Obituaries
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appropriateness of such behavior, its efficacy, and its normativeness. In 1972 he published The Learning of Aggression with his colleagues Leopold Walder and Monroe Lefkowitz which outlined his initial learning theory. However, he continued to modify and elaborate the view to reflect the more important role that he thought cognitions played over the next 25 years.


His public policy advocacy kept pace with this scholarly output. He testified numerous times before the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, as well as various state legislatures, on the effects of violence in the media, about V-chips and ratings systems to curb violence on TV, and on the implementation and evaluation of violence prevention programs. He met with President Clinton to discuss the topic and appeared on innumerable widely viewed national TV shows to talk about the issue. He served willingly on many professional and governmental panels including the National Research Council Panel on Understanding and Control of Violence and the American Psychological Association's Commission on Violence and Youth of which he was the Chair.

Eron's accomplishments were widely recognized by his peers. He was a Fulbright Scholar twice. He was a diplomate of the American Board of Professional Psychology and a fellow of the Academy of Clinical Psychology, the American Psychological Association, the American Psychological Foundation, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. However, Eron was most proud of the three recognitions he received from the American Psychological Association. In 1980 he was given the APA award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Knowledge; in 1995 he received the American Psychological Foundation's Gold Medal Award for Lifetime Contributions to Psychology in the Public Interest; and in 2003 he received APA's award for Distinguished Lifetime Contributions to Media Psychology.

On a personal level, Eron was the kind of individual who made everyone around him smile. He was proud of his “hard-nosed” approach to empirical research and scholarship, and woe to the student or author who asked him to read a methodologically sloppy piece of work or an ungrammatical sentence. However, his criticisms were always blunted by his wit and warmth. He cared about everyone and acted on those cares. And he enjoyed making fun of himself. He was that rare outstanding scholar who also possessed wit, self-deprecating humor, warmth, and great humanity. His scholarly accomplishments will live on for a long time, but we will all terribly miss the man we have lost.

Rowell Huesmann and Eric Dubow
Ann Arbor, Michigan
September 15, 2007

ALBERT ELLIS (1913–2007)

Legendary psychologist and early member of our Division Albert Ellis passed away July 24, 2007, at 93 years of age. He changed the world of therapy profoundly. Creator of Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy and author of dozens of books and hundreds of articles, he was when alive probably the best known psychologist worldwide, having pioneered a cognitive approach to therapy and written in scholarly, professional, as well as popular venues to worldwide audiences. In his long-time hometown New York City, his famous Friday night sessions at the Albert Ellis Institute, open to the public, were a fixture for decades. He was also prominent in the media, a media psychologist, appearing on TV or radio, and being written about or interviewed in major magazines and newspapers.

At APA Conventions I did annual Conversation Hours with AI, Aaron T. Beck and myself for many years. When AI was unable to travel to APA for health reasons, he joined us by speakerphone. These great sessions were always standing room only (SRO). Another recurring session that I put together at several recent APA Conventions, sponsored by Division 46, was the “APA Comedy Jam,” also SRO sessions in which AI was always the lead-off speaker, singing with the audience his famous therapy songs, which he had written using the music from well-known tunes of the American popular songbook.

Another highlight for me was the regular trips my doctoral class and I took each semester, when possible, to visit with AI at his Institute in New York. He was ever gracious and giving with the students, interacting with them for one-and-a-half to two hours in his office, laughing with them over their and his own impromptu renditions of some of his songs, posing for group photos, then signing any books or materials they had brought along, providing them indelible memories of this brilliant, creative man.

I've had so many wonderful experiences with AI at APA, as I'm sure many of you have also. Whenever I asked him to contribute to the program he always said yes. No special requirements, no strings, no hesitation, just a willingness to talk about his favorite subject—psychology—and interact with psychologists. I have never organized a session at APA with AI in which there were any empty seats in the room.

AI was a true original, unique, unusual, outspoken, with a no-nonsense approach to therapy and life, blunt, direct, famed for his colorful language, and by the faces of high enjoyment I have seen in the audiences of all these APA sessions over the years, I would have nominated him as our profession's most popular psychologist!

We'll not see his like again. He was my friend, and I will miss him always.

AI is survived by his widow, Debbie Joffe Ellis. Their time together was a great love story for the final years of his life.

Frank Farley
President-Elect, Division 46