

WHAT'S THE DEAL?

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Sit down....take a load off your feet....with an ODE

Bacteria consuming virus may cause toxic shock

NEW YORK (AP) — A new study of toxic shock syndrome provides tantalizing evidence that it is caused by a virus that preys upon bacteria, researchers said Thursday. The discovery could "permit

the identification of those who have the disease, those who are susceptible to it, and perhaps lead to the means of treating and preventing it," said Dr. Steven Schutzer of Rockefeller University in New York. He is one of the discoverers of the virus.

Toxic shock syndrome, identified in 1980, is a rapidly progressing illness marked by fever, rash and a collapse of blood pressure. It has been associated with tampon use, and has occurred primarily, but not exclusively, in young, menstruating women.

Its cause has eluded investigators.

The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta has reports of 2,010 cases of the disease. The outcomes of 1,915 of those cases are known, and they included 94 deaths.

Shortly after the disease was found, it became clear that it was somehow linked to a common kind of bacteria called staphylococcus aureus. But this microbe is present in many people who do not have toxic shock syndrome, so researchers reasoned that something else had to be involved.

It was later determined that strains of the bacteria found in people with toxic shock produced toxins not produced by other strains.

In a report to be published Friday in Science magazine, Schutzer and two Rockefeller University colleagues, Vincent Fischetti and Dr. John Zabriske, say a virus that infects staphylococcus aureus may trigger the production of those toxins.

King Kong can't hold his wind on Empire State

NEW YORK (AP) — King Kong failed to inflate atop the Empire State Building today, not because his bubble burst but because his tethers were tangled.

In the movie classic "King Kong," the gorilla's captor says after Kong plunges to his death from atop the building, "'Twas beauty killed the beast." But this morning, the maker of the giant Kong balloon put the rap on careless unpacking.

The 3,000-pound model must be re-rigged before it can be blown up, said the builder, Robert Keith Vicino.

"I have a goal and that goal is not going to be accomplished if King Kong is upside down," Vicino said.

Ceremonies marking the hoopla for the 50th anniversary of the landmark monster movie went ahead anyway in the building's lobby, even though the eight-story-tall balloon was only a limp heap of vinyl and nylon, dangling from below the mooring mast.

Actress Fay Wray, who portrayed the heroine for whose love mighty Kong fell, sent a letter, declaring "the image of King Kong and the Empire State Building remains vivid and powerful to millions."

It became evident earlier today that Kong was a balloon that wasn't going to float, and the stunt's sponsors had said he would be taken down because of a tear in the right shoulder.

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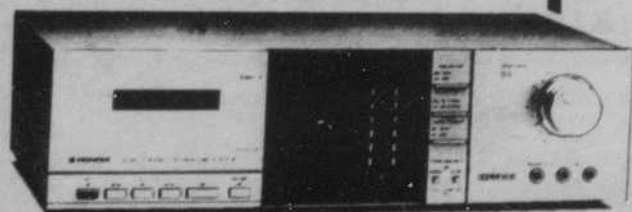
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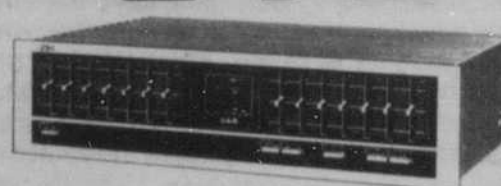


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