

Houston cops adopting arsenal of new weapons

United Press International
HOUSTON — The police department is trying to change its image by adapting an arsenal of non-lethal weapons including a sidearm that shoots a dart cap-

able of neutralizing a suspect with an electric charge. "Houston once was the kind of town where you didn't dare say anything wrong to a police officer," Sgt. J.H. Olszewski

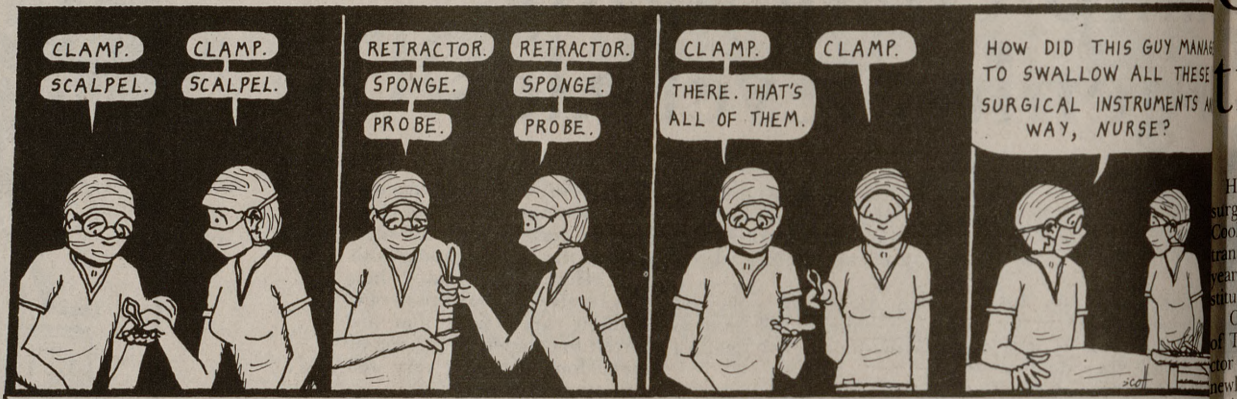
said. "But today we are more concerned with what the public wants. We probably are becoming one of the more innovative police departments in looking into alternative weapons."

The department already has adopted capture nets, leg grabbers and a variety of chemical gasses.

City council also has authorized purchase of the TASER, a 9-inch, 1.5-pound hybrid of a pistol, dart-gun and flashlight that delivers a low-amp, 50,000-volt charge capable of bringing a suspect to his knees.

The TASER works by firing two darts, each trailing a wire, into a suspect. The wires then conduct the charge into the suspect's nervous system, incapacitating him "usually long enough to put the handcuffs on," says SWAT team Sgt. J.C. Linney.

Warped



By Scott McCullar

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Mysterious Marfa lights baffle residents, scientists

United Press International
MARFA — Lights that zoom about at dusk near this southwest Texas town have raised a lot of questions, but no one seems to be able to come up with any answers.

Some scientists say they might be car headlights that have traveled some distance through a phenomenon known as "atmospheric tunneling."

But the lights were seen by cowboys 100 years ago.

Observers report the lights whiz around at high speed and become brighter and dimmer. They are seen year-round.

Another theory is that the

lights are reflections from mica deposits, but proponents of that theory have yet to explain why those reflections move about.

Yet another theory is that the lights are small discharges of static electricity, but no one knows why that would occur near Marfa and not in any other location.

Julia Plumbley, whose father saw the lights 99 years ago when he was a cowpuncher on the Trans-Pecos Trail, said the lights are usually dim and ethereal.

Two geologists who in 1969 spent several months surveying uranium deposits around Marfa said they once came within about 100 feet of the lights.

The men said the lights moved over some horses at what seemed like 150 to 200 mph, spooking the animals.

Then one light stopped in the middle of the road and hovered 100 feet in front of the car, said Pat Kinney.

His companion, Wright, told him to run so stupid. It had intelligence. I said, 'Seeing how far things could go, we can't run it,' he said.

"We just sat there and so stupid. It had intelligence. I never felt so stupid my entire life," Kinney said.

Elton Miles, a retired professor whose book "The Big Bend" has a chapter on the lights, says he has seen about 10 times.

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Ford offers gold and wine to sell their cars to women

United Press International
DALLAS — The Ford Motor Co., in an attempt to erase the "fears" officials say women have toward buying cars, is enticing women into its showrooms with

offers of wine and gold bracelets. District Sales Manager M.J. Ellsworth says women are very apprehensive when they walk into a car dealership, and the

new Ford approach is supposed to "reduce and eliminate fears."

Ellsworth said 110 cars have been sold to women at 14 Ford and Lincoln-Mercury dealerships in the Dallas area.

At Miracle Ford last week more than 500 women responded to engraved invitations and attended a showroom party sipping chablis and collecting their free 14-carat gold bracelets, as fashion models walked among the new cars.

The \$500,000 expense project is underway in Dallas and San Diego.

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