

Fake Suicide Calls

➤ NOT ALL SUICIDE calls are, as most authorities believe, "a cry for help" a survey in Los Angeles has revealed.

The nation's foremost suicide prevention center is regularly receiving calls from potential suicides who seem to want not to be helped but to "provoke irritation" in the social worker answering the telephone.

These are people who, while they threaten suicide, refuse to give their names. Their primary motive is to elevate their own sense of power by frustrating those who could help them.

About 75% of the callers who withhold their names are of this harassing type, the Los Angeles Suicide

Prevention Center reported after a one-year survey of its tape recordings.

In contrast, 94% of those giving their names expressed a desire for help.

Dr. Norman Tabachnick and David J. Klugman, co-chiefs of the center, found that the no-namers were typically afflicted with a low sense of self-esteem.

They felt weak and frightened and blamed their lack of success on the hostility of others. Usually they were highly suspicious of the motives of others, fearing manipulation.

In telephone interviews with the social worker, they would ask: "What do you people do?" "What is in it for you?"

And in describing their current situation, the no-namers concentrated on slights and injustices at work, and rebuffs from friends.

Yet they turn down offers for office interviews, and few of those who accept ever show up.

By withholding his name, a no-namer puts the other person at a disadvantage, commented the researchers. He then can feel he is turning the tables on those who might hurt him.

The Suicide Prevention Center was founded in 1958. It is now operating as a seven-year pilot project (1962-69) under a Federal grant. Its staff of 35, under the direction of the University of Southern California Medical School, takes phone calls from approximately 400 suicide-prone persons each month.

• Science News, 89:278 April 16, 1966

PSYCHOLOGY

Dreams Related To Conversation

➤ WHAT YOU DREAM about could be related to what you talk about before you go to sleep.

At the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, Dr. Frederick Baekeland, instructor in psychiatry, reports the pre-sleep talk of a number of volunteers influenced their dreams to a surprising extent.

The volunteers were asked to "free associate"—speak on any subject—for a half hour before going to sleep. Taped to their ears were earphones through which a restful, waterfall-like sound was beamed.

This is known as "white" noise—a mixture of all frequencies in the audible range—which is intended to facilitate free association.

The eyes of the volunteers were covered by ping-pong balls separated into halves, and shining on the eye-

covers was a soft red light supposed to promote visual imagery.

After noting rapid eye movement (REM), which is associated with dreaming, the psychiatrist woke each volunteer to ask what he was dreaming about. Then he compared the dream content to previously tape-recorded conversation.

• Science News, 89:278 April 16, 1966

BIOCHEMISTRY

Test Tube Antibodies Resemble Natural Ones

➤ ANTIBODIES have been produced in the test tube in a way somewhat similar to the way in which they are probably produced in living bodies, reported two scientists at the University of Colorado.

The experiment, conducted by Drs. George C. Saunders and Donald West King of the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver, is another step toward the goal of controlling disease through antibody synthesis.

The researchers used mouse thymus and spleen treated with an inactive bacterial virus. After an incubation period of 18 hours the cultures were washed and concentrated and an active virus was added. The cultures neutralized from 30% to 93% of the virus, indicating that an antibody had been produced by the tissues.

Scientists foresee that such research could lead to methods of telling the body to make the antibodies it needs and stop production of the ones that harm it.

If this were known, it would be possible to control allergies, among other things. Tissue grafts and perhaps organ transplants also could be done more easily if scientists find a method of destroying antagonistic antibodies.

The antibody synthesis was reported in Science 151:1390, 1966.

• Science News, 89:278 April 16, 1966

CLASSIFIED

Classified advertisements are accepted for the following classifications; Books, Business Opportunities, Camps, Colleges, Micro Ads, Personals, Positions Wanted, Services, Travel. All advertisements must be consonant with the character of Science News. Rates . . . single insertion 25¢ a word. Minimum charge is \$5.00. Count 2 extra words for Box and Numbers. Classified advertising is payable in advance. Closing date 3 weeks prior to publication (Saturday).

Employment opportunities are accepted at regular display rates, subject to agency commission. Minimum size 1 inch. Minimum charge \$18.90 per inch. Rate cards available upon request.

To speed up insertion, address classified advertising . . . Classified Ads. Science News, 1719 N Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

BOOKS

ALGAE, PROTOZOA, PLANKTON, and Foraminifera. Comprehensive list free. Write to LEW's, 2510 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94109.

SAVE ON BOOKS on mammals, birds, reptiles popular & technical—imported & domestic. Write for free catalog. Ralph Curtis Books, 2633 Adams, Hollywood, Florida 33020.

MICRO ADS

SURPLUS OPTICS-ELECTRONICS catalog. 72 pages 25¢. Meshna, Nahant, Mass. 01908.

SILKMOTH OVA (June-August): Cecropia, Gloveri, Hybrid, Cynthia, Io, Luna, Polyphemus, Prometheus. Price list—write: Bruce C. Pulsifer, 15 Brae Burn Road, Milton, Mass. 02186.

DIFFRACTIVE OPTICS FOR TEACHERS: Demonstrate visible diffraction effects in classroom without difficult setup. 20 different frames, discussion guide, \$10. Metrics Laboratories, 1845 North Howe St., Chicago, Illinois 60614.

PERSONALS

LABELMAKER EMBOSSEr, one or two lines on single strip adhesive tape, \$5.95. Vacuum Cleaner Nozzle, 3/8" round tip, 9" long, \$2. Spitz, Box 4095, Arlington, Virginia, 22204.

SERVICES

PAINT PICTURES OF MELODIES: compose music from designs. Students \$3.00; Others \$5.00. MUS-ART, 6417 Julian Street, Springfield, Virginia 22150.

TRAVEL

WORLDWIDE FREIGHTER GUIDE—\$1.25. Contains rates, schedules on 700 passenger carrying Freight Lines. TravlTIPS, Dept. SNB, 40-12 Bell Blvd., Bayside, New York 11361.

SCIENCE PROJECT MATERIALS

Components For Science Projects

Send for catalog listing brochures, telling how to construct:

- Vacuum Gauges
- McLeod Gauges
- Tesla Coils
- High Vacuum Kits
- 500,000 Volt Electrostatic Generators
- Components for all above and many others listed in catalog.

Free catalogs, send 15¢ for postage. Experiments in Electrostatics . . . book of experiments you can do, 50¢.

MORRIS and LEE

Dept. SN-4B-66, 1685 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 14207