

570 pigeons lost during bird races

United Press International

BOULDER, Colo. — The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Wednesday a geomagnetic storm may have caused the loss of hundreds of homing pigeons during races in three states last weekend.

William J. Brennan, NOAA public affairs spokesman, said 400 birds were released Sunday in Cheyenne, Wyo., but only 30 returned to North Platte, Neb., the following day. Also on Sunday, only half of 400 pigeons released for a race in Texas reached their home lofts.

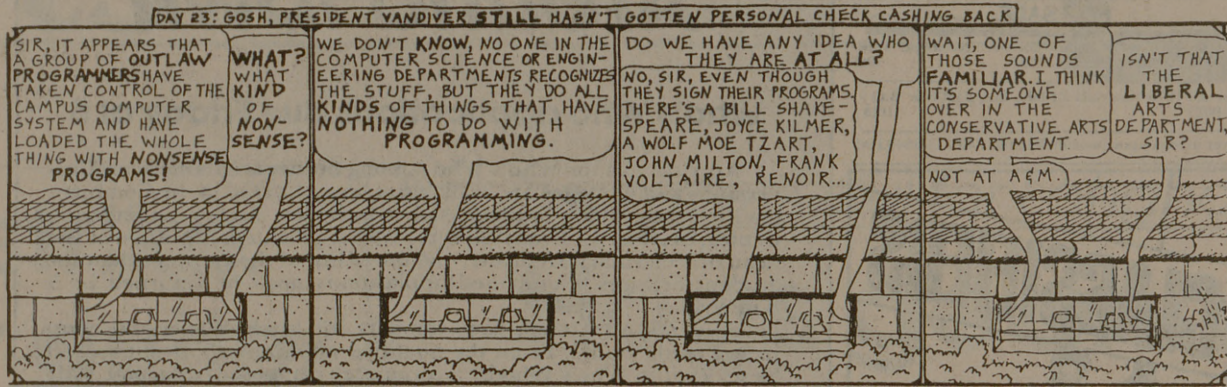
But on Saturday, the Rocky Mountain Flyers Homing Pigeon Club released a number of birds in Brewster, Kan. All arrived in Denver with no losses.

Brennan speculated the difference was geomagnetic activity. He said there was no geomagnetic activity Saturday, but there was a major geomagnetic storm Sunday.

"Scientists theorize that pigeons use the Earth's magnetic field as a navigational aid, and that during geomagnetic storms their sensing mechanism becomes confused, causing them to lose their way," Brennan said.

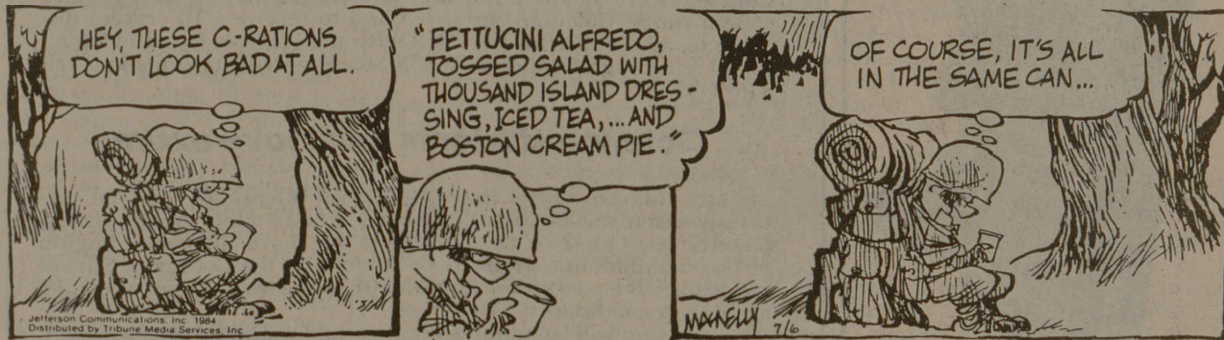
Warped

by Scott McCullar



SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



Exercise technology grows with physical fitness trend

By LINDA ROWLAND
Reporter

Exercise and physical fitness. The two have gone from fad to trend to an integral part of the American lifestyle. And the growing number of exercise technology majors at Texas A&M reflects the increasing emphasis on physical fitness.

"Five years ago, I wouldn't have known whether the fitness craze was a fad," said Dr. Stephen Crouse, associate professor of physical education at A&M. "But today, it has surpassed that stage. There is great significance in physical fitness."

The number of exercise technology students here has grown from 25 students in early 1982 to about 90 students this year, said Rusty Higham, lecturer in the health and physical education department.

The exercise technology program has the potential for being one of the best in the country, said Higham.

Higham attended a national fitness conference in Wisconsin last week. He said the A&M exercise technology program is recognized professionally nationwide.

Gay Schieberle, a sophomore, said she entered the exercise technology program because it offers many different career possibilities and job opportunities.

"People will always want to keep their bodies in shape," she said.

Exercise technology has been a non-teaching program in the Department of Health and Physical Education for five years. The exercise technology curriculum covers preventive and rehabilitative exercise, providing specialized training in cardiac rehabilitation and corporate fitness. It emphasizes exercise testing using devices such as treadmills and underwater weighing tanks. Management classes and a marketing

class are required also.

"Our program is important because it includes practical learning experience to build students' confidence before leaving for their internships and on to professional careers," Higham said.

A student internship is required the semester before graduation. Students interested in cardiac rehabilitation usually work in hospitals. Those interested in corporate fitness work in a company's fitness facility — usually fitness testing or in management, Crouse said.

"Internships provide excellent on-the-job experience," Crouse said. "It lets the students apply all they've learned here."

Crouse said he forecasts an increase in demand for exercise technology graduates, but he believes the job market will inevitably reach a saturation point.

Crime Stoppers

Sometime during the weekend of August 25, burglars entered the office of The Bryan Feed and Grain Co. on Highway 21 West. There was no sign of forced entry. Five payroll checks and 30 business checks were stolen. The burglars used the office typewriter and office check writing machine while they were in the building.

Since that time, \$1,200 worth of these stolen checks have been passed at the S and H Liquor store, Cash Food Store and Ponzio-Riena Food Store.

If you have any information on the persons responsible for this burglary and related forgeries, call Crime Stoppers at 775-TIPS.

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