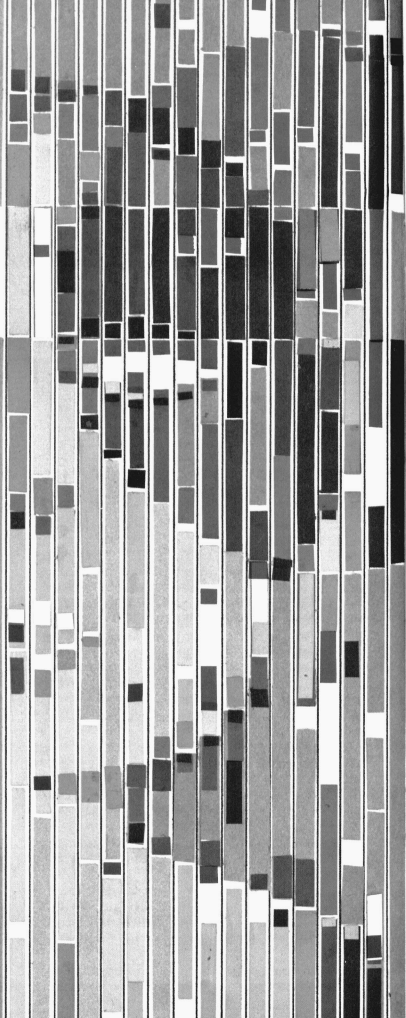


**Personality:
Testing the Norm**



What is a normal personality? And how many people have them?

Pioneering in a field yet unresearched, the University is seeking to find the answers.

"Forty per cent of the students on this campus come to us for counseling at one time or another during their college career," Dr. Wayne Anderson, assistant director of Testing and Counseling Services and associate professor of psychology, says, "This has to be normal. Yet we have had to view these normal people through standards of the abnormal because no one has ever really studied or measured the normal personality."

It is only in this century that people have become concerned with problems of personality and adjustment. With Sigmund Freud came the popularity of the studies of the maladjusted. Small clinics for the severely mentally ill followed.

Terms like neurotic and psychotic now are part of our everyday vocabulary, but are largely meaningless in describing the millions of people seeking counseling services and psychiatric help. Today's world seems to be one in which everyone has a problem of adjusting at some point. Pressures and demands simply are a part of everyday living.

Last spring Dr. Charles Krauskopf, coordinator of research for Testing and Counseling, wrote the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare asking them to help finance normal personality research at the University of Colorado and the University of Missouri with a joint grant.

"If this grant comes through it will be the one of the few ever given for research on the normal personality."

Several years ago the senior staff of Testing and Counseling Services began a small scale project on normal personality research. The theories they were following then were set down by Roy Heath, a Princeton College professor, who had based his studies of personality on a group of college men he interviewed each week for four years. "He started with the people and then worried about how to measure the findings. He lacked fine points of measuring," Anderson says.

Last spring the 11 members of the Testing and Counseling staff who will take part in the research learned some welcome news: The University of Colorado also was researching the normal personality.

John W. Gittinger, a private consultant in the East who invented a new measurement system, and David Saunders, University of Colorado professor who expanded it, had taken ability tests and transformed them to personality tests.

"No we didn't totally abandon our previous findings, in fact some of them might fit in, but we believe this new measurement system should work," Krauskopf says.

"We are saying that ability and personality are the same, not different as they previously were thought to be." Although Heath had mentioned this correlation, he made no issue of it.

Except for several small articles, no one has ever expressed these theories in print. "I'm one of the most interested in the basic theory," Krauskopf says, who is writing a theoretical paper. "If we can write it down, it will be much easier to explain. One of our aims of this research is to provide material for masters and doctoral theses. We are not requiring it, but most of our students are interested. There is 50 years of work here if the steps we keep taking continue to show us we are on the right track.

"Four years ago we could never touch this research because we lacked computers," Dr. Anderson points out. The University now can provide use of computer time to professors.

As Gittinger has done, the Testing and Counseling Services will take already established data, test student volunteers, and then take the scores that are similar and try to find out why they are similar and what makes them different from other students' scores.

The normal level, according to Gittinger, is an estimate of an individual's over-all capacity, from which the influence of personality on test performance can be measured.

"What you score high on in the tests is what you are most comfortable doing," Krauskopf says. "If given a choice you will choose according to your personality which correlates with where your abilities lie."

Anyway, that's what a normal person will do. □