

RELATIVELY SPEAKING*The Philosophy of Individualism***Number 8****Editor: Gordon F. Brown, PhD****September 1977****In this month's issue**

GREETINGS!	1
PURPOSE OF THE NEWSLETTERS	1
ABSOLUTE-RELATIVE DISTINCTION	2
ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES	2

* * * * *

Greetings!

Again during the next 12-month period attempts will be made to send out this newsletter. However, due to the lapse of time between our last publication and this communication it would be appropriate to restate the goals of the newsletter. Also, about 100 people have been added to the mailing list, so this review will serve as an orientation communiqué.

* * * * *

Purpose of the Newsletters

This is a time for re-thinking our basic social and cultural assumptions regarding philosophy, religion, politics, law, etc. An emerging organizing tool is the absolute-relative distinction; that is, the position one takes on this issue will substantially influence how one organizes the areas cited. This newsletter is primarily concerned with taking current issues and presenting alternative points of view, specifically, one absolute and another relative.

* * * * *

ABSOLUTE-RELATIVE DISTINCTION

A working description is as follows: The Absolute assumption is that knowledge, independent of the perceiving individual, is knowable; whereas the Relative assumption is that information independent of the individual is unknowable. In *The Experimental Mind in Education*, Brown (1968) refers to and contrasts the two positions. Absolutists are referred to as individuals who are “seeking absolutely true knowledge about an alleged ‘real’ or ‘ideal’ world” (p. 212); while the relativists assert that “the ‘reality’ of this world lies not in physical things and events but in the individual’s experience of those things and events. To each individual, the private world of his perceptual field is reality—at least the only reality he can know” (p. 14).

* * * * *

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

MEETINGS

Various discussion meetings will be noted and scheduled throughout the year. Most of the communications will be through the newsletter but if you are highly motivated, contact John Caldecott or Peggy Caldecott at and you will be notified by telephone of pending meetings.

* * * * *

UPDATES

Cost of the newsletter. All costs are borne by voluntary contributions of time and nominal funding. The administrative functions such as mailings and printing is provided through the School of Communication (a nonprofit, educational, research-oriented organization.)

* * * * *

THIRD-CLASS MAIL

To minimize expenses, mailings are third-class which means that there is no forwarding service and frequently (about 10% of the time), the letters are not delivered at all or they are damaged beyond recognition. So, please notify us of any change of address.

* * * * *