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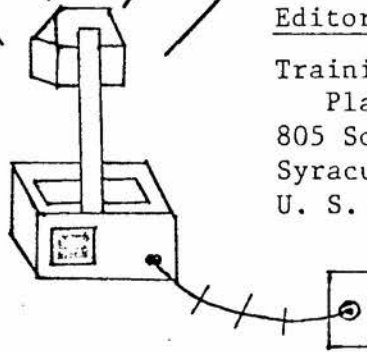
TIPS

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Every time we put out a special themes issue, which is most of the time, we fall behind in miscellaneous news and other coverage. In fact, we could easily double the amount of useful copy of TIPS, and if there were a market for it, we would be able to put TIPS out monthly. In order to permit us to catch up at least somewhat with our backlog, this month's issue will not have a special theme, though it will, as do all issues, include sections on deathmaking, resources, and signs of the times.

MY FRIEND, ROY WHITE

by Milt Baker

Roy White, 69, has little money and few personal possessions. He is mentally handicapped, has been in and out of institutions since 1934, and has very few significant relationships. All his life, he has experienced deprivation. He stands before me with tattered, ill-fitting clothes, his belt around his waist half again longer than needed to hold up his trousers, its end tucked into a pocket with a rip in it. His shoes are worn; one has a hole in its sole; the laces are brown in one shoe and black in the other. His socks are too large, and, once white, are now very black as if he had been walking on the streets in his stocking feet. He wears an army shirt several sizes too large; several buttons are missing, and only half of it is appropriately tucked into his trousers. His hair is now white, his face is covered with whiskers, and both his face and hands are wrinkled from his labor and his years. Part of one finger is missing from one hand. His fingernails are dirty and he has a noticeable body odor. He has no power, no status, he is dirty and unkempt. By the standards of some, he represents much of what this society finds repulsive in the human condition.

Now he faces yet another crisis in his life as he awaits the decision of the powerful, bureaucratic Medicaid system. He has a very painful and dangerous inguinal hernia, and we are discussing whether Medicaid will approve funding for his surgery. It will cost several hundred dollars, but he cannot possibly pay for it. The decision of the powers will determine whether he has the necessary surgery in a planned way, or is eventually treated in an emergency situation, significantly increasing the risk to his life. He is at the mercy of numerous decision-makers who probably will never in their entire lives be in his circumstances or deprivation. He stands here telling me what he wants. He is disgusted and frustrated with people because they have told him so many lies. He asks, why can't they tell the truth--that is not much to expect, is it? I am forced to tell my

friend that yes, telling the truth is very difficult for many people; even those who claim to serve other human beings can find it in their hearts to be deceptive. No, Roy, you often cannot depend upon other people. They will lie, they may not make things easier for you as they should, and often will even make things more complicated for you.

Yet as I sit here, I am also aware of something else. While in worldly terms, Roy White is a weak, feeble, poor old man, in his presence one also senses strength and determination, and in spite of all he has experienced, Roy White values truth. Despite terrible trouble and suffering, he perseveres and still has spunk. His human spirit is very much alive, and in his presence one knows not only that there is human suffering all around us, but that there is also human courage.

My friend turns to leave me now, to go back to his dingy apartment, without electricity, cooking stove or refrigeration. His shoulders are bent as if in response to all his burdens, his gait is slowed and calculated because of the very painful hernia. As he leaves he turns, smiles, and says, "I'll see you--take care."

Miscellaneous News Related to Human Services

Good News

*Somebody had the nerve to do what the TIPS editor did not. As early as 1980, the TIPS editor lamented (in Flynn & Nitsch) over the unfortunate choice of the term "normalization" which created endless confusions and perversions because people automatically assumed that they knew what it meant, and therefore often read none of the publications on normalization before critiquing the concept. He commented that a totally new word should have been made up of Greek and/or Latin roots, and facetiously suggested "orthofactorization," which might mean something akin to doing or making things right or correct again. In 1986, Cottam and Sutton came out with a book on "conductive education" which is a system for treating motor disorders that was developed in Hungary. The goal of the system is--orthofunction, defined as "the ability to enter the normal setting of school or work without artificial aids, wheelchairs, ramps, etc." The Conductive Education Institute in Hungary claims to achieve orthofunction for 70% of its clients (Rehab Lit., 5 & 6/86).

*The Australian federal government has appointed a senior staff officer to address primarily issues of Social Role Valorization-related training. This may very well be a first in the world.

*Spina Bifida Insights (Nov./Dec. 83) reports that finding adoptive parents for unwanted infants with spina bifida is relatively easy, and that there is even a waiting list of people to adopt such children.

*We can continue to report that the most arrested man in the county in which Syracuse is located has now been on the straight and narrow for 7 or 8 years. He was arrested 239 times, and sentenced to prison 189 times. A policeman who had arrested him on numerous occasions talked him into joining a Pentecostal church, and 6 months later he swore off alcohol. He is a sign of hope to a lot of street people in Syracuse with whom he continues to hobnob, and whom he urges to sobriety.

*There is a radio interview program in Knoxville, TN hosted by a woman who is blind.

*The Shell Company Foundation and the Foundation for Exceptional Children have established an award program for handicapped children who have made extraordinary achievements (DS News, 11/83).

*More and more travel guides of various types for handicapped people are coming out. Some US states even put out such travel guides for sites and events in their own state.

*The US Capitol can now be toured by handicapped people with special assistance from the Office of the Sergeant at Arms. Available are wheelchairs, sign language for the deaf, and special touch displays for the blind.

*Sunoco will pump gas for handicapped drivers at self-service prices (Auto Week, 10/3/86).

*At a Mennonite conference in 1985, the TIPS editor heard a most inspiring talk on "How Mennonites Take Care of Their Vulnerables." The speaker, a Harvard-graduate Mennonite, told how his education at Harvard was paid for by a farmer, and how he was taught Pennsylvania Dutch by a mentally retarded great-uncle. He also told how it was thought improper among Mennonites to take out insurance, and instead they participated in a "brotherly aid plan", and how Mennonite tradition has long laid emphasis on "Die rechte Gemeinschaft" which is very difficult to translate but might be approximated by "a proper communality."

Bad News

*The Mental Retardation Association of America some years ago formed mostly in order to defend institutions and keep retarded people in them. We have recently been informed that a similar national group has been formed, called Voice of the Retarded.

*The speed with which personalistic (voluntary, unpaid and hands-on) service engagements can be perverted is obviously increasing. It was only in 1983 that an 11-year old boy called Trevor set out on a campaign to personally hand out blankets and food to the homeless in Philadelphia. Soon, he had his whole family joining him, and soon others were imitating them. So far not merely good, but outright splendid--but next thing one knew, the action got "organized," and by 1986 had become the "Center City Project" with a \$5.5 million budget (apparently largely from the city) and 16 program components, including mobile emergency teams, short-term psychiatric homes, three rehabilitation centers, and on and on, all supported by computers, central screening and evaluation (APA Monitor, 5/86). It almost sounds as if Trevor, his family, and friends now no longer "have to" touch the poor with a helping hand, nor perhaps should, since the "experts" have taken over.

*Who would have thought that E. F. Hutton, the company everyone listens to when it talks, would go into the business of financing prisons. It advertises "exciting new ways to finance jails" and that "lease-purchasing financing for jail and prison facilities has evolved as an attractive alternative to traditional financing methods." Hutton announced "a new lease-purchase program for multi-million dollar detention facilities" to "solve...problems by providing cost-effective non-debt financing and the flexibility to tailor debt service to the borrower's needs" (Institutions, Etc., 11/83). One of the many things it all means is that it is willing to help build prisons without having to go through elected government legislative or citizen review processes, avoiding bond issues, and therefore citizen referenda. Thus, it is a way of putting prisons over on the public before it knows what has happened. We await in great anticipation what language it will use to sell bonds on the installation.

Oddly enough, a transcendental meditation group in Montpelier, VT, has also been willing to go into the prison construction business, building prisons at no cost to the state on condition that the facility would be run by the meditation society as a profit-making company, and that all prisoners would be required to engage in meditation. This plan has been offered to a number of states, including VT.

*There goes Saskatchewan. At one time, roughly during the 1960s, Saskatchewan was a world leader in mental health reform. However, as most reforms in human services have, it got stuck at a certain point of development. In 1985, the provincial government even announced that a portion of the mental institution in North Battleford would be converted into "secure holding facilities for young offenders," i.e., a prison. (Source clipping from Fred Harshman) The province has also begun construction of a \$46 million "rehabilitation center" in Regina that would have a "bed" capacity of almost 400 (Dialect, 4/86).

*Actor Paul Newman announced that he was establishing a foundation to raise \$6 million to construct and operate a 40-hectare summer camp for 100-175 terminally ill children from New England in Torrington, CT, to be known by the peculiar name Newman's Own Hole in the Wall. One good question is whether there are that many terminally ill children from New England who can all take off at the same time to go to camp. Another question is why a terminally ill child has to camp with other terminally ill children (Globe & Mail, 16/11/85).

*Some people in the mental business believe that the widespread legalization of gambling in the US has resulted in a dramatic growth in compulsive gambling, i.e., in people who gamble to the degree that they are considered to be mentally abnormal and subject to mental treatment--even in "gambling wards" of "hospitals." Public authorities are taking in billions each year from the profits of gambling, but in turn, gambling has a social cost of about \$34 billion a year in the US. Some of the most offending states are returning a pittance for research or treatment on the issue, such as \$65,000 in MD and \$300,000 in NY (APA Monitor, 5/84). It is estimated that there may be almost 2 million compulsive gamblers in the US, and that annual losses of \$20,000 are common for gamblers.

*On 16/10/85, the Des Moines Register carried an editorial that said that the profoundly retarded residents at the Woodward State Hospital-School in IA did not benefit appreciably from training programs, and that the money for such programs should instead be channeled to people who can derive more benefit. (Source item from John Morris)

*In late 1983, the Lieutenant Governor of the state of New York said that it was time to treat retarded people so as to meet their needs--and since retarded children and retarded adults all were children mentally and had the same needs, they should be served in the same facility.

*It used to be mostly children who were said to have something like "attention deficit disorder," but now adults are increasingly "diagnosed" as "having it" as well. Actually, in this case, we do not doubt that this condition is becoming more prevalent among adults, considering that more and more children are growing up in a disordered fashion and never develop a sound mental identity and functioning. Of course, this is virtually never mentioned as a relevant element, and the drug companies absolutely thrive on the increase of craziness in our society.

*As recently as 1978, only 3% of the members of the American Medical Association were sued for malpractice. By 1983, the percentage had skyrocketed to 16. In Washington, DC, successful malpractice claims were almost 20 times higher than in other areas such as Maine. Particularly apt to be sued were specialists in gynecology and obstetrics; in NY State, 87% had been sued. On the one hand, there are indeed all kinds of horror stories of medical malpractice, but on the other hand, medical malpractice probably has not increased, and the increase of lawsuits is thus mostly due to an entitlement attitude, and simple greed and fraud. Also, other countries neither have the contingency fee system (whereby lawyers get a proportion of their client's successful claims), nor anywhere near the proportion

of lawyers that the US has. One problem is that if we continue to turn out lawyers in increasing proportions, we will get poorer rather than better use of the law, because law business will expand to render affluent the vast majority of lawyers, namely virtually all of those who are in practice who do not serve primarily the poor. However, it is imperative that the medical profession take care of the malpractice horror stories which, even to this point, it has failed to do (AP in SHJ, 15/12/85).

*On the one hand, medical liability suits have become insane, but on the other hand, when something goes wrong where no one is really at fault, the victim has hardly any recourse. This type of situation has led to extremely costly liability awards against manufacturers of vaccines, to the point where many medical firms have abandoned the production of vaccines. For instance, in 1982, a DPT vaccination shot made by Lederle cost 11¢, but as of 7/86, it costs \$11.40, which includes an \$8 insurance reserve which the manufacturer is setting aside since it has lost its insurance coverage (Science, 13/6/86).

*Because the Catholic church had not adequately responded at an earlier time to child molestation by its priests, there have been some explosive scandals along these lines, with the result that many dioceses can now no longer purchase liability insurance to cover any sexual offenses by its clergy, and lawsuits along these lines may bring in judgments up to a billion dollars during the next 10 years (NCR, 30/5/86).

*Six state residential facilities for the retarded in MA provided insufficient safeguards over \$8 million of resident funds, consisting mostly of social security payments and gifts from families and friends. In one flagrant case, an employee was indicted for stealing \$17,000 from a resident by writing false checks (CARC News, 8/85).

*Steve Jobs, the founder of the Apple Computer Company, had (maybe still has) the habit of regularly parking his car in the parking slot for the handicapped in the company parking lot (Newsweek, 27/1/86).

*Thousands of Haitians work in the sugar cane fields of the Dominican Republic under conditions one can describe as little more than slavery. They work under the most abject conditions, on the verge of starvation, sometimes for their entire lives; without any hope of escaping whatsoever (AW, 28/1/84).

*We told you so. In 1986, the internationally famous Windy the Clown, a 52-year old UT man, was arrested in NE for sexual assault on a retarded man. (Source item from Hank Bersani)

*Being handicapped doesn't mean that one cannot be nasty. A young man was backing his car out of a driveway and failed to see an 88-year old man going by in a wheelchair. To his horror, he hit the wheelchair and spilled the elderly man into the street. He got out of his car and profusely apologized, but his apology was not accepted. Saying that he would rather be dead than mistreated, the old man pulled a pistol that he had cleverly concealed in his wheelchair and shot the young man in the chest. Apparently assuming that the shootist would not be able to get very far, his bond was set at a trifling \$2000 (SHJ, 20/5/84).

*One of the programs under which the South African government has forced its ca. 80% "non-white" population to live in 13% of the land (rather poor land at that) was rather appropriately called the "surplus people project" (Newsweek, 12/12/83). Relocated families were given a prefabricated toilet with a number painted on its door, and this became the family's new address. Relocation has led to a great many diseases, deaths, and family separations, and must be considered the transition point of the South African government from a segregatory to a genocidal policy.

Abuse--i.e., of Drugs

*Illicit narcotics sales in the US were an estimated \$110 billion in 1984. Deaths from drug overdoses increased 93% between 1979-1983 (Parade, 15/9/85).

*At the 1983 Pan-American Games in Venezuela, officials conducted a surprise spot test of athletes to check whether they had been taking drugs. Some of these drugs are taken in order to build muscle tissue, even though they may inflict permanent damage. An American weight-lifter who showed traces of such drugs had to give back three gold medals--whereupon a dozen American athletes fled before competing, presumably because they too had been on drugs (Time, 5/9/83).

*A survey in WI found that handicapped people were more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol than other citizens, with the highest percentage (nearly 1/2) of drinking occurring among people with spinal cord injury. However, the findings were based on a mail survey which is always problematic (AR, Winter 1985, No. 4).

Mixed News

*In Des Moines, IA, the Methodist Church hired a Catholic nun, paid from federal government funds, to help poor farmers--mostly by giving them food. Not only does all this bespeak gross incoherency, but it also shows how badly the farmers have been seduced away even from raising their own food, as virtually all European farmers did at least into the 1950s (NCR, 18/4/86).

*A Harris poll, revealed in February 86, disclosed some startling realities about the life conditions of handicapped people. Most handicapped Americans thought that things had improved for them, but nonetheless, as a group they have far less education than the non-handicapped; they are much poorer (particularly if also elderly); the more severe the impairment, the greater the poverty; they are much less active in community life; and 56% of them said that their impairment is an obstacle to their getting about and therefore participating in community life. Two-thirds of the adult handicapped were not working, and only 1/4 were working full time. Those who did not work had a much poorer self-image (TASH Newsletter, 5/86).

*The Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded conducted a survey of the ca. 150 Adult Protective Service workers for mentally retarded adults in the province. These workers rendered a "bitter verdict" on the situation of retarded adults, many of whom live in very bleak circumstances about which they felt they could do very little. They viewed much of their work as patchwork and short-term (NIMR, 85-4).

*Between 1967 and 1975, the total expenditures in US state-federal rehabilitation programs, adjusted for consumer price index, increased every year. Thereafter, they declined every year until 1984, experiencing only a small increase for 1985. Roughly paralleling these expenditure trends, the number of persons served increased rather steadily almost every year and subsequently decreased analogously. During 1985, fewer people were actually served than in 1971. During 1974-1985, the percent of the severely impaired among the rehabilitated group had increased every year. Between 1978 and 1983, there has been a steady decline in the number of persons "rehabilitated" in US state-federal rehabilitation programs. Since 1983, the rate has not changed much. However, the percent of the caseload rehabilitated has been fairly steady, showing slight quiggles between 61-70%. The two data sets in combination inform us that total rehabilitation case loads have actually declined (AR, Spring 86). However, in interpreting such data, we need to be aware that they are the products of all sorts of reporting artifacts, and of peculiar or even perverse practices.

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*Ever since the Nixon administration, the Division of Biometry and Epidemiology (in one shape or another) has been running behind in the statistical reporting of mental health data, and has even dropped compiling some data that it used to compile for decades. In 8/85, it published a report on expenditures between 1969 and 1981 by US mental health organizations. Unfortunately, the most recent year for which complete data were available was 1979, during which almost \$9 billion was spent by the following types of organizations: state, county and private psychiatric "hospitals," VA psychiatric services, non-federal general hospital psychiatric services, residential centers for disturbed children, free-standing outpatient psychiatric clinics, and federally funded community mental health centers.

*Surprisingly, senior citizens of all income brackets have been eligible for federally subsidized free senior citizen meal programs, and so are their spouses, regardless of age. In 1982, senior citizens ate more than 190 million such meals at a cost of \$344 million, though they also voluntarily contributed close to \$100 million. Making all senior citizens and their spouses eligible is a highly social role-valorizing measure, in that it reduces the stigma for those elders who are poor, and it contributes at least modestly to a limited form of integration, in that poor and affluent senior citizens, including some younger spouses, are all eating and socializing together. Unfortunately, this sticks in the craw of some people who have seen senior citizens driving in their Cadillac and Mercedes cars to such free meal programs when, in fact, they should have rejoiced over such an otherwise unusual phenomenon in our culture (Common Cause, 12/83).

*There are certain areas in which Canadian services are ahead of those of the US. Often, being ahead means being behind in perverting something. However, there are also areas in which the Canadian situation is worse than the US one. One of these is that almost double the proportion of Canadians over 65 live in institutions (at least as of 1981), namely 9.45 versus 5.3%. In contrast, in Sweden, where the population proportion over 65 is 50% higher than Canada, there are 50,000 home helpers, or 47 for every 1000 older people. Yet home care costs are typically only 10 to 15% that of institutional costs (Information Exchange Bulletin, 5/86).

*In 2/86, it was proposed to convert the 116-year old Central Ohio Psychiatric Hospital in Columbus into a senior citizens apartment house. Until 1943, when the Pentagon was completed, the institution was the world's largest building under one roof. Thus, we once more have an example of an institution being converted from one type to another. (Source item from Jack Pealer)

*In order to attract membership, unions may go into the human service business in a big way, offering counseling, literacy training, recreation, health insurance, legal advice, and day care and recreation.

*Newsweek carried a very sensitive and generally insightful article on street people (16/12/85). It noted that there is more homelessness now than at any time since the Depression but "the Reagan administration likes to argue that such assertions can't be proven. Indeed, there is little about homelessness that can be established irrefutably--not the numbers of people (estimates range from 350,000 to 3 million), not the causes, certainly not the solutions. But frozen corpses speak for themselves. And there is more evidence everywhere." This situation reminded us very much of the denial of the Holocaust until the end of World War II, and the current denial of massive deathmaking in the demand that it be proven first. There are only 91,000 shelter beds in the US--at best, one for every 3 homeless Americans, and possibly only one for every 10. The word "shelter" itself used to be taken to refer to places for stray animals, and only recently began to be associated in the minds of Americans with the "the American Almshouse." An increasing number and percentage of the homeless are children--an estimated 22% in

late 1985. Even as the Reagan administration has called upon business to play a larger social role, corporations are actually spending less on "health and human services" and more buying art works. One of the more proximate causes of homelessness has been the expenditure of a great deal of federal money to help cities tear down single-room occupancy hotels in the name of urban renewal. A NY politician accused the federal government of "not even providing meaningful lip-service."

*People knowledgeable about the street scene reacted with very mixed feelings to the film based on Mitch Snyder's life, entitled "Samaritan: The Mitch Snyder Story" and premiered on network TV on 19/5/86. Snyder is the Washington, DC activist who has been doing battle on the behalf of the homeless. The film failed to fully bring out Snyder's religious motivation; and conveyed the impression that if only enough shelters were provided, everything would be wonderful, thus ignoring the systemic causes of homelessness, and perhaps even misleading the public. There were real street people in the film playing themselves, and some viewers thought that they came off the best and most honest. One thing viewers found scandalous was that this film on homeless hungry people was punctuated by commercials depicting Yuppie life and profligate consumptionism--a stark contrast to the lives led by the street people shown.

*The bad news is that in Africa alone, 100 million people in 22 nations are faced with malnutrition and starvation. Since people lust for good news, we can inform them cheerfully that most Americans eat rather well.

*A Doctor Kitahara has been running a school for autistic children in Tokyo that may very well incorporate SRV principles. It uses "daily life therapy," a great deal of exercise, and is integrated and uses a highly supervised approach without aversive behavior modification. A school on the same model is supposed to open in Boston in 9/86 (Source item from Brian Silberberg). But perversions may already be in the offing; the school will start with autistic children and only later include ordinary ones. According to every SRV principle we know, it should be the other way around.

*We recently saw the film "High Anxiety" about an institution "for the very very nervous," which is one of the best spoofs we have ever seen on the shrink world. Even some of the more outrageous spoofs therein have extensive validity. The film should warm the hearts of the mental patients' liberation movement, and readers are urged to see the film, which is probably also available on videocassette.

"Airplane II" is a satirical comedy which also contained some hilarious spoofs on the mental health world, including scenes from a fictitious Ronald Reagan Hospital for the Mentally Ill. "Phobia" is another film on shrinkery that has much of truth in it. It features a psychiatrist who kills those of his clients who have phobias--which he had as a child--if they fail to get better as a result of his treatments. We have long taught that clients who "defeat" the human service idolatry of technology get punished for it by the priests and acolytes of these technologies.

It is rare anymore to see any shows or cartoons which portray the shrink world sympathetically. But just as tyrannies never learn anything, and never listen to the legitimate grievances of the oppressed--often not even when the inevitable revolution breaks out--so the shrink world today seems totally unresponsive to the criticisms of its (very extensive) shortcomings. Rather than reading the signs of the times, if they respond at all, it is with rage at the critics.

*A CA youth with Down Syndrome knew that he had \$400 in a bank account, and he decided to withdraw some. The trouble is that he went into the wrong bank, and when he demanded what he thought was his money, the teller became frightened, heaped a bunch of it upon him, and pushed the burglar alarm. Believe it or not, he was not only arrested and taken to jail, but actually prosecuted for armed robbery, but the charge was eventually dropped (Conn. ARC, 11/83).

*In our presentation on changing public attitudes towards devalued persons, we explain that many human service efforts along these lines are either outright maladaptive, or at best non-productive and wasteful. A good example of the latter is a package of posters and brochures put out by the National Easter Seal Society in 1986. The central theme of this attitude change campaign is to eliminate so-called "myths" about "disabilities" and to replace them with facts. However, many of these strategies deal with such low level issues as terminology, and they do it so repeatedly that the ordinary person might be afraid to say anything for fear of saying something which offends. Also, almost all of one brochure in this package deals with "etiquette" in interacting with handicapped persons. This reinforces the distance between valued and devalued persons, since typical persons might be reluctant to do anything to, for, or with a devalued person for fear of violating these rules.

A very good example of art imitating life is one of the posters which shows an elderly woman with an empty wheelchair leaning over a manhole saying, "I was only trying to help, dear." This photograph and poster are used to give the message that one shouldn't just help a person in a wheelchair; one should ask first, one should follow the person's instructions, and so on--all of which are true, but it reminds us of the vignette in the German journal of cerebral palsy, Das Band, in which a man bemoans the fact that he no longer can act naturally in the presence of a person in a wheelchair for fear of doing the wrong thing. Thus, posters and brochures such as this have had precisely the effect that we predicted, and can only be expected to do more of it.

Some of the information in the package may be helpful. For instance, there is a brochure on "portraying people with disabilities in the media" which includes some useful pointers for interviewing persons with specific impairments. These might be very helpful for news reporters and others to refer to in preparing themselves for such an interview situation. However, there are also some drawbacks to this same brochure, in that it too puts an excessive emphasis on language usage, and it insists that mention of a person's impairment should not be made "unless it is a pertinent part of the story." In contrast, we teach that mention of a person's impairment or devalued condition can readily be made, provided that the person is otherwise positively imaged and interpreted, so that the positive image will transfer in the observer's thinking to the impairing condition and to other persons similarly impaired or devalued.

The illustrations are done like cartoon drawings. Some of them show people with visible impairments in all sorts of ordinary and even enhancing activities and roles. Some of the cartoons are very clever, but would probably have had more impact alone, rather than buried in a lot of text. Similarly, some of the "myths" are rather funny, with the likely impact being a bit difficult to anticipate.

Unfortunately, the package is so flashily produced that it probably was very expensive.

*A bit west of the city limits of Detroit, there was long located the well-known Wayne County Training School, a residential institution for wayward and/or rootless youngsters, often also mentally slow. At one time, this facility was very well-known for the research done there and the prominent people who worked there. The facility has been standing empty as of late. In 1986, the TIPS editor was visiting the area, and was told by security officers of an adjacent institution where the TIPS editor once worked that teenagers from all over the country inform each other of the location of the facility, send each other maps of the buildings and its tunnels, and converge upon it by the thousands to meet and play on the site, in its buildings, and its underground tunnel system. Apparently, they use the site for "dungeons and dragons"-type games, and some of them bring loaded firearms. Security officers are apparently afraid to interfere.

*There is such a thing as an International Sports Organization for the Disabled (ISOD), and in turn, one of its member organizations is called Brotherhood of Man, which is an international sailing organization for the handicapped. It, and yet another organization, called Disabled People's International (DPI), have acquired one of the world's largest yachts that is completely accessible to handicapped people, that is completely crewed by 28 multi-racial handicapped people from about 25 nations, and that will circumnavigate the world and later serve as a conference and information center for DPI (Dialogue on Disabilities, Fall 85).

*Carrying a torch for him. During the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, a 13-year old handicapped boy who had lost part of a foot in an accident at age 4 was given the Olympic torch to carry part of the way. At City Hall, he asked a young woman to hold the torch for him for a moment while he helped another handicapped child down some steps--whereupon the woman took off and stole the torch, which totally discombobulated him. Fortunately, the woman was eventually tracked down and sentenced to 90 days in jail and two years' probation. One would have thought that a person wouldn't get very far in a crowd carrying a burning Olympic torch (SHJ, 17/10/84).

Human Service Crazy News--With Many Animals Thrown In

*To further update the companion animal craze, we were informed by Edward Cohle that a bill is pending in PA that would allow health care programs to charge the state for the cost of boarding domestic animals used for therapeutic purposes. Cohle wonders whether one might not define the chores which group home residents are expected to do on a regular basis as "chore therapy," and bill such against Medicaid and other third party funders.

*Can burn children learn? A 1983 AP picture and story featured a child at the Moody State School in Galveston, TX who had very severe burns and who was enrolled in a pet therapy program that involved kittens, puppies and other animals. An interesting aspect of this story was that the child was referred to as "a burn child." The longer one thinks about this, the odder it gets. A burned child would make some sense, but if we accept that there are burn children, and if one is to assume that "burn" is a verb, then surely there must be cut children, dismember children, amputate children, retard children, and so on. If one assumes that burn is used as a noun, then there must be amputation children, retardation children, headache children, and so on.

*Another atrocity in the animal companion craze took place in Syracuse where a nursing home took some of its elderly residents to the humane society pound to play with the animals there. The latter were reported to have "loved the attention" (SHJ, 18/11/83). The same nursing home advertises on TV that it offers "pet therapy."

*Petting therapy. A university of Toronto Health and Administration Department professor recommended that people in nursing homes should have more pets and more sex. To promote the latter, sex magazines should be encouraged, and romance books should be printed in large type so that they can be read more easily by older people. Can sex with pets be far behind?

*A new book entitled The Archetypal Cat has assembled historical material on the cat archetype from a Jungian perspective.

*Cats owned by Episcopalians are sometimes called Episcocats. There are a surprising number of Episcocats publications, calendars, and cartoons. Some of the books, which make purrfect gifts for some people, show a cover with a cat saying "Halo again," or "Don't you just adore Gothic." Image-wise, Episcopalians can much better afford to have companion animals than devalued and rejected people.

Human Service Crazyness News--With Hardly Any Animal Participation

*One of the most incredible perversions in human services we have run across is a workshop on "Sexual Harassment From Clients: Prevention and Intervention Techniques," offered by the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy of the State University of New York at Albany, in cooperation with New York's Office of Mental Health. The flyer announces that "pool seats are available," and "Sexual harassment from clients poses serious problems and challenges for correction and mental health facilities staffs. This workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to examine the legal and practical issues related to sexual harassment. The impact of this pattern of behavior will be discussed and prevention and intervention techniques for dealing with sexual harassment from clients will be explored." (Flyer sent us by Chris Liuzzo) Anticipating the inexorable logic of human services, we predict that clients who are perceived as sexually harassing staff will be given animals to harass sexually instead: "Sexual harassment deflection therapy." Voila!

*A most devastating indictment of our contemporary human service crazyness can be found in the April-June 1984 catalogue (furnished to us by Wayne Marshall) of the "Oasis Center" in Chicago, IL. The center is described as a "growth center.. to present workshops in the field of human potential." Its purpose is to "provide an environment where people can involve themselves in various processes of personal development that may lead to more fulfilling lives...as well as to provide training to individuals who desire to work with others towards this end." The topics listed are very good examples of the psycho-crazyness that pervades the human service culture and is increasingly creeping into the larger culture. Some workshop titles include: play reading for fun; attunement the native way; personal transformation; dreams; dialogues with our higher selves; finding the way out of love; past lives seminar; how to live in the world and still be happy; ways of dying: comparative thanatology; enjoying the simple life; safe ways of meeting others; the dream dance experience; how to live a somatic emotional life; anatomy of a winner; how to heal yourself as well as others; bioenergetic analysis; massage workshops; the inner game with music; skin hunger; the experience of being a woman; finding your natural voice; singing your blues away. The content of these events is outright ridiculous, including such things as being hypnotised back into a "past life" and a "future life" giving and being given massages among total strangers, and being taught how to get out of "financially and emotionally draining relationships." The comments of both instructors and participants are some of the best examples of babble one could find, to wit: "We are on this planet ...to experience life joyfully and evolve. If you aren't having a riproaring time ...we can help you upgrade your entitlement to perfection or divinity." "I was confronted with myself and others in new ways that led me to be more of what I was and less of what I was. I was sure I was becoming the real me and I now know I will always be becoming the real me." None of this training is cheap.

*Now another miracle drug is being ballyhooed as able to bring all good things to people that the hippies of the 60s were trying to get. The drug is called MDMA, or "Ecstasy," and is said to have the power to make people trust one another, banish jealousy, bridge intersocial barriers, serve as an aphrodisiac, and all this without losing touch with reality. One New York therapy-type called it "a year of therapy in two hours." A Benedictine monk said that it can give in an instant what monks have spent lifetimes trying to achieve. Apparently, the drug has been introduced into our culture primarily by a small number of psychiatrists who use it in their practice. Chemically, it is related to both amphetamine and mescaline-type drugs. Drug agencies would like to see it put into the same category of controlled drugs as heroin, while therapists have opposed this. However, the therapists have been remarkably vague in spelling out exactly how the drug helps therapy. To

the TIPS editor, it sounds as if the drug may turn out to have similar effects as cocaine. Further, we predict that its destructive impact will take much longer to identify than whatever potential benefits it might have. At present, negative effects are said to be virtually non-existent, but this has been said for virtually all euphoria-inducing drugs during the past 100 years whenever a new one appeared. Unfortunately, some people are already taking up to 15 doses a day, reminding us of animal studies in which the animals gave themselves continuous electric shocks into certain of their own brain areas associated with sexual satisfaction. These animals would literally starve to death doing this, not taking time out to eat.

People promoting things such as "global consciousness" and "new age consciousness" are already busy promoting universal use of the drug. At one time, many of these claims had been made for LSD, but this time, we are told, it is going to be different.

*A hilarious human service insanity is yet another outgrowth of the Alzheimer craze. We have been informed by Bruce Blaney that people have begun to be diagnosed as having "asymptomatic Alzheimer's disease." This might be compared to somebody being said to have asymptomatic blindness or asymptomatic insanity. Again, this kind of formulation must be viewed as an outgrowth of a post-primary production society that tries to rope as many people as possible into eligibility for its human service economy. An October 1984 article referred to Alzheimer's disease as "the mystery with no known cause, no prevention and no cure," to which we can now add, "and no symptoms." It is certainly the ideal disease for a post-primary production human service economy.

*A \$15 million study released in 1984, based on a national US sample and conducted by the US National Institute of Mental Health, claimed that 20% of adult Americans had at least one mental disorder in a 6-month period, and fewer than 20% had had treatment.

*Those who have jumped on the depression bandwagon claim that there are 100 million people world-wide who "have" it, and that the number will likely increase, in part because of the increasing prevalence of chronic bodily ailments (1986 WHO publication).

*A dart in the heart? In 9/86, the US National Institute of Mental Health will launch Project DART (Depression: Awareness, Recognition, and Treatment) which is a publicity campaign designed to make depression the nation's newest health priority. The campaign will promote the latest craze theories, namely that depression is primarily a biological condition of mostly genetic origin for which the best treatment consists of drugs, and at least to a significant degree, electric shock. This theory meets so many needs that it is being swallowed hook, line and sinker (Discover, 5/86).

*We mentioned earlier the new absurdity of referring to people with mental disorder and mental retardation as the "dually diagnosed." Now there is yet another strange development with elderly retarded people being named the "doubly jeopardized," as in the title of a conference in March 1985 in New York City. Can we anticipate conferences entitled things such as "dually-diagnosed man meets doubly-jeopardized woman?"

By the way, we recently received the distressing news from one of our old friends that he has been "dually diagnosed" with arthritis and hemorrhoids, and because of the shameful nature of this condition, we are withholding his name lest he suffer acute embarrassment.

*Psycho-pop culturist Werner Erhard (nee Jack Rosenberg) has given up on est that had 500,000 suckers shelling out big money to "get it," and started a new one called Forum that is aimed at the affluent class and that uses yet another form of psycho-babble. Est was about "getting it together" while Forum is about "making it happen" with a major emphasis on "excellence," which the gullible can supposedly learn in four 16-hour sessions for \$525. In only about 3 months, 11,000 people already signed up. In the meantime, his former wife is suing him for half of everything (Newsweek, 1/4/85).

*The Canadian Union of Public Employees accused the Ontario government of establishing a paramedic training program without having any intention of establishing a service that would employ them (Globe & Mail, 22/1/85). Given the realities of a post-primary production society, such a strategy is not entirely implausible because such training would keep people out of the job market for at least a period of time.

*Research to the rescue. Researchers (MR, 8/83) found that parents who had handicapped sons or daughters in their homes benefitted from having a respite service available to them!

*You would never guess what the benefits are in having the three strikes of being "black, poor and female." According to researchers at the University of Michigan Institute of Gerontology, when these women get old (strike number 4), they supposedly cope better than other old women. Why? Because they had such a rotten deal all their lives that they are now well prepared to bear with the adversities of old age. The virtual celebration of this finding (Aging, 5-6/83) opens the door to all sorts of perversions, like hitting people over the head real hard so that they can enjoy feeling good when they are no longer being hit.

*Russian villages built by US government in the Bronx. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development has spent \$170,000 to have the fronts of devastated and burnt-out houses in the South Bronx painted with fake curtains, venetian blinds, flower pots, and flowers--according to a spokesperson, in order to show the local people that "we still care" (Time, 28/11/83).

*O, O, or bleeding will tell. A survey of 10,000 British blood donors revealed that people who fell into socio-economic classes A and B (professional and managerial) were more likely to have blood type A. Naively, the researchers suggested that blood type may determine social success. (News item submitted by Michael Steer.)

Human Service Funding Stories

*We often hear it said, especially by Canadians, that certain funds for human services are being or have been "cut back." We emphasize again and again, usually futilely, that by and large this is an illusion. What they are usually seeing are five things. (a) In many areas, the rate of service funding increase has declined or even reversed itself, even though increases are still taking place. (b) Costs are increasing, which can mean that even though total allocations increase, the number of workers supported by the allocations may decrease. (c) Funds may be shifted from highly visible and/or relatively more benign services in the community to less visible and/or destructive services, such as nursing homes and prisons. (d) Lower-paid positions may be abolished in order to create and/or support more highly paid positions. For instance, if an institutional psychiatrist position were added, four, perhaps even five or more, unskilled human service positions might be eliminated. (e) Complainants often do see the impact of these reallocations and selective retrenchments close at hand, and are not aware of the other side of who gets the money. Complainants who are not aware

of the above facts will find themselves in a very exposed position, and in public debate will be embarrassed by people such as Ontario's Deputy Minister of Community and Social Services, who pointed out that contrary to the criticism, his ministry's budget had increased 90% over five years, but admitted that there had been "realignment of services," though no reductions (NIMR, 85-1).

*People in human services persistently fail to believe us when we teach that so-called human service "cutbacks" are often merely transfers. For instance, the budget submitted by the Governor to the New York State legislature for the 1986-87 fiscal year proposed cutting about 500 mental health and mental retardation positions--but increasing the State Police and Correction Department's positions by about 1500. Such budget figures also reveal the hidden transfer of mentally handicapped people into the prison system (SHJ, 16/1/86).

*Laugh for the homeless! Much as we thought that there were perverse incoherencies in the Live Aid fund-raising event against famine, so we do not feel particularly happy about the Hands Across America extravaganza that gathered an awful lot of Yuppies, who lead extravagant lifestyles, in isolated and displaced public displays of sympathy, rather than getting them to either change their lifestyles or make a permanent engagement.

Further along the same lines, Comic Relief is a non-profit organization of actors and comedians. With a name like that, it just doesn't sound right to stage fund-raising events for street people, especially not with a 3-hour comedy show. In Los Angeles, 300 homeless men were gathered at a skid row Rescue Mission for a meal waiting for Comic Relief comedian Robin Williams to appear--but because the comedian was late, the men had to wait hungrily until he made his appearance.

Mere News

*For a century, there has raged a debate as to just how early children should be educated, and what they should be expected to learn. That young children have something that Montessori called an "absorbent mind" is, amazingly, still controverted even by many child experts. Many people, including experts, draw a very artificial and mindless distinction between learning subject matter that they perceive as school subjects versus other things which they largely perceive as play or perhaps socialization. Of course, the mind itself does not make such distinctions, nor are the subject matters so clearly distinct. For instance, even a retarded child might learn two or more languages from earliest age in a multi-lingual area, while many of the experts go bananas if, in a unilingual area, somebody tries to teach a very young child a second or foreign language. Further, the skills involved in reading have mostly to do with visual perception of shapes, and linking these with sounds. A young child might learn something that involves exactly this kind of a process, but as long as it does not get labeled as reading, the experts approve even as they disapprove of teaching reading.

A new theory has appeared in the psychological domain which may help one resolve the issue. Montessori strongly believed in sequential learning, i.e., presenting the next precise growth challenge in a child's developmental sequence. She also said that a child should not be exposed to the risk of failure unless the child had a very good chance of succeeding. The new theory is very concordant with this. It posits that given sufficient motivation, a person's sense of time flow is profoundly affected by the balance between the challenge to which a person is exposed and the competency that the person can bring to the challenge. Thus, when one does something which is at the almost precise balance of challenge and competence, time is perceived as passing extremely quickly. For instance, a chess player may think for 40 minutes on a single move, and feel like it was only 5 minutes. On the other hand, someone who is bored because the challenge is low, or discouraged because it is too high, may feel time go by excruciatingly slow. The phenomenon has been given the somewhat problematic name "the Flow."

It now appears that Montessori intuitively, and undoubtedly in part because of her astute observations, built into her pedagogy a recognition of this phenomenon. Thus, the debate really should not be about whether children below the age of 6, or prior to first grade, should learn things such as reading, or other languages, but that one should do whatever the next thing is in a child's various domains of growth that constitutes that precise balance between readiness and challenge. For some children, this might very well mean that, at an early age, they should be engaged in a reading or writing challenge and/or be exposed to all sorts of foreign languages, or learn mathematics, or whatever.

*The mental field has come up with a new term: "performatory adaptation" (Contemporary Psychology, 9/83). Maybe more of our young people should be locked up in a performatorium.

*PASS (Program Analysis of Service Systems), a tool for the evaluation of human services designed by the TIPS editor, has competition. A Parallel Alternative Strategies for Students (PASS) is being implemented in special education in FL. (Source information from Mel Knowlton)

*A most peculiar thing has been happening. Up until 1972, girls scored higher on combined scholastic aptitude test (SAT) scores than boys, ignoring for the moment the fact that scores for both groups declined between 1967 and 1980. In 1972, boys started pulling ahead of girls, and the discrepancy has gradually been getting bigger, reaching almost 60 points in 1981, and remaining at roughly that level, despite the fact that opportunities for girls have presumably been improving. There have been many theories to explain this, but no convincing evidence. The differences could not be explained by courses taken in high school, choice of college majors, or expressed career interests. One theory points to statistics that indicate that entry into sexual activities has been much greater for high school girls than boys, and that this is, for all practical purposes, scrambling the girls' minds (APA Monitor, 6/86).

*There is a movement underfoot to require welfare recipients to undergo tests to see whether they have been on drugs, and to cut their benefits if they have (NCR, 4/4/86).

*Kristjana Kristiansen, who is safely abroad, sent us a clipping of a man who has written a book on the history of the Peninsula United Methodist Homes, which is a firm that has set up "continuing care retirement communities" identified with the Methodist church in the US. This is a bit peculiar since the first of their homes was only established 25 years ago. The writer calls his own organization "Customized Editorial and Creative Services," to which Kristjana juxtaposed the note "Holy solar geriatric vulture syndrome, chronic?"

*James Watt, the former US Interior Secretary who lost his job because of his loose mouth, gets \$15,000 plus expenses for giving a speech. We propose that people disaffected with Training Institute workshops be sentenced to have to listen to him for a six-day-and-night workshop equivalency period.

Sad News

*Time (29/8/83) carried a very sad article on New York City's Potter's Field for the burial of the indigent, which is located on Hart Island, one of the many islands in the New York harbor area that have traditionally been used to accommodate deviant people, alive or dead. Since 1869 (115 years), 1,000,000 bodies have been buried there. The graveyard is now taken care of by a work camp of 48 prisoners from Riker's Island. At other times, there were also a prison and a drug rehabilitation center on the island, now deserted, but the island is still under the control of the city's Department of Corrections. Thus, even in death, the poor are classified among the criminals. In past years, poor people were also

hired to be gravediggers, and many were buried on the island themselves. The coffins are stacked tightly, 10 across, 3 deep, one on top of the other, for a total of 148 per mass grave dug out and filled in by bulldozers. The man who drives the truck that brings the coffins from all over the greater New York area rarely gives his task a reflective thought; "He might just as well be hauling pulp wood." The director of the local morgue for the last 32 years has never been to Potter's Field and has no desire to go. "It's not my end of the job."

*A Washington suburb that boasts the highest family income in the US was deeply offended when the Salvation Army opened a soup kitchen and night shelter there. One of their objections was "Ed Meese says there is no need for this type of thing." Said one of the merchants, "It's like a trash dump, no one wants it in his back yard." Another one objected that "the shelter sucks street people out of Washington into Bethesda." Similar objections were voiced to another soup kitchen and shelter in another DC suburb. A Salvation Army officer said, "They have never been exposed to low income people. It's alright for them to go to the churches and give to the poor, but it's another thing for them to look out their window and see them."

*Bill Sackter, the retarded man portrayed by Rooney in the film Bill, died in 1983 at age 70, leaving an estate of \$127. He had worked at state institutions for 33 years and received no more than pennies in wages. However, the Department of Welfare of the State of Minnesota filed a \$10,000 claim against his estate (Institutions, Etc., 9/83), as if in revenge for his liberation.

*1985 television ads for contraceptives have shown one young woman announcing that she plans to be president, another one that she is headed for college, and the third one sullenly cooking a family dinner, noting that she made a mistake and is now pregnant.

Resources

*The Citizen Advocacy Office of Onondaga County (501 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, NY 13202; 315/472-9190) sells a number of books relevant to the TI's training. They now carry an item entitled Homelessness in America: A Forced March to Nowhere, by Hombs & Snyder. It examines the situation facing homeless people in America, and is documented with outstanding photographs. Cost is \$5.00 per copy, plus 15% postage and handling fees. Orders must be pre-paid.

*The Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services publishes a periodical called Windows of Technology for People Working in Human Service Programs.

*Eight national organizations concerned with handicap, plus the federal government, are cooperating in the operation of a Disability Information Service Center for Canada at the University of Calgary. Supposedly, there will be computer-based information available in English and French to individuals and organizations (IEB, 5/86).

*Hunger Notes is a newsletter started in ca. 1974 for those interested in hunger in the world, and particularly for those who are trying to educate on the issue. Its June/July 1985 issue was full of reviews of books and teaching aids on the issue. (Source item from Doug Mouncey)

*DLM Teaching Resources of Allen, TX, has published some interesting educational board games available for handicapped people which are very image-enhancing. One is called White Water Raft Trip and teaches opposites and homonyms. Another one, entitled Back Pack, teaches grammar.

*The good news is a new book, Reach for Fitness, containing exercises, fitness information, nutrition information, and specialized sections for 43 types of handicaps, compiled with the help of specialists in various areas. The bad news is that the book has been compiled by Richard Simmons who, among other things, has inflamed an ardent followership of women with his cute antics on TV. On the third hand, he has started a non-profit Richard Simmons Reach for Fitness Foundation to raise money for exercise programs for the handicapped in YMCAs across the country, and is donating the royalties from his book to the foundation.

*Harlan Lane (1984) has written a book entitled When the Mind Hears: The History of the Deaf (Random House) that presents this history from the perspective of advocates of a self-segregative "deaf community" that uses American Sign Language, that harbors considerable hostility toward the hearing society, and that views oralism as the "method of violence, oppression and charlatanism." It even appears to be hostile toward research that might enable deaf people to acquire some hearing. Further, most deaf people today reportedly say that they do not want to become hearing.

Psychopostcard News

*Occasionally, we carry news of picture postcards that have human service themes. Most prominent among these are, of course, pictures of human service buildings, mostly shown from the outside but sometimes also showing indoor scenes. Relatively rare are American picture postcards of "freaks," but they do exist. On her 1984 workshop tour of England, Susan Thomas discovered that there is actually such a thing as a picture postcard collectors' monthly magazine. The February 1984 issue had an article on English picture postcards of social outcasts, such as tramps, buskers (sic), village characters, and village idiots. The magazine called these pictures "character studies." It depicted several of these, including Fogey who looks like a local town drunk, Pennycross Bill who played a penny whistle or mouth organ, and Jubilee Bill. There are also quite a few books on postcards, and even catalogues. Among the favorite themes collected by various people are cats, railroads, and automobiles. Some people go to extremes and collect highly specialized odd themes, such as cats with cameras, comic pigs, or comic seaside scenes. Pretty hard to understand is the collectors' category of animals dressed as humans having breakfast in bed--but then, the British have always been known to be eccentric. The record of the highest price paid for a picture postcard was recently shattered: almost \$500.

Signs of the Times

*Surely, one of the signs of our times must be the fact that human reproduction, at least in developed nations, is doing very poorly. Either people no longer want to reproduce; or they cannot even if they wanted to; or if they do, they seem to do very poorly at child-rearing.

*The teenage son of an artist mother and a family therapist father in Syracuse went out at night and defaced churches and religious statues, writing screwy messages on them, such as "God has no purpose," and "pay salvation."

*A man in CA committed suicide, reportedly because of job-related stress. In December 1983, the CA Workers' Compensation Appeals Board ruled that the man's homosexual lover could receive the dead man's death benefits of \$25,000, because homosexual relationships had to be given the same credence as relationships between unmarried heterosexual couples (SHJ, 13/12/83).

*In Sydney, Australia, a Gay Handicapped Club has been established (NACH Breakthrough, 1983, No. 23; source item furnished by Mike Steer).

*A Toronto policeman estimated that about 1/3 of the prostitutes in Toronto are under 16, and some of them are as young as 12. The younger ones had almost all been in foster or group homes before becoming prostitutes. 95% of these younger ones had sexually transmitted diseases, and many were on drugs (Globe & Mail, 31/1/86).

*In Syracuse, NY, one can now have one's children videotaped in anticipation of having them abducted, and needing the tape to identify them.

*An increasing number of children seen in pediatric offices are there because of psychological or developmental problems. In response, a growing number of pediatricians are sharing offices with shrink-types. Just to spell it out to our readers, this seems to be another sign of our times: more and more children seem to be going crazy (Medical Tribune, 18/6/86).

*More on cardboard relationships. A number of US greeting card manufacturers have recently come out with "feeling cards" (e.g., Time, 12/5/86). These cards contain messages that the sender is lonely, angry, hurt, feels warm or loving towards the recipient, misses the recipient, etc. Examples are "Finally I have a friend I can trust...completely," and "The warmth of your hug lingers..." and "Your efficiency sometimes scares the hell out of me, but I appreciate, value, and need you," and "I want to please you, but first I have to please myself." Observers believe that the millions of people who are rapidly buying up the cards want the card companies to speak their deepest emotions for them. One of the writers of the cards, a psychotherapist, says, "This is really America in therapy." Probably no one remembers that in the early 1970s a similar card line came out, and the front of each card was covered with something that actually resembled a Rorschach print.

*It has been noted that increasingly, books on "trivia" are very popular sellers. In our opinion, this is merely one more reflection of our culture's attempts to divert people from important realities, and of people's glad acceptance of these diversions. Nonetheless, some very revealing facts can be learned from perusing such books, provided one has the insight to perceive what these mean. For instance, a 1985 book entitled One Day--Things American Do In A Day (T. Parker, New York: Houghton & Mifflin, reviewed in SHJ, 10/3/85) notes that each day, Americans do the following. Spend \$700 million--or more than \$8000 each second--on entertainment and recreation, including purchasing 50,000 new television sets each day. This is approximately as much as America spends on national defense. Throw out 200,000 tons of edible food. 408 Americans are officially listed as missing persons (this number does not include those who are never reported as such), and 391 missing persons are also officially found each day, either dead or alive. Spend \$300 million on clothes, and of this, 80,000 pieces of clothing and accessories have little alligators (the Izod insignia) on them. Further, each day, Americans purchase at least 5 million things that have a picture of Mickey Mouse or are shaped like Mickey Mouse. Spend \$125,000 just on tours and merchandise associated with Elvis Presley, unbelievable as it sounds. 5000 Americans ~~try~~ cocaine for the first time, and 325 pounds of cocaine are snorted or injected by Americans. 70 million quarters, or almost \$18 million, is spent just on video arcade games and pinball machines. The average American is exposed to 1600 commercial messages through one medium or another. Of these, approximately 80 are consciously noticed by each person, but only 12 elicit some kind of overt response. We can imagine what the unconscious impact of the remainder must be. Further, the average child daily watches more than 50 commercials just on television. Americans consume 30 million pills to help them fall asleep. 100 people try to kill themselves, and more than 70 of these succeed. 18 million tons of raw materials are wrested from their natural state and transformed into something else. If all Americans shared this job equally, then each one would have to dig up, saw down, or gather more than 150 pounds of material each day. This is certainly evidence of what a dramatic change would be brought about by a return to a labor-intensive primary production society.

The Deathmaking Scene

Miscellaneous Abortion Facts & News

*The US has both the highest teen pregnancy and teen abortion rates in the western world (Newsweek, 2/6/86). It is said that of the 1 million annual US teenage pregnancies, 400,000 end in abortion, 500,000 end in birth, and an amazing 100,000 result in miscarriage or stillbirth. The abortion rate for pregnancy among teenagers has increased steadily every year between 1972-1982, the live birth rate has declined almost every year as well, while the miscarriage rate has remained essentially unchanged (AL, 5/86; source item from Carolyn Bardwell Wheeler).

*Between 1982 and 1984, the total number of abortions in the US has only dropped slightly from 1.57 to 1.51 million, but the rate per 1000 women aged 15-44 has dropped more appreciably from 28.9 to 26.9. (Source item from Carolyn Bardwell Wheeler).

*The national abortion figures in Canada are very deceptive because the rates vary phenomenally among the provinces. In Prince Edward Island, the 1984 rate was .6 per 100 live births, whereas in BC, it was 26.1 with the other provinces falling in between for an average of 16.5. The rate had increased steadily until 1979, after which it declined very slightly (PLN, 7 & 8/86). Further, there were phenomenal age differences, with women aged 20-30 having a rate of 55%, which means that for every woman who gave birth, at least one other woman aborted. 4.4% of the abortions took place in the 17th week of pregnancy or later. 19% of the women who had an abortion had had at least one previous abortion, which is certainly a sad fact.

*Prenatal identification of children with sickle cell anemia is becoming ever more efficient (Science, 20/12/85), undoubtedly leading to a demand for more abortions. In this case, few people are mentioning that this would also lead to a reduction in the "surplus population" (Mr. Scrooge's words) of a devalued minority group.

*The incidence of newborn infants with spina bifida, at least in Britain, has declined dramatically by about 80% since 1968. It is believed that this is the result of pre-natal screening and subsequent abortion (called "prevention"), and some leaders in the field exuberantly look forward to the "virtual disappearance of spina bifida" (SB Insights, 5 & 6/86).

*An example of medical technology run amok occurred in the Netherlands. First, a woman went on hormone treatments in order to conceive. Having had one child this way, she went on hormones again, but this time conceived quintuplets. Thereupon, the parents had three of the five killed in the womb because they were distressed at the prospect of raising quintuplets. Apparently, this kind of "selective abortion" has become more common across the world (AP, in SHJ, 22/6/86).

*A new abortion method has been invented and used in Britain. The cervix is dilated and the umbilical cord is pulled out and cut, which causes the death of the baby. A day later, the body is extracted by crushing it. Proud British practitioners of this new method said that "everyone knows that it is easier to cut up a chicken after it has been cooked." (PLN, 7 & 8/86)

Abortion: Support for, & Opposition to

*A spokesperson for Concerned Citizens for Choice on Abortion in British Columbia said that instances of abortion that produced children instead of dead fetuses are "tragic, painfully traumatic for everyone involved, and totally unnecessary" (Evening Times-Globe, 4/6/86; source item from Peggy Campbell).

*The National Abortion Federation is one of the most radically pro-abortion groups in the US. At its annual 1985 meeting, a workshop was conducted on the most effective way to kill a baby during a late-term abortion. One speaker recommended that the soft spot on the baby's head be punctured and the brains vacuumed out (in scientific language, this is called "puncturing the vertex and aspirating the brain tissue") (NRL Letter, 7/85; source item from John Morris).

*Readers will probably be familiar with the recent Chinese policy that makes it virtually impossible for women to have more than one child. Pregnancies after the first child are, through tremendous pressure on the parents, almost always ended in abortion. In cases where women do not submit early enough, abortions are performed as late as the 9th month via Caesarean, which really amounts to infanticide. Furthermore, when a woman actually gives birth after having steadfastly refused to abort, which is very rare, the baby is killed during birth by injection of a poison into the brain or by having the skull crushed with forceps. Not surprisingly, with China's huge population the number of abortions is staggering. There were an estimated 53 million between 1979-1984 alone (Interim, Summer 86).

*CA public schools are now giving students time off from school to obtain abortions without their parents' knowledge (The Human, 11-12/83).

*A number of US TV stations have begun to black out a certain TV evangelist whenever he begins to speak out against abortion. In one instance, they blacked him out by running instead an advertisement for the film, "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" (The Human, 11-12/83).

*In 11/85, the Sandinista government started to campaign for the legalization of abortion on demand (Interim, 1/86).

*Unlike in most other countries, Spanish physicians have almost unanimously refused to perform whatever few abortions are legal in Spain. Similarly, the majority of other Spanish professionals and scholars are still outspoken against abortion (AUL Newsletter, Winter 86). So according to Interim (3/86), 3000 feminists held a conference in Spain, and two of them went into a nearby room where they had abortions performed. The remains of the two aborted babies were then presented in bottles to the conference which erupted into loud cheering, and almost all the participants signed confessions claiming responsibility for the illegal abortion.

*The National Association of Pro-Life Nurses, opposed to abortion, infanticide and euthanasia, has been growing (PLN, 1 & 2/86). As of early 1986, 46 US states had legal provisions excusing a nurse from participation in abortions if it was contrary to her conscience (PLN, 1 & 2/86).

*In 1986, Prince Edward Island became the first Canadian province in which legal abortions were no longer available (Interim, Summer 86).

Child Junking

*Yet another sign of the times are bumper stickers that proclaim "I love my baby," which probably means that child junking has become so common that parents loving their baby has become bumper sticker-worthy.

*We have commented previously on the increasing abandonment of children in some countries. In Brazil, 20 million children are now said to be living on the streets, abandoned by their families. We urge readers to consider the implication of these developments, and what kind of nations and societies will grow out of them.

*An advocacy organization in MI bestowed on the American Medical Association its 1983 "Darth Vader Award" for arrogance for opposing federal rules protecting handicapped newborns from being starved to death. The runner-up award for arrogance was given to the National Association of Children's Hospitals for proposing that such hospitals police themselves in regard to such deathmaking. (Source item supplied by Ron Seigel)

*Columnist Mike Royko severely castigated the child protection and placement system. For instance, he concluded that the legal system set up to protect battered children is "a frustrating disastrous failure." He said if anyone had thought that the CIA was secretive, they should try sometime to deal with the IL Department of Children and Family Services. "If somebody was known to be eating babies on sesame rolls with mustard and onions, their response would be 'Oh, we are not permitted to discuss these matters.'" (SHJ, 18/11/85)

*The Church of the Children of the Desert in Las Vegas has been soliciting contributions by claiming that the Church meets 13-15 year old runaway girls at the Las Vegas bus station to "prevent them from becoming exposed to evils and undesirable influences." Instead, the contributions were used to publish a sex magazine, run a mail order business for bondage devices and photographs, and operate a brothel (Consumer Reports, 2/86).

*There is a distinct possibility that many so-called crib deaths may actually be instances of infanticide. The medical examiner for San Antonio, TX, said, "We know it. We just can't prove it." (AP in SHJ, 11/2/86)

Miscellaneous Deathmaking News

*In the 27/12/85 issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association, a resident physician wrote an article entitled "Ethical Dilemmas for House Staff Physicians" (Winkenweider, 1985). In the contemporary language of medicine, "ethical dilemmas" almost always refers to decisions to withhold life-sustaining treatment, and is almost always used where the inclination is towards deathmaking rather than toward the preservation of life. Not surprisingly therefore, the author argues that residents are in a difficult moral position when decisions are made to continue life-supporting treatment, but the resident disagrees with this decision. He claims that this constitutes a moral dilemma because the resident actually gives more direct medical care to the patient than does the attending physician, who, in conjunction with family, makes such decisions. A good deal of the article is devoted to the recitation of what we call "purple Macedonian"-type vignettes of an elderly man with a history of heart trouble who was also diagnosed as having cancer, and who, after an operation, endured all sorts of setbacks and complications, including a heart attack. The family and the attending physician chose to pursue aggressive medical treatment, resulting in such things as broken ribs (from attempts to resuscitate him), and he eventually died a few days later anyway.

Almost all of the arguments as to why residents may find themselves in moral dilemmas in such situations are phrased in the language of individualism and materialism (i.e., "salvageability" of patients), and reflect the belief that no one should make any judgments for anyone else, and that there is no higher moral authority than the human being and its products. For example, "Must residents always submit to the team's or attending physician's decision when it is in conflict with their personal ethical principles or judgment about the patient's best interest...? What are their legal rights in doing so?" (p. 3454). Or again: "Certainly no one of us can speak for all of us." (p. 3455). The bankruptcy of this position becomes clear when the author claims that resolving these decisions "probably depends on the employee contract with the hospital" (p. 3456).

One strategy he suggests is that (among other things), local "sages" should be recruited to help resolve differences of ethical opinion. However, he points out that the function of such persons should not be to offer moral instruction about decisions whether to extend life-supporting treatment, but only to help the primary caretakers, the patient, and his/her family reach a mutual decision.

Allusion is also made to attempts by various individuals and groups to protect the lives of endangered people as follows: "...portends an ominous future as other parties seek to impose their solutions. The effects of non-medical groups' involvement in pediatric intensive care have already been felt. The repercussions of their involvement in the terminal care of elderly and dying patients could be staggering" (p. 3457). The implication in such language is that any efforts by "non-medical groups" to protect the lives of handicapped children, elderly people, those perceived to be dying, etc., constitute outside "interference" and are bad.

*A 29-year old severely retarded and physically crippled man residing at the Highland Park Center (a private residential facility for 132 severely retarded adults) in the Pittsburgh area died in 12/83 "of asphyxiation caused by foreign body obstruction." His parents assumed that he choked to death on food, because he had had grave previous problems along these lines. An investigation by the State Office of Mental Retardation found nothing remarkable, but then an anonymous phone call was received by the local Association for Retarded Citizens, indicating that the death was not routine. The Association launched an investigation which revealed that the man had choked on a rubber surgical glove. (Other retarded people have been known to die the same way.) Particularly disturbing is the fact that such rubber gloves are ordinarily only used when conducting rectal and vaginal examinations, cleaning residents of excrement, or handling patients with infectious diseases. The same facility had been found a few months earlier to have used cattle prods on several of its residents (Pittsburgh Press, 22/12/83).

*An article in Discover (5/86) claims that even though the new Medicare and Medicaid rules are reducing care for the poor, they may not be saving much money because those who survive will often be even more impaired, and that therefore, any savings will only be short-term. The new policies are creating all sorts of havoc and perpetrating unspeakable atrocities. For instance, an old man blind from diabetes was sent home 7 days after having both legs amputated even though his wife was not able to adequately take care of him. As a result, he ended up in a nursing home. One study found that poor people dumped out of private hospitals into public ones had a death rate 2.5 times higher than those who were not dumped. How lowly the dumped are is apparent in the fact that few of them have initiated legal suits. Thus, we once more will have to see such measures for what they are: deathmaking policies rather than cost-cutting ones.

*In Santa Cruz, CA, teenagers made themselves a homemade bazooka, drove into a neighborhood frequented by transients, and fired at one, inflicting painful burns. When caught, the youngsters said they had been trying to rid the coastal resort of "trolls," by which they meant "long-hairs, transient types, commies, and welfare recipients."

*Eighty percent of US fire deaths result from the lethal fumes from whatever buildings or materials are burning. Fire fighters inhale some of the same fumes, and because there is so much carcinogenic material about, this probably explains why their death rate from cancer has increased 1000% faster than that of the general population. At a 1975 New York City fire, 239 fire fighters were treated for toxic gas inhalation, and all of those reportedly were either dead or retired 10 years later (SHJ, 2/12/85).

*In 1977, FL passed an adult protective services act which required the reporting of abuse of elderly persons to a central registry. Initially, hardly any cases were reported, but this changed, and by 1985, there were close to 15,000 reports (Southeastern Human Services News, 4/86).