

dreams are of great wealth, romance, intrigue and power.

If we're men, we lavish a great deal of attention on our automobiles or other shiny objects and well-kept possessions such as condos, rental houses, yachts, and the like. If we're women, we are likely to lavish our affections on our jewelry and our personal appearance. We feel more comfortable touching objects than we do touching each other—especially objects that we own. Additionally, we spend a great deal of time and energy safeguarding our possessions from theft, taxation or random destruction. Indeed, we often appear to be owned by our things for they command so much of our thoughts and activities.

Such materialistic, thing-oriented, scarcity-dominated behavior can be termed life-rejecting. Those among us who are life-rejecting tend to carry our bodies stiffly. We view relationships from a paranoid angle, feeling exploited by nearly everyone. We respond to these feelings by projecting a free-floating resentment, coupled with anger and envy, out onto the world. We would deny the rich and powerful, as well as the powerless, the right to enjoy pleasures that we cannot experience. We tend to view work as a duty and pleasure as sinful and immoral. We may own many things, but we often hurt those people who come close to us.

The life-rejecting obsession is with control and dominance, so we are often found within hierarchical situations. That includes government, the military, educational institutions, or some large corporations. We are the bureaucracy. We scorn disorganized "messy" personal relationships and prefer those in which a superior-subordinate interaction is precisely defined—the more precise the definition the better.

Life-Oriented Behavior

Adherents to the philosophy of abundance, on the other hand, are life-oriented rather than thing-oriented and life-rejecting. Those among us who feel this way tend to view the universe as a vast tool placed there by the Creator to assist us in achieving self-actualization. We learn to fully experience and express our feelings and tend to be loving and accepting of others. We are capable of outer-directed, or helping, behavior, even though our primary motive for such behavior may be self-actualization. The difference is best seen in the idealistic social worker *versus* the inventor.

An inventor is perceived as selfish and preoccupied with his own creations and the social worker as altruistic. However, if the inventor is successful in creating a meaningful new product (lightbulb, flush toilet, hot-water heater, weed cutter) he can profoundly affect the quality of life

of all society. That is the essence of effective outer-directed behavior.

Such people tend to be spontaneous and open, and present themselves in a loose, natural style. Their work allows them to feel competent and self-reliant, and they don't wait for others to fill their needs or solve their problems. Perhaps most importantly, life-oriented persons are capable of deep, profound relationships bathed in freely flowing and totally experienced feelings. They learn to activate and express buried potential—aesthetic creation, selfless service, communion with nature. They learn to become one with the environment rather than merely dominating it.

As the Renaissance swept aside the bleak intellectual torpor of the Dark Ages, this era of bureaucratic banality is likely to be jolted by an awakening. But such an awakening will not come easily. Creative, individualistic believers in the abundant universe must shoulder their way through the deadwood of a social order choking on its own pollution. Small men with small minds hooked into the philosophy of scarcity and lust to control and dominate the assets and lives of others are in the halls of power and must be displaced. Until and unless they are we will continue on the road to social chaos.

Those who preach that this is the age of limits are only projecting their

own myopic view of the world. The concept of limits is acceptable to those who have lost the capacity to grow and develop. It allows them to rationalize their own narrow achievements. But it ain't necessarily so. At one time surgeons would not cut into the human abdomen for fear of a fatal outcome. Today abdominal surgery is commonplace, and operations on even the heart and brain take place on a daily basis. These and other miraculous vistas open each day in the field of medicine, and similar progress can doubtless occur in other disciplines as well.

The Computer Revolution

The electronics industry represents the cutting edge of modern technological development. Properly implemented, the computer revolution will bury once and for all the idea that there are limits to exploration and utilization of the environment. Entirely new industries will spring up around this new socio-cultural entity and these industries will rejuvenate America's manufacturing infrastructure. We will march from this point into an age of unprecedented prosperity if we but allow ourselves to do so.

At one time men believed that the world was flat, and that earth was the center of the universe. One man spoke up against this misconception and announced that not only was the world round, but that earth was only