

training in nonviolence

If it's natural to kill, why do men have to go into training to learn how? There's violence in human nature, but there's also decency, love, kindness. Man organizes, buys, sells, pushes violence. The nonviolenter wants to organize the opposite side. That's all nonviolence is — organized love.

- Joan Baez

Seventh issue

JANUARY 1972

1/72

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL
3, Caledonian Road,
London, N.1. England

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Editor's Note This is the seventh Training in Nonviolence Bulletin. If we had succeeded in publishing all the issues we intended in 1971, this would have been the tenth. We are indeed very regretful that we have been unable to keep you informed about the nonviolent training movement, which is the sole purpose of the Bulletin, but obtaining material from those who are engaged in training activities has proved a difficult problem.

At the Preston Patrick Seminar it was decided that each issue would be edited in a different country by one of the trainers there. The edited material would then be sent to the WRI who would produce the bulletin and despatch it to subscribers. Unfortunately this system has not worked and in spite of our best nonviolent powers of persuasion, we found ourselves without material for publication.

The movement desperately needs new ideas and a sense of solidarity. Moreover, it is important to work on transnational activities, and unless we can keep in touch with each other we shall not be able to build a global outlook and programme of nonviolent action. We must therefore strongly appeal to you to

- (a) send us reports and details of new projects, etc. so that we can make the information available to a wider readership who are interested to know what is happening in the field of training,
- (b) give us your suggestions as to how we could persuade those who are engaged in training to send us their ideas.

We hope you all will respond to this 'appeal' with enthusiasm.

THE NONVIOLENT TRAINING MOVEMENT IN 1972 - George Lakey

In 'Dandelion', the 'spasmodical' of the A Quaker Action Group/Movement for a New Society, George Lakey looks forward to training programmes for 1972. On the political context he says 'the movement is floundering because most organizations, including the coalition still are resisting substantial change of their own message, strategy, and style. After a couple of years of persistent 'grass-rootsism' from local areas, some are still top-down organizations.'

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Contribution of training

In an election year which trivializes issues, just when the movement must go deeper and the people are in general ready to go deeper, what should trainers do? Training is important to a healthy movement and essential to a revolutionary movement. Whether via the folk schools of Scandinavia or union study programs in England, means must be found to develop the ability of people to learn while in the struggle.

We are at an early stage of training in this respect. We have a few useful tools and we are refining them, but more tools are needed (and many more people who know how to use them). It's interesting to see the trend in tool development since the present phase of training in the movement began in 1968:

- First -- role-play, street speaking, quick decision, situation analysis, group dynamics/sensitivity
- Second - strategy games, scenario writing, strategy development.

Roughly, we moved from tactical tools to strategy tools. Now, we clearly need ANALYSIS tools and VISION tools. To be really serviceable to the social change movement these days we need to facilitate understanding of the present system; the growing popular unease with the Establishment will not be matched by growing respect for the movement until more of us know what we're talking about.

People without a vision perish because they don't know whether an alternative really is preferable to what now exists. Movements without a vision flounder because they try to strategize in a vacuum: 'When you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there.' The point was made sharply by Bart. de Ligt in his nonviolent classic Conquest of Violence: '...the struggle against war will never be effective until it forms an integral part in the struggle for a new society.'

Of course the training network should not lay an analysis or vision on people; our concept of training has always been more open than that, more given to raising options than providing answers. We need to develop tools which have that quality of openness and respect for people and facilitate their growth in analysis and vision.

Contexts for training

Training at its best raises consciousness, shares skills, and thereby democratizes the movement. We can probably not expect, therefore, that training will be enthusiastically supported by movement leaders because they are, after all, only human and democratizing is not the first thing leaders think about. That should not distract us from our task. It does, however, raise the question of organizing context for training.

SMALL GROUPS: It's almost trite to say that people learn best in small groups. That means, though, that the movement will learn best when it is organized into small groups. The affinity group idea is in the air: collectives, Mayday, nonviolent revolutionary groups. Trainers should promote this trend in our organizing.

OPENNESS ON PROGRAM: There's a small town in the West where some radical pacifists have been trying to get it together. On two different occasions top movement organizers have stayed with them and tried to rally the people around a particular national thrust. After the inspiration wore off people were where they had been, and the two key local people had not learned how to move ahead. Then they went to a training week, learned some tools, and at last felt they had grown as organizers and were free to use those tools on the issues which loomed most for where that town was at.

In short, training provides an alternative to laying your trip on people. Trainers should be leery of letting an agenda for national action prevent them from genuinely serving the people.

STRATEGIC LINKAGE: The training network provides a long-run source of national movement unit and we don't want to sabotage that by encouraging narrowness of perspective among local groups. The PCPJ pattern has not been respectful of grassroots work but local groups do need to move toward national unity in some way. We can push strategic linkages which connect national resources to local organizing, such as the proposal in WIN, 'What to Do Until the Revolution Comes'.

LIFE CENTERS: Although the small groups are critical, they do by their nature come and go. For continuity and breadth, more substantial training and action centers are needed. For maximum intensity of learning, the centers are communal. For living the revolution, the centers develop alternative life and work styles. For aid to the movement spectrum as well as radical pacifists, the centers become resource bases. Every population center and some rural areas should have Life Centers.

BUILD THE MOVEMENT: Imagine that we in the training network agree our program for 1972 is to

- promote small groups
- avoid single-thrust organizing
- find strategic linkages (rather than issue-linkages) between grass-roots and national scene

- build training and action centers,
especially Life Centers
- develop tools, especially for analysis and vision
- train trainers.

This by no means ignores what the coalitions may be doing at a given moment, since the small groups can very well key in where and when they want to.

On the other hand, the groups can move ahead developing their strategy where they are without waiting for the next bugle call from key national people. While that runs the danger of groups sometimes doing their own thing in preference to a brilliant plan emanating from the national scene, I agree with Rosa Luxemburg: 'The errors committed by a truly revolutionary movement are infinitely more fruitful than the infallibility of the cleverest Central Committee.'

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TRAINING FOR NONVIOLENT ACTION

by Theodore Olson
and Lynne Shivers

This practical manual includes sections on 'Kinds of Training', 'Training Methods', 'Guidelines for Training', 'Frameworks for Organizing Training', 'Evaluation of Training', as well as listing Training Manuals, Training Organizations and books on the subject.

Published by War Resisters' International and
Friends Peace and International Relations Committee

From the Preface:

"This document has one purpose: to present practical guidance in training for nonviolent direct action. It is not an essay. Nor does it attempt to convince you of the validity of nonviolence or training for it. We believe that an unflinching look at our world is more convincing than any arguments we might present. Instead, we invite you to begin reading at the point which most appeals to you: training methods, kinds of training, organizational frameworks, a list of training agencies, or the summation of training manuals presently available".

☆ Also available in French and German

Price....£0.25

NONVIOLENT ACTION GROUPS IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

As a result of the visits of George Lakey in 1969/70 and Lynne Shivers and P.J. Hoffman in 1970/71 a number of local action groups have been started. Some of these are not yet very active, others may be practically defunct but the list shows a welcome increase in nonviolent action over a wide area in these few years.

ENGLAND

Birmingham Peace Centre, 18 Moor St., Ringway, Birmingham
 Birmingham Quaker Action Group, c/o Clive and Elizabeth Whale, 20 West House Court, Kings Heath, Birmingham
 Blackburn Peace Action, c/o Dave Cunliffe, 1 Spring Bank, Salesbury, Blackburn, Lancs
 Brighton Joint Environmental Committee, c/o Twinky Mitchell, 45 Gladstone Place, Brighton
 Hull Quaker Action Group, c/o Caroline Parry, 173 Victoria Avenue, Hull, Yorks
 Ipswich Nonviolent Action Group, c/o Robin Hawes, 6 Valley Close, Ipswich, Suffolk
 Leeds Peace Action Group, c/o 7 Hessle Mount, Leeds 6, Yorks
 ALNAG, c/o Alan Tristan Turner, 19 Norma Rd., Crosby, Liverpool
 Liverpool Dwarves, c/o Jan Chow, 98 Waddicar Lane, Melling, Liverpool
 London Quaker Action Group, 15 Leconfield Road, London N5
 Olive Tyson, 7 Crescent Court, Park Hill, London SW4
 Zephyrme Holmes-Smith, The Old Hall, (Ackworth) Rainow, Nr. Macclesfield, Cheshire
 CRAG, 58 High Lane, Manchester 20
 MANVAG, 23 Clitheroe Road, Longsight, Manchester 13
 Nottingham Nonviolent Action Group, c/o Steve Pittam and Jane Todd, 6 Colville Street, Nottingham
 Oxford Peace Action Group (1), 239 Iffley Road, Oxford
 Oxford Peace Action Group (2), c/o Tony Augarde, 18 Carlton Road, Oxford
 West Penrith Nonviolent Action Group, c/o Barbara Hudson, 2 Regents Square, Penzance, Cornwall
 Peace Action Society, Salford College of Technology, Salford M6 6PU
 Sheffield Nonviolent Action Group, c/o Pippa MacKeith, 111 Harcourt Road, Sheffield 10
 MUTO, c/o Christina Sinclair, 15 St. Leonards Road, Heaton Chapel, Stockport

Wilmslow Nonviolent Action Group, c/o Rosalyn Davies, Parkgate House, Fulshaw Park, Wilmslow, Cheshire

F-O-R Peace, c/o Geoff Ellis, 5-10 Merton College, Oxford

SCOTLAND

Aberdeen Nonviolent Action Group, c/o Rohan Beyts, 25 Cosden Place, Aberdeen, ABI 1UG

Edinburgh Nonviolent Action Group (1), c/o Myrlou Foreman, 36 Lygon Road, Edinburgh

Edinburgh Nonviolent Action Group (2), 70 Saughtonhill Drive, Edinburgh 12

Greenock Peace Action Group, c/o Hugh and Mary Clarke, Greenock, Renfrewshire

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NONVIOLENT ACTION TRAINING CENTERS/RESOURCES IN U.S.A.

(Prepared by Movement for New Society, 1006 S. 46 St., Philadelphia, Penna. 19143)

NEW ENGLAND

New England Committee for Nonviolent Action (CNVA), RFD 1, Box 197B, Voluntown, Conn. 09384. (203-376-9970)

Conducts training, history/philosophy, office/organizational skills and tactics, action.

Nonviolent Direct Action Group, Sukie Rice/Ed Lazar, 48 Inman Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02139 (617-UN4-3150)

Bernard Lafayette, Jr., 50 Follen Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02138

MIDDLE ATLANTIC

Life Center Association, 1006 S. 46 St. Philadelphia, Penna. 19143 (215-EV6-1371)

Training for Organizers, Training Collective. George Willoughby, coordinator.

Short-term training program, Trainers Collective.

Lynne Shivers, coordinator.

See Page 9 for further information on Life Center

Friends Peace Committee, Bidge McKay, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, Penna. 19102

Develops training skills and materials for marshals, direct action, high schools, strategies.

Pendle Hill, 338 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, Penna. 19086 (215-L06-4507)

Nine month program; participants usually live at Pendle Hill and take part in the whole program.

Haverford College Center for Nonviolent Conflict Resolution,
Charles Walker, Paul Hare, Haverford College, Haverford,
Penna. 19041

Conducts research, experience collecting, teaching,
communication.

Quaker Project in Community Conflict, Lawrence Apsey,
13 E. 17 St., New York, New York 10003

Marshal training for demonstrations and rock festivals,
and the more basic work of training for nonviolent
social change.

Nonviolent Training and Action Center, Carl Zietlow,
2121 Decatur Place NW, Washington, DC 20008

MIDWEST

Nonviolent Training and Action Center, 542 S. Dearborn,
Chicago, Illinois 60605 (312-922-8234)

Sponsored by FOR, conducts weekend model training, is
combining it with the Institute approach this year.

Michigan Institute for Nonviolence, Maureen May,
816 W. Shiawasee, East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Institute Mountain/West, 701 S. Washington St., Denver,
Colorado 80209

Similar to Palo Alto, involved in alternative institution
building, buying cooperatives, primary schools, and
direct action training.

Center for Nonviolent Social Change, 1001 Wright Street,
Champaign, Illinois 61820. Jim Young (217-344-1351)

Nonviolent Study Group, Sally Buckley, 122 West Franklin,
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404 (612-332-6688)

Committee on Nonviolence, Kent State University,
Janet way or Paul Kreise, Kent, Ohio 44240, (612-673-2984)

FAR WEST

Institute for the Study of Nonviolence, Box 1001, Palo Alto,
California 94302

Focuses on weekend to month-long seminars with each staff
member organizing a community nonviolent action project.

Nonviolent Training and Action Center, Irwin Hogenauer,
310 NE 170 St., Seattle, Washington 98155

A Training Action Group, Anne Boone, 80 Pierce Street,
San Francisco, California 94117

American Friends Service Committee, Jamie Newton,
980 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Pasadena, California 91103

NATIONAL

AFSC Training Collective, Honey Knopp, Bob Levering, Chris
Meyer & others, American Patriot Bldg., 16 and Sansom Sts.
Philadelphia, Penna, 19102 (215-563-9372)

OTHER CONTACTS

WRL West, 833 Haight Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94117
(415-626-6976)

SCLC, Dorothy Cotton, 334 Auburn NE, Atlanta, Ga. 30309
(404-522-1420)

Atlanta WIN, Steve Hipps, Box 7477, Atlanta, Ga. 30309
(404-875-0646)

wRL Southwest, 116-B Hermoso SE, Albuquerque, New Mexico
87108 (505-268-8871)

Ker. Sherman, 173 Lackawana, Buffalo, New York 14214
(716-832-7057)

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THE LIFE CENTER AT PHILADELPHIA

The Life Center was established towards the end of last year and is now carrying on a varied and extensive programme of training and nonviolent action. The following description sets out the aims and orientation:-

A community of learners experimenting with nonviolent action.
A community of action working for radical social change of society. A community of people who care for and share with each other as we seek to live nonviolently. We are making the revolution now.

Born out of a year of struggle, search and sharing we have established this fall a handful of communes and collectives in the Philadelphia area which work and relate together to effect common concerns. One collective concentrates on the development of macro-nonviolence; another is concerned with community justice administration; another with radical education; one sees itself as a movement building collective with the task of spreading the idea of nonviolent movement for fundamental social change; the training collective is a larger group involved in the program for training organizers for nonviolent social change; and a trainers collective concentrates on short term training for nonviolent action in the Philadelphia area. Our latest commune to be formed this fall is located on a farm in Chester County.

The economic base of the Life Center is a shared responsibility. Each member expects to engage in bread labor one or two days a week to produce the essentials of life. We seek to experiment with simple life styles and to free ourselves from the endless struggle to acquire more material goods. We do not wish to be dependent upon contributions for our daily needs. However, we will accept gifts from supporters for land, buildings, equipment and to help us meet costs of training and action programs. By living simply and earning our own bread we have a lot of time to work for radical social change. We want to encourage more

to join in this. When necessary to work full time in the movement we will release a member of the community. We accept the responsibility to see that all members share in the necessities of food, clothing, health care, shelter.

The Life Center is part of the Movement for a New Society which is beginning to spread through the country - small action communities of six to twelve persons called Non-violent Revolutionary Groups are being formed. The initial bases of the groups vary - some are Quaker Action Groups, some are based on other religious affiliation, some on student, sex or work affiliation. The NRG's or 'energies', develop their own strategy in the light of their particular situation, sometimes participating in significant local social change efforts, sometimes joining mass action campaigns.

Part of the training program

Training for Nonviolent Social Change - Workshops

Objectives: to train organizers for nonviolent social change.

1. Skilled in working with people in the struggle against injustice and war,
2. Who have a vision of a society worth struggling for;
3. who can apply strategies and tactics to the struggle,
4. who can teach others to organize and carry on the struggle - provide information, resources, example,
5. who can develop personal and inner strengths to sustain themselves in the continuing struggle.

Assumptions underlying the Program:

1. Nine to twelve months in duration; participants to give full time to training including one or two days a week to earn bread money.
2. Participants to live in communal groups when possible.
3. Involvement in action projects - local, national, and transnational - is an important part of training.
4. On-site study is often more important than classroom study, e.g., studying mailing techniques at Community Mailing Service; learning off-set printing at the Resistance Press; analyzing welfare systems in a summer project in Sweden, etc.
5. Evaluation of what we have tried to do is essential to the learning process.

Areas of Study (for complete list write to Center)

Skills and Techniques of Organizing: A workshop meeting weekly throughout the training program; to develop skills and techniques helpful to the organizer; to respond to specific needs of participants; to relate to action; to draw upon the experiences of participants; to give the participants opportunity to develop teaching skills.

Organizing skills: Street speaking, roleplaying, strategy games, situation analysis, planning demonstrations, group dynamics, working with

committees, planning conferences, chairing meetings, working with mass media, fund raising, street theater, folk dancing, etc.

Technical skills: Use of mimeo and other duplicators, film projector, tape recorders, typing, information routing, bookkeeping, taking minutes, press releases, writing leaflets, social action research, interviewing, sign making, etc.

Surviving and Thriving in Community: Learning the skills that can help us to live creatively in community and in interpersonal relations. Introduction to co-counseling, psychodrama, sensitivity training, group dynamics, body games, etc. Practise in survival skills of cookery, food purchasing, baby sitting, house cleaning, gardening, etc.

Nonviolent Social Change: Developing nonviolent strategies for fundamental social change. This involves study of the theory and tactics of nonviolent action, drawing on case studies of nonviolent campaigns in the U.S., India, Europe, and Latin America.

Nonviolent Conflict Resolution: An examination of the dynamics of social conflict and methods for nonviolent conflict interventions and resolutions, particularly as they relate to the struggle, for social justice and contemporary American experience of violence, repression and fear. The aim of this workshop is to equip participants with insights and techniques for positive group interventions in brutalizing intergroup conflicts, using information gained from recent experiments with 'third force' interventionary action in community crisis situations.

Building a Disciplined Life: Exploration of the personal self; the basis of a disciplined or centered life; exploration of ways of worship, meditation, yoga, the arts, and the self in society; study of the personal disciplines of people engaged in social change.

For further details write to:

The Life Center,
1006 South 46 Street,
Philadelphia 19143
U.S.A.

or telephone EV6-1371

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THE UTOPIA GALLERY - A New Nonviolent Training Tool

Purposes: To stretch the person's ability to imagine a new society worth struggling toward, going beyond vague values to specific features. To facilitate a group's development of a common vision.

Materials: Large sheets of paper, felt-tip pens.

Procedure:

1. The trainer does a short rap on how important it is to know where we are going if we want to get there, and on the tool as a way of discovering people's own ideas and how much they have in common.
2. For 30-45 minutes individuals go to different corners and write the major features of their utopia - what kind of family structure, economic system, government, defense, religious institutions, neighbourhoods, etc.
3. The individuals cluster together in groups of 3-5 to try to pool their utopias into a common vision, for 30-45 minutes. As they work they put areas of agreement on a large sheet of paper. (This can be decorated with flowers, trees, etc. if those are features of the vision!)
4. The small groups bring their common efforts into the main room and hang their visions on the walls, creating a utopia gallery. People mill around looking and comparing and discussing informally.
5. (Optional) A short plenary discussion might be opened by the trainer asking what surprises there were in the process, how much commonality of vision really is revealed by these utopias, and where the areas are which need most work in developing a viable alternative to the status quo.

So far this training tool has been tried in an AFSC camp in Oregon, a college in Pennsylvania, and a retreat of New York Quakers.

George Lakey
in Dandelion

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'TRAINING' IN INTERNATIONAL PEACE MOVEMENT

The WRI Headquarters in London have a small team of workers trying to develop effective methods of communication between pacifist movements round the world and organising and helping to organise transnational nonviolent projects. In recent years volunteers and short-term workers have participated with the team in its work for peace and nonviolent resistance to injustice. Experience gained by these volunteers and by the WRI staff has been convincing enough to suggest that the WRI Headquarters can provide opportunities to young peace workers to gain valuable experience in the working of the movement. It could become a regular training centre for peace movement workers to have an international orientation and at the same time give them the opportunity to learn some of the skills necessary for running a centre and organising actions.

The team at the WRI HQ discussed and presented a proposal to the WRI Executive Committee, who accepted it and encouraged the WRI staff to develop the idea. The proposal is to accept up to six people to work as volunteers whose living expenses during the period of apprenticeship and travel from their countries and back would be provided either by themselves or their sponsoring organisations. They will work for 11 months participating in the WRI activities and gaining knowledge of the peace movement in different countries.

An outline of the training syllabus has been drawn up and is given below for comments and suggestions. Much detail has yet to be worked out - in fact the idea will develop along with the experience gained over a period. Having more people at the WRI will also involve more expenditure. It is hoped that the International will receive support from other organisations, especially those who would like to take advantage of the experience of the WRI HQ to give their young workers an orientation to the international pacifist movement.

Period of apprenticeship:	11 months
Rough allocation of time:	6-7 months working at and from WRI office 2-3 months working with previously selected peace movements in London 2 months gaining experience of some European peace movements.

Work at the WRI office will include:-

- Introduction to the present work of the International and acquaintance with its future plans
- Participation in planning and developing the scope and activities of the international pacifist movement
- Experience in administration
- Use of office machines, e.g. Duplicator, Copier, Dictaphone
- Office routine activities, e.g. filing, maintaining records, mailing WRI journals etc., mailing literature orders, helping with bookkeeping
- Campaigning and educational activities; e.g. organising meetings and seminars, arranging publication stalls at meetings and conferences, organising/helping non-violent action projects, participating in nonviolent actions organised by others
- Editing and writing, e.g. compiling material for the WRI Newsletter, and other bulletins, editing and printing the Newsletter etc., preparing layouts for printing and duplicating
- Liaison with movements of person's own country: it is hoped the WRI would be able to increase its international liaisons through close contact with the volunteers own country

Study of Nonviolence: discussions on the future of nonviolence and nonviolence as a means to social change

Note: Working with other movements

Each volunteer will work with two or three British pacifist groups, e.g. Peace Pledge Union, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Peace News, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, etc. The best idea is for the volunteer to work with these groups directly on a specific project, preferably on an issue of special interest to him or her and the group, e.g. someone from the U.S.A. doing a project on a war-involved American multinational corporation in Britain.

Each volunteer would spend a certain period touring Great Britain visiting pacifist and nonviolent action groups, gathering information and possibly participating in some projects organised by one of the groups. They would also spend about a month visiting one or two WRI affiliates on the Continent, not only to get an idea on their work, but to work with them on a current activity; probably on the same arrangement as with the groups in Britain.



NEWS FROM THE TRAINING SCENE

ENGLAND

The London School of Nonviolence resumes in January with a series of speakers. Evenings at 7 p.m.

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| 17th Jan | Aims and Work of a School of Nonviolence
Colin Hodgetts, Director, Christian Action. |
| 19th Jan | Intellectual Violence in Education
John Heron, Director of Human Potential
Research Project, University of Surrey. |
| 24th Jan | 'Who Strikes the Blow ?'
John Gurrie, Teacher of Meditation. |
| 26th Jan | The Future of Omega
Denise Pyle, London Office of Omega. |
| 31st Jan | Power in Industry
Bob Jones, Research Fellow, Manchester
Business School. |
| 2nd Feb | Recidivists Anonymous
Bernard Whitfield, Organising Secretary, R.A. |
| 7th Feb | Sources of Violence - an Exploratory Encounter
Kenneth Speyer, Encounter Groups |
| 9th Feb | Discussion Evening |
| 14th Feb | The Denial of Personal Hostility
Gaie Houston, Consultant in Group Psychology,
U.S.A. |

16th Feb To be arranged
 21st Feb A Preliminary Approach to Workers' Control
 David Guinness, Toynbee Hall
 23rd Feb To be arranged
 6th Mar Metamorphosis of Violence - and Experiential Study
 Kenneth Speyer

All meetings are held at the London School of Nonviolence,
 The Crypt, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, W.C.2.

For further details contact the co-ordinator:-

Rev. Colin Hodgetts,
 Christian Action,
 104 Newgate St.
 London, E.C.4

DAT At present the DAT group (Direct Action Training Group -
 see T in NV Bulletin No. 6) is dormant but it is hoped that
 a discussion for DAT Group members about the future of the
 group will take place in Birmingham on 28th January.

— Convenor, Fellowship of Reconciliation (contact Jill
 O'Hara)

Oxford

On 27/28 November 15 people met at Friends Meeting House for
 a training session organised by Oxford University Fellow-
 ship of Reconciliation. A film of roleplay was shown and
 training included roleplays, strategy games, street-speaking
 and discussion. There was an extended roleplay on Northern
 Ireland. The evaluation showed that it had helped people to
 understand the situation better.

U.S.A.

Life Center, Philadelphia. There are two training sessions:
long-term training, which is the 9 to 12 month program,
 modeled in part after the King School and Pendle Hill
 programs. Although it is a cooperative effort, George
 Willoughby is the coordinator and four workshops have been
 going since late September. The Skills workshop began with
 an investigation of the neighbourhood of Philadelphia where
 we are living...then we did street-speaking in the center
 of town in the business district, and we developed an
 interesting and engaging dialogue with the people on the
 streets about the problems of Philadelphia. We raised the
 issue of free public transport in the city and folks were
 interested. A week later, the Skills workshop spent one
 session on leading role-playing. Other sorts of training
 happen as a result of living at the various 7 Life Center
 houses. After the Stone House was broken into and two men
 attempted to steal household items, we held an all-day
 workshop on dealing with burglars and intrusion.

The Short Term Trainers' Collective consists of a group of people who are a part of the Life Center and co-ordinator is Lynne Shivers. 'Since we began working in early October we have organized a training weekend for about thirty students at Lycoming College in Williamsport, Penna.; led a series of six evening workshops at Villanova University outside Philadelphia; worked with Philadelphia folks planning and training for the first of the Daily Death Toll days in front of the White House (including a groovy role-play representing the hassle of being 'booked' and 'processed' after arrest); worked with Carl Zietlow in Washington at a training weekend for regional residents interested in NV action and training. Partly as a result of the weekend at Lycoming College, the professor who invited us is losing his job, and the students who took part in the weekend are protesting. We will likely be in touch with those students for follow-up. This threat of loss of job as a result of involvement with training sessions has happened before; it is gratifying to learn of the potent nature of just training...we know it is there, but we rarely get feedback of its power and potential.

We want to move more in the direction of helping folks plan for specific actions they have in mind, but we are not limiting ourselves to that or to 'conscienceness raising' training. We hope, within a few months, to be able to offer weekend conferences and/or 'learning happenings' about various issues: civil disobedience, NV theory, group dynamics, training for trainers, skills, and so on... as demands are raised. We see that we could be a service to the movement in the Delaware Valley area in this way.

We consistently work in teams since this arrangement provides mutual learning for ourselves, as well as helping each other out and providing more resources for other participants. Roleplaying continues to be a steady basis for much training of all sorts. We have been using 'utopia writing' as a means of exploring where we want to go. (See Page 11). We often use roleplaying, and we have been exploring new forms and uses to suit new needs. We are impressed especially with encouraging participants to develop their own situations, thus insuring that the roleplays will suit people's needs. In addition, we use other tools: brainstorming, strategy games, situation analysis, quick decision, case studies, group dynamics exercises, and, more and more, some forms of sensitivity training. With new folks working together, the sparks of imagination and creativity set off other sparks in others...what more could a trainer/organizer ask for ?'

Report from Lynne Shivers

The Life Center is at 1006 South 46 St., Philadelphia 19143, USA
Also see Page 9.

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