CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN EXPOSING W.J. LEVY

Below is the text of the summary that was written by J.E. Kennedy, J.W. Davis, and J. Levin in 1974 to summarize what had happened. Some additional information added later by J.E. Kennedy is provided at the end.

Friday, May 10, 1974

J.L. observed Dr. Levy at the indicator panel for the small rodent precognition-work. (during a study in the morning) Dr. Levy was holding wires from the random generator in a position where he could control the target chosen and observe the course of the experiment. J.L. did not actually witness a clear-cut case of target manipulation because of his position relative to the panel. However there was no reason for Dr. Levy to be in physical contact with the equipment at that time. J.L. then taped the wires.

The study in progress was exploratory work on stimulus levels for gerbils. The first run of this section of the study analysis of data showed the first run was marginally significant over all with no subsequent runs showing any evidence of scoring.

That evening J.L. discussed what he had seen with J.W.D. About a week later J.L. told J.K..

Saturday, June 8, 1974

J.K. set up a rat implantation experiment in the evening. Without Dr. Levy’s knowledge the wires to the rat were left disconnected. The study involves observing the effects of valium on PK scoring. J.K. observed Dr. Levy at the equipment table with his hand in the equipment several times during the course of the experiment. J.K. could not actually see what Dr. Levy was touching. On several occasions J.K. entered the room after Dr. Levy left and noticed a long string of hits had just been recorded on paper tape punch, which was the official record of the experiment. Again there was no reason for Dr. Levy to be in contact with the equipment. Dr. Levy had commented several times that positive results with valium might lead to some financial support.
J.K. called J.L. early on Sunday, June 9, 1974, in the morning and told him his observations.

Sunday, June 9, 1974

J.K. and J.L. told J.W.D. of their suspicions. Late that night after Dr. Levy had left, an Esterline Angus chart recorder was set up in the basement to record the output of the random generator used in the rat work. This would make it very difficult to falsify the data without detection. Also it was decided that J.W.D. would go out on the porch off the experimenter room and actually observe Dr. Levy during the next experiment contingent upon conclusive results from the Esterline Angus chart recorder.

Monday, June 10, 1974

No experiments were run on Monday

Tuesday, June 11, 1974

An isolation experiment was carried out with the rats in the evening. This was officially J.K.'s experiment. As usual Dr. Levy handled the rat and volunteered to record data from the mechanical counters.

During the second part (hour) of the experiment J.W.D. observed for the first time Dr. Levy with his hand in the equipment. Also J.W.D. noticed that the sound from the mechanical counter occurred on every trial (every 4 seconds), but the paper punch, which was the official record, did not register on every trial when Dr Levy was in the room. After that part of the experiment was completed, J.W.D. compared the paper punch record with Esterline Angus record. It was apparent that when a long string of hits occurred on the paper punch record, the misses were simply not recorded.

During the final part of the experiment J.W.D. took a position on the porch outside the room. From this position at the porch door he observed Dr. Levy enter the room and place his hand among the wires leading to the paper punch. After Dr.Levy left the room J.W.D. moved to the window where he could clearly see that the plug from the channel recording misses on the punch was removed from the socket and the punch was not recording on every trial.

J.W.D. then returned to the door and observed Dr. Levy again enter the room and place his hand among the equipment. Dr. Levy then looked at the tape, placed, his hand among the
equipment again and left the room. J.W.D. returned to the window and again observed that the plug was out. Dr. Levy returned soon, placed his hand among the equipment and left. J.W.D. verified from the window that the plug had been reinstated in its socket, left the porch, and verified the equipment was operating properly.

It was observed early in the evening that several plugs on the equipment were set in a partially inserted position although they had been fully inserted before the experiment. However the plugs were making proper electrical contact.

GENERAL COMMENTS

For at least the past few months it has been Dr. Levy's practice to spend an excessive amount of time in close proximity to the equipment during studies involving his lines of research.

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Additional information added by J.E. Kennedy, March, 2005.

It may be useful to provide more information on why I left the wires to the rat disconnected on the June 8, 1974 experiment. When J.L. initially told me of his suspicions about Levy, I rejected them. The main reason was that I could not comprehend how someone would work so hard and be so devoted to a topic that he was fraudulently producing. So I did not leave the rat disconnected based on concerns about fraud.

Rather, I was interested in the pervasive issue of the possibility that the apparent PK effects were being produced by the experimenter rather than by the animals. I realized I was in a unique position to do the most definitive investigation of this issue because I was setting up the testing equipment for some of the studies with animals. Leaving the animals disconnected without Levy’s knowledge would be the best way to see if the experimenter or animal was producing the results. In setting up the experiment for rats that were supposedly having electrical impulses to a pleasure center in the brain controlled by an electronic random number generator, I initially left the wires to the rat inconspicuously disconnected thinking that I might forget about connecting them later and then this would become an experimenter effects study. This brief, spontaneous thought and action occurred in passing as I was setting up the equipment for a study to be done later. I did in fact forget about it and remembered after seeing Levy apparently manipulating the equipment.

My willingness to initiate this change in study design was a result of the enthusiasm of youth combined with an overriding interest in understanding the phenomena.