INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS ASSOCIATION

The Script

VOLUME XXIII NUMBER 9 DECEMBER 1993



Laurie Hamilton Appointed New Script Editor

Fresh Face, Fresh Ideas

After months of searching, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Laurie Hamilton as the new editor of *The Script*. She brings to the job a broad background in nursing, sociology, psychology, and spirituality, an exciting combination that promises to enrich both the substance and the style of the newsletter.

A native of New England, Laurie did her undergraduate work at Skidmore College in New York and most of her graduate work in counseling psychology at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. She moved to Southern California in 1974 with her husband, Jack, a tax attorney, where she was in private practice as a marriage and family therapist and clinical psychologist for 17 years.

Laurie says, "My first introduction in how to really do therapy came from a TA 101 class with Denton Roberts." She subsequently trained in neo-Jungian depth psychology and Bowen family systems work, supervised MFT and psychology interns, and did research into the "freeze" portion of the "fight or flight" stress response.

Laurie, her husband, and her two teenage sons, Jake and Will, moved to the mountains of North Carolina in 1991, where she is on what she calls a "family sabbatical. I'm dabbling in some research (current interest: the bio-chemical basis of spiritual experience), training some interns, and trying my hand at editorship."

We are pleased to have Laurie on board and look forward to the new ideas and energy she will bring to *The Script*.

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Two Years Already Gone By

by Robin Maslen

In Minneapolis a respected advanced member casually mentioned that some TA people were concerned that the President and President-Elect were plotting to disintegrate the ITAA. My initial reaction was shock, horror, anger. How could anyone believe that of me after all the time, money, effort, and travel I've invested in helping the ITAA? My "Ain't It Awful," "Poor Me," and "After all I've done for you" internal responses lasted a few moments, but then sanity and a healthy, curious Adult realized that I have had a fabulous time as president of this organization—I enjoyed every moment, learned heaps, and worked as hard and spent as much as I wanted.



Outgoing President Robin Maslen (left) receives award from President-Elect Servaas van Beekum for a job well done

Communicate, Communicate

I also realized that along with any change there is likely to be scare, anger, and sadness as well as ideas that can facilitate cooperative change. Now my dilemma. With all of the change programs that I have experienced, initiated, or lectured about, the golden rule has been "communicate, communicate, communicate," and, although this often occurs only from the top down, to be effective it must also occur from the bottom up.

How can I help to encourage this among ITAA members? An article in *The Script*? Who will read it? Who will respond? I could approach those concerned, but I don't know who they are. (This reminds me of what I hear in organizations: "Nobody ever tells me anything" responded to with "Nobody ever asks.") Open up the topic in a membership meeting? Who will speak up in front of their colleagues?

"I look forward with continued enthusiasm to many more contacts with, as we say "down under," a "beaut bunch of people."

Our incoming president, Servaas van Beekum, wants to hear from members, too. Unfortunately he will probably find, as did I, that only distressed members with serious issues or the usual one or two "complainers" will take up his offer. Maybe you are saying, "What's the use? They won't listen, so I won't bother." Is that true? I accept that I and others on the Board have to be willing to listen, but you have to be willing to send your message in a way that is most likely to be received.

Helping with Change

I learned that treatment for scare, anger, and sadness is different for each feeling. For scare we need to think, to get information, to get support to take action. For anger we need to express the energy in a way that is appropriately and safely directed toward the object of our anger. For sadness we need to grieve, to let go of the past and what might have been, to deal with unfinished business, to move on to a new exciting and challenging future.

I don't have easy ways to reach each of you directly, to express my passion for this organization and all it stands for, to show my compassion for your feelings, to demonstrate my commitment to hearing what you have to say and my willingness to deal with you with dignity as an OK person. So as I leave this most rewarding position, with lots still to do and lots more goodies to get, I offer some information to help with the change process.

Many Goals Reached

In my article as incoming President I said that I hoped to visit members in their countries, to help simplify administration and rewrite our bylaws, to make sure that we keep our training and certification processes relevant, and to support our TA trainers in encouraging new members. I have visited (some more than once) London, Stockholm,

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Minneapolis Medley

by Bobbie Barry

To sum up . . . The 31st ITAA Annual Conference, co-sponsored by the USA TA Association and the ITAA, took place in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, on October 12-17. A good time was had by all.

To expand . . . As usual, I began the conference feeling somewhat scared, muddled through the middle of it feeling rather disjointed, and ended up grounded in myself and connected with others. Is it my imagination, or did that process flow even more smoothly at this conference than at others I have attended?

Setting Fostered Connections Among Participants

Certainly the setting and the supportive structures put in place by Jean Illsley Clarke, Carole Gesme, and the other members of the local host and program committees demonstrated appropriate Parent values, met participants' Child needs for comfort and fun, and responded to Adult desires for efficient and flexible structure. Meeting rooms were well labeled, with updates as needed. Food was



Local Host Chair Jean Illsley Clarke (left) and Conference Registrar Barbara Beystrom, two of the people most responsible for the success of the Minneapolis Conference

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EDITORIALLY YOURS

by Gerald Cartmel

Strutting the Stage, Moving On

Once again, as the Christian Christmas festival comes round, I have the privilege of wishing peace and happiness to all of you of all races and creeds. For in true Christianity, this is a time for thanksgiving, goodwill toward all. and considerations far removed from the secular dollar. I only wish the practice could match the fundamentals of this particular creed, especially in relation to loving one's neighbour. For we all do have a creed or set of belief systems, even if not religious, to serve as navigating points through this transient life.

So, thank you again, Eric Berne, for giving us a set of planets to guide us by, circulating around the sun of "I'm OK, You're OK."

With these celestial maps, TA and TA organisations round the world are placed to make peaceful contribution to our present humanity through support for our philosophy of nonaggression and sharing of that which is significant for self and other within the complexity of our various cultures.

For example, we welcome Edmund Talob, Professor of Psychology at Altenea University in the Philippines, to Members Forum. He writes about *hlya*, the deeply encultured sense of shame for Filipinos. I look back with appreciation on contributions that shared cultural understanding from Jim Chen of Taiwan, Cuiran Zhang of Sichuan in China, Sister Annie Marie of Kerala in India, Eddie Agbayani from the Philippines, and others who have contributed to our global understanding.

Frank Morris (1993) cleverly highlighted the point that concepts are often attributed to specific names, but usually are more broadly generated. We have Alan Jacobs (1987) and Petruska Clarkson (1993) to thank for the TA perspective on bystanders. Those who watch oppression and are not activated are themselves oppressors. Thanks to the Age of Communication, TV, and radio, we can no longer say, "We do not know." However, knowledge is one thing; what to do with it is another. It seems that the world has yet to learn how to coordinate and act on the information available.

Both ITAA President Robin Maslen and I are completing our terms in office. Robin speaks for himself in this issue. I experience Robin as straight. He is not a "Rescuer." He allows autonomy, but is ready with opinion upon request. On behalf of all of us, I say, **THANK YOU, ROBIN MASLEN.**

For myself, this is my final edition as *Script* Editor. ITAA gave me this wonderful opportunity to "strut the stage" for three years. The headline of my incoming edition (January-February, 1991) was, "ITAA Now Owns Headquarters Building." Already the same building is up for sale. In these three years Bob Goulding and other loved colleagues have died. Bloodshed erupted in the Persian Gulf, Yugoslavia, and Somalia, to mention but a few places: bloodshed induced by man, and death induced by nature, as in the earthquakes in India. Indeed, life is transient.

I have need to thank our hardworking and productive Sub-Editors, who bring such a breadth of material to *The Script*, and to our letterists and all those others who have contributed to the newsletter during my term of office: It would be invidious to name only some. Also, my profound appreciations to



"I planned to be the messenger boy connecting free and lively thinkers. The Puck of TA. A case of 'Have fax, will travel.' The experiment worked."

Robin Fryer as Consulting Editor. She has that rare ability to be sensitive without getting emotionally involved and then critique most effectively, constructively, and usually empathically. And my thanks to Susan Sevilla, our peripatetic Executive Director, for her support as she goes in body where I went by fax and print.

My inaugural Editor's Column (Cartmel, 1991) said I planned "to be the messenger boy connecting free and lively thinkers. The Puck of TA, for TA is truly global. A case of 'Have fax, will travel.' " The experiment worked. The fax machine enabled rapid and efficient global communication and thus decentralisation. To maintain my theme, I close my final editorial with Puck's comments in the Epilogue to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*:

Puck: If we shadows have offended,
think but this, and all is mended,
That you have but slumber'd here
While these visions did appear,
And this weak and idle theme,
No more yielding but a dream,
Gentles, do not reprehend,
If you will pardon, we will mend.
And, as I am an honest Puck,
If we have unearned luck
Now to 'scape the serpent's tongue,
We will make amends ere long;
Else the Puck a liar call.
So, good night unto you all.
Give me your hands, if we be friends,
And Robin shall restore amends.

A Midsummer's Night Dream, Act 5, Scene 1
William Shakespeare, circa 1596

Laurie Hamilton, as incoming Editor, the stage is empty and waiting for you. You will bring new energy and new perspectives to *The Script*. Your matured background, based in New England and North Carolina, is very different from my own. I will watch with confidence as you take up the challenge.

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The Script

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INSIDE VIEW

by Susan Sevilla

Your Time to be Heard

If you could have ten minutes of private time with President-Elect Servaas van Beekum, what would you say to him about your experience as an ITAA member? What would you tell him about what you like and dislike, what you need and want that you aren't getting, what you think about programs and services, what your opinion is about the direction in which the organization should go in the next few years?

Each of you is going to have just such an opportunity when you receive your copy of the 1993 Member Needs Survey

Getting frequent updates on member needs and opinions should be a top priority for associations according to the leader of a seminar Servaas and I attended last April. Taking this advice to heart, we have received Board approval to do the first survey of the entire ITAA membership in 10 years. We expect that it will provide us—and your incoming Board of Trustees—with valuable information on which to base crucial decisions during the next two years.

Doing a membership-wide survey at this time is particularly important. The international TA community is facing major changes, some of them stimulated by developments in the world around us: boundaries are shifting, tasks and roles are changing, new relationships have to be developed, and new policy must be established. The elected officers and the Board need to make important decisions about the direction the organization will take.

"We are waiting to hear from you."



The Board will begin integrating the information provided by the survey into the Association's long-range planning process during a special meeting prior to the May 1994 designated conference in Nürnberg, Germany. The results of the survey will also be made available to members and to affiliated associations early in 1994.

Direct members should have received their surveys during November. Affiliated members will receive their surveys via their affiliate headquarters offices. When you get yours, think of it as that ten minutes when you have the undivided attention of the President, the Board, the Executive Director, and the staff. Give yourself permission to use that time to get your ideas heard loud and clear. Fill out the survey and return it promptly so that your input will impact your association. We will be waiting to hear from **YOU!** □

Members Forum

Cultural Components of Shame

Dear Editor:

I appreciated your feature in the April 1993 *Script* on Carl Goldberg and the ITAA 31st Conference in Minneapolis. The gathering in Minneapolis will surely be an exciting professional exchange. The theme, "Shame, Addiction, and the Child Ego State" is relevant.

Erskine's interview with Goldberg was enlightening and contains cultural significance. I can relate to his thinking that "shame has to do with who we are, our personal identity." In fact, I am sharing my personal thoughts on the topic of shame.

I agree with Goldberg's framework of shame as a personal identity. However, may I add that it is also part of one's cultural heritage? The first inhabitants of our country have revered shame as one major norm in our indigenous value system. When the Philippine archipelago was colonized by the Spaniards in the 1800s, our forefathers manifested shame by expressing their indebtedness to their colonizers in the form of gifts, tokens, and ritualistic offerings.

Shame, to us Filipinos, is "hiya"; the practice of showing one's indebtedness is referred to as "utang na loob." Up to the present time, this is an accepted norm in our society. We, for example, may exchange a therapist's cure with an invitation to our humble home in order to express our indebtedness. We will feel ashamed if we cannot show signs of "returning what we owe" to the person who helped us.

Of course there are other manifestations of shame in our culture. We practice "amor propio" (sensitivity to self) and "delicadeza" (sensitivity to socially accepted norms). Shame-related reasons may be used by the client to avoid counseling and psychotherapy. Because of embarrassment, a person's self-image may be tainted once other people discover that he or she is attending therapy sessions. We may also resist therapeutic procedures because submitting to them connotes "abnormality" or "mental illness." We may lose of "delicadeza" when we are labeled "abnormal" or "mentally ill." Hence, the mental health stigma still exists in our society. Psychotic patients are confined in mental asylums without the proper therapeutic attention and health care. Putting the mental patient behind bars is permitted in our society because of "delicadeza."

An analysis of shame in the local scenario brings one to think that it is a negative value. A renowned Filipino archaeologist and historian, F. Landa Jocano (1990), writes, "Hiya is politeness as much as it is also shame or embarrassment. It is a normative rule for right conduct in public, especially during interpersonal encounters" (p. 60). Thus, within the mainstream of Philippine culture, shame can be construed as a positive value. It may be conceived negatively in the sense that it can reinforce resistance to therapeutic procedures.

On the positive side, a client may treat a therapist out for dinner not only to mean shame as indebtedness. It is also a polite gesture of gratitude. A client may resist counseling and psychotherapy because of "amor propio" and "delicadeza," but deep inside it is a polite gesture saying, "I am not ready for therapy," "I respect your practice," or "I do not want to offend you."

In my personal view, the issue of shame in the therapeutic arena must be analyzed and understood within the cultural background of the client. I salute Goldberg for his concern. I can collaborate with him and conduct empirical studies to investigate the contributions of shame of therapeutic success, but in such studies we need to define shame within the context of the client's culture.

Thank you for publishing this. I am writing with the hope of enlightening *Script* readers about the cultural significance of shame.

Edmund Ramon C. Talob, Manila, Philippines

Reference

Jocano, F. L. (1990). *Management by culture*. Manila: Punlad Research House.

High on Minneapolis Conference

Dear *Script*:

I have been going to TA conferences for over 20 years, all over the world. I have found varying levels of nurture and structure for all my ego states. I have also encountered considerable criticism, even spitefulness at times. I want to go on record as saying that the recent joint ITAA-USATAA conference in Minneapolis was, for me, the most nurturing and sustaining of many. Either the spiteful were not there, or they have changed!

The simple attention to detail was outstanding. It was so good to have bagels, tea, and cookies in abundance at all times of the day. It was good to be warmly greeted at every turn. It was helpful having the connecting room close to the hub of activities. The flow of people to and from meetings through a fairly narrow space made it possible and natural to see many more people than is usually possible. I bless the wisdom that brought us to another level of healing between and among us.

Thank you.

Elaine Childs-Gowell, Seattle, Washington, USA

MPD Interest Group Formed

Dear *Script*:

I am writing to let people know that the MPD (Multiple Personality Disorder) interest group met successfully in Minnesota. There was an evident hunger both for basic information about dissociative disorders as well as a lively discussion about applying TA theory and practice to those with such disorders.

A number of those present decided to stay in touch through a small newsletter which we hope to produce ourselves a few times a year. We also decided that we want, if possible, to continue meeting at conferences. Leidie Niemeijer has agreed to convene a special interest group on MPD in Aruba if I am not available.

I hope that other ITAA members who are interested in discussing and solving problems related to MPD will join those of us who met in Minnesota.

Janet Migdow, Chicago, Illinois, USA

Editorial Policy: We welcome Letters to the Editor (c/o the ITAA office). In editing for taste, accuracy, and length, our intention is to retain the author's meaning. Opinions offered in this column do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor or the ITAA. Readers are invited to digest letters within the framework of TA theory.

EXAM CALENDAR

Exam	Exam Adm.	Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
CTA Oral	BOC	Apr. 6, 1994	Bushkill, PA, USA	Jan. 6, 1994
	COC	Apr. 8, 1994	Roehampton, England	Jan. 1, 1994
	BOC	May 26-27 , 1994	Tokyo, Japan	Feb. 25, 1994
	COC	July 10, 1994	Maastricht, Netherlands	April 1, 1994
	BOC	Aug.10, 1994	Albuquerque, USA	April 8, 1994
	BOC	Oct. 26, 1994	Aruba (Caribbean)	July 26, 1994
	COC	Nov. 19, 1994	Berlin, Germany	Aug. 11, 1994
TSTA Oral	BOC	May 26-27, 1994	Tokyo, Japan	Feb. 25, 1994
	COC	July 10, 1994	Maastricht, Netherlands	April 1, 1994
	BOC	Oct. 26, 1994	Aruba (Caribbean)	July 26, 1994
CTA Written (Proctored)	N. Amer.	Mar. 11/12, 1994	Your choice	Dec. 11, 1993
CTA Written (Open book)	All Regions (Non-Europe)	Your choice	To be submitted for reading through the ITAA office	Your choice
Training Endorsement Workshops		Jan. 17-19, 1994	Madras, India	Sept. 17, 1994
		July 15-17, 1994	Maastricht, Netherlands	March 15, 1994
		Aug. 8-10, 1994	Albuquerque, USA	April 8, 1994
		Oct.31-Nov.2,'94	Aruba (Caribbean)	June 30, 1994

To make arrangements to take a BOC exam, contact the T&C Council, 1772 Vallejo St., San Francisco, CA 94123, USA. **To arrange to take a COC exam,** contact your EATA Language Coordinator. Check with the EATA office or the EATA Newsletter for the name of the appropriate Language Group Coordinator.

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 94123-5009, USA.

Please note the following changes to the exam schedule: The CTA oral exam (COC) in London, England, is now scheduled for April 8, 1994 instead of April 7 as previously announced; the CTA oral exam (COC) scheduled for May 1994 in Nürnberg, Germany, has been cancelled.

DGTA

"Dependence and Addiction as an Individual and Social Problem"

May 13-15, 1984
Scandic Crown Hotel * Nürberg, Germany

* Designated Site of ITAA Board and Business Meetings *

"The conference theme derives from the 1993 ITAA/USATAA Conference in Minneapolis. We chose it as a symbol of our solidarity with the international community. We are eager to learn how this problem is dealt with in other parts of the world and to share how we deal with it in Germany. The German TA Association (DGTA) would be pleased if people from the ITAA would offer workshops and other contributions at our conference."

Gudrun Hennig, DGTA

Program Proposals

Send proposals to Dr. Gudrun Hennig, Tannenbergstr. 29, 90411 Nürnberg 10, Germany; fax: 49-911-995-2911. Deadline for proposals: December 1, 1993. (Conference presenters are not required to pay the registration fee.)

Conference Hotel

Please make hotel reservations as soon as possible and refer to the DGTA Conference 1994: Scandic Crown Hotel, Valznerweiherstr. 200, 90480 Nürnberg, Germany; phone: 49-911-4029-0; fax: 49-911-404067.

Rates—Single Room: DM 251 (approximately US $160*)
Double Room: DM 265 (approximately US $170)
Breakfast: extra DM 25 (approximately US $16/person)

* Exchange Rate: as of 10/93--US $1.00 = .6356 DM (German Marks)

Minneapolis

continued from page 1

abundant and varied (I particularly appreciated the carrots and popcorn), as were the activities, the latter of which respected the varying needs and interests of participants. The support groups and Women's Caucus meetings provided a context for establishing intimate connections, especially valuable for those of us who came to the conference alone. Even apart from these structures, participants were open to connecting as we flowed apart and then together at meals and activities.



Conference "reporter" Bobbie Barry

Theme Fostered Connections Between Ideas

The theme of the conference—"Addiction in Society: Shame, Addiction, and the Child Ego State"—was directly addressed by a larger percentage of the workshop presenters than usual. I found this useful, allowing for an enriching interplay as the "same" material was looked at by presenters in various ways. I especially appreciated the input of the Continuing Education faculty and the joint and panel discussions, which allowed presenters to comment on each others' ideas directly.

The sense of interconnectedness among workshops may also be related to the central nature of this year's topic. Shame is now being seen as the "master emotion," one that can paralyze our ability to use other emotions for growth. Addiction, in its broader meaning, is the script-bound and symbiotic behavior that we substitute for autonomy and self-expression, and the Child ego state is the site of these paralyzing and script-bound phenomena as well as perhaps the place where healing can occur.

The question of addiction in society was addressed in exciting ways by a number of presenters. Continuing Education faculty members Marilyn Mason, Hanna Hyams, and Barbara Clark discussed societal sources of shaming and the way we numb this feeling by the use of alcohol or other addictive substances. The shames of poverty, illness, weakness or "unattractiveness," family secrets, ethnic and national unacceptability, being rejected, abused, or violated, gender (the shame of being a woman or, more recently, a man)—all are prescribed for us by our societal institutions and cultures. Bernie Saunders discussed how organizations use the seductive promise of power, recognition, and money to numb the pain caused by the attempt to avoid or discount problems, to control reality by rigid and unclear rules, and to control employees by fostering shaming competition.

Broad Perspective Offered Connections to Social Interventions

Mary Goulding, Carole Gesme, and others made heartfelt pleas for us to act in society to prevent the oppression and abuse that often lead to addictive behaviors. Concrete suggestions were provided by several presenters. Carole Gesme and her colleagues discussed Project Charlie, a school drug prevention program that addresses social competency, self-esteem, positive values, and drug information. Sandra Keiser led a workshop on how school personnel can avoid a rescuing, enabling role with students who have substance abuse problems. Jean Illsley Clarke discussed how to facilitate the movement from denial to empowerment in situations where there is no therapeutic contract. Ferdinando Montuschi suggested some targeted action plans for parents and other adults to use with children who show early signs of over-dependence on objects, on illness, or on "doing." Finally, Laurie and Jon Weiss presented an innovative model for increasing the societal leverage of therapeutic interventions by using the structure of a support group to heal childhood deficiencies in parenting.



Successful TSTA candidates celebrate after Minneapolis exams

All of these contributions, which I encountered through tapes and articles in the "Minneapolis Papers" as well as by personal attendance at workshops, provide a mere taste of what was available to be learned at this conference.



Sara Aherns and "Charlie Horse" at Table Talk Exhibit sponsored by local host committee

Other nuggets . . . In the discussion following the joint presentation by Samuel James and Carl Goldberg, a distinction was made between toxic shame, which is about things you cannot control, and healthy shame, which is about not living up to a realistic ego ideal. It was also stated that although guilt is about what one does and shame about what one is, it is possible to feel guilt and shame about the same event (e.g., I can feel shame at being the kind of person who would do some act about which I feel guilty). Both presenters also stated that the final stage of healing from toxic shame is to go out into the world to implement one's ideals. Many presenters referred to the concept of "borrowed shame"—the shame we feel at what our family members or others with whom we identify have done.

Presenters Suggest Connections to Early Development

In the area of theory I was intrigued by the arguments of three presenters that the Child ego state continues to grow as a healthy part of the self throughout life. Pat and Ted Novey's article supported this view with evidence about the changeability and continuous updating of memory, and Peg Blackstone made a similar point with the observation that, as stated in the theory of self psychology, the internalization of self-objects takes place throughout adult life as well as in childhood. Maria Teresa Romanini presented many interesting observations, both in her article on the Child ego state and in her workshop. Among other claims, she stated that the three "Mind Apparatuses" (Archeopsyche-Child, Neopsyche-Adult, and Exteropsyche-Parent) are identifiable from a very early age. For instance, A_2 (sensory-motor intelligence) is evidenced by the fifth month of fetal life, and A_1 (creative-empathic intelligence) is displayed by the baby in its relationship with the mother during the first hours of life. Romanini described Free Child as both exquisitely genotypic and as developing in perceptive ability and passion with age. Food for thought was also provided by her discussion of the Demon as a product of the "adapted Little Professor," and on Adapted and Free Child (along with Little Professor) as structural rather than functional subdivisions of the Child. I am eager to compare some of these ideas with recent theoretical explorations of the Integrated Adult ego state. What richness of theory and observation we now have available within our TA framework!



Maureen Donlevy and Robin Maslen sign CATA affiliation renewal contract

Noncompetitive Tone Facilitated Connection Between Approaches

I came to this conference worried about whether my TA "parents" would get into a family fight over the sensitive subject of addictions. I found little of such competition. Instead I found people eager to share what they had learned in their own approaches to this problem, both in terms of successes and in difficulties they had observed. As a result I experienced myself receiving an expanded set of options and cautions to integrate into my own way of working with clients. The concluding panel discussion was especially valuable in providing perspective on addiction issues.

Parties Enlivened Connections with Deeper Levels of Self and Others

The content of the program—including technical suggestions for interventions with Child, Adult, and Parent ego states of clients, consideration of spiritual and value-based perspectives, and discussion of societal issues—was very exciting. However, if asked to indicate the most valuable part of the conference for me, I would have to say the Connections and Child's Play parties, and especially the experiencing of Jean Wiger's "Hoops." These gifted expressions of the human spirit (in the form of eight medicine shields representing stages and aspects of a



Minneapolis Conference Coordinator Jonathon Wagner and outgoing ITAA Vice-President of Operations Sheryn Scott, both members of the USATAA Council

Medley 1993



Robin Maslen and Sister Annie Marie sign ICTA affiliation renewal contract

woman's life) manifested for me the opposite of addiction, that is, creativity, and the opposite of shame, that is, self-expression. The parties also fostered creativity and self-expression by providing a caring atmosphere and many structured options inviting the participation of the Child.

We can't all go to every conference (or maybe to any conference), but I hope this sharing of my own experience will encourage others of you to attend conferences in the future. Meanwhile, do consider purchasing tapes or the "Minneapolis Papers" (beautifully printed and bound) so that you, too, can share in the flavor and substance of this wonderful gathering.



Robin Maslen and Tony Metcalf "kebobing" at conference party



Fred Clark and Landy Gobes overseeing exams

***Audiotapes** of selected Minneapolis Conference presentations are available from Repeat Performances, 2911 Crabapple Lane, Hobart, IN 46342, USA; phone: (219) 465-1234. The **proceedings booklet** is available from the ITAA for $29 plus shipping (surface mail: USA $1.50, Mexico/Canada $2, Other $3; airmail: Mexico/Canada $3, S. America $3.50, Europe $5, Asia/Africa/Pacific $6.50) or inquire with the USATAA, c/o Jonathon Wagner, 921 N. Rock Hill Rd., St. Louis, MO 63119, USA.*

Many Thanks to Many People

The members of the Minnesota Self-Esteem Facilitators Center wish to thank the many people who helped us host the ITAA/USATAA conference in Minneapolis in October. You were wonderful!

Jean Illsley Clark, Host Chair
Beth Brekke, Self-Esteem Facilitators Board Chair

Our thanks to Bobbie Barry for the fine article about the Minneapolis conference and to Susan Sevilla and Ann Moen for the nice photos.

Minneapolis Exams

Congratulations to the following candidates who passed their CTA and TSTA exams on October 13, 1993 in Minneapolis, Minnesota:

CTA Exam
Jacalyn Schneider-Boreson (clinical)
Patricia De Boer (clinical)
Roy Salole (clinical)
Moideenkutty Unnikammu (organizational)

TSTA Exam
Charlotte Daellenbach (clinical)
Georges Escribano (clinical)
Julie Hewson (clinical)
Claudie Ramond (educational)
Francoise Tachker-Brun (clinical)
Servaas van Beekum (educational)

Exam Coordinator: Ed Perkinson
CTA Exam Supervisor: Vann Joines
TSTA Exam Supervisor: Landy Gobes

Thanks to Examiners: The ITAA Board Of Certification (BOC) thanks the following colleagues, who gave of their time and expertise to examine on October 13, 1993 in Minneapolis, Minnesota:

Exam Coordinator: Ed Perkinson
Process Facilitator: Fred Clark
Exam Supervisor in Training: Fred Clark

Examiners
Ted Bruce
Fred Clark
Mary Cox
Harry Corsover
Pearl Drego
Mary Goulding
Jan Grant
Ted Harrison
Erich Hartmann
Claudette Hastie-Beahrs
Julie Hay
Gordon Hewitt
Adrienne Lee
Christine Lister-Ford
Robin Maslen
Russ Osnes
Denton Roberts
Suzanne Robinson
Emily Ruppert
Sheryn Scott
Charlotte Sills
Jon Weiss
Laurie Weiss
Marilyn Zalcman

Supervisees
Wayne Carpenter
Maryln Crossen
Janice Dowson
Mairi Evans
Jan Grant
Nat Houtz
Sharon Kalinko
Sister Annie Maria
Robert Massey
Jennie McNamara
Valerie Redman
Mary Thurow

Minneapolis TEW

Congratulations to the following candidates who were endorsed at the Training Endorsement Workshop (TEW) on October 18-20, 1993 in Minneapolis, Minnesota:

Sheena Hudson (clinical)
Geraldine Lakeland (clinical)
Jessica Leong (organizational)
Geoff Mothersole (clinical)
Jenny Robinson (clinical)
P.K. Saru (clinical)

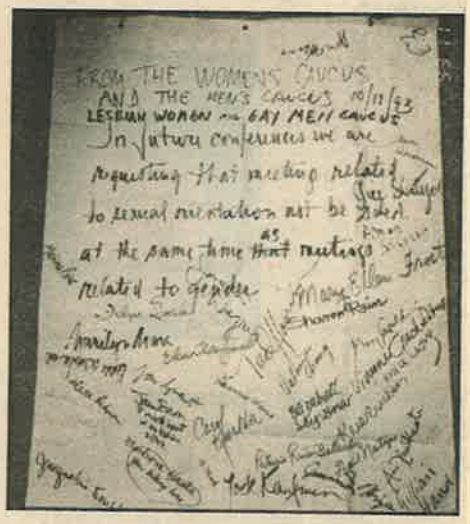
TEW Coordinator: Alice Stevenson
TEW Supervisor: Frances Bonds-White
TEW Staff: Gordon Hewitt, Julie Hay



Program Chair Marilyn Marx (left) and Vice-Chair Patricia Rincon Gallardo

Request Regarding Conference Scheduling

At the Minneapolis conference last October, the petition shown in the photo below was signed by members of the Women's Caucus, the Men's Caucus, and the Lesbian Women and Gay Men's Caucus. It reads: *In future conferences we are requesting that meetings related to sexual orientation not be scheduled at the same time as meetings related to gender.*



Last Chance to Make Eric Berne Award Nominations

January 1 is the deadline for receipt of nominations for the 1994 Eric Berne Memorial Award in Transactional Analysis. Members are urged to nominate authors and researchers who have made original contributions to transactional analysis in the areas of theory, research, practical applications, or integration of TA theory with other methods. To make a nomination, see the July *Script* or contact the ITAA office for a copy of the official procedures. If you want help in preparing nominations materials, phone EBMA Chairperson Marilyn Zalcman in the USA at 703-534-6999, leave a message for her at the ITAA office (415-885-5992), or contact Ann Moen at the office. Remember, the success of this award depends on members making nominations. It's up to YOU!



Executive Director Susan Sevilla (right) and Australian Jan Grant

Election 1993

Here are your new officers, trustees, and members of the Affiliate Council. The following statements give some biographical information about each person along with a brief comment about his or her vision for the ITAA. We hope that by getting to know them a little you will be encouraged to communicate with them regarding your needs and concerns as members of this Association.



Vice-President, Operations: Charlotte Daellenbach, PTSTA, New Zealand

Coming from a background of psychiatric social work, I am a partner in a private group practice where I divide my time between psychotherapy, supervision, and training. I have been an ITAA member since 1979 and am currently co-chair of the Board of Certification and a member of the Board of Trustees. I am pleased to assume the position of Vice-President of Operations because it will give me an opportunity to use my experience with the ITAA.

I want to see us continue to support new advances in TA theory and application and to strengthen a network that shares resources worldwide, giving particular attention to parts of the globe where the spread of TA is hampered by lack of resources.



Vice President, Development: Matthias Sell, MA, TSTA, Germany

I am a psychologist and have been involved in TA since 1978, first as an elected representative of the German TA trainees and later as editor for the congress reader "Lesebuch" and as organizer of the 1991 International Symposium for TA in Hannover. I am proud to belong to a worldwide TA community.

As Vice-President of Development I will work to develop a) international teams of specialists to help governments, organizations, and companies learn to resolve and avoid crises; b) an international exchange of ideas (symposium) on the different fields of TA application; c) international support for establishing TA national member countries; d) organizational implementation to allow more information/idea exchange, especially among certified members; e) communication with other international organizations for an exchange of ideas; and f) reflection on the organizational structure of the ITAA.

I have built and directed a large institute for TA training, education, and organizational development which has become well known in Germany and have served as a consultant for large companies. My involvement with the ITAA will open new horizons, and I look forward to bringing both my personal and professional perspectives to the organization.



Vice-President, Research and Innovation: Elana Leigh, BSocSci(SW), PTSTA, England

I was born in Cape Town, South Africa, where I obtained my degree and worked as a social worker before immigrating to Australia for further study and specialized work with migrants. In 1983 I moved to England where I trained as a transactional analyst and specialized in geriatric social worker.

I am a founding member of a group private practice and am involved in developing international training networks, particularly with young developing countries. My main interest is in multicultural issues.

I joined ITAA in 1984 and have attended and presented at many international conferences and examined on CTA Boards. I have also served on the Institute for TA (ITA) Council in England.

My vision for the future of the ITAA includes 1) putting energy into keeping the organization alive and healthy, 2) creating ways to tolerate difference and to celebrate individuality; 3) looking at how living and working in a multi-cultural world affects us as practitioners and trainers; 4) creating a forum for senior members in which they can process subjects such as competition, power struggles, scarcity, and other human themes; and 5) continuing to develop a democratic organization where autonomous individuals belong.



Training and Certification Council Vice-President (Second Term): Frances Bonds-White, EdD, TSTA, USA

My vision for the ITAA is to see it reunify and develop as a truly international organization that allows each national and regional association autonomy. As each individual TA organization feels secure, I hope we can move beyond national and regional boundaries to think about and work toward true interdependence. I believe that the value of TA certification comes from our consistent international standards.

I am a psychologist in private practice; a faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School; a Senior Group Consultant to the Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic; a Fellow in the American Group Psychotherapy Association, and a member of the International Association for Group Psychotherapy, the Group Analytic Society (London), and the American Institute of Food and Wine.

I have served as a member of the *TAJ* Editorial Board, a *TAJ* Guest Editor, as a member of the Long Range Planning Committee and the Training Standards Committee, and as Co-Chairperson of the Training Standards Committee. I have also given numerous conference presentations.



Secretary (Second Term): Robert F. Massey, PhD, CTA, USA

As ITAA Secretary for the past two years, I have enjoyed meeting members at the increasingly international conferences. I have coordinated progress or resolution on several projects, including affiliation agreements, *TAJ* authors' rights, honorary awards, trademark protection, and employee practices. I see the secretary's role as promoting dialogue and cooperation among members around the world on issues important to the effective practice of transactional analysis.

I have a PhD in Psychology from the City University of New York and am an approved supervisor with the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. I am also licensed as a psychologist and a marriage and family therapist and am Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy and Counseling Psychology at Seton Hall University. In addition, I am a former member of the *TAJ* Editorial Board and the Board of Trustees.



Treasurer (Second Term): Tony Metcalf, BEc, RM, Australia

I am an accountant, a Fellow of the Australian Society of Accountants with CPA certification, a licensed land broker, an Associate of the Banker's Institute of Asia, and an Associate of the Institute of Corporate Managers. I work as senior executive Financial Controller for the Finance Branch of Australian National Railways. Previously I was Senior Manager of Finance Services of the South Australian State Bank. I am also the elected Treasurer of the Scout Association, responsible for overseeing its $6 million budget.

My wife, Cheryl, and I live with our two teenagers, Stephen and Vicki, in a suburb of Adelaide. I have been an active Scout leader, a council member of a high school, a football central umpire, and the treasurer of a four-wheel drive Range Rover club. My hobbies include bushwalking and outback driving.



Trustee: Peg Blackstone, MA, PTSTA,USA

A Seattle native in clinical practice for 20 years, I have trained therapists in group treatment since 1979 and candidates for TA clinical certification since 1988. My background includes a BA from Stanford University and an MA in Counseling from the University of New Mexico. I have served as the Pacific regional representative on the USATAA Coordinating Council and as a member of the *TAJ* Editorial Board.

My vision for the ITAA is an expanded version of the "good enough" supportive parenting or therapeutic relationship. I am horrified by the effects locally and worldwide of insufficient nurturing of our children and increasingly realize the vital role a supportive extended family plays in helping a parent nurture a child. In the same way that a supportive community is necessary to help families, so must a nation support its communities. As we become more aware of the world as a community, I hope our international organization, with its stated values of mutual respect, can help foster this multitiered treasuring of human beings. I want to see everything we do as an organization explicitly reflect our OK-OK heritage.



Trustee: Pearl Drego, MA, PhD, TSTA, India

I have an MA in Western and Indian philosophy, a Diploma in Counseling and Psychotherapy, and a PhD in Sociology. I am a founding member of the TA Society of India (TASI) and Founder/Director of TACET Academy. I apply TA therapy and training to Indian spirituality and social issues, slum literacy, and organizational development. I have trained 19 CTAs of TASI and teach TA in Indian University. I have served on the Board of Certification, as Chair of the ITAA Social Action Commmittee, and have supervised and examined candidates. I have also presented at ITAA conferences around the world.

As a trustee I will assist ITAA affiliates and other TA organizations, work for interorganization partnership and to acknowledge ITAA membership resources worldwide,

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and take steps to increase the intercultural dimensions of TA.



Affiliate Council Representative (EATA): Mary Cox, MEd, PTSTA, England

I am a psychologist and current President of the European TA Association (EATA). My husband and I live in the Lake District in England. I served as Secretary and later chairperson for the UK national association (ITA) and as Chair of TSC; in addition, I am one of the ITA delegates to EATA. I chaired the EATA Commission of Certification and was the Exam Coordinator for all candidates in or out of Europe taking written exams in English.

I have a deep, abiding, and sometimes passionately expressed commitment to creative cooperation. The ITAA has done a fine job of restructuring itself, and the somewhat "federated" structure of affiliation has worked well to a point. But we must take more steps. I want to see us recognize that we, collectively, are the ITAA and the ITAA is us; it is not something we belong to. If the ITAA is the heart of our worldwide TA community, then we are all its life blood.

I think we need to confront the relics of a Parent-Child hierarchical organizational structure and philosophy and to include equally those from areas where there is no TA community as well as those from the larger TA groups with a strong professional investment in TA. There is not one person in the TA community who cannot contribute something of worth to the ITAA.



Affiliate Council Representative (EATA): Pio Scilligo, PhD, PTSTA, Italy

I joined the ITAA in 1975. I have a PhD from Stanford University and trained in Gestalt with Jim Simkin and in TA primarily with the Gouldings. I have served on the Board of Certification and more recently on EATA's PTSC and COC.

For the past 25 years I have lived in Rome as an invited Professor of Social Psychology at the Salesian University and as full Professor of Psychology at the State University of Rome, La Sapienza. With the help of a staff of 30 trainers, 20 of whom are Certified Transactional Analysts, I run a large graduate training center for psychologists and medical doctors. The training center forms a TA community of nearly 600 members affiliated with the ITAA and EATA.

The ITAA is my association of choice because of its international character and its potential for worldwide networking.

I see two potential dangers ahead for TA: 1) drowning in analytical practicalities that derive from an excess of empirical generalizations lacking theoretical support, and 2) losing its creativity by attempting to bring all activity under precise rules. The Affiliate Council has creatively indicated ways to support local autonomy and international connectedness by suggesting new lines of organizational restructuring rich in Child, poorer in Parent, and well-couched in Adult. If we can learn from other models without losing our identity, that, in the long run, may provide the necessary support for a fairly well-developed TA technology.



Affiliate Council Representative Moideenkutty Unnikammu, MA, CTA, India

I come from a small town in the southwestern corner of India and was introduced to TA by Father George Kandathil. I began learning TA for my own personal growth and became so interested that I helped to organize the advanced training program. I have served on the governing council of ICTA and as its Secretary-Treasurer.

Fr. George and I formed the committee that negotiated the affiliation contract between the ITAA and the Institute for Counselling and Transactional Analysis (ICTA). Our dream was to give our trainees internationally recognized certification. When Board of Certification exams were held in Cochin, seven trainees were certified, and the foundation was laid for a self-sustaining certification process in India. This was one of the most significant achievements of the affiliation process.

My vision for the ITAA is that it recognize and support the work people are doing silently; the ICTA/ITAA affiliation is part of this process. This support has helped the ICTA to blossom, and in turn, many more people have become associated with the ITAA, making it rich in diversity. □

POETRY WANTED

The Script Poet's Corner welcomes your poetry. Please send your contributions (with a stamped, self-addressed envelope) to Marion Arenas, 694 Birchwood Dr., Wyckoff, New Jersey 07481, USA.

32nd Annual ITAA Conference



October 24-30, 1994 * Aruba

"Anger and the Disowned Self"

Keynote Speaker: Harville Hendrix

Mark your calendar and watch the January-February *Script* for a special insert with details about this exciting event.

TWO YEARS GONE

continued from page 1

St. Petersburg, Singapore, Auckland, San Francisco, Cochin, Minneapolis, and various Australian cities. Our new draft bylaws have had their first review, and our financial procedures are much simplified with annual billing and less complicated accounting practices. With the forthcoming sale of the headquarters building and the move of the office, our administrative procedures will also better service the rapidly changing role, structure, and function of the Association. Our standing committees have been reduced and procedures streamlined. The Training and Certification manual has been rewritten to remove duplication and error. Examination handbooks have been published to assist exam supervisors and to ensure standardised exam procedures. Outside of Europe, we have not yet come to grips with increasing our membership base. This is our biggest challenge right now.

As President I have been privileged to work with dedicated board and committee members, particularly the chairpersons—all busy people who have put time and energy into the Association, thereby getting lots out of it. I have been given 100% support from our dedicated, enthusiastic, and capable Executive Director and her staff. We are fortunate to have such committed people.

There have been lots of developments and changes, with more on the way. Readers of *The Script* have been kept well informed, but I know that unless one is actively involved, these changes can come as a big surprise and can increase anxie

"I have had a fabulous time as president of this organization."

International Involvement Increases

We have a whole new approach to ITAA conferences—large MITACs (Major International TA Conferences) organized by ITAA and EATA three years apart. The first will be in San Francisco in 1995. Other conferences organised by the growing number of well-run TA associations and groups around the world have become designated conferences where ITAA board and committee meetings are scheduled in order to give international support to encourage the growth of TA around the world.

Eric Berne, to the degree that he wanted an international association, would be proud to see our truly global TA community, which is strikingly illustrated by the proposed sites of upcoming designated conferences: 1994 in Nürnberg and Aruba; 1995 in Singapore and a MITAC in San Francisco; 1996 in Sydney and Calgary; 1997 in Europe and South Africa; 1998 in South America and a MITAC in Europe; and 1999 in Japan and the USA. In addition, of course, there are the numerous regional TA conferences held each year all over the globe.

Another significant change has been in the composition of the Board of Trustees: In 1978 the first non-North American member was appointed; today, 14 of the 19 members come from countries other than the USA. I have spoken continually of the need for local TA groups to organize, to seek ITAA support for publicity, finance, and advice, because these groups are the true strength of the ITAA. This is particularly true in the USA, where for many years the enthusiastic work of Americans has been devoted to helping establish TA in the rest of the world. Now I think it is time to put energy back into the "home"' of TA.

There has also been a shift in the affiliation process. Whereas we once thought that the ITAA would develop many affiliates, it now seems as though the major benefit has been for the large number of countries and associations who belong to the European TA Association (EATA). With EATA, affiliation has led to real administrative benefits. In contrast, for the rest of the world, small regional groupings are really seeking cheaper fee structures while still having access to T&C Council certification procedures. They do not really need affiliation. People can join a local group for a few dollars and develop strong associations, and those who need or want to be involved in the wider world of TA can do so through the ITAA and the T&C Council.

The Affiliate Council and the Board of Trustees are entering a new planning era. Although affiliate contract reviews have been happily concluded with EATA, ICTA, and CATA, there is growing awareness of an potentially exciting new role for the ITAA in relation to current affiliates. With the long-awaited acceptance of TA in some countries as a recognized psychotherapy and the teaching of TA in some locations as a university course that qualifies graduates for T&C Council examination, the growing need for easy access to TA information is soon to be met by our database (daTAbase) project. In addition, increasing effort is going into finding ways to translate our existing videos and written materials.

Award Programs Expanded

We now have three award programs for ITAA members: the Eric Berne Memorial Award, which has been expanded to include contributions in theory, research, practical application, and integration of TA with other theories; the Hedges Capers Humanitarian award for significant and enduring contributions to humanity in keeping with the ideals and ethics of ITAA; and the newly announced Muriel James Living Principles Award for ITAA members who have advanced the growth of TA, primarily by personal example as well as by contributions of an exceptional and lasting nature.

These are but a few of the major achievements of ITAA over the past few years. I trust that you, like I, will continue to find ways to enjoy your membership in the ITAA. I look forward with continued enthusiasm to many more contacts with a great, or as we say "down under," a "beaut bunch of people." Have a very happy holiday season and a rewarding New Year.

Yo. Ho-Ho-Ho. □

GOOD GRIEF RITUALS

BOOK AND WORKSHOPS

Elaine Childs-Gowell PhD

This book provides the reader with clear and helpful **tools and methods for healing** problems which people have when dealing with the feelings associated with loss and change. This very beautiful little book provides the reader with a series of **Good Grief Rituals** which can be undertaken alone, with a minimum of time and effort. You, the reader, can experience these Rituals and release your feelings of sad, scare, angry. You can unblock the energy resulting from your **loss and grief.**

Published by Station Hill Press
Barrytown, N.Y. 12507. 914-758-5840
Cost $8.95 plus $3.00 postage and handling.
For workshop information call: 206-781-0839.
or write to: 4702 Aurora Ave N. Seattle, Wa. 98103

GOOD GRIEF RITUALS
TOOLS FOR LOSS

POET'S CORNER

by Marlon Arenas

When Passive-Dependent Meets Hostile-Aggressive

Tracy Gard's July 1993 article, "Transactional Analysis and Battered Women," is the first on the subject to appear in the *Transactional Analysis Journal* in ten years. Surely among the 3,000 members of the ITAA who receive the *TAJ* and *The Script* there are a few more therapists and/or researchers who have something new to say on theoretical and practical applications of TA in battering.

Newspaper and magazine articles are educating the lay public in America on the dynamics of battering within the family, but more impressively, on COURT-TV, a cable station that daily broadcasts court trials as they are happening from all over the USA, experts on the dysfunctional family testify that battering and other kinds of suffering inflicted by the strong on the weak within families creates *learned helplessness* and the resulting inability of the battered person to believe he or she can ever escape (also described by Tracy Gard).

"Where are the voices of transactional analysts on this issue?"



Person battering is the preferred term, as learned helplessness can also befall children and the elderly and those in gay and lesbian households where battering is present. To listen to these experts is to take a brief but intense course in the dysfunctional family, learning about family systems, neurolinguistics, and other schools of personality theory, but not a word about TA. Where are the voices of transactional analysts in this process?

Karen Blomain's poems and her observations of the circumstances of battering are in keeping with TA principles, also illustrating learned helplessness in the characters of the women.

Karen relates, "I grew up in a depressed area, the coal mining region of Pennsylvania, where by 1950 most of the mines were closed and 75% of the men were out of work. Battering has more of a tendency to happen in stressful socioeconomic times. The women frequently do not have an understanding of their own power, and psychological abuse is interwoven in their lives. They have no sense of self; they think they are getting what they deserve, and any attention is better than no attention.

"These poems are stories I heard when I worked as a volunteer in a women's shelter. I knew a woman like 'The Minister's Wife,' but the poem is a telescoping, a combining of two stories. I wanted them to have the feel of secret conversations overheard, sad and titillating at the same time, creating an immediacy, so they don't seem like poems, appearing artless."

Karen teaches writing in the Professional Writing Program at Kutztown University in Pennsylvania. At this writing (October 1993) Karen is spending three weeks as an exchange professor at the Diplomatic Academy of Moscow in Russia. We wonder what she will learn about battering in that disrupted country.

Karen lives in the woods of northeastern Pennsylvania with her husband, the writer Michael Downend.

Reference

Gard, T. (1993). Transactional analysis and battered women. *Transactional Analysis Journal, 23*, 152-157. □

Direct Attention to Yourself and Your Business!

You are invited to promote your services in the new ITAA International Membership Directory, scheduled for publication in 1994. Ads can be business-card size (2" tall by 3-1/2" wide; 5cm by 9 cm) for $40, or double-size (4" tall by 3-1/2" wide; 10cm by 9cm) for $80. Camera-ready copy should be sent to the ITAA by February 1, 1994. Ads must conform to the ITAA Professional Practice Guidelines (printed in the current ITAA Membership Directory).

PREPUBLICATION OFFER

Principles of Group Treatment

by Eric Berne

Until January 31, 1993 you can order the new edition of Principles of Group Treatment for $15.00 plus $3.00 shipping for the first copy and $.50 shipping each additional copy. The price after Jan. 31 will be $17.50 plus shipping.

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The Minister's Wife

by Karen Blomain

Last summer she came to service, her face
broken around a smile, the small dark eyes
of a tricked monkey. Ninety degrees
in a long-sleeved dress. When we met
I petted her with my words, coaxed
her to me, listening for the shriek
I knew was underneath. Weeks later,
I'm invited for coffee. Across the table
purple and yellow blooms like overripe
plums bruise her arms.
She looks at me and breaks,
a keening between us. I long
to tell her about when my back
hurt after the operation
and I didn't want sex, how he shook
me until my teeth cracked against
each other, then raped me, screaming:
Cripple, frigid cripple.

She worries that she depends too much
on her young son, already he doesn't want
to leave for school, each morning a new excuse.
She has that guilt, too.
But how could I know? she asks and throws
her face down into her hands. When I lean
to touch her, I'm thinking of myself,
how I'd worked like an animal in each new church,
the string of laundry waving over four states,
a new garden to clear and till each spring,
and one a year, the five children beside me
in the Sunday pew, me with the same dress
while he pats the Widow Clark's hand.
At home, out of his collar,
he shuffles through the house behind me raging,
how can he find the peace of a spiritual life
with us forever dragging him down?
I don't tell but hold her, rock and croon
to her all afternoon til the sun
drops behind the sofa like a broken promise
and it's time for him to come home.

The Party

by Karen Blomain

On our way home his midnight anger leaped
like the dashboard speed. No matter
what I said he was convinced the friend
I'd danced with was my lover. I should have noticed

his glass fill and empty, fill again. He twisted
my arm hard as we tore up the road,
yanked my hair then pulled my face down,
ground my mouth against the steel lips

of his zipper. My eyes teared from the pressure.
I thought of the pink blush stains on his clothes
I'd have to scrub tomorrow. The brakes
slammed and black silk slid me to the floor.

He shoved me out the door then punched
the lock. For a moment I glowed by taillight, gravel
bit my legs. Wet air, cool on my face, I cursed
my high heels each step the four miles home.

"The Party" and "The Minister's Wife" from The Slap *by Karen Blomain, Nightshade Press, PO Box 76, Troy, ME 04987, USA; US $5.00.*