

PSYCHOLOGY

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ABSTRACTS

Changing Attitudes toward Homosexuality. LEAH J. FREELAND AND MICHAEL R. STEVENSON, Department of Psychological Sciences, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana 47306. —This study examined the effectiveness of a filmstrip on homosexuality and a live presentation by Ball State Gay Alliance in changing attitudes toward homosexuality. Participants were 58 male and 113 female students enrolled in one of three Introduction to Psychology classes. All were given the Kite Attitude Toward Homosexuality Scale and a demographic questionnaire during their usual class times. One week later a filmstrip on homosexuality was shown to one class and the Gay Alliance gave a presentation to a second class. The third class was given no additional information on homosexuality. Two weeks later the measures were readministered. A 2×3 analysis of covariance revealed no significant differences between groups or by gender. However, regression analysis indicated participants who had read about homosexuality were more likely to change their attitudes. Further analyses showed that those with positive attitudes toward homosexuality had a friend who was homosexual, were female and/or had a relative who was homosexual. Results were discussed in relation to extant literature, recent concern about AIDS and methodological difficulties in this research.

A Note on Dangers in Hypnosis. WALTER HARTMANN, Department of Behavioral Sciences, Purdue University Calumet, Hammond, Indiana 46323. —Possible ill effects arising from hypnosis have been widely discussed, warned against or dismissed. Examples are cited from a wide range of investigators and observers over the last hundred years. On the one hand, they report physiological difficulties, neurotic complexes, psychosis, anti-social behavior, obsessive dependency (largely from clinical rather than experimental settings); on the other hand, such problems are considered negligible or non-existent.

Discussion, with examples and further quotations, leads to the following.

There are no dangers in hypnosis as such. Contradictions and confusions are resolved by understanding that the hypnotic relationship is no more and no less than any human interaction. Thus, dangers are a function of the way the hypnotic situation, like any human encounter, is structured, carried on, and aimed.

Later Immune Reactivity as a Function of Experience before Weaning and Strain of Mouse: A Preliminary Investigation. SAMUEL B. SCHNITZER, Department of Psychology, Indiana State University AND ROY W. GEIB, THCME, Indiana University School of Medicine, Terre Haute, Indiana 47809. —Immune reactivity was measured in two litters each of A/J and DBA/2J and one litter of C57B1/6J inbred mice, strains differing in emotionality from high to low. One litter of the former strains and all of the last-named were "handled" daily from birth until 21 days old. "Handling" consisted of be-

ing contained in a box, separated from the mother, for 3 min. At approximately 47 days of age, all mice were sensitized to sheep erythrocytes (SRBC) by iv injection of SRBC. One week later, about half the animals of each strain and handling condition were subjected to an open field situation for 3 min. In all mice, thickness of the right hind foot was then measured, after which a challenge dose of SRBC was injected into the foot. Foot thickness was again measured 24 and 48 hrs after challenge. At 48 hrs, while not differing from each other, thickness had increased significantly more in mice of the C57 and DBA strains than in the A animals. Handled mice also showed significantly greater increases in foot thickness than did nonhandled animals. Open field experience seems not to have contributed differentially to increases in thickness. Some other findings were suggestive.