"This land was your land,
But is now our land,
From the off-shore oil rigs
To the strip-mined mountains;
From the Redwood sawmills
To the toxic landfills--
This land is owned by industry"

(Adapted from Defenders of Wildlife, 1981, 56(4), 13.)

A Major Focus of This Issue: Some Dangerous Trends in the US Government

TIPS will attempt to examine at least one topic in some depth in each issue, in addition to carrying miscellaneous other items. This issue will examine some dangerous trends in the federal government, especially its decade-long penchant for deception, and its more recent (a) favoritism of big business, (c) efforts to reduce freedom of information, and (c) assault on the environment.

In our next issue (hopefully to get out in December), we will examine issues of violence and peace on earth. Lest our critique be interpreted as partisan, we reiterate that TIPS tries to be suprapartisan, and address perversions wherever these may occur, regardless of the politics, race, sex, education or profession of the perpetrators.

The American public has discovered that for several decades, one administration after another, one president after another, has either withheld vital information from the nation, or outright deceived and lied to it.

In the 1950's, the government did such things as slip LSD into the food or drink of unsuspecting people in order to see what it would do to them. Among these guinea pigs were ordinary citizens, government employees, suspected Communists, underworld figures (the latter two were believed to be good subjects because they would not dare go to the authorities if they caught on that they had been drugged), and other people at the margins of society, such as prostitutes and people already addicted to drugs. As a person high in the CIA reasoned, if they had to violate the civil rights of anyone in order to understand how psychedelic drugs worked, they might as well choose marginal people (Saturday Review
3 February 1979). Psychiatrists participated in these projects, including at least one faculty member from the Stanford Medical School. One participant in projects of this nature wrote later, "I toiled whole-heartedly in the vineyard because it was fun, fun, fun. Where else could a red-blooded American boy lie, kill, cheat, steal, rape, and pillage with the blessing of the all highest?" (Ibid.)

It is a sad commentary that the phenomenal and almost explosive use of psychedelic drugs by the American population was largely the outgrowth of the clandestine work done by the CIA. It was the volunteers who served as subjects in government-sponsored LSD research at Harvard in the 1950's who spread the word about the extraordinary effects of this drug that seemed to open up whole new dimensions of consciousness, and soon a black market sprang up to satisfy the demand generated by the government.

Among the many deceptions which the government has perpetrated on US citizens, and one about which it continues to perpetrate deception, is that between 1945 and 1962, it made approximately 250,000 members of the armed forces participate in 13 atmospheric nuclear explosion tests, sometimes stationing them in the open within mile of the explosion, and even marching them to within 400 yards of ground zero. Commonly, these human guinea pigs received little or no decontamination afterwards, or only a very rudimentary one such as being swept off by a broom and told to take a shower. In the meantime, many such veterans have developed all kinds of health problems including cancer, leukemia, cataracts, and premature aging. The federal government has continued to deny responsibility for any health problems these veterans might be suffering as a result of having participated in these tests, many of which were utterly meaningless and were only designed to prepare the population to accept the potential use of nuclear weapons in warfare. It is estimated that there have been four times as many accidents involving nuclear weapons (i.e., about four a year) than the US government has admitted (about 1 per year). While nuclear weapons are not likely to explode in an accident, they are highly likely some day to result in a disastrous contamination event, as is believed to have occurred already in Russia. The clean-up of the collision of two bombers that carried nuclear weapons near Palomares, Spain, cost $50 million. Unbeknownst to most people, nuclear weapons are shipped across the US by truck, train, and air. Apparently, the Russians know more about these things than the American public (Parade, October 10, 1981).

According to Environmental Action (Sept. 1981), there were more than 3000 mishaps at nuclear power plants in 1950, of which over 100 were significant. Nevertheless, the Reagan administration is trying to reduce the amount of regulation under which nuclear power plants would operate.

There is mounting evidence that yet another deception scandal may soon break and that in time one may look back upon it and wonder how it could have happened. Increasing numbers of experts are believing and saying that radioactive pollution from nuclear power plants may be vastly more harmful than has generally been acknowledged or known. Even relatively minor nuclear accidents (like those at Three Mile Island) may be contributing to a dramatic increase in health problems, especially (and of particular importance to those in human services) to infant mortality. The course of nuclear radiation clouds resulting from the accident have been traced, and in its path over northeastern North America, infant mortalities in some areas have doubled and even tripled. Infant mortality is an index which can be expected to reflect a vastly larger number of other kinds of health impairments in survivors. Some experts say that the government is fully aware of these statistics and of the effect of such radiation, but is keeping this information from the public because, if the public knew the truth, it would almost certainly reject nuclear power. In turn, this would mean great losses to business and possibly also increase the opposition to nuclear armaments (Syracuse New Times August 5, 1981).
One problem which the government has long kept relatively secret from the public is that a nuclear blast high above the earth's surface generates an electromagnetic pulse which disables the power grid, knocks out communications, makes computers useless, and ruins a great deal of equipment that has transistors in it. Yet all this time, the experts have been making fun of the Russians who have held on to electronic equipment based on vacuum tubes which will survive a nuclear electromagnetic pulse. Also concealed from the public has been the fact that since a single blast could knock out all communications across North America, a nuclear counter-attack would have to be launched on the basis of such a black-out occurring, on the assumption that it was caused by a nuclear attack—and that the Russians were the attacker!

One major pattern of deception of the present federal administration and of big business is to mouth a free-market ideology while pursuing a policy of subsidies to big business and "free marketing" for the poor or those at risk.

At least until 1980, the US Dept. of Agriculture shipped tobacco to poor countries under the "Food for Peace" program. In the preceding decade, it had shipped amounts of tobacco worth between $17 million and $50 million per year. In 1979, the tobacco industry was subsidized to the tune of $337 million. Not only have these developments contributed heavily to an increase of smoking in countries that are extremely poor, but in addition, the ordinary citizen has been deceived by noble titles such as "Food for Peace."

In August 1981, the US Commerce Dept. released a list of 29 regulations which business has found most objectionable. Among these were requirements to license nuclear power plants, procedures for identifying and regulating possible carcinogenic requirements that utilities promote energy conservation, mine safety standards, protection of industrial workers from hazardous substances and noise (Environmental Action, September 1981 Time, September 21, 1981, p. 22). The very companies or organizations representing particular sectors of industry or commerce that have been calling for a hands-off policy of the government have, at the same time, sought government intervention in the form of special tax breaks, subsidies, publicly guaranteed loans and even regulations when such intervention will increase their profits. Common Cause (August, 1981) has referred to this attitude as "double think," which is a concept given prominence in George Orwell's book 1984, and which refers to the capacity to hold two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accept the validity of both of them. The August 1981 issue of Common Sense has collected a phenomenal array of such special government interventions and subsidies sought by a wide array of commercial and industrial interests. Obviously, one of the more common government interventions sought by industry is a reduction in competition from abroad by means of import duties. It appears that hardly any such business sector has been practicing what it preaches, thus setting a very sorry example of public morality. The indirect subsidies and benefits which these interests have been extracting are absolutely staggering.

The unctuous rhetoric which we often hear about free enterprise is belied by the fact that some of the greatest free enterprisers are receiving the largest governmental subsidies. Currently, this includes virtually all the energy industries associated with either nuclear power or exploitation of the environment, while almost all the conserving strategies in industries have been excluded from these sinecures.

If you have ever wondered why recycling of resources such as metal, glass, paper, etc., is so unprofitable, and why so little of it gets done, then here is at least one major answer. In many ways, some of them exceedingly indirect, the government has systematically subsidized the exploitation of the environment, as via processes such as mining and drilling. The subsidies are in the form of tax write-offs, depreciation allowances, etc. These subsidies may even come in the form of transportation cost reductions allowed for raw materials but not for wastes.
collected for recycling. No similar supports or subsidies exist for recycling. Thus, industry can make more money exploiting raw materials than recycling its concentrated forms. The system is, of course, utterly irrational, in that the product materials are often so dispersed after their manufacture as to become unrecoverable. Thus, there will come the day when scrap will become extremely valuable because even with subsidies the raw materials will no longer exist in nature in sufficiently concentrated forms to make their mining and extraction feasible.

The magnitude of these irrationalities becomes clear when one considers figures such as that the use of recycled paper requires only about 35% of the energy required to process virgin pulp wood. It may take anywhere from as little as 40% down to even 3% of the energy required to process virgin raw material in order to process recycled resources such as various other metals, rubber, or paper. Yet the Reagan administration has systematically divested itself of people who have advocated conservation.

One of the most extensive intrusions of the government into the market place is in the tobacco industry. One of the most fervent free-marketeers in Congress, Senator Jesse Helms, supports it to the hilt, since he is from North Carolina where most of the tobacco is grown and/or processed. (He voted to cut food stamps, among others.) In Canada, government subsidized corporations and industries have come to be called 'corporate welfare bums.' One can thus view the current attack of these interests upon social programs for disadvantaged citizens as only the crassest form of cynicism, deception, and, in a sense, rape of the public.

While spouting free market language, the Reagan administration has increased its subsidies for nuclear power, and maintained them for synthetic fuels. It has backed away from more deregulation of natural gas, dramatically decreased subsidies to renewable energy research such as solar and wind power, and is urging oil, gas, and coal producers with almost religious fervor and exhortations to 'produce, produce, produce' (Science, September 25, 1981, p. 1461). The administration's hatred for nature is underlined by the fact that if one considers the true cost of non-renewable energy, alternative energy would now actually be economically feasible if the government ceased its mindless and world-destroying subsidies. The extent of earth destruction, the hatred for nature which underlies it, and the evil which it represents is virtually beyond our comprehension.

A classical example of a perversion disguised by babble and confounding of tongues has been a category of legislation that has been introduced several times into the federal Congress (such as the 96th) under titles such as 'Privacy Bills.' Purportedly, this type of legislation would protect the privacy of human service records (medical, psychiatric, counseling, financial, etc.). At the same time, however, some of these legislative proposals would also give easier access about clients to police and intelligence officials. Indeed, in 1980, Congress passed one such measure, viz., The 'Right to Financial Privacy Act' (RIFPA) under which the government can obtain confidential records on a person without that person's consent or even knowledge. Furthermore, records and information (that may contain invalid information) may be placed secretly into a person's files.

At the same time, all kinds of assaults have been underway on the 1966 and 1974 Freedom of Information Act, and similar provisions (e.g., New York Times Service, October 5, 1981).

Further, elements within the Reagan administration have been making alarming attempts to considerably reduce the freedom of information flow in/of the media. A think tank close to the administration published a book containing a chapter on how the president would be able to cut back on 'uncontrolled news coverage.' Amazingly, the strategies are very similar to those which the Training Institute points to in its modules on consumer and public participation, by means of which human service agencies often minimize involvement by consumers and the public in human service
affairs. It includes overloading media members with technical data, inducing a lowered expectancy of access by such members to public officials, dire warnings about the confidentiality of government information and documents, and discouraging of personal relationships between White House staff and media members. Apparently in response to these suggestions, the US Attorney General has also revoked guidelines instituted in 1977 that government agencies should cooperate fully with the Freedom of Information Act, and efforts to take the teeth out of this act are underway as well. Also, the administration has installed a computer system which records appointments between reporters and top government officials so that the administration can track down who might have said what to whom and when. Already, officials in all kinds of government agencies have drastically reduced their contact with media representatives. In some agencies, staff have been ordered not to talk to members of Congress (Common Cause, August, 1981).

The federal administration has also been working on policies and procedures under which foreign countries would no longer be notified when they are about to receive shipments of hazardous products that are banned from domestic use in the US. This procedure would also make it very difficult for US citizens to find out about such shipments. Products that would be covered by these procedures might include toxic chemicals, unregistered pesticides, unapproved medical devices, and electrical equipment that emits hazardous amounts of radiation. In addition further easing is being sought in procedures under which some hazardous products can already be exported without giving unnecessarily widespread publicity (Science, October 2, 1981, p. 37).

Miscellaneous Good and Bad News About the Government

*One bit of good news that has come from the Reagan budget-cutting is that federal insurance subsidies for land development along the fragile barrier islands along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts were ended, thus putting a stop to the irrational, expensive and ultimately futile development of wetlands and islands (Environmental Action, September 1981).

*The new US Government senate office building in Washington was commissioned to be built at a cost of $42,000,000. The building is scheduled for completion in 1983, but in the meantime, its price has escalated to $127,000,000.

*It was discovered in 1981 that the US Army had paid $2,000 for a study that produced 17 typed pages on how to buy 15 oz. bottles of Worcestershire sauce for the Army. Presumably, the Navy, Air Force and the Coast Guard have their own procedures, probably derived from their own expensive studies.

* In an effort to promote equality, the government has been spending $103,000 to reproduce a Playboy in Braille. The reality is that this sort of thing gives services to, and expenditures for, handicapped people a bad image. If the government wants to save money, rather than taking food out of the mouths of poor people, it would do better to cut out absurdities such as these (Syracuse Herald Journal, August 3, 1981).

*Time (July 30, 1979) reported that President Carter's energy plan submitted to the nation in the summer of 1978 was "hammered together" in just two weeks. If adopted, this plan would have involved a long-term and possibly quasi-irreversible commitment of the US to a set of policies, which were estimated to cost $141 billion. Of all this money, only slightly over 1% would have been devoted to conservation, while $24 billion would have gone to just the opposite of the evolution of
alternatives or the creation of incentives to conservation, namely to subsidies for the poor to pay higher fuel bills. People who have been somewhat skeptical of critiques of the unbelievable irrationality in human service planning can take heart from this phenomenon. Further noteworthy is the fact reported in Science (August 3, 1981) that of the people consulted by the presidential team, only one was an environmentalist. The furthest any environmentalist groups got was to deposit written statements of their positions at the gate to Camp David where the plan was largely put together.

In contrast to this kind of perversion is the perversion embraced by the current administration, which ideologically and in principle even denies the very desirability of planning. The energy solution of the nation is to be sought in market forces working themselves out, rather than in the creation of an alternative future or a systematic way to anticipate one selectively (Science, 1981, 213, 520-522). That little energy planning the administration has done has consisted largely of aristically reducing research and development in the only renewable energy area, solar power.

Lack of proper planning is normative in our culture which is unable to relate either to the past or the future, but most nonplanners have at least maintained the facade that planning is desirable. It is extraordinary that even this desirability can be explicitly abandoned as undesirable.

Other Environmental Issues

Air travelers in the US have become well acquainted with the heavy layer of polluted haze which has become a virtually permanent feature over much of the US. Similar layers can be observed in other parts of the world, but sometimes the air looks much cleaner when one flies over less populated parts, such as the Pacific. However, in a 1981 trip to Alaska, I (IP) was shocked to discover that the shell of discolored pollution which I saw during most of my flight from Syracuse to Seattle was also visible during much of my flight from Seattle to Anchorage.

Most people who have kept up with the news are aware of the phenomenon of acid rain, and the severe damage it is doing to vast stretches of North America. It has even begun to fall in Bermuda, which is far out in the Atlantic off the Southern states, about 750 air miles southeast of New York City. It is currently assumed that the major contributors to acid rain are power plants in the Midwest that fail to sufficiently scrub the smoke that they draw up (UPI, Syracuse Herald Journal, Sept. 30, 1981). It may cost scores of millions of dollars to clean up such effluence, but over a period of time, acid rain could inflict damage in the trillions, and contribute to an impoverishment of the entire northeastern US, and eastern Canada.

A depletion of the ozone in the earth’s atmosphere has been feared for some years, and certain chemicals (e.g., spray can propellants) believed to contribute to this depletion have been banned in recent years, unfortunately even prior to the establishment of hard evidence, because now, such hard evidence is beginning to come in suggesting a very significant effect. One of the functions of ozone is to filter the rays from the sun and reduce the impact of those light components that can cause skin cancer and other perhaps deleterious effects. Industry always calls for hard evidence before being willing to act (if then), even though hard evidence will usually only be available after things are too late. In fact, the industry is attempting to play down even the hard evidence now coming in, and is continuing to fight what hopefully will turn out to be a rear guard battle (Science, September 4, 1981, pp. 1066-1067).
Heavy metals are a major hazard to health, yet continue to be quite unnecessarily, and expensively, injected into the environment.

The yellow in the traffic paint widely used in the US contains lead chromate, which is 16% chromium and 64% lead. About 22,000,000 pounds are used annually (Science, 1961, 213, p. 290).

Genetic engineering, using recombinant DNA techniques, is about to move from the laboratory to the factory. Only four or five years ago, there was considerable apprehension that this type of work might release a most dangerous organism into the environment. This possibility still exists, but there is now so much money at stake that the risk is being almost totally denied or ignored. Some people have likened this industry and its attitude to that of the nuclear field during the 1950's in failing to adequately consider long-term impact and take prudent precautions. Research on the risks of genetic engineering has apparently been black-balled (Environmental Action, Sept., 1981). Even if recombinant DNA work were free of risk of gruesome genetic accidents, it is still quite conceivable that it could be used intentionally to create horrid biological warfare organisms (Futurist, Oct., 1981, p. 17-21).

Research on animals is a cornerstone of health-related research. However, there has always been a great deal of abuse in the treatment of research animals, which can range from the smallest to the largest, and from the one-celled organism to the gorilla. In 1981, a local police department conducted what is believed to be the first raid upon a government-funded animal research laboratory (in Silver Spring, Maryland), in response to affidavits signed by workers in the laboratory and several outside scientists.

Some efforts have been underway to replace animals in some research studies by substituting other techniques. Even where this appears to be quite feasible, there has been a great deal of resistance which is very difficult to understand unless one assumes that it springs from a hatred of creation, such as is apparently the case in anti-conservationist efforts that celebrate the destruction of nature and its resources, and that combat even the most cost-reducing life-enhancing alternatives, such as the use of solar power and its secondary derivative, wind power (Science, October 2, 1981, pp. 32-33; October 9, 1981, p. 165).

It is little known that a great deal of the manual labor done in order to produce the circuitry in pocket calculators is done by low-paid women in Asian countries. On the one hand, these low wages constitute a subsidy for the low price of these calculators; on the other hand, the work transfers income from the more to the less developed nations. All of this makes it hard to decide whether to give up cheap pocket calculators.

It is also not well known that the companies that produce the components for small calculators put out a tremendous amount of pollution, primarily through their sewage. Furthermore, workers on semi-conductors have a high risk of coming down with all sorts of mysterious, and as yet not well understood, health problems, probably resulting from the chemicals used in making integrated and printed circuit. Apparently, one of the most insidious problems is "chemical sensitization." In other words, people have, or develop, sensitivity to certain chemicals that may occur even in only minute amounts, so that the link may be difficult to establish. Reactions to these chemicals can become so massive as to become almost disabling. Treatments for such conditions are virtually nonexistent, and the recovery time is very low. Some experts believe that such chemical sensitization will become much more common in the general population as pollution increases (Environmental Action, July/August 1981).
A Minority Opinion About Best Boy

The movie, Best Boy, has become one of the most widely distributed full-length feature films involving a retarded person. Most leaders are probably familiar with the film. It is a documentary of a 52 year old retarded man and his family in New York. The film has won an amazing array of awards such as the following: Academy Award, Best Documentary; Special Presidential Commendation, President’s Committee on Mental Retardation; Annual Media Award, ARC of the United States; Best Film, Toronto International Film Festival, Best Film, Miami International Film Festival; Best Film, Houston International Film Festival; Best Film, Chicago International Film Festival; Special Recognition, Cannes International Film Festival; Special Recognition, London International Film Festival. Similarly, it has received rave reviews virtually everywhere and by everyone, including by people and authorities that thoroughly should know better, such as associations for the mentally retarded. Indeed, the only negative review that we have seen was contained in the periodical of the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded, Mental Retardation. The fact that this film can win such rave reviews is a sad commentary on the low level of idealization of people, including the advocates for retarded people, and the low degree of genuine penetration achieved by the principle of normalization in human services and voluntary associations. In essence, Best Boy is a technically well-made film which teaches the public (or other viewers) some very poor lessons about mental retardation, and which displays a great number and variety of unconscious deviancy image juxtapositions and negative stereotypes.

Our review of the film is something that we might include in TIPS or a possible supplementary publication to TIPS, but at present, we have so much more material than TIPS can accommodate. Thus, interested readers may order our more detailed review of Best Boy, together with some related materials, for $US 3.50 post free. This material will assist someone in interpreting the film and/or leading a discussion on it when it is shown.

French Overheads on Social Integration Available

For a 1.5 hour presentation on the rationales for social integration to the Quebec Association for Children with Learning Disabilities (March, 1981), Dr. Wolfensburger developed or updated a series of 21 overheads that lay out the issues. Ray Lerny from Ottawa translated most of these overheads (including all the important ones) into French for simultaneous projection. This set of overheads is very useful to explain to an audience the issues in, and rationales pro and con, social integration of societally devalued individuals and groups. A set of hand-printed masters of these overheads (from which acetates can be made) can be ordered from the Training Institute for $50 post free.

New Periodical

While the Training Institute is rather skeptical of the recent hyperlegalized attempts at bettering the lives of handicapped people, TI readers might be interested in a relatively new publication entitled Handicapped Rights and Regulations which comes out every two weeks from Business Publishers, 951 Pershing Drive, Silver Springs, MD 20910. The newsletter is tightly packed with interesting and up-to-date coverage of all kinds of news relevant to legal developments in areas such as education, accessibility, transportation, employment, etc. However, some of the content is a bit more in the area of governmental affairs and even service funding than narrowly in rights and regulations. The bad news is that the subscription is $97 per year (slightly higher abroad), which certainly handicaps most people. Those who are not scared off by the price might possibly get a sample copy from the publisher.
Old Periodicals

For people in mental retardation, one of the cheapest, most informative resources is a subscription to *Mental Retardation*, published by the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded (P.O. Box 5019, Downsview, Ontario, Canada M3H 3B9). Subscription is only $8 a year for people who reside outside of Canada, and yet there probably is no other periodical that is as up-to-date in many of its features, and particularly in its listings of new books and resources. There is also a Francophone edition entitled *Déficience Mentale*.

Good News

Piano Teacher Never Hears Her Music

In the Tuesday, September 22, 1981 edition of the Syracuse Herald-Journal, an interesting article was printed in the Lifestyle section about a piano teacher who is deaf and blind. The teacher, Geraldine Lawhorn, had made a career over the last 40 years of teaching, lecturing, writing and reciting monologues, playing the piano and composing poetry about her philosophy of life. She communicates in a variety of ways: with an interpreter, Morse code, vibrations, a sign in the palm or even a simple touch on her hand. She has been using these methods for most of 63 years as she became blind at age 12 and deaf at 19. Miss Lawhorn remembers reciting once a week as she would remember how to speak clearly. She is now a poised, articulate speaker. She knows when she hits a sour note on the piano even though she cannot hear. She attributes that ability to an instinct she has developed over the years. The article indicates that there were high expectations from Miss Lawhorn's family that she would adjust to the limitations which came upon her, and they encouraged her to learn and try new and different things. This woman's life is a tribute to what people are capable of achieving when they are allowed typical opportunities and are not stigmatized by being ostracized by family members and society.

(Submitted by CBW)

Normalizing Ad

We are very pleased by the meaning conveyed by the ad we are carrying below, published in the summer 1981 issue of *Mental Retardation*, the very worthwhile periodical of the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded.

"Challenging Position"

We are currently seeking an individual or couple to live with a young man who requires teaching and assistance to live in the community. The essential qualifications are self-discipline, kindness and warmth, a high level of energy, and a strong orientation to human development. A couple, with one member working outside the home, might be ideal. People who have a wide range of friends, and who enjoy a wide variety of activities, would be highly desirable.

Benefits include room and board in a spacious home and a negotiable salary. Supports include liberal time off, consultation, and personal learning/development opportunities.

For more information, please contact: David Wetherell, CAMH-Winnipeg Branch, 46-325 Sherbrook St., Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3A 1N5. Telephone (204) 783-7147.

The ad is normalizing in format, and in its content exemplifies the tendency toward a more life-sharing service approach on the part of an increasing number of people who have gained insight into the dysfunctionality of the "service super system."

In the same issue, a mother of a severely handicapped teenager explained how the government of British Columbia would spend ten times more to provide less appropriate and less efficacious services in an institution than what it would cost to serve her daughter appropriately in the community. This phenomenon is a very common pattern which we discussed during Training Institute workshops as exemplifying a system of disincentives to rational and moral services.
Paula Reilly was one of a bevy of media people who came to the Grand Launching of the International Year of Disabled Persons on January 6. The aim of the Launch was to demonstrate in a practical way the very real, yet largely unrecognized, problems so-called disabled people face. Members of the press and government were asked to do one of six tasks, such as negotiate streets and buildings in a wheelchair, walk blinded to a set destination, or catch a bus using crutches. Everyone performed the exercises with enthusiasm and reported they'd significantly benefited from the experience. Attorney General Griffin Verhees who also took to a wheelchair said the task demonstrated that everything around us had been built for people with no disability, and with no thought for the disabled. "And in 1981 the objective is generally to accelerate that sort of change in our physical environment quite dramatically," he said. But panic set in about five and a half minutes after Channel 9 reporter Paula Reilly hobbled out of the IYDP office, a crutch under each arm and her left leg joined to her shoulder by a bandage. It was about then that the PR man for the Launching, Mark Houlden, noticed a small aluminum belt that was making silent mocking noises on the carpet of the IYDP office. Houlden wasn't usually given to uttering offensive oaths, but this time his thoughts were expressed in some fairly colorful terms that pretty much reflected the general gloom that was spreading when everyone realized that the small, mocking belt was off Reilly's right crutch. Under the circumstances, panic was appropriate. Here was this reprobate newscaster from electronic fantasy land attempting to discover what it's really like to be confined by crutches, yet supported by instruments which obviously wouldn't even pass the most cursory readworthiness test. There was every chance her right crutch would fold suddenly and feebly beneath her, thereby most likely turning the neck amputee into the real thing—a horrible fact the ashen-faced IYDP officials who had remained behind in the office realized. Expelling soft, nervous breaths they began nibbling at the liquid refreshments prematurely, waiting for the ghastly news. The organizers of the launch weren't sure whether their indignation was caused by the quality of the chopped liver or their severe dose of anxiety. As the dark clouds of doom had just about cut out all available light and merriment, in hobbled Reilly still upright on her crutches and still obviously in one piece. Around the right crutch was a roll or two of masking tape, the legacy of a resourceful cameraman. "The damn thing fell to pieces," Reilly said for the record as she threw the strapped stick to the floor.

(Original by Joe Osburn, for North American culture from South Australia's State Bulletin, 1981, No. 57)
Good News and Bad News

*The good news is that the "Winslow Riding for the Handicapped Foundation" has been using very normalized methods of teaching handicapped people to ride horseback. The bad news is that it all has been happening on the Borderland Farm in Warwick, New York (American Rehabilitation, July/August 1981).

*The good news is that handicapped people have been helped to find jobs by a program described in American Rehabilitation (July/August 1981). The bad news is that they found the jobs through a "behavior therapy-based job club."

*Another piece of good news is that blind people have been helped to learn to ski by a program coordinated out of Minneapolis and conducted in South Dakota. The bad news is that the program is called Ski for Light International (American Rehabilitation, July/August 1981)

*A program in Winter Park, Colorado, entitled the Handicapped Recreational Program, has taught skiing to people with 29 different types of handicaps.

Would You Believe!...

A Modest Proposal

In September, 1981, the wire services carried the news that as far as was known, a 31 year old man in Boulder, Colorado, was the first retarded adult in the US to run for public office. The man stated that he had trouble reading, did not know his folks or where he had come from, but that politics meant a lot to him. This news may evoke mixed feelings from most people. The idea of a retarded and illiterate public decision-maker sounds at first unpalatable, but on second thought we do not doubt in the least that there are far fewer crooks among the retarded than among non-retarded politicians, and retarded and illiterate people are probably vastly less capable of transacting massive evils than our nation's leaders typically are. All of this gives rise to the thought that perhaps there ought to be a little experiment along these lines, even if not fully controlled. Perhaps we should designate one state in the union (after all, it would only amount to one out of fifty) that should be handed to the governance of retarded and not too literate people on the state and local governmental levels for a fair period of time, such as perhaps five to ten years. On what basis could one deny that this modest proposal deserves at least a fair trial?

Ever Heard of a Hypocritic Oath?

At its annual meeting in 1981, the American Medical Association refused to divest its pension fund of its considerable holdings of stock in tobacco companies, despite the fact that diseases from smoking are considered by some people the No. 1 preventable cause of death. Objections to the sale of this stock included arguments that if the AMA sold its tobacco stock, then it might next have to sell its stock in coal companies that pollute the environment, or in pharmaceutical companies that sell drugs that have negative side effects. Overcoming 15 years' policy to the contrary, the AMA at least called upon the federal government to cease subsidizing the tobacco industry (Environmental Action, July/August 1981).

What is to Become of Us?

We have probably all been taken aback by the charge that Cardinal Cody of Chicago was being investigated on the charge of having diverted over a million dollars of church monies. We might contemplate some recent scandals in human services. In one state, two senior professors have been on trial for allegedly embezzling several hundred thousand dollars of federal grant funds in the areas of mental retardation, rehabilitation, etc. In another state, a tenured full professor of special education resigned after being charged with stealing valuable
old texts from his university's library and selling them on the black market. A senior official of Forest Haven (the DC institution for retarded people) has been investigated for the disappearance of $70,000 of personal monies of retarded residents. A president-elect of a major professional association concerned with handicapped children in North America has been accused of accepting several hundred thousand dollars in graft in his work with state governments. One can only wonder what is to become of us.

**Things are Not Always What They Seem--At Least to the Naked Eye**

In the May 1981 Miss USA Pageant, a contestant was disqualified for unauthorized padding. At the Miss America Pageant of September, 1981, padding and stuffing was allowed. If even Miss America in her bathing suit isn't what she appears to be, how can we expect anything else in human services (or the rest of the world) to be what it appears to be, considering that they are even more complex than Miss America?

**Miscellaneous**

*In a recent professional journal, a picture was featured which was captioned "motor skills were emphasized," showing a child turning on the motor of a kitchen blender (Teaching Exceptional Children, Spring 1981).

*Would you believe that in 1981, there was such a thing as "Better Hearing and Speech Month National Poster Child"? Would you further believe it was a cute three year old blonde girl?

*People who heard us talk about dance therapy in some of the Training Institute workshops may be interested to know that the 16th American Dance Therapy Association annual conference in 1981 featured topics such as Characteristics of Research in the Social Sciences, and Problems of Women and Minorities in Research.

*The name of one new human service corporation is Alpha and Omega (beginning and end...the name of a health food advocate is Dr. Passwater...CHIC stands for Consumer Health Information Consortium...adult boarding homes in Illinois have long had the name "shelter care facilities," strongly reminiscent of names that might be given to animal shelters...legal services are provided for women in Chicago by CLAW (Chicago Legal Action for Women)...there's a story going around that the password among whistleblowers these days is "Rat on!"

**Plain News**

**TI Workshop Report**

On August 17-21, 1981, the Training Institute presented a workshop on "How to Function with Moral Coherency in an Incoherent Human Service World" in Holyoke, in western Massachusetts. Approximately 70 people attended, most of them from Massachusetts; also, there were participants from as far away as West Germany, Australia, Alberta and Texas. As part of his evaluation of the workshop, one participant wrote the following reflections: "Somehow it seems the world is having more effect on me than I'm having on the world; there has been an alarming increase in the number of things I know nothing about; every time I close the door on reality, it comes in through the window, everything is controlled by a small evil group to which, unfortunately, nobody I know belongs; I don't have any solution, but I certainly admire the problem; by trying very hard to improve things, I am often able to make them much worse; cheer up, things may be getting worse at a slower rate; and every successful person has had failures, but repeated failure is no guarantee of eventual success."
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