

issue four • summer 2003

Think

philosophy for everyone

The Royal Institute of Philosophy

Think

Contributions and communications should be sent to:

Dr Stephen Law (editor)

Think

Heythrop College

University of London

Kensington Square

London W8 5HQ

Email: think@royalinstitutephilosophy.org.

Guidelines for contributors

The editor welcomes accessible contributions from philosophers and other thinkers on any topic broadly related either to philosophy or to the development of thinking skills. It is anticipated that most contributors will be academics.

Contributions should be below 3K words (unless otherwise agreed with the editor). Very short pieces are welcome.

Think welcomes submissions which are clear and to the point and in the straightforward prose characteristic of the best philosophy. At the same time, the editor would also like to encourage the use of imaginative and unusual ways of making ideas engaging and accessible, e.g. through the use of dialogue, humour, illustrations (black and white: line and photos), examples taken from the media, etc. Papers engaging with some topical debate are especially welcome.

Contributors should presuppose no philosophical background knowledge on the part of the reader. The use of jargon and logical notation, especially where unexplained, should be avoided.

While the presentation of original thought is very much encouraged, a submission need not go beyond providing an engaging and accessible introduction to a particular philosophical issue or line of argument. Authors are asked to include within their submissions clear and fairly thorough introductions to any debates to which they wish to make a contribution.

The Royal Institute of Philosophy retains the option of reprinting published pieces in later collections and in electronic form. Authors may republish pieces with the Institute's permission (the requirement being that *Think* be credited with first publication). Authors are automatically free to republish in any collection of their own work. Work should only be submitted if the author is willing to be bound by the conditions set

Think

philosophy for everyone

issue four • summer 2003

**A periodical of
The Royal Institute of Philosophy**

ISSN: 1477-1756

Contents

Editorial	5
Why is there anything at all? <i>Brian Davies</i>	7
God and the big bang <i>Antony Flew</i>	17
God and the history of time <i>Paul Helm</i>	25
Swinburne's arguments from design <i>Richard Norman</i>	35
Reasons for doubting design <i>Nick Bostrom</i>	43
Richard Swinburne's <i>Is There a God?</i> <i>Richard Dawkins</i>	51
Can God explain anything? <i>Theodore Schick</i>	55
The perennial problem of evil <i>Mark Piper</i>	65
Irreconcilable differences <i>James Lett</i>	75
Faith on trial <i>Julian Baggini</i>	81
Thinking tools: How to sound like a guru <i>Stephen Law</i>	85
Paradoxes: the paradox of democracy <i>Michael Clark</i>	89
Ockham's Razor <i>Sharon Kaye</i>	91
Book review: <i>Wittgenstein's Poker</i> <i>Scott David O'Reilly</i>	97
Chalkface	101