

counsellors and psychotherapists are simply not borne out by the research evidence on outcome effectiveness (or indeed Mah-rer's alternative 'in therapy' paradigm). In short they're not rational. They don't command assent on rational grounds. And yet they represent the foundations on which an independent profession of counselling and psychotherapy is to be built! This is not to question the genuineness of particular UKCP trainers in relation to the criteria — many no doubt believe in them. The point is that in order to enforce them, either by statute or by controlling the market in training, would require empirical proof which is currently not only lacking but is in actual fact contra-indicated (see for instance Bohart 'The Active Client' in the *Journal of Humanistic Psychology* Vol. 36 No. 3 1996 and Alex Howard's *Challenges*

to *Counselling and Psychotherapy*, Macmil-lan 1996)

The position is somewhat akin to the Tory's attempt to claim the 'high moral ground', 'classlessness', and 'family values' as its ground. It sounds good. The evidence points in exactly the opposite direc-tion. One hopes that both 'electorates' wake up from their respective trances in time.

David Kalisch

The Editors asked the AHPP Board whether it would like to respond to any of the points made by David Kalisch in this letter. Their brief but clear response is that 'The AHPP Board is opposed to statutory registration, a position that has remained unchanged for years. This opinion is put forward at UKCP meetings whenever ap-propriate.'

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June Green

Mainly good news this month. Look out for your notice of the AGM on 26th April, which is enclosed with this mailing. Colin McGee has agreed to run the afternoon workshop, and will be using art as a way of exploring time and space. For the formal business of the day, we need nominations for officers and committee. It would be good to have some new people with fresh ideas and energy. If you live outside London you can claim expenses to come to meetings.

Another date for your diary is Saturday October 11th, when we are planning to have the Festival we have talked about for

a year or so. The venue will be Hillcroft Col-lege, Southbank, Surbiton. Invitations will be going out soon to various organisa-tions, centres and individuals to run stalls there and of course we will keep you posted as plans develop.

Some bad news — Camilla, our hard-working administrator, has decided to leave us in the near future. A leaflet with the advertisement for the post is enclosed in this magazine, so please show it to any-one who might be interested. We will be sad to see you go Camilla, but we wish you every success in your new venture.

Hoping to see you at the AGM!