

ANTHROPOLOGY

Most complete *Homo habilis* skull

Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania, the site of Dr. Louis S. B. Leakey's fossil finds of early man and near-man, has yielded yet another find—the most complete skull yet found of *Homo habilis*.

Reported by Dr. Mary Leakey, the skull is still partly embedded in its matrix and has not yet been reconstructed. Earth pressure severely crushed the skull prior to fossilization, yet it lacks only the lower jaw, some fragments of the brain case and some of the upper teeth.

Homo habilis, kin to *Australopithecus* (SN: 5/17, p. 469), was a man-like creature who roamed East Africa two million years ago. He was short, slender and small-brained and was probably the maker of the tools previously found in the oldest parts of Olduvai.

The skull was found by Peter Nzube, an African member of the Leakeys' staff.

PSYCHIATRY

Censorship worse than pornography

According to 3,400 mental health professionals censorship may prove more costly to society than any problems created from exposure to pornography.

A survey on pornography, violence and censorship conducted by Dr. K. Michael Lipkin of the University of Chicago and Dr. Donald E. Carns of Northwestern University indicates that:

- 80 percent of the psychiatrists and psychologists surveyed had never encountered any cases in which pornography was a major factor in antisocial sexual behavior.
- 83.7 percent believed persons exposed to pornography are no more likely to engage in antisocial sexual acts than persons not exposed.
- 86.1 percent believed people who vigorously try to suppress pornography are often motivated by unresolved sexual problems in their own characters.
- 70.6 percent believed the real problem in censorship is in finding persons qualified to exercise their judgment over the reading and viewing materials of others.
- 76.2 percent did not believe watching violence on TV or in the movies tends to excite some people or frequently leads to violent behavior.

EDUCATION

Progress of school desegregation

The more a teacher, student or parent is exposed to desegregation the more positive he becomes toward it, according to the results of an attitude survey reported by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The survey was conducted in 13 school districts in which desegregation had been experienced for two years.

A majority of the 1,230 persons surveyed agreed that the process of desegregation goes more smoothly as time goes on and it works better when those involved have been previously exposed to situations where desegregation has taken place.

The positive consensus indicated that black students in

desegregated schools are felt to be getting a better education than in segregated schools and that faculty desegregation is generally successful.

Negative results of the survey indicated that in high schools hostility between black and white students was particularly strong at the beginning of the school year and there did exist a feeling of strangeness or uncertainty on the part of black students placed in desegregated situations for the first time.

White parents proved to be more critical of the desegregated learning experience than Negro parents or white or black students or teachers.

BEHAVIOR

TV effect on smoking downgraded

An Indiana psychologist reports that cigarette commercials have no effect on the smoking behavior of the young people who watch them.

Dr. Eugene E. Levitt of the Medical Center of Indiana University at Indianapolis feels that the ban on cigarette commercials will not "eliminate the factors which encourage young people to smoke."

The tobacco industry has said it will drop TV cigarette advertising when present contracts run out.

Dr. Levitt bases his report on a survey of 423 Indianapolis students.

The factors found to induce students to smoke were not related to TV commercials. The behavior of friends and relatives exerted the most influence on the youngsters' smoking behavior, he says.

But, says Dr. Levitt, there is some evidence that the antismoking commercials do influence young people not to smoke.

His research is in line with a study done in Great Britain five years ago. That survey showed that fewer than one percent of the youngsters smoked any of the five brands most heavily advertised on TV. When cigarette commercials were banned from British TV the youngsters went on smoking after the ban as they had before.

SEXUAL PSYCHOLOGY

Little boys like little girls

The idea that children between 6 and 12 years (pre-puberty) don't have feelings for the opposite sex is "largely a myth," says Dr. Carlfred B. Broderick of the Pennsylvania State University.

A survey of 3,000 preadolescent children showed that little boys like little girls and vice versa, but neither sex will admit it, he says.

Although both boys and girls withdraw socially from each other during this stage, almost all have secret girl or boy friends—real or imaginary—about whom they have romantic dreams. These fantasies are a rehearsal for real life, says Dr. Broderick.

The heterosexual social contacts of preadolescents—kissing games, social dancing and, especially in the suburbs, dancing classes—are part of a continuum that expands into the probing involvements with the opposite sex in adolescence, he says.