

removed 2/25/85 from News Bureau
Release for
Mar. 6, 1969

Butch added info is attached if you need it

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
News Bureau Information Form

FROM James L. White DATE February 25, 1969

SUBJECT PHS Funds Psychology Research Grant (\$4,945)

WHAT? Research Grant in Frustrative Nonreward in Animals

WHO? Dr. Robert Stephen Tacker, Psychology Department

WHEN (DAY, DATE, TIME)? _____

WHERE? _____

WHY? _____

OTHER INFORMATION (Quotable comment, etc.) see attached if you want a quote

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT Dr. Robert Stephen Tacker
(Name)

Psychology Department Ext. 246
(Department, School or Organization) (Phone)

Information verified by James L White
(Signature)

Please return to ECU News Bureau, 113 Erwin Hall, P. O. Box 2773, Phone
758-3426 (Ext. 288 or 322).

Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr. (~~D., N. C.~~) has informed Dr. Steve Tacker of the East Carolina University Psychology Department of approval by the National Institute of Mental Health of a research grant in the amount of \$4,949.

The purpose of the grant is to study basic processes underlying frustration and the effects of frustration on learning. In explaining some of the specific problems to be investigated, Dr. Tacker said, " We have all experienced frustration at one time or another, and we have usually been able to pinpoint the immediate cause of the feeling of frustration. We also know many of the things we do when frustrated. As an example, if you put a coin in a vending machine and nothing happens, that might be a minor frustrating event. However, an outlet for removing this frustration is available so no strong feeling of frustration is aroused. But, now, if you push the coin return lever and still nothing happens, what do you do? Most people ~~just~~ push the lever harder. Trying harder may be one result of frustration. We are interested in why people try harder when frustrated. Have they learned to try harder or is it a tendency that they are born with? And why do some people try harder than others, and at what point do they stop trying harder and kick the machine?"

"Since ethical problems might arise in studying these processes in humans, we work with simpler situations

using animal subjects, but the goals are the same---
 trying to understand frustration. We want to know how
 to ^{produce} ~~produce~~ it, how to control it, and how to eliminate
 it, *if necessary."*

Dr. Tacker, an Associate Professor of Psychology,
 joined the East Carolina University faculty in June of
 last year after teaching for four years at the University
 of South Dakota. He and his wife are natives of
 west Tennessee.