

PSYCHOLOGY

Aldous Has "Personality"

➤ ALDOUS, an electronic "personality," was introduced to the American Psychological Association meeting in New York by Dr. John C. Loehlin of the University of Nebraska.

Aldous, named by Dr. Loehlin for Aldous Huxley, the writer, author of "Brave New World" among other novels, was created as a model of human personality. Actually Aldous is really only an electronic computer or, more precisely, a set of coded instructions punched in paper tape called by scientists a "program." The tape works like the old-fashioned player piano roll and tells Aldous how to behave.

Aldous, the psychologists learned, can profit from experience, or learn. He can forget, love, fear and be angry.

In a new situation, Aldous can recognize what he confronts. He responds with an appropriate emotion. This can be a positive

emotion, such as love, desire or attraction, or it can be one of two negative emotions, anger or fear.

Aldous' emotional reaction depends on both his current mood (that is, a persistence of his emotions from the immediately preceding situation) and his memories of what happened in related situations in the past.

On the basis of his emotional reaction, Aldous acts. He may approach affectionately, attack or withdraw—in each case by printing a number symbolizing that behavior.

Dr. Loehlin has investigated, he reported, bringing Aldous up in "benign" and "hostile" worlds and what happens when Aldous is shifted from one to the other.

Worst fault of Aldous, Dr. Loehlin said, is his lack of initiative. He also lacks an unconscious.

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SOCIOLOGY

Fraternity Drinking High

➤ COLLEGE FRATERNITIES are "a teaching mechanism for drinking" and a stronger influence than religious affiliation in regulating the drinking habits of their members, a University of Illinois sociologist asserts.

Prof. Joseph R. Gusfield bases his opinion on the drinking done by 185 of the 700 male students at an eastern school he calls "Canterbury College." An old, privately endowed liberal arts college, Canterbury charges high tuition and draws most of its students "from upper economic and social levels," he states.

Prof. Gusfield's sampling includes 126 fraternity members and 57 "independents." Among them were 95 protestants, 49 Jews and 29 Catholics.

In the entire roster, only five total abstainers were found, confirming Canterbury's reputation as a "heavy-drinking school."

Prof. Gusfield classed those who reported drinking beer twice a week or more as "high users." Among the fraternity men, 60% qualified. Only 32% of nonmembers made the list.

Rated by religious affiliation 63% of the protestants, 29% of the Jews and 66% of the Catholics qualified as high users. In fraternities, however, the number of high users rose to 73% among protestants and 36% among Jewish students. For Catholics in fraternities, the percentage of high users was the same as that recorded for all Catholic students in the survey.

High-user "independents" comprised only 34% of the protestants, 23% of the Jews and 50% of the Catholics.

Prof. Gusfield also classed 42% of all protestant students, 35% of all Jewish students and 63% of all Catholic students as

"high abusers." They admitted getting "high, tight or drunk" twice or more each month.

For fraternity members, the number of high-abuser protestants and Jews climbed to 52% and 48%, respectively. Among nonmembers, it decreased to 13% for protestants and 23% for Jews. For Catholics, the percentage was the same (63%) for members as for nonmembers.

Among Jewish students, normally the lightest drinkers among the three religious groups, the share of fraternity members who were high abusers (48%) was much higher than the share of protestant "independents" who were high abusers (13%).

Of the 40 students who said they first used alcohol excessively after entering college, 75% reported having their first such experience at a fraternity party, Prof. Gusfield points out in the current Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 22:428, 1961, published at Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

His findings are in line with the theory that heavier drinkers may be recruited deliberately for fraternity membership, while lighter drinkers are kept out.

"The sober facts of social differentiation channelize the opportunities for drunkenness," he comments. He found that very few students drank alone, but usually in company with fraternity brothers, "dates," and friends of both sexes.

Canterbury has a pattern of one or two "elite" fraternities setting a brisk drinking pace for others to follow. This pattern, he said, "may not exist so clearly elsewhere, as in new colleges, denominational colleges, or large state or private universities."

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More Likely to Volunteer

➤ THE OLDEST CHILD in a family is more vulnerable to the appeal of a recruiter and is more likely to volunteer to serve as a "guinea pig" in a small group experiment, Drs. Paul C. Capra and James E. Dittes of Yale University reported to the meeting of the American Psychological Association in New York.

At Yale, an advanced student was sent through the freshman dormitories to solicit volunteers for a small group experiment. One hundred freshmen were solicited. After a student had agreed or declined to serve as a subject, birth order information was obtained.

Of the students who were the first-born in their families, 36% volunteered. Of the students who were younger children in their families, only 18% volunteered.

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30 Can Live in Shelter

➤ PEOPLE AGED from seven to 72 can live, 30 at a time for a week or more, in a civil defense shelter under simulated conditions of nuclear attack without serious psychological or social stress.

The presence of a trained manager increased the over-all adjustment, Dr. James W. Altman of the American Institute for Research told the American Psychological Association meeting in New York. The simulated shelter was monitored continuously by sight and sound to determine the occupants' reactions.

Four experimental groups inhabited the shelter. Each consisted of 30 persons, men, women and children. Three groups remained in the shelter one week and the fourth group, two weeks. Experimental variations were in temperature and presence or absence of a trained and designated manager.

Effective temperatures up to 85 degrees Fahrenheit were tolerated but appeared to be close to the upper limit, Dr. Altman reported.

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Listening Tests Urged

➤ TESTS to detect the good listener were urged as employment procedure.

A common element in a variety of middle- and high-level jobs is the ability to "meet and deal," Dr. Sidney Adams, psychologist of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, told the meeting of the American Psychological Association in New York. An important part of this is good listening. It is of the utmost importance for a contract negotiator to understand and remember what he hears in conversation.

Some students prefer to learn by listening (to lectures or instructions); others prefer reading, Dr. Adams found. The "readers" do better on a reading comprehension test, but "readers" and "listeners" do equally well on the "listening" test.

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