

The Analytic Observer

The Newsletter of The Chicago Psychoanalytic Society

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Robert Gordon, M.D.

The Debate Over Redefining APsA

Jerry Grunes, our past president, reminded us in his last column of the proud and long history of psychoanalysis in Chicago. As we look back at the controversial personae of Blitzsten, the first Society president, and Alexander, the first Institute director, we see the start of a tradition of diversity and acceptance of multiple points of view.

Now, as we look at the national scene and the reorganization efforts of the American Psychoanalytic Association, we see a similar process. On one hand, a sizable group of the membership sees the organization's primary role as being educational. Members of that group support a powerful Board of Professional Standards and the continuation, with some modifications, of the present certification system. Another sizable group sees the need for greater flexibility that will allow for an increase in the number of members, as well as significant modifications in both the training analyst and certification arrangements. In general, this latter group calls for greater local autonomy, while the former fears that the reorganization process may impinge on the power of BOPS by putting it too directly under the control of the new Board of APsA.

In my Councilor's Report in this issue, I go into these matters in greater depth. As president of the Society, I think it is important that our members acquaint themselves with these issues in order to be able to effectively participate in APsA. I think that this

is especially relevant for our "younger" members, both graduates and candidates who have come for analytic training in the past few years in spite of the many challenges facing the field. Younger voices need to be heard in a "graying" APsA. One-third of our non-candidate members are senior members. Issues that are being debated concerning certification include questions such as: Is it needed? Is it fair? Who should do it? Issues regarding the training analyst system are similar: Is it necessary? Should someone be certified to become a training analyst? Can training analysts be appointed by local criteria? These debates have profound implications for analysts in general, but are particularly important for younger analysts. One possible modification of the training analyst system has been put forward here in Chicago. This plan would no longer require that an applicant in analysis with a non-training analyst switch to a training analyst once he or she begins training. It would be up to the admissions process to assess whether the analysis is going well, rather than assessing the status of the analyst. This proposal has already been debated at a faculty meeting, and will continue to be discussed here. A recent poll of the faculty yielded 54 responses. Of these, 40 voted in favor of the proposal, 13 voted against, and there was one abstention.

My hope is that our whole membership will participate actively in these debates, no matter what each individual's opinion may be.

INTERVIEW WITH CLIFF WILKERSON

Born and reared in Oklahoma, Cliff Wilkerson, one of six siblings, spent much of this time in small rural towns or on the cotton and wheat farm of his grandparents, who were sixth generation farmers. While originally entering medical school intending to work as a medical missionary, his interest soon turned to psychiatry after hearing a series of lectures by the charismatic Louis J. “Jolly” West, M. D. Cliff revealed that the first texts he encountered on child treatment were those written by Bruno Bettelheim, and it was the prospect of learning from this noteworthy man that first attracted him to child work. After completing medical school and a general psychiatry residency, Cliff was accepted at the University of Chicago Hospitals for a fellowship in child psychiatry. Though raised by strict Baptists who cautioned him about the evils of the big city, Cliff traveled to Chicago to the Orthogenic School to work as a counselor while completing his child psychiatry residency.

While at the school, Cliff had the opportunity to work with severely disturbed children, with this experience fulfilling part of his inpatient child psychiatry requirement. Cliff reflected that he has enjoyed working with children since serving as a camp counselor where he was given the responsibility of supervising and mentoring the “uncontrollable kids.” Cliff found that he responded to them and they to him, stating that he was always capable of empathizing with children. He mused that “we all come out of a cauldron of childhood emotions and for some, like me, the experience influences our choice of career. For me, child work has been very helpful, not only in theorizing and making generalizations about children, but in understanding how distressed adults got to be that way in childhood.” He told me that, at one point, he had four female analysands ranging in age from 4 to 22. “To be able to see in the four-year-old the nascent issues that come to the fore in later years was fascinating. Though the older patients were more defended, many core issues could be traced throughout the developmental cycle. Cliff believes that his experience as a child analyst has helped him to more fully understand and tolerate the acting out and acting in of his adult patients, particularly with respect to silence as both defense and communication. Cliff, who has two grown sons of his own, averred that experience with one’s own children is not equivalent to working clinically with children who are struggling with developmental conflicts and arrests. Child analysts can

help their patients address these conflicts and arrests by helping them to “play it out.” Cliff maintained that child analysts assist this process “through actions and interpretation of actions.” One can interpret through play. “Some of my best interpretations were written on paper airplanes” – that he and one of his silent child patients launched back and forth to one another.

“I was trained during the days of the ‘blank screen’ approach, but I never quite saw the value of letting someone just lie there (in silence) day after day,” Cliff opined. While he initially struggled with trying to implement those early dicta, Cliff eventually found that a personal interaction was more facilitative of analytic work – the “airplane interpretation” is one example, but he is also likely to engage more actively with his silent adult patients.

Cliff noted that our work is “too demanding to be done entirely on one’s own” and has participated in a number of study groups throughout his career, and has also sought intermittent individual consultation about cases.

When not engaged in clinical work, Cliff, and aspiring novelist, indulges his passion for “learning to write” and also is a voracious reader of novels. Dostoevsky and Tolstoy are the two writers who have influenced him most, but he currently is impressed by the work of T. Corraghesan Boyle and Fredrick Busch. He also revealed that he is the family historian, particularly reveling in writing stories about his great grandfather, who was an itinerant teacher and farmer in the Oklahoma Indian Territories. Belle Starr once sheltered his great grandfather during a torrential thunderstorm, and this same forebear once chased a horse thief deep into the Territories by himself.

Noting that physical fitness has always been important to him, particularly since he sits all day with patients, Cliff enjoys ballroom dancing a few times a week with Carolyn, his wife of 49 years; they also enjoy hiking in the mountains, and recently returned from several weeks in Brazil where they spent some time hiking in the jungle.

Christine Kieffer

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN

By Prudy Gourguechon, Secretary, The American Psychoanalytic Association

Contrary to the impression you might get from reading the openline, there is a lot more going on at the national level than naval gazing or worse, fighting about naval gazing.

The one project I find consistently most exciting is APsaA's political advocacy efforts at the federal level. Thanks to former President Bob Pyles, and the American's lobbyist Jim Pyles (Bob's brother) the American has become the country's most effective advocate for patient's privacy in an increasingly threatening environment. We are continuing to fight at the appeals court level to establish a *constitutional* right to patient records privacy. We are fighting in the legislative trenches on multiple fronts to have privacy provisions included in the National Health Information Network. This is a bipartisan effort to establish a national system of electronic medical records that can be accessed from any medical facility. The national electronic medical records system is being touted as a way to improve efficiency and quality of care (to the tune of billions of dollars) despite the fact that there is no research supporting these contentions. Unbelievably the health information industry lobbyists are fighting for the following points:

- They *oppose* a patient's having the right to exclude information from the electronic record *even if* the patient accepts the consequences of such an exclusion (reread that sentence to let the impact sink in).
- They *oppose* provisions that would make it mandatory for a facility to notify affected patients when inevitable security breaches occur.
- They favor provisions that would make federal law nullify more privacy- protective state laws.

Another front of our federal political advocacy effort is the promotion of a piece of legislation which would make medical ethics the basis of government health policy decisions. This was the Pyles' brainchild and is moving forward with the American's endorsement.

The Psychotherapy Initiative led by former president Dick Fox is a quieter but no less important effort. For some time the national leadership has recognized that having a richer relationship with psychoanalytic psychotherapy is in the interests of both psychoanalysis and psychotherapy. There are complex issues of identity involved here. For example, the Task Force on Reorganization whose work you will read about elsewhere in this newsletter has recommended that APsaA remain an association of psychoanalysts. This is a reasonable position, but makes it impossible then to offer membership to psychotherapists. Thus the role of psychotherapists within the organization still needs to be defined. In the meantime, the

initiative is developing more programmatic components for psychotherapists, an email newsletter, and trying to increase recruitment to the Psychotherapist Associations.

About a year ago, I organized another initiative designed to increase the exposure of undergraduate students to psychoanalysis, both as a body of thought and as a method of getting help with psychological problems. This project is called the 10,000 minds initiative, and we were fortunate to receive a \$40,000 grant from the IPA's DPPT project (a program designed to support initiatives that will have an impact on the number of candidates or patients in analysis). Among the specific project components will be a resource/project packet for local societies and institutes and centers detailing a variety of ways they can reach out to nearby academic communities. We also want to put information such as reading lists for teachers of psychology and other disciplines up on the web. We will fund (modestly) two interns to research the position of psychoanalysis in psychology textbooks and curricula. Liaison to other organizations (such as the MLA and the College Art Association) is planned, and we will establish a panel of current undergraduates to review our efforts and keep us on track.

Back to internal matters for a moment, the big issues are the reorganization, the bylaw amendment to make requiring certification for TA status a local option, and continued conflict between conservatives (BOPS people) and proponents of change, especially as related to certification and the TA system. Personally, I am concerned about the degree of divisiveness in the organization and think it has reached the level of threatening our effectiveness. I think decreasing the divisions among us is a priority.

Election campaigns are in process, and always heat things up. The candidates for President-Elect are myself and Warren Procci. Four people are running for the office of Councilor-at-Large: Ralph Fishkin, Elise Snyder, Bob Tyson and Sandy Walker. Two of these will be elected.

In closing, an invitation. I have found that the best way to get something out of the American is to be a member of a committee (or two). You meet colleagues from all over the country (and get referrals from them too). Hard work is generally met with much appreciation. Obviously this level of involvement requires you attend the national meetings. I think they're worth it, and are much more enjoyable and satisfying when you're part of a committee's effort. The complete roster of committees is on the members' (closed) section of the APsaA website. Take a look at it, and feel free to contact me if you want to pursue getting involved.

Have a great fall.

Errors and Omissions:

The following list of references was accidentally omitted from Arthur Nielsen's article entitled "Couples Therapy and the Psychoanalyst," which appeared in the last issue of the Observer.

¹ Gottman, J., Coan, J., Carrera, S. & Swanson, C. (1998). Predicting marital happiness and stability from newly-wed interactions. *J. of Marriage and the Family*, 60:5-22.

¹ Zinner, J. (1989). The implications of projective identification for marital interaction, in J. Scharff (Ed.): *Foundations of Object Relations Family Therapy*. Northvale, N.J.:Jason Aronson.

¹ Catherall, D. (1992). Working with projective identification in couples. *Family Process*, 31:355-367.

¹ Wile, D. (2002). Collaborative couple therapy. In A. Gurman & N. Jacobson (Eds.) *Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy*, 3rd edition. New York:Guilford. pp. 281-307.

¹ Scheinkman, M. & Fishbane, M. (2004). The vulnerability cycle: Working with impasses in couple therapy. *Family Process*, 43:279-299.

¹ Graller, J., Nielsen, A., Garber, B., Davison, L., Gable, L. & Seidenberg, H. (2001): Concurrent therapies: A model for collaboration between psychoanalysts and other therapists. *J. Am. Psychoanal. Assoc.* 49:587-606.

¹ Nielsen, A., Pinsof, W., Rampage, C., Solomon, A., Goldstein, S. (2004). Marriage 101: An integrated academic and experiential undergraduate marriage education course. *Family Relations*, 53: 485-494.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM MEETING SCHEDULE

September 27 – Jonathan Lear, Ph.D. **“Freud’s Critique of Religious Belief”**
Discussant: Jeffery Stern, Ph.D.

October 25 – Stuart Twemlow, M.D. **“A Developmental Approach to School Violence: The Peaceful Schools Experiment”** Discussant: Samuel Weiss, M.D.

November 22 – Robert M. Galatzer-Levy, M.D. **“Good Vibrations: A New, Non-linear Dynamics of Psychoanalysis”** Discussant: Charles Jaffe, M.D.

January 24 – Arthur C. Nielsen, M.D. **“The Underlying Logic of Clinical Psychoanalysis”**
Discussant: James W. Anderson, Ph.D.

February 28 – Marian Tolpin, M.D. **“Developing Clinical Momentum”**
Discussant: Mark Levey, M.D.

March 28 – Henry Evans, M.D. & Kenneth Newman, M.D.
“The Enacted Dimension of the Analytic Process”

April 25 – Jack Drescher, Ph.D.
“From Bi-Sexuality and Homosexuality to Intersexuality: Rethinking Gender Categories”
Discussant: Bertram Cohler, Ph.D.

Councilor's Report

Robert P. Gordon, M.D., Councilor

The Executive Council of the American Psychoanalytic Association (APsaA) met in Seattle on June 9, 2005.

This meeting reflected the continuing struggle to redefine the organization in order to meet multiple challenges, including recruitment of candidates and analysts. These struggles were most evident in discussions about three issues: 1) The "local option" bylaws amendment that would allow the appointment of non-certified analysts as training analysts by individual institutes; 2) the Task Force on Expanded Membership Criteria (TFEMC), whose job it is to advise the Membership Requirements and Review Committee (MRRC) on expanded membership options; 3) the place of the Board of Professional Standards (BOPS) in the new structure being developed by the Task Force on Reorganization (TFOR). Recent votes would seem to indicate that the membership is fairly evenly divided about many of the underlying factors imbricated in the above. To oversimplify things: One group might be seen as advocating the primacy of educational and membership standards, while the other might be seen as advocating a more flexible, democratic organization that can vigorously respond to the multiple external challenges facing psychoanalysis today.

The proposed bylaws amendment would have allowed local institutes to appoint training analysts who had not been certified. Eric Nuetzel, chairman of BOPS, felt that, while more flexibility was needed, a continuation of national standards and a strong BOPS were essential. Representatives from societies spoke for and against the amendment. Several society representatives stressed the need for greater flexibility in order to grow and or to survive. After a heated and lengthy debate, the amendment was defeated 22-18. I voted for the amendment, though I would have preferred that the discussion focus on a preliminary plan, developed in Chicago, that would allow for the assessment of an applicant's analysis as the criterion for acceptance, rather than whether or not the applicant's analyst is a training analyst. (This plan, however, was not discussed at the meeting.) The proposed amendment will now go to the entire membership for a vote.

The Task Force on Extended Membership Criteria is trying to address the need for new members in APsaA. (There are presently 3,334 members; 1,731 are active; 926 are senior, and this category is growing; 648 are affiliates; 29 are academic affiliates.) The TFEMC concluded that it would be useful to change membership criteria in stages. They suggested that a short-term approach be adopted. At first, there would be narrowly expanded criteria that would enable the inclusion of serious non-IPA or non-APsaA analysts who are making

important contributions. This would be followed by broader changes in criteria, consistent with the new governance structure of APsaA that is to be voted on by the membership in fall, 2006.

The third issue, the place of BOPS in APsaA, is part of the job facing the Task Force on Reorganization (TFOR), chaired by Bob Galatzer-Levy. The basic question concerns the degree of autonomy of BOPS. There are those who think that BOPS should report to the Executive Council as other committees do. People in this group believe that BOPS has carved out an educational fiefdom that does not serve the best purposes of the organization. On the other hand, many APsaA members see the primary purpose of the organization as educational, and feel that these aims are best accomplished by means of a fairly independent BOPS. In addition to the place of BOPS, Bob also discussed issues related to the size of the new Board. His committee is mandated to come up with a small and nimble Board. However, several society representatives wondered whether this was a move away from democracy, and pointed out that recently the Executive Council (the Board of Directors), which has a representative from each society, has been able to vigorously engage in effective debate despite its size. With the new, smaller Board, there would certainly seem to be a need for a new, empowered organization of the societies.

Other items:

1. Glen Gabbard asked that the Council allow drug companies to pay the expenses of some invited academic speakers to the meeting. He said that he has sometimes had to partially pay them himself. There was strong opposition to "Big Pharma" by many. I thought that it would be a good idea. The Council will continue to investigate the idea.

2. APsaA is an important advocate of ethics-based medicine, and has become a national spokesman for protecting patients' privacy. New national health laws have made it much easier for third parties to get medical records without patients' permission. Ethics-based medicine vigorously opposes this and supports traditional privacy rights.

3. There will be an APsaA membership recruitment drive from October 15 to November 15, with the hope that all new candidates will join.

Steve Flagel, who has been a very able and active alternate councilor, will now become councilor.

Please send news or comments to:

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NEWS OF MEMBERS SPRING 2005

Christine C. Kieffer, Ph.D. presented a paper, "Emergence and the Analytic Third: Working at the Edge of Chaos" at the 2005 Division 39 spring conference in New York City in April. Dr. Kieffer also served as discussant for a panel, "On Gender and Desire: 25 years of Deconstruction and Construction" at the same meeting.

Linda Marino, PhD presented a case for discussion at the CAPP (Chicago Association for Psychoanalytic Psychology) Conference, "From Insight to Change: Self-Creation in the Psychotherapeutic Process" on October 8, 2005 in Chicago.

Frank Summers, PhD, ABPP was the featured speaker at the CAPP conference, "From Insight to Change: Self-Creation in the Psychotherapeutic Process," on October 8, 2005. He presented ideas from his new book, "Self Creation: Psychoanalytic Therapy and the Art of the Possible," which was published in 2005.

James Wilson, MD received the Joan Fleming Award for Excellence in Teaching at the June 24, 2005 graduation ceremony of the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis. Joan Fleming was a renowned teacher and supervisor at the Chicago Institute, known for her work on supervision and training, and on parent loss in child development. The award is given by the Candidates Association on alternate years to a member of the core faculty evaluated as outstanding by candidates.

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