

# Have you been seeing yourself around campus lately

By **DOUGLAS KIRK**  
Feature Contributor

When was the last time you stood in the bathroom making faces at the mirror? If someone dropped their books, would you help pick them up? If a girl asked you to dance, what would you say? Did you know that your GPR may be related to your study posture?

Students of Psychology 350 (Psychological Assessment) have been investigating these and other questions around the A&M campus recently. The course is being taught by Dr. Donald Woods who stimulated the students with an assignment he hoped would teach the potential of "unobtrusive measures" of naturally occurring behavior.

"Human behavior is a network of interwoven response tendencies," he told the class. "Too often behavioral scientists isolate behavior from its ecology through laboratory experimentation, or seek indirect evidence for response dispositions through the infamous 'personality test.'" Woods' assignment was intended to broaden students' conceptions of psychological assessment, by encouraging them to think in categorical terms about the naturally-occurring behavior around them. Their task was to decide on some behavior of interest to them on or around campus, and to look for some relationship between degrees or types of this behavior and some other variable.

"I want you to be imaginative,"

Woods stressed and advised against the invasion of privacy, thereby ruling out the use of hidden cameras, one way mirrors and concealed sound-recording equipment. The young scientists were unleashed.

## BEHIND DOORS

Claryllie Warzecha peered around the corner with pen and ruler in hand and slipped into an empty bathroom stall. There she carefully measured the amount of toilet paper present and noted the general sloppiness (number of cigarette butts, water on the floor, discarded Battalions) and the amount of graffiti.

She repeated this procedure in each stall in 30 bathrooms on campus. An associate of hers checked for similar indications of stall use in men's rooms around campus.

Interestingly, she found a significant tendency for females to frequent the stall furthest from the door, perhaps in an effort to reach solitude in this overpopulated world. The males, however, did not necessarily seek locations away from bathroom entrances, but tended to use stalls furthest away from sinks.

Grooming behavior was observed by two of Woods' students. Brenda Green arranged to have men and women observed as they groomed themselves in MSC restrooms. The sample of males groomed themselves an average of 21 seconds while women spent an average of 115 seconds engaged in this activity. During grooming, the men were more silent than the women. Only 10 per cent of

the men spoke while grooming, but 60 per cent of the women kept right on talking.

Steve Ryter classified male students into three categories and then observed various activities at restroom sinks. Sixty per cent of the "kickers" combed their hair as did 70 per cent of the "conservatives" and 40 per cent of the "freaks". It seemed that freaks preferred to wash their hands and did so more often than the other two groups. Seventy per cent of the "freaks" washed as did 50 per cent of the "conservatives". Just 30 per cent of the "kickers" bothered to wash. Women readers may wish to use this information for date selection — remember, neatly combed hair does not necessarily indicate clean hands. "Conservatives" spent the most time at the sink, an average of 28 seconds.

## THE UT FACTOR

Around campus, the Psychology 350 students found other unusual behaviors. Cindy Whitten was interested in breath-holders. She attempted to assess the differing degree to which 1) environmental control, or 2) personal control of behavior can affect behavioral performance. She asked one group of students to hold their breath and told them that she was studying the effects of environmental pollution. The average breath-holding time for this group was 56 seconds. She asked a second group to hold their breath and explained to them that they

were being compared to students at the University of Texas. The average breath-holding time was 67 seconds — perhaps symbolizing a gasping desire to beat UT in the coming football season. The difference illustrates the effect of motivation on behavioral performance.

Door-holding behavior opened the imagination of Kay Keelan. She found that 80 per cent of a sample of male corps cadets held a door for a female while 57 per cent of civilian males did the same. She also found that 23 per cent of males judged to be attractive held the door for unattractive females. Forty-seven per cent of the unattractive males showed their true-blue nature by holding the door for unattractive females.

## IN TIGHT

Loaded down with books, Dottie Robinson repeatedly dropped her notebook in the library elevator. She found that 60 per cent of the males and only 40 per cent of the females were willing to help her.

Also studying behavior in an elevator was Linda Hosea. She

found that males and females tend to look at different things as they ride the elevator. Males prefer to look straight ahead (48 per cent) and women like to look at the numbers above the door (47 per cent). About equal proportions (29 per cent) of both groups were found to look at the elevator floor. (In my own research, I have found that women do tend to look at the numbers, but in my sample, the males did not prefer looking straight ahead, but rather, at the women.)

Karen Blaschke studied seat selection in A&M's shuttle buses. She analyzed the behavior of 200 subjects and found that 62 per cent of the men and 83 per cent of the women selected window seats. In contrast, 20 per cent of the males took aisle seats while only 5 per cent of the females selected similar seats.

Ruth Conway works as a waitress when not attending classes. She is concerned with the lack of a mechanistic society to remember a person's name. In her study for Woods' class, she determined whether or not certain groups of

people would remember her name after she waited on them in a restaurant. Unexpectedly, slightly more women remembered her name than men. Age, race, and student/non-student status seemed to play no significant role.

## WOMEN'S LIB

Ellen Kennedy wanted to determine if men are really ready for liberated women. She wrote in her report, "I asked ten guys (to dance, at the Peanut Gallery) . . . they all seemed rather shocked but pleased. I think it helped their ego, but that is beside the point." All the men she asked to dance did dance with her.

She also asked men to take her seat on the shuttle bus. All refused. She opened doors for another group of men. Sixty per cent stammered around and tried to hold the door for her. The remaining 40 per cent either went in without thanks or thanked Kennedy for her good deed. She then administered a questionnaire which asked questions such as "If on a crowded bus a woman offered you her seat, would you take it?" Thirty-two per cent said yes.

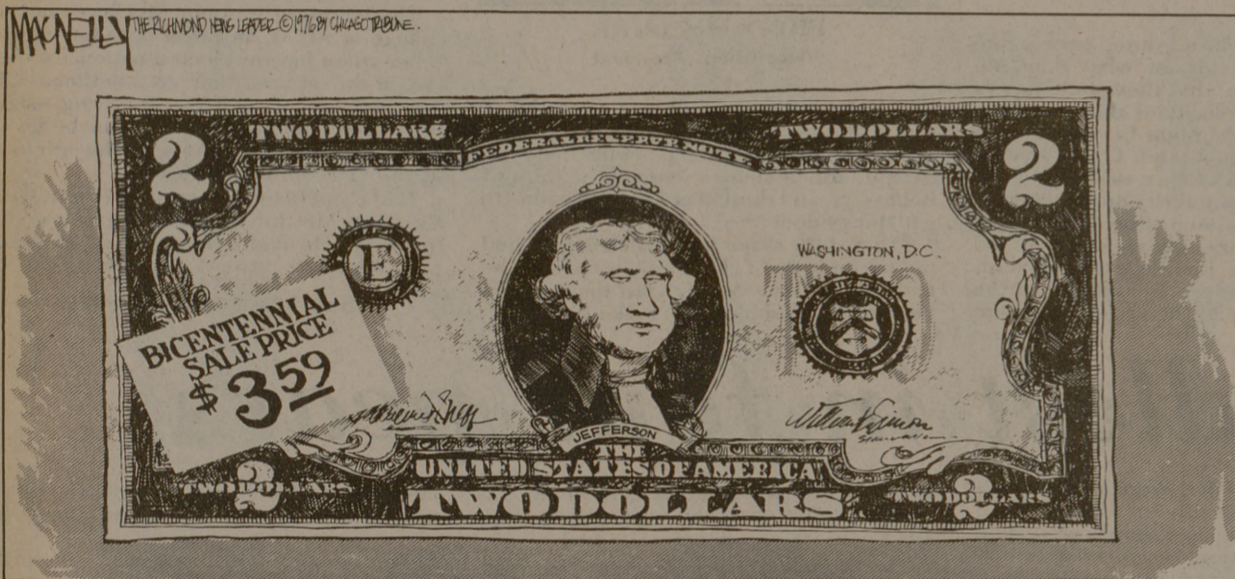
Other questions attempted the relative feeling toward liberation. In general, Kennedy concluded that men are not paper, but not in practice.

She wrote, "I know one thing, if more girls start guys out, and if they would dance, this campus might reach former excitement." Indeed, deed.

## WHILE AT WORK

In study behavior, it was Josephine Moore that GPR related somewhat with study. It seems that the higher GPR individuals share poor posture while lower GPR individuals have good posture. The next time someone is to straighten up in your class, them that you are working, coming a genius.

The college campus is a microcosm of people and behavior. It is where minds are molded and personalities take on many shapes. You stop for a moment you may gain an awareness, that people, as said and done, are only human.



## Listen Up Town Hall congratulated

Editor: We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Town Hall Committee for finally bringing to Texas A&M the quality rock concert the students deserve. To the students who follow rock bands but missed Baby and Journey, we offer our sympathy — it was a great concert. Luckily, the embarrassingly small

crowd did not inhibit either band and those who attended were treated to a super performance. As for the audience response, one could not have asked for a better concert mood. At last, the students found the courage to initiate a new tradition to A&M music concerts. For once, the Aggies moved the habits traditional to the midnight cruises out Wellborn

Road right into Jolly Rollie to enjoy the smokin'-toking atmosphere of a good hand-clapping, foot-stomping raunch and roll rock concert. Keep up the good work, Town Hall. You have the support of the country-western fans, and the support of the rock and roll fans is forthcoming. Rick Brenneman Greg Etheridge

## Texas oil reserves decline

**Associated Press**  
**HOUSTON** — Current trends indicate Alaska will replace Texas this year as the No. 1 state in crude oil reserves. Alaska's reserves have remained rather steady while work continues on the Trans-Alaska pipeline. Texas reserves meanwhile have declined sharply and no reversal pattern is in sight. The new American Petroleum Institute report on crude oil reserves estimates Texas reserves declined in 1975 by 921 million barrels for a year-end total of 10.08 billion barrels. Alaska finished the year with 10.03 billion barrels, a decline of

only 56 million barrels. A similar pattern this year would put Alaska in first place at about 9.9 billion barrels and drop Texas into the runner-up spot at about 9.1 billion barrels. The dominant Texas position on natural gas reserves is in no immediate danger although its proved reserves have declined each year since attaining a record level of 125 trillion cubic feet in 1967. The new American Gas Association reserves report gave Texas an estimate of 71 trillion cubic feet at the end of 1975, a decline of 7.5 trillion for the year. Like natural gas, Texas additions

to crude oil reserves also have fallen far short of actual production. The Texas decline in crude oil reserves, however, dates back to 1951 when the state held a record estimate of 15.3 billion barrels. Texas crude reserves have increased in only six of the 24 years since then, including only once in the past eight years. In crude reserves, Louisiana follows Texas and Alaska at 3.8 billion barrels. California is in the fourth spot at 3.6 billion. Louisiana continues in the No. 2 spot in natural gas at 61.3 trillion cubic feet, followed by Alaska at 32 trillion and Oklahoma at 13 trillion.

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