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## Stress meter 'doesn't work'

A psychological stress evaluator (PSE), which manufacturers claim can tell if a person is lying by measuring stress in the voice, doesn't work, according to Prof. Robert McGlone, vice chairman of the UNL Speech and Dramatic Art Department.

McGlone said studies he has conducted in the last four years indicate the device is ineffective in determining when a subject is lying.

Law enforcement agencies sometimes use the PSE to detect lying, McGlone said, but according to his experiments "it is a mistake to use evaluator results as proof."

According to an ex-CIA agent, George O'Toole, the PSE showed that Lee Harvey Oswald did not kill President John F. Kennedy. PSE tests showed no evidence of stress when Oswald denied killing Kennedy, O'Toole said.

"I'm not saying whether a person is guilty or not," said McGlone, "I'm questioning the use of the PSE to determine truth in cases of such magnitude."

### 'Some show more'

"Some people tend to show stress more easily when lying than others," he said, "and sometimes a person can be telling the truth but show stress more than another person telling a lie."

McGlone conducted three different controlled studies to determine the effectiveness of the PSE, he said.

"The basic principle behind the device is that the body shows stress by tightening muscles and not emitting normal vibrations from the muscles," he explained.

"This tightening is evident in large muscles, but there is a question if it also occurs in muscles such as the tongue and larynx since their physiological function is different," McGlone said.

### Intentionally lied

In his first study, he conducted controlled experiments with the PSE in which persons intentionally lied to the evaluator.

McGlone conducted the studies in Los

Angeles, he said, and transmitted tapes of the studies by telephone to a PSE expert in San Francisco for further evaluation.

"The expert did not know which statements were lies and which were truths in his analysis and his determinations were only slightly above chance expectations for accuracy," McGlone said.

The second study was based on an experiment in the PSE training manual, McGlone said.

In this study, subjects were told to pick a number in a series, then deny choosing each number. The PSE did not show any significant stress with the lies in each case, said McGlone.

"This was to show that the device was not adequate to determine stress in cases of low risk lying," he explained.

The third study was to show that the PSE detected stress in the voice even when the subject was not lying.

Subjects reading a paragraph were subjected to increasingly severe random electrical shocks and the PSE showed increasing stress in their voice pattern.

### 'Not related'

"The stress was not related to lying," McGlone said.

"In addition, stress could be detected in voice changes," he added.

McGlone believes his studies indicate the PSE is not effective as a lie detector and voice stress changes indicated by a PSE can "usually, if not always," be detected by ear in voice tone change.

"Different studies have gotten similar results," he said.

Prof. Joseph Kubis of Fordham University in New York reported similar findings even before McGlone finished his studies, McGlone said.

McGlone is planning to present a complete report of his study at the Carnahan Crime Countermeasures Conference at Kentucky University May 7. He has presented partial reports of his study, he said, but this is the first complete report. The purpose of the conference is to present and discuss law enforcement techniques and their effectiveness, he said.

## Law student to represent ABA

A NU law student will be visiting six states this year to promote services of the Law Students Division (LSD) of the American Bar Association (ABA) to other law students.

He is Steven Machov, who is head of the 13-member board of governors for the 8th circuit of the LSD. The board is composed of student representatives from law schools in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska.

The LSD is divided into 13 areas with a board of governors to budget money and set policy for each member law school, Machov said.

He said his position is unpaid but added that travel and telephone expenses are paid. The 8th circuit had a budget of about \$2,000 last year, Machov added.

He said the 149 NU law students who belong to the organization benefit from their

membership in the following ways:

-receiving the magazine called *Student Lawyer* which keeps students informed about sections of law such as tax, corporate and criminal law.

-receiving the *American Bar Association Journal* at a reduced cost.

-hearing guest speakers lecture at LSD meetings about sections of law.

-making contacts with attorneys who might be able to help them find employment after graduation.

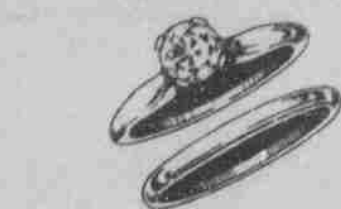
In addition to providing benefits to law students, the organization sponsors projects within the NU College of Law. Last year, the LSD co-sponsored a minority student recruitment program with the Student Bar Association (SBA).

While the SBA is primarily organized on a local level at each of the 160 law schools accredited by the ABA, the LSD receives support from each of the circuit offices of the organization. Machov said the SBA is financed by its members.

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