

PSYCHO? LOGICAL? BULLETIN

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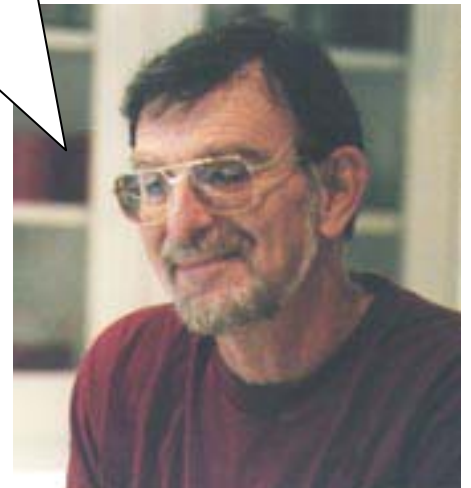
AND FROM THE "CLASSIC DEPARTMENT MEMOS" ARCHIVE...

At about the same time that I became Department Head in 1983, the area near the entrance to the 332 wing was about to undergo some renovations due to the construction of the Statistics Department wing on the floors below. At that time, there were no Women's toilets on the 3rd floor of Baker Hall. I had used the opportunity to extract a promise from the then Provost to pay for modification to the construction plans such that they would create a women's toilet by carving up and reconfiguring the existing men's toilet. But when news of the plans reached the desk of the then treasurer (Fred Rogers, but not THE -- late -- Fred Rogers) he claimed that the cost was too high, and the need was too low. Fred had already made a few snide comments about the project, with a few associated giggles, etc., so I decided to confront him with the reality of the issue. I think he was so embarrassed by the directness of the memo that I never heard another complaint from him, and the project went forward. It was the first of my successful memos, and the kind of thing that made being Department Head fun (sometimes!)

Continued on the next page...

Have a classic department memo to share?
Submit it to the PLB!

No? Well then make one up!
Submit your best re-creation of CMU
Psychology history in the form of a memo to
Lori Holt by email lholt@andrew.cmu.edu





Department of Psychology □

To: Fred Rogers, VP for Finance
From: David Klahr
Subject: Women's Toilet
Date: Feb 3, 1984

In our discussion last week about the estimated 50 to 60 thousand dollars for the installation of a woman's toilet on the third floor of Baker Hall, you suggested that a) the cost was unreasonably high to remedy such a "minor inconvenience", and that b) the initial approval of the project by Pat Crecine was probably too hasty. Although it may appear that the standard procedure for capital projects was not followed in this case, I will try to convince you that the project has a long history, that it remedies a serious problem, and that both my request and Crecine's approval were quite timely.

The Need for a Women's Toilet on the Third Floor

At present, the Department of Psychology has about 40 females with offices on the third floor of Baker Hall (6 are faculty, about 25 are secretarial, administrative and research staff, and the rest are graduate students and post-docs.) In addition, about half of our undergraduates are female. The nearest toilets are a long flight of stairs and several corridors away from most of the offices, on the second floor of Baker Hall. In order to appreciate the "minor inconvenience" of such a remote facility, you might try to use the Men's room one floor away from your office for a few weeks (using the stairs, not the elevator).

It is a physiological fact that women have smaller bladder capacity per body volume than men, and consequently a more frequent need for a toilet. Furthermore, during menstrual periods, they have additional need to use toilet facilities. Finally, because of common dress conventions in western culture, women usually have longer "turnaround time" once they get to the toilet. It should be clear that a remotely located toilet is more costly to women than to men.

Finally, as the following quote from one of our female faculty members indicates, the present situation is a subtle affront to women:

The whole thing does contribute to our sense that the University is organized for men. In addition to local feeling, I find it a little embarrassing to haul women visitors that distance -- looks like the bad old days at Harvard when women's rooms were always converted janitor's rooms on the third floor.

Timeliness of the project

A dozen years ago, the Department had 22 males and 2 females on the faculty, and a similarly male-dominated graduate program. Since then, we have made a serious and successful effort to correct this imbalance, but we have never been able to provide equally convenient toilet facilities for men and women. There was simply no way to locate them near existing plumbing. Previous Department Heads and Deans have been well aware of this problem, but they could see no feasible solution.

Last Fall, I called Pat Crecine's attention to the fact that the renovations necessitated by Statistics' move to Baker Hall gave us a potential solution to the long-standing Women's Toilet problem. For him, the history was familiar and the need was unquestioned. A solution was at last at hand, so he approved my request. Although such a decision may have appeared hasty to you, given the background summarized above, I think it was the right decision.

It would be short-sighted indeed to attempt to defer this project, since it is an integral part of the plan to reconfigure some Psychology space in a way that leaves us with as much lab space as we had before the Statistics' renovation. If we do it after the current renovations are completed, it will cost much more. It would also seem short-sighted to look for a cheap fix. The planned facility (three booths, three sinks) is not excessive, and the cost should be viewed in terms of the upgrading of a facility that will last as long as Baker Hall stands.

ON THE SHOULDERS OF GREAT PSYCHOLOGISTS

The Psycho? Logical? Bulletin is calling for Psychology Department T-Shirt Designs.

Representations, symbols and connections of all sorts are encouraged.

The best design will be chosen by the department. T-Shirts will be printed and made available for sale.

Submit your designs to Rachel Diana.



CHILDREN'S SCHOOL EARNS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION!



Symbol of Accreditation

The Children School recently gained accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Only about 6 percent of early childhood programs nationwide have achieved this status.

NAEYC accreditation is a rigorous, voluntary process by which early childhood programs demonstrate that they meet national standards of excellence. Programs that seek accreditation must collect information from parents, teachers and administrators, and undergo classroom observations conducted by early childhood professionals trained by NAEYC. An independent team of national experts reviews this information and decides whether a program should receive accreditation. The accreditation is valid for three years.

Earning NAEYC Accreditation is one step in the Children's School's continual quality improvement process. The accreditation seal signals credibility to prospective parents, potential funders, and colleagues contemplating the professional development opportunities offered via our Early Childhood Professional Development Center. Understanding the process of accreditation better will help us tailor our training events to the needs of educators who are working towards this goal.



Visit the Children's School at www.psy.cmu.edu/childrenschool/index.html