

## Obituaries

### RICHARD KAMMANN (1934-1984)

Dick graduated B.A. from Miami University (Ohio) where he was President of Psi Chi and elected an Omicron Delta Kappa. After serving as a U.S. Naval Officer for two years, he completed a PhD at the University of Cincinnati. As Assistant Professor at Oakland University (Michigan) he continued his research on experimental issues related to communication, perception and verbal learning.

In 1967, he joined the Human Factors Research Department at Bell Telephone Laboratories to work on methods of improving the comprehension of printed and graphic instructions. He wrote the Workbook and the Instructors' Manual to accompany Dember and Jenkins' "General Psychology". He was twice elected to the Marlboro Township Board of Education and published on issues relating to education.

An increasing desire for a different life style led him to accept the position as Associate Professor at Otago University in 1973. His primary academic interests changed to environmental psychology and later, the study of human happiness. However, his continued interest in human factors research led to contributions to the design of road intersections in New Zealand, and he also affected the organization of information in the University Calendar and the Dunedin telephone directory. He served on the N.Z. Road Safety Traffic Board from 1975-78, on the Traffic Committee of the National Roads' Board (1976-78), and from 1971 to 1978, was a consulting editor for Human Factors. He was a member of the Science Faculty Executive from 1975-77.

With David Marks, he exposed Uri Geller's claim to possess psychic power by replicating all his tricks. His "psychic performances" contributed to the scepticism of students and the public. His contributions on the psychology of rational and irrational beliefs in the last chapters of "The Psychology of the Psychic" (Marks and Kammann, 1980) are incisive and original. He was a Fellow to the Committee to Investigate Scientific Claims of the Paranormal, Science Consultant for Scientific Anomalies Research and Chairman of N.Z. Zetetics.

However, his most important research was on human happiness. He designed a test to measure subjective well-being: the Affectometer, rigor-

ously explored the measurement issues, examined the factors relating to happiness and tested techniques for improving human happiness. His published articles and conference presentations have given him an international reputation for this work. His recent output has included 13 articles and books since 1978.

This year he had the honour of being invited to Bell Telephone Laboratories to work on a topic of his choice. Just before dinner on Tuesday, 5th June, he went out to exercise himself and the dog. He died of a heart attack while jogging.

He will be remembered as a teacher; charismatic, exciting, unorthodox, experimental in his methods, concerned to educate in the fullest sense, thoroughly involved with his work, learning from his students as well as teaching.

He will be remembered as a scholar; widely read, meticulous in his accuracy and fairness in testing hypotheses.

He will be remembered as a humanist; scrupulous in his ethical concerns, seeking to apply his knowledge for the benefit of all and attempting to create a psychology that touched on central human concerns.

As a colleague, he was unconventional, angry at ignorance and conservatism, loving and appreciative of others. He made life more exciting, challenged us all to examine the bases of our actions, revealed our hypocrisies and yet valued each of us for our nobler qualities.

### HUGH PRIEST (1930-1984)

The death occurred suddenly of Dr Hugh Priest, a senior lecturer in the Psychology Department, which he joined in 1965, and a former Head of the Department.

In an address at the funeral Professor Ken Strongman said Dr Priest was born at Hastings, a part of New Zealand he always spoke of with great affection. He attended Hastings High School and then Canterbury University College. "During these years, judging from his own words his five seasons at the freezing works provided his best remembered and most highly valued experiences," Professor Strongman said.

"After this, fresh with his M.A. he became the psychologist in the Royal New Zealand Air Force. Whilst there he took the opportunity to become a pilot which, given his sense of direc-

tion, was an amazing feat. In the late fifties and early sixties, Hugh worked for the Aviation Medicine Unit, as a senior psychologist, in a Toronto hospital and then in the Defence Scientific Corps. This was an extraordinarily astute manoeuvre since it allowed him to complete a doctorate on full pay, the penance for which was three years in the Royal New Zealand Army. Finally, in 1965, he joined the academic staff of the University. Apart from two spells of leave, one of them as an invited Fellow at the University of Cambridge, he spent the following 19 years here.

"From this brief review of a long and interesting career it should be obvious that Hugh was not a desk-bound academic, nor was he a psychologist with no experience of life. He had worked in a wider variety of settings than most academic or professional psychologists, something that was reflected in all he did at Canterbury to the benefit of students and staff alike. Although a person of wide intellectual interests, it was important to Hugh to be a practical man, a problem-solver who knew his way around. He was a thorough-going academic, but he also had his feet firmly in the everyday world. This gave him, and hence the Psychology Department, an extra dimension.

"Throughout his time at Canterbury Hugh did many things for many people. He taught with zest at all levels and he brought his care and judgement to many committees, both within the University and the wider community. Rather than list all that Hugh did, I would sooner speak simply of these accomplishments which he himself valued most highly, and rightly so.

"He held several offices in the New Zealand Psychological Society, culminating in a year as its national president. From 1979 to 1982 he was Head of the Psychology Department. He worked hard to help the Department deal with a difficult time of change and transition. Although Hugh had undoubted abilities as a thorough and well prepared administrator, I believe that it is as a teacher that he would prefer to be remembered. He took great justifiable pride in his lecturing ability and will be remembered by many generations of students for the clarity of his exposition.

He took enormous trouble to ensure that students fully understood him. And there was nobody better for taking awkward and undecided students and pointing them firmly in the right

direction, or at getting late students to finish whatever they were doing. And in all this he was gentle, kind, genuinely concerned and very, very thorough. To put it at its simplest, Hugh enjoyed teaching and enjoyed students. In their turn they enjoyed him and held him in affection as they might a favourite uncle.

As an academic, few could match his diligence, more particularly his critical abilities. He was an analyst who could strip things to their bare essentials rapidly and with great exactness. Precision was important to him and there was nothing that he liked better than to discuss the origin of an obscure or unusual word. If he could achieve this without the aid of a dictionary—and he often could—then so much the better. He was helped in this by a memory, which so far as I am concerned, was amazing. He seemed not to forget anything at all.

Hugh Priest was all these things I have tried to describe and had many admirable qualities, but above all he was a family man. The achievements of his wife and daughters were always on the tip of his tongue. He spoke of them often and with enormous affection and pride. In the Psychology Department I suspect we all knew them far better than they realise. In Hugh's life they came first and he did not care who knew it.

"Next to this Hugh was concerned with those around him. He was a most courteous and helpful person particularly to newcomers and visitors. He was a man of wide interests, ranging from fudge-making to literature, from tomato growing to badminton. And, seasoning all this was a ready sense of humour. I shall miss discussing modern literature with him and I shall also miss his jokes as well as making him laugh. Some people are a pleasure to joke to and Hugh was one — and he relished the opportunity to joke in return.

"So we will all miss Hugh for a multitude of reasons. He had a presence in the University and in Christchurch. It will be a long time before I become used to no longer hearing that unflinching good humoured whistle in the morning. And that 'Got a minute?' followed by a happy discussion of the etymology of a word of which I had barely heard. And I will miss that glorious fudge which Hugh made and which seemed to appear at the high and low spots in the lives of all around."