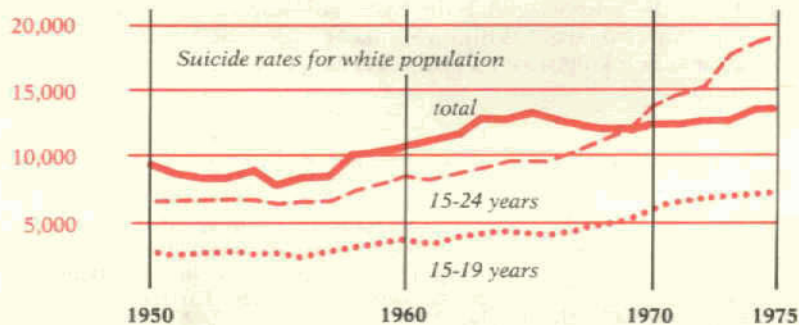


## SOCIETY



Adapted, with permission, from Phi Delta Kappan. Sources: Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Public Health Service, National Center for Education Statistics.

*Increases in the number of suicides among 15-19-year-olds account for much of the dramatic rise in the suicide rate among the total 15-24 age group.*

climbing. "Our children," Wynne contends, "are increasingly engaged in killing, hurting, and abusing themselves and others."

The most distressing statistic is the rise in suicide rates. In 1950, less than 3 youths in 100,000 in the 15-19 age group committed suicide; the figure in 1975 was nearly 8. As the 19th-century French sociologist Emile Durkheim demonstrated, suicide rates reveal more than the degree of individual unhappiness in society. They also reflect the health of a society's "integrating" institutions—such as schools.

Although not the only culprit, schools must bear a portion of the blame for the rising suicide rate, Wynne believes. Bureaucratic and impersonal, they tend more and more to segregate children from adults and from children of other ages. Indeed, he writes, they seem "designed to teach students how not to handle intimacy and, consequently, how to fear and flee from it."

### Live Right, Vote Left

"Professors Found To Be Liberal but Not Radical" by Everett C. Ladd and Seymour Martin Lipset, in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (Jan. 16, 1978), 1717 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Conservatives who see U.S. universities as dominated by "liberal intellectuals" may have simplified the actual state of affairs—but not by much. According to an extensive study by Ladd and Lipset (whose continuing survey of faculty attitudes is published periodically in the *Chronicle*), academics are more liberal than other professionals (such as doctors and lawyers) but are "far from being radicals."

The liberal proclivities of American academics are most clearly pronounced in political matters. Some 57 percent are registered Democrats, 20 percent Republicans. In 1976, 66 percent of all professors voted for Democrat Jimmy Carter over Republican Gerald Ford—

---

**SOCIETY**

compared with a 42 percent Carter vote among other professionals. Academics are also more likely to approve of premarital sex (62 percent) and to favor reductions in military spending (46 percent). They are more likely than leaders of feminist groups, civil-rights organizations, students, and newspaper and television reporters to advocate ceilings on personal income.

However, a sizeable majority of professors (65 percent) indicated confidence in bankers and financiers. More than two-thirds agreed that the growth of government in the United States "poses a threat" to freedom and individual initiative. And more than half endorsed the view that economic growth, not redistribution of wealth, should be the "primary objective" of American economic policy.

Differences in "liberal" and "conservative" orientation are pronounced among the various academic disciplines. Professors in the social sciences and humanities tend to be farthest to the left, followed, in order of declining liberalism, by those in the natural sciences, business administration, and engineering. Professors of agriculture are farthest to the right.

---

**PRESS & TELEVISION**


---

*A Small World*

"The Elite Press, the Global System, and Foreign News Attention" by Andrew K. Semmel, in *International Interactions* (vol. 3, no. 4, 1977), 42 William IV St., London WC2N 4DF, England.

Major American newspapers are fond of advertising their worldwide coverage of the news. But one scholar's study of the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Miami Herald*, and *Chicago Tribune*, conducted during the last three months of 1974, reveals that their attention to most nations "borders on the nonexistent."

According to Semmel, a political scientist at the University of Cincinnati, 79 of the world's 132 countries received only 5 percent of the total number of foreign news stories; 12 countries received almost two-thirds of the coverage. This "mix" was virtually identical in all four newspapers.

Semmel speculates that there is a "law of communications magnetism": Nations alike in terms of power, wealth, or culture pay attention to each other; unlike nations ignore each other. Thus, he says, England, the Soviet Union, Japan, France, Canada, Israel, Italy, and West Germany consistently dominate foreign news in the American press. On the other hand, internal developments in Central and North Africa, in most of Asia and South America, and, surprisingly, in Scandinavia, go largely unreported. These neglected areas get coverage only in cases of riot, famine, political upheaval, or war. One exception is the