EDITORIAL

As TAASP nears the end of its first decade of existence, and as we look forward to a great meeting in Baton Rouge it occurred to Roger Rees and myself to examine where the balance of our membership falls. Taking our present mailing list of 219 paid members (this excludes library adoptions, etc.) we undertook a very simple review of the geographical location of the membership. Overseas members account for N = 20 memberships, the remaining 199 members reside in the U.S. and Canada.

Dividing North America north and south of the Mason-Dixon line, and by time zone, we see our membership located as shown in figure 1. The bulk of the membership is to be found in the eastern regions, indeed only the southern pacific time region shows a sizable membership at N = 35 (of this 35 almost all reside in California).

So what of these data? As we look with great enthusiasm toward the Baton Rouge meeting of 1983 we might care to consider ways in which we could capitalize on this "event," so as to boost our numbers. Kendall Blanchard and Anna Nardo are doing a superb job in preparation for next year's meeting. What might the rest of us do? Perhaps one idea we may wish to consider is the use of regional coordinators who might devote a very small portion of their time to promoting TAASP in their "neck of the woods." -- we might even create a regional coordinator's column in the Newsletter where we can share, on a more regular basis, local

EXTRA: What do you give an Elephant with four balls? A walk - then pitch to the next Elephant.
Editorial (cont'd)

news or facts, all of which could well help to create a wider interest in TAASP. Janet Harris has just forwarded to some of us copies of our new brochure which we can circulate at meetings we attend. Perhaps regional coordinators, or the like, might assist Janet in making more of an organized impact.

The data from figure 1 might also be taken into account as we search out the most appropriate sites for our future annual meetings. How long, for example, since we have met out west? We are all aware of the pros and cons of meeting on the west coast, however, following the great successes which we hope to realize in Baton Rouge and Clemson perhaps we ought to give it a try. Certainly, as Kendall and Anna are clearly demonstrating, "Proper Prior Planning Prevents Pitifully Poor Performance."

In any case, I am confident that Kendall, Brian, et al., will close out this decade in TAASP's history with positive moves toward the future of TAASP. As the data in figure 1, and Jan Beran's report to the 1982 business meeting, suggest TAASP may be in need of a little membership K.I.T.A. (a source of motivation often found to be useful in critical times).

**Fig. 1**

1982 TAASP Membership by region*

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* Overseas members (not in U.S. or Canada) account for N = 20 of our 219 paid up members

A.O.D. & C.R.R.

**PRAYER FOR MEDIOCRITY**

In all the variables of my life,
Aptitude, interest, income, wife,
0 Supreme Mean, let me not swerve
Away from Thee in the normal curve.

As I pass along through life's years
From the standards set by peers
To left or right let me not stray
More than one deviation away.

Around the middle let me cluster
Free from tarnish and from luster.
Let me never, if I may be crude,
With those out on the ends be skewed.

For on the left there's disability
And on the right responsibility,
But, for my choice, let me survive
Among Thy sheep in stanine five.

John J. Scanlan
Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston

UPCOMING MEETING

PHILOSOPHIC SOCIETY MEETING SET FOR '82

The annual meeting of the philosophic society for the study of sport will be held in Buffalo, N.Y. -- dates are: October 14-16 1982. For info, write:

Dr. Carolyn Thomas, Conference Manager
Phil. Soc. for the Study of Sport
Clark Hall, S.U.N.Y. Buffalo
Buffalo, N.Y. 14214
TAASP NEWSLETTER POLICIES FOR GUEST EDITORS

In keeping with the recommendation of the TAASP Executive Committee of April, 1982, the newsletter editor(s) will consider the use of guest editors. Individuals selected to serve as guest editors will accept the responsibility of organizing copy on a central theme reflecting a general interest of the society for publication in the newsletter. While some flexibility in format is possible, this would usually consist of brief critiques, summary statements or position papers from several contributors, organized, edited and submitted by the guest editor. A guest editor might present material dealing with a specific research problem, focus on one of the subfields within anthropology and play, or provide a forum for serious debate on a particular issue. Political treatises are inappropriate for publication in the Newsletter.

The following policies are provided to assist those who wish to serve as guest editors and to ensure the delivery of newsletter copy of high quality and uniform standards.

1. Individuals wishing to be considered to serve as a guest editor should submit a brief letter to the newsletter editor. This should: a) state the intent or focus of the proposed issue; b) identify those who have agreed to contribute to the issue; c) provide a brief outline of the structure of the issue, as well as a table of contents; d) suggest an approximate completion date.

After review of the letter, the applicant will be notified of the editor's decision. Generally, agreements with guest editors will be reached at least six months in advance of the indicated publication deadline.

2. The copy submitted for publication must conform to the following specifications: a) the total length should be approximately 15 pages of single-spaced material in columns; b) there should be two parallel columns per page, each with a width of approximately 3 1/2 inches or 9 cm. c) the pages should have side margins of approximately 3/8 inches or 1 cm. d) the pages should have top and bottom margins of at least 5/8 inches or 1 1/2 cm.

3. Notes should be avoided. If it is necessary to include notes, include them at the end of the article.

4. References should follow the format of the American Psychological Association.

5. All copy must be received camera-ready.

6. The deadline for receipt of all copy is 30 days prior to the scheduled publication date of the issue in which it is to be included.

7. If a guest editor fails to submit the copy for publication as agreed, the Newsletter will be published with a notice informing the membership that the individual has failed to submit the proposed material in time for publication.

8. It is strongly suggested that guest editors residing in Canada or elsewhere outside the continental United States take special precautions to allow sufficient time for the final copy to be received before deadlines. It is suggested that guest editors strive to make the copy as attractive and readable as possible. Toward this end it may be helpful to break up the text into logical units through the use of subheadings. The editors will be glad to answer any specific queries or discuss ideas with applicants or potential applicants.
Hensley arrived, as he always did, about ten minutes early. By the time the others started coming into the room, he had finished one sandwich and was taking another out of its plastic baggie. The smell of bananas floated from the brown paper bag that sat, rumpled and spotted, next to his briefcase. He watched casually as the other men came into the room. It was Hensley's belief that the way a man walked into a room gave away secrets about his character. (At the same time, Hensley also considered himself to be above irrationality and superstition.)

Hensley knew, for example, how Hartung would come in. He would be smiling and slightly stiff, as though somewhere in his background there was a metallic grandfather. Hartung was small and in his early fifties. He was impeccable in his manners and clothing. He was the only person Hensley had ever met who never seemed to commit any kind of faux pas. Hartung never stumbled when he came through the doorway. (Hensley was impressed by how often the more ineffectual members of the department revealed themselves with awkward movements.) Hartung was properly proper. He did not eat his lunch during the meetings and Hensley could not determine whether this was because Hartung was dieting or because he did not care to be seen carrying a little brown bag to work. It was certainly the latter. Hensley noticed that when Hartung pulled his chair back to sit down, there was never a scraping sound.

Norse came in behind Hartung. Norse was still not a full professor despite thirteen years of service to the department. Norse was beginning to effect a stoop. He was tall and ungainly. He had narrow shoulders and a ponderous, sagging stomach. When he came through the door he looked up, as if the ceiling might come down on him. He smiled at everybody, but no one, with the exception of Hensley, appeared to notice. He carried an oversized brown bag which he emptied on to the table.

The room was taking on a strong odor of coffee, bananas and cigarette smoke.

Six other members of the department came in. Hensley put his sandwich down. He was anticipating that Fischbein would be the last to come, if he came at all. Hensley was right. Fischbein was ten minutes late. Harley Gummer, the chairman, had already started the meeting.

It was an interstitial period for Hensley. So far, no one had brought up any issues that touched his personal interests. He used the time to review the strengths and weaknesses of his colleagues. Most complex and possibly threatening was the character of Fischbein. Fischbein had been hired the previous year. He was a good teacher. At least the students spoke well of him and there had been no complaints. Fischbein had written an article for one of the best journals in the field and it
had just been published. Hensley still had a copy of it lying, unread, on his desk. Fischbein had been apologetic when he gave the reprint to Hensley. Hensley had not published anything for three years. His last writing effort was a mimeographed report on the use of audiovisual devices by members of the department.

Hensley could hear Hartung speaking. Hartung always enunciated clearly. Each word seemed to be given special attention.

"The promotion and tenure committee of the department still finds itself debating how we ought to go about the matter of evaluating the work of the members of this department. We have tried, of course, to take into account teaching and research. But you know the problem. We still cannot determine what weight to give to different activities. Should we, for example, give greater weight to research? To teaching? What about service to the community and the school? It is an old thing."

He flapped his hands ever so slightly and Hensley thought, for just a second, that Hartung might display a sign of frustration. Hartung looked around the room and went on.

"Even if we knew how to weigh these activities, we still have the problem of establishing what constitutes good research and good teaching. Should a man who does bad research be elevated above a man who does an excellent job in the classroom? Is a poor journal article—and there are enough of them around—somehow better than a superb classroom lecture?"

Hensley was certain that Hartung, underneath, was feeling slightly uncomfortable. On the surface, however, there was no betrayal of such feelings.

There was a pause. The air-conditioner was making an aggravating noise. People slouched in their chairs. For the older members of the faculty the question was not only familiar, it was dull. It was not only dull, it was not especially relevant. The matter of promotions and tenure was necessarily complicated and subtle. It could not and should not be routinized. It was a many-splendored-thing. It was something that generated talk, worry, and a bit of hustling. Promotion and tenure should have an element of uncertainty about it. It made the university and the department more like the real world. Who wanted to make it tidy? At the same time, everyone knew that it was necessary to make noises that revealed a commitment to the demands of bureaucratic rationality.

These discussions were a ritualistic purging. They acknowledged the possibility of a pure and professional morality. At the same time, the discussions invariably went in the direction of granting a deeply regretted awareness of "realities." Somehow, the discussion always stopped at the point that it was forced to talk about reality. Hensley looked on it as some kind of minor paradoxical performance. The department met to tell itself that it had a profound understanding of what was "good" while, at the same time, it publicly confessed that the "good" could not be attained. At this point in the ritual there was usually a settling down and a great deal of rustling of paper bags and some sporadic coughing.
Hensley, during Hartung's comments, had been watching Fischbein. Fischbein had not appeared to be playing much attention. As Hartung finished, Hensley saw Fischbein raise his fist, in slow motion, and bring it toward his chin. Had the action been speeded, Fischbein would have slugged himself. No one else saw the gesture. Fischbein turned toward Hartung and began to speak. He was almost drowned out by the hum and rattle of the air-conditioner. Hensley became attentive.

"We are all familiar with the problem and we all know, if we want to be honest about it, that nothing much can be done that has not already been done. Nothing. So, perhaps the thing to do is change the problem around a little. It cannot be solved in its present form. Maybe we can change it into a form where it can be solved. This is one of the most elementary canons of scientific procedure, gentlemen."

Hensley, without quite knowing why, was already beginning to feel irritated. Fischbein, with his low voice and carefully strung together sentences, had taken on an unctuous quality. Before continuing with his argument, Fischbein took out a small fingernail file and began working on the fingers of his left hand.

"What really determines the 'worth' of a faculty member?"

He put quotation marks around 'worth' as he spoke it. For dramatic effect he repeated the question and Hensley squirmed. "What really constitutes the worth of a faculty member? How do we, in fact, respond to each other in terms of respect, deference or a sense of professional value? I submit that we do it much like the members of any other community do it. We have a system of stratification and ranking that is our very raison d'être. It is a most arbitrary sort of thing, actually. How do we ascertain our standing in an arbitrary and uncertain prestige system? Again, let me suggest that we do it the way everyone else does. You have status if you are associated in some way or fashion with others who have it."

Hensley found himself listening. Fischbein was talking slowly and without effort. It was hard for Hensley to tell whether Fischbein was amusing himself or being serious. The pose with the fingernail file was close to insulting. At the same time, it appeared to work. Everybody was attentive.

"That is to say," Fischbein continued, "We defer to those who somehow have 'tapped' into the deference system. If, for example, we had a member of this department who was a close friend of the President of the United States but was, otherwise, just an ordinary and modestly competent professional, he would probably have an 'aura' that would sustain him for a while at a rather high level in the deference system. There is no hypocrisy in this. Such a man would have considerable potential value. We all recognize and understand this kind of thing. I would submit further that anyone who is going to be of value to an academic department must maintain, in some form or other, relationships with people whose potential value to the department is generally understood. That is, to some extent we have to be political. Right, huh?"
The simplicity of it was interesting in itself. Hensley knew that Fischbein was verging on the morbid and the threatening. However, he had sustained such a simple style of argument that it was difficult to interrupt. To the contrary, so far there was enough agreement and acceptance to produce a feeling of slight boredom and several members of the department were showing signs of distraction. Hensley stayed with it. He had the feeling this was just a preliminary warm up. Fischbein was leading toward something more interesting.

"I would wager, gentlemen, that the pay scale and other signs of status and worth in this department are directly related to the extent to which a faculty member is capable of demonstrating extensive relationships with people of status and prestige in the profession and, more broadly, maintaining relationships with people of status in the country—regardless of how that status was attained. All we have to do, if we want to routinize this business, is make use of some of the current devices that exist for measuring human relationships and getting some kind of ranking system for status. It should be simple enough. All we need is a status index. If indexes are good enough for science—and we do subscribe to scientific procedures, don't we?—they should be good enough for the department. We are all scientists. We should practice what we preach."

Fischbein was coming close to being nasty. Hensley was aware that every one of the members of the department spent much time telling students that society should be approached from the perspectives of science. Hensley was also cynical enough to think that there was probably no one in the department who seriously and personally cared about the implications of such a view. It seemed, to Hensley, that Fischbein was about to put the ideological commitments of the department to some kind of test.

The department believed in, almost worshipped, indexes. Seminars were taught in which the most elaborate varieties of indexes were developed and discussed. They were the foundations of methodology—and one should, above all else, be methodical. But, were there places where the methodology was not appropriate? Hensley had the feeling that Fischbein was putting on a little demonstration. If it failed, it would be revealing. If it succeeded, that would also be revealing. This was another of the "simple canons" of good scientific procedure.

Fischbein went on. "Yes, an index. A status index. If my earlier premise is correct—that we are of value to the extent we are able to maintain relations with others of value—then, it seems to me, we can get at this in a simple way. All we have to do is set up a measure of the extent to which each of us associated with or is, somehow, close to people of prestige or value. To simplify the process, I suggest we limit ourselves to those who are considered to be of value within our particular discipline."

The rustling of bags stopped. Hensley watched as Hartung began stuffing his pipe. Morse appeared to be engaged in the effort of establishing an appropriate expression for the occasion. Two of the younger faculty members were slouched low in their chairs. They were dogmatic in their understanding of the world. They were not perplexed by anything—or, at least, they gave that impression.
Points of view (continued)

R. P. Cuzzort

Hensley found them easy to deal with. If they liked the turn that Fischbein's argument was taking, they would say little or nothing. If they did not like it, then they would come on strong with a forceful denunciation that would be nested within a complex string of theoretical references and conclude with a vigorous claim that they were only working toward the end of making certain that the injustices of the world were not allowed to become greater.

"My proposal," Fischbein was saying, "is in keeping with the current methodological procedures acceptable to each of us in our studies of similar problems in other communities. All I am suggesting is that we approach the problem, as it appears within the department, with the same rationality we display when we come upon the problem in other areas. Sauce for the goose and that sort of thing. So, I believe the matter can be resolved with three or four easy steps. The final operation can be carried out by an untrained person after a brief period of instruction.

"The first thing to do is identify people of prestige and high status within our field. This can be done simply enough. We can go through the directory of the National Association and compile a list of, let us say, the five hundred most influential and prestigious workers in our field. I would suspect that most fields do not have more than a few hundred. The nice thing about prestige is that it is so limited. This makes our task all the easier. In fact, various professional Who's Who listings take care of about ninety percent of the job.

"After we have the list, each person in the department, each of us, will be asked to give some kind of ranking to these people. We should be able to come up with a rough ranking. We could give any person on the list a number from, perhaps, one to five. Or, we could divide the five hundred into the top hundred, the second hundred, etc. The bottom hundred would be given a value of one, the next a value of two and so on until the people in the top hundred would have a value of five.

"After this has been done, we are ready to establish the worth of the members of this department. We could assign the secretaries of the department the task of making a note, each day, of the source from which a faculty member receives mail. If I were to receive a letter from, let us say, P. R. McNaughten, recognized by all of us as the dean of American intellectual effort in our field, then I would get five points.

"You can see the general nature of what I am getting at. All the secretaries would have to do is keep score and, at the end of the year, we could add up the points and we would have a well delineated and mensuratively established statement of worth. It would be quantitative and it would be realistic."

The room was quiet. The air-conditioner cut off just as Fischbein closed his speech. One of the members of the department snorted and folded her lunch bag and tossed it across the table toward the wastebasket. She missed. Hartung laughed in a way that Hensley decided revealed both irritation and amusement. Enough time had been wasted. There were serious matters to be attended to.
Hartung leaned toward Fischbein. "I have heard that your students think you are funny, Fischbein. Now I think I know why. There is no way such an index would work. It would be exploited immediately."

Fischbein interrupted with more seriousness in his voice than the others had expected. "The question is not whether it would or would not be exploited. The existing procedures are also exploited. That is why we are having this discussion. The question is whether it would be exploited as readily as we exploit the existing system. A person who writes one banal paper and it is published in four or five slightly modified forms—claiming, then, to have several publications where he actually only has one—has engaged in exploitation of the prevailing system. I sincerely doubt that a status index could be exploited as easily."

Hartung put down his pipe. Fischbein had not done the right thing. He was supposed to have resigned from further support of his ridiculous proposal and he was not doing it. Hensley knew that Hartung had little alternative. He could cut Fischbein off, which he did not want to do just yet; or, he could continue to argue against what had to be a bad joke. Hartung was pinned. The only thing, then, was to come up with a counter of some kind and hope that it would suffice to shut up Fischbein and provide a space during which the affairs of the department could be shunted around to something more significant.

Hartung scratched his nose with a slow gesture which, to Hensley, gave subliminal indications of contempt. "Fischbein, be reasonable. We can't engage in a snooping examination of each person's mail. It would be a gross invasion of privacy. Surely you aren't recommending such an absurd thing. If we don't examine their mail, how can we tell what sort of value to place on a letter that a man receives? It might be perfectly innocuous or even negative. What, for example, would prevent any one of us from constructing some kind of 'survey' of the leaders that would result in a response from all five hundred of the people in the list. This would balloon things out of all proportion."

Fischbein put down his fingernail file and pulled his chair closer to the table. "Well, at least it would be something. Such a survey, if it brought about a response from the leaders of our field, would be good in and of itself. I doubt, however, that anyone here would attempt such a thing. It would be too obvious and, unless it were done well, would probably backfire on the person who tried it. Done well, it could enhance a person's status and worth and, ultimately, the prestige of the department. I would be in favor of it."

"However, if this still seems to be a violation of the spirit of measuring a faculty member's value to the department, it could be handled by a simple sampling procedure. That is to say, certain weeks of the semester could be randomly set aside as periods during which the status value of the mail received by the faculty would be measured. So, returns coming in from a survey could be bypassed. It certainly would make such an effort to gain status a more risky matter."
Points of view (continued)

R. P. Cuzzort

Hartung had allowed his jaw to drop ever so slightly. He pointed his pipe stem toward the ceiling. "This is really getting to be absurd. Do you intend to go on with this farcical proposition?"

Fischbein smiled. "You started it. Is this any more farcical than any of a number of other procedures we have used? It is grounded on a solid premise, that is to say, a man's worth is determined by the extent to which he is able to associate with and relate to those people who have established in some tangible manner their own worth. No one has challenged that premise as yet. If we accept it, then all we have to do is measure such associations. A simple approach is to evaluate the extent of communications that take place between any individual and others who are generally accepted as worthy. The most available communication system we have at hand is correspondence. This can be counted. You all believe in counting. So, the problem is solved with simplicity and reason.

"I most seriously set this proposition before the department as a matter on which a decision should be reached. I would like to say this, however, before putting the question to a vote. If we are not to be a bunch of hypocrites, we should take indexes as seriously for ourselves as we take them for others. Would this procedure suffer from any greater weaknesses than the system we now think we use—if we use any system at all? If it is rationally superior, and that can be established only by careful argument and by demonstration, we have no choice. We will have to try it."

Hensley was watching Hartung. Hartung was choking without giving any visible sign of it. Hartung spoke. "I...can't believe...that...you are serious."

"What do I have to do to convince you?" said Fischbein. "Why not give the issue over to a committee? The department can then wait for the committee's report. I believe, in any event, that the matter should be discussed further and not simply dismissed in some casual way."

That meeting took place in 1973. It has been nearly a decade since the department, to its surprise, found itself saddled with the Fischbein Index. The committee wrestled with the issue for six months before coming back with a number of modifications and refinements that led to accepting the index.

In 1973 the department was an out-of-the-way academic outpost. It bothered no one and it certainly was not bothered by anyone. The Fischbein Index changed that. We are now the fifth most powerful department in the country and there is every reason to believe the department will come to dominate the field within the next ten years. Two of our faculty have international reputations and there is not a single person within the department who lacks at least some national recognition.

Fischbein received an offer from a larger school and left two years after we voted in the index. Hartung hit upon the device of writing a series of volumes on the lives of the
twelve most eminent writers in the field. It led to Hartung carrying on a constant and eventually quite lively correspondence with some extremely well known people. He became one of the most sought out people at regional and national meetings. He was constantly traveling about the country. The publication of his rather small book was hailed as a landmark in reviews that appeared in the best of journals.

Morse was never able to handle the situation. He never received communications from anyone. This, along with his inability to demonstrate any other signs of value to the department led to his eventual isolation. He left the department about five years after Fischbein left.

Young people coming into the department were informed about the index. It led to the better ones carefully retaining the connections they had established in graduate school. We now have a stable of young assistant professors who are probably better known and more powerful as a group than any other such collection in the country. They will be the ones who, in the next decade, will come to be the true leaders of the discipline.

I found myself drawn into the index and handled the problem by working my way into the more important committees of the National Association and by getting an editorship in one of the professional journals. I usually do not come up to Hartung's quite high ratings at the end of the year, but I am invariably a comfortable seventh or eighth. People have come to respect the name of Hensley.

Ironically, the success of the index has created a problem. Two of the twenty most prestigious members of the discipline are now in this department. Our correspondence with each other is beginning to distort the Fischbein Index. We shall have to discuss the problem at our next departmental meeting.

A PROBLEM IN REASONING

Suppose then we are hiking along a country lane and have just reached a point where it forks. We know that one - but not which one - of the branches leads to the village T, where people always tell the truth, and the other to the neighboring village F (short for 'false') whose inhabitants always lie. We want to go to T. We see a villager coming towards us. We do not know whether he is a resident of T or F.

Suppose that there is only enough time to ask him one question. Is this sufficient to find out from him which lane leads to village T?

Obviously, pointing at one of the branches and asking him the simple question, 'Is this the lane to T? won't do in our case. For we have the following four possibilities.'

1. The man is from T and says yes. Then it is the right way.
2. The man is from F and says no. Then it is also the right way.
3. The man is from T and says no. Then it is the wrong way.
4. The man is from F and says yes. Then it is also the wrong way.

Since we cannot make out whether the villager is from T or F, we are not any wiser by this method. So we must find a somewhat shrewder question to ask him. ---- What is this question?
FUTURE MEETINGS


Contact: M. Krotee
Division of Physical Education
University of Minnesota
217 Cook Hall
1900 University Ave., S.E.
Minneapolis, MN. 55455

ISA, World Congress on Sociology, Mexico City, August 16-21, 1982.

Contact: Gunther Luschen, President
ICSS
c/o Department of Sociology
University of Illinois
Champaign, Illinois


Contact: Charles H. Page
Session Organizer, Sociology of Sport
c/o 7 Hampton Terrace
Northampton, MA 01060

NASSS, Toronto, November 4-7, 1982.

Contact: Peter Donnelly
Conference Coordinator
Department of Physical Education
McMaster University
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada


Contact: Kendall Blanchard
P. O. Box 10
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Western Humor and Irony Membership (WHIM), Tempe, AZ, March 31-April 2, 1983.

Contact: Don L. F. Nilsen
English Department
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona 85287
Western Humor and Irony Membership (WHIM)

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR APPLICATION FORM.

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

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Tempe, AZ 85281

Our 1982 WHIM humor conference was highly successful. We had over 400 people on the program from the United States and eleven foreign countries. We had about 1,000 people attend one or more of the sessions during the three-day-plus conference. We had coverage in more than a dozen local newspapers, and we had a reporter from the BOSTON GLOBE and a photographer from Associated Press attending the entire conference. We are trying to make the April Fool's Day WHIM conferences a tradition at Arizona State University, and we therefore very much hope that you are planning to attend WHIM-1983.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Don L. P. Nilsen
THIRD ANNUAL MEETING
November 4-7, 1982
TORONTO, CANADA

THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION: ISSUES IN AMERICAN AND CANADIAN SPORT

SUB-THEMES:
— STRATIFICATION & SPORT (Thursday)
— ELITE AMATEUR & PROFESSIONAL SPORT (Friday)
— SOCIAL PROBLEMS & SPORT (Saturday)

CALL FOR PAPERS AND PRE-REGISTRATION

FURTHER INFORMATION

General:
Dr. P. Donnelly
School of Physical Education
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Hamilton, Ontario Canada
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Program & Papers:
Dr. N. Theberge
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Student Paper Competition:
Dr. B. D. McPherson
Department of Kinesiology
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario Canada
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Pre-Conference Symposium:
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Department of Kinesiological Studies
Texas Christian University
Fort Worth, Texas 76129

or Dr. N. Widmeyer
Department of Kinesiology
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario Canada
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CARNAVAL IN CANADA

This program is a one-hour cultural documentary on the Toronto Caribana, a West Indian carnival that began in 1967 and has become one of North America's most spectacular ethnic celebrations. Highlights include the carnival parade, reggae and calypso shows, steel band performances, fashion shows and costume competitions, dramatic dances, and a variety of festivities on a small island in the Toronto Harbor that is symbolically depicted as an image of the Caribbean environment. Also shown are the making of masquerade costumes and other 'behind-the-scenes' activities, as well as interviews with performers and participants who discuss what the festival represents. The program explores the human significance of celebration, focusing on the reconstruction of traditional forms in new settings and the role that festivals can play in social strategies and processes.

Carnival in Canada is produced and narrated by Frank Manning, an anthropologist at the University of Western Ontario. The program has been broadcast on public television in Ontario and used in classroom teaching. It is now available on a 3/4" video cassette at the nominal cost of $75. It is recommended especially for resource centres, libraries, ethnology museums, and academic teaching units. To order, complete the form below.

Please send Carnival in Canada to:

Make cheque or money order payable to Dr. Frank Manning, Department of Anthropology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario N6A 5C2
Nobody is Perfect

Each one of us is a mixture of good qualities and some perhaps not-so-good qualities. In considering our fellow man we should remember his good qualities and realize that his faults only prove that he is, after all, a human being. We should refrain from making harsh judgment of a person just because he happens to be a dirty, rotten, no-good son-of-a-bitch.
1983 TAASP CONVENTION IN
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA AT
MARDI GRAS

Since Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) will be February 15, all plans for the 1983 TAASP convention should be made early. The conference will begin with registration in the evening of February 11, papers and symposia will be held February 12-14, and those staying over will enjoy an all-day bus trip to and from New Orleans on Mardi Gras Day, February 15. Here's a tentative schedule of deadlines for making your plans:

Sept. 30, 1982 - Plane reservations to and from Baton Rouge should be made.

Oct. 15, 1982 - Abstracts and pre-registration fees should be mailed to Kendall Blanchard.

Jan. 15, 1983 - Hotel reservations and reservations for the New Orleans trip must be made.

This year we will be meeting with the Southern Anthropological Society and the American Ethnological Society, who have invited a number of luminaries to the conference. In addition to excellent papers and a New Orleans trip, our convention promises a number of other treats: famous Louisiana cuisine, entertainment one evening by a Cajun band, and a Mardi Gras masquerade ball. So bring your costumes and your dancing shoes, as well as your scholarship, to Baton Rouge next February.

Costume

New Orleanians mask on Mardi Gras in a great variety of costumes: a dress of Spanish moss, a skirt made of uncooked pasta, a bikini and body paint, a harlequin suit, or simply a face painted half gold, half purple. Use your imagination, but make sure your costume includes comfortable walking shoes.
So far, the local arrangements are as follows:

**Hotel:** Prince Murat Motor Inn, 1480 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, phone - 504-387-1111

**Rates:** $37 single, $43 double, $6 for each additional person up to a maximum of four persons per room, 8% sales tax

**Travel:**
- By plane - Delta, American, Republic
- From the airport - limousine and taxi
- By bus - Continental Trailways, Greyhound
- No train service

Conference pre-registration fee: tentatively $15.

Fee for New Orleans trip: tentatively $15.

For further information about local arrangements, write to Anna Nardo, Department of English, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

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**PLANNING YOUR TRIP -- MORE HELPFUL NOTES**

**Weather in February:**
Normal temperature—62°; Number of days with .01 inches or more of precipitation—9; Percentage of possible sunshine—51%; Relative humidity—64%. What these figures translate to is that, if your costume is not warm, you may want a layer of clothing beneath it. Although there is a possibility that February 15 will be cold (in 1899 it snowed), you will probably only need a light jacket.

**What to carry**
You may want a wine skin with a shoulder strap, a camera, or a small umbrella. Since you will be on foot, however, in crowded sidewalks, you will not want to carry heavy articles or a wallet full of money.
Dominick Cavallo adeptly draws together historical events and explanations of the social and psychological impetus that contributed to organized playgrounds and urban reform. The introduction to this work explains the author's interest in communicating how and why reformers of the time "saw team sports as child saving devices" (p. 4). With careful attention to maintaining a broad perspective, Cavallo guides the reader to a logical and committed understanding of the importance of the text that follows.

Cavallo continues his systematic explanation of the organization of urban playgrounds with the presentation of essential knowledge from a historical perspective in Part I, "Organized Children's Play." The reader is provided with a historical background of urban play. By focusing on the motives for playground and recreation development, Cavallo explains the social philosophy of the era. The reader is taken through an excellent summary of playground reform, 1880-1920, using a history of ideas approach.

This approach heightens the reader's ability to understand the significance of the issues discussed in the remainder of the book. Cavallo's summary of the work and influence of major child psychologists of the period (Hall, Dewey, Baldwin, Thorndike and James) gives the reader adequate information to allow understanding that "what is significant about these diverse child psychologists is that each of them emphasizes a mode of child training that could effectively be practiced by rigorous physical skill and games on organized playgrounds." (p. 72)

The underlying theme, ontogeny recapitulates philogeny is succinctly explained as a major theory necessary for understanding the playground reform of the period.

Part II, "Interpretations: The Playground and Cultural Changes," explains the relationship between sex role characteristics and interpretations of moral behavior. The egotistic vs. altruistic model of behavior is described as the major influencing factor in the moral development of the child. Cavallo does an outstanding job of explaining the playground as a setting where moral behavior is influenced.

The importance of the results of sex-role typing on moral behavior is adequately explained but the author continues the theme with a chapter length discussion of the struggles of Jane Addams, a social reformer who seemed to personify the sex-role defined identity crisis facing women in the late 1800s. Readers who are willing to accept some of the assumptions of psychoanalytic theory will find this chapter fascinating.

Cavallo explains the social forces acting upon an individual as playground reformers sought methods for producing the "ideal teamplayer." He succeeds in reminding us of the importance of understanding the social forces present in the late 1800s and early 1900s in order to gain an understanding of the importance placed on play and moral development by social reformers of the time.

This extremely well written and well researched work should be held as a model of the type of interdisciplinary approach to information gathering that should be stressed in every academic discipline. Muscles and Morals is important reading for all students of social history.

**DAVID VANDERWERKEN:**

Norman Mailer once said that American writers see themselves as athletes. Although Mailer's typically outrageous remark hardly applies to a Henry James or a Joyce Carol Oates, a surprisingly large number of our writers have indeed written about athletes. Just how surprisingly large the roster is becomes evident in Higg's Laurel and Thorn and Berman's Playful Fictions and Fictional Players.

The more ambitious study of the two, Higg's book is a comprehensive analysis of dozens of fictional athletes in American literary history. The approach is cultural rather than literary, concerned with the athlete, "not as an artistic creation, but as a symbol, in the eyes of the authors of American culture." Higgs organizes the work by dividing his athletes into three large squads comprising three lengthy chapters named for the Greek gods Apollo, Dionysius, and Adonis. In the opening chapter, "Game Plan," Higgs defines his terms and offers his rationale for his selections, acknowledging the "danger inherent in any categorization".

Briefly, the Apollonian athlete is a conformist to some external ideal who takes the form of, among others, the "busher, the booster alumnus, and the muscular Christian," as illustrated by Ring Lardner's Jack Keefe in You Know Me, Al, F. Scott Fitzgerald's Tom Buchanan in the Great Gatsby, and Sinclair Lewis' Elmer Gantry. In contrast, the Dionysian athlete rebels against Apollonian order in his narcissistic concern for his body. Higgs calls these types the "darling" and the "beast" and illustrates them through Irwin Shaw's Christian Darling in "The Eighty-Yard Run" and Lardner's Midge Kelly in "Champion", to name two. Finally, the athlete as a version of Adonis derives from the Dionysian model in that he, too, rebels, yet he is a "rebel with a cause"--transcendent self-fulfillment. Some Adonic avatars are the "folk hero, the absurd athlete, and the 'secret' Christian" as exemplified by Bernard Malamud's Roy Hobbs in The Natural, Mark Harris' Henry Wigan in Bang the Drum Slowly, and James Whitehead's Sonny Joiner. Higgs concludes in his final chapter, "The Wrap-Up", that American writers reject both Apollo and Dionysus, while celebrating and affirming Adonis--the athlete who struggles, albeit unsuccessfully, toward quality.

Berman presents a considerably sparer lineup in his more traditional critical study, Playful Fiction and Fictional Players. Berman examines five of the more important sports-centered novels in light of the "play-attitude" expressed in each, running from least playful to most playful. Correspondingly, the modes of each of the five go from most realistic to least realistic, from objective mimesis to purely imaginative construct. The works treated are Leonard Gardner's Fa City, Peter Gent's North Dallas Forty, Don DeLillo's End Zone, Lawrence Shainberg's One on One, and Robert Coover's The Universal
Baseball Association. In the grindingly naturalistic world of Gardners' fighters, play is non-existent, and boxing is no liberator for the human spirit. Play occasionally surfaces in Gent's NFL, but professionalism largely inhibits it. End Zone reveals more possibilities for the play-attitude as dramatized by Delillo's college football players. Shainberg's schizophrenic college player, Elwood Baskin, inhabits an internal play world of "pure" basketball more than he lives in the world of big time roundball at NYU. Finally, Coover's Henry Waugh demonstrates the play world as triumphant as proprietor of his invented baseball league, while the external world vanishes altogether.

Berman's book reminds us of the playfulness at the heart of artistic creation itself.

Although both books are well worth the reader's time, Berman's more modestly conceived book is the more successfully achieved work of the two. Higg's categories are clever, but their usefulness beyond simply labeling is doubtful. One sometimes senses that ingenious distinctions are being made where none really exists. However, Higgs offers helpful insights on individual work and characters, such as his commentary on Tennessee William's Brick Pollitt in Cat On A Hot Tin Roof, but these are isolated nuggets. Berman's critiques, on the other hand, both prove his theses convincingly and illuminate the texts perceptively. Yet both authors make lively, thoughtful, and well-written contributions to a growing body of sports-centered literary criticism.
Dear Editor,

Who knows more about 'ARITHMOMACHIE'?

Michel Boutin, student of 'Sciences du feu' at the university of Paris XIII, looks for more information on the medieval table game, called 'Arithmomachie' or 'Rithmomachie'. The game was played on a 16 x 8 chess board and the pieces were moved according to complex calculations. Why did this game disappear?

Has someone seen a copy in a museum? Your answers are welcome at Michel Boutin's address: 14, Rue A. Dumas, 86000 Poitiers, France.

(R. RENSON, Leuven)

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to the entire association to alert them to what I consider to be a serious problem; the poor quality of the printing in the most recent volume of the TAASP proceedings - The Paradoxes of Play. It contains prominent errors on the title page, missing lines of text, misspellings of author's names, typographical errors of many kinds, skimpy spacing between characters, and improper formatting. In my own essay alone, I counted 45 errors.

The reason for many of these errors is that authors were not sent galley proofs from the press...... I requested, in writing, to proofread my galleys, but was told that the book was already in print. Whoever made the decision to skip this essential step (an official of Leisure Press?) would surely agree that the poor quality of the printing proves his decision was a mistake.

Because of these errors I cannot make offprints of my essay or list it in my bibliography; I would be embarrassed to have scholars in my field read it in its present form. Consequently, I recommend that authors withhold their essays from publication in future proceedings until the editors get assurance from Leisure Press that authors will be allowed to proofread their own galleys. And I hope this matter will be discussed at the 1983 business meeting.

If we want to be respected as an association for the study of play, we must insure that our future scholarly publications have the attributes of the phenomenon we study -- elegance, grace, and precision.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna K. Nardo (L.S.U.)
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