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Date: 2-22-89

San Francisco Chronicle

Right, Left Brain Functions

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All creative endeavor is a function of the right hemisphere of the brain. Right? Not necessarily so, according to Jerre Levy, a brain researcher at the University of Chicago. Levy is among the most prominent of those now trying to undo the "mythology" that has sprung up around right and left brains.

The confusion is based on research by Caltech's Roger Sperry, who studied epileptics who had undergone treatment that required severing the main fiber linking the brain's two halves.

What he found is that the left hemisphere is superior in the kind of logical thinking used to work geometry problems. Likewise, the right hemisphere is superior in artistic thought — such as that requir-

ed to create a painting or artfully apply mascara.

While it's true that the two brain hemispheres do have their intelligence strengths, for everyday problem solving, where integrating information and drawing conclusions is necessary, both sides of the brain work together. In almost all activities, there is constant interplay between the brain's two halves. The left hemisphere understands grammar and syntax, while the right is better at understanding intonation and interpreting emotion.

"No complex function — music, art or whatever — can be assigned to one hemisphere or the other. Any high-level thinking in a normal person involves constant communication between the two sides of the brain," Levy said.

Health and Fitness News