



Lending a helping hand

staff photo by Sumanesh Agrawal

Kyle Bromley, Brenda Heath, George Gump, Reggie McMullin and Nancy

Spotts lend a helping hand to a bird which was injured and suffering from

the cold. The bird was on a bench outside Francis Hall when they saw it.

Why Pygmies are so small

United Press International
What makes Pygmies small? Although they resemble people with a growth-hormone deficiency, tests reveal normal levels of the hormone in their blood. According to new studies reported in the New England Journal of Medicine, Pygmies

have a major deficiency of a substance called "insulin-like growth factor," (IGF)-I, one of a class of secondary growth factors. The Pygmy study has prompted the researchers to call IGF-I, "possibly the principal growth factor in human beings."

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Houston may be sinking

Chinese archaeology flourishing

United Press International
Houston is sinking, and so is Arizona, says geophysicist Ronald L. Brooks.

Brooks, and his colleagues at the GeoScience Research Corporation in Salisbury, Md., recently told Science Digest magazine that satellite data show huge areas of the United States are slowly subsiding.

Brooks blames the sinkage — which occurs almost exclusively in Sunbelt states such as Texas, Arizona and California — on a population explosion that has made huge demands on the area's underground water supply, causing a drastic lowering of the water table. Along with the lowered water table came the sinkage — a drop as great as 12.5 feet in Arizona and up to 7.5 feet in Houston, so far.

To keep the earth from falling, says Brooks, cities must develop above-ground water supplies and stop relying as much on depleted underground aquifers.

Ironically, early satellite data showed parts of Houston actually to be rising. It turned out that rapidly growing Texassize skyscrapers downtown were reflecting the satellite's beam and giving false readings.

United Press International
Chinese archaeology, discouraged during 100 years of social upheaval, has flourished since the Communist victory of 1949, thanks to the nation's amateur

archeologists — all 950 million of them.

Millions of Chinese peasants were made aware of the importance of archaeological finds.

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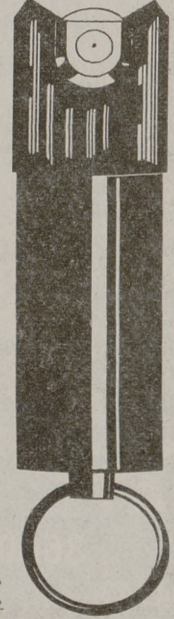
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