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Smokers show ‘clear disadvantage’ in speeded motor tasks

Smokers, on average, get about 45 percent of the digit-symbols correct. The mean score for non- and ex-smokers was about 51 percent and 53 percent, respectively.

Another test involved crossing vertical lines over 96 horizontal lines as fast as possible. Researchers added the number of lines a participant crossed, divided that by how many seconds it took the volunteer to do so, and multiplied the number by 100 to arrive at what they called “speed of response.”

Smokers had the lowest “speed of response” when taking the test pictured above. It involved crossing vertical lines over 96 horizontal lines as fast as possible.

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Smokers were slower on these tests. “And, she points out, ‘their lungs weren’t involved.’

Rita Emmerson, a research associate at the Memory and Aging Laboratory at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Salt Lake City, both Hill and Storannd note that one of the limitations of the study was its small size. “No one has ever looked at older people who smoked for a long period of time and over a range of tasks,” says Hill. “But one problem has been finding those people, because those who have smoked for so long often become sick and thus don’t qualify for the study.”

In his article, Hill says that the role of smoking in older adults is more evident in less hardy smokers. “We know that the effects of smoking for at least a year, more evident in less hardy smokers. The tasks used in the study included a test consisting of a row of numbers with symbols above them. Under that was a box of numbers with no symbols. Participants had 90 seconds to reproduce the symbols above the numbers.

“We’ve all been told over the years about the bad health effects of smoking. Here’s an example where it may also be affecting our behavior.” — Martha Storannd

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Faculty are promoted

The following faculty received promotions, effective July 1, 1989, unless otherwise noted:

Hilltop Campus

- David A. Friedman, to associate professor of psychology
- Michael Beckerman, to associate professor of music
- George E. Fagan, to associate professor of English (also African and Afro-American studies)

Le Xuan Hy, Ph.D., to revise the

- School of Dental Medicine

Allen Sitkowski, to professor of oral and maxi bundary surgery.

School of Medicine

Andrea Maria Allan, to professor of medicine, effective July 1, 1989, and to associate professor of pathology. James L. Grant, to assistant professor of medicine; Barry A. Gruff, to assistant professor of cancer, and to associate professor of psychiatry, effective July 1, 1989.

School of Nursing

- Stamos Metzidakis, to associate profes sor of psychiatry; Richard F. Escoffery, to associate professor of clinical anesthesiology; M. Gilbert Gründ, to associate director of clinical ophthalmology; Marc R. Hamburger, to associate professor of biochemistry in medicine (dermatology) and biological chemistry.

Finance and Economics, effective Jan. 1, 1989

James R. Harris, as associate professor of architecture, effective July 1, 1989; and Mark S. Koper, as associate professor of medicine, effective July 1, 1989; Maria Ines Lopes, as associate professor of medicine, effective July 1, 1989; William P. P. Malone, as associate professor of medicine, effective Aug. 1, 1988; Steven C. Ward, as associate professor of anatomy, physiology and neurobiology; Douglas W. Hutton, as associate professor of surgery (general surgery).
Karen L. Toker, J.L.M., professor of law and director of the Clinical Education Program, published an article, titled “Pioneers in the Legal Profession: The History of Women’s Participation in the Legal Profession in Mis- souri,” in the St. Louis Bar Journal. She also presented a paper at the Missouri State Legislators’ Representatives Judiciary Committee on proposed constitutional amend- ments to improve the judicial selection in Missouri. She also attended the Midyear meeting of the Association of American Law Schools Standing Committee on Clinical Legal Education.

Robert E. Wiltenburg, Ph.D., adjunct associate professor of English, deli- vered a paper, titled “The Unnecessary Epic: Milton’s Creation and Fall,” at the annual meeting of the Northeast Modern Language Association, held in Wilmington, Del.

V. Leroy Young, M.D., associate professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery at the School of Medicine, is the recipient of the Tiffany Award, given by The Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery to the mem- ber who delivers the best scientific presentation at the Society’s annual meeting. Young was recognized at the society’s 22nd annual meeting, held in Orlando, Fla., where he presented a paper, “The Relationship of Retrobulbar Hemato- ma to Nasal and Ginglymus Mon- thaus,” which was given at the previous year’s scientific meeting.

Karen L. Toker, J.L.M., professor of law and director of the Clinical Education Program, published an article, titled “Pioneers in the Legal Profession: The History of Women’s Participation in the Legal Profession in Mis- souri,” in the St. Louis Bar Journal. She also presented a paper at the Missouri State Legislators’ Representatives Judiciary Committee on proposed constitutional amend- ments to improve the judicial selection in Missouri. She also attended the Midyear meeting of the Association of American Law Schools Standing Committee on Clinical Legal Education.

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Smoking — (continued from p. 1)

whether their performance at psycho-

himself if they did what the

This deserves further research,"

that is, we wouldn't tell someone to

one who doesn't and put them in a

smoking. Take a pilot who smokes and

see what happens. What we would

planes as well as other tasks that

record is Aug. 18. Items must be typed and state

family homelessness," Johnson said.

fast. Incomplete items will not be

time, date, place, nature of event, sponsor and

name and the title of the event; also

in St. Louis, according to data analyzed

and Social Work in November.

Promotions —

Paul M. Heerde, to assistant

professor of anesthesiology; Geoffrey H.

professor of medicine; Joseph R. Oik,

to assistant professor of clinical

ophthalmology; William C. Parks,
to research assistant professor of medi-

ty; Joseph P. Miletich, to associate

professor of pathology; Marilyn J.

professor of medicine; associate

associate professor of medicine; Robert P.

associate professor of orthopedic surgery; John A. McDonald,


This study found that the smoking pilot's re-

response time is slower than his ciga-

rette-free counterpart.

Gatty Varengovan

Female-headed homeless families are on the rise

Young, black, undereducated, single-

women-headed homeless families have di-

emerged as the typical homeless family

to data analyzed by a doctoral student in

the George Warren Brown School of Social Work.

homeless families from 1983-88 who

were residents of the Salvation Army's Family Haven, a 54-bed shelter for

homeless families located at 5744

Linelll Blvd. Her study will be pub-


Johnson's advisor on the project, Michael W. Sherraden, Ph.D., associate professor of

social work, calls her work on the homeless "original and important."

"The percentage of black families increased, from 42 percent in 1983 to

72 percent in 1988. On average, more than half had either not finished or never entered high school."

"Female-headed homeless families blame housing conditions, lack of utilities. One-fourth listed

fire, building condemnation, overcrowding, substandard housing and lack of utilities. One-fourth listed

friction with family or friends, and 17 percent reported marital dissolution or abuse.

"About 10 percent were transient or stranded families, eight percent had experienced an immediate loss of income and three percent gave other reasons. Five percent cited mental health problems.

"The combined continuation of low AFDC allowances and federal withdrawal from subsidized housing can only mean a continuing increase in family homelessness," Johnson said.