

FOREWORD

Janet Ellis
Editor

This is a special issue for several reasons: first, BSI has a very efficient, hard-working, and talented Action Editor to thank: Peter Lamal graciously accepted my request to serve as action editor for three of the articles in this issue. These three provide examples of a concept that Pete promoted so effectively in his edited book, *Behavioral Analysis of Societies and Cultural Practices*—namely, that behavior analytic concepts (i. e., contingencies and metacontingencies) "should be extended to societies and cultural practices" (1991, p. xiii). Thank you, Pete, for the many services you have graciously and competently rendered to this journal.

Second, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to our four guest reviewers for this issue: Eileen Gambrill, Joel Greenspoon, Ernst Moerk, and John Nevin. Without their input, this set of articles on metacontingencies would not have been possible.

Third, we thank the authors of the three manuscripts that appear in this issue. Goldstein and Pennypacker's analysis of the contingencies surrounding the transition period from candidate to criminal is interestingly laid out in their article, "From Candidate to Criminal: The Contingencies of Corruption in Elected Public Office." Fraley's perspective on how to integrate the process of dying into the cultural economy is outlined in, "New Ethics and Practices for Death and Dying From an Analysis of the Sociocultural Metacontingencies." In "Analysis of Contingencies and Metacontingencies in a Private Sector Workplace," Bohrer and Ellis describe the interlocking behavioral contingencies operating on the cultural practices of persons working in a retail dress shop over a 19-month period.

We believe that Fraley's response, "Behavior Analysis: The Discipline Its Followers Don't Want: A Reaction to Grote, Johnston, Rakos, and Wulfert" (the authors who responded to his, "An Academic Home for a Natural Science"), may be more relevant than we had planned as indicated by the Editor's Note appended to the end of his response. I received this Email from Fraley and in view of this subject I believe his comments are very relevant.

As Thyer points out in his book review of *B. E. Skinner and Behaviorism in American Culture*, this is the third book-length treatment of Skinner's contributions. Thyer's review will assist behavior analysts in deciding whether or not to add this book to their libraries.

Welcome to this issue of *BSI*, which I hope will prove to be both readable and edifying.

REFERENCE

Lamal, P. (Ed.). (1991). *Behavioral analysis of societies and cultural practices*. New York: Hemisphere.