

## E-Mails of Interest

Subject: OG's ListServ History  
 Date: Thu, 7 Aug 1997 22:17:32 -0400 (EDT)  
 From: Olindsley@aol.com  
 Reply-To: SClistserv@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu  
 To: SClistserv@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu  
 CC: owner-SClistserv@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu

For some reason this message did not go through our SClistserv with its following message <List Manners and Abuse> which I hoped you would read after this. This message sets the scene for <list Manners and Abuse> and leads into my closing of <Too little? Too Late?>.

This email is to be read before the message <List Manners and abuse>. It is sent in two parts to keep each message brief enough for all email systems.

I never subscribed to the Behavior Analysis <Behav-An> list because the sample postings that I read were full of academic trivia and many one on one arguments between two members who apparently had no other way to command our attention than to argue in public.

I kept a private list of over 45 edresses called <PT Folks> that I sent messages to. I told them of events, deadlines, updates, and address and edress changes. It took more and more time to maintain <PT Folks>. Therefore, I welcomed the founding of our <SCList> by Rick Kubina, and sent him my <PT folks> list to help him start up our <SCList>. I hoped that I would no longer have to maintain my <PT Folks> list.

Recently I printed out the subscribers to our SCList by sending a <review SClistserv> request to <listserv@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu>. I noted that ten of our most experienced leaders had not subscribed to our SCList in fear that it would become another Behav-An list. I privately emailed each of these people urging them to join. I told them we posted about 2 important messages a day, with no space wasting debates and little trivia.

Since the late 1950's I held deep concern that Fred Skinner stood idly by and let Operant Conditioning degenerate without saying a thing in

public. Technical advances degenerate by drifting back to what they tried to improve upon. And, Operant Conditioning degenerated by drifting from rate of response back to latency, duration, trials to extinction, and percent correct (Hull's four measures of response strength).

True, Fred Skinner sadly muttered and moaned to his current students and friends. But, nowhere did he blast out about the decrease in cumulative recording and rate of response in the journal (JEAB) that we founded as a place to publish them. Only when too late did Skinner publish the whimpering article <Good by, my LOVELY>. Too little. Too late.

Observing Skinner's lack of attention to the quality control of his products, I determined to give immediate and accurate feedback to Standard Celebration persons whenever I noticed poor quality and degeneration in our products. Some have criticized me for being blunt, negative, or punitive in giving corrective feedback. But I'd rather be blunt in defending our products, than stand idly by and watch them degenerate.

### SO, HERE COMES OG'S BLAST!

Our SC list shows signs of degeneration and of making me a liar to my friends. Here's my effort to save our SC list before I signoff the list because of the poor manners of a minority of members. We must not give up our list to list abusers. They can start their own lists, or continue to abuse other lists. But they should stay the hell off of our list.

(Continued on email message <List Manners and Abuse.>)

Subject: List Manners and Abuse

Date: Thu, 7 Aug 1997 16:54:41 -0400 (EDT)

From: Olindsley@aol.com

Reply-To: SClistserv@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu

To: SClistserv@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu

CC: owner-SClistserv@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu

(Continued from email <OG's ListServ History>).

## LIST MANNERS AND ABUSE

### GOOD LIST MANNERS:

A list is like a powerful loud speaker in a room of 100 working, networking, and chatting people. We should broadcast only messages important to the majority in the room. We should not use the loudspeaker to announce a reply to a friend or opponent.

1) Post things all of us should know. (Remember you are holding a powerful loud-speaker in your hands when you list! Everyone gets your message! Not everyone may want to hear it.

2) Post websites and reference locations. (If you must call our attention to a hot new world of information that might help us all, or a downloadable software application, do only that. Post it with a one sentence description, and let us visit to find more.)

3) Talk Plain English. (If we could find an eprime or verb to be counter our computers could screen the postings and automatically return submitted postings high in verbs to be and high in words with over 2 syllables, back to the poster for rewriting. <Revolutioneering> has 6 syllables! The article that followed that title had a Flesch grade level off 14.9! We should aim for grade level 6.0 to 8.0!)

4) Talk Precision Teaching and Standard Celeration language. (Codic, duplic, echoic, and sequeleic belong on the Verbal Behavior List serv and not on ours! Just as jump up, turn down, up bounce, and celeration belong on the SC list and not the VB list. Poorly mannered talk Greek in Rome. Equally poor mannered talk VB in SC. It

brands the talker a careless intruder with no concern for the locals.)

### LIST ABUSE:

1) Don't list your reply to 1 or 3 people. (Send an email to that person with carbon copies to the others. Our time is valuable. If you want our attention you must honor it. Do not defile our attention with replies to others.)

2) Don't list chat. (Most of us don't care why Tom Jones didn't visit Cumadora U. on his trip through Waywardstate. If you must chat, email Cumadora, and Tom.)

3) Don't advertise a new product, product descriptions, costs, etc. on our list. (Call our attention to a new product website with one sentence. Leave the catalog off our list and on the vendor's website.)

4) Don't list important things going on in other disciplines that we should be aware of (according to you). (We are big girls and boys now, and fully capable of screening other disciplines on our own. We do not need travel brochures on the marvels of Greece littering our SClister bulletin board.)

LET'S BE GOOD TO OUR LIST.  
LET'S KEEP IT LITTER FREE.  
LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN!

TOO LITTLE? TOO LATE?

(The above two messages <OG's ListServ history> and <List Manners and Abuse> combined had 4 characters per word, 0 passive sentences (but several to be verbs), and a Flesch grade level of 8.4.)

Subject: Ellie Reese  
Date: Mon, 7 Apr 1997 01:53:27 -0400 (EDT)  
From: Olindsley@aol.com  
To: PT Folk

Dear PT Folk:

I recently received this sad notice via e-mail. I would have forwarded it sooner, but have not had access to your addresses because my tired old Power Book 170 crashed and I had trouble getting my AOL 2.6 address book into AOL 3.0 on my new Power Book 1400c.

<<From: Beth Sulzer-Azaroff, [75463,1745]

DATE: 4/2/97 9:08 PM

RE: Ellie Reese

At 4:25 PM this afternoon Ellie Reese peacefully died of terminal pulmonary disease. Personally I am deeply saddened at the loss of one of my closest friends and colleagues. For the field of behavior analysis her absence will create a gaping rent. An exquisitely creative researcher, she led the way toward broad-based ecological experimental analyses of behavior. As a crafter of elegant prose and artful films and videos she breathed life into the concepts of behavior analysis, making them accessible to the world at large. It will take eons for the oceans to wash away the footsteps she left in the sands of time.

Beth Sulzer-Azaroff >>

Since 1953, I knew both Tom and Ellie Reese who taught at Mount Holyoke College. Ellie was the very first to invite me to present the research we were doing at the Behavior Research Laboratory of Harvard Medical School at Metropolitan State Hospital. I'll never forget that first opportunity to present my human operant data. I was still a graduate student at the time.

Ellie was among those few who really knew the power of the free operant. In my recent article, <The Four Free Operant Freedoms, The Behavior Analyst, 1996, 10, 199-210> I quoted from what Ellie wrote about operanda in the <Free Operant Method> section of her popular textbook, <The Analysis of Human Operant Behavior (1966), Dubuque, IA: William C. Brown>.

Read what she wrote about the freedom to form responses.

<<The gerbil in figure 2 is pressing one kind of mouse lever. When the lever is depressed a certain distance, it operates a microswitch which defines the response. The gerbil may press with either paw or both paws, or he may climb on the lever or straddle it. Only those behaviors-but all of those- which operate the microswitch are defined as lever-pressing responses. (p.5)

A beautiful, clear, plain English description of the freedom to form responses in the free operant method.

That was our Ellie.

I will miss her. Sadly, many of you will never have the opportunity to meet her. But, you will have the opportunity to read her. Please do. She was one of the truly great free operant pioneers.

With Precision, Peace, and Love,

Og

Subject: Subscription of J of Precision Teaching  
Date: Tu 27 May 1997 14:34:00 -0500 (CDT)  
From: Marshall Dermer<dermer@csd.uwm.edu>  
To: cmcdade@jsucc.jsu.edu

Hi Claudia,

It was so good to meet you at ABA! I would appreciate your sending me an order for subscribing to your journal.

Thanks,

Marshall

PS I thought you might like the following. I think I will do a controlled study follow-up.  
"Who, Me Worry?" Marshall Lev Dermer  
<dermer@csd.uwm.edu>  
Copyright 3/97

Several months ago, once each evening, I had set my wristwatch's countdown timer for one minute and began typing as many positive attributes about myself as possible.

At first, I could only enter twelve attributes per minute. So, I talked to family and friends.

Judy, my wife, smiled and suggested that I enter "kissable."

Noah, my teenage son, sarcastically noted that I could do arithmetic (including divide by 1 and multiply by 0) breath, walk, think, and dress as well as toilet myself. Although I then reconsidered having introduced him to Mad Magazine, his suggestions reminded me of life's basics.

My Aunt Katie told me that I was a terrific nephew and that I had been a wonderful son to my mother.

After about three weeks of suggestions and daily timings, I found myself entering about 31 attributes per minute. But I also discovered something else.

To improve my rate, I had practiced during the day. At first, I would intentionally practice. Gradually, however, I found myself spontaneously practicing in the car, while walking, and in bed when going to sleep.

Moreover, practicing to increase my entry rate was reducing the time I spent worrying. Stated another way, worrying about serious things like cancer had been replaced with worrying about something trivial like improving my entry rate.

Do I ever worry now? Sure, but now I have a way of controlling my worrying. I literally count my blessings -- as fast as I can.