

## NOTES OF INTEREST

**ASSOCIATION PROPOSED:** Ron Reed of Texas Wesleyan University sends us "A Modest Proposal." A proposal for a North American Association for Philosophy for Children. Here it is as proposed by Dr. Reed:

There is a feeling among many U.S. proponents of Philosophy for Children that, especially in the U.S., but also in other parts of North America, Philosophy for Children is not as healthy as it once was or as it is in other parts of the world. One looks at recent developments in Australia, Spain and Iceland and it is hard not to come to the conclusion that there are significant problems with the North American context.

Every situation has problems that are specific to it, but while, for example, the Australians and the Europeans have formed organizations to deal with the problems that arise in and from their situations, there is no organization set up to deal with things specific to the North American situation.

If a North American Philosophy for Children Association were formed, it might look at problems such as the dearth of new Ph.D.s with an interest in Philosophy for Children. How do we attract recent Ph.D.s (in philosophy, in psychology, in art, in education, and so on) to Philosophy for Children when their employees (universities) do not encourage participation in Philosophy for Children?

In the past, there has been an organization — the Association for Staff Development — which *de facto*, was North American in nature. That association, which has now been subsumed by the International Council of Philosophical Inquiry with Children, had, at once, a more narrow aim and a broader audience. Its purpose was to focus on issues in teacher education and make general recommendations and suggestions to a world audience. The North American Association would have a broader aim. Its aim, in fact, would be to deal with anything its members took as problematic. Its audience, on the other hand, would be those within the community of Philosophy of Children practitioners in North America.

There is a beautiful anarchical thread that runs through the fabric of Philosophy for Children's practice — a basic mistrust of organizations and requirements and impositions. As Philosophy for Children grows, it seems we undergo the same expansion and layering of organizations that other groups suffer. The North American Association takes seriously that threat of anarchism and, thus, presents itself with diffidence. It invites for membership all those who think there are problems with Philosophy for Children in North America, and who would be willing to attempt to solve these problems.

If you would like to become a member, please contact Mort Morehouse, co-editor of *Analytic Teaching*. If there is sufficient interest, we will begin thinking about newsletters, meetings, elections and so on.

**AT AND THE BULLETIN:** In conversations with Félix Garcia Moriyón, editor of *Bulletin of the International Council for Philosophical Inquiry with Children* at the ICPI conference at Graz, we restated your desire to not duplicate articles. As we can not communicate with each other regularly before publication, we ask that contributors pick the most appropriate place for their submission and send it accordingly. *AT's* guidelines for submission are found on its back pages and *The Bulletin* seeks articles of about 1000 words, brief news (about a page), and stories in any language with a brief abstract in English.

**ART IN THIS ISSUE:** Computer altered photographs taken in Graz, Austria, at the Fifth International Conference on Philosophy for Children provide the photo essay in this issue.

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