Editorial

The experimental and applied activities of behavior analysts continue to multiply and diversify so that it becomes ever less possible to remain fully informed of developments in subfields not directly related to one's work. Thus it becomes ever more important that at least some behavior analysts devote a portion of their professional behavior to integrating, synthesizing, comparing, and chronicling the activities within and between subfields. If, in addition, one considers radical behaviorism as a world view (cf. Malagodi, 1986), there is a continuing need for developing and clarifying the conceptual framework of behavior analysis as it relates to that world view. Further, if behavior analysts deem it desirable for scientific domains to be considered in relation to one another, there is opportunity for exploration of relations between behavior analysis and other scientific fields and subfields. Finally, if we are to understand our heritage and to build on the best our past has had to offer, our recorded history must contain periodic recounting and assessing of our activities, as well as reflection on and analysis of the conditions under which our best work emerges and is maintained. Because *The Behavior Analyst* is uniquely suited to provide a forum for all of these topics, I have sought during my tenure as editor of the journal to provide readers a sample of papers that reflect all of those activities.

This issue may be considered as an approximation of that goal. The two special sections focus, respectively, on historical conditions that led to important developments and on current issues at the forefront of theoretical concern. It is my hope that in reading about the very special conditions that fostered so much creative scientific endeavor, readers of the journal will be moved to replicate some of these conditions as they seek to educate behavior analysts of the future. It is also my hope that in reading about the excit-

ing experimental and theoretical possibilities inherent in the mathematical description of behavioral processes, readers will be moved to examine further the possible role of mathematics in the applied as well as the experimental arena. Other articles take stock of our current status and focus on interdisciplinary topics.

I am deeply indebted to behavior analysts across the nation, indeed over the world, for their assistance and support during these two years of my stewardship of the journal. Members of the editorial board and guest reviewers have been extraordinarily generous in preparing carefully considered and timely reviews and they have substantially aided the editorial process. Very hard work by two guest associate editors, Lawrence Fraley (1988) and Celia W. Gershenson (1989), has resulted in special sections focused, respectively, on relationships between behavior analysis and cultural materialism and the historical circumstances surrounding the beginnings of behavior analysis as a field. Editor-elect Sam Deitz's service as action editor on the Lab Lore series of papers that appeared in the Spring 1988, issue largely accounts for the fact that my first issue was published on schedule.

Previous editors have been generous in answering my queries regarding past procedures, and my immediate predecessor, Edward K. Morris, has been a continuing source of information as well as of moral support. After the untimely death in 1986 of editor-elect Aaron J. Brownstein, Ed Morris graciously served a third year as editor (a commitment that I can now fully appreciate), which made my foreshortened tenure as editor-elect less handicapping than it might otherwise have been. I am additionally indebted to my colleagues Janet Ellis, Joel Greenspoon, and Cloyd M. Hyten, each of whom offered a unique perspective and skills, and on whom I frequently called for reviews on

short notice when, for one reason or another, a previously scheduled review was not forthcoming.

As these past two years have progressed, I have learned to make full use of the copyediting skills of Leslie Burkett, who patiently taught me what copy editors do and then did it with outstanding competence. Angela Cline, my secretary, has somehow managed to organize the entire filing system, on paper and on word processor, so that we have been able to keep track of the editorial process as it progressed on each submission. Due to the expertise of Shery Chamberlain, the journal's managing editor, and Sharon Myers, the journal's business manager, I have been able to focus my energies on substantive matters. I thank them both as well as the SABA board for their support.

I believe that the remainder of this century will prove to be a critical period for behavior analysis. If the field is to mature, more niches must be created in academe where behavior analysis can mature and flourish, where laboratory and applied researchers can benefit directly from one another's work, where concep-

tual analysis can draw on that work, and where the philosophy of a science of behavior can continue to build on its experimental findings as well as to provide links between that work and that of other disciplines. Geographic isolation of many behavior analysts from other behavior analysts precludes the kinds of interactions illustrated in the reminiscences on Keller and Schoenfeld's Columbia. While we work to create such niches, the only way we have to remain in touch with one another is through our conferences and the pages of our journals. Therefore, I am grateful to the journal's Advisory Board for the honor and privilege of serving as editor of *The Behavior Analyst* at this time.

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REFERENCES

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