

## Mexican subways split sexes

United Press International

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's experiment with the world's first sexually segregated subways got off to a rather bumpy start Monday.

Officials contended separating the sexes during rush hour was necessary to save women from the fanny-pinching, fondling and other chauvanistic assaults they suffer in Mexico City's overcrowded subway trains and stations.

Men were separated from the women Monday on one of the city's three subway lines as an experiment. If successful, it may be followed by enforced segregation on the other two lines by 1980.

"Where's my husband," Elena Garcia, 50, complained to a policeman. "I lost my husband about one hour ago and I can't find him."

Couples got separated and departures were delayed as police spent time removing men from the first three women-only cars of each nine-car train.

Reactions were mixed. "Thank God for the program. We were fed up with the shoving and grabbing and with the men's dirty language," said 19-year-old student Patricia Arrieta.

"Bottom pinching and caressing of women won't stop," said Jose Luis Escorcia, 29, a chemical engineer. "It's part of the Mexican's culture."

Another man, Alberto Serrano, 37, complained: "Most of the subway users are men and now they're trying to pack us into the last six cars. It won't work."

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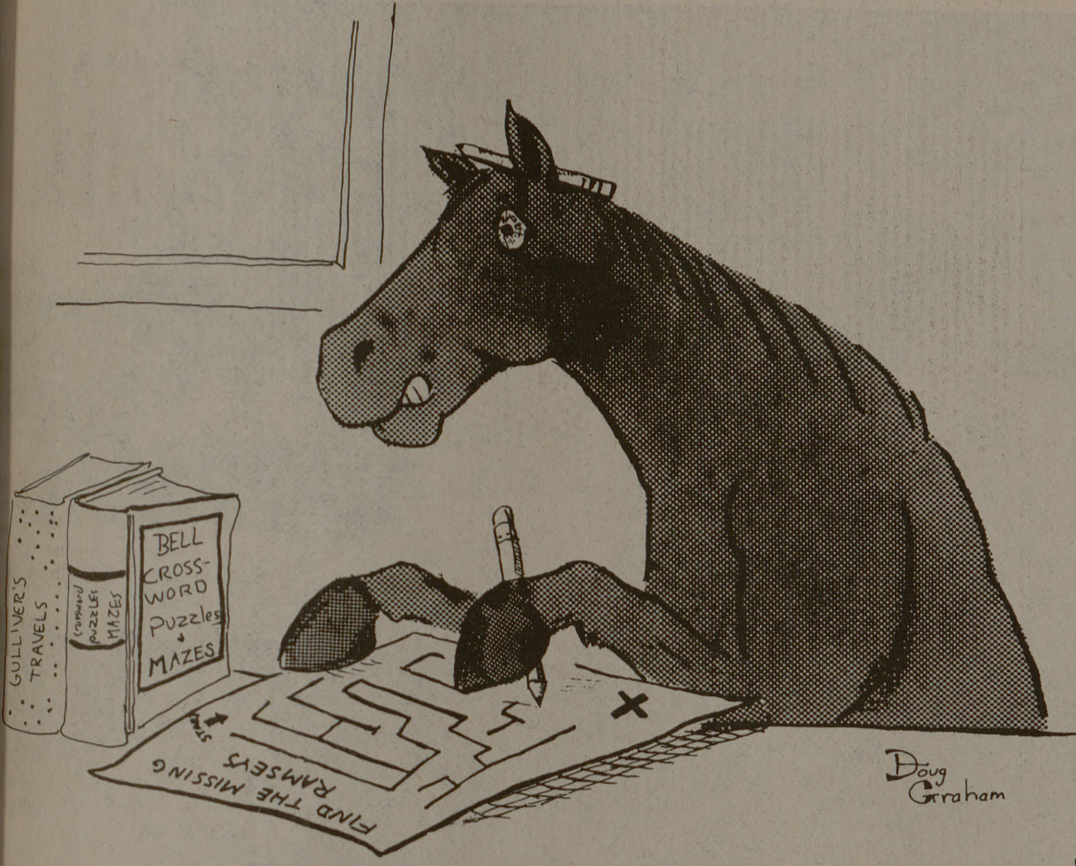
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## Aggie horses are OK

# Mazes test horse sense

By LIZ BAILEY  
Battalion Reporter

Sex doesn't seem to affect the learning abilities of horses, nor does punishment seem to make them learn faster, say two Texas A&M University graduate students in animal science.

Jean Hagerbaumer and Cindy McCall conducted separate studies during the past year. Both women used mazes to test the animals.

Hagerbaumer said that comparing the two studies to others may lead to a more comprehensive method of testing learning in horses.

Hagerbaumer used a maze of her own design. "I wanted something that was very general. I wasn't trying to test any special talents."

Hagerbaumer said 75 horses between 7 and 10 months old were tested for their ability to learn to distinguish between auditory and visual cues. They were also tested to determine if punishment inhibited their ability to learn.

In the actual trials, she used four groups of horses. Each group consisted of six fillies, six colts and six geldings. The horses were chosen randomly, without regard for breed.

"I had nothing to do with picking them. I feel I had a random sample that would represent horses."

The trial horses were acquired for the study from the Texas A&M Horse Center, the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine and the Texas Department of Corrections.

The maze was located in a small barn at the horse center.

For auditory trials, either a buzzer or doorbell was sounded. For visual trials a light either flashed or remained on constantly. According to the signal, the horse learned to go to one of two gates. There, the horse

had to press a flap which triggered a mechanism which opened the gate. The horse then was required to go to the back of the barn and press another of two flaps. The right choice caused about one-third cup of grain, the horse's reward, to be deposited in a feed trough.

In two of the four trials, if the horse went to the wrong gate or pressed the wrong flap, nothing happened.

In the other two trials, the horses were punished by being sprayed with a fine mist of water when they made wrong responses. Hagerbaumer said, "Some (horses) got upset if they made the wrong choice and didn't know what to do about it."

Hagerbaumer said all of the horses seemed to enjoy the trials very much. On several occasions, horse were found trying to unlatch the barn door to get in.

Each horse was put through four trials for 25 consecutive days. Each horse was assessed a score according to how long it took to complete the trial and how many errors it made, she said.

The scores of fillies, colts and geldings were compared. Hagerbaumer said she found no difference in the learning ability of one group over another; in fact, each group was represented in the three highest scoring horses.

Judging the results of her study, Hagerbaumer said the horses which were not punished did better than those which were. She said, "Punishment didn't make them learn any faster." Neither did it make them pay more attention to the signals, she said.

Cindy McCall adapted the Hebb Williams Closed Field Maze for horses.

The maze was invented in 1946 to

test the learning ability of rats.

The maze was built in the Horse Center's Teaching Arena. It covered 72 square feet and had plywood walls six feet tall. There were barriers, also of plywood, inside the walls which could be moved by the experimenter.

In her study, McCall used three groups of 15 yearlings. There were five geldings and five fillies in each group that had been used in Hagerbaumer's study. There were another five fillies in each group that had never been used in a behavior study.

During the first three days of the study, McCall allowed each horse to roam around the maze to get used to it.

On the fourth day, the horses were herded from the start to the finish to teach them where they should go.

On the fifth through tenth days, McCall said each horse did one training problem per day. Nine trials per horse were done each day.

In the training and test problems the horses were put through to teach them what to expect, McCall said the horses were turned loose individually in one corner of the maze. The horse's problem was to find its way around the barriers and to the opposite corner of the maze. When it reached the corner, it was fed a small amount of grain.

On days 11 through 22, each horse was given a daily test problem.

McCall scored the horses according to how accurately each determined the proper pathway around the barrier.

McCall said she hasn't made any conclusions yet since the problems were done only about three months ago.

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