

Dealing with 'tracked-in mud month'

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With the entrance of summer the best of back entries take on the look of a disaster area. As May showers awaken flowers, the family is busy cleaning up the yard and preparing planting areas. Children take to outdoor play again. To the homemaker, it is "tracked-in mud month," and something has to be done about it!



Falls

The first step to limiting the amount of outdoor debris brought indoors is to make sure everyone uses the same entry after "dirty" work or play. To keep mud and grit

from being tracked through the house, resign yourself to the fact that this area will have to be cleaned at least once a day — maybe more on busy weekends when children are home from school.

Next figure out the best ways to keep the clutter confined to that one part of the house. It is ideal if a half-bath is located near the entry. Then children can interrupt play to use the toilet, wash up and be out again with no problems. However, if this isn't possible, have them take off their shoes or boots before walking through the house. They may groan, but it takes longer to erase the trail of tracks than for them to get out of and into shoes. Even if children are young and need help with their footgear, you will still save time having just one really muddy area with which to contend.

Another saver is to locate all the things children are likely to come in for near the "mudway." If possible, arrange a series of hooks

and holders on a wall. This can be done quite attractively and is convenient year round for changes of sweaters and coats as well as a variety of toys. Or try a narrow free-standing bathroom towel rack. A suitably-sized carton will hold bats, balls, mitts and what-have-you. If it is in view to other areas of the home, cover the box with a gaily patterned self-adhesive vinyl. A rimmed cookie tray is a handy temporary home for muddy boots and wet sneakers and can be carried with contents to the sink for suds sponging. Machine washable scatter rugs soak up a lot of foreign material. Have at least two on hand, one in use and one in the wash. Shake rugs out as often as necessary and launder frequently.

Finally, organize your cleanup equipment. Keep a small caddy or box of cleaning supplies nearby to deal with fingerprints and dirt on and around the doorknob and adjacent walls. A quick back and forth with a sponge mop keeps most

flooring tolerable, with a little thorough scrubbing of the small area two or three times a week, depending on the ratio of people, activities and outdoor conditions. A lightweight vacuum is helpful to pick up loose dirt from floors and especially carpeted areas.

With a through-the-garage, utility or rec room arrangement, it may be possible to screen off a section as a dressing area. Keep a change of clothes or clean tubbable robes ready for young people as well as for yourself and husband when working in the yard. Also, have a laundry basket for fast deposit of muddied work and play togs.

For treating those mud stains that children get on their clothing during play activities and sports, let the mud dry first. Then brush well to loosen and remove soil. Soak 30 minutes or longer in warm water with enzyme pre-soak. Launder the garment. If stain remains, bleach if safe for fabric. Enzymes are often present in pre-soak detergents.

SETI...where do we begin? Communication

The search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI), to be sure can't be a report, as there really isn't much to report just yet. Efforts have been limited and often times low key. To date, there is no proof of any life beyond this planet. Our civilization has acquired a certain momentum over six thousand years of technical development. Given this context, what then is a meaningful definition of intelligence?

As a race, we may be young to appreciate another form of intelligence unless we can relate to it in familiar ways. Comparisons and analogies are boundless. Ants have a precise social structure while beetles are free for more independent action. Which is smarter? Ted is a born survivor, leading a street gang at 12, becoming head of his labor union at 27, and endearing high public office at 34.

Ned was a sickly child who, to break the monotony of many bedridden days, taught himself calculus while other kids his age were still grasping at the rudiments of algebra.

Which is fittest? In cosmic terms, the kinds of difficulties we have defining intelligence here on earth are probably hair-splitting. In order to communicate with other beings, there must be a common language. We expect it to be the language of physical understanding derived from dispassionate and, we hope, objective observation.

And that understanding must lead to a technology capable of making contact across the vastness of space. The definition of intelligence then, for practical, is a functional one. Carl Sagan's first science fiction novel, *Contact*, contemplates the circumstances of the first human contact with extraterrestrials. Sagan has done more to advocate SETI than any other person. But the nature of Sagan's ETI is less than definite and the story

sort of weirds out at the end.

What is it we seek? Extraterrestrial intelligence! The term carries a lot of implicit baggage. If we are to make sense of, appreciate,

tiveness.

The porpoise challenges our notions of intelligence and culture, and our ability to truly relate to them outside of the species context.

understand it, it's alien. People would never behave like that. And the 'experience' of porpoiseness is beyond my comprehension. Yet here is a fellow earthling, a fellow mammal, with roughly the same physiology, sharing much of the same biochemistry and genes.

We seek communication, with messages which are relevant to our own development as a species and reflect natural law as we know it. If the ETIs speak over our heads, nothing will be gained in the search. So, really, intelligence is not the issue at all. The issue is 'sympathetic interest,' which translates into communication.


and contribute to the history of SETI, it would behoove us to be mindful of this baggage—a powerful set of tacit notions and biases about what we're looking for.

Why, 'Extraterrestrial Intelligence'? Are there creatures right here on this planet which hold a claim to an intelligence nearly as foreign to our own? And what is meant by 'intelligence' anyway? To what degree are we correct in modeling intelligence by extension from our own behavior and culture? How important is technology; and in what forms? What are the connotations of the answer, either way, to that last question?

Whenever terrestrial intelligence is discussed, it's almost guaranteed that the cetaceans, whales and porpoises (particularly the porpoises) are mentioned. In past times it could be believed that humans alone had the power of rational thought and understanding. Today, the facts require of rational and understanding people that they be willing to yield exclusivity.


The brain-to-body mass ratio of the porpoise is similar to that of humans. Among all mammals this ratio has been found to correlate well with intelligence, as does neocortical convolution (the folds at the surface of the brain) which is more intricate in a porpoise brain than in a human brain. Porpoises at play display a high degree of inven-

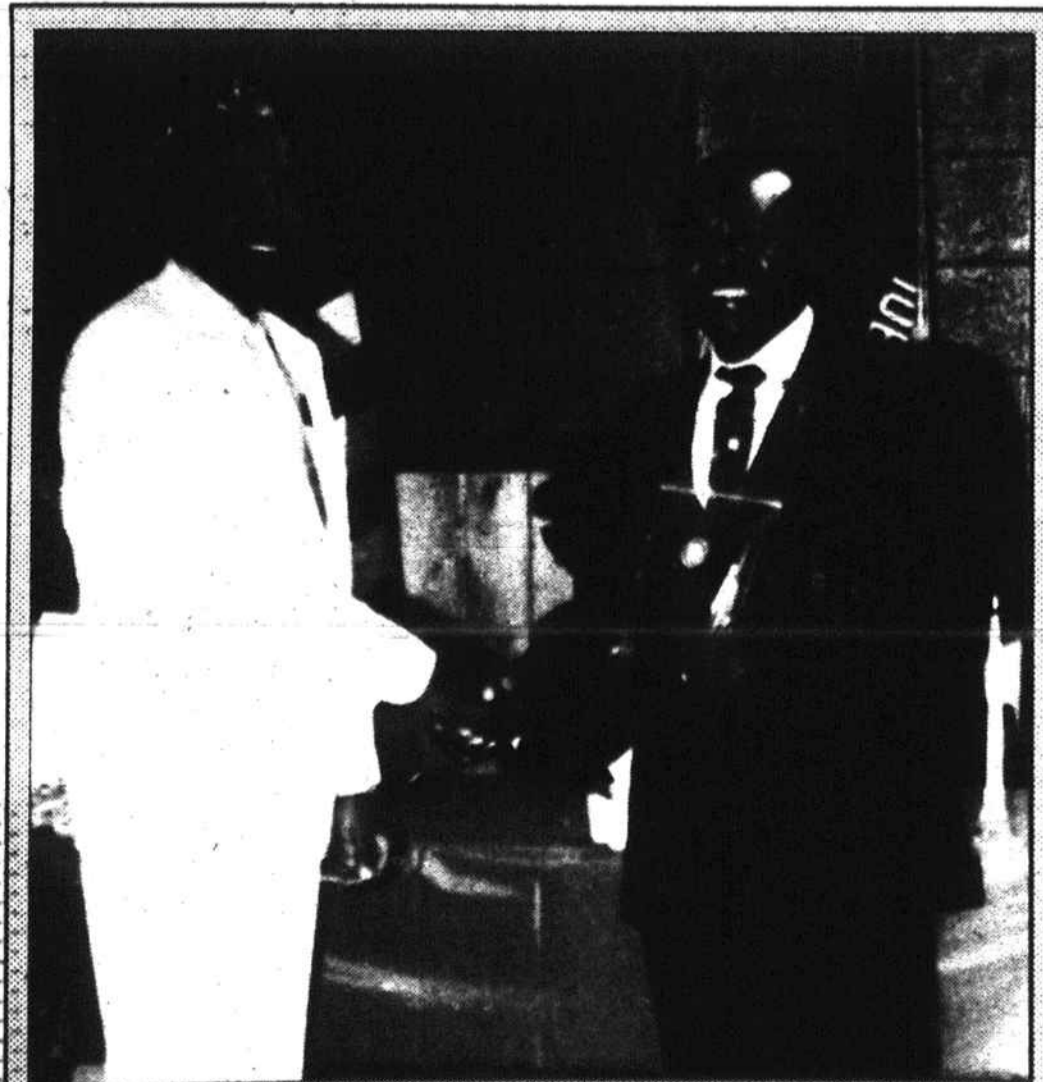
To use myself as an example, on the one hand I realize that cetacean intelligence is as legitimate as our own. But, on the other hand, I don't



STARWATCH

By EDWARD A. ALLEN





Welcome Home

Sargeant Marvin Foster (right), a member of the Lawrence Joel American Legion Post 453, returned from the Persian Gulf May 2. He is a member of the 312 Evacuation Hospital Reserve unit, where he works as a communication specialist. The members of the Post 453 honored Sgt. Foster and his family at an awards dinner May 12. He is pictured here receiving a plaque from Commander Larry Wilson (left).

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