

Now you know

United Press International
While environmental legislation and expensive filtering systems can go a long way toward curbing urban pollution, municipal planners could take an easier and far lovelier step to purify city air: plant trees.

Plant physiologist Bruce Roberts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Delaware, Ohio, has shown that clusters of trees can perform an impressive metropolitan clean-up job.

A report in Science Digest magazine explains that the sur-

faces of leaves are covered with pores and fine hairs which help combat air pollution. Roberts says the pores easily trap noxious gases, while the hairs capture particulate contaminants, holding them until the next rain washes the grime into the ground.

Roberts estimates that a 100-year old beach or elm can have up to one half million leaves, allowing a one acre stand to collect more than 20 tons of pollutants in a single growing season.



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staff photo by Octavia

Alley cats

Dwayne Bennett, left, an electrical engineering major from Humble, Patti Beline, a management major from Austin, and Keith

Anderson, an environmental design major from San Antonio, await their turn in bowling class while Gary Blizzard finishes his

shot. Blizzard is a chemical engineering major from Forney. All are sophomores.

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Arizonans keep 'mini' horses at 'maxi' prices

United Press International
PHOENIX, Ariz. — The dog at Peterson's Southwest "Mini" Ranch is bigger — much bigger — than the horses.

That's because mini doesn't refer to the size of the ranch. It's an abbreviation for Mike and Hermeen Peterson's registered miniature horses that live in a custom-made world in north-west Phoenix.

Everything — corrals, feed bins and tack — is scaled down to fit the horses. To meet registration requirements, they can stand no taller than 34 inches from the ground to the base of the mane.

The Petersons have been collecting miniatures for two years, beginning with a white stallion,

Buttons, and now have 12 of the horses, the biggest collection in Arizona. The small horses are more popular in California, Texas and Florida, Peterson said.

Though small, the horses are pricy.

"You might be able to find one for \$2,000," she said. They average about \$3,000 and the highest price she has heard of is \$40,000.

Feed obviously is cheaper than for regular size horses — one bale of hay can feed a miniature for three months — but upkeep and traveling to shows is not.

"The facilities cost the same as for large horses," Peterson said. "The stalls cost the same,

the horse-shoer costs the and the vet charges the same.

Peterson acknowledges that the horses aren't very practical.

"They're a novelty, and she said, "You spend more with them than other horses."

The only practicality is getting into the breeding business. The president of the International Miniature Association described them as "the Porsches of horse world."

The Petersons' first foal, spring — which stood 19 inches at birth — is an Arab type named "Little Egypt."

Their stable also includes black and white pinto, brown and white pinto, foal, the white stallion, tons," and some greys.

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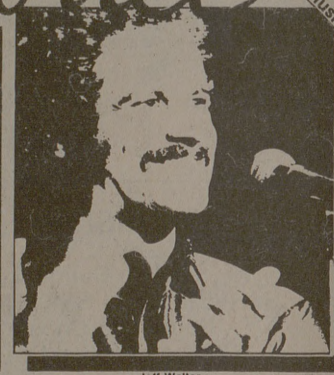
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