

# FUTURE *takes*

*Your international platform for future related issues*

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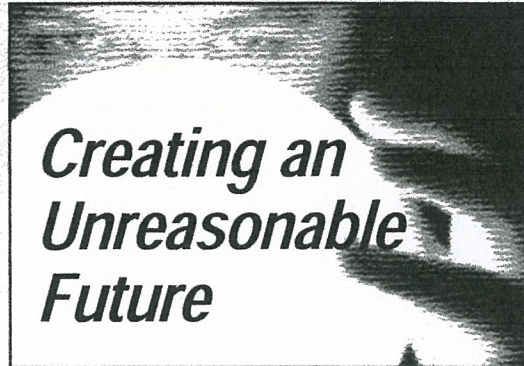
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By *Monika Kosmahl Aring*

One of the things I love about the future is that it is empty. Just plain empty. When you think about it, by definition, the future has nothing in it. However, we seem to live as if we were the victims of demented administrative assistants who take our "past" files and put them into the drawer marked "future." So of course, we only end up recreating the past, over and over and over.<sup>1</sup> I'm not talking about forecasting, and extrapolating trends, and all those valuable tools.

I'm talking about what I believe may be our fundamental way of avoiding dealing with the possibility that we can create the future intentionally.

What if the future is a blank canvas on which we are creating the future, moment by moment with all our actions, and lack of actions? I find that this way of looking at the

future empowering because it allows for possibility of something different than what is possible if we just project the past into the future. In other words, how the future will look could be thought of as a function of what we say will go into it.

When I worked with Fred Jervis, the author of *Future Planning*, and the Key Results logic frame technology<sup>2</sup>, I learned that it is possible to project myself into the future, look

See *Creating Future*, continued on page 19

## The Rise of the Self

### *Why the 'Individual' is Becoming Increasingly Paramount*

By *Carolyn Swarr Stauffer*  
*Johannesburg, South Africa*

**Kaleidoscope of Self:** The warm summer sunlight streams down on to bleached grass on which young people of every description recline. Skin of every hue is out on display as tattoos and the marks of body piercing repetitively punctuate this ornate pastiche of

humanity. Visible nipple rings wink at onlookers as they take pride of place in this parade of self-styled individualism. The location is Zoo Lake, the gathering an African Jazz festival on a balmy mid-day in central Johannesburg. Here one finds an eclectic urban setting which welcomes a 'meeting space' for post-modern young people, a favourite haunt for many, and one that I frequented myself as an emerging adult.

See *Rise of the Self*, continued on page 9