

NEWSLETTER #1
March 1974
(Revised 12/74)

This is Newsletter #1. It aims to keep you informed. We don't yet know whether Newsletters will be sent out monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, or occasionally. That will depend on how much news there is, or on how urgent it is to get the news out quickly.

The asterisks in the left column call your attention to our requests — requests for suggestions or information or clippings, etc.

- * Present plans for the contents of Newsletters are tentative. Please make suggestions and criticisms. If you should disapprove of something or other, please do not hesitate to say so.

The Newsletter will be divided into sections, tentatively set as follows:

REPORTS FROM CHAIRMEN. Committee Chairmen will report bi-monthly (a) on what they have done since their last report, and (b) on what they are planning to do in the months ahead. The reports will serve the following purposes: (1) They will let you know what the committees are doing. (2) They will enable you to make suggestions and criticisms. (3) They will enable you to offer to participate in a planned activity that particularly interests you.

NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS. As members we are all primarily interested in the work the BRS does to further Russell's purposes; but we are also interested in our fellow-members as people. The previous section (Reports from Chairmen) deals with the former; this section deals with the latter.

- * The news that appears in this section will come mostly from the members themselves, and only occasionally from another member. If you change your job, publish a paper, attend a conference, make a speech, run for office, engage in political activity, picket some villain, etc., please let us know about it. (And please be specific: give date; name of organization involved, if any; tell what you did, etc.) Include any event that occurs in your work or in your life as a citizen, whether or not related to the BRS or its aims.

- * QUESTIONS & ANSWERS & REMARKS. If you have a question about BR or about the BRS, that you think another member may be able to answer, send your question to the Newsletter. (Example below.) Or if there is any (reasonably brief) message you would like to communicate to all the members, send it in.

- * SMALL TALK. These will be items of no great significance that for some reason interest or amuse you; send them in.

NEW MEMBERS. We plan to list a new member's name, address, affiliation, interests, etc.

The Augusta address at the top of this page is the Society's permanent address. When you write to the Newsletter, write either to the Augusta address or to Newsletter, c/o Lee Eisler, Box 409, RD #1, Coopersburg, Pa. 18036.

To get things started, here is the Newsletter format, using the only information I now have on hand, which is the information I can supply myself, as a chairman and as a member.

* * * * *

REPORTS FROM CHAIRMEN

Information Committee (Lee Eisler, Chairman):

1. Press releases were sent to 35 home town and home campus publications, of 11 members (founders.) Names of publications were supplied by the members, as were biographical details about themselves.

The purpose of this press release was to get publicity for the BRS, and perhaps to get inquiries about the BRS. Kate's release did in fact produce an inquiry.

This press release did not contain news of any interest to a newspaper editor in a big city like New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, or Washington. The fact that the BRS was founded is not interesting except to a very small percentage of the total population, and except (probably) to a small group of special publications (see list below.) But newspapers outside of big cities sometimes consider a press release newsworthy simply if it contains the name of a local person. The smaller the town and newspaper, the more likely it is to use the release. THE LAKEVILLE (CONN.) JOURNAL used Kate Tait's release without significant change; the QUAKERTOWN (PA.) FREE PRESS used Lee Eisler's release, keeping it practically intact. Jack Pitt got a long, half-page feature story in THE DAILY COLLEGIAN, his home-campus publication. (Copies enclosed.) But the AUGUSTA CHRONICLE used only 2 paragraphs of Peter Cranford's release. And we thought it hopeless to send releases to The New York Times, The Washington Post, etc.

* If your story has appeared locally and you have not yet sent us a clipping or photocopy, please do so.

2. Newsletter. The Information Committee will put out this Newsletter for the time being. Later on, the members may wish to set up a Newsletter Committee.

5. Re publishers: We consider publishers — and our relations with them — to be very important to the BRS. We will not send them anything until we have a more fully developed plan.

7. The special publications. The following periodicals have special audiences, and may be interested in carrying news about the BRS:

PHILOSOPHY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS, Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J. 08540
 ETHICS, University of Chicago Press, 5801 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 60637
 THE ETHICAL FORUM, Ethical Culture Society, 2 West 64 St., NY NY 10023
 THE HUMANIST, American Humanist Society, (see last page for address)
 JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY, 720 Philosophy Hall, Columbia University, NY NY 10027
 AMERICAN RATIONALIST, Rationalist Association, PO Box 1762, St. Louis, Mo. 63199
 AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW, 1001 Conn. Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20036
 THE HUMANIST IN CANADA, Box 157, Victoria, B.C. Canada

* We will send them a short version (called a News Brief) of the Bulletin (March.) If you happen to read any of these publications, please notice whether they carry news about the BRS, and if so, please send us a clipping or photocopy.

* If you know of a publication that might be added to this list of special publications, please send us its name and address. (Address not essential; we can look it up.)

8. A small classified ad will soon be inserted in SATURDAY REVIEW/WORLD and NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS, as follows:

BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY. New. Write for information. Box 000,SR/W.

Cost is less than \$25 per publication. We hope this will produce inquiries about the BRS.

* * * *

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS AND REMARKS

Lee Eisler asks:

In BERTRAND RUSSELL SPEAKS HIS MIND (an Avon paperback, 1960) — and also on Caedmon LP,TC-1149,BERTRAND RUSSELL SPEAKING — BR says: "...taboo moralities tend to perpetuate ancient cruelties. ...the Oracle at Delphi...stood up for human sacrifice long after other Greeks had given it up." However, a Professor of Classics at Harvard, an eminent scholar, has told me he knows of no human sacrifice or anthropophagy(cannibalism) connected with Delphi. Does anyone know what evidence BR had in mind when he made this statement?

* * * *

MISCELLANEOUS

The address of THE HUMANIST (Item 7,above) is as follows:
THE HUMANIST, Prof. Paul Kurtz, Editor, State University of New York at Buffalo, 4244 Ridge Lea Road, Amherst, N.Y. 14266.

Whenever you send us a clipping, please put the publication's name on the clipping, and the date of the issue.

* * * *

REVISED EDITION

This is a revised edition of Newsletter #1. Items in the original edition that are no longer relevant have been eliminated. The original numbering of items has been retained. This issue is one page shorter than the original edition.

B2 THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL, Thursday, February 28, 1974

Katherine Tait Helps Form Bertrand Russell Society

Katherine Tait, of Falls Village, is one of the founders of the new Bertrand Russell Society, which held its first meeting in New York City earlier this month. The Society's aims are to make Russell's views better known and to promote causes Russell believed in. Mrs. Tait, Russell's daughter, was elected Treasurer. She teaches German at Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie.

The Society will develop programs to further Russell's purposes. Areas of interest include: the promotion of Russell's writings; the encouragement of new scholarly and popular writings on Russell's life and

thought; Russell's ideas as alternatives to student mysticism, cynicism, apathy, and alienation; the importance of rational thinking; Russell's thoughts on power, politics, and government; human rights; disarmament and peace; misapplications of science; Russell's views as aids to greater enjoyment of life.

Almost all 12 founders of the Bertrand Russell Society were (and are) subscribers to "Russell," the quarterly publication of the Russell Archives (at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario). A majority are associated with colleges and universities. There are, however,

no requirements, academic or otherwise, for membership in the new Society, other than an interest in Russell and a general sympathy with his aims and outlook.

The Bertrand Russell Society has the support and cooperation of the Bertrand Russell Archives, of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, Ltd. (Nottingham, England), and of the Bertrand Russell Society of Tokyo, Japan. Kenneth Blackwell, director of the Archives, is a founder of the Society.

Anyone interested in Bertrand Russell is invited to inquire about membership in the Society. Write Lee Eisler, chairman, Information Committee, Bertrand Russell Society, RD No. 1, Coopersburg, Pa. 18036.

C'burg man Quakertown (Pa.) FREE PRESS helps found 2/28/74 Russell club

A Coopersburg man Lee Eisler, is one of the founders of the new Bertrand Russell Society. Eisler is the author of "Morals Without Mystery," a book based on Russell's views on morality, which won praise from Russell. Russell's daughter is another of the founders.

The society held its first meeting in New York City earlier this month. Its aims are to make Russell's views better known and to promote causes he believed in.

The society is developing programs to further Russell's purposes. Areas of interest, for possible programs, include: Russell's ideas as attractive alternatives to student mysticism, cynicism, apathy and alienation; Russell's thoughts on power, politics, and government; human rights; misapplications of science; the

encouragement of new scholarly and popular writings on Russell's life and thought; the promotion of Russell's writings; disarmament and peace; Russell's views as aids to the greater enjoyment of life; the importance of rational thinking.

Almost all twelve founders of the Bertrand Russell Society were (and are) subscribers to "Russell," the quarterly publication of the Russell Archives, at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont.

More than half of them are associated with colleges and universities, more than half have Ph.D. degrees, including the society's four officers.

However, there are no requirements, academic or otherwise, for membership in the society, other than an interest in Russell and a general sympathy with his aims and outlook.

The Bertrand Russell Society has the support and cooperation of the Russell Archives, of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, Ltd. Nottingham, England, and of the Bertrand Russell Society of Tokyo, Japan. The director of the Russell Archives is one of the founders of the Society.

Anyone interested in Bertrand Russell is invited to inquire about membership. Write Peter C. Cranford, President, Bertrand Russell Society, 2108 1/2 Walton Way, Augusta, Ga. 30904.

Bertrand Russell's philosophy lives on through followers

By Susan Good
Collegian Staff Writer
Bertrand Russell, the late phi-

losopher and English mathematician, is still living through his works and followers.



DR. JACK PITT

A dozen Russell followers across the nation joined together in early February to expand Russell's "life" to a Bertrand Russell Society.

Dr. Jack Pitt, CSUF philosophy instructor, is one of those followers and is the first secretary for the group.

The brainchild of the society idea is Dr. Peter Cranford, a clinical psychologist in Atlanta, Georgia. Cranford, who frequently applied Russell's insights to his patients, checked written journals and the Russell Archive in Canada to find possible society advocates. After finding a dozen advocates, he called the national planning meeting.

Pitt was called to the meeting after Dr. Cranford read an essay Pitt had written about Russell.

Why be so enthusiastic about Russell? When Pitt first recognized Russell's merits he was the president of the American Federation of Teachers and was in active protest against CSUF faculty firing in the late 60's.

"As a philosopher I had certainly read Russell," Pitt recalls, "but his beliefs really began to apply to what was happening during the firings."

At that time, Pitt recalled, faculty members Bob Mezey, Ren Mabey and Everett Frost were fired because of their free

speech and so-called "radical" views.

"Russell was against the arbitrary use of power prevalent during the firings," Pitt said, "and believed in human freedom and fairness in dealing with people . . . I couldn't agree more."

Russell, Pitt said, could be described as a pacifist . . . but it depended on the war. Russell was against World War I and criticized the perversion of science for political or economic ends. More recently Russell staged a protest against bomb creation and protested against the Vietnam war with an anti-Vietnam war crimes tribunal.

"But Russell also thought philosophy should speak to the people and wrote many essays about marriage, morals, and happiness," Pitt said.

Pitt added that Russell believed in the American tradition, hard work, and in solving the problems of mankind through rational inquiry and trust.

Because Russell lived in accord with all these ideals, Pitt said he feels Russell is "worthy of being honored and continued."

The society, founded on the premise that there are thousands of Russell advocates who would like to "get together," will promote Russell's ideas to "contribute to the quality of life in

today's world."

Its programs will include the promotion of Russell writings and the encouragement of new scholarly and popular writings on Russell's thoughts.

On the local level, Pitt said he hopes the society will have a "public" rather than an academic base.

"If enough people are interested, perhaps we could meet on a regular basis for discussion, talks, etc.," Pitt said, adding that the CSUF philosophy department could take care of the "academic Russell."

Pitt accepts the assumption that there are many Fresno area people disenchanted with "organized religion" and "political parties" and said that Russell's beliefs, not under either heading, could bring such people together.

Members of the international society will receive two Russell publications printed semi-monthly by the Russell Archive, while local discussion branches will also be formed if members are interested. Yearly dues are \$5 for students and \$12 for professionals.

Students and faculty members interested in joining the national society or in forming a local group can contact Pitt at the CSUF philosophy department, 487-2621.