

etc.

Battalion Page  
February 2, 1980

# Inner ear may help outfielder's catching

**United Press International**  
NEW YORK — Sensors in the inner ear may play a key role when an outfielder catches — or misses — a fly ball, a physicist says.

Peter J. Brancazio, of Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, gave his theory, "the physics of judging a fly ball," at the annual meeting of the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers.

"I am especially fascinated by the process of judging a fly ball," Brancazio said, who is a baseball fan, athlete and Little League coach.

"As soon as the ball is launched — either batted or thrown

— the fielder must examine the early stages of its trajectory, decide where the ball is going to come down, and then run to the predicted landing point at an appropriate speed.

"The best outfielders are able to make this judgment so surely that they can turn their backs to the ball, run to the chosen spot, and wait for the ball to arrive."

He said there is no way to teach someone how to do it.

How does a fielder decide where the ball is going to land? The associate professor theorizes that the sudden and rapid motion of the fielder's head as he looks upward to follow the flight of the ball off the bat may provide sensory information

that directs the player's body toward the eventual landing point.

"This coordination of sensory input with body motion evidently follows a neural pathway that has been established through the familiar behavioral process of learning by trial and error," he said.

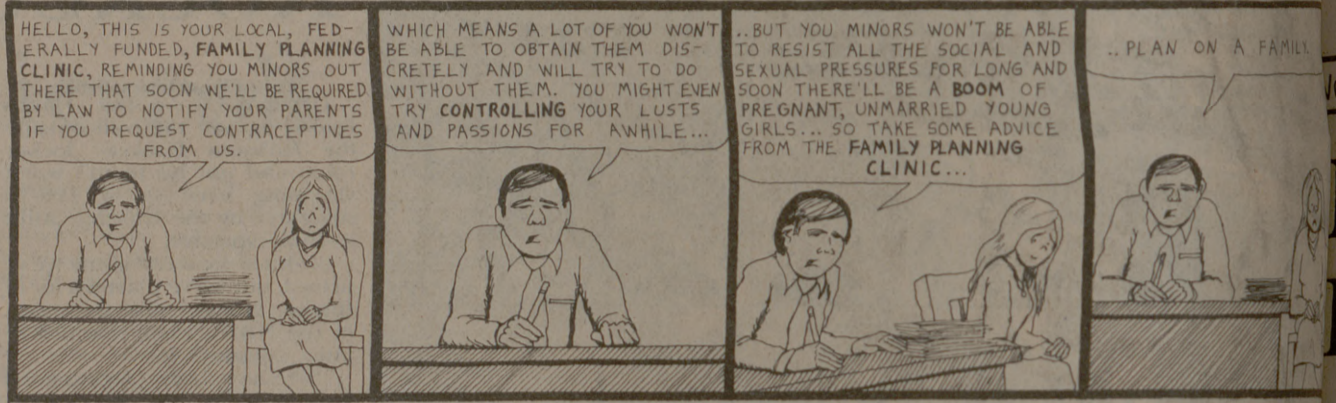
"We actually may be judging fly balls by ear."

"It may well be that the most useful information for the fielder is not even visual information. Whenever an individual follows a moving object with his eyes, he ordinarily moves his head as well — and the motion of the head and eyes must be finely coordinated to keep the eyes fixed on the object."

"It turns out that these compensatory motions of the eyes are primarily guided not by visual feedback, but rather by signals triggered by the motion of the head from sensors in the inner ear."

## Warped

by Scott McCullough



## Music on the high seas

# Cruise venture successful

**United Press International**  
NEW YORK — When Fred Mayer was new in the travel business, his banker grandfather asked him, "When are you going to stop working too

hard and start making some money?"

He decided his grandfather was right, he was never going to make more than a bare living out of travel unless he did some-

thing innovative.

Since he was a devotee of the opera and the symphony, he decided to launch a program with a music cruise and sought the help of the noted impresario Sol Hurok. He engaged 15 pop and classical artists, including the famous operatic tenor, Jan Peerce. The first music cruise was a huge success. That was 11 years ago.

Rome, Palma and Barcelona because there's no room for such a big orchestra. For shipboard concert orchestras had to be drastically.

From classical music he branched out into cruises, theater cruises, voyages, cinema cruises, educational cruises. He engaged Alexander Krumpholtz, probably the world's most widely known vintage wine lecturer to accompany the wine cruise.

Mayer and Epstein's wholesale travel firm, age about 27 of these appeal cruises each

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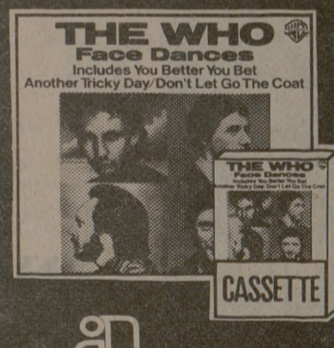
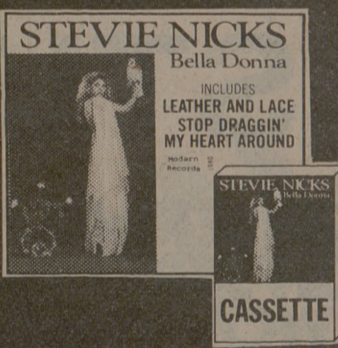
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