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## Renowned Broward psychologist Nathan Azrin dies at 82

*He was famed behavioral psychologist*

April 1, 2013 | By Wayne K. Rouston, Sun Sentinel

Nathan H. Azrin, a world-renowned behavioral psychologist and F Southeastern University, died of complications from cancer at Bro Beach on Friday. He was 82.

Mr. Azrin was born in Boston on Nov. 26, 1930. He trained at Harvard University and was "one of the most cited psychologists in the world" at NSU's Center for Psychological Studies. "[He had] driven the re

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Mr. Azrin began his career as a research psychologist in the U.S. the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, and edited 16 other leac 100 studies in the field of learning and psychological treatment, re

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"In the last five years or so he's gotten at least six and maybe a dozen," Richard Azrin said.

Mr. Azrin published both academic books and books for parents, including "Time Out: A Guide for Parents." The guide has sold millions of copies and has been translated into several languages.

Mr. Azrin is also credited with inventing "time out," the popular alternative to punishment for the "untrainables" — the severely mentally handicapped — who were once confined to institutions. The techniques he pioneered nearly half a century ago remain in use today, he said.

"Behind all my father's accomplishments was his intense desire to do things right," Azrin said. "He wanted to apply behavioral principles to every aspect of life to make it better."

Mr. Azrin developed "shaping" or "successive approximation" strategies to help people perform at higher levels than previously thought possible. His method involved breaking tasks into their smallest components, then giving the person encouragement for a succession of desired behaviors, Grosby said.

Beyond a lifelong passion for psychology, Mr. Azrin loved to dance.

"He was very well known in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, where they had dancing on Saturday nights," David Azrin said. "My father would be dancing and my mother would have a big smile on her face and everyone would watch."

The cancer became aggressive in 2007 but throughout several surgeries he remained in good health.

"He would say that the most important thing was to keep battling the disease," Azrin said.

Mr. Azrin is survived by his wife of 60 years, Victoria Azrin-Besale and their daughter Rachel.

Funeral services were Sunday.

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