

Earwig

'Conference report' demanded the CAHP/AHPP Joint Chair. The conference organiser read out aloud. 'The conference achieved all its aims handsomely. The University of Balham Residential Conference Centre is part of Wandsworth Prison. Delegates went to bed two to a bunk on boards with horsehair mattresses and did not sleep a wink all night, or do much else. The weather, with sub-zero temperatures and a northerly wind, was kind to the organisers, whose rooms had radiators. It snowed during the day. Food was soggy. The top table of officers and organisers had caviar and champagne which was of a good standard. Venison, partridge, chicory and port wine was also available to them. The delegates ate turnips.'

'Good. Plans in hand for next year?' asked the Chair. 'Why change a winning team?' said the organiser rhetorically. 'We will go to Balham again'.



The Chair led the meeting on. 'Let's turn to membership.' The secretary reported. 'We fell slightly short of the 100-page application form that we were aiming for. Only managed 94 pages. The quality of questions has been improved though. For example we now require proof of mother's maiden name.'

'Excellent,' said the Chair. 'Now let's have a potty break.' Coffee and Bath Oliver biscuits were brought in, followed by hampers from Fortnum & Mason and Harrods, and the committee scooted around on their potties, china for the chair and treasurer, plastic for the rest.

Earwig (Member at Large and your elected representative)

Letters

Dear S&S,

I was pleased to learn (S&S, May 1996) that the BPS does not consider that their proposed legislation to protect 'psychological services' would affect AHPB or AHPP. However we need to bear in mind that if they do get a Bill enacted it will be interpreted by the courts, not by BPS. One of my dictionaries defines psychologist as 'a person trained to perform psychological

research or therapy', and I suspect that most people would regard therapy as a psychological service. We cannot relax on this issue just on the basis of assurances from BPS.

Has any Member of the Committee actually examined the draft Bill? If not surely we should ask BPS for a copy and seek legal advice ourselves. We do not want to find ourselves in the position of having to

do this in haste at the last minute if a Bill is introduced.

Shirley Wade

Dear S&S,

Further to Richard Mowbray's latest article on the interesting registration debate, it's like watching a tennis match, following the lobs and volleys from either polarised side. I wonder if it might be helpful to imagine these two poles reversed, and have the energy of both sides pushing towards each other.

For instance, what *might* happen is that every newly-trained counsellor or thera-

pist should be compulsorily registered with either UKCP or BAC. Control and guidance would then be applied by suitably qualified and willing practitioners to fledgling workers, who would most probably welcome it.

What is then earned, after a suitable number of hours practice, say, or a suitable number of satisfied clients, is the right to go non-registered. Those who considered themselves to be 'top practitioners' — or are considered to be so by their ex-clients — could then describe themselves as 'Non-registered by UKCP or BAC'.

Kay Lynnot

AHP Page

June Green

The membership list has been updated and is available to all members for £2 from Camilla Sim, BM Box 3852, London WC1N 3XX.

Thought is being given to an AHP Conference in September, 1997, and we need volunteers to help organise this. If you

would like to help in any way please contact Camilla as above. Members will shortly be receiving a questionnaire regarding conferences and we urge you to complete and return it, again to give us your ideas about what you would like.

AHPP Page

Whiz Collis

There has been much discussion and debate about the core beliefs of AHPP, and we set up working parties to try and gather together ideas about what we hold as essential to being humanistic practitioners. The group is having a day together

in September, and hopes for some definition of the consensus about what is important. Far from being able to define beliefs and then apply them to procedures, much of the debate has centred around issues of accreditation, UKCP registration