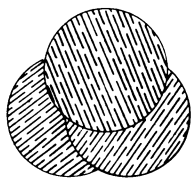


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to the editor

Must reading

As a social thinker, interested in the social and psychological sciences primarily, and the biological sciences only insofar as they relate to behavior, I paradoxically regard **SCIENCE NEWS** as must reading, even though it is primarily concerned with the hard sciences. The speed with which I learn of basic research of interest to me is unmatched by journals which specialize in my fields of interest. For example, your Dec. 11 issue carried notice of an "ecological" theory of differential female status which I might not have heard about for months through social science sources, yet is of direct interest to my current specialization.

By the way, I would like to tell the authors of that article, Peggy Sanday and Daniel Rosen of Carnegie-Mellon University, that I have outlined the three basic sources of differential status for females in my recent book, *The Price Of Women* (Jarrow, N.Y.). The differential is due primarily to "spacing" aggression, sexual aggression, both "innate" sources, and also to "dependence," a social source. The first two lead to a situation best defined as "subordination," which is quite distinct from the third, "dependence," and a source of great confusion to thinkers on the subject. The typical American housewife, for example, is better described as a "subordinate-dependent" than as either "subordinate" or "dependent." It makes a profound difference.

David Allen
Park Ridge, N.J.

Anthropology news?

Great sympathy should be extended to your reporter at the 70th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association. All that he could find to report was that: there are two schools of thought in anthropology which ought to, and probably can, get together; that we cannot yet explain ourselves to ourselves though it would be good if we could; that conversion to an alien religion tends to isolate one from his fellows; that a holistic approach ought to be used in studying the roles of the sexes; and that economic and political success may bring more success and consequent changes in ways of life (SN: 12/11/71, p. 392).

Amazing! How do they do it, those intrepid analysts?!

I'm glad that I'm only a half-baked anthropologist. Otherwise those items might have come as actual news. Of course, Africanist and geographical conventions can also produce equally fuzzy explanations of the obvious. Common sense made difficult, exemplified.

Let's call a halt to papers, or at least cut the number by 75 percent.

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