

INTERNATIONAL PRIMAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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NEWSLETTER - APRIL 1978

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Hi Everybody,

The second annual IPA Eastern Regional Conference in Cherry Hill, N. J. is the big news this spring. Information on the conference is in the mail now, so you should be receiving it before you get this newsletter.

Please note that we have a new address and telephone number - hopefully it's permanent! For those of you who have experienced difficulties in communicating with IPA over the past few months, we apologize.

I was very pleased to receive a book review from John Speyrer this month. This is the kind of thing I've been hoping to get - so that the newsletter becomes a communication between members and not just a lot of announcements.

D.B.Z.

A LETTER FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Greetings Friends,

Hoping this finds you in a state of thaw after a long cold winter with your flowers beginning to bloom! "Here comes the sun, I see the ice go slowly melting ..."

Soon we will have an opportunity to share sun, flowers, information, personal experience, food and dancing at our second annual Eastern Regional Conference being held this year in Cherry Hill, N.J. Loretta Fogel, Susan Cohn-Goss, Bill Goss and myself have worked real hard to create a meaningful and fun conference. All we need now is your presence to make it a success. Come! And bring a friend or two!

A bunch of us are also busy at work putting together a dynamite summer conference. We have secured a 400 acre camp in the Poconos and will be mailing the

Call for Presentors form by mid-April and the pre-registration announcement by June 1st. So make your vacation plans now to include five exciting days, August 15-20, at this enchanting mountain retreat.

A special thanks to all the very special persons who have shared the burden of, and added spice and fun to, our conference planning meetings.

Til' next time,

Warmly,

Arthur Totman
Vice President

REPORT ON ST. VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

Our second in a series of dance parties to benefit the IPA Legal Fund was held on February 11th and once again was enormously frivolous and a financial success! The merriment included good food and drink, spirited dancing and general carrying on in a festive atmosphere created by the talented team of Stephanie Callas, Jack Siman, Charlie Poone, Myra Bassin, Gary Eiler, David Newman and Arthur Totman. Many thanks to the good people at C.I.F.T. for donating their beautiful space to us once again.

BOOK REVIEW

I recently had the opportunity to read newspaperman R. D. Rosen's latest book entitled Psychobabble. This well written book is another of the recent series of books attacking the effectiveness of psychotherapy. About one-third of the book is an expose of primal therapy. There are some valid criticisms of primal but all such exposes have one thing in common: the person doing the attacking has not experienced a primal. It is easy to attack a revolutionary belief intellectually and explain why it should not work or will not work, but how can a non-primal person write objectively about the primal process if he has never experienced the power of a primal? Nonetheless, the book is recommended reading since it is well written and shows the limitations of the therapy by describing the poignant story of a young psychotic woman named Lauren who primalled for 3½ years in sessions lasting up to eight hours a day before drowning in a bathtub from a drug overdose. The story is described by another primal failure, a college professor for whom the therapy was ineffective. The unfair criticisms are the usual ones we have become accustomed to read about. Rosen contends that vital sign changes can be caused by other factors than primal therapy, that traumas are not stored in their original form but become part of a sort of collective unconscious. His biggest problem seems to be that a patient may be fantasizing about the supposed hurts of infancy/childhood which did not actually occur, and that some primals may be the result of a vivid imagination. And of course, no

criticism is complete without an attack on Janov's denial of the existence of transference in the therapy. The author makes a number of statements which show that he really does not understand what the therapy is all about. I'd recommend the book if only for the well written story of Lauren.

John Speyrer
2123 Jasmine Drive
Opelousas, La. 70570

ROSEN, R. D. PSYCHOBABBLE, 1977, \$8.95 New York, Atheneum Press

Thanks, John!

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, FEBRUARY 4, 1978,
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

1. A secretary has been hired (Charlotte Weiser) who will help us go through the records, sort out much back mail, and set up administrative procedures regarding membership lists, dues payments, etc.
2. The issue of how to facilitate the transition from administration to administration was discussed. Until IPA can afford its own office, Jean Getoff will use an extra room in her apartment and set up more effective procedures by which the machinery of administration can pass from president to president more smoothly.
3. A P.O. Box was considered for the IPA mailing address and is likely to be implemented this year. Its advantages are that letters from old advertisements would be correctly forwarded and that annual change of administration would not mean a change of address.
4. A motion was passed stating that the maximum length of consecutive service for all elected officers will be two years.
5. We discussed the issue of lawyers fees and are unclear as to how much we've paid him so far, what the basis of his fees is and how to reconcile past bills from the lawyer. Joe Sanders volunteered to be the IPA liaison to the lawyer. Bill Smuckler suggested Roy Stoekel, a NYC international lawyer, as a person who might help us clarify these issues. Our present lawyer wants monthly payments of his fees.
6. Dues: Those who paid annual dues after July 31, 1977 are paid until July 31, 1978. Members who paid earlier in 1977 will be billed for a half year to cover the period of time between January and July of 1978. Before convention time another mailing will go out to remind members that annual dues for the fiscal year July 1978 to July 1979 will be due at that time.*

*Because of our financial need, it was decided to have members who paid earlier in 1977 pay for a whole year (i.e., January '78 - January '79) and bill them for only a half year (January '79 - July 31, '79) at the convention.

7. Eli Feldman and Charles Ashbach resigned as editors of Primal Community and have been replaced by Stephanie Callas and Loretta Fogel. We discussed the problem of how to induce members to sell the Journal and how to get it into university libraries. There is a problem involving the records of who is owed how many issues. Primal Community is in the red \$2,000. We considered the idea of making a mailing to "friends of the Primal Community" for contributions; also inducing authors to take 10 copies each at \$2.50. It was decided that we should prepare a letter now stating our financial crises and try to get dues and/or contributions pronto.

This brought up the problem of financial problems and priorities -- it seemed that in 1977 we spent money for legal and secretarial fees (for instance) that we perhaps couldn't afford, and now the Primal Community is \$2,000 in the red.

8. The Regional Conference will be held at Cherry Hill, N.J. The schedule is as follows:

8:00 - 12:00:	Workshops
12:00 - 1:30:	Lunch
1:30 - 5:00:	Workshops
5:00 onward :	Wine, cheese, dancing

Proposals are due April 28th on the theme: Man-Woman, Woman-Man -- The Primal Struggle.

The conference fee will be \$20; \$15 for students. There will be no presentors fee. The Conference Committee was delegated and authorized to select presentors including non-members of IPA. A shuttle will be organized from the Philadelphia train station and from the Trailways bus station at Mt. Laurel. A speaker will be sought for the evening before the conference.

9. Summer Conference: We discussed possible sites, one of which was the President Hotel on Swan Lake in the Catskills. Many details will have to be worked out by the Committee before we know if it will be suitable. Arthur Totman is still open to new suggestions for a site.

10. Joe Sanders is replacing Jeremy Robinson on the Ethics Committee.

11. The next Editorial Board meeting is

12. Next Board Meeting: Saturday, May 6th at Jean Getoff's in New York City, from 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. Committee meetings will be held the same day, same place, from 10:00 - 12:00. Lunch will be from 12:00 - 1:00. Everyone Welcome!

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We still are in need of contributions for our Legal Fund. The fund is dependent solely on your contributions since our membership fees for the IPA just cover the cost of keeping up our existence.

We gratefully acknowledge all those who have already contributed and look forward to new and continued support in this effort.

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