



Activities

WHAT IS THE GROWTH MOVEMENT'S FUTURE?

Growth Centres in the U.S. have been closing down. The encounter and 'new therapy' movement which began about 12 years ago, has begun a downward spiral that may presage a slow death.

Are we Europeans (including U.S. emigrants) to come to the same destiny? We are now reaching a crescendo of growth since our 1968 origins, but perhaps soon . . . in 3 or 4 years . . . we may also crumble and dwindle.

I don't know. You don't know. But it's time that we began to take hold of our destinies and act with foresight. Although nations cannot do this on an international level, I would hope we have enough wisdom and talent (as well as experience) in a growth movement world to constructively pilot our future.

I met with Helen Davis, AHP secretary and a woman of charm (as well as dynamite), and one thing became clear: Helen cannot do it alone.

Helen called three meetings for growth centers, co-counselling groups, crisis centers, and other 'humanistic growth' organisations in order to discuss plans and cooperative ventures for the future. Unfortunately, attendance was poor, and she felt group representatives were acting as if they were doing her and AHP a favor by attending, rather than seeing that their own vital future interests were at stake.

We've got to grow up, and we've got to get together to help each other do it. For that reason, I see a 'growth movement' meeting with good preparation, such as sharing information and concerns *before* the meeting would be a crucial step in our coping with our future.

Some scatterings of information: The Paris 'growth' scene is expanding. Tan Nguen's *Arkana* began last year as a split off from CDPH (Centre de Developement de Potential Humain), with John-Michel Fourcade ably managing the latter group, and both are doing well. (Centre d'Evolution, home base of Jacques Durand-Dassier, Gestaltists Claude and Christiane Allais, and Andreas Damozo (who does an intensive form of 'expression corporelle'), is now located in the most exquisite growth movement premises in Europe near St. Germain Des Pres). The two other Paris groups: Tribu (run by Aldo, George and Roland), Graaf (run by Aline Martel) are also running fuller programmes than ever before. Co-counselling groups are also spreading through Paris (though even faster throughout England), and free 'new therapy' groups are being offered at the University of Vincennes, paid for by the French Government.

The message is the growth movement is growing.

At least, in parts of Europe. *The*

Community and Quaesitor centres are about running as before, and Ken Holme's Churchill centre has become home base for Gerda Boyesen's new centre for bionergy, while Ken is also continuing his most invaluable work in introducing new therapy methods to business and governmental groups.

The job of 'spreading' growth movement methods is a vast and complicated one. My feeling is that this is where the U.S. movement failed, with the movement locked into its original mould and eventually running out of 'avant garde heads' who were the first and ultimately *only* clientele.

What areas of expansion did the growth movement miss out on?

Primarily, education. (Primary schools, colleges.) Also hospitals, prisons, children's homes. Another important area. The liberation movements for women, minority groups, homosexuals, high school students, and so on. The fine techniques of the growth movement can aid political groups in terms of revitalising communication, sharing affection, developing self-help projects and so on, but the movement must move beyond its restrictive 'its all in your head' ideology to see the necessity for political and environmental changes, e.g., child care centres for women who need time to work or just free time, help offered to crisis centres and developing communes, support for legislative changes that will guarantee economic equality, and so on.

Jerome Liss

David Bladoven at Quaesitor has already initiated *Bridge* an independent charity that will offer 'growth movement' lecture-demonstrations to hospitals, prisons and schools. More groups can do this sort of thing, but they will need help.

Again, a meeting to discuss future plans and ways to cooperate to bring them about would aid their realization and extend their reach. Written communication helps. *Self and Society* is here to stay (I hope), and *Energy and Character* this more technical (Wildwood House, 1974) articles. My own book, *Free to Feel* (Wildwood House, 1974), will I hope, help make plain sense of the intricate network of 'new therapies'. The books' political position promulgates *self-regulation* and *decentralised decision making* as guidelines while the growth movement recognizes its political responsibility.

But direct communication and cooperation is where our strength lies. And this is what we must use to remain active creators of our own destinies, and helpers to others who also want to fulfil their potential. So let's meet for constructive action to carry! . . . this through.

P.S. My apologies to growth centres and others relevant groups who were not mentioned. This article is more an editorial than to give the full range of 'what is happening now?' Perhaps 'growth movement' groups can make sure others hear of their work and special projects by taking the responsibility to inform *Self and Society*.

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