

# Guinea Pig Does His Bit For Psvch Students

## Experiments Provide Lab Learning

The guinea pig is a furry creature with sadder eyes than a basset hound.

He is also, at least according to Psychology Instructor Donald McCrimmon, often a better teacher than both texts and lecturer.

Eventually 40 white rats will replace the guinea pigs, but for now the guinea pigs are the main attraction in the psychology labs. They are subjects of behavioral and learning studies at A-B -- usually performed by experimental psychology students.

McCrimmon, who specializes in physiological psychology, said data obtained from lectures and texts is too easily forgotten unless bolstered by learning situations which involve actual student application of this data.

Asheville - Biltmore emphasizes comprehensive understanding and the psychology lab work provides the 65 psychology majors with an interesting method of achieving this goal, he said.

Although psychology students are not required to do lab work, McCrimmon strongly recommends that they do. Students taking courses in learning theory soon find the subject is not dry. It's as alive and exciting as observing a sad-eyed, bewildered guinea pig learn to run a T-maze.

In concurrence with the behavioral experiments, the psychology department is doing a study of a drug called Inderal which prevents a sharp increase in heart rate when an animal is stimulated.

The results of the experiments could be beneficial to heart patients.

A heart weakened by loss of blood from the heart muscle itself cannot withstand the stress of sudden increase in heart rate. Inderal could hold the rate in check.

The guinea pigs, highly excited and not readily adaptable to learning situations, became more co-operative after injection of Inderal. However, their

learning processes seemed to be slowed down. McCrimmon and his students will perform additional experiments on rats injected with Inderal during the fourth term.

Two-way avoidance learning patterns also will be studied.

Second term students set up their own psychology experiments. One of the most interesting, according to McCrimmon, involved the use of the "power of suggestion."

A box which allowed a pin hole of light to beam through was placed in a darkened room with several students. The experimenter asked each student to indicate how far the light moved over a period of time.

After the experiment the students were instructed to "help" the next experimental group of students estimate how far the light moved.

If a member of the original group said that the light moved one or five feet, members of the second group would agree.

Actually, the light remained stationary during both experiments.

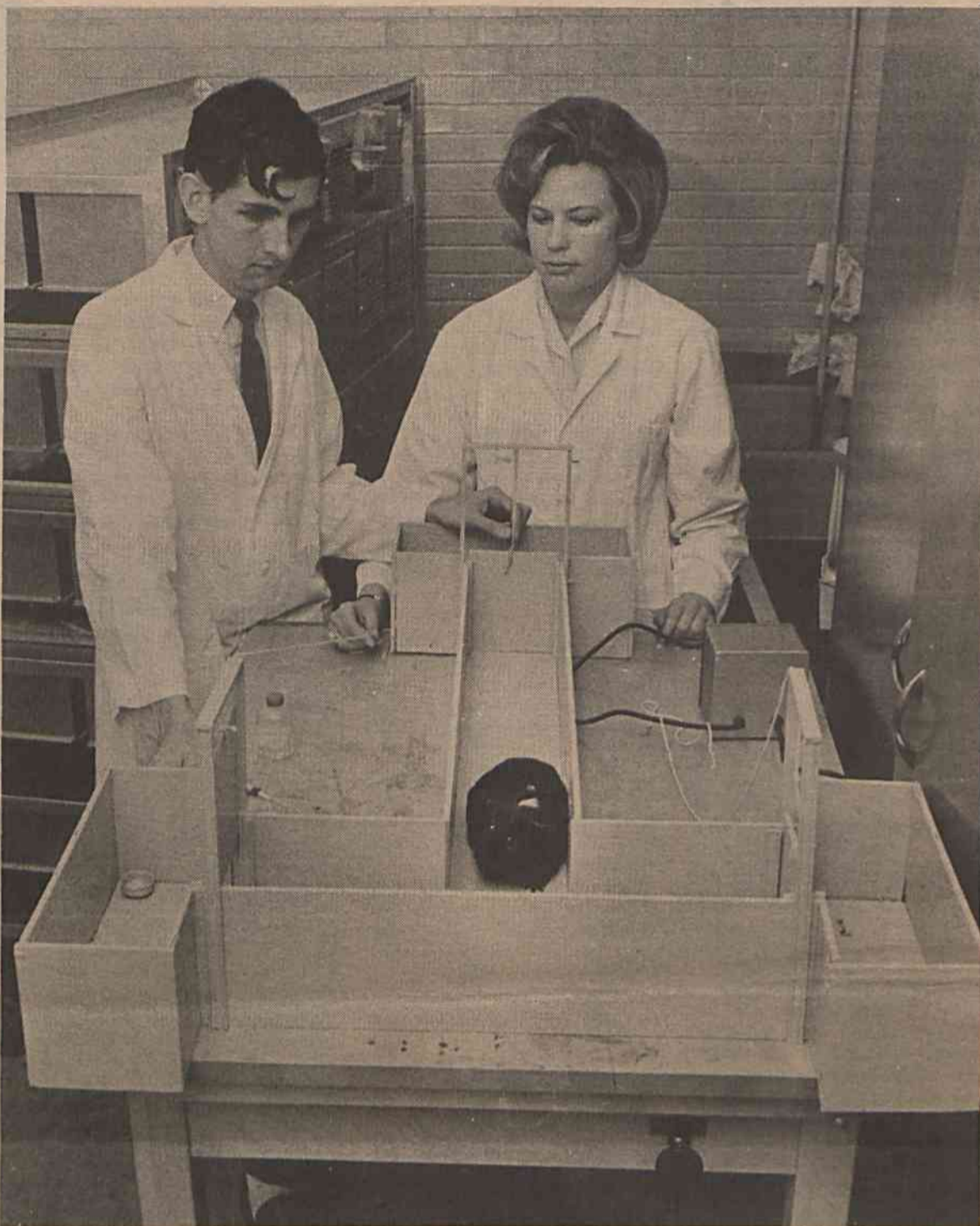
Injecting 80 proof (40 per cent) alcohol into the intestines of animals seems to retard the development of ulcers during stress or conflict situations. This observation will be the basis of a future study to be made at A-B.

Next year, McCrimmon plans an invitational course, for selected psychology majors, to do studies in methodology, analysis synthesis, and critical evaluation.

The psychology department has grown considerably since Dr. Sheldon Gardner was the lone instructor two years ago.

Today, the department includes Dr. Kenneth Nickerson, head of the department; Dr. Lester Zeffoss who specializes in applied psychology, and Don McCrimmon who holds the MA degree.

Work in the three cubby-hole labs in the basement of the Science Building is facilitated by what McCrimmon calls "a group of students who are definitely not mediocre."



One of the lab experiments at A-B is to observe and record the number of trials it takes a guinea pig to learn the

T-maze. Animals injected with Inderal, a heart-rate depressant, took more trials than animals not injected. McCrimmon and

student Mary Jones work together in a learning situation that involves both student and the cowering guinea pig.



ASHEVILLE-BILTMORE COLLEGE  
MEMORANDUM December 16, 1966

To: Nowon Atall  
From: Self-Study Committee, Standard 3.1416  
Subject: Catalog Correction

Copies to: Southern Association Offices, Atlanta, Georgia

A proposal for faculty vote:

Motion that the Aims and Objectives of the College, pp. 16, 17, current catalog be amended in the following manner:

First paragraph, change first sentence to state: "The fundamental aim of the College is to pay off the dormitory bonds."

Second sentence insert should state: "Another important aim is to provide for serious and able students a liberal education of high quality."

The remainder of the catalog passage may stand as printed.

Our Pleasure to Serve  
Asheville - Biltmore  
College Students

**Winks  
Drive-In**

Support  
Better Scouting



Buy  
**GIRL SCOUT  
COOKIES**

**The Man Store**

22 Patton Avenue

We have the Best items  
for the men on your  
Christmas List

**Biltmore  
Dairy  
Farms**

"Milk is your  
best buy."

**Travel-Eze  
Restaurant**

Adjoining  
Travel-Eze Motel  
Open 6 a. m. to 9 p. m.

Serving Breakfast  
Lunch and Dinner

DAILY SPECIALS  
SNACKS

US 70 East 669-8435

**Merrimon Ave.**

**Gulf Service**

Phone 252-9487  
190 Merrimon Ave.

Things worth saving for:

*Automobile*



Put a little away  
each payday!

We pay a liberal 4%  
on all savings. Start  
planning now for a  
new car. Start saving.

**Northwestern  
Bank**

Asheville Cleaners  
And Dyers  
230 Merrimon Avenue  
Phone 254-2364  
FREE Pick-Up

**'The Camera House'**  
5 HAYWOOD ST.  
ASHEVILLE, N. C.