



MAPS

NEWSLETTER OF THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY ASSOCIATION FOR PSYCHEDELIC STUDIES

thank you!

Thank you to Dan King of Austin, Texas for his generous donation of computer equipment for the MAPS office. Dan sent a Macintosh 2ci with a 20 inch monitor. This equipment makes it possible to work more efficiently with the database, word processing, and graphics programs which we use.

On another note of thanks, National Medical Marijuana Day was enhanced by the anonymous donation of 1,000 flying discs imprinted with a design to commemorate the event. The artwork was provided by the ever-helpful graphics designer who volunteers his efforts in the layout of the MAPS Bulletin/Newsletter. ♦

INTERNET UPDATE

An email-based fileserver is being compiled to make individual MAPS articles available free via email. To check out this option, send email to the address: Majordomo@server.blueline.com with <index maps> in the message. The subject line is irrelevant. For a list of commands for file retrieval, send the message <help>. The World Wide Web site which features the MAPS back issues has a new URL. It is: <http://www.blueline.com/passenger-deck/maps>. An alternate URL is: <http://www.maps.org>. We continue to work towards making MAPS resources available in user-friendly formats. Please send comments and questions to st.maps@cybernetics.net ♦

BUILDING TOWARDS CLINICAL TRIALS

THE FIELD OF PSYCHEDELIC RESEARCH is at a critical turning point. Currently, basic physiological and psychological safety studies (Phase 1) are underway with MDMA, DMT, psilocybin and ibogaine. Within the next year, it may be possible to begin research into the therapeutic efficacy (Phase 2) of several of these psychedelic drugs as well as LSD and marijuana. Research on the horizon includes studies into the use of MDMA in the treatment of pain and distress in cancer patients, MDMA in the treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, ibogaine in the treatment of substance abusers, LSD in the treatment of substance abusers, psilocybin in the psychological treatment of AIDS and cancer patients, and marijuana in the treatment of the AIDS Wasting Syndrome.

While the field of psychedelic research looks exceptionally promising, support for free scientific inquiry must not be taken for granted. The challenge for researchers, and for MAPS, is to demonstrate as quickly as possible that this line of research carries benefits for the average American. Positive results from efficacy studies can do just that, if we have the regulatory approval, time and resources needed to conduct the research.

In the last several months, MAPS has increased its membership by over 100 people. If we can continue this rate of growth for the next year, MAPS will reach the point where it is of sufficient size to support its organizational expenses. In order to help MAPS grow and be more effective, we'd like to encourage you to renew your annual membership if it is time to do so, and to consider giving gift memberships to friends, family, or institutions. Special grants for research projects are also needed.

The field of psychedelic research made great progress in 1994, in part because of the partnership between MAPS members and staff and several excellent and devoted researchers. Thank you for your continued support and participation. Even more dramatic progress can take place in 1995. ■

MAPS EXPERIMENTS WITH NEW FORMAT

MAPS is experimenting with a new form of communicating with its members. This mailing contains a simple newsletter containing brief updates about the projects that MAPS is currently funding, as well as news about other psychedelic research projects. Unlike recent issues of the newsletter, it contains no lengthy articles. The newsletter is designed for you to read quickly and get a basic overview of MAPS' activities. The next issue of the MAPS newsletter will be called a Bulletin instead of a newsletter, to reflect the inclusion of longer and/or more scholarly articles, as well as book reports and news updates. We hope that by alternating newsletters and bulletins, we can provide you with more frequent and timely reports on MAPS' activities, as well as periodic overviews of the entire field of psychedelic research. ■