

MEMORIAL: H.J. BARR

Jay Barr, a member of the editorial board of *Evolutionary Theory*, died last year at the age of 38, before he could realize much of his promise. He was one of the few cell or developmental biologists with an active interest in evolution coupled with a real understanding of it.

His early work with Esper (now Enesco), on a mutant of Xenopus without nucleolar cistrons that nevertheless develops a nucleolus, is potentially important but has still not been followed up. They did this mostly at Columbia, where Jay received his Ph.D. in 1962 for other work. Later he joined the faculty of Wisconsin, where he received a Research Career Development Award from NIH, and then the Univ. Illinois Medical Center. At Wisconsin he exploited fluorescent staining in several ways using the *Drosophilidae*, mostly in joint work with John Ellison, a postdoctoral fellow. The nucleolus organizer turned out to be species-specific and what seems to be a gene caused fluorescence in a specific chromosomal region. Fluorescent regions proved to be very high in adenine and thymine, late replicating, and physically joined in interphase, the latter property depending on regions as small as a single band. Drosophila may have an episome. They discussed the evolutionary interest of the chromosomal differences they found within and among species, these differences not being associated with gross differences in gene order.

This blossoming work was terminated by an unbelievably incompetent and malicious administrator who drove away most of those he administered. Jay then seriously considered pursuing another major interest, in the philosophy of science, but became sick before he could again be productive. He leaves a wife, Arlene (a neurologist), and a son, Michael.

I like to think of Jay before he drowned alone in bitterness, tragically but not shamefully. He was one of my favorite people. Often enthusiastic and sometimes radiant, or a dog shedding water, sardonic at times, seeing far yet analytically keen, tolerant yet unafraid, a nonideological advocate of the oppressed. His humor was too much for some. I liked it.

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Leigh Van Valen