

Monsters

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No, that's not the problem, says Turhan Murad, a physical anthropologist at California State University at Chico. Murad teaches a course called "Bigfoot and Other Monsters: Myth or Reality?"

"It's not that scientists are unwilling to accept Bigfoot, but a matter of having to prove its existence - coming up with physical evidence of some type," says Murad, who uses the mystery as a lesson in how science works.

Krantz bases much of his case on more than 1,000 footprints found in a single area of California that suggest a giant creature with a clubfoot. Only someone with a detailed knowledge of anatomy could fake such a deformity, he says.

But Murad, who has examined the same prints, says a human foot can be deformed in many ways. Thus, he says, anybody could have faked the prints.

No Bones About It

No skeletons, bones, or fossils have ever turned up for a Bigfoot, a major reason most scientists are skeptical at best.

But the people who believe in its existence offer explanations, some admittedly bizarre. Take, for example, Robert Warth, president of the Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained.

Warth suggests that an aberration in the earth's electromagnetic field may have caused a time warp that enables

the creature to appear and then disappear, baffling scientists.

And John Beckjord, a Seattle man who operates a "Bigfoot Hotline" and says he has seen the creature three times, offers this explanation of why people shoot at Bigfoot but don't kill it:

"It suggests something science isn't ready to face yet, and doesn't have the tools to study. It could be that Bigfoot isn't from this earth, that it's able to prevent us from seeing it. Now this is just speculation, but we need to have an open mind."

Beckjord has sent samples of purported Bigfoot hair to experts for analysis. The result, he says, is that the experts agree that the hairs were unique and didn't match that of other North American mammals including humans.

One of the experts, Ellis Kerley, a University of Maryland anthropologist professor, puts the matter slightly differently.

"The hair resembled the Eastern black bear a good bit, it had components of gorilla hair, and some of human hair," he says. "That is, it was difficult to distinguish; you couldn't say it was one of the three. I keep an open mind, but if there is a Bigfoot, it's surprising it hasn't left any skeletal remains."

**Snowman, No;
Bigfoot, Yes**

John Napier, former director of the Smithsonian Institution's primate biology program and an authority on hand and foot anatomy, wrote a thorough study of the Abominable Snowman and

Prevent disaster by poison-proofing your home

NEWARK, Del. — An accidental poisoning is reported to the Food and Drug Administration Division of Poison Control an average of once every three minutes.

Accidental poisoning killed four Delawareans last year and the Poison Information Center in

Wilmington received 4,500 calls.

These alarming statistics emphasize the importance of poison-proofing your home, says Delaware safety specialist Ron Jester. This means taking a brief inventory of each room in the house and checking for potentially dangerous substances.

Jester says common examples of household poisons include: detergents, drain cleaners, scouring powder, oven cleaner, furniture polish, floor wax, metal polish, wax remover, floor and wall cleaners, kerosene, ammonia, bathroom cleaner, some food extracts, perfume, cosmetics, medication, and high potency

vitamins or mineral supplements. Store all potentially poisonous products out of children's reach, and reinforce opened lids with heavy-duty tape.

Poisons are harmful when inhaled, swallowed, absorbed through the skin, or injected. Jester says most poisonings occur when children swallow medicines, cosmetics, or kitchen or gardening substances that have been left in easily accessible areas.

If an accidental poisoning does occur, know first aid procedures and administer according to label directions, if available. In case of doubt, call the Poison Information Center in Wilmington at 655-3389.

USDA ends discrimination

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Calling some past U.S. Department of Agriculture policies discriminatory, Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block has announced changes that will allow either spouse to sign USDA documents on behalf of the other in connection with government price support and acreage reduction programs.

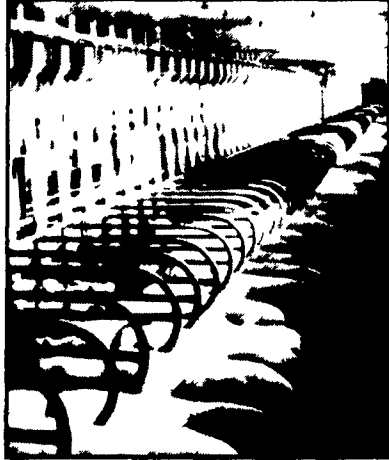
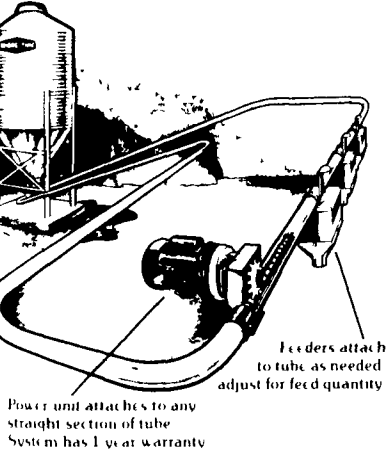
Under the change, county offices of USDA's Agricultural

Stabilization and Conservation Service will be provided power-of-attorney forms which will permit either spouse to execute commodity program documents.

The change is effective immediately.

Previously, only owners or operators whose names were on record at the county office were permitted to sign USDA program documents.

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