

I first met Ted when I was a graduate student at UCLA and he was a clinical post doc. As did most everyone else, I fell in love with him immediately. I had never known anyone like him. He brought such enthusiasm, dedication and creativity to our work (and need I say hilarity?). We worked together for several years at the old Camarillo State Hospital and I have never since experienced the level of excitement and pioneering spirit we all shared.

I would like to share two stories here. The first was when Ted and I noticed that children who were echolalic tended to echo stimuli for which they had no response (i.e. "Who is the President?"). We decided to study this experimentally and designed a study to do so. Before we began the study Ted sort of conducted an informal pilot by walking up to a child who displayed a high level of echolalia and said "Touch you head." The child touched his head. But when Ted asked the child to "indicate your cranium," the child echoed "indicate your cranium." The echo occurred when the child did not have an appropriate response. Ted bounced up and down and exhibited that familiar joyful giggle he displayed when he was excited and on to something. That bounce and giggle will indeed stay with me.

The other is an example of Ted's quick and dry humor. We were at lunch at a delicatessen and were all looking at the menu board. One of our (non-Jewish) colleagues looked puzzled and asked, "What is a water bagel?" Without missing a beat Ted responded, "It's a type of hunting dog."

Ted was funny, kind, brilliant, and truly a caring person. He was always self-effacing and modest about his brilliant achievements. We indeed had some wonderful times with him and we will always have those to remember him by.

I join my colleagues and the entire autism community in mourning the loss of our friend.

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