

# A Journey Back in Time

## The Journal of Experimental Education



by David Corsi

### The World of Experimental Education

Dating back since the early 1950's, *The Journal of Experimental Education* describes their publication as "basic and applied research studies that use the range of quantitative and qualitative methodologies found in the behavioral, cognitive, and social education of the American culture." What does that actually mean? Honestly, I have no idea. However, this article will show you how this journal has evolved in its publication since 1959. You will see the changes in editors and authors, the size of the book, the use of color in the editions of 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2004. You will be able to picture the book like you were holding it. From the pages to the pictures, you will get a hands-on experience just from this article. So sit back, relax, and just read.

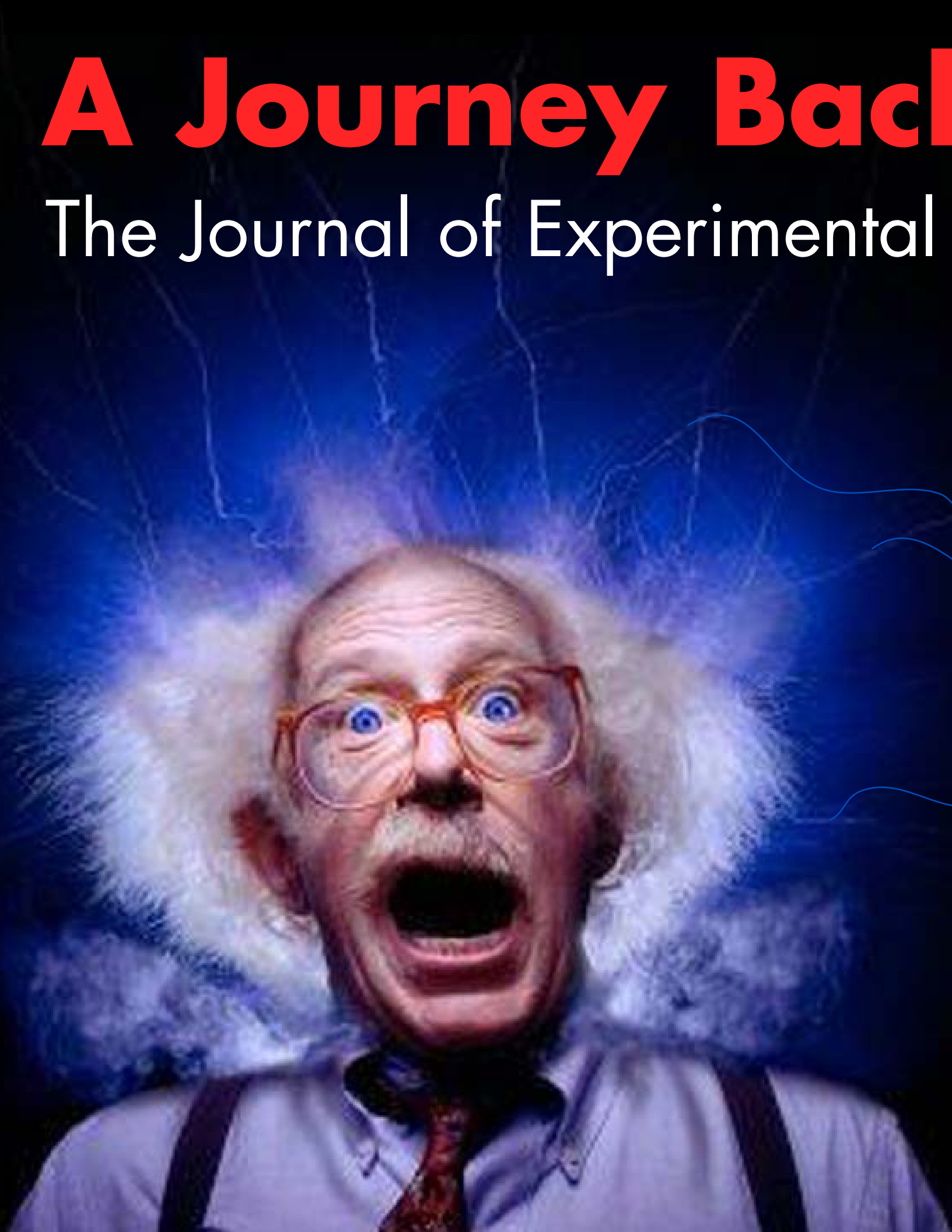
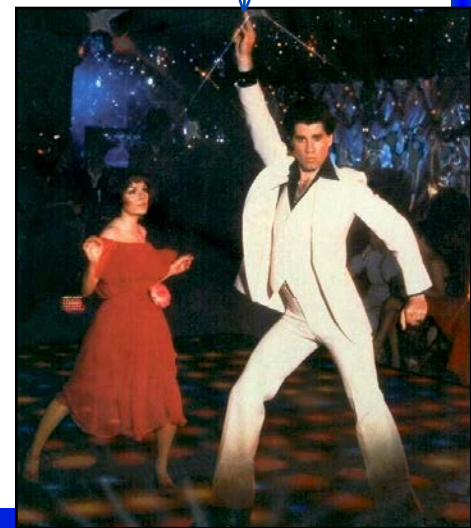
almost like it will fall apart in your hands. Your hands will feel bumps from the rough texture of each page. You can flip to any page and notice the two-column format, with a solid-black line used for separation. All pictures in black and white, printed in a landscaped-style. There was not enough capability to shrink the pictures down so it could fit horizontal. Same went for the many charts and tables printed throughout, all taking up one-page. Notice the similarities in the font, as they were exactly the same. From the copy to headlines, the fonts were all the same serif typeface. The sub-headings were even the same size as the copy as they were strategically centered and placed over the indented copy. Males were dominant in the author's section, as females and minorities seemed not to exist.

### 1960's—The Emergence of John F. Kennedy

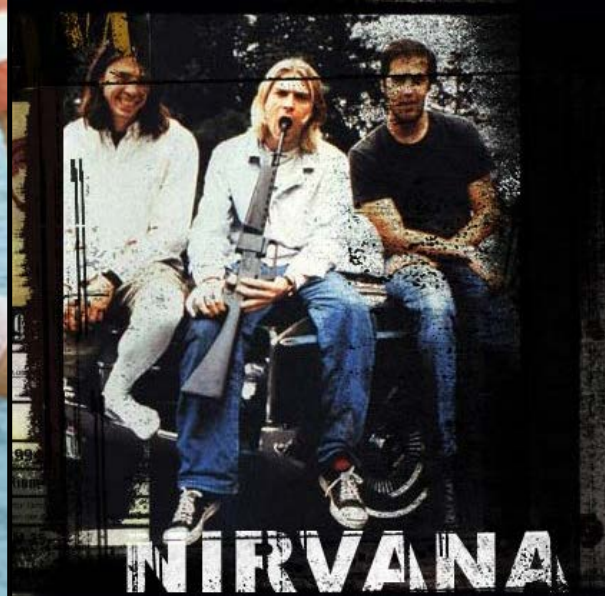
The Baltimore Colts are the new Super bowl champs and hit music group The Supremes' begin their illustrious music career. 1960 was a great year, which included the publication of *The Journal of Experimental Education*. Edited by A.S. Bahr and published by Dembar Publications, Inc, the overall feeling when flipping through the pages is that of pirate treasure maps. Imagine pages that have a crunchy feeling when going from one to the next,

### 1970's—The Rise of Disco

The 60's into the 70's, where Neil Armstrong walks on the moon, world champion boxer Rocky Marciano dies after his plane crashes, and color is introduced into *The Journal of Experimental*







*Education*. There is not too much, but some on the articles title pages placed throughout the journal. As for authors, there is no big change, as the majority are still males. Same goes for the format, as still two-columns with a line used for separation. Less reliance is on images, as there seems to be more copy, and graphs and charts are shrunken down and made to be small; they are placed on pages with text flowing around. Although there is still a serif-type face, there is the use of more than one font on the pages. The paper had a lighter look to it, which helped in making it easier for the eyes and a warmer feeling for the reader. The change from the previous decade wasn't dramatic, but from what I have seen, it was still noticeable.

### 1970's into the 80's—the "Reagan Years"

Although A.S. Bahr is still highly involved, *The Journal of Experimental Education* is now published by Heldref publications. Heldref decided to combine four editions into one for this extraordinary publication. During this era that contained the death of Sir Barnes Wallace and record of 499 mph for the new piston-engine airspeed, Heldref publications felt the need for more copy rather than charts and tables. When used however, charts and tables only took up about one-fourth of a

page. They still used the two-column format, but eliminated the separating line for good. They were more open to the ideas of women, but still used a majority of male authors. The serif-type face was still there, but with much more words in bold and italics for emphasis, such as sub-headings. A good use of design elements and principles were shown in the articles title pages throughout the journal. Here, you could easily see the use of lines as frames. There was contrast used in the colors of black, gray, and white. Gray was an important color for this, as the value was light in order for the black title to catch your eye. The pages were much darker in color than previous. With a high quality paper, feel a slick design with a smooth texture. Not rough on the hand, but a comfortable feeling for the reader. So far this journal has come a long way, as technology has given them the ability to do many things that couldn't be done in the previous decades.

### 1990's—Nirvana and Grunge music

The 1990's marked the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. When talking about it, one will never forget Nirvana, Mike Tyson being defeated by Buster Douglas, or the introduction of *America's Funniest Home Videos* for our viewing pleasure. Or how

about this, Heldref Publications publish *The Journal of Experimental Education* in a smaller fashion, one that is more hand-held and easier to carry around. However, the whiter pages were not as smooth, a little rougher on the hand. Most of these pages have a one-column format now, which makes the design similar to that of a novel. All copy and headlines are still using a serif-type face. Copy is again more relied on then charts and graphs. However, when there were charts and graphs, you can easily notice the size difference, as this publication offered much smaller views. There were more female authors than previous years, and it can be assumed due to the increase of non-traditional names that the publication experienced an insurgence of minority writers. The biggest difference other than the size was the title pages, as they had less black then before. Gray was used more in order to contrast with the black. The topics covered were relatively similar to previous years, as *The Journal of Experimental Education* still has the same goal in mind in their research as they have since their introduction to our society.

### 2000 and on—The Start of a New Century

With still the same feeling for the paper, and still being published by Heldref Publications, this era is

one that we have all went through our up and down times in. From the War in Iraq to the Boston Red Sox finally winning a World Series, this journal was something we all can relate to. More color was used throughout, as there was very bright saturation. Forget about two-columns for their copy, that is completely gone. With the start of the new century underway, this journal took the approach of only using a one-column format. Charts were finally emerging once again, although they were still the same size. Starting with a point in time with barely any female authors, there might now be more females than males. And lets not forget something always constant; Serif-type faces were still being used. With the beginning of the new century, *The Journal of Experimental Education* tried making some changes from previous decades in order to adjust to the times. They brought a fresh approach to relay their research to the reader.

### Editor Changes

Going from one decade to another, it's hard not to notice the change in editors. The increase from one decade to another in the amount of editors is very dramatic. It started in the 60's with one male editor who had the assistance of only four males. These individuals were from universities all around



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## Top 10 Changes In the 50+ Years

1. The size of the book
2. The use of color
3. The number of editors
4. The team of editors
5. The number of female and minority writers
6. The feeling and color of the paper
7. The amount of copy
8. The change in the title pages
9. The size of the charts and tables
10. The change in columns

the United States. That was one constant at all time periods, as the editors were always from American universities. To show more of the change in the amount, the 70's had two executive editors with fifteen consulting editors with a few females. The editions in the 80's into the present time all had three executive editors. However, in the 80's there were twenty-seven consulting editors. The 90's had forty-six consulting editors, and there are forty in the current time frame with an increase in females from one decade to the next. One major thing to notice was the fact that when going from one decade to another, no editors remained the same. It was amazing that there was a new and fresh team of editors for every decade.

### And That's a Wrap

For now, that's a wrap. We all were able to experience how some things change, and how some things remain the same. Title pages were involved throughout every journal. The overall appearance was the same throughout as well. However, color has had a huge impact. It is easily noticed how the cover of the journal gets darker throughout the years to a much more modern green, that of the color of grass. But for now, we can only imagine what changes will be evident in the decades to follow. Until then, we will have to just wait and see what *The Journal of Experimental Education* comes up with next. □

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*David Corsi is an editor for People Magazine, a weekly publication distributed throughout the United States. He feels very strongly about the education of children and research to assist improvement. In his free time, he enjoys conducting his own research pertaining to children and education.*