

News and Notices

Science and Religion

Expanding Humanity's Vision of God - Templeton Foundation Prizes The Templeton Foundation is awarding prizes for newly published essays and sermons on expanding humanity's vision of God - Can we have a more comprehensive, more exploratory, more humble theology? Essays are 2,000-3,000 words while sermons are expected to be shorter! Deadline for submissions is 1st November. There will be 70 prizes of \$3,500, 10 of \$5,000 and one of \$10,000. Submissions must have been published or accepted for publication before the deadline date. A list of participating journals (including *Network*) can be found in the guidelines, along with suggested readings. Details on the Templeton web site at www.templeton.org or from Dr. Robert Herrmann, EHVG, Gordon College, 255 Grapevine Road, Wenham, MA 01984, USA or email to herrmann@gordon.edu For those interested there is now a list server on science and religion with over 1,200 subscribers and a very wide scope of concerns and interests. More information on www.meta-list.org

US National Academy of Sciences: Overwhelming Rejection of Religion The following makes interesting reading and shows how far there is to go in convincing mainstream scientists that there is more to life than can be explained by current physicalist hypotheses.

Although the current popular US media are fond of informing the public that science and religion are moving closer on a common ground, the evidence is apparently the opposite. In a letter to the journal *Nature*, Larson and Witham (University of Georgia Athens, US) report the results of a recent survey of scientists who are members of the US National Academy of Sciences (NAS). The authors report "near universal rejection" of the transcendent by NAS natural scientists. Overall, 93 percent of NAS scientists do not profess a belief in God (72.2 percent disbelief, 20.8 agnostic), and 92.1 percent do not profess a belief in immortality (76.7 percent disbelief, 23.3 percent agnostic). Disbelief in God and immortality among NAS biological scientists was 65.2 percent and 69.0 percent respectively, and among NAS physical scientists it was 79 percent and 76.3 percent respectively. As indicated, most of the rest define themselves as agnostics, with only few believers. The highest percentage of belief was found among NAS mathematicians: 14.3 percent belief in God, 15 percent belief in immortality. Biological scientists had the lowest rate of belief (5.5 percent in God, 7.1 percent in immortality), with physicists and astronomers slightly higher (7.5 percent in God, 7.5 percent in immortality). The authors suggest that despite recent declarations by NAS president Bruce Albert that many outstanding members of the academy are very religious people, the present survey indicates otherwise. QY: Edward J. Larson (*Nature* 23 Jul 98 394:313) (*Science-Week* 14 Aug 98)

Consciousness Studies

Noetic Journal

The *Noetic Journal* is an interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journal that constitutes an international forum on the cosmology of consciousness. Its statement of purpose claims to address 'a complete epistemology that is not just confined to current myopic limits of scientific phenomenology: 'Science is inadequate to complete the task of explaining consciousness without being drastically reformulated'. A new ontological theory will 'see beyond the phenomenology of measurement or perception into a deeper noumenon'. Three issues have been published so far and their contents can be found on the web site

www.mindspring.com/~noeticj. They are also publishing a book 'Science and the Primacy of Consciousness' with contributions from a number of members. Details from The Noetic Press, 120 Village Square #49, Orinda, CA 94567-2502, USA.

Trends in Cognitive Sciences

An interdisciplinary journal subtitled 'linking the brain and mind', and covering cognitive research in psychology, artificial intelligence, linguistics, philosophy, anthropology, physiology and neuroscience. Packed with information, each issue contains a comment and response, review articles and a books section plus a noticeboard. Recent topics include sleep, neurophysiology of depression, face processing and implicit learning. Details: Elsevier Trends Journals, PO Box 331, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 3FG. Web: www.elsevier.com/locate/tics

Education - M.Sc. in Science Communication, Imperial College

The aim of this innovative course is both academic and practical: to foster skills of intellectual analysis and independent investigation through a combination of taught courses and a 10,000 word dissertation. Core modules introduce science communication and give a history of communication in science and society. Options include rhetoric of science, science policy, science and the media, scientific controversies, narrative, and documentary film. Then there are practical options in the summer term, followed by work placements. Details: Science Communication Administrator, Room 313C, Humanities Programme, Mechanical Engineering Building, Imperial College, London SW7 2AZ. 0171 594 8753.

Educating on a Human Scale

The report from the latest Human Scale Education course is now available and contains lectures by Anita Roddick, Richard Pring and Satish Kumar. Highly recommended. £2.50 from Human Scale Education, 96 Carlingcott, Bath BA2 8AW.

Holistic Programmes for Parents

A wide range of talks and workshops by Jana Borisvaljevic whose focus is education of the whole child through a multi-sensory and multi-disciplinary approach. Themes include nourishing the feeling life, reconnecting with nature, understanding the child's temperament and developmental phases in childhood. Details: Programmes for Parents, 8 Warner Road, London N8 7HD. Jana.b@btinternet.com

The Change Programme

Led by Titus Alexander, this programme consists of six weekend workshops which are designed to develop the concepts, skills and experience to become a creative agent of change. Students work on a particular project, examine case-studies of real-life examples of successful change, explore different approaches and models of change and finally 'take on an impossible project and do it successfully'. The programme also publishes a newsletter and runs occasional series of lectures. Address: Inspiring Change, 32 Carisbrooke Road, London E17 7EE. 0181 521 6977

Ecology

Pledges for the Planet

A Network dedicated to spiritual growth through sustainable consumption and to help members live in the modern world in an environmentally conscious way in accordance with religious and ethical principles. Members are invited to commit themselves to one of a number of pledges: reduce energy or water consumption by 20%, compost all waste, avoid supermarkets for a year by buying from local shops or in bulk, decrease annual fuel consumption and mileage by 15%. Details from REEP, 8th Floor, Rodwell House, Middlesex Street, London E1 7HJ. Email: reep@globalnet.co.uk

Global Energy Network Institute

GENI is proposing the electrical interconnection of renewable energy sources around the world as a real contribution to development. Their mission is to accelerate the attainment of optimal, ecologically sustainable energy solutions in the shortest possible time for the peace, health and prosperity of all. The proposal is based on the thinking of Bucky Fuller and has been endorsed by Walter Cronkite and Desmond Tutu among others. Details on www.geni.org/

A SEED Europe (Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment and Development)

A SEED is the European hub of a global network committed to environmental and social justice. Since 1992, the organisation has worked to highlight the environmental crisis within the corporate led economic globalisation process. In 1996, A SEED started working on genetic engineering at the Hunger Gathering (parallel to the World Food Summit in 1996), has campaigned against the European Union Life Patents Directive, and exposed the Burson-Marsteller PR program for the Europe-orientated biotech industry.

Rounding Up Monsanto. ASEED Europe has begun an information campaign on the Monsanto Corporation, one of the principle industrial engines of commercial agro-genetic engineering. The campaign produces a monthly newsletter, the Monsanto Monitor, and is launching a website in the coming weeks. Contact GroundUp@aseed.antenna.nl for more details. ASEED Europe will be producing a Comic Book to aid campaigners around Europe explain the various elements of the gentech debate in a new way. The comic book, will contain contributions from several European artists alongside text. ASEED will make the comic book available to European groups, with empty "speech bubbles" so that each campaign may insert their own text and target the audiences and messages most important to them.

A SEED Europe, P.O. Box 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, The Netherlands - Tel: +31 20 468 26 16, Fax: +31 20 468 2275, E-mail: biotech@aseed.antenna.nl

The Campaign Against Human Genetic Engineering

(cahge@globalnet.co.uk; www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~cahge)

An influential lobby of scientists and others is proposing to take the first step towards a new eugenics. Scientists such as James Watson (one of the discoverers of the structure of DNA) and others, are proposing to extend existing genetic techniques to human sperm, eggs and embryos, so that genetic changes are inherited by all the offspring of the person who has been genetically engineered. (Until now, such techniques known as gene therapy, have been restricted to non-reproductive body cells, so they are not inherited.) Human genetic engineering is banned in Europe and many other countries, but not in the USA. The Campaign Against Human Genetic Engineering (CAHGE) has been set up to provide an

international response to this threat. CAHGE believes that medical justifications offered for such experiments are spurious. Once human genetic engineering is permitted it will inevitably be used to try to eliminate certain disabilities, and for purposes of eugenic 'enhancement', or for cosmetic purposes. Our immediate aim is to block the first concrete proposal to do experiments which will result in the birth of genetically engineered human beings. For more background information on human genetic engineering, visit the CAHGE website, or email CAHGE.

Small is Beautiful, BIG is Subsidised

A thoroughly researched essay by Steven Gorelick subtitled 'how our taxes contribute to social and environmental breakdown and published by the International Society for Ecology and Culture. In her introduction, Helena Norberg-Hodge points out that our economic framework has been designed to favour the big over the small, which means that our choices are increasingly shaped by a centralised, ever-more globalised economy. Large transnational corporations are extremely effective at lobbying governments and enjoy many advantages over smaller producers, for instance in their ability to move assets round in order to avoid tax. She sees grassroots activism as the best hope of reversing the trend as increasing numbers of people wake up to the implications of current trends. ISEC: Apple Barn, Week, Dartington, Devon TQ9 6JP. Email: isecuk@gn.apc.org

Complementary Medicine

Focus on Alternative and Complementary Therapies - An evidence-based approach

Edited by Prof. Edzard Ernst at Exeter University, this quarterly journal uses a very digestible format to present the latest research in complementary medicine. Summaries and commentaries are grouped under general, acupuncture, herbal medicine, manipulative therapies, dietary approaches, and other complementary therapies. The structure gives the aim, design, setting and participants, methods, main results and conclusion. This is followed by a referenced commentary on the work. Other sections include conference reports, book reviews, a survey of recent literature and an events calendar. Address: Pharmaceutical Press, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN.

Research in Complementary Medicine - Placebo Proceedings

The proceedings of the third Scientific Symposium of Einsiedeln have been published in English and German (Band 5, Supplement 1, October 1998, indexed on Medicus and Medline) . This is a state of the art collection of articles that are divided into five sections: 1) Placebo, Valuable if It Helps the Patients? (studies) 2) 'Specific Effects' Undergoing Historic and Cultural Transition (with items on the nature of disease, God and cybernetics) 3) Empirical Documentation of Efficacy and Benefit in the Hierarchy of Evidence 4) The Mission of Medicine and Its Science 5) The Vision of Pragmatic Clinical Research and Study Designs. Details: Karger, Postfach CH - 4009, Basel, Switzerland.

The Peckham Experiment Today

A new newsletter arising from the original Peckham Experiment in Community Health and Living in the 1930s. Essential reading for people interested in new developments in community health. Autumn 98 issue includes items on the Healthy Planet Forum and government guidance on Healthy Living Centres. Details: David Lloyd, 62 London Road, Calne, Wilts SN11 0AE. 01249 812833. Email: dplloyd@dial.pipex.com

General

Psychosynthesis Certificate in the Art of Therapy

Psychosynthesis UK is running a series of courses through the year and around the country that can be combined to gain the Advanced Certificate in the Art of Therapy. They are based around the theme of creative expression as a means of accessing the realm of the psyche to bring about healing and growth. Training hours can be added together up to 200 hours for completion, at which point there is a dissertation to be written and submitted. Details from Barbara Cole, 4 Offham Terrace, Lewes, E. Sussex BN7 2QP.

Parabola Magazine, New York

I met the publisher of this remarkable magazine at a gathering of Lifebridge Foundation grantees recently in New York State. A number of readers may already be familiar with it, but those who are not will want to know more. Subtitled 'The Magazine of Myth and Tradition', each issue is devoted to a theme and draws writers of the highest calibre as regular contributors. Themes of past issues include attention, inner alchemy, the trickster, dreams and seeing, pilgrimage, wholeness and ceremonies. There are typically a dozen articles plus book reviews and notices in each illustrated and beautifully produced issue. Details: Parabola, 656 Broadway, New York NY 10012, USA. Email: parabola@panix.com Web: www.parabola.org

Insight and Outlook Radio Programmes, Santa Barbara, USA

Scott London was another person I met at the Lifebridge Gathering, where he presented one of his programmes of Robert Thurman talking about the Dalai Lama. For some years Scott hosted a series of half-hour radio interviews with frontier thinkers and social innovators such as James Hillman on soul, character and calling, Hazel Henderson on 21st century economics, Fritjof Capra on the geometry of nature, Marion Woodman on conscious femininity, Huston Smith on the perennial philosophy and Margaret Wheatley on leadership and the new science. Scott is a sensitive and sympathetic interviewer, bringing out the best in his interviewees. Details on the web site www.west.net/~insight or you can contact Scott at PO Box 12, Santa Barbara, CA 93102, USA. Email: insight@west.net

World Citizen Diplomats

WCD is a non-political educational organisation designed to promote domestic, international and intercultural understanding among people world wide. It seeks to advance the interests of universal peace, human development, justice and ecological balance. The group has been particularly active in the former Soviet republics. Their motto might be 'When the power of love overcomes the love of power, then there will be true peace. Their main current project is a five-year peace caravan, which conducts two 2 day dialogue seminars each week. The vehicle is a travelling office and people are guests in the homes of local citizens wherever they go. The caravan is currently travelling around Africa and will reach South America in the autumn. Details: World Citizen Diplomats, PO Box 1484, Princeton, NJ 08542, USA. Email: loispeace@aol.com

Whitbey Institute, USA

Another meeting at Lifebridge! Fritz and Vivienne Hull run this small institute dedicated to earth, spirit and the human future on an island off the west coast of the USA, and have

gradually built up both the facilities and the programme over a twenty year period. The keynote is the transformation of both heart and mind needed in today's world and the development of a 'new ecological imagination'. Vivienne also leads an annual pilgrimage to Iona in May to explore Celtic spirituality. Details: PO Box 57, Clinton, Washington 98236, USA. Web: www.whidbeyinstitute.org

Whole Foods Project, New York

Yet another Lifebridge grantee! Richard Pierce founded this non-profit grassroots organisation to provide low cost nutrition services for people living with HIV, AIDS, cancer or heart disease. They hold monthly communal meals, put on a programme of nutrition education and teach people living with illness how to adopt a health-supportive plant-based diet. Their principles are that food prevents food and heals, knowledge empowers, community supports and sustainability counts. Their newsletter also contains recipes and is aptly entitled Dish. Details: Whole Foods Project, 285 Fifth Avenue, Box 433, Brooklyn, NY 11215, USA.

A Call to Silence Meditation Network

A 'network of silence for peace and healing of our earth' coming out of the Netherlands. Believes that silence can bridge our differences and empower us to be in touch with our own strength without oppressing others. 'At the heart of silence is peace, there is our essential being, there is God'. 'Out of silence love is born. This silence of love, trust, friendship and mutual respect bonds us together'. The main week for 1999 will be 2nd - 9th May but there will be an extra one from 22nd - 31st December. Address: A Call to Silence Foundation, De Haar 144 Leidschendam, NL 2261 ZA, Netherlands.

Institute for Global Futures Research

An online monthly bulletin with 39 general areas of research including climate change, evolving world order, quality of life indicators, global finance, world systems theory, spirituality and religion. Essays and reviews appear along with a calendar of events. Details: Geoff Holland on email: igfr@peg.apc.org