

# Birds cause messy problem

By CATHY KIRKHAM  
Battalion Reporter

Texas A&M University would be an ideal location for a sequel to Alfred Hitchcock's movie, "The Birds."

Keith Arnold, a professor in the wildlife and fisheries, said that the 25,000 birds now roosting on campus are causing problems for the maintenance people.

He said that three years ago when the problem first surfaced there were an estimated two or three million birds on the campus at one time.

The giant flocks consisting of grackles, starlings, cowbirds and sparrows have been roosting in the live oak trees around the Academic building.

Eugene Ray, director of ground maintenance, said that in the evenings the trees are completely black, filled with birds.

The birds have not hurt any vegetation or caused any other problem except for making a terrible mess, Ray said.

Dr. Claude Goswick, director of the University Health Center, said the birds are no real health hazard. He said there are few diseases that can be transmitted by birds to humans, especially by the kinds of birds on campus.

During the 1975 Christmas break, about 25,000 birds were shot on campus. This was done with permission from the Federal Wildlife Commission.

Ray said that students objected not because of the shooting but because of the injured birds which were left unattended.

In 1977, gas cannons and amplified distress calls carried in trucks were used to scare the birds and encourage them to move.

Arnold said this method has been fairly effective but that there aren't enough units to do the job right.

"I think the best way to deal with the problem is to prune the trees way back," he said.

Arnold said that when the tests are completed in a few days, the birds will be moved again, either by gas cannons and calls or by pruning the trees.



Texas A&M officials are trying to rid the campus of an estimated 25,000 birds. Gas cannons and tree pruning are being used in an effort to scare off the birds. These birds were roosting in trees just north of the Systems Building about sundown Tuesday.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

# 'Saturday Night Live' routine prompts suit

United Press International  
NEW YORK — Some people didn't think Saturday Night Live's "I Love Sodom" routine — a poke at New York State's successful "I Love New York" campaign — was so funny.

On Monday, a music publisher sued NBC-TV for \$350,000, charging the network violated copyright laws and "maliciously" identified New York State "with the infamous

biblical den of iniquity, vice and corruption, Sodom."

A complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, Elsmere Music, Inc., of Bedford Hills, N.Y., said the "I Love New York" song was satirized on the "Saturday Night Live" program May 30, 1978, and again in a rerun, when performers sang "I Love Sodom" over and over.

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## New X-ray in development

# Visual scalpel slices body

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Doctors and engineers at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., are developing a computerized X-ray "scalpel" to visually slice the body in any direction for study by specialists looking for disease or studying an organ's operation.

If doctors are interested in just one organ, such as the heart, the computer can be told to disregard all other body structures that appear in the cross-sectional X-ray views and display on television tubes desired slices of the heart at any angle.

"It's as if you cut the heart out of the body, put it in front of an X-ray machine and took a picture of it," said Dr. Richard Robb, chief scientist on the project at the Mayo Dynamics Research Unit.

The machine, called a dynamic spatial reconstructor (DSR), is an outgrowth of technology that produced the now-widely used computerized scanning devices that are

able to produce cross-sectional views of the brain and other areas of the body.

But each scan by today's machines takes at least a few seconds. This means they are too slow to generate clear views of moving organs like the heart.

The DSR will add a fourth dimension — time. It will take its X-ray pictures in a 100th of a second to produce stop-action images of a single heart beat.

Dr. Earl H. Wood, senior consultant on the project, described the machine at a recent American Heart Association seminar and said a prototype should be in experimental operation within a year.

He said it should be valuable for studying many parts of the body in addition to the heart. One potential use, he said, would be in the early detection of lung cancer. The machine will use 28 rotating X-ray tubes to produce almost instantaneous two-dimensional images on a

A doctor can then direct the computer to call out of its memory a wide variety of views of the organ to be displayed on a television screen.

"The structure of this volume can be sectioned mathematically in any direction or manner that the biologist or physician requires to explore a biologic process or possible clinical diagnosis," Wood said.

Although the patient would be examined by 28 separate X-ray bursts, Wood said the radiation dose would be minimal because of such a short exposure.

The machine, now being built with government support by the Raytheon Co., will be 15 feet in diameter, 25 feet long and will weigh 25 tons.

It also will be expensive. Wood estimates commercial models might cost between \$1 and \$2 million.

"I predict there will be a machine of this type in five to 10 years in every big medical center," Wood said.

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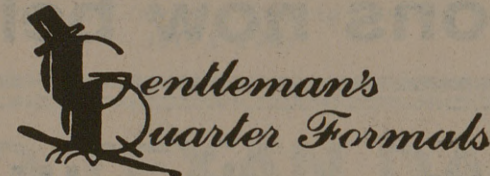
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