

MARIN COUNTY PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

A chapter of the
California Psychological Association

On-line Newsletter, February, 2005
Volume II, Number 1

2005 Officers

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662-2388

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380-9985

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927-7566

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459-7707, and
Ralph Lamson, Ph.D.

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646-0822
Bethany Miller, Psy.D.
518-7999

Membership

Roberta Seifert, Ph.D.
457-1777

Newsletter

John Weir, Ph.D.
457-8886

Public Education & Marketing

Barbara Khurana, Ph.D.
460-9030

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Empty

EDITOR'S COLUMN

John Weir, Ph.D.

Welcome to the New MCPA Year, and to the New Officers for 2005.

Grace Rogers tells of some novel and exciting ideas for the coming year. Plans are underway to expand the benefits of membership and to extend our visibility to the broader collegial community.

For those who have yearned for elegant dining while earning CEU's, **Joanie Gillispie** is working to arrange

Dinner Speaker Meetings with a CEU Option!

A Membership Roster is provided by **Roberta Seifert**. Healthy narcissism requires, of course, you immediately look for your own name therein. So, check it out and notify me and Roberta if there are errors.

Mark Kamena keeps us informed about sleep medications, new ethics code and supervision rules, and the new CPA Executive Director. March 15 is CPA Leadership and Advocacy Day. And do not forget the CPA Annual Convention in Pasadena, April 7-10.

Do not miss **Sue Hulley's** provocative article on Clint Eastwood's latest Oscar contender, "Million Dollar Baby"

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President's Message **Grace Rogers, Ph.D.**

This is my first message to the MCPA membership as President. I send good wishes to all and I welcome your ideas about how MCPA can best address your needs and dreams. I have always been impressed with the level of energy and dedication that your Board (known as the EC) has brought to serving the needs of psychologists and the citizens of Marin County. I feel very privileged indeed to be serving with the members who are new this year to the EC, along with the long standing and still enviously energetic veterans. We had our first meeting January 26th and we accomplished most of our full agenda within our meeting time (I think I went 5 minutes over). Please see the masthead of this newsletter for the names and contact information of our current EC Board.

Generally EC meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of every odd month. This year there are 2 exceptions to this. The Board moved the March meeting to the 5th Wednesday, March 30th; and the November meeting happens as part of our Annual Membership Meeting. These EC meetings are currently being held in the conference room at Wood Island in Larkspur starting at 7:30 p.m. For those who can we gather informally beforehand for dinner in a nearby restaurant. If you are interested in joining us to learn more about your Board, please do and give a call to any one of us for details.

As of this writing the Board has 2 important positions open. We want to finish getting the Directory up and running in a format that will allow it to be easily updated and accessible. If you or anyone you know has interest and/or knowledge in this area let me know. This is a marvelous opportunity to consider contributing. Also, the Student Liaison position is open. This position historically has helped plan forums on topics of special interest to students and those just beginning their professional careers.

There are many people that I worked with in one capacity or another this past year and who I would like to explicitly thank in this space. I am only human, so if you feel that I have left somebody out, please let me know so I can include them (or you) in a future newsletter. Thank you to **Carolyn Bray, Ph.D.** and **Bob Lasser, Ph.D.** for their excellent work on the Continuing Education Committee. We had a very successful APAIT risk-management workshop facilitated in a very significant way by our state organization, CPA (California Psychological Association). **Barbara Nova, Ph.D.** put a lot of work into moving our directory along towards ongoing publication. **Heidi Cary, Ph.D.** put energy into the Membership Chair demands. We wish all well, and we thank them for what they were able to do for MCPA!!! It is the volunteer energy of our members that makes all that we do possible.

As part of our ongoing efforts to adapt and grow with the “electronic age,” a major goal for the year is to update the Board By-laws, recognizing the role of the electronic media in Board functioning. An example of adapting to the internet age is the disseminating of our newsletter (which often includes the minutes of EC meetings) via email. Members then have the choice of printing it if they prefer their own hard copy or reading it on screen as an opportunity for their own paper reduction efforts. Either way it is a very large saving for us.

The Board had its first retreat last year, and it was an outstanding success. EC meetings tend to be completely filled with what is happening, so there typically is little or no time to exchange ideas in depth or to explore new potential directions in detail. This retreat was facilitated and generated a lot of energy as well as ideas. It also provided time to express frustrations, fears and other thoughts that people might not have felt comfortable saying during the more formal EC meetings. It was so successful that the Board wants to make it an annual happening. This year it will be May 7th. Please contact Board members prior to May 7th with your ideas about activities or directions you would like to see MCPA take on. This way they can become part of the Board retreat discussions.

I am excited, and a bit nervous, about the year. I feel particularly fortunate and excited to be able to serve with such a positive and collegial Board.

President-Elect
Joanie Gillispie, Ph.D.

Greetings. We will have an exciting year ahead with opportunities to schmooze and learn from each other. My goal as President Elect is to organize MCPA events that are relevant, significant, and take us out of our comfort zone. Special focus this year will be providing Continuing Education Units with our Dinner Speaker Meetings and organizing more informal get-togethers so when we refer or need a consult the connection has more personal meaning. In addition, our profession needs to be more visible and more responsive to the community. Inviting interested affiliates (MFT's, LCSW's teachers, CBO's, grad students) to our open events is one way to broaden our reach.

Here's what's coming up this year. Watch for e-flyers and save the dates.

- 2 or 3 Dinner Speaker Meetings that will also include an option for C.E. Units.
- 3-4 Soirees, informal gatherings at members' homes with specific themes:
 - calling all authors, published and in progress
 - the psychologist as artist/musician/performer
 - preventing burn out/ secrets of self care from hubris to the humorous

I am working on a Dinner Speaker Meeting that I am particularly excited about:

Psychology and the Internet: Power Uses and Abuses

2 APA approved C.E.U.'s
(date TBA, watch for e-flyer)

David Lukoff, Ph.D. gives a fascinating talk about the Psychology of the Internet. David is a licensed psychologist and Professor of Psychology at Saybrook Graduate School. He has authored articles and given conference presentations on psychology and the Internet as well as trained over 1000 mental health professionals in navigating the internet. He maintains an online resource for mental health professionals at www.spiritualcompetency.com

Pending approval the planned Scope of Presentation is:

The Internet is an increasingly sophisticated and vast network of scientific, personal, and clinical resources. For psychologists, the Internet provides access to practice guidelines, research, new clinical interventions, online lectures and seminars, and conference announcements, as well as self-help resources for clients. Yet most mental health professionals trained more than 5 years ago are probably not using the Internet nearly as effectively as they could. This presentation would provide training in the Internet search tools and skills necessary to:

1. find the latest research, diagnostic, and treatment information in journal articles and reports
2. contact colleagues and participate in online seminars
3. locate and evaluate self-help resources for clients
4. address Internet-related issues like Internet addiction, technostress, sexual predators and access to pornography by minors.

First Soiree: Calling All Authors!

Get Ready, those of you who are published or are about to be.

Come share your work, drink wine, get feedback and offer support.

Are we fascinating or what?

Date is the end of June TBA, watch for eflyer invite to members!

Help us make MCPA more visible in our community. Look for our eflyers about our events Presentation to print and post. Invite interested colleagues to attend. Psychologists do good work!

Minutes of the MCPA Meeting 1/25/05
Ann Buscho, Ph.D.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Attending: Grace Rogers, Ph.D., Joanie Gillespie, Ph.D., Tana Clark, Ph.D., John Weir, Ph.D., Ralph Lamson, Ph.D., Beth Tabakin, Ph.D., Roberta Seifert, Ph.D., Fred Rozendal, Ph.D., Mark Kamena, Ph.D., Sylvia Mills, Ph.D., Ann Buscho, Ph.D., Barbara Khurana, Ph.D., and Christine Gazulis, Ph.D.

Excused: Sue Fleckles, Ph.D., Jacqui Coryell, Psy.D., and Bethany Miller, Ph.D.

President Grace Rogers, Ph.D., welcomed those present and presented the President's report, including the proposed slate of officers. Mark Kamena, Ph.D., moved that the slate of officers be accepted; Roberta Seifert, Ph.D., seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. There was some discussion of giving the CEU committee one vote, as have the other EC committees. (This vote would be shared by current co-chairs, Beth Tabakin Ph.D., and Ralph Lamson, Ph.D.) This will require a change in the bylaws. The President distributed a copy of the by-laws for review by the EC. She has an agenda for this year to review, revise, and update the bylaws.

The President reminded members to bring information about themselves/professional activities to share at Annual meeting or other membership gatherings.

The President recognized the hard work of Dr. Bob Lasser in helping the organization become a provider of CEU's.

President-Elect Joanie Gillispie, Ph.D., asked that members email ideas to her for speakers and dinner venues. The speaker-dinners will offer CEU's. She also suggested a series of informal social gatherings with themes, such as an Authors' Night, an evening of discussion of psychologist "burn out" and self-care, a music or artists' night, and a "Wild Card" night. She will plan and host them.

Treasurer Fred Rozendal, Ph.D., presented his report showing that the organization is in much better financial shape than in recent years, primarily because of the Law and Ethics workshop, which brought in income with almost no expense to us. He discussed and proposed a budget with a small surplus and invited committee chairs to contact him with recommendations.

Tana Clark, Ph.D., requested a subsidy of \$200 to attend and present at a national conference related to Disaster Response in Los Angeles. She will present on her work at 9/11. Approval was moved by Dr. Roberta Seifert, seconded by Dr. Barbara Khurana, and unanimously approved.

Roberta Seifert, Ph.D., Membership chair, announced that there are now 103 members. She has contacted those who have not renewed. The application process has been simplified, and it is available for download online. Her membership list is shared only with Dr. Fleckles, and sold to very few, carefully screened, groups. The email lists are

not distributed to anyone and are only used for information pertaining to membership and for distribution of the MCPA Newsletter. When something needs to be mailed or distributed to the entire membership, please contact Dr. Seifert. This list is separate from the MCPA listserv.

Mark Kamena, Ph.D., presented his reports as CPA board representative and for Government Affairs committee. He reported that our chapter may need to attain separate non-profit [501(c)3] status; hopefully, CPA would help with this. He announced that Leadership Day is March 15 in Sacramento, and encouraged interested psychologists to attend. Among other things, it is an opportunity to meet our legislators and network. He also announced that a new Executive Director has been named for CPA; she is Jo Linder-Crow, Ph.D., and she was selected in December. The CPA bylaws have been extensively revised, and CPA members will receive ballots to approve the new bylaws. He recommends that we vote to approve. Dr. Kamena will now be serving on the Nominations, Elections and Awards committee of CPA. Awards will be announced at the CPA convention in Pasadena, April 8-10. (Dr. Joanie Gillespie will be presenting at the convention.) Dr. Kamena announced that a CPA-PAC luncheon is being planned for May or June in Marin. There will be a speaker, and details will be forthcoming.

Barbara Khurana, Ph.D., presented her committee's report on outreach to the community and efforts to contact the media. Several activities are being planned around a theme of coping with stress, possibly including stress screenings in the community, a speaker panel, and other events. The committee is seeking contacts at the IJ and the Pacific Sun. They are writing articles on stress management.

John Weir, Ph.D., announced that the deadline for submissions to the newsletter is one week after EC meetings. The newspaper is then edited and assembled for distribution. Dr. Seifert emails it to the membership. Dr. Fleckles forwards it to the webmaster to be posted on the website.

Christine Gazulis, Ph.D., requests that the EC begin to reevaluate the role of I&R, as very few referrals are coming in. The average is 5-8 calls in a two-week rotation, and few of these materialize as referrals.

Calendar information:

The next EC meeting is scheduled for 3/30/2005. **Note date change!**

The next EC Board retreat will be on May 7th. Details to follow.

EC meetings are planned for May 25th, July 27th, and September 28th. The Membership meeting will be in November, and the Holiday party in early December.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Buscho, Ph.D.

Secretary

Membership

Roberta Seifert, Ph.D.

Membership Update

I am pleased to report that at this moment, Feb. 3, 2005, we have 105 Members. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome some new folks to MCPA. New Full Members are Brian S. Andres, Psy.D., Denver Coleman, Ph.D., Sharon Cushman, Ph.D, Claire de Andrade, Ph.D, Stacey M. Rodgers, Psy.D. And we have one new Student Member – Jaime Nisenbaum, a Psychological Assistant to both Nancy Olesen, Ph.D. and Ann Bernhardt, Ph.D. Welcome to you all. I look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events.

Here is a list of all our current Members:

Phillip Alex, Ph.D.	Brian Andres, Psy.D.
Julie Austin, Psy.D.	Stuart Bacon, Ph.D.
Kirsten Bauer, Psy.D.	Corey Bercun, Ph.D.
Robin Berenson, Ph.D., MFT	Ann Bernhardt, Ph.D.
Martin Block, Ph.D.	Christine Bouckaert, Ph.D.
Alan Boyar, Ph.D.	Carolyn Bray, Ph.D.
Ann Buscho, Ph.D.	Laura J. Cabanski-Dunning, Ph.D.
Leslie Caldwell, Psy.D.	Heidi Cary, Ph.D., MFT
Deborah C. Clark, Ph.D.	Tana Clark, Ph.D.
Denver Coleman, Ph.D.	Jacqui Coryell, Psy.D.
Joel Crohn, Ph.D.	Janice Cumming, Ph.D.
Sharon Cushman, Ph. D.	Claire de Andrade, Psy.D.
Lauren Deldin, Ph.D.	Diane Donnelly, Ph.D.
Barbara Easterlin, Ph.D.	Philip Erdberg, Ph.D.
Bert Faerstein, Ph.D.	Joel Fay, Psy.D.
Sheva Feld, Ph. D.	Sue Fleckles, Ph.D.
Rebecca Foote, Ph.D.	Patricia Frisch, Ph.D.
Christine Gazulis, Ph.D.	Joanie Gillispie, Ph.D.
Ron Greene, Ph.D.	Sarah A. Hall, Ph.D.
Sandra Harner, Ph.D.	Lynn Harris, Ph.D.
Nancy Haugen, Ph.D.	Sheryl Hausman, Ph.D.
Sue Hulley, Ph.D.	Lynn Ireland, Ph.D.
Melanie Johnson, Ph.D.	Daniel Kalb, Ph.D.
Mark Kamena, Ph.D.	Leslee Kassing
Barbara Khurana, Ph.D.	Lorraine Killpack, Ph.D.
Joan Kimelman, Ph.D.	Gretchen Kishbaugh, Ph.D.
Nina Knox, Ph.D.	Jonathan Kopp, Ph.D.

Mary Lamia, Ph.D.
 Robert Lasser, Ph.D.
 Richard Levy, Ph.D.
 Jonathan Marlowe, Ph.D.
 Christine Mayerchak, M.A.
 Sylvia Mills, Ph.D.
 Donald Nadler, Ph. D.
 Jaime Nisenbaum
 Robin O'Heeron, Ph.D.
 Christine Pappas
 Arthur Raisman, Ph.D.
 Randy Rand, Ed.D
 Virginia Reiss, M.S.
 Ann Rivo, Ph.D.
 Sharon Rose
 Michele Saloner, Ph.D.
 Barbara Sapienza, Ph.D.
 Gary Seeman, Ph.D.
 Leslie Simon, Ph.D.
 Paula Solomon, Ph.D.
 Joy Stephenson, MA
 Gary Stolzoff, Ph.D.
 Beth Cooper Tabakin, Ph.D.
 Marjorie Walters, Ph.D.
 Anne Wolff, Ph.D
 Mark Zaslav, Ph.D.

Ralph J. Lamson, Ph.D.
 Betsy Levine-Proctor, Ph.D.
 Pamela Marcucci, Ph. D.
 Gail Matthews, Ph.D.
 Bethany Miller, Psy.D.
 Heidi Minnick, Ph.D.
 Nicholas Nichols, Ph.D.
 Barbara Nova, M.A.
 Nancy Olesen, Ph.D.
 George Peterson, Ph.D.
 Deirdre Rand, Ph.D.
 Frances Rapoport, Ph.D.
 Lori Rifkin, Ph.D.
 Grace Rogers, Ph.D.
 Frederick Rozendal, Ph.D.
 Diana Sanborn, Ph.D.
 Susan Schmidt, Ph.D.
 Roberta Seifert, Ph.D.
 Paula Sitelman, Psy.D.
 Joan Sommer, Ph.D.
 Molly Sterling, Ph.D.
 Diane Suffridge, Ph.D.
 Carol Traeger, Ph.D.
 John Weir, Ph.D.
 Linda Zanobini, M.A.
 Jane Zich, Ph.D.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

<u>Member Category</u>	<u>Dues</u>
Full, working in Marin	\$75
Full, working outside Marin	\$45
Full, living outside Marin	\$45
Associate (non-doctoral)	\$45
Student	\$20
Emeritus	\$15
After Jan. 1, 2005	\$10 late fee

You can mail your dues to me, Roberta Seifert, Ph.D.,
 at MCPA, P.O. Box 150001, San Rafael, CA 94915.

Treasurer's Report **Fred Rozendal, Ph.D.**

As of Jan. 1, 2005, MCPA has \$21,845.55 in assets. This amount is \$11,216.17 more than the treasury had on the same date a year ago. The large increase from a year ago is primarily due to a no-cost (to us) Continuing Education event that CPA co-produced for us.

We anticipate some new expenses this year such as the design of a new web site that includes our database for public searches, and which will replace our previous paper directory.

Currently, we have are in a strong position financially and are working on finalizing a budget for the MCPA year (Nov. through Oct.).

Governmental Affairs/CPA Board of Directors **Mark Kamena, Ph.D.**

Save the Date!

March 15, 2005

LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY DAY in Sacramento

Psychologists throughout the state come together in our capitol city to discuss the ever-changing political climate and the critical issues that face our state and how it will affect psychology. The conference not only emphasizes the importance of developing a practical advocacy plan to increase psychologist's awareness of legislative activities but also provides invaluable insight and knowledge on how they could play an integral role in the political process. It is a great way to network with colleagues. If you are interested in attending, please contact me (460-6365, markkamena@comcast.net).

CPA HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After an exhaustive search, the Board of Directors hired Jo Linder-Crow, Ph.D., as CPA's new executive director. She has extensive experience in working with non-profit organizations. Most recently she was the Executive Director of the Glendon Association in Santa Barbara. They provide educational programs in the area of preventative mental health via videotapes, printed materials and training workshops (information addressed suicidal risk assessment and treatment, child abuse prevention through parent education, couple relations and sexuality, death anxiety and research into violence risk potential. She also worked for APA as the Associate Executive Director for Education and as the Director for Continuing Professional Education. She brings a great deal of enthusiasm and professionalism to CPA and we look forward to working with her.

CPA CONVENTION IN PASADENA

CPA's annual convention will be held from April 8th through the 10th with pre-convention workshops held on Thursday, April 7th. The themes this year are Health, Development, and Multiculturalism. Master lecturers include Drs. Cozolino, Hardy, McNamee, Padesky, Parham, and Prigatano. If you need a brochure, please contact me. Hope to see you there!

ETHICS CODE

It is recommended that psychologists keep a copy of the APA's ethics code in their offices where it can be quickly referenced. Go to <http://www.apa.org/ethics/> for a free download.

NEW SUPERVISION REGULATIONS

New regulations affecting psychologists who supervise trainees have been passed. For more information, go to:

http://www.psychboard.ca.gov/laws_regs/supervised_approved.htm

CAUTION ON NEW CLASS OF SLEEP MEDICATIONS

The first of a new generation of non-benzodiazepines, Lunesta (eszopiclone), was approved by the FDA without the recommendation that use be limited to less than two weeks. Manufacturers of Sonata and Ambien are also applying for long-term use and are developing extended-release versions. Concerns have been raised that these longer-term use drugs may mask some of the underlying conditions that cause insomnia (e.g., anxiety, depression, sleep apnea).

These drugs may also overshadow behavioral interventions, which tend to be more effective over time. Psychologists will have to be prepared to consult with primary care physicians who will be under a lot of pressure to prescribe this new

CPA BY-LAWS

The CPA Board of Directors has approved massive changes to their by-laws. These changes require approval of the membership and you will receive them in the mail. If you have any questions concerning these changes, please feel free to contact me.

Information and Referral Committee Christine Gazulis, Ph.D.

2005 Co-chairs: Christine Gazulis, PhD & Bethany Miller, Psy.D.

The 2005 I&R Committee, newly formed after our November annual meeting, has continued to promote the dissemination of information to the community by answering questions and directing callers to resources all over the county. Many calls come in to the

456-4026 number which are "Information Only." Examples of such calls include asking what the difference is between a psychiatrist and a psychologist, wanting a specific therapist's phone number, and wanting low-fee counseling and not knowing where to find it. A recent call that I myself answered was a young woman wanting to know if there was a treatment for social anxiety because her partner was becoming more and more unwilling to go out in public or attend functions with crowds. I explained that therapy could help someone with his problem and encouraged her to have him call our service for a referral. While he never did while I was manning the phone, I realized that my discussion with her had been a kind of intervention and that perhaps at least she felt more hopeful that he could change, if he were willing to get treatment.

NOTE TO ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Obviously we are hoping to increase the number of referrals we all get this year. To that end, we are looking at creative ways to advertise our phone number. Please email me at drgazulis@yahoo.com if you have any knowledge of websites or other low-cost forms of advertisement where we could list our service. Are you yourself advertising somewhere where the I&R could also be listed? Think about it and email me. We need to be pro-active!

ARTICLES

SHRINK-RAP ON FILM: MILLION DOLLAR BABY--Heroine or Quitter?

By Sue Hulley, Ph.D.

Clint Eastwood has delivered yet another warm, haunting movie about a gutsy young woman boxer, Maggie (Hilary Swank), her aging trainer, Frankie (Clint Eastwood), and his old friend (Morgan Freeman). The emotional truth of their performances and characters hold this movie together and elevate it to a special level. For me, it was one of the best this year.

However, I would like to discuss the movie's theme--so if you haven't yet seen Baby, and don't want to know the plot in advance, stop here, and please, go see it and come back!!

Briefly, Eastwood dramatizes the long-simmering question of whether severely disabled people should tough it out or end it all. Not a new issue to films or Hollywood, this one is an evergreen perennial tapping into our deepest feelings, fears, beliefs, and hopes.

Not surprisingly, critics from all sides, many conflating the issue with their own political/religious beliefs, have weighed in and come out swinging. Michael Medved and Rush Limbaugh, as conservatives, have objected its outcome as running counter to their beliefs, and therefore panned it. Frank Rich and Maureen Dowd have fought back, and even Roger Ebert has attacked Medved's decision to mention this theme in his review of the movie.

In the film, Maggie, recently paralyzed by a sucker punch at the end of her last

fight, asks Frankie to help her die. She explains that fighting was her only hope in life and that she wants to die before she forgets the sound of people cheering for her. Frankie, for whom his relationship with Maggie has replaced a failed connection with his own daughter, is torn. As a Catholic, he believes Maggie's suicide and his own assistance in that act would be sins. However, because he loves Maggie, he wants to help her fulfill her wishes. He finally does assist her. Eastwood does an amazingly good job both as a director and an actor of showing us that this is what Frankie would have done.

However, films like this always raise the issue: was life that hopeless? Would the future have been that bleak? Could life have had no other meaning for Maggie? Interestingly, in Whose Life Is This Anyway? Richard Dreyfuss played a similarly challenged character. Pre-injury a very physically active sculptor who reveled in creating large public pieces, he now felt that his life had no meaning.

For both Dreyfuss' character and Maggie, the question of whether to continue with their lives had a lot to do with how they thought of their lives and themselves pre-injury. Physical activity defined both, so the thought of life without being able to do what they had formerly accomplished was unbearable. Neither could imagine feeling like themselves without their physical abilities.

It is easy to feel compassion for both Maggie and Dreyfuss's character if we imagine suddenly not being able to lift a finger ourselves. What would we be able to make out of such a life? And what would happen to our sense of ourselves?

However, Maggie's decision to end it all, and Frankie's acceptance and complicity in that decision, seemed to me, although understandable in terms of their characters, sad in that they were unable to see any other possibilities.

Others in similar positions have, admittedly not without difficulty, made different decisions, redefining themselves and persevering. Not only that, those audiences sometimes keep cheering, as in the case of Christopher Reeve. People love public figures who won't quit.

However, to go on with such limitations takes vision. You or someone around you has to see you as more than you saw yourself up until now. A fascinating story in Friday, February 18th's Wall Street Journal illustrates this point. Max Larcen, who at 27 has watched all of his contemporaries at muscular dystrophy camp die, is not at home trying to off himself. Rather, he is working at the Positive Vibe, a strip-mall restaurant he and his dad dreamed up. Lucky Max had someone--his dad--with the "vision thing."

Garth Larcen told Dave Shiflett, the article's author, that he had noticed that his son was "languishing....it got to the point where he would take three hours just to get showered and dressed in the morning. We had to find something for him to do. We kicked it around and decided to open a restaurant."

Mr. Larcen was able to find funding after a lot of ingenious ploys and massive cold calling. Now a combination of disabled people and volunteers work side by side, overcoming not a little initial skepticism. Blair, Max's sister, a waitress at the restaurant, who is in recovery, commented that "I thought at first, 'Oh, God. What's going to happen? We're a bunch of self-centered addicts.'" She found herself inspired and humbled by her disabled co-workers, however, "who she says taught her to value her own life and opportunities more deeply."

I'm just sorry that Frankie didn't see more possibilities for Maggie. He could have said to her, after she asked him to basically "put her down" as her father had put down her favorite dog during her childhood, "Maggie, you're not a dog! You're also not a girl. Remember that I told you I don't coach girls. Well, I still don't. You feel now that your life is over. All your dreams are gone. Everything you worked for you can't do now. But if you quit now you're letting that Kraut (the German fighter who sucker-punched her) win! And you can't let her do that!

You're not a girl! You're a woman, and I'm hoping that you're going to keep on fighting! You say that you had to fight to get into this life, and you don't want to have to fight to get out. Well, what about putting up a fight to stay here and see what happens! I'll be with you every step of the way! I want to see how this thing comes out!"

"But," I can almost hear you saying, "it's not all up to Frankie. What about Maggie?!" Yes, how true. People around you can hold a vision for you which sometimes you can't manage for yourself. And of course the choice on whether or not Maggie takes her life should rest ultimately, I believe, with her. And she could still choose to die.

I'd just like to see someone give her a run for her money. After all, the Boxing Commission is paying for her care, so she is free to see what more she can make of this precious human life she's got. In a world where people are painting with their teeth and running computers with eye-blinks, who knows what she could do? I for one would love to read her memoir, see her coaching young players, or watch her fight for better refing, whatever! That way, Frankie wouldn't be guilt-ridden and lost, and Morgan Freeman wouldn't be left alone with the gym.

Yes, that's a different movie. My only point is that there ARE different movies for people in this situation. Deciding to live can be every bit as heroic as killing yourself; in fact, it could be argued that it takes more courage because you have to confront the limitations of your past view of yourself. If she decided to go for this, I don't know about you, but I would bet on Maggie hands down!

ADVERTISEMENTS

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Deadline for April Issue Submissions: April 1, 2005