

Primitive tribe faces new world

United Press International
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — A primitive tribe reluctant to leave its home in the dense rain forest has asked the Malaysian government to help it survive the 20th century.

The 43 people — nomads who have never ventured from the remote jungle of eastern Sarawak — wear loin cloths, make fire by rubbing stones together, live in crude shelters built with leaves and worship spirits. They made contact with the government in November. "They specifically asked for matches, simple construction materials, blow pipes, tools, cloth and tobacco," said Stewart Ngau Ding, the district officer who led a government team to a river bank to meet the tribe.

"One of the pleasures the Penan tribe most enjoys is tobacco. They're really happy then," he said. The tribespeople are the most isolated and primitive of Sarawak's approximately 5,000 Penans — nomadic people of medium height and slender build who live by hunting wild boar or deer.

"We are trying to lead them to a settled life but it's a very gradual process," Ngau Ding said.

"In the long run," he said, "they'll probably follow me and go and live on a government land scheme where up to 5,000 people are grouped together to learn simple farming skills."

The tribe varies its diet of roasted meat and sago or tapioca porridge with jungle fruits, edible palms and ferns.

"Generally they are quite

healthy but there is a problem with nutrition since they eat as much as they can one day, then can go without food for another few days," said Lucas Chin, director of the Sarawak Museum. "Their numbers are dwindling through localized epidemics of typhoid, malaria and serious bronchial complaints."

The tribe makes crude shelters from leaves and, if the weather is cool, usually spends most of the day sitting around a fire.

"The women weave intricate mats and baskets, leaving hunting and the making of exquisite parangs (curved jungle slashing knives) to the men," said District Officer Ngau Ding.

Jungle produce is bartered to other tribes in exchange for iron flints, cooking pots, jewelry and simple tools.

"We know this group moves on when someone dies and when the hunting is depleted," Ngau Ding said.

The publicity surrounding the tribe's discovery earlier this year has struck a sensitive chord in a nation pushing forward with ambitious development programs.

"This story is giving a bad impression of Malaysia in other countries, especially where they believe we still live in trees," Sarawak-born Deputy Agriculture Minister Luhah Wan said.

The federal and district governments are committed to bringing development to the indigenous tribes of Sarawak, which form as much as 50 percent of the state's population of 1.3 million.

Heart patient may have chemical imbalance

United Press International
SALT LAKE CITY — Doctors fed artificial heart patient Barney Clark "good old-fashioned" chicken soup and carrots through a stomach tube Wednesday to treat a blood chemistry imbalance they believe caused his seizures.

Clark survived the more than two and one-half hours of sei-

zures early Tuesday, but was listed in critical condition at the University of Utah Medical Center after what doctors called "a quiet night."

"He is still sedated, but he is moving his arms and his legs and his heart is working well," Dr. Chase Peterson, university vice president of medical services, said Wednesday morning. "By

and large, he's had simply a quiet 12 hours."

Peterson said Clark has "some abnormal blood chemistries. His potassium is a bit low, and his sodium is a bit high, and a number of things like that."

Doctors had worried that the attacks, might have been the result of hemorrhaging or clotting

in his brain.

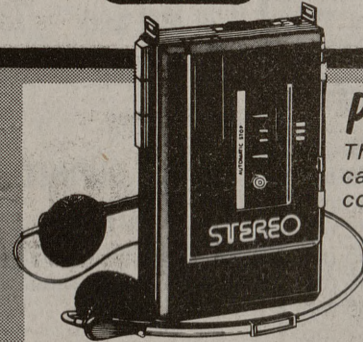
But X-rays and other tests found no evidence of bleeding or clotting in his head and no damage to the plastic Jarvik-7 heart clicking away in his chest 80-90 times per minute.

Peterson said Clark was scheduled to be withdrawn from sedation Wednesday, and that

the seizures would "certainly return if we have not removed the cause."

Peterson said doctors hope the tube-feeding of foods high in potassium will solve the blood chemistry problem. He said the theory is the university's "working hypothesis" to explain Clark's seizures.

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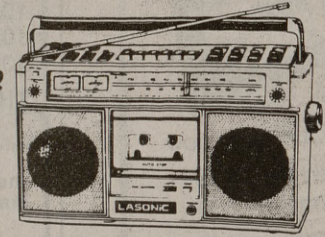
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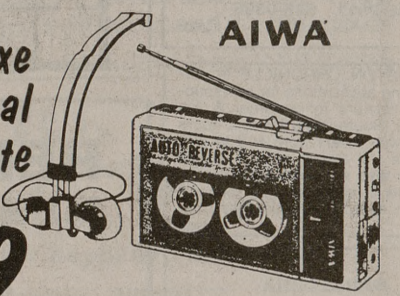


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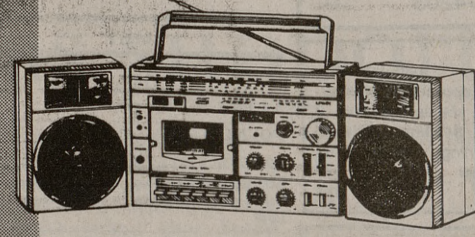
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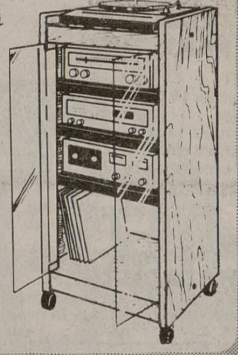


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Obscene calls made by 'cop'

United Press International
COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa — A man believed to be "Sgt. Bob Johnson," an obscene telephone caller who for years has posed as a police officer investigating an obscene caller, has been arrested by police.

Phillip Fields, 24, was charged with harrasment and impersonating a public officer. He was released on a \$1,100 bond Monday and is to appear next week in Pottawattamie County Associate District Court.

The fictitious sergeant has been "a real thorn in our side," said Omaha, Neb., police Lt. Charles Circo. Police from Council Bluffs and Omaha said the arrest will clear hundreds of obscene-call cases.

Circo said from 1973 to the late 1970s a man would call

women, identify himself as "Detective Johnson" of the Omaha police, vice squad and give a phony badge number.

He told them he was investigating an obscene caller and asked for their help, Circo said. He always told the women the caller would be phoning them next and asked them to cooperate by listening to the man while the call was traced.

A few minutes later the obscene caller came on the line, then "Johnson" would return and thank the women.

Police said Fields placed hundreds of calls, but never called the same woman twice, which made the calls difficult to trace. Random tracers placed on several lines by Northwestern Bell Telephone led to the arrest.



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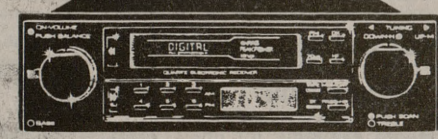
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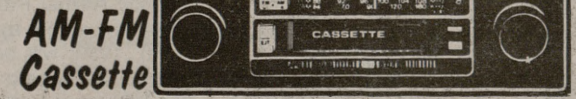
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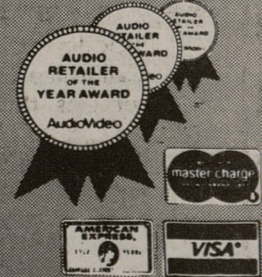
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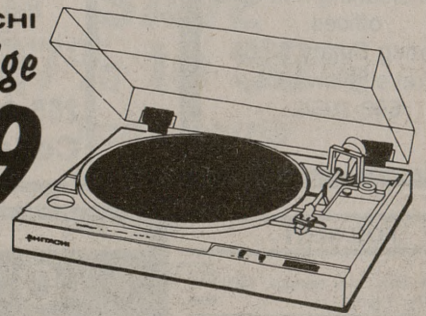
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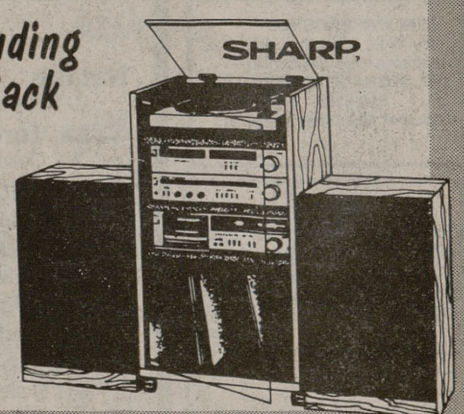
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