

the ONTABA ANALYST

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Ontario Association
for Behaviour Analysis

Affiliate Chapter of
ABA International

Vol. 2 No. 1

Editor
Carroll Drummond

Desk Top Publishing
Tina Pecile

Second Annual ONTABA Conference and AGM: a Great Success!



Dr. Don Baer's keynote address was the highlight of the second annual ONTABA Conference which was held for one and a half days at Metro Hall in Toronto on November 24th and 25th, 1994.

The conference began on Thursday evening with a welcome from the ONTABA President, Dr. Wanda Smith; and an informal discussion on the "The Future of Behaviour Analysis" with invited speaker Dr. Don Baer, University of Kansas. The evening concluded with an opportunity to socialize during the Wine and Cheese.

The second day began with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in which Dr. Larry Williams was awarded the status of Member Emeritus for being the "inspiration and founding member of ONTABA." The morning featured the keynote address entitled "Guiding Behavioural Interventions by Experience, Precedent, Functional Analysis, and Stimulus Control." Other featured presentations were: "Community Behavioural Consultation for the Elderly," given by Dr. Wanda Smith, Chedoke McMaster Hospitals; and "Translating Behavioural Interventions From Theory to Practice," given by Dr. Jeff Sherman, Private Practice.

In the afternoon, a poster session which was well represented from all across Ontario, included such topics as: "Posted attendance: Effects on participation rates in a workshop setting," Boylan et.al., Southwestern Regional Centre; "Effects of acupuncture on SIB: Preliminary results," Barrera et.al., Southwestern Regional Centre; "Deep pressure therapy with a developmentally-delayed autistic self-injurious woman," Brown et.al., Southwestern Regional Centre; "Developmental clinical services - Network North," Connie Zieren, Developmental Clinical Services, Network North; "Service providers' perceptions of behavioural challenges among adults with developmental disabilities & mental health problems," Peter Wyngaarden, Area Resource Team-Chedoke McMaster Hospitals; "Ecobehavioural relationship between teacher behaviour and peer interaction for curriculum with severe disabilities in segregated and integrated preschools," and "Behaviour Therapy Consultation Services: Hamilton," Joel Hundert, Behaviour Therapy Consultation Services.

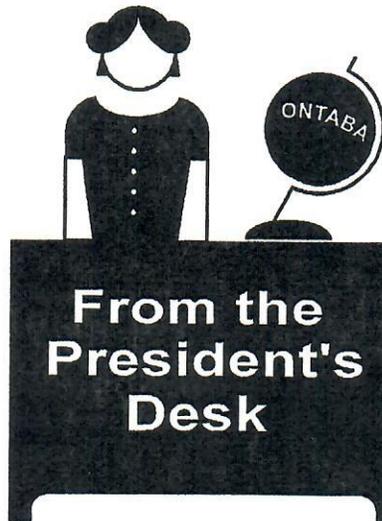
The conference ended with a panel discussion on "Working as a behaviour analyst in non-behavioural settings." The panel was moderated by Dr. Larry Williams, University of Nevada, Reno; and discussants were: Dr. Don Baer, Dr. Wanda Smith, Dr. Jeff Sherman, and Dr. Maurice Feldman, Ongwanada Hospital and Queen's University, Kingston.

Special thanks to Gerry Bernicky, Scott Bark, Anne Cummings, Carroll Drummond, Joe Ducharme and Joel Hundert.

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I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new members. ONTABA is a modest but well defined organization. Our overriding goal is to promote behaviour analysis in Ontario - no problem! If one was to examine our activities over the

past year, we could be described as "chugging along." A second conference was held, as targeted, an issue of the newsletter was published, not quite on schedule, various Board and committee members met, and so on. I believe we are moving toward our stated goal! We need only to remind ourselves that organizational growth can be and should be shaped, by its members.

ONTABA has had some significant organizational changes in the last 6 months. We sadly bid farewell to Larry Williams, Secretary and founding member of ONTABA. We emitted many errors in the months following Larry's departure, apparently Larry was the king-pin. Hopefully we have learned and will henceforth distribute tasks across individuals. We must thank Larry for providing us with this learning opportunity! Our newsletter has had its up's and down's and recently we have had to reorganize and recruit a new editor. Our editor, Mary Champagne resigned in December. Mary has contributed to ONTABA as a student representative since she was elected to the Board in December, 1993. She assumed her role with dedication. I recall that cold and blistery day in January '94 when Mary travelled in a blinding snow storm from Ottawa to Toronto to attend a Board of Director's meeting! From ONTABA, thank you Mary.

The upcoming year looks exciting. Elections for the Board positions reaching term will mean some new faces. The 3rd annual conference promises to be more stimulating and informative, maybe a 2 day affair! And we can look forward to future issues of the newsletter. As members, all we need do is to respond, in some fashion, to our organization.

Happy trails, Wanda L. Smith

Come to ABA '95

21st Annual Convention May 26-30, 1995

Grand Hyatt Washington at Washington Center
Washington, D.C.

*ONTABA will be hosting a
'95 Conference Planning Meeting - look for it.*

On the Inevitability of Aversives

Dr. F.J. Barrera

Aversive. The very word sends shudders of fear up our spines. Images of dark isolation cells, shackles, ice water dunkings, electric torture, and screams of agony and pain immediately come to mind. To many of us, the mere thought of *aversive* evokes as much terror and distaste as brain-washing war crimes, or worse, and we are quick to associate such secret practices with dreaded Lubiarkan-like institutions...

To the more enlightened of us, including many practicing behaviour analysts, the term *aversive* implies a much milder and civil class of procedures, and we are apt to think about them as an inventory of tools that we keep in our armamentarium. Thus, when we refer to *aversive*, we talk about techniques or recipes such as timeouts, physical holds, grounding, loss of privileges, token fines, and so forth. We normally stack these on a continuum of acceptability, and secretly hope that we don't have to reach too deep in our tool-box in the course of our clinical interventions. Many of us, perhaps due to too many years of exposure to normalization rhetorics, would rather not make use of this tradecraft at all. In our hearts, *aversive* are not nice.

However, both of the above views are, of course, very incorrect. *Aversives* are neither leftovers from the Cold War nor reified unpleasanties. The Latin root of *aversive* is to turn away (from something) and to avert means simply to move or direct oneself away via one form or another of behaviour. The etymological root is the same as in the motion of 'reverse', and you can see that the Latins were pretty behavioural in their definitions. In modern terms, events that have *aversive* properties are those that by our movements we seek to escape from or altogether avoid. (As a procrastinator, starting to write this article was, for awhile, somewhat *aversive* to me, but not meeting our editor's deadline was of course more so.) And, in more technical operant parlance, an *aversive* stimulus is something that if your behaviour meets it head-on, it will reduce its future probability of occurrence, i.e., you will likely not do that again, but instead try to avert it.

From these definitions, it becomes clear that *aversive* stimuli are not predetermined by nature or by forecast, but are instead defined 'post-mortem' from their observed and factual effects on our behavioural outcomes. These effects are always highly specific and individualized and hence it is incorrect and lazy to think of a priori classes of intrinsically or universally *aversive* events. It is our own behaviour, and not our preconceived assumptions, that makes a particular stimulus *aversive* or not. Moreover, our ability to navigate our conduct, to avoid *aversives* and seek reinforcers, is a biological fact of life, a part of our

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evolutionary make-up, and it is this survival flexibility that makes our behaviour adaptive, that teaches the child not to touch a hot stove or the adult not to drive through a red light. Much of our behaviour, especially our social behaviour, has been shaped by our sensitivity to aversive and reinforcing events, and by our learned efforts to avoid or procure them.

The aversive or reinforcing aspects of stimuli are not only highly idiosyncratic and specific, and often in subtle ways, but they are also ephemeral and transitory. Our susceptibility to them is in constant ebb and flow, and our technical language is replete with terms like satiation, setting events, reinforcement history, habituation, matching law, motivating functions, and so forth, that attempt to capture the waxing and waning of these functional aspects. Our most powerful reinforcer can become quickly aversive, as we know from binging on food, alcohol, or sex, and our most secret fears, as the phobic literature shows, may become devoid of all their dreadfulness. We are, biologically speaking, a highly diversified, adaptive, and mercurial lot. In fact, it is not difficult to find in the clinical literature that, for each study using an 'aversive', there is an opposite study using the same consequence as a 'reinforcer'. Thus, we cannot look at adult praise, solitude, tickling, restraints, smarties, work, water, or inclusion or any other event, and classify it or legislate it as de facto positive or negative. In an enriched and happy milieu, timeout may function as a punisher, but in a stressful and noisy world, timeout can sure be a blessing.

At a recent rapprochement meeting, a distinguished member of a well-known community association confided to me that other members of his group questioned his professional association with me. "They are afraid," he said, not entirely amused, "that I could become involved in, some conspiracy to import aversives from the institutions into the community."

Paranoia and error aside, it seems evident that in some quarters it is believed that special people can and should live in a world without aversives. But, imagine if you will, our earthly residence as, a setting with no photo-radar, taxes, flesh-eating bacteria, or AIDS. We would not need police or fire departments, insurance companies, courts, pharmacies, 911, dentists, lawyers, proctologists, health clubs, alternative medicine, or any of a myriad of services that normally protect us - in fact or fiction - from distress and sufferment. To the extent that we all avert disease and death, we would also not need to have hospitals, funeral homes, or even birth clinics, for in this paradisiacal new world life would have no painful ends or beginnings. Such a world is, of course, an unreal and impossible delusion.

Nevertheless, there is a movement afoot that has this metaphysical Galapagos - untouched by and protected from natural, social and physical laws - at the core of its beliefs. Whether this utopian philosophy sprung from political correctness taken to its extremes, from an ultra-normalization zeal, or from twisted perceptions of advocacy and protectionism, is not clear, but its converts are obviously wearing the blinkers of their unexamined assumptions. As much as we would all wish for - and even attempt to enforce or legislate - a world without aversions, a 'non-aversive' universe so to speak, our biological and social imperatives make this dreamy vision impossible. We simply cannot avert from turning away.

The Logo Contest

Win the Prize

Conference Registration for 1995.

You must be a member of ONTABA. You can submit as many as you want. Use the boxes provided below. Please submit by March 15, 1995.

Please detach here

The Board will determine who the winner of the logo contest is. An artist's rendering of the logo picked will be used.

Reminder: Write your name and address on the reverse side.

Congratulations to Dr. F.J. "Pancho" Barrera for winning the Name the Newsletter Contest "the ONTABA ANALYST"

Tapes

Tapes are on sale and made on a demand basis for \$5.00 including shipping. This a non-profit venture. Please enclose a cheque payable to: ONTABA.

I would like to purchase the following:

(Please check appropriate boxes.)

- Keynote address entitled "Guiding Behavioural Interventions by Experience, Precedent, Functional Analysis, and Stimulus Control" by Dr. Don Baer and "Community Behavioural Consultation for the Elderly," by Dr. Wanda Smith
- "Translating Behavioural Interventions From Theory to Practice," by Dr. Jeff Sherman and the panel discussion on "Working as a behaviour analyst in non-behavioural settings." moderator Dr. Larry Williams, and discussants Dr. Don Baer, Dr. Wanda Smith, Dr. Jeff Sherman, and Dr. Maurice Feldman.

The sound quality of these tapes on a 5 point Likert Scale are 3 to 4.

Committee Recruitment and Volunteers

We need people to volunteer for;

- YES The 1995 Conference Committee
- YES Forming a Committee to pursue the development of "Guiding Principles" for Professional Practise.
- YES I would like to contribute to the June 1995 Newsletter.
- YES I am interested in being a Student Representative.

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone number: _____

Please place in the envelope enclosed.

Students' Corner

Is your Net Working?

I was trying to decide what would be on every student's mind these days and there really is only one answer: "Am I going to get a job when I graduate?" Not to be too depressing but these are economically taxing times, which means businesses are down sizing and main-streaming. This is a question that many people are now facing no matter when they graduate. This doesn't have to be a negative thing.

Businesses are looking for highly skilled professionals who can multi-task. The more you know the better off you will be in the end. It means that you need to be directly involved with the professions' ever-changing trends in research and technology. One way to accomplish this is through organizations full of professionals with similar interests.

At the last ONTABA conference I had the opportunity to talk with an individual from the gerontology field. She was interested in hiring a behaviour therapist and hoped she would find a qualified individual through the organization.

This field, as with many others, places a great deal of merit in networking and "schmoozing" with other professionals. In short, you need to stay in touch, not to mention the reinforcement you receive from exchanging ideas with people who care about, and understand your ideas.

Don't let any more potential opportunities pass you by!

Anneka Morris, Student Representative

If there is a student out there who would be interested in being a Student Representative
Please contact Wanda Smith.

If you want more information about the role,
call Anneka Morris, the other Student Rep.

Please detach here

Nominations Instructions:

Please read Articles IV and V of the ONTABA BYLAWS. They describe the "rules" for electing members of the Board of Directors of ONTABA. Please note that some members (Treasurer and two Members-at-large) were elected for a three year term on the first election only. The first President and President-Elect were elected for 2 years, therefore the President-Elect will become President for 2 years. Thereafter, the term for

President is 1 year as well as President-Elect.

You may nominate up to 4 persons for each of the positions. All nominees for positions on the Board of Directors must be full ONTABA members as well as members in good standing with ABA International at the time of the election. Any nominee not meeting these criteria, who wishes her/his name to stand for a position, must become a full member of

ONTABA and provide proof of membership in ABA prior to mailing of the ONTABA election ballots in the next edition of the Newsletter (June).

Please return the nomination ballot and any other materials you want to send to ONTABA in the enclosed addressed envelope by March 15, 1995. Thank you for your participation in this very important activity.

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION FOR BEHAVIOUR ANALYSIS Nomination Ballot - 1995

PRESIDENT-ELECT (2 years)

SECRETARY (2 years)

MEMBER-AT-LARGE (2 years)

STUDENT REP. (2 years)

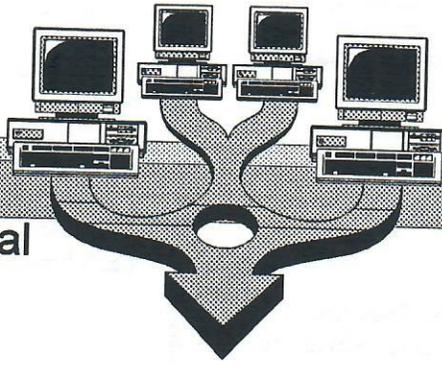
STUDENT REP. (2 years)

Remember you must be a member to nominate.

Please place your nominations and other "sendables" in the envelope enclosed.

Name (Please Print)

Signature



File Edit Special

Subject: Behaving On The Internet Part 1

By: Gerry Bernicky, bernicky@cml.com & Bruce Sparks, bruce_sparks@daystorm.com

Hello cyber-analysts and the rest of you! Yes you've heard of it, and yes another article(s) or some other thing on the Internet, E-mail and other electronic or computerized communication mediums.

This article (and others to follow in upcoming and exciting issues of *the ONTABA ANALYST*, the official newsletter of ONTABA) will be introducing members "in the know" to some existing behavioural places to visit on the "net", and for other members to gain some knowledge on E-mail, the Internet, modems, services, etc. This is an exciting and growing means for ONTABA members and others to exchange or find information, meet to discuss issues, or just to be reinforced by interacting with other behaviour analytic types (we are so few!) from all across Ontario and even further (restrictions for communications are being contained to this planet only...so far).

Gerry & Bruce have recently been showing an interest in exploring this new territory, boldly going forth in this uncharted setting, heedlessly encountering danger of stimulus overload at every new site, and we will be sharing this knowledge with members. Not to say that we are the only ones using this medium, in fact we are repeating the behaviours of other ONTABA members who have been using this telecommunications network for some time now, (Hello Larry, Ron, Drew, Anne, & Janet).

We will be available to respond to members questions and queries to provide whatever support or answers we can. Members can send questions or comments on telecommunications to: Gerry or Bruce via the internet addresses listed above or by Canada Post (snail mail) to: *THOSE CYBERGUYS* via the editor of *the ONTABA ANALYST*. We may even print your question and your name in upcoming issues...oooooo...exciting.

And on a final note, there is a group of ONTABA members presently established to bounce E-mail back and forth amongst each other. If you wish to join this group, or to have your E-mail address listed in our next article, please send such a request to one or both of the E-mail addresses listed above.

In our next article we will start with an introduction to modems, how they operate, and the different types of services available to get hooked up on, to start your own cyber-travelling.

Until then, happy "surfing".

**Requires a
PSYCHOLOGIST
Start Date: Immediate**

Duties:

Community Living Algoma seeks a skilled professional to provide a wide range of psychological services to individuals with a developmental disability who reside in the District of Algoma. The psychologist will plan, develop, coordinate and evaluate delivery of psychological services to individuals and their families within the context of a community based association committed to a philosophy of client centred planning and community living.

Qualifications:

- » Current registration with the College of Psychologists of Ontario with certification at the doctoral level and competency in the areas of clinical and school psychology.
- » Demonstrated technical knowledge of developmental (i.e., psycho-educational and functional) assessment tools and techniques used with children and adults suspected of experiencing developmental delays.
- » A minimum of five years experience in the provision of psychological services to developmentally challenged children, adults and their families with emphasis on diagnostics and functional assessments.
- » Significant experience and demonstrated ability in the provision of community based supports to developmentally challenged individuals and their families consistent with a community living philosophy.

Salary:

Compensation will be negotiated depending on qualifications and experience.

Applications from women, men, racial minorities, aboriginal and disabled persons are welcome.

NOTE: This file will remain open until the position is filled.

Submit resume to:
Human Resources Officer
Community Living Algoma
681 Pine Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6B 3G2

For further information contact:
Laura Richmond: home: (705) 253-1700
Fax: (705) 253-1777

Please refer to File No. M005

Two new and innovative *ABI Behaviour Services* are opening at West Park Hospital for adults with acquired brain injury and severe behaviour challenges. Service intervention, carried out by a team of trained clinicians, is focused on promoting the development of these clients for their next place of living. We currently have the following job opportunities.

**SENIOR STAFF
ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY BEHAVIOUR
SERVICES**

The critical functions of these positions include providing guidance and direction to staff, consulting and coordinating client and program activities/goals, overseeing implementation of service plans and participating in research and quality improvement activities. You will also assist in hiring, training and other employee education activities.

Your ability to succeed within a team environment is essential, as is a University Degree/Diploma in health, social or behavioural sciences. In addition, your excellent interpersonal, communication and problem-solving skills are complemented by a thorough knowledge of crisis intervention/prevention as well as behavioural assessment and treatment.

Interested applicants should mail or fax their resumes in confidence to:

Kathy Leeder
Coordinator of Equity & Employment
West Park Hospital
82 Buttonwood Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M6M 2J5

Phone: (416) 243-3646
Fax: (416) 243-3422

We look forward to hearing from you!

**YOUR
AD
COULD BE HERE**

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Gerry Bernicky

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Joel Hundert

Mary McMillan

Drew McNamara

Laura Methot

Ron Settingington

Bruce Sparks

Rebecca Ward

Benj Wu

ONTABA, the Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis,
is an affiliate Chapter of the Association for Behaviour Analysis International.

ONTABA currently has over 160 members from professions
such as education, nursing, health care, and psychology.

The objectives of ONTABA are to promote behaviour analysis in the province of Ontario,
to facilitate interactions between professionals engaged in behavioural activities,
to monitor and participate in legal and professional issues related to behaviour analysis,
and to initiate standardized practices and certification of Behaviour Analysts.

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