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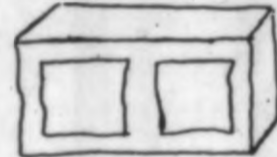
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 Full 2 x 12-4' \$2.<sup>99</sup>  
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 \$16.<sup>99</sup> 48" High 4 Shelf  
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**Prefinished Shelves**  
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 Priced from  
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 8 x 24

**12' x 8' Loft Package**  
**\$86**  
 Complete w/ Free Plans

**Spray Paint**  
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**Sleep-wake cycle fixed genetically, crab study shows**

WOODS HOLE, Mass. (AP) — The sleep-wake cycles found in both humans and animals are apparently fixed genetically at 24 hours — not set by the rhythm of sunrise and sunset after birth, according to a new study with horseshoe crabs.

Scientists found that the tiny crabs must experience both light and darkness to develop these so-called circadian rhythms. But once they did, the cycle was approximately 24 hours long no matter what the length of the "day" and "night" to which the crabs were exposed in the laboratory.

Robert Barlow of Syracuse University and the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole said Tuesday that his experiment is the first one to show that individual animals raised from birth in varying periods of light and darkness would all develop circadian rhythms fixed at about 24 hours in length.

Crabs raised from birth in constant light or constant darkness had no circadian rhythms, the scientists found.

"The one thing we can attribute to the environment is the trigger," he said. Cells in the brain, however, have already set the length of the resulting rhythms at approximately 24 hours, he said.

Barlow, who described his findings at the Marine Biological Laboratory's General Scientific Meetings, believes the same thing is true in

higher animals, including humans. "I would be astounded if you raised any animal in constant conditions and found a circadian rhythm," he said.

Study of the origin and nature of circadian rhythms is important, Barlow said, because almost all bodily processes that can be measured — body temperature, blood sugar levels and even such things as pressure within the eye — vary regularly over a 24-hour period.

"To find a process that does not have a 24-hour modulation would be a surprise," he said. Jet lag — in which the body is unable to quickly adjust to changes in sleep-wake cycles — is one obvious sign of the regularity of these 24-hour cycles, Barlow said.

For their research, Barlow and his colleagues had to raise young horseshoe crabs from birth in chambers where light and darkness were controlled.

They collected horseshoe crab eggs from nests on Cape Cod beaches last year, fertilized the eggs in the laboratory, and allowed the crabs to be born in light-tight chambers.

The year-old crabs are now only about a quarter of an inch across, but Barlow, using sophisticated electronic equipment, can measure changes in sensitivity to determine how they experience circadian rhythms.

**'Firecam'**  
 Aerial infrared camera aids in fighting wildfires in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A customized aerial camera that uses infrared film to see through smoke is being used by Alaska firefighters to determine when — or if — wildfires should be brought under control.

Alaska is so vast and so sparsely settled that roughly 50 percent of its 270 million fire-prone acres are in the unprotected, or "let burn" category, according to Elmer Hurd, assistant state forester for fire management.

"We can't afford to fight all the fires," Hurd said. "And some fires are good. So we've come up with a formula for fire protection categories."

That formula is based on the threat the fires pose to people or property. The more dangerous the fire, the quicker and more massive the response.

If a fire were burning, for example, in an uninhabited area of bottomland spruce, officials might simply watch the blaze and let it burn. That's especially the case if it were charring a fragile area, like tundra, where building a road might permanently mar the permafrost.

But if the fire were advancing on a village or threatening a historic site or critical area where wildlife collect, then the interagency federal-state group would mobilize.

Enter TROLL, or the state's Thermal Recorded Observation and Loran Locating System.

It's a newly designed infrared camera and mapping system that lets foresters peek through heavy smoke to pinpoint hot spots and chart fire perimeters.

An infrared camera mounted in the belly of a Korean War vintage airplane is connected to a computer, TV monitor and video recorder in the cockpit. The video package also is linked to navigational aids on the ground that plot the fire's position on a map.

Ron Hanks, the forestry division's chief pilot, said, "We can achieve accuracy within 50 feet."

Hanks, at 34, is only three years older than the sturdy but nimble T-28 he flies out of Anchorage's Merrill Field.

The state is making the system available to other government agencies as a fire management tool, he said.



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