

Eye Movement Tested For DUI Detection

The North Carolina State Highway Patrol has been chosen as one of four law enforcement agencies in the nation to field test a new sobriety screening procedure which research indicates can determine within two-hundredths of a percent (.02) the blood alcohol content of a person stopped for suspicion of driving under the influence.

Robert A. Melott, deputy secre-

tary of the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, said, "We are delighted to assist the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Program in field testing this new procedure."

"We were asked to help because of the Patrol's outstanding record of DUI enforcement. The Patrol consistently has led all other state police units in the nation in the

number of DUI arrests made each year; North Carolina ranks only third behind Texas and California in the number of DUI arrests made each year," he said.

The heart of the new sobriety screening procedure is "Gaze Nystagmus," or measurement of eye movement from side to side.

"It has long been known that alcohol affects nystagmus," Melott

said. "Movement in a sober person is smooth. It's jerky in an impaired person."

"Recently, researchers have developed a simple method of gaging nystagmus in the field; and they believe that if the testing is done by a properly trained person, the tester can come within two-hundredths of a percent (.02) of what the blood alcohol content will read

on the Breathalyzer. We have been asked to help determine whether that testing works," he said.

"Gaze Nystagmus" is used in conjunction with two other field sobriety tests—the walk and turn, and the one-leg turn—to give the officer a more complete feeling for the sobriety of the tested person. "Gaze Nystagmus is the heart of the testing procedures, however,

and appears to be the most accurate of all field sobriety tests to date.

A number of troopers have been trained in the "Gaze Nystagmus" procedure and currently are performing a three-month test of it in all areas of North Carolina. An equal number will continue to use the current Patrol field sobriety tests to act as a control group for the test. Both groups will keep extensive records of the stops, arrests and convictions they make for DUI.

Melott said, "The officers we have trained in the procedure are very enthusiastic about it. They feel it will be a very effective additional tool in their war against DUI in North Carolina."

Melott also said that it is important for law enforcement officials to have tools such as these despite the availability of the Breathalyzer. "An officer has to have probable cause to arrest a person so the Breathalyzer test can be administered," he said.

Currently, officers establish probable cause by methods such as: appearance of the subject, whether his speech is slurred, whether the odor of alcohol is present, and sobriety tests such as finger to nose and walking a straight line.

"These new procedures being tested, especially 'Gaze Nystagmus,' are additional tools which we hope will turn out to be much more effective for the officers than the present tests," Melott said.

"Where a person might be able to pass the other tests, 'Gaze Nystagmus' will be extremely difficult to overcome. Very few people can control involuntary eye movement.

"Also, despite the availability of Breathalyzer evidence, many DUI cases are won or lost upon the ability of the arresting officer to testify in court to the condition of the person charged at the time of arrest.

"If this procedure becomes admissible in a court trial, it will strengthen the testimony of the arresting officer," Melott said.

Melott said, "It is important that the public know that the 'Gaze Nystagmus' test is not a vision test. It may detect a vision problem but that is not the purpose of the test. In such a situation were to develop the person would be referred for further tests."

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY-FRIDAY-SATURDAY-SUNDAY

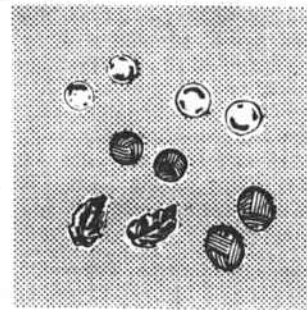
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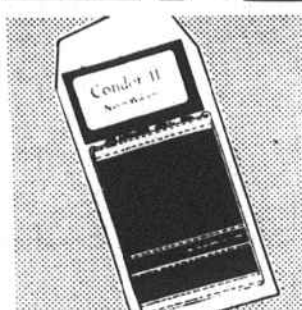
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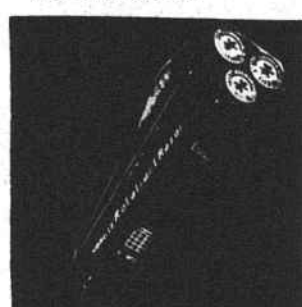
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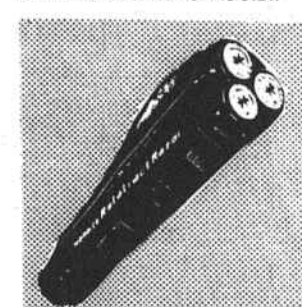
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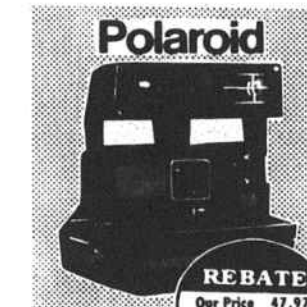
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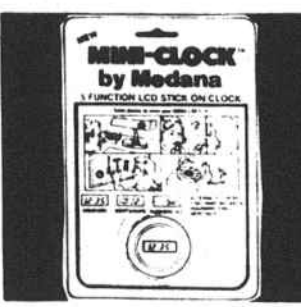
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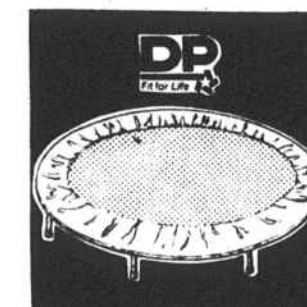
Press the button, camera does the rest. Automatic film advance.



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Deluxe Exercise Bicycle

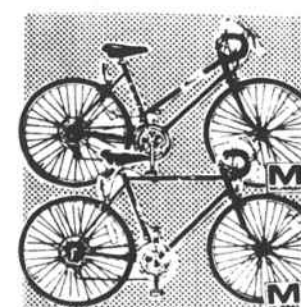
Heavy duty tubular steel frame. Vinyl seat. 20" wheels. #13-0131.



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Tramp Jogger Exerciser

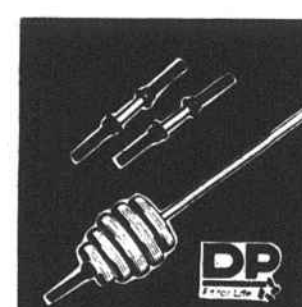
36" indoor trampoline jogger. Reduces shock of running. #14-0600.



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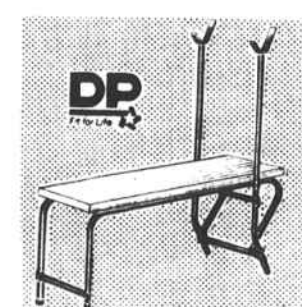
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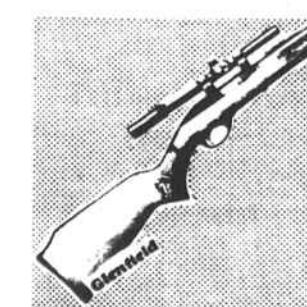
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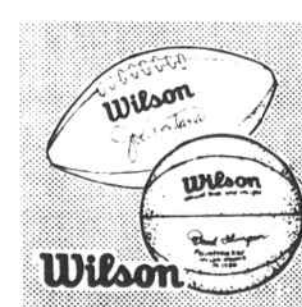
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Blue Christmas Help Line Open

Christmas is expected to be a time of merriment and closeness among family and friends. However, holidays may bring on the blues; they may remind some persons of a past loss; for others the joy of the Christmas season may only deepen perhaps by contrast their feelings of loneliness.

If you are experiencing the blues and feel as though you can't face another day, the Sandhills Center for Mental Health, Inc. has professionally trained counselors who can help you work through your distress.

For an appointment or for more information, call Joy Lineback at 875-8156 or come by the office at 114 Campus Avenue in Raeford.

Raby Completes Course

Pvt. Charles R. Raby, son of Lawrence R. and Betty F. Raby of Route 1, Shannon, has completed the Army's bridge crewman course under the One Station Unit Training (OSUT) program at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

The students were taught the basics of construction and assembly of five types of bridges and the operation of various boats and a five-ton dump truck.

Students also learned demolition techniques, how to maneuver obstacles, map reading, land mine warfare, and the use of engineer hand tools.

He is a 1982 graduate of Magnolia High School, Lumberton, S.C.

If your glasses have water spots when you take them out of the dishwasher, it may not be the fault of your detergent. Check the water temperature. If it is below 120 degrees, turn up the thermostat on the water heater.



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