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# Quirk's MARKETING RESEARCH Review

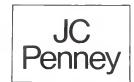
# Vol. 1, No. 2

# Focus Groups: PROPER PLANNING ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS

Productive and useful focus groups result from careful and proper planning, p. 10.



For Wooddale Church, research points the way in meeting the needs of the community, p. 14.



JCPenney research identifies singles' needs and expectations as family members, employees and consumers, p. 6,



Cover

December/January, 1987

Focus group facility at Survey Center Marketing Research, Chicago. This second issue of *Quirk's Marketing Research Review* places special emphasis on focus groups and focus group facilities beginning on p. 10.

Publisher Tom **Ouirk** Managing Editor Beth E. Hoffman Editorial Advisor Emmet J. Hoffman National Accounts Manager **James** Fair Advertising Coordinator F. Keith Hunt Circulation Director James Quirk Printing Supervisor Robert K. Truhlar Business Manager Marlene Quirk

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# Singles' lifestyles explore

This is the second of a two-part series on two consumer studies conducted by the Public Issues and Consumer Programs Department of the ICPenney Co. in New York. In the October/ November issue of Quirk's Marketing Research Review, we covered the Consumer Feedback '84<sup>®</sup> program on dual-income families. In this issue, we'll investigate the Consumer Feedback '85<sup>®</sup> study on singles. Both studies were directed by Satenig S. St. Marie, divisional vice president and director of Public Issues and Consumer Programs for [CPenney. An outside marketing researcher conducted the focus group interviews which were the basis for both studies. The Bureau of Census data provided the information used in the graphs.



Satenig S. St. Marie is the divisional vice president and director of Public Issues and Consumer Programs for JCPenney Co., Inc., New York. Prior to her current position, St.Marie served as extension home economist in the Extension Service of the University of Massachusetts and the University of Connecticut. In 1959, she joined Penneys as educational consultant, was promoted to manager of educational and consumer relations in the New York central office in 1964 and in 1973, was promoted to director of consumer affairs. St.Marie has been an active board member and involved in numerous professional organizations. She has received many honors and awards and is listed in WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA.

By Beth E. Hoffman managing editor

he singles population was the subject of a recent consumer study conducted by the Public Issues and Consumer Programs department of the JCPenney Co. The purpose of the study — Consumer Feedback '85 — was to develop an increased understanding of the various lifestyles of single people and to understand the values that underlie those lifestyles. In addition, the study aimed to identify the changing needs and expectations of singles at home, at work and in the marketplace and to suggest some of the implications of the issues raised.

Retailers, or anyone else in contact with consumers, have an interest in the singles population because of their growing numbers. In 1960, when the marriage rate was particularly high, there were not quite 41 million singles in the U.S. Today there are almost 77 million, approximately 43.1% of the population.

# Singles defined

For purposes of this study, singles are defined as the never-married, the divorced, the widowed and everyone from age 15 who is not now married. While the total number of singles has nearly doubled since 1960, the number in the 25-39 age group has nearly tripled. In this same age group, four times as many singles maintained their own households in 1983 as in 1970.

The large number of singles between the ages of 25-39 are having a profound influence on society. At each stage of development, this baby boom generation has forced the age groups above it and those below it to adjust to its needs. Explained one study participant: "I think that economically our group has been one that has been sought after as far as our wants and needs are concerned. As time goes by, I suspect that will continue to be true. As we grow older, there'II probably be more facilities for older people. I think we probably have more concern because of our numbers."

Because of the large size and influence of the 25-39 year old singles population, the study was limited to this age group and further limited by income. For men, the income parameters were set at \$25,000-50,000. For women they were set at \$17,000-50,000. The parameters vary because statistically there is a verifiable disparity between the incomes of men and women. This income group controls a large portion of the discretionary income of singles.

Singles reside mainly in metropolitan areas so focus groups were conducted in or near five major cities across the country: Chicago, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. Separate focus groups were held for single men, single women and single women with children. Twelve focus groups (a total of 100 persons), were involved. Since statistically this study is a small sample, it is meant to surface issues and to suggest implications rather than to provide conclusions.

# Education and occupation

All of the participants in the study were at least high school graduates; slightly more than half have a college degree or more. They were generally responsible for their household expenses, with some sharing of that responsibility with another person. The majority of single men and single women had never been married. Except for one widow and one never married, all the single women with children were divorced. Two divorced men were raising their children.

The occupations of the participants varied. Although a number of women were teachers and a number of the men engineers, a female engineer, a female truck driver, a male chef and a male florist were among those included. Some of the other occupations rep-

# d in JCPenney study

resented were: police officer, Air Force officer, carpet layer, bank officer, financial analyst, personnel director, accountant, nurse, loan underwriter, cartography instructor for the military, elerk, sales representative, paralegal, commercial artist, fine arts painter, F.B.I. fingerprints examiner, computer programmer, masonry contractor, secretary, insurance claims supervisor, physical therapist and dental hygienist.

# Lifestyle defined

"Lifestyle" is defined in this study as an expression of a person's self, relationships and career as well as the interaction of his or her roles as an individual, family member, worker, citizen and consumer.

To gather information about people that helps to define their lifestyles, the focus group session technique proved to be a valuable tool. During these sessions, it was immediately evident that the singles were not homogeneous. Not one lifestyle was shared by all the participants yet certain commonalities existed. The following are remarks some participants made concerning the single lifestyle, their varying degree of independence, their life in comparison to their parents and the advantages of being a part of the baby boom:

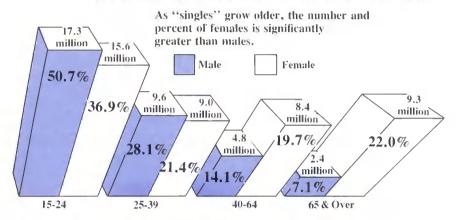
# The participants saw being single as a valid, acceptable lifestyle:

"It is not a stigma anymore as it used to be. You had to be married by 25 or that's it. At least they realize now that you don't have to be married to have a productive life."

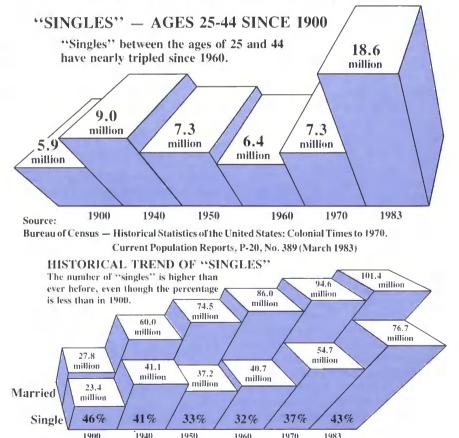
"I think that now if you are working full-time, you have the option of staying single and supporting yourself and doing a lot of travelling and living your own life."

Independence was seen as a major advantage of being single. The degree of independence, however, was

# "SINGLES" POPULATION - BY SEX AND AGE



Source: Bureau of Census - Current Population Reports P-20, No. 389 (March 1983)



Bureau of Census — Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970, Current Population Reports, P-20, No. 389 (March 1983)

See next page

Sources

# conditioned by the presence of dependent children:

"What I enjoy about my life now is the freedom. I can pretty much come and go as I please."

"I'm raising my kids and going to work and wanting to be home with them, doing things with them and still have time for myself. But I have a lot of freedom and I really enjoy myself. I go out a lot and I socialize . . . meeting people, taking classes."

# The participants felt better off than their parents:

"In some ways I'm a lot more independent and adventuresome and nonconforming and much more powerful in the world than my mother was at this age."

"I think my father probably had a more difficult time in those years. For one thing, he didn't have a college education and f do, so you know he didn't have anywhere near the earning power, even in terms of those dollars back then, that I do now."

# Being part of the baby boom generation, although it increased the competition in school and for jobs, has its advantages:

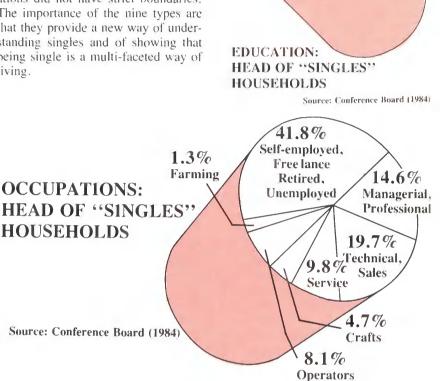
"One thing I definitely noticed positive about being in that generation is that the world is gearing up for us. . ."

"It is great because there are more people in our age group. Every time I pick up a newspaper, I say . . . we are a large group of people and it is a group that is recognized and has a big voice."

# Lifestyle categories

As the participants further discussed what was important in their lives and about their mingling roles as family members, citizens, workers and consumers, it was evident that they did not share a common lifestyle. Even those comparable in age, income, geographical location or education did not have similar responses. Under these circumstances it became even more important to concentrate on the participant's individual comments and to allow them to group themselves accordingly. As a result, three groups of singles with similar lifestyles seemed to emerge. These were: changing singles, focused singles and settled singles.

A review of the responses elicited in the focus group sessions validated the presence of the three lifestyle groups. Further divisions, however, were recognized. For each basic lifestyle, there were differences in the participant's attitudes about self, relationships and career, creating a total of nine lifestyle variations. These nine lifestyle variations did not have strict boundaries. The importance of the nine types are that they provide a new way of understanding singles and of showing that being single is a multi-faceted way of living.



The nine lifestyle variations illustrate the point in life at which the singles were when they participated in the focus groups sessions. These singles will not always stay in the same lifestyles. As their lives change, so too their position in that particular lifestyle type. But in the foreseeable future, there will always be singles who fit into the nine lifestyle types.

Below are some comments in reference to the nine lifestyle variations from some of the participants in the changing, focused and settled groups. Their comments refer to views on self, relationships and career:

# Changing singles/Self:

"I've been single over a year now and basically what I am trying to find out is what I want out of this life."

"Well, I guess I am so busy trying to get my life in order."

# **Relationships:**

"I know that I would like to have babies and I do feel a sense of pressure.

It didn't hit me until last year when I turned 30 and up until that point I really wasn't thinking about it at all and then all of a sudden I began to think if I want to be a parent, I have got to take steps."

50% High School or

Some College

17%

College

Graduate

33%

Less than

12 years

### Career:

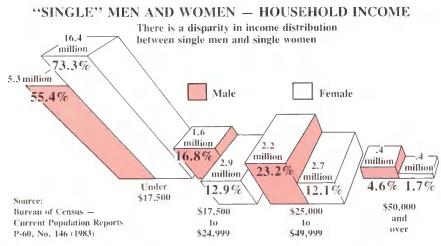
"I'm changing positions and will probably be changing my living arrangements and location."

"I am in a position now where if I prove to do a good job, I could in fact own a small company of my own, doing the same type of thing I am now doing."

# Focused singles/Self:

"I don't like to dedicate myself to my job. I feel my job is important, but there are other things that are more important — freedom, going out, the outdoors, going to the beach, having fun with my friends."

"I categorize my lifestyle as independent, perhaps self-centered, to the point of being somewhat selfish."



# **Relationships:**

"I'm very big on family. I enjoy my children very much. And we do a lot together."

"It is very difficult for a single father to raise children and have a career that is extremely demanding."

# Career:

"I make a lot of money. I love my job. I travel all the time. I get great benefits."

"To get paid for it and be able to go out and do what I enjoy and be of value to the community, that's why I took the job."

# Settled singles/Self:

"I just like my independent lifestyle. I like to date the men I want to date. I don't have to go out with anybody if I don't want to and I enjoy going home and being alone a lot of times."

"I am just real happy right now in my life. I am working full-time. And I have the freedom to come and go. And I make my own decisions. And I am able to travel a lot."

# **Relationships:**

"Since I've been up here ten years, I've developed a support system, groups of people, male and female, that help me out."

"I really don't bother dating that much. I don't have any real feelings about getting married again. Maybe after my kids grow up and leave. They are 15 and 16 now and my life is basically centered around doing things with them."

# Career:

"It's going a fot better than I ever hoped for. I've got my own business, plus a full-time job, too."

"I've got a good responsible job, which I enjoy and get paid fairly well."

# **Personal choices:**

On the subject of personal choices, common views and responses arose for each of the three groups of singles on their home environment, clothing and managing finances.

# Changing singles/

# Home environment:

Singles in the changing group tend to see the place where they live as a

# "I am just real happy right now in my life. I am working full-time. And I have the freedom to come and go. And I make my own decisions . . . ," said one respondent.

temporary situation, a place to sleep. Their living space may or may not be shared. For the most part, the furnishings are basic and the decorating is "hodgepodge." Many of them reported that they do not eat or entertain often at home.

"A mishmash because I've got two roommates and we have crammed in the collection of all our stuff."

"How many meals a week do I prepare? Zero. I never eat there."

# **Clothing:**

When the changing singles were describing their work wardrobes, they used such words as "comfortable," "practical," and "versatile." Both men and women spoke of fiking to have things that were fashionable and that could be mixed and matched for greater flexibility. Easy upkeep was important, too. For outside work, however, many of them expressed a preference for clothing that was "different."

"My style is conservative blues, browns and grays, things I can mix and match all the time."

"For my casual clothes, I like fashion."

# **Managing finances:**

Changing singles find it hard to save. When they do, it is probably for such short-term goals as a vacation, a VCR or to make a down payment on a car. They do limited long-term planning and use credit to help their eash flow. Their biggest need is for help with managing their money.

"I try to set aside so much a month, mainly for travelling or some major purchase, like a down payment for a car or to buy a TV."

"I don't have an IRA because if I'm going to put money away, I need it where I can get at it."

# Focused singles/Home environment:

Focused singles are apt to see home as a place to take refuge from the demands of the outside world. They may have a roommate to help with expenses. They care about decorating and have invested in some big ticket items. They eat out often, but they also like to eat and entertain at home with the help of a microwave. They think of their home as stable, but not necessarily permanent. Many are interested in the financial advantages of home ownership.

"At night, 1 can just sit there with the radio playing and a glass of wine and just relax and unwind. It is my own little world."

"I don't want to put all my money into junk, so I buy quality furniture. That's why f don't have much."

# **Clothing:**

Singles who are focused on their careers spend most of their clothing budget on conservative clothes for work. If, however, they wear a uniform to work or some other kind of utilitarian clothing, or if they are focused on themselves, they enjoy dressing up after work.

JCPenney

# Proper planning esse

*Ideas for achieving focus group results* 

T t would be great to claim that every one of the 150 focus group projects I have conducted have been uniformly successful. There have been a few times when I felt less than totally satisfied with the final results. And almost every time I felt this way the problem could be traced back to the preparation period before the first session was ever held.

Certainly, qualitative research can be a valuable research tool. But anyone involved in the process should realize that productive and useful focus groups just don't happen. They are the result of careful and proper planning.

Focus groups and one-on-ones may be the fastest growing segment of marketing research. They are used more and more not only in conjunction with quantitative projects but also alone to develop information for use in the decision-making process. Some marketing managers seem to want to use this method to the exclusion of all others and do so with valid reasons.

# Set the objective

As with all research projects, the first item of consideration is setting the objective(s). The objective should be such that when the project is completed, actionable decisions can be taken. Everyone who will be involved in the project should be made aware of the objective.

# Determine the need

There are many different reasons why one may decide to use focus groups. Sometimes it is to assist in the development of questionnaires. Occasionally focus groups are used after quantitative research to better understand the statistical results. And there are many instances when they are sufficiently definitive in themselves that no additional research is needed. For whatever purpose that focus groups are planned, it is important that the method selected is the most efficient and effective way of obtaining the needed information.

# Select the moderator

Once it has been decided to consider focus groups as the research methodology, it is time to involve the moderator (facilitator). The earlier the moderator becomes involved, the greater likelihood the project will be successful.

Most firms use outside moderators. There are many good reasons for this decision. First, experienced moderators are professionals who, through years of experience in this particular segment of research, have developed special skills and expertise which most in-house moderators cannot achieve with oceasional projects. Second, the professional moderator is in a position to devote the time necessary to prepare for the project while usually the inhouse moderator has to take on a project as an extra assignment and does not have adequate preparation time.

There is no certification program for moderators. If you have not been involved in a focus group project, you should go outside for assistance. Moderators are usually unable to supply sample audio tapes because the tapes are the property of the clients and cannot be released without approval.

To find a suitable moderator. 1 suggest contacting friends in the research community or talking to someone who is a member of the Qualitative Research Consultants Assn. (QRCA). The QRCA describes itself as a not-forprofit professional organization of independent qualitative research consultants. Its members are those whose "individual professional role is primarily that of design, conduct and analysis of qualitative research." The address for the QRCA can be found in the Product and Service Update section of this issue.

As a elient you should feel comfortable with your moderator. If you are



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# ntial

By Tom Quirk publisher

uncertain as to what to expect from a moderator or what can be obtained from focus groups, you might find it worthwhile to take a training course for focus group moderators which are offered by a number of reputable suppliers. Even if you never conduct a session yourself it would be an excellent way of learning what to expect.

Remember that a focus group moderator is selling his/her skills and time. When engaging a moderator, make sure that you come to an agreement as to what the moderator will provide. Set specific dates for various phases of the project and expect to hold to them.

It is critical at this juncture that everyone in the project be made aware of, and agree to abide by agreements on dates, materials and other details. Many times I have sat in at the first of a series of focus group sessions and hoped that the packaging or advertising materials would arrive before the participants. If someone is uncertain as to whether he or she can meet a deadline, either change the dates or find an alternative source of supply.

Work with the moderator on preparing the moderator guide or outline. Moderators work in different ways and the appearances of these may vary greatly. It is important that the moderator be well versed in the subject matter and be fully aware of the study objectives in order that all important topics will be covered during the sessions.

After selecting a moderator, hold off judgment until the project has been completed. Some subjects or topics are more difficult than others. Wait until you receive the final report before reaching conclusions.

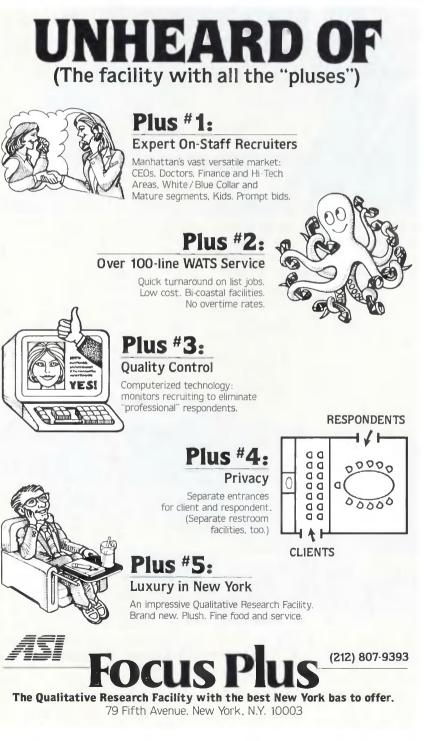
# **Field suppliers**

Field suppliers usually provide recruiting and the facilities. Most of the field services with focus group facilities also recruit and there are some which specialize in recruiting only. But whether you, the client, or the moderator make the arrangements for the field services, your input is going to be very important. The quality of the facility can be important but proper recruiting is critical to success of the project. Usually it was possible for me to work around a facility problem but it is a waste of time and money if the right audience doesn't attend.

#### **Recruiting** eritical

Recruiting can be one of the most difficult and frustrating tasks in marketing research. If there is any area where clients tend to create problems it is in

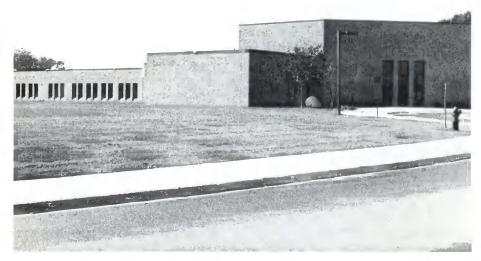
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# Research aids in growth



Terry White, business administrator of Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, Minn., has a broad background in music, journalism, public relations and TV. A graduate of Grace College, Winona Lake, Ind., White received his masters in music education from Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind., and has completed candidate coursework for a doctorate in journalism and mass communications. He has taught at Grace College, the University of Iowa and St. Paul Bible College. White is currently teaching journalism at Northwestern College which is located in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area.



Wooddale Church, Eden Prairie, Minn., occupies just a portion of the wooded 32 acres of land which is owned by the church. The facility is worth \$4.2 million and represents the first two of four eventual phases.

suburban Minneapolis church provides ample proof that market research and a desire to be customer-driven have a place in religion. According to Terry White, business administrator of Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, Minn., these two components have been of great value in the success and growth of his congregation.

"Marketing research has proven invaluable for Wooddale." White said. "It supports the idea that our congregation is our best marketing tool. When people like what's happening here, they bring their friends and neighbors. Then we get more people."

It's obvious people like what's happening at Wooddale Church. Since its move in July, 1984, from the city of Richfield nine miles west to Eden Prairie, the attendance has increased by more than 50%. An average 1,600-1,700 people attend the church's three Sunday morning services, of which 25-30 each Sunday are first-time visitors.

The congregation's size is one factor that has allowed it to build a \$4.2 million facility, which represents the first two of four eventual phases. Members not only raise the nearly \$1 million needed to cover Wooddale's annual operating budget but also an additional \$350,000 each year for missions. Along with the church's physical expansion, there has been an equally impressive implementation and expansion in the number of support groups, classes and church-related functions.

# **Preliminary work**

The seeds of Wooddale's growth in afl of these areas can be attributed to some preliminary work done long before any dirt was dug or cement was laid on the plot of land where the church building now stands. It began in 1982 when a nationally-known marketing research company, in consultation with the church's administration, conducted a two-part marketing research study. The study consisted of telephone surveys and focus group sessions, both of which helped to find out what the people in the community were like and how best their needs could be met.

By Beth E. Hoffman managing editor

# success of church

# **Outgrown** facilities

The search for a new location began because previous facilities could no longer accommodate a growing congregation. The Rev. Leith Anderson, senior pastor of Wooddale Church, along with the church's administration, looked at vacant schools and community buildings but none was adequate. Search then began for the closest plot of open land where new facilities could be built. A wooded, somewhat isolated plot near a major freeway was located.

Before construction began on the land. Anderson and three lay church leaders travelled to six relocated churches throughout the U.S. to learn about the problems which they encountered in relocating. One mistake all the churches had made was in not purchasing enough land to allow further expansion. Upon returning to the Minneapolis area, Anderson and the lay people urged increasing the site size. It was more than doubled, from 15 acres to 32.

### Objectives

The new location provided the church not only with more space but a unique first presence in the area. It also started a whole process of reassessment in an effort for the church's leaders to expand its ministry in meeting the needs of, and reaching more people who were not attending a church. The objectives of the research study were to ask prospective members about:

1. Their awareness of churches in the Minneapolis suburbs of Eden Prairie, Hopkins, Edina and Bloomington.

2. Their perceptions of the maximum distance they were willing to drive to church.

3. Their attitude toward churches and toward various specified church activities.

4. Their perceptions of a church's responsibilities toward its congregation and community.

5. Their reactions to specified names of churches.

# **Telephone survey**

The first phase of the marketing research was a telephone survey conducted in July-August, 1982. The pur-



A long screening process went into developing the distinctive Wooddale Church logo. It represents the letter "W" for some people; for others, Christ's outstretched arms, but for most it signifies a butterfly. Because the butterfly undergoes metamorphosis, the symbol is appropriately accompanied by the words, "A place to belong ... A place to become."

pose of it was to reach people who didn't attend church and find out how the church could appeal to them.

A total of 360 males and females, ages 21-55, were selected for the study. They were chosen randomly by computer out of the phone book. All lived within a five-mile radius of the Eden Prairie location. The participants varied in their religious affiliations and were grouped into two cells: churched and unchurched. Respondents were considered "churched" if they had attended a service at least two times within the past eight weeks. They were considered "unchurched" if they had attended fewer than that. There were 120 participants in the churched category and 240 in the unchurched segment. Eleven major questions and a number of subquestions covered the objectives of the study. Each interview lasted approximately 20 minutes.

#### Awareness studied

When asked of their awareness of ehurches in the area, only 2% of the respondents were able to name Wooddale Church in an unaided question. The highest unaided response was Colonial Church of Edina, with 7% of the respondents naming it. However, when asked if they had heard of Wooddale Church, 49% responded that they had.

The maximum time the respondents were willing to drive one way to get to church was 10-15 minutes. The churched respondents were willing to drive longer. This response proved the importance of being located close to the freeway, thus solidifying the decision to purchase the land in Eden Prairie.

In expressing their attitude toward churches and various church activities, the respondents revealed a need for a variety of support groups. Seventy percent favored a single-parent support group, 71% wanted a divorce recovery group, 71% favored a chemical dependency group and 73% wanted a Bible study group. As a result, all of these groups are now vigorously active, White said.

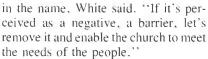
The respondents perceived the church's responsibilities toward its congregation and community as having to develop a sense of fellowship and evangelism and aid in the personal and spiritual growth of the individual. Respondents also said the church should draw more attention to the Bible.

"We discovered that people have a real need and desire to understand the teachings of the Bible," White said. "So now we have 'Growth Groups,' an assembly of individuals who meet weekly to encourage one another in Bible study."

The interest in learning more about the Bible spurred the development of The Wooddale Lay School of Ministry. This is a program of courses which cover such topics as "Methods of Bible Study," "Discovery," (a study in the basies of Christian faith), personal finance, spiritual gifts, and others. Classes are held once a week for six weeks and are taught by the church staff and lay people.

Probably the most significant change Wooddale made was in its name. Previously it was ealled "Wooddale Baptist Church." Some of the participants thought the word "Baptist" in the church's name had positive connotations but 56% assigned negative connotations to it. The latter group felt it was too limiting, that one had to be Baptist to attend the church.

"People weren't even giving the ehurch a chance with the word 'Baptist'



The consensus from the focus groups revealed that the name "Wooddale Baptist Church" was unappealing and too traditional. Many names that didn't have a denominational label, such as "Church of the Way," were too general and were identified with religious cults. "Church of Our Savior" was the name most favored by the respondents but "Wooddale Church" was also popular. The word "Wooddale" had the highest name recognition of all the names mentioned so it was retained. The word "church" was also retained because it was more positively perceived than similar words such as "chapel," "community" or "fellowship.

Wooddale Church continued p. 23



"People don't buy something just because they're brand loyal but because a particular need they have is being met by that product. People choose churches today based on that same principle." Rev. Leith Anderson



# Attendance tracking part of church's internal research

ooddale Church of suburban Minneapolis conducts internal marketing research by keeping tabs on visitors to find out what their needs are and then striving to meet those needs. This encourages visitors to get involved in the church and to come back again and again, said Ken Travilla, associate pastor of pastoral care at Wooddale.

Pastor Travilla, who is also in charge of membership, said attendance data is collected from visitors and members who fill out a registration card each Sunday. The index-shaped card asks for the individual's name and address, if they are a member or a first-time visitor, if a regular attender or a visitor, demographic data such as year in school, whether single or single parent and the age category they fit into. There is also a list of boxes to check with items stating different ways Wooddale can help the registrant such as "Becoming a Christian" and "Church Mailings." The date and time of service attended are also requested.

Volunteers sort the cards after the Sunday services and note the first-time visitors and repeat visitors. First-time visitor, names go into a computer. Names of members, visitors and regular registrants are also computerized.

On Monday's, a letter goes out from Pastor Anderson to all first-time visitors and those visitors who have not yet been contacted with a letter. Pastor Travilla follows up with a phone call within the following two days to thank them for attending and to ask them how they found out about the church. To get them further acquainted and more comfortable with the church, Pastor Travilla suggests a contact person in one of several teen or adult groups. The contact person then invites the visitor to attend group meetings and is in charge of introducing him to other members and greets him at future services.

If visitors attend services at least three times within a two-month period, their status changes to "Regular Attender." Their name and address are then put in the weekly "News and Needs" Sunday evening bulletin. Anderson sends a second letter and Pastor Travilla calls again to thank them for coming back to Wooddale and to ask if they have connected with anyone in the group. They are then invited to attend the "Regular Attender" social get-together. Three months later a volunteer calls and asks if they have settled into any of the classes at the church.

Their attendance continues to be monitored each week and they must attend a Sunday service at least once a month to stay off the absentee list. If they don't attend at least once a month, a member of the discipleship board will call to inquire if there is a need which isn't being met or to answer any questions. According to Pastor Travilla, attendance tracking is effective in drawing prospective members to the church and in fulfilling expectations concerning the responsibilities the church has toward its members.

The back of the registration card invites registrants to write comments, prayer requests, praise and news. This information goes into the "News and Needs" bulletin. It provides yet another way for the Wooddale administration to research its members. MBR

Wooddale Church REGISTRATION CARD Name (Mr., Mrs., Miss)	Service:	☐ 11 a.m.	☐ 9:45 a.m. ☐ 6 p.m.
Address			
City	Zip	Pho	ne
☐ Member	Regular Attender Visitor		
How did you hear about Wo	oddale Church?		
Home church?			
🗌 Child 🛛 🗌 Jr. High	Sr. High 🗌 Co	llege	
Single Single Parent	20-30 31-40	41-50 5	51-65 🗌 over 65
How may we help you?			
🗌 Becoming a Christian	Believer's Baptism	Church	n Membership
🗌 Church Mailings 📋 Pastoral	Call 🗌 Offering	Envelopes	Other (use reverse

"I wouldn't think anything of paying \$150 for a suit, but during the weekend I just wear jeans and old sweatshirts and such."

"I work with little children so I dress casually for work but I will go out and spend \$150 for leisure."

# Managing finances:

Focused singles are investment oriented, interested in CDs, stocks, money markets, tax-free bonds and real estate. They are also interested in a high return on their investments, in tax shelters and want to learn more about how to manage their finances. They see credit as a convenience. Life insurance was of interest primarily to those who were focused on children.

"Our generation seems to be investment erazy. Especially single women like myself. Lately it's 40-50% women in investment groups."

"I don't always have the cash on me so it is easier for me to charge it. I charge most things and pay off my charges at the end of the month."

# Settled singles/Home environment:

Many of the settled singles own their own homes which gives them a sense of permanence and security. They take pleasure and pride in decorating and are willing to invest in furniture and furnishings. They eat and entertain often at home.

"As I needed things, I tried to buy things which I thought were of quality and which I'd be comfortable with for a long time."

"It's a very friendly place and it's a place where I entertain and my children entertain."

# **Clothing:**

Settled singles tend to plan ahead and to buy an investment wardrobe geared to last. In making their apparel choices, they aim for a balance among classic styling, quality and price.

"I don't mind paying the money if it is something that is going to last a long time."

"I have this mental cost-per-wear thing that I do in my head. I break it down into the number of times I am going to wear this in relation to how much it is going to cost me."

#### Managing finances:

Settled singles are concerned with such long-term goals as owning a home and planning for retirement. They are unsure whether Social Security will be available to them, in view of the predicted drain on the system when the baby boom generation retires. They are conservative investors who want security for themselves and their children. They want financial advice on their long-term investments.

"People that seem to be about our age now are thinking much more about savings because they think there's not going to be anything in Social Security when they are older."

"You're cautious now, you know. I don't want to put \$5,000 in the stock market and all of a sudden lose that. I have to think about putting it into something safer."

# Career choices:

Each of the three types of singles also discussed the subject of career choices. They offered different perspectives concerning their "attitudes toward work" and their "attitudes toward benefits."

# Changing singles/ Attitudes toward work:

Among singles in the changing lifestyle, attitudes toward work vary. Those who are changing their self-understanding tend to view work as a source of income. For those who are in changing relationships, work is not a primary concern. Many singles, however, are changing careers and are tooking for more from the workplace more opportunity, more money, more satisfaction, more challenge. Some of them talk about wanting to turn their jobs into careers and others want to go into business for themselves.

"I have a secret desire to do something for the arts and the skills I am now developing are toward that."

"It gives you a sense of accomplishment to know that if you start a business, only you can answer for it. Only you can make it work."

# Attitudes toward benefits:

Changing singles want benefits that have the most direct and immediate applications — medical and dental insurance, vacation time and a companysubsidized cafeteria. Company savings plans are apt to be the only savings they have.

"Life insurance is free for me through my company. I wouldn't carry it otherwise."

"We have a pretty generous leave. It is nice to have."

# Focused singles/ Attitudes toward work:

Some focused singles are career driven while those who are focused on themselves or on their children may see their jobs as a paycheck, a means to an end. Many of the women with children have more than one job. Some of the focused singles work for themselves.

"I put in a lot of extra hours and a lot of overtime. It makes me feel good knowing that what I'm doing is helping bring me further up the ladder."

"... If I am going to be the sole supporter and provide the way I want to provide. I had to go for the money."

# Attitudes toward benefits:

Focused singles want benefits that are financially advantageous, such as medical, dental and life insurance, profit sharing and retirement plans. They use education benefits to advance in their careers. Some of those focused on themselves or their children expressed a desire for more flexible hours.

"I have a tax-free retirement account through my job. I never see it, which is why I have it."

"They paid my books, tuition and everything. I got more money after I took the courses."

# Settled singles/

#### Attitudes toward work:

The settled singles tend to be satisfied with their situation in the workplace. They feel financially secure and find fulfillment and stability in their jobs or careers.

"I feel fulfillment with it and I enjoy going in and talking to people all day ... and knowing that I can help."

"My job is exasperating at times, but I love the creativity involved. It has given me confidence in my own independence."

# Attitudes toward henefits:

For settled singles, it is important to have benefits that are financially advantageous in the long run. They want benefits that offer security, including medical, dental and life insurance, profit sharing and retirement plans.

"I have a great retirement plan. My employer puts in 20% and I'm getting an average 10½% interest on that."

"My company has made improvements in the profit-sharing plan since I have been there. And that is my little security. When I'm 65, I'll retire." MRR



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SEMINAR	LOCATION	DATE	SEMINAR	LOCATION	DATE
Practical Marketing Research: A user oriented discussion of traditional and contemporary methods for research practitioners	New YorkJanuary 12-14PhoenixFebruary 2-4ChicagoFebruary 2-4-26San FranciscoMarch 16-18CincinnatiApril 27-29AtlantaMay 18-20TorontoJune 8-10	February 2-4	Experimental Uesigns For Marketing Research	New York	June 25-26
		Applications of Marketing Research	New York San Francisco Atfanta Chicago	January 15-16 March 19-20 May 21-22 July 2-3	
Introduction to Marketing	Chicago June 29-July 1 New York March 24-25		Product Research	New York Cincinnati	February 24-25 June 9-10
<b>Research:</b> An overview of essential terminology, methods and applications for beginners			Advertising Research	New York Chicago	January 29-30 April 1-2
Questionnaire Construction Workshop	New York Cincinnati	February 10-11 March 24-25	Positioning and Segmentation Research	New York Chicago	January 27-28 March 30-31
-	Tampa New York	April 21-22 June 2-3	Researching For Pricing Vecisions	Cincinnati Chicago	January 20 April 3
Tahulation & Interpretation of Marketing Research Bata: Translating research data into decision	Chicago New York Cincinnati	January 19-20 March 16-17 April 20-21	New Product Forecasting: Techniques and models for consumer products	New York	February 26-27
making information Writing Actionable Marketing	Los Angeles Phoenix	June 1-2 February 5-6	Sales Forecasting Technigues For Marketing Decision Making: Methods for industrial and consumer products	Cincinnati	May 12-13
Research Reports	Cincinnati Toronto	April 30-May 1 June 11-12	Concept/Product Optimization Using Conjoint Analysis	Cincinnati	April 15-16
Advanced Questionnaire Construction Workshop	New York Cincinnati New York	February 12-13 March 26-27 June 4-5	Managing Marketing Research: Planning, organizing and controlling	Tampa San Francisco	March 5-6 May 26-27
Interviewing Executives & Professionals	Cincinnati Cincinnati	February 17-18 May 14-15	research activities International Marketing Research	New York	March 10-11
Moderating & Evaluating Focus Greups	New York Cincinnati Tampa Cincinnati	February 5-6 March 10-11 April 23-24 May 26-27	<b>Contemporary Markoting Strategy</b> <b>and Tactics:</b> A Practical discussion of key issues in markeling decision making	Tampa Chicago	March 3-4 June 18-19
Advanced Focus Greup Werkshnp	Cincinnati	March 12-13	Industrial Marketing Research Available for In-House Prese		
	Cincinnati	May 28-29	Pharmacoutical Marketing Research Available for In-House Pres		
Oral Presentation Of Marketing Research Results	San Francisco	May 28-29	Marketing Research for Available for In-House Present Financial Institutions		e for In-House Presentation
Toels & Techniques et Oata	Chicago	January 21-23	Telecemmunications Marketing Resea	rch Availabl	e for In-House Presentation
Analysis: Everything you should know about analyzing marketing research data	New York Cincinnati Los Angeles	March 18-20 April 22-24 June 3-5	Marketing Research For The Realth Care Industry	Availabl	e for In-House Presentation
Practical Multivariate Analysis	New York		Marketing Research For Public Utilitie	es Availabi	e for In-House Presentation
	Cincinnati	June 29-July 1	Marketing Research Fnr The Airline and Available for In-House Presenta Transit Industry		e for In-House Presentation
Using Multivariate Analysis: A PC. Based Applications Workshop	Cincinnati	July 2-3	Reducing Risks and Identifying Available for In-House Present Oppertunities Thruugh Marketing Research		e for In-House Presentation

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# NBC/Journal poll is tested, precise process

G oing to the polls last Nov. 4 meant a relatively quick trip into and out of the voting booth. For the polling department at NBC in New York, it was a day-long affair. From the time the polls opened in the morning until they closed at night, an NBC pollster was stopping voters to ask which candidates they had selected. This regular event at NBC is called "Election Day Voter Polling," a survey of 35,000 voters nationwide.

At 1,700 poll stations across the country, an NBC representative polls approximately 30 voters during that day. The voting day is split in half with 15 people polled in the morning and 15 people polled in the afternoon.

Conducting polls is nothing new to NBC. They've been doing it for 15 years. And since September, 1985, NBC has combined its efforts with the Wall Street Journal, creating the Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll.

According to Bill Casey, deputy editor at the Wall Street Journal and liaison for the joint polling, the polls are conducted on general interest, nonspecialized topics ranging from politics to social issues. Approximately 10 polls are conducted each year.

"NBC and the Wall Street Journal jointly agree on the event and the timing of the polls. Of course if it's a timely event, like election night, it determines when we will conduct a poll as well as how quickly we need to get the results." Collecting the data is a highly scientific process. It starts at NBC where interviewers poll a telephone sampling of 1,600 people nationwide. Polls are conducted for two nights beginning at 5 p.m. and concluding at 10 p.m. local time. This enables NBC to get a full eight hours of interviewing completed each night.

The sample is drawn from 400 locations across the country. Individual households are selected by a probability no more than three percentage points in either direction.

Polling provides an excellent way to get the public's view on a variety of issues but additionally, to aid in editorial decision-making, said Casey.

"The information we get from the polls helps us know what to emphasize in a story and what's interesting to people."

Sometimes the Wall Street Journal will conduct focus groups to flesh out

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

sample design which is drawn to represent a regional sample. This gives all telephone numbers, listed and unlisted, an equal chance of being selected. The telephone exchanges are then plugged into NBC's computers and the dialing can begin.

One adult, 18 years or older, is chosen from each household. A representative sample of males (approximately 47%), and females (approximately 53%), is obtained. Thus if the quota for males has been reached, only females will be polled for the remainder of the sampling.

Because the procedure involves a scientific sampling of individuals in all 50 states, results are almost precise. The pollers claim chances are 19 of 20 that if all households with telephones in the U.S. had been surveyed using the same questionnaire, the results would differ from the poll findings by

and provide qualitative information to go along with the quantitative data which can be retrieved through the polls. In the past year, the Wall Street Journal has conducted 12 focus group sessions. Normally one session is conducted for each topic explored. More sessions are conducted nationally if the responses of participants will vary depending on what part of the country a participant resides or if comparisons need to be made for different regions across the nation.

All articles in the Wall Street Journal which have involved focus groups to get information are written by an editorial staff person who sits in the conference room with the participants or in the observation room of the focus group facility.

"We're involved in the focus group sessions because we want to participate as much as possible." added Casey. MRR



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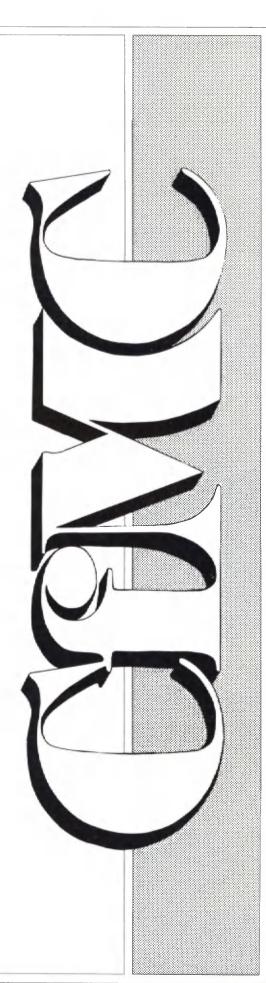
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# NAMES OF NOTE-

Maritz Marketing Research Inc. has announced that **Dr. Jim Herman** has joined the company's St. Louis Full Service Division as a research manager. Herman was formerly an associate professor at Washington University.

Quality Controlled Services has announced the appointment of **Joyce Lancaster** and **Roger Mayland** as vice presidents. Lancaster, a 13 year-veteran of the company, has management responsibility for field service operations in the Southern and Eastern U.S. Mayland, who has been with the company since 1982, has field service management responsibilities in the Northern and Western U.S.

Burgoyne, Inc., announces a change in its corporate name to **Burgoyne Information Services**. Burgoyne's new corporate headquarters are now at One Centennial Plaza, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-1909. (513) 621-7000.

Susan Rynn has been promoted to research director, Association of Independent Television Stations, Washington, D.C., from manager of research, USA Network. Opinion Research Corp. has announced two promotions at their Princeton, NJ office: Ellen M. Saxon, to research director from research associate and Sherry Pollack Burford to research executive from research director. In ORC's Chicago office, Michael A. Zicha has been promoted to research director from research associate. The organizational research group has expanded to ORC's Chicago office and will be headed by Dr. Ilene Gochman.

**Rick Rinzler** has been promoted to research account executive, from senior project director, Research 100, Princeton, NJ. **Theresa Wrobel** joins Research 100 as senior project director. She was formerly manager of market research, United Jersey Banks.

**Ronald A. Hoxter** has been named vice president/director of Chilton Research Services, Radnor, PA.

Herbert Weinberger has been named vice president of O-Xicro-N, NY, from vice president, corporate research director, Selling-Areas Marketing, NY.

Kenneth A. Fox, formerly associate director, market research, Beatrice/

Hunt Wesson, Fullerton, CA, has been named director of market research, NutraSweet Co., Skokie, IL.

Winona Research, Inc., announces a change in its corporate name and location in Arizona. The company's new name is **Winona Market Research Bureau, Inc.** (Winona MRB, Inc.) It is located at 8800 North 22nd Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85021-4258. (602) 371-8800

Lisa Freedman, formerly project director of Arbitron Ratings, Laurel, MD office, has been named manager, marketing research services.

Nancy Gildin, Custom Research, Minneapolis, has been promoted to director, marketing services, from account manager. Jackie Mettingly has joined CR as senior account director. She was formerly assistant marketing research manager, General Mills, Inc., Minneapolis.

Cherie Bann has joined Dain Bosworth, Inc., as marketing information manager. She was previously with General Mills Inc., Minneapolis.

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# Wooddale Church continued from p. 16

Added White, "The name 'Wooddale' has a nice rural feel to it and is very appropriate for the wooded area surrounding the church."

The concluding information gathered in the study was demographic data. Said White, "The congregation is a homogeneous group. They are young, in their early 40s, relatively well-educated and have young families. They are the junior executive types."

# Focus groups

The second part of the study, which was conducted after the telephone survey was completed and reviewed, involved two focus group sessions. There were 12 participants in each group, all of whom were involved in the telephone survey annd who were "unchurched." The questions that were asked of the participants were different from the ones asked in the telephone survey.

The primary issues addressed were what the participants liked and disliked about church, why they go or don't go to church, and what they feel the church should be doing for them, Various church advertisements were also passed around to get the participants' reaction to them. Said Pastor Anderson, who was one of the observers of the focus group sessions, "We learned that the focus group participants, and probably most people, don't read church ads. One reason may be because these ads usually appear in a special church seetion of the newspaper which is usually only read by churched people. Another reason may be because the ads don't promise to fulfill a need which a prospective attender is looking for in a church."

Continued Anderson, "Do you know where Mt. Olivet (one of the largest Lutheran churches in the country located in Minneapolis), advertises? In the TV section of the paper where they're more apt to reach people who aren't church-goers. Now, they know their audience."

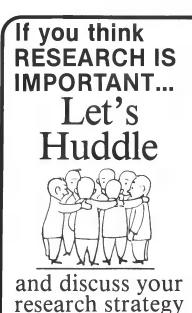
When Wooddale advertises in the newspaper, they run special events ads or special interest ads. One special interest ad Wooddale has used is one in which readers are given opportunity to submit suggestions for the "Sermons-You-Want-To-Hear" program. The poll is conducted either by telephone or newspaper to find out what subjects people most like addressed in Sunday sermons. Several suggestions are chosen and presented in a four-week special series. This yearly project represents one way Wooddale conducts informal but on-going marketing research.

The Wooddale advertisements have a way of appealing to and attracting unchurched people. Despite this, they only create visibility and familiarity, said Anderson. It's the people involved in the church who make the difference.

"The major marketing instrument of any church is its people. We get people to come to Wooddale primarily because other people invite them." Attracting new members through invitation sounds easier than it really is. According to Anderson, getting members is more difficult today than ever before because people are choosing churches much like they are choosing eonsumer products.

"People don't buy something just because they're brand loyal but because a particular need they have is being met by that product. People choose churches today based on that same principle. They don't attend a church just because their mother and father went there. They attend a church if they perceive their needs are being met there." MRR





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being extremely optimistic on incidence levels. Recruiters want to be successful and if the client provides an unrealistic recruiting goal, the recruiter in his or her frustration is liable to try so hard to meet these goals that participants will be recruited who do not really meet the criteria set by the client.

I had a case where the client wanted to recruit a group in a community. It turned out that there were only eight individuals in this community who would meet the client's screening requirements. But he did not inform either the recruiting organization or myself of that fact until after the meeting when complaints were made that unqualified people attended. Therefore, to avoid disappointments and problems set quotas that are reasonable and, if anything, be conservative in the estimates of incidence rates. Doing otherwise is foolish and will only work to your disadvantage.

In deciding which facility to use, determine that the conference room has sufficient space for whatever it is you wish to do. Also, make certain that the viewing room is sufficiently large to accommodate the group who is going to view the proceedings. If you have special needs of the facility, cover it well in advance rather than at the last minute. Usually the people at the facility will try to accommodate your extra needs but some items are difficult to provide on short notice.

Many times the local field service will suggest the incentive needed for recruitment. In most cases, I found it was to my advantage to take their advice. Another item which the facility can provide is audio tapes. (Ask for duplicates because tapes can break.) They usually can also provide video tape equipment. Although three-quarter inch tapes have been popular. I prefer the half-inch because equipment is less expensive and easier to obtain. If all research houses could standardize on one-half inch tapes, substantial savings on equipment without any loss in quality would result.

# **Project** leader

For a focus group program to be successful, it is important that everyone involved be in the communication stream. One person should be in charge. That person should be the primary contact with the moderator. This individual should be the only one authorized to make any changes in the program, outline, or screening criteria. Because of this responsibility and position of authority, the project leader should be in attendance at every session. All others at the client level should communicate with the moderator through the project leader. Failure to follow this procedure can cause many problems and divert the project from its original goals.

Following these planning guidelines requires organization and discipline. But the final result should be successful focus group programs. <u>MRR</u>

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# - PRODUCT AND SERVICE UPDATE

# Tracking service

Burke Marketing Services, Inc., announces STARTER (Syndicated Tracking of Awareness, Reported Trial, and Estimated Repeat), a syndicated telephone tracking service for national new product introductions. STARTER continuously tracks awareness, claim trial and estimated repeat for 144 brands. Each brand is in the survey for 18 months. Top-line data is reported quarterly and full analysis is provided at the end of 18 months. Clients can purchase data on any of the brands being tracked or back data for a very low monthly cost. Contact Randy Brooks at (513) 381-8898.

# Store testing

Burgoyne Information Services offers Scan-a-Test controlled store tests. Scan-a-Test can read "year ago scanner data" and provide store shopping area demographics as well as store rankings for up to 25 key demographic factors for comparison with test product and share. This store test answers questions on the impact/effectiveness of promotions, line extensions, packaging, display and price variations in major metropolitan markets. Contact a Burgoyne account representative in Cincinnati (513) 621-7000, White Plains (914) 949-3214 or San Francisco (415) 392-0130.

# Micro-computer package

An upgraded version of the Atlas microcomputer mapping software package has been introduced by Stategic Locations Planning. Atlas AMP (Advanced Mapping Package) 1.2 provides improvements in speed and custom mapping features over the 1.0 version. One new feature is DataEdit, which provides powerful database and report generation capabilities and allows the user to bypass outside spread sheets when entering custom data files. Contact Strategic Locations Planning, 4030 Moorpark Ave., Suite 123, San Jose CA 95117. (408) 985-7400.

# **Geographic options**

National Planning Data Corp. announces the addition of more geographic cross-referencing options to the MAX Online Demographic Data Management and Reporting System. These will include retrieving information on the census tracts contained in each of a group of 5-digit zip codes; or the zip codes contained in selected counties or metro areas; or the counties included in each of a group of ADIs or DMAs. With the inclusion of "user-defined" geography, users can obtain listings to crossreference their specific trade areas or sales territories by county, zip code, census tract, etc. Contact National Planning Data Corp., P.O. Box 610, Ithaca, NY 14851. (607) 273-8208.

# Pesticide guide

Agricultural chemical manufacturers, marketers, media and ad agencies can now obtain, at no cost, a handy reference guide, "Who Markets Which Brands™ For What?... Selected Ag Pesticides For Selected Crops" from Knobler Research. Contact Bill Knobler, 1615 Northern Boulevard, Manhasset NY 11030. (516)365-6280 or (212)517-3023.

# **Research handbook**

Qualitative Research Consultants Assn., Inc., offers free of charge to purchasers of qualitative research the "Code of Recommended Practices and Ethical Standards for Qualitative Research" handbook. In addition, requests can be made for a current list of the association's members, their addresses and telephone numbers at no cost. Contact Qualitative Research Consultants Assn., Inc., P.O. Box 6767, FDR Station, New York, NY 10022.

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# TRADE NEWS

# More immigrants, fewer natives

Over the past 10 years U.S. women have been bearing too few children to maintain long-term population growth. Demographers expect that if this trend continues, the U.S. will have to rely increasingly on immigration to expand the population. Both legal and illegal immigration accounted for about 26% of the nation's population growth last year. Census Bureau projections, however, indicate immigration's share will rise to 50% early in the next century and then provide the bulk of the nation's population growth in the second half of the 21st century.

These projections are based on the assumed continuation of what demographers call the "birth dearth." Since this began in 1972, the total fertility rate, which measures the number of children the average woman bears, fell below the 2.1 rate necessary to maintain a stable population.

Norman Ryder of Princeton University's Office of Population Research says "there's a very strong consensus among people who are supposed to

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know" that the fertility rate will remain below the population-replacement level. Though Ryder acknowledges that demographers have incorrectly predicted fertility trends in the past, he thinks that modern contraceptive techniques combined with the benefits women derive from working will keep the rate low.

# Dun & Bradstreet to buy Majers

Dun & Bradstreet Corp. has agreed to purchase Majers Corp., an Omaha, Neb., marketing research firm.

Majers measures and evaluates the results of promotions that influence retail sales, such as store displays and cents-off coupons. The firm employs 500 people and has annual revenue of about \$35 million.

New York-based Dun & Bradstreet is a marketer of business-information services. The company had world-wide operating revenue in 1985 of \$2.8 billion.

Majers would become a unit of Dun & Bradstreet's Nielsen Marketing Research division in Northbrook, Ill.

# Researchers discuss quality vs. price

Quality will become increasingly important in the future as customers continue to place emphasis on better products and services. Few companies, however, will overlook price, cost or perceived value as they try to improve quality.

That was the conclusion of a fourperson panel on "Cost vs. Quality: Strategic Optimization." in a meeting held recently in Princeton, N.J. The panel members were: Gus Diaz, marketing research manager, Volvo Cars of North America; Susan C. Greendale, marketing director, The New York Times; Michael Hartman, marketing services director, GTE Midwestern Telephone Operations; and Richard Nelson, group research manager, Campbell Soup Co.

The panelists agreed that quality was an important issue for their companies and that, in most cases, the customer defines quality in their market segments.

"Of course, quality is relative," said Nelson. "Our customers have different expectations about a 39e can of chicken noodle soup than they do about a more expensive product in our line, a singleserving jar of soup retailing for \$1.69. However, they expect quality and consistency in each."

Although luxury cars are a far cry from soup, some of the same standards of quality apply to each, according to Diaz. "Consumers would like a product that does not surprise them in any way. They want this year's model to perform at the same level or higher than their previous car, just as they want every can of chicken noodle soup to taste as good as every other can." he said.

Meeting customers' expectations about quality is important to The New York Times as well, said Greendale. "We have a heritage that we must live up to," she said. "Although a newspaper like The New York Times cannot be all things to all people, we have an obligation to meet the needs of our readers and advertisers and to uphold the standard of quality they've come to expect."

However, putting the customer first in terms of quality is sometimes more complex than it appears, according to Hartman. "When customers express a preference, it is a company's responsibility to translate those desires into actions the company can deal with internally," he explained. "Customers are not always clear about their priorities. In the case of telecommunications, for example, they want better service, better quality and lower prices. Those preferences can't all be met immediately. The question is, which should you do first?"

The panelists agreed that measuring quality among customers may be relatively simple, but finding out how customers perceive value is more complex. "You can compare brands of soup, but in the real world, consumers have a whole array of choices, all of which have an impact on how they perceive value," said Nelson. "For instance, what is the value of a can of soup for lunch compared to a frozen entree compared to a fast food meal?"

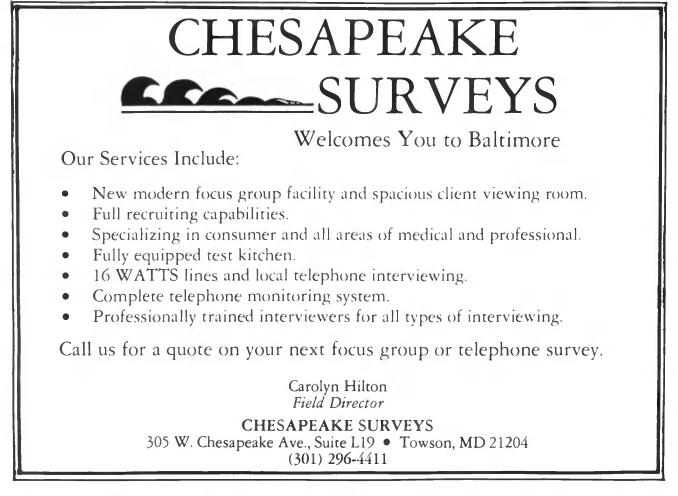
In terms of the future, Diaz said: "As a company that values its relationship with its customers, Volvo has an obligation to learn everything it can about their perceptions of quality, price and value so that it can make plans for the future. Unless we have this information, we can't hope to keep our customers' loyalty." Greendale agrees that information is crucial for making cost vs. quality strategic decisions. "We're not only researching our readers and advertisers, we're trying to predict social trends," she said. "That's the only way we can ensure that the cost and quality decisions we make now will take our company in the right direction for the future."

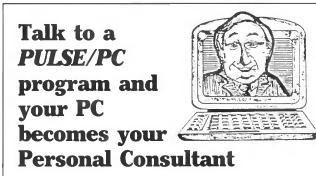
# Participation levels up in 1986

Participation levels in surveys conducted by the marketing research industry have increased significantly compared to other years. Additionally, a larger majority of those surveyed supported statements that reflect positively on the industry's image.

These are key findings of the seventh biennial Industry Image Study conducted by Walker Research, Inc.. Indianapolis. The study monitors consumers' attitudes toward polls and surveys and has been fielded since 1974. The results track consumers' behavior

continued p. 30





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# Consumer ch among

In the marketplace, there are readily perceivable differences among singles who are changing, focused and settled. With respect to general attitude, changing singles tend to buy to satisfy short-term needs and focused singles tend to buy what they want while settled singles are more likely to buy according to priorities in their overall plan.

The following are comments from some participants in each of the three groups concerning issues relating to consumer choices.

# **Choosiug a store:**

*Changing singles:* "If I see what I want, it makes little difference where I buy it."

*Focused singles:* "I believe in specialty stores. I think they have the best for your money. You get what you pay for."

Settled singles: "If you buy things and they hold up . . . you can pretty well assume that other things that you buy will be just as good. So I think the store's own reputation has a lot to do with it."

# **Primary cousumer focus:**

*Changing singles:* "They have a bargain basement . . . If you look thoroughly, you can get some real good quality pieces that are marked down. The clothes are stylish, too. I like style and fashion."

*Focused singles:* "When it comes to dress, if it is something I want, I don't care about the price. I would spend \$400 on a suit. That's pretty much for me and the suit would have to last me... but the way I look in it, the way the material feels and the occasion — that's why I would buy it."

Settled singles: "I don't want good quality that is three times the price I'd want to pay for it. I want quality and value to go together."

# Shopping approach:

*Changing singles:* "I look around, I check the stores. You can find the same thing cheaper someplace else if you look hard enough."

*Focused singles:* "I feel we're working women. We have our homes to clean, our children to take care of and our own sanity to take care of. I don't have that much extra time to shop."

Settled singles: "For a big purchase, I normally go to the library and pick out a consumer report and read about it and then I'm going to shop around quite a lot to see if I can get a better value somewhere else."

# oices diverse singles

# Influences on buying behavior:

Changing singles: "Friends who shopped at particular stores and had either good or bad experiences."

*Focused singles:* "Convenience for me would be the number one factor because I don't have a whole lot of time to shop."

*Settled singles:* "I shopped around for an entire year looking at the papers for a VCR until I saw a one-day sale. It was the lowest price that I saw, so I bought it."

#### **Brand orientation:**

*Changing singles:* "Designer and brand names are not all important to me. Who wants to pay extra for somebody's name on the thing?"

*Focused singles:* "... When the designers come out with something, you wait a whole year until they copy it down at the less expensive stores. So they are really setting the trends. They are very stylish and fashionable. That is why I like them."

Settled singles: "They're buying merchandise here and there in large volume and bringing it all together at a good price. So I think it means that you're getting a better value when they have a label with their own name on it."

#### Sale orientation:

*Changing singles:* "I buy everything on sale. I don't ever pay full-price. I feel stupid if I do. I feel I was taken. Why should you pay more for something if you could get it for less?"

*Focused singles:* "I shop the sales, but not too often, because if I want it, I want it. I don't care what the price is, I get it."

Settled singles: "... Instead of looking at the paper and seeing what is on sale and going to get it, I figure out what I need and wait patiently until someday it appears in the papers ..."

## Service orientation:

*Changing singles:* "That store will always treat you fairly. If you don't like something or if it's not right, they won't argue about taking it back."

*Focused singles:* "I get very good service in specialty stores. They will do alterations at no charge. They have their own charge card. They will notify you of their sales."

Settled singles: "If I pay money for it, I want the service. If I have a problem with it, I want somebody to take care of the problem without any headaches." MRR

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toward, and opinions of, the marketing research industry so that problems can be detected and addressed. According to Dr. Elizabeth Kyzr-Sheeley, senior research associate, "The information also provides regular feedback about market research from survey participants who are critical to the industry's long-term success."

Topline results of the 1986 survey indicate that reported research participation in the past year has risen to 33% compared to 23% in both 1982 and 1984. Overall the image of the industry is positive and significantly more respondents find the interview experience interesting and beneficial. However, there is greater belief that the true purpose of some surveys is not disclosed.

The survey confirms that telephone interviewing remains the most popular data collection technique (76%), while mall intercept, despite a decline, is still the most frequently used face-to-face methodology (30%). While door-todoor research also continues to decline, mail interviewing has seen a resurgence.

Survey participants continue to be a different group from nonparticipants in that they have higher income and educational levels.

Respondents were asked to identify a critical element in shaping their at-

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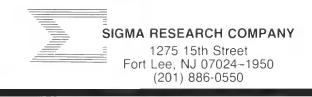
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titudes toward the interview experience as in 1984. The most important reason cited for a pleasant experience was the personafity and/or attitude of the interviewer. However, the design of the questionnaire had significantly more influence on evaluation of the interview in 1986.

The sales pitch under the guise of a survey has long been of concern to the marketing research industry because it impacts public perception and respondent cooperation in an adverse manner. In 1986 four out of 10 of those interviewed reported exposure to a sales pitch disguised as a survey.

"Although some of the downward trends from the 1984 survey have either been stabilized or reversed in 1986, the research community must continue to address issues important to the public," said Kyzr-Sheeley.

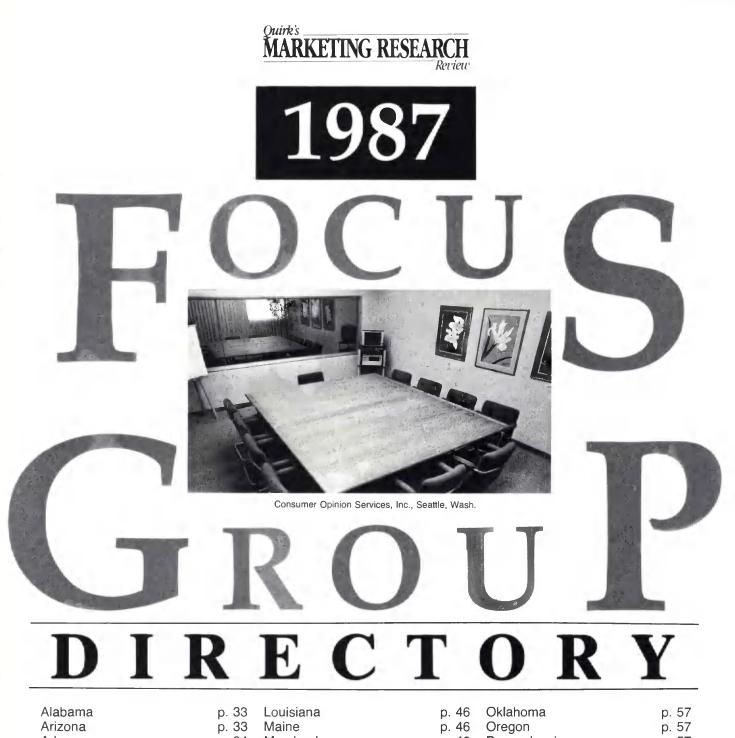
The 1986 survey involved a nationally representative sample. Interviews with 500 respondents were completed in June plus over-quota interviews to obtain 200 consumers who reported that they had participated in a survey within the past year.

# Washington, D.C. a woman's city

Two out of every three, or 65%, of Washington, D.C.-area women work outside the home, reveal Census Bureau figures. That's the highest labor participation rate for women of any U.S. metropolitan area. Over 60% of women in Dallas, Atlanta and San Francisco work. In Pittsburgh and New York, about 45% of women are in the local work force.

The Greater Washington Research Center, which obtained the figures from the 1980 Census, says Washington leads other metro areas in the number of women in managerial or professional, as opposed to clerical jobs. Washington has 35%. Slightly more than 20% of working women in Miami. Pittsburgh and St. Louis occupy managerial or professional positions.

Washington-area retailers and service companies should consider expanding business hours to attract the female labor force, the research center suggests. Also, the number of working women in the national capital area is now so high that there are relatively few non-working women available for jobs. That's a problem for growing businesses but an opportunity for jobseeking women willing to move to Washington. MRR



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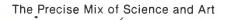
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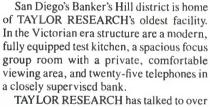
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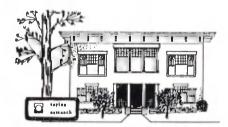


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Adam Market Research, Inc. 2511 N. Grady Ave., Suite 401 Tampa, FL 33607 813-875-4005 Contact: Mark R. Siegel 1-3-4-5-6-7B

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Carolyn Cooper Research, Inc. Oglethorpe Mall, Suite 18-A Savannah, GA 31406 912-355-0498 Contact: Carolyn Cooper 1-3-4-5-6-7A

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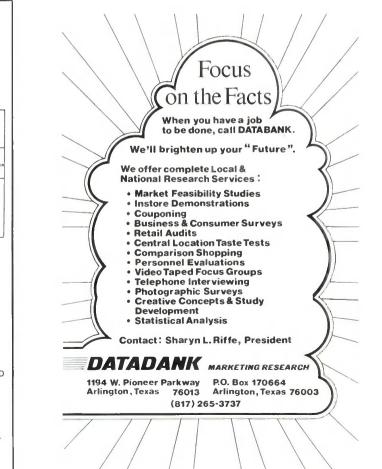
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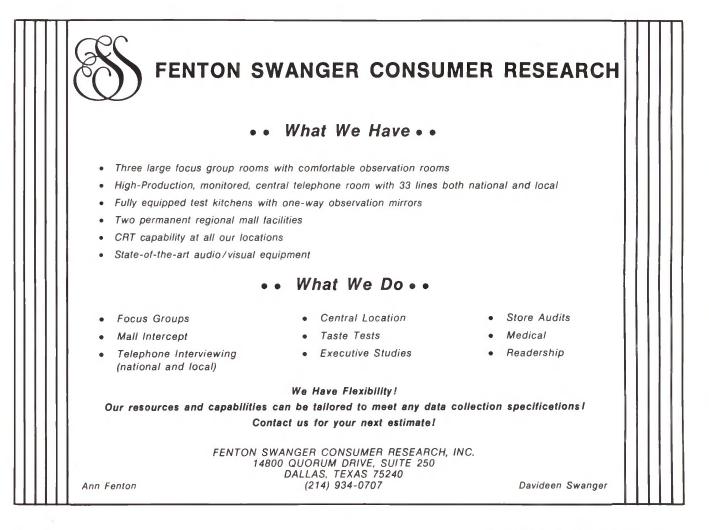
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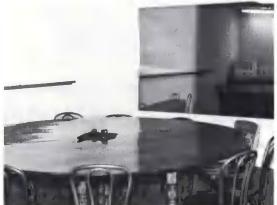




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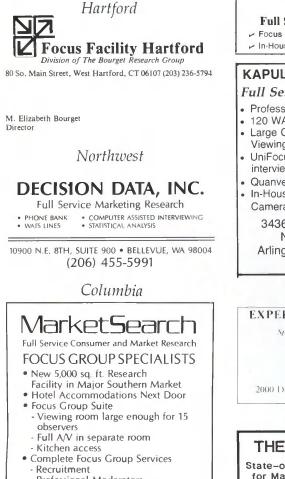
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# TRADE TALK

By Beth E. Hoffman managing editor

## Accomplishments and concerns

n exploding technology is contributing to the fast pace at which the field of survey research is moving today. Despite this, growing and unresolved problems hamper some of the major accomplishments in this field. Those problems are affecting its growth in the future as well.

These were the comments of George Gallup Jr., the nationally known polltaker, who spoke at a recent symposium in Indianapolis sponsored by Walker Research, Inc. Gallup, who shared his insights on the future of survey research with his audience of about 100 senior marketing executives, included thoughts on the subject from people who are involved in the business.

In a mail survey questionnaire, some senior marketing executives were asked to comment on their predictions on the future of survey research. Their responses indicated a pervasive concern over a wide range of problems such as telemarketers posing as interviewers, poorly-designed surveys, a declining pool of interviewers, fear of being interviewed, and a lack of understanding of the purposes of survey research. Some predictions were even more severe. For example: "Consumer overload' will destroy the industry; interviewers will be a vanishing breed; opinions will be available only for a price; survey respondents, angered over fake surveys or poorly designed surveys, will demand government regulation."

Can the industry afford to suffer such mishaps considering the progress it has made over the past 50 years? Gallup listed a sample of those accomplishments:

(1) The spread of survey research throughout the world, including Russia.

(2) Practically every aspect of life has been investigated. This includes human behaviors once considered prohibitive and such areas as "near-death" experiences.

(3) An extremely high level of accuracy achieved in sampling populations.

This is confirmed by the record of survey organizations, both here and abroad, in estimating the outcome of national elections.

(4) Surveys have given the public a voice on all important issues facing their lives. Such surveys are important in order to have a healthy government and a healthy economy as well. Market-ing research helps clients gain a competitive edge but most importantly, helps define the real needs of consumers. This leads to an ever-improving quality of life for citizens of a nation.

(5) Greater public acceptance of survey research.

The respondents see the future of survey research as accomplishing many milestones. A few of these are:

• Most predict greater use of survey research at all levels, with inexpensive data processing making this possible. Some predict that more relevant information will be available for use in overall strategy because of techniques such as psychographics, segmentation and increased use of multivariate techniques.

• Less reliance on paper processing of questionnaires and more direct access into computers. The use of psychographics and other techniques will enable better targeting of respondents.

• Survey research will place more emphasis on explaining behavior as devices become more reliable; wider dissemination of survey data.

• More emphasis on tracking as opposed to "snapshots." This includes quicker turnaround.

• An extension of market research into product categories other than mass market products. Survey research geared toward the total marketing picture, not just parts of it.

• A growth in international research.

• New professional descriptions of the roles of survey researchers and a decline of the "generalists" in the field.

• An increase in computer modeling of consumers' wants and needs, more use of "intelligent" computers and widespread use of scanners.

These previous accomplishments and the forthcoming ones predicted are jeopardized because of rather threaten-



ing developments and persistent problems. According to the respondents, these are:

(1) Failure to apply sampling guidelines in the surveys. Telephone stations across the country continuing to report surveys based on whomever happens to call in, without any attempt of representativeness.

(2) Poor interviewing techniques.

(3) Lengthy and boring questionnaires.

(4) A continuing ignorance of survey research. This illustrates the need for college courses in the field.

(5) Respondent reluctance to participate in surveys. Reasons for the climbing refusal rate are various: an overload of surveys; overly long questionnaires, often on dull topics; poor interviewing; invasion of privacy and time pressures are just a few.

(6) A certain lack of creativity in recent years in developing new research techniques and approaches.

(7) One serious development which could severely affect the collection of data and undermine the validity of survey research is the continuing high rate of illiteracy.

(8) The failure of some polling organizations to indicate the likely outcome of elections (frequently in primary elections); failure to estimate voter turnout accurately, inability to allocate the undecided vote and failure to poll as close to an election as possible.

(9) The widespread danger of government intervention and control of surveys.

These threats to the survey industry signify the need to remind people nationwide of the importance of their continued participation in surveys and to help them recognize that their opinions can contribute to better government and to an improved quality of life. FOCUS ON .....

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