

12-1992

TIPS, Volume 12, No. 4, 1992

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Wolfensberger, Wolf P., "TIPS, Volume 12, No. 4, 1992" (1992). *Training Institute Publication Series (TIPS)*. 56.

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TIPS

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Vol. 12, No. 4
December 1992

TRAINING INSTITUTE
PUBLICATION SERIES

Syracuse, New York
13244-2280

Our December issues always focus on themes of poverty--mostly as it relates to oppression; the prison, crime and punishment scene; religion in society and its interface with human service; issues of war and peace; and seasonal news.

Poverty

*Between 1983-89, the richest .5% of American families took in 55% of the total household wealth increase, and saw their average wealth grow from \$8.5 to \$10.7 million, or 26%. At the same time, the entire 60% of the population at the bottom (more than half the population) either incurred losses or at least no gains. In fact, the lower-middle and bottom segment lost a total of \$256 billion in wealth (AP, in SHJ, 30/10/92).

*One way in which the US government hides the extent of poverty is by setting the official poverty level unrealistically low. For instance, the level for 1990 was \$13,359 for a family of four, which amounts to \$9.15 per person per day for everything.

*In late 5/1992, it became apparent that the US government had tried for 2 months to keep secret a Census Bureau finding that 18% of people actually employed in the economy in the US were earning incomes below the poverty level. Furthermore, the percentage of working people falling into poverty had been increasing steadily since 1979, and is expected to continue to increase.

*A California iron worker had been unemployed and homeless for a year. One day he decided he was tired, fed-up with sleeping on the streets and eating from dumpsters. So he walked unarmed into a bank, handed the nearest teller a note announcing a bank robbery, told a security guard to call the police, and waited to be arrested so as to be safely sheltered in prison and get three square meals a day. Earlier the same year, an impoverished senior citizen held up another bank in San Diego to pay for his heart medication (Time, 16/12/91).

This gave us a brilliant idea for a solution to the current poverty problem in the US. If all the poor people committed--or even merely pretended--bank robberies, the authorities would quickly discover that it would be infinitely cheaper to help the poor not to be poor than to build vastly expensive prison places for all of them. However, this scheme would need some resolute leadership who would teach pretended and real bank robbing ideology to the poor, and how to carry the scheme into practical action.

*The county in which Syracuse is located decided in 1992 to fingerprint all welfare recipients--a practice which has already been carried out in a number of other US cities. A certain percentage of people refused to comply (either because they did in fact have something to hide, out of pride, or from fear of the authorities), and thereby forfeited their benefits (SHJ, 18/6/92). By the way, soon after World War II, Japan began to require fingerprinting for two population groups: people who had committed crimes, and foreigners--a rather powerful message by deviancy image juxtaposition (AP in SHJ, 8 Feb. 92).

*People who are both poor and impaired are so beaten down that they are hardly in a position to defend themselves against injustices. This was exemplified by the following. Under President Reagan, the US government took away disability benefits from many hundreds of thousands of people. Some committed suicide. Only 6% managed to get their cases into a federal court (SHJ, 21/4/92).

*Hundreds of lawyers were laid off in New York in 1991--"a shocking development in a city that is to lawsuits what Pittsburgh once was to steel. Proportionately, many more blue-collar workers are unemployed. But relative to expectations, for even one lawyer to go to bed hungry in America is a national disgrace" (Newsweek, 13 Jan. 92).

*The US government supplements the other sources of subsidies or income of the poor with food stamps. These are coupons that can be exchanged for food items in certain grocery stores. In 1991, the government handed out \$20 billion in food stamps, and \$12.7 billion in food itself. Doing this has become the bulk (85%) of the business of the US Dept. of Agriculture, as expressed by its budget (SHJ, 13/5/92). By 3/92, 25.7 million Americans were receiving food stamps--a record number. Food stamps are not to be used for anything else, but they are. Street trafficking in food stamps is reported to be on the rise, and many food stamp recipients are being harassed to sell their stamps well below face value. Food stamps have been used to buy drugs, guns, and even a surface-to-air missile (AP in SHJ, 19/3/92).

*In a very old book, we found the following translation of a hymn of the Rig-Veda, an ancient Hindu sacred writing dating to ca. 1500 BC.

The man endowed with ample pelf,
Who steals his heart, in selfish mood,
Against the poor who sue for food,
Shall no consoler find himself.

No friend is he who coldly spurns
Away his needy friend forlorn;
He thus repulsed, in wrath and scorn
To some more liberal stranger turns.

Relieve the poor while yet ye may;
Down future time's long vista look,
And try to read that darkling book;
Your riches soon may flit away.

Homelessness

*Despite herculean efforts for 10 years at billions of dollars, there were 50,000 people sleeping on the streets every night in New York City in early 1992. The Fort Washington Armory in upper Manhattan is used as a night shelter for 700 homeless men, with cot next to cot in a vast sea of beds. Violence is rampant, with the helpless and mentally handicapped being particularly likely to be victimized. Some of the more withdrawn disturbed people spend virtually all their time on their beds (NY Times, 12 Jan. 92). Some violent people go around and stab other people lying on their cots--and nothing gets done about it. Many of the mentally disordered would rather be homeless on the streets than take advantage of the bed and free meals at the armory because they are so afraid of being violated.

*In Australia, a derelict person is called a derro. As in the US and apparently many countries, many people without a firm address have not been counted in the Australian census (source information from Peter Millier).

*The CBS investigative news program "60 Minutes" of 8 April 92 dealt with a group of homeless people most of us have never heard of. These are women around 50 years of age who were at one time in the upper middle or even upper classes, but who had a series of misfortunes that left them homeless. Usually there was a divorce or an abandonment by a husband, an acute mental episode, loss of job and inability to keep up house payments. Many of these women lost everything but their automobile, in which they manage to live from month to month. Some live hidden on the large grounds of the kinds of expensive estates on which they used to live, without the owners even being aware of it. These women are generally too proud to go to a shelter or even to let their children know their predicament. Some manage to continue to look very elegant because they are very smart and know how to get things for free. One such woman has even set up a sort of consultancy business to her peers on how to manage homelessness discreetly and successfully. This includes advice on such things as where to find free food in a least-embarrassing fashion.

*One of the results of the dumping of mentally impaired people into unsupported "independence" on the streets is that many of them end up in the shelters and soup kitchens for the homeless. This has led some workers in such services who go back a ways to become nostalgic for what were for them "the good old days" when they had to deal "only with drunks and alcoholics." When such people were not drinking, they would often be reasonable, cooperative, polite, etc. But the new clientele of mentally disordered people tend to be not at all like that! One old-timer hospitality worker called them "scene-makers."

*Some soup kitchens for the down-and-out operate on the motto of "eat it and beat it," mainly because such large numbers of people are rotated through a relatively small dining space that there are only a few minutes for each person to wolf down their food. The well-known Holy Apostle Soup Kitchen in New York City runs a thousand people through its 69 seats in a small room, which allows an average of eight minutes per guest (SHJ, 3 Nov. 92).

*Real street people don't eat quiche, continued. Further to our earlier items on the preference of many street people for instant mashed potatoes and powdered eggs over the real thing (because the former is institutional food with which many of them are very familiar), we have also discovered that real street people prefer non-dairy whipped topping (such as Cool Whip) to real whipped cream. Most probably, this is because the former is loaded with artificial sweeteners.

*In order to make homeless people uncomfortable in Atlanta, the city has steadfastly refused to install proper toilets, and has been arresting people for

urinating in public at the clip of two a day, each one involving court cases that can become quite costly. Also, the courts have imposed relatively stiff penalties for this little offense, ranging up to \$100, and in some cases jail time ranging from one to twenty days (Hospitality, 7/92). When you've got to go, some of us would rather go to jail for 20 days than go in our pants.

*In Milan, Italy, the local zoo has closed down because it was deemed too cruel for animals. Being in the center of a downtown park, it was quickly taken over by homeless people as a shelter, and the next thing you knew, the Milanese began to walk around the zoo looking into the cages where the homeless people were sleeping on beds of straw. One of the homeless men said, "They look at us as if we were beasts." All this being bad press, the city decided to tear down the zoo and convert it to a garden (Denver Post, 2 July 92; source item from Thomas Neuville).

*Once again, the symbolism of lowly people as garbage was re-enacted in an utterly concrete way. A homeless woman in Indianapolis climbed into a trash container in order to get some sleep, a garbage truck came along and devoured the contents of the container, and compressed it. Her crushed body was discovered just as the compressed trash was about to be dumped into the incinerator (AP in SHJ, 1 Dec. 91).

*A man has invented a styrofoam house that can be prefabricated, erected in a matter of hours or even less, withstands hurricane force winds, stays warm in the winter and cool in the summer, costs next to nothing, and its energy savings alone for many parts of the United States would be larger than what some people pay for their mortgage. Its cheapness is one of the big reasons why this invention will probably not succeed, because it would compete too successfully with the construction industry (Newsweek, 31/8/92).

*For several years, we have carried items of scandalous things that the privileged do to raise funds for the poor. Here is this year's crop.

1. It is certainly a sign of our times that a California group has put out a teaching video entitled "The Fine Art of Dumpster Dining," which provides health and safety advice for homeless people who forage for food from the garbage: how to tell what is edible and what not, and how to avoid being infected, poisoned or hurt. Perhaps someone got a grant to make this video, but the question is, where would homeless people have an opportunity to view it, or to view it repeatedly to learn all the fine points?

2. In Hollywood, the glitterati can attend sumptuous \$150 "hunger banquets."

3. Comic shows to raise money for the poor, hungry or homeless are quite common. Many are called "Comic Relief," which sounds like a comical way of relieving oneself--perhaps when one has no toilet to go to. In Syracuse, there was a "Hilarity for Charity" event in 1992 to raise money for Catholic Charities programs for the homeless.

4. A new trend in shelters for the homeless is to give very fancy kinds of service to the newly-homeless (read "deserving poor"), including such things as gyms, computer labs, and stereo music in the bathroom. Where formerly, this would have been called gracious or lavish hospitality, it is now called "esteem-enhancement programming." In the meantime, the chronically and traditionally homeless receive "traditional treatment" (4/92 source clipping from Joe Osburn).

5. We found very amusing the headline in the house organ of the American Psychological Association (Monitor, 2/92) that proclaimed "Psychologists, Others Can Help the Homeless." How? By testing the homeless, counseling them, and giving them psychotherapy, and by screening volunteers who might entertain the notion of helping the homeless. We kid you not. We can just see the Good Samaritan getting

ready to bind the wound of the beat-up man when a psychologist comes rushing, shouting "Stop, you have not yet been screened!"

*The language of theft.

When the rich and the middle class steal from the poor, it's called **fiscal responsibility**.

When the poor steal from the rich and the middle class, it's called **crime**.

When the middle class steals from the middle class, it's called **corruption**.

When the rich steal from the rich for the poor, it's called **noblesse oblige**.

When the poor steal from the poor, it's called **tough luck**. (From a 1991 calendar.)

*A renewed plea for hobo songs. We herewith renew our plea for submission of so-called hobo poetry or hobo songs. We try to carry one in each December issue, but our supply is very low. If no one sends us any, we may begin reruns! What would a December TIPS issue be without a hobo poem?

Liberals and Liberators

Since people do not have much memory left these days, we figured that we could sometimes run an item more than once in TIPS, and hardly anybody would notice. In this case, we will own up to this repetition. Below follows a slightly edited portion of one of the timeless "easy essays" of Peter Maurin, French immigrant to the US, co-founder with Dorothy Day of the Catholic Worker movement in the early 1930s. It is hard to believe that his words are almost 50 years old.

They say that I am a radical.
If I am a radical
then I am not a liberal.
The future will be different
if we make the present different.
But to make the present different
one must give up old tricks
and start to play new tricks.
But to give up old tricks
and start to play new tricks
one must be a fanatic.
Liberals are so liberal about everything
that they refuse to be fanatical
about anything,
And not being able to be fanatical
about anything
liberals cannot be liberators.
They can only be liberals.
Liberals refuse to be
religious, philosophical
or economic fanatics
and consent to be
the worst kind of fanatics,
liberal fanatics.

If I am a radical,
then I am not a conservative.
Conservatives try to believe
that things are good enough
to be left alone.

But things are not good enough
to be left alone.
Conservatives try to believe
that the world is getting better
every day in every way.
But the world is not getting better
every day in every way.
The world is getting worse
every day in every way
and the world is getting worse
every day in every way
because the world is upside down.
And conservatives do not know
how to take the upside down
and to put it right side up...

A few years ago,
I asked a college professor
to give me
the formulation
of those universal concepts
embodied
in the universal universities
that will enable
the common man
to create
a universal economy.
And I was told
by the college professor:
"That is not my subject."

Colleges and universities
 give to the students
 plenty of facts
 but very little understanding.
 They turn out specialists
 knowing more and more
 about less and less.
 But mastering subjects
 has never enabled anyone
 to master situations.

Modern colleges
 give you
 a bit of this
 a bit of that,
 a bit of something else
 and a degree
 The act of giving a degree
 is called a Commencement.
 And after the Commencement
 the student commences to look for a job.

Surplus Value (by an anonymous author)

The merchant calls it profit
 and winks the other eye;
 the banker calls it interest
 and heaves a cheerful sigh;

the landlord calls it rent
 as he tucks it in his bag;
 but the honest old burglar
 he simply calls it swag.
 (Catholic Worker, 57(4), 6-7/90 p.7)

Imprisonment & Punishment

*The prison system in the US is a major contributor to the post-primary production economy. It costs about \$25 billion per year, and among the biggest economic beneficiaries are private prison firms, architecture firms, construction companies, and the communities in which prisons are located (Dollars & Sense, 9/91; source item from Michael Kendrick).

*According to US Bureau of Labor statistics, at least in 1990, the fastest-growing occupational group in the public sector in the US were prison guards (Hospitality, 3/92).

*We learned from the CBS investigative news program "60 Minutes" (29/12/91) that there were 19 jails on Ryker's Island (in New York City's East River) holding 15,000 prisoners at that time. Altogether, 100,000 prisoners a year have passed through these jails recently. Many of these prisoners would at one time have been in mental institutions, and some are so deteriorated that they eat like animals. These jails are in such a decadent condition that almost every inmate owns a weapon of some kind, and there are about seven acts of significant violence every day, with slashings alone numbering about 2,000 in a single year.

*The latest craze in prison designs has the name "direct supervision," and has been described as an "alternative management approach" (CS, 16/4/92). It consists of an environment that is totally electronically surveilled, and which virtually eliminates human contact between guards and prisoners.

*The state of Massachusetts planned to begin putting a 4-foot 400-pound robot to work as a guard in a medium and maximum security prison near Woburn in fall 1984. The robot (then costing \$30,000) can sense the presence of humans in unauthorized areas, to whom it intones solemnly, "you have been detected." It is also planned to use the robot to enter dangerous or unknown situations, and for patrolling corridors at night (Institutions, Etc., 3/84).

*It is not too well-known that medical care in many US prisons is actually contracted out to outside private entrepreneurial firms. The biggest such is Correctional Medical Systems, based in St. Louis. The medical talent deployed by the firm may be good, but there have been incidences in which medical attention came so slow and late that inmates died, and where even the fellow prisoners knew

for quite awhile that someone was sick unto death, but the medical care simply was not forthcoming (Atlanta Constitution, 12 July 88; source item from Jan Doody).

*Even when prisons were coping with extreme budgetary constraints, they still have managed to find money to move prisoners about in a big way. In a one year period in 1989-90, New York alone moved more than 100,000 prisoners among its 52 prisons, at a cost of \$8.5 million (AP in SHJ, 19/6/91).

*When Mary, Queen of Scots, was prisoner of Queen Elizabeth of England, she was moved 46 times during her 16 year confinement. This is close to three times a year. Thus, moving prisoners around is not an entirely new invention, though the recent practice has taken on unprecedented dimensions in being applied not merely to an occasional prisoner, but to so many.

*In New York State, prison guard union members have been wearing a red and black ribbon over their hearts, with red symbolizing the "blood our members spill in service to the state of New York," presumably referring to guards wounded or killed by prisoners (AP, in SHJ, 12 May 92).

*When prisoners are released from prison, it is customary in many states that they receive something like a farewell present to help them re-establish themselves in the community. This may consist of money, a suit of clothing, etc. We learned only in 1992 that this is called a "gateage," but do not know how long this term has been in use (source clipping from Joe Osburn).

*One of the people on death row in Arkansas has had a lobotomy that had been administered to him prior to committing the crime for which he was condemned (Newsweek, 20/1/92).

*Electrocution as a means for the death penalty grew out of the commercial competition between the Edison Company and Westinghouse. The New York State legislature was brainwashed into believing that electrocution was more "scientific" than hanging, and ordered the switch-over (so to speak) as early as 1888.

Violence in Society

*The US homicide rate is by far the highest in the world, with about 10 per 100,000 population a year, and several years in a row now having set new records.

According to a US federal study, 20% of high school students at any point in time carry a gun, knife or club in school. Further, an increasing number of youths have what the law calls "depraved indifference to life," and some will kill for the most minute or perceived provocations or irritations. Also, an increased proportion of murders are going unsolved, in part because police do not have enough time to investigate them all properly (Time, 13/1/92).

*Once casual killings became so common in the late 1980s, one new expression of this has become a systematic effort by people who have committed crimes to kill the witnesses. This is now leading to one crime following another without effective legal response (Newsweek, 27/1/92).

*We were surprised to note that when the National Guard was called in to control the Los Angeles riot in 4/92, they came prepared with urban riot--rather than merely combat--gear. For instance, they had helmets with plastic face shields, which shows that very quietly, the US military has been preparing itself to make war against its own population as the social order collapses.

*According to a 1991 Gallup poll, more Catholics are in favor of capital punishment than the US public in general (CM, 19/3/92).

*What is the world coming to? It used to be that good Samaritans saved people who had fallen among the robbers. Now they are the robbers. In 1992, a good Samaritan robbed a man in a wheelchair. The man was having trouble getting up a hill in his electric wheelchair. A stranger offered his help and pushed him up the hill plus several more blocks towards his dwelling--but then reached into the man's pockets, picked out two \$5 bills and fled (Clipping from Thomas Neuville).

News of the Season

*TV shows and films with Christmas themes began to be shown in 1992 as early as late November. No wonder the public is so confused and lost in time.

*A German custom, now widely imitated in the US, is to put a so-called Advent calendar in the window on December 1st, and every day through December 24th, with much anticipation and excitement, the children of the house open one window, revealing a picture (translucent to the light from behind) having something to do with the approach of Christmas. We were struck by the modernistic counterfeit of this into the construct of "so many shopping days left until Christmas."

*Who has not heard of Donner and Blitzen, two of Santa's reindeer? And TIPS readers have certainly heard of Wolf Wolfensberger. Now it turns out that there is a conflation of TIPS editor and Santa reindeer in the person of Wolf Blitzen, a CNN reporter (SHJ, 11 Nov. 92).

*A child's view of retirement in a mobile home park. After a Christmas break, the teacher asked her small pupils how they spent their holidays. One small boy's reply went like this:

"We always spent Christmas with Grandpa and Grandma. They used to live in a big red brick house, but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Florida.

They live in a place with a lot of retarded people. They live in tin huts. They ride big three-wheel tricycles. They go to a big building they call the wrecked hall. But if it is a wrecked hall, it is fixed now. They play games there and do exercises, but they don't do them very good. There is a swimming pool and they go to it and just stand there in the water with their hats on. I guess they don't know how to swim. My Grandma used to bake cookies and stuff. But I guess she forgot how. Nobody cooks...they all go to fast-food restaurants.

As you come into the park there is a doll house with a man sitting in it. He watches all day, so they can't get out without him seeing them. They wear badges with their names on them. I guess they don't know who they are.

My Grandma says Grandpa worked hard all his life and earned his retardment. I wish they would move back home. But I guess the man in the doll house won't let them out." (Reprinted from Person to Person Citizen Advocacy Office of Onondaga County flyer 12/1990).

The Interface of Religion & Human Service

*Much as an ephemeral construct of "the self" began to replace the idea of a soul in the psychobabble of the mental professions (especially after the 1930s)--even though there is relatively little empirical evidence that there is such a thing as "the self"--so the construct of "self-esteem" suddenly burst onto the psychobabble scene during the early 1980s, and apparently largely replaced what people used to call "faith." We would also note that self-esteem is essentially narcissistic, while faith draws strength from the transcendent that is outside of oneself.

*The Catholic diocese of Syracuse offers "psycho/spiritual therapy groups for persons with AIDS" at its "Personal Resource Center."

*In Kalkaska, Michigan, the sheriff has arranged to have sixteen ministers riding in patrol cars with his deputies. Said the sheriff, "This is an opportunity to minister to people and deputies through prayer and counseling." The ministers are being trained in self-defense and how to handle firearms, and some of them carry revolvers. It all sounds like psychotherapy being a prayer that comes out of the barrel of a gun. Isn't this carrying the mental healthizing of police work too far?

*The meek shall inherit hellfire. The assertiveness craze has found its way into Christianity, with books and workshops on "Christian Assertiveness." This craze is promoted by slogans (first seen in 1992) such as "Jesus Lived Assertively. Jesus' Disciples Need to Live Assertively Too." Not surprisingly, this movement comes from people who have one foot in the ministry and one in the shrink culture.

*A major article (12 full pages, plus the cover) in the 30 December 1985 issue of Time magazine was entitled "Christmas Story." It told of two nuns who ran a community center in a very poor neighborhood of New York City. Although it is apparently a true story, and although Time is a news magazine, the article read like fiction. This story exemplified a number of issues that we cover in various of our workshops. For instance, in our presentation on model coherency, we make the point that few human services actually address the real needs of the people they serve. According to this story, the people who were served by the nuns' neighborhood center were very poor people, many of whom had very problematic families (e.g., multiple divorces, children and parents in trouble with the law, drug problems, unemployment, serious illness, etc.). Despite this, the main activities that the community center provided were individual and group therapy for children, adults, and families, and recreation and cultural activities. It is almost as if they had attended our presentations, and gone back and implemented our extreme example of offering dance therapy to hungry people.

Secondly, the two nuns made a big point of not doing or saying anything religious in association with their center. The majority of the staff were not Christian, and the sisters neither attempted to convert anyone nor even to interpret the Christian faith to them. At the very least, this is a violation of the worker identity component of model coherency, and implied that the nuns had greater faith in human technologies than healing through faith and religious morality.

*The National Catholic Register (No. 4, 1992) reported that a lot of people who visit Jerusalem--though they may otherwise be perfectly sane--suddenly go into states of religious insanity. Often, this happens when they visit holy places. They then may start having delusions and sometimes hallucinations, including that they are one of the holy figures of history, such as Moses, John the Baptizer, Mary, Christ, etc. Natives call this the "Jerusalem syndrome." It strikes about 20 tourists a year, most of them Protestant young adults from North America and Europe who come from religious families but who do not have strong spirituality themselves. Most of them snap out of it after a few days, are embarrassed, but say that it felt good.

*We have long known that soon after its initiation, the movement toward individual program planning had become a perversion. In fact, we suspected that the devil was somewhere behind this perversion. He/she has now inadvertently permitted his/her presence to be rather obviously revealed in a behavior checklist such as is commonly used as part of, or in conjunction with, individual program planning. This checklist requires that clients be checked off according to six

levels of performance in a wide range of activities of daily living. These six categories are as follows.

- I - INDEPENDENT
- P - INDEPENDENT BUT MAY REQUIRE INITIAL PROMPT/REMINDER OR FINAL CHECKING
- S - REQUIRES SUPERVISION (MAY INCLUDE VERBAL PROMPTS)
- A - REQUIRES SOME PHYSICAL ASSISTANCE
- TA- REQUIRES ALMOST TOTAL OR TOTAL PHYSICAL ASSISTANCE
- N - NO EXPOSURE OR NO OPPORTUNITY

This IPSATAN checklist has been used in service for the handicapped in Ontario. Note that the second portion of the acronym contains the word Satan, and the first the root of the Latin word for self, so that the code can be read as standing for "Satan himself." What good can come of such a checklist, or an individual program plan based on it? (Source item from Barry Wever).

*A Charlottesville, Virginia, circuit judge ruled that spanking mentally retarded residents of a local Mennonite home was "an indispensable therapeutic technique," presumably because retarded persons would not understand other methods. The Mennonites, strongly supported by the parents of the residents, said that if the state banned spanking, they would practice civil disobedience by spanking nonetheless because of biblical support for the practice--a peculiar argument from a group that relies on the New Testament instead of the Old Testament in opposing war for any cause (Washington Post, 4 July 86; source item from Guy Caruso).

*The January 1991 issue of Biblical Reflections on Modern Medicine carried a substantial article that makes the point that from a biblical perspective, (Christian) physicians may participate in capital punishment, but that there is really no reason why a physician should be needed there in the physician role.

Religion & Society

*An East German child was taken into a church, apparently for the first time, and she quickly asked the question, "What kind of puppet is that on the plus?" (Schatzkammer, No. 1, 1992).

*Newsweek (14/10/91) said that if one watched movies, one would have no idea whatsoever of the reality of religious faith in the US, and that in some respects, it is religion rather than sex that is the "last taboo" in cinema. Newsweek claims that this is because those who make the movies are overwhelmingly part of the skeptical humanistic secular culture. Yet when Hollywood did make a film ("The Rapture") that Newsweek pronounced one of the most religious ones in a long time, it featured what Newsweek called a "cruel deity."

*Considering how contemporary people try to reduce everything to particularistic and narrow technologies, we consider quite plausible an element in the 1977 film, "Sleeper," which depicts a futuristic society. Among other things, it offers its citizens an automatic confession-and-absolution machine operated by computer which has a revolving cross on top. One confesses to the machine which, after some whirring and buzzing, hands one a card which reads "absolved." After all, as we reported in the 4 & 6/90 TIPS issue, we already have confession radio hot lines.

*A Times Mirror survey asked Americans to rank-order groups that had a generally good or bad influence "on the way things are going in this country." At the top with 91% were people who run their own business, second were technology and computers (87%), and third came churches (85%), ahead of "Congress, newspapers, and environmentalism." In other words, computers and technology were thought to be more important for the country than churches, environmentalism, and

all sorts of things (Catholic Messenger, 6 Aug. 92).

*A German theology student attended an American Bible School, and noted how the American Christian culture and his fellow students equated their religion with patriotism. Among other things, he noted with bewilderment state and national flags in churches and at church services, and the singing of hymns to America during worship. He thereupon raised the provocative question whether the indifference of the typical modern German to the German state means that Germans have a broken relationship with God.

*There is a shrine in Japan in which Japanese leaders of World War II, including General Tojo who was hanged by the allies in 1948 as a war criminal, are enshrined as "sacred deities" (National Catholic Register, 21/4/91, p. 10).

*Benjamin Franklin told us that it was important to be healthy, wealthy and wise. Oddly enough, Christianity claims that it is better to be healthy, poor and wise.

*There is a witty variation on the Biblical saying that "you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free," and it is, "you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you odd." The quote is sometimes attributed to G. K. Chesterton, but is not found in his writings. Regardless who said it first, it is certainly true.

*"The Modern world is full of the old Christian virtues gone mad. The virtues have gone mad because they have been isolated from each other and are wandering alone. Thus some scientists care for truth; but their truth is pitiless. And thus some humanitarians care only for pity; but their pity--I am sorry to say--is often untruthful."--G. K. Chesterton

*A German poet once said, "Faith, when forbidden the door, climbs back through the window as superstition. Once you drive out the gods, kobolds take their place."

*An entire computerized new publishing system has the name "Demonics Limited." Presumably, they will at least know whom to blame when they see evidence of the printer's devil at work.

*It has come to our attention that Catholic Church law forbids clowning in any church at anytime. We heartily endorse this rule, and knowing what we do about clowning, we wish it would go away though we know that it will not. We also know that the above Church law is widely violated (news item from Chris Ringwald).

*As bad luck would have it--another one of those inexplicable "coincidences"--an English Franciscan theologian by the name of Adam Wodeham got known by the latinization of his name into Adamus Goddamus.

Human Service News

*A relatively intensive survey of 23 US state institutions for retarded people found that those residents were the most likely ones to be abused who exhibited maladaptive behavior, and/or had previously already been abused (McCartney, 1992).

*A study (Hayden, Lakin, Hill, Bruininks & Chen, 1992) based on a nationwide sample in the US showed that the durability of a placement of a mentally retarded person into a community residence correlates inversely with the degree of structure and size of the setting. People are least likely to get moved around in

small foster homes, more in larger foster homes, yet more in group homes, and the most in ICF/MR units (residences based on the nursing home model) not only when these were larger, but also when they were relatively small. A relatively large percentage of discontinuities in any of these kinds of residences was due to a change in status of the facility, rather than of the resident.

*In some jurisdictions (e.g., British Columbia), there are now job descriptions of "senior service broker," from which we infer that there must also be such things as junior service brokers and service broker apprentices. The job description is wrapped around the construct of "empowerment" of impaired people "by mediating service options for individuals" (BCACL Community Living, Fall 92).

*In fall 1992, we first learned that the "circle of friends" construct was being used not as a goal to be achieved for an impaired person, but as a process for laying out a person's future, in parallel to the so-called MAPS procedure, which stands for McGill Action Planning System (JTASH, Fall 1992, p. 179ff.).

*In 11/92, we learned with surprise that in the cancer culture, it has become popular to establish "circle of caring" support groups for cancer patients. Apparently, the cancer people looked with envy at the "circles of friends" in the handicap culture, but were ashamed to use that phrase because of its association with handicapped people.

*The new 1992 American Association on Mental Retardation Manual on the definition and classification of mental retardation is being interpreted as presenting a "revolutionary new definition which will change the way you think about people with mental retardation."

*At one time, parents of different kinds of handicapped children formed voluntary associations. This is how the Association for Retarded Children was initially formed in the US. Now, parents of handicapped children form support groups instead. We should all be very clear to understand the difference between a voluntary association that orients itself primarily to external action of a change agency and perhaps advocacy nature, versus a support group that is focused internally upon itself and the feelings of its members.

It should also not surprise us that support groups are much more narrowly focused than voluntary associations. For instance, in the Syracuse area, there is a "Learning Disabled Children in Parochial Schools-Parent/Teacher Support Group." Obviously, such a group would have an infinitely more narrow focus than a voluntary association concerned with the interests of "learning disabled" children.

*The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), founded primarily by parents and relatives of mentally disordered persons, and which has been advocating that awful things be done to such persons (e.g., lobotomy, electric shock, institutionalization, forced drugging) has been severely criticized by Peter Breggin, a psychiatrist who is a critic of psychiatry. He has called NAMI the "toxic parents" linked up with a "toxic psychiatry."

*In the early 1980s, there were only about 20,000 children in the US being educated through so-called home schooling. By 1992, there were at least 335,000. In the US, this is legal as long as the children pass proficiency tests administered by the state. This gives evidence of the rapid collapse of people's faith in public schools, particularly considering how difficult it is to run a home school. The dissatisfaction is particularly high among religious families who see all sorts of moral perversions thrust down their and their children's throats in the public schools, without them being able to have any say in it or being able to stop it. Often, this is on top of many hours of busing to schools

far away, requiring the children to get up as early as 6:00 am (and the parents before that) for the sake of achieving better racial balances in the schools, even though this strategy seems to have largely failed in its goals.

*According to the CBS television news program "60 Minutes" (25/10/92), a law has been passed in Minnesota that forbids the adoption of "black" children by anyone except "black" families. This law was passed largely out of capitulation to nasty "black" people who claimed that "black" children adopted by "white" families would end up confused, and unprepared to survive as "blacks" in a white-dominated world. As a result of the law, there are now so-called "advocates" who keep an eye out on the state's various social services departments, to make sure they do not place a "black" child in a "white" family, and to see to it that "black" children who are already in "white" families (such as foster families) are removed from them--even though this may wreak life-long harm on the child, and even though the child may end up dead, as at least one child has. Obviously, what is at issue here is an idolatry (in this instance, of "black"-ness, or perhaps of "black" identity, or of racial insularity) that is already claiming human sacrifice.

In several instances, children were placed at only a few months of age with "white" foster families, who then made the mistake of wanting to adopt the children--at which point the children were whisked away from the only home and parents they had ever known, to be placed either with a "black" family for adoption or even only another foster home. These stories, like so many others from the foster care circus, are truly heartbreaking.

In one instance, a little girl born to a cocaine-addicted "black" mother was so sick at birth that she was not expected to live. She had 90 convulsions when she was born, and at five months of age only weighed nine pounds. Under the loving care of her "white" foster mother, she not only thrived, but eventually reached the verbal abilities of a 2½-year old at only 18 months of age. Unfortunately, in the meantime, her foster father (who was "black") and her foster mother separated, making the mother no longer eligible to keep the baby under this law, so the child was taken away. In another instance, a brother and sister who had been in numerous foster families before they were placed with the "white" foster family that wanted to adopt them were taken away after having lived with that family for two years. In another instance, a little boy who had been through 20 different foster placements by the age of five months, and who thrived in a permanent foster placement with a "white" couple in Ohio, was taken away from them just at the point when their adoption of him was about to become final, and given to a "black" couple in another state who abused him so badly that he ended up dead within a year. Apparently, the state was so determined that he not be adopted by the "white" couple that they were willing to accept and approve any other family as an adoptive one for him, as long as they were "black."

It was also remarkable that one of the so-called "advocates" claimed that foster parents have no business "bonding" with, or coming to love, the children placed with them, because after all, as she said, "it's only a job for them, they're getting paid for it." What kind of people are these who are making life-and-death decisions over the lives of children--or for that matter, anyone?

Another of these "advocates" claimed that "black" children belong to her, because "I am their past, and they are my future."

The sad fact of the matter is that permanent adoptive homes for many children are difficult to find, especially as a child grows older, shows signs of impairment, or exhibits learning or behavior problems. To insist that only people of the same race (or whatever "blackness" is) as a child can adopt the child would limit the potential permanent homes for such children even further than they already are. We agree with one of the few people interviewed for the program who showed any sense, the head of the Minnesota chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who said that the relevant question should be the best available home for a child, not the best available "black" home (or

for that matter, "white" home or whatever kind of home). We further think that to take a child out of a family to whom that child has "bonded," where that child is loved and well cared for, constitutes the worst kind of cruelty and hard-heartedness. And sadly, we also think that foster parents who understand this and want to adopt their foster children might be well-advised to just lie low and keep quiet as long as possible, so as not to arouse the beast which is apt to jerk the child out of their home at the first sign that they might love and want to keep the child.

*Common Cause (Winter 1992) pointed out that one reason why the US government is so slow in doing something about health care insurance for the more lowly population is that all the members of government have such solid health care coverage themselves.

Resources

*An international journal devoted to Social Role Valorization is being launched in 1993. Until we have the definite details, inquiries can be sent to Raymond Lemay, Prescott-Russell Children's Aid Society, PO Box 248, Plantagenet, Ontario, Canada K0B 1L0.

*There are a number of items the TI carries for sale that are available at ridiculously low prices, that either are or will soon be out of print, and which people in various lines of work might want to have. Among these are the following.

FOR PEOPLE IN "SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT" & OTHER TYPES OF VOCATIONAL WORK
Comprehensive Vocational Service Systems, by J. DuRand & A. Neufeldt (Monograph No. 4 of the Canadian National Institute on Mental Retardation). This book constitutes an unusual source for a systemic view of comprehensive vocational services for the handicapped. It outlines sheltered work, work training, sheltered work stations in regular industries, and independent work in ordinary industry (the latter two falling under the rubric of what is now called "supported employment"). Though written in the 1970s, and somewhat dated, it still contains much useful information. **ONLY \$2!**

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN RESEARCH ON SRV, PASS, & PASSING, AND THOSE WHO HAVE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT SUCH RESEARCH
Assessing Human Service Quality With PASS 2, by R. J. Flynn (Monograph No. 5 of the Canadian National Institute on Mental Retardation). This monograph reports on an extensive research analysis of the results from 102 assessments of different services that were conducted with the 2nd edition of PASS. It would be very useful not only for people who attend PASS training, but also those who study PASSING, because we believe the research results and conclusions speak at least partially to PASSING research issues. Similar such research continues to be done on the results of PASS and PASSING assessments, and this is an example of the kinds of findings. Those who teach SRV, PASS, and PASSING are often asked about the research on these, and such teachers can refer inquiring people to this little book. **ONLY \$1.50!**

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN RELIGIOUS ASPECTS OF HANDICAP
Look at Me, Please Look at Me, by D. Clark, J. Dahl & L. Gonzenbach. This little book contains many vignettes about retarded people, mostly in religious education, Sunday school, and worship settings. The roles in which the retarded are presented sometimes leave something to be desired, but nonetheless, many vignettes are very powerful in underlining the prophetic role of retarded people in our day. **OUT OF PRINT; ONLY \$1.25!**

At these ridiculously low prices, TIPS subscribers may want not just one, but multiple copies!

Copies of the entire publication sales list of the TI are available on request.

*There are at least some released reports available of the PASS evaluation of an entire local service system, i.e., not just a simple service or agency. These are available from the Training Institute. Even when one uses PASSING for a systems evaluation, systems evaluation reports based on PASS are nonetheless useful. Before one does a systems evaluation, or writes it up, it can be very useful to review the reports of other systems evaluations.

Events

People who conduct training events related to Social Role Valorization (SRV) usually keep us informed, and in turn, we convey this information to those who inquire with us about such opportunities. Thus, anyone who would like to know what SRV-related events take place where, when, and by whom can inquire with us. However, we will be much more likely to know about such events in North America than elsewhere. If inquiring from within the US, please send a self-addressed envelope. It is also possible that the new international SRV journal may begin to publish SRV training schedules.

War & Preparation For War

Why People Like Us Should be Opposed to War

Four big reasons why people concerned with either human services or the lowly should be opposed to war are the following. (a) War is a big-time inflictor of suffering, maiming, orphaning, impoverishment and other things (and in multiple ways) that one ordinarily combats in one's serving. (b) The already lowly and handicapped are usually the ones who fare the worst during wars. (c) Because of the astronomic costs of modern weaponry, preparation for war (e.g., weapons acquisition) has impoverished large segments of entire countries, such as the USSR, US, much of Latin America, and many African and Asian nations. (d) War and preparation for war abmoralizes its functionaries. Among other things, it desensitizes them to the realities of death, and it engenders vast amounts of lying and other deceit. In turn, these evils come back to society in other ways, such as violence within a society, and deception about its afflictions.

The link between war and human impairment was powerfully stated by a world council meeting of Disabled Peoples' International in Japan in 1982.

"Disabled people from all over the world know, from their deepest personal experience, the capacity of war to cast its mantle of death and destruction over life and limb. The ability of modern weapons of war to devastate a people, to scar human memory with the permanent scars of personal tragedy, to shatter the dreams and hopes of children, to maim and injure, is nowhere more eloquently proclaimed than here, the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima.

"The talents of humankind are turned from the satisfaction of people's needs to the invention of more and more horrific devices of destruction.

"The products of human labours, wrested from the earth with all the ingenuity of generations of men and women, are dissipated in gigantic stockpiles of armaments, which are of benefit to no one.

"The power of co-operation among individuals and the organising capability of the human race is squandered in the creation of a gigantic war complex, whose sole intent is the destruction of people.

"How long can this obscenity continue? We, the representatives of all the world's disabled people have come to Hiroshima to make known our resolute condemnation of the arms race.

"We affirm, in the strongest terms, our determination to join with others and take our rightful place in the forefront of the worldwide movement for disarmament.

The Disabled Peoples' International says:

"Let us all join together in a worldwide movement for peace.

"Let us call for all the nations' economies to be transformed from war economies to peace economies.

"Let us demand that the world leaders now, in this most momentous epoch, where we have the power to destroy and cripple, begin the enormous task of redirecting our resources, our productions, our talents and abilities from the creation of the weapons of war to the creation of instruments of life."

The above is illustrated by the huge number of people in the former Portuguese colonies of Africa who are now minus one or more limbs (usually legs) because of the vast number of land mines used there in the recent civil wars. In Kuwait, hundreds of small children have been wounded or killed from unexploded allied cluster bombs (they looked like golf balls) which they picked up as toys, or booby traps left by Iraqi troops (USN&WR, 6 May 91).

*When the Iraqis invaded Kuwait, a Kuwait institution for 130 severely mentally or physically handicapped people fared very poorly. On the one hand, the Iraqis took everything of value from the institution; on the other hand, of the staff of 230, all but 10 abandoned their work, and those 10 were threatened with death by the invaders. Considering the desperate situation, the amazing thing is that only 20 of the residents died (Link, 8 & 9/91).

*The news media hardly mentioned the fact that in the Persian Gulf, American tanks and fighter bombers fired projectiles made in part with depleted uranium, which is able to penetrate armor because it is so hard. On impact, a certain amount of radioactive uranium is released into the air which, of course, exposes people down-wind to lung cancer risk. This was the first war in which a large number of these projectiles have been fired, and in a bigger war, we might see remarkably high levels of radioactivity even if no nuclear weapons were used (Time, 18/3/91).

*WW III is estimated to have cost both sides a total of \$619 billion combined!

The Reimaging & Ablinguistification of War & World War III

A number of vignettes below illustrate the deception engendered by the violence of war-making.

*The Guardian (1/91) contrasted some of the language the British press had used in regard to WW III (from a partial list in Speak Out, 7/91).

<u>We</u>	<u>They</u>
Have Army, Navy and Air Force	Have a war machine
Have reporting guidelines	Have censorship
Have press briefings	Have propaganda
Take out, suppress	Destroy
Eliminate, neutralise	Kill
Dig in	Cower in their foxholes
Launch first strikes	Launch sneak attacks
Pre-emptively	Without provocation
Boys, lads	Hordes
Cautious	Cowardly
Dare-devils	Cornered
Young knights of the sky	Bastards of Baghdad
Loyal	Blindly obedient
Desert rats	Mad dogs
Resolute	Ruthless
Brave	Fanatical
Cause collateral damage	Cause civilian casualties

Suffer a high attrition rate
At peace with himself (Bush)
Resolute
Statesmanlike

Are shot out of the sky
Demented (Saddam)
Defiant
Evil tyrant

War-Making For Fun & Profit--But Mostly Profit

*Even after Iraq invaded Kuwait, Britain continued for three more days to export to Iraq weaponry, spy equipment and even nuclear materials (Scotsman, 29/7/91).

*In terms of constant dollars, Americans were paying less for gas in 1991 than they had in 1960, despite the fact that petroleum is running out in the world and that the US had been fighting a war over it. "Winning" the war had kept petrol prices low. Enjoy it; it won't last long.

*With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the US has quietly become the apparently largest arms merchant in the world, delivering an estimated 51% of all international arms sales in 1991, compared to 30% in 1987 (CW, 8/92). In several bizarre ways, this is very good for human services. First of all, it brings money into the US so that it can continue its extravagant human service expenditures. Secondly, use of these arms abroad cripples many people, and creates many widows and orphans, all of which will require welfare and other human services.

*Despite the evidence of the Gulf War of what the sale of armaments abroad can do, international armament sales continue as a "growth industry." There is no evidence so far that any country has decided to reduce its arms sales voluntarily, with the possible exception (which remains to be seen) of Czechoslovakia. While US government leaders, such as the President and Secretary of State, have been issuing high-sounding statements about reigning in arms sales and arms proliferations in the wake of WW III, the truth is that arms sales and related efforts took off in a frenzy. The government accelerated the issuing of arms export licenses so that it would only take 10 days to get one. The US Export-Import Bank received permission to loan foreign buyers money to buy American weapons in a big way (CC, 5 & 6/91).

Even as the US called on the rest of the world to cease selling arms to the mid-East, it sold \$6 billion worth in a 9-month period (AP in SHJ, 15/2/91). Would TIPS readers have known this had they not read TIPS?

*Canadians pride themselves on being peacekeepers, and indeed, they often are. In Yugoslavia, Canadian forces have endured incredible abuse but never fired back. However, even Canadians may not know that Canada has become the largest miner and exporter of uranium in the world (Greenpeace, 1/91), out of which nuclear weapons are made.

*Even as the so-called Cold War has been crumbling, US nuclear weapons-makers and promoters have feverishly been making new, more and better nuclear weapons. In fact, the US government declared that it had a "shortage" of about 450 new nuclear warheads, even though there were close to 20,000 already in its arsenal. Also, the nuclear industry itself is panic-stricken by the prospect that the government might re-use parts of obsolete nuclear weapons in its manufacture of new ones (Science, 24/5/91).

*US News & World Report (4 Dec. 89) worried that the "outbreak of peace" could "blow a hole in the US economy" because the economy is so profoundly dependent on war-related production and activities.

*When the US Air Force abolished a missile field with 150 missiles in South

Dakota, a lot of local people complained because of the loss of business (Newsweek, 9 Dec. 91).

*A lengthy article in US News & World Report (18 March 91), written by the former US Air Force Chief of Staff, said "laser and TV-guided bombs have a near-zero probable error: that is, each bomb has a high probability of hitting within three feet of its target." This was certainly the image that TV news conveyed during WW III with its gee-whiz gunsight picture sequences. Only several weeks after the armistice did the truth come out that these picture sequences were extremely selected ones, and that many "precision" bombs and missiles had indeed been quite inaccurate. In one case, it took 72 sorties with laser bombs to destroy just one bridge! (SHJ, 27/4/91).

*During WW III, a bunch of Dutch teenage hackers actually gained access to US Defense Department computers, penetrating computer systems of three of the four branches of the armed forces (Army, Navy, and Air Force) at 34 different sites, and copied, and even changed, highly sensitive information related to war operations. Six months later, the Defense Department was "still unable to determine the full scope of the problem" (AP, in SHJ, 25/11/91).

*Most readers may have heard of the underground quasi-Nazi video games in which the player gets rewarded for running more efficient concentration camps and killing the largest number of people. Jewish leaders have warned that this could be a "very seductive tool" for neo-Nazis "because it turns death and killing into computer graphics like video games" (Globe & Mail, 11 May 91). We utterly agree, but regret that these and other leaders did not apply the same level and kind of analysis to World War III, where not only videotapes of the real thing ended up being treated as games, but where all sorts of games came out in which Arab adversaries, sometimes Saddam himself, were the killing targets.

*The custom of using yellow ribbons as a sign of remembrance of an absent person goes back a long time, apparently over 100 years. However, it was turned into a WW III craze via the more recent Tony Orlando hit song, "Tie a Yellow Ribbon 'Round the Old Oak Tree." Most people had apparently forgotten that the song dealt with the return of a convicted felon, but there was something appropriate in using this symbol as an expression of hope that thousands of unconvicted felons would come back.

*There must be some truth to the theory that children get corrupted by society as they grow up, because when children aged 8-17 were recently asked what might constitute valid reasons for starting a war, 27 percent said that war is never justified, which must be a much larger percentage of this opinion than found among American adults (USN&WR, 28/1/91).

*A survey of US children found that they associated war with "people dying"--except in relation to the Persian Gulf War, probably because the US government's efforts to detoxify it had been so successful (Newsweek, 9 Dec. 91).

*We have commented before on the bankruptcy of contemporary so-called moral theologians. An example is the prominent Jesuit priest Avery Dulles who said that the Catholic bishops should let the US military judge whether WW III was a so-called just war (Catholic Messenger, 4 April 91). We kid you not. The mouths of babes know better.

*In a Wizard of Id cartoon in 5/91, Sir Rodney asked the king whether the war with the Huns is a just war. The king sagely replies, "only if we win." This commendably pokes fun at one of the criteria of the just war construct, namely, that one must have a very high prospect for winning. This just underlines again

that it is the winners who write the histories and tell us that the vanquished were bums.

*NFL Films, which makes the enormously popular film episodes for the National Football League, has been approved by the Pentagon to make a film about World War III. Perhaps General Schwarzkopf's comparison of his maneuvers to a football game (the Hail Mary pass) set this course of events into motion (source item from Karen Barker).

Resistance to War & WW III

*The good news is that about 2500 US soldiers filed for conscientious objector status during a one-year period in 1990-91 in objection to WW III or preparations for it. Another 4400 simply absconded so as not to have to serve the war effort. Some of the 6900 got very rough treatment from the military during WW III. Some were arrested and sent to Arabia in irons. The bad news is that all of them were volunteers to begin with who joined the military of their own free will. Apparently, they wanted to take advantage of some of the benefits of military service and status, and thought they could finesse it without being forced to fight. Some of them applied for CO status only after they saw the senseless carnage in the Gulf War. One Mennonite counselor of conscientious objectors said that there was a new climate of vengeance against conscientious objection in the US Armed Forces that he had not seen for years. It has also turned out that while young adults are being recruited, they are virtually never told that their ultimate responsibility is to kill people (SHA, 30/6/91; CW, 8/91).

*An army sergeant serving in the Gulf bought an advertisement in his local newspaper in Wisconsin that made the following statement. "Every gun that is made, every ship that is launched, every rocket fired, signifies a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. The world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life in the true sense. Under the cloud of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron." Few people would have guessed that this statement was actually made by President Eisenhower in 1953 in his inaugural address (SHJ, 16/3/91).

*Emmi Bonhoeffer said about the German resistance to the Nazis (of which her family was a part) that "we were stones in a current, and the torrent passed all over us" (TV interview, shown 5/91).

Miscellaneous News

We keep saying that the discrepancies between what politicians and societal structures promise, and what they deliver, get bigger all the time--hence, the lies get bigger. Within less than one week after his election, Clinton backpedaled on his promises to reduce the federal deficit! (SHJ, 11 Nov. 92).

*Just in time for the elections, the fall 1992 issue of the Journal of Psychohistory devoted itself entirely to election-related political issues, with such interpretive gems as the Gulf War (which we call WW III) as a national reaction to widespread child abuse, the recession as an equivalent of clinical depression, and Clinton's sinus problems as a psychosomatic response to childhood stress. Bush was interpreted as having a borderline personality syndrome, Perot as having a guilt complex, and Clinton to be too well-adjusted to be a good president (CC, Winter 92).

*The Stockholm-based International Peace Research Institute has drawn a frightening picture of the menace of multi-national corporations. The fact that

multi-nationals are not under any government's control is not in itself worrisome, but such corporations are as rapacious as old-fashioned imperialistic governments were or are. They thrive on cheap labor, unrestricted business practices, and low tax rates. In order to obtain or maintain these, they support or gang up with repressive governments. As a result, their earnings are often larger than the gross national product of many countries, and they have more influence over the lives of people of many countries than their own governments have. It has also been found that a high level of activity by multi-national corporations in a country, combined with an arms build up, is one of the predictors of the outbreak of violence.

*How short-term the benefits are to a Third World country that collaborates with developed countries in "developing" its natural resources was illustrated by Saudi Arabia which, despite its vast oil wealth, had only a very short era of budget surpluses. Already in 1983, it was running up multi-billion dollar deficits (Time, 16/9/85).

*Good news: 1993 may be the year your money goes poof, and you will be blessedly poor. For instance, there is a distinct possibility that several hundred more banks in the US will go bankrupt in the not too distant future. People who think that their deposits are safe because their US bank is protected by FDIC are mistaken, in part because FDIC is underfunded, and because banks sometimes sell out to each other, and a depositor loses all sorts of rights during such transfers.

Awfulise--Awfulisation--To Be An Awfuliser

*Michael Steer sent us the following poem by Leunig about people who "create" our drab public environments (from a Victoria (Australian) newspaper).

Every night and every day
The awfulisers work away
Awfulising public places,
Favourite things and little graces
Awfulising lovely treasures
Common joys and simple pleasures
Awfulising far and near
The parts of life we hold so dear
Democratic, clean and lawful
Awful, awful, awful, awful.

*We were amazed to come across a list of the supposedly "top ten great unanswered questions of science" in the 11/92 issue of Discover, the last major periodical on science for intelligent nonscientists in the US. The reason we were amazed is because several of the questions are either at the borderline of empirical science or perhaps even beyond, such as "how did life start," "how does a single cell become a whole body," "what is consciousness," and "who peopled the planet."

*For some reason, the public broadcasting station in Syracuse advertised the showing of Charles Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities" (in 9/91) by appealing to the public to "see...peasants putting enemies to death on the guillotine--in addition to a romantic love story."

*Some people have called the TIPS editor Dr. Doom-and-Gloom. However, he views himself more like Dr. Doom-and-Hume (hume standing for humor), and sometimes as Dr. Doom-and-Boon.

"HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS"

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

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