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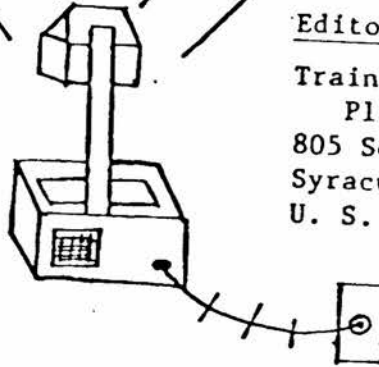
TIPS

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TRAINING INSTITUTE
PUBLICATION SERIES

Syracuse, New York

Good News for the Social Role Valorization and Service Evaluation Fields

Between the time you receive this issue of TIPS and the next, two important new publications will become available for sale:

Wolfensberger, W., & Thomas, S. PASSING Normalization Criteria and Ratings Manual. Toronto, Canada: National Institute on Mental Retardation, 1983.

Wolfensberger, W. Guidelines for Evaluations During a PASS, PASSING or Similar Assessment of Human Service Quality. Toronto, Canada: National Institute on Mental Retardation, 1983.

Both can be ordered from either NIMP (York University, 4700 Keele Street, Downsview, Ontario, Canada M2J 1P3; (416)661-9611) or Person-to-Person Citizen Advocacy Association, Inc. (State Tower Building, Suite 919, Syracuse, NY 13202 (315)472-9190). The PASSING Manual will cost \$35 Canadian or \$29 US, and the Guidelines \$15 Canadian or \$12 US respectively. Please add 10% postage and handling, and for mail orders from New York state to the CA office, add 7% state tax. Quantity discounts available upon request.

The first open PASSING workshop with the above tools takes place May 21-26 in Western Massachusetts. Information is available upon request.

In celebration of the above two publications, which are the products of 4 years of work, we make human service quality and its identification the major theme of this TIPS issue.

We must begin by pointing out that social role valorization is the new name for what used to be called the principle of normalization!! The phrase is adapted from a French word which connotes the bestowal of value, in this case on people's social role. In our recent writings, we have refined the aka normalization principle as having social role enhancement or defense as its ultimate goal, underpinned by image and competency enhancement.

All this thinking (except the new term) is explained in the new evaluation tool. Two flyers on it can be requested from us: An overview of PASSING, and how it relates to PASS, its predecessor.

Some Possible Reasons Why Services Score Low on PASS

Wolf Wolfensberger and Joe Osburn

A number of friends and associates of the TI have expressed concern over the low PASS scores of the services which they have assessed either on official assessments or as part of PASS training. Insofar as they are seldom involved in assessments where the service scores well, or even merely mediocre, their concerns include a questioning of their own ability to be fair and objective PASS raters. Indeed, some observers have wondered whether PASS scores have become even lower since the 1975 PASS edition began to be utilized. In order to shed more light on this issue, we will review here some of the more plausible reasons why so many human services have received low PASS scores, and why the same phenomenon seems to be in the making with PASSING (a new tool to assess the quality of a human service in relation to normalization requirements).

Low PASS/PASSING scores may result from the realities prevailing in human services or from dynamics within PASS/PASSING raters (i.e., evaluators). Among the former, several likely possibilities deserve mention.

1. Perhaps human services really are as poor as PASS/PASSING scores suggest.
2. There is a real possibility that societal devaluation has been, and still is, on the increase. If so, one must expect to see this reflected in human services, including in a decline in its quality. Such a decline would be expected to be reflected in instruments such as PASS/PASSING that are particularly sensitive to the phenomenon of social valuation.
3. In addition to unwittingly incorporating into the human management structures which they establish all the conflicting messages which society sends about societally devalued people, services may be becoming less and less able or willing to manage (a) the growing complexity of human services, and (b) their own (often confused) role in modern society. If the above is true, one can expect services to become less rational, more "crazy," and more incoherent. Such phenomena will inevitably show up in lower scores, especially on PASS, and not only in administration-related areas, but also in the ideologically based ratings.
4. The readiness of so many human services to operate any and all kinds of services for which money is made available represents another possible external explanation for decreasing PASS (and probably PASSING) scores. This is not hard to understand. Most of us have seen any number of agencies which simply did not have the experience or the competency to provide a certain service, yet they rush into a service merely because they can get their hands on some money, or because of trends, professional interests, status-seeking, etc. PASS and PASSING are easily sophisticated enough to reveal such incompetence and lack of relevant service ideology and orientation where it exists.

Next, we will examine a number of potential dynamics within PASS/PASSING evaluators that may explain low, and or falling, service scores.

1. One possibility is that negative perceptions or interpretations early during the evaluation of a service may create a halo effect that "steamrolls" the conciliation of later ratings into lower levels, as suggested by Jack Yates. However, if this were so, one would expect early positive perceptions to have an opposite and counter-balancing effect.

2. One possibility that has been raised in connection with the above issue is that evaluation teams that get too hurried may assign lower levels. However, this is probably not true because usually, team members (at least during training assessments) tend to assign higher levels than the ones that the teams arrive at after conciliation. It is usually in the exhaustive analysis of the team conciliation process that previously hidden weaknesses are brought out, and then agreed upon by the team to be real.

3. Jack Yates has suggested that the increase in sophistication of PASS/PASSING leadership, and the evolution of modes of analysis (particularly of model coherency, comprehensiveness, etc.) has enabled evaluation teams to look into ever greater depths of frightening dysfunctions in human services. That is highly likely to be true. In Training Institute teaching of topics quite unrelated to service evaluation, we have come to discover many more additional layers of dysfunctionality in human services than we had previously perceived or suspected. Some of these have begun to be taught in our workshops, especially the one on "How to Function with Moral Coherency in an Incoherent Human Service World."

4. An obvious possibility is related to the PASS/PASSING rule of thumb of "giving the benefit of the doubt" when evaluators have difficulty deciding between two adjacent levels of quality. As experience and knowledge of raters increases, there are fewer areas of doubt. One's ability to observe, gather, and analyze relevant data becomes more highly developed, and the mechanisms and procedures for doing so and achieving team consensus is refined to the point that fewer doubts arise. This may occur especially in official assessments where data gathering for the ratings is exhaustive, and where the main challenge to the rater is to discern and describe the dynamics behind the themes and patterns of a particular set of ratings. Even here, one step above the concrete ratings, there has tended to be very little disagreement about what the prevailing dynamics and overriding issues are.

5. As evaluators become more skilled and insightful, and as they begin to perceive many more negative than positive features in the services they assess, they usually try at first to be change agents for the better, sensing that an evaluation in which they are participating may be the only time that the quality of that service is responsibly called into question. In other words, this is the one chance these raters may have to make their point. This awareness may support a tendency to "go overboard" in calling attention to a service's shortcomings.

6. Relatedly, evaluators are generally thoroughly thwarted in the above-mentioned change agency efforts. As a result, evaluators may experience not only anger but a sense of futility that their efforts will not result in any fundamental change, and that the services slough off the evaluations as if they had never happened. Frustrated and angry raters might be inclined to punish services by rating them as severely as possible. In other words, as some observers have suggested, continued and frequent PASS/PASSING involvement might lead to unconscious devaluation of services and service workers, which might then get expressed through overly-critical, negative, or even punitive judgments on PASS/PASSING.

A good deal of the anger generated through an enlightened, ideologized examination of current human service practices may get repressed. While the TI has taught change agency principles that are known to be effective, their effectiveness typically depends on sustained efforts concentrated in time and place, and ability to sustain such efforts often depends on direct knowledge that they are having the desired effect. PASS/PASSING evaluations rarely afford the opportunities to engage in sustained concentrated change agency, in part because the change agents have tended to be extruded by the service system. Maybe more thought should be given to effective outlets for rater anger.

Each of these above six possibilities is internal to the rater, and can probably only be resolved by the individual him/herself, and by good team leadership.

How We Plan

*Time (7/30/79) reported that President Carter's energy plan submitted to the nation in the summer of 1979 was "hammered together" in just two weeks. If adopted, this plan would have involved a long-term, and possibly quasi-irreversible, commitment of the US to a set of policies which were estimated to cost \$141 billion. Of all this money, only slightly over 1% would have been devoted to conservation, while \$24 billion would have gone to just the opposite of the evolution of alternatives or the creation of incentives to conservation, namely to subsidies for the poor to pay higher fuel bills. People who have been somewhat skeptical of the critiques of the unbelievable irrationality in human service planning can take heart from this phenomenon. Further noteworthy is the fact reported in Science (8/3/79) that of the people consulted by the presidential team, only one was an environmentalist. The furthest any environmentalist groups got was to deposit written statements of their positions at the gate to Camp David where the plan was largely put together. All this exemplifies how policy is made, and helps us understand why things work poorly.

*The chaotic and unplanned approach to the development of human services was dramatically underlined in one US state office that was in charge of human service programs that were costing \$100 million annually; it was asked to submit its budget request for an upcoming budget year within two days.

*A woman at one of our TI Planning workshops had to miss the futurism module because her long-term plan for local children's services was due the next day, and she had to hack it out.

Complexity and Quality

*In August of 1978, a 42-year-old small businessman in Ithaca, NY, Charles Weldner, was declared dead by the US Social Security Administration. His medical insurance was canceled, his social security payments were halted, and his monthly disability payments due to an earlier automobile accident were changed to survivor's benefits addressed to his wife. Weldner protested in every possible way, and contacted social security officials in three different states. They were all very sympathetic, but none of them was capable of correcting the computer error or whatever else it takes to rectify such a situation. By late May 1979, the situation was still unresolved despite the assistance of an attorney, and Weldner's health and well-being suffered considerable setbacks.

This kind of situation amuses us somewhat in its absurdity, but thereby distracts us from hearing its portentous messages, one of which certainly must be that some of the bureaucratisms which control us have simply become unmanageable and are out of human control. They are not only out of the control of the little people, but even out of the control of the bureaucrats themselves.

Much like the Three Mile Island nuclear accident situation, this incident also underlines the urgency of admitting the fact that we cannot predict all of the outcomes of the complex systems we build. In the case of Charles Weldner, it was revealed that the complex computerized social security payment system is not designed to bring back anyone to life whom it has once declared dead. Computer systems specifically are often so intricate that very few, if any, people understand them, other than the persons who designed them. When the designers leave the scene, experts who replace them often can no longer manage the system.

*One of the architectural and artistic wonders of the modern world has been the Beaubourg museum for modern art in Paris, dedicated in 1976. It may be recalled that this was the building constructed from steel and glass, with different parts painted in bright colors, with much of the insides being visible from the outside, and with all of its piping and maintenance works either on the outside or at least highly visible. By 1981, the bright colors had faded, and the much-acclaimed steel construction had begun to rust and decay. After only five years, it was determined that it would take massive efforts to salvage the building.

This event is yet another one which illustrates the change agency principle that "nothing new ever works right away," and that things that have never worked properly in simple contexts should not be implemented in complex ones. It also underlines the readiness with which the sophisticates of the world not only deceive each other, but are deceived in turn, because only five years previously, they had hailed this structure, which ordinary people might very well have viewed as hideous from the beginning, as a landmark in artistic and architectural progress.

*The Empire State Building was built in less than 14 months in the 1930s. Only 27 months elapsed between the conception of the LaGuardia airfield and its opening. Comparable projects today take multiples of the time they used to. However, the more complex a system is, the easier it is to disable it by disabling only one or a few of its relatively small/minor components.

*The acoustical engineering at a ball court built by Central American Indians was superior to that of the Kresge Auditorium of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

*The breakdown of societal functionality, and even the use of the law, was made dramatically manifest when citizens of Connecticut found it necessary in 1981 to introduce into their state legislature two bills that would make it rightful for mentally retarded persons under the custody of the state's Department of Mental Retardation to wear their own clothing. If it is impossible to get citizens to exercise common sense and common decency vis-a-vis each other by their own free will, one can easily imagine a need for (or passage of) literally millions of laws specifying the most minute details of everyday life.

*The failure of the single-path litigative movement so popular in recent years is highly symbolically represented in the fact that Ricky Wyatt, the original plaintiff in the famous 1971 Wyatt vs. Stickney decision to grant the right to treatment to residents of Bryce Hospital (formerly Alabama Hospital for the Insane), ended up "deinstitutionalized" in a prison (Institutions Etc., 3/81, 4(3), p.8-9).

*In many human service settings, such as hospitals, we are encountering the relatively new phenomenon of systematic worker sabotage of the system. It is as if in an inarticulatable fashion, people expressed their rejection of an overly-complex system. This would strongly suggest that highly complex systems are not sustainable over the long run, and will collapse under their own weight. However, special poignancy is added if it should be determined that sabotage is particularly apt to be acted out in human service settings, where afflicted and weak people are the most immediate victims, rather than proprietors and stockholders.

*The futility of the idea that human services should be controlled out of Washington was dramatically brought out by an uproar in Syracuse when the tenants of a federally-owned public housing project complained that the rats were taking over their apartment complex so that it was virtually no longer liveable and "nobody seems to care about it" (Syracuse Herald Journal, 7/13/82). How could Washington possibly be expected to take care of the rat problem in Joe Doe's apartment in Podunk Center? Next thing your toilet stops up, try calling the President to come and clean it up.

Miscellaneous Service Quality Observations

...Down Comes Swyngomatic, Wynd-A-Matic, Toddletime, Baby and All

The above 3 baby cradles were recalled by their producers because their bottoms permit a positioning that allows the baby to fall through (CR, 1/83).

Black Holes

A black hole is something like a tiny star that is so dense that it has incomprehensively high gravity, sucking everything around it within itself, even light itself. As a result, black holes are invisible. There is now a growing body of evidence that a black hole may lie at the center of our own galaxy, the so-called Milky Way (Science, 1/22/82).

Considering how our human service monies vanish without doing much good, one wonders what lies at the center of the human service supersystem?

*The prominent statistician Frederick Mosteller contrasted innovations in surgery with those in social programming. About half of the surgical innovations turned out to be of at least some benefit, and a fair number were of significant benefit. In contrast, most social programs simply did not work (summarized in Science, 4/27/79).

*We may contemplate that between the 1950s and 1980, the federal government had spent approximately \$14 billion trying to create jobs for American youth. Even as it did so, teenage unemployment in the United States was approximately 11% in the 1950s, rose to about 14% in the 1960s and to 17% in the 1970s.

*There is certainly much truth in the assertion that getting no service is often better than getting certain services, because so many services do so much harm. However, one cannot help raise at least one eyebrow at the announcement of the New York State Advocate for the Disabled that it was abolishing its New York City office and consolidating services into Albany because of lack of funds "and thereby increase the level of service delivery" (Giant Steps, 8/82).

*Human services suffer from a phenomenon that is somewhat reminiscent of the well known Gresham's Law in economics, which stipulates that inferior currency drives out currency of higher quality. In other words, if a country uses both gold and silver currency, the gold is more apt to be hoarded, and thus to disappear from the currency scene. If there is both silver and paper, the silver is apt to disappear in favor of the paper, as actually happened in the US and Canada during the 1960s. The human services equivalent of Gresham's Law might be formulated as follows: when two groups of clients are served in the same setting, and one group is societally more highly valued (or less devalued) than the other, then there will be an overwhelming tendency that the less valued group will receive inferior valuation, attention, and quality of service. In other words, service to the more valued groups will drive down or out the quality of service to the less valued group.

*At TI workshops, we have often made the point that there actually exists precious little evidence for the effectiveness of human services, and that human services are rendered on the basis of ideology rather than empiricism. While there is nothing wrong with that as long as the ideologies are positive and the nonempirical basis of service is acknowledged, most human service professionals have been taught during their training to believe in the myth that services rest on an empirical basis. Some kinds of services indeed may not require hyper-scientificated proof, such as the efficacy of many kinds of medical treatment. However, we have cause to be baffled by the finding that when medical services suddenly disappear in our society, the mortality rates decline. Yet this is what the research has shown,

as during a physicians' strike in Los Angeles in 1976 when there was an 16% drop in the death rate; a similar strike in the same year in Bogota, Columbia, when the death rate dropped 35%; during two physicians' strikes in Israel, death rates dropped by 20% and 50% respectively (Parade, 10/4/81, p. 23). If we want to base our human services strictly on empirical evidence, then should we not get rid of all the physicians?

*Onondaga County, whence TIPS issues, has been hailed as "one of the most progressive communities of its size in terms of human services" (Syracuse Herald Journal, 2/22/79). Yet we know that its human services are pitiful, and the scores of PASS evaluations conducted there have identified very few bright spots. People's expectations of human services are indeed low--including the expectations of human service functionaries.

*In early August 1982, an undercover state police investigation led to an announcement that 22 employees of the Pennhurst Center (a state institution for the mentally retarded) in Pennsylvania had engaged in abuse or neglect of retarded residents. One attendant supposedly assaulted eight residents in a three week period, mostly with his fists. He had been hired while serving five years' probation for theft and burglary convictions.

Two days later a judge ordered the phasing out of the court-appointed special master who had been monitoring the quality of service at Pennhurst, as well as that of residents moved into the community. Inexplicably, the news item was juxtaposed to a picture of Frank Cappola and another picture of the electric chair in which he had been electrocuted in Virginia (Philadelphia Inquirer, 8/15/82; submitted by Chuck Burkhouse).

*Pauper burials are a scandal. Most common is a negligent and disrespectful handling of burial arrangements by the undertakers who are paid by the public authorities to take care of such burials. Apparently, this cynicism often even extends to fraud. In Pennsylvania, a man found that his grandmother was not in the paupers' grave in which she supposedly had been buried. Cemetery representatives disclaimed all responsibility, saying that all they do is put the corpses in the ground, and "who knows what goes on under the ground afterwards," and "the cemetery had no control over it!" (UPI, in Syracuse Herald Journal, 9/17/82).

*A classical example of the kind of vague and, in this case, self-aggrandizing definition of a human service occurred when a professor of occupational therapy defined occupational therapy as "anything that fills time, has meaning, or is a purposeful activity." In relation to human services, this was further amplified to subsume self-care, eating, dressing, use of transportation, using a telephone, making change, shopping, any kind of effort related to work, inter-personal relations, academic performance, motor development, homemaking, child care, laundering, leisure, self-expression, socialization, development of self-esteem, playing, sensory development, emotional development, and cognitive development (Bulletin, Community Living Association for the Mentally Retarded (Virginia) 9/22/80).

*The size of type legally required to warn consumers that a product or medication may be fatal or injurious if improperly used is too small for most people to read easily (Aging, 11-12/82). One may contrast this with the size type for words such as "wonder," "super," "new and improved," etc.

*There seem to be at least two reasons why people fail to automatically apply their higher values to a specific moral situation. (a) One does not yet fully believe the value at issue (perhaps because of its enormity), even though one verbalizes it. An example might be the belief that one should love one's enemies. (b) One has come to believe in the principle, but cannot bring oneself to practice it fully. An example might be nonviolence.

Reflecting on this, the TIPS editor was struck by the fact that so many people become impatient at hearing about high-order social role valorization principles and want "specifics" instead that are applicable to some narrow and time-limited occasion, or to some micro-setting--anything to avoid listening to a broad principle, or having to apply it consistently in any number of fairly obvious ways to any number of issues. We all engage in these kinds of avoidance of our highest-order values.

*Gaylin, W., Glasser, I., Marcus, S., & Rothman, D.J. Doing good: The limits of benevolence. New York, NY: Pantheon, 1978. This book is made up of 4 essays which apparently derive from presentations given at 3 different conferences. The essay by David Rothman focuses on the ideology of social and political progressives in the US who perceive the state as a benevolent parent to its citizens, especially to those of its citizens who are in special need. This ideology sees the goals and benefits of the individual to be the same as that of society as a whole. The progressives were to be lauded for their compassion with the poor, but have been habitually naive in expecting the next social program to solve the problems. However, progressives lacked a sufficient ideology to deal with people perceived as uncorrectable or not rehabilitatable. Progressives were apt to blame the failure of their programs on the laws not being rigorous enough, or the appropriations not being generous enough. The author does not really formulate a resolution, but formulates questions that focus especially sharply upon the meaning of our societal divisions, and the pursuit of self interests within a conflict model, in distinction to a civitas approach to the body politic.

The fourth essay is by Ira Glasser. In an interesting fashion, he discusses certain aspects of residential and other service institutions. Though there is not much new there, he does point out revealingly that the powers of service agencies over their clients have only been so unquestioningly accepted because it was taken for granted that the agencies represented parental identity, largely through their legitimization or even funding by the state. We might add that this observation is supported by the fact that in services where clients have the funds to pay themselves, such control is vastly less likely to occur. Glasser also thoroughly documents the fact that Supreme Court decisions have upheld the rights of human service agencies to engage in all sorts of controls and intrusions upon people who were receiving public funds, where the recipient had no option to renounce the funds, and therefore no escape from all sorts of authoritarian controls and invasions of privacy.

The author also points out one crucial difference between parents and the state, suggested by Gaylin, which is that parents at least usually love their children, while the state or society cannot really be said to love its socially helpless and troubled members. He points out that nursing homes are among the service institutions that are still among the least covered by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Unlike the other authors, he offers several major action principles which, in essence, involve the application of the Bill of Rights to human service institutions, reliance upon an external advocacy force to monitor the enforcement of constitutional limits, and the evaluation of programs that are designed to be helpful in terms of the harm they might do, rather than on the basis of the good they might do. Thus, programs should be adopted that seem least likely to make things worse. Some of the material cited by the author makes up a catalogue of human service horror stories of legitimized and, indeed, intensively defended abuse, especially against children.

Unfortunately, the book does not really seem to address the issue of the limits of benevolence in a central and definitive fashion. Instead, the issue is discussed primarily in relation to our type of political and governmental system, leaving open all sorts of back doors as to the power of public charity.

Glasser points out that nursing homes provide a striking example of a human service sector which is still substantially untouched by the extension of rights which various groups have gained in recent years. He cites six important rights that (at the time of the writing) typically did not exist for nursing home residents: control of one's personal property; control of one's own body; coming and going freely; free speech, association, petition and counsel; access to information; and due process. Each denial of these types of rights in nursing homes is documented in some detail.

Glasser also points out the remarkable detoxification of language that has taken place in the field of children's detention. At one time, children were incarcerated in reform schools, reformatories, prisons, detention centers, etc., and the human service field was overt about calling certain staff members "guards," certain building parts "cell blocks," and certain spaces "solitary confinement." More recently, words such as training school, child care worker, campus, cottage, quiet room, and others have replaced the above words, lulling the public into believing that fundamental changes have taken place. Yet during a single three month period in the early 1970s, it was found that even in only two of New York's 12 so-called training schools, 130 children had been kept in solitary confinement for a total of 542 days. Glasser describes the conditions of the children's rooms as comparable to those faced by the Count of Monte Cristo: stinky airless cells of closet size with bare walls in which the children, perhaps only clad in pajamas, were left sometimes for weeks without anything to do. Some children became so desperate that they injured themselves in order to be taken to the infirmary. Despite these conditions, there was "incredible resistance to any change in these practices. New York State resisted for more than a year litigation challenging such solitary confinement." When a bill passed the legislature containing even only moderate reforms, Gov. Rockefeller vetoed it. Yet most of the children detained under these conditions had not been ascertained to have committed a crime, but had been victims of neglect, parental abuse, poverty, family dissolution, etc.

The Ghetto

by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Is it well that while we range with Science, glorying in the time,
City children soak and blacken soul and sense in city slime?
There among the gloomy alleys Progress halts on palsied feet,
Crime and hunger cast our maidens by the thousand on the street;

There the master scrimps his haggard seamstress of her daily bread;
There a single sordid attic holds the living and the dead;
There the smouldering fire of fever creeps across the rotted floor,
And the crowded couch of incest, in the warrens of the poor.

TIPS Editor Receives Accolades, New Title

Faithful subscribers to TIPS may recall that for a while there was a TIPS editor Sub-Supreme, the current editor functioning as Editor Supreme. A recent visitor from Australia (John Annison) who attended some Training Institute workshops has now bestowed a new laudatory title upon the editor: crap-detector. Crap detectors, he avers, serve a very important function in society, and the TIPS editor has what it takes.

A Training Institute Hero Change Agent's Dinner Speech Menu

Cocktails

Elixir of Ideology
Values Vodka
Spirits of Personalism

Hors d'oeuvres

Alphabet Soup Review of Terms
Delectable Desiderata
Advocacy Salad
Potage de Planning
Raw Rationales
Tossed Service Systems, with
Decision Theory Dressing

Entrees

Brain Food
Common Components of
Comprehensiveness Casserole
Heart of the Matter
Gut Reaction
Raw Fist
Raw Muscle
Wolfensberger Stew
Crown of PASS
Citizen Advocacy en Croute
Frogs Legs Implementives
Filet of Normalization,
Medium Well, Level 3
PASSING Platter
VA Wellington

Vegetables

Coherent Carrots with Intensive Glaze
Juicy Details
Saucy Slides with Script
Pictorial Street Tour of Deviancy
Imagery
Young PASSparagus Shoots
Safeguard Squash
Socially Integrative Succotash

Desserts

Sweet Nothings
Sweets to the Sweet
Selection of Sweets from the
Decision Tree
Community Services Cobbler
Deviancy Delight

Dinner Beverages

Bicarbonate of SOP
Creme de la Creme
Chateau la PASSING, 1983
(a very good year)
PASSafras Tea
PASSarilla Soda

Concluding Invocation

Not a Prayer of a Chance

(submitted by Susan Thomas)

Gee, Isn't This A Beautiful Day To Be 'In The Community'?

David Goode

It's a clear, bright and breezy spring afternoon. As I'm eating pizza, I can see a group of handicapped persons enjoying the day, sitting outside the town game arcade. They are about as publicly visible as they ever are going to be. Scores of people parade by them, each in his own way taking in the presence of deformed minds and bodies, wheel chairs, braces, protective helmets and other manifestations of human affliction.

In front of the arcade, a group of "normal" adolescents have also congregated. They are about ten feet from the handicapped group and are openly pointing at them and calling them "freaks." They are all laughing, one doubling over in hysterical reaction to human imperfection. (Condemned herself by her vision, she flees from this inner knowledge.) Two girls are laughing so hard that they grasp each other in mutual support, literally unable to stand what they see.

I really want to go over to those cruel and insensitive shmucks and give them a dose of their own crappiness. After all I am a professor, a pillar of public morality, and who would be more entitled to do so? It would be one of the most basic of human reactions to interpersonal violence--to meet force with like force, and I certainly would feel a lot better. Maybe even those handicapped persons would feel a lot better too--most have fairly severe cerebral palsy and probably can't convey what their reactions might be to this public degradation. Maybe they

would enjoy it if I ridiculed their aggressors in front of everyone. I have several friends with cerebral palsy and they tell me that they have had so much practice with such situations that they have become desensitized to the ridicule of the ignorant and uncaring. When they told me that, I did not fully believe them. But, I suppose, it is possible that this whole affair is bothering me more than the people who are the objects of this humiliation. (I still don't believe this.)

Anyway my action really shouldn't rest on this consideration. I will not meet ridicule with ridicule. The other basic principle to manage interpersonal violence is to allow the evil force to dispell itself. Some persons experienced with violence and suffering propose that this is the least evil way to respond to violence. No harm gets done to the aggressor or the one aggressed against. It's a hard skill to learn and involves remaining under control in the face of threat, but it is a very positive and effective response to violence. I'm going to try and forget about those cruel kids, as aggressive and unthinking as they are.

I'm almost done with my pizza. I'll go out and enjoy this beautiful weather. I've got twenty minutes before office hours. There's a young lady in a wheelchair I've been watching. She seems very physically disabled but is carrying a bag full of books. Think I'll introduce myself. ((Damn, I wish those kids would shut up. I'm gonna have to talk extra loud so she can hear me.) "(loudly) Hi, my name is David Goode. I teach over at Wilkes College and I'd really enjoy it if I could sit down and talk with you for awhile." She moans and nods her assent. I sit down and we both take a glance over to the shmucks. "Gee," I say, "What a beautiful day to be in the community." We laugh.

Marc Gold:: R I P

The eulogy below is excerpted from one written by Phil Jay, Modern Industries, Fitzgerald, GA.

...There is an old oriental saying: "One must not seek to follow in the footsteps of one's leader but rather one must seek what he was after."...Marc was not sacred nor was he even religious in the usual sense of the word. And yet ironically, Marc worked and lived in a way that achieved results which are best described from a religious perspective....He provided us with values and meanings rarely found in contemporary religious structures.

...In his films, we see on one level an intense training technology--the most effective in the world to date. Such a contribution would be enough for most men. With Marc, however, our own experience was that of a context which stretched beyond his technology. This context is one in which people with circumstances of mental retardation are empowered as teachers. What happens with this twist of the typical perspective is really too powerful to describe in words. We can only point to it. It is, in our opinion, the reason people sometimes cry when they watch the films. They get an experiential insight into Marc's ultimate intentions, they know it as a true expression of humanity and they know from whom it came. Marc only created the context. He relied on people with severe disabilities to come through with the experience. In remembering Marc, the thing that even today truly astounds us is his complete confidence in this relationship--he never had any doubts that the disabled people would do their part. He frequently bet his career on this. For to him it was a relationship on which he could depend--a partnership in the truest form.

In the South, death is often seen as a time for rest--"going home" we call it. While death may well represent a departure of sorts it is by no means an end to relationships....In our lives those who have gone before us maintain a vigil on our actions and results--a vigil of which we are constantly aware. Marc has now taken his place in this heritage as our mentor and we take great comfort in the reliability of this relationship--this partnership.

R I P: Frank and Bill

About five years ago, at Daybreak, the first l'Arche community in North America, just north of Toronto, one of the retarded members (Frank) became rather precipitously and prematurely senile and incapacitated. Not long after, a second handicapped community member (Bill) was similarly stricken. This threw the community into a crisis because they had not initially been set up to provide what amounted to total nursing care. After considerable soul searching and with little more to go on at the time than faith, they made a commitment to support these two members on a continuing basis in their community rather than to surrender them to other, and essentially secular and non-communal, agencies. Their faith was rewarded in that the l'Arche community itself responded to the challenge, and a number of persons joined the community over the five year period who helped it to support its two dependent members. About two years ago, Frank died, and more recently Bill died too. All those who knew them could only have described them as saintly, despite their well-known human foibles. Frank radiated peace and reconciliation to those around him. Bill had been unspeakably wounded by the world, and yet this world which was not particularly eager to ask for forgiveness was forgiven by him. Indeed, these two men brought many others who were not handicapped in body or intellect to their better selves and to fidelity by calling them to commitment and eliciting their engagement. Thank you, Frank and Bill.

Good News/Bad News News

*Previously, and particularly within the context of the February TIPS issue, we have lamented the fact that news that would be viewed as good news by most people is hard to come by these days, both in human services as well as in society in general. TIPS reader Phil Jay sent us an interesting reflection on this issue, noting that Teilhard De Chardin said something to the effect that "the future is in the hands of those who can give tomorrow's generation valid reasons to live and hope," and that at least one potential implication would be that bad news takes on a different complexion when presented within the context of hope. Because of its theme ("Telling Time"), the February issue of TIPS has perhaps done this better than other issues have so far--or will in the future.

*The periodical of Environmental Action, a national political lobbying organization on behalf of the environment, lamented in its March 1983 issue that they are having a hard time finding good news to report to their readers--paralleling our lament in previous issues of TIPS. As TIPS did, they asked their readers to send in any potential good news. They also decided to add a "dragon slayers" feature to their journal. Not a bad idea at all.

Human Services (Mostly) Good News

*Finally shocked into action by the infant Doe starvation death of a child with Down's Syndrome in Bloomington, Indiana, efforts are being made in a number of states to pass legislation to forbid such forms of deathmaking. An example is an effort in the Louisiana legislature (NAMRP Newsletter, 3/81).

*We have read reports from Columbus, Ohio, about an 11-year-old boy with Down's Syndrome who attends regular grades and apparently can do virtually anything, except articulate well. He can run a computer without assistance, do sound-on-sound recording, knows the words to hundreds of songs, etc. (Columbus Citizen Journal, 3/22/83; item submitted by Jack Pealer).

*At the 1982 conference of the International League of Societies for Persons with Mental Handicap (the world federation of associations founded by parents of retarded persons) five retarded individuals from different countries made a presentation to the plenary assembly from 72 countries. According to Gunnar Dybwad, the presentations served as an eye opener to some of the parents who were present.

*An interesting new gadget that might be useful to a deaf or blind carpenter or home tinkerer is an electronic stud finder that will give both a sound signal as well as flash a red light to indicate a "strike." Another milestone on the road to normalization.

*The International Air Transport Association now has an "Incapacitated Passengers Air Travel Guide" available for \$4.

*The California Conservation Corps, launched in 1976, inducts young adults for two years of rigorous training in body development, work, and demanding outdoor experiences. While the discipline has a military flavor, it seems to be very much what many young people need, to many of whom it has proven to be a turnaround in their lives (CC, 1/2/83)

*Good news is that 47% of American households grew vegetables in 1981. (Aging, July/August 1982).

*The American Bar Association passed a resolution at its 1982 convention calling on the United States to halt nuclear arms proliferation.

Deathmaking Updates

Killing With Kindness

For years, the TI has warned about the meaning of the new wave of capital punishment laws that would prescribe death by injection, and thus medicalize the death penalty. Probably anybody who reads TIPS knows by now that a man in Texas was the first one to be executed by this method, strapped to the kind of roll-around bed platform used by medical emergency crews or hospitals when they transport people around. Oddly enough, one is not even convinced that it was as painless as it has been promised to be because observers noted that the man went through a period of violent gasping for breath. Scandalously, another man who had been involved in the same crime episode, and who may actually have been the person who pulled the trigger in the murder during it, was given a plea bargain and may be out of prison in 6½ years. During the execution, Sam Houston University students paraded outside the prison applauding the execution with great merriment, carrying signs such as "kill 'em in vein." Even though the American Medical Association has declared it unethical for physicians to perform an execution, physicians may contribute in every other way. As an AMA official said, "the doctor may be forced to load the pistol, but he must never be the one to pull the trigger."

*In the four states which have approved the carrying out of death sentences by means of the injection of lethal drugs, 194 prisoners are on death row.

*A peculiar element here is that the Federal Drug Administration has standards for drugs that are used to put animals to death, and is now being asked to develop similar standards for the drugs that might be used to execute humans. The FDA itself objected to this proposal, and pointed out that it does not evaluate ropes that are sold on the open market to make sure that they are effective in hanging people (AP, in Syracuse Herald Journal, 8/31/82).

*At the Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, there is a professor holding the chair of Humanities and Medical Ethics who lived up to the modern ethics by avoiding a strong or unequivocal stand on the issue. He called the procedure a "great dilemma for the medical community," claimed that it is "one of those things where there is no clear and easy answer," and opined that injections are "certainly not the solution to humane execution."

*Dr. Guillotin was a gentle physician who abhorred the death penalty and invented a machine since named after him to make it easier. King Louis XVI witnessed its use, and suggested that if the blade were hung at an angle instead of horizontally, it would cut neater and make the procedure more humane. His suggestion was accepted, and not long after it was applied to the King himself with unequivocal success.

(The above were drawn from a wide range of news media reports and analyses.)

*Another dark day for life. Beginning March 22, 6800 hospitals in the US that get Medicare and Medicaid money were required to post a notice in their maternity wards that "discriminatory failure to feed and care for handicapped infants in this facility is prohibited by federal law," accompanied by a toll-free 24-hour government telephone number to call if anyone is suspecting that an infant is being deprived of care. The American Hospital Association attacked the rule as "a simplistic solution to a complex situation," and as creating an adversarial relationship between hospitals and parents. (US News & World Report 3/14/83; item submitted by Kurt Wittwer). Several medical associations got together to challenge the rule--and succeeded in having a federal court strike it down almost overnight.

*In September 1982, an abortion was "successfully" performed on a 25-year-old woman with a mental age of two years who has been institutionalized since the age of three. (No one at the Brooklyn Developmental Center where she resided could explain how she got pregnant.) This is believed to be the first case where parental consent for an abortion was substituted for the consent of an adult judged legally incompetent (New York Times, 9/27/82).

*A young man who needed a genetically compatible kidney considered conceiving a child with his wife so that the child could be aborted and its kidney grafted into the father. The couple were persuaded to desist, but we should brace ourselves for future events of this kind. (The Human, 1/81).

*Body parts of aborted fetuses have been worked into certain French cosmetics (e.g., Madame Ibry's "Californie Esthetique") on the basis of the theory that fetal cells can contribute to cellular regeneration in adults. Cosmetics are color-coded to indicate which parts of the fetus were used (spleen, liver, thymus, intestine, etc.), and to which part of the body they should be applied (facial skin, etc.) (The Human, 1/83).

*In Britain, pills are being sold which can be taken after intercourse to prevent the implantation of a fertilized ovum. On a more limited basis, the pill has already been used for at least 4 years in Canada (The Human, 1/83).

*The Giant Swiss drug company, Ciba-Geigy, admitted testing pesticides in 1976 by spraying them on unprotected and unsuspecting Egyptian children. Subsequently, the pesticide was found to cause cancer and was withdrawn, though it made a reappearance two years later and is now used in several countries, including the US (The Guardian, 12/17/82; item submitted by C.P. Gathercole).

Miscellaneous Observations on Human Service Quality Identification

*A major effort at improving the process of governmental accountability occurred with the creation of the General Accounting Office (GAO), the research and investigative arm of Congress. Prior to its creation, Congress was reliant on either whatever data the executive branch would supply it with, or upon the haphazard and very strained efforts of the staff of individual members of Congress. With the creation of the GAO, a large number of projects were initiated which studied the operation of numerous governmental programs, and especially how the funds that had been appropriated by Congress were being utilized. One of the first significant investigation projects into human services addressed the success, or lack thereof, of deinstitutionalization. The devastating indictment of the malfunctionalities of this nationwide process was presented in a report published in 1977.

The failure of human service workers to properly orient themselves sufficiently toward processes of accountability was strikingly underlined during an exchange that took place at a conference during which a GAO official was present. The Entitlement Bulletin (published by the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation of New York City (April 1979 issue)) reported on a conference on a manpower-type project called Youth Entitlement. At the conference, various participants objected to being under study by GAO because of the project's experimental nature, implying that a project should not be studied until it is thoroughly established. Yet thoroughly revealing of the quality of government-initiated projects in general was the admission of the GAO officer that of all of the government projects studied so far, none of them had been found to function efficiently.

*Not long ago, New York State issued a rating system of nursing homes on a 4-point scale--but refused to let the public know the ratings of specific settings.

*One of the ways in which one can assess how well a human service meets normalization criteria is to examine the building and site used by the service in order to determine whether its appearance meets cultural expectations for the kind of service that it offers. Thus, one would expect an educational program for children to be operated in a setting that looks like a school, a residential program in one that looks like an ordinary residence, etc. However, making this kind of determination may become somewhat puzzling in the future. The reason is that modern buildings are beginning to look more and more alike, so that one has increasing difficulty in telling office buildings, apartment buildings, industrial buildings, etc. apart. This trend toward what one might call an "undifferentiated modernism" in architecture reduces people's ties to their culture, historical roots, religious traditions, etc.

*In a system which is non-functional and where nothing works, nothing that gets done can make things work. Examples are the mental health and mental retardation systems of New York State. Every NY mental health institution has a high-paid professional staff position with a doctorate degree or equivalent mandated to monitor the quality of the facility. In addition to these and other quality controls, there is a nominally independent state-wide Commission on Quality of Care for the Mentally Disabled. It has 53 (!) positions, plus personnel in six regional offices. Despite all this, the mental health system certainly, and to a great extent also the mental retardation system, are prime examples of how not to do things.

*All sorts of jokes have been made about the names of the service evaluation instruments, PASS and PASSING, but they certainly beat PES, the Progress Evaluation Scales, published by Lexington Books for the evaluation of mental health programs.

*What a *S*M*A*S*H. A jocular member of the human service evaluation field has modestly suggested a few new TV shows (presumably not of the comedy type), such as Little Research Center on the Prairie, Hell Street Evaluators, D*A*T*A*, Data of Our Lives, or Validity or Consequences.

*A very serious evangelical group conducted "cost/yield studies" of how many dollars it costs (for pamphlets, "crusades", publicity, etc.) to bring one soul to God.

Resources

New and Good Film. One of the best films ever made has been released in late 1982 by the Canadian National Institute on Mental Retardation, entitled "Breaking Through: The Story of Norman and Tom." This hour-long documentary film tells the story of the liberation of two profoundly retarded young men from an institution, and of their new lives in a small community residence. Almost totally devoid of negative imagery, it is an exceptionally positive portrayal of very handicapped people, and demonstrates the application of the normalization principle in the sphere of residential services to severely impaired persons past the age of childhood. The film is very useful for people who work with profoundly retarded persons, people involved in developing residential services for such persons, institution staff, etc. After several viewings, the TI has prepared a detailed analysis and critique (over 6 double-spaced pages). We recommend that this guide be used whenever the film is shown, as it provides some incisive analysis. The critique is available from the Training Institute for \$10.

Unfortunately, the film is currently available for purchase or rental within Canada only, at a cost of \$750 Canadian (purchase) or \$20 Canadian plus shipping costs (rental). Negotiations are being conducted to have the film released for purchase and rental in the US by a film distribution company, but it will probably be still some months before that happens. In the meantime, we recommend that those who want to show the film negotiate with the TI to have one of our associates conduct an interpreted showing of the only copy of the film in the US so far. The TI associate would conduct a guided analysis and discussion of the film after its showing, using the critique explained above. Interested parties please contact the Training Coordinator at the TI for possible dates and costs.

Dr. G. Swinger's Papers Now Available

While both federal priorities and science have lurched erratically from one subject to another, for about two decades now, Dr. G (for Grant) Swinger, the distinguished director of the Center for the Absorption of Federal Funds, has managed to stay squarely in the midstream of the flow of government contracts. Few science administrators and scholars have ever been able to match his mastery of the relationship between science and government. Among others, he has won the Segmentation Prize for achieving the largest number of publications from a single piece of research. He is also known as the holder of the prestigious and coveted Pan-American Chair which carries neither research nor teaching duties, being located on a Pan-American airplane that is almost constantly commuting to various scientific congresses. Because of his many engagements and commitments, Dr. Swinger, though a highly familiar figure to American scientists, has also been a rather elusive one. The only media representative ever able to interview him is Daniel S. Greenberg who has recently published his interviews with the versatile polymath in collected form, which should prove an indispensable resource for all aspirants to the high art and science of grantsmanship. The Grant Swinger Papers are obtainable from Science & Government Report, 3736 Kanawha Street, NW, Washington, D,C. 20015, \$3.95.

*The National Coalition of Advocates for Students, a relatively new body, has initiated the publication of a "National Clearinghouse for Misclassification Information." Apparently, the project is concerned primarily with rights and welfare of minority students.

Workshops & Conferences

*From Thursday p.m., May 19, through Tuesday morning, May 24, the 11th International Conference on Human Rights and Psychiatric Oppression will be held in Syracuse, New York. This conference is being co-sponsored by a number of groups concerned with the brutality of the mental health field, and with the rights of current and former "mental patients." (You may remember that an incident from the 10th conference, held last year in Toronto, was reported in the February 1983 issue of TIPS.) Registration fee for the conference is \$10; meals and lodging are available at Syracuse University at very reasonable rates. For further information, contact: Mental Patients Alliance, Conference Committee, Box 158, Syracuse, NY 13201.

*A 7-day Introductory PASS Training Workshop, Sat., Aug. 6 - Fri., Aug. 12, 1983 at Southeastern Massachusetts University, No. Dartmouth, MA; Tuition: \$200, or contact Jack Yates to negotiate a reduction; Room & board: \$90. To register, contact Jack Yates at 617/823-4952 (days).

*For details on the TI PASSING workshop May 21-29 in Massachusetts, contact the TI.

Human Services Bad News

Warfare Against the Poor

With the advent of hard economic times, many of the poor have become homeless, and once more, migration and living in makeshift shelters has increased, as during the Depression. It is estimated that there are now as many as two million homeless in the US. The reason many of the destitute do not even receive the Welfare benefits to which they are entitled is that regulations require a birth certificate and a Social Security card, and/or a home address to which checks would be sent. Many displaced workers and poor people have headed south in search of jobs that do not exist, and perhaps also to escape the harsh winters. In response, the city of Phoenix (Arizona) has closed its public shelters and made it a misdemeanor to lie down in public. It has also declared all garbage to be public property so that rooting through rubbish bins now constitutes theft, and the poor who do this can be arrested. This is an alarming thought considering, among other things, that the TIPS editor is addicted to garbage salvage, and has salvaged from the curbside literally truckloads of clothes (not to mention other items) for cleaning, mending, redistribution to the poor--and sometimes personal use. Often, these clothes have been of the finest quality and with top labels with little or no restoration required. (Source item supplied by Jack Yates)

*People generally assumed that hobos passed out of style with the depression, but the current economic woes have brought about a resurgence in this uniquely American invention. Railroad security personnel made almost 40,000 trespassing arrests in 1981, and 570 trespassers died in railroad accidents (Newsweek, 8/16/82).

*Fifty five percent of Americans said in a 1981 poll that most people who received welfare subsidies could get along without them if they only tried harder. Only 32% were convinced that those on welfare really needed it. Interestingly, men were more likely to believe that people on welfare needed this help than women (AP, Syracuse Herald Journal, 10/3/81).

*Up to 5 institutions in Ohio are being considered for conversion into prisons (item submitted by Jack Pealer).

*Another institution proposed for at least partial conversion into a prison is the Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh, North Carolina. The institution is already adjacent to a state prison, which makes the conversion very convenient (item submitted by Susan White).

*The TIPS editor's son goes to a fairly typical, racially very integrated, high school from which many graduates go to college. In Spring 1983, the school system proposed that the school should become the site for a high school program for 100 (!) pregnant girls. Why would so many pregnant girls all have to go to the same school to be educated? Apparently, this is another instance where the availability of special types of fundings determines program structure maladaptively, because the only reason to concentrate such a program in one place would be to maintain eligibility for the special funds.

*This is hard to believe, but the Syracuse Herald Journal (12/12/82) carried a full-page ad soliciting funds for "Camp Good Days and Special Times" which offers summer camping in Central New York for children with cancer. Quite aside from the fact that the ad featured a clown and ran during the Christmas season, one shudders to think of this yet additional specialization and categorization of human services which, undoubtedly, will be extremely effective at raking donations from people whose heartstrings are ever so readily plucked by anything having to do with old fashioned straight-forward single-syndrome health needs, especially of children.

*The Midland Association for Retarded Citizens in Texas is currently implementing "an opportunity complex," a 5-acre center that has a variety of day and residential services all together. Enough to give one an apoplexy complex (item submitted by Ed Goldman).

*ARA Services, Inc., is certainly a peculiar corporation, being in the food service and vending machine business, as well as running the second largest chain of nursing homes in the country, with about 31,000 "beds" around 1980. ARA Nursing Homes have been under investigation in at least five states, and there have been allegations that it has ties to organized crime. (Patients for Sale: The Plight of Florida's Mentally Ill and Retarded. AFSCME, 1982). (Source item submitted by B. Roberts)

*The average price of a scientific book has increased by about \$15 between 1978 and 1982 (Science, 1/7/83).

*Gene transfer has succeeded in breeding mice twice their normal size. Scientists are envisioning applying the same techniques to livestock so as to enlarge yield (Science, 12/24/82), but who would like to ride on a horse of double the normal size?

Mixed News

The Modern Poor House

Although few of us have seen a bona fide poor house or poor farm, we all harbor dreadful images of such places, transmitted to us by our elders and by reading works such as those of Dickens. Yet in truth, our age has always had its forms of poor houses, though somewhat disguised. The vast majority of institutions

are really no more than specialized poor houses in that the majority of their residents are poor, and are paid for by federal, state and local government. However, California has now brazenly resurrected the undisguised old-fashioned poor house. Starting in October 1982, Sacramento County has begun to require that single "employable" adult welfare recipients would be offered room and board in a dormitory-like shelter, and those who refused to move there had all their cash grants and food stamps cut off. A number of poor people have preferred to try making it on their own rather than submitting to such a drastic surrender of their abode and independence. (International Herald Tribune, 2/28/83). (Also covered on the "60 Minutes" TV show.) Interestingly, such a measure actually is more apt to contribute to making at least some of the poor even poorer, because "beneficiaries" would have to abandon their abode, which would mean that they would have to divest themselves of almost all of their moveable possessions and any fixed point of belonging.

*The Civil Service Employees Association of the Craig Developmental Center (for the retarded) in New York put a full-page ad in the public media (9/82) that was a mixture of vicious diatribe and kernels of truth, warning the public that it will be taxed to death for community services for the mentally retarded, and that the standard of living in group homes was higher than that of the typical taxpayer and "beyond the wildest dreams of the majority of people paying for it...and beyond the comprehension of the majority of the mentally retarded clients it is being provided for" who are eating "steak and lobster."

*When Heidi Musser, blind since birth, started school, she was tested to have an IQ of 61 and identified as retarded. Her parents took her out of school and taught her at home. Within three years, her IQ rose to 100. At age 16, she competed with 25 other Chicago students for a piano scholarship. However, the Board of Education has been suing the Mussers, charging them with violating the Illinois Compulsory Education Act (Indianapolis Star, 1/19/83; item submitted by Joe Osburn).

*There was a curious controversy in Little Falls, Minnesota, where the police department tried to forbid a 14-year-old boy to operate his motorized wheelchair in the street, because they ruled that it was to be considered a motorized vehicle falling under the automobile laws, and would thus require headlights, turnsignals, a horn, etc.) while the operator would need a driver's license and automobile insurance. The family argued that if this were the case, it would be illegal to operate the wheelchair on the sidewalk. It strikes us as absurd that a judge finally had to rule that the boy could use his wheelchair on the street as long as he did not violate pedestrian laws, presumably meaning not "jay wheelchairs," etc. (AP, in Syracuse Herald Journal, 11/17/81).

*Police officers in Fort Wayne, Indiana, were unhappy with the promotion system and in protest through a petition signed by 104 police officers, nominated a 41-year-old retarded man who had once been in an institution to sit on the commission evaluating candidates for promotion. The candidate was well-known to many officers who were friendly with him, and one of whom had even taken him along on vacations. However, it turned out that apparently nobody really wanted him on the commission and the whole thing turned sour all around. Yet considering our reflection in a past TIPS issue, the appointment of retarded individuals to all sorts of high and public offices could hardly make many things worse, and might make a lot of them better (item submitted by Becki Beal).

*The news from Poland is mostly bad these days. Another bad news is that unions for the physically handicapped ("invalids") and for the blind are fighting with each other, rather than working together. The good news in this is that the "invalids" are trying to oust the blind from a monopoly on the manufacture of brushes. Bad news is that the blind do not recognize how fortunate they are to drop brush making, which has carried an ancient image of association to the blind and which has kept blind people from more challenging work (Los Angeles Times Service in Philadelphia Inquirer, 8/14/82; item submitted by Chuck Burkhouse).

*A drive is underfoot to establish Hope College in California as a national residential university of fine arts for students with handicaps (Down's Syndrome News, 4/83).

*We have commented in the past on the sorry fact that handicapped people are being taught self-defense, including use of their prostheses and wheelchairs as weapons. Here is the story of a different deployment of a wheelchair. Friends hired an Arabic dancer to perform at the birthday of a cerebral palsied man. Making one of her gyrations mighty close to his motorized wheelchair, her hand bumped into the control button, and as she swirled off in one direction the wheelchair rolled over her skirts and pinned them down; as a result, she lost everything, but she responded "very professionally" to this professional hazard. (Vignette supplied by Doug Mouncey.)

What the Empire Is Up To

Row Boat Gap

On August 12, 1982, 22 rowboats, canoes, and similar small crafts confronted a US Coast Guard armada of 99 ships in what the news media called the "Battle of Oak Bay" in which non-violent boat owners tried to block the entry of the nuclear missile Trident submarine, Ohio, on the West Coast. While the protestors conducted their planning and action out in the open, the government practiced profound secrecy. Apparently, most people are not aware that the confrontation almost resulted in a massacre of the protestors. The Coast Guard used water hoses and was fully prepared to employ machine guns. One Coast Guard officer went so far as to hold the muzzle of his cocked pistol at the back of a very peaceful protestor. If somebody had set off a firecracker, a massacre might indeed have occurred (CW, 12/82). The groups which furnish these protestors are now working hard to prepare themselves to love those who may be killing some of their number--even if such an event actually occurs.

*More news on the nuclear war emergency planning in the greater Syracuse area: the county legislators debated (believe it or not!) whether it was better to have an unworkable plan or no plan at all. Opinions were divided (Syracuse Herald Journal, 12/15/82).

*The Pentagon has decided to replace the thousands of computer languages used by the defense establishment with a single computer language called ADA. However, one of the designers of the language, though advocating its implementation, called it "monstrous, mind-boggling to implement" because of its staggering complexity. Strangely enough, ADA has only been used experimentally so far. There is much concern that the complexity of ADA will make the computer system unmanageable, and may even contribute to nuclear weapons accidents, some of which might trigger nuclear war.

"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.

The Training Institute. The Training Institute for Human Service Planning, Leadership and Change Agency (TI), directed by Wolf Wolfensberger, PhD, functions under the auspices of the Division of Special Education and Rehabilitation of Syracuse University's School of Education. Dr. Wolfensberger is a professor in the Mental Retardation Area of the Division. Since its founding in 1973, the TI has been supported primarily from fees earned from speaking events and workshops (across the world as well as in Syracuse), and to a small extent from consultations, evaluations of services, and the sale of certain publications and planning and change agency tools. There have been no federal grants. TI training has (a) been aimed primarily at people who are, and who aspire to be, leaders and change agents, be they professionals, public decision-makers, members of voluntary citizen action groups, student etc., and (b) primarily emphasized values related to human services, the rendering of compassionate and comprehensive community services, and greater societal acceptance of impaired and devalued citizens.

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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