

Mantle of Earth Rigid as Steel, Studies Reveal

Los Angeles - (Science Service) - Geophysical studies indicate that the mantle of the earth is as rigid as steel during short periods of time, but is more like a plastic material over a multi-million year span.

Earthquake waves, which may last a few minutes, have shown that the earth, like a steel ball, can be deformed by strong forces, but springs back to its original shape after the forces are removed.

On the other hand, geological processes indicate that over millions of years the earth can be permanently deformed, like a plastic, as when mountains rise where seas once existed.

In a long-range study of earth tides at UCLA's Institute of Geophysics the gap between the minutes of seismic wave measurements and the eons of geological time has been slightly narrowed.

The earth tides, similar to ocean tides, cause two daily bulgings of the earth's crust. As the earth rotates, the bulges rise and fall under our feet, following the gravitational pull of the moon and the sun.

For more than a year, a team of UCLA geophysicists under Dr. John C. Harrison measured the rise and fall of the earth tides at 13 stations all over the globe. The measurements proved that the earth behaves like a solid, not just for a few minutes but for at least 24-hour periods and probably longer.

There is still a tremendous time span between a day and the million-year flow on continents, but in the future UCLA geophysicists hope to narrow the gap further by measuring fortnightly, monthly and ultimately an annual earth tides.

Vandalism at Schools Blamed On Boredom

Syracuse, N.Y. - (Science Service) - Look for a rash of vandalism in your local public high school when:

1. Teachers and students alike are bored and have a couldn't-care-less attitude and when the students' idea of school loyalty means only going to the school football games.

2. Students, teachers and parents do not get along with one another.

3. There are rapid or extensive changes in the school program, student body or the staff.

4. School administration and leadership are inadequate and when both students and teachers are dissatisfied with them.

5. Community instability and neighborhood deterioration.

"These 'signposts to vandalism' are based on answers to 1,170 student questionnaires, 387 teacher interviews and histories of 16 Syracuse public junior and senior high schools. The study was conducted by Dr. Nathan Goldman, Syracuse University professor of sociology, under contract with the U.S. Office of Education.

"The one condition most closely related to the high property damage," Dr. Goldman found, "is alienation from or lack of identification with the school."

"Good relationships among students, teachers and parents were found more often in low damage than in high damage schools. A strong democratic administration was also more characteristic of low damage schools."

Industry Briefed In Space Business

Washington - (Science Service) - Representatives of industry got tips on how to do business with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as well as information about the nation's space program at a classified briefing conference scheduled here.

About 1,300 persons attended the conference, the first of its kind undertaken by NASA. Government and university research institutions also were invited to send delegates to the space conference for industry.

"It is NASA's policy to utilize to the maximum the capabilities and resources of industry," said T. Keith Glennan, NASA Administrator. "This requires that industry be well-informed of NASA's programs and goals, both for the immediate future and for the next ten years. It is the objective of this conference to so inform industry."

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