

## **GROUP LEADERS' MEETING**

On June 20th some fifty five, mostly unaligned, British group leaders and therapists met with the primary objective of examining whether there could be closer and more useful links with the Association for Humanistic Psychology in Britain.

Areas covered included accreditation, training, research and AHP administration and functions.

Talking of registration and accreditation, John Rowan said that the last conference of The British Psychological Society had had a debate about the registration of psychologists without any consensus being reached. There did not seem a great deal of energy about for legislating for "professional" registration but John suggested that the idea of self and peer assessment was rather more valuable. John Heron was strongly against statutory registration which he saw as a way of professionals claiming exclusive power and status and systematically trying to deny those same skills and status to others outside their closed circles. Steve Gans suggested that it would be helpful to have an organisation that spoke for those who have attained a high level of competence and that this would give them *status and recognition*, as well as the mobility of other so-called professionals.

Various training courses are currently being run by people present at the meeting and John Heron suggested that they should meet for what he called a "peacock parade" to display their courses in a kind of competitive bazaar. Prospective students would be able to judge between the different courses - or course leaders.

Oded Manor asked whether the training courses offered core skills, as opposed to beliefs and aspirations. Being able to point to core skills, was the only way of selling a course to administrators. But was it possible to determine what the core skills are? In this respect the Rogerians are way ahead. And yet there is no Rogerian training in Britain.

It was felt that research should be an important part of AHP's activities and Steve Gans pointed out that the Antioch programme was providing the opportunity for several interesting research projects. John Andrew Miller suggested that the publishing of a more academic journal than *Self and Society* would help the status of humanistic psychology.

Positive results from the meeting were the setting up of a group to look at standards and ethics, a pilot self and peer assessment programme, a reciprocal counselling programme and the decision to hold a further meeting on November 28th.

**Vivian Milroy**