INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS ASSOCIATION VOLUME XX NUMBER 2 MARCH 1990

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Harris Peck Receives 1990 Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award

The 1990 Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award has been given to Harris B. Peck, MD, CTM, for his life-long work as a social psychiatrist and peace activist. After thirty years on the faculty of Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, Peck decided upon his retirement to create The Center for Psychosocial Issues in the Nuclear Age, an independent, nonprofit organization of social scientists, mental health professionals, educators, physicians, and clergy which serves as a resource to universities, health service agencies, and individuals. Among its projects, the Center sponsored a conference, organized by Peck, on "Militarism and Human Services: The Impact on Hunger, Homelessness, and Health Care."

Peck, an expert on group process and past editor of the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, uses this expertise to address issues vital to the survival of the planet and the human species. As a psychiatrist, Peck began a mental health service as part of the New York City Court of Domestic Relations. He also worked as a group process consultant with the Neighborhood Conservation Project of East Harlem and in general has applied his skills with people most in need of psychiatric services.

Peck is a member of the Executive Committee of the New York Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), and in 1987 he received the national PSR's Broadstreet Pump Award for outstanding contributions. We are pleased to present here his acceptance remarks made in Mexico, January 17.

It is a source of great pleasure to me to receive this award, particularly because the kind of work in which I have been engaged within the peace movement seems to offer little in the way of overt recognition of one's efforts. As a matter of fact, when I talk with colleagues I am training or who are doing this kind of work, I am aware of how many burnout or withdraw from their activities in the peace movement, sometimes after years of productive work. I sometimes say that the rewards in this field seem to not only *not* advance one's professional career, but sometimes even to impair one's reputation. At any rate, one must not expect to win any medals, so it is with particular pleasure that I receive this Hedges Capers "medal" (award).

I want to note that I have said there are no *seeming* rewards, but by this I do not mean that there actually are none. The difficulties some of you may know. I work with uncomfortable issues such as the nuclear threat and the arms race and how they effect other difficult issues such as homelessness, inadequate health care, and hunger. As I work to raise other people's consciousness and to overcome their denial, I find I am constantly contributing to my own discomfort. When I call attention to all of the excuses we make to avoid action that might safeguard our future and that of humankind, I am forced to consider how I myself permit less significant priorities to intrude on my own

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I sometimes became so preoccupied with the task of preserving peace that I was paying insufficient attention to the people I was addressing. It sometimes seemed as if I was saying, "Support peace, or I will kill you!"



Harris Peck, winner of 1990 Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award

ITAA's Last Winter Congress

by Tom Nissley

Prolog

It is 5:00 PM on January 12, 1990. I am sitting in an airplane at Kennedy Airport, tired from the errands and packing, excited, remembering Mexico 33 years ago when I took my first trip away from "home." I haven't been there since. An image of dogs drinking from the dishwashing sink and the fear of "Montezuma's Revenge" float past. Both are memories. No sense being paranoid. It cures little. I relax and read a new guide book that spells out some must-do items. The guide book encourages. I discover that the writer is paranoid, too. I hide my money in response.

I spend "before time" in Oaxaca. Great city. Amazing market, with turkeys and piglets and sheep and goats and flowers and pottery and textiles and and and.... Great food. Great art. And the King and Queen of Spain are visiting here, too.

The Main Event

The first day of the Congress arrives. The airport in Mexico City is the meeting point. I get found by a group going to the busses. We arrive after dark at Oaxtepec. Susan Sevilla is already on hand with a plethora of instructions. Helpful stuff. Morning will be welcome.

It is 7:30 AM two days later. Committee meetings are over. The opening ceremony was held last evening, and Harris Peck received the Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award. A crowning moment, in some ways, of Vince Gilpin's presidency, with his emphasis on social concern. The gavel is passed to Julie Hay. The word "International" in our name has a more definite ring to it. Exams begin this morning. The ITAA marches on.

The gavel is passed to Julie Hay. The word "International" in our name has a more definite ring to it.



MEXAT Conference Organizers: (in front) Javier Servin, (from R to L) Roberto Villegas, Emilio Said, Gloria Noriega, Jose Miguel Tafoya, Maria Teresa Romero, Carlos Arvide, Ervey Gonzalez, Palo Aurioles, and Jose Ma. Rivera.

Except for some carved initials on nearby palm trees, I am alone in a swimming pool at the hotel. The initials suggest that (dozens of) students have been here before us. The garden around the pool is simple and lovely. A hundred feet away there is a flight of rough stone steps that leads down the hillside to the sulphur baths. They are described as "pre-Hispanic." Aztec steps, dating to the time when Montezuma had a house only a few miles from where I am splashing. Yesterday I went to the sulphur baths, and the supermarket nearby, and returned in the funicular for a 25-cent fare. I've seen the mountains, marvelled at the flowers, and been in awe of the history. The Aztecs were right here, six hundred years ago. I am here now.

All day the registration lines are crazy. There are four hundred people at the

- *continued on page 6*

EDITOR'S COLUMN



by William Krieger

"TA has been good to me, but the ITAA hasn't," said a friend recently when I asked why she hadn't been to a conference in a while. "What do you mean," I replied. "Just what I said," she retorted with obvious anger in her voice. I decided not to pursue the matter at that time, but I have been thinking about what she said.

She isn't the first person who has said something like that to me. I've heard similar statements sitting around the pool at conferences or having dinner with small groups of members. Some of the people who make such statements are still around, some aren't. I guess I've tended to discount such comments. I've heard them in other organizations I belong to. Somehow this time it had a greater impact on me.

I know I tend to have an idealistic (some would say naive) view of things. If TA has been good for me, then I feel being involved in the ITAA is a way of contributing back for the greater good some of what I got. Some people believe there's no such thing as pure altruism. At the very least what would be in it for you is your meeting your Parent message to be altruistic. Who cares!

I've been angry at some of the things the ITAA has done as an organization. I've been angry, saddened, and disappointed in some of my colleagues (friends?) in the ITAA. Who cares!

What I do care about is that the ITAA continues to be the fountainhead from which TA springs so that TA can be "good" for other people. I want, think, and believe that others who have benefited from TA should give back something by some level of involvement in the ITAA. If you receive the benefits, you should pay the bill!

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Question for the Month: Are you paying enough "dues" to the ITAA? □

WORLD CONGRESS OF PSYCHOLOGY

A World Congress of Psychology will be held July 19-24, 1992, in Brussels, Belgium. They are looking for lecturers interested in presenting papers on TA in relation to the fields of clinical and developmental psychology. Lecturers should be licensed psychologists, preferably connected with an academic institution or university and who have published articles in scientific journals. For more information, contact as soon as possible Anne Tracy, Avenue Jupiter 79/3, B1190 Brussels, Belgium; phone 2-346 04 14.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



by Julie Hay

The World Community of TA

As I write this column I recall vividly the warmth and fellowship of the ITAA/ALAT/MEXAT Congress in Mexico. I wish there were some way that *all* of you could enjoy that experience of caring and love. My hope is that we will use our organizational structures to stimulate and support communities of TA people in all areas of the world, and that the people within these communities will reach out to one another to give and receive nourishing strokes.

How can we bring this about? We need to share our experiences of success. Those TA groups and associations that already run conferences and events can serve as examples. The Mexico Congress offered many ideas worth repeating, with plenty of opportunities to work and play together: challenging presentations balanced with fun-filled fiestas, interpreters so we could communicate across language barriers, the satisfactions and achievements of working with like-minded colleagues, a wonderful play performed by local TA members which finished with cast and audience joining hands to sing together.

I went to Mexico as the new President of the ITAA, prepared to work hard, and my energy was replenished each day through the spirit of community and caring. I reconfirmed my belief that being in the worldwide TA community means I can find new friends wherever I go.

Someone said to me recently that each ITAA President has had a theme. They judged that mine was efficiency, and I agreed. However, efficiency is not my objective; it is only a means to an end, a process for achieving a goal. I beleive that the true objective for the ITAA is to increase the number of people in the world who feel, believe, and behave in ways that reflect value and respect for themselves and others.

This is a big objective, but I do not believe it is grandiose. We can achieve it through several processes: by social action to support those unable to exercise their basic human rights; by conscious efforts to preserve the environment; by publicizing TA to a wider audience; by maintaining professional and ethical standards; by training TA practitioners and trainers who will in turn help clients develop their quality of life. These processes need the backing of an efficient and effective organization. Together we create more synergy and impact on the world than we can as individuals.

Finally, I invite you to emulate my two-year-old grandson. Operate on the basis that people will enjoy being with you, and most of them will respond with pleasure to your approach. The few that do not will be substantially outnumbered. Offer people affection and see how they draw closer to you.

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Allow your own sense of joy in the world to show through and others will come forward to join you in a celebration. Recognize that you are a valuable person, and the world is better for your being here with us. In this way, each of us will share in the achievement of the ITAA objective. □

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



by Susan Sevilla

Report from Mexico

I have only been home a few days, and the memories of the successful Mexican Congress linger in my mind with a pleasant glow. Whenever the ITAA co-sponsors a conference with a national or regional association, the result is a truly international experience. We refine our co-sponsorship skills with each event, and this ITAA/ALAT/MEXAT conference was beautifully collaborative and cooperative, with a resulting spirit of togetherness that was exceptional.

Over 300 ALAT and MEXAT participants from Latin America joined almost 100 from the ITAA, including members from the USA and Canada, 15 from Europe, and several from Australia and Japan. To top off the week, we were delighted to welcome 41 new members into the ITAA, all of whom joined at this Congress.

Registrants at the Congress were honored to have an opportunity to hear and work with Robert Bly, a powerful presenter. His keynote address, translated superbly by Ana Tholenaar, was well received by both co-sponsoring groups, and his all-day institute gave English speakers a chance to work with him in more depth. (See Perkinson's article, page 8). The other scientific presentations were also valuable and well received.

The Congress center at Oaxtepec was a pleasant place for international connecting. We enjoyed the cool lobby of the Hotel Tepoz Teco; the pools, gardens, and sulpher baths of the sprawling resort; and the activities planned by the MEXAT organizers (such as International Night, the Mexican Fiesta, and the obra de teatro). The group lunches and other meals in the huge cafeteria made it an excellent connecting spot.

Whenever the ITAA co-sponsors a conference with a national or regional association, the result is a truly international experience.

The Congress is also the site for the ITAA business meetings, and committees and the Board of Trustees worked hard all week. Among their important decisions were the approval of two new conference destinations. The 1991 ITAA Spring Business Meeting will be held during the CATA Conference in Toronto, Canada (watch for details soon). The 1991 ITAA Annual Conference will be held, as already announced, in Stamford, Connecticut, in October of that year. Then, the 1992 Annual Conference will be held in New Zealand and will be co-sponsored with the New Zealand Association of Transactional Analysis. We are excited with this new collaboration and look forward to seeing many of you at one or more of these upcoming meetings. □

Advertisers Take Note: Through *The Script* and the *Transactional Analysis Journal* you can reach more than 6000 ITAA members in 50 countries worldwide. For an advertising rate sheet, contact the ITAA office.

The Script

Editor: William Krieger, EdD
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TA in Practice Columnists: George Imperato, MA, and Gloria Wax, MA
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TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS IN PRACTICE COLUMN



by Gloria Wax and George Imperato

What It's Really Like to Work Together, or Your Competition is Showing, Again!

After working with Gloria for near on 25 years, I think I can discuss the subject of working together with some authenticity. Just trying to decide who would do the first draft of this column created somewhat of a "strain." (Eric called it something else.) "After all, it wasn't I who agreed to do it on such short notice," I insist. But alas, here I sit wallowing in my you know what. (Marilyn and Richard have a name for it.) This would go along so much smoother and better if only she would agreed to "Do It My Way," and she said she would—if I were Frank Sinatra.

I think working relationships (couples) go through developmental phases akin to Berne's adjustment stages of a group. First there is the *provisional phase* with its childlike fantasy expectations and accompanied *ritual time structure*. This is quickly followed by the *adapted phase*, with *pastimes* and *activities* in which the ulterior motivation is, "You respect my personna, and I'll respect yours." At some later time (for some sooner than later) the *operative phase* unfolds, accompanied by its *competitive games*, which occur over and over. One of my favorites is, "Where Should I Park the Car?" The last phase, which some never reach, is the *secondarily adjusted phase*, during which the couple experiences *game-free intimacy* because they have successfully adjusted through *adaptability* and *flexibility*.

Working relationships (couples) go through developmental phases akin to Berne's adjustment stages of a group.

As we attempt to write this article, it is apparent that we disagree over the definition of "competition." Gloria defines it as a behavior, that is, the act or process of competing and a sense of rivalry. I, on the other hand, see it as a struggle for existence, recognition, and for a livelihood. It may be conscious or unconscious; as it becomes more conscious it tends to pass into social conflict.

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After working with George for near on 25 years, I think I can discuss this subject with some authenticity. As he said, my definition of "competition" is not the same as his. I believe it has to do with action, not thoughts—from a TA frame of reference, two people attempting to occupy the same Position at the same time. For example, when George and I work together with a client or group, each of us might think that the correct intervention was not the one the other made. However, unless we believe that the issue would never come up again clinically, we do not negate the other's intervention. Instead, we discuss the relative merits of each other's intervention. That, to me, is cooperation, because we went through the secondarily adjusted phase and adapted flexibly to each other; to George that is competition because we did not think alike or *I didn't agree with him*.

In addition to working through Berne's stages of adjustment (or maybe because of it), we have evolved from working together with all clients most of the time to working together only with families, some couples, and one group which has been going during the time we have been working together. Although we no longer work together with clients most of the time, we do debrief each other about all clients all of the time. We continue to think differently about some clients some of the time and to share those thoughts with each other. For me, that continues to be a cooperative growth experience; for George, that continues to be a competitive growth experience.

We would not give up the experience of working together even with our differences. We believe working together professionaly may be the glue (Eric called it cohesion) that helps to bind us in a healthy, happy relationship. Or is it having a healthy, happy relationship that helps us work well together professionally?

Among the other reasons we no longer work most of the time as a dyad are: greed (working separately increases our income), our therapeutic style has changed toward more emphasis on individual treatment, and more clients can be treated if we work separately.

There are many couples in the ITAA who work together: Sue and Ed Perkinson, Jon and Laurie Weiss, Richard Erskine and Rebecca Trautmann, and Pete Pearson and Ellyn Bader, to name a few. We are interested in other couples' experiences with working together. Please write us with your thoughts: Wax/Imperato & Imperato/Wax, 168 Howard St., Dumont, New Jersey 07628, USA. □

ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT COLUMN



by Abe Wagner

Co-Dependency in Organizations

The biggest management and communication problem in both organizations and relationships is symbiosis, or, as it is referred to today, co-dependency. In organizations I refer to it as "bicycle management": "kow-towing" to those above me (Compliant Child) and "stomping" on those below me (Critical Parent). If you were to visualize doing that, it would look much like riding a bicycle.

It seems typical in organizations worldwide that the manager tends to be in Parent and Adult and the subordinate tends to be in Child. Generally the average manager discounts his own Child needs, wants, and feelings by thinking that someone who is really "mature" should not have them, especially when relating to people whom he supervises. I use the male gender because, although women managers are beginning to exhibit this syndrome, they manifest it less than men do.

This kind of relationship results in managers not getting the strokes they need. They do not ask for what they want, nor do they receive the understanding, caring, and concern that they richly deserve. By the way, subordinates experience the same consequences.

It seems typical in organizations worldwide that the manager tends to be in Parent and Adult, and the subordinate tends to be in Child.

In addition, management tends not to "pick the brains" of subordinates. For example, often staff meetings are planned by management for, not with, employees; goal setting is done by management for, not with, employees; and managers solve problems for, not with, employees. When managers and their subordinates understand ways to use ego states, to cross transactions effectively, and to stroke people for doing and being, symbiotic relationships disappear. This lends itself to a rewarding work environment, resulting in an improved "bottom line."

Basic TA theory is useful for understanding organizations and helping them to function effectively. Not only can it be used to identify and diagnose, so to speak, the problems in organizations, but it also provides many solutions to organizational difficulties.

Please send me your comments on TA in organizations: Abe Wagner, 10200 E. Girard Ave., Bldg. B, Suite 330, Denver, CO 80231, USA. □

Nominations Wanted for Humanitarian Award

Members are urged to submit nominations for the next Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award. The Award, established to honor the memory of Hedges Capers, is designed to create internal recognition for ITAA members who have made significant, enduring contributions to humanity in keeping with the ideals and ethics of the ITAA.

Any ITAA member can suggest another member for the Award by submitting a nomination to the ITAA President or the Chair of the Social Action Sub-Committee of the Membership Coordinating Committee. Please submit the person's name, along with a narrative recounting the reason the individual deserves the recognition. The Social Action Sub-Committee Chair(s) will screen nominations and refer those that are acceptable to the Executive Committee which will, in turn, recommend an Award recipient to the ITAA Board of Trustees.

The Award will be given yearly, if warranted, and can be shared if merited by circumstances.

The Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award is specifically designed to recognize members who have made significant contributions or sacrifices to benefit humanity. Please send nominations to the Social Action Committee, c/o the ITAA office.

HARRIS PECK

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commitments.

I have, however, discovered, in good part from my relationship with transactional analysis, some answers to these problems, and some understanding about how to avoid burnout and to maintain one's energy and enthusiasm in this type of work. I am afraid that, before I came to my present attitude, I sometimes became so preoccupied with the *task* of preserving peace that I was paying insufficient attention to the people I was addressing. It sometimes seemed as if I was saying, "Support peace, or I will kill you!" This type of transaction may coerce people into going along with a particular project or action, but it is certainly not much fun and not likely to produce enduring change in people.

Transactional analysis teaches that to influence people you must use all the parts of *you*. I was neglecting my own Fun Child and Nurturing Parent, and I was being overly critical of those who did not go along with my point of view.

I decided to behave as if I were indeed living in a world that had gone beyond war and the resolution of conflict through violence. I began listening to people instead of harranging them and paying more attention to their needs and concerns, rather than simply concentrating on the task at hand. In doing so, I found I made the process more fulfilling and enjoyable for everyone.

To my great satisfaction, even though I had not shared with others my plans for changing my style, people began to notice and comment on how much better it felt to work with me. I, in turn, began to experience their responses and to take pleasure in and enjoy them. I found that there were continuing rewards in working this way. I am sure that many of you will recognize that this transformation, in large part, represented lessons I had learned early in my contact with TA. I began to work more contractually, to become more generous with positive strokes and acknowledgement, and to pay more attention to using all of my ego states.

Thus I consider it particularly appropriate and delightful that this Award should be accorded me at a conference of the ITAA. This provides me with the opportunity to express my appreciation to my TA colleagues for all they have contributed to my work. □

Organizational News

Three Exciting Eric Berne Fund Grants Approved

For the past three years, the Eric Berne Fund Distribution Committee has been reviewing and funding research proposals from individuals, schools, universities, and research groups.

In 1989, the proposals of three new grant recipients were funded.

First, Louise Cameron, of TACYL ("Taking Active Charge of Your Life"), in Mount Hawthorn, Western Australia, was awarded $750 for her project to prepare a handbook for teachers to teach TA principles in the public school system in Australia. The handbook will provide theoretical explanations of TA concepts for teachers with no TA background, and it will include TA activities, TA-based life skills, blackline masters of worksheets, and reference lists of TA books.

Second, the team of Sissel Knibe and Everett Savage of the Kaohsiung Christian Hospital of Taiwan, Republic of China, received $750 for assistance in their project to translate and publish *Games People Play* in Chinese. They have already located a publisher in Taiwan and are in the process of securing copyright permission. "The issue of protection of intellectual rights is a very sensitive one in Taiwan right now," writes Dr. Savage. The team has agreed that book sale royalties or profits, if any, will be used first to repay the grant award.

Finally, Professor M. Masiak of the Medical Academy of Lublin, Abramowicka, Poland, was awarded $500 for a research project on the effects of TA therapy on schizophrenia and neurosis.

In 1990, the ITAA will have $3000 available to distribute; the deadline for proposals is April 1, 1990. Preference is given to projects that are expected to generate a particular benefit within the region or community served by the applicant.

You will see a space for "voluntary donation to the Eric Berne Fund" on your next membership dues invoice. Please consider donating annually to the Fund. Grants are made from accummulated interest only; they are never drawn from the Fund capital, and funds are never used for general operating budgets, administrative expenses, or personal financial assistance. Many thanks to those who have donated already to the Eric Berne Fund for the Future for the Future for making this valuable program possible. □

TA CONFERENCES WORLDWIDE

April 18-21, 1990—White Haven Pennsylvania, USA. Eastern Regional TA Association (ERTA) Conference (and BOC Exams). Contact: Fred Clark, Registrar, 261 Spring Street, Cheshire, Connecticut, 06410; phone: 203-271-3733.
April 20-22, 1990—Mt. States TA Conference. Contact: Jim Knapp, 6136 Emerald, Boise, Idaho, 83704, USA.
May 24-27, 1990—Mainz, West Germany. DGTA Conference. Contact: Jan Hennig, Am Wintert 48, D-8752 Johannesberg, West Germany; phone: 06029-5373.
July 22-26, 1990—Brussels, Belgium. ITAA/EATA Joint Conference. Contact: ITAA, 1772 Vallejo St., San Francisco, CA, 94123, USA; phone: 415-885-5992.
October 23-27, 1991—Stamford, Connecticut. ITAA 28th Annual Conference. Contact: ITAA, 1772 Vallejo Street, San Francisco, CA 94123, USA; phone: 415-885-5992.
November 8-11, 1990—St. Louis, Missouri, USA. USATAA Conference (and BOC Exams). Contact: Jonathon Wagner, 921 N. Rock Hill Road, St. Louis, MO, 63119, USA; phone: 314-962-0099.

Ridgelea Tours Has Seats for Brussels

Persons who will attend the Brussels conference next July may check with Tom Nissley at Ridgelea Tours in Stamford, Connecticut, for plane tickets from the USA.

Ridgelea Tours has a group flying to Brussels on July 18 for a trip to Amsterdam, Brussels (the Conference), Brugge, and Paris, returning to the States on August 3.

There are also seats available on flights leaving the USA on July 19, flying to Brussels, and returning from Brussels or Paris on August 7. These tickets, combined with a Eurailpass, allow travel in Europe before and after the conference at your own speed and choice of destinations.

For quick trippers, seats also are available on flights that depart the USA on July 21 and return on July 28.

Any of the above flights may be combined with a through ticket from your home airport. American Airlines is the official airline of the conference, working through Advantage Travel in Stamford, Connecticut. Contact them through Ridgelea Tours, 109 Mayapple Rd., Stamford, CT 06903, USA; phone: 203-322-1400. MasterCard and Visa accepted. □

REGISTER NOW FOR 1990

"Common Heritage & Cultural Perspectives" is the theme of our 1990 joint ITAA/EATA Summer Conference, to be held in Brussels July 22-26. Sixteen years of successful collaboration will be celebrated with over 80 valuable and enriching scientific presentations. Register now!

BEAUTIFUL BRUSSELS

Our Conference will be held in the modern Sheraton, a 5-star hotel in the heart of the city. Besides being a center for international commerce, Brussels is a delight for dining out, shopping, and sight-seeing. To register at the Sheraton, write, fax, or telephone:

Sheraton Room Reservations
ITAA/EATA Conference, July 22-26
Brussels Sheraton Hotel
Place Rogier 3
B-1210 Brussels, Belgium
Telephone: (02)218-34-00
Fax: (02)218-66-18
Name: _____
Address: _____
_____
Telephone: _____
Arrival Date: _____ Time: _____
Departure Date: _____ Time: _____
Room Required:
____Single 2700BF
____Double 3300 BF.
Roommate: _____
____Triple 4300 BF.
Roommates: _____
I am sending one night's deposit.
Please guarantee the room by credit card:
____VISA ____MasterCard
_____
Expiration Date: _____

NOTICE: *The deadline for reservations is May 1, 1990.* After May 1 rooms at the special conference rate cannot be guaranteed and will be available on a space available basis. You will receive confirmation of your reservation by mail.

REGISTRATION FORM
1990 ITAA/EATA SUMMER CONFERENCE
July 22-26, 1990, Brussels, Belgium

Name (Please Print) _____ Membership Category _____

Street Address _____ City _____

State/ Zip or Postal Code/ Country _____ Phone (Daytime) ( ) _____ Phone (Evening) ( ) _____

FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (includes Conference registration, all workshops, four three-course lunches, two coffee breaks per day, all parties, and all administrative expenses. Closing banquet is extra.)

	Member	Non-Member
__Pre-Registration: Postmarked by 6/1/90	$ 345/13400BF	$ 395/15400BF
__Late or On-site: Postmarked after 6/1/90	$ 395/15400BF	$ 425/17000BF
__ Closing Banquet__ No. of Tickets @$28/ 1120BF; Wednesday, July 25	$___ /___ BF	$___ /___ BF
TOTAL ENCLOSED:	$___/___ BF	$___/___ BF

ITAA Members register at the following address:
ITAA/EATA Summer Conference
1772 Vallejo Street
San Francisco, CA 94123
PAYMENT OPTIONS: Outside Europe payment must be in US funds drawn on a US bank.
__Payment enclosed (make checks payable to ITAA Summer Conference)
__ Please charge to my____ Visa/___ MC
#_____
Expiration Date _____

Signature: _____

EATA Members register at the following address:
Salomon Nasielski
105 b rue de la Hulpe
1331 Rosieres, Belgium
EATA Members must pay in Belgian Francs to the following address:
ITAA/EATA Conference,
Account No. 068-2093898-83
Bank Gemeentekredict (GKB),
Pachecolaan 44,
1000 Brussels.

CANCELLATION POLICY AND REFUNDS: Registration fees are refundable (minus a $40 administration fee) only if a written request is received by June 1, 1990. Between June 1 and July 1, a $100 fee applies. After July 1 there will be no refunds.

__I am interested in a youth program. Send me more information.
Ages of children: _____ Language spoken: _____

For further information, call (415) 885-5992, 9-5 Monday through Friday.

Members Forum

Editorial Policy: We welcome letters to the editor (c/o the ITAA office), and in editing for taste, accuracy, and length, our intent is to retain the author's meaning.

APPRECIATION FOR GLOBAL ACTIONS

Dear *Script*:

I've never written to you before, but I felt compelled to let you know my reaction to the lead article, "Global TA Action Project a Resounding Success" (July 1989 *Script*). I'm proud to be part of an association that takes such interest in issues not only transcending the organization itself, but in those of global magnitude. To know that at least part of the human family is responding to critical global issues, which most people would rather sweep under the rug, is heartwarming. I am glad that the ITAA gets involved. I'm your cheerleader and glad of it!

Sue Fabian, Plymouth, Michigan, USA

UPDATE ON TA IN THE SOVIET UNION

Dear Susan Sevilla:

Thank you for your card with the Burr House on it. We are concerned about the earthquake and hope that you are all OK.

We have had a busy time in Leningrad with Tom and Delphine Frazier coming to visit us a second time. During the period October 24-30, 1989, the following sessions were held:

(1) A workshop on death and dying (the first here) in one of Leningrad's hospitals for doctors, nurses, and some psychologists (9 hrs. and 20 people).

(2) The first 101 course given in the USSR—for psychologists and nonprofessionals (12 hrs. and 20 people)

(3) A women's group on how to be and feel like a woman (12 hrs. and 12 women).

(4) Supervision on individual therapy and on how to lead groups (4 hrs. and 8 people).

(5) A lecture/demonstration on the theory and application of TA. Nearly 1000 people attended, with tickets sold out in minutes.

(6) A marathon for the Leningrad group (8 hrs. and 10 people).

I want to also say how the delicate and caring way the Fraziers helped people not only won hearts but also helped people find new options in life. The seeds of their love have already started growing in Leningrad.

If people wish to contact me, they may try telex: 1214463 Laser SU, and my fax number is 552-01-00.

Dima Kasyanov, Leningrad, USSR

MORE ON WINNERS

Dear Bill:

In regards to your Editor's Column, "Winners Attract Winners" (November 1989 *Script*), TA is a psychological theory based on a healthy philosophy of "I'm OK, You're OK." The theory is only as potent as the person using it. I believe I am powerful, potent, useful, effective, and intelligent, and I belive the same of you unless you show yourself to be otherwise. And if I was erroneous in my perception of you, I can choose to look elsewhere for what I want.

I view the word "winner" as another label used to avoid intimacy. Labels do not the person make. People who recognize they are in charge of themselves CHOOSE to associate with people who also recognize their responsibility and accountability. They are available to contribute information to those who ASK.

I encourage TA people to accept the positive contributions we have made to the world. Look beyond the numbers and focus on the people. People make the organization, and the organization is only as powerful as the people involved.

My recommendation to TA people: ASK for what you want from the people in leadership positions. Tell them what you want for your membership dollars. They can't know unless you tell them. We need pople like you to continue to make the ITAA and the USA-TAA effective organizations.

Now for my request: I am asking for a reply to my letter.

Lois Myers-Pelton, Aberdeen, South Dakota, USA

Dear Lois: I appreciate your response to my editorial as I believe it was one of the most important I have written. Thank you for caring enough to take pen in hand. I encourage you to reread the editorial, however, as I believe my intent and focus was quite different from the focus in your letter. And, let's see what other readers think as well.

Bill Krieger, Editor

SAD NEWS FROM BOGOTA

Dear Friends:

This is a sad letter, but I want to tell you that my son, whom some of you met in Guadeloupe, San Francisco, and Vancouver, Jorge Holguin, died of AIDS at 36 years old. He was a math professor, and a choreographer for his own theater company in Denmark with his wife, Canadian dancer Kathryn Ricketts. He was also a fine writer with several books published. Now we hope to publish his last one, written during the months of his illness. It describes the touching real story of an HIV-infected person as told to his stuffed monkey, Pafi. Jorge finished it five days before his death, and it has a beautiful and humorous approach to dying.

Thank you for sharing this news with me.

Mariluz de Holguin, Bogota, Colombia

THERE IS SOMEONE OUT THERE!

Dear Mr. Krieger:

Just a note to say "hi" and to tell you that I faithfully read your column every month. I thought it was time to write since you really encourage feedback.

I agree with the comment you made in your November 1989 column that "the fad is over" and those who remain are the ones who are really interested and committed. I happen to be one of them. Having said that, however, I want to know why TA is not yet taught in an academic institution. I hear this question often, and I don't know what to say. I find myself getting defensive and groping for a reply.

I have been trying to study TA for several years now and have had a difficult time because of the distance and the cost. I live in a small town in Onaping Falls, about 30 miles north of Sudbury where there is a university. I know they touch on TA at the university, but they don't have any courses that I am aware of. Therefore, I must travel six hours to Ottawa to study with Vince Gilpin. It is difficult to raise the money for bus, food, accommodations, and tuition. I've had to cancel three times!

I also have strong opposition from my husband, who does not see the value or the reason to study TA. He continues to ask, "If it is so important, why isn't it taught at a university." I am unable to address this question.

I often get discouraged, lose faith in myself, and question whether I should pursue these studies. Perhaps you can encourage me! I have what they call, "fire in my gut," to study TA seriously. However, it would help if I could point out that it is taught at a university.

I think you are also right when you say, "We need to stop walking the streets." I'm tired of explaining the usefulness of TA. I know it works.

Finally, I was delighted to hear that you decided to carry on as Editor for *The Script*. I love your approach and how funny you are at times. Yours is the first article I read in the newsletter. I love your themes, and many times I've thought of writing a line but felt too shy. Not any more! I'm so glad you are there "Just for one more year"!

Shirley Mirka, Onaping, Ontario, Canada

□

Language Coordinators to Contact for Information on BOC and COC Exams

German-speaking: Ingrid Wandel, Schwedenschanze 7 C/D, D-7750 Konstanz, W. Germany

French-speaking: Chantal Merat, Avenue du Kouter 14, B-1160 Bruxelles, Belgium

Dutch-speaking: Nelly Micholt, Eikenboslaan 25, B-3200 Leuven, Belgium

Italian-speaking: Carla Melvyn, 4, Chemin de Vert-Pre, CH-1213 Petit-Lancy, Geneve, Switzerland

English-speaking: Mary Cox, Cambrai House, Calderbridge, Seascale, Cumbria CA20 1DH, England

Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking: Gaby Ferreira, Urb. da Portela, Lote 77-7 Esq, 2685 Sacavem, Portugal

TA Global Action Day to be Repeated in 1990

ITAA President Julie Hay announced recently that there will be a repeat of the TA Global Action Day on May 1, 1990. Vince Gilpin, ITAA Past-President, who instigated the first TA Global Action Day, has agreed to act as coordinator.

The first TA Global Action Day was held on March 21, 1989, when over 100 events were carried out by TA people around the world. It was a moving demonstration of TA principles applied to issues of global significance. The July 1989 *Script* reported on the creativity, skill, and love that went into making the day such a success.

We urge all ITAA members to begin thinking now about your project for TA Global Action Day 1990. Contact Vince and he will be able to share your ideas with others. With the benefit of our 1989 experience, let's make this next Global TA Action Day even more significant in its impact on our world.

NOVEMBER NEW MEMBERS

New Members	Sponsor
Austin-Murphy, Judith	—
Chang, Chiung-Wen	Annika Bjork
Chen, Connie	Annika Bjork
Chiu Te-Tsai, Michael	Annika Bjork
Fabrizia, S. L. M.	M. Novellino
Feng, Kwo-Shwun	Annika Bjork
Hamel, Richard	—
Lee, Kai-Jui	Roland Johnson
Lee, Li Ly	Annika Bjork
Lee, Shy-Jenn	Annika Bjork
Liikanen, Pierkko	—
Lin Chii-Peng, Peter	Y. Moronaga
Savage, Jackie	—
Shinozaki, Nobuyuki	—
Wu, Job	—
Wu, Yng-Ling	Annika Bjork

DECEMBER NEW MEMBERS

New Member	Sponsor
Braun, David	Felipe Garcia
Bruce, Leon	Marjory Zerin
Chiu-Lan, Cehn	Y. Moronaga
Dickerson, David Lloyd	Lydia Allen
Elliott, James	—
Etherington, Adrian	—
Freeman, Ruth Ettenberg	—
Gao, Hwa-Fung Fidel	Y. Moronaga
Jensen, Joseph L.	—
Kaufman, James	—
Kuo, Christine	Y. Moronaga
Laccarino, Patrizia	Michele Novellino
Leng, Geraldine L. B.	Jessica Leong
Snowden, Richeleen	Tim Schnabel
Su-Chen, Tung	Y. Moronaga
Ventriglia, Salvatore	—

EXAM SUCCESSES

Congratulations to the following candidates who recently passed their exams in Oaxtepec, Mexico, on January 18, 1990.

Level I (Exam Supervisor: Adriana Arzac)
Elana Leigh
Silvie Rossi

Level II (Exam Supervisor: Nelly Micholt)
Lasse Ahnby
Hans Bergstrom
Tommy Carlsson

THANKS TO EXAMINERS

The BOC and the COC extend their grateful thanks to the following Advanced Members who freely gave their time and expertise as examiners in Oaxtepec, Mexico, January 18, 1990:

Level I and Level II Examiners
Valerie Chang
Felipe Garcia
Vince Gilpin
Mary Goulding
Ted Harrison
Jan Hennig
Martha Husgen-Adler
Hanna Hyams
Lucie King
Robin Maslen
Harris Peck
Ed Perkinson
Denton Roberts
Suzanne Robinson
Emily Ruppert
Sheryn Scott
Marian Weisberg
Jonathan Weiss
Laurie Weiss

TA 101 CALENDAR

March 16-17, 1990—Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Cost: $125 ($95 students). Leaders: Tim Schnabel, PTSTA. Contact: Tim Schnabel, A Growing Place of Atlanta, 8097 Roswell Rd., Building E, Suite 202, Atlanta, GA 30350, USA. Phone: (404) 392-9485.

March 26-27, 1990—Versailles, France (in French). Cost: 700 French francs. Leader: Christine de Saint-Pierre, CPTM. Contact: C. de Saint-Pierre, 2 Square de Luynes, 78150 Le Chesnay, France; phone: (1)39556127.

April 5-6, 1990—London, England. Cost: L60. Contact: Dr. Petruska Clarkson, CTM, metanoia Psychotherapy Training Institute, 13 North Common Rd., London W5 2QB, England.

July 24-26, 1990. Brussels, Belgium. Contact: ITAA/EATA Summer Conference, 1772 Vallejo Street, San Francisco, CA 94123, USA.

August 25-26, 1990—Biarritz, France (in French). Cost: 700 French francs. Leader: Christine de Saint-Pierre, CPTM. Contact: C. de Saint-Pierre, 2 Square de Luynes, 78150 Le Chesnay, France; phone: (1)39556127.

Certified Teaching Members and Certified Provisional Teaching Members of the ITAA are invited to list free of charge information about TA 101s they are presenting. To be listed, please send the following information to Robin Fryer, Consulting Editor, 1700 Ganges Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530, USA: dates of TA 101, location, cost, leaders' names, and how to get more information. Deadline: first of the month prior to the month of publication. Note: We cannot accept tentative or open dates; please be specific.

EXAM CALENDAR

Exam	Exam Adm.	Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
Level I Oral	COC	Mar. 18, 1990	Paris, France	Dec. 19, 1989
	BOC	Apr. 18, 1990	White Haven, USA	Jan. 18, 1990
	BOC	Nov. 8, 1990	St. Louis, USA	Aug. 9, 1990
	COC	Jul. 22, 1990	Brussels, Belgium	Apr. 22, 1990
	COC	Nov. 17, 1990	Mainz, W. Germany	Aug. 18, 1990
	BOC	Oct. 23, 1991	Stamford, USA	Jul. 24, 1991
Level II Oral	COC	Jul. 22, 1990	Brussels, Belgium	Apr. 22, 1990
	BOC	Nov. 12, 1990	Perth, Australia	Aug. 13, 1990
	BOC	Oct. 23, 1991	Stamford, USA	Jul. 24, 1991
Level I Written	BOC	Mar. 9/10, 1990	To be announced	Dec. 11, 1989
	BOC	Apr. 18, 1990	White Haven, USA	Jan. 18, 1990
	BOC	Jul. 13/14, 1990	To be announced	Apr. 13, 1990
	BOC	Nov. 9/10, 1990	To be announced	Aug. 10, 1990
Training Endorse. Workshops	—	Jul. 27-30, 1990	Brussels, Belgium	Apr. 27, 1990
	—	Oct. 27-29, 1991	Stamford, USA	Aug. 1991

BOC Exams: All fees due by application deadline. All exam fees are nonrefundable, but will be credited to your account (except oral application fees paid each time applying for oral exam) if at least 60 days written notice is given for cancellation. Otherwise fee is forfeited. Fees: written exam—$90 US/Canada ($20 administrative fee deducted for cancellations received prior to 60 days deadline); all other countries pay $15 written exam recording fee to BOC and $35 to reader/scorer. Orals applications: $75, nontransferable. Oral exam—$50. Contract filing fee: $40. All fees must be paid in US funds. Level I candidates must allow six months between taking the written exam and applying for the oral exam. Requests to hold BOC exams must be submitted early enough to allow for review by the BOC and, if approved, to allow for notice to be posted in *The Script* at least six months prior to the exam date.

COC Exams: All exams in Europe will be administered through the EATA COC. All candidates wishing to be examined in Europe must apply directly to their COC Language Group Coordinator. (see January-February *Script* for a list of Coordinators or contact EATA). The exam fee of 300 SF must be paid in Swiss Francs to EATA Account C 2.632960.1 with Societe de Banque Suisse, 3 Place des Eaux-Vives, CH 1211 Geneve 6, Switzerland. Please make sure your name appears on the bank transfer. Do *not* send any other currency. Do *not* send your fee to the ITAA office in San Francisco. The deadline for withdrawal from COC exams is two months prior to the exam. No refunds or credits are possible after this date.

Training Endorsement Workshop fee: $395 payable in US dollars to T&C Council, c/o the T & C Council office, 1772 Vallejo St., San Francisco, CA 94123, USA.

Setting Up A TEW:

Anyone wishing to set up a Training Endorsement Workshop in a location where a TEW Coordinator is not available may do so by meeting three requirements: (1) let the ITAA office know six months in advance, (2) you must have been a staff member of the previous TEW, and (3) obtain a letter of recommendation from the coordinator of the TEW on which you served.

LAST ITAA WINTER CONGRESS

continued from page one

Congress now. It takes four hundred minutes to sign up for workshops and get a souvenir briefcase. Fortunately the weather is perfect. And the exams are good ones. Our exam process may be the best heritage we have to offer. There is much celebration.

Robert Bly is presenting the keynote this afternoon. "What have you done with the garden that was entrusted to you?" He is encouraging men and women to be aware of what happens to world cultures when the souls of the young men are allowed to dissipate. He draws us into his stories (and so does Ana Tholenaar, who is translating his comments into Spanish). His drum beat and the story of the Wild Man from the forest pool have worked their spell. He is a genuine wise person, and we have been informed by him.

Suddenly the rest of the conference speeds by. There are dozens of workshops, in Spanish and English. Great bioenergetics workshops, discourses on supervision, a plenary on basic TA principles and where the best-known authors are leading us now. Bly's all-day workshop is beautiful. I am entranced by a horse who says, "Don't grieve, the trouble is not yet." Too short. It blends with flashes of other memories.

A fragile Aztec pyramid, high above Tepoztlan. The market in Cuernavaca. The Mexican fiesta night. Fabulous costumes and splendid dances. A piñata. MEXAT's special presentation of the theater event, in Spanish, showing marvelous TA vignettes which highlighted such topics as how humorous it looks to be caught in "Hurry up, Hurry up." And the *Hymn to Joy*, ending with embraces all around. Hanna Hyams, Ruth Scott, and Suzanne Robinson (with many others) doing a can-can to the same music at the closing event. Julie Hay's well-rehearsed Spanish (with British accent intact) at the final ceremony. "Ahora continuemos sintiendo nuestro amor, cruzando las fronteras y expandiendo nuestra comunidad." A conga line. Several conga lines. Muriel James and her husband, Ernie, reminding us what ballroom dancing really looks like. Phil Messier receiving an award for fifteen years of service to the ITAA.

It is all there, and in an instant, with it, the busses are arriving to carry us away.

Epilog

It is 6:00 PM on January 22, 1990. Only a few days ago I met these people at the ITAA's last official Winter Congress. But we have already left that time behind. I am standing in a kitchen in a handsome house in Toluca, Mexico, with Jorge Lopez and Alesandro Velasco. We are deciding how much garlic and how much cream to put into a recipe for pasta that Jorge and I are creating together. Except for some anxiety about the oil spattering from the pan in which Jorge is sauteeing mushrooms (beautiful, large, fresh oyster mushrooms—Jorge grows them in Toluca), I am a completely happy man. My friends seem happy, too. Jorge and I, who were at the Congress, are telling Alesandro the story of the firebird's feather, which we heard from Robert Bly.

The women at this party are in the living room interviewing ITAA President Julie Hay about how she imagines best using TA to train teachers and school administrators in a brief module in an upcoming seminar. In all, six of us were at the Congress, if we count Montserrat, the infant daughter of Claudie and Jorge Lopez. The rest are part of the local TA training group and friends. We are sharing with them fragments of the gospel of TA.

It is absolutely delicious to be in the middle of this group, where TA is embraced so fervently. There are three generations of Claudia's family present. We talk about how TA has helped us to be better people and better managers and to live happier lives. We take turns using each other's language and translating for those who don't follow the nuances. After a time of sharing our stories and a wonderful meal, we embrace and go our separate ways. "If the mushrooms cooperate. . . ," Jorge says, we will see each other at another conference in another place.

Jorge's and Tom's Pasta Toluca

Boil your favorite pasta al dente and drain. Sprinkle with olive oil and stir to keep from sticking.

Sautee (very lightly) six to eight small whole cloves of garlic and one oz. of fresh chopped cilantro in four tablespoons of butter and olive oil. Salt and pepper to taste, if desired. Add a half-pint of heavy cream, or less, blending quickly. Stir sauce over the drained pasta and garnish with a small handful of minced pieces of prosciutto ham. Stir once more and serve.

Tom Nissley is a Certified Transactional Analyst and Director of Ridgelea Tours. He lives and works in Stamford, Connecticut, USA. □



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* Provisional

Special Evening Private Party in Disneyland Park. Complimentary for registrants!

FORMAT: Workshops, presentations, panels and demonstrations.

WHEN: Wednesday to Sunday, December 12-16, 1990.

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ELIGIBILITY: Doctoral or Master's degree in health professions or full-time graduate students in accredited programs who supply a letter from their department certifying their full-time student status as of December 1990.

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TUITION: **$325** for registrations postmarked on or before April 30, 1990.
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REGISTER EARLY!
The first conference was sold out.

For the second time in history, leaders in the field of psychotherapy will convene to present their views on the development of psychotherapy.

FOR INFORMATION:
The Milton H. Erickson Foundation, Inc.
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SCRIPT AD RATES

Send only camera-ready copy. Deadlines: first of month prior to month of publication (September 1 for October Script; no issues printed in January, May, or September.)

Classified Ads: $2/line, 5 line min.

Sixteenth Page - $50. 2" x 3"
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Fee*: $525/person (Room & Board included) if registered before March 15; $625 after

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Information: Roberta Roth, 535 Spyglass Dr., Eugene, OR 97401, (503) 484-6986; Sandy Landsman, (407) 575-0547, Jupiter, Fla.; and Terri White, (415) 328-6880, Palo Alto, Calif.

Registration: (503) 854-3314 — Breitenbush

*A portion of the fee will be donated to the World Peace Organization and to SEVA.

Keeping In Touch

REGION I—PACIFIC, ASIA, AFRICA

Robin Maslen did a nine-day workshop in New Zealand with trainees from Singapore, Sydney, Adelaide, and New Zealand at a beautiful location beneath the famous Mt. Hutt ski resort just outside of Christchurch. Robin reports, "Charlotte Daellenbach and Helen Campbell did a great job with help from Gordon Hewitt and Evan Sherrard who were training the trainees while I trained them." The workshop was a "mini-Mt. Madonna" experience with trainees going repeatedly through the steps of redecision therapy in practice groups as well as receiving theory input from the PTMs.

Michiko Fukazawa was promoted in April 1989 to full professor at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan. Congratulations, Michiko!

REGION II—CANADA

The Canadian TA Association (CATA) Spring Conference 1991 will be held in Toronto. This conference has been endorsed by the ITAA as the official site of the ITAA Board of Trustees and committee meetings for spring 1991. Watch for further details in future issues of *The Script*.



Participants in Robin Maslen's nine-day workshop in New Zealand, November 1989.

REGION III—EUROPE

Gundrun Hennig took office as President of the German TA Association (DGTA) in October 1989. She was previously the Treasurer of DGTA. Congratulations, Gundrun!

Annick and Pierre De Jonghe announce the birth of their daughter, Anouchka, on December 4, 1989. Best wishes to them all!

REGION IV—CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

Bernardo Aguilera, President of the Latin America TA Association (ALAT), writes of the First International Holistic Conference, organized by the Transactional Analysis Association of Brasilia and the Holistic Foundation of Brasilia under the auspices of the International Holistic University. This conference represented a historic initiative—a transdisciplinary meeting aimed at spreading the new holistic paradigm around the theme, "Science and Conscience: Beyond Frontiers." This meeting was held in accordance with the spirit of the Declaration of Venice, which was the result of the March 1986 meeting in Venice, Italy, of 19 widely known authorities in physics, biology, and the humanities. These authorities, including several Nobel Prize recipients, met to discuss how to reconcile the advances of modern basic science with the need for greater social responsibility.

REGION V—USA

Mary Michelson, a member of the San Francisco Social Psychiatry Seminar, died on April 30, 1989, in Sante Fe, New Mexico. She established the TA Centre of New England where she practiced until her retirement to New Mexico. Thanks to Landy Gobes for letting us know the sad news of Mary's passing.

Bill Krieger, EdD, Editor of *The Script*, has just been elected President of the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA). He will take office in July 1991 after serving a year as President-Elect. Bill is currently Chairman of the Academy of Certified Mental Health Counselors.

Consulting Editor's Note: As Script Editor Bill has often encouraged ITAA members to positively represent the ITAA and TA within their professional associations by presenting themselves as potent transactional analysts. Bill obviously has done just that in AMHCA, and we know he will do a terrific job as President! Congratulations, Bill! □

Robert Bly Moves Audience in Oaxtepec

by Ed Perkinson

Robert Bly began his day-long workshop at the ITAA/MEXAT/ALAT Congress with a statement by Goethe, followed by three poems by Rainer Maria Rilke, whom Bly identified as the spiritual child of Goethe.

Goethe said, "Tell a wise person or else keep silent, because the mass man will knock it right away." Bly wanted us to understand that the more important the information, the more important it is to keep it contained. This does not mean being stingy with it, but rather, we must be discerning about who we tell it to and when and how.

He then went on with the first poem by Rilke:

I praise what is truly alive.
As long as you haven't experienced this,
To die and so to grow,
You are only a troubled guest on this dark earth.

Bly talked about how, in order for growth or change to occur, something has to die: old thinking patterns, beliefs, convictions, or commitments. Unless we are willing to let those things perish we will never be truly alive, but only "troubled guests on a dark earth."

The second Rilke poem went as follows:

I live my life in growing orbits
Which move out over the things of the world.
Perhaps I can never achieve the later
But that will be my attempt.
I am circling around God
Around the ancient tower
And I have been circling for a thousand years.
And I still don't know
If I'm a falcon or a storm or a great song.

This poem is special because it speaks directly to the body. The circling movements in ever larger orbits around the ancient tower, around God, are a felt experience. The most powerful forms of communication are those in which our words and expressions directly connect with the body of the listener.

The third poem:

Sometimes a man stands up during supper
And walks outdoors and keeps on walking
Because of a church that stands somewhere in the east
And his children say blessings on him as if he were dead
And another man who remains inside his own house
Stays there inside the dishes and the glasses
So that his children have to go far out into the world
Toward that same church which he had forgotten.

This poem is about having a purpose in one's life. If we have no purpose we get lost in the "dishes and glassses" of life, and, more importantly, our children realize whether we have purpose in our lives or not. If we do not, they will leave us searching for those who do have purpose. Bly also emphasized that a man cannot expect a woman to love him, and vice versa, if he does not have purpose in his life; she may remain for a while, but eventually she will leave. It is particularly important for men to find purpose because so many of us feel used like a tool by the corporation, by our mothers to give them something they didn't get from their husbands, and by our fathers to make them look good.

It is particularly important for men to find purpose because so many of us feel used like a tool by the corporation, by our mothers to give them something they didn't get from their husbands, and by our fathers to make them look good.

The ensuing discussion in the workshop about purpose and what it is led Bly to tell a Russian fairytale about a young man who found a feather from the breast of a firebird. His horse warned him not to pick it up because it would bring him trouble, but the young man did and took the feather to the king. The king was so impressed with how brave and wise and strong the young man must have been to have gotten the feather that he told him to capture the great firebird and bring it to him or the king would cut off the young man's head. The young man bemoaned his fate, but with his horse's help, he succeeds in capturing the firebird. However, this is only the beginning of a series of challenges for the young man, each more difficult than the one before.

This fairytale left the group with a question: How do you know whether you are serving the right king? Bly described a good or sacred king as having certain qualities: (1) he blesses, that is, it is a blessing to be in his presence; (2) where he is there is order; and (3) he encourages creativity in his realm. In contrast, the poison or twisted king (1) curses (You'll never be the man I am); (2) where he is there is disorder (e.g., a dysfunctional family); and (3) he discourages creativity in his realm.

We all look for the good king in our fathers, and some of us find him there. Most of us, however, do not. And all of our fathers have both kinds of king in them, just as every archetype has both a positive and a negative pole.

The workshop continued with more fairy tales for men and for women, and the group explored throughout the day the relationship between psychology and mytholgy. It was a powerful and moving experience that touched our hearts and minds on many levels. It is one we won't soon forget.

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