



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In the last edition of 'Self and Society', Chris Scott wrote a reasonable critique of the 'Self-Awareness Movement'. While it was possible to argue with some of the points he made, I was surprised by John Rowan's ad hominem attack on Chris. Why is it that John so often has to write defensively and has to try to destroy the 'opposition'? Surely, criticism should be welcomed; it is what keeps the body of knowledge lively and stimulating.

I felt, too, that John took Chris' article a bit personally when he stated that: "The article was supposed to be about me". Surely this is an example of the sort of individualism that Chris described in his article.

John tends to fall into the 'famous names' trap. He seems to assume that because a well known writer in the field has written something, it necessarily makes it an important statement. His rebuttal was peppered with fairly lengthy quotes from other peoples' work.

The closing sentences of the article struck me as being arrogant and rude:

One of the great intellectual achievements within humanistic psychology, the great leap forward of Alvin Mahrer (1978) only became available quite recently, *and I don't suppose Scott has even heard of it. But that's another story.* (emphasis added)

What is another story?

It is curious that Self and Society is committed to 'concern, love, awareness of the individual in his or her own right' and yet the review editor writes pieces that are so hostile and self-satisfied.

I hope that John does not claim to be writing on behalf of the whole humanistic movement but acknowledges that what he writes is as much a reflection of his own psychology as anything else.

I, for one, found much to think about in Chris Scott's article.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Burnard

Dear Self and Society,

I am a member of AHP, a homeopath, and about to begin a psychotherapy training course shortly.

For my thesis, I chose the theme of the wounded healer, the myth of Cheiron the Centaur and the legend of Amfortas the Grail King and Parsifal - as symbolic of the dynamics of the therapeutic relationship.

Researching and writing this was such a profound experience of discovery, that I am now expanding the 10,000 word thesis into a book.

I would like to invite contributions from AHP members and Self and Society readers along the following lines:

- 1) What part the wounded healer motif has played in their own lives.
- 2) What others myths - classical or otherwise - have had a personal meaning for them.

Potential contributors can either send their contributions, or meet me for a taped personal interview.

I hope to hear from as many readers as possible.

Warmest wishes,

Dyana Rodriguez
London W6

Dear Editor,

Following Jerome Liss's article 'Media Zombies or Self Helpers', how about Self and Society publishing a guide to the main self help/empowerment networks covering particular spheres of activity? We would be interested in putting some work into this.

Yours sincerely,

Petra Griffiths and Dennis Freeland,
Muswell Hill.

Would anyone interested in pursuing this, or who has relevant information, contact us at: Creativity and Empowerment Workshops, 52 Grand Avenue, Muswell Hill, London N10 3BP. Tel: (01) 444 9681.
