



A Member's Perspective

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*M*y interest in behaviorology derives from interrupted graduate studies at Columbia in the mid '50s. I had courses with Woodworth, Keller, Schoenfeld, and other memorable folk. BFS occasionally dropped in on Keller's class and more or less took over. I was deeply impressed by the parallel views in Skinner and Darwin.

I had some friends who were active, for a time, in the Programmed Instruction movement, in the early '60s; and I attended an APA convention in Chicago at that time. I remember lively hallway discussions involving BFS and followers concerning the practical use of their ideas. All things seemed possible.

Over time, I mostly lost touch with these matters. I was in business in Allentown, PA. I kept up with several of Skinner's books, though, and I found British "Ordinary Language" philosophy, and Wittgenstein, interesting because of their functional views which seemed related to Skinner's. Sometime in the '70s, I think, BFS spoke at Muhlenberg College—a block from my home. I chatted with him about those similarities, and he told me that Willard Day had done a paper on just that. I got hold of it.

Now, in those early '60s, I had heard about the stir and challenge created by Chomsky, but I didn't appreciate that a cognitive ascendancy was taking place. Only with the time afforded by retirement, and my move to San Diego—where the University (UCSD) is a cognitive hotbed—have I been able to read and catch up with things. Now, a bit familiar with the literature and organizations, I'll be an interested observer, lending some small support and trying to keep some intellectual operants active. ☺