

EDITORIAL

The *Psychedellic Review* begins its seventh year with this eleventh issue. After issue Number 10 there was some talk of letting the *Review* die a natural death. We do not believe that the time has yet come for the *Review* to cease publication. As long as misunderstanding about the nature of drugs is the norm and all forms of consciousness expanding activity are sensationalized in the daily press, we feel the *P.R.* still serves an important function in communicating the most authentic information and research in these fields.

The superb editorship of Ralph Metzner will certainly be missed although he along with Timothy Leary and Richard Alpert will continue to exert a major influence on the *Review*. Most of the present staff is entirely new to the journal. In getting this issue out, we have concentrated much of our energies on "getting it together." Writing, editing, art work, production and distribution flow into one another and overlap. By working closely together and integrating our efforts, the core staff has sought to eliminate the delays and unpredictable elements that have plagued the *Review* in the past. Although the journal will continue to evolve with each issue, initial changes have been modest.

We hope to retain the vitality, accuracy and quality of content that have marked the *Review* since its inception (see page 91 for representative articles from back issues). To these standards we want to add promptness and reliability in our dealings with contributors, subscribers and distributors. Readers of the *Psychedellic Review* have always been an unusually patient, tolerant group of people. Issues have been late, inquiries have gone unanswered. Yet few complaints have been made. Needless to say, we appreciate the extraordinary loyalty of our readers and have no intention of testing it further. The *Review* is a quarterly and will appear four times a year. Inquiries from subscribers, old and new, will be answered promptly. Comments and suggestions from readers concerning any aspect of the journal are welcomed. New material relevant to psychedelic phenomena is continually being sought. Submitted manuscripts will receive careful attention from our core staff and consulting editors. We will consider the *Review* a worthwhile undertaking if it continues to meet the standards of excellence and readability established by our predecessors.

R.M.

G.P.

FROM RALPH METZNER

I was delighted to hear *Psychedellic Review* is going to continue after all. Despite the grotesque distortions of the media and the continuing condemnation of powerful special interest groups, there are thousands of intelligent and responsible persons who are keenly interested in consciousness-changing substances and plants.

These persons are aware of the possibilities of psychedelics and of the limitations placed on their use by current legal and social patterns of reality definition. They also know that these drugs have always been used in the past in schools of psychological transformation. And they know that it is essential that one be discriminating about what one ingests. This discrimination has still to be learned by far too many youthful drug users.

Psychedellic Review has been and, thanks to you and your associates, will now continue to be a medium of communication for these persons. Communication counteracts fear, develops acceptance. The medium is much more than the message.

To me, the principal challenge posed by psychedelics is how to bring the enlightening experience of unity into the nitty-gritty here-and-now of day and night and men and women. For that we need a great deal more than psychedelics.

Godspeed on your venture.

FROM BABA RAM DASS

Historically the *Review* has played a key role in defining the leading edge of research on mind expansion and mind alteration. In the early days of the *Review* each issue was as far out as we were at that moment. And as psychology moves a little closer to the leading edge, although still with some distance to go, like the *Journal of Transpersonal Psychology* and *Psychology Today*, the *Review* still has a standard-bearing role to set in defining the furthest out corner that the research mind can approach in bringing the rational mind to that which is beyond the rational, doing it from a Western point of view, and providing new models. Our problem at the moment is that we are all more conscious than we have models to work with and we have to define who we are in this new consciousness.

If the *Review* is done by editors and writers who are working on themselves, who are active seekers of consciousness, it will succeed in being an instrument to help one's *sadhana* or one's spiritual path. And so I encourage it and support it and identify with it and feel that it still has a very definite function.



The role of LSD and the psychedelic chemicals has changed in the past ten years. My teacher in India said a very interesting thing. Hari Dass Baba, a pure Brahmin who uses no chemicals, when I asked him what LSD was, said "LSD is like a Christ in America. America is a most materialistic country and the young people wanted their avatar in the form of a material, and thus LSD. If they have not tasted, how will they know?" It seems to me that this statement is a very powerful formal statement for the *Review* which brings together science and religion, technology and religion, and shows the role played by psychedelic substances. The work that is now being done by Gordon Wasson, for example, in his new book *Soma*, is an extraordinary testament to the Aryan mushroom users in the Russian mountains who came down to the Indus valley,

anteceding the Vedas. They influenced the Vedas so pervasively that these ancient hymns can almost be interpreted as a set of spiritual techniques for the plains people in order to recreate the experience gained from the psychedelic mushroom—the identical mushroom still used today for religious purposes and similar to the synthetic drugs employed in our culture. It's just at the point where we're beginning to see where it all comes together, historically and cross-culturally and technologically. It takes a great deal of gentleness and humility and wisdom to bring it together in such a way that it isn't destructive of that which we have developed thus far. The beauty of the *Review* is that it honors the technological foundation on which it is built, on which the search for consciousness is being built in the West.



Margo Richardson