

THE DENVER PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- RANDOLPH W. POCK, M.D.

I am writing this on June 22nd following our local annual business meeting at the Wellshire Inn on June 9th, 2008, and my attendance of the summer meetings of the American Psychoanalytic Association in Atlanta this past week. As I do so, I am struck by the difference I see between the harmony we have locally in our Society and Institute and the tension and conflict which I saw at the Executive Council Meeting in Atlanta.

Locally, our Society has continued our outreach efforts to the community. Last September we co-sponsored the very successful Judith Wallerstein Conference entitled, *The Long Term Effects of Divorce and Remarriage on Child and Parent-Child Relationships – Therapeutic Implications*, with the Colorado Society for Clinical Social Work, thanks to the efforts of Joan Heron and members of the Colorado Society for Clinical Social Work. These two groups are planning to co-sponsor a conference again in April of 2010 with Nancy McWilliams as presenter.

With Pam Haglund, as Program Chair, we have co-sponsored Friday night programs in conjunction with the Graduate School of Professional Psychology of The University of Denver, including a recent, well-attended panel at which several local analysts, Mary Ann Levy, David Stevens, David Hurst, Dick Simons, and Leslie Jordan shared thoughts about changes which they have seen in the practice of psychoanalysis during their career. For a number of reasons, including the hope of greater visibility in the community and increased interaction with individuals in the DU community, we have changed the site of the Friday night programs from our long-time location at CPH to Boettcher Auditorium on the DU campus.

Under Margy Stewart's energetic leadership as Chair of the Continuing Education Committee, we offered various courses during the year and continued the tradition of the last several years with sponsorship of a performance of *Doubt* at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

We again offered a series of Salon workshops in homes of various members and continued work of the Psychoanalysts Assistance Committee, Ethics Committee, Disaster Response and Education Committee and our Preschool Committee.

At the recent Annual Business Meeting I announced that the Society has created a Service Award to recognize a member of our organization who has given selflessly of time and energy to our community and Society. The first recipient of our award is Margy Stewart who has contributed to our community for many years with her teaching and participation in multiple professional organizations including service as Society Treasurer for four years, Chair of the Continuing Education Committee, Co-Chair of the Disaster Response and Education Committee, Chair of our Fundraising Committee, and Coordinator of the Society's participation over the last several years in a performance at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

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I also announced that the Herbert S. Gaskill Award has been awarded this year to Jerry Stein. This award is given in honor of Herbert S. Gaskill, M.D., former Director of the Denver Institute for Psychoanalysis, Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry, President of the American Psychoanalytic Association, and Founding member and President of the Denver Psychoanalytic Society. Ronnie Shaw presented the award to Jerry Stein, who is a graduate of the Denver Institute for Psychoanalysis, a Training and Supervising Analyst, and an experienced teacher who practices in Colorado Springs, and the Aspen/Glenwood Springs area, for his DVD *Human/Nature: The Role of the Natural World in Emotional Development and Well Being*.

At the business meeting, I also noted that one of the major concerns this past year has been the finances of the Institute and Society. The report of the Joint Financial Task Force is in this newsletter.

At a national level, the Executive Council met Thursday, June 18th in Atlanta and addressed a number of concerns. Although the possibility of discontinuing the summer meetings had previously been discussed, Council elected to continue both winter and summer national meetings for the years 2010 and 2011 with the intention of having summer meetings in a location which would hopefully improve attendance. Council also voted to establish a Psychoanalytic Research Society designed to encourage the advancement of psychoanalytic research, with specific structure to be determined later. It also supported a proposed by-laws amendment designed to allow membership for those trained neither through the American Psychoanalytic Association nor the International Psychoanalytic Association, who are found to have equivalent training.

The Board on Professional Standards supported alternative means of evaluation for certification for those who wish to discuss their cases orally rather than submit written reports as has been traditionally done.

The Board on Professional Standards submitted to Executive Council for approval a proposed amendment which would delete Article 12, Section 5 in the By-laws, which currently requires that "*All officers and fellows of the Board, members of the committees of the Board, and Training and Supervising Analysts shall have been certified.*" Deletion of Article 12, Section 5 as requested by the Board on Professional Standards, like any by-laws change, requires a 2/3rds majority vote of members, and would allow the Board on Professional Standards the flexibility to appoint training analysts and supervising analysts who have not, for whatever reason, become certified. This proposed By-law change was approved by the Executive Council and will be submitted to members.

A distinctly different proposed By-laws change known as "Institute Choice," was also discussed at the Executive

Council. This proposed By-laws change, which was described by one proponent as "precluding making certification mandatory for Training Analysts or Supervising Analyst appointments," was also approved by Executive Council and will also be sent to voting members where it will also require a 2/3rds majority for adoption.

Unfortunately, the ill-will, tension and conflict of many years at the national level was readily observable during the discussion of these two proposed By-laws amendments. The proposal submitted by the Board On Professional Standards, which I personally strongly support, allows continuation of the Board On Professional Standards as an independent, flexible, standard-setting organization at the National level which will, by deletion of Article 12, Section 5, have flexibility in its evaluation of Institutes and of individuals who may wish to become training and supervising analysts.

The "Institute Choice" proposal, which I do not support, would place standard-setting authority at a local level and threatens, in my opinion, the organization and standards of the American Psychoanalytic Association as we know it.

I agree with those who say that these two amendments (which may superficially appear similar) are very different in actual intent and potential effect. In the coming months we will all learn much more about these proposed amendments. I would urge members to become knowledgeable about these issues which are consuming a great deal of our Association's time and energy at a national level and to respond to the ballots that will be sent to them.

I am looking forward to my second year as your President with the support of Ronnie Shaw, President-Elect, Linda Plaut, Secretary, and Ben Green, Treasurer, working in conjunction with the officers of the Denver Institute.





MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE DENVER INSTITUTE FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS

- Stacey Keller, M.D.

Our most recent newsletter described the emptying of CPH hallways and the growing stacks of boxes. Over the past month we have seen those stacks multiply, but as of July 1, 2008 the hallways changed, as we moved to our new residence at the Anschutz Medical Center Building 400. Thanks to our team of faculty packers and to Ms. Lin Borden for coordinating the moving events.

We journeyed again to the Broadmoor in February for the Annual Faculty Retreat. After an enthusiastic educational review of our classes, the faculty explored options for expanding our teaching of formulation and addressed pedagogical issues. Saturday morning was highlighted by a stimulating discussion of Reassurance, with Drs. Margy Stewart and Barbara Redinger providing a literature review, followed by Drs. David Stevens and Paula Bernstein as discussants of an excellent case presentation by Dr. Pam Haglund.

The highlight of the Retreat weekend, however, was the celebration of **Dr. Jerry Jacobson's 80th birthday**. Jerry reminded us that this was actually a double anniversary. Forty years ago he was a candidate in a trial course offered by the Institute the year before it opened its doors formally for the first time. Jerry and his family were treated to varied musical, comedic, and emotional tributes to his numerous contributions. Suffice it to say that we cannot thank or honor Jerry enough for all he has done for our group.

The final portion of our annual retreat is typically devoted to a "State of the Institute" discussion, where we tackle vexing issues faced by either our local or national organization. The 2008 retreat emphasized optimizing our financial health in this challenging economy, as a part of the efforts to update our infrastructure begun several years ago. The growth of our programs and offerings has led to an increase in costs. Since our organization is intimately connected with the DPS, in terms of members, faculty and finances, we felt it imperative to address these issues in a way that recognized our joint involvement in financial matters. In a thoughtful and collaborative venture with the Denver Psychoanalytic Society, **The Joint Financial Task Force of the DIP and DPS** was formed in 2008 with representatives from both organizations. The JFTF members have been hard at work since January. You can read about their efforts in the Report of the Joint Financial Task Force in this edition. We ask for your support in these endeavors to help us maintain our ability to educate and offer community service efforts.

During our Faculty Development Weekend, our faculty enjoyed hearing Dr. Sheldon Bach present several papers, and discuss two case presentations by our faculty. The weekend culminated in the faculty appreciation dinner, a pleasurable time for all who attended.

Unfortunately, the political divisions and internal conflicts that have plagued APsAA were once again in evidence in the June meetings in Atlanta. As Director and BOPS Fellows, Dr. Rex McGehee and I attended the Congress of Institutes and the Board on Professional Standards (BOPS) Meetings. The Task Force on Externalization (TFE) presented its final report on the feasibility and desirability of externalizing the certifying and accrediting functions of BOPS. The TFE, made up of representatives

*"Change
has been visible
everywhere..."*

of historically widely disparate points of view, described an exemplary process of preparation which resulted in a thorough and reasoned assessment of externalization. Despite beginning in different places, members of the TFE eventually reached substantial agreement, although they did not issue a formal recommendation. The text of the report is available through the Institute office. Because of the amount of time in Council devoted to internal political issues, there was no time available to discuss the excellent TFE final report. However, it was agreed that time would be set aside by the Executive Council in January 2009 for an in-depth discussion.

The Board on Professional Standards approved the proposal that the certification committee begin implementation of the “alternative pathway” to certification proposed by PIPE. This exciting and innovative response to concerns about certification is an idea that our faculty has supported. Debates around certification continue, however, and are located mainly in the linkage of a certification requirement to TA/SA status. After significant emotional debate in the Congress, BOPS, and Council meetings, it was agreed that two bylaws addressing this issue in different ways will be presented to the membership this fall.

The first bylaw amendment is straightforward. It intends to remove the requirement that one must be certified to be a TA/SA from the bylaws. By doing so, it takes specific educational standards out of the bylaws, and leaves them up to BOPS, which is mandated by a separate bylaw to set educational standards. If this amendment passes, BOPS may choose to maintain the certification requirement for TA/SA status or not, but the setting of educational standards remains with BOPS.

The second amendment, called Institute Choice, addresses the same article in the bylaws. Instead of simply removing the requirement for certification to be a TA/SA from the bylaws, this bylaw amendment replaces it with the prohibition for APsaA to require certification to be a TA/SA. This bylaw has implications that place the voter in a complex conundrum. While voting for the Institute Choice amendment will delink certification from TA/SA status, it also places the final vote on any educational standards in the hands of the membership at large. If one wishes educational standard setting functions to remain with BOPS, who are mandated by bylaw to have them, yet wishes for the opportunity for de-linkage, there is no possible way to vote in favor of both ideas with this bylaw. We will meet with faculty to delve into these complex issues.

Given the strife within the APsaA, I offer my sincere thanks to our members who serve nationally and have put in countless hours of their time. Dr. Laura Jensen, president of the Affiliate Council, member of the TFE, PIPE, MAC, and other committees deserves credit for the efforts she has put forth on behalf of all candidates, keeping candidates in the minds of those making decisions that will affect them. Finally, I wish to thank Dr. Cal Narcisi for his deep commitment to psychoanalysis and his efforts as Co-Chair of BOPS to strengthen psychoanalytic education with a progressive and flexible approach in difficult times.

Along with our new offices, we are also celebrating the starting of two new groups, an Adult Analytic class, and a Combined Adult and Child & Adolescent PTP class. They have the honor of being the first groups starting in our new location. Our current adult candidates have progressed to their third year of classes. The advanced analytic candidates in both Adult and Child & Adolescent programs are now offered an ongoing case conference to discuss clinical material as they move toward graduation. I offer my sincere thanks to the many faculty members who have given of their time and energy to teach in our training programs. We are looking forward to kicking off the new academic year with our Graduation Banquet, honoring the 2008 PTP graduates and the 2008 Brandt Steele Award honoree.



The Report of The Joint Financial Task Force of the DIP and the DPS

By Stacey Keller and Randy Pock.

As the national economy entered challenging times this year, our groups have felt the impact. This led us to focus more intensively on our financial health, which has been stressed not only by the current financial realities, but also the upsurge in costs related to the exciting growth of our programs and expansion of our offerings. In a thoughtful and collaborative venture between the Denver Institute for Psychoanalysis and the Denver Psychoanalytic Society, **The Joint Financial Task Force of the DIP and DPS** was formed in 2008. It is comprised of the Director of the Institute, Stacey Keller, the President of the Society, Randy Pock, both treasurers Paula Bernstein and Ben Green, and representatives from both groups: Bill Bernstein, Pam Haglund, Laura Jensen, Rex McGehee, Jill Miller, and David Stevens. Dr. Stacey Keller serves as chair of this Joint Task Force.

The group presented their report at the DIP Annual retreat in February. The report began with a description of our missions, included a summary of current financial reports, projections for the upcoming year, and described areas in which we might make changes that would result in improvements to the bottom lines of both groups. Although the financial forecast is not sunny, participants were active and enthusiastic in suggesting possible financial solutions, demonstrating the extraordinary range of interests, ideas, and above all, the serious commitment that our members have to maintaining our mission of psychoanalytic education and community service in Denver.

Introducing the Evolution Project

Following the retreat, the Joint Financial Task Force reviewed all the ideas, and chose five project areas for initial emphasis in the broad effort to upgrade our infrastructure. Within each of the five specific project areas, the tasks will be prioritized and implemented to reach financial solutions. You will be hearing about these projects frequently over the next year as we begin the initial phases of each.

Under the guidance of Dr. Paula Bernstein, Project **Endow** will coordinate efforts to increase our endowment, now known as the Fund for Psychoanalytic Education and Community Service (PEACS), by establishing a legacy campaign, a tribute fund, and other components. Our campaign is starting now. Recruitment efforts will be optimized in Project **Enroll** by Drs. Laura Anderson and Barbara Redinger to ensure that all interested in psychoanalysis are aware of our programs and offerings. We will utilize new technologies in Project **EConnect** where Drs. Neil Rosen and David Stevens are already working to develop videoconferencing capacities to allow colleagues in neighboring regions to access our programs. The lecture series and continuing education programs offered by the society will be overseen by Drs. Pam Haglund and Margy Stewart in Project **Engage**, to respond to our community's interest in psychoanalytic ideas and concepts as applied to a variety of areas. Dr. Ben Green shepherds efforts to raise the enthusiasm for psychoanalysis in our community in Project **Excite** as he works with the coordinators of DPS annual event fundraisers such as the stimulating evening with the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, the informative bi-annual collaborative programs with the Colorado Society for Clinical Social Work (recently featuring relevant and timely topics such as divorce and parent-loss), and continuing to coordinate with endowment, enrollment, and educational efforts. The JFTF members have been hard at work. We ask for your support in our endeavors to maintain our ability to provide psychoanalytic education and serve our communities.

INTRODUCING PEACS —

THE FUND FOR PSYCHOANALYTIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

SERVING THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

The activities of the Denver Institute for Psychoanalysis and the Denver Psychoanalytic Society are partially supported by an Endowment Fund that was created out of bequests left to the Denver Institute for Psychoanalysis and the Denver Psychoanalytic Society. The Endowment has grown over the years, but so have our expenses. In order to meet the growing administrative costs of our programs for training in psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic psychotherapy, continuing education, community education, and pro bono services, the Denver Institute for Psychoanalysis and Denver Psychoanalytic Society have launched a joint initiative to prevent the

Endowment from being eroded and, even more importantly, to promote its growth. Growing the Endowment will ensure that the Institute and Society will be able to perform their Missions far into the future.

Donating to PEACS helps preserve a precious legacy. We are able to provide top quality education in psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic psychotherapy, serving adults, adolescents and children. We provide free lectures and low-cost courses to our mental health colleagues and the community at large; consultations to individuals and institutions that may care for you or your loved ones; low-cost psychoanalysis through our Clinic; consultation to preschools, schools and community

programs; disaster response training and services.

TALKING CURES.

We are recognized throughout the country as a pre-eminent center for education in psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic psychotherapy, serving Colorado for 40 years. Soon psychoanalytic ideas will be accessible throughout the Rocky Mountain region. Please help us ensure that excellent psychoanalytic education will be ours far into the future, informing all the services we provide for our communities.

See page 11 to make your donation—or go to our website
for more information.
(www.denverpsychoanalytic.org)

OUT AND ABOUT...

by Ben Green, M.D.

“And the times.... they are achangin’ ” –Bob Dylan

Yes, the moving vans have come and gone, Lin and the rest of the staff and materiel of the Institute/Society have been deposited, lock, stock, and barrel over at their new home on the Anshutz Campus of the CU Denver med center. It is a bittersweet moment for many of us who trained in the historic old Colorado Psychopathic Hospital (“first psych hospital west of the Mississippi”), a beaten-down old structure whose corridors still echo with the memories of people like Rene Spitz, John Benjamin, Herb Gaskill, Brandt and Eleanor Steele, Larry Hall, and so many others, now departed. Did we draw some strength, some measure of self-confidence from their invoked presence, their awakened imagos in our psychic sub-stratum? Like with a newly washed security blanket, will the comforting old odors and stains haunt us with their absence? The new medical campus bristles with energy and the boldly-striding determination of Science and Progress and Big Money. We have been offered a rather generous space in this new locale, but there is much yet to be determined as to our actual place in this explosive time of growth and change. Will the “talking cure”, the narrative truth, the intersubjective “moment of meeting” have any realistic hope of establishing themselves in an environment so enamored with the phenomenological surface of things, with statistical analyses and “evidence-based” interventions? Most of the rest of the health care community does not realize or appreciate this fact, but we represent one of the few disciplines that steadfastly cling to the conviction that the bio-psycho-social integration is not just desirable, but epistemologically rigorous as well. As Von Bertalanffy’s General System Theory asserts, there are properties and dynamics at higher levels of organization that cannot be deduced or extrapolated from the lower levels; one cannot fully understand the functioning of neural circuits by studying single neurons, one cannot infer the essence of mind and meaning from brain structure and physiology. It is psychoanalysis, along with disciplines like “holistic medicine”, that seeks to preserve our complex, irreducible humanity, that fiercely refuses to relinquish the conviction that we are, and always will be, more than the sum of our parts. So be it.

But, as they say, the devil’s in the details, and there were enough details regarding this move to fully staff both Hades and Purgatory. But clearly this was a team effort, with Lin Borden, of course, at the center of this maelstrom, directing us like a traffic cop at a busy intersection at rush hour. Packing up boxes on the final weekend were Neil Rosen (with sons Eli and Noah pitching in, bribed no doubt by the promise of some tasty item to follow), Pam Haglund, Margy Stewart, Stacey Keller, Ronnie Shaw, Mary Ann Levy and I. Stacey and Paula Bernstein arranged for the purchase and delivery of new furniture suitable for our new digs. The Financial Task Force--composed of Stacey, Paula, Pam, Randy Pock, Bill Bernstein, Rex McGehee, David Stevens, Laura Jensen, and I--have been busy trying to make sure that there is still a budget left to work with once we get there.

There will be obstacles for each of us to overcome as we adjust to our new location. Please, gentle reader, do not allow yourself to be put off by the hassles of driving, parking, searching. Our hardy but already depleted little band needs all of us.

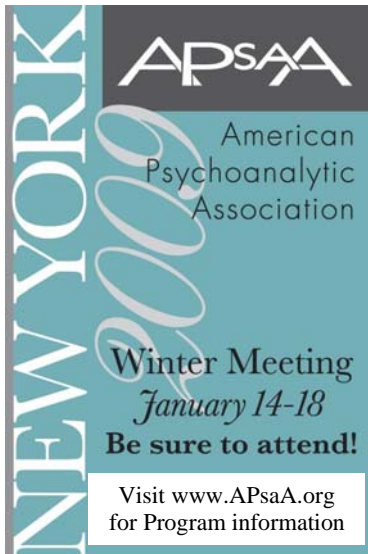
Just to reassure you that we haven’t gotten so distracted by all this that we’ve forgotten our educational mission, Mary Wolny recently announced that all the upcoming Institute courses and faculty assignments have been finalized and Pam is rounding out the Community Lecture Series; look for future presentations on the following topics: Jungian analysis; psychoanalysis and case management; psychoanalysis and religion; parenting, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered kids; forgiveness and splitting; and a self-psychological reconsideration of the Oedipus. Margy Stewart has arranged the following Continuing Education courses: film series, book class, “In Treatment” TV series, issues of technique, sado-masochism, meditation, and neurobiology. Remember to check our website for the most current information.

See you in the Fall.

PLEASE NOTE CORRECTION —

In our last newsletter, the report on the Judith Wallerstein Conference was incorrectly attributed to Laura Jensen when it was, indeed, written by Laura Anderson.

Dr. Anderson deserves our thanks for her excellent report. The Editor regrets this mistake.



THE COLLEAGUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM of the Denver Psychoanalytic Society is available to all Society members if a situation arises they want to report.

Contact the Committee Chair,
Robinette Bell—303-691-8991

or one of the committee members:

Tom Avery—720-227-0328
Mary Ellen Caiati—303-860-8640
Esther Lowenstein—303-321-5532

FUTURE EVENTS....

September 6th, **Institute Annual Business Meeting**, A.M. at the University Club, 1673 Sherman Street in Denver.

September 6th, **Institute Graduation** at the Cactus Club, 6:00 p.m. cocktails with dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 26-27-28, 2008 Western Regional Child Analytic Meetings in Denver

Friday: Evening Reception

Saturday: 2 clinical case presentations & discussions

Sunday: Dr. Robert N. Emde—*The Use of the Past: Contemporary Developmental Views of "Little Hans" and "Creative Writers and Day-Dreaming" — Freud's Contributions from 100 Years Ago.*

See website to download registration form.

Registration Deadline: 9/3/08.

Society '08-'09

Friday evening Lecture Series:

- October 10th, 2008, Stephen Witty, Ph.D.
- November 14, 2008, Jeff Longhofer, Ph.D.
- February 5th (Thursday) Panel on Religions
Coordinated by Ben Green, M.D.
- March 6, 2009, Gary Grossman, Ph.D.
- April 3, 2009, Melvin Lansky, M.D.
- May 1, 2009, Richard Geist, Ed.D.

Continuing Education Courses:

- **Developmental Neuropsychanalysis 101: Reconsidering Psychopathogenesis and Treatment Frameworks**
 - Choices in Technique
 - "In Treatment"
- **A Day of Meditation, Mindfulness and Transformation**
- **Relational Theory & Technique**
- **Crises in the Lives of Women: A Psychoanalytic Course in the Novel**
 - Sadosomasochism
- **What is This Thing Called Childhood Onset Bipolar Disorder?**
- **Film Series: 5 Analysts Present 5 Films**

For most current information and registration forms to download, go to:
www.denverpsychoanalytic.org

TOOLS FROM INFANT RESEARCH FOR THE PRACTICING PSYCHOANALYST**Alexandra Harrison, M.D.****February 8, 2008****Reporter: Jill M. Miller, PhD.**

On February 8th the Denver Psychoanalytic Society was privileged to have Dr. Alexandra Harrison present some of her research, which examines the implicit realm of therapeutic action. Through the use of videotaped sessions Dr. Harrison demonstrated the integration of findings from infant research into her work and the ways in which she determines objective measures of therapeutic change.

Dr. Harrison discussed the realm of therapeutic action that is not explained by psychoanalytic theory, some of which has been the focus of the Boston Change Group. What is “the something more” than interpretation? What role does intuition play? Many have looked to infant research for answers to these questions, as both psychoanalysis and infant research study the developmental process. Dr. Harrison’s question was: How do the behaviors of the mother and infant actually relate to clinical practice with children and adults? She began with the basic assumptions, borrowed from Tronick’s Dyadic Expansion of Conscious model: Growth takes place through the making of new meanings about oneself and one’s relationship to the world. Human beings are creatures, with a set of complex, hierarchical, multileveled psychobiological systems, who work constantly to gain energy and meaningful information to make sense of their place in the world. New meanings are made by creating psychobiological states of consciousness and, as is known from the work of infant researchers and psychoanalysts, the process of “meaning-making” is co-created between two individuals. In addition, new meanings are also created simultaneously between subsystems of the same individuals, for example between the Unconscious and Conscious.

Dr. Harrison utilizes Beatrice Beebe’s methodology examining the moment-to-moment interaction between a mother and infant through the observation of gaze, turn-taking, rhythm, etc., and applies it to the analytic situation. Thus, Dr. Harrison’s focuses her research on these small sets of the meaning-making process, in other words micro-moments using small units of time (20-60 seconds) to examine both vocal and action turn-taking. One can then observe how these small units build up into larger units over time. This method is also in agreement with Lou Sander’s idea that only by looking at the parts can one make sense of the whole.

Dr. Harrison illustrated her method and theories with videotaped sessions of a 3-year-old adopted girl who exhibited frozen states and tantrums when she entered analysis. Looking at 60-second moments in these sessions, and by breaking these moments into minute details, Dr. Harrison examined areas such as the child’s gaze, action and vocal turn taking with the analyst, the child’s speech and vocalizations, as well as pauses. The primary focus of this demonstration was the patient’s meaning of anger, which Dr. Harrison hypothesized, was initially something like: “If I am angry, then I will lose my mommy and daddy; they will send me back.” Through the co-creation of meaning Dr. Harrison introduced intense affect into the play. Patient and analyst were able to set up a frame that allowed for other meanings about anger to be played out, for example, “I can play at being angry” rather than being overwhelmed by it. Through this method of analysis the child’s symptoms decreased after one year and she turned into a joyful and exuberant child.

Dr. Harrison’s presentation was interesting and thought provoking. It is unfortunate we did not have time to see more of Dr. Harrison’s work, only observing three or four of these micro-moments over a year’s time. This limited the audience’s ability to observe fully the power of the implicit in therapeutic action.

Dr. Alexandra Harrison is a Training Analyst as well as a Supervising Analyst in child, adolescent and adult at the Boston Psychoanalytic Institute. She is clinician with a special interest in preschool aged children and their families. She is also a researcher who integrates findings from infant research to measure objective evidence of therapeutic change through the use of videotaped sessions. Dr. Harrison has made multiple presentations and lectures nationally and internationally.

WAR: What Is It Good For?

Michael Moran, M.D.

March 7, 2008

Roy Lowenstein, M.D., Reporter

Dr. Moran begins his presentation with a personal anecdote detailing with his own sense of mystery attendant to war. In the anecdote, a friend dies in the Vietnam War. It now evokes in him the Aristotelian notion of pity and fear resulting from tragedy.

He proceeds to frame the remainder of his talk using The League of Nations member Einstein's request of Freud to explain war, a request that Dr. Moran likens to a child's request for bedtime story to ease his fear. The result was less than inspired. Freud's explication included the oligarchy's quest for power and resources and man's "lust for hatred and destruction" that stemmed from the innate viciousness of his prehistoric roots.

Dr. Moran cites Atkins who maintained that psychoanalytic explanations of war appeared nearly irrelevant. Freud nonetheless saw the purpose of war as acquisitive, settling human conflict, and deriving from *thanatos*. Stone thought that war was an aggregate of multiple motivations of which aggressive drive was only a part. Freud later proposed to Einstein the Darwinian explanation that the motivation for any organism is the preservation of its existence at the expense of another. Several additional psychoanalytic writers either equivocate or contradict the notion that the psychoanalytic model is relevant in explaining war.

He turns to Azar Gat, a military historian, for further explication. Gat compares Rousseau's idyllic view of the noble savage in harmony with his brethren and his environment, with that of Hobbes who viewed the same savage as basically bellicose and whose life was "nasty, brutish and short." Both these contradictory philosophies influenced anthropology, ethology, even zoology. Ardrey and Lorenz saw *Home sapiens* as elementally peaceful, but descendant from earlier killers such as *Australopithecus*. Meade also saw war as merely a conscious "invention" of mankind.

Primate field work reveals that many species, including anthropoid apes, kill their own kind, as do lower mammals. The primary motivation appears to be competition for food and the opportunity to reproduce.

Paleoanthropology has found evidence of fatal human aggression and use of weaponry well back into the Pleistocene. Archeologists and anthropologists have found that "primitive" hunter-gathering societies are more deadly to each other than so-called "civilized" man. Aggression between Australian Aboriginal bands is at least 10,000 years old.

Two schools of thought vie for pre-eminence in anthropology. One is the imperative of food and shelter. The other is derived from kinship and the imperative to reproduce. The Yanomamo appear to demonstrate both: the battle over grazing area for their pigs and the use of warfare to capture women.

Dr. Moran suggests that that the synthesis of various schools of thought ultimately derive from the scarcity of resources. This stems directly from Darwin's concept: survival of the fittest leading to natural selection. The strongest bands guard the best habitats conducive to supply abundant food, water, and women. He suggests that such behavior is most represented in meat-eaters including man. The dynamics of predator-prey populations can lead to territorial conflicts such as Native American tribal wars over migrating herds of bison. He does allow that herbivores also become territorial for the purpose of mating.

The other predominant incentive for war is access to women, who at any given time can be fertilized but once. This translates into a functional scarcity of women when compared the man's greater reproductive capacity. Polygamy is a solution that is relegated to the wealthy and powerful. In primitive warfare, the object is to exterminate the men and take the women. The reproductive advantage is obvious. Examples abound well into historical, "civilized" time. In the realm of civilized societies, institutions such as religion, patriotism, etc. provided only secondary organization to a product of natural selection that has been fine-tuned over two thousand millennia.

Dr. Moran returns to Freud who concluded his response to Einstein with a passionate appeal for pacifism, deploring the laggards who still engage in and support warfare regardless of its horrors. He saw education (including psychoanalysis) as the way in which mankind could evolve away from war. He thought the ideal condition would be a "dictatorship of reason." Ultimately he saw his response to Einstein wanting. ("The result, as you see, is not very fruitful what an unworldly theoretician is called in to advise on an urgent practical problem.")

Dr. Moran ends his talk on a tragic note: Evolution honed human beings to kill each other in order to stay alive and produce offspring. Over time they developed profound self-awareness, ingenuity, creativity, morality, and aesthetic sensibility. Despite all these virtues, they were still haunted by the evolutionary imperative to kill, and continue to kill in large numbers.

This reporter wishes to add a few thoughts that stem from Dr. Moran's masterful presentation. I give perhaps more weight to our reproductive imperative than to our consciousness of scar-

ity. The average hunter-gatherer, even in areas as forbidding as the Kalahari Desert, works approximately twenty-seven hours per week to sustain himself and his family well. This in no way diminishes his zest for war. The common denominator in the struggles of all earth's species is to reproduce their own kind, to borrow Winnicott's phrase, "to go on being."

Our lineage and that of the chimpanzees and bonobos separated from a common ancestor approximately five million years ago. Chimpanzees, when seen through a moral lens, are belligerent and cruel, attacking females and murdering not only males of neighboring bands, but their own in one-to-one combat as well as lethal coalitions to determine leadership. The losers frequently die with their genitals ripped off. The females and infants stay apart, and are submissive to males. Their own dominance hierarchy can include infanticide inflicted on lower ranking females. Their estrous is easily determined by genital swelling. Dominant males are the most likely to mate during that time. The selective advantage is obvious.

Bonobos, by contrast are a matriarchal society. They, like humans, display no obvious signs of estrous—in contrast to all other primates. Sex between same-gender and opposite-gender partners is a universally common social lubricant, a diffuser of tension, and a cohesive glue that keeps the band together. There is no way to guarantee paternity. There is little, if any, overt aggression. To use a well-worn phrase, they "make love, not war." There is selective advantage to less attrition as well.

We are, of course, more ape than angel. As we know, our genome is 99% identical with chimps and bonobos. It stands to reason that since we evolved from a common ancestor who had the genetic potential for both chimp and bonobo behavior, we have at least the potential of both characteristics in our own nature. Perhaps it explains how we can be simultaneously so loving and so catastrophically murderous.



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