

# behavioral sciences

## Pills to the people—in China

Planned parenthood programs in Peking started in 1956. Posters, public meetings, films and a wide availability of contraceptives were used to launch urban family-planning drives. In the rural provinces, however, indoctrination was more difficult. The peasants reacted with hesitancy and fear because for years they had been subjected to oppression, misery and exploitation. They had sold children in times of famine and even resorted to female infanticide to ward off starvation.

"It was through the socialist education movement which started in 1963 at the inspiration of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, that planned parenthood saw a fresh start," reports Dr. Han Suyin in *POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA*—the spring publication of the Victor-Bostrom Fund and the Population Crisis Committee. Chairman Mao sent mobile, population-planning education teams into the provinces, and planned parenthood "became a part of the construction and building of the new man," she reports. "In every commune I visited in 1969, at the level of the brigade, [free] family planning was available in the form of the oral pill, also in the form of intrauterine devices," the physician says. And she concludes, "it would be difficult to find female workers in China who would not agree that two or at the most three children are enough."

## The handwriting on the wall

Graphoanalysis—analyzing handwriting for the purpose of personality assessment—seems to be one of the more fruitful approaches for accomplishing the study of personality and perhaps for eventually gaining total perception of a person, reports Certified Graphoanalyst (CGA) Dr. Harold L. Wise in the August *JOURNAL OF GRAPHOANALYSIS*. And he further states that "interest in graphoanalysis is increasing rapidly in psychologists' offices, teachers' rooms, personnel offices and researchers' laboratories."

Members of the International Graphoanalysis Society, holding their 42nd annual congress last month in Chicago, expressed these same feelings. And V. Peter Ferrara, president of the society, announced that the number of psychologists who recognize and use handwriting analysis as a means of identifying personality traits and related behavior is increasing year by year. Members of the society reported on the effective use of graphoanalysis as a teaching tool, in personnel selection and in credit-risk evaluation. They further pointed out that a busy psychologist or psychiatrist need not learn the techniques of graphoanalysis himself but can rely on the services of a CGA on a consulting basis.

## You asked for it

The crime of rape is not always committed by a mentally deranged, sex-starved pervert. In some cases it is "victim-precipitated" by a possibly masochistic female. This is among the findings of an in-depth sociological study of rape made by Dr. Menachem Amir, head of research for Israel's Ministry of Social Welfare. In his new book, *Patterns in Forcible Rape*, Dr. Amir examines 646 cases of rape that were reported to Philadelphia police during a two-year period. He has

drawn a composite picture of both rapist and victim as social types.

He finds that rape is intraracial rather than interracial—"Black men usually rape black women, and the same is true of the white situation." Temptation and verbal coercion, rather than physical force and brutality were used on the victim in 87 percent of the rape cases. In 75 percent of the cases, rape was a planned and not an explosive or impulsive event. Twenty percent of all rape victims had previous police records (usually for disorderly conduct, drunkenness or prostitution), and another 20 percent had bad or promiscuous reputations in their home communities.

Both rapist and victim were usually under the age of 24, single and residents of the same neighborhood. And 19 percent of the cases could be traced as "victim-precipitated rape," which Dr. Amir defines as a situation in which the victim either agrees beforehand to sexual relations or fails to resist strongly when the suggestion is made.

## Lonesome psychologist

An economic recession, with its resultant increase in unemployment, affects persons on every level. But some of the hardest hit in recent years have been the Ph.D.'s—especially physicists. Unemployment among their ranks has been reported to be as high as 29 percent (for 1970 doctorates) reports the June *PHYSICS TODAY*.

By comparison, the behavioral sciences are doing well. But as of last year there has been increasing difficulty in placing graduating psychology Ph.D.'s "due no doubt to a combination of economic recession and political conservatism affecting hiring with state institutions," write Drs. Alan Boneau and Judith Cates. They are researchers in the office of programs and planning for the American Psychological Association.

They report in the July *APA MONITOR* on a survey of 139 graduate departments. They find that as of June 1 over 200 new Ph.D.'s in psychology did not have definite prospects of employment. This is 17.5 percent of the 1,237 June doctorates. The survey further reports that applications to graduate departments have not fallen off and few departments have plans for reducing or stabilizing their graduate enrollment, but the researchers conclude that "the outlook for the future is not promising unless demand increases."

## The draw-a-car test

Psychological testing of children can be difficult if the tester loses the attention or interest of the child. To solve this problem, psychologist Jan Loney of the State Psychopathic Hospital in Iowa City has developed a draw-a-car test. Instead of asking the child to draw a traditional person-picture (a task a child often finds boring and demeaning), she asks him to draw a car. In most cases the child finds this task "engaging and reasonable," she says in the August *PSYCHOLOGY TODAY*. Then, "we simply assume that the car is a metaphysical representation of the self and we consider what the child draws, how he draws it and what he says about it." This, she says, tells a great deal about a child's self-esteem, impulse control, vulnerability and defensiveness.