



THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

BALTIMORE COUNTY CAMPUS
Department of Psychology

August 19, 1992

Dr. Viktor Hamburger
740 Trinity Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63130

Dear Viktor:

The first draft of a chapter about the development of prenatal behavior and the nervous system is enclosed. I tried to capture the dynamics of embryonic development for an audience of non-specialists. Although many people are studying various aspects of prenatal development these days, few know or care about embryology. However, this is apparently acceptable because the primary audience for the work knows equally little.

I also enclosed a just completed paper concerning the first ever description of the placement of laughter in conversation. This naturalistic study provides some novel and rather startling insights about laughter, the relation between speech and laughter, and the neurological implications of this relationship. The various implications and future direction of this initial work are spelled out in the last section of the discussion. I believe that the implications are both broad and deep. Although I believe that the paper will become prominent, it is not a good fit with any specialty publications. It's too long for Science or Nature and is not a good fit for specialty journals. I would appreciate your comments and suggestions.

Personal and professional matters continue to go well. My new research program into human neuroethology has made me something of an "outsider." At this time, few specialty disciplines would claim me as one of their own. Fortunately, no one has challenged my scholarship. In a few years, I suspect that some of my work now viewed as "non-conventional" will be seen as obvious. What do you think?

Best regards,

Robert R. Provine

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