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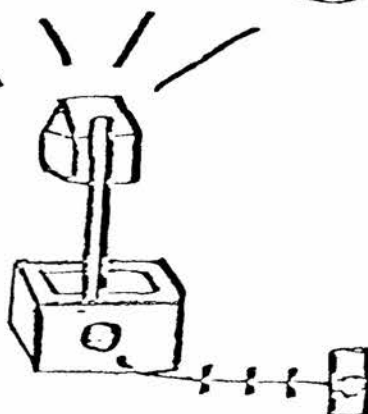
TIPS

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Syracuse, New York

He who gives a child a treat
Makes joybells ring upon the street;
He who gives a child a home
Builds palaces in kingdom-come.
(John Masefield)

The Family and Child Placement Scene

At this time it is estimated that more than 500,000 children in the United States are growing up away from their families. The majority of these children are under the aegis of the child welfare system, juvenile justice, mental health, mental retardation, and special education. These systems are so large, uncaring and bureaucratic that they have a tendency to lose the children whose lives they determine and control. In many cases, they lack the most rudimentary statistics about the children in their charge, such as their ages or the length of time they have spent in the various places, or even the number of times that they have been moved. In essence, this system is self-serving, and sees the transaction of bureaucratic processes as completing its responsibility, rather than the tracking of the children, the ascertainment of their welfare, and if at all possible, either their reunification with their families or their adoption into other families.

Between 1853 and 1893, the New York Children's Aid Society placed over 90,000 homeless children from New York City in good homes in "the West," thereby making a significant contribution to child welfare and saving children from the street life and corruption of New York City. However, today, it appears that this early laudable practice is used as a justification for playing musical chairs with children, and for sending them rather randomly and incoherently from one state to another. For instance, children by the thousands have been sent by various states to other states, some of which have become somewhat of a "sink" for children in the foster and institutional network. One such "sink state" has been Texas.

What we might call the "child transport system" is heavily incentived away from family maintenance, and toward displacement and institutionalization. For instance, during fiscal year 1979-1980, the New York State Department of Social Services was estimated to have \$21 million earmarked for preventing child displacement, and \$376 million for institutionalizing children. At the same time, it was estimated that initial child displacement could be prevented at the cost of \$2,300, foster care could be provided at \$5,000, while institutional service would cost an average of \$14,000 a year per child.

(The above from: Hall, J. C., Hamparian, D. H., Pettibone, J. M., & White, J. L. (Eds.). Major issues in juvenile justice information and training: Readings in public policy. Columbus, OH: Academy for Contemporary Problems, 1981.)

*In the late 1800s, New York City had a phenomenally large number of homeless children. In response, several measures were taken, including the shipment of entire trainloads of such children to the midwest, to be there, in essence, adopted and raised. Also, many local service programs were developed to deal with the problem.

It now seems that the problem is reappearing. It has been estimated that a staggering total of 200,000 runaway children from all strata of society, and from all parts of the country, live in New York City. About 20,000 of these runaways are below the age of 16. Tens of thousands, both male and female, have taken up prostitution because they have no other means of earning a living. Further, many drift into the drug and/or criminal culture. There are 17-year old children who have already prostituted themselves on several thousand (!) occasions (Reader's Digest, 1980).

At the "Under 21," a rescue service for children run by Father Bruce Ritter (a Franciscan), as many as 12,000 children a year have sought help--but 70% go back out into the street life.

*The Indiana Welfare Department was the guardian of Roy Bowman until they "released" him when he turned 19--probably counted as deinstitutionalized and rehabilitated. He became an instant member of the growing population of street people, sleeping on park benches and in vacant houses. Soon, he was arrested for stealing a 25¢ package of crackers from a concession stand in the federal building in Indianapolis. Being not very clever, he was caught while he still had crumbs all over his face, and while he tried to sell a pint of blood for \$5 to get money for food. In theory, the offense could bring him one year in prison. Rather than something being done for him, he was ordered to receive a psychiatric examination to determine his mental condition (Connecticut ARC News, August 1981).

*In some respects, the city of Calgary (Alberta, Canada) is one of the richest in the world, due to the oil and gas that is produced in the region or transported through it. Yet guess where homeless children are being served there: in hotel rooms, because government claims it has not enough money to provide group homes for these children. Sometimes, there are as many as 32 such children in the hotel at one time, and some of the children stay there for up to five weeks. (Item supplied by Bob Jones.)

*The legal, funding, regulatory, and administrative incentives are heavily stacked toward family disruption, institutionalization, dependency creation and low service quality. This systematic disincentiving is highlighted by the experience of a Hartford (Conn.) couple. Their infant boy being severely handicapped, they tried everything to receive services such as specialized day care, homemaker services, trained babysitters, etc. They were unable to obtain any help from the state, and in order to pay their bills, the mother even had to take a second job, which put

tremendous strain on the family. When the child was 16 months old, the parents reluctantly decided to explore institutional placement--and bingo, all kinds of services began to come out of the woodwork. After placing the child in an institution 36 miles away, he received the services of a physical therapist and a special education teacher, and the family began to receive financial aid. Now the family takes him home two weekends a month but are grief stricken about the arrangement. (Connecticut ARC News, December 1981).

*Similarly, in late 1981, the Beckett case in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, made national headlines. The Beckett child had a disease that could have been treated for \$2000 a month at home, but that was treated for \$12,000 a month at a hospital because all the available funding mechanisms would only support the more expensive institutional option. The middle middle-class parents were not quite poor enough for government subsidies and not affluent enough to pay the costs. Even President Reagan commented publicly about the case, and finally the US Department of Health and Human Services granted a waiver of the Medicaid rules--which they could have done all along so as to permit the less expensive home care. (E.g., AP, Syracuse Herald Journal, November 11, 1981.)

*Child placement agencies have been remarkably capricious in any number of their policies, and extremely destructive toward the welfare of homeless children. Thus, we commonly hear of foster parents being denied their wish to adopt one of their foster children, because that would make things harder for the child placement agency that would have to replace this rotating foster home with another one, which takes some work. It is much easier to simply keep children from being adopted than to go and recruit more foster homes. The latest quirk in this tragic field was recently reported from Leigh, near Manchester, England (Syracuse Herald Journal, July 10, 1981). We have all heard of instances where a potential adoptive couple was turned down because the responsible child placement agency thought that they lacked some kind of relevant qualification, but here, a couple who had fostered 47 different children was denied their application to adopt one of them--because their marriage was ruled to be too happy and perfect by the social service authorities. The agency said that the parents had had few, if any, negative experiences in their own childhood, and enjoyed a marital relationship without any rows or arguments. This, the agency deemed, does not sufficiently expose a child to the realistic negative experiences that all children (apparently especially homeless ones) supposedly need.

*A Long Island (NY) woman who had raised six children of her own and taken in 11 foster children over the years was denied in state court permission to adopt a six-year old girl she had raised from infancy on account of her age of 62. Not only that, but the child placement agencies swooped in and took the child away from the woman lest she be further tempted. This is yet another example of the unspeakable cruelty of our child placement system and its systematic disincentiving of stability and adoption for homeless children. By any reasonable statistics, the woman can be expected to live and be active until the time her foster child would have reached at least the mid or late teens (AP, in Syracuse Herald Journal, October 23, 1981).

*Jolly K. (her real name was Maureen Barton Litfin), co-founder of Parents Anonymous, a self-help group of parents who had abused their children, committed suicide in 1980 at the age of 39. During her youth she had lived in 35 different foster homes.

*In foster care work, turnover among social workers is so high that the average child lasts about twice as long in an average foster home as the child's case worker lasts in the job (Institutions Etc., 1981, 4(1), p. 13-16).

*A January 14, 1981, news item in the Toronto Globe & Mail reported the case of two infants born to a single native Indian mother who were taken from her by the Children's Aid Society, and moved approximately 24 times in the case of one child, and 17 in the case of the other. The agency in charge of the case was not even able to document the exact number of moves. These moves took place among the children's maternal home, a group home for young children, many foster homes, and hospitals. Health problems precipitated the moves to hospitals, after which the children were not necessarily returned to their previous setting. Some of the placements, such as those to foster homes, lasted only a single day.

*The practice of adoption agencies during much of this century can probably be considered as constituting a "service paradigm." Where a child was placed shortly after birth, the records in all but four of the American states were sealed; and presumably for the best of all parties involved, no contact between birth parent and child, or vice versa, was permitted, even if requested after the child had grown up. Yet it was not until 1978 that the issue was empirically studied, leading to the conclusion that the practice was erroneous, at least in its being so absolute and categorical. Many adoptive children were mentally severely hurt for life by their sense of lack of origin and identity; while on the other hand, many positive benefits were reaped in those instances where parent and child managed to reunite despite sealed records.

*(A letter from the New York Foundling Hospital to Mrs. Eva M.)
Dear Mrs. H: According to our records you and your brother R.L. who were born December 24, 1916 were admitted to the New York Foundling Hospital on February 11, 1919. Your mother had died on April 13, 1918 of appendicitis and your father died of pneumonia November 18, 1918. Your brother S.C. went to live with your uncle A.E. in X-town, Connecticut.

Since there was no one to take responsibility for you and your brother you were placed in the home of M. and A. H. of Y-town, North Dakota.

There was an agreement signed by the couple but it was not legal adoption. In the early 20's and 30's there were not many couples here in the east who wanted to adopt children.

Mrs. H died in 1924 and it became necessary to move you and your brother to the home of Mr. & Mrs. S.J. of Z-town, North Dakota.

There is mention in the record that the S.J. family intended to give a dowry of \$200 to you but we would not know if you ever received it. The S.J. family stated that they loved you children but did not want to adopt you.

It was indeed unfortunate that your parents died so young and that you children had to be taken from your home.

I do hope you have had good lives and that the three of you are close to each other. Sincerely yours, Sister H.B., Closed Records Office.

*Symposium ("Open Concourse") on "Is It Preferable to Raise Orphans in Institutions or in (Publicly) Supported Foster Families" sponsored by Hamburg (Germany) Arts & Crafts Guild. Guess when this symposium was held? In 1770! This goes to show that contrary to mainline beliefs, hardly any human service issues get resolved by "research."

*One bit of good news that we continue to run across is that a truly amazing number of people in our circle of friendship, or who have been to TI workshops, have made deep personal commitments to one or a few handicapped people. In some instances, our friends have taken handicapped people into their homes. Especially common has been the adoption or quasi-adoptive fostering of handicapped children, including some that have been deemed nonadoptable by the agencies. Many of our

friends who have done this are people who have had deep insights into the dysfunctionality of the structure of human services, and who get greater satisfaction from this personalistic engagement that pries a handicapped person out of the clutches of the service system than from some of the human service work that they are doing as members of a formal agency structure.

Food, Prosperity, and the Future

The material in this item is taken mostly from reports or articles in Science, especially November 27 and December 4, 1981.

Between 1959 and 1980, world food production doubled, but it has not done much good because population also almost doubled in the developing countries. When one examines who eats what, perhaps the single most dramatic difference occurs in the area of animal products, of which people in the US consume 10 times as much as people in the underdeveloped countries of the Far East.

Since World War II, scores of countries have become food importers, including most of those who used to be food exporters, whereas not one major new exporter has emerged. Over 100 countries are relying on North American grain. Yet for the first time in approximately one generation, there is no crop land idled under US farm programs, which indicates that potential food reserves are beginning to run out. In 1960, grain reserves in terms of both stock on hand and idled US crop land sufficed to feed the world for 102 days. By 1980, it had shrunk to 40 days.

While world population continues to increase, many kinds of food production potentials are decreasing. One leading source of cropland loss is city expansion, which often takes away prime cropland. Another source has been hydro-electric dams which often inundate rich bottom land. Unfortunately, the most accessible coal reserves in the US are underneath some of the nation's finest farmland, such as in Illinois where literally millions of acres may be lost to strip mining.

Furthermore, aggressive farming has become one of the major contributors to soil erosion which, in turn, is almost certain to be a major contributor to massive famine in the future. The topsoil over much of the earth surface is only a few inches deep, usually less than a foot, yet intensive farming has accelerated its loss. In hilly areas, water contributes a great deal to erosion, while in flat regions, the wind does. A single acre planted continuously to corn can easily lose 20 tons (!) of topsoil, while even under crop rotation, 3 tons of loss a year are normative. The wind has been taking an average of 15 tons of topsoil per acre in Texas farmlands. The loss of topsoil in states where it has been best, such as Iowa, is incalculable in terms of its future disastrous impact. Similarly, in developing nations, mounting population pressures are forcing cultivators to shorten rotation cycles. Where the jungle is cleared away, as in Brazil, the earth commonly becomes as hard as cement, and if sufficient land is cleared like this, it could turn vast areas from lush jungle into barren desert, much as happened in parts of North Africa which was once the bread basket of the Mediterranean. Where irrigation is used, there are two dangers: one is that the evaporating water leaves salt behind in the soil which, over a period of several hundred years, makes the soil non-arable; and where water is pumped out of the ground for irrigation, the ground water level sinks, contributing to desertification. In some western states, this water level has been dropping by a catastrophic 10-20 feet a year. Cities like Phoenix, Reno, Tucson and Las Vegas are probably very short phenomena, and the tumbleweeds will probably play in their deserted streets not too long hence. When ground water is pumped out near the ocean, salty water invades the ground and ruins it for farming. Some of the ground water reserves will take tens of thousands of years to recharge, if ever. Thus, the current irrigation-based farming in parts of Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico will be historically of very short duration, probably phasing out yet within this century, or early in the next leaving a poorer world behind than when such irrigation started.

Even farmers who are very well aware of these realities nevertheless contribute to them because low prices for their products force them to farm the land ever more intensively to its very limits. If they accept conservation measures for the long run, they are extremely likely to be forced into bankruptcy "over the short run." In time, if present trends continue for even only a few more years, a great deal of our crop land will have to be abandoned, some for hundreds of years, others for thousands.

Resources and Events

Jean Vanier to Speak in South Bend

The founder of the l'Arche movement will speak on "Living Joyfully with the Mentally Handicapped" at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 9, 1982, at the O'Laughlin Auditorium of St. Mary's College of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana. Admission is free. (Submitted by Dan Ryan)

Introductory PASS Workshop

Saturday, August 14, through Wednesday, August 18, 1982 at Southeastern Massachusetts University in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Room and board available at the university. The total cost of workshop tuition, room and board combined is estimated to be \$200 or less. Contact Jack Yates, 143 Main Street, North Easton, MA 02356, 617/823-4952.

A Critique of "The Worst Film on Mental Retardation Ever Made"

The Client 16mm film or videocassette; color; sound 27 minutes
Available from: Focus International, Inc. Rental: \$60
1 East 53rd Street, New York, NY 10022 Purchase: \$425
212/799-0491

This film (also available in videotape) is exceedingly instructive when properly critiqued. There are a number of important major points that it teaches: (a) how technologies, when cut loose from a positive guiding morality, must lead to destructiveness; (b) that even theoretically valid and potentially adaptive methods become ineffective or counterproductive when they are implemented in dysfunctional environments; (c) the increasing trend to replace positive ideology towards, and competent knowledge of, devalued handicapped people with empty technologies; (d) that even the nation's most respected human service leaders are totally unconscious of the most basic service dynamics.

The technology depicted in the film--use of computers combined with behavior modification--is one of the most advanced technologies around, and is much ballyhooed both by its promoters and human services. Yet here, it ends up accomplishing nothing, and possibly even making things worse, and does so at great expense, and without the film makers being aware of it.

We strongly recommend that people view and show the film, but that they use our detailed critique to guide them in their viewing, their analysis, and discussion afterwards. This 7-page, single spaced, exhaustive critique is available from TI for \$7 (make checks payable in U.S. funds to "Syracuse University Training Institute").

Employment Exchange

*Steve Tullman, one of our close senior associates and doctoral students, is seeking a full-time job in human services. He has been very closely involved with the TI since September 1976, and participated both as a trainee and presenter in all kinds of workshops conducted by TI. He is interested in working in community residential or vocational programs. Interested parties can contact him (B 29-4 Slocum Heights, Syracuse, NY 13210; 315/446-2530) or the TIPS editor, and let others know of Steve's availability.

*Gregor Smith is looking for a position, preferably residential, in the British Columbia area. He has been to two PASS workshops and several value-related ones. Contact him at Box 1795, Vernon, British Columbia V1T 3W8, Canada.

Governmental Affairs

*It is estimated that for every member of Congress, there are at least 30 lobbyists. One such lobbyist has begun to lobby for a change in the tax laws that would allow companies to sell their unused tax credits to each other, which would cost the government \$38 billion in lost revenue. Lobbyists have been exceedingly successful in whatever they have tried to lobby for, but feel that their image in the eyes of the American public is suboptimal. In response, they formed the American League of Lobbyists in 1981. One of the measures being considered by the association is to institute educational requirements or even formal accreditation for lobbyists, on the assumption that this would improve their image. Common Cause (December 1981) suggested that the biggest impact of such a measure would be to drive up the salaries of lobbyists, and that accreditation might require courses such as Armtwisting 101, Introduction to Legal Semantics, and a thesis on why government-granted monopolies are essential to the preservation of free enterprise. The single biggest donor of political contributions in California in 1980 was the California Medical Association. One wonders why.

*Would you believe that the government would pay the expenses of a member of one of the peace churches, or of one of the left wing anti-war groups, to come to Washington and to lobby against the MX missile system, or the B-1 bomber? Obviously not! However, you better do believe that the government has been paying the bills of lobbyists on behalf of these, and similar, weapon systems. A number of major weapons corporations have staff members whose jobs are essentially nothing but to lobby the government into buying their weapons. Examples of such companies are Martin Marietta, Sperry-Univac, Raytheon, Rockwell, General Dynamics, and on and on. These companies are defense contractors, and for years, their contracts with the government have included the salaries of such lobbyists. These contracts have also paid for lodging, meals, hiring of guides for representatives of these companies when they go to Washington to lobby, and even the cost of memberships in country clubs in the Washington area have sometimes been charged to government defense contracts. The Rockwell Corporation tried to charge the government the cost of 100 copies of a film promoting its B-1 bomber. Practices such as these are defended as not being efforts to influence legislation but as being "public relations efforts" (Common Cause, August and October, 1981).

*President Reagan has ordered 1,160 neutron bombs which cost about \$1 million apiece. This is the bomb that kills people through radiation but does little damage to property.

*Theoretically, one might think of nuclear energy as a subset of energy produced by numerous means other than nuclear. However, the mentality of the current administration is further revealed by its efforts to dismantle the federal Department of Energy and replace it with a federal Nuclear Administration. This new agency would handle not only nuclear energy but also non-nuclear energy, plus nuclear weapons, and would thus clearly relegate non-nuclear energy issues to a role subordinate to nuclear energy. Nuclear power was the only major federal energy program to be spared from all budget cuts. In contrast, funds for solar energy and for conservation were virtually eliminated. It is estimated that by the year 2000, American nuclear reactors will have produced enough plutonium for 78,000 nuclear warheads--which would be about three times as many as currently estimated to be in the US arsenal. (Mother Jones, February/March 1982)

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had planned to conduct an experiment to see if the public would make use of leaflets that would be attached to ten high-risk drugs, and that contained basic information about the drug and its uses, side effects and limitations. This would certainly have been a worthwhile experiment by any standard--but was vigorously opposed not only by drug manufacturers but also by physicians and pharmacists. In response to these pressures, the FDA capitulated and scrapped the experiment (Science, January 22, 1982).

*Whatever else one may think of President Reagan, he has taken a more leisurely approach to the presidency than probably any other president in at least the last fifty years, and probably even much longer. In fact, he himself openly professes to a philosophy of presidential style which does not place much value on the kind of frenetic work pace set by presidents such as Carter. Yet 75% of the American population consider him to be a "hard-working president" (Time, December 28, 1981).

Keep It Under Wraps, Senator

*Senator Jeremiah Denton (R-AL) forgot himself a little bit when he said at a criminal code bill hearing where he had supported prohibition of rape by a spouse, "Damn it, when you get married you kind of expect you're going to get a little sex." (Common Cause, February 1982). The outraged National Organization for Women has vowed to get his foreskin.

Good News

*The Canadian version of Sears is called Simpson. In its 1931 spring fashion catalogue supplement, it showed children's clothes being modeled by a group of four very cute little boys, one of whom was handicapped and depicted in a wheelchair. As we all know, advertisements overwhelmingly feature young and beautiful people from the mainstream of society. Handicapped people are virtually never featured, minority members on occasion, elderly people rarely. Theoretically, such advertisements should feature people roughly in proportion to their number in society, but advertisers and merchants fear that this would lose business, the theory being that people are more apt to buy a product that is associated with the human figure which constitutes a person's unconscious ideal with which they would more readily identify. For instance, cigarette companies will usually show beautiful young people smoking cigarettes, since if they showed a street bum smoking their cigarette, people would be more apt to be repelled from smoking or even from looking at the picture than if they saw a young couple that is depicted in a way suggestive of the possibility that they might be just about to engage in sexual intercourse.

*Venezuela has mounted a major systematic effort, apparently the first of its kind in the world, to develop the intellectual functioning of its people. The effort is symbolized by the creation of the first-ever cabinet post of a Minister of State for the Development of Intelligence. The program includes a broad spectrum of measures, ranging from preventive efforts at maternity hospitals to literacy enhancement in the armed forces. Underlying the program is the assumption that human beings function far below their intellectual potential. If it continues to receive governmental support, the program might very well come to be recognized as one of the greatest social experiments in modern times. It could certainly stand as an example to nations who put their resources into armaments and perishables (Science, November 6, 1981, 640-641).

*The bus company, Greyhound, will permit a handicapped person to be accompanied free of charge by a companion, and will carry prosthetic devices as baggage without additional cost.

*In an earlier issue, we have commented on some of the deviancy image problems of the logo of the International Year of Disabled Persons. Now, with much help from Bill Bronston, some publicity material of California's Project Interdependence, designed in 1981 to elicit positive attitudes toward handicapped people among school children, has used a modification of this logo which has eliminated virtually all of the problematic imagery. The two figures are so imbedded in the background that they no longer look as if they were unstable and about to tip over one way or the other; the appendage half-way between the arms and legs has been eliminated so that they no longer look as if they were copulating; the two figures are no longer shaded differently in an ambiguous fashion to suggest that one is better or worse than the other; the colors of the background now truly suggest a joyful and exuberant, almost dancing, association; and the two figures have been made large and heavy enough so as to suggest strength.

*One particular type of dwarfism results from a child's lack of growth hormone, and the administration of such hormone to such a child will reinstitute relatively normal growth patterns. In the past, the production of such hormones was so expensive that its use was essentially limited to research purposes. The cost of this hormone has now drastically declined (Discover, March 1982).

*The early Christian church had a rule that no donations were to be accepted that carried any kind of moral taint to them. At last, a US federal legislator has apparently adopted the same rule. Senator Harrison Schmitt (R-NM) has been sending back campaign contributions from business sectors known to be enemies of the environment (Common Cause, February 1982).

*Three Illinois residents owned one or more nursing homes, one of which was in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Among other things, it had been cited on 59 counts of patient abuse and had to pay \$31,500 in fines. After years of effort, its administrator apparently became the first one of a nursing home ever to be sentenced to prison for the death of an elderly man under his care (Newsweek, February 22, 1982).

Bad News

*Now here is truly sad news. In 1980, the Ohio Library Association produced an awareness calendar for the International Year of Disabled Persons. It has some good elements, such as each month showing events relevant to human services, both of the past and the present. But the incredibly sad thing is that the setup of the calendar does not permit one to know on which days of the week the different days of the month fall. The days are simply listed by the day of the month (1, 2, etc.). This means that the vast majority of people would not find the calendar useful, and indeed would not use it. The TIPS editor certainly would not, because he needs functional calendars. Thus, once more, a product which people might buy in order to show their positive ideology in regard to handicapped people turns out to be a largely useless product that one throws out or gives away, further enlarging the already high risk that handicapped people will be associated and imaged with discard, uselessness, and the production of useless materials.

*While Rome is burning, the Board of Directors of the North Shore ARC unit around Salem, Massachusetts, designated social and recreation activities as a top priority of retarded people in its area, and voted a significant portion of its unrestricted funds to meet this need (The ARC, January/February 1982).

*A few college undergraduate students have discovered what the world's experts have overlooked. All along, it has been believed worn-out nuclear power plants would remain radioactive for "only" a few decades after being decommissioned. The college students discovered that power plants produce a small but significant amount of very long-lived isotopes of a number of elements, such as nickel, which will remain dangerously radioactive for thousands of years. In fact, one such isotope has a half-life of about 80,000 years, which means it will take that long to lose half of its radioactivity (Science, January 22, 1982).

*The real median income for an American family in 1980 plunged by almost 6%, which was the largest drop since 1945, and was due to the 13.5% inflation rate that year and the economic slump. According to official definitions, 29.3 million Americans, or 13% of the population, were classified as poor. For a non-farm family of four, this would correspond to a family income of \$3400 (Parade, October 18, 1981). According to other estimates, one quarter of the US population was living below the official poverty line in 1981--an even greater proportion than at the beginning of the "war on poverty" 15 years earlier.

*The poor are more likely to get cancer, and are more likely to die from it once they get it than the rich (AP, in Syracuse Herald Journal, March 23, 1981).

Good News and Bad News

*Admiral Hyman Rickover has broken all kinds of records of longevity in the Armed Forces, holding an admiral's rank for about 20 years beyond the typical retirement age, and active assignment longer than just about anybody else. His farewell message in January of 1982 was good/bad news. The good news was that he was not proud of his role of creating the Navy's nuclear submarine fleet, predicting that "we will probably destroy ourselves" in a nuclear war. He said he was quite prepared to sink these submarines, and thought that nuclear reactors and nuclear weapons should be outlawed. The bad news was that he referred to the nuclear submarines as a "necessary evil" (Science, February 12, 1982).

*The so-called "Plow-shares Eight" were eight people who entered a General Electric plant in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, in September of 1980, and hammered the nosecones of two nuclear missiles into submission, and poured human blood on them. One of the ironies of the case is that it was so easy to do all of this--very similar to the way a small handful of people (partly the same people) about two years earlier had managed to close down the Pentagon by simply chaining shut the gates, and chaining themselves to the gates. For the few hours that it took to find the proper people with the proper tools, the United States was substantially deprived of its capacity to wage war because the senior generals were unable to enter the Pentagon.

Offenses such as these are largely symbolic, but the relevance and power of symbolism is well recognized by the powers that be, and is rewarded by court sentences which reflect not the gravity of the offense itself, but what the offenses are seen (correctly) to stand for. Thus, the Plow-shares Eight received very heavy sentences, three of its members being sentenced to up to ten years in prison.

Also noteworthy is a remark of the sentencing judge (Judge Salus--which means "health") which has not become widely known. He stated that he regretted the law did not permit heavier punishment and that if he had the power to do so, he would have sentenced the defendants to a Siberian labor camp or to a leper colony. Dan Berrigan, one of the defendants, said he was more offended by the remark about the leper colony than by his ten year sentence, because "I've been to a leper colony. They're beautiful people. I can't imagine serving them to be a sentence."

*Science (January 29, 1982) reported that there is strong reason to suspect that a group of scientists is working on the development of tools and techniques that would result in the production of a process that would permit taking three-dimensional (hologram) pictures of objects, including the human body, from the outside. Currently, a combination of X-ray and computers permits the visualization of slices (as if seen looking down on the flat slice) of the human body through a technique called CT or CAT. The technique under investigation would use lasers produced by X-rays, hence called X-rasers. The development of this process has been top secret because the X-ray source may come from a form of nuclear explosion, and because the technique may also have military applications. If the technique actually materialized, it would constitute a spectacular step forward to enable non-invasive three-dimensional visualization of what is inside major portions--or even all--of human bodies and other objects. However, even if this comes about, we can anticipate all sorts of problems accompanying this breakthrough, such as further proliferation of nuclear materials, and who knows how many kinds of military applications.

*In 1981, a court ordered New York City to provide shelter for those of its homeless street people who asked for it. In response, the city selected as its next major shelter site Ward's Island, with the Keener Building on the island (licensed in the past for 180 people) being equipped to hold 600 men. Previously, part of the Keener unit had been used for retarded people. The city is further planning to build an additional 400 "beds." All this is creating yet another island ghetto, perpetuating a tradition that is virtually as old as New York City itself, which has long used the various islands in the East River and off its shores (e.g., Staten Island and Long Island) as depositories for its unwanted people.

*The bad news is that the Reagan administration tried to abolish all kinds of regulatory safeguards on nursing homes. The good news is that they did not get away with it, and in essence conceded defeat (UPI, Syracuse Herald American, March 21, 1982).

*Time (January 18, 1982) documented an increasing addiction of people to computerized space and similar games, especially in arcades. Some children will spend as much money on this addiction as others do to support a drug habit. Many children are skipping school in order to play the games. The one good thing one can say for all this is that many of these games do have the potential for increasing a player's skills in domains such as perception, reaction time, coordination, perceptual judgment, etc. But then, how much is enough?

*The International Year of Disabled Persons has been simply full of good and bad news. In Australia, a handicapped woman was being interviewed for a 60-second TV spot for IYDP. One of the things the woman said was that her mother's "passing away was probably the beginning of my life...the beginning of me anyway." Despite a storm of protest, the Australian federal government deleted this comment as being "unnecessarily hurtful and perhaps demanding" to many parents of handicapped children. A survey of 150 handicapped people found them to be in overwhelming agreement that the episode should be kept in the TV spot (Link, 1981, 1(12), p. 8)

*Deviancy imaging of handicapped people was very much in evidence in a joke that made the rounds shortly after the attempt to assassinate President Reagan. It was phrased as one of those joke puzzles, where the question was, "Tell me President Reagan's favorite vegetable." Clever people were apt to say "tomatoes," because it was about this time that the government ruled that the catsup served in federally subsidized school lunches could be counted as one of the vegetables in a meal. However, the answer unfortunately was "James Brady," who was the White House Press Secretary who suffered a brain wound in the attempt to assassinate President Reagan.

By the way, considering the gravity of Brady's wound, his recovery has been phenomenal. Large-scale research on adults who had suffered externally-caused penetrative brain injuries can be dated from the time of World War I. One well-known series of investigations along these lines was conducted by the famous neuropsychiatrist, Kurt Goldstein. One of his findings was that many survivors tended to become concretistic and rigid in their thinking, and he and several colleagues designed a series of tests to assess people's capacity to think abstractly, and to shift conceptual sets. This included a so-called color-form sorting test, consisting of wooden blocks of various shapes and in various colors which people were asked to sort. The first time around, most people will usually sort all the blocks into little heaps by shape, or by their colors. Thereupon, the blocks are scrambled again, and the person is asked whether they can sort them some other way. Rigid and/or concretistic people will insist that their previous sorting is the only logical or feasible one, while most other people will think of at least one other way of sorting. It is important to recognize that these kinds of tests only point to cognitive and personality styles, but some of these are often associated with mental retardation, and sometimes with traumatic brain injuries, especially of the frontal brain lobes.

Environmental News

*Metal smelting plants have long been significant polluters of the environment, and many of them have not been responsive to the fact that some of their pollution is known to be very health-endangering. However, 1981 was the first time that a US smelting plant, the Bunker Hill Company in Oregon, was successfully sued by a family, three of whose children were poisoned by lead emissions and deposits in the soil near their home. Their father had worked for the company, and was promptly fired when he entered the suit, after which the family lived in abject poverty. The children may receive up to \$8.7 million in their lifetime, but it may be another ten years or so of more poverty before they ever see any of the money. Thus, paper millionaires, the family may be denied the money during the time when they need it the most (UPI, in Syracuse Herald Journal, November 2, 1981).

*A chemical dump near Atlantic City is spreading poisons underground toward the water supply wells of the city. It is conceivable that in the not-too-distant-future, fresh water will have to be imported to Atlantic City from far away, or the city may have to be abandoned. Apparently, everyone is assuming that there will always be importable water from somewhere else--which is an obvious absurdity. More and more cities or even regions are faced with the same problem, and while just about everybody continues to pollute, all these everybodies assume that somebody elsewhere is preserving enough water to make water transferable to where pollution has become virtually irreversible (Discover, March, 1982).

*The US government, via the Environmental Protection Agency, is attempting to modify regulations so that radioactive wastes can once more be dumped into the ocean because there still does not exist any satisfactory alternative. The harm that such dumping could do is literally unspeakable. This would include scuttling obsolete nuclear submarines at sea at a rate of about 3 or 4 per year over the next 30 years. Obviously, if the United States would do this, other nations would see themselves doing it as well, especially since some (e.g., Britain) have been doing it all along. Virtually every other kind of dumping at least leaves open the option of going back and doing something about the dumped wastes, which is an option relinquished when wastes are dumped in the ocean (Science, March 5, 1982).

*A very well-kept secret has been that during 1981, Australia had a fuel crisis which necessitated rationing of gasoline.

*Science (January 29, 1982) contained a most depressing lengthy article about the hazards of toxic waste storage and dump sites. There may be literally thousands of such dump sites in the US, and even several billions of dollars would not be enough to clean them up. Other problems associated with these sites are staggering. It is very difficult to determine what hazardous materials are present, especially since some emit hazardous gases, some do the damage by contact, and others enter the ground water pathways (aquifers). The latter may follow a tortuous path, so that people very near the site are not necessarily affected while others far away may be. When drilling to identify polluted underground water courses, it is easily possible to accidentally pollute previously unpolluted waterways, as for instance by drilling too far. Even testing ground water for contamination can be incredibly expensive, with even only a modest estimate of local ground water pollution costing up to \$250,000.

Surprisingly, substances that can be quite toxic can be remarkably difficult to identify both qualitatively and quantitatively. Even the identification of something as ancient and well-studied as lead poisoning can be remarkably difficult. In one study, 100 laboratories were sent blood from cows that had ingested varying, but known, amounts of lead. Only 35% of the laboratories were able to make correct determinations (i.e., within 15%) for more than 70% of the samples.

Even where there is known contamination, it is difficult to determine whether humans have been exposed, at what concentrations and for how long. When humans are found to contain toxins themselves, it cannot always be determined how they acquired these toxins. In one sample of 6,000 US subjects at numerous locations throughout the country, more than 99% had significant quantities of DDT in their blood. 99% of a sample of people in the lower peninsula of Michigan had significant quantities of a poison which had been inadvertently mixed with animal food in the state in the early 1970s. Large proportions of people had high amounts of numerous toxic substances.

Some people believe erroneously that mother's milk may be best for babies in this age of contaminated everything, but they are quite wrong. Human milk throughout the United States contains significant amounts of about half a dozen insecticides and similar toxic compounds. Indeed, at this point, "It is unusual to find uncontaminated milk anywhere in the world."

There is one theory that the Roman upper classes degenerated because they drank water that came from lead pipes, and that this is why Rome fell to the more vigorous "barbarians." Today, cancer is becoming virtually epidemic, and if we do not first start a nuclear war, it could well be that later generations say that we poisoned ourselves to death with insecticides and many other kinds of poisons.

*Initial official statements about the 1979 nuclear accident at Three Mile Island near Harrisburg (PA) was that it was a "normal operation" (Time, October 26, 1981). In the nuclear energy business, cancellation of further work on reactors under construction is referred to as "uncontrollable termination."

*Asbestos causes cancer. Now, a substitute for asbestos has been discovered. It is produced by melting scraps of slate and marble which can then be spun. Areas such as Vermont are full of scraps of these stones, which could become the base of a significant and healthier industry (Discover, March 1982).

*Experts are beginning to believe that nuclear radiation may be 50 times more hazardous than government and industry have estimated in the past, and yet more hazardous even than that for children. Furthermore, the belief that there is such a thing as a safe low dose of radiation is losing ground in favor of the belief that all radiation exposures act cumulatively (UPI, Syracuse Herald Journal, October 19, 1981).

*Don't count your chickens before they are spermed! For mysterious reasons, the sperm counts of American men have declined drastically over the past 50 years. People are taking this rather lightly and even make a lot of jokes about it, rather than facing up to the ominous meaning of the event. As a result, it is now estimated that the percentage of couples unable to have children has gone from its previous 10 to about 20 (Mother Jones, April 1982). One of the leading hypotheses for this trend is the increasing amounts of toxic chemicals in the environment, especially chlorinated and halogenated hydrocarbons, which means a great many insecticides. All male workers who handled halogenated hydrocarbons at one Occidental Petroleum Company factory were rendered sterile. However, other toxic agents are also still in the running as potential culprits, as well as abnormal amounts of radiation such as may even be associated with long-term exposure to video terminals.

*The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has been trying to put one of the undamaged nuclear reactors at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania back into production, but a citizen group contended that NRC had to deal with the psychological impact of such a step upon the citizens near the power plant. The NRC totally rejected this argument, but the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia upheld it in early January of 1982, and ruled that the NRC must prepare an environmental assessment of the impact of the restart of the facility on the psychological health of neighboring residents and the well-being of the surrounding communities. The NRC argued that this was a job that should be handled by mental health professionals--presumably by offering psychotherapy to people who were afraid to live near a nuclear reactor (Science, January 29, 1982). With tongue only somewhat in cheek, Science suggested that this ruling may mark the beginning of an entirely new field: psycho-environmental law. (Can psycho-environmental postcards be far behind?)

Consolation, We Hope, for Normalization Addicts

We understand that some of our readers lust for more normalization content in TIPS. We do plan to build some future issues around themes that are intimately related to normalization, such as image juxtapositions, residential issues, human service strategies and tactics, etc. However, we get the impression that some people equate normalization with clinical technology. Actually, the normalization principle is concerned as much with changing societal views of deviancy as it is with ameliorating the stigmata of societally devalued people. Thus, those of our materials that deal with societal attitudes and long-term societal ideologies in regard to devalued people actually cover pure normalization. Furthermore, every single issue of TIPS has contained and probably will continue to contain a great deal of material on image juxtapositions. It helps greatly to keep strongly in mind that one way of conceptualizing normalization actions is in terms of a 2 X 3 rectangle, where one dimension includes the enhancement of (a) the competency (in the widest sense) of devalued people, and (b) their image; and where the second dimension addresses (a) the individual, (b) the individual's intermediate social systems, and (c) the entire society in which the individual lives. Thus, there are six classes of implications, and in the long run, social role enhancement is the single most important goal for devalued people.

Psychopostcard Corner

*The best-selling postcard in the souvenir shop of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London has been one featuring the picture of a "water closet" (toilet) from an 1890 catalogue (Syracuse Herald American, November 8, 1982).

"HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS"

TIPS Editorial Policy. TIPS comes out every other month, and contains articles, news, information, insights, viewpoints, reviews, developments, etc., that relate to the interests and mission of the Training Institute. While TIPS is mostly concerned with phenomena and developments that have to do with human services, it also addresses some of the larger issues which affect our society and the quality of life on earth, as well as the ways in which decisions are made in our society. These higher-order phenomena will eventually express themselves in human services in various ways, including in human service values and funding. Usually a TIPS issue will devote a portion of its space to one specific theme. TIPS will address issues whenever and wherever they occur. Disclosures of adaptive developments promoted, or of dysfunctions perpetrated, by a particular party or government should not be taken as partisan political statements. We assume that subscribers are people who lead hard lives struggling against great odds, and are aware of many shortcomings in human services. Thus, we try to inject a bit of levity into TIPS so as to make subscribers' lives more bearable (or less unbearable, as the case may be), even if not deliriously joyful. In fact, some TIPS content is apt to be depressing and in need of occasional levitation. TIPS gets many items from other sources, tries to report developments truthfully, but cannot be responsible for errors contained in original sources. Specific items from TIPS may be reproduced without permission as long as the full TIPS reference is cited/acknowledged, and as long as only small portions of an issue are so reproduced.

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Invitation to Submit Items for Publication. We invite submissions of any items suitable for TIPS. This may include "raw" clippings, "evidence," reviews of publications or human service "products," human service dreams (or nightmares), service vignettes, aphorisms or apothegms, relevant poetry, satires, or brief original articles. We particularly welcome items that are good news, since bad news seems to come so much easier and more frequently. Send only material you don't need back, because you won't get it back. If we don't goof, and the submitter does not object, submissions that are used will be credited.

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