

AP Activities

ON THE WAY TO THE FUTURE

One of the persistent tendencies within humanistic psychology is an interest in the future. Once one gets the idea of releasing human potential, one can't shake off a certain fascination with the idea of a world where human beings are less limited than they are today. How would things be organised, differently from how they are now?

What would a mental hospital be like? In a rural area, a new hospital had to be built recently, and the director was shown plans for a large hospital building. He turned it down, and instead made arrangements to use local villages as wards for the patients. 'This meant that each patient was placed in an existing household, accompanied by at least one member of his family to look after him. Doctors and nurses then circulated about these village wards . . .' This was a project described in a book with a somewhat misleading title*.

In the same book is a long and fascinating essay by Willis Harman, called *The nature of our changing society*, which explores the possibilities of a society in which more people are growth-motivated, rather than deficiency-motivated. He calls this the person-centred society. It would be a society where education is a lifetime activity: 'The significant distinctions will not be work *versus* education, or work *versus* leisure, but work-education-leisure *versus* 'killing time'.' The historical perspective is a well-argued one, and deserves detailed consideration. It suggests, among other things, a whole new view of science - what it is, and what it is for.

In case this all seems too speculative and airy-fairy, most of the rest of the book is devoted to a tough-minded critical examination of how organizations can be run in a more person-centred way. For example, a paper by J.V. Clark & C.G. Krone described an open-systems design which gets away from the usual hierarchical organization:

Under such an organizational design, the role of management moves away from identifying environmental changes and directing the system's responses to them, toward identifying changes in the capacity of the work force itself to engage in that process.

*John M. Thomas & Warren G. Bennis (eds) *Management of conflict and change*, Penguin 1972.

The book also examines forces which may block the development of more human approaches in organizations. Katz & Kahn suggest, for example, that it needs a big push from outside before the average large business is going to change in any real way. Such changes may well come from the kind of severe economic shocks which are becoming more common today.

There are many more stimulating and suggestive thoughts to be found in this book, although it does not always take a humanistic-psychology standpoint.

Training conference Psychology and Psychotherapy Association

This conference will take place from 21-24 October 1974, and is restricted to sixty people. Dr Carl R. Rogers will speak on the first day, on 'The impact of the client-centred approach on various fields'. The main body of the conference will be devoted to small groups working with experienced tutors on any one of five approaches to psychological therapy, as follows: Gestalt therapy (Robert Selman); Transactional Analysis (Michael Reddy); Psychodrama (Roy Shuttleworth); Encounter methods (John Rowan); and a Personal Construct approach (Miller Mair). All participants will also have talks and discussions on each of these five methods. They will receive selected 'core' reference lists for further reading on all the topics covered and copies of various articles on the different approaches. Further details from Mrs Margaret McAllan, 'PPA Conference', Psychology Department, Bexley Hospital, Old Bexley Lane, Kent DA5 2BW (telephone 29-26282).

You are invited to find out how humanistic psychology helps to generate a way of life, not only for the person himself in his own private psyche, but also for the same person as a social being, a member of society.

The subscription is £6 per year, which includes a subscription to *Self & Society*, or £4 for mailing members. Mailing members receive *Self & Society* and all communications from the AHP and will be entitled to attend all meetings but without discounts.

To: The Treasurer, Association for Humanistic Psychology,
62 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 0AU.

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OCCUPATION

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GROWTH CENTRES

BRISTOL ENCOUNTER CENTRE

28 Drakes Way, Portishead, Bristol. Tel: Portishead 847490. Weekend Encounter Groups, Meditation, Creativity Groups Mini-Society Work, Co-Counselling, various On-Going Groups. Directors: Ken Waldie, John Crook.

THE CHURCHILL CENTRE

22 Montagu Street, W1, off Montagu Square. (Nearest tube: Marble Arch) Tel: 402 9475. A centre for human relations training, emotional education and group therapy, set up by Ken Holme, a consultant psychologist.

EAST MIDLANDS AND FURTHER NORTH

Anyone interested in getting something together anywhere between Birmingham and Newcastle, please get in touch with Brian Cranwell or Alan Byron at 74 Banner Cross Road, Sheffield S11 9HR, or telephone 360435. The idea is for occasional get together and the exchange of information about what is going on encounter-wise in the area.

QUAESITOR

187 Walm Lane, London, NW2. Tel: 01-452 8489. Director: David Blagden.

ENTROPY

11 Lindfield Gardens NW3. Director: Ronald Ullman. Tel: 01-435 8427. Sunday evenings introductory sensitivity training groups for well functioning people. No therapy is offered. The emphasis is on a new way of relating. Telephone for brochure.

A.T.M.A.

Birmingham: six months intensive offering a variety of techniques including Gestalt, Yoga, Massage, Psychodrama, Meditation, Intergroup Relationships, Bio-Energetics, Body Movements. 72a Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham 13. Tel: Kington 781 or 021-449 2947.