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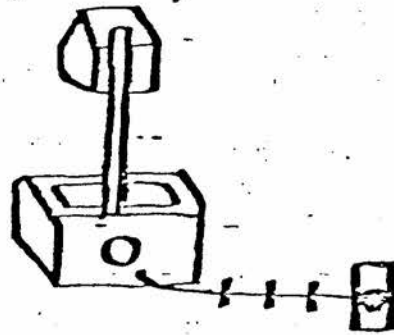
TIPS

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TRAINING INSTITUTE
PUBLICATION SERIES

Syracuse, New York

THE CHARGE OF THE INSTITUTE
(with apologies to Alfred Lord Tennyson)

Halfway House
Halfway House
Halfway House Yonder!
Into the Valley of Dearth
Rode a Normalized Funder!

Theirs not to close their eyes,
Theirs not to institutionalize,
Theirs but to Normalize
While Agencies wonder.
What was with Behave Mods?
Charging with cattle prods?
Sure it was obvious
Someone did blunder.

Perversions to the right of them!
Perversions to the left of them!
Perversions in front of them -
Folly and dunder!

Forward - Idealize!
Coherency - model-wise!
Don't let them brutalize
Wounds that must heal!
Remember in Residence,
Trying to sort the mess,
Raising our consciousness...
Noble Ideal!!!

--Anonymous Participant of the Residential
Workshop sponsored by the Training Institute,
November, 1980, Syracuse

The Training Institute has long been committed to the fostering of residential services which would provide the greatest likelihood that people would feel secure, would develop their abilities and potentials, and would be a witness to the fact that people who are widely devalued do have a place in this world. Thus, this issue of TIPS addresses some of the current challenges and problems of residential services which need to be faced by those who are committed to bettering the lives of people who need a home. While one needs to be aware of the atrocities which are around us, we also need to be reminded and made aware of situations which are positive and where things "are working" to a reasonable extent in the here and now. TIPS would welcome contributed items about positive services, helping forms, individual relationships, to be included in future issues.

At a 1981 TI workshop, the issue came up that so many people want to go only to very brief workshops where they can gain rapid mastery over an incredibly complex topic. A good example is the TI's residential services workshop which has been offered in seven day formats, broken down into three modules. However, very few people will come to a workshop of this length, even though they will think nothing of attempting to undertake the construction and operation of large service empires affecting large numbers of people for the rest of their lives in very critical ways. A 1981 workshop participant likened this phenomenon to prospective jet pilots demanding a "DC-12 jumbo jet short-form training workshop." This is a very thought-provoking analogy, because one could argue that the operation of even a relatively modest-sized human service agency is more complex and demands a higher order of judgment than the operation of even a jumbo jet. Of course, nothing of this sort is generally acknowledged in human services, one reason being that if the pilot makes an error, the pilot dies, not to mention all the other people in the jet. Unfortunately, when human service managers make an error, they probably get promoted and get a raise. The most severe pattern of punishment in human services is meted out to people who contradict the system, whereas even the grossest incompetence and immorality of human service workers (especially administrators) may go not merely unpunished, but even be rewarded.

To draw another analogy: some human service professionals may go for as many as thirteen years (or even more) of schooling and training beyond high school in order to practice some esoteric psychotherapeutic method that may only reach a few score people in their lifetime (of which 10 may end up committing suicide, and 20 end up in institutions), and that may not even be valid or at least never have been proven valid scientifically. Yet with virtually no relevant training, people assume that they can plan and direct extremely complex service systems under extremely problematic circumstances, and the idea of taking even as much as one week's worth of relevant training is dismissed as preposterous.

We have so much more "copy" than space that we decided to address child placement issues separately in an upcoming issue.

Miscellaneous Residential Developments

*According to some reports, the 1978-79 Medicare and Medicaid expenses in California amounted to \$4.3 billion, with 80,000 people in some type of long-term residential setting.

*Over 1500 people gathered at the Michigan State Capitol Building at Lansing in October, 1981 to stage a public rally in celebration of community service programs for the mentally retarded. Public officials and the media received, and participated in, the event in the spirit that was intended. It was apparently a very classy affair, with runners bringing messages from all over the state, giving out of awards, etc.

*Not only do we see increasing numbers and varieties of segregated settings for elderly people, but the penchant for ever increasingly specialized segregation can become outright bizarre. For instance, one new development is the construction of segregated institutions for--deaf elderly persons. An example is the Columbus Colony in Westerville, Ohio, which sits on a hundred acre campus. The facility is to include a complex for 106 apartment units, a skilled care nursing home for 100 people, with yet additional facilities on the drawing board. In New York City, a \$9 million apartment complex was built in 1979 for blind people.

*In late 1981, the residential part of the Alpine Center in Gaylord, Michigan, closed, which is believed to be the first closure in the United States of a state institution for the mentally retarded by transferring the residents to community services rather than to other institutions. The center (at one time a TB sanatorium), had served 21 counties of the northern lower Michigan peninsula. (Focus, ARC/Michigan, November/December 1981). However, approximately 100 retarded persons are in nursing homes in the region, and the center will continue to give other services and to operate several small group homes.

The Institution Scene

*The National Institute of Mental Health is almost four years behind in reporting movement statistics in regard to US mental institutions. One of its recent interesting findings was that between 1972 and 1978, the number of residential places in state and county mental institutions dropped from approximately 173 per 100,000 population to 85. The District of Columbia has persistently led all the jurisdictions in number of such places (285/100,000), presumably because there are so many more mentally disturbed people in Washington than anywhere else. This rate is 10-fold what it is in several states at the bottom of the list, with approximately 23-25 places, including Hawaii, Nevada, Idaho and Wisconsin. Presumably, they have such low rates because of their fresh air, confirming that insanity is propagated by vapors, and that one should avoid living downwind from a mental institution.

*The National Institute of Mental Health has made a study of the proximity of US mental institutions to major population centers, and how this spatial relationship has changed between 1960 and 1980. In about 20 states, there is an emphasis on associating mental institutions with the major population centers, while in approximately 30 states, the institutions are remote from population centers. The report foresees little change in this pattern for the foreseeable future. Single free copies of the report (Mental Health Statistical Note, No. 159) can be requested from Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration, Printing and Publications Management Branch, 5600 Fishers Lane (Rm. 6C-02), Rockville, MD 20857.

*An interesting perversion of the image of the "good Samaritan" are legal provisions called "good Samaritan laws" under which any citizen can petition the court to commit somebody involuntarily to a psychiatric institution. We have here an instance of the good and the bad mixed up. On the one hand, it is appropriate that citizens should care for each other, and that someone could legally take the initiative in seeing to it that something be done on behalf of another person in mental distress. On the other hand, considering the history of abuse of involuntary institutionalization, it is euphemistically detoxifying to refer to such a legal provision as a "good Samaritan law."

*In 1981, about half the people in New York State mental institutions were above age 65. Amazingly, it appears that not only the percentage but the actual number of aged people in state institutions is still on the increase. Furthermore, it seems that many such people are neither physically ill in any significant sense, nor seriously mentally disordered. (Federation of Parents Organizations for the New York State Mental Institutions Newsletter, October 1981). They are there primarily because there is no other place for them--and we wonder where all our human service money goes when we will serve people in such expensive ways, and yet deny them even a pittance of other kinds of benefits.

*A regional director of the New York State Office of Mental Health reinterpreted the conversion of all or part of the Pilgrim Psychiatric Center into nursing homes as constituting use of these "residential units...by the general community and by appropriate psychiatric center patients no longer in need of in-patient treatment" (Federation of Parents Organization for the New York State Mental Institutions Newsletter, October 1980). This phrasing is a phenomenal euphemism for, in essence, transferring people from one institution to another, and/or for substituting one kind of institution resident for another.

*In New York State, one may be perplexed to be told that people from mental institutions are being placed into "hotels." However, it turns out that these hotels are really nothing but institutions. Some of them were even specifically constructed, and for as many as 200 residents, all of whom were really only "transferred" from state institutions. These "hotels" may even be located in resort cities and on the shore--but of course with extremely problematic and bizarre impacts upon their host communities, since most of the residents have little or nothing to do, and clutter the streets, parks, and city benches, and tax the assimilation capabilities and good will of the host community.

The Nursing Home Scene

For lack of space, we can only carry a few items, and hope to report much more later.

*The bad news is that there are nursing homes. The good news is that there is a new mini-revolution going on as an increasing number of old people are "breaking out" of nursing homes, though usually only for a few hours to a few days. Some of the oldsters perform remarkable feats while they are out, traveling long distances on public conveyances, shacking up for the weekend with a partner, and so on. One old woman filed a suit demanding state support to enable her to live outside of a nursing home. All this underlines dramatically how nursing homes force older people into living well below their capacities. More bad news is that some nursing homes have instituted a form of police action to combat the trend. For instance, some recruit undercover spies from among the residents to inform on any of their peers who are thinking about escaping. Other residents are appointed as guards at various doors, to raise the alarm if someone tries to sneak out. Some more good news in this tragedy is that the Social Security Administration is not permitted to inform on old persons who have escaped and are receiving Social Security checks elsewhere.

*One of the most frightening moves of the Reagan administration in the human services area has been its efforts to gain support for the repeal and/or relaxation of regulations and quality control on nursing homes. This move would repeal rules such as that nursing homes may not employ workers with communicable diseases, that they must maintain safe and sanitary environments, and that they must respect the privacy and dignity of residents. The administration claims that these rules are costly and unnecessary. A change in these rules would affect at least those 1.3 million older people in nursing homes who are funded by Medicare and Medicaid. (New York Times Service in Syracuse Herald-American, December 20, 1981, p. A-13.)

*The tendency to interpret even non-residential services for elderly people as being residential (e.g., the "nursing home without walls") is apparent in a movement called Elderhostel which has the goal of offering educational programs at a modest cost to elderly people, and which by 1981 had 500 cooperating colleges and universities. This is certainly a profoundly unsuitable name for a program of this nature, and would project a deviancy image even if for no other reason than its incongruousness. This name certainly reflects the profound ambivalence people have about the elderly, because here we have a movement that otherwise could be very developmental as well as image-enhancing to elderly people, yet image-subverted by its inappropriate and bizarre name.

*It appears that there are numerous hospitals with psychiatric wards that have a low occupancy rate; apparently, these hospitals have discovered a new way of making money. It seems that Medicaid pays very handsomely for an "evaluation" and "stabilization" of several days' duration for people who have not as yet been to nursing homes, but who in essence are headed there. Thus, moves may be underfoot whereby the psychiatric wards would try to get a hold of elderly and other handicapped people that are being steered to nursing homes in order to milk them of this Medicaid evaluation money during their transit into the sad hell of the gerontology empire in which most of them will be captive for the rest of their lives. It also appears that the degree to which this is happening is being hushed up. Obviously, one can not expect that much of anything will happen during this 5-7 day evaluation other than that another traumatic discontinuity will be introduced while the people are being milked of their federal benefits. One can envision that they might be massively drugged during their short stay at the hospital, perhaps kept in bed (or at least in bed clothes), etc. The whole affair is also remindful of what happened to handicapped people in Nazi Germany prior to their extermination: they were rapidly shifted from one institution to another before being killed so that family and friends would lose track of them and would thus be less likely to be able to reclaim them. (This development was drawn to our attention by David Truran.)

*On January 9, 1979, Wolf Wolfensberger sent a letter to the editor of Aging which is published by the U. S. Administration on Aging. The journal neither acknowledged receipt of the letter, nor included it in its letters-to-the-editor section, as requested. Therefore, the letter is here reproduced.

"To the Editor of Aging:

In the July-August issue, an article entitled "Holyoke's 'Geriatric Village'" described what is in essence an 18-acre hill site (classical locations for institutions) multi-purpose Geriatric Village in Holyoke, Massachusetts. De facto, it is an institution on a piece of ground referred to as the "Municipal Nursing Home site" much as one might talk in terms of a "municipal dump." The village started some years ago with a nursing home, to which in time a number of other services were added, with yet additional services and buildings being in the planning stage. Eventually, it is hoped that there would be skilled and intermediate nursing facilities, congregate and sheltered housing, an adult "day care center," ad "but-patient" "therapy clinic," and supportive services. There would even be "access from the congregate housing facility to the nursing home...so that tenants are protected from the elements when seeking these services." All of this was referred to as "a Camelot for the Elderly."

It is indeed rare to see a more brutally elegant detoxification of the most blatant congregatory/segregatory institutionalization and systematized destruction of elderly people. That this type of blatant garbage and deception can be published in the major federal journal concerned with aging is indeed a striking sign of where we are at in our societal policy toward elderly people. I would by far prefer honest expressions of social devaluation, such as undisguised race hatred, to this type of professionalized, and in good part unconscious, acting-out of societal rejection of the elderly.

I request that this letter be published so that readers can be made aware that perceptions that are radically contrary to the predominantly prevailing ones still exist--sometimes even among professionals and university professors. Sincerely,
(signed) Wolf Wolfensberger, Professor."

The Boarding Scene, or

"Home *!??@ Home"

* According to a 1981 item (Institutions Etc., March 1981, 4(3) 2-3), an estimated two million elderly or handicapped people in the United States are living in approximately 300,000 boarding homes. In essence, many of these boarding homes are really proprietary group homes or small institutions. For instance, in New Jersey alone, some 40,000 people are living in approximately 4,000 boarding homes, which means that the average boarding home has about 10 residents.

* Claude Pepper, a Democratic Congressman from Florida, was interviewed on the Today TV program on September 24, 1981, about the boarding home industry. He stated that there were at least one million people living in boarding homes which are not subject to any kind of federal standards. He called them "Houses of Horror" in which people were being abused, not properly cared for, and exploited for the government funds which they brought in. He stated that it is a \$20 billion industry which should be accountable to the people it purports to serve and to the government which funds it.

* A universal problem is that states vacillate between two perversions: private homes which vary widely in their quality but which may include some very excellent ones, and on the other hand, huge and usually newly-constructed nursing homes and similarly classified facilities where abuse may take a much less personal, more objectified and institutionalized, much less tangible but also more pernicious form. For instance, the modern large facilities have been vastly more segregatory than the small, family-based ones. Yet typically, the more family-based ones are put out of business by state regulators as soon as one of the large modern ones has opened in the same geographic area.

* Many facilities which go under terms such as "boarding homes" are really not ordinary homes at all, but former nursing homes that could not meet fire regulations, old converted motels, and even converted chicken coops. Such and similar settings (e.g., large old homes) are particularly prone to fire hazards because they have open stairwells, overloaded electrical systems, and their owners attempt to maximize profits by minimizing expenditures on safety.

* In Pennsylvania, thousands and thousands of elderly and handicapped people reside in "personal care homes." Of the 680 such homes in the state, apparently only one has been shut down by court action in ages. Among other things, its shortcomings for a period of years have included sagging ceilings, meager meals, fire hazards, filth, festering disease, and abuse. The name of this dilapidated facility was Pettycoat Junction Party House in Altoona (AP, in Syracuse Herald-American, May 31, 1981).

* During a 10 month period in 1978, the Michigan Department of Social Services received 686 complaints against the 3037 "adult foster care facilities" which it oversees, and which accommodate ca. 19,000 persons who have mental or physical handicaps, or are elderly.

*As a result of projected state budget cuts, there had been plans in Florida to transfer clients from the "Sunrise Program" to another program, called the "Jesus Loves You" program, but UPI carried reports of several incidents of client abuse or mistreatment (including ice baths, being locked in metal boxes, etc.) at the "Jesus Loves You" program, and such incidents have been reported as far back as 1976. (News clippings submitted by Jack Pealer)

*One wonders whether Florida abounds in peculiar religious service agencies, because Institutions Etc. (1981, 4(6), p. 17) reported that a judge in Miami ordered the Paradise Boarding Home closed after its operator locked a 101-year old resident into a closet while an inspector was checking out allegations of overcrowding. Two other residents said that they were sent to spend the night in a public park so as to be out of the way when the inspection took place.

The Rooming Scene

*A survey by the New School of Social Research (in New York) of eight single-room occupancy hotels housing more than 2100 individuals revealed that 5% abused drugs, 6% had offended against the law, 9% were physically handicapped, 18% were elderly, 28% were alcoholic, and nearly one-third had previously resided in psychiatric institutions. The one characteristic that they all shared was poverty. (This Month in Mental Health, December, 1979)

The Street Scene

*Few states have perpetrated as much evil as New York State in dumping people out of its state institutions into the streets. Some people who had been in mental institutions for several decades were literally dumped in downtown New York with just the clothes on their back, a few subway tokens, and a name of, or information about, a single-room occupancy hotel (Federation of Parents Organizations for the New York State Mental Institutions Newsletter, October 1980). Sometimes, they were dumped by the busload; some of them still in their pyjamas (Catholic Worker). By 1980, close to 50,000 such persons were believed to live in the New York City area alone, 6,000 of them being essentially homeless and living on the streets and subways, part of the mass of an estimated 36,000 street people in New York City. (AP, March 28, 1981, Syracuse Herald Journal). The Office of Mental Health of the state of New York publishes a periodical called This Month in Mental Health. In its April 1981 issue, it had a major article on "Responding to the Mental Health Needs of the Homeless." It has become fashionable in state mental health circles to talk about psychiatric services to the homeless street people of New York City, and as part of the article, a study was reported on the characteristics of these street people, such as how many were veterans, how many had been on welfare, their marital status, etc.--but what was not reported in the article, or practically anywhere else in the state's publicity on these efforts, is an admission that the majority of these people had been dumped out of state institutions onto the streets of the city in the first place. Instead, we can actually read phrases in the article such as: "the innovative efforts by the Office of Mental Health to provide appropriate mental health services to the homeless persons began last year." One can only wonder whether such statements and related rhetoric flow from an evil cynicism or plain old-fashioned stupidity. Indeed, imagine one's surprise to read elsewhere that a former associate commissioner of the state's Mental Health Department has now declared that deinstitutionalization, once looked upon as a "noble solution," has become a serious problem. She further described the 1980s as the "decade of collapsing assumptions" (Handicapped Americans Reports, January 29, 1981). One wonders whether the perpetrators of these atrocities have ever heard of the concept, and the book, Blaming the Victim (Ryan, 1971, Random House). If they haven't, they are certainly doing it; and if they have, then they obviously have learned something from it and are eagerly implementing it.

*Many of us have heard of dog pounds and shelters for animals, such as exist in most cities of any size, often either run by a private body such as the Humane Society, or a public body, such as a municipality. In the latter case, such shelters may often have a name something like a "municipal shelter." In striking juxtaposition to this image, New York City has been operating a "municipal shelter care center for men." If the last two words were omitted, most of us would probably guess that the facility was for dogs or other animals. In a further perversion of tongues, the shelter did not even provide overnight beds for homeless men unless they were very sick. Even people who beg on the streets, and who have been released from hospitals so recently that they are still wearing hospital identification bracelets and hospital slippers, are in casts, or use crutches, did not necessarily qualify for the few infirmary beds. Yet the need has been overwhelming: literally thousands of men who have no home to go to at night receive a meal at the shelter every day. Perhaps 100 men might be taken in to sleep on the benches in a dreary day hall on the first floor of the building. To another approximately 1,100 men, the shelter had been giving vouchers every night for a bed in one of the numerous flophouses near the Bowery. There were approximately 16 such flophouses in 1978, and the city referred its clients to at least six of them, at a charge of \$2 per night. Most people cannot even imagine what it would be like to stay in one of the flophouses which, on top of everything, exploit and perhaps even rob the men, many of whom actually die within them. The chronicle of despair, abuse, and indifference involved in this situation is a horror story that is probably outside of the scope of comprehension and meaningful assimilation of most people. (Extracted from an article in the Catholic Worker, December 1978, p. 1, 3, 8).

The Prison Scene

*In light of the flood of new evidence and analysis of the history and dynamics of deviancy, it is amazing how little awareness or concern is shown within the human service professions for the massive conversion of former psychiatric and mental retardation institutions into prisons, and corrective/detentive facilities. How is it possible to ignore the reality that for hundreds of years, it has been the poor, oppressed and uprooted classes that have furnished a steady flow of "material" into the societal deviancy management machine, regardless whether as prisoners, residents of prison-like abysmal slums and ghettos, or as inmates of institutions for the mentally retarded; the disordered, poorhouses, work houses, etc.?

*All over North America, mental institutions are being converted into prisons or prison-like facilities, and yet hardly a word is being heard from anyone about this peculiar, and indeed dangerous and despicable, development. Everybody thinks that the one or two such conversions of which they may have heard are purely local events, whereas it is now obvious that there is a systematic large-scale changeover which obviously must reflect deep-seated dynamics and major trends. Indeed, from the history of human services, we must infer that the very same people who were once incarcerated in mental institutions will now be incarcerated in prisons.

*After declining dramatically over years from its high of about 14,000, the population of the mental institution in Milledgeville, Georgia, is now increasing once more. Already in 1979, it housed 6,000 prisoners. Together with the remaining psychiatric population there (about 3,000), the institution may not long hence be back up to its old capacity.

*By fall of 1981, Attica prison in New York State alone, though overcrowded, had to absorb an additional 200 mentally disordered or retarded prisoners who were transferred to it after the state closed down two centers for the "criminally insane." Some of these people were so handicapped that they were unable to eat properly, and their behavior induced disgust, disturbance or violence among the other inmates (Newsweek, September 7, 1981).

*There is something really bizarre about the way New York State has chosen names for some of its prisons. Three facilities have the term "kill" in their names: Arthur Kill, Fishkill, Wallkill. Yes, Arthur Kill is two words. The others are one word. At least Wallkill is located in the town of Wallkill, but Fishkill is in the town of Beacon, while Arthur Kill is on Staten Island--but unfortunately located on Arthur Kill Road. On the other extreme, some of the prisons have names suggestive of idyllic sanatoria, such as Great Meadow and Green Haven. Imagine: how is one to explain to the child of a murderer that his/her father has been sent to Arthur Kill? Sound like Over Kill?

Of the inmates of New York State prisons, an astonishing 61% had previously been imprisoned or institutionalized. The racial/ethnic distribution of the prisoners has changed dramatically even since 1960, when nearly half of the prisoners were Caucasian, whereas now only a quarter are.

Of all the state's various prisons, the one with the largest number of prisoners (Clinton, 2500 prisoners) is also the one that is about the furthest away from anything and everybody else, namely in the far extreme thinly populated north-east corner of the state.

*The New Mexico State Penitentiary, where there had been a riot in 1980 in which 33 prisoners were slain by their fellow inmates, has been termed as "not under control" by a state prison monitor in Fall of 1981. Apparently, one of the problems is that there is widespread corruption among guards (Time, Oct. 26, 1981, p. 26).

*The people in corrections would like to have us believe that criminals and prisoners have changed so drastically that restitutive strategies for alternatives to incarceration are no longer feasible, if they ever were. Such assertions have a kernel of truth, but only enough to serve invalidly as legitimization for a dysfunctional and destructive system.

Would You Believe?

*The Coffin Hotel was reported on the television show "Omni: The New Frontier" as an example of the signs of the times. This establishment offers guests capsule-size bedrooms about the size of coffins which are stacked up and across. Each bedroom "drawer" is equipped with telephone, T.V., radio and is comfortably padded. Only two or three staff are required to run this operation, which also provides a locker for each guest and communal showers. That the hotel is filled to capacity every night of the business week is testimony that economic considerations override the guests' fear of the death imagery in the "morgue model" of the hotel. It probably would not get a five-star rating from AAA, especially for those who might have claustrophobia! (Submitted by Max Korn)

(PS of Editor: We hope none of the higher-level human service residential planners reads this, or soon HUD and others will be funding morgue residences)

*In one instance in 1980, efforts were made to convert a synagogue into a 150-place nursing home for mentally retarded people, and to provide day services for developmentally impaired people at the same facility. This project was to be funded by "investor capital" and a grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) so that, in effect, the federal government would underwrite the profits of a private profit-making proprietary human service organization.

This kind of facility use deeply offends against one's sense of building function congruity, and even facility historicity. One can think of similarly incongruent analogues, such as housing handicapped or devalued people in missile silos or in salt mines.

*Now here is truly good and bad news. The bad news is that in southern Australia, there is a Fullarton Home for Incurables which three years ago was renovated at a cost of \$1 million. The good news is that a wing with 200 beds has been standing empty. More bad news is that some people think that this is bad news (Link, September 1, 1981).

*Rainbow Acres Ranch in Arizona is a Christian human service that proudly announced in 1981 that it started five new enterprises for its mentally retarded adult clients. These include "God's Gardeners" (horticulture work), "Janitors for Jesus," "Savior's Sawdust Factory" (woodwork), "Holy Spirit Horses" (riding), and "Crafts for Jesus" (gifts and novelties, a mainstay of work at the ranch). The cover of its brochure asks "If you were ten years old and had to earn a living, how would you do it?" The brochure then explains that while its adults range in age from 20 to 50, the average mental age is only ten years. Donations to help make up the difference are tax deductible. (Source materials submitted by Ed Goldman)

*In New York State, there is a Babylon Therapeutic Community residential program--a rather ominous development, it seems.

*During a 1981 trip to Virginia, the Wolfensbergers encountered the Patrick Henry Girls' Home off to the side of one of the highways. This seemed to be the perfect place to adopt the motto "Give me librium or give me meth."

Psychopostcard Corner

*In several past issues, we have mentioned that around 1900, picture postcards became popular, and some of these have shown historically valuable scenes of human service settings such as institutions, hospitals, prisons, old age homes, orphanages "poor farms," etc. These postcards can be found in antique stores and "postcard fairs." The TIPS editor collects these cards, and we hope that other people have taken up the hobby too. The postcards are valuable not only for the photographs of how the old institutions used to look, but sometimes also for their messages. Below is an example of some of the more poignant ones we have come across so far.

From a postcard showing "Rockland Hospital for the Insane" in Kingston, Ontario, Canada (the message is given exactly as it appears on the card, and the words in parentheses are the correct spellings of misspelled words):

Fred

Ema came on the 1 train and we went out: he has a private room and a special nurse. Ema and I did not know father. We said it was not him when he opened his eyes he called us both by name and wanted to know where Kenneth was. He looked awful to us his head was all swollen up and his hair shaved off also his whiskers. His head and face was all painted with white stuff. He was getting better was up and dressed last week and walking around the hospital. Was talking Saturday has been quite sick. Ema was scart (scared). When she got the word and sent word to me she said she did not take time to send word to Amelia. The doctor thought he was a little better today than yesterday though the erysipilis (erysipelas) was still spreading. I did not know whether he would get over it or not and thought by Friday we would know and if he thought he would get better and would come on that day. Eve. (Submitted by Susan Thomas)

*We recently ran across a postcard of a scene entitled "West Milwaukee Shops and Soldiers' Home" from Milwaukee. We can not quite figure out what the combination of shops and soldiers' home means, since the postcard mostly shows a big cannon in the foreground, and some rather nondescript buildings in the background which do not particularly look like shops. Perhaps one of our readers can resolve the riddle.

*We also acquired a postcard which shows the administration building of the Norristown State Hospital in Pennsylvania. The only message on the postcard was "Some people get jobs here."

*Another interesting psychopostcard depicts the "Rockview Penitentiary between State College and Bellefont, PA." It is remarkable that a prison in which prisoners formerly were very apt to be employed crushing rocks by hand should be called Rockview. Also, the postcard was addressed to a very small child.

*There once was also a Mooseheart, Illinois (discovered on another psychopostcard) which was a Moose institution for children and aged Meese on over two square miles and with 180 buildings.

Update on Miscellaneous Governmental Issues

*I (WW) admit to certain reluctance to include in our newsletter so much material about governmental affairs and their implications, particularly since some readers might suspect that this coverage is partisan. The fact is that it is not. Indeed, we have to anticipate the likelihood that none of the parties in existence, and no government headed by any of the current parties, will escape the patterns of irrationality and destructiveness in which they have been enmeshed.

One reason why I must continue to address governmental action is that even people discontent with governmental policies, or even with its identity, may not as yet have realized how deeply the current administration has allied itself with death. This death alliance has taken many different forms, including not only the more obvious elements of nuclear and other armaments, but also strong support in very tangible ways of governments that are persecuting their own citizens, including some that are practicing virtual genocide on their poor and minority populations. We see this alliance with death also expressed in the favoritism shown to destructive industries, and in the hardships that are being inflicted on poor and marginal people.

An example of this alliance with death occurred when President Reagan appointed Armand Hammer as Chairman of the Presidents Cancer Panel in late 1981. Hammer has been the head of Occidental International (formerly Petroleum) Corporation, one of whose subsidiaries has been the Hooker Chemical Company that created the Love Canal disaster. While Hooker polluted the environment before it became part of Occidental, it has continued to be uncooperative, resistive, and defensive about its crimes. Appointing Hammer to chair the Cancer Panel comes about as close to appointing a coyote to be the watchdog over a flock of sheep as we can get.

Hammer's ideology is a good example of the fallacious thinking of the modern mind. Hammer has offered a \$2 million prize of his own money for the discovery of the cure for cancer (Science, December 18, 1981). The modern mind pursues easy technological fixes, such as "cures," while thinking nothing of spreading dysfunctionality, disease and death in a deeply embedded and systemic way in both the physical as well as the social environment.

*During 1981, the US Congress participated rather enthusiastically in massive imitations and cutbacks of expenditures. One of the last things they did was to vote all kinds of benefits for themselves.

*Let us be clear what the US Federal Government has claimed it can and will do: stop inflation, decrease unemployment, cut taxes, increase military spending, balance the budget and protect the "truly needy." Rotz of Ruck!

*The Reagan administration has cut funds for behavioral research grants by virtually all of its agencies--except the military (APA Monitor, January, 1982). Here, it should be noted that behavioral research funded by the military has been largely indistinguishable from such research funded by federal civilian agencies; therefore, the increase in behavioral research funded by the military at the same time that such funding by civilian agencies has been reduced serves largely the symbolic function of giving greater importance and authority to the military, rather than of increasing research relevant to the military. This development can be likened to one reviewed in the TI's 1-day slide show on the history of human services, namely the militarization of human services between circa 1600-1800, which served the purpose of casting afflicted people into the roles of criminals and prisoners.

*Common Cause (December, 1981) has unearthed additional pieces of evidence on how the Reagan administration is trying to beat down dissent, and exclude the public. For instance, a staff member of the Environmental Protection Agency was ordered to write an apology after issuing a water pollution study that angered officials; Labor Department economists have been told never to return calls from congressional staffers or reporters; efforts were made to stack participation at the 1981 White House Conference on Aging so as to weed out participants who differed with Reagan administration policies; and so on.

*Did you know that the US government has been contracting out to commercial firms the unpleasant task of deporting people judged to be illegally in the US? One such firm is named "Scan," and it has been deporting refugees from El Salvador who have been denied political asylum in the US. Isn't this a little bit like contracting out executions, or wars? One wonders what the "Requests For Proposals" look like that the government usually issues before deciding to whom to award such a contract. Can nursing homes bid on these contracts?

WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

An introductory PASS (Program Analysis of Service Systems) training workshop will be held March 29-April 2, 1982, in Attleboro, Mass., conducted by trainers from Ga., Mass., and Vt., supervised by Jack Yates, one of the most knowledgeable and experienced people in the normalization/PASS training world. PASS is an instrument for measuring the quality of human services, mostly in terms of services' adherence to the normalization principle and its implications. Attendance at the PASS workshop is currently probably the best way of learning the normalization principle well. The workshop is very intense and demanding, and includes small group ("team") practicum evaluations of services under the guidance of a more experienced leader. The workshop will be held at the Center for Christian Living, where room and board for the five days of the workshop is \$100. The cost of meals only for the five days is \$50. There is no registration fee for people from South-eastern Mass.; for all others, the workshop fee is \$100. For more information, contact: Jack Yates, 143 Main Street, North Easton, MA 02356; 617/823-4952 (work) or 617/238-3557 (home).

Acknowledgment

The 15-year old son, Paul Zev David, of the editor-supreme of TIPS raised the question why his contributions to TIPS have not been acknowledged, as several other contributions have been (of course, some contributors specifically request that their names not be mentioned). In response, his past and future contributions are acknowledged herewith. They consist of cutting out innumerable clippings which the editor-supreme marked in certain periodicals, primarily the local newspaper.

"HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS"

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