

'Think Tank' Scene of Inquiry On Reason For Man's Behavior

Paolo Alto, Calif. — A Study in the Behavioral Sciences. Established by the Ford Foundation in 1953, the center provides a unique opportunity for further study to carefully screened scholars who may have completed their formal education long ago. Paid by Foundation. The 49 fellows who belong to this year's group were chosen from nearly 4,500 candidates. Almost all are Ph.Ds. The Ford Foundation pays

them the equivalent of their regular salaries, plus transportation costs for themselves and their families. They live in rented homes and their children attend local schools. The scholars begin their day at about 9 a.m. when they drive to the center, which is hidden away on an oak-studded hilltop one mile west of the Stanford university campus. Glass-walled study rooms in long low buildings look out on beautiful gardens, the Stanford campus and San Francisco Bay.

Wearing sport shirts and slacks, the fellows spend most of their time in the study rooms reading and writing. The schedule is interrupted by coffee breaks and lunch, but there is no letup even then in their continuing test of ideas and theories during discussions with colleagues. Complete Freedom

"The center is unique because it provides complete freedom for able people to broaden their competency in their own field," said Dr. Ralph W. Tyler, executive director of the center. "There is freedom to go in any direction in which they are not sure they are proficient or whether it is relevant. And there is freedom from the research and teaching duties at their home schools."

Prof. Angel G. Quintero of the University of Puerto Rico, one of the fellows, put it this way: "Once in a while we need to recharge our batteries by getting out of our routine and try to look at a problem from a remote point of view. This is ideal."

Most of the scholars are studying highly specialized subjects in the broad field of analyzing man's behavior patterns.

Michael Young of London, England, is interviewing old people in nearby Menlo Park to determine, among other things, whether they live with or near their children.

Cora Du Bois, professor of anthropology at Harvard University, is studying the way friendships are formed in different cultures. Daniel Aaron, professor of English and literature at Smith College, is studying the response of the American writer to Communism and Socialism.

Writers Investigated Frank Barron, University of California research psychologist, is investigating the psychology of creative writers such as novelists, short story writers and poets. Ronald H. Coase, professor of economics at the University of Virginia, is studying the political economy of radio and television. In addition to specialized studies, many of the fellows are interested in broad topics keyed to the current world crisis. One of the most popular of these is a seminar at which members are trying to come up with a foreign policy for the United States in the nuclear age.

"I think this problem is squarely in the lap of the social scientists," said Dr. Charles E. Osgood, University of Illinois psychology professor. "It comes down to the problem of human nature and interrelationships rather than technical aspects."

Views Range Widely He said the views of the panel members on a U. S. policy range widely — from a policy of deterrence to unilateral disarmament. Their findings probably will be published, he said.

The fellows concentrate deeply on whatever they study, despite what would seem to be the distracting influence of the beauties of the physical world that surrounds the "think tank."

How they manage to keep their minds on their work is summed up by staff members who recall a comment by playwright Arthur Miller when the subject came up during his visit here two years ago.

Someone asked Miller how he managed to do any writing while his wife, Marilyn Monroe, was around. "You get used to the scenery," he replied.



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Sun Festival Used To Scare Away Evil

In ancient pagan rites the 12 days following the Dec. 25 Sun Festival was a time devoted to the expulsion of evil.

Torches were lighted, bells jangled, and kettles clattered to set up a hue and cry that was raised to an ear-splitting roar, to drive out all wandering witches, ghosts and demons.

The last, and twelfth day, Jan. 6, which was Christ's first birth-date, and which we now call Epiphany, marked the conclusion of the heathen rites.

It was set aside by the Christians to commemorate the coming of the Magi, and the first manifestation of Christ to his new followers.



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Yule Log Firing Has Big History

Remember those familiar scenes of men and horses pulling a freshly-cut log home o'er the snow from the forest? It was the Yule log, destined for a Christmas fireplace! It lighted up the house with a cheery glow, turned night into day, and made the holiday festivities so much gayer.

This custom, which is still observed in many places, goes far back into pagan times, long before Christianity.

Our ancestors called it the Mid-Winter Fire Festival. It was held indoors because of the bad weather outside.

The Yule log, generally an oak tree, would be ceremoniously lighted from a fragment saved expressly for this purpose from the year before.

When the new log sent out its brilliant flames it was believed that the house and family would once again be protected against lightning and fires; that the cattle and grain fields would thrive, and all the earth would be fertile.



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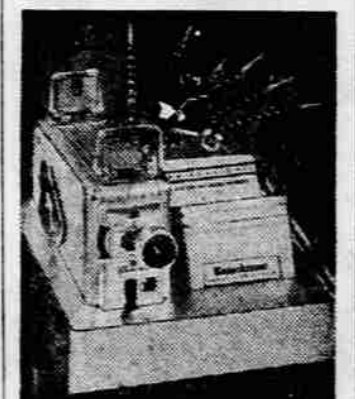


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