusions of Constance Raymond Tindel, Texas A&M University Ph.D. candidate, who has written the university's first dissertation involving biofeedback. Tindel conducted research on 67

Texas A&M students, asking half to raise the temperature of the skin on their palms via training in biofeedback. Biofeedback is basically a process for manipulating so-called involuntary body functions by concentration and the monitoring of instruments.

But before the biofeedback training sessions, Tindel gave all 67 students a test to see to what extent they thought they controlled their own lives, or whether the dominant

force was fate or the actions of other people.

The students were tested again after the six-week biofeedback project to see if any attitudes had changed toward that sense because of the training. No significant change was found between the pre-test and posttest.

However, the research showed a low correlation between the pretest scores and temperature increases.

Some students who scored higher on the first test (indicating a sense that they were in control) dropped slightly on the second test. And others who scored lower on the pre-test (showing a sense of fate or "powerful others" in control) made higher internal control scores on the posttest. However, the same pattern of change occurred within the control group and the biofeedback experience by itself could not be said to cause the change.

Tindel said the students were able to increase their skin temperature as much as 8.9 degrees Fahrenheit in one case, but others lost heat due to anxiety. At the end of the biofeedback training trials, however, all had experienced some success in raising their skin temperature.

She said that the subjects used a variety of methods to raise skin temperatures, including concentrating on blood flow to the hand, relaxation, and imagining their hand was being heated by a fire or stung by a bee.

Academic Council meets to discuss curricula changes

The Academic Council will meet tomorrow at 2 p.m. in Room 301 of the Rudder Tower.

The Council will discuss changes in the curricula for the College of Liberal Arts and Earth Science, the modification of the Political Science degree program to include the Bachelor of Science option, and approval of the candidates for undergraduate and graduate degrees to be awarded on Aug. 5 and Aug. 13, 1977.

The Nominating Committee's recommendations for appointment of Council members to the various internal committees will be approved.

Co-op students to receive honors

Outstanding engineering Cooperative Education Program students at Texas A&M University will be honored July 19.

The ceremony is scheduled for 5 p.m. in room 102 of the Zachry Engineering Center. The event is to provide information regarding the fall work period and to present awards to outstanding students for the past period. The awards will be presented by the Lummus Company of Houston, sponsor of the event, and the meeting will be followed by a steak fry in Hensel Park area number 2.

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Brushfires in CS area costs taxpayers money

An estimated 10 thousand dollars has been spent fighting brushfires in the College Station area, according to College Station Fire Marshall Harry Davis.

Every time a firetruck is sent out on a call, it costs one thousand dollars.

The College Station firemen have answered 10 brushfire calls since the 4th of July. Two of the fires were possibly caused by fireworks, but the majority occurring along the railroad tracks were probably caused by sparks from passing trains.

When a brushfire is first reported a still alarm is given. During a still alarm a truck with a three men crew responds to the call. The size of the fire determines whether a general alarm is given and more men are called.

Anytime a fire occurs outside of city limits, a general alarm is given and volunteers and off-duty firemen are called in.

Actual fighting of the brushfires takes 5-10 minutes Davis said. The time spent getting to the fire, putting it out and returning to the station to prepare for another call takes an hour.

When fighting a brushfire, the firemen use what is called a beater. A long handle with a piece of old fire hose attached to the end, Davis described it as being similar to a giant flyswatter.

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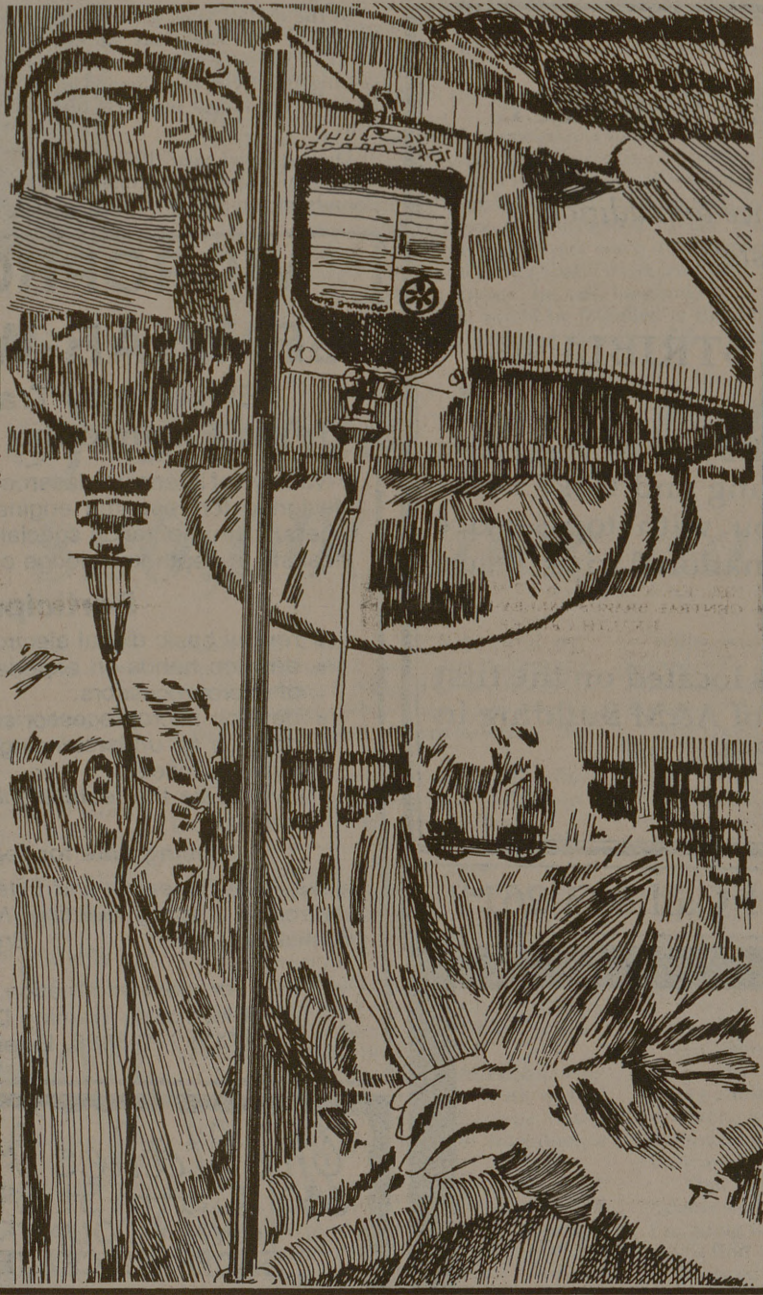
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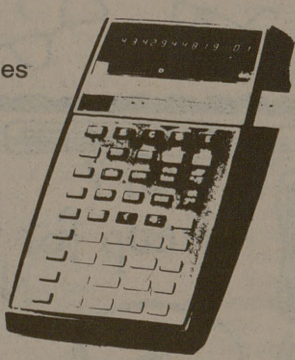
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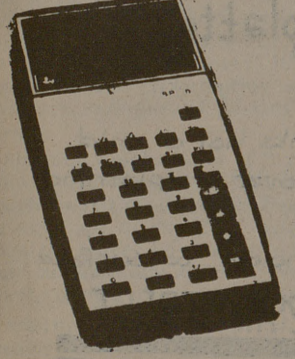
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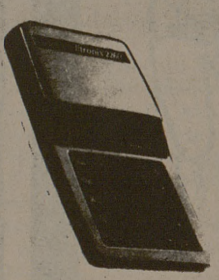
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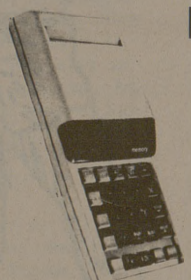


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