

chology' and also enhance our sense of community in this hectic and pressured time. Members who can't come to meetings for pressure of time, distance or disability, may be able to become more actively involved in debate on the Internet in a more immediate and less formal way than *Self & Society* offers.

With these basic hopes in mind the text from our membership leaflet has been included, along with details of how to join, details about the work of AHPP, the contents pages of past and future issues of *Self & Society*, as well as the ethical issues from *Self & Society*, and the opportunity to join an e-mail debate on the issues. There will also be a News & Reviews page and links to other internet sites that would be of interest to people visiting our page, these will include the page for the American AHP, John Rowan's *A Guide to Humanistic Psychology*, and many more. (Please let me know of any news, reviews or links that you think are worth including).

The decision to include the Ethical Issues as a taster for a user-group was led

partly by a sense of frustration at the protracted nature of a debate held in a bi-monthly magazine and partly by a belief that e-mail will reach a different audience to the one prepared to put pen to paper and so widen the debate.

Other possibilities for online debate are limited only by our imagination, ones that spring readily to my mind include: The sense that *Self & Society* is more about self than society and what does that mean about us and our work? Where should an Association for Humanistic Psychology be focusing its energy for the next millennium? The efficacy of short-term time-limited therapy and the ethical implications of that for open-ended once-a-week work for some client groups, the National Curriculum and its implications for the humanistic education of our children, and I wonder if that old chestnut — psychotherapy registration — has still got an interested audience!

As I say, the possibilities are only limited by our imagination — so please let me have your ideas. E-mail or paper and ink will do!

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## *Another View of that AGM*

*Sharon Eden*

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AHP, in its present form, is a fading hippy-skirt-dinosaur well past its sell-by date. I saw, heard and sniffed that at its AGM in April. The venue exemplified AHP's condition; the small, old-fashioned, over-furnished, dark, dusty, decayed grandeur of a university meeting room.

I attended the AGM from curiosity, expecting a room full of woolly socks, san-

dals and gypsy skirts. Although my stereotype seemed invalid (only two pairs of woolly socks and one of sandals), attendance was very small, most wouldn't see 45 again, and the accoutrements seemed to exist in the minds if not on the bodies.

However, there was a recognition that AHP is no longer the dynamic animal it was 25 years ago. Then it had a spurt to its

activities; to spread the humanistic psychology word, to educate, to inform. It had a mission with the passion to follow it.

Some attendees had difficulty with the premise that AHP has nothing new to offer in its present form. Twenty-five years later the word 'holistic' is in common usage. Humanistic psychology pervades diverse areas from therapy to business management, from childcare to human resource management. In an age when Barking College in Essex offers an IHHHT Diploma in Indian Head Massage, nobody is going to be excited by the antediluvian body of the AHP!

To give 'the management' credit, the committee did get us to brainstorm what AHP meant to us and what its selling point to new members might be. For the first time I understood Woody Allen's use of 'nauseous' when some attendees came up with warm, glow-ey type meanings or suggested passé techniques from the 'good old days' to attract fresh blood. Cyberspace would shiver at the competition.

If AHP is to be influential, it needs to redefine its purpose, get specific, define goals, develop strategies to achieve them and inspire members' involvement in the entire process. It's long been time for AHP to move out of that light and love, waffly, fused, oceanic soup of its infancy. AHP needs to wake up and smell the coffee, to move on developmentally if it's going to be effectual in promoting humanistic

psychology in 2000 plus.

A case in point is a proposed AHP birthday party this year. This was discussed at the AGM in April for actualisation in September. By the end of the meeting, no date had been set for the party in case a suitable venue (not yet researched) would not be available on that date; vague ideas about where would be researched and by whom. I rest my case! Decisiveness and acts of will seem a little short in AHP.

There was general consensus that AHP's biggest asset was *Self & Society*. In contrast to professional journals, which become more academic and elitist by the minute, *S&S* is a user-friendly publication. It too desperately needs a presentation update [tell us more about what you imagine — eds]. It also needs input from areas and contributors other than therapy. This would facilitate holistic content as well as context.

How do we achieve that? Well, we're back to revamping and revitalising AHP. We're back to making it relevant to the now, instead of droning on about the past.

I suspect the old guard are too entrenched. I suspect the innovators' enthusiasm will collapse in the face of turgid reactionism which hides behind some very pleasant, humanistically-inclined faces. Challenge and change might just be too much for AHP in its dotage. In which case, it deserves to die.

