

## Network News

### Electronic Membership

Electronic membership is available to Full Members at a rate of £30 (instead of £37) for 1999. Such members will receive no paper from us everything will be available on the web site. They will be issued with a password to the private area of the web site and will pay their subscription in the normal way. Renewal of subscription will be notified annually in February by email and will then be settled by credit card, standing order or cheque. Let us know if you would like to apply for this by email to [info@scimednet.org.com](mailto:info@scimednet.org.com)

### Web Site help required

KEVIN ASHBRIDGE will be handing over the running of the web site to JOHN CATON after two years at the helm. We still, however, need extra help in organising the articles available on the web and would like to be able to scan in all the articles advertised in the Members<sup>1</sup> Articles section but do not currently have time to do this. We also have to decide what is posted on the public and closed areas. Anyone (preferably with a scanner) who could help with this please let us know at the office.

### New Directory forms enclosed

We will be publishing a new Full Members<sup>1</sup> Directory in April 1999 and have enclosed a copy of your entry as it stands at present. Please feel free to amend this and then send it back to the office by March 15th. Your entry will remain unchanged if we do not hear from you! The Directory continues to be updated monthly on the web.

### Network Book Prize 1998

The Network Book Prize for 1998 was awarded to *Zen and the Brain*, by JAMES AUSTIN (MIT Press). It is a magisterial work and is reviewed by DR. PETER FENWICK in this issue. A special commendation was given to *Kitchen Table Wisdom*, by RACHEL NAOMI REMEN. Around thirty books that we know of have been published by Members during the year. The Book Prize is awarded annually to the book that, in the view of the panel, makes the greatest contribution to one of the Network's fields of interest. Jim presented a number of talks at this year's Annual Meeting in Warwick

### Media Forum Turns On and Tunes In

Kevin Ashbridge writes: The SMN Media Forum held its inaugural meeting in October at Colet House in London. Ten members came together for an easy-going, yet highly stimulating day discussing the potentials and pitfalls of the world's media; often eliciting heart-felt commentaries. The mix of both media professionals and interested lay persons in the group provided a beautiful balance of opinion and experience, and a real 'safe space'<sup>1</sup> in which to share. To protect the sensitive positions of many of the professionals, we agreed not to attribute names to various comments made in the Media Forum in any reports about the group. Such is the case for this report.

After the personal introductions, we began with an exercise of breaking into pairs and recalling what it is that we have personally 'witnessed' on screen that moved something within us. The use of that word was highly evocative, capturing the poignancy of our film and television culture. In relating our experiences to the whole group, I was struck by both the commonality and diversity of responses. Several members talked about the effect of

witnessing the atrocities of war and violence (whether in real life or fictional pieces). For me, the surprise here was not just the emotional impact of watching human suffering, but the flowering of human spirit and values in the face of adversity. Others members of the group talked of their astonishment in witnessing aspects of the Earth and cosmos that would not have been possible without the 'screen' the vastness of the Mongolian steppe, or Earth-rise as seen from the moon. Herein lies one of the most positive aspects of television and film: the next-best-thing to direct experience, yet sufficient enough to evoke awe and wonder.

Lunch was followed by a free-flowing discussion, concentrated mostly around the practises of today's media. There was a great deal of emotion expressed here, bringing up a number of issues for discussion at future meetings. Some felt strongly about the need for a new  $\text{\textcircled{C}}$ consciousness<sup>1</sup> in the media, particularly given its power to reflect and reshape the basis of our society. One promising future theme will be the significance/relevance of purpose in mass communication. Stay tuned!

No conclusions were reached by the group on any given topic, but none were intended. The organisers came armed with a few titbits to generate discussion, but the need never arose. Instead, the Media Forum sailed into the deep waters on its own. Aboard were those interested in bringing a new light to an ever-more fundamental aspect of our society. Indeed, the SMN has long been interested in illuminating science and medicine; it seems the media is no less in need.

At present, the Media Forum will meet three times per year, making the next one in late February. Look for further details on the SMN web site. If you wish to be placed on the mailing list, please contact the SMN office. You will be joining a fascinating group.

#### Consciousness Group

The group held a meeting at the end of September at which members shared their experiences of different meditation techniques. Most members attending had been meditating over a long period, often for years before they joined the Network. Among the observations emerging from the day were:

- The different quality of a day begun with meditation it had more sense of space in it.
- Not grasping during a meditation just go further into the stillness
- Experiences were different for image and non-image people
- Meditation can be characterised as an auto-hypnotic trance
- Differences between meditations with and without seed
- The experience of  $\text{\textcircled{C}}$ dropping into coherence<sup>1</sup>
- Meditation as the art of being here but being out of the way

The next meeting is in December and will be reported in the April issue.

#### Science and Esoteric Knowledge Group

The group's day is reported elsewhere by DR. PAUL FOLCA. It continues to meet about six times a year and is currently continuing discussion of GEOFFREY FARTHING'S paper on the

consciousness-brain interface as understood by esoteric philosophy. Let the office know if you would like to join the group and are sufficiently near London to do so.

#### Energy Medicine Group

The group has held two meetings since the last issue, one in Bath where VICTOR SIMS gave a presentation entitled *Energy Medicine: Harnessing the Power of Thoughtforms*. Then on September 19th, BOB HAINING presented on Dr. Rife's *Beam Ray: Past and Present*. ROGER TAYLOR has been using Rife technology for some time and has been monitoring his changes in his energy field with Russian Kirliconic equipment. Anyone interested in this group but not currently on the mailing list should contact the office.

#### Proposed Environmental Medicine Group

Doris Jones writes: At the last Annual Gathering in July it became clear that a number of members would like to see greater coverage given to topics and problems relating to environmental medicine. The August issue reflected these concerns: genetic engineering, fluoride, vitamin B6. I share these concerns and invite members interested in this proposal to write either to the office or to me at 176 Perth Road, Ilford, Essex IG2 6DZ, UK.

5th 7th March, 1999. Weekend Walks in Wales.

Spend a weekend walking the lovely Gower coasts, relaxing, and enjoying the company of fellow Network members. The theme for the weekend discussion is 'Schizophrenia: a case of Spirit Possession?'

Contact Pam on 01792-391356 or [pamela@slinky.netkonect.co.uk](mailto:pamela@slinky.netkonect.co.uk) for details.