

Ben-Gurion University Investigates Snores & Wails

Researchers at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev are recording and analysing the sounds made by heavy snorers and the wails of unhappy infants. Snoring not only causes sleepless nights to unfortunate bed-partners; severe cases may be correlated to hypertension and cardiac

malfunctions. For some sufferers, surgical intervention may be required to remove the obstruction causing the snores. A new method now being developed at BGU is aimed at analysing snores so as to pinpoint the exact site of the obstruction and guide the surgeon in his work.

Professor Arnon Cohen, Head of the Signal Processing Laboratory of the Electrical Engineering Department, and Dr. Alberto Lieberman, Head of the Ear, Nose and Throat Department of the Soroka University Medical Center, have recorded the sounds made by chronic snorers. Using a mathematical model of the mouth, nose and throat, they are now calculating the parameters of various points on the model so as to locate the obstruction. In the long-term, the team plans to develop a mobile instrument which can be worn by the snorer at night and linked to a computer for signal processing.

Professor Cohen is also working, with physicians from the Soroka Center Neonatal Unit, on methods of analysing patterns of infant crying. One possible application, he says, is in the diagnosis of severe jaundice of the newborn,



Dr. Ehud Zmora records the wails of a newborn infant. Ben-Gurion University of the Negev is supported in the U.S. by American Associates, Ben-Gurion University with offices at 292 S. La Cienega Blvd., #322, Beverly Hills, CA 90211 (213) 854-6161.

where existing blood-tests cannot detect levels of potentially harmful bilirubin in the brain. He hopes, by analysing the crying of effected infants, to determine the severity of the jaundice and thus help medical staff to decide when to intervene.

These research projects are being carried out within the framework of the University's Biomedical Engineering Center, an interdisciplinary unit where engineers, physicists, biologists and physicians work together to seek solutions to medical and diagnostic problems.

PARIS (JTA) — Vandals devastated a Jewish community center at St. German El Laye near Paris. Community leaders estimate the damage in tens of thousands of Francs but said religious services will be resumed Friday. Torah scrolls were torn, prayer books were desecrated, furniture was broken and anti-Semitic slogans were daubed on the walls. Mayor Michel Perricard, who visited the scene, said the police have been ordered to use every resource to track down the vandals.

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