

KANE INVITED AS A RESOURCE AT 19TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF AHP

The Association for Humanistic Psychology held its national conference on the campus of U.C.L.A., August 26 through September 3, 1981. Composed of professionals from fields of psychiatry, psychology, law, business, education, and medicine, over 1,000 people attended and became involved with the theme of the Conference, "Creating Change Within Yourself and Your World." The participants explored the power within each person to make changes in one's own life and in the world.

The Conference was structured in three major interrelated divisions. Several all day Institutes were offered and included such topics as Growing Beyond Ego, Personal Relationships and Community, Androgyny and Actualizations, and Transformational Theater (more will be said of these latter two). These were followed by a wide range of workshops, forums, and conversations with well known personalities. Topics included Creating Intimacy and Staying Centered, Bio-feedback Training for Stress and Stress Disorders, Dreams, Movement and Creativity, A Bridge Between The Science and Psychology of East and West, Discovering The Feminine Eros in Interpersonal Life, and many other enticing subjects.

Interwoven during the Conference were several Theme Communities. Here participants chose to be a member of a particular community for the duration of the Conference. These Theme Communities included Spiritual and Transpersonal Issues, Lifestyles and Intimate Relationships, Health and Healing, New Ways of Learning, and Humanizing Our World of Work. I would like to share with the readership my experience at this Conference.

As a resource person, I was invited to share the concept of realizable androgyny at the Androgyny and Actualization Institute. Addressing a group of about 25 professionals, I talked about the full spec-

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SEVENTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MEN AND MASCULINITY HELD IN JUNE

The Seventh National Conference on Men and Masculinity was held on the campus of Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts.

With "Rewaving Masculinity" as its theme, the Conference set about the task of creating a learning environment in which conflicting and confusing images and realities of what it means to be a man today, could be discussed and clarified. Included among many issues on the agenda of the Conference were, Relationships (love, intimacy, families, children), Roles (father, son, lover, teacher, playboy, provider, executive, pioneer), Feelings (as a boy, as an adult, as an adolescent, spirituality, homophobia, etc.).

The Conference opened with a blue ribbon panel representing a variety of masculine life patterns, including head of a household/breadwinner, a divorced man raising two sons, a confirmed bachelor executive/playboy, a happy househusband, and a bi-genderist/androgyn (myself).

Moderated by Tom Cottle (of PBS talk show fame), each panelist shared elements of his lifestyle with the audience, following which, there was a lively Q & A session. I stated my position that in order to evolve toward mature manhood, each man should examine the feminine side of his nature and express that side in whatever ways he felt comfortable. There was some negative reaction to my statement. A few men, in an audience of 500, expressed fears of loss of respect from their peers should they show any signs of their femininity. The majority of questions directed to me were, for the most part, sincere inquiry into various aspects of a bigenderist lifestyle. In the several years that I have been speaking publicly about this paraculture, this was my first encounter with some verbal hostility. It was educational for me in that I realized that some men in this culture are threatened by others who have chosen a more

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The Human Outreach and Achievement Institute is a non-profit educational corporation of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It serves as a resource for helping professionals, crossdressers, androgynes and transsexuals.

The Newsletter is edited by A. Kane and all inquiries should be mailed to the Outreach Institute, Kenmore Station, Box 368, Boston, MA 02215. Thank you.

DEAR ARI

With the huge volume of correspondence we receive from helping professionals, spouses and womenfriends of crossdressers, and paraculture people, we felt it appropriate to start a column entitled, "Dear Ari". Our first letter comes from a woman who discovered her boyfriend likes cross-dressing.

Dear Ari,

I know nothing about you and your organization but what I heard from my current boyfriend. He is a transvestite and into crossdressing.

Since this is my first contact with a person who crossdresses, I am deeply concerned about him. My feelings toward his dressing have led me to you.

It is my understanding that your Institute deals with transvestism. To get a better understanding of him and my own feelings in this, I'd appreciate any help you can give me at this time. It is also my understanding that you have books on transvestism available. I would appreciate a list of any books you have that might be available to me.

Thank-you kindly, D.D. from Michigan.

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NEW BOOK ACQUISITIONS

Among the many titles we receive for review from publishers about topics related to the paraculture interests, we briefly describe four new books.

THE FEMININE, SPACIOUS AS THE SKY (1977) by M. and J. Arguelles

A sensitive journey into the world of the feminine, the authors take us back in time, to early conceptions of the feminine as the Earth Mother Goddess to be revered by all (e.g. Demeter from Greek mythology) and traces the current concept of femininity as an amalgam of receptivity and assertiveness via eastern and western cultural modes. It is beautifully written, well illustrated, and good reading for those who seek to understand the nature of the feminine in each of us. Cost \$10.

HERLAND by C.P. Gilman (1979)

On the eve of W.W.I, 3 American male explorers stumble onto an all female society somewhere in the distant reaches of the Earth. Unable to believe their eyes, they promptly set out to find some men, convinced that, since this is a civilized country... "there must be men." So begins this journey into the whole world of the masculine and the feminine. This is a delightful story that presents a charming and rational vision of the relationships between masculinity and femininity, and exposes the absurdities of sexism. The author takes us into a society of women, their culture and philosophy, in which man, the male, is conspicuously absent. Our 3 heros attempt to cope and adjust to the mores of this new society. This is an enjoyable reading experience for those who romanticize about the world of Woman.

Cost \$5.

GENDER, AN ETHNOMETHODOLOGICAL APPROACH by S. Kessler and W. McKenna (1978)

This unusual and provocative study focuses on the challenges to common sense ideas about gender: the phenomenon of transsexualism, some ideas that children have about gender, and the treatment of gender in other cultures.

It will appeal to professionals and advanced students in social and behavioral sciences who are concerned with gender, with the social construction of reality, or with the interface between them. The questions raised by the authors will stim-

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OUTREACH NOTES

AHP Conference

ASACJ Meeting. In the early Spring, Profs. C. Hinkley and J.T. Talamini and P. Kane gave a round table presentation on paraculture behaviors at the annual meeting of the American Society For Criminal Justice. This group comprised various categories of law enforcement officials, including those who teach elements of criminal justice. It was well received by those who attended.

* Confide. We are informed that Dr. Garret Oppenheim, director of Confide Services, has opened a new office in Westchester County, New York. Congratulations to him and his new practice.

* Video Appearance. Ariadne Kane appeared on several talkshows this Spring in Boston and San Francisco. On the People Are Talking Show in San Francisco, she shared the spotlight with Kathy Payne, an articulate sensitive, helping professional, who is also a crossdresser. Of particular note was the nature and depth of the questions asked by a live audience of over 100 people. They were, for the most part, sincere and reflected a level of sophistication with the subject that is rare for a general video audience.

* Paraculture News. Two significant developments within the paraculture:
 (a) The Tiffany Club has managed to lease a property for its many social programs. Located in eastern Massachusetts under the guidance of Merissa Sherrill Lynn, the club has grown in stability and members. Now there is a place where crossdressers can go and make social contact with others of like persuasion.
 (b) Equally important has been the intense efforts to effectively organize a social contact network for the Mid-Atlantic States. Under the able leadership of Betty Ann Lind and Michelle Williams, they have made contact with about 1,000 crossdressers in this part of the country. They are involved with two major national organizations for crossdressers, TRI-ESS and THE GATEWAY GENDER ALLIANCE. Best wishes to these tireless leaders who are helping crossdressers want to leave their closets, which are lonely and dark places.

* Rate Increase. Because of increased financial costs, the Institute is forced to raise its subscription rates for 1982.

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trum of the crossdressing paraculture, its dreams and aspirations, its problems and current coping strategies. Discussion focused on my quest to integrate the masculine and feminine aspects of my personality and how this process has led to a comfortable and realizable androgynous life pattern. For many of the participants, this presentation was illuminating and gave them a more expanded and positive outlook with regard to various paraculture behaviors. For me, it was truly a hallmark experience and confirms my belief that more of these Institutes are needed if we are to help professional people better understand the full dimensions of this paraculture.

For the Institute on Transformational Theater, I also served as a resource. The basis of this Institute was to utilize innovative performing arts and explore creative aspects of individual personality expression. It combined techniques of spiritual and personal growth, psychodrama, improvisation, and audience participation. Using the archetype of the "Divine Androgyne" as a theme, participants became aware of the four basic elements of the androgyne within themselves. Through the technique of transformational theater, each became conscious of the inter-relationships between these elements and resulted in an integration of these into a realizable and positive pattern for personal growth.

This experience was a further affirmation of my belief that each of us has an androgynous aspect which must be allowed to achieve some measure of realizable expression.

Among the several workshops I attended, the one that stands out was entitled Feminine Eros in Interpersonal Life. At this workshop, discussion centered on the interpretation of the Greek legend of Demeter and her daughter, Persephone (see Bullfinch or Fraser's works on mythology), and how it can serve as a tool to expand one's personal image to include the feminine eros. The legend was used as a metaphor to develop a new concept of the feminine within each of us. Here I experienced a new way of looking at my being and its effects for me intrapersonally and intrapsychically.

The highlight of the Conference, for me, was to participate in the Lifestyle and Intimate Relationships Theme Community.

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AHP Conference

Participants who chose to become part of this community were willing to share intimate aspects of their life patterns, to explore alternative lifestyles, and how we can nourish, support, and learn from this diversity. For the first time in my life, I was ready, willing, and able to share both the masculine and feminine aspects of my androgynous lifestyle within one environment. It was a calculated risk and I weighed the possible consequences of being rejected or put down. Much to my surprise, I did not encounter rejection, and as I became more

comfortable with others in the community, I received much support and warmth from them. I found myself growing in conciousness about the positiveness of my life patterns. This experience has confirmed my intuition that people will accept (not just tolerate) a lifestyle different from their own, provided the timing and environment are appropriately chosen.

In many ways, my participation in this Conference served as a highpoint in the continuous process of gaining a understanding about my androgyny and helping others to learn about the diverse dimensions of our paraculture.

Men & Masculinity

aconventional life pattern than their own.

The remainder of the Conference was devoted to workshops and other activities related to the explorations of the diversity of the masculine experience in America. One note of regret, there were very few women at this Conference.

Dear Ari

Dear D.D.,

Your letter and concern are typical of the correspondence we receive from many parts of the U.S.A. Becoming informed by reading material about this paraculture and its diverse behavior patterns, which may be obtained from the Outreach Institute, is a first step toward understanding your boyfriend's situation. Only through avenues such as the one you chose can we foster a more tloerant attitude toward non-violent, aconventional behavior. Good luck in your quest for knowledge.

Cordially, Ari

New Books

ulate new ways of thinking about gender and can lead to innovative methods for studying and interpreting what it means to be a woman or a man. Cost \$12.95

TRANSEXUALITY IN THE MALE by E.Koranyi (1980) This is a comprehensive monograph that concerns itself with the spectrum of gender dysphoria. In addition to the chapters written by the author, there are several contributors who wrote chapters on medico/legal aspects of transsexualism and surgical treatment of transsexuality. The author has relied on much material drawn from studies that were done on homosexuality and the transsexual phenomenon in the '60's and early '70's. Much new material based on studies done in the last 3 years should have been included in the book. This reviewer found the approach to transsexualism rather unimagi-native. It contains a good bibliography and can be useful for serious students hunting a well written, historical treatise on the subject. Cost \$20.

Outreach Notes

As of January, 1982, the annual newsletter subscription will be \$10. per annum. Those who subscribe on or before December 29,1981, will be entitled to a subscription for 1982 at the current rate of \$8. per annum.

* A Call for Articles. We invite our readership to submit articles, either professional or personal, about some aspect of their experience with the paraculture to the editors. The articles should be at least 2, 8½x11, double spaced typewritten pages. They should be received at least one month prior to the date of publication of the Outreach Newsletter. Dates of publication are: April 30, July 31, November 30, and February 27.

* New Book and Reprint Catalog.The Institute is preparing for a new book and reprint catalog for 1982-'83. It will feature many new articles and books on araculture topics. It is schduled for printing in December of 1981. For your copy of the new catalog, please send \$3. to cover cost, postage, and handling. Make checks payable to the Outreach Institute.

THE HUMAN OUTREACH AND ACHIEVEMENT INSTITUTE



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- () copy(ies) Gender, An Ethnomethodological Approach by S.Kessler and
W.M.McKenna (12.95/copy) _____
- () copy(ies) Herland by C.P.Gilman (\$5/copy) _____
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- () copy(ies) Monograph III - Transvestism and Androgyny (\$5/copy) _____
- () copy(ies) 1 set of Monographs I,II,III by J.T.Talamini (\$12/ set) _____

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