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Title **Blind Boy Has Built-In Radar Instinct**

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Abstract Joe Engressia, a blind student at the University of South Florida, is temporarily suspended for whistling his way to free calls. The FBI ruled, however, that no federal statute had been violated.

Keywords Joe Engressia; Harold L. Hawkins; General Telephone Co.

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Race to conquer an underwater world

LONDON, PPF: "The Nation which first learns to understand the seas will control them. And the nation which controls the seas will control the world."

In these words a celebrated Soviet scientist, Professor G. V. Petrovich, recently spelled out what the major nations had known for at least five years: that the race to colonise the oceans, to break down the last frontier which lies between man and the total domination of his planet, is from a practical standpoint, more important than flights to the stars.

Now the race is on. America has earmarked £100 million for immediate development of underwater laboratories, and is hoping to spend another £3,340 million on marine mining projects. Russia's State Oceanographic Institute has an ever-growing fleet of research ships roaming the oceans.

An ambitious Soviet underwater programme involving undersea colonies and marine prospecting is well under way in the Arctic and in the Pacific. But the big powers are not alone in delving for the animal vegetable and mineral riches which are there for the taking. Over 40 nations are planning some form of underwater exploration during the 'seventies, involving projects ranging from fish-farming to manganese-mining. Japan already has a fleet of research-crafts equipped with deep-sea fishing methods and surveying the ocean bed.

America, too, is starting work soon on the first atom-powered deep-sea craft which will descend to 8,000 feet to carry out detailed studies of mineral deposits, and map the ocean floor for scientific and commercial purposes.

The Russians intend to counter this with the development of a "flash-distillation" process for turning sea-water into fresh to provide abundant water and electricity for heavily-populated coastal cities.

But such projects are far over the heads of the majority of the world's smaller nations — and it is these who most need the resources that the sea jealous guards.

Before men can properly harvest the bounty of the sea, they must be able to live and work underwater cheaply and safely. That's why the underwater house experiment visited off the coast of Malta recently is so significant.

Diver-technologists from London's Imperial and Entfield Colleges set up underwater dwellings in which up to four people could live and work.

Major breakthrough

They said: "In the past, underwater houses could cost up to a million pounds. If produced commercially, ours would sell for about £2,000. It brings underwater research within the budgets of smaller nations and private organizations."

Another major breakthrough engineered by the Malta team is a gadget about the size of a television set, called a "life-support-box". This contains electric equipment, batteries and chemicals.

Installed in the rubber-fabric

house 30 feet below the surface of the Mediterranean, the life-support box, supplied the team with a breathable atmosphere power for lighting, heating and telephone.

"At their present stage of development, these boxes can maintain two divers for 24 hours," David Baume, co-leader of the expedition told me.

"When exhausted they can be changed as easily as you would switch batteries in a torch."

America and Russia have their eyes on bigger prizes. They know, for instance, that any nation which can increase its fish catch by 30 per cent will solve its food shortage problems for good.

No wonder Russia has already set up a vast Institute of Mari-culture — the science of underwater farming. No wonder President Nixon is being pressed to establish a National Oceanic Agency as a counterpart to NASA.

Experts on both sides think that war underwater will be won by the late 'seventies. "The first nation to establish an extensive manned colony underwater will be in irremovable position when it comes to establishing territorial rights," observes Professor Petrovich.

"But this is a rivalry between East and West without threats, without force of arms — a rivalry whose results cannot but benefit the whole of mankind."



FROGMAN carries the "life-support box" which can keep men alive underwater for up to 24 hours.

Britain has the fishery research vessel *Mechanise*, and America has expanded her oceanographic fleet from a handful of antiquated ships in 1957 to a modern flotilla of 115 vessels which have played a major role in charting the world's oceans.

Military value

This Western development has had drastic repercussions in the Soviet Union. Recently, one of Russia's most prominent oceanographers remarked: "At present the oceans are nobody's property, but how long will this situation remain? The development of Soviet ocean expeditions has put a brake on this matter."

The expert, Professor L. A. Zenkevich, points out that the lowering of American bathyscaphes and the drilling of the ocean bed "are ways of staking out a claim," and that scientific research has now also given Russia the rights to commercial exploitation.

Certainly, one would have thought there was plenty for everyone to exploit: there's 330 million cubic miles of water in the world's major oceans — but the signs are that Russia, who has apparently opted out from the space race, is making the broaching of the last frontier a high-priority matter involving national prestige.

Many experts believe there's more to it than that. They point out that the world under the water could have enormous military value too.

Already both East and West have the technical know-how to devise missile-launching pads, powered by fuel-cells, operated by remote control, and virtually undetectable, which could be built into the ocean floor by divers.

TODAY'S QUIZ

- Who discovered and developed the first process for making inexpensive and plentiful steel?
- Who said "Love is the wisdom of fool and folly of the wise"?

Answers on Page 25

JUMBLE — that scrambled word game

Unscramble these four Jumble words letter by letter to form four ordinary words.

OUSIP
GOMAD
FLUTAR
ISSUME

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

AT HER

WHAT THE GARBAGEMAN SAID HE WAS COMPLETELY!

Answers tomorrow

Jumble: MARGE PLAID AMPERE JACKAL

Answers: Where the washer put an overalls — IN HIS PLACE



THE THREE STAMPS ABOVE, issued by the Postal Department to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Jamaica Railway, have been on sale at all post offices and postal agencies since Saturday, (November 21). The issues, as shown, are a three-cent, a 15-cent and 50-cent. They are printed in bright attractive colours. The three-cent stamp shows the projector engine which started the Railway service here in 1845; the 15-cent depicts engine 54 introduced in 1944, and was one of the island's best, and the 50-cent engine 102, a diesel electric type, put in use since 1967.

Blind Boy has built-in radar instinct

By Ian Glass

As a boy, Joe Engressia could tell what denomination of coin had been flipped by the sound it made as it hit the floor. He could even tell in which year it had been minted by recognizing the silver content. The incredible sensitivity of 20-year-old Joe—who has been blind since birth—is being investigated by University of South Florida psychology professor Harold L. Hawkins.

Dr. Hawkins was given a US\$5,000 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health for just that purpose. Joe's speciality is the telephone, about which he probably knows more than anyone since Alexander Graham Bell. When a phone rings, he can tell from which exchange it is coming. By the feel of the instrument, he can tell in which year it was made. He knows how to make a free call to anywhere in the world. Given a couple of days of research, he reckons he could work out how to contact anyone—President Nixon on his bedside phone, or the Pentagon's highly-secret hot line.

Says Dr. Hawkins: "I'm trying to find out what is the limit of Joe's skill and whether it is an inherent, undeveloped trait others could use. It was his talent that got Joe in trouble with the university and the FBI two years ago. He was temporarily suspended for making free long-distance phone calls for his friends by imitating the dialling equipment.

Just whistle

He did it by whistling a sequence of tones into the mouthpiece. The long-distance relays reacted to the particular frequencies he made, for Joe has perfect pitch. He can reproduce any sound frequency impeccably, no matter how long it has been since he heard it.

The FBI finally ruled that no federal statute had been violated ("I promised I wouldn't do it any more"), and an astonished General Telephone Co. offered him a job, which he refuses preferring to major in mathematics at the university. Joe says he discovered his talent when he was eight by accidentally whistling into the phone and cutting off the operator. Joe's blindness is of little handicap (he also has a built-in radar instinct that which prevents him from ever bumping into things). He will board a bus by himself, go to a city and ask to be shown around the local telephone exchange. Often, he is able to warn the phone company officials of impending problems in their equipment by listening to the electronic tones.

"See," he says, "I'm not trying to beat the system when I accidentally get an overseas phone call; I'm just trying to learn to help. Eventually, I'd like to start my own phone company.

"Excuse me, I have to go now. I promised a friend I'd balance his stereo equipment for him."

— NANA

For the thoughtful reader Prayer performed with praise

By IRENE BEWICK

"IN EVERYTHING by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6). In this verse we are both, by prayer and supplication encouraged to make known our requests unto God. If any distinction be intended here, I suppose that by prayer is meant the general act of devotion, and the mention of our usual needs; and by supplication I think would be our distinct entreaties, and special petitions. We are to offer the general prayer common to all, and we are to add to them the special and definite petitions which are peculiar to ourselves. There is a great deal of generalizing in prayer, but it is good for us to have more of specific, definite pleading with God, asking for such and such things, with a clear knowledge of what we ask.

See how Abraham, when he went to worship the Lord, did not merely adore Him, and in general way pray for His glory, but on a special occasion he pleaded concerning the promised heir, at another time he cried, "O that Ishmael might live before thee," and on one occasion he interceded for Sodom, Elijah, when on the top of Carmel, did not pray for all the blessings of providence in general, but for rain, for rain there, and then, He knew what he was driving at, kept to his point and prevailed.

So we have many wants, which are so pressing as to be very distinct and definite, and we ought to have just so many defined petitions, which we offer unto God by way of supplication, and then look for the divine answers to these, so that when we receive them we may magnify the Lord. However, let us always remember that whether by prayer or supplication we approach the Lord it should be "with thanksgiving." The constant tenor and spirit of our lives should be adoring gratitude, love, reverence, and thanksgiving to the Most High. No matter though the prayer should struggle upward out of the depths, yet must its wings be silvered with thanksgiving. Though the prayer were offered on the verge of death, yet in the last few words which the trembling lips utter there should be notes of gratitude. (Continued on PAGE 23)

KALEIDOSCOPE



The only active volcano whose 'birthday' and date we know is the volcano Paricutin in Mexico, which was 'born' at 3.30 p.m. on the 20th February, 1943. For a couple of weeks the people living in the area had heard underground rumblings, hissings and explosions of varying magnitude, so it was no wonder that they were very uneasy. They often knelt on the ground when they were out in the fields and asked God, or the local Saint Santo Milagros, to protect them from the 'monster under the ground'. Early in February there were slight local earthquakes, and pictures of their Saint were carried round in procession by the people of the village.

Jottings

By 'The Native'

STORIES... URBAN AND SUBURBAN

The Mayor of the K.S.A.O. . . . very desperately trying to get Kingston's foul-smelling streets free of garbage, and attempting to instil into the thick skulls of careless citizens that they mustn't add to the mess and litter . . . was amused when a lady told him, at a party recently, this one: "The vet has recommended that I give Bebe my pedigree Abatton bitch birth-control pills. Mr. Mayor, and of course it's all in accordance with your appeal. Eh? Oh . . . anti-litter, I know."

And I rather liked that other Kingston one, about the local stock-broker trying to explain to a prospective investor just what a dividend was. "Well," he said cautiously, "it's a certain percentage, per annum, er . . . perhaps."

By-the-way talking of stock brokers always reminds me of golf. Wasn't it Linda Delapena who (on the 19th hole, after his recent fine display in the 'Open') defined a golfer as "one who yells 'fore', takes six, and puts down five." And turning to Jamaica's country side (if you can stand bumping there on what the authorities with straight faces refer to as roads) I suppose you heard the one about one of Mr. Lord's cane farmers, groaning and muttering over last sugar crop's bills, yet unpaid, at his desk? His wife, passing, patted him sympathetically on the back, and observed:—"Cho, cheer up, Benny, man! Look on the bright side, we could be poor, instead of just plain broke."

Very well, then, shall we come to the inevitable one about Montego Bay? (They can take it down in the Republic). A tourist, returning to his hotel late one night, was confronted by an armed man who pointed a gun at him and barked:—"gimme unnu money, man, or I will shoot out unnu brains!" The tourist lowered his arms. "Shoot away," he replied, sadly. "I've found out you can stay in Montego Bay without brains . . . but, most certainly, not without money!"

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