

INVENTION

Patents of the Week

A newly-patented game enables amateur psychologists to delve into the human mind by analyzing the reactions of a friendly and unfriendly boy—By Elizabeth Hall

► **WHAT IS THE NORMAL** reaction of a friendly male when a pretty girl kisses him at a party? When his blind date turns out to be homely? Or a schoolmate calls him a sissy?

Is he annoyed, embarrassed, excited, upset or restless?

These are a few of the possibilities contained in a newly-patented adult game that enables amateur psychologists to delve into the human mind. The U.S. Patent Office issued patent 3,124,358 to Gail H. Weedman, a professional psychologist, now general secretary of the YMCA in Kokomo, Ind.

In the game, the players must determine what they believe to be the normal reactions of either a friendly or unfriendly male. All players begin with a common situation: "unfriendly" Tom has a snowball in his hand when the school bully passes by.

The player chooses what he believes to be the most normal reaction to that situation from playing cards dealt to him at the beginning of the game. He then consults a table prepared by professional psychologists, numerically rating all possible choices for that situation. If his choice is rated four, for example, he moves his token four steps to another set of circumstances.

There are 40 different situations and 36 possible reactions to each situation.

During the first time around the board each player considers Tom as a friendly person and the second time around as an unfriendly person. The first person to circle the board twice wins the game.

Based on skill and chance, the game has a tremendous potential if applied to different world situations, Mr. Weedman contends. The game could be altered so the reactions of a person living under a dictatorship and one living under a democracy are substituted for the unfriendly and friendly boys. The game has not yet been licensed for commercial production.

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driven wheel rotating in the opposite direction and are disintegrated. Thomas M. Roche of Ypsilanti, Mich., received patent 3,123,933 for his invention.

Other Significant Patents

Other patents included:

A means of synthesizing diamonds—patent 3,124,422 to Jan F. H. Custers, Bernard W. Senior, Henry B. Dyer and Peter T. Wedepohl, all of Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa; assigned to Adamant Laboratories Ltd.

A device attached to clothes-hangers for recording the number of times a garment is worn—patent 3,124,284 to Theodore J. Collum, Columbus, Ohio.

A prospecting device which attaches to an auto bumper and detects radioactive plutonium—patent 3,124,684 to Howard C. Eberline, Santa Fe, N. Mex.; assigned to Eberline Instrument Corp., also of Santa Fe.

• Science News Letter, 85:206 March 28, 1964



University of California

CHEMICAL PROTECTION—Entomologists Robert Metcalf (left) and Harold Reynolds of University of California, Riverside, show how a cotton plant chemically protected through its sap system from aphids and mites outgrew its fellow unprotected plants at right below.

ENTOMOLOGY

Safer Insecticides Kill From Inside Plant

► **INSECTICIDES** that kill from inside the plant are safer and more efficient than those sprayed on the outside, entomologists at the University of California, Riverside, reported.

These compounds, called systemics, spread as the plant grows and do not wash off in rain, hence no new applications are needed. Research on cotton has shown that systemics will last longer, not harm beneficial insects, and be safer for the farmer to apply.

• Science News Letter, 85:206 March 28, 1964

Airplane Wing Cushion

Christopher S. Cockerell, British inventor of hovercraft, high-speed machines that ride several feet above land or water on a cushion of air, received U.S. patent 3,124,322 for a new aircraft wing.

A constant flow of gas from underneath the wing forms a cushion that enables the plane to take off and land vertically. At the same time, it forms a wedge-shaped cushion while the plane is flying that reduces drag and provides lift. Rights to the patent, which could be applied to aircraft rudders or helicopter blades, were assigned to Hovercraft Development Ltd. of London, England.

Hearing Aid Noise Suppressor

A tiny device suppresses sharp background noises caused by wind and metallic objects for persons who wear hearing aids. Attached to the microphone of the hearing aid, the device consists of a thin diaphragm made of animal tissue, such as the blind intestine of sheep.

The diaphragm is stretched over a tiny, hollow cylinder like the head of a drum and effectively reduces background noises while letting intelligent sounds pass through. John R. Beaudry of Minneapolis, Minn., was awarded patent 3,124,663 for his invention.

Insect Eradicator

A motor-driven insect eradicator attracts insects by means of black and yellow lights and sucks them in by means of a fan. As the helpless insects are drawn downward at high speed, they strike a huge power-