



Professors of Psychology Want Science To Learn To Call Shots

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor
New York — (U.P.)—Two professors of psychology want their science of the human mind and human behavior to learn how to call its shots—that is, acquire the knowledge with which it can say precisely what is meant when this person or that person is said to be "abnormal" or "normal" or "sick" or "well" or "maladjusted" or "disturbed."

When people use words like those about some other person, no one can know exactly what they're talking about except in "the most extreme instances" not even the people doing the talking, not even psychiatrists and psychologists when they use the words, said Prof. Kenneth R. Hammond and Lawrence I. O'Kelly in a formal communication to members of the American Psychological Association.

Communications hampered Acquiring the knowledge with which to define those words with dictionary exactness is going to be extremely difficult if not impossible, they granted. But it ought to be tried. As of now, the lack of exact meanings for those words hampers communication among scientists trying to lay bare the intricate mysteries of minds.

But "one statement can be made with confidence," they said—"the degree of abnormality of any patient (or person) is always ultimately measured with reference to some observer." This "observer" may be either a "community person" or a "community instrument."

A "community person" is a composite of the persons around the person who is being judged "abnormal" or "normal," "sick" or "well" of mind. A "community instrument" is composed of psychiatrists who have the official power—in extreme instances—of saying which person is so "normal" he can be considered sane, or so very "abnormal" he has to be tabbed insane.

The professors analyzed only the "community instrument," since such judging is the business of the psychiatrist. He can ask his patient about dates, historical persons, where his home and workplace are located, and what does nine and seven add up to? "Unfortunately," they said, "the factors of behavior which can be thus evaluated are, for the most part, trivial."

The psychiatrist also needs to evaluate how well the patient is in tune with his own "personal and social realities." Necessarily this psychiatric judge must have "a particular frame of reference" and that has to be his own "conception of society's thresholds of tolerance of deviant behavior."

Therefore, they reasoned, psychiatrists themselves might be considered the standard of the "normal," against which the normalcy of all other persons might be measured. They granted at once that anyone could question if psychiatrists actually represented a standard of "social reality." They said: "It must be confessed that no one knows how valid" their judgments are, yet "the quest for 'true validity' seems fruitless."

However, it is possible to attempt "to measure the degree to which the psychiatrist achieves the standards of other groups, as, for example, the community person, religious groups, legal groups, other psychiatric or psychological groups, etc." Then they suggested technical ways of doing it.

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Passage of Cigarette Tax Proposal Urged

Portland — (U.P.)—The legislative committee of the Oregon Education Association recommends passage of the cigarette tax proposal, which will be voted upon during the next general election.

Committee members, during a meeting here Saturday, also urged a study of the sales tax and income tax as a way of financing 50 per cent of the operating costs of Oregon schools by the state.

VICTORY SMILE — George Christopher, elected San Francisco's 32nd mayor, flashes his victory smile after his nearest opponent conceded the election. Christopher won by a two to one margin as San Franciscans turned out for a record vote.

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Oregon Ex-Convict Faces Murder Charge

Yakima — (U.P.)—Prosecuting Attorney Don Clark yesterday charged Buster Allen Shirley, 28, an Oregon ex-convict, with second degree murder in connection with the slaying of Hollis Boone, 36, of Shafter, Calif.

Clark set Shirley's bail at \$15,000. Clark, however, did not file any charges against Shirley's companion, Miss Myrtle L. Blunk, Hawthorne, Calif.

Shortly after making the charge, Clark and John Thompson, chief investigator for the Yakima county sheriff's office, left the city by plane for Los Angeles to question the couple in connection with the murder. The pair was arrested by Los Angeles county sheriff's officers in Hawthorne last night.

Boone's body was found in the trunk of his car Saturday after the Washington state patrol found the automobile abandoned near the Yakima fairgrounds.



BPA Electricity Gets Record Use

Portland — (U.P.)—Bonneville Power Administration said cold weather over the Pacific Northwest caused record use of BPA electricity yesterday.

A record generation of 4,263,000 kilowatts was reported between 10 and 11 a.m. yesterday. BPA said the November peak of last year was 3,477,000 kilowatts.

The cold snap and the resulting increased use of electricity brought demand close to the system's peaking capacity, which is estimated to be 4,343,000 with generators closed down for maintenance at Grand Coulee and McNary dams.

Gov. Patterson Eyes Cold Spell Problems

Salem — (U.P.)—Gov. Paul Patterson yesterday expressed hope that the new marketing department of the State Department of Agriculture would be able to assist in any marketing problems brought about by the current cold spell.

Gov. Patterson, addressing the 24th annual meeting of the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation, also said he was hopeful that the department set up by the 1955 Legislature would go a long way toward correcting the need for surplus and price pressures.

Turning to the freight car shortage in Oregon, Gov. Patterson pointed out there was no ready answer to the problem, which has faced the state for the past 40 years.

Federation president Ben Robinson said earlier that the group hopes to find markets in channels of trade, rather than through commodity credit.

Robinson added that the federation was more concerned over constantly rising costs of materials and labor, than over the present falling level of farm products.

MALE AT 100

South Haven, Mich. — (U.P.)—Hale's Department store, one of the oldest businesses in Michigan still operated by the founding family, is observing its 100th anniversary. The store is operated by Lawrence Hale, grandson of the founder, Marshall Hale.

Md. Governor Hopes Ike Gives Warren Nod

Washington — (U.P.)—Gov. Theodore R. McKeldin of Maryland indicated yesterday he hopes President Eisenhower will back Chief Justice Earl Warren for the GOP presidential nomination if Mr. Eisenhower decides not to run.

Warren would "sweep the country" if he should be the GOP presidential candidate with Mr. Eisenhower's blessing, McKeldin said.

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Keldin said Warren has said several times that he will not be a candidate.

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