

Crib death may be detectable now

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Clinic says three of its researchers may have found a way to diagnose Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, a mysterious affliction that kills up to 10,000 babies each year in the United States.

The clinic said Tuesday that some so-called "near-miss" babies, those who have had non-fatal seizures similar to SIDS, often have "abnormalities in their brainstem," which controls breathing and other automatic functions of the body.

SIDS, or "crib death," is characterized by the sudden and unexpected death of a seemingly healthy baby from one to 12 months old.

The researchers said they may be able to use the new technique to diagnose potential SIDS babies in the total infant population and to continue further study into possible treatment for patients showing abnormal results.

"The test is to the brainstem what the EKG is to the heart and the EEG is to the rest of the brain," said Dr. James P. Orłowski, assistant director of pediatric and surgical intensive care at the clinic. "It looks at how the electrical activity in the brainstem reacts to a clicking stimulus."

Results of the test are shown as waves and peaks on a fluorescent screen. "Our results have been confirmed at other institutions. We're really getting quite excited about it," Orłowski said.

Bishop says church shouldn't help census

WASHINGTON — The nation's Roman Catholic bishops have been urged not to involve themselves officially in helping the U.S. Census Bureau count Hispanics, especially undocumented workers.

Bishop Robert F. Sanchez of the Diocese of Santa Fe, told his fellow bishops Tuesday that official cooperation would cost the church credibility with their huge Hispanic constituency.

There have been contacts between the government, including the White House, and the U.S. Catholic Conference, action arm of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, on the census question.

According to church officials, the USCC has been approached by government officials seeking help in making the count of some 20 million Hispanic people as accurate as possible.

In addition, the government would also like to enlist the church in encouraging undocumented workers — notably those who cross into the United States from Mexico — to register in the 1980 census.

Both religious and secular Hispanic leaders, however, believe such registration would ultimately lead to deportation action against the undocumented workers.

Sanchez told the bishops if the church cooperated in counting undocumented workers, and they were subsequently deported, the church's reputation among Hispanics would be "damaged."

Sanchez recommended that the church cooperate with the census bureau in urging people to register, but offered no cooperation as far as undocumented workers are concerned.

Church sources said that, despite repeated meetings with government officials, they could not get sufficient assurance the information on the undocumented workers would not be used against the aliens.

Tacos blamed for school sickness

OKLAHOMA CITY — State health officials Wednesday blamed a common food bacteria in a taco stuffing for an outbreak of food poisoning at a Hugo, Okla., school.

State Epidemiologist Mark Roberts said teams from the state and local health departments were interviewing many of the 300 victims and food handlers and conducting a general investigation to "determine how this happened."

Officials blamed the poisoning on staphylococcal organisms, "the most common type of food poisoning."

The students and teachers began vomiting Monday after the cafeteria served a lunch of tacos, okra and peach cobbler.

Officials said they had no reports of anyone being seriously injured because of the contamination.

Dr. Harold Malone, chief of laboratory service for the state Health Department, said the taco meat stuffing contained more than 5.5 million bacterial organisms per gram.

Malone said the amount was more than enough to cause symptoms of vomiting, stomach cramps and diarrhea.

Roberts said he doubted inspection procedures at school cafeterias would be modified because of the incident. He said the food poisoning could have occurred in a "sterile kitchen."

"We are trying to find out why it happened and how it happened, so that we can prevent it from happening again," Roberts said.

He also said there was a possibility the food was not cooked properly or became contaminated after it was cooked. The taco meat came from the same lot as meat served at four other Hugo schools Monday, he said.

Choctaw County health officials in Hugo said the Benjamin Franklin School cafeteria last was inspected in December 1978 and was scheduled for inspection again next month.

County Sanitarian Jack Hicks said it was his policy to inspect school cafeterias annually. He is required to inspect commercial eating establishments, which must be licensed, four times a year.

School cafeterias do not have to be licensed, but must meet state sanitation requirements.

Former first lady progressing well

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. — Former first lady Pat Nixon, 67, has been hospitalized in "guarded condition" with bronchial pneumonia, but doctors say she is progressing well and should be released in a week.

Former President Richard M. Nixon told reporters following an almost hour-long hospital visit with his ailing wife Tuesday night that Mrs. Nixon was "coming along quite well."

"She has excellent care at San Clemente General Hospital," Nixon said.

Hospital Administrator Malcolm L. Johnson told the San Clemente Daily Sun-Post that Mrs. Nixon walked into the hospital shortly before noon Tuesday with her daughter, Julie Nixon Eisenhower, and several Secret Service agents.

"She is doing well," said Johnson. "Pneumonia is always potentially serious but she is in good spirits. She came walking in under her own power. She is resting well and seems to be tolerating the treatment."

Mrs. Nixon suffered a severe stroke in July 1976 and spent 15 days in Long Beach Memorial Hospital. She has recovered from some paralysis resulting from the stroke. She also spent three days in Long Beach Memorial in May of 1978 for treatment of a pulmonary infection.

Nixon said his wife had been suffering from a bronchial infection when they attended former First Lady Mamie Eisenhower's funeral Nov. 3 in Abilene, Kan.

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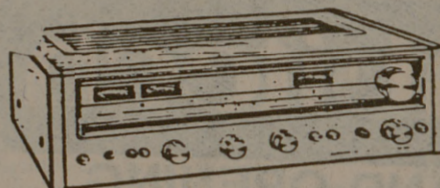


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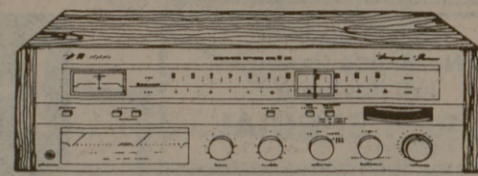
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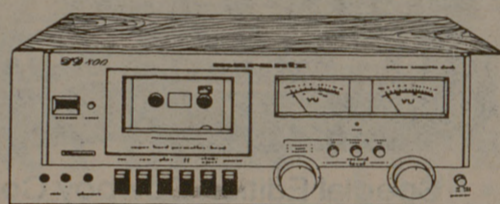
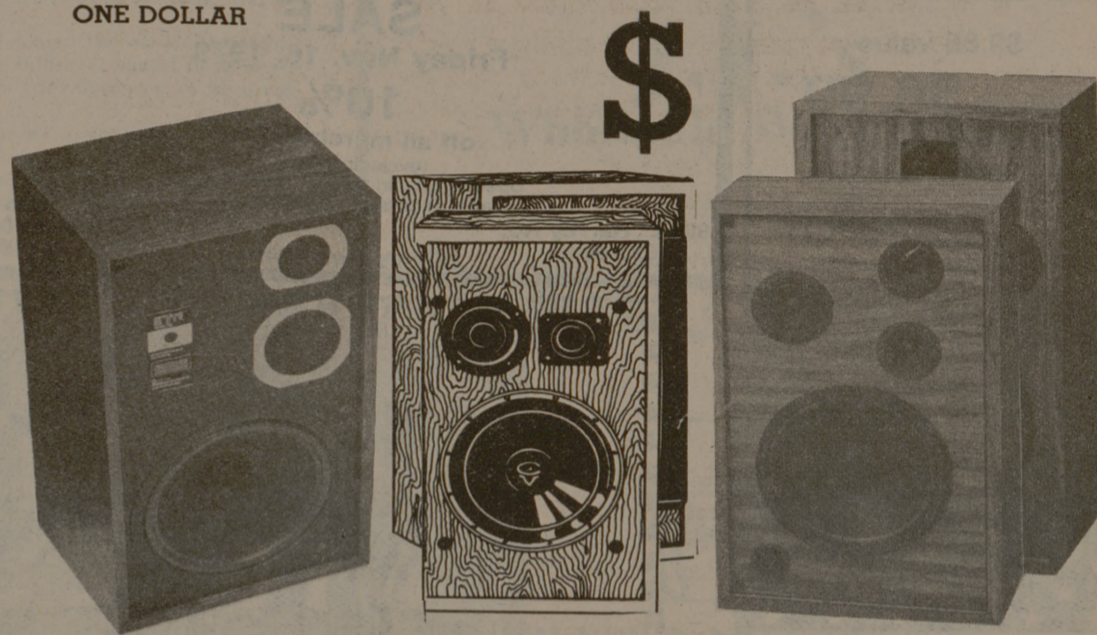
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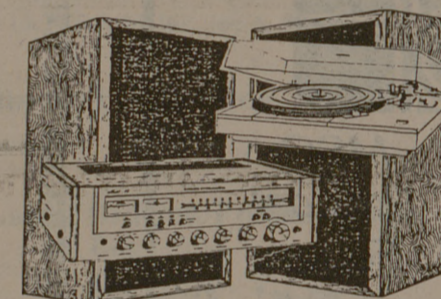
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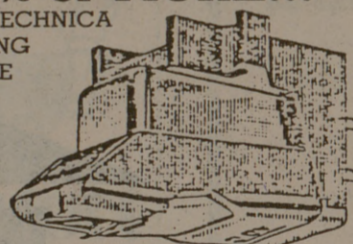
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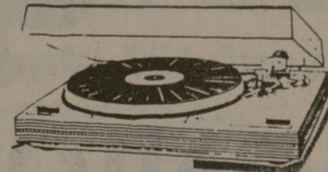
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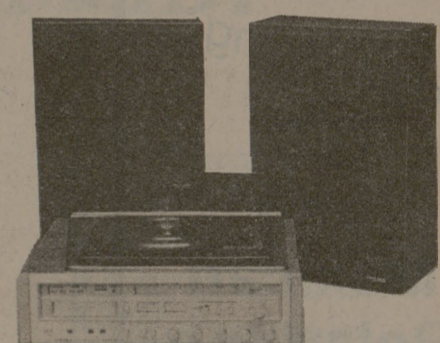
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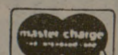
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