

Dear S&S,

I'm sorry that my article on the medical model and psychotherapy (September 1997) upset Maria Bielinsky. I've read it again, and can't see anything that implies a 'hierarchy' as she suggests. But nor can I agree with her that the difference between the two models can be conflict-free. It seems to me that there is an intrinsic conflict between the medical concept of men-

tal 'illness' and the psychotherapeutic model (which I don't see in terms of 'personality restructuring', by the way — that itself sounds like a medical concept). And, as I argued in my article, to practise psychotherapy within a medical institution is to subject oneself to medical criteria; which is exactly what happens in practice with out-comes research, etc.

Nick Totton

AHP Page

Ruth Finer

Season's Greetings to all our readers. May 1998 bring what you need. Speaking of which, planning is proceeding well for the 1998 AHP Conference. The dates: 6th–8th November 1998; the title: 'Living through Dying: Cycles of Change and Transition'; the keynote speaker: Roger Woolger; his theme: 'Past Lives, Re-birth and the New Spiritual Paradigm'. The venue is not yet booked. For the first time AHP is employing a professional conference organiser, Event and Project Services, so the load on the conference sub-committee and administrator will be minimised. Roger Woolger will also be leading a one-day AHP workshop on Thursday 5th November, in London, for which his title is 'Soul Dramas and Past Lives: An Integrated Regression Process'. Full details of both of these events, booking forms, etc, will be available in due course.

Advance notice also of the AHP AGM, to be held on Saturday 25th April. We are proposing to hold a discussion or debate

before the AGM itself, on a theme connected with children. Again, full details will be disseminated in the coming weeks. The AGM is of course the time when the committee changes. As ever we will be seeking nominations and/or volunteers; one change to report in any case is the resignation from the Committee of Julian Nangle. We are very glad that Julian is remaining on the conference sub-committee, where his enthusiasm and lateral thinking are greatly valued.

Anyone out there got any ideas for a new AHP logo? The Committee have been thinking about ways of strengthening AHP's presence and identity out in the world, and have commissioned John Button to draw up a possible strategy. As well as recognising the need for more publicity (and more activities) we are contemplating the image that we wish to promote, and a memorable logo could play a significant part in communicating that image. Any suggestions should be sent to Dylanie

Walker at AHP's address as given on the inside front cover. We are not asking for perfect artwork; fresh ideas of any kind would be welcome.

I feel motivated to draw to your attention an issue that isn't of the kind usually covered on this page. At the time I write this the Kyoto summit has just concluded, with agreements reached on cuts in the levels of emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. Members may also know that Gavin Strang,

Transport Minister, announced some months ago that British motorists will face roadside checks for vehicle emissions. There will be automatic fines for serious polluters. From a humanistic psychology perspective, one of the questions this brings up for me is what I am prepared to give up in order to live sustainably and not contribute further to the destruction of the planet we all depend on. Personal use of cars exemplifies this fraught issue. What do you think?

AHPP Page

Eric Whitton

We had a most successful AGM preceded by a morning's workshop on implementing humanistic core beliefs. Four key speakers addressed organisational, ethical, management and membership implications. There will be a report on the lively discussions that followed each of these. There was interest in reviewing alternative ways of practising, and since the meeting the Board have decided to have an open meeting after each alternate board meeting. The first of these will take place on the afternoon of Saturday 14th March, so put this date in your diary. Further details will be sent out nearer the time. It was also decided that following two major discussions of the place of associates at general meeting to devote the date (16 May) which was scheduled for the next general meeting to set aside this time as an 'associates day'.

It is good to hear that Rae Bird, our treasurer, is on a steering group set up by UKRC to discuss representation of accrediting bodies.

One thing is clear: that we need more members to become actively involved in the Association. There are vacancies on the Ethics Committee and on the Board. We are fortunate that all the officers and members of the Board agreed to serve for another year of office, but by the next AGM we will be losing some members so it is vital that we have some new blood soon. Sadly we have been forced to increase the membership fees due to rising costs. Hopefully they will remain stable for a while. At the end of the AGM John Rowan was presented with a case of wine and made an Honorary Life Member of AHPP in recognition for his major contribution to the work of the board and of the association generally since its inception.