

A People's Healing Space

This space has been inspired and nurtured through the conscious collaboration of a small number of individuals. We hope that, among other things, it demonstrates that work consciously guided by love in the service of spiritual and political liberation will have an effect disproportionate to our small numbers.

Why "Radical Health Care?" or Are radicals really that sick?

Of course, the term "radical" is a relative one. In a world in which the needs of capitalism dominate the physical, cultural, mental and emotional landscapes, acts of genuine human love, kindness, and resistance to injustice are all perceived to be radical.

In the realm of capitalist "health care," the primary needs that are served are the business needs of colossal pharmaceutical corporations, hospitals, and professionals. Because health care has, over the course of a couple of hundred years, been twisted into a commodity for the marketplace, only "quick fix" products and practices are valued. Not only does this serve the needs of the capitalists hawking these commodities, but it also serves the broader needs of capitalism. For example, when a worker goes through a healing crisis that requires her to stay home, it appears on the surface of things that it would be in everyone's interest for her to pop some pills and get back to work a.s.a.p. so that she can continue to earn her wages and the capitalist can continue to profit from her labor. Of course, a quick-fix which suppresses the natural healing process or masks symptoms is not really in the interest of the worker. A loving, nurturing health care would give her body/spirit the time and space it needs to find its own inner healing powers without her having to be concerned about using up all her sick time.

Unfortunately, given the condition of today's world, this approach is not practical to most workers, so they are forced into the quick-fix approach.

Thus, the question arises: Where is the real sickness? In the natural healing crisis that organisms go through or in a social system that does not allow for such crises? In an asthmatic response to pollution, or in the act of pollution itself? In the individual with depression, or in the social forces that isolate and alienate the individual into a condition of chronic loneliness?

A radical people's health care recognizes that the health of an individual organism is dialectically related to the health of the planet. The radical healing project incorporates this knowledge into the work. Building healthy collectives, organizations and alternative institutions that serve the needs of our people while consciously resisting and doing battle with the forces aimed at destroying our project is absolutely essential to the task of transforming the entire planet into a healing space.

Because we see ourselves as movement workers, our focus must be first on providing care for other movement workers. Given our current numbers, this is a matter of practicality. Hopefully, as our project grows and expands, others will join us and we can start addressing the needs of the broader population.

Who are these radical "healers?"

We are a small group of comrades who, first of all, don't consider ourselves to be "healers." The power to heal is a natural power that can be accessed by every organism. The task of providers is to help encourage that power. A studied knowledge of the healing process is important in this regard, but people's medicine is not about setting up a class of specialists to mystify the process. Rather, the task of the student/practitioner is exactly the opposite: to help demystify the process and make it more accessible.

There are currently three of us who have worked as health care practitioners for about thirty years collectively. Areas of knowledge include homeopathy, traditional Oriental medicine, and transpersonal mental health counseling.

We also recognize that there are certain health crises that are best addressed through the tools and instruments of modern medicine. These are, unfortunately, mostly under capitalist control, and therefore come with a hefty price tag. For this reason, we are always happy to make alliances with sympathetic mainstream practitioners, technicians, etc. who may be able to help us find ways to access these kinds of services sans hefty price tag.

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