

ANTIOCH COLLEGE

## Master of Arts Degree

We are frequently asked where people can get a Degree in Humanistic Psychology in the United Kingdom and we have always had to say 'nowhere' although some particular lecturers and professors are sympathetic to the ideas of Humanistic Psychology. Now at last, a Master of Arts Degree course in Humanistic Psychology is starting this autumn when up to ten students will begin to design their own external degree plans at the London Centre of Antioch College. Each students' course will be individually designed in consultation with Dr. John Andrew Miller who was responsible for starting the course and supervising it. The course will provide an academic and experiential grounding for people already working in the helping professions, including group leaders in the Human Potential Movement. This degree also provides an opportunity for those wishing to explore the philosophical aspects or research possibilities of Humanistic Psychology. While the M.A. programme does not emphasize self-development, this would be an inevitable by-product as people spend from one year to three years in completing their degree.

This degree is part of the individualized Master of Arts scheme which Antioch already has in operation in other fields and is similar to degrees in Humanistic Psychology which Antioch offers at various centres in America. The London programme however will put more of an emphasis on individually designed syllabuses and on thesis writing than do the American programmes.

Antioch College was founded in 1852 and has a world reputation for its innovations in undergraduate and postgraduate education.

In London each student will consult with Dr. John Miller and design his own combination of training programmes, academic courses, and of thesis area. John Miller was an honours graduate of Brown University and took his Master of Philosophy and Doctorate at Yale. He has a background in Gestalt, transactional analysis, and group dynamics, and has taught in the U.K. at Keele and Warwick, as well as with the American programmes in England of Empire State College, the State of New York and University of Maryland.

Once the degree plan is finalized, Dr. Miller and the student would select one other person to sit on a degree committee which will continuously approve and evaluate the

work. Among those agreeing to sit on degree committees are Dr. Nicholas Hedley, with a background in work with addicts and training in bioenergetics and encounter; Dr. Michael Parsons, recently qualified for the Royal College of Psychiatrists and trained in bioenergetics, Dr. David Taylor, Dr. Chris Phillips and Ms Karen Graef. These people will also teach the seminars and provide tutorials as needed for the academic component of this course.

Academic seminars will include such topics as 'The Discovery of the Unconscious', 'Anatomy and Physiology for Humanistic Psychology', and psychometrics. Each seminar will meet at night, once a week for ten weeks, and the most probable programme would be for each student to take two a term up to a total of four. Topics for these seminars will reflect both student and staff interests and needs. The training programmes that a student may select will also reflect the student's particular interests and goals. To some extent these will be dependent on what is being offered at Quaesitor, Community and other establishments. Of greater concern is the amount of time spent in training, which should include at least one winter six-month on-going training programme and one intensive (daily) two-week training programme during the summer. Additional training can come from supervision sessions with some of the M.A. staff members. Ideally the training component as the academic component, will lead naturally to the thesis area the student wishes to explore.

Here too the emphasis on self-responsibility means that the student will need to pick a topic and refine it as he undertakes his experiential and academic work. Possible thesis areas already being discussed by enrolling students include a case study of therapy sessions combining regression and bio-energetics; transactional analysis in personnel work for large corporations; work with vision improvement - Bates method, Radix training, bio-energetics; the application of group work in a mental hospital in Italy; and the use of massage in therapy.

Seven students will be starting in September but there is a possibility of others joining later in the programme as the training is not tied to a rigid academic year. For this M.A. course, Antioch College is seeking people with a BA, BSc or equivalent degree, from accredited recognized institutions or from people with an equivalent amount of self education through life experience. Given sufficient numbers, Antioch will create a BA level course to be run through their London centre at the Angel and which will also include six-month and nine-month intensives as given at Quaesitor. Where prior learning experience has been acquired in Humanistic Psychology and is documented and evaluable, Antioch would grant advanced standing of up to a half year, thus shortening the time needed for an M.A. to one year. Where such learning does not have documentation and evaluation, Antioch may allow some advanced M.A. standing or BA equivalency, but this will be negotiated in each individual's case with the main campus at Yellow Springs, Ohio.

Any one needing further details about this should apply to Dr. John Andrew Miller at the Antioch Centre for British Studies, 40 Danbury Street, London N1 (01-226 0693).