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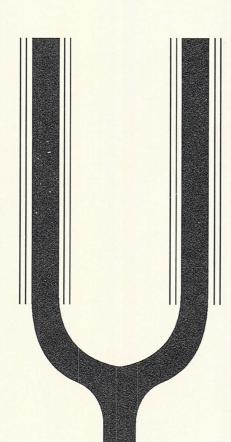
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Don Campbell

Don G. Campbell is founder of the Institute for Music, Health and Education of Boulder, Colorado. He was the national director for education for the Choristers Guild, serving over 10,000 children's choirs in North America. He has researched the effects of hearing and music on reading, dyslexia and health, and has studied, performed or taught in Tokyo, Holland, Bali, Germany, France, the United States and Canada. He is the author of Introduction to the Musical Brain and Master Teacher: Nadia Boulanger and composer and recording artist of albums Crystal Meditations, Rune, Lightning on the Moon, Crystal Rainbows, Angels, Symphony for the Inner Self and Birthing. He currently resides in Boulder, Colorado.



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This issue of *Edges* explores how artificial national boundaries are breaking down in the wake of a cultural integration caused by media, music, mobility and various evolutionary forces. Feature writers and special articles make strong cases in favour of compassion and patience during this wrenching planetary experience.

Cover

Computer graphic called a *fractal* which is an infinitely recurring pattern. Now being used to simulate economics and biological growth, fractals are examples of holographic art in two dimensions. Photograph compliments of Art Matrix, Ithaca, New York.



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Date of Issue: January, 1989

EDITORIAL

While crossing the border recently I shoved my orange deep into my pocket to escape detection, and felt guilty about it. Meanwhile, pouring by the border unchecked are floods of information, values, styles and convictions. Closer to home, bank customers are served by tellers with origins in China, Brazil, Jamaica and the Philippines. In the news, a stone-throwing incident in Lebanon is as relevant as a fire in Montreal.

Events around the world cause some level of concern in most people and are immediately relevant to many others. Some events are tragic and some breathe fresh air. What is intriguing is that a planetary culture with values and priorities seems to be emerging to help people understand and act. This planetary culture does not respect political boundaries: thankfully so, because the issues are too big to be dealt with by any one country. Pollution, AIDS, radioactivity and natural calamities are simple examples.

Planetary culture is not the benign exchange of national icons and values across borders. Each international cultural encounter does require an examination of one's own set of life priorities. However, the mind reels at the prospect of reevaluating life weekly in the current churn of global affairs. Planetary culture *is* the churn.

This time in *Edges* we dig for the roots and seeds of planetary culture that are growing locally and regionally everywhere. Mark Starowicz of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation tracks the ownership of international media and its effect on the macro level. Jean Houston analyzes microscopic movement across cell membranes and finds parallels in culture and civilization. The transformative power of music, rhythm and vibration is illustrated in Michael Ventura's article on jazz and rock 'n' roll. The open-ended possibilities and the internal confusion faced by immigrants are reported by Sohail Inayatullah. Many other contributions reveal the depth and breadth of the phenomenon. Cartoons about the planetary citizen will keep you light-hearted.

We look forward to your comments on this issue and invite you to watch for the spring issue on planetary partnerships and meeting places.

Healthy digging,

Bill Staples

Required Reading

Please include information on bulk rates for a single issue of the journal, as I may want to use Edges as required reading for a course on the "Philosophy of Learning" at Syracuse University during Spring 1989.

Elana Levy Syracuse, New York, USA

Environmental Issue

Your publication *Edges* is first rate. Everyone I have showed it to, young and old, is interested. I particularly liked your position on the "environmental issue" – realistic and forward looking (July/ September 1988). My subscription card is enclosed.

Bill Richards Kirkwood, Missouri, USA

Henderson Interview

I just received *Edges* for September, 1988. It is very well done.

Hazel Henderson Anastasia Island, Florida, USA

Editor's Note: In our interview with Hazel we should have clearly stated in the bio-box that the interview was conducted over a year and a half ago. The economic collapse she predicted at that time did in fact occur in October 1987.

Movies and Music

Edges is a wonderful forum and it is a pleasure to do movie reviews. I just saw Clean and Sober, an excellent modern day parable on the Hero's Journey in contemporary western society. Definitely worth seeing.

It would be great if someone else did something on music since that also seems to be a major culture carrier.

Robin Van Doren, Ed.D. Ojai, California, USA

Office Fluidity

Many of the offices where I have worked in the past four years celebrate the life-marking events of birthdays, anniversaries, sickness, operations, baby showers, funerals, leave-takings and retirement, and holidays like Halloween and Christmas. This was not the standard practice 10 years ago. These marking

times are celebrated by the company or office, and sometimes by a small unit within the office. There isn't any one way that it is done. And more times than not the activity or response is either spontaneous or very minimally structured.

My observation is on the other side of a 10-year period of being in non-western countries away from offices, therefore the shifts were very noticeable to me. A similar pattern seems to be emerging relative to how "offices" do their task. Relative to operating mode - the shift is toward fluidity. This fluidity does not show up in the organizational charts of a company. It shows up in how the work gets done. Managers do their own photocopying and entry if secretaries are busy with something else. People cover each other's phones and vacations. You are only aware of someone's title when you type it in a letter. If someone is swamped with a crash proposal, others pitch in to cover phones, and service customers, or whatever.

Ellery Elizondo Chicago, Illinois, USA

Pathways to the Future

I see five strategic processes or pathways that could enable planetary civilization to come into being. These processes break what Sheldrake has referred to as "the cultural trance of superficiality."

These five processes could lure us into becoming the planetary civilization we are destined to be, with a planetary psyche, style, and mythology. We would act from a posture of thinking globally and acting locally but with global connections.

A depth planetary media process would go beyond the impressionistic level of current journalism to storying the evolutionary journey of the planet. Then, the frontiers of media education would be extended through disseminating methods, images and myths that weave the person with the planet. If I had the money I'd buy a satellite tomorrow, gather a group of people and begin to develop this kind of programming and get it across the planet.

The second strategic process would be a planetary university; not a building necessarily, but a framework for lifelong learning with experimental curriculum, for individuals and institutions. The planetary university would be a wisdom source for institutions of power and influence like the UN and the World Bank, both of which really need wisdom sources. Preventive and

creative thinking could supplement the problem-solving that already goes on.

A planetary spirit association connecting the "people of the breakthrough" across the planet would dramatize the planetary covenant, empower multiple levels of planetary leadership, and provide practical global networking and support. This association could ensure that there is leaven present in the institutions, communities and professions.

A planetary foundation, a symbol of planetary compassion, would be concerned with providing economic leverage for planetary projects. It would make available a construct for charitable giving and socially responsible investing. It would be a structural financial way of interacting with other financial institutions on collaborative ventures.

The fifth process is planetary wellness. An Asclepian Centre – more than just a place – would re-source the deeps of being and open windows to reconciliation of the self, others, and the larger whole. I can imagine a new mode of resort sprinkled round the planet that provides depth refreshment for those on the transformation journey. These resorts would have spaces for conferencing, theatre, dance, drama, ritual, meditation, and psycho-physical methods. It would have ways and means of introducing people to the ecology of cultures that grace this planet.

It's important to say that this is not a call to "fix" the planet. It is a call to embrace and embody the planetary spirit which is embryonic in the world today. In relation to its fulfilment, I know how I want to focus my life, spend my time and invest my resources. It will be guiding me in relation to organizations, groups, and individuals I want to work with, be a part of and interact with. This is my personal and planetary vision.

Larry Ward Hong Kong

What if...

What if every peace group in the world understood the inter-connectedness of peace and justice, were committed to using reconciling styles and skills, and were equipped with special skills like Imaginal Education and used Sun Tzu's principles of strategy?

What if the individuals and families who are working as hard as they can for some cause important to the world, had access to a course about creating time designs, and the importance of study and

refreshment, of comprehensive context, corporate decision-making and celebration? What if a course on primal cultural or ur images could go on the road for churches, schools, community leadership and businesses? This would be for folks who would like to increase their understanding of the globality that they are starting to sense is very important to their life and work.

I was deeply stirred this year by the series on public television of conversations with Joseph Campbell called The Power of Myth. There is power here, to teach, to inspire, to heal. If myth were incorporated into public events, people might go for what they thought was a practical reason, but would be exposed to the deeps.

Janice Ulangca Binghamton, New York, USA

Autopoietic Economy

This is a letter about the Thompson article you selected for your August 88 issue. I believe that Thompson is misleading, unimaginative, and to top all, serves to justify the interests of hard-line militarists in the USA & USSR.

Thompson points out the beneficial results of our recent world wars and of the cold war. It may be well and clever to show there were beneficial side effects. But were these disasters remotely close to being more beneficial than destructive? Can war ever compare with peaceful trade, art, music, intermarriage and tourism as forces for global integration and development? Whose myth is it that war and survival of the fittest has been the key engine for the development of the species? The article says that the high-growth economy depends on enormous deficit spending which chronically centres around military investment. We have to ride this trend and modify it slightly from within. If we talk about a different focus for investment, that's unrealistic. Thompson doesn't (at least in this article) entertain other possibilities.

The fact that he doesn't seriously consider any possibility other than Reagan's Star Wars as the next major priority is the most disturbing thing. In this, Thompson comes off as more unimaginative than the Russian government bureaucrats. The Russians are thinking in roughly similar terms. They believe in stoking the fires of the high-growth economy with massive new joint investments. But they propose the superpowers get together on the exploration of the

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solar system, with weapons banned in space.

The Japanese political and scientific leaders are more practical and imaginative yet. They want major investment in biotech and artificial intelligence. They have also proposed earth-sculpting engineering works like creating lakes in the Sahara, new canals such as through the Thai peninsula and a global electric grid harnessing power from the Himalayas.

Why don't such peaceful mutually beneficial efforts come to Thompson's mind? Why publish arguments for more trillions poured into spy systems?

It's this kind of thing which makes me

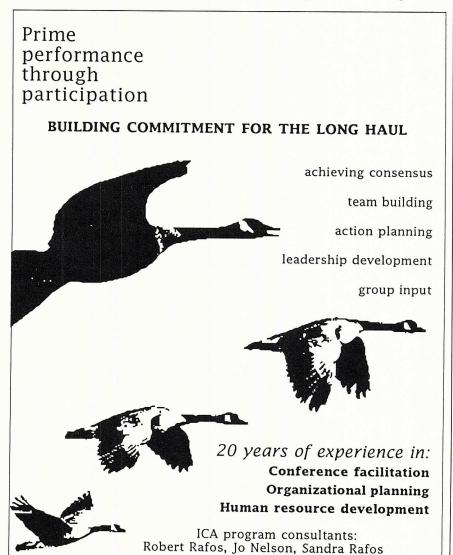
wonder if your magagine has any thoughtthrough moral posture at all.

> Brian Griffith Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Editors reply:

Thanks for your note.

The key question raised in Thompson's article was stated by Thompson himself. "How do we create the autopoietic economy that we already have without the terrorizing structures of the warfare economy we've had since World War II?" Several places in his article Thompson pointed out the absurdity of continuing heavy military spending. This article was part of a



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much longer speech given by Thompson in which he picked holes in the scientific "eggheads" attempts to either run the economy or provide security.

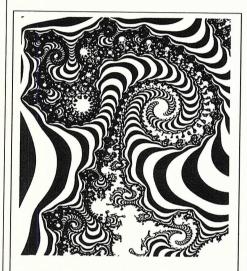
Correction

William Irwin Thompson served many years ago as a professor at York University in Toronto, not at the University of Toronto as reported in the September issue.

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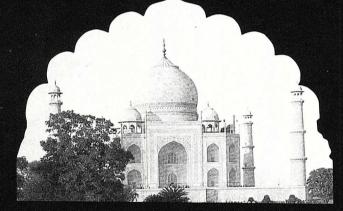
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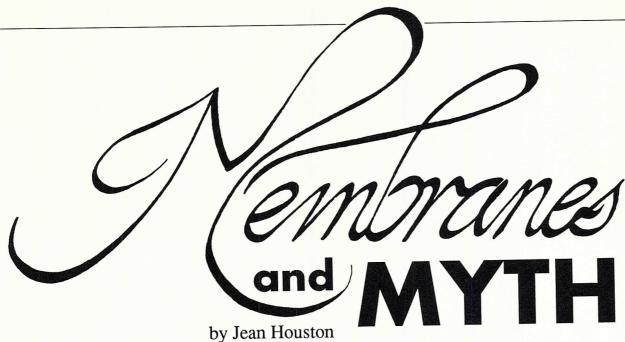
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Jean Houston is co-director of the Foundation for Mind Research, codirector of the three-year Human Capacities Training Program, director of an annual Mystery School, and the author of eleven books on the journey of consciousness, including The Possible Human, Life Force, Godseed, and The Search For The Beloved. "Membranes and Myth" is a condensed form of a much longer talk delivered by Dr. Houston to the June 1988 session of the Mystery School in Port Jervis, New York. Copyright @ 1988 Jean Houston.

erman Hesse's novel, Magister Ludi, offers a remarkable prophetic vision of future society. in which the World Game is a basic spiritual and intellectual structure of that society. The masters of the game are the ones who orchestrate the knowledge and hopefully the deployment of its resources. I believe we are moving into a 21st century society that is essentially a world game in which the politicians are not politicians but are magistri or magistrae, masters and mistresses of the high game.

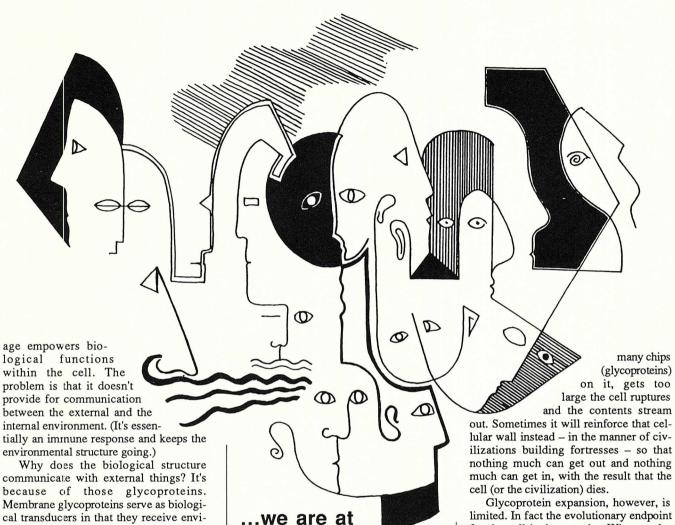
The underlying structure, passion, and motivation which is forming such a world spirituality and a world politique, is systemic transition. How do systems break down and how do systems transform or transduce themselves? To understand that we have to look at some of the most important new thinking on the nature of biological structure. Dr. Bruce Lipton has done some of the most coherent thinking about the nature of cellular organisms. We will start at the beginning which is the cell.

The genetic code was broken in the fifties by Crick and Watson and since that time biological scientists have been very fascinated, indeed obsessed, with the nucleus and the DNA structure; so much so that DNA has taken on a mythic importance in our time.

Genes are the regulators of cell behaviors. Many of you used to say, "Oh, it's my bad environment." Now you are saying, "Oh, it's my genes." However, a great deal of cellular investigation shows that genes may not be where the action is, because DNA is one of the last of the molecular species to arise and, indeed, DNA's incredible instability would not make it a good candidate as the ruling dominant force. Instead of directing our attention to the nucleus and the genes as the direct seat of behaviour, we should rather direct our attention to the first and foremost biological structures to arise: the cell membrane. The dominant force is all - or a great deal of it - in the membrane.

Now any membrane defines the boundaries between the self and the not-self. That membrane, defining me and not-me, became a basis of distinction between mind and nature, mind and body, self and other, and all the distinctions in the molecular structure of the body. I've been saying for many years now that one's behavior arose from that protoplasmic globule in the ocean. The globule and the ocean were separated by a membrane.

The membrane is very simple. It's composed of lipids, which means fats, and glycoproteins (sugar-based proteins). The regularity of the molecular organization and the resulting membrane constitutes, in the words of Lipton, a dynamic physical barrier that is flexible enough to accommodate the processes of cellular growth and mobility. At the same time, this membrane is an electrical non-conductor that allows an inherent negative voltage to build up within a cell. That negative volt-



cal transducers in that they receive environmental signals and convert them into biological functions. Upon receipt of a specific frequency pattern or electrical impulse that energy is transferred through the membrane. The surface of a cell, the glycoprotein, which is a tremendous communication agent, picks it up. The membrane is an incredible complex of little, attuned antennas. It actually looks like a series of tiny receiving stations. They're picking up all the information and translating it through the membrane, allowing the cell to regularize or transform itself. Membranes take messages from the surface and deliver them to the withinness of the cell.

You could consider, those of you who are computer experts, this glycoprotein cell membrane as a biological chip. It keeps the information coming in. When the cell membrane, which has a great

that point in which our membrane is getting so thinned out that we are about to join into one collective organism which is called planetary humankind.

Glycoprotein expansion, however, is limited. In fact the evolutionary endpoint for the cell is the amoeba. When evolution can no longer expand the membrane surface of a single cell, then evolution stops, as it stopped with the amoeba, unless there is a paradigm jump or a membranal jump. Evolution of the cell will not continue without a membranal jump which puts it in a new mode.

Further evolution occurs through the assembly and electrical integration of single cells into multicellular communities. The amoeba or single cell says, "All right, I'm not going to get much bigger; therefore I have to multicell. My glycoproteins have to join antennae with other glycoproteins." Then we get multiple cellular communities which can become even more complex. In a community of cells, the vision of each cell can be communicated to all other cells in the system. A successful cellular community with the

membranes interpenetrating and exchanging information creates the construction of plants, animals, dolphins, and humans, which are all community organisms. We humans like to think we are the most successful of these colonial organisms. Indeed we regard ourselves as that multicellular life form which is most successful in manipulating its environment – an event that is parallelled only by the amoeba.

The product of this collective amoeba consciousness is a series of trillions of amoebas all joined – a vehicle that can orchestrate and sustain consciousness,

because there is sufficient complexity to allow for consciousness. It is unfortunate that we individual human beings represent, in terms of our multicellular structure, an evolutionary endpoint because even if we grew new appendages they would only be redundant. We are endpoints so now our cellular vision and our consciousness leap to the next stage. Our membrane thins out and we create families; then from families we make another leap to tribes; then comes another leap to nations. Now we are at that point in which our membrane is getting so thinned out that we are about to join into one collective organism which is called planetary humankind, or into what Teilhard de Chardin called "the noosphere." What has happened is that we have allowed

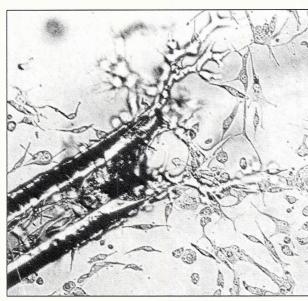
our complexity to create another form called culture.

Because we live in relationship to one culture and in conjunction with other cultures, we have become like biological chips which are the receptors and effectors capable of responding to the universe's signals, effecting change in the total organism called earth, and changing earth's behavior. We are at that critical violent, dangerous point of evolutionary jump. In other words, where we are in evolution now – relative to opening the membrane to the next jump stage – is essentially as critical as when amoebas stopped being amoebas and began to jump into multicellular organisms.

When an organism becomes complex enough, when its surface becomes strained enough, the membrane becomes very permeable, so that the field around that organism, the archetypal template of the great patterning, can enter in. We are living in a time of paradigm jump, a time of

extreme permeability. Today, two of the most overt aspects of this extreme permeability are pollution and electronic signalling, be it through television or information processing. There is also the rapid migration of population such as the world has never seen, not only through travel but through massive illegal immigration. In immigration, cultures lift their walls and the contents stream to form new multicultural units.

If we compare civilizations to cells, what is happening to the nucleus – the nucleus of civilization? Nucleate messages



meaning the messages represented by the powers of the status quo, standard brand governments, institutions, education
are becoming atavistic and parched, because virtually all nucleate information tries to ensure the replication of the past and the state of homeostasis, whether it be in a cell or in a whole culture. To recognize this simply consider governments, the nucleus of many civilizations.

Marshall McLuhan said that politicians apply yesterday's solutions to today's problems. Why is this? Because the politician is usually the person who is brought up in upfront, standard-brand, kosher nucleate psychology. A great deal of knowledge of what we get in schools and educational institutions is virtually about how to organize the past – or to organize it with a little bump so that it looks like you're futuristic.

The artist, however, is always picking up what is actually happening. Thus, what the artist says, the economist

ignores. Because the economist is virtually stuck in nucleate paradigms. He sees the modern world as based in territorially-defined, industrial nation-states and the rest of the world as the poor relations in the sticks. He has no vision of the reality of the living organism, where the internal organs in a living organism are actually bounded by permeable structures. The world is a living organism in which each bioregion has its internal organs which are bonded by permeable membranes to other cellular groups which are just as permeable. The Lives of a Cell can tell you a

great deal more than any textbook about the way things work. Thus the economist often doesn't see what happens in the permeability of world structures and why what happens in Kenya or what happens in Ethopia is going to affect the entire world.

Culture generally structures around differences. Institutionalized civilization, however, structures around defence. This is a vital distinction between "culture" and "civilization." Culture organizes by energizing differences, generating organs and organizations and new forms. Civilization structures itself by building walls and fortresses. Thus civilizations are generally in a state of ossification because their cell boundaries are not permeable enough. They have killed off their glycoproteins. Materialistic walls are bounding and inhibiting and killing

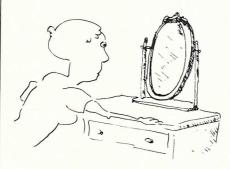
Where I live, which is way out in the boondocks, all we've got is a mall. You go there to do almost everything and you listen to the deadening, chilling conversation of a mall and especially of the young people. It breaks your heart because it's all about mattering and matters. There isn't one ethical, value-filled statement that you can hear. This mall culture is tragic; it is a culture of mattering, of very hard membranes that are killing the internal life of the culture and are killing the inner literacy. There is no common language and no one is studying what is communal or cultural anymore. There is no cultural base. We're in the midst of the ebb and flow of this.

civilization.

The important flow has to do with the differences which engender culture. Cultures tend to generalize around aliens and alien material, and are deepened by differences. Civilization, however, is threatened by differences, and that is why so

In Search of Cross-Cultural Archetypes

by David Lazear



Mirror, mirror on the wall, Who's the profoundest of them all?

This is a report on the Discovery Group experiment conducted in Chicago from March to June which was an attempt to glimpse six cultural archetypes or *urs* which form part of the collective unconscious of humanity. The Discovery Group was also an experiment in partnering evolution's drive toward a planetary cultural reality.

The Discovery Group was a "cross-cultural mind lab" in which we voyaged deeply into the myth, ritual and symbol of other cultures and encountered new, often unexplored, levels of our own being. The key experimental methodology was to lead participants on multiple experiences of passing over into the depth wisdom and perspective of another culture, and coming back to our own culture having been changed – deepened, empowered, amplified beyond past parochial understandings, and oftentimes healed.

In the passing over we often encountered latent dimensions of our own being and potential. In the process of coming back the question was one of integration, and of harvesting the insights and gifts received from the "other" which seemed much less other at this point.

The Discovery Group used a master gestalt of three typologies of the world's cultures:

- the Shamanic Traditions of the south (the traditions of aboriginal peoples of the world including Africa, Australia, and the North and Latin American Indians);
- the Unity Traditions of the East (focusing on the meditative traditions of the Orient and yogic traditions of Southern Asia); and
- the I-Thou Traditions of the West and the Middle East.

In each case we strived for glimpses of new cultural archetypal patterns that are journeying us into the next stages of our development as a planetary culture. It was not an exhaustive or definitive analysis, however, it sought a glimpse of a new socio-spirit base.

It may be that no culture can truly make it completely into the 21st century apart from a deep encounter with the other cultures of our world. Further growth and maturity require interaction with the other. In our encounter each culture was deepened by the gifts and perspectives of the other: and each was evoked to higher levels of complexity and development. The experience was like heating a crucible, preparing the various cultures for a new synergistic relationship as full partners in the cocreation of the planet's next evolutionary stage.

In their most simplified form the six cultural archetypes can be represented as the black, red, yellow, tan, white and brown urs. The ur model provided a way to analyze and understand some of the deeper dynamics and dimensions of culture.

It is easy to talk about the "new paradigm" or the "megatrends" of the future, but to move these happenings to the level of myth involves much deeper levels of the psyche. It involves seeding the collective unconscious with the archetypes that are emerging today, and transforming and growing the old archetypes for the future.

In many ways, every culture is a basket case in relation to the new that is trying to emerge. No culture is complex enough or grounded deeply enough in its own spirit reality to make it powerfully into the 21st century. Global strategies for cultural evolcation and empowerment need to be devised.

Cultures must learn how to deeply receive wisdom from other cultures and allow themselves to be deepened and amplified in this interchange. In this process, everyone is changed. The ancient wisdom grows and is transformed as it intermingles with ancient wisdom from other parts of the world. This meeting of the world's cultures is one of evolution's ways of complexifying our collective psyche so that a leap to a planetary mindfield and nervous system is really possible.

Extended Mystery Schools are needed in each culture to give people a structured, disciplined way to begin the homework of deeply recovering the depths of their own culture, and thus their soul. These could be occasions not only for co-creating new exercises, ritual processes, therapeia, etc., but also for initiating plans to go beyond

one's own culture to both give and receive from others.



When an organism becomes complex enough, when its surface becomes strained enough, the membrane becomes very permeable, so that the field around that organism, the archetypal template of the great patterning, can enter in. We are living in a time of paradigm jump, a time of extreme permeability.

much W.A.S.P. civilization, which tried to build up very thick membranes, is threatened by all those aliens coming in from the east and the south. It puts up legalistic defences which defeat itself and its own intention. Thus, culture is deepened by differences, is conscious and self-reflective. Civilization, on the other hand, is threatened by differences, and is often unconscious. Civilization structures around nucleate matter. Culture structures around permeous membranes, and is bonding to new and alien forms. Civilization gets caught in its nucleate matter.

When civilization gets too bounded, it starts to break down because it keeps out the very people who would deepen it. Then the culture is ready to leap, the membrane is ready to open to form a whole new organism: an ecology of planetary culture. Culture then uses the largely unconscious mind and structure of civilization as its vehicle.

A month and a half ago there was a magnificent article in *The New Yorker* on present Russian civilization showing that people spend an immense amount of time waiting for hours in line for a carrot, or for a roll of toilet paper. The Russian commentator was saying that this kind of waiting-in-line has sapped the psychology and spirituality of his people. There's

nothing like standing in line with nothing to do to ruin your depths. That is why Gorbachev's policy goes against so many of the traditional nucleate structures. People are yearning and desperate for something – anything! – to finally happen. They almost don't care what. Just stop those lines!

So there are two cultures, one in line and one wandering mindlessly through a mall, but both caught in the same complex: goods and services. Goods, not even services; one culture is stuck in line; the other is wandering mindlessly through a mall maze.

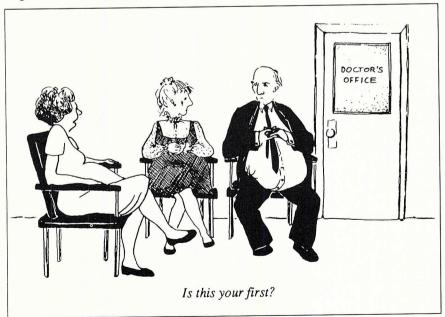
In this way, the deep issues of membrane society – society that is trying to solve its problems, to complexify and grow – are dropped in order to stay close to the nucleate solutions.

What is now happening is that a dialectical positive voltage between Soviets and Americans has planted an immense growth of economics throughout the world. This transcultural exchange of ideas, of monies, of bodies, minds, and people is virtually creating a new Earthmind. Because this reaching out to each other, the cultures are like organs seeking new dendritic connections. It may begin because of economics, but it has now become world culture.

To return to the topic of the cell, the microbiologist Lynn Margulis wrote a magnificent book with Dorian Sagan

called *Microcosmos*. She suggested that cooperation has much more to do with evolution than does competition. Evolution starts with challenge which can evoke either cooperation or competition. The end of competition does not mark the end of challenge. When you look at cellular structures, however, you see cooperation has much more to do with cellular structures and becoming permeable to each other than it does with competition. Darwin's "survival of the fittest" doesn't work on the cellular level.

Competition is dead as a form because in jump time - such as we're in right now - limited space no longer has much meaning because space now is jump space. What has meaning now is process and cooperative forms with the energy of challenge behind them. Now when people are seeing problems rather than possibilities they always nucleate the situation. You should never go into a problem-solving seminar because it will always nucleate the situation. It has to be a possibilityfinding seminar, because problem-solvers always ask how before they know what. And they will not consider a what unless it is prefaced by a how. They ask, how do I get the hardware? How do I find the resources? How? How? How? This invariably drains energy, prevents ecology, inhibits the miraculous because it doesn't allow for enough permeability. Miraculousness is simply permeability being orchestrated beautifully on all



The Planetary Citizen awaits the birth of a new age.

People are just not the same

For many decades it was unfashionable to suggest that all people are not the same. It was equally unpopular to insist that we can learn more about a culture from its differences than from its similarities to other cultures and that the basis of human nature is probably more visible in human diversity than through the relatively few ways in which we are really and fundamentally the same. Liberals have striven for admirable but somewhat naive political goals: one nation, one world, one equation by which everything and everybody can be understood. In the process of trying to unify the world we must be exceedingly careful not to destroy the diversity of the many cultures of humankind that give our lives meaning, focus, vision and vitality.

For a long time the viewpoints of primal peoples such as the Indians of the Americas were considered naive and primitive, especially if the peoples kept their history alive through oral and pictorial traditions rather than by writing

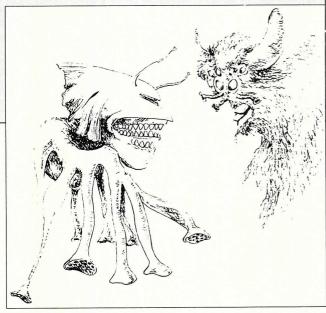
history books. Today we are learning that people are not the same and that we cannot evaluate all experience in the same way. We are also learning that everybody doesn't have to be the same in order to be equal. It is no longer realistic for dominant cultures to send missionaries to convert everyone to their singular ideas of the "truth." Today we are beginning to look into the ideas of groups outside the dominant culture: we are finding different kinds of truth that make the world we live in far bigger than we dreamed it could be.

Psychological differences exist between all nations and races, Carl Jung insisted – though his concepts of human archetypes have been repeatedly used to claim the contrary. There are in fact differences between families and individuals. That is why I attack every leveling psychology when it raises a claim to universal validity. All leveling produces hatred and venom in the suppressed and it pre-

vents any broad human understanding. All branches of mankind unite in one trunk, yes!...but what is a tree without its many separate branches?

Liberal people have been polarized by the atrocities and inequities of history, especially the incredible cruelties of our own times. They want to do away with human misery even if it means the destruction of the realities of other times. What they fail to take into account is the great variety of ways in which the members of a single culture respond to the same things, let alone the vaster differences that exist between cultures. There is no question that all people feel sorrow and happiness, but the things that evoke these responses and the manner in which such feelings can be expressed socially and privately can be highly dissimilar from culture to

—Jamake Highwater The Primal Mind: Vision and Reality in Indian America Harper & Row, New York, 1981



Oh yeah? Well at least I'm more tolerant than you!

fronts. Unfortunately all of us have been well trained on the surface forms of the how. One says, "I must see the bottom line, I must see the practical form — I'm from Missouri; show me!" Thus your old mind rises up. Should deeper patterns be present, the cell nucleus stolidly says, "This isn't speaking to me; this isn't talking to my nucleus; this isn't addressing the way we do things."

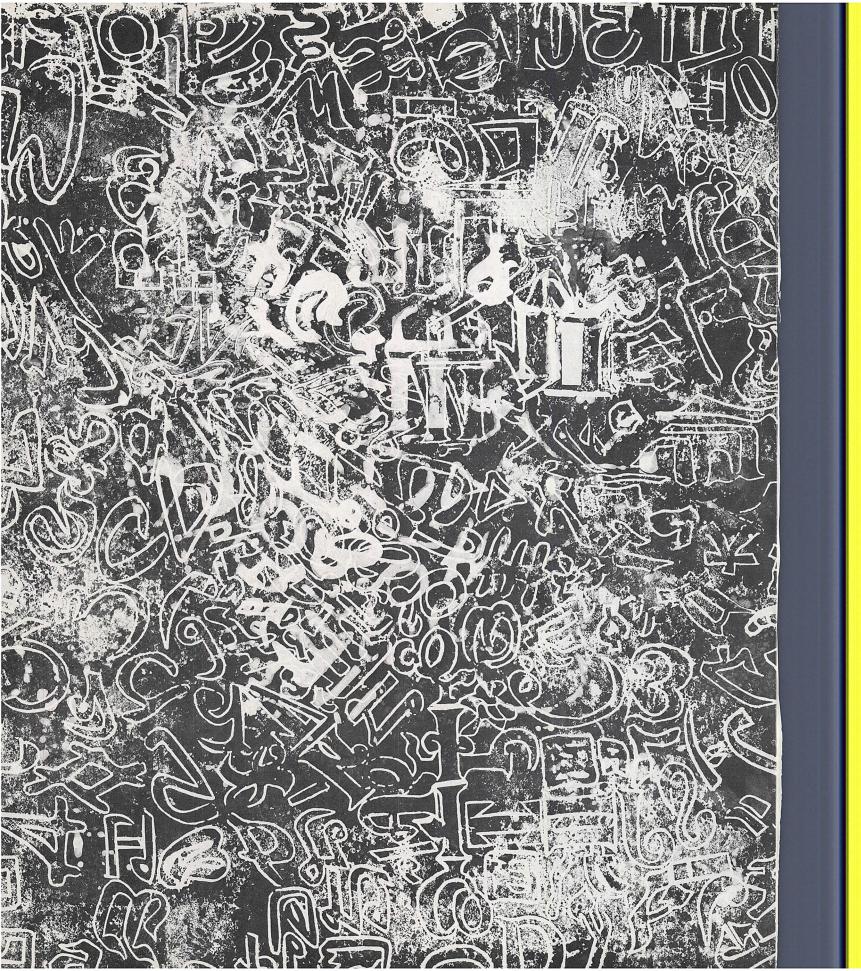
Now the depth story is that it is a story. This whole world process is a story of a feedback system between the membrane and the nucleus. The nucleus is not the enemy. The nucleus is a holding pattern. It holds a certain information and sustains the ongoing process until the cell membrane can develop to the point, can get to the level of permeability, so it can jump. If you did not have the nucleus you would never have the process that would endow and empower the cell membrane. But the nucleus has to have feedback to understand that its principal job is powering and empowering the cell to the point where it can grow and jump. If the nucleus believes that it is all there is, or that it is the governor and the boundary, it will kill itself, as has happened in whole cultures. This is as true in microorganisms as it is in whole cultures and civilizations.

Now what happens with that tension between the nucleus and the membrane? (This is where it gets metaphoric, mythic, metaphysical.) In that tension another template is evoked of a

deeper order. In most cultures this template is myth which can be in very ancient forms; the fact that the form is ancient doesn't mean it isn't appropriate; thus ancient forms are rising in our time. It can also be future forms.

We are now at a point of history in which most of society's stories are becoming permeable to other stories and are undergoing a jump phenomenon. While this new story is rising, the nucleus hardens up. Thus fundamentalism rises as a last

stand by the nucleus to protect itself. So you build a fortress North America, a fortress Oral Roberts; the nucleus is getting harder and harder round itself. When a nucleus becomes ossified, entropy builds up, resulting in a diffusion of energies and gases within a structure. Entropy is the building-up of the running-down of energy. What that creates in any nucleate society is the release of erotic structures. Witness the recent scandals of the Protestant fundamentalists being caught with their pants down.



History is the Psyche Writ Large

Within any hour we can be enmeshed in a nineteenth-century idea of the family, a first-century belief in a divinity, a prehistoric instinct for danger, and a twenty-first-century technological skill. We are subject to, and expressive of, many histories at once because we are composed of many selves at once and are constantly trying to decide between various dominants among those histories and selves.

In the way that individuals organize their lives into projects - career, marriage, raising children, hobbies, what-all - the race as a whole takes on what could be called "historical projects" as if by mutual consent. So what are the historical projects we are embarking on now? The most obvious, the one that contains all the others, is the crystallization of a planetary culture. Not the formation of one. That's already happened. We have a planetary culture right now. Tehran, Los Angeles, Rio de Janeiro, Moscow, Sydney, Peking, Jerusalem are next-door neighbours, borrowing each other's tools, gossiping about each other, sleeping with each other's spouses, carpooling, and watching their kids play and fight together. But that image is far too peaceful, of course, because this planetary culture is in a state of anarchy. Order is not about to collapse; order has collapsed. No culture presently existing on earth is applicable on a planetary scale. Period. And that's what all the fuss is about.

Because we're not just going to be neighbours. We're going to be each other. The new technologies make separation ultimately impossible. Since we are already living on a planetary scale, this means that every existing culture has been rendered obsolete...and yet the struggle between Judeo-Christianist capitalism, Moslem nationalism, and socialism is what we call "politics" on a world scale. Which dismisses politics as the place to look for resolutions.

—Michael Ventura Shadow Dancing in the USA Jeremy P. Tarcher (St. Martins Press) Los Angeles, 1985.

Whenever you have the rise of the dying - of thanatos and entropy - you're going to have an incredible sunset effect in the form of a burst of eros to try to keep the structures going. This is true in any ossifying society. For example, in the fall of the Roman republic there was an incredible eros released in Tiberius, in Nero, and Caligula. At the time people tend to say, "Oh, it's a lack of values." But often you have the greatest values rising in those societies at the same time. The action is at the membrane - over there in Israel - while the poor dying centres like Rome are trying to keep themselves going with feeble eros which has to be reinforced with pornography to keep its flagging libido up. It has nothing to do with lack of values.

The membranal story is the depth story that is rising in this culture. How does this relate to the deeper story? The energy that is being generated between the membrane and the nucleus at the time of the jump allows for a deeper template which is a deeper entelechy rising. For example, North America is the oldest modern civilization today. Why the oldest? Because it was the first to go through all the consequences of the industrial revolution, the urban revolution, the ethnic revolution, the technological revolution, the outer space revolution, and the inner space revolution. In the canon of lands North America is the oldest only because it has been living at its membrane the most. Certain cultures like the cultures of British Columbia, of Colorado and of California are considered to be essentially membrane-permeous cultures that are able to receive and exchange more glycoproteins - receive that information and exchange it.

Why is it that we in North America could have these revolutions; could have so much membranal activity?

Because its mythic template was one of permeable membranes. North America was created not by a few hundred years of frustrated Europeans, it was a mythic structure coming out of a mythic template. North America had been looked upon for thousands of years by millions of people elsewhere as that holy land beyond their western borders, beyond their membrane, where people would find the democracy, the justice, the opportunity, the cell membrane ability, belonging only to mythic dimensions.

... most of society's stories are becoming permeable to other stories and are undergoing a jump phenomenon. While this new story is rising, the nucleus hardens up. Thus fundamentalism rises as a last stand by the nucleus to protect itself.

In all myths the gods can rise up, can cross time and space, can change their form: the whole point being that god is membrane permeability and flexibility. That's the point of being a god; shapeshifting in its ultimate form; an ability to access resources that are normally locked up for us poor, fortress-bound beings. The problem is that the fortress is not in the cellular structure; the fortress is in our minds. The gods are those whose minds and souls are essentially permeable. The West was looked on as a place of the gods where people would also become shapeshifters, take the opportunity, and become permeous to all kinds of new possibilities. That is part of the immense mythic structure of North America. It was constituted as a mythic fact before the mass immigration to it. During a violent storm at sea in 1640 Henry Winthrop wrote



The Planetary Citizen shaves his head in strange ways.

while coming to America, "We shall be a city upon a hill for all nations to look at." It's almost like a morphogenetic field was calling him on. Jean Talon and later Cornelius Van Horne in Canada, and Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin in the US and others had the skills to be the conduit for the mythic templates. It was the great time in North America in which horizontal opportunity and vertical depths were absolutely equal. That is why we burst through at that time. People were essentially visionaries who also had the skills to conduit, to guide, a greater vision.

It was an extraordinary time in human history such as has rarely been seen before, because they knew that they were sitting on the surface of a culture which had been seeded and coded and templated by the hopes and aspirations of millions of people over thousands of years. I go to all the mythic holy places and I can feel it, but then I come home it is suddenly all there, every hope and dream. My friends have to keep me from kissing the ground when I come through at JFK airport

because I am aware of this immense coding that is there.

For a good deal of the 19th and 20th centuries the geo-political membrane kept North America relatively protected. There have been no major internal tragedies since the Civil War in the US. We did not have the massive ruin of Europe, the massive despair of parts of Asia, the massive famines of Africa. Our nucleus has protected us. We have our shadows but we've been protected. Now, since the 1960s, the Vietnam War, our urban breakdown, our own decay and the shadow rise of addiction, drugs and criminality have left us vulnerable.

What I'm suggesting to you is that our membrane has become so permeable that we are the people who are talking about myth. You don't find myths described or discussed self-consciously in other countries as you do here. We are the people who are tapping into extraordinary depths whether we want to or not.

THE NODE

This informal newsletter intends to keep ICA staff and close colleagues informed on the research and transformation process.

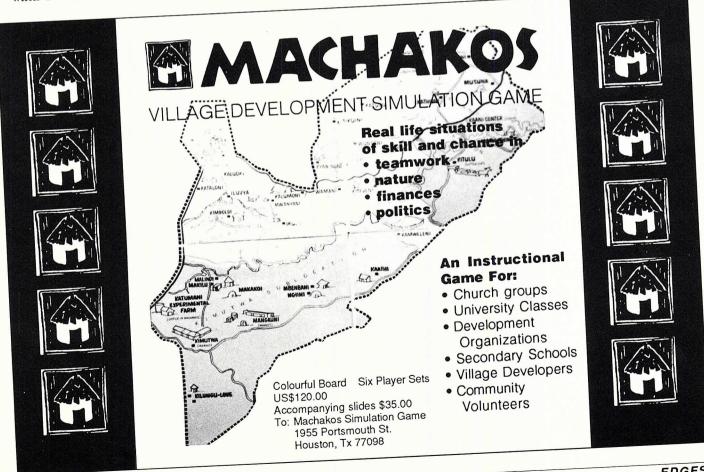
We will endeavour to give you a picture of what life is like for us as we proceed together on this transformation journey.

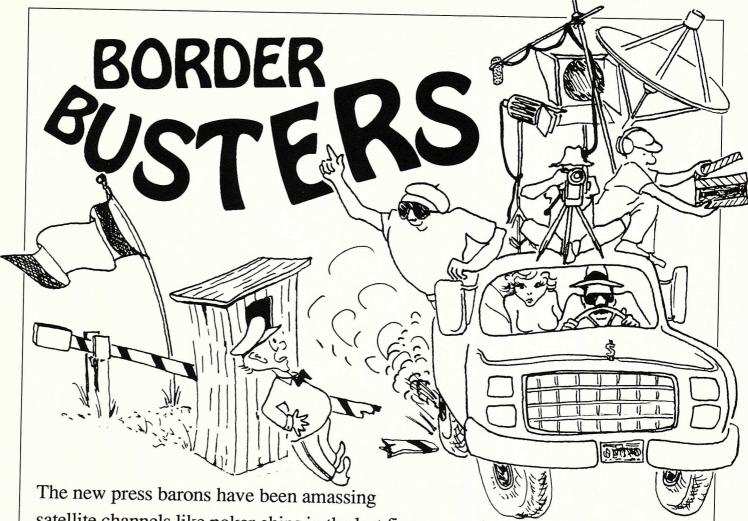
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satellite channels like poker chips in the last five years. These players who are bartering the skies will have a profound effect on cultures and countries.

by Mark Starowicz

estar, Galaxy, Aurora, Comstar: these are the names of geostationary satellites hovering over horizons, and if they are reminiscent of Yukon gold mines, the comparison is not unmerited. Because a handful of people are going to become

very, very rich by bartering the skies; and in the process, television as we know it will change forever.

Satellites themselves have become hohum. Any eight-year-old on a remote farm might browse through his *Satellite Digest* on a Saturday morning, trying to decide

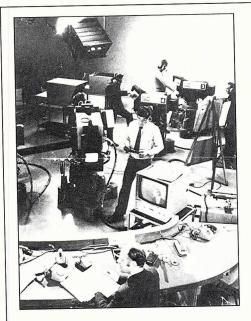


Copyright © Mark Starowicz. Printed with permission of the author. Mark Starowicz is Executive Producer of *The Journal* and *Midday*, news broadcasts of CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) Television. We first noticed "Border Busters" in *Compass: A Jesuit Journal*, November, 1987. *Compass* is published six times a year and is available for \$20/year outside Canada, \$15/year in Canada at 10 Mary St., Suite 300, Toronto, Canada M4Y 1P9.

which heavenly body to patronize that hour or which transponder to access, and finally narrow it down to a choice between The Bugs Bunny-Road Runner Hour and the Italian soccer semifinals out of Milan. Almost every serious country has at least one "bird" parked in orbit, or shares in one; the French, Russians, Chinese and Brazilians, to name a few, will quote you a price to put yours up for you. Environmental groups are already complaining about congestion and space junk.

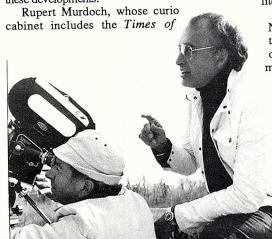
Corporations have them, brokerage houses float new bond issues by holding three-hour international satellite presentations, and politicans routinely give press conferences on them. Former U.S. presidential aspirant Jack Kemp sent out a thousand press releases last July, informing newsrooms that he would be available for interviews today on K2, transponder 8A, audio 5.8, downlink 11.924. Such is the language of modern politics.

As the technology becomes familiar, so a familiar phenomenon recurs: the



emergence of the conglomerates and the megacorporations.

What is taking shape resembles the era of the Hearsts, Pulitzers, Beaverbrooks and Thomsons. Just as the century opened with the emergence of the newspaper press barons, so it will close with the coming to prominence of the new press barons who have been amassing satellite channels like poker chips in the last five years and whose empires already stretch over several continents. These players who are bartering the skies will have a profound effect on cultures and countries. We are now entering the age of the Border Busters, and from the European Parliament to the United Nations, resolutions have been flying to contain what amounts to the hemorrhage of a hitherto civilized international broadcasting order. Consider these developments:





London and the New York Post, invaded European television in 1982 with Sky Channel, which now reaches twenty-two countries. His TV holdings include the Ten Network in Australia and six Metromedia stations in the U.S. (including major stations in Washington, New York, Chicago and Los Angeles). He plans to launch a fourth network in the U.S. this year.

London-based Robert Maxwell, who owns the *Daily Mirror*, followed his rival Murdoch into Europe in 1985, winning the rights to operate an English-language channel on France's TDF1 and 2 satellite systems.

Ted Turner's Cable News
Network (CNN) now reaches
twenty-six countries, including all
of Europe, Japan and even government offices in the Soviet Union and
China. It is available through specialized channels in most modern
European hotels and goverment
offices. Turner's failure to
acquire CBS is probably
only a temporary setback
in his media acquisition

Globo, the Brazilian television monopoly, dominates South and Central Americal through satellite services. Three years ago, Globo purchased a major share of Tele Monte Carlo, giving it a beachhead to invade the Italian and French markets.

Italy's Silvio Berlusconi parlayed a real estate background into a television empire and is today one of Europe's dominant broadcasters. He owns three separate networks in Italy and 40 per cent of France's first nongovernmental channel, La Cinq. Thirty other holdings range from advertising firms to the largest production studio in Spain.

Mexico's Emilio Azcarraga, who inherited the country's monopoly network Televisa from his father, has built up the Spanish International Network (SIN), which is the largest Spanish network in the U.S. Azcarraga is a major programming force throughout Latin America, the U.S. and Asia, and has expanded to Europe through Univision, which will operate out of Spain and Portugal.

But high-rolling entrepreneurs are not the only players in the emerging era of international television.

Reuters, the British-based news agency, has acquired a majority share of Visnews, an international television news agency



Global television will significantly increase the influence of American news and its implicit perspectives, sometimes for the good, sometimes to the detriment of other perspectives on world affairs.



كمال الشناوى فاروق افيشاوى احمد بدير وليه المعنية المعنية المعنية المعنية والمناوى المعنية والمناوي المعنية والمناوي المعنية والمناوي المعنية والمناوي المناوي والمناوي والمناوية والمناوية المناوية الم

that delivers much of the world news film we see each night in our homes. Visnews plans to launch a twentyfour-hour international satellite channel, World News Network. In addition to being the world's largest private communications network (with 115,000 screens in financial institutions, government departments and corporations) and one of its dominant print news agencies. Reuters would thereby become a dominant force in international television

The BBC, the only public broadcaster in the world to see the writing on the wall and prepare for this new environment, has wisely announced plans to set up an international channel, trans-

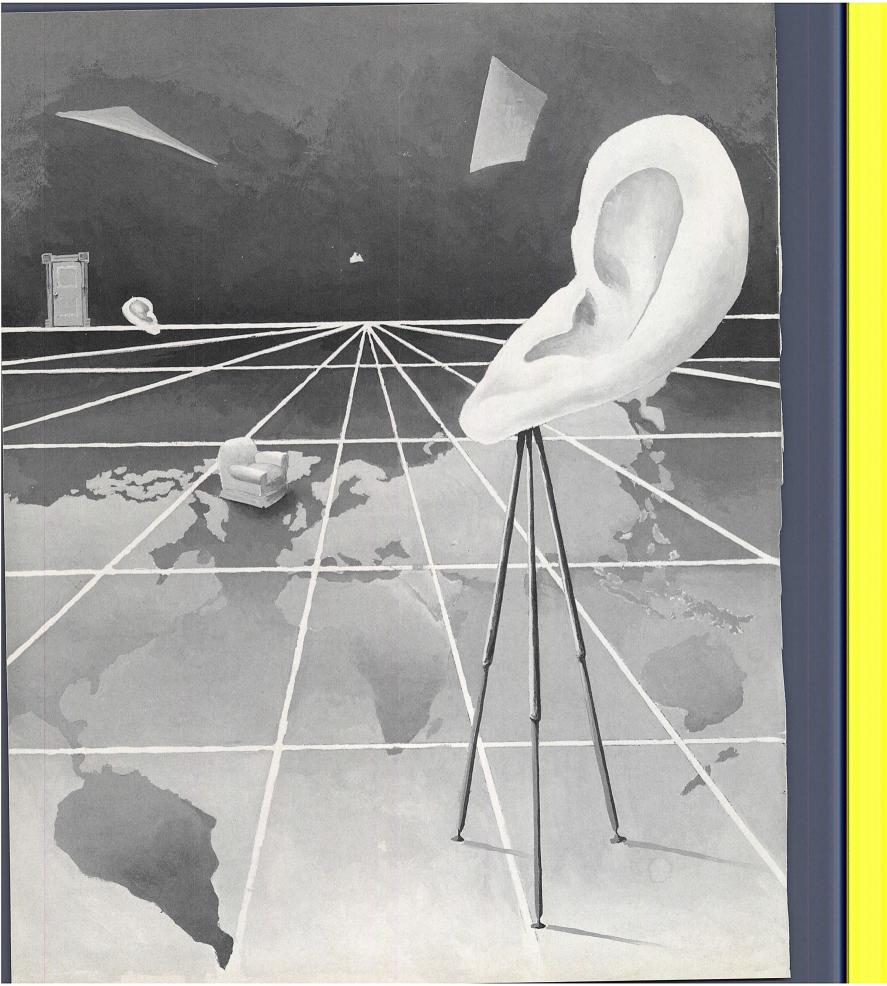


mitting a television equivalent of its famous radio shortwave World Service.

There's a lot riding on the emerging world of international television. Unlike short-wave radio, the only other international medium right now, this is a commercial world. The ramifications of international marketing of international brands are staggering. The money to be made, in the end, is not in showing I Love Lucy to Pakistan but in the world-wide marketing of products.

The Washington Post reported in August 1986: "Major consumer products companies such as Unilever and Coca-Cola are eagerly awaiting the day when they can efficiently reach Western European consumers through stations that will stretch across borders. Major New York and London-based advertising agencies are busy making acquisitions around the world as they gear up for the era of global television advertising."

All of these developments are barely five years old; this race is so new, the players are barely out of the starting gate. By the time the century ends, we will not recognize the electronic environment. We will be tuning in the various countries of the world, the various Turners and Berlusconis, as we can now browse through the short-wave radio dial. Our domestic systems will be but a fraction of the available signals, as we will be able to watch New York, Rio. Rome or Paris. But this sort of browsing will have different ramifications from browsing through benign, noncommercial short-wave radio. The analogy to radio, and a different age, is worth pausing on. Broadcasting was a mistrusted child from the beginning. Governments feared a stampeding of the masses or domination by a political party (other than their own), and therefore made sure that radio would be a creature of the state. The BBC was the model, and its longtime director general,



The Worldwide Message of Sports

Much of media time the world around is taken up in sports broadcasting. The popularity of sports programmes is so universal that it seems to merit little thought. Obviously public games such as the soccer championships or the Olympics dramatize an understanding of life most people can identify with. But usually we assume the appeal lies in a longing for the simplistic. We seldom ask ourselves if there is some simple, socially significant wisdom involved.

In sports events, we come together to enact an alternative reality. We imagine a common goal and competition to reach it. But competition is only half the story. There is also absolute control – no unequal advantage is allowed at the starting line.

To cheat in sports means to make your opponents play with an unequal handicap. Obviously drug taking or sabotage is disallowed. But sports goes further: no unequal advantage save skill can enter in. Letting money influence the outcome is considered bribery. All competitors must have similar equipment. Those who cheat against these rules are thrown out in disgrace for doing what is normal in the workaday world.

Sports events are acts of symbolic protest. In real life the access to skills, resources and opportunities is, generally speaking, rigged. The winners at rigged games point only to their own superior results, ignoring the fact that others were made to start much further from the goal, with enormous handicaps. Actually, these unequal conditions are most characteristic of the non-socialist "free world" where "free competition" is the rule.

In the socialistic world, there has been an almost opposite deviation from the spirit of sports. There is such distrust of competition itself that an equality is imposed – not just at the starting line, but also at the finish. Rewards, pay and results become standardized. Mediocrity becomes the required.

In a simple, symbolic way, sports holds both the great cold war values – competition and equality – each in their place. Sports events rehearse an ideal without spelling out any practical impli-

cations. Perhaps the vision they enact is not the best one. But it is the vision rehearsed most widely in the world today.

-Brian Griffith



"Care for a mint?"

Lord Reith, enunciated the notion of responsible "gatekeepers" such as the BBC's Board of Governors, who would give the people what was good for them, and not necessarily what they wanted. In the vast majority of the countries of the world, radio was born noncommercial, state-owned, and monopolistic. It is only in Canada and the United States that public ownership is regarded as something odd. Actually, private radio or TV is what is odd in most of the world. We are the exceptions.

This has continued until very recent times, and it meant that most of the countries of the world, and particularly the lucrative European market, did not have any commercials. To viewers this was a convenience, but to product manufacturers it was a Berlin Wall between them and tens of millions of viewers.

Over the past decade, the notion of broadcasting as a public trust to be governed by honest gatekeepers has been in decline, and the era of deregulation has hit Europe. The new technology of cable and satellites encouraged this development and made the Lord Reith concept of benevolent gatekeepers almost impossible to support. There were now too many holes in the gate.

European governments have found the vast spectrum of the airwaves (the British, after all, are used to only four channels) too tempting, and are opening them up like crown lands being opened to exploitation by commercial loggers. These governments see thousands of jobs and lucrative taxes in deregulation (read privatization). Europe developed the concept of the airwaves as a public trust, not to be sullied by commerce; Britain, West Germany, France, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands are now divesting themselves of this idea. The profits in this are almost unimaginable. It is the equivalent, in another age, of lifting the stamp tax and legalizing the printing of commercial newspapers, although the results are likely to be less salutary.

The first problem with deregulation is product. It's a comment on the age we live in that we have more means of distribution than we have things to say or show on them. This concern explains some curious recent acquisitions by Turner and Murdoch.

Global news is not enough for Turner, who recently announced intentions to launch a global twenty-four-hour movie channel. His recent \$1.2 billion acquisition of MGM/UA Entertainment company makes sense when one realizes that there

simply isn't enough material in the world to broadcast on such massive scales. Buying MGM/UA gives Turner its gigantic vaults of movies – thousands of films ranging from Casablanca and Singing in the Rain to Gone with the Wind. It gives him the rights, and keeps them away from Murdoch and other competition. Similar motives governed Murdoch's purchase of 20th Century Fox studios (and vaults) in Hollywood and 50 per cent ownership of CBS/Fox Home Video, the world's largest distributor of videocassettes.

Thus the race for the skies is creating vertical intergration in the entertainment world, with the owners of multinational television empires buying up the archives and the production houses to feed the insatiable world networks. A 1985 report by the Commission of European Com-munities estimated that Europe will need about 250,000 hours of first-run programming annually, assuming the wide-spread availability of thirty-channel cable television in the near future. But the continent's movie and television industries produce only 1 per cent of that: 2,500 hours per year. The respected U.S. magazine Channels reported:

"Many observers believe that only the Americans have programming at the right

Europeans...regard Canada as something akin to the electronic equivalent of the Ethiopian famine: a country to be pitied for mishandling new technology and losing its identity.

price and in the right quantities to fill the gap. This has revived warnings about 'cultural imperialism,' particularly in Continental Europe, and has led to a postulation of a variant of Gresham's law: bad programming will drive out the good. State-run broadcast services fear they will have to descend to the lowest common denominator of programming to compete with the influx of American programs delivered by cable or Direct Broadcast Satellite

Turner Broadcasting's senior vice president, Robert Wussler, said it more colourfully: "They know that the ground is slipping away from them. They know that the idea of one state-owned channel is gone. News has been one of the hallowed grounds, to be controlled by the state. All of a sudden here is some brash American from Atlanta, some wild man coming in with this thing that wasn't even in existence eight years ago. And to the sixty-year-old European director general, my God, you are blowing out his lights."

In Canada, our lights blew fifteen years ago, when the flood of U.S. programming that came in on cable hit us. Now 75 per cent of our television and 98 per cent of our drama are American. We have some experience of what Europe can expect. In fact, the Europeans have made a thorough study of Canada, and regard it as something akin to the electronic equivalent of the Ethiopian famine: a country to be pitied for mishandling new technology and losing its identity.

To protect Europe, the European Parliament has passed regulations and resolutions to delay the American flood, but few expect them to be effective in the long run.

You can retard the Turners and Murdochs for a while, because your average household does not own an earth station to receive its signals. In most urban settings, it is difficult to see the horizon, where most satellites are, and it is impractical to contemplate a three-metre dish hanging out the bathroom window of a Paris apartment pointing at the horizon. The modern TV moguls depend on cable stations to receive their satellite signal and

distribute it to households by wire, just as American signals are distributed to most Canadian households. European cities are being slowly wired, and in five to ten years the converter will be as common an appliance in Europe as in Canada, where 85 per cent of households have them.

But the European nightmare is enshrined in the initials DBS. They stand for Direct Broadcast Satellite, a satellite so powerful that its signal can be received by a small dish the size of a dinner plate. The technology exists and will be relatively cheap. Only legislation and governments are keeping the Turners and Murdochs from entering Europe through DBS, by withholding licenses to use certain frequencies.

The panic about DBS, which represents the final crumbling of all electronic borders, manifested itself in a remarkable session of the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1982. The New York Times report captures the flavour of the international nervousness in the face of the border-busters:



"Sure, take 'er out for a test spin!"

"UNITED NATIONS. The General Assembly, endorsing a curb on the free flow of information, declared, in effect, today that all nations had the right to veto any incoming television broadcast by satellite from abroad...

"The vote was 108 to 13 with 13 abstentions... At issue is a new technique that relays satellite telecasts directly to residences without going through a ground receiving station."

The resolution was sponsored by eighteen African, Asian and Latin American nations. Canada supported it; the U.S. voted against it.

The source of the concern is understandable. The mass entry onto a country's screens of American culture, news and commercial advertising represents the equivalent of having half its national newspapers bought by a foreign company. Few countries can compete culturally by producing domestic films or popular series. In his book The Geopolitics of News, Anthony Smith describes the overwhelming power of London and New York-based wire and film news agencies to dominate the news of the world. The influence of these news organizations, and their national outlook, would increase a hundred-fold. If you are Nigeria or India, this dominance of U.S. perspective is worrisome. Never has the world dealt with journalistic power of the scale contemplated in global television. The commercial power implied in reaching 500 million people in one twenty-four hour period is equally unsettling, and many countries fear the sustained flood of product marketing the ad agencies are prepared to launch at them.

Global television will massively increase the power of many large corporations and damage more regional ones; it will unleash a flood of American entertainment product which, if the past is any guide, will swamp many national and regional film industries; it will, by its nature, lead to vertical integration (Murdoch and Turner literally buying Hollywood) and enormous entertainment corporations; it will significantly increase the influence of American news and its implicit perspectives, sometimes for the good, sometimes to the detriment of other perspectives on world affairs. By definition, audiences of this scale will change politics, as the ebb and flow of public opinion can be made to reach tidal proportions.

We know the history of the press barons of the early part of the century: the

power they amassed over public opinion and politics. And by a curious cycle of history, we will-return to the era of the press barons, this time with conglomerates of extraordinary scale (Murdoch and Globo, for example) that include major newspapers, magazines, television stations and international channels reaching dozens of countries – all in the hands of one individual or one corporation.

Two footnotes illustrate this rapidly changing electronic world.

The Soviet Union is erecting a DBS sysytem to create an Eastern European international channel. To be based in Poland, it's expected to produce news, drama and entertainment for the entire Eastern Bloc, and probably extend worldwide.

The People's Republic of China recently agreed with MCA and Paramount Pictures to run Marcus Welby, Star Trek and Columbo on its prime time TV, and has not rebuffed the advances of Ted Turner, who is negotiating to get his service into Beijing. The Washington Post reported that the American TV industry was heartened when Premier Zhao Ziyang's plane made an unexpected refuelling stop in Los Angeles in 1985. During the stop the Chinese officials wanted to visit a movie studio and meet actors Robert Wagner and Stefanie Powers. The meeting was hastily arranged and MCA executives presented Zhao with a director's chair as a souvenir. Lorimar Telepictures and CBS and NBC are now conducting negotiations with Beijing to distribute services to Chinese television.

Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas any more...

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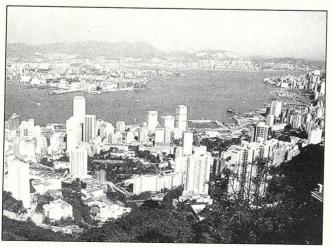
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The Mermaid a parable by Ike Powell

nce upon a

time there was a mermaid who lived in a beautiful pool in the middle of an enchanted forest.

One day some children were walking through the forest and

came upon the pool. "Isn't she beautiful?" said one of the children, as they looked deep into the crystal waters and saw her resting at the bottom of the pool. "She is the most beautiful creature I have ever seen," said another of the children.

Suddenly the sky turned gray and a dark cloud descended upon the pool. A strong wind swooshed down into the waters and lifted the mermaid high into the air. She landed on the rough cobblestone street in the nearby village. It was the middle of the night. The streets were deserted. All the houses were dark. The mermaid looked down at her body. It was scratched and torn. Her elbows were bleeding. Her cheeks were raw and chapped. She felt so alone...so ugly...so full of pain.... She knew that she would soon die if she did not get back to the water.

She began to crawl painfully on her elbows toward the house in front of her. As she dragged herself across the cobblestones, she could feel the scales being ripped from her body. How long could she live like this? Certainly someone would come to help her get back to the pool.

She finally reached the door of the house. It looked so dark and deserted. As she knocked upon the door, she hoped with all of her heart that someone would answer her cry for help. Everything was quiet. "Oh, please, someone be home," she cried to herself as she knocked again.

Suddenly the door opened and an old man stood looking down at her. "This is the most beautiful creature I have ever seen," he said to himself. "What are you doing here? How can I be of help?" he asked as he tenderly reached out toward her.

Drawing back into herself, she screamed, "Why is he shouting at me? Why does he want to hurt me? Can't he see that I am already in so much pain? Why won't he help me?" Tears began to stream down her face as she lay bleeding and gasping for breath.

"Is there anything I can do for you? Would you like something to drink? Why did you leave the pool? Do you want me to help you return to the pool?" He rushed to the kitchen to get the beautiful mermaid something cool to drink and to awaken his wife so she could help return her to the pool.

"Please, please, don't leave me. I need your help. Don't run away and leave me alone." She turned and crawled toward the village square. "Maybe someone will be there that will help me. I hurt so much." The more she crawled across the rough cobblestone, the more her elbows bled...the more she gasped for air. "I will die if someone doesn't help me soon."

She looked up and saw the children fighting in the square. They threw stones at each other. They angrily pushed each other into the fountain. "Why are they trying to hurt each other? Why are they trying to drown each other in the fountain? Is there no love in this village? Can't they see me? Don't they know I need their help? Oh, if they would just ease me into the fountain, the cool waters would begin to heal my wounds."

When the children saw the beautiful mermaid, they stopped their playful games. They quit tossing the ball. Never had they seen such a beautiful creature. "Why is she here? She will die out of the water. We must help her." They ran toward the mermaid, hoping to find someway to lift her and carry her to the fountain.

"No!" She screamed, as she saw them charging toward her. "Why do they want to hurt me? Can't they see I am already in so much pain? I must get away from them." She turned and crawled as fast as she could toward the big white house at the top of the stone steps. The sign said Mayor's Residence. "Certainly the mayor will help me. There must be at least one caring person in this village." She struggled

up the long stairway of rough stones. Bleeding, gasping, crying, she finally reached the top.

The mayor had seen her coming. "That is the most beautiful creature I have ever seen." he said to himself as her watched her move so gracefully up the steps. "Why is she coming to see me? Why has she left the water? I must help her return to the water. So he sent his maintenance crew to get a large truck and a big tank. "We will be able to return her to the pool," he thought, as he approached the beautiful mermaid. "I will use all of my resources to help her. She is so beautiful."

As the mermaid reached the top step, she saw the mayor approaching in anger – shouting at his assistants to kill the ugly mermaid. She had so much hoped that she would find help here. Finally, in desperation, she

turned and plunged down the steps – half sliding, half pulling on her elbows. The more she descended, the more she bled, the more she ripped the scales from her body.

Her face, her

chest, her elbows were red with blood. She felt the pain from the tiny bits of stone that were embedded in her flesh. When she finally reached the bottom of the stairs, she slowly made her way toward a pile of stones. She saw the children gather around her and heard their

mocking cries. She crawled up onto the pile of stones, the sun now beating down on her. As the children stood around laughing and mocking her, she settled in upon the stones to die.

As the children looked down into the deep, crystal waters, they were amazed at the beauty and gracefulness of the mermaid. They watched her descend the side of the pool like a queen descending the royal stairway. As she reached the pile of stones at the bottom of the pool, she settled so gracefully down to rest.

"I have never seen a more beautiful creature," said one of the little children. "Do you think she ever leaves the pool?" "We will never know the answer to that question," responded another child."

'Why?" asked the

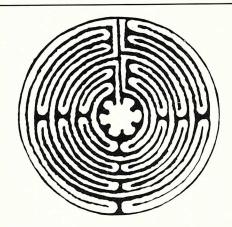
youngest of the children.

"Because mermaids don't exist," answered the oldest child. He was almost an adult now.

Editor's Note:

We appreciate this short story contributed by Ike
Powell of Chicago. In talking with Ike about the meaning of his story he did not answer us directly but said instead,

"Some think this story is about not being able to see your own beauty. And some think it is about not being able to see other people's suffering." Either way, we liked its luminosity.

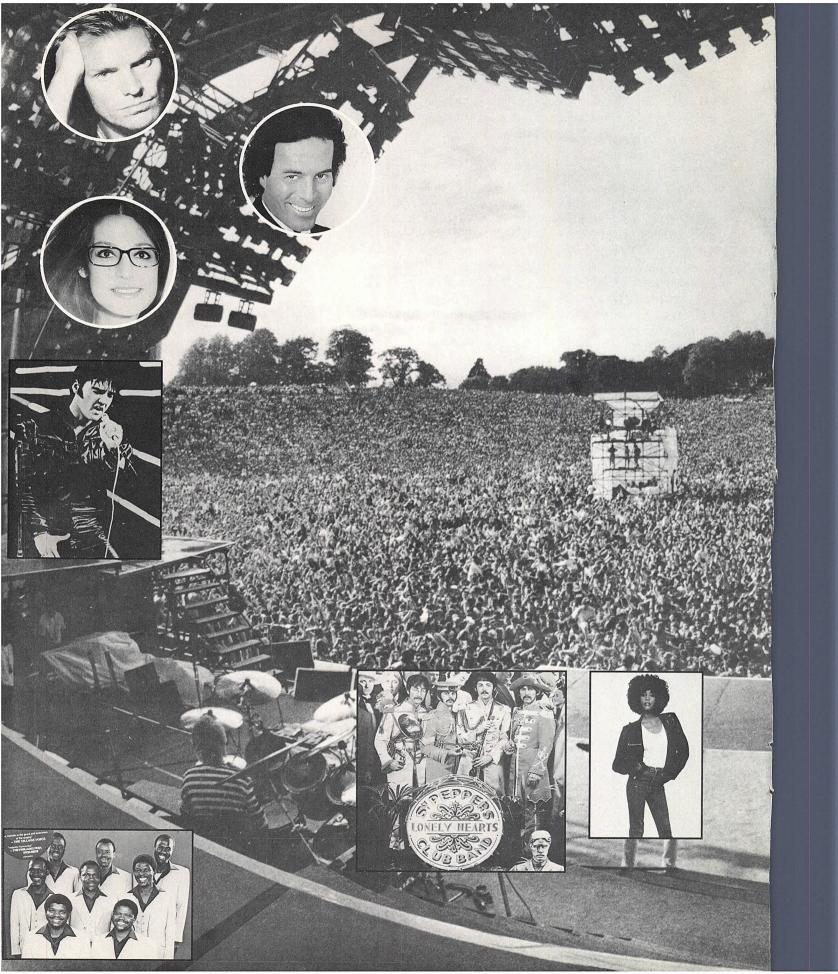


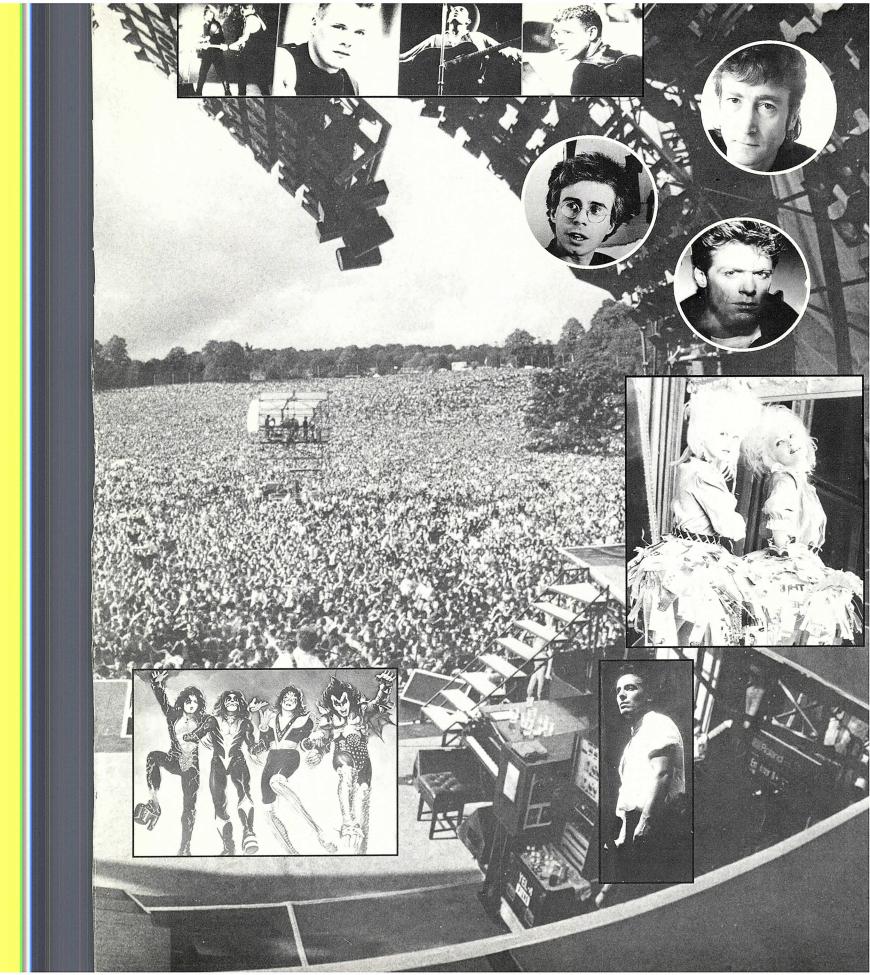
THE BRONZE DROMENON

The circular labyrinth that is the path of the magical Dromenon dance has been a spiritual symbol for five thousand years. In our own age the Dance of Transcendence has become a powerful symbol; ancient wisdom beckons us as the people we are to become the society that we can be. This Dromenon pattern still marks a holy place where the dance was performed, traced on the floor stones of the Chartres Cathedral.

Just as ancient is the lost wax process of casting in bronze. (Contrary to a popular misconception, it is not the process that is lost, but the wax.) The scribing of the pattern in beeswax, enveloping it in a wad of clay, slowly baking the clay mould in a charcoal fire until the wax runs out, pouring molten metal into the resulting hole and slinging the mould with its glowing contents around one's head on a rope is only slightly modified by modern technology.

Those whose feet are dancing the Dromenon path can also wear the cast metal medallion created by sculptor Helen Haug. \$60 in bronze, \$75 sterling silver, \$80 gold plate. Send check or M.O. to Helen Haug, 206 E. 4th St., New York, NY 10009 or visit The New York Open Center. □





Breaking down the walls

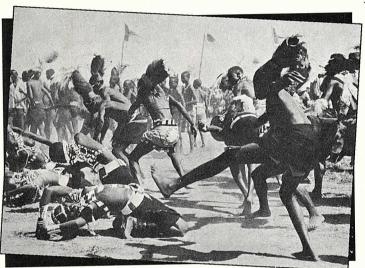
with
music

usic historians have usually treated jazz separately from the stream that combines blues, rhythm and blues, and rock 'n' roll, so they've failed to see the full scope of what happened musically in the years after the Second World War. In jazz, the big bands faded quickly after the war was over. There were no longer millions of lonely boys to be entertained everywhere, so the big bands became too costly to keep up. Only the most famous survived, and not in the manner to which they'd been accustomed. Radio and jukebox fare thinned as a result. It was mostly insipid show music now, not the full-bodied jazz people had danced to so furiously during the war. At the same time, the new jazz of Charlie Parker, Thelonious Monk, and their cohorts, was a complex, intense music that was listened to, not danced to the first African or African-influenced music ever that was primarily for listening. In this sense (and in this sense alone) it was as non-African as Mozart. Yet, unlike European music, rhythm was its core; melody and harmony were played almost as an aspect of rhythm. Any melodies, and virtually all the improvisation that made up the body of the music, were generated by the rhythm. It was as though the African metaphysic, in order to continue itself, now needed to meditate upon itself – to explore its own complexities in

a way that the religious music of Africa could not do (it hadn't developed forms with which to meditate upon itself, as Western music had, and this was what jazz was now doing). In modern jazz more than in any previous form, improvisation would take the role that possession by the god had once taken, solos would be longer, more intricate, and less and less dependent upon laws of harmony and melody - a true entering into, and remaining in, another state of being, and thinking musically within that state. By the early sixties artists like Cecil Taylor and John Coltrane would be openly insisting that such meditation was precisely the object of their music.

To play for dancing was to focus on the listener; in this new jazz, for the first time, the focus was entirely on the musician. Ideally, the listener listened intently enough to join the improviser's trance. That was understood as the listener's job, the listener's act of creation. This made possible a depth of thought – thought





Through [Elvis], or through his Image, a whole culture started to pass from its most strictured, fearful years to our unpredictably fermentive age.

expressed musically but thought nonetheless - fully the equal of European musical thought, but with the intensity, the rhythm and the constellation of meanings that had come out of Africa; and the "subject matter" was purely twentieth century. I submit that if you want a commentary on, say, James Hillman's book The Dream and the Underworld, listen to Cecil Taylor's Live in the Black Forest, Miles Davis's In a Silent Way or Bitches Brew, Charles Mingus's The Black Saint and the Sinner Lady. Conversely, if you want to delve into that music verbally, even interpretively, read Hillman's book. Ornette Coleman and R. D. Laing, Rahsaan Roland Kirk and Joseph Chilton Pearce, Charles Mingus and William Irwin Thompson, Thelonious Monk and Robert Bly are brothers, dealing with the same subject matter in different mediums.

But these musicians paid a price for the tremendous concentration they achieved. They had largely left the dance behind.

And, leaving the dance behind, they'd left the dancers. Not the dancing artists, who spent all their energies on their dances, but

the rest of us, who, both knowingly and unconsciously, were still yearning for the dance to take us up and return our bodies to our hungering spirits. So it is no coincidence that the very same years – the midforties – that modern, mental jazz first got recorded were the years that rhythm and blues made its appearance. The dance would be danced. It would not be denied or stopped. It seemed to have a will of its own.

People who complain that amplified music is show-biz hype overlook the fact that the first musicians to start playing electrically amplified instruments regularly were backwoods, rural-blues players. Arthur "Big Boy" Cruddup was the first to accompany his singing on electric guitar for a record, in 1942. Over the next several years he made very popular "race" records, doing electrically the rhythms and feels that Robert Johnson had recorded acoustically in 1936. (In 1954, Elvis Presley's first recordings would be Big Boy Cruddup numbers, often imitating Cruddup's delivery note-for-note.) Sonny Boy Williamson, Professor Longhair, Pete Johnson, Big Joe Turner, Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon, Little Walter, and Clifton Chenier, among others, would by the late forties have created the lineup that would

Michael Ventura wrote and directed a prize winning documentary about John Cassavettes, wrote the film Echo Park and was the co-writer of Roadie. His new novel Night Time Losing Time, will be published in April 1989 by Simon & Schuster. "Music has been important to me all my life – rock 'n' roll hit when I was eight, Elvis when I was ten. When I moved to the South in the early 1970s to write for the Austin Sun, I began to sense where the music was coming from. When Robert Bly challenged me to prove my theories, my research led to 'Hear That Long Snake Moan,'" the centrepiece chapter of Shadow Dancing in the USA, published by Jeremy P. Tarcher Inc. (St. Martin's Press), Los Angeles, 1985. This article is the final section of that essay. Copyright © by Michael Ventura.

be a rock 'n' roll band: electric guitar, drums, bass, harmonica and/or saxophone, and occasionally a piano. Those men made a wild, haunting music – the long snake moaning plain.

Theirs was the music, in those little sweaty juke joints, that Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins, among others, sneaked off to hear when they hit their teens in the late forties. These and the others who would first play what came to be known as rock 'n' roll were claimed by this music, this insistence by the dance itself that it survive. "Best music in the world," Lewis would say later. "Wilder than my music."



These young white men were living more primitively than most people can imagine now. The main street of Lewis's hometown of Ferriday, Louisiana, wasn't paved till 1951; and he didn't live in a house with electricity and running water till he began to sell records in 1957. These young men attached themselves to this music against redneck strictures that we tend to brush aside now, but which took no small courage to transgress then. They had all been raised to think this was the Devil's music, and they pretty much believed that. They had all been raised to be deeply bigoted, and they believed in that too. Yet they sat at the feet of blacks whom they wouldn't sit with at a lunch counter, because they couldn't get enough of black music. Most of them never reconciled these contradictions in their personal lives, yet that didn't stop them from transmitting the raw elements of the

music to white people with a force, and on a scale, that any sane person would have thought unimaginable before Elvis had his first number one record in 1956.

Stating it with no holds barred: the moment this black music attracted these white musicians was one of the most important moments in modern history.

How typical that the best writers on these men – see Greil Marcus's crucial chapters on Elvis Presley in his superb Mystery Train, and Nick Tosches's biography of Jerry Lee Lewis, Hellfire – virtually ignore the importance of how these men moved. Elvis's singing was so extraordinary because you could hear the moves, infer the moves, in his singing. No white man and few blacks had ever sung so completely with the whole body.

Elvis before the Army, before 1959, was something truly extraordinary: a white man who seemed, to the rest of us, to appear out of nowhere with moves that most white people had never imagined, let alone seen. His legs weren't solidly planted then, as they would be years later. They were always in motion. Often he'd rise on his toes, seem on the verge of some impossible groin-propelled leap. then twist, shimmy, dip, and shake in some direction you wouldn't have expected. You never expected it. Every inflection of voice was matched, accented, harmonized by an inflection of muscle. As though the voice couldn't sing unless the body moved. It was so palpably a unit that it came across on his recordings. Presley's moves were body-shouts, and the way our ears heard his voice our bodies heard his body. Girls instantly understood it and went nuts screaming for more. Boys instantly understood it and started dancing by themselves in front of their mirrors in imitation of him.



Nobody had ever seen a white boy move like that. He was a flesh-and-blood rent in white reality. A gash in the nature of Western things. Through him, or through his image, a whole culture started to pass from its most strictured, fearful years to our unpredictably fermentive age — a jangled, discordant feeling, at once ultramodern and primitive, modes which have blended to become the mood of our time.

It is not too much to say that, for a short time, Elvis was our "Teacher" in the most profound, Eastern sense of that word. This is especially so when one recalls this Sufi maxim: "People think that a Teacher should show miracles and manifest illumination. The requirement of a Teacher is, however, only that he should possess all that the disciple needs at that moment in time."

Blacks pretty much ignored him – they knew precisely where he was coming from (he was coming from them) and they

The Voodoo rite of possession by the god became the standard of American performance in rock' n' roll. Elvis Presley, Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis, James Brown, Janis Joplin, Tina Turner, Jim Morrison, Johnny Rotten, Prince – they let themselves be possessed not by any god they could name but by the spirit they felt in the music.



didn't need to be told what he was saying, it was all around them and always had been. As for white mainstream culture nobody knew what to do. An official culture that had become an official culture through the act of separating one thing from another (instead of unifying them), couldn't then process Elvis or the rock 'n' roll, black and white, that he was forcing on them. Yet Elvis was the first product of African metaphysics in America which the official culture could not ignore. The various American establishments - political, intellectual, media - had successfully ignored American music since Buddy Bolden (who was only mentioned in a newspaper once in his life, when he was arrested during what we might now call his first nervous breakdown). But they couldn't ignore Elvis. And they weren't going to be able to ignore American music ever again. They could co-opt Elvis, as they finally did, but they couldn't rationalize him. And they couldn't stop him. Within months of his first hit, black artists as wild as Little Richard, Fats Domino, and Chuck Berry would be heard on white radio stations for the first time, due to the demand Elvis had created for their music.

It is important to recognize that when whites started playing rock 'n' roll, the

whole aesthetic of Western performance changed. Wrote Alfred Metraux of Haitian Voodoo dancing: "Spurred by the god within him, the devotee...throws himself into a series of brilliant improvisations and shows a suppleness, a grace and imagination which often did not seem possible. The audience is not taken in: it is to the loa and not the loa's servant that their admiration goes out."

In American culture we've mistaken the loa's servant for the loa, the horse for the rider, but only on the surface. We may have worshipped the horse, the singerdancer, but we did so because we felt the presence of the rider, the spirit. John Sebastian of the Lovin' Spoonful said it succinctly in one of his lyrics:

And we'll go dancin'
And then you'll see
That the magic's in the music
And the music's in me

The Voodoo rite of possession by the god became the standard of American performance in rock' n' roll. Elvis Presley, Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis, James Brown, Janis Joplin, Tina Turner, Jim Morrison, Johnny Rotten, Prince - they let themselves be possessed not by any god they could name but by the spirit they felt in the music. Their behaviour in this possession was something Western society had never before tolerated. And the way a possessed devotee in a Voodoo ceremony often will transmit his state of possession to someone else by merely touching the hand, they transmitted their possession through their voice and their dance to their audience, even through their records. We feel a charge of energy from within us, but it is felt as something infectious that we seek and catch and live. Anyone who has felt it knows it is a precious energy, and knows it has shaped them, changed them, given them moments they could not have had otherwise, moments of heightened clarity or frightening intensity or both; moments of love and bursts of release. And perhaps most importantly, we could experience this in a medium that met the twentieth century on its own terms. So we didn't have to isolate ourselves from our century (as the "higher" art forms often demanded) in order to experience these epiphanies.

And for all this the body is the conduit. It is no coincidence that the first generation reared on rock 'n' roll is the generation to initiate the widespread aerobics movement. As distorted by image

consciousness as that movement is, it shows a new emphasis. We feel our bodies, have an awareness of our bodies, that is new in Western culture. In the light of the music we've saturated ourselves with, this should come as no surprise.

The steady stream of mixed black and white rock records played on the major radio outlets began with Elvis Presley's "Heartbreak Hotel" in 1956. Within only two years, dancing in some neighbourhoods was already going beyond the lindy, that patterned dance of our Western past. "Let your backbone slip," is how many lyrics put it. Or, as Jerry Lee Lewis instructed in the spoken riff of his classic "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On":

Easy now...shake...ah, shake it baby...yeah...you can shake it one time for me...I said come on over, whole lotta shakin' goin' on...now let's get real low one time...all you gotta do is kinda stand...stand in one spot...wriggle around, just a little bit...that's what you got...whole lotta shakin' goin' on....

It is not only that he's describing exactly the dance that George W. Cable and others described in Congo Square [in New Orleans in 1886]; it's that, as Lewis says, "we ain't fakin'." The measure of how much we ain't fakin' is that you can see in Maya Deren's 1949 footage of Haitian Voodoo dancers exactly the same dancing that you've seen from 1958 to the



The thread that ran through all those movements of the sixties, and continues in their derivatives now, is a fundamental challenge to the old Western split between the mind and the body.

present wherever North Americans (and now Europeans) dance to rock 'n' roll.

Which is not to say that rock 'n' roll is Voodoo. Of course it's not. But it does preserve qualities of that African metaphysic intact so strongly that it unconsciously generates the same dances, acts as a major antidote to the mind-body split, and uses a derivative of Voodoo's techniques of possession as a source, for performers and audiences alike, of tremendous personal energy.

Texas singer and songwriter Butch Hancock comments on Presley's historic appearance on the "Ed Sullivan Show": "Yeah, that was the dance that everybody forgot. It was that the dance was so strong it took an entire civilization to forget it. And ten seconds on the 'Ed Sullivan Show' to remember. That's why I've got this whole optimism about the selfcorrection possibility of civilization. Kings, and principalities, and churches, all their effort to make us forget the dances and they can be blown away in an instant. We see it and say, 'Yeah - that's true.""

Greil Marcus speaks of "the energy in popular music that usually can be substituted for vision." His book Mystery Train lives on that insight, and it is the single most important insight of any of this music's commentators. The tremendous energy of rock 'n' roll has been so intense from its beginnings to this day that, while rarely articulating a vision for itself, it can't help but spark visions as it passes.

When Elvis Presley hit the charts in 1956 there was no such thing as a youth market. By 1957, almost solely through the demand for his recordings, there was. It was a fundamental, structural change in American society. In a few years we

would learn how fundamental, as that "market" revealed itself also to have qualities of a community, one that had the power to initiate far-reaching social changes that seemed unimaginable in 1955. The antiwar movement, the second wave of the civil rights movement, feminism, ecology, and the higher consciousness movement - and there was little distinction between them all when they were beginning at roughly the same time got their impetus from the excitement of people who felt strong because they felt they were part of a national community of youth, a community that had been first defined, and then often inspired, by its affinity for this music. That was the public, historical result of those private epiphanies of personal energy we'd felt through the music's form of possession.

The thread that ran through all those movements of the sixties, and continues in their derivatives now, is a fundamental challenge to the old Western split between the mind and the body. More than any the mood, if not always the issues, of the

generation from one culture and socialize it completely in the new [New Age] one." The socially furious music of the punks, the sexually explicit music of Prince and his contemporaries, carry that on. And all this was implied in the music's African roots from the beginning.

As Duke Ellington put it in his libretto to A Drum Is Woman (a libretto in which he makes clear that he means "a drum is a goddess"):

Rhythm came from Africa to America. Do you know what it does to you? Exactly what it's supposed to do.

I haven't meant to imply that either jazz or rock 'n' roll is a greater or more socially significant music than the other. They are both faces of the same music. Within each is the holy drum. Rock takes



the stand and recreates every night the terms of our survival, part ceremony, part cavalry charge.

Jazz also must take the stand every night, recreating and regenerating its forms, but contemporary jazz comes after what's lost has been discovered again. Jazz is the subtlety of feeling, the swiftness of thought, always implicit in the true freedom that we all say we seek. It's the suppleness of existence itself. It is change itself, flux itself, and the intelligence that seeks both to remain true to its source and to change. Even jazz at its wildest suggests a focused inner meditation that rock knows nothing about. Jazz mothered rock, and yet rock is earlier, more primitive. If rock is ceremony, jazz is knowledge. It is the initiate's knowledge that the ceremony exists both to celebrate and, in distilled form, to preserve. We must remember Coomaraswamy's thought, that "so long as the material of folklore is transmitted, so long is the ground available on which the superstructure of full initiatory understanding can be built."

Music can be understood by the body instantly — it carries so much history within it that we don't need history to understand it. But a culture as a whole, a country as a whole, cannot be understood by the body alone — at least not anymore. The history of America is as much as it is anything, the history of the American body as it sought to unite with its spirit, with its consciousness, to heal itself and to stand against the enormous forces that work to destroy a Westerner's relationship to his, to her, own flesh.

From the first the music has felt like an attack on the institutions – actual and conceptual – that it was, in fact, attacking. From the first it moaned and groaned furiously all the length of its great long snake, and has never been afraid of venting its own fury – often resulting in its own destruction.

"If I told you what our music is really about we'd probably all get arrested," Bob Dylan told an interviewer in 1965. Angry enough, often enough, the music has frightened its very dancers, so that many don't want to be challenged in that way for very long and they let the music become merely a memory of their youth. But it is a music that won't stop and that will not leave us alone. It speaks through the body and invokes the spirit. And some of us have felt, since the first day we heard it, that this is the aesthetic we have to live up to. No matter how the deal goes down.

Please
Call Me
By My
True
Names

Thich Nhat Hanh

Thich Nhat Hanh is a Vietnamese Buddhist monk who was actively engaged in helping war victims and publicly communicating their desire for peace. As a result of his outspoken frankness on a US tour in 1966, he was unable to return to Vietnam. After several post-war efforts to assist his people were thwarted, he went into a long retreat in his hermitage in France. Since 1982 he has taught annually at various North American retreat centres. This poem can be found in his volume Being Peace, available from Parallax Press, P.O. Box 7355, Berkeley, California 94707, tel. (415) 548-3721.

Do not say that I'll depart tomorrow because even today I still arrive.

Look deeply: I arrive in every second to be a bud on a spring branch, to be a tiny bird, with wings still fragile, learning to sing in my new nest, to be a caterpillar in the heart of a flower, to be a jewel hiding itself in a stone.

I still arrive, in order to laugh and to cry, in order to fear and to hope, the rhythm of my heart is the birth and death of all that are alive.

I am the mayfly metamorphosing on the surface of the river, and I am the bird which, when spring comes, arrives in time to eat the mayfly.

I am the frog swimming happily in the clear water of a pond, and I am also the grass-snake who, approaching in silence, feeds itself on the frog.

I am the child in Uganda, all skin and bones, my legs as thin as bamboo sticks, and I am the arms merchant, selling deadly weapons to Uganda.

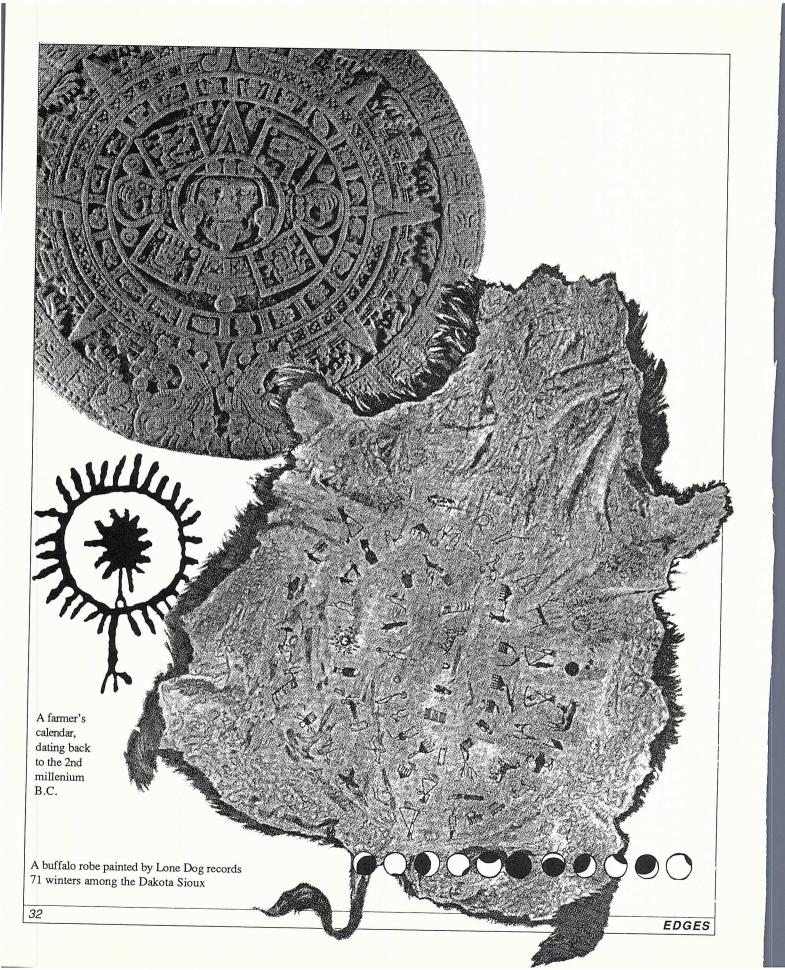
I am the 12-year-old girl, refugee on a small boat, who throws herself into the ocean after being raped by a sea pirate, and I am the pirate, my heart not yet capable of seeing and loving.

I am a member of the politburo, with plenty of power in my hands, and I am the man who has to pay his debt of blood to my people, dying slowly in a forced labour camp.

My joy is like spring, so warm it makes flowers bloom in all walks of life.

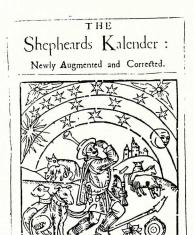
My pain is like a river of tears, so full it fills up the four oceans.

Please call me by my true names, so I can wake up, and so the door of my heart can be left open, the door of compassion.

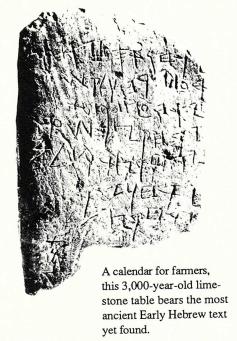


Rhythms of Meaning

Nelson Stover



"UNESCO has declared the period 1988-1998 as the "Decade of Culture," a time to emphasize and recover the diverse cultures of our global village. I would like to suggest a set of celebrations intended to bring unity among peoples..."



Nelson Stover has lived in Egypt, India, and the United States, and is now a resident of Brussels, Belgium. He outlines in these pages his scheme for a totally new, yet historically based, global calendar of celebrations. We found this article to be a thought-provoking contribution to the effort of families and communities to create meaningful life rhythms.

uring my university studies, I took an advanced mathematics course from an instructor who did not believe in erasing the blackboard during his lecture presentations. He would begin each period with a clean board and then launch into long theoretical proofs. When he had covered the board with notations, he would go back to the upper left hand corner and begin writing over what he had written the first pass. Some hour-long discussions would

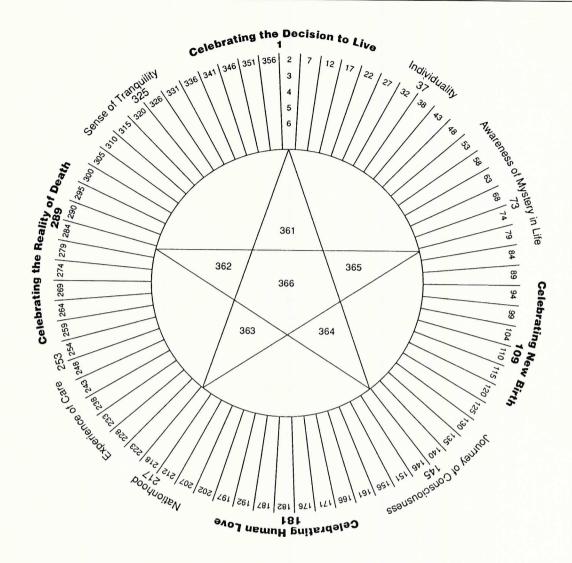
require three or four layers of writing on the same board.

In order to refer to earlier comments the professor would often point to a space and indicate that we were to "look at what I wrote the first time over." While this method had some advantages, many of the average students experienced more than normal confusion in following the presentations.

In some ways the global calendar is becoming like this professor's blackboard. As the various cultures intermix and the different religions and social traditions overlap, celebration gets layered on top of celebration. In countries like Egypt and India where two or three traditions exist in relatively equal strength, a plethora of holidays are celebrated side by side.

The peoples of Eritrea, in eastern Africa, have spent considerable energies in recent decades establishing a national identity among the nine language groups and various religious perspectives of their





homeland. One point of disunity arose as to what day of the week was to be considered "holy." The Muslims wanted Friday and the Christians wanted Sunday; neither wanted to increase the friction among the members of the two groups. Being ill able to afford a three-day weekend, the nation has decided that Wednesday will be the official "day off." Shops and offices close on Wednesday and people relax and celebrate. No one is offended and anybody who wants to worship is free to do so when they wish. Irrespective of cultural heritage, everybody is reminded of their unity on Wednesday.

UNESCO has declared the period 1988-1998 as the "Decade of Culture," a time to emphasize and recover the diverse cultures of our global village. I would like to suggest a set of celebrations intended to bring unity among peoples; that would allow a newness to emerge which could express the wonder of our times and that would hold the ancient wisdom of many perspectives. Rather than attempt to pick and choose among the many existing celebrations and ways of organising time I propose a new calendar and a totally recreated yearly rhythm.

The current 52-week, 12 month calendar represents a composite of recommendations for marking time ranging from Julius Caesar's desire to have a month named after himself to Pope Gregory's encyclical detailing the handling of leap years. Other calendar schemes have been devised including those having 72 five-day weeks or 28-day months which follow the lunar pattern.

The above diagram depicts a solar year calendar with 70 five-day weeks. These are grouped into ten equal segments (thus producing a decimal calendar in line with the growing trend for "going metric"). A great Day of Celebration occurs at the end of each seven-week period. At the end of the entire cycle, located in the centre of the diagram, are five additional celebration days to mark the completion of the year.

Of the ten celebrations which would mark the end of the various segments, four could be dedicated to primary experiences of human existence, four to fundamental aspects of consciousness and two to basic sociological building blocks.

For instance, the four primary celebrations could be located near or on the solar equinoxes and solstices, the shortest and longest days of the year, and the days of equal day and night. Practically, these might be commemorated as follows:

Celebrating Human Love

The celebration nearest the Summer Solstice might be dedicated to celebrating human love. Life, in all its forms, is related to life. Human beings experience this relatedness in terms of their feelings of love for one another. Within the communities in which they live, the natural bonds of family and the relationships which develop be-tween individuals who care for each other create the framework which sustains and nurtures people in their everyday living. Yet these bonds also have all the fragility inherent in the human condition. The celebrations of human love would provide ways to rehearse and to strengthen these relationships.

Most societies have sought a variety of ways to reaffirm the individual relationships which hold people together. In some countries, St. Valentine's Day provides a

countries, St. Valentine's Day provides a Prature.

vehicle for people to say to others, "I love you." During the Hindu celebration of Raksha Bandan sisters acknowledge their brothers' care and support. Other celebrations like Mother's Day and Father's Day offer similar recognition.

Often these occasions involve exchanging stylised greetings to keep communication open even when the relationships become strained. Many such traditions might be included in the Celebration of Human Love.

Celebrating the Decision to Live

The celebration nearest the Winter Solstice might be dedicated to celebrating the Decision to Live. People have long understood that once life is given, a decision is required to continue living; furthermore, the freedom to make this decision

has been given along with the gift of life itself. Historically, the will to live has been most difficult to maintain during the darkest and coldest days of the yearly cycle. In northern climates the celebrations of the decision to live have often been held in winters and involve lights to chase away the evil spirits which threaten the spirit of life. Often, too, these celebrations lie close to, or get associated with, celebrations of the New Year.

These celebrations often include the exchanging of gifts to acknowledge an individual's uniqueness and to

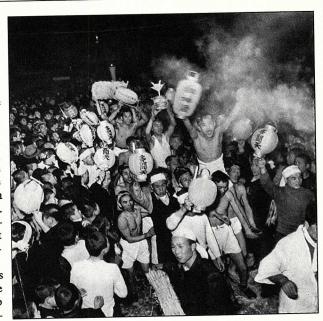
enable one's moving into one's own future. Within the Christian tradition,

Christmas has provided a way to rehearse the possibility of full life which has been given to each individual. Probably, the Hindu celebration of Divali points to the same understandings of the human condition. While each of the celebrations relates to different historical events, the power of the continued observance is derived from the profoundly human experience on which attention is focused.

Celebrating New Birth

The celebration following the Spring Equinox might be dedicated to The Celebration of New Birth. We all stand in

awe of the ability of life to propagate life. In the world of nature new life emerges in a multitude of fashions but most overwhelmingly with the coming of the spring or monsoon rains. The journey through time brings new phases of existence which are experienced like the birthing of a new creature. When the new comes, the old forms must pass away; thus



birth and death become united in the Celebration of New Birth.

Virtually every cultural tradition carries within it the memories of the festivals which acknowledge the wonder of life returning to the barren lands. For Christians, the Easter season has played this function. While the reality of the crucifixion remains in the eventfulness, the coming of the Spirit provides the dominating theme of the festivities. Within the Hindu tradition in Maharashtra, India, the Ganesh celebrations mark the completion of the rice harvesting.

Celebrating the Reality of Death

The celebration following the Autumnal Solstice could be dedicated to Celebrating the Reality of Death. No life is complete without the experience of death.



Each individual and community knows the feeling of the loss of a loved one or a relative and in so doing realises the coming of their own death. Societies have, each in their own ways, sought to commemorate the living and dying of all of those who have gone before, and in so doing give significance to the final act of each individual's life.

Often such celebrations have included festivities - for death, marking the end of a fulfilled life, comes as a joyous event. Within the Christian tradition, All Saints individual's ancestors. The nic holiday of the occasion. Muslims set aside a day for visit-

ing the tombs of their forebears. Whatever the form, the celebrations of the completed lives of those who have come before enable people to remember that they themselves are a part of the long sweep of history and that death, rather than being something to be feared, plays an important role in the process of life.

In my calendar, each segment would end with a celebration that would immediately precede one of the previous celebrations. These concluding celebrations could be used to bring to awareness four aspects of profound living: I would choose mys-



Day was instituted to honour all Friday is set aside in Morocco for women to visit the cemeteries. the saints of the church and each The women bring flowers and food for the graves and make a pic-

tery in life, the journey of consciousness, the experience of care and the sense of tranquility. These may represent more recent developments within the global family or aspects that were not considered an occasion for holidays, and long historical precedents do not immediately arise. Considerable creativity might emerge as these celebrations take form.

The remaining two celebrations could be dedicated to commemorations of the great lives of those who have gone before and to the unique greatnesses of the nations in which people live.

Each community and nation now finds ways to commemorate particular significant events of its own history. These include birthdays of famous people, anniversaries of important battles and events marking the founding of the people. Often these events are marked with speech making in which community elders rehearse the stories which tell the people's story and which maintain their uniqueness.

The Celebration of Individual Creativity could concentrate attention on children, men and women from all heritages and generations who have contributed to creating the present social fabric. While globally recognised contributions

were lifted up, each particular location could stand present to persons of unique local importance.

The Celebration of National Identity could remember the heritages and understandings which shape the various social groupings into which the global village is currently divided. Set in the context of "One Great Place to Live," each local part could be strengthened to contribute its unique gift.

If implemented with care, my new calendar might foster common understanding and allow cultural diversity to flourish.

Detroit's soul stretchers

Evening programs to stretch the soul. Available for your group in your location.

Affirmations: New Rituals for New Times

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The Importance of Myth

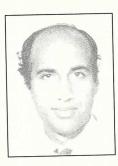
ICA Cincinnati has developed a two hour round table using a video from the public television series interviewing Joseph Campbell. His ideas stimulate the imagination and give a basis for lively discussion.

Effective Education

An enlivening, spirited workshop used in the private sector applied to the question of effective education. Conversations highlight successes in education and even the breaktimes are educational with Jean Houston's mind and body stretchers.

Painfully beyond East and West

Sohail Inayatullah



Sohail
Inayatullah, a
futurist currently
working with the
Hawaii Judiciary,
offers these
thoughts on the
transnational
person and the
future of culture.

ulture is not static: it is dialectically fluid. Cultures are constantly transforming—expanding and contracting. Each one of us contains the past as well as possibilities for many futures. One of these possible futures is the emergence of a global culture beyond East and West, one that unites individuals but does not make commodities of them or oppress them—and that includes, yet dialectically transcends, the ancient past.

I, like many others, have spent my entire life traveling from city to city and nation to nation. Since leaving Peshawar when I was six, I, with my parents, have lived in Indiana, New York, Geneva, Islamabad, Bangkok, and Kuala Lumpur. Since the mid-1970s I have lived in Hawaii and travelled yearly back and forth to visit my family in Malaysia and recently in Pakistan. To me, these travels cannot be understood simply in aeronautical miles. They are journeys across linear and cyclical time; through economic, political and psychological space. They are journeys to the self. With each trip an old self dies, a new self emerges. Each death is one of fear yet relief; each birth one of loneliness and discovery.

New cultures are being developed through the transmission of cultural codes

from periphery to centre and centre to periphery, from Asian to American and American to Asian. These messages are of time and hierarchy; sexuality and power; daily life and etiquette; dreams and myths. They are also of conflicting visions of our purposes in life, and in the universe.

These messages are often painful. But the pain I am particularly concerned about is not so much the guilt that the American feels when he or she encounters the East, the poverty there, the hunger there; it is more the pain the Asian feels when he or she encounters the West.

The Asian's reaction is simple. He feels inferior or superior. He begins to believe that yes, he is from a deficient land. He forgets the intrinsic worth of

the West, he critiques technology and the western cosmology behind the industrial revolution, behind the present science and technology revolution. But when he returns to his homeland, the list of things the nation should have begins: fridges, dish-washers, dryers, washers, blenders, cash registers, electric toothbrushes, colour televisions, telephones, Cadillacs, personal computers, telecommunications systems, automatic cash machines, mass transit systems, and shopping centres.

The reaction is a feeling of lessness and an attempt to deal with this lessness through power, through superiority. This superiority is sometimes personal, sometimes structural, sometimes political and religious.

Some changes we must seek out, and others are

thrust upon us by the globalization of culture.

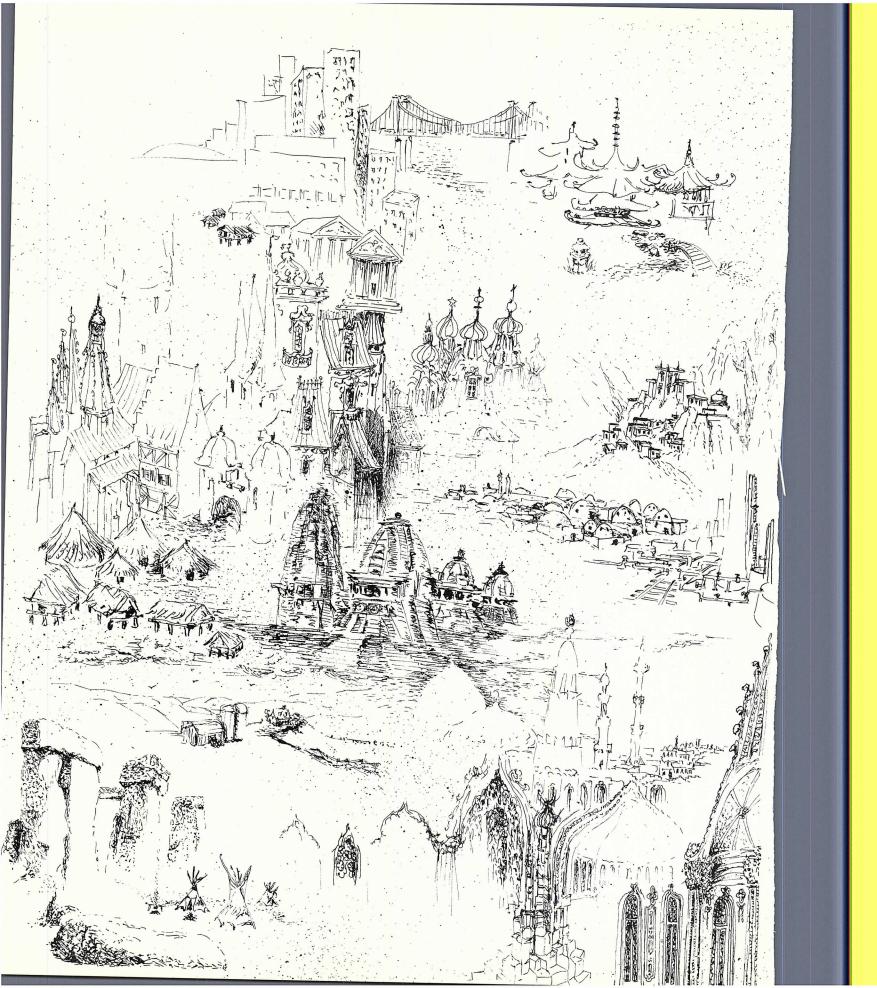
human-hood, of life. He forgets the empires, the golden ages of the Asian, African or South American past.

While in the North he looks at the impressive dust-free streets of Geneva, Bloomington, or Honolulu and smirks that if only his country could sell dust, could hire an American advertising agency to "market" dust, they, too, could join the wealthy.

And he examines technology: the clean, the quick, the efficient. While in

The Asian in this perspective does not make less of himself but makes less of the foreign culture. He believes that the West is decadent – the women "loose," the men "weak," the dollar above Allah, the culture devoted to the great Satan of technology. The critique is assailed upon every foreign culture, not only the West. For example, the Pakistani or Indian trying to come to terms with the wealth and technology and Islamic religious history of the Middle East believes that the Arabs

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We can hope for a newly-emerging, transcendental, global spiritual culture...that is neither here nor there, East nor West, religious nor secular.

have no culture, that they are simply a group of nomads with no real sense of cultural history – they are simply the newly rich.

Yet the critique of the West is particularly brutal. At times it is framed in development theory language — that is, the West suffers from overdevelopment, or socio-cultural maldeveloment; that its future is not rooted in cultural history; and that it has no vision beyond that of technocracy. The critique, although couched in analytic language, is fundamentally emotional. They, the Westerners, are barbarians. True, they have weapons. True, they have fortunes. But they have no family. They have no unity. They have no God. And we do!

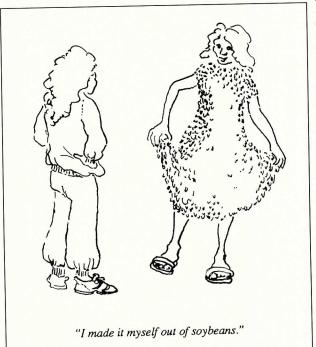
Iran is the clearest example among many of this inferiority-turned-superiority. The contradictions are clear enough. On one side is the Asian trying to be American: speaking white, looking white, while knowing he can never be anything

more than a subhuman being in the West. On the other hand is the Asian, who in toto rejects Western culture as the dark side and glorifies his own culture as that of the pure, chosen few. For this Asian, the West's material accomplishments are denigrated, its technological superiority ridiculed, its imperialism forcefully attacked.

The Asian family now too, as industrialism expands, as exportled economies grow, must face the contradictions of modernity. Pakistani village families no longer find their closeness through the wisdom of evening storytellers; rather video cassette recorders bought while returning from Saudi Arabia and inexpensive cassettes from Bombay or Hong Kong provide family unity. I, a few years back, saw one Pakistani television show where the addition of a VCR wreaked havoc on the peace of the father's life. He saw how their previous closeness, their intimacies, were being destroyed. Village husbands complained that the wives no longer cooked: every night it was

the VCR. While asleep, the man saw thieves take his nemesis and the villagers' prized possession. The police quickly captured the thieves. But the man would not admit that the VCR was his. He was happy without it. His meals were prepared, his house was quieter, and neighbours visited for reasons besides Urdulanguage films. But finally the Chief Police Officer begged the man to take it back – the Officer's wife had decided to make life hell for him until she could watch the VCR.

Thus the contradictions of video technology: it opens yet closes options. It destroys, yet creates culture. From the sublime to the ridiculous, from Woody Allen to Rambo, all are available in most Asian countries. Jet travel and personal computers, like other technologies, also drastically exhibit this dual nature. They bring us together and apart. They strengthen the world of materialism and they create the possibilities of a new global culture.



The Planetary Citizen lives a lifestyle of voluntary simplicity.

While VCRs come to the East, Yogis, Sufis and Buddhist Monks travel to the West to bring the messages of meditation and self-reliance and inspire Westerners to become monks. The new Western monks, as I've often seen, then travel in Asia bringing this message back to the East. Asians are often surprised to see a Westerner in saffron talking about their guru: they do not know what to make of it, for they are many times more interested not in meditation and self-reliance, but in pleasure and capital accumulation. In addition, those in the East believe they have a monopoly on wisdom. Yet often it is the Western monks who have the strongest spiritual presence, for they, like the ancient Buddha, have tired of accumulation, of individuality, of colonialism; they are ready to serve the planet. They, and other like-minded Westerners, may be an integral and driving part of an emerging future culture.

And in the West, there are many Asians who are part of a newly emerging culture – who have traversed the realms of technology and nature, sexuality and spirituality, inferiority and superiority, family and self, identity and transcendence.

They have found, within the diversity of the particular, a universal humanity and evil within each culture and individual.

But this process of transcendence and understanding is not a fast-food one; it traditionally has taken centuries. Ancient spiritual pasts are not renewed overnight; new cultures do not unfold in a day. Still, travel, electronics, and the inner exploration of the collective unconscious may reduce this process to a lifetime.

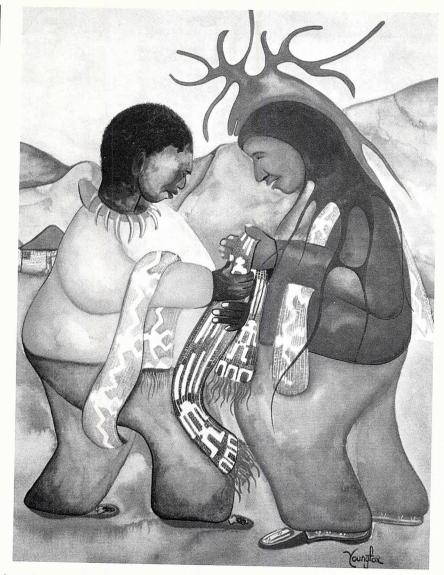
But there are numerous contradictions and difficulties to be faced while new futures emerge. In the U.S., for example, many of my Pakistani friends find themselves passionately hating the U.S. and secretly loving it. Others have no illusions and do their best to become immigrants. In Pakistan, my friend Zaheer was a student leader; now in the U.S. he is just another graduate student trying to make sense of a world of power, money, and sex. This is especially difficult as for his research he was allowed into Khomeini's Iran and he believes America is the great Satan. In the meantime, he has become a sort of travel agent, buying and selling tickets so he can

Native Art, Native Life: An Exhibition for the Global Village

"Dozens of artists from Canada's Native peoples, the Indians and the Inuit, have tried to reach out to Africans through their art," began Canada's High Commissioner to Kenya, Raynell Andreychuk, as she urged some four dozen African environmental ministers to consider the artwork in their midst. "Many Canadians have made efforts to stay involved with the African crisis. But this is different. These artists are trying to tune into you through the spirit and techniques of their own traditions. They are making all of us realize how much we have to lose when your lives are at risk." Villagers, a new Canadian magazine for the global village, has fostered this unusual partnership between Africa and some of Canada's Native people by commissioning Native artists to paint works on African village themes to commemorate twinned communities.

Two years earlier, Rick Beaver, a 36year old Ojibway from Alderville Reserve, had offered to help a group in nearby Toronto with an image to promote their "twinned" village of Gode, Ethiopia. "From a Native village in Canada to an African village - that seemed very direct," said the wildlife biologist/ environmentalist turned artist. A charismatic speaker, he encouraged other artists, who learned about their subjects from reading and from talks with people who had been in Africa, also reaching deep into their own traditions. To boost interest in twinning, the idea of a travelling exhibition was born, and he worked for two years with Dawn MacDonald, Torontobased publisher of Villagers, to realize it.

The late Cecil Youngfox painted "Wampum Pledge" (right) for the project twinning the Ottawa Valley with Lesotho's Quthing Valley. Initiated by Plenty Canada and now being administered by its affiliate, Valley to Valley, the project aims to forge close personal connections between people of both areas. The painting shows a Native Canadian offering a wampum belt (with tribal history crafted in coloured shells) to his equal, a native



from Lesotho. Gifts of such belts were historically a valuable pledge of mutual assistance.

After learning he had cancer, Youngfox began this painting on his first day of chemotherapy. His legacy has helped the twinning group to maintain focus as well as to raise funds. Norval Morrisseau, the godfather of the Native art movement, performed a special ceremony for the people of Lesotho at the unveiling of the poster. Expressing the bonding theme, braided sweetgrass was held up to the four corners of the earth, drawing together those present in a ritual of purification and unification.

The exhibit continues to speak elo-

quently to its viewers as it travels; Inquiries are welcome. According to Villagers publisher McDonald, the village-to-village twinning phenomenon provides an excellent initial journalistic challenge for the magazine. "Eventually we believe Villagers will enable us to explore all links — aid, trade, multicultural and human rights — that Canadians have with the rest of the world."

Subscriptions are available from P.O. Box 1, 55 McCaul Street, Toronto, Ontario M5T 2W7 for C\$20 or US\$24 (\$10 provides tax-deductible support for twinning movement villages). For poster reproductions see page 42.

...cultural transcendence cannot be done without conflict, without trauma, without a recognition that to live in both worlds requires that ultimately one must be part of neither...

survive while eagerly awaiting the fall of Western civilization. My friend Malik, however, remains in Islamabad and dreams of the U.S. where he hopes to find his sexual desire fulfilled among the Western "whores." I have told him that American females also have feelings, but he, influenced by Clint Eastwood movies, does not really believe me yet.

But there are examples of individuals who have risen above their cultural and historical contradictions. I met one such woman in a Honolulu-bound flight over Malaysian air. Her mother was Chinese from Penang, Malaysia and her father was Saudi Arabian. She was raised as a devout Muslim and she spoke Cantonese, Arabic, English, Malay and French and divided her time between Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and Indiana. In Indiana, she was studying theoretical mathematics but her main project was to develop a new feminism that was grounded in the larger political-economic questions of the world, that intended to find a new discourse for woman beyond the slavery of the West and the

repressions of the East.

Many Asians I have met are not so clear about their purpose. Some love the West and dread the thought of going back home. Others who have had their "white experience" rejoice on returning to their home country. Others, like my friend Kamala, feel trapped in a brown body. Although she is a mixture of Sri Lankan and Japanese parents, she has spent her life in Chicago, and thinks and acts as do other Americans from that region.

The Easterner then has many responses to the West: usually mimicry, sometimes revulsion, often confusion. Occasionally there is a resolution. There is an attempt to blend both cultures, too, in more than a simple trite mixing – to resolve the various conflicts of each culture and to dialectically synthesize a newer culture. But this jump, this cultural transcendence cannot be

done without conflict, without trauma, without a recognition that to live in both worlds requires that ultimately one must be part of neither, one must be alone, a foreigner on the planet, waiting for others like oneself to be born, to emerge.

This aloneness, abstract perhaps at first, finds concrete expression in a variety of seemingly banal instances. How does one who is no longer of any culture respond to the question, "Where are you from?" Can he say from Malaysia, although he has lived in ten different countries from the age of five? Can he say the U.S.A. if the questioner is American? The questioner, usually white, will know that he is not really "American," that he is a foreigner. And on returning to his foreign home, again he will not be comfortable with attempts to define his personality by his race. How does one respond?

How does one deal with the emptiness of aloneness? Of missing "home" wherever one is? In Pakistan, I often miss my home. In Hawaii I am nostalgic for

Pakistan. Although we may attempt to transcend the emotional need for a physical home by reconceptualizing "home" as the entire planet or the mystical self, still the realization of this expanded definition is a life's effort.

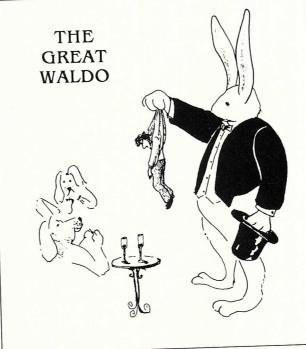
Or how does one celebrate holidays? The easy answer from one trying to blend into cultures, to mix them hoping for a new culture, is to simply celebrate all holidays. But to truly celebrate a holiday, one must be grounded in the history and mythos of the holiday, one must be archetypically entwined into the past. A Japanese from Tokyo having lived half of his life in the U.S.A. may celebrate Christmas and may appreciate it because he or she is part of the global culture of consumerism; but the deeper mystical roots of Christmas, those of family sharing and the birth of a great mystic in the Middle East, are not so easily transferable.

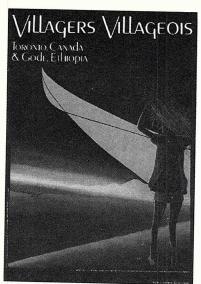
I do not pretend to understand the conflicts of different cultures such as South American or African who are also caught between past and future, nor do I pretend to understand the pain of the American overseas. But I know that Americans and Europeans too suffer a cultural confusion – not the confusion of coming from a land of poverty, but the confusion of coming from a land of economic plenty that is intellectually and emotionally segmented and isolated.

We can hope for a newly-emerging,

transcendental, global spiritual culture. Yet, if this culture is born, if this culture does in fact create the best of East and West, North and South, it will be a culture born out of individual and collective suffering and turmoil, not of a sudden burst of good feelings. Understanding the universal in humanity, the transcendent nature of the inner self in each person, is a life task for the individual and a civilizational task for a culture. The decline of the empire of the Atlantic and of the nation-state may give the necessary psychological and political space for individuals to create a new culture that is neither here nor there, East nor West, religious nor secular.

In the meantime, I wait and watch both myself and those whom I've met respond and react to the destruction and renewal of cultures. I watch often in peace, sometimes in empty aloneness, but always in anticipation of the creation of new, authentic cultural futures.

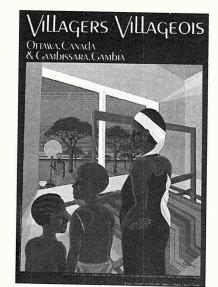




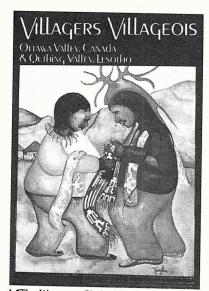
1 "Early Gathering" by Rick Beaver



3 "Seeds for the Future" by Maxine Noel



2 "Preparing for Tomorrow" by Erwin Printup

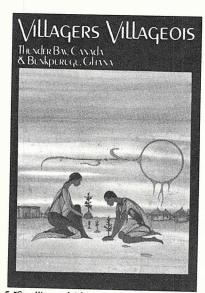


4 "The Wampum Pledge" by Cecil Youngfox

Collect these extraordinary four-colour posters donated by Canada's top Native artists to commemorate the special twinning relationships between Canadian and African communities. Designed by graphic artist Theo Dimson and printed to art gallery standards by Batten Graphics Limited, each poster measures 45 × 65 cm (18" \times 26"). These collector's items are available now and make excellent gifts. Purchase more than one and take advantage of Villagers' special sliding discount: one poster - \$15; two - \$28; three -\$39; four - \$44; five - \$50; additional copies - \$8 each. Please add \$4 for postage and handling. To order fill in the coupon below and mail it to:



P.O. Box 1 55 McCaul Street Toronto, Ontario M5T 2W7



5 "Seedlings of Africa" by Maxine Noel

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GOOD READING

The Presence of the Past: Morphic Resonance and the **Habits of Nature**

by Rupert Sheldrake Times Books (Random House), 1988. Hardback. xxx pages.

In 1981, the eminent scientific journal Nature, in a violent reaction reminiscent of

our friends who perpetrated the Spanish Inquisition, proclaimed that biologist Rupert Sheldrake's book, A New Science of Life, was fit for burning.

It's now seven years after the release of Sheldrake's book, with its hypothesis of morphogenetic resonance and formative causation, and he has come up with another bit of kindling to fuel the fires of the scientific inquisitors. In The Presence of the Past Sheldrake furthers his unorthodox ruminations.

In his new book, Sheldrake has used the seven years to synthesize, from a broad range of disciplines, an impressive expansion of his first thoughts. He begins with a discussion of the development of Western thought, comparing his hypothesis with orthodox thinking. For instance, he states, "The cosmos seems more like a growing and developing organism than an eternal

machine. In this context, habits may be more natural than immutable laws." Watch out, Newton!

Sheldrake draws on a wide array of scientific, psychological and social experiments to advance his theory. Perhaps one of the simplest and most telling experiments detailed is one he himself devised. He asked a Japanese poet to provide three short poems in Japanese, all with similar

sound structure. One was a meaningless series of syllables, the second a newly written verse, and the third a rhyme learned by Japanese children for centuries. Then, without telling them which was which, he asked Englishspeaking people who knew no Japanese to memorize the three. They found one of the rhymes far easier to remember than the other two. This was of course the traditional rhyme, its morphic field reinforced by centuries of

repetition.

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Sheldrake's book is written as nontechnically as possible, and is a well-wrought and meticulously presented argument for a theory likely to hold its place in the heretic's world for some time. While reading it, and considering the reaction of many to it, I was forced to consider: If the morphic fields of human thought, as demonstrated by the Japanese poem, carry such a power-

ful influence on current patterns of thinking, could it be that we are bound to traditional forms of cognition that may have no relevance at all to the way things really are? Perhaps the strongest morphic field in human experience is the dogged persistence to hang on to dead ideas. It would seem that the appearance of a book like Sheldrake's gives evidence of a universal field in which all of the ideas of men are pitifully partial.

In many ways Sheldrake attempts, through the language of the intellect, to explain what is actually known best by intuition. When confronted by the allencompassing harmony he saw and felt in the natural law, Albert Einstein commented: "It reveals an intelligence of such superiority that, compared with it, all the systematic thinking of human beings is an utterly insignificant reflection."

Perhaps if the reflections of men such as Sheldrake are to have any use at all, they must awaken us to a sense of humility in the face of a creation of which we have but the slightest awareness. I, for one, feel it imperative that the tuggings of that superior intelligence be given full attention, that the seeds of an entirely unheard-of, unthought-of way of functioning may take root in my consciousness, and, like a new, malleable living form, in the consciousness of mankind.

-Craig Sarbeck, a staff writer of Integrity International, 100 Mile House, British Columbia, Canada

The Dreams of Reason: The Computer and the Rise of the Sciences of Complexity by Heinz R. Pagels

Simon & Schuster, New York, 1988. Hardback. 352 pages.

The title of Pagels' book is taken from a line by Francisco Goya, who, having witnessed the "dreams of reason" of the Enlightenment transformed into the monstrosities of the Napoleonic Wars. exclaimed, "The dreams of reason bring forth monsters!" Stripped of its many complexities, The Dreams of Reason says:

1. "Aided and abetted by computer capacities, the sciences of complexity (SOC) are providing us with a new consensual framework of knowledge informed by the cosmic code." (The Cosmic Code is the title of a previous work by Pagels).

2. The simulated rationalities and realities of computers, however valuable, cannot replace the subtleties required in

human intuition, emotion. decision, and spiritual perception.

3. Philosophically, neither evolution nor science are rigorous systems; both proceed in the same sloppy way. The rigorous scientific method is a myth.

4. The dualism of mind and nature, of materialistic reductionism and mental transcendentalism can and will never be solved or resolved. The dualism will simply disappear.

5. Reason shows us our capacity to create and destroy; but there are deeper capacities beyond the reach of reason that must be developed if we are to use our powers wisely. The future belongs to the dreamers.

These emergent new sciences and the order of being they study help resolve the conflict between a reductionistic materialism and a mental transcendentalism. This duality provides the structure of the book which is divided evenly between the two sides of the polarity. The concluding chapter points to a way not to resolve the dualism, but simply allow it in time to disappear.

The jacket blurb one-lines Dreams...as "a report from

the frontiers of the sciences of complexity," continuing into "where the conjunc-



tion of computer technology and the discovery of revolutionary scientific structures is changing once again our view of reality." Part 1 is a fairly straight description of what these SOCs are into: chaos dynamics, reality simulation, brain simulation, computational biology, something called "connectionism," and the global economy described as "the first global computer." Part II deals with philosophy and anti-philosophy as the current tension in the scientific method. Answering our unspoken question of "so what," author answers: "Those who master the new sciences of complexity will become the economic, political, and cultural superpowers of the next century."

For many of us, perhaps, the last chapter, Concluding Reflections, is the real wonder of this book, when the

famous physicist suddenly becomes a spirit guide, as he shares with us his encounter with a no-limbs "spiderman" arising from a garbage dump with an exquisite song to Sita on his lips. The physicist confesses, as so many of us know from similar experiences, that the dreams of reason are easily "stumped" in these close encounters of the third kind.

"Reason is like the fragile, encompassing shell of an egg that holds the vital substance of our being together. When that shell cracks in a moment of intellectual or emotional crisis, we see what cannot normally be seen. We can see that the entirety of human life — our lives — are but so many complex motions within a vast game played with rules of which we are usually unaware."

The reader will appreciate the many real-life stories of encounters with the Dalai Lama, with the Nairobi markets, Calcutta bustees, California's Big Sur, as well as stories of Jung, Picasso, and Buddha; how jokes so rapidly become global, and much more. The author is more than either a materialistic or philosophical scientist.

The author's instincts are the "roll up your sleeves and don't be afraid to get your hands dirty" variety." The combination of this kind of empiricism allied with a refined spirit sensibility makes Heinz Pagels a scientist we can all identify with. The author is Executive Director of the New York Academy of Sciences, and, yes, his wife is Elaine Pagels, author of *The Gnostic Gospels*.

—Brian Stanfield

Free: The End of the Human Condition; The Biological Reason Why Humans Have Had to be Individual, Competitive, Egocentric and Aggressive

by Jeremy Griffith. Sydney, Australia, 1988. Paperback. 228 pages.

Jeremy Griffith, out in Terrey Hills, Australia, has had a vision. The Sydney Morning Herald called him "a man who went in search of the Tasmanian Tiger and found the meaning of life." It then asked, "Is this person a prophet, saint, or just a crackpot?"

Griffith is the man who spent six years trying to save the Tasmanian Tiger: "I heard about this animal under threat, and thought I'd go and save it," he explains. But it was too late. The species is now

believed hounded into extinction. It blew Griffith's mind: "I found animals are not the problem, humans are. I saw suffering in people, unhappiness in people...there had to be a reason. Most people give up on the profound questions. I kept with them."

For sixteen years, while establishing a furniture factory, Griffith worked toward his book, driven by a "desperate need to reconcile my extreme idealism with reality." The result is an instantly controversial blend of holistic science and messianic fervour. The author says of his own book, "As to the truth of the explanations to be given in this book it is worth noting that when charles Darwin

introduced the idea of natural selection, noted scientist Thomas Huxley said, 'How extremely stupid of me not to have thought of that.' The explanations make so much sense that after reading them you similarly will be left feeling how obvious they always were. In fact, you will probably feel as though you and all humanity have been brought out of a trance."

Therein follows the story of biological and spiritual evolution according to Griffith. His

grasp of biology and physics places in the tradition of Teilhard de Chardin and Ilya Prigogine. But he goes beyond this seeking to act as a prophet of our spiritual transformation. He proclaims that all our past divisive behaviour was a necessary phase of "human adolescence" in which we had to learn self-mastery and indepen-

dence before we could come at authentic unity. For Jeremy Griffith, this understanding alone is enough to launch a new age: "Those who lived during humanity's two million years of defenceless adolescence where the whole world in effect disowned them for their unavoidable divisiveness are the truly great heroes. We and those before us have been the ones who had to overthrow ignorance.... Weary and in tatters, the victorious army of humanity has finally broken into the kingdom of heaven. We have still to realize it, but we are now standing inside the gates of paradise."

Perhaps one criticism is worth making. Griffith presumes himself free from cultural bias in generalizing about the journey of all people. He assumes that people of all cultures are seeking the same ultimate goal and must get there through the same series of developmental steps. But every now and then the reader catches sight of the particular Australian environment in which Griffith lives and seems to have his relevance: "We can now begin to talk about what is really going on inside ourselves instead of having to talk about our latest pair of attractive blue shoes or our latest business takeover, or just the weather...In truth we have each been terribly alone within ourselves. It is why we have often identified with such lonely places as the sea and the desert."

-Brian Griffith



The Biological Reason Why Humans Have Had To Be Individual, Competitive, Egocentric & Aggressive

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JEREMY GRIEFITH

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ANSWERS ACROSS: I geostationary, II am, I2 kine, I3 nora, I4 lipid, I7 atonement, 20 hop, 23 sox, 24 hera, 25 yb, 27 limpet, 28 napes, 30 myth, 32 emu, 33 act, 35 paw, 36 camus, 38 drama, 39 li, 40 ley, 41 feedback, 45 eta, 46 road, 48 me, 50 eams, 51 globule napes, 30 myth, 32 emu, 33 act, 35 paw, 36 camus, 38 drama, 39 li, 40 ley, 41 feedback, 45 eta, 46 road, 48 me, 50 eams, 51 globule napes, 32 em, 40 eta, 41 fee, 42 eta, 43 cog, 44 kal, 47 do 48 mu, 49 el exists, 21 or, 22 pathways, 24 hem, 26 pam, 31 tame, 32 em, 34 ode, 37 aid, 41 fee, 42 eta, 43 cog, 44 kal, 47 do 48 mu, 49 el

GOOD VIEWING

There is an age-old reverence for the written word, particularly among those for whom this is a natural communication mode. For much of the world, access to books is limited by cost, education, and the daily demands of very busy lives. Bypassing these barriers, the movie, and its ubiquitous step-child, the video, is showing the world to itself. Movies reflect back to us who we are. And never have they been more accessible. A few years ago I was travelling on a local bus on one of the out islands of Cochin in Kerala. As we went down the one-lane road past waving palm trees and small houses, we had to stop because an elephant was blocking our way. Out the window of the bus, a video store was doing a thriving business at seven in the morning! Images of America, of Europe, of Asia, and of India were walking out the door.

People everywhere are flocking to see themselves and discover the human family. And our reflections ask us to go deeper, to see beyond our old self-images and create the new.

In this occasional column, I want to report on some movies that may slip by unnoticed or on older movies that are now available in video. They offer portraits of the emerging story, raise fundamental questions, and could serve as a focussing point for group discussions. In this age of the video camera they may even inspire you to make your own.

Powaqqatsi (Life in Transformation)

Produced by Menahem Golgan and Yoram Globus Directed by Geoffrey Reggioj Music composed by Philip Glass

Powaqqatsi is a film poem, a montage of vivid images and music, without words, that documents two ways of life: that of small scale indigenous cultures and that of technology and the mega-city. Worlds collide. The word "Powaqqatsi" is a Hopi conjunctive of two words - powaq, sorcerer, plus qatsi, life - referring to a way of life that consumes the life force of other beings to further its own life. The message is deeply disturbing, and memorable. We "know" we are living in a time of enormous transition. The makers of the film Koyaanisqatsi (life out of balance) portray this transition ruthlessly, and beautifully. Their concern and commitment is more than evident.

The film invites deep searching. Is consumption, as Joseph Campbell has so often suggested ("Consume and be consumed. That's life!") inevitable and inherent in the nature of the evolutionary process? Since most of the images in the film are of men, what is happening to the women? How can we empower that which is life-enhancing in the rural village and in our technologically-oriented cities? The need for making conscious choices about this now could not be clearer.

-Robin Van Doren



Marie-Louise von Franz, Honorary Patron Studies in Jungian Psychology by Jungian Analysts

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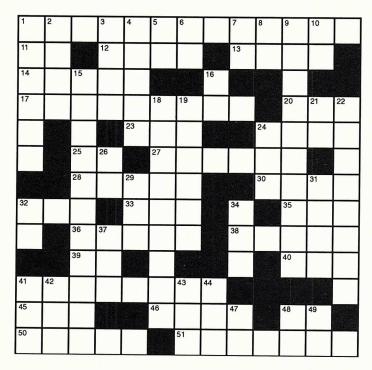
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EASY

ASSOCIATIONS ACROSS

- 1 earth at rest
- 11 present indicative of be
- 12 archaic for cattle
- 13 Irish contraction for honora (honour)
- 14 organic compound consisting of fats
- 17 to make amends for wrongdoing
- 20 to move by leaping or springing
- 23 kind of short stockings
- 24 sister and wife of Zeus
- 25 ytterbium
- 27 shellfish with fleshy foot
- 28 backs of necks (plural)
- 30 exploits of gods and godesses
- 32 like an ostrich but smaller
- 33 thing done
- 35 to touch, dig or stike with feet
- 36 won Nobel prize for literature 1957
- 38 composition that tells a story
- 39 symbol for lightest known metal
- 40 silver coin of Romania
- 41 return of output
- 45 untouchables of Japan
- 46 a way between places
- 48 who is doing this puzzle
- 50 to receive wage for one's labour
- 51 drop of fat

ASSOCIATIONS DOWN:

- millions of stars
- 2 to utter sounds
- 3 snake sheds it
- 4 rise and fall of oceans
- 5 indefinite article
- from tellurite
- 7 position above
- not ever, not in any degree
- concerning original patterns or models
- 10 ancient Egyptian god
- 15 having many nuclei
- 16 chemical symbol of protective coating
- 18 smallest particle of compound
- 19 has reality or actual being
- 21 conjuction introducing alternative
- 22 routes through a forest
- 24 border, edge or margin
- 26 chemical symbol of heavy metal
- 29 beloved of all (Pamphilos)
- 31 try to do it to a lion
- 32 a square of one size of type
- 34 a poem written to be sung
- 37 help
- 41 payment for services
- 42 45A
- 43 teeth on the rim of a wheel
- 44 abbr. first day of ancient Roman month
- 47 to act
- 48 12th letter of Greek alphabet
- 49 elevated railway

DIFFICULT

ASSOCIATIONS ACROSS

- 1 description of satellite
- 11 existent
- 12 double plural for cow
- 13 Ibsen's unliberated woman
- 14 insoluble in water
- 17 at one with
- 20 dried ripe flower cone
- 23 hose
- 24 Greek goddess
- 25 rare earth metallic element
- 27 of lamprey
- 28 fibulas
- 30 old story of unknown author
- 32 flightless bird
- 33 simulate
- 35 2 of them make papaya
- 36 French writer born Algeria
- 38 a deed conspicuously done
- 39 quarter tone in music
- 40 Romanian: lion
- 41 amplifies or decreases signal
- 45 13th letter of Greek alphabet
- 46 path
- 48 who made this puzzle
- 50 to bring to harvest
- 51 tiny ball

ASSOCIATIONS DOWN:

- 1 name of a satellite
- 2 discharge
- animal's outer integument
- moon's effect
- one sort of
- chemical symbol wt. 127.61
- Egyptian biblical name
- suitor's dread
- about the first type
- 10 Madame Curie's big find
- 15 having several atom centres
- 16 protection from rust
- 18 chemical description
- 19 he/she is
- 21 contraction of other, author, either
- 22 courses
- 24 to pause in speech
- 26 Egyptian myth: the soul
- 29 Napoleonic card game
- 31 without spirit or force
- 32 colloquial for them
- 34 pindaric - -
- 37 an exchequer loan
- 41 feudal benefice
- 42 Japanese low castes of old
- 43 manipulate fraudulently
- 44 to announce solemnly
- 47 carry out
- 48 mathematical variable
- 49 right angled wing of building

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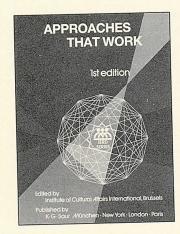
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