

# Psychology, Math depts. conduct biorhythm experiment

by Scott Knaster

Biorhythms, the theory that the human body and mind are controlled by cycles, will be investigated under a program to be conducted by the psychology department and the math lab.

The biorhythm theory states that the body has four basic rhythms. The first, called the circadian rhythm, runs on a daily cycle. The other three rhythms, called the biorhythms, are the physical (a 23-day cycle), the emotional (28 days), and the intellectual (33 days).

According to the theory, in the positive half of the cycle the body has a surplus of energy. These are "good" days. During the negative half, the body is recharging, and these are bad, or "down" days.

The key to the biorhythm theory occurs in the exact middle of the cycle, when the

body is neither positive nor negative. This is called a "critical" day, and requires great caution.

The three cycles begin at birth and continue throughout life. Occasionally two cycles will cross the midpoint on the same day, producing a double-critical day. This occurrence requires extreme caution.

The validity of biorhythms is now being questioned. Companies in foreign nations, especially Japan, use them extensively. In addition, the Colorado University Police Department in Boulder relies on biorhythms, and the Denver Fire Department is considering adoption.

In their study, the psychology department and the math lab will accumulate data from students. Each student will be paired with someone with the same birthdate, according to Dr. Erwin Hoffman, Math

teacher. One student in each pair will be given a chart of his biorhythms, and both will be asked to give a daily report of how they feel. The paired students will not know the identity of their partners.

When the student volunteers have reported for a 28-day period, the data will

be processed by the math lab and analyzed by the psychology department, said Dr. Hoffman.

The success of the study will depend on the number of GW students who participate, Dr. Hoffman explained. Forms were filled out by volunteers last week. Anyone

else wishing to participate is asked to pick up a form in either the math lab (room 319) or the newspaper room (room 330) by tomorrow. Arrangements will be made for any student who wishes to volunteer but keep his data anonymous. All results will be strictly confidential.

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PERMIT NO. 925  
Denver, Colo.

The GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

# SURVEYOR

Volume 16, No. 9  
Monday, May 3, 1976  
Denver, Colorado 80224

