

## Humor Behavior Analysis – as of 2/14/07

### AGGRESSIVES CUSTOMER:

“I want a copy of that dumb poor excuse for a new book Human an Aggressive Establishing Operation Cannot be Changed, and make it snappy, stupid!”

### APPLES AS REINFORCERS:

Only behaviorists bring apples to their teachers on an intermittent schedule of reinforcement.

### AVERSIVE BEAR:

Two campers who were out hiking and spotted a grizzly bear coming over the hill, and it were headed right for them. One of them reached into his pack as quick as he could, pulled out a pair of tennis shoes, sat down and started putting on the tennis shoes. The other looked at him, and he said, why are you wearing your tennis shoes? The fellow with the tennis shoes stood up, and he said, I don't have to out run the grizzly. I just have to outrun you.

### AVERSIVE CHANGES IN LIFE:

I dialed a number and got the following recording: "I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call; I am making some changes in my life.

Please leave a message after the beep.

If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes."

### AVERSIVE CHILD STORE SALE:

“It's a new programmed toy guaranteed to challenge him- no matter what answer he gives, it's wrong.”

### AVERSIVE COLLEGE FACULTY

College teacher was in a rush at a toy store: "I need something funny for a 3 year old. Do you have any thing here like that?"

store clerk (who was also a student in her college courses):  
"Your college course."

#### AVERSIVE CONTROL MUSIC INSTRUMENT:

Mom to her child: Nobody can force you to practice; we can't make you learn an instrument.

Son: Should I quit

Mom: The decision is entirely up to you.

Son: You won't get mad?

Mom: No

Son: Then I quit

Mom: Over my dead body!

#### AVERSIVE COMMITMENT VS CONTRIBUTE:

Chicken and pig went to breakfast; the pig asked the chicken what he was to have for breakfast. "Ham and egg", the chicken responded. "That is a contribution on my part, but it is total commitment on your part."

#### AVERSIVE CONSEQUENCES:

-As a punishment for writing on the wall, John has to stay after school and stand in the corner. While in the corner he was told to write on the blackboard 50 times: "I must not write on the walls." Forty-five of these expressions fit on the blackboard and they were written on the board, the remaining five were written just below the blackboard!

-After many complaints about a noisy party, the hotel manager asked an obnoxious couple to leave. The wife shouted, "We'll never stay here again!"

Her husband states, "We'll see that none of our friends stay here either."

"I'd appreciate that very much," said the manager.

-The drunk was playing golf with a nun, and on the first tee he swung wildly and said, "Damn it, I missed." So the nun frowns, and the drunk swings a second time and misses again. "Damn it, I missed." This time the nun coughs and says, "Sir, should you continue to use this foul language, the Heavens may open up and the good Lord may strike you down with a thunder bolt." So the drunk stands quiet for a minute, then addresses the ball again, swings and says, "Damn it, I missed." The Heavens split; a lightning bolt comes down and kills- the nun. A mighty voice through the universe, "Damn it, I missed."

- "Each generation wants to find out for itself that the stove is hot".

-It's time we did something about bank robbers - like register ski masks!

- "I'm a captured prisoner in a brewery, and don't send help!"

-The scene is a cocktail party in Washington. Two guys are introduced to each other and after a certain amount of small talk, one says, "Have you heard the latest joke?" The second guy holds up his hand and says, "No - and before you begin, I think you should know that I work at the White House." The first fellow says, "Not to worry. I'll talk very slowly."

-Wife: I'm willing to meet you halfway. I'll admit I'm wrong if you'll admit I'm right.

-Mother: "Why don't you go outside and play with the ball you found?"

Johnny: "I'm afraid I might meet the kid I found it from."

- "A doctor can bury his mistakes, an architect can cover his up, a farmer can plow his under; but a teacher's mistakes grow up and becomes a member of the school board."

- Younger brother to a friend (as sister's boyfriend arrives)  
"Oh no, he has bad taste, my sister's boyfriend brought flowers for my sister instead of candy!"

-Dad formerly dealt out corporal punishment to a child. Then the safety razor took away his razor strap, baldness took

away his hairbrush, the furnace took away the woodshed, and TV interfered with the verbal reprimand.

Its no wonder kids are running wild today. Dad ran out of weapons.

- If you die on me I will kill you.

- "I hope you won't get angry if I point out a few little faults I've noticed about you," said the spouse.

Aversive Spouse: "Why should I get angry?" the spouse answered. "Those same faults kept me from getting a better spouse."

-Aversive Fork Eating- Father: Why does Junior have so many holes in his forehead?

Mother: He's learning to eat with a fork.

- Pupil: Do you think its right to punish people for things they haven't done?

Teacher: Why, of course not!

Pupil: Well, I haven't done my homework.

- Poor calorie counters have the figures to prove it!

- One day my doctor read to me from my EKG report, "The slightest upset or shock will kill this person."

-With in-laws in town for a visit, a wise person took aside the family cook and handed the cook a slip of paper. Here's a list of my in-laws favorite dishes. "Don't lose it." "Sure won't," the cook said. "And remember, if just one of these dishes is served while my in-laws are here - you're fired."

#### AVERSIVES GLASSES:

It is aversive frustration trying to find your glasses without your glasses.

#### AVERSIVE LANDINGS:

At pilots training back in the Air Corps they taught us, "Always try to keep the number of landings you make equal to the number of take offs you make."

#### AVERSIVES LEMONS:

“When life hands you a lemon (aversive), ask for a bottle of tequila and some salt.”

#### AVERSIVE NAME:

The subject of errant husbands came up at the women’s group. One woman complained her husband frequently came home late and drunk.

Mine was the same way. Another said. But I cured him for good.

How did you do that? She was asked.

Well one morning when I heard him stumbling into the house, I called out, is that you John?

So how did that cure him?

His name is Harry.

#### AVERSIVE ONE CHILD TO ANOTHER CHILD:

“It’s not your fault that you are stupid, with the brain of a flea. It’s not your fault that dull ignoramus like you was thrown in amongst us brighter kids. Nobody attacks you with that kind of stuff while I’m around, kid.”

#### AVERSIVE ROACH

We need a roach spray that fills the roach with self-doubt that he is at the right house.

#### AVERSIVE SCOUTS:

3 Scouts: We all helped an old lady a cross the street.

Scoutmaster: Why did it take all 3 of you?

3 Scouts: She said she didn’t want to cross the street.

#### AVERSIVE SPORTS LANGUAGE:

Football

Shoot the gap  
Show more offensive power  
Explode through the hole  
“Mean Green Machine”  
“Purple People Eaters”

Baseball  
Base stealing  
Slide with your spikes up to break up the double play

Basketball  
Slam-dunk in your face  
Steal the ball  
Set a hard-pick.

#### AVERSIVE SPRINTERS:

A track coach was asked why he produced such fast runners.  
“Simple we use real bullets in our starting gun.”

#### AVERSIVE SPOILED:

At first, I thought that my wife was spoiled---but it turned out just to be her perfume.

#### AVERSIVE SUBTLE TELLING OF AN AUTO ACCIDENT IN THE GARAGE:

Spouse coming in from parking the car in the garage: “The back of the garage is loose”

#### AVERSIVE TOURISTS:

A man, who travels to see things that are different, then complains when they aren't the same.

#### AVERSIVE UNDERSTANDING IS IMPORTANT:

Everybody but Sam signed up for a company pension plan that called for an employee contribution. The company was

paying all the rest. Unfortunately, 100% employee participation was needed; otherwise the plan was off. Sam's boss and his fellow workers pleaded and cajoled, but to no avail. Sam said the plan would never pay off.

Finally the company president called Sam into his office.

"Sam," he said, "here's a copy of the new pension plan and here's a pen. I want you to sign the papers. I'm sorry, but if you don't sign, you're fired. As of right now." Sam signed the papers immediately.

"Now," said the president, "would you mind telling me why you couldn't have signed earlier?" "Well, sir", replied Sam, "nobody explained it to me quite so clearly before."

#### AVERSIVE WIFE TO THE THERAPIST:

I read a psychology book that made me see my husband in an entirely different light. It was shortly after that that I gave him the karate chop!

#### AVERSIVE WORDS:

My wife and I had words, but I didn't get to use mine.

#### AVERSIVE WORM:

What is worse then biting into an apple with a worm in it?

Biting into an apple with half a worm in it!

#### BASELINE – BED TIME FEAR:

Joe has been seeing psychoanalysts, for years for a compulsive fear he had about monsters living under his bed. He constantly was looking under his bed for this monster. It had been years since he had a good night's sleep. His progress with the psychoanalyst was very poor, and he knew it. So, one day he stopped seeing the psychoanalyst and decided to try some different therapy. One day later, Joe's former psychoanalyst met Joe in the supermarket, and was surprised to find him looking well rested, energetic, and

cheerful.

Joe: "It's amazing. Doc! I'm cured!"

Psychoanalyst: "That's great news; you seem to be doing much better."

Joe: "I went to see another doctor, and he cured me in just ONE session!"

Psychoanalyst: "One session?"

Joe: "Yeah, my new doctor is a behaviorist."

Psychoanalyst: "A behaviorist? How did he cure you in one session?"

Joe: "Oh, easy, he told me to cut the legs off of my bed."

#### BASELINE GOLF:

I commented favorably about the golf clubs of a traveler; he said that he was on a pro golf tour. Then he asked me the question all golfers ask: "Do you play?"

Me: "I used to, but I quit because I wasn't very good. I shot consistently in the low 70's."

Traveler: "The low seventies?"

Me: "Yes."

Traveler: "Consistently?"

Me: "Every hole," I confessed.

#### BASELINE- UNDERSTAND IT:

Knowing and understanding your baseline is important. An old military friend dropped by the other day and I decided to do a little male bonding. So I asked him, "When is the last time you had sex? He said, "1959." "That is a long time ago," I said. My military buddy responded, "It's not too long ago, it is only 2000 hours now."

#### BASELINE NORMAL – WHO IS THE BASELINE?

Panicked wife's cell phone call: "I am so scared! I just heard on the news that there is a CRAZY man driving down the wrong side of the same interstate that you are on right now!"

To which the husband responds, “Yeah, I know, but it’s actually much worse than they thought! There are actually hundreds or thousands of people driving down the wrong side of the road!”

BEHAVIOR ANALYST Ms/r. X LAMENTS:

X our behavior analyst has been around,  
A behavior analyst of wide renown.  
He could give research and write reports,

Fill up the journals with sharp retorts.  
He worked in the hospitals and jails,

and helped make females out of males.  
He told the parents of poor Ted,  
How to stop him from wetting his bed.  
Bright, informed, and kind,  
Little escaped his probing mind.  
But with respect to social issues,  
Brown was notably un-ambitious.  
Then the world’s situation burst into flames,

People were calling each other names:  
Bigot, fanatic, intruder, yes, even some red,

Many were injured, some were dead.  
Folks were marching in the cities  
Throwing rocks and chanting ditties  
Why wasn’t I asked for help? asked Behaviorist X.  
He worked his way through the torn up town.  
Could I have prevented all this fire?  
For I am a behavior modifier.

BOOING ESCAPE:

“Here we are, half way through my talk and you are still booing the last person’s talk.”

### BRIBERY:

Things you don't find out until you're a parent, bribery is not only wrong, it's totally necessary.

### BEHAVIORAL ARCHITECTURE:

We shape buildings, and then in turn the buildings shape the way we live in the building.

### CALM:

If you are calm in this stimulus condition, you may not grasp the situation.

### CLASSIC CONDITION CAT MUSIC:

Cat hearing the sound of a can opener opening its cat food, "RRRRRRRRR" "Oh listen, they're playing my song, The Cat Food Can Opener Boogie."

### CLASSICAL CONDITIONING MOTH:

Oscar just got out of the state pen after serving a 60-year sentence. Oscar stayed sane in prison by spending 20 hours each day using classical and operant conditioning in a most creative way to get a moth to recite the Gettysburg Address in Greek. Oscar had written this up and was about to publish it in the professional scientific literature. This demonstration and the published study would revolutionize the discipline and even the concept of what is human. Finally just after Oscar left the prison gate, he had an urge to let the world see for the first time what he had done. He went into the bar across the road from the prison. He asked the bartender if she saw the moth there on the bar and she responded, "that one". (She used her crushing-out thumb movement as she indicated she saw the pest bug.)

### CLASSICAL CONDITIONING PAVLOV

-Pavlov has been working at it too long. Now, when the bell

rings, Pavlov salivates.

-Does the name Pavlov ring a bell.

CLASSICAL CONDITIONING RING IN EAR:

I keep hearing a strange ringing in my ear.

CONSCIOUSNESS:

- Learned verbal behavior where one has learned certain discriminative stimuli are what others calls conscious.

-That the How you doing?

H time between naps.

CONTROL:

I always make the same mistake. I assume that people, who argue against control of behavior, will make no attempt to influence or control the behavior of the audience. I then find the audience influenced already and not free to accept my point of view.

CONTROLS IN EXPERIMENT:

I need ten control groups, and 10 replications, before I can say a thing.

CONSEQUENCES - DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY  
MODIFIED FROM GEORGE CARLIN:

An unfair thing about life is the way it ends. Life is tough. It takes up lots of time and money. What do you get at the end of it? A death!

What's that, a bonus, a favorable consequence? I think the life cycle is all backwards.

1. You should die first; get it out of the way.
2. Then you live in a senior citizen home.
3. You get kicked out when you're too young,

4. You get a gold watch,
5. You go to work.
6. You work forty years until
7. You're young enough to enjoy your retirement.
8. You get married.
9. You do drugs, alcohol, you party,
10. You get ready for high school.
11. You go to grade school,
12. You become a kid,
13. You play,
14. You have no responsibilities,
15. You become a little baby,
16. You go back to the womb,
17. You spend your last nine months floating
18. Then you finish off as an orgasm.

#### CONDITIONING – LIFE IN PRISON:

Oscar got out after 50 years in the State Pen. Oscar stayed sane in prison by working 12 hours each day training a moth to recite the Gettysburg Address in Greek. Oscar left prison and had him in a bar. He wanted to show the moth off, so he asked the bartender if she saw the moth, and she responded, "that one." (Using a crushing-out thumb as she spoke.)

#### COMPLIMENTS REINFORCEMENT:

Compliments appear to reinforce even though it may be hard to accept a compliment, e.g.:

1. Give it back. i.e. "You look good also."
2. Deny it i.e. "It's old."

**CONCURRENT SCHEDULE:** (Life usually is a "sea" of choices with different reinforcers.)

In our daily life we swim in an ocean of concurrent schedules.

## DEFINITIONS: A REVISED BEHAVIOR MOD

### TERMINOLOGY:

When an instructor does not give a list of possible answers to students when they take a quiz... The results:

Post-reinforcement clause

Shading

Aversive stimulus

Scallop potato procedure

Staciation

Distinguished

Expunged

Scallop training

Post synaptic pause

Vicarious conditioning

### DEPRIVATION LOST:

A hungry and exhausted deer hunter stumbled into a clearing, throwing his arms around the man who emerged from the thicket. He cried, "Am I glad to see you! I've been lost for two days!"

"What are you so happy about," mumbled the other, "I've been lost for a week."

### DISCRIMINATIVE STIMULUS DRINKING:

A drunk stands before the judge in court.

"My good man, you've been hauled in here for drinking," states the judge. "Then let's get started," replies the drunk.

- DISCRIMINATIVE STIMULUS Soup or Sex - A very good grandson loved his grandpa, and it was grandpa's 97th birthday. Grandma had died 20 years ago, and grandpa never had caught on with anybody, and had not had sex for 20 years. The grandson remembered grandpa & grandma had like a, "WOW man sex life" when she was alive. When the grandson's sex life lost that WOW feature he went to a lady of the night.

In the spirit of the Golden Rule he decided that Grandpa was to get that same today for his 97th birthday. When grandpa came in, the grandson said, "I got you a birthday present, and it is upstairs in your bedroom." Grandpa hobbled up the stairs, and opened the door to his bedroom. There was a beautiful woman scantily clothed. She said, "I am here to give you hot sizzling super sex." Grandpa responded, "I will take the soup." (HOT SIZZLING SUPER SOUP OR SEX - if you need the prompt)

#### DISCRIMINATIVE STIMULI - PUZZLE:

One morning, this guy called a friend and says, "Come over and help me. I have this great jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to start it." The friend asks, "What is it a puzzle of?"

The naive one says, "From the picture on the box, it's a tiger." The friend figures that he's pretty good at puzzles, so he heads over. He lets him in the door and shows him to where he has the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment, and then studies the box. He then turns to his friend and says: "No matter what I do, I'm not going to be able to show you how to assemble these to look like the picture of that tiger.

Second, I'd advise you to relax, have a cup of coffee, and put all the Frosted Flakes back in the box."

#### DISCRIMINATIVE STIMULUS TEENAGE PERMISSIVENESS:

"My teenage son obeys me perfectly."

"Amazing! How do you do it?"

"I tell him to do as he pleases."

#### ESCAPE GENERAL TO CAPTAIN:

"I'm going to scout around right here a little. You take the 600 troops into the Valley of Death."

#### ESCAPE LAZY:

A man told his doctor that he wasn't able to do anything around the house: He said, "Doctor, I can take it. Tell me in plain English what is wrong with me."

The doctor said, "You're just lazy."

"Now," said the man, "give me the medical term so I can tell my wife what is wrong with me."

#### ESTABLISHING OPERATION- SHOWS FILM ON ICE CREAM:

Ice Cream Selling Wagon Owner talking to kids before school: "Here is the plan, get your teacher to show this film on making ice cream; then I will park my wagon here at recess!"

#### ESCAPE-PESSIMIST:

A pessimist is one who escapes worrying if things will go wrong; he knows they will go wrong.

#### EXCESS RATE OF BEHAVIOR:

Dr. Fraud: Well Mr. Prank, what brings you to see a psychologist?

Mr. Prank: I like pancakes.

Dr. Fraud: Pancakes. There is nothing wrong with that. I like them also.

Mr. Prank: Well then, you should come home with me; I have 20 trunks full of them.

#### EXTINCTION OF LISTENING BEHAVIOR:

Katie: But you said your father wouldn't let you go skating.

Andrea: Don't worry he'll say yes in his usual way. Just watch and I will show you how.

Andrea: Pretty nice day.

Father: Yes it is pretty nice.

Andrea: Saw Mr. Smith today, he sends his regards.

Father: Uh-huh, that is nice.

Andrea: I minded his dog while he went into the hardware store.

Father: Uh-huh, good.

Andrea: Did you know that his dog wears earmuffs?

Father: Uh-huh.

Andrea: May I go skating?

Father: Uh-huh.

Katie: Gee, that is an interesting way to get him to let you go skating.

Andrea: It's all knowing how to ask him. (Keep asking the real trite stuff until you extinguish listening behavior.)

FR-10?:

A French teacher was trying to get across a difficult lesson to the class.

"If you say a word ten times, you will have it for life," he instructed.

Looking around the room he heard Mary dreamily repeating, "Tom, Tom, Tom, Tom...etc."

**GOLDEN RULE: (A HELP IN TEACHING THE INDIVIDUAL NATURE OF REINFORCER - OBJECTIVE OF THIS JOKE, PROVING THE GOLDEN RULE IS FALSE.**

Do NOT do unto others as you would have them do unto you, they might have different taste, i.e., different learning/reinforcement histories.

**GOLDEN RULE REINFORCEMENT CHILD PRAYERS:**

And help me reinforce, as I would have others reinforce me.

**INNER SELF AT NATIONAL AUTOPSY SOCIETY:**

Interviewer with the winner: How do you win this contest?  
Winner of the Inner Self Award of the National Autopsy Society: What is inside will win out. For what is inside, will eventually show. It is what is inside that counts, I learned that people are different on the outside, but all people have equality on the inside. On the outside there is a cold crust, but deep inside there is a warm human being. You could call the inner being an Autonomous / Autopsy Man.

#### INCOMPATIBLE BEHAVIOR:

A spouse eliminated an undesirable response in the other by reinforcing another response in compatible with the undesired behavior, e.g. telling the spouse that his/her face is a zenith of loveliness and strength when his/her lips were gently closed.

#### LEARN CRIME:

One prisoner said to the second: "I'm going to study and work hard and when you're still a common crook, I'll be an embezzler."

#### MEEK - THE MEEK CAN ALSO BE AVERSIVE:

A meek little man in a restaurant timidly touched the arm of a man putting on a coat. "Excuse me," he said, "but do you happen to be Mr. Milquetoast?" "No, I am not," snapped the man, "Well, that's good said the first man, "you see, I am Mr. Milquetoast, and that happens to be his overcoat you're putting on."

#### MONEY GOVERNMENT REINFORCER:

They're always saying: "Pay your taxes with a smile!" I did that, but they wanted money also

#### MOTIVATION

Aspire to inspire before you expire.

## MOTIVATION:

Waitress (before meal is served): “Pay now - the price won't seem so unreasonable while you are starved.”

## MOTIVATION VALUE OF SIGNS:

Sign: THIMK

## MUTUAL REINFORCEMENT SOCIETY:

-Rat talking about the experimenter. – “Have I got this guy conditioned. Every time I press the lever I get a pellet.”

- Drunk talking about his spouse. – “Have I got my spouse conditioned. Every time I get drunk my spouse takes care of me hand over foot.”

-Baby talking about the parents.– “Have I got my parents conditioned. Every time I cry they take care of me.”

-Child talking about the parents. – “Have I got my parents conditioned. Every time I tantrum they buy whatever I want.”

-Mate/or worker talking about the partner. – “Have I got my partner conditioned. Every time I talk of leaving I get whatever I want.”

## NEGATIVE REINFORCEMENT:

Student: One good thing, I did stop beating my head against the wall.

Faculty: Why were you beating your head against the wall?

Student: Oh, cause it felt so good when I stopped.

## OPERANT CONDITIONER AND A MAGICAL NUN

### MEET MR. RABBIT:

The operant conditioner can take the habit out of a rabbit.

Vs.

The nun magician can take the rabbit out of her habit.

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT & AVERSIVE CONTROL  
– EDUCATION:

I use positive reinforcement after I tell them, "If you don't work you flunk."

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT & AVERSIVE CONTROL  
– MONEY:

The problem with being in the middle-income bracket is that you make too much money to avoid paying taxes and not enough money to afford paying taxes.

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT OF INAPPROPRIATE  
BEHAVIOR:

Child #1: Ahhhh Choosoo!

Teacher: You have a cold, go home.

Child #'s: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, etc.: ahhchoo, ahhchoo, achhcoo, achhoo, achoo.

POSTIVE REINFORCEMENT OPTIMIST:

The optimist fell ten stories. At each window he shouted to his friends:

"All is okay so far."

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT REPERTOIRE:

John Actor: Doctor, you've got to help me. I have no talent. I can't sing on key, I can't dance, I can't tell funny stories, and I am not handsome. What would you suggest?"

Fraud: "Why that solution is simplicity itself. You've got to get out of show business." John Actor: "But I can't, I'm a star."

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT- TRADITIONAL GEORGE  
WASHINGTON CAPER:

First Sequence: George Washington is chopping down a cherry tree.

Second Sequence: George, "Dad I chopped down the tree."

Third Sequence: George's dad: "Good boy George thanks for being honest and telling me."

Fourth Sequence: George is out chopping down another tree.

## POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT- TRADITIONAL GEORGE WASHINGTON CAPER II:

It happened many years ago in a small rural community. The day after Halloween, a man calls his teenage son in for a chat.

"Son someone pushed our outhouse over last night. Did you and your friends do it as a Halloween prank?"

"Dad, we didn't do it."

"Son, let me remind you of the story of George Washington. His father asked him if he chopped down the cherry tree, and George had the integrity to tell the truth. Did his father spank him? No, his father was impressed by his son's honesty. Now son, tell me the truth: did you and your friends push over our outhouse last night?"

"Well Dad, when you put it that way, I guess I should tell you that yes, we are the guys who did it."

Whereupon the man turns his son over his knee and administers the traditional punishment of that bygone era. Naturally, the son protests: "Hey pop, what was all that you were telling me about George Washington and his father?"

His father replied, "Well son, George Washington's father wasn't actually in the cherry tree when George chopped it down!"

## PUNISHING WAR:

What if they gave a war and nobody came?

## PUNISHMENT FOR WHOM

Professor: "I hope you scolded that student for imitating me."

Colleague: "Sure did. I told him to stop acting like a fool."

#### PUNISHMENT IMMEDIATELY:

"For how long are you in jail, Jim?"

"Two weeks."

"What's the charge?"

"No charge, everything's free."

"I mean what did you do?"

"Oh, I shot my wife."

"You killed your wife and only in jail for two weeks."

"That's all, then I get hung."

#### PRACTICE OF ERRORS MAKES PERFECT:

Did you hear about the typist? So experienced; the typist can type 20 mistakes a minute!

#### PUNISHMENT:

IRS: You should be proud to be a tax paying American

Citizen: I am! I am!

Citizen thinks: But I think I could be just as proud on half the taxes. = \

#### PRAISE:

To certain learning histories praise does not compare to the kind of praise you fold and put into your pocket.

#### RAT'S HUMOR

Rat to another rat in Skinner box:

-Let me put it to you this way, Kevin: you want your dissertation data to come out a certain way. We want more than food pellets...

-It's a rather interesting phenomenon. Every time I press this lever, that graduate student breathes a sigh a relief.

## REINFORCE THEN EXTINGUISH

A wise old gentleman retired and purchased a modest home near a junior high school.

He spent the first few weeks of his retirement in peace and contentment.

Then a new school year began.

The very next afternoon three young boys, full of youthful, after-school enthusiasm, came down his street, beating merrily on every trash can they encountered.

The crashing percussion continued day after day, until finally the wise old man decided it was time to take some action.

The next afternoon, he walked out to meet the young percussionists as they banged their way down the street.

Stopping them, he said, "You kids are a lot of fun. I like to see you express your exuberance like that. In fact, I used to do the same thing when I was your age. Will you do me a favor? I'll give you each a dollar if you'll promise to come around every day and do your thing."

The kids were elated and continued to do a bang-up job on the trash cans. After a few days, the old-timer greeted the kids again, but this time he had a sad smile on his face.

"This recession's really putting a big dent in my income," he told them.

"From now on, I'll only be able to pay you 50 cents to beat on the cans."

The noisemakers were obviously displeased, but they did accept his offer and continued their afternoon ruckus.

A few days later, the wily retiree approached them again as they drummed their way down the street.

"Look," he said, "I haven't received my Social Security check yet, so I'm not going to be able to give you more than 25 cents. Will that be okay?"

"A lousy quarter?" the drum leader exclaimed. "If you think we're going to waste our time beating these cans around for a

quarter, you're nuts! No way, mister. We quit!"  
And the old man enjoyed peace.

### REINFORCE THEN EXTINGUISH

A wise old man retired and purchased a modest home near a junior high school. He spent the first few weeks of his retirement in peace and contentment. Then a new school year began. The very next afternoon three young boys, full of youthful after school enthusiasm, came down the street, beating merrily on every trashcan they encountered. The crashing continued day after day, until finally the wise old man decided it was time to take action. The next afternoon, he walked out to meet the percussionists as they banged their way down the street. Stopping them, he said, "You kids are a lot of fun. I like to see you express your exuberance like that. In fact, used to do the same thing when I was your age. Will you do me a favor? I'll give you each a dollar if you'll promise to come around every day and do your thing." The youth were elated and continued to do a bang-up job on the trashcans. After a few days, the old timer greeted the youth again, but this time he had a sad smile on his face. "This recession's really putting a big dent in my income." He told them. "From now on, I can only pay you fifty cents to beat on the cans. The noisemakers were obviously displeased, but they did accept his offer and continued their afternoon ruckus. A few days later, the wily retiree approached them again as they drummed their way down the street. "Look he said, I haven't received my social security check yet, so I'm not going to give you more than twenty five cents. Will that be okay?" "A lousy quarter?" The drum leader exclaimed. "If you think we're going to waste our time,

### REINFORCEMENT GREETING CARD:

A surgeon received this New Year's greeting card from a

mortuary, which said: Thanks for all your help this past year.

#### REINFORCER – OUTFUN:

Two men were hiking in the woods when they came upon a huge bear. The bear started to chase them through the woods. All of a sudden one of the men stopped running and began to put on his running shoes. The other man asked him, "Why are you putting on running shoes? Do you actually think the shoes will help you outrun the bear?"

#### REINFORCING PROPERTIES OF RECOGNITION:

Three Psychologists were sitting around trying to define the relative reinforcing properties of recognition they had received.

Mark: "I believe the moment of recognition I remember most is being invited to the White House for a talk with the President."

Joe: "The recognition I remember most is being invited to the White house for a talk with the President, when the Hot-Line interrupted the conversation, and he didn't answer it."

Jerry: "Well, those are nothing – I remember being invited to the White House for a talk with the President and when the Hot-Line rang, he answered it, listened for a minute and then said, "Jerry, it's for you!"

#### REINFORCEMENT - STRANGE KIND:

Upon returning to her classroom the teacher finds the children sitting quietly at their desks. Since this was unusual, she asked them for an explanation. "Well, you once told us that if you ever left the room and came back to find us sitting perfectly still, you'd drop dead."

#### REINFORCEMENT COLUMBIA U. JESTER TAKE OFFS:

Arrested con: Oh that is how you do it; I say to judge I am an alcoholic, he then says no rehab or jail for you.

- Baby Feeding: So this is how you condition them. You scream and they feed you.
- Child in home: I have my parents conditioned I pull a temper tantrum in the shopping mall and my parents attend.
- Child in school: I got my teacher conditioned, I act up she attends to me.
- Chimp: It's almost interesting. By pushing this lever 20 times you can get him to walk across here with a banana for me.
- Drunk spouse: "Have I got my spouse conditioned every time I get drunk, the spouse just pours in attention."
- Rat: "Let me put it to you this way you doctoral candidate, you want your dissertation data to come out a certain way. We want more than a food pellet."
- Rat: It's a rather interesting phenomenon. Every time I press this lever, that graduate student breathes a sigh of relief."
- Rat: I have got him conditioned, when I bar press he feeds me.
- Wife: Boy have I got him conditioned, if I only give him attention when he is drunk, he stays drunk and out of my hair, doesn't argue, and only sleeps when home.

#### REINFORCEMENT MISINTERPRETED:

A woman shouts to her husband, "Honey, I won the lottery! Pack your bags!" The husband says, "Wow! Should I pack for the beach or the mountains?"

"Doesn't matter," she says. "Just get the heck out!"

#### REINFORCEMENT CHILD READING:

Child: Our teacher is getting us to read every book in the school library.

Parent: How did she do that?

Child: She told us that she hid a dollar bill in one of the books.

#### REINFORCEMENT AND WINNING:

Dear Mr. Garnett,

I am a big fan of yours. I watch the Wolves on T.V. all the time. You may wonder why I am writing. As you may have noticed, the wolves are very popular when they win.

Everyone watched them and pulled together. And even more important, everyone forget about (any issue). For this reason, I hope you have a good season this year. I think the better the season you have, the more it'll keep our parents off the streets, and in front of the T.V. where they belong. Please Mr. Garnett play well, and lead the Wolves to the play-offs. Kids and parents of Minneapolis are counting on you.

Your fan,

Bobby.

#### REINFORCER VICE PRESIDENT:

A man who had just been promoted to Vice president boasted as much about it to his wife that she finally retorted: "vice-presidents are a dime a dozen. Why, in the supermarket they even have a vice- president in charge of prunes." Furious, the husband phoned the supermarket in the expectation of refuting his wife. He asked to speak to the vice-president in charge of prunes.

"Which kind?" was the reply packaged or bulk?

#### REINFORCEMENT – TERMINATING THE AVERSIVE:

Teacher to lower grade school class: No absolutely no!

There'll be no party under any circumstances and that's final!

Children: Cry, sniff, snob, baw, baw etc.

Teacher: Quiet! Stop crying! Okay, a party!! Cut the crying!

Please-- have a party-- have two parties.

One Child Talking to Another Child: (Burp) Delicious - Now kids about this crying thing. I believe we've stumbled across the greatest discovery of childhood since the discovery of the

diaper.

**REINFORCEMENT GIVING:**

Mother: Have you forgotten about giving?

Child: I wouldn't forget about that. Unless somebody gives nobody gets.

**REINFORCERS OR ARE THEY? – PRAISE WITH ALTERNATE MEANING:**

That was something!

That was incredible!

Words fail me.

That wasn't half bad.

You've never been better.

I'm speechless.

Good isn't the word for it.

You are a very finished performer.

No one enjoyed it more than I did.

I just can't tell you how good you were!

I've seen some great acts but that was something else.

I will never forget your presentation.

I can't remember when I saw anything like that.

**REINFORCERS – GET THEM STRAIGHT:**

Note in a dating newsletter: “Bachelor with small farm would like to make acquaintance of widow owning tractor. Matrimony in mind. Please send photo of tractor.”

**REINFORCEMENT – SELECTIVE:**

A: I do need the money for my wife's operation.

B: How do I know you will not gamble and drink?

A: I have money for gambling and drinking.

**REINFORCER EXCESSIVE:**

Dr. Fraud: Well Mr. Frank, what brings you to see a

psychologist?

Mr. Frank: I like pancakes.

Dr. Fraud: Nothing wrong with that, I like them also.

Mr. Frank: Well then, you should come home with me, I have 20 trunks full of them.

#### RULE GOVERNED AND THINKING:

When I think about our system of education I'm reminded of the story of the football coach who was just about to win a game, he leading by six points; his team was on the thirty yard line and his first and his string quarter back also was hurt. The coach looked to his bench for a substitute. All he had left was a boy he didn't know very much about and had never used. It was obvious that if he was going to win the game he would have to brainwash this boy quickly. So, he said to this boy, "Now I want you to think. We have three more downs; I would like for you to run two quarterback sneaks and punt. Now think! Run two quarterback sneaks and punt." So the boy took the ball and on the first quarter back sneak he ran to a forty- yard line of the opponents. The next play, he "sneaked" to the two yard line. The third play he punted the ball out of the stadium. The coach was furious. As the boy came running off the field, he yelled, "What's wrong with you? What in the world were you thinking about?" And the boy said, "I was thinking what a stupid coach!"

#### SELF-MANAGEMENT TEMPTATION:

Nothing makes temptation so easy to resist as being broke.

#### STIMULUS CONTROL:

Parent: I'm worried- they've been sitting there in front of the TV for two hours, and the set isn't even working.

#### SKINNER UNCONSCIOUS:

Skinner is alive in all men, but he is deep in your

unconscious.

#### STIMULUS CONTROL

Kid eating mashed potato in ice cream cone: "We never could get him to eat fruits and vegetables before putting them in an ice cream cone. Now we smash up carrots, peas, potatoes, corn, squash, and apples and it goes down in a minute."

STIMULUS CONTROL WARNING SIGN:  
WARNING, I am naked under my clothes!

#### STIMULUS CONTROL - PUZZLE:

Joe: "Please come over and help me. I have this great jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to start it."

Mary: "What is it a puzzle of?"

Joe: "From the picture on the box, it's a tiger."

Mary: Figures that she's pretty good at puzzles, so she heads over. Joe shows her to where he has the puzzle spread all over the table. She studies the pieces for a moment, then studies the box. Mary then turns to him and says: "First, no matter what I do, I'm not going to be able to show you how to assemble these to look like the picture of that tiger.

Second, I'd advise you to relax, have a cup of coffee, and put all the Frosted Flakes back in the box."

#### STIMULUS CONTROL:

Waiter: What will you have?

Joe: I'll have coffee and cream.

John: I'll have coffee black, and make sure the cup is clean.

Later- Waiter: O.K., which one of you gets the clean cup?

-Soldier #1: Here come the bombs! Let's get in the shelter!

Soldier #2: Not till I find my false teeth!

Soldier #1: Hell, they're not bombing with sandwiches!

-My psychologist is out of town. I don't know what to think.

-The professor wrote, "Please wash" on the blackboard and the janitor took his bath that night.

STIMULUS CONTROL – SIGNS:

“Legalize Lutefisk!” How come I never have seen this sign before?

STIMULUS CONTROL – WEIGHT:

Most people put on weight in certain places, like dining rooms.

SALESPERSON CONSEQUENCES:

Keep a book near the front door. If a salesperson can sell you something, have something to sell them back!

SATIATION:

X: "Beans again!!" (Grumble)

Y: "Well, I just can't understand you. You liked beans on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and now all of a sudden you don't like beans!!"

SALARY – SIZE OF REINFORCEMENT:

A: Say aren't you a baseball player when you're not holding out for a salary increase?

B: Yes and I am holding out for \$30 million for next season.

A: But that's more than the President of the United States gets.

B: Yes, but I had a much better year last year than did the President. I hit 300. What did the President hit?

SAVE THE WORLD:

2 teach behavior analysis

2 have a chance to influence students

4 saving the world

### STIMULUS CONTROL:

-“Daddy, why don’t you sing when you come home from work like Mr. Rogers does?”

“Grandma said she was in the pink, but she’s wearing yellow!”

-Just as they arrived at a party, a man whispered to his wife, “Your left stocking seam looks crooked.” Quickly she made the necessary adjustments while they stood at the edge of the crowd. Then she whispered to him, “What about the right stocking?” “Don’t worry about the right one,” he said. “It’s seamless.” -See what I mean?

Every time I turn on the vacuum cleaner, my husband sitting in the chair lifts up his feet.

Tom: it looks cold today.

John: I sort of hate to see the snow come, don’t you?

Tom: Oh, I don’t know. After all, if snow comes can Santa Claus can’t be far behind.

### STIMULUS CONTROL MIXES UP:

At a formal dinner party the host sent a flirting note to an attractive woman far down the table. The butler delivered it, but the young woman could not read it without her glasses and asked the man at her right to read it for her.

### STIMULUS DISCRIMINATION

-Sign on restaurant door, “Back in an hour, I had to go home for lunch.

Signed: the waitress

-If a shoe fits, find another shoe like it.

-Remember, George Washington’s brother is the uncle of this country.

### STIMULUS WORDS CHANGES OVER TIME:

Remember when HIPPIE meant big in the hips, and a TRIP meant traveling in cars, planes, and ships? When POT was a vessel for cooking things in, and HOOKED was what grandmother rug may have been? When FIX was a verb that meant mend or repair, and BE IN meant merely existing somewhere? When NEAT meant well organized, tidy and clean, and GRASS was a ground cover normally green? When GROOVEY meant furrowed with channels and hollows, and BIRDS were winged creatures, like robins and swallows?

#### STIMULUS CONTROL/SEASONS:

The seasons usually are called spring, summer, fall and winter. Unless you're a pessimist, in which case you call them flood, drought, hurricane and flu.

#### STIMULUS CONTROL SIGNS:

Before you louse it up think!

Use your head. It's the little things that count.

Think! It may be a new experience

I may look busy but I'm only confused.

#### STRING HIM UP:

String him up, is a figure of speech. Some call it a dangling practical.

#### TASTE MANY- SAMPLE REINFORCERS:

A mountaineer came into town and saw a bunch of bananas for the first time.

He asked the store keeper what they were.

"Bananas," he said. "Try one."

"No, I reckon not," the man from the mountains replied,

"I've got so many tastes now I can't satisfy, I ain't aiming to take on any more."

### VERBAL BEHAVIOR COMMUNICATION:

Two dolphins swimming: “Although humans make sounds with their mouths and occasionally look at each other, there is no solid evidence that they actually communicate among themselves.”

### VERBAL BEHAVIOR HOGS A PERFECT NAME:

A hog is the perfect name for those animals, because they eat like hogs, they smell like hogs, they look like hogs, and besides that, you keep them in a hog pen.

### VERBAL BEHAVIOR LETTERS AND WORDS

According to a research at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter be at the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without problem. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole. Amazing huh?

### VERBAL BEHAVIOR MANDS ARE A MANY SPLENDID THING:

A man who spoke only Spanish went into a clothing store to buy socks. The salesperson went through almost the whole store pointing at every item. Towards the back of the store the salesperson pointed at the socks, “Eso, Si, Que!” (Pronounced) “SOCK”- yelled out the Spanish man. The sales person asked “Why didn't you spell it out in the first place?”

### VERBAL BEHAVIOR ON-IN:

“On” versus “In”

In a car (on a car is completely different) On a train; On a plane; On a boat; On a sub; (Some of these “ons” could be “ins”.)

#### VERBAL BEHAVIOR PIG:

A man is driving up a steep narrow mountain road. A woman is driving down the same road. As they pass each other, the woman leans out the window and yells, "PIG!" The man immediately leans out his window and replies, "BITCH!" They each continue on their way, immediately the man rounds the next corner he crashes into a very large pig in the middle of the road.

#### VERBAL BEHAVIOR SUBTLE AVERSIVE:

It seems I was drowning and a Beatnik came along and I yelled, "Give me a hand," and he just went (clap clap). So I yelled, "Call me a doctor or a nurse," and he replied "You're a doctor or a nurse."

#### VERBAL BEHAVIOR WORDS WITH A "SPECIAL RING"/A SPECIAL LEARNING HISTORY:

"Bonza Nuts"

Kokomo Indiana

"Cum Quats"

Walla Walla, Washington

Oshkosh

Rendezvous

#### VERBAL BEHAVIOR AS-PIRIN

A bus rider, with a headache, had purchased some aspirin at the drug store, and in the rush to catch the bus, forgot the package of aspirin on the counter. The bus had traveled only a block or so when she remembered she had left her package on the counter. She gasped out, "My aspirins, my aspirins!" One of the personnel from the intensive care unit happened to be on the crowded bus. Hearing this call of distress, all of the nurse's Florence Nightingale instincts came forth, like a tidal

wave. The intensive care person pushed her way through to the one in distress. Quickly assessing the problem on the crowded bus, the treatment plan arrived at was, "Well stick it out the window."