Sidney W. Bijou died on June 11, 2009, in Santa Barbara, California. Although
an extended article commemorating his contributions will appear in a
subsequent issue of the journal, we did not want to publish the fall issue
without acknowledging his passing.

Sid was born on November 12, 1908, in Arlington, Maryland. After
graduating from high school in Brooklyn, New York, he earned a bachelor's
in business administration from the University of Florida in 1933. In 1937, he
received a master's in psychology from Columbia University, where he designed
a nonverbal test of children’s intelligence. In his first clinical position, he
and Joseph Jastak developed the *Wide Range Achievement Test*. Sid gained a
doctorate in psychology in 1941 from the University of Iowa, where he conducted
research on experimental neurosis in rats. During World War II, he enlisted in
the Army Air Corps, eventually directing its Convalescent Branch. Afterward,
B. F. Skinner recruited Sid to direct the clinical psychology program at Indiana
University, where he was influenced by Skinner and J. R. Kantor.
In 1948, Sid moved to the University of Washington to direct its Institute of Child Development. There he became a pioneer in child development, behavior analysis, and research administration. He conducted seminal operant research with children, founded a theory of child development with Don Baer, received significant federal funding for the Institute, and selflessly supported his colleagues. Among those colleagues were Jay Birnbrauer, who established a demonstration classroom and supervised research on programmed instruction and classroom management. Mont Wolf analyzed the effects of teacher attention on child behavior. And Wolf, Todd Risley, and Hayden Mees accepted Sid’s offer to take the case of a boy with severe, challenging behaviors in what became the first applied behavior analysis in autism. By 1964, Sid had made the University of Washington into the country’s leading center for the study of child behavior.

Sid moved to the University of Illinois in 1965, where he directed more federally funded research; refined observational methods for field research; and advanced applications in early childhood, parent training, and undergraduate education. He also served as the founding editor of the Journal of Experimental Child Psychology and as president of the American Psychological Association’s (APA’s) Division 7 for Developmental Psychology. Although he formally retired from the University of Illinois in 1975, Sid remained active in teaching, research, and service for another 25 years at the University of Arizona and the University of Nevada–Reno. During that time, he was elected president of the Association for Behavior Analysis (ABA) and received numerous well-deserved awards, among them the G. Stanley Hall, Don Hake, and Edgar A. Doll awards from three APA divisions, and ABA’s award for the International Development of Behavior Analysis.

Sid moved to Santa Barbara in 2000 to be closer to family, but he remained influential to the end, visiting and corresponding with students, colleagues, and historians. Of his death, Bob and Jude Bijou wrote: “A peaceful, natural death, as he was getting ready for another day. A life well lived to the very last moment.”

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