New Study Shows Males Take More Chances than Females, But it May be Just a Bird's Eye View; Glass Blown Heart Assister Offers Breath of Life

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls

Recommended Citation
"New Study Shows Males Take More Chances than Females, But it May be Just a Bird's Eye View; Glass Blown Heart Assister Offers Breath of Life" (1989). News Releases. 5218.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/5218

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlangen1@udayton.edu.
NEW STUDY SHOWS MALES TAKE MORE CHANCES THAN FEMALES, BUT IT MAY BE JUST A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Are males more likely to engage in risky behavior? Is life, perhaps, a little easier for females?

If the subject is sparrows, the answer seems to be yes, according to Randall Breitwisch, assistant professor of biology at the University of Dayton. In what is believed to be the first study to describe sex differences in the behavior patterns in flocking birds, Breitwisch found that male sparrows take more chances than females. Specifically, a male sparrow is more likely to ignore a warning call and to continue feeding, even if doing so increases its risk of predation.

Breitwisch suspects that hunger is the reason. "Some males are more likely to be more hungry than females," he said, explaining that "subordinate males at the bottom of the totem pole are really kicked around." A "little tyrant" male will chase subordinate males farther away from food than females.

Breitwisch, a Dayton resident, conducted his research with an undergraduate student Joann Hudak, while both were at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Their findings were published in the January 1989 issue of The Auk.

For media interviews, contact Randall Breitwisch at (513) 229-2504.

GLASSBLOWN HEART ASSISTER OFFERS BREATH OF LIFE

It's an all-too-familiar scene in a hospital emergency room. A patient on the operating table suddenly goes into cardiac arrest while doctors frantically try to revive the victim through CPR—cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Now there's a tool besides a doctor's hands, and it may be the key to lowering the staggering number of sudden cardiac deaths—the leading cause of death in industrially developed countries.

An unlikely couple—a Miami Valley Hospital doctor of veterinary medicine and a University of Dayton glassblower—have teamed up to bring a glass cup-shaped "heart assister" to a hospital emergency room. Though still in the experimental stages and awaiting full approval for clinical use, the cup has been used successfully to sustain a person's heartbeat in an emergency, life-threatening situation.

"It gives doctors the chance to stand back and evaluate the problem," said Richard Grant, UD's scientific glassblower who, since 1985, has fabricated approximately 200 assister cups in 15 sizes for Dr. George L. Anstadt, the inventor of the circulatory support technique. Anstadt patented the technique 25 years ago.

The technique, known as Direct Mechanical Ventricular Assistance (DMVA), consists of a glass shell shaped like a wine goblet that fits over the ventricles of the heart. It is lined with a Silastic diaphragm similar to latex that is bonded to the cup at the apex and rim and can be alternately inflated and deflated by using a programmable electronic controller. When applied over a patient's heart, it becomes "a more effective extension of the physician's hands," according to Anstadt.

For media interviews, contact Richard Grant at (513) 229-2036 or George Anstadt at (513) 223-6192, ext. 4957.

The University of Dayton
For further information or assistance in scheduling interviews, contact Public Relations and University Communications, 229-3241.