

AGGIELIFE

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

THE BATTALION

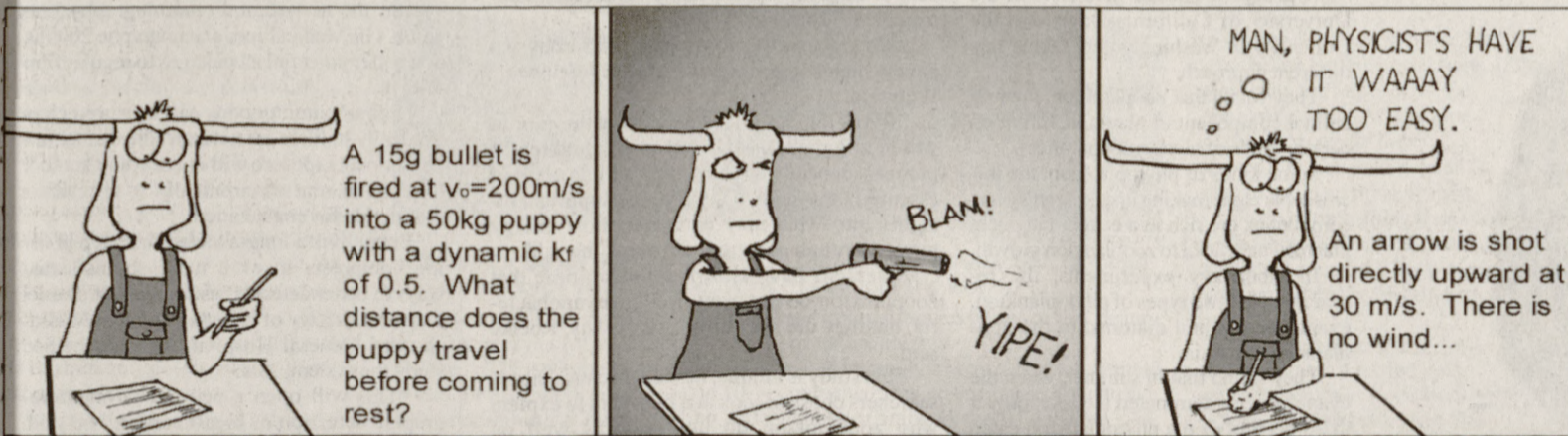
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Fish

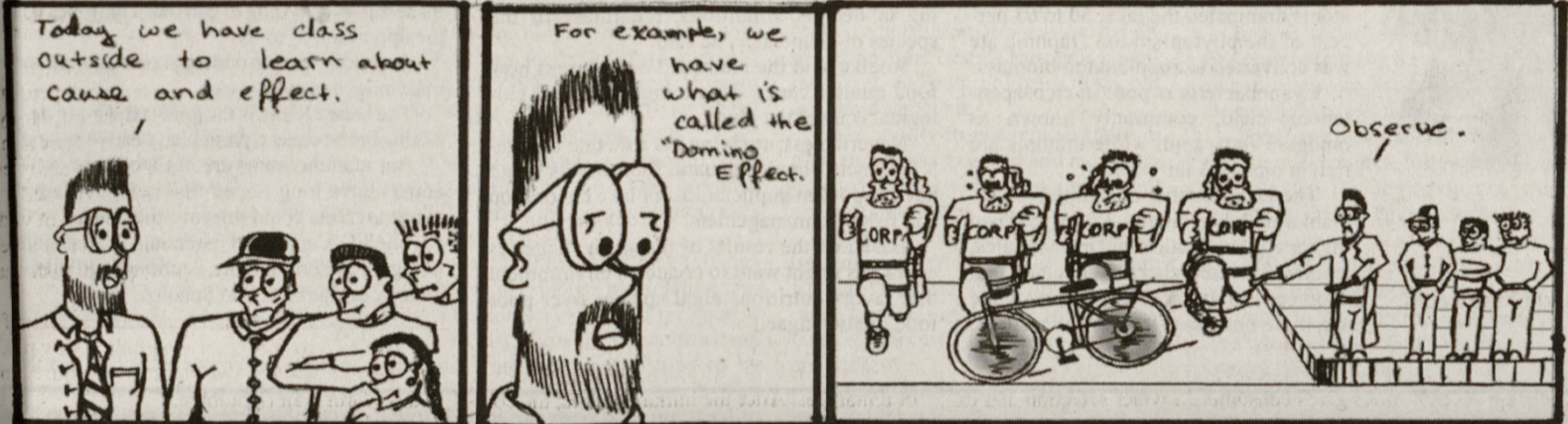


BY R. DELUNA

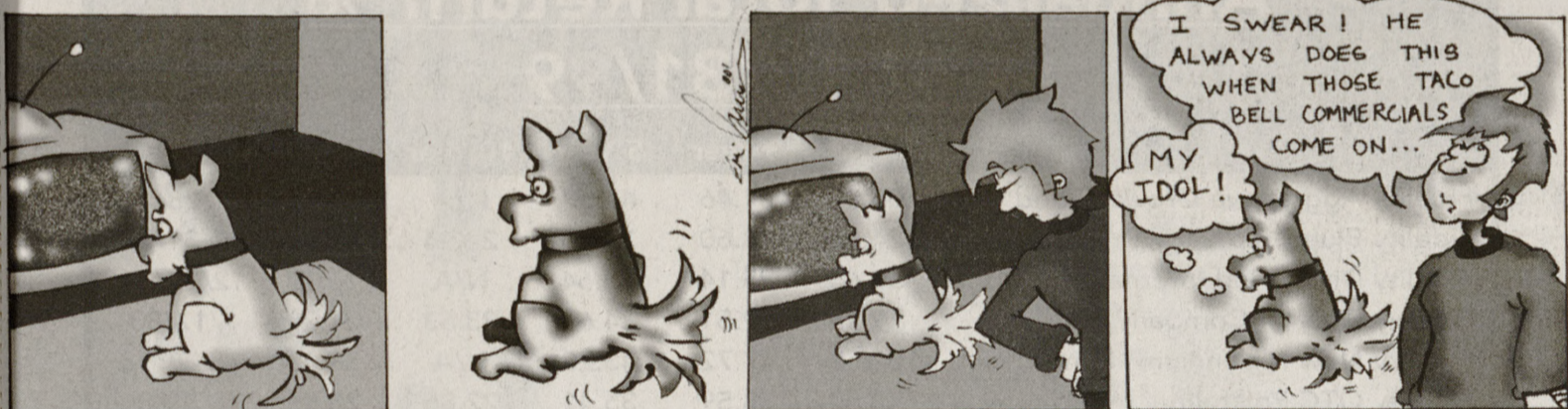
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COULTER

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television when he directed an episode of "The X-Files." He worked on the episode while the show was still being filmed in Canada. Coulter said he gained experience from "The X-Files," but ran into one minor problem: "Dealing with David Duchovny," he said. "He is a very high-maintenance actor." Coulter said Duchovny was not completely devoted to the show at the time of the film shooting. "He had done it so much and he acted like he wished he wasn't there," Coulter said.

This specific episode was actually the next to last episode shot in Vancouver before the show moved to Los Angeles. Coulter said Duchovny's actions were probably related to the coming move. "I think he literally wanted to be in L.A.," he said. The opposite was true for Gillian Anderson, Coulter said. "She was completely there and fully focused," he said. The Golden Globe Awards, which were presented live last week, awarded Coulter and the other contributors to HBO's "The Sopranos." Coulter said even though he has worked for television and film, the Globe awards have added a great deal of work to his desk. "It puts me in a very fortunate position," he said.

"I am the same director I was years ago, but the victory gives you the credibility to get work." Coulter has worked his own way up the ladder of Hollywood success, demonstrating to people that self-initiation and -determination are the key to success. For the future directors and producers who might want to be successful, he quickly advised to make a film and be educated. "Study all the great films, don't stop with thinking Titanic is a great film," he said. Coulter will speak about his career at MSC Film Society's "Everything Counts" at Rudder Theater at 7 p.m. tonight. Contact MSC Film Society for more information.

Scientist explore alcohol, fainting link

DALLAS (AP) — Scientists are closer to understanding why some people who drink alcohol become lightheaded and pass out when they try to stand up. Two or three beers is enough to impair the body's natural ability to maintain a steady blood pressure, according to a new study believed to be the first to explain the cardiovascular effects of drinking. The study published Tuesday in Circulation, an American Heart Association journal, found that subjects who consumed alcohol had wider blood vessels and lower blood pressure than those who did not. That makes it more difficult for the body to pump fresh blood to the brain, said Dr. Virend K. Somers, a co-author of the study. As a result, drinkers who suddenly stood up tended often felt lightheaded and sometimes fainted, he said. "Alcohol suppresses this feedback mechanism," Somers, a cardiologist at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, said. "But we're not sure why. Either the alcohol blunts the signal from the brain to the blood vessel, or the signal is okay and the alcohol is preventing the blood vessel from responding to that nerve signal." Dr. Richard Lange, professor of internal medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas,

said the new research was the first to define why fainting may occur after drinking. "It's been described, but has never been explored as to what the mechanism is. That's the major value of this study," he said.

"[Fainting after drinking] has been described, but has never been explored ..."

— Dr. Richard Lange
Professor of Internal Medicine

Lange said previous studies used lower doses of alcohol on test subjects, giving mixed results. Somers and his colleagues used larger doses of alcohol, giving a clearer picture into the process. "It's more than just being inebriated. This explains in a very mechanical fashion on how alcohol can cause someone's blood pressure to fall," Lange said. The 1999 study was conducted by the University of Iowa College of Medicine in Iowa City, Iowa, and the Mayo Clinic in

Rochester, Minn. It tested the blood pressure of 18 healthy men and one woman averaging 26 years old. They were tested before and after drinking the equivalent of two to three beers. Scientists simulated the gravitational stress of standing up with a special machine that reduced the pressure of their lower bodies. During the alcohol-free session, the test participants' blood pressure was normal, but it dropped after the drinks. Somers said none of the subjects passed out during the study, but several became lightheaded. Somers said the study also showed that individuals prone to lightheadedness, loka-diaetics and the elderly, could have their conditions worsened by alcohol. "We need to see if the amount of alcohol has any direct effect on the degree of falling blood pressure," he said. "From the figures we saw in the people in our test subjects, a lot more alcohol was needed to make them pass out. But we're not sure if they would have passed out because the reflex mechanism was affected." Somers said the average person should not worry he or she will pass out after having a drink or two. And drinking while standing up will not solve the problem, because the body would still be subject to the same drops in blood pressure due to the alcohol, he said.

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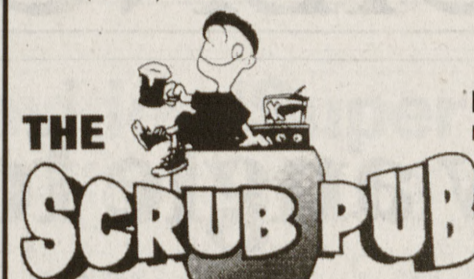
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