

May 8, 1990

Creetings Michael,

Judith and I worked on the letter that is to be sent to the Colorado Yoga Center. Please insert the following extract between paragraphs 2 and 3 of the current letter. All board members should sign the letter before it is sent. To expedite this process, perhaps Judy, Richard, and Rodney can go to the Yoga Journal offices.

Here goes . . . end of paragraph 2.

After having read your letter, many board members wondered whether you knew the seriousness and the scope of the incidences of sexual abuse. We believe that if you had known all the facts, as they were initially reported to the faculty, director, and board of the Iyengar Yoga Institute of San Francisco, and later to the C.Y.T.A. board members, you would not have written the letter you did.

When the C.Y.T. A. board became aware of this problem we had no real choice but to remove Manouso from the magazine because the incidents were so serious and widespread. These incidents include: Sexual intercourse with ~~beginning~~ students after class in the yoga center; unsolicited sexual fondling of students under the guise of therapy after class; inserting fingers into vaginal and anal orifices during public classes in the guise of giving "adjustments"; and fondling women's breasts during savasana (reclining relaxation) under the guise of adjusting the shoulders. These are not isolated incidents. Women who have attended Manouso's classes throughout the country are finally coming forward, even at this late date, now that they are aware that they share this embarrassing and humiliating experience with other women.

An additional piece of information which you may not be aware of is that a new law in California makes it "a crime for a therapist to have sexual contact with a client". (Codes sections 726 and 4982(k)). "Sexual contact" means the touching of an intimate part (sexual organ, anus, buttocks, groin, or breasts) of another person. "Touching" means physical contact with another person either through the person's clothes or directly with the person's skin (Business and Profession Code section 728). Considering the parallel nature of our professions, it is possible that a lawsuit might be pressed against Manouso. We on the C.Y.T.A. board were not only professionally and morally outraged, but felt the potential for a legal liability for actively endorsing someone with a known sexually defiant history.

Begin paragraph 3.

If you have any questions please do call Judith or I immediately.

Best,

*Penna Schuster*

When asked in August 89, "I deny nothing"