

# Social Science Explained

By **LEN KRAUSS**  
*(This is the second article in a series on the status of the social sciences.)*

The matter of determining whether social science is a science depends wholly upon the definition of science, according to William G. Mather, head of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

"There's no universally accepted definition of science," Mather said. Science as used in connection with experimentation is not applicable to certain areas of social science.

**FOR EXAMPLE,** he said, archaeology is a social science which scientifically investigates past human life, among other things, but which does not predict future events as a physical science does.

Last week Dr. Raymond Pepinsky, research professor of physics, said that in his estimation a science was a discipline from which predictions for future outcomes could be made with a high degree of accuracy.

Mather said that the social scientist in some of his experiments with masses of people can predict certain future events. But, he said, to try to predict the action

of single individuals is dependent upon many hard-to-control variables.

**ACTIONS OF MEN** like Castro and Khrushchev cannot be determined accurately but in the same sense the prediction of the position of a neutron or ion in a gas, an instant after the first observation, cannot be determined accurately either, he said.

Mather emphasized that a social scientist would be incorrect in saying that he, as a social scientist, could make such predictions. A sociologist, as any other individual, has a right to have an opinion.

Mather said people in social science fields do realize that some of the answers to questions they ask are greatly subjected to personal limitations as well as various pressures which arise before or during the course of questioning.

He said, however, "we work with a mass of individuals when performing our survey work and thereby lessen the total effectiveness of such inaccurate biasing of final results. It is impossible to experiment in a vacuum."

**"THERE ARE CERTAIN** handicaps the social scientist faces that the physical scientist does not," he stated. For instance, where the

social scientist has to contend with such things as feeling, respect, level of will, dignity and emotions of people, the physical scientist certainly has no concern with these things.

Mather added that he hoped experimentation with people would never be unbridled to come to a stage where such things were neglected.

Turning to some of the accomplishments of work done in the area of social science, Mather pointed out "several noteworthy achievements in field work."

**MARKET ANALYSIS** is an area that has been used very successfully to determine such things as demand for a product. Mather said that this is one of the jobs that social scientists and sociologists are doing today.

In another study, in which Mather was engaged, the results were used to determine what level of health education should be emphasized in a particular school district.

Mather, who studied geology as an undergraduate, said that we in social science will accept a normal amount of criticism from the physical scientist but when he tells us what light is, we will take his advice on social science more seriously."

## 3 Students Pay Fines, Costs For Violations

Three of the five minors, all students at the University, who were arrested in an "open inspection" of the Town House July 28 by the State Liquor Control Board and State College Borough police have paid a \$25 fine plus \$9 costs.

Dennis A. Fedele, sophomore in engineering from Greensburg, pleaded guilty before Justice of the Peace Guy G. Mills to the charge that he had violated the Borough Liquor Ordinance and paid his fine and costs last week.

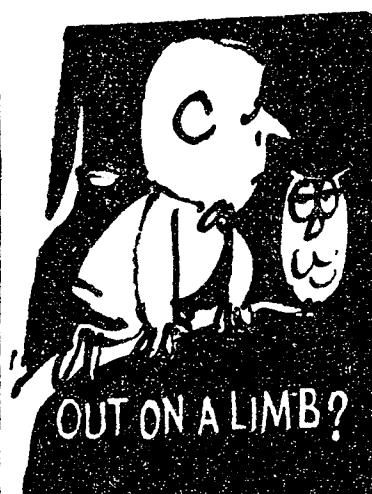
**THE OTHER TWO** minors, William McCarthy, junior in electrical engineering from Ellwood City and Barbara Kuntz, freshmen in liberal arts from Ramey, were called before Justice of the Peace William P. Bell and have both pleaded guilty to the charges and paid their fines and costs.

LeRoy S. Austin, assistant to the dean of men, said last night that no disciplinary action on the students cases is planned at present because "we are waiting for all the cases to be heard before we decide what needs to be done."

**HE SAID THE DEAN** of men's office prefers to have the recommendation for action on a student disciplinary case come through the student tribunals.

Since the student tribunals are not functioning this summer, the action on the disciplinary cases would have to come directly from the dean of men's office or be held over until the fall term.

—U.S. families spend an average of \$19 a week for food. Last year retail grocery stores invested nearly \$5 per family in newspaper advertising to help move their products from their shelves into the family larder.



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## Hearing Called By State Board On Sanitation

The State Sanitary Water Board is reportedly pressuring the University to take action to expand the facilities in its sewage plant.

The Board has called a hearing next Thursday on the University's sewage plant. The Board claims that inadequate facilities in treating the effluent from the sewage plant are causing pollution of Spring Creek.

**THE BOARD** reportedly sees no need for further studies of the pollution problem in Spring Creek and requested that the University make plans for building more adequate facilities immediately.

The University will present counsel at the hearing next Thursday.

The University was told by an engineering firm which studied the problem that the construction of a pipeline to carry the effluent to Bald Eagle Creek seemed to be the only apparent solution to the immediate problem. The University questions whether this would only transfer the problem to another area.

The University sewage plant is owned and operated by the University and the State College Borough uses it on a rental basis.

Burgess Roy Anthony said that if there is any change in the University's sewage plant permit as a result of the hearing, it would "seriously affect the Borough."

### Eisenhower's Sixth Visit

Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower's visit to the University this summer was his sixth since 1950. The middle four visits were made during the eight years he occupied the White House and while his youngest brother, Milton, was president.

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## TV License--

*(Continued from page one)*  
the general area now," he said, and the FCC is working towards a solution to the broad problem of providing facilities for many new stations.

The FCC is now conducting a major study of the broadcast spectrum, he added.

**AT PRESENT THE FCC** is "sympathetic to the educational television program but won't compromise their principles," he said. The request submitted by the University has just been suspended until investigations and studies for the future of the broadcast media in this area are completed.

Greenhill said that "we are disappointed now, but hopeful that in the near future the University will get a license for educational TV."

The University Educational TV station would provide cultural programs, academic courses, and educational programs supplied by the National Educational TV network which the University could

— A student of the '80s was required to take a course in surveying before graduation.

## Proposal Killed--

*(Continued from page one)*  
2 per cent tax had been recommended by Gov. Lawrence.

The Representative said that at present thoughts ought to be directed to the Sales and Use tax. However, he added, no action can be taken on this until the Sales and Use Tax Bureau complies with a resolution passed by the House to supply the members with information on items which are not taxed now, with bylaw or regulation.

Commenting further on the situation, Fulmer said, "It seems odd to me that when the Democrats were the minority party they kept screaming that the only fair tax was a graduated income tax.

"Now that they have the majority in the House and organizational majority in the Senate, plus the Governor, and the fact that they can pass a graduated income tax, they do nothing. They are just as silent now as they were vocal before. This seems quite a paradox to me."

— Each class in the early 1900's had an official class pipe with sterling silver numerals and bands.

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