



RPA NEWS

The Newsletter of the Radical Philosophy Association

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FROM THE COORDINATORS

by Anne Pomeroy and Richard Jones

These theater-goers, too want to be entertained, hence loosened up and liberated, by the performance, but not without more ado or to be merely liberated from something but to be liberated for something.

Ernst Bloch

The Conference

Given the ongoing global climate of militarization, capitalist market expansionism, the erosion of basic human rights, surveillance, environmental ruin, and the corruption of the political, the Eighth Biennial RPA Conference "Art, Praxis and Social Transformation: Radical Dreams and Visions" offers hope beyond the ongoing empty spectacle of elective politics. The conference, to be held at San Francisco State University, November 6-9, 2008, promises to be the most well organized, diverse, informative, and highly participatory conferences in RPA's history.

The conference's Program Committee, chaired by Peter Amato, has crafted a compelling theme, invited renowned

plenary speakers, and constructed a politically relevant program worthy of our shared "Radical Dreams and Visions." We would like to take this first opportunity to thank Peter and the Program Committee for their outstanding efforts thus far. Anatole Anton and the site committee at San Francisco State also deserve praise for their efforts to ennoble our struggle by providing the platform to engage our students, colleagues, and friends in RPA's conference celebrating and consolidating our progress. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Anatole, the site committee, and San Francisco State for being such gracious and willing hosts. You can learn more about the conference at RPA's website

www.radicalphilosophy.org

or at the conference's website at

www.sfsu.edu/~raza/rpa.

This is an inspired conference that will change the face of the RPA. Please make your arrangements to attend and encourage your students and friends to attend. We look forward to seeing you in San Francisco!

Mid-Term Update

When we assumed the co-coordinator positions at our last conference at Creighton University in November 2006, we identified

a number of urgent matters facing RPA: (1) consolidation of our membership; (2) new ideas to reinvigorate and inform our activism; (3) the reinstatement of the RPA Newsletter; (4) increased emphases and focus on our publications, Radical Philosophy Review and Radical Philosophy Today; (5) rededication to our committee work; (6) improving our website; and, (7) involving more graduate students. Toward these ends, we have succeeded in part, but work remains.

(1) membership: With regard to the consolidation of membership, we have gained approximately 50% in our paid memberships. When we began our terms there were 147 current subscribers. As of the end of August, there are 235 (and we anticipate adding to this total before and at the conference). If you have been too busy to renew your membership, please take time to do this. It is important if we are to continue to grow as an organization.

(2) New projects: We have formed an exploratory committee for RPAfrica, written a grant proposal to APA for start-up money, and hope to have, with membership approval, an RPA sponsored conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, at Witswatersrand University in July 2009 (see the article in this issue of the Newsletter for details). At RPA Secretary Richard Peterson's suggestion, we have inaugurated the RPA Iris Marion Young Award, to honor her memory and contributions to the RPA, for the best paper presented by a graduate student at our biennial conferences.

(3) RPA Newsletter: Richard Schmitt has provided great service to our RPA community of friends and supporters by twice yearly producing and mailing 500 or so copies of the "Radical Philosophy Newsletter," which you hold in your hands.

In this era of email and texting, the Newsletter is a familiar and comforting conduit for information we feel should be continued. The Newsletter is an important vehicle for sustaining the organization.

(4) RPA Publications: Jeff Paris, Executive Editor of the Radical Philosophy Review, has provided great leadership in bringing new facets of Radical Philosophy to light. Reading RPR reminds us of the ever-changing nature of radical engagement. Similarly, Harry van der Linden, who also serves as RPA's Treasurer, has edited and published Radical Philosophy Today (the proceedings of our conferences) in a professional and timely manner. Because our publications are so important to us, we are exploring radical new ways to increase their readerships.

(5) Committees: One area where we feel we have more work is on our committees. In prior years, the Anti-Racist Education Project, the Anti-Death Penalty Committee, the RPA Prisons Project, and other committees were much more active than they are currently. As Co-Coordinator, we want to emphasize the reintroduction of actual committee activism. If you want to become involved in any existing RPA Committee, or have ideas for new committees, please let us know, as we are investing our energies for the next two years in strengthening this aspect of the organization. With 40 new student memberships, we hope to be able to enjoy their enthusiasm.

(6) Web Site: Jack Green Musselman, RPA's webmaster, has graciously accepted the responsibility for maintaining our web pages. We want to help Jack get the help he needs to not only maintain, but also redesign the portal. As Co-Coordinator, we feel it is well past time that the Website get a facelift. To that end we are requesting money from the Treasurer to pay for said web site updates.

