

psychology today

NOVEMBER 1979 / VOL. 13, NO. 6

THE MAGAZINE OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR

Positive Denial: The Case for Not Facing Reality

Richard S. Lazarus interviewed by Daniel Goleman Illusions may at times be essential to mental and physical health, avers a leading stress researcher.

44

The Trouble With Ape-Language Studies: An Introduction

Claims that apes use language like humans are challenged by research that suggests the talk is mere aping.

65

How Nim Chimpsky Changed My Mind

By H. S. Terrace Case in point: an ape researcher's recent report to an academy,

Performing Animals:

Secrets of the Trade By Thomas A. Sebeok

and Jean Umiker-Sebeok

Subtle cues, like those used by circus animal trainers, may affect an animal's apparent use of language.

Toys With a Mind of Their Own

By Howard Gardner

The newly nimble electronic toys, a psychologist finds, can model the learning machines of the future.



Words that Could Save Your Life

By Elizabeth F. Loftus When fire hits a high-rise, hospital, or subway, psychologically savvy evacuation messages can slow panic, reports a psychologist who understands

112

What People Really Think of Fast Talkers

the fine art of writing them.

By James MacLachlan Fast talking is not the death of salesmen, but can make themand others-seem more intelligent and more convincing.

120

An Artist in the Country of the Blind

By Andrew Potok A painter slowly loses his sight, yet learns to cherish a stark but beautiful inner landscape.

DEPARTMENTS

Letters

Psychology and the Arts/Truckin' With Country-Western Psychology

By James W. Pennebaker Science tests the song's hypothesis: "Don't the girls all get prettier at closing time?"



21

Newsline

Pseudo-opinions on polls; convention reports on sisters, sex, and sugar; and other items.

Life Studies/A Correct Life, A Single Regret

By Thomas J. Cottle A successful lawyer's bittersweet musings on his hidden visits to the child of his only affair.

144

Aftermath/The Scared-Straight Debate, Continued

Readers dispute the contention that the "Scared Straight" antidelinguency program actually makes things worse; the researcher replies.

Books /Everyman's Blues: Harping on the Male Role Crisis

By James A. Levine

Are assertive women or rigid stereotypes stoking male Angst? An assessment of three new accounts.

The Brain/Every 90 Minutes, A Brainstorm

By Michael H. Chase Specialized cells are the gears driving the system's round-the-clock cycles.

Cover: By Claveloux/Bonhomme



EXECUTIVE AND EDITORIAL OFFICES: Psychology Today Magazine, One Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016. Editorial contributions must be accompanied by return postage and will be handled with reasonable care. Publisher assumes no responsibility for return or safety of unsolicited art, photos, or manuscripts. Published monthly. Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices. Authorized as second-class mail by the Post Office Dept., Ottawa, Canada, and for payment of postage in cash. The Psychology Today publication number is (USPS #905-640). Postmaster send Form 3579 and all subscription correspondence to Psychology Today, P.O. Box 2990, Boulder, Colo. 80323. One-year subscription rate for U.S. and possessions, \$12; Canada, \$15. All other countries, one-year subscription rate, \$17, cash orders only, payable in U.S. currency. **ADVERTISING OFFICES:**One Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016, (212) 725-3900; 180 North Michigan, Suite 1400, Chicago, Ill. 60601. (312) 346-2600; 2300 West Big Beaver Road, Troy, Mich. 48084, (313) 649-1950; 9025 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, Ca. 90211, (213) 273-8588, Conviction of the Psychology Today, Poly Republication of the Psychology Today, and Commons, 4651 Roswell Rd., N.E., Suite 201-C, Atlanta, Ga. 30342, (404) 252-9588. Copyright 1979 by Ziff-Davis Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Psychology Today and Human Behavior are registered trademarks.

le Stress

lead



93414