

he gives a right answer when one of the other responses would be better. Therefore it is very difficult for him to attain deliberately a score higher or lower than his abilities.

A successful detachment of Special Forces operators, consisting of one or two officers, a medic, a weapons specialist, a demolition expert and a radio operator, can be as effective against an enemy as an entire regiment because it trains the natives of an area as guerrilla forces. Each man in such a detachment is trained to do more than one job and can take over for one of the others if necessary.

Today, three Special Forces groups are in a constant training status, one in the United States, one in Europe and one in the Far East. These three groups must be prepared for immediate action at all times in the event of war.

• Science News Letter, 78:234 October 8, 1960

PSYCHOLOGY

Hazing Had Parallel Among Primitive People

► WHEN COLLEGE STUDENTS hazing the incoming freshmen by shaving their heads or spray-painting them, or when members of a fraternal organization make the initiate walk down Main Street in girls' clothing, they are reenacting rites performed by primitive peoples for hundreds of years.

Puberty rites, initiating the young boy or girl into manhood or womanhood, are very widespread among primitive people, and some groups have secret societies with initiation ceremonies as bizarre as any hazing customs that college boys of today can think up.

Many of the primitive initiation rites include symbolic death for the initiate so that they can be "reborn" into adult life, a symbolism common to many Christian sects. And occasionally the symbolic death is so realistic, among primitive tribes, that the initiate does not survive.

Among the native tribes of Africa, similar violence is sometimes directed, not against initiates, but against victims who have provoked the ire of members of a secret fraternity. The Leopard Men in Africa, like the Ku Klux Klan in the United States, strike in the dark against their victims.

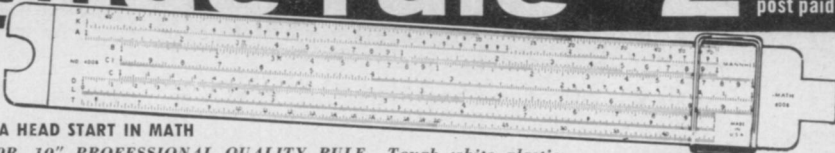
The Leopard Men wear leopard-skin cloaks and make false leopard imprints in the earth to leave the impression that real leopards have seized the victims. With clawlike knives they mutilate and lacerate the flesh of their victims.

In some areas of Africa, the Leopard and other secret fraternities have been reduced to more sociable activities, but it was as recently as April, 1945, that the police were making arrests in an attempt to break up the deadly activity of the Lion Men and Lion Women.

The African secret societies do not exist, however, merely for the purpose of organized murder. Like our own lodges, they are mutual-aid organizations.

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