

Solve Problem Twice To Get Best Advice

It pays to solve a problem twice. Research in laboratory on group problem-solving provides weighty evidence that the method of seeking two or more solutions to a problem is one way to improve the quality of group decisions, according to University of Michigan psychologist Norman R. F. Maier.

In general terms, the study showed:
Solutions are of higher quality when groups are asked to find a second solution after they have solved the problem; the group members are as much satisfied with the second solution as with

the first—that is, the improved quality is obtained without any loss of acceptance; and improvements in quality are achieved in little additional time.

The major implication of these findings is that a group discussion leader can broaden the horizon for problem-solving by using the multiple-solution method effectively. Exploring additional solutions to a problem means changing a problem situation into a choice situation where the participants can select the most acceptable one. On the other hand, some discussions become limited to a consideration of two or three obvious alternatives. On such occasions, the leader can ask the group to seek additional, less obvious alternatives, thus turning a choice situation into a problem situation.

THERE ARE other advantages in seeking two or more solutions to a problem. Professor Maier points out. One is that "the leader may have successfully exerted his dominance during the first period and hence is readier to entertain ideas from subordinates during the second."

Another advantage is that "the majority viewpoint may have dominated the thinking in the first period, thus allowing the minority member somewhat more influence in the second period."

Professor Maier examines various principles that may improve groupings in his latest book, "Problem-Solving Discussions and Conferences" (McGraw-Hill), based on many years of research on methods and skills of conference leadership.

Poison Ivy 'Immunity' Won't Last

ANN ARBOR—If you think you're "immune" to poison ivy, watch out! You're building up to a bad case of the itch, says a University of Michigan dermatologist.

According to Dr. E. Richard Harrell at the U-M Medical Center, almost everyone is "non-reactive" to the glossy-leaved nuisance... but only for awhile.

We do not usually see poison ivy in youngsters before the age five to seven years. Kiddies can roll around in the poison ivy patch without developing any reaction at all.

THE POISONOUS effect builds up after repeated exposure to the plant's oil, says the U-M doctor. "Most people don't realize that poison ivy is an allergic reaction, and the more contact you have with the plant, the greater the likelihood that it will begin to affect you."

Although "poison ivy" is probably the most common cause of contact dermatitis of an allergic nature, "other plants can produce the same effect. Certain people react to carrot tops, delphiniums or primroses, all of which can cause a poison-ivy-like allergic reaction," Dr. Harrell said.

The usual symptoms—blistering, red, itching eruptions of the skin—can be soothed and controlled by ointments and medications, but there is no way to change the allergy itself, he said. "Poison ivy shots have been used for a great number of years but they have little or no effect whatever."

Comedy Corner



"Is that dishwasher job taken yet?"



Eagle Scout

Chris Porter, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Porter, 16910 Reedmere, Birmingham, has been awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. He holds 21 merit badges in Boy Scout Troop 1010 from Greenfield School, Birmingham. Young Porter, who is 16, will be a junior at Groves High School in the fall. He presently is attending Seaholm High's summer school for advance credit in algebra.

Jaycee Auxiliary Inaugurates New Officers at Lunch

The Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce Auxiliary recently held its annual inauguration luncheon at the Fox and Hounds Inn, Bloomfield Hills.

Among the outgoing officers honored at the event were Mrs. William Hall, president; Mrs. James Fisher, vice president; Mrs. Thomas Clapp, recording secretary; Mrs. John Slocum, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Joseph Vaughn, treasurer.

THE NEWLY elected officers honored were: Mrs. Joseph Gerak, president; Mrs. Bowen Broek, vice-president; Mrs. Kenneth Crosby, recording secretary; Mrs. John Graupner, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. David Powers, treasurer.

Appointed by the newly elected auxiliary board are: Mrs. Richard Wiseman, community service; Mrs. Robert Erb, money-making; Mrs. Burwood Allen, Jaycee assistant; Mrs. Rolph Carey, program; and Mrs. Roger Crimmins, publicity and historian.

Honor awards for outstanding achievement were given to Mrs. Jon Shepard and Mrs. William Kenyon.

Dr. Kennedy To Be Head Of PR Assn.

Dr. E. Dale Kennedy, executive secretary of the Michigan Education Association, took over as president of the National School Public Relations Association July 12.

Kennedy's term of office will begin at the close of the tenth annual NSPRA seminar in Aurora, Ill.

NSPRA, a department of the National Education Association, was set up to promote a better understanding of the American public schools.

Among NSPRA's regular publications are the weekly "Education U.S.A." and the twice-monthly "Trends." The department also supplies editorials, newsletters and public relations guidebooks to the nation's schools.

NSPRA IS ALSO noted for its annual presentation of two national awards: the Golden Key Awards, to honor the role of the teacher in American life; and the National School Bell Awards, for distinguished interpretation of education by magazines, television and radio networks and the press at national levels.

Kennedy, president of the National Association of Secretaries of State Teachers Associations, is also a member of the Michigan and National Association of School Administrators, Adult Education Association, National Education Association and many state committees.

Kennedy succeeds Dr. Lee Demeter as NSPRA president. Demeter is director of information, Great Neck, N. Y., public schools.

The NSPRA president-elect is Gene Lines, director of information services, Denver public schools.

NATION OF SHEEP

The continent with the largest sheep population is Australia, but the country with the greatest amount of different breeds of sheep is Great Britain.

The most widely distributed breed is the Merino, a fine-wooled white variety developed originally in Spain and now raised all over the world. The Merino was introduced into this continent a hundred years or so ago.

VIOLETS, YES; TULIPS, NO There is no such thing as a true-blue tulip. Blossoms come in almost every other color, including a purple so deep it is almost black.

HEAD START

The tulip, cultivated originally in the Near East, gets its name from the Persian word for turban.

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