

Implants may help deaf kids

United Press International
DENVER — Research on deafened young monkeys suggests surgically implanted hearing devices could help in the psychological development of deaf children, two researchers say.

Dr. Thomas Balkany and Dr. Martin Reite said initial research in Denver indicated deafened monkeys using the hearing devices, known as cochlear implants, fared better psychologically than other deaf monkeys in a control group.

They said the findings probably were applicable to thousands of deaf children who might benefit from the implants. The devices already are being used experimentally to help some deaf children gain limited hearing, but there still are concerns about their long-term safety.

Balkany and Reite said last week the initial phase of their research at the University of Colorado Primate Center lasted five years, and no adverse effects were observed in the monkeys, which had been deafened painlessly with drugs.

Like children, Reite said, young monkeys are likely to develop behavioral problems as a result of deafness. The behavioral similarities have made the primate center's monkey colony especially useful in studies on the benefits of cochlear implants in children, he said.

"It appeared to us that by providing this device in monkeys we were able to reverse some of the deleterious effects of deafening," said Reite, the center's director. "The studies gave evidence that monkeys with the device played more with other animals and had an increased ability to relate socially in an acceptable way."

Reite's focus is on the monkey's behavior patterns, while Balkany, medical director of the Colorado Otologic Research Center at Porter Hospital, is studying medical aspects of the experiments.

"We are excited about it because nobody else in the country has been able to find a behavioral model for hearing impairment — to study many things about it that might reverse some of the problems," Balkany said.

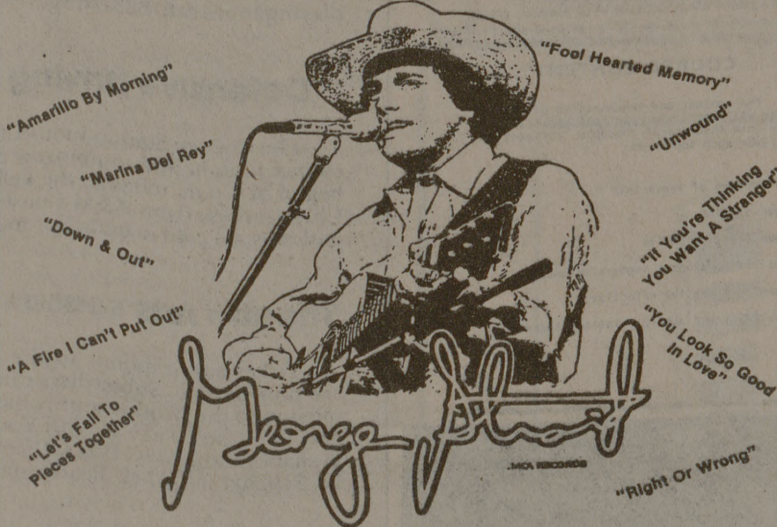
The problems of deafness in children, he said, can include irritability and "personality changes that alter the ability to maintain social relationships."

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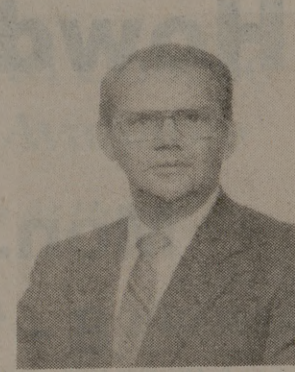
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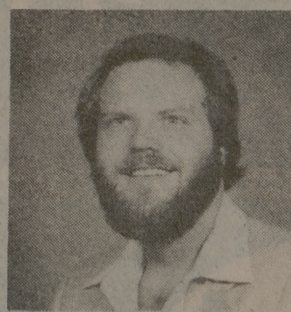
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Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Sunday.

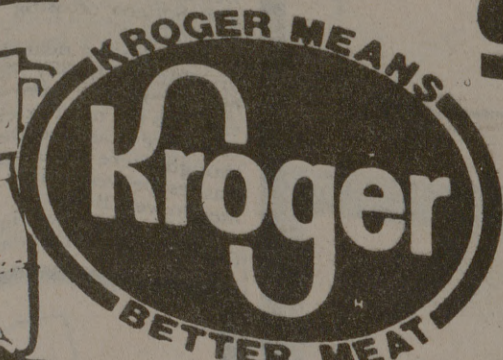
MISDEMEANOR THEFT:

- A red Takara ten-speed bicycle was stolen from the Biological Sciences Building bike rack.
- A silver J.C. Penney's ten-speed bicycle was stolen from the east side of McFadden Hall.
- A yellow unknown brand ten-speed bicycle was stolen from the bike rack in Parking Annex 46.
- A blue Huffly ten-speed bicycle was stolen from the Underwood/Gainer bike rack.
- A maroon and white AMF three-speed bicycle was stolen from the Krueger Hall bike rack.
- A blue Schwinn ten-speed bicycle was stolen from the Krueger Hall bike rack.
- A student in Dorm 10 reported that someone stole \$120 in cash from a pair of pants lying across his dresser.
- A woman reported that someone stole her 14 karat gold ring from 126 Clements Hall. She had left the ring on top of a dresser while helping her daughter move into the room.
- A student reported that someone stole his wallet from his room in Walton Hall. The wallet and its contents were valued at \$50.

TERRORISTIC THREAT:

- An employee in the New Engineering Research Building reported receiving a phone call from an unknown man who threatened to blow up the building. Investigating officers did not locate any explosive devices.

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