

# Commentary

Paul Martin Lester, Editor

Aristotle once said, "Thoughts are impossible without images" (Platt, ¶12). If alive today, he would no doubt be holding this journal in his hands, as you are, enjoying the many thoughts that are derived from the images it contains. I look forward to my copy of *VCQ*, as I am sure you do, because it is a unique mix of the academic and professional worlds. What other publication prints research studies with commentaries, book reviews, a bibliography, and so many images (this issue contains 33)? We all need to make sure this treasure is supported with high-quality research with equally high-quality reviews, innovative photographic essays and collections, and with library and non-Visual Communication division subscriptions. With all of our efforts we will continue to influence visual communication throughout the world.

But enough of the spiel that got me this job. Bill Silcock put in a tremendous amount of time and trouble to interview news video editors around the world. He not only found and reported on the cultural differences between them, but also the impact on the changes from analog to digital equipment and practices.

I don't need to tell you what turbulent times we live in. 9/11 and the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars continue to divide the world's citizens like no other time in history. Fortunately, the tragedies also inspire thoughtful research. Shahira Fahmy and Wayne Wanta

are two of the best we have and it is always helpful learning from their topic choices, methodologies, and conclusions.

I, along with everyone else in the room during the special projects session last summer at the AEJMC Conference, was intrigued by the images by Dennis Chamberlin. As the cover photograph implies, we are in danger of becoming the screen (the background pattern for his inside images comes from my own television with the cable cord pulled out of the back). I saw a beautiful color portrait in *The New Yorker* magazine by Stefanie Schneider and she agreed to show her work within these pages. I chose her series, "10525" mainly because when I tried to find the city the "zip code" was connected with, the answer came back, "The zip code you entered could not be found in our database" ("Zip Code Lookup," ¶1). Somehow I like the fact that her pictures can be thought of as being from nowhere and everywhere. An out-of-the-blue e-mail from Greg Constantine a year ago has blossomed into a close friendship that I cherish. It is my humbled pleasure to introduce you to his sensitive eye and mind.

New to this editor's tenure: Jean Trumbo, the always outspoken and fascinating wild woman of viscom (and fortunately, she's not alone!), has agreed to write a column concerned with graphic design issues. Plus, Larry Mullen has taken the reigns of Book Review Editor from Patsy Watkins

(who in her always delicate manner decided she had had enough of the job!) without losing stride. His review of *Under Fire* gives you a good idea of his own thoughtful style while the review of *Defining Visual Rhetorics*, not an easy collection to tackle, is eloquently accomplished by the word-weaving mastery of the always poetic Cecelia Baldwin.

Lastly, I want to thank the folks on the Editorial Board, the members of the Visual Communication Division, the current staff of *VCQ*, the professional staff at Taylor & Francis, and anyone else instrumental in throwing this dog this bone. But most importantly, I cannot express to you the graciousness shown to me during this transition by Julianne—you will always be my Forever Friend, Newton.

## References

- Zip code lookup* (n.d.). Retrieved October 19, 2006, from the United States Postal Service Web site: [http://zip4.usps.com/zip4/citytown\\_zip.jsp](http://zip4.usps.com/zip4/citytown_zip.jsp)
- Platt, P. (n.d.). *Cave art and the origin of speeches*. Retrieved October 19, 2006, from the Cosmos Club Web site: <http://www.cosmos-club.org/web/journals/2001/platt.html>

**Paul Martin Lester is a professor of communications at California State University, Fullerton.**

**E-mail: [lester@fullerton.edu](mailto:lester@fullerton.edu)**

Copyright of *Visual Communication Quarterly* is the property of Lawrence Erlbaum Associates and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.