Stalking the Wild Humorist

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Abstract
Originally published in Contemporary Psychology: APA Review of Books, 1987, Vol 32(5), 432–433. Reviews the book, Humor and Life Stress: Antidote to Adversity by Herbert M. Lefcourt and Rod A. Martin (1986). In this book, authors report on their attempts to capture humor and test the widespread notion that humor moderates stress. It requires courage and creativity to tackle this subject, and these authors lack neither. The results of their efforts are both provocative and frustrating, illustrating the difficulties of addressing this topic. The heart of this book lies in the correlational and experimental studies of humor conducted by the authors and their colleagues over a decade. Given the opportunity offered by a book to expand on previous articles, it is disappointing to find that the authors do not address important methodological and conceptual issues more fully. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2006 APA, all rights reserved)

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