

These Oakland U researchers are in your face

Two Oakland University psychologists are studying hundreds of faces — angry faces, frightened faces, sad faces — to gain a better understanding of the processes involved in repression.

Professor Ronald Hansen said the research is looking at emotion and its impact on memory and on the interaction of emotion and cognition (conscious appraisal of a stimulus).

Hansen explains that repression involves a person's blocking out of certain memories, usually fairly intense negative emotions like fear, anger, or embarrassment. "The memories are there, you just can't access them," he explains.

The research is being conducted with a three-year, \$225,000 grant from the National Institutes of Mental Health under the direction of Ronald Hansen and his wife, Christina, who is an assistant professor of psychology. They are assisted by eight OU undergraduates who are running the psychophysiology laboratory in the department of psychology.

The researchers have studied nearly 300 subjects thus far. "The subjects' psychophysiological responses to other human faces showing primitive emotions are measured as frequently as 1,000 times a second. Eye, facial muscle, and psychological responses are charted," Ronald Hansen said.

The professor said he believes "psychophysiological measurements taken of the subjects will show that we have emotional reactions to another person's frightened or angry face before we are fully aware of the emotion that the person is expressing. Another person's face triggers an immediate emotional response."

Christine Hansen claims that "if these findings hold up under replication, they will lead us to question the conventional wisdom that a person must make a full conscious appraisal of a stimulus before having an emotional reaction."

The two scientists claim that a better understand-

ing of the interplay of emotion, memory, and cognition is crucial in learning more about repression, an important concept in clinical psychology. The relationship of emotion and cognition is also one of the basic questions of psychology, they feel.

Imagine, Ronald Hansen said, "our being able to understand why we make war, why we get jealous, how two eyewitnesses to an event have different observations. We could help a pilot in a crisis make decisions based on the right set of memories rather than the wrong ones when the plane is going down."

"Anything we can do to shed more light on these basic processes would be great," he added.

EMU to host education hearings

Eastern Michigan University will host two regional public hearings of the National Education Commission on "Time and Learning, Thursday and Friday, April 29-30, in Ypsilanti.

The first of the hearings will be 1:30-3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 29, in Room 201 Welch Hall on the EMU campus. The second will be 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Friday, April 30, in EMU's Corporate Education Center, 1275 Huron St. in Ypsilanti.

The nine-member commission, which includes EMU President William E. Shelton, was created by Congress two years ago with the passage of The Education Council Act of 1991. Its charge is to examine the quality and adequacy of time U.S. elementary and secondary students spend on study and learning.

In 1994, the commission will present its findings and recommendations in a report to Congress and the U.S. Department of Education.

John Hodge Jones, school superintendent in Murfreesboro, Tenn., is NECTL chairman and Carol Schwartz, former special education teacher and Washington, D.C., City Council and Board of Education member, is vice chair.

Serving with Shelton as commission members are: Massachusetts Sen. Michael J. Barrett; B. Marie Byers, vice president of the Washington County School Board in Hagerstown, Md.; Christopher T. Crose, executive director of the Education Initiative of The Business Roundtable and former assistant secretary for educational research and improvement in the U.S. Department of Education.

Also Dennis F. Doyle, senior fellow at the Hudson Institute in Chevy Chase, Md.; Norman E. Higgins, principal of Piscataquis Community High School in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine; and Glenn R. Walker, a former teacher and Fulbright fellow who is principal of Clifton-Clyde High School in Clyde, Kan.

The executive director of the commission is Milton Goldberg, former executive director of the National Commission on Excellence in Education, which 10 years ago this month produced the landmark report, "A Nation at Risk."

PRH celebrates anniversary

Metro Detroiters are invited to join members of the PRH Institute in celebrating their 10th anniversary 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 1, at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, 2701 Chicago Blvd. in Detroit.

PRH, a French acronym for Personality and Human Relations, was begun by a French monk who realized his seminarians weren't reaching their potential. He developed an approach to personal growth that leads to the inner being.

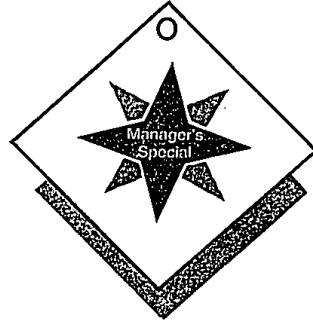
PRH is now international and sponsors workshops including "Who Am I?", "Couples," "Helping Children To Grow," "My Essential Course of Action," "Healing" and "Ongoing Growth."

PRH welcomes past and prospective participants. Refreshments will be served at the anniversary celebration.

For more information, call (313) 875-1125.

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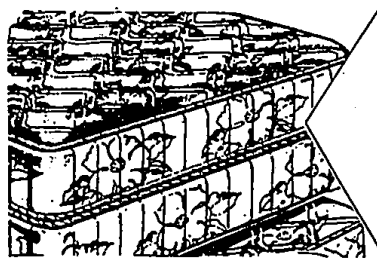
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