

# Behavioral Sciences Notes

## STUDENT PROTEST

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### Wave of Revolt Over, Says Kerr

Former president of the University of California Clark Kerr believes the last wave of student revolt on campus has passed.

Students do not have the same things going for them today as they had in 1964, Dr. Kerr notes in the October issue of *PSYCHOLOGY TODAY*.

In 1964 the Supreme Court had just dismissed the cases of several thousand people arrested for sit-ins, holding that the cause was good and the action protected by freedom of speech. Moreover, students were then actively engaged in the civil rights battle. Since then the Black Power movement has forced them out, Dr. Kerr comments.

Also, massive civil disobedience against the Vietnam war begins to look too much like treason, says Dr. Kerr.

Some leaders may still want to use bulldozer tactics, says Dr. Kerr, "but they can't get the students to follow."

Dr. Kerr was fired from the university presidency last January in what most observers believed was a wave of public hostility to student demonstrations.

## PSYCHOSOMATICS

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### Resentful Wives Risk Arthritis

Another disease has been added to the growing list of psychosomatic illnesses. This time it's rheumatoid arthritis.

Investigators from the University of Michigan report that husband-wife infighting is related to the development of rheumatoid arthritis in the woman and peptic ulcer in the man.

From study of 97 couples, the team believes that marital hostility is a key variable in the development of these diseases among couples. They suggest hostility contributes to arthritis via the woman's resentment and depression and to ulcers via the husband's unmet needs for emotional support.

Why the sexes get different diseases out of the same battles is unclear; possibly it is due to cultural differences between the methods men and women use to express anger. The study was directed by Dr. Sidney Cobb, assisted by Stanislav V. Kasl, John R. P. French and Guttorm Norstebo of the Institute for Social Research at Michigan.

## EDUCATION

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### Teacher Aides Successful

Teachers aides take over so much classroom drudgery, they allow the teacher to double her lesson preparation time, according to a five-year study in Michigan schools, released by the U.S. Office of Education.

The evaluation, done in 25 schools, reveals that aides cut the teacher's time on paper correction by 89 percent, classroom monitoring by 83 percent, and help considerably on such things as discipline, attendance and preparation of various reports.

Besides doubling her time on lessons, the teacher

is blessed with an aide gives more time to individual coaching and other direct teaching activities.

Aides have been so successful, they may create a new role for teachers—as managers of instruction says the report, "Staffing for Better Schools."

## EDUCATION

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### Compressed Speech Teaches English

Some 48 Virginia children with Negro dialects have learned to speak better English through compressed speech. They learned considerably faster than with normal language instruction.

Compressed speech is a relatively new technique, accomplished by feeding speech into a machine which automatically clips out sound segments (SN: 10/2/65). The result is speeded but understandable language.

The Virginia experiment, done in Arlington County Public Schools, was a test of the usefulness of compressed speech in actual teaching situations.

All the children, ranging from kindergarten through third grade, made significant gains in articulating and hearing good English, compared to a control group learning with normal methods, reports the American Institutes for Research in Silver Spring, Md.

Lessons were initially presented at 100 words per minute, a little less than normal speaking rate, and then increased to 50 percent faster than normal.

## MENTAL ILLNESS

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### New Approach Needed

A major effort of research in mental illness has been to distinguish different kinds of illness, particularly schizophrenia, on the basis of the patient's mental functioning. Supposedly schizophrenics have basic intellectual deficits that other emotionally disturbed patients who have never been psychotic do not have.

But that apparently is not the case. New evidence suggests that, while there are intellectual distinctions between mental patients and non-patients, there apparently is no difference between schizophrenics and a wide range of nonpsychotic patients, either in kind of mental deficit or in degree. All are impaired and in the same way. The schizophrenics were tested after they had recovered from psychotic episodes.

The patients were 24 schizophrenics and 24 non-psychotics hospitalized with symptoms ranging from anxiety to depression, aggression and instability. All were given six tests of ability in discrimination, coordination and abstract thinking. On four tests, the patients showed deficits compared to hospital employees who were also tested. But on none were the schizophrenics and non-psychotics different. "There was not even a trend toward a difference," reports Dr. S. Schwartz of the Veterans Administration Center in Togus, Me., author of the study.

He suggests in the October *JOURNAL OF ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY* that researchers might better use their time by concentrating on the common characteristics of emotionally disturbed individuals.