

# THE ENCOUNTERER

An Information Service for Group Psychotherapy Professionals. Published under the Auspices of the Golden Gate

FOUNDATION for GROUP TREATMENT, INC.

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P. O. Box 1141, Vallejo, California, 94590.

Editor, F H Ernst Jr MD

February 20, 1970

Vol 2, No 24

MEETING: May 11-15, 1970; American Psychiatric Assn., San Francisco, California---Civic Auditorium.

MEETING:"Leaderless Group Psychotherapy for Psychiatrists (and accompanying families) attending the American Psychiatric Assn Annual Mtg" in SF(5/9-5/16/70). These group sessions will be held on most of these dates starting Saturday, 5/9/70. "Type of therapy used will depend upon the interest and experience of those present." This format was developed by Dr. Moore at the 1969 APA meeting. Those interested contact Wm E Moore, M.D. (from Akron, Ohio) at the Hotel Shaw in SF (two blocks from APA Mtg Hqts). A fee to cover expenses will be charged.

FORMULATION: Emotional expression and the leverage for (availableness of) the thinking option (clear-headed, level-headed, computing Adult ego state):

1. Giggling-Laughing emotion: at the point of closing off a giggle-laugh it takes at the most about 30 seconds to (re)institute a now-and-here thoughtfulness, an Adult, computing-objectivity-state-of-mind.

2. Burst-into-tears (B-I-T) emotion: Once a B-I-T is underway it takes about 5 minutes to (re)initiate a clear level-headed Adult state of thought.

3. Mad emotion: Once a "good, first-rate, decent mad" (an "expression of hostility" to which there is a personal commitment) is underway it takes about 5 hours after its cessation before cool-headed dispassionate objectivity can be reliably (re)initiated.

This latter length of time comes from the fact that once the adrenalin (and other hormones) have been pumped into the blood stream and then absorbed by the muscle and nerve cells participating in fight-flight behavior, it then takes five hours of time for these substances to be metabolized and/or removed from the cells and the blood stream. During the five hours after these hormones are released into the bloodstream, their presence does stimulate, does continue to provide the neurones in special parts of the nervous system with a state of hyper-exciteability. The special quality of this experience is that here is a positive feedback mechanism (vs. negative feedback) at work, ie., minimal stimuli similar to the initial maddening stimulus can and often do reactivate, rekindle the dying embers of the fire which is in process of going out. Therefore, thoughtfulness cannot be reliably or predictably expected in the face of the variety of stresses available to impinge on a person while the excess hormones are being metabolized and the extra excitability (hyper-stimulability) of the neuronal and muscle tissues and cells are subsiding to a reason(ably) more normal level of exciteableness, stimulability. This is to say that after getting a "good mad" going (similarly, after a "good scare") it takes about 5 hours for recovery once the rationale for the mad has ceased, before recovery can be achieved; before a reliably be metabolized and/or removed from the cells and the one which is able to realistically determine "what is the best solution for this particular situation?" taking into account the best available and obtainable data.

To summarize: Elapsed time from emoting to thinking; Mad to think-18,000 seconds(5hrs x 60min/hr x 60sec/min) Burst-into-tears to think-300 seconds

Giggle-laugh to think-30 seconds

Thinking-option recovery leverage:

Mad vs Giggle-Laugh: 18,000/30 = 600

Mad vs Burst-Into-Tears: 18,000/300 = 60

One application: Now it can be seen that a fellow who gets enraged at his girlfriend's tearfulness and then wonders "how come I always lose to her, to women?" can see how he is sacrificing himself to and giving away odds of 60:1(5hrs vs 5min) to her in his capability as a suitable contender, in his ability to recover enough to figure out "What's the best thing to do next, now that I'm in this spot?" It is now seen in this above example that the difference has less to do with the kind of plumbing a person is born with and more to do with the physiology associated with a particular variety of emoting.

MEETING: May 10, 1970; Hilton Hotel, San Francisco, CA; American Society for Adolescent Psychiatry.

ENCOUNTER: Tom-in-treatment-to-get-well-of cross-eyedness and Beastly rages at his Beauty (spouse): At one raging desperate juncture in therapy he was having a recurrent "wierd desperate" anxiety attack.

"I'm feeling awful, I get pains in my chest and they make me yell out anywhere I am. It scares them (friends, wife); I can't help it! I just have to yell out. I get sick all over, my nerves are being damaged by this pain. You have to do something (for me)! It's your job. It's not up to me! I can't help it. You are going to do something? Aren't you? I'm depending on you". This torrent of words was said variously in a manner of pleading, red-faced angry, semi-screaming with kicking motions of his left foot, head down to the right, then back up. "The pills aren't doing any good! Aren't there any others for you to prescribe?"

Since he had, in the recent past, been doing very well at home, at work, in group and had an excellently organized Adult ego state when it was in the executive, the therapist was able to confidently procede with him. After some transactions with Tom, in order to further define how awful he felt and to confirm that this projective "Ain't-It-Awful" game was similar to past episodes, the therapist asked-told Tom "You're wanting me to care more about you than you do. You're making it come out that I don't care what happens to you, while at the same time you're not taking care of yourself. Your Adult is letting your Kid (Child ego state) push your own Adult out of the way and you're trying to do the same with my treating of you by saying that your desperateness and getting worse are more important than your own getting-well and the doing of a good job of taking care of you."

Chagrined and chastened, nonetheless, Tom's desperation decreased in the next few minutes. At the next group session he was markedly brighter. When asked by a previously absent, "worried and concerned" group member about his desperate Awfuls, shakily but good-naturedly, he replied, "I forget" (meaning I-don't-want-to-talk-about-them-now-but-I'm-okay-now-and-you're-okay-with-me-too)."

Later he told: "After the last time, I decided to take better care of myself. Since then, I haven't been having as many of the pains and I've found out that I can handle those that I do have. My Kid is still having a big black (mad mood), but I'm doing okay (now)! "with additional confirmatory data. "I decided to take care of myself instead of proving you didn't care about me and trying to make you try to care more about me than I did. If I could have proved you didn't care about me, I could have been better than you. I would have cared more about you than you cared about me!" This latter was the GRO position of his script and the vignette cited was a major "redeciding" point in therapy when his Child ego state began to more actively take up the GOW position in his script.

FORMULATION: The Term INSTITUTION: An institution is (1) an organized facility (building and personnel) with a program or (2) it is an organized program (and personnel) which may have a facility (a building) in another location, such as the (Calif based) Stanford Univ (program) in Tours, France. A BUREACRACY is an institution plus the games played by its personnel. The only institution which could be game-free would be an unpeopled institution with a self-programmed computer, or one in which there was only one person employed. This is, however, in contradiction to the above definition, ie., "an institution is peopled". Therefore, if a facility were unpeopled it then becomes a non-institution.

This means, then, that institutions which look for or attempt to create game-free organizational structures are unrealistic. People work in institutions for both the psychological and the monetary advantages which accrue. The psychological advantages include and come from the games the people-staffing-the-institution play with each other. (A game by definition is 2 plus people.)

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The FOUNDATION for GROUP TREATMENT, Inc., a non-profit organization, was established for the purpose of providing clinicians of all schools and disciplines using group treatment methods with opportunities for increasing their effectiveness and efficiency toward the professional treatment objective of the patient getting well.

THE ENCOUNTERER is the news service of the FOUNDATION. It will have notices of interest, current developments in this treatment field and clinical reports.

Associations and Societies of group treatment professionals are invited to use THE ENCOUNTERER to notify others of their meetings and activities.

As a service of the FOUNDATION, non-profit facilities and organizations involved with group treatment are invited to apply for THE ENCOUNTERER on a continuing basis.

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Adult, "level-head," objective, ego state	A
Child, childhood, "the Kid" ego state	C
Cycles per minute	CPM
Cycles per second	CPS
THE ENCOUNTERER	E
Gimmick: (trick, wrinkle) 3rd move of a GAME	G
THE DEVOLUTION Life Solution of Get-Away-	GAF
From: I-am-not-OK-and-you-are-OK	GNW
THE OBVIOUS Life Solution of Get-No-	GNM
where: I-am-not-OK-and-you-are-not-OK	GOM
THE EVOLUTION Life Solution of Get-On-With	GOW
(It, life, living); I-am-OK-and-you-are-OK	GRO
THE REVOLUTION Life Solution of Get-Rid-Of-	GRO
I-am-OK-and-you-are-not-OK	GW
Get-Winners, Get-Well, Getting-Well, usually	GW
synonymous with the GOW Life Solution	H
Hook: (come-on, engagement) 1st move of a GAME	H
Maneuver: (con, angle, play) 2nd move of a GAME	M
Number	NO
Parent, Parent, ego state; to be differen-	P
THWIT's	THE E
Volume	VOL
Pay-Off: Uterior (latent) motive, reward-4th	P-0
move of a GAME	
Pounds per square inch	PSI
Prescription, prescribed, therapeutic	R
advice, treatment recommendation	SCRIP
Life-Story; map of person's life-often resem-	SOBA
bling a fairy-tale	SOBA
SOB Authority, Silly-Ole '-Boy-Authority	SOBA-HUNTER
Person with an "authority problem"; a	SOCINGNISM
Crusader; a revolutionary	TA
Concise graphic formulation	TA
Transactional analysis-originated by Berne.	
It is:	
1. A theory of (social) behavior	
2. A theory of personality structure	
3. A method of (group) psychotherapy treatment	
4. An organization	
It embraces and is not contradictory to	
psychoanalytic theory and practice	
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"To Hell With It's", Having a case of the	