

Letters

Textbook Dispute

The article "Textbook credits bruise psychiatrists' egos," by Eliot Marshall (News & Comment, 20 Feb., p. 835) raises a number of important issues concerning the rewards of the scientific and academic enterprise. A major issue in the dispute described by Marshall revolves around the expected role of the "Editor" of a multiauthored scientific volume. It is true, as Marshall describes, that Jesse O. Cavenar devoted a considerable amount of time to the textbook *Psychiatry*. For these efforts, he has been well compensated financially by Lippincott and rewarded professionally by being listed as an editor. However, Cavenar did not participate in the major deliberations among the members of the editorial board regarding decisions about the scope of the textbook, the contents of the individual volumes and chapters, or the individuals invited to be section editors and chapter authors. He did "edit" the final manuscripts, but in this activity he performed tasks usually undertaken by members of the staff of publishing firms—tasks not usually assigned to academic "editors."

Marshall's statement that "Cavenar is now editing the third revision" is a misrepresentation of the true situation. A third revision of the textbook is under way but, in the revision of the sections for which I am responsible, Cavenar is not playing a significant academic, professional, or scholarly role. He has not been involved in any of the decisions regarding which chapters should be revised, deleted, or added. Nor has he been involved in communication with the section editors or chapter authors concerning matters of content or emphasis. I have performed these tasks in consultation with Robert Michels, the editorial board, and the staff at Lippincott.

The tone of Marshall's article implies that there is no relation between the sales value resulting from the editors' professional prestige and their achievements, competence, or expertise. Given the nature of modern science, it is almost impossible for a single individual or even a small group of individuals to be expert in all areas of a field. Hence, the necessity for multiauthored textbooks in almost all fields of medicine and science, including psychiatry. The sales potential of some volumes may depend exclusively on the "ego" of the "heavy hitters," but Marshall ignores what, in my opinion, were the major criteria in the selection of the leadership for this text—achievements in

scientific investigation, academic scholarship, and clinical expertise. By these criteria, Cavenar is not "in the same league."

Issues of priority of discovery and sequence of authorship are essential components of the reward system of academia and science. Marshall's article trivializes these issues by phrases such as "tag along with Michels into the card catalog," and "equal clout." Cavenar had a legal complaint against Lippincott that was adjudicated by the court. However, he does not have a moral claim to academic authority based on achievement. Marshall's article, by not coming to grips with the nature of the work of "Editor" and with the role of competence and achievement in academic authority, has done a disservice to his field of journalism and to the readers of *Science*.

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In his 20 February article, Marshall omits Lippincott's position with respect to the credit for the publication *Psychiatry*. I spoke to Marshall before publication and told him that Lippincott had given Michels primary credit because we believe Michels had made a greater contribution to its success than Cavenar had. I also pointed out that the credit had been approved by H. Keith H. Brodie, Cavenar's mentor. These facts are not mentioned in Marshall's article.

For the record, Lippincott does not share John de Carville's view that Lippincott was disappointed in the amount of work that Michels had done. To the contrary, Lippincott believes that Michels contributed significantly to the success of the project and fulfilled his contractual obligations to us. Lippincott officials so testified and made this position clear at the time of the dispute.

Moreover, it is apparent from the context of de Carville's statement that he made it in an effort to placate Cavenar, in the hope that Cavenar would abandon his position that he was entitled to sole credit on the cover of the loose-leaf. Unfortunately, that effort by de Carville and the continuing efforts by Lippincott for almost a year had no effect. Cavenar insisted to the end that he was entitled to sole credit on the cover of the loose-leaf (or material changes in the contract in his favor). Cavenar's complaint was also premised on that theory. Unfortunately, the article downplays Cavenar's extreme position on this matter and thereby presents a misleading picture of the discussions and the efforts that Lippincott made to resolve the credit dispute.

The editorial board that was assembled by Michels and operated under his chairman-

ship was responsible for creating the manuscript and initially reviewing it. Cavenar's primary responsibility was to review the manuscript after it had been already reviewed under the aegis of the editorial board. We believe the persons responsible for the creation and initial review of the manuscript were far more important to the ultimate success of the project than Cavenar was.

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The episode of disputed authorship detailed recently by Marshall is of particular interest, not so much because a senior and prominent contributor insisted on first authorship, but because of the author's rationale. "First is better," he explained. "It goes back to prehistoric times." It is reminiscent of the famous Ring Lardner line, "Shut up," he explained. The quotes are remarkably revealing. While readers may now wonder how many publications are actually written, or even read, by their first authors, this anecdote more than anything else represents the caricature that psychiatry has been trying to overcome.

Imagine an eminent psychiatrist quoting the law of the jungle! "I'm more famous than you, therefore I get what I want," seems to be the message here. This is an open warning to junior faculty, but what is the message to patients? Patients are more vulnerable. How many patients have been counseled by a psychiatrist who believes "first is best" and quotes the "biology of the species"? What has the message been to women, blacks, homosexuals, and others who turn to the psychiatrist for ways of coping with problems created by an unfair society?

Making this caricature complete is the news that Michels conducted a psychoanalytic seminar on "The impact of middle age on ambition and ideals" (1).

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REFERENCES

1. R. Michels, talk given at a seminar entitled "The Middle Years: New Psychoanalytic Perspective" (sponsored by the Columbia Association for Psychoanalytic Medicine, New York, 8 March 1987).

Response: Klerman raises many issues to which I can respond and, I hope, clarify.

Court documents reveal that my contract with Lippincott stated I am the editor of *Psychiatry*, Michels' contract noted that I am the editor and further that Michels "agrees to serve as a member of and chairman of the editorial board" and "to perform at such times and in such manner" as I and Lippincott may request a list of duties. None of those duties included being "Editor."

Klerman notes that I did not participate in decisions "about the scope of the textbook, the contents of the individual volumes and chapters, or the individuals invited to be section editors and chapter authors." This is not correct, as I was an active participant in planning the scope of the text and the topics. Further, my contract initially made me responsible for naming the section heads and entering into agreements with each author. My response to Lippincott concerning these areas was that I believed that the editorial board members should be a party to naming the section heads and authors, as the editorial board members would have to interact with the individuals. The contract was changed such that I, Lippincott, and the editorial board would select the section heads and contributors. I did agree to permit the editorial board members to select a section head with whom they could effectively work and to permit the section heads to select authors with whom they could work. To suggest that I "did not participate" is not correct in any sense. According to my contract, I was responsible for "the development of the overall content and format" of the work and for "oversee[ing] all aspects of the preparation of the work." On the other hand, the editorial board member was "to offer advice and assistance" on a particular area, and as I might reasonably request of the editorial board member to "have responsibility for the nature of the editorial content, organization, and form of the work."

Klerman states that I edited the "final manuscripts." Court records reveal that I returned at least ten manuscripts to Klerman alone because the manuscripts were unacceptable; other manuscripts were returned to other individuals. Five returned to Klerman had no reference numbers in the text and no reference list at the end; another suddenly stopped at the heading "Conclusions," and there were major discrepancies in other manuscripts. If such are the final manuscripts, may I never see rough manuscripts. Further, I am responsible, both scientifically and legally, for every word that is in the volumes. To suggest that such is a task "usually undertaken by members of the staff of publishing firms" is not a statement with which I would agree. In actual fact, my responsibilities, rights, and potential liabilities are exactly those I envision an academic

editor to have. I deleted material from manuscripts, returned manuscripts to contributors with specific requests for amplification of certain areas, and so forth; in my view, this is the role of the editor. Further, nothing was published in the volumes without my signature approval. This approval extended even to the format of the index and the arrangement of the table of contents. It applied to everything except the cover and front matter; the lack of approval there resulted in the legal action.

Klerman notes that "issues of priority of discovery and sequence of authorship are essential components of the reward system of academia and science." He and I agree on this point. I have done a search of the English-speaking literature concerning authorship credit, and in all instances the individual who did the work is the person who gets the credit for same. The standards of the Council of Biological Editors, International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, American Psychological Association, and others are clear on this point. In fact, the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors is very specific in that each credited individual must have (i) participated in the work to the extent that he or she could publicly defend the contents, (ii) have read the manuscript submitted for publication, and (iii) be in a position to sign a statement to the effect that they have read the manuscript and agree to publication in that form. Academic authority for past achievements has nothing to do with credit for a particular subsequent work, in my opinion.

Klerman refers to a "moral claim." The fact is that courts do not decide moral claims, but the court did find that I was given inappropriate credit and found specifically that I should have received first credit on the loose-leaf and bound volumes. This is close enough to a "moral claim" for me.

Miller raises several points that deserve comment. First, he notes that Brodie approved the credit given on the covers of the volumes. Court documents reveal that Barton Lippincott telephoned members of the editorial board in March 1985 to obtain their respective views of appropriate credit. Notes of the contacts reveal that Brodie believed "only Cavenar" should be on the loose-leaf cover. The notes regarding contact with Brodie state that the editorial board are "only" advisers. Further, such notes are consistent with my testimony that Brodie telephoned me on 27 February 1985, after receiving trial covers from Lippincott, and stated that it was "totally inappropriate" for Barton Lippincott to consider placing Michels on the cover of the volumes, as I had done all the work. Additionally, Miller's deposition states that Miller tele-

phoned Brodie in the spring of 1985 and that Brodie had understood, on the basis of meetings that Brodie and I had had with Lippincott representatives in early 1982, "that the board members would have credit only in the front matter." Such was consistent with my testimony that Brodie and I had been told in early 1982 by Lippincott representatives that the editorial board would be only in the front matter and not on the covers.

Miller states that "Lippincott does not share de Carville's view that Lippincott was disappointed in the amount of work that Michels had done." De Carville stated "the disappointment" in a letter dated 16 May 1984 to me. Court records reveal that Barton Lippincott sent de Carville a memorandum dated 18 May 1984 stating: "Your May 16 letter to Jesse is an excellent start. You should not have too much trouble with the boys on this; if you do, don't hesitate to ask for my help." There is no indication in the 18 May memo that Lippincott disagrees with de Carville's 16 May letter.

Miller states that de Carville's letter of 16 May was "an effort to placate" me in the hope that I would abandon my position that I was entitled to sole credit on the cover of the loose-leaf. The fact is that the 16 May letter was the first time I was made aware that Michels' contract differed from the other editorial board contracts I had reviewed and approved some 2 years earlier. In introducing the differing contract, de Carville stated: "How this wording was introduced in this clause is beyond us, and according to our contrite Legal Department. . . ."

Miller notes that "continuing efforts by Lippincott for almost a year had no effect" and that I insisted to the end that I was entitled to sole credit on the cover of the loose-leaf. This is not correct as stated. I met with de Carville for 3 1/2 hours on 6 July 1984. De Carville's memorandum of that meeting, introduced at trial, reveals that de Carville wrote: "I told him [Cavenar] we needed more prestigious names on loose-leaf and books. He will concede having names of Board on loose-leaf, but Michels must be listed subordinately with the Board, not of equal stature with him." De Carville noted in the memorandum that his objective was to "have Jess accept equal billing with Michels on the loose-leaf cover," and "so I was only partially successful in receiving concessions and not the one I was particularly interested in." Further, one "material change in the contract" which I wanted if Michels was to receive equal billing was for Michels to do some work on the volumes such that the volumes could, in my view, be legitimately known as "Cavenar-Michels." I did not then, and still do not, view such as

an "extreme position," as Miller describes. I also disagree with Miller that the editorial board "was responsible for creating the manuscript."

It should be noted that the Library of Congress has now changed the credits on the volumes such that I am listed, correctly in my view, as the first name. However, I was notified by Lippincott on 15 April that I have been terminated as editor.

Michels is quoted in the 24 April issue of the *Duke Chronicle* as saying in regard to the credit given: "Everyone who has looked at the agreement who is competent, including the entire editorial board, thought it was fine." Since a federal judge and I do not concur, is this a reflection on our competence?

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Stereo Viewing

In his letter of 6 February (p. 623) Donn C. Young explained how he viewed stereo. I would like to add my method, which may be easier.

Go to a toy store and buy a pair of binoculars (actually field glasses) for about \$3. Remove both eyepieces and the platform on which they are attached. The objectives on my unit are 35 millimeters in diameter; the overall length of the tubes are 9.5 centimeters, and these dimensions may be somewhat critical. It is good if they also swivel. Now with the objectives closest to your eyes and open end near stereo images, it takes only a moment to find the right distance. Beautiful stereo will pop right out at you. Try it, it really works.

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Erratum: In Table 1 (p. 897) of the report "Recombinant interferon enhances monoclonal antibody-targeting of carcinoma lesions in vivo" by John W. Greiner *et al.* (20 Feb., p. 895), the first value under the heading "Plasma Hu-IFN- α A level (antiviral unit/ml)" should have been <30.

Erratum: Dalesbred sheep, which were tested by K. M. Kendrick and B. A. Baldwin (Reports, 24 Apr., p. 448), are a horned breed. They do not lack horns, as stated in This Week in Science (24 Apr., p. 371).

Erratum: In Eliot Marshall's article "California's debate on carcinogens" (News & Comment, 20 Mar., p. 1459), the last sentence of the third paragraph, which refers to fines to be imposed under Proposition 65, should have read, "Companies found guilty of violating it will be charged \$2500 a day and legal costs." The article gave the incorrect figure of "\$25,000 a day."

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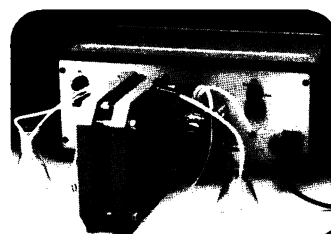
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