Lavenda's Guide to Twin Cities Culture

Rob Lavenda has provided the following summary of "what's going on" in the Twin Cities during the TASP meetings.


Music: "Forever Plaid" at Hey City Stage (Ordway Music Theatre), Jerome Kern Highlights by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra at Historic State Theatre on April 23 and 24, Lorna Luft with the Minnesota Orchestra at Orchestra Hall on April 23 and 24, Tribute to Ives and Copeland by the Minneapolis Chamber Symphony on April 24, and many jazz and club shows.

Exhibits: "Science in Toyland" at the Science Museum and "Blue Planet" at the Omnitréate, "In the Spirit of Flux" at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Hennepin History Museum, Minnesota History Center (new, and worth a trip says Rob), Minnesota Museum of Art, and "Wanda Gag: Paintings, Prints, and Sketches" at J.J. Hill House.

Sports: Twins v Milwaukee on April 22 and v Detroit on April 23-25; Timberwolves v Utah on April 25 at 2:30 pm.

Other: Cafesjian's Carousel in Town Park Square, 7th and Cedar, St. Paul; Mall of America, Rob says: "America's largest shrine to mammon. Camp Snoopy amusement park in the center of the mall. What will people back home say when they find out you didn't visit it?" Also, major antique shows in both Minneapolis and St. Paul from April 23-25.

Hello, George

Former TASP President George Eisen is on a Fulbright in Estonia from January through June of 1993, lecturing and doing research at the University of Tartu. Before he left, George was anticipating a cold winter and a heating oil shortage. If anyone would like to send him a few "warm words", his address is EE 2400 Ulikooli 18, Tartu, ESTONIA.

(continued on p. 13)
1993 Program Plans

Program Chair, Don Lytle and Site Coordinator, Rob Lavenda have put together a delightful and entertaining program at a fantastic venue for the upcoming TASP annual meetings to be held Thursday April 22 through Saturday April 24 in St. Paul Minnesota. All sessions, except for a Friday night special entertainment event, will be held at the lovely St. Paul Hotel (1-800-292-9292). Travel arrangements can be made through Dayton's Travel in Minneapolis (1-800-533-0324).

Program Highlights

The Association for the Study of Play 1993 meetings include the presidential address by Garry Chick, an invited address by Don Hellison, a special lecture by Günther Bauer, papers by several past TASP presidents, an ongoing computer playshop, and three presentations on humor and health. Two of these will be playshops allowing audience participation and featuring workshop leader Marge Kaiser and 1988 TASP President, Ann Marie Guilmette. Featured speaker, Dale Anderson M.D., will complete the humor trilogy as he will provide an inspiring, amusing and practical approach to playful expression vis-a-vis humor and laughter. See the profiles of Anderson, Bauer, Hellison, and Kaiser for background information on these noteworthy individuals. Additionally, Brian Sutton-Smith will serve as chairperson for a session reconstructing Homo Ludens and he will be the discussant for two sessions, which bring together three of his graduate students in folklore and three in psychology. Friday evening TASP member Dale Schwerdtfeger, a martial arts expert and his wife, Toshiko, a professional dancer, will provide an entertaining presentation at The Twin Cities Aikido Club. After this special performance of martial arts and dance, participants will have an opportunity to "roll around on the mats." Transportation will be provided by TASP.

Another unique feature of the program will be an ongoing computer playshop. Michael Herrick, president of MatterForm Media and Raven Zachary, Information Director of Cylinder, the International Society for the Philosophy of Tools and Space will have Macintosh computers available at the registration table and during sessions in order for conference participants to create a special "TASP Cylinder." It's "the ultimate party game" as well as a vehicle for artists and authors to easily complement and expand upon another's work/play. Stop by the registration table for more information, or catch those computer-toting individuals to get involved. A copy of their software program, the Cylinder Toolkit also will be made available for TASP participants.

Several past TASP luminaries will be in attendance at this year's meetings to help celebrate the unofficial 20th year anniversary of TAASP/TASP. Next year will be the official anniversary (1974-1994). Along with Brian Sutton-Smith (1982-83 President), Garry Chick (current President), Ann Marie Guilmette, Frank Salamone and Rob Lavenda (immediate past President), Phillips Stevens and Kendall Blanchard also will be presenting papers. Stevens of SUNY, Buffalo was the fourth president of The Association for the Anthropological Study of Play (1977-78). Kendall Blanchard, Dean of Arts and Sciences at Lamar University, was the 1983-84 TAASP President. Another past president, John Loy regrets not being able to attend, but has recently moved to New Zealand for a teaching position. George Eisen (1991 President) sends his best wishes and regrettably cannot attend as he is on leave and lecturing and doing research at the University of Tartu, Estonia.
Even without John, George and others who are unable to attend, the 1993 meeting may rival the TAASP meetings in Baton Rouge 10 years ago for being the most playful. Knowledge will be gained and fun experienced along with some entertaining surprises. If you have not done so already, make plans to join us. The registration fee prior to April 20 is $60 for professionals and $20 for students. Onsite registration is $70 and $30 respectively. Make checks payable to TASP and send to Don Lytle, Department of Physical Education, California State University, Chico; Chico, CA 95929-0330 or Garry Chick, University of Illinois, 104 Huff Hall, Champaign, IL 61820.

There is much fun to be had in during the April meetings- from the Museum of Questionable Medical Equipment and the Children's Museum, to fine restaurants, excellent theatre including the Ordway's midnight mystery production, exciting professional basketball and baseball, and even Indian gambling casinos! (George Eisen is crying his eyes out.) See the event details in the Newsletter for further information, and we'll see you in the Twin Cities!

**PROFILES OF TASP SPECIAL CONFERENCE PRESENTERS**

**Dale Anderson**, a Minnesota orthopedic surgeon, professor, professional speaker, humorist, author of books and tapes, specializes in healthful living through his expertise in psychoneuroimmunology. He is recognized as one of leading health "edu-trainers" for the 1990s. To understand the benefits, skills and techniques of J'ARMING, laughter and health-giving fun, Dr. Anderson shouldn't be missed.

**Günther Bauer** of University of Music in Salzburg, Austria, will present a special lecture on Play, Games and Science. Bauer is the former musical director of the Vienna Opera and recent author and editor of Homo Ludens, Vol. II.

**Don Hellison**, a professor of physical education at the University of Illinois, Chicago, has served as a distinguished visiting professor at the University of Calgary, University of Saskatchewan, Ohio State University, Georgia State University, University of Oregon, Montana State and Chico State University. He is a workshop leader and author of four books, numerous articles and book chapters that primarily focus upon the "real world" of urban high schools, alternative schools and detention schools. He has served many professional roles and leadership functions, but is best known, honored and esteemed for his exceptional service to children and youth at risk.

**Marge Kaiser**, the President of the Center for Light, Love & Laughter in California, is a storyteller, speaker, wilderness leader and workshop facilitator. She is a practicing therapist and has conducted professional humor and inspiration workshops and served clients in business, industry and education.
ST. PAUL MEETING PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY • April 21, 1993
6:00-8:00 P.M. REGISTRATION

THURSDAY • April 22, 1993
8:00-5:00 REGISTRATION

NOTE: A special computer "Cylinder" playshop will be an ongoing feature of the meetings. Macintosh computers will be made available for participants to collaboratively create a special "TASP Cylinder." Stop by the registration table for more information, or catch those computer-toting individuals to get involved. The results of your collective playfulness will be shown and cylinder constructions will be discussed Saturday afternoon.

SESSION 1: LITERARY PLAY
Chairperson: Suzanne Chamier

HILL ROOM
9:00 Graham Harman (DePaul University)
   Humor-Machines in Bergson and Poe
9:20 Suzanne Chamier (Southwestern University)
   Playfulness as Plot in Queneau and Tutuola
9:40 Discussion

HILL ROOM
Humor Playshop and Presentation
10:00 Marge Kaiser (President, Center for Light, Love and Laughter)
   Humor as Stress Management Play for Optimizing Health and Performance

11:00-12:30 Lunch

SESSION 2: CHILD AND ADULT PERFORMANCE PLAY
Chairperson: Sylvia Sparkis

HILL ROOM
12:30 David Kuschner (University of Cincinnati)
   At Play in the Fields of War: Scenes from Four Films
12:50 Sylvia Sparkis (Purdue University)
   Just Imagine for a Moment: Adult Role Play as Performance in the Society for
   Creative Anachronism
1:10 Don Lytle (California State U Chico)
   Phenomenological Playful Performance: You Would Have Had To Have Been
   There
1:30 Discussion

HILL ROOM
2-4:00 TASP Business Meeting and Presidential Address [Everyone invited]
   Garry Chick (University of Illinois)
   The Meaning of Play and The Play of Meaning

HILL ROOM
4-5:00 TASP FEATURED SPEAKER
   Introduction: Don Lytle, President-Elect
   Dr. Dale Anderson
   Act "UP" and Laugh for the Health of It
FRIDAY • April 23, 1993
7:30 - 5:30 REGISTRATION
7:30 Play Theory & Research Editorial Board Meeting • Casino North

CASINO NORTH TASP FEATURED SPEAKER
8:30 Introduction: Robert Lavenda (Past TASP President)
Günther Bauer (University of Music in Salzburg, Austria)
Play, Games and Science

SESSION 3: PLAY FOLKLORE STUDIES: UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
CASINO SOUTH Discussant: Brian Sutton-Smith
9:30 Faye McMahon
The Unruly Woman and "the Worst Piece of Tail"
9:50 Justine McGovern
Deep, Dark and Dangerous Play: Cruising for Sex in Central Park's "Ramble"
10:10 Roslyn Blyn
Defining "The Other" through play in Celtic Countries (Ireland, Scotland, and Wales)
10:30 Brian Sutton-Smith
Play in Folklore Theory

CASINO NORTH TASP FEATURED SPEAKER
11:00 Introduction: Don Lytle, President-Elect
Don Hellison (University of Chicago, Illinois)
A Clash of Two Play Cultures: Teaching Basketball in the Inner City

12:00 -1:00 Lunch

SESSION 4: ITALIAN AMERICAN PLAY AND PERFORMANCE
CASINO SOUTH Chairperson: Frank Salamone
1:00 Esther Romeyn (University of Minnesota)
Performing Ethnicity: Enrico Caruso and the Masks of "Italieness"
1:20 Frank A. Salamone (Iona College)
Bacce me Bocce Balls
1:40 Discussion

SESSION 5: PLAY DEVELOPMENT STUDIES: UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
CASINO NORTH Discussant: Brian Sutton-Smith
1:00 Ann Richman Beresin
Who's In, What's Out: Patterns and Paradoxes of the Fixed and Floating Games of Recess
1:20 Alice Meckley
The Nature of Young Children's Play or Social Organization of Young Children's Play
1:40 Kevin Sheehan
The Play of National Identity: British and American Children's Novels of the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries
2:00 Brian Sutton-Smith
Play in Human Developmental Theory
SESSION 6: CHILDREN'S PLAY THEORY:  
EDUCATION, OBSERVATION AND CONFLICT

CASINO SOUTH

2:30 Stuart Reifel (University of Texas)  
   *Educational Play: Theory and Practice*

2:50 Sherry Woitte (University of Alberta)  
   *Observation and Children's Self-Organized Play*

3:10 June Yeatman & Stuart Reifel (University of Texas)  
   *Sisters Playing and Fighting*

3:30 Carol Strohecker (Cambridge Research Center)  
   *Playing, Working, Thinking, and Learning with Knots*

4:00 Discussion

CASINO NORTH  

Humor Playshop and Presentation

4:30 Ann Marie Guilmette (Brock University)  
   *Play and Humour as Therapeutic Intervention for Survivors*

5:30 TASP Presidential Reception - No host bar

THE TWIN CITIES AIKIDO CLUB • Transportation provided *

8:00-9:30 P.M. TASP Special Presentation of Expressive Movement
   Dale and Toshiko Schwerdtfeger (St. Cloud State University)  
   *Zen Movement Games: Same Rules, Different Games*
   *Meet in front of St. Paul Hotel at 7:30 P.M.*
   *Wear loose clothing*

SATURDAY • April 24, 1993

HILL ROOM NORTH

7:30 TASP Board Meeting

SESSION 7: CARNIVAL AND CROSS-CULTURAL FESTIVAL

HILL ROOM NORTH

8:30 Gardner, Robert (St. Cloud State University)  
   *Riding a Carnival*

8:50 Robert Lavenda (St. Cloud State University)  
   *The Traveling Carnival Comes to Town*

9:10 Allen S. Ehrlich (Eastern Michigan University)  
   *Play with the Apache Trickster and You're Playing with Death*

9:30 David Longergan (Northern Illinois University)  
   *We Ride for the Saints': Festivals and the Shepherds of a Sardinian Village*

9:50 Michael Heine, Harvey Scott and James McAra (University of Alberta)  
   *Traditional Dene Play and Ecological Insights into a Deep Ecological World View*

10:10 Discussion
SESSION 8: RECONSTRUCTING HOMO LUDENS

HILL ROOM SOUTH  Chairperson: Brian Sutton-Smith
8:30  Günther Bauer & Rainer Buland (University of Music in Salzburg, Austria)
   homo Ludens - Der spielende Mensch (Vol. 2)
8:50  Mechthild Nagel (University of Massachusetts)
   Play in Culture and the Jargon of Primordiality: A Critique of Huizinga’s Homo Ludens
9:10  Discussion

SESSION 9: SPORT, FUN AND GAMES

HILL ROOM NORTH  Chairperson: Kendall Blanchard
10:00  Dale Schwerdtfeger (St. Cloud State University)
   Game Laws: One Law, many games
10:20  Bill Moore (Inver Hills Community College)
   Beer Drinkers with a Running Problem: The Hash House Harries’ Dilemma of Escape from Middle Class Values
10:30  Phillips Stevens (SUNY, Buffalo)
   African Wrestling in Japan
11:00  Kendall Blanchard (Lamar University)
   Preserving and Promoting Traditional Sport: The Politics of an International Agenda
11:20  Dan C. Hilliard (Southwestern University)
   Ideology at Play: Business Assumptions in the World of Amateur Sport
11:30  Discussion
12:00 - 1:00  Lunch

SESSION 10: VIDEO AND POKER GAMING AND COMPUTER NETPLAYING

HILL ROOM NORTH  Chairperson: Alan Aycock
1:00  Yasmin B.Kafai
   Play Worlds in the Electronic Age: An Investigation into Children’s Making and Playing of Video Games
1:20  Randall Cauley (Southwestern University)
   Developing “Idioculture”: Ethnography of a College Poker Group
1:40  Alan Aycock
   Radical Semiotics as Play: Ludism Online
2:00  Discussion

SESSION 11: BODY ART, PLAY ART AND COLLABORATIVE ARTPLAY

HILL ROOM  Chairperson: Don Lytle
2:30  Jamieson Mackay (Southwestern University)
   Playing with Needles: The Art of Tattooing
2:50  Michael Herrick (Mt. Vernon, Iowa)
   Magic Paper: Cylinder, Ceremony and Collaborative Artplay
3:10  Michael Herrick (Mt. Vernon, Iowa) and Raven Zachary (Cylinder Director of Information, Cedar Rapids, Iowa)
   Computer Cylinder Playshop
3:30  Ernst Lurker (President, Play Art, Inc.)
   Play Art Display
Dr. Play's Quiz: Computer Culture and NETiquette

To keep up with the enormous amount of data and image traffic, individuals throughout the world are using computers to "interface" with others via bulletin board systems (BBS) and local area networks (LANS) instead of the voice communication-driven plain old telephone service (POTS). Electronic mailing, conferencing, uploading and downloading software is performed by millions of users daily. With this flow of information a specific language has evolved. To help you get online and ready for the TASP conference ongoing computer cylinder playshop, and a paper by Alan Aycock, I offer the following terms and expressions. Part I is a sample of computer terms and definitions, and part II is an identification quiz of possible networking symbols.

Part I

Shareware: Software one uses first and then pays for later, IF they feel like it. Modeled after the federal government's purchasing style.
Freeware: Software with no strings attached. Similar to the federal regulations governing S & Ls.
Scareware: The legal documents sent back and forth between look-and-feel lawyers.
Tupperware: The airtight case that the look-and-feel lawyers think they have.
Airware: Athletic shoes that cost as much as excellent software used to.
Be-ware: Pertains to consumers placing too much belief in unsubstantiated rumors from Apple and IBM.
Heirware: Software that gets handed down to teaching assistants when you get a grant.
Vaporware: Software announced long before it's ready to ship.
Where?ware: Vaporware that's more then 12 months late.
Stoneware: Software Barney Rubble could understand: It runs under cartoon physics.
Wash 'n' ware: Software paid for with laundered money.
Underware: It's unfortunate that Frank Manning isn't with us to explain this one.

Part II

Also common to electronic mail messages are emoticons. Sometimes called, "smilies," these little symbols depict a sideways cartoon face, and are best viewed with your head turned to the left. If you're a computer expert, nerd or a "newbie" to the "net," try to match the thirteen emoticons (#1-13) below with their meanings (a-m).

1. :-)
2. :-(
3. :-'
4. ;-)
5. ::D
6. %-
7. :-O
8. :-Ø
9. :-X
10. :-P
11. :-)Q
12. :-*
13. °-|

a. Smoking
b. Yelling
c. Smile
d. Frown
e. Laughter
f. No talking
g. Stick out tongue
h. A kiss
i. Cry
j. Confusion
k. Computer nerd
l. Lips are sealed
m. Wink
TaTanka Meets the Berserker
By Dan Hilliard

This is all Michael Hammes' fault. He was a student in my seminar on American popular culture last semester and did a wonderful paper on the 1980s version of pro wrestling, Vince McMahon's World Wrestling Federation. So when the WWF tour came to the Erwin Center in Austin in January, we had to go.

Now I had watched wrestling on TV as a youngster (and a few times as an older), and I had read Roland Barthes' and others analyses of the "sport," so I didn't think I would learn much about the event itself. And my understanding of adult audience reaction to the event is pretty well captured in the quote from a fan that Michael used in his paper — an emotionally involved guy yells from the stands, "I don't care if it is fake. Kill the bastard!"

What did interest me was the fact that the event had been billed in radio ads as a "family entertainment spectacular." I wanted to see how many children would be there and how they would react to the event. My existing interest in audiences for popular culture had been whetted by reading Gary Alan Fine's review essay in Contemporary Sociology of two recent books on video games, where he points out that studies of video games have given little attention to the actual experience of the games by the children who play them. I don't claim that what I offer here qualifies as "data," but I did want to observe the children at the show.

It was a pretty sparse crowd, about 3000 or so in a 16,000 seat arena. And there were lots of kids. In fact, I didn't see too many adults there without kids, and in some cases, one adult had brought 4 or 5 children to the show. The crowd was multi-ethnic, reflecting the demography of the area, and appeared to tend toward lower-middle class.

While there was no obvious way in which the show aimed at the children in the audience, the children were most definitely the most responsive fans. The adults stayed in their seats, sometimes standing and yelling toward the ring. Each time a new match was announced, however, many of the children ran from their seats to the barriers at the edge of the runway, where they lustily cheered the "good guys" and booed the "bad guys." The good guys usually took their time entering the arena, pausing to slap hands with their young admirers. I wish I knew what it meant to these pre-teen boys and girls to have the sweat of Virgil, or TaTanka, or Bret Harte on their little hand. This scene reminded me of the response of children to the costumed Disney characters at Euro-Disney.
Answers to Dr. Play's Quiz: Computer Culture and NETiquette
1 = c; 2 = d; 3 = i; 4 = m; 5 = e; 6 = j; 7 = b;
8 = f; 9 = l; 10 = g; 11 = a; 12 = h; 13 = k

Indeed, the pro wrestlers are so lavishly costumed that they resemble Disney characters, and WWF mogul Vince McMahon uses the Disney empire as his model. Are the kids responding to these wrestlers as "real life" heroes or as living representations of the dolls or action figures they were given for Christmas?

It was very apparent that these kids were familiar with the wrestlers on the card, whether from TV, magazines, or previous live viewing. Each of the "good guy" wrestlers has a characteristic yell or chant, and the kids in the audience spontaneously began it as soon as the wrestler was announced and resumed it at any point during the match when the "hero" needed a little extra encouragement. Some of the kids wore "Hulkster" caps and T-shirts and "Hulk Hogan" jackets.

Not only were the kids critical to getting the adults to the arena; not only were the kids leading the audience reaction to the show; the kids were also central to that most important ancillary activity, souvenir sales. T-shirts, banners, color photos, programs, ball caps, etc. were available for sale, and it was the kids who were doing the buying. Perhaps it is no coincidence that pro wrestlers have appeared as action figures at Toys R Us and as cartoon characters on TV. Cereal companies learned long ago that the way to the adult pocket book was through the child. For that matter, so did P.T. Barnum.

The choreography of WWF matches (and it is very careful, and one might even suggest, beautiful choreography) is pretty violent. After all, 250 to 300 lb. men are hurling each other through the air. We see fake teeth spewing from the mouth of a wrestler who has just been struck across the face. We hear a loud crack as the wrestler hits the mat flat on his back. But there is no blood — Vince McMahon forbids it. The violence in WWF wrestling is about as stylized as that in Stanley Kubrick's A Clockwork Orange, and I assume that the kids are smart enough to see it for what it is — an impressive display of agility, strength, and acting ability — even if the adult quoted earlier was not.

So, if the WWF comes to your town, check it out. Maybe some TASpian will go prepared with a questionnaire, a tape recorder, or some other means of getting the kids' view of this amazing event which has received so much attention from adults.
Where's the Play in Power at Play?
By Dan Hilliard

Mike Messner sent me a copy of his new book *Power at Play* just about a year ago. The book has been very well received, and I thought it might merit a review in *Play & Culture*, but it doesn't look like that will happen under the current circumstances, so I decided to give it some attention in this, my farewell issue as editor of the Newsletter.

Mike has developed a well-deserved reputation as a leader in theorizing about men's studies and masculinities, pro-feminist sociology, and sport. *Power at Play* is based on his Ph D dissertation research which in turn was based upon intensive interviews with a snowball sample of 30 adult men who had experienced "sports careers"; that is, they had been prominent high school, college, or professional athletes and had thus basked in the public spotlight as a result of their athletic accomplishments. Through the interviews, Mike asked these men to re-live their sports careers and to explore their feelings about the role of sport in their lives. And while the men in the study were quite willing to re-live their "glory days" and even to discuss the emotions connected to their sports careers, very little related to play or playfulness is expressed. In fact, for these men sport was very serious business indeed, for they had much to gain from their athletic success and much to lose from athletic failure. The subtitle of Messner's book is "Sports and the Problem of Masculinity," and his analysis shows that sport was instrumental in the development of a masculine identity during childhood and adolescence, that it helped create a sense of self-worth based on tangible (and perhaps ephemeral) accomplishments, and that it limited the bases for intimacy and trust in personal relationships with both women and other men. These men could not afford to be playful about sport, because their success or failure at sport had such a great impact on both their self-concept and their social status. This was especially true for non-white men and those from below average socioeconomic backgrounds.

Mike's study reveals a very different set of meanings attached to sport participation than did my own Ph D research almost twenty years ago on adult "recreational sport" participants (i.e., bowling league and softball league participants). My respondents indicated that among the most important sources of satisfaction from their sport participation were "affiliation" and "immediate gratification" or "feeling the action." By affiliation, they did not mean the kind of camaraderie produced by war or a pennant drive; they meant...
the simple social pleasures received by interacting on a regular basis with people who share an interest. And by "feeling the action" they did not mean the satisfaction of winning a league championship; they meant the more fleeting joy of a great catch or a spontaneous move.

As I read Power at Play I also thought of Gary Alan Fine's ethnography of little league baseball, which demonstrated that pre-adolescent boys have an ingenious capacity to retain the playfulness of physical activity even as adults try to turn it into not-play. I began to think about why play themes were so notably absent from the interviews of Messner's career athletes. Is there an age at which the playfulness of sport is lost, and is that age associated with school sport and the side-bet on social status gains associated with being a "jock"? This is probably true in part, but at a gut level I think that even professional athletes still like to "feel the action." (This is, after all, the theme of Pete Gent's powerful North Dallas Forty.) Do more temporary satisfactions exist but remain unarticulated in interviews which focus on the career of the athlete? Or, put differently, does the research focus on the athletic career tend to elicit responses that deal with goals, accomplishments, and status? This, too, is probably part of the answer, but in a methodological appendix Messner shows that he is sensitive to the problem in at least the general sense that he tries to allow the athletes to tell their own stories and to elicit responses about feelings as well as accomplishments.

Whatever the reason, to me the most striking thing about these athletes' accounts is the lack of reference to play. And in this sense, the title of Power at Play is misleading. In fact, it is the absence of play that gives sport the peculiar kind of power it has over the lives of these men. Messner addresses this issue in his last two chapters, but without making any direct references to play. In a chapter on "Life After Sport," he shows that some of these men have experimented with new, more sociable and egalitarian forms of sport participation from which they have achieved new satisfactions. And in the final chapter he suggests that there are threads of resistance running through the sportsworld that might be built upon. What could have been said more explicitly, I think, is that one of these threads is play. To paraphrase George C. Homans, one critique of modern sport might be entitled "Bringing Play Back In."

All things considered, I have mixed feelings about Power at Play. It is a great study of the impact of organized sport on men's lives, and I will make great use of it in my sociology of sport classes. Despite the title,
however, the book has nothing explicit to say about play. It does raise some interesting questions about the relationship of play and sport by the very absence of play themes in the subjects' accounts. But it remains for others to make sense of this absence.


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**Upcoming Meetings**

Crossing Boundaries in Practice, sponsored by the Center for the Study of the Practice of Architecture and other groups at the University of Cincinnati, will be held October 14-17, 1993 at the Netherland Plaza Hotel in Cincinnati. It is intended as an opportunity to discuss approaches to architecture and built environments across cultures, disciplines, locations, economic and political systems, and time.”

For information contact Dr. David G. Saile, CSPA, Mail Location 16, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0016, phone (513) 556-6426, FAX (513) 556-3288.

The 1993 International Conference on Humor and Laughter will be held from September 30 through October 3 in Luxembourg. For information contact Lawrence W. Sherman, President, International Society for Humor Studies, Dept. of Educational Psychology, 120 McGuffey Hall, Miami University, Oxford, OH 45066, phone (513) 529-6642, FAX (513) 529-7270, E-mail: LS8CEDPF@MIAMIU.BITNET.

...continued from p. 1.

In the true spirit of George Bush’s immortal words, “We won the Cold War,” I think we should take a group photograph inside the Mall of America and send it to George along with a suitably bawdy card.