

ANTHROPOLOGY

Average American Afraid to Oppose Klan

► MR. AND MRS. Average American are often such passive conformists that they would not openly challenge the Ku Klux Klan or a violence-seeking mob unless their neighbors were doing it or approved of the challenge, believes an anthropologist.

The average person in America, for the most part a decent member of society, simply conforms to long-standing habits of prejudiced thinking and behavior, stated Dr. Mary Ellen Goodman of Rice University, Houston, Texas.

These silent Americans are too civilized for the vulgar hate and violent exhibitions of the Ku Klux Klan or other anti-Negro mobs, Dr. Goodman stated in her leaflet, "A Primer for Parents—Educating our Children for Good Human Relations." The average American steps forward to act on what may be his basic principles only if it were fashionable to challenge the racial hatred or if he could gain social esteem and approval.

There are other high-principled persons, unfettered by simple habits, who are not afraid of what their neighbors think. These "stout-hearted" people have come forward in all ages and places to bring about changes of long-standing social habits.

• Science News Letter, 86:84 August 8, 1964

ZOOLOGY

Red Clover May Cause Lamb Birth Decline

► EWES FED on Australian red clover for three weeks before mating produced almost a third less babies than ewes fed on regular pasture grass.

This birth decline in the sheep kingdom may be due to the presence of estrogen, a female sex hormone found in the red clover growing in Australia, according to studies made by Dr. F. Morley and his colleagues of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization Division of Plant Industry, Canberra.

From the results of the still incompleting experiment, Dr. Morley drew attention to the fact that risk might be run by mating flocks of sheep on clover-dominant pastures.

In the experiment, 300 ewes were put in a grass pasture containing only traces of clover. Half of the sheep were then transferred to another pasture in which red clover was abundant.

These female sheep fed on the clover pasture for either three weeks before mating, three weeks during mating, or both before and during the mating period. They were then led back to the regular grass pasture.

Almost all the ewes mated, the Australian scientists found. With the ewes fed only in the grass pasture, 87% of the matings resulted in pregnancy, with 44% of the births being twins. In the clover group, 78% of the matings resulted in pregnancy, with only 12% twin births.

The drop in lamb births caused by the red clover was thus more than 30%, partly

from the reduced conception and partly from the decreased twinning.

The red clover of Australia is different from the red clover of America, a specialist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Beltsville, Md., pointed out.

• Science News Letter, 86:84 August 8, 1964

NUTRITION

Pie in the Sky: Astronaut Diet?

► SPACE NOODLES, peanut butter sandwiches, cheese niblets and other foods pressed into bite-sized pieces may be part of the astronauts' diet as they fly through the sky.

Different kinds of food are now being processed by freezing and drying in an effort to find a balanced diet also appetizing to our sky men.

The bite-sized foods are carefully packaged with a flexible film laminate, said three men from the Manned Spacecraft Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Various menus to cover four-day cycles are being planned with freeze-dried foods, stated R. A. Nanz, E. L. Michel and P. A. Lachance of the Houston, Texas, station of NASA at the 24th annual meeting of the Institute of Food Technologists in Washington, D. C. Compressed into bite sizes, these foods will supply 2,500 calories per day for each man.

The foods are being designed for the next manned space flight, Gemini, in which two men will be sent aloft. Food for a 24-hour period requires 110 cubic inches of space and weighs about 1.2 pounds.

These dehydrated foods, to be stored at cabin temperatures, are carefully encased in film pouches so they will not crumble, spill or break open in the spacecraft cabin. The pouches are equipped at one end with an inlet designed to receive water by a pistol-like injection.

At the other end of the pouch is the outlet through which the astronaut can bite his tasty space sandwich.

• Science News Letter, 86:84 August 8, 1964

PUBLIC SAFETY

Truckers Carry Cards To Avert Accidents

► TRUCKERS rolling along the highways with dangerous liquid chemicals now carry cards that tell what to do in case of accident or fire.

Truck drivers are provided with the Chem-Cards before they start out with a shipment.

In case of fire or accident, the card is used to tell the proper authorities the name of the chemical, the hazards it poses, how to combat leaks in tanks or treat exposure cases, and how to put out fires involving the chemical.

The cards were developed by the Manufacturing Chemists' Association, Inc., Washington, D. C., in cooperation with the Interstate Commerce Commission and the National Tank Truck Carriers, Inc.

• Science News Letter, 86:84 August 8, 1964

Questions

ASTRONOMY—How close will the comet Ikeya approach earth this month? p. 89.

BIOCHEMISTRY—What long-known structures along the chromosomes of cells are believed to hold a clue to heredity? p. 83.

INVENTION—How does the new underwater camera film panoramic views? p. 93.

OCEANOGRAPHY—How do scientists interpret the huge channels found on the floor of the Indian Ocean? p. 88.

SPACE TECHNOLOGY—What technique has been devised to prevent rocket blow-ups on the launching pad? p. 85.

TECHNOLOGY—How does nitrogen eliminate the need for surgery in repairing detached retinas? p. 90.

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

VOL. 86 AUGUST 8, 1964 NO. 6

Edited by WATSON DAVIS

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036. NORTH 7-2255. Cable Address: SCIENSERV.

Subscription rates: 1 yr., \$5.50; 2 yrs., \$10.00; 3 yrs., \$14.50; ten or more copies in one package to one address, 7½ cents per copy per week; single copy, 15 cents, more than six months old, 25 cents. No charge for foreign postage. Change of address: Three weeks notice is required. Please state exactly how magazine is addressed. Include zip code.

Copyright © 1964 by Science Service, Inc. Reproduction of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicated services issued by Science Service. Science Service also produces and distributes THINGS of science (monthly), produces and publishes books, and conducts the National Science Youth Program.

Printed in U.S.A. Second class postage paid at Washington, D. C. Established in mimeograph form March 13, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide, and the Engineering Index. Member of Audit Bureau of Circulation.

**SCIENCE SERVICE**

The Institution for the Popularization of Science organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation.

Board of Trustees—Nominated by the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Athelstan F. Spilhaus, University of Minnesota; Wallace R. Brode,*** Washington, D. C.; Bowen C. Dees, National Science Foundation. Nominated by the National Academy of Sciences: Henry Allen Moe, The Clark Foundation; Harlow Shapley, Harvard College Observatory; Detlev W. Bronk, Rockefeller Institute. Nominated by National Research Council: Leonard Carmichael,* National Geographic Society; Benjamin H. Willier, Johns Hopkins University; Eric A. Walker, Pennsylvania State University. Nominated by Journalistic Profession: O. W. Riegel, Washington and Lee University; Gordon B. Fister, Allentown (Pa.) Call-Chronicle; Ralph B. Curry, Flint Journal. Nominated by the Scripps Estate: Edward J. Meeman, Memphis Press-Scimitar; Ludwell Denny, Scripps-Howard Newspapers; Edward W. Scripps II,** Edward W. Scripps Trust. *President; **Vice-President; ***Treasurer.

Staff—Director: Watson Davis. Assistant Director: Dorothy Schriver. Writers: Ann Ewing, Faye Marley, Barbara Tufty, Judith Viorst, Walter Wingo, Ruby Yoshioka. Science Youth Division: Joseph H. Kraus. Photography: Fremont Davis. Production: Marcia Nelson. Syndicate Sales: Forrest L. Snakenberg. Librarian: Margit Friedrich. Interlingua Division in New York: Alexander Gode, 80 E. 11th St., GRamercy 3-5410. Advertising Manager: Fred A. Moulton, METropolitan 8-2562, Washington, D. C.