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Telling Time In Our Society

A contemporary writer, Brueggeman, has written of the imperial style of the ruling powers of societies, and how the control dynamisms include (a) the projection of the illusion that the "empire" is eternal and that things will remain essentially the way they are except perhaps for getting better, (b) control over people's language, imagery, and consciousness, and (c) a deadening of people's passions so that they can neither perceive deathmaking and oppression, grieve over it, or even experience genuine joy. Part of the illusion of the permanence of the system is loss of the ability to "tell time," i.e., to read the signs of the times.

TIPS tells time. It points to the signs of the times, and interprets them. This is one of the reasons why many people cannot bear to read TIPS, and why undoubtedly some do not renew their subscriptions. People want more "good news," which means that they want to be told things that suggest that the empire is healthy and will last forever--whereas in truth, the end of the empire is imminent.

Looking at human services not sentimentally but realistically, as TIPS tries to do, is to see more bad news than good news. This is in the very nature of things, and indeed the situation is thus that the news that is good is sometimes so trite that it does not lend itself readily to reporting, or the need to report it is in itself a scandal. Evil is ingenious and finds ever new ways of hurting people, while the ways of doing good have not really changed much over time. What is the world coming to if we have to report as good news such things as "mother decides not to kill child," "human service worker discovered who loves clients," "rehabilitation agency succeeds in its first genuine case of rehabilitation in 20 years of existence," "protective service actually protects someone," or "child placement agency effects a truly successful adoption with minimal delay and without degradation of adoptive parents"? Yet sometimes, these are indeed the kinds of good news we hear about and rejoice over; however, they make very poor copy.

This issue of TIPS is heavily devoted to coverage and commentary on societal trends. Let the ticking of the clock be heard!
The Imperial Powers At Work

*The Mark of the Beast.* "And I saw another beast... and it made the earth and the inhabitants therein to worship the first beast... and it did great signs... and... leads astray the inhabitants of the earth by reasons of the signs. And it will cause all, the small and the great, the rich and the poor, and the free and the bond, to have a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and it will bring about that no one may be able to buy or sell, except him who has the mark" (Revelation, sometimes also called Apocalypse, 13).

One need not be a believer in the Bible to be impressed by this image, because this image has assumed reality on several occasions. During World War II, Jews in Germany were forced to wear a prominent yellow star on their chests, and were prohibited from either buying or selling anything. In some of the concentration camps, such as Auschwitz, a number was tattooed on the arms of the inmates. Today, it becomes increasingly difficult to buy and sell anything (in the broader sense of these terms) in our society. In order to "sell" one's services as an employee, one needs at least a social security number, and in order to get a check cashed one almost invariably needs the number of one's driver's license. If one buys, one may need the number of one's credit card, and paradoxically, unless one has incurred debts in the past by having charge accounts, one may have difficulty establishing one's financial identity and even getting a bank account. Thus, it gives the editor the shaking willies when people today demand to actually and literally stamp a sign or number on one's hand. Yet there are occasions where this actually happens today. Oddly enough, it is customary today at a number of events such as fairs, antique shows, etc., to stamp the hand of people upon entry as a sign that they have paid their fee, and also as a sign they can come back in if they leave during the day and wish to come back without paying again. An example where this happened in 1982 was the New York State Fair.

*Sophisticated Scientificated Cargo Cults.* Many decades ago, the natives on the Pacific Islands saw western ships arrive and unload all sorts of valuable cargo. As the westerners settled in the Pacific, or made war there, the natives would observe that all a local official had to do was to sign a piece of paper, and the cargo of the ships (and later the planes) would be handed over to him. Out of this observation grew a new set of religions which have been called "Cargo Cults" because they involve the belief that a sort of millennium will arrive in which airplanes and ships will bring all sorts of material goods to the believers, who build mock landing sites and periodically set dates for the arrival of the expected cargo.

Environmentalists Paul and Ann Ehrlich have now referred to the mindless optimism of some of our leaders, including some of the world's leading scientists, as "space-age cargo cults" (in Extinction: The Causes and Consequences of the Disappearance of Species; and in Defenders of Wildlife, February 1982). Some of these leaders blithely assert that somehow or other, science and technology will solve all our problems—which science and technology have created in the first place. In essence, the Reagan administration has subscribed to such a mythology, in that it has fundamentally rejected such things as pollution control, conservation, protection of endangered species, and so on.

*In 1852, one writer reflected the common view that America's raw materials were inexhaustible, and called the idea that the coal supply could ever become exhausted or even scarce "blasphemous" (Science, 6/4/82, p. 1101).
Can You Hang in There Just a Little Longer? In its December 1980 issue, The Futurist reviewed a whole series of related books under the headline "Toward the Conquest of Death: Science Mounts a Massive Assault on the Grim Reaper" (p. 71-77). In that review, such questions were asked as, "Is this the last generation to die?" People whom science might enable to live forever, or at least until they have a fatal accident, are called "emortals." Of course, most of us have heard of people who have had their bodies deep-frozen, looking forward to the scientific miracle that will restore them to life someday. However, some people, who have reasoned that science will in time manage to create new bodies for people, perhaps through cloning, have only had their brains deep-frozen, in anticipation of a form of "resurrection" in a "new body" created by science.

Many scientists do not like to be reminded of the limitations, or even futility, of science. Today, we can read with amusement about telescopic observations of Mars made by reputable scientists, reporting all kinds of fantastic structures and forms. Scientists tend to dismiss such occurrences as having been essentially grounded in a prescientific era, but modern equivalents to seeing the canals on Mars exist. An example is the "discovery" of "polywater." During the eleven year period between 1962 and 1973, all over the world scientists were seeing a new form of water with some unusual properties, even though such a water form has now been shown not to exist. What triggered many of these misperceptions were features of the culture of science, which motivates scientists to claim primacy of discoveries, to get into print as quickly as possible, to become known for something new, to get in on the ground floor of a new development, and so on. This particular rush for scientific fool's gold was reviewed in a 1961 book on Polywater, itself reviewed in Science (9/4/61, p. 1104-1105).

In this day, many people have made a religion of science and technology, and expect them to save the world. An amusing commentary on this kind of idolatry is found in the appearance on the market in recent years of inexpensive astrological pocket calculators. These are somewhat similar to other small specialized calculators, such as those supposed to assist people in determining and utilizing their "bio-rhythms." Apparently, the same industries that make the computers that control satellites and similarly spectacular technical creatures are using the very same science and technologies to furnish people now with scientific aids to their superstitions. Nor are people much less superstitious (if any) than they have ever been, though the forms of superstition have been changing. Probably more people (almost a third of the American population) believe in astrology today than did a hundred years ago when people were more apt to believe that their dreams foretold their future.

Science 82 (83, etc.) is a new journal for the public, put out by the American Association for the Advancement of Science that has long been publishing Science for its own scientist membership. An article in the April 1982 issue of Science 82 said that it is irrational to be afraid of technological advances, and that it is mostly people with social and psychological problems who are most unsettled by it. Stating that people of sound mind can readily accept the "negligible risk and minor inconveniences that often go hand in hand with wondrous material benefits" of science, the article all but implied that anyone who perceives a menace in modern science is insane.

Pittsburgh is a very industrialized city that has suffered severely under the recent recession. In November 1962, the city responded to the financial plight of so many of its citizens by turning on all of its lights in a "light-up night." It was a spectacular sight, with all the tall buildings downtown being lit up wall to wall and top to bottom. Surely, there must be something typically American about concentrating poverty by using up money unproductively. (AP in Syracuse Herald Journal, 11/9/82).
A federal judge recently ruled that the government of the United States practiced systematic and deliberate fraud and deception in covering up extensive radiation damage that occurred as a result of the 1956 nuclear tests in Nevada and Utah. The fallout killed thousands of sheep, with literally inestimable damage done to people, other animals and the land. The Atomic Energy Commission was the leader in this deception, aided by scores of high level scientists and academicians, and by employees of the Defense Department. Those few government members who tried to tell the truth were severely punished. (Science, 10/15/82 & 11/5/82).

In the late 1950s, the US Armed Forces began to do research on drugs that could make people become at least temporarily crazy. Massive quantities are stockpiled in the US now, and apparently one of its envisioned uses is against the US population in case it should decide to revolt. These drugs can be slipped to their target population in a number of ways, most easily via the water supply or via an aerial spray, which works with greatest certainty and speed. Unlike with some chemical weapons, the onset of the drug-induced craziness may not be apparent to its victims. At a congressional hearing, a federal legislator wanted to know whether members of Congress or other segments of the population had already secretly been put on the drug. The manufacturers testified that they have not as yet found it necessary to induce craziness in Congress artificially.

A major researcher in this development was Dr. Paul Hoch, a prominent psychiatrist of the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene who himself had one time been linked to psychiatrists who partook of the medical war crimes in Nazi Germany. One of his early patients died from an overdose, but the psychiatrist survived to continue his experiments. Among other things, he had some of these chemicals injected into the spines of psychiatric patients, some of whom were later lobotomized in order to compare the effects of these drugs before and after this type of surgery. Military units were also given the drug in order to test their effectiveness under its influence. While thousands of soldiers were exposed to some of these drugs, the Armed Forces have failed to conduct follow-up studies in regard to long-term effects—which is remarkable given the fact that it has been known since the mid-1950s that some of these drugs can indeed have very debilitating long-term impacts. There are also reports that these drugs were tried out on several occasions in the IndoChina War, but the Pentagon has denied it. Prisoners were also tried as subjects, and these supposedly were several "accidents" producing long-term psychotic effects.

At this time, the Armed Forces have enough of these drugs in stock to incapacitate everyone in the world. At present, this stock is supposed to be destroyed, but given past history, this is hard to believe. Indeed, about $10 million appear to be in the current federal budget to develop new agents along these lines. (Mother Jones, May 1982, p. 14-22).

One of the most murderous industries in the United States has been the asbestos industry. There is reason to believe that the industry was aware of the deleterious effects of asbestos for almost 50 years, yet it has defended itself against the institution of safety measures and, what is perhaps the worst of all, continues to depreciate the damage that asbestos can do. However, in recent years, former workers who have been damaged by asbestos have begun to win a series of compensation suits. Among the affected firms is Johns-Manville, one of the giants of American industry, ranking 181st on the Fortune 500 list of America's largest corporations. Despite its wealth and $2.2 billion assets, Manville has filed for bankruptcy reorganization in order to avoid having to pay any more damages in future law suits. If such a maneuver became lawful, it would have a devastating impact in this and other industries upon damaged people who would be deprived of
recourse. Industry could do whatever damage it wanted, then declare bankruptcy while it is still very rich, reorganize itself, and continue in business freed of its obligation to the people it hurt or killed. Quite commonly, these corporate welfare bums now want the government to bail them out of the consequences of their crimes (Time, 9/6/82).

*Rather than improving environmental safety in their factories, 60 major American corporations have announced plans to screen out job applicants who have a genetic predisposition to a disease that could be exacerbated by work-place conditions. Among other things, such a measure would also screen out already marginal population groups from job eligibility (Environmental Action, July/August 1982).

*Manufacturers of pesticides have managed until recently to withhold health and safety data concerning their products on the grounds that such data constituted trade secrets of great value, and that competitors could use them to gain an unfair advantage. In other words, protecting a trade advantage was claimed to be more important than protecting the lives of people and livestock (Science, 8/6/82, p.515).

*Let Them Eat Yellow Cake. We have previously reported that Indians have agreed to permit toxic wastes to be buried on their reservations in return for money. Similar proposals have now been made to pay underdeveloped countries to accept toxic wastes from the United States. The arguments are obvious: the US solves its waste problem, and a golden opportunity for an underdeveloped country to make some money, since many supposedly have areas where toxic wastes can't do much harm. Such arrangements have been discussed with at least one South American and two African nations. Interesting scenarios might include countries which heavily export what few resources they have to the developed nations, in return receiving virtually permanently toxic wastes, and at the same time getting poorer and poorer every year, all the way to outright famine--to which our leaders might say,"Let them eat yellow cake." (Yellow cake is a form of uranium aggregate.)

Already, the Third World owes over $300 billion to international banks, with no prospect of ever paying off this debt. This even opens up the possibility of dumping waste in these countries without even paying them, merely by "forgiving" some of the debt that they would otherwise not be able to repay anyway.

*One element of the politics of petroleum is receiving little attention. A major proportion of the petroleum of the free Western world comes from underdeveloped nations which, in the past, had received very little for this natural resource while the West developed itself in colonial fashion from exploitation of this non-renewable resource. Then prices soared, and many of these nations embarked on relatively poorly designed and irrational plans of industrialization. As prices have recently dropped a bit, these nations found themselves with commitments that they could not keep, and projects had to be abandoned. In fact, some oil-rich nations have had to go out and borrow money at horrendous interest rates. Furthermore, many of these nations have invested a great deal of their oil income into armaments. There is a very high likelihood that once their oil reserves are exhausted, many of these nations will sink back into even more abject poverty than they started out with. We have here an unspeakable pattern of exploitation by the developed nations who profit not just once but several times in these transactions, as when they not merely take the oil (once at give-away prices), but then often get their money back by selling worthless armaments or unsuitable projects to these nations. The populations of these nations often both expand and develop expectations which probably can no longer be met once the oil is exhausted. Thus, many of these nations face tremendous upheavals with unpredictable, but undoubtedly calamitous, results.
A single round-trip flight of a British Hercules transport plane to the Falkland Islands to supply the garrisons there cost $1.26 million, and since the fighting stopped, there have been an average of two such flights a day (AP, in Syracuse Herald-Journal, 8/9/82).

Apparently not too well publicized in American news media was a report that the British fleet dispatched to the Falkland Islands carried nuclear weapons, and was authorized and prepared to use these if it got into extreme danger.

That a 20 year old American soldier stole a fully armed 60-ton tank in Mannheim (where the TIPS editor was born) and that he did almost a million dollars' worth of damage while rampaging for hours through the city, is probably not as remarkable as the fact that this is the third incident of its kind in that area in recent years, and that German police and US army officials said they could not remember how the second such incident in 1978 ended (AP, in Syracuse Herald-Journal, 7/12/82). Now surely, this must be a case of extremely selective amnesia due to gross repression of utterly unpleasant facts.

There is something profoundly repugnant about the idea that handicapped and poor people "belong to" Washington rather than to their own communities and states. TI workshops have always taught that in order for people to identify with the handicapped or disadvantaged people of their communities, and to thereby embed them into their communities, it is essential that the community participate as much as is possible in the funding of their services. One benefit is heightened interest of the local population in local services. While state participation in service funding has been seen by the TI as essential, we have taught that it is short-sighted and destructive to have the federal government finance services other than experimental and demonstration projects. All this teaching flies in the face of what the human service, liberal, and academic establishments have been teaching. In essence, they have been pushing vigorously for the federalization of human services, looking only at a few benefits (which we do not controvert), but failing to look at the catastrophic long-term and large-scale disadvantages. These include the filtering of tax funds through the federal government which, itself, incurs a tremendous cost.

A problem at present is that the Reagan administration has been moving toward defederalization of human services—which in our opinion is absolutely correct—but it has been doing so for the wrong reasons and in the wrong way.

The proportion of Americans employed in non-productive occupations (i.e., other than agriculture, manufacturing, mining, construction, etc.) continues to rise. That the Reagan administration's economic policies do not so much take money from human services as redistribute human service monies is underlined by the fact that between April 1981 and April 1982, the so-called health care sector added 240,000 jobs, an increase of 4.2% (Parade, 10/3/82).

In order to help diminish its huge deficit, the federal government is quietly moving to sell some of its federal land. It seems ridiculous to suggest that the Russians might wish to conquer it at tremendous cost when they could just simply buy us practically for a song. They are already getting our butter at less money than it cost us to produce it (Environmental Action, June 1982).

This is hard to believe, but the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the US House of Representatives (Dan Rostenkowski, Democrat from Illinois) spent 45 days during a six-month period of 1981-82 playing golf in various places across the world, paid for by corporations and lobbies, which have vital interests in the legislation before the Committee. In fact, for the first few months of 1982, he was rarely in Washington (Time, 6/21/82).
*Almost all of the 286 members of Congress who voted against a bill that would require used car dealers to disclose known defects in their cars had received money from the used car dealer associations (AP, in Syracuse Herald-Journal, 5/27/82).

*The 12 members of the Health and Environment Sub-Committee of the US. House of Representatives who voted in March of 1982 to weaken the Clean Air Act had received seven times more contributions from the political action committees of the key industries affected by the legislation than did the eight members who voted against it (averages of $25,000 versus $3600). In fact, some members voting in the majority had received over $50,000 (Environmental Action, May 1982).

*The US. House of Representatives amended the Federal Election Campaign Act so that members who retire can do anything they want to with money left over from their earlier election campaigns. Some members have over $100,000 of this kind of money which they can now use any way they see fit (Syracuse Herald-Journal, 7/3/82).

*Despite the recession, there are still people in the government who do not have enough to do. Some of them have been trying to draw up definitions and recipes for making barbecue. Fortunately, there has been a vehement outcry against this peculiar endeavour by the US Department of Agriculture. One of the commentators, this one from Texas, observed that Texas barbecue and beautiful women are alike in that they are diminished somewhat as our understanding of them increases (Smithsonian, September 1982).

*It is absolutely staggering to contemplate what bureaucrats have time for. The US Army has a regulation that soldiers are only eligible to become "unknown soldiers" if they are unknown, and their bodies are 80% "intact." Amazingly, this had lead to a dearth of unknown dead soldiers because modern science now manages to identify fallen soldiers even when only a small fraction of the body is available for examination. The army is considering retreating from its rule. If this keeps up, they may have to enshrine the mere memories of unknown soldiers rather than their remains (AP, in Syracuse Herald-Journal, 9/27/82).

*Until 1982, it was perfectly legal to deduct the expenses of illegal money-making operations from one's US taxes. For instance, a heroin pusher could deduct the cost of scales used to weigh the heroin. Despite new legislation, most of such expenses are still legal (Common Cause, October, 1982).

*The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority is a very powerful organization that has an annual budget of about $350 million. However, like many such organizations, it seems to have a leaning toward killing off people's desire to use public transport. Thus, it declared that it was not able to find sufficient funds in its budget to allocate $300 to distribute its bus schedules on a quarterly basis to 96 different locations. Paul Epstein, full-time toll collector for the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, who has cerebral palsy and who has been active in the United Cerebral Palsy of the Boston Metropolitan Area, took on the transportation authority on this issue--and won (UC People, Etc., Oct/Nov/Dec., 1981).

*Anyone who is both sane and familiar with human services in New York State knows how utterly atrocious they generally are, especially the welfare and mental health systems. At the same time, the state is near the top in the various indices of how much money it spends on such services, ranking first in "benefits" per capita. Yet public officials tend to look only on the amount of money spent, not on the quality of services, and thus, James Emery, Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor for the November 1982 elections, referred to the state welfare system as being "a Cadillac program when maybe all we can afford is an Oldsmobile or Buick" (Syracuse Herald-Journal, 9/29/82).
*It seems that families with mentally handicapped people are increasingly conflicted by their knowledge that things go ill with their handicapped member once the service system gains a hold of them. They know that the handicapped person is apt to be either institutionalized in one or more snake pits, or dumped onto the streets or into boarding homes. In response, some families have rigged up special rooms in their homes to confine their mentally handicapped member there. Apparently one such room was vastly superior to an institution cell, but the courts are cracking down on such practices. It appears as if the imperial powers of the world insist that handicapped people fall into their hands to be abused, and more and more, alternatives are being made impossible. In one instance in Texas, a 22-year old man was transferred from such a room which his family had rigged up at home to a county institution. It is thus that a bad situation is legally converted into an atrocious one—at vastly higher cost. (Newsweek, 12/13/82; news source submitted by Susan Thomas).

*In November 1982, less than 50 of the mentally retarded residents of the Grafton State School in North Dakota voted, yet even that seemed to exercise a good number of people. Movements are now underfoot to put more retarded people under guardianship in North Dakota, which may terminate their voting. (Sacramento Bee, 11/3/82; news item submitted by Charles Galloway). Yet apparently, few people are aware of the fact that in at least one study, it was found that retarded institution residents voted almost exactly in the proportion for the various candidates as did the local population. 

*It is hard to believe that Tennessee would pass a law in 1981 which would take us back to the dark days when families might often put unwanted members away into institutions. Even worse, this law would apply specifically to people who had been under mental treatment and who failed to abide by the instructions of their physicians. Thus, the medical profession would be enshrined once more as the arbiter of society, despite the gruesome experiences we have had with this model for several decades. (Institutions Etc., October, 1981).

*The American Association of Mental Deficiency is the single biggest and most influential professional body in the field of mental retardation in the world. In November 1982, it sent out ballots to its members for the election of its first vice-president who, in due time, would almost certainly become president. Each of the four candidates submitted a statement of their "primary goals" to the members. The first goal listed by two candidates had to do with the re-organization of the governance and administrative structure of the Association. The third candidate identified lobbying for more governmental money for programs, services and research in mental retardation. The fourth one called for more persons interested in "developmentally disabled people to join the association.

*It turns out that all sorts of businesses and industries have been trying to get laws passed which, in essence, would provide a public subsidy for the cost of advertising their products. Among the industries recently involved have been flower growers and handlers, and the wheat, cotton, egg and potato industries (Common Cause, December 1981).

*A Texas millionaire had a most remarkable explanation of the impact of the economic recession on people. He observed that the rich also suffer, because being rich is just like being poor, only with more zeros (Syracuse Herald-Journal, 9/6/82).
There are a number of routes through which people become street people. Apparently, during times of significant unemployment, one route is for unemployed (primarily) men to migrate to other areas where they believe that jobs are more plentiful. When their money runs out, they are highly apt to join the street population. One of the biggest boom towns in North America has been Calgary, Alberta, because of the oil and gas business there. But if you go to Calgary to find a job, and don't find one right away, then you are a "bum and creep" according to the mayor, and deserve to be handled with "cowboy techniques" (Boston Globe, in Syracuse Herald-Journal, 2/7/82).

The US government has found a new way to bash old people. In the past, uneven amounts of social security payments were rounded up to the nearest dime, but now they will be rounded down to the nearest dollar. This will save the government (believe it or not) $600 million within two fiscal years. The Gray Panthers suggested that the practice should be called "grinding down" instead of "rounding down" (Gray Panther Network, July/August 1982).

The US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has been sending packages to recipients of supplemental social security (SSI), asking them to permit the IRS to examine their income tax returns. The IRS is assuming that a lot of handicapped people receiving SSI might be cheating, receiving large incomes which make them ineligible for social security. Apparently, developmentally handicapped people who live in the community are particular targets of the IRS system (The Inside Scoop, June 1982). Even if one has nothing to hide, it is dangerous to comply with IRS, as exemplified by a handicapped man's name being placed into an IRS computer which triggered the exposure of the private banking records of a man with the same name who lived 250 miles away.

As long as there is poverty and suffering, there will be people who somehow benefit from it. A high-level example is the surge in workshops on how to raise money for human service agencies. In Syracuse, the Grantsmanship Center put on a local workshop cosponsored by the Junior League of Syracuse on how to beat out the other fellow for the limited pool of private funds available. Held over a five-day period, it charged a tuition of $425--far in excess of what the Training Institute has been charging. But people will probably pay any price if they think it will bring money in return. Workshops of this nature will contribute little to making more funds available, to the improvement of services, or to better services getting more money. What they probably do contribute to is fund-chasing psychopathy. So far, there has been no evidence that there has been a dramatic increase in philanthropic giving as a result of the Reagan economics.

An internal market analysis paper produced a few years ago for the company that has a virtual monopoly on wheelchairs in the United States has come to our attention with the help of a subscriber. The paper analyzes the prospects for turning retarded people into "a new market." The improvement of attitudes toward retarded persons in recent years is seen as implying primarily increased funding--which the firm could help absorb by getting in on developments "on the ground floor." Prosthetic equipment is interpreted as contributing primarily to staff relief rather than to client competency or habilitation. The paper compares the NR market to the "Quads and Paras market," and points out that there are more retarded people than the quads and paras from whom the firm has already made much money. The paper notes that the market has generally been avoided because "mental retardates are not very pleasant to look at," many of them are incontinent, and their institution environments "normally have a very unpleasant odor which could be unbearable to an average individual." "Hopefully we are more sincere and dedicated than the average," however, the paper warns its readers that marketing approaches should take into account that "the majority of the staff within an NR hospital... are not easily fooled."
*A man invented a portable device that administers electric currents to certain parts of the body, thereby interfering with pain from more distant parts of the body. For instance, someone experiencing pain in the hands might have electrodes attached further up the arm and get relief. The drug firm Johnson & Johnson bought out the inventor and promptly suppressed the development of the device, apparently because it wanted no competition for its own extremely profitable sale of pain-relieving drugs, such as Tylenol. The original developer sued, and was awarded a record $170 million in damages. Johnson & Johnson will appeal, probably all the way up to the Supreme Court (AP, in Syracuse herald-Journal, 4/16/82).

The Imperial Powers: Signs of Their End

*The Syracuse Herald Journal of October 27, 1981 commented in an editorial on the news that one could read in just one single issue of a contemporary daily paper: a nun gets raped in New York; a hunter kills his hunting companion and burns his body for two days in a barbecue pit; terrorists murder an elderly woman in her bed in Belfast; the captain of a boat that was supposed to smuggle a shipload of Haitians to the US starves 50 of them to death or butchers them with machetes; a spurned suitor sets fire to the hotel where his girlfriend is staying, and eight people burn to death, and three sisters between the ages of 26 and 30 strip naked, smear themselves with mustard, steal a parcel delivery truck and drive off in search of God. Asked the editorial: "Is it any wonder that some say civilization is in a tailspin?"

*People are burning down their world. In the US, there are an estimated 175,000 arson fires per year claiming up to 1,000 lives, 15,000 injuries and $4 billion. In Boston, arsonists burn almost two buildings every night on the average. In Syracuse alone, at the very least 40% of all building fires are caused by arson which has accounted for at least $40 million of damage in 1981. According to authorities, the worse the economy gets, the more people let out their frustrations by setting fires. Almost all fire-setters are male and under 30, half are juveniles, and most of them do not have enough to do and set fires as an aggressive pastime. People who set fires for money because they or someone else benefits from the insurance payments commonly have a history of fire-setting for thrills as juveniles. Typical fire-setters set fires between 2-4 a.m. in the rear of a building after having had a few drinks. Often, they are the ones that also ring the fire alarm and provide prominent help on the scene. (Empire Magazine, 3/15/82). A surprising number of fire fighters are fire-setters.

*D.T. Moore, Jr. (Will robots save democracy? The Futurist, 1981, 15(4), 14-19.) claims that historically, six dynamics have tended to bring about the downfall of democracy: the emergence of a multi-party political system so that finally the government must always rule by coalition in a way that produces incoherency and satisfies no one; disintegration of party machineries, which forces the political system to focus upon individual leaders around whom then develop cults, and one of whom will eventually become a dictator; a decline in work productivity; degenerating cities which give rise to dissatisfied mobs and riots which contribute to the destruction of the democracy; intractable inflation which is commonly related to the decline in productivity; and an increasing feeling by the citizenry that the government cannot solve the problems, leading to the conviction that only a strong ruler can bring back stability. When these signs are present, and a charismatic leader appears who asks for special powers to solve the nation's problems, a democracy may very well hand these powers to the leader with relief, thereby committing suicide. One economist found that during 1963-1973, 30 of 40 countries whose inflation rate reached 15% abolished their democratic
institutions in one way or another. So often, as we have taught in our planning workshops, people who can define a problem are not necessarily good at sketching a solution. Sadly, Moore believes that the solution to the above problems is the creation of robots that will take over a great deal of the industrial work, thereby "fixing" the economy and making people content so they will live harmoniously everafter.

*P. Wylie (The end of the dream. New York, 1970) 1976) wrote a future fiction novel which sketched a scenario under which our civilization ended in 2011, and in which some of its remnants attempted to survive and reorganize. The novel ends in 2023, with some ambiguity whether the final end was at hand, or whether survival by a few people might still be possible. Unlike many other future fiction novels dealing with the end of civilized life, this one gave the cause as being pollution and poisoning of the earth, combined with mindless exploitation of resources, all of these leading to a series of major disasters, climatic changes, earthquakes, plagues, massive poisonings, predation by mutant animal species, etc. One of the various types of pollutions described involved nuclear wastes which led to an "atomic crisis," followed by many stillbirths, the births of "monsters," a decline in the birth rate and a drastic increase in cancer. One of the minor characters in this novel is presented as a mildly mentally retarded 19-year old man from Ft. Lauderdale, who spent four years in the sixth grade before dropping out of school, and who is referred to as "high grade" and a moron. However, he is also portrayed as having had a great deal of practical sense, and thereby being able to escape from an invasion of millions of human-devouring mutant worms from the sea. As this character puts it "What I mean, Doc, I'm school dumb, no doubt about it, but not outdoors dumb, 'cause if I was I wouldn't be here" (p. 189).

*The computerization of almost everything is taking a lot of transactions out of the realm of human experience, and what one might call human surveillance. A paradox here is that some data and control processes are brought into stunning subjugation of the human, while others recede in the opposite direction and escape to a significant degree from human surveillance and control. One thing that commonly happens is that data that were previously visually and manually accessible and manipulatable within a mechanical mode become accessible only via a very small number of highly trained human intermediaries--and sometimes not even then. Obviously, this puts one into total dependency on these individuals. All of this is dramatically exemplified by the issue of computer crime, and theft via computer. Here, things have become so opaque that it is even difficult to perceive that a crime has been committed. Once computer crimes are identified, and even when the culprits are caught, often nothing is done because the firms and other parties involved do not want people to know that they have been had, and how fragile their security systems are.

A group of undergraduates at the University of California at Berkeley discovered an extremely simple way to break into computer systems which utilize time-sharing and multiple outlets. Their method leads a computer to "assume" that it is being addressed by another person from another terminal, enabling a swindler the same access to the computer memory and operations as that other person has. This means that the swindler could at the very least gain complete access to the information, and could usually also add or subtract material to a computer file. Manufacturers, the government and the military have been alerted to this, and there is much consternation in the computer world. A good part of the computer systems of the world now have to be revamped, sometimes involving hardware and sometimes software modifications. Of course, besides revealing the limitations of computer systems, the most amusing part of it all is that it was a group of undergraduates who cracked a system set up by the world's most ingenious people (Science, 3/5/82).
*How the increasing complexity of our systems has made them increasingly vulnerable is illustrated by the fact that a handful of people could turn off approximately 3/4 of the natural gas that comes to the eastern US by doing no more than committing a small number of sabotage acts in a single evening (New Roots, Harvest 1981).

*Let Them Drink Wine or Whiskey. It used to be that wine was wine, but today, wine-making is more of an industry than a branch of agriculture, and wines may contain up to 20 additives, which can range from egg whites to sulfur dioxide, some of which are injurious to people with certain health problems (Environmental Action, June 1982). The trouble is that there may not be too many alternatives left to drinking wine, in that tap water in many areas is phenomenally infiltrated by chemicals even if its bacteria count is still low. After all, bacteria can hardly survive some of the pollution that is now reaching our drinking waters. New Jersey used to be one of the wetter places, but the recent drought there has underlined that even some of our wettest places can run dry, and that whatever water is left may be profoundly polluted. That drought peaked in 1980 when water had to be rationed, and the state was "close to the edge" according to authorities. The governor, being of Irish extraction, suggested that the residents drink Irish whiskey, but importing liquids all the way from Ireland seems a little "far-fetched" (Environmental Action, June 1982).

*Surveys through the years have shown a persistent favorable attitude of the public towards science, which they generally equate with technology, and probably not inappropriately so as often lamented by scientists. However, while the overall attitudes are still positive, they have become diminishingly positive over the last two decades or so (Science, 1/15/82, 270-272).

*In 1981, 63% of Americans thought that there was a significant likelihood that a nuclear war would break out somewhere in the world within the next five years (Time, 12/28/81).

*An American clergyman returning from China reported encountering a mother exhorting her child to, "Eat your rice, people are hungry in Appalachia." He said that while there is no hunger in China at this time, he had to confront questions such as, "How come you have hunger in America although you produce more wheat than you can consume?" (Syracuse Herald Journal, 10/23/82).

The Imperial Powers: Confronted

*A fascinating glimpse into many important things is afforded by developments in Amarillo, Texas, where nuclear weapons are put together that benefit the local community to the tune of between $90 and 110 million annually. In 1981, the local Catholic bishop protested the production of neutron weapons and urged nuclear weapons workers to resign and seek other employment. A group from Omaha donated $10,000 to the bishop to help counsel workers who wished to do just that. Pitted against about $100 million, $10,000 would appear to be a trifling matter, but because of it, all hell broke loose. Within a few days, the local United Way ordered an investigation of Catholic agencies who were beneficiaries of the United Way, and shortly thereafter expelled them (Catholic Worker, April 1982). Among the things all this brings out is that the principalities and powers of the world respond to the spirit behind an action, rather than to an action's visible impact. Also revealed is the ultimately political nature of the United Way, which has always been closely tied to the prevailing power structures, and which serves as yet another way of concealing the truth about deviancy-making and human services in our society while trying to encapture the public's nobler sentiments. We can also see that a flea bite can make a lion mighty uncomfortable, and possibly even become the beginning of the end of the beast.
*The 1982 meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in Toronto was attended by 9,000 psychiatrists. About 100 former clients of the mental health system demonstrated at the convention, but only about 30 of the 9,000 psychiatrists went to listen to their complaints. Of the demonstrators, 16 were forcibly removed from the lobby of the hotel, and a number of psychiatrists present laughed (The Toronto Globe & Mail, 5/12/82).

On July 14, 1982 (Bastille Day), the Syracuse Mental Patients Alliance (a small group of radical critics of the mental health establishment) held a demonstration in front of a relatively small private psychiatric institution in Syracuse, mainly in order to protest against the way the psychiatric profession has been using electro-convulsive treatments, psychoactive drugs, and incarceration. The demonstration included "guerrilla theatre" in which someone with a hypodermic needle zapped a Thorezine into a "patient," and after the latter had wilted on the sidewalk, he was administered "electric shock" with an automobile battery charger. A commentator with a megaphone interpreted the scene from the psychiatric perspective, e.g., how the patient was being helped, was about to get better, etc. The scene was both sadly realistic as well as uproariously hilarious, especially when the patient started emitting convulsions, at which one of the three policemen on the scene came forward to tell the group that having a fake convolution on the sidewalk constituted "disorderly conduct" and could not be condoned.

Out of sympathy for the protestors, the TIPS editor attended part of the event. Considering how many people are abused by the mental health establishment, it is astonishing how few become radically opposed to it. Only about 15 members of the Alliance showed up, and there were almost as many media representatives present as demonstrators.

A striking contrast to the demonstrators who generally projected a counterculture or poverty image were members of the staff of the facility that dared to venture to the door to look. Its director came out boldly and presented his side to the media. He has been administering electric shock for almost 40 years, and his facility continues to do so almost once per weekday. He could have stepped right out of an Excedrin ad, being of late middle age, looking very refined and distinguished, wearing a good suit, and acting with assurance and authority. It seemed that few people were aware of the hidden messages in this, viz., that the privileged do the defining and shocking, and the underprivileged receive it; or, that once you have been drugged and shocked, it is hard to penetrate into the privileged classes.

*TIPS's Innovation Award of the Month. Usually, it is the member agencies of the human services empire that crazify people of previously sound heart and mind. Finally, a friend of ours has found a method for crazifying the imperial service agencies. He sends them letters that bear a very official-looking stamp: "Flutezco Foundation/TopSecret/Destroy Before Reading." While trying to figure out what to do with such a letter, the agency's clients gain a short respite from its administrations.

*Scattered around the world are over 50 1'Arche communities in which retarded and non-retarded people live together in a spirit of mutuality. In the 1'Arche community of Liverpool, there lives a boy who has Down's Syndrome whose favorite pastime is to "go shopping"—but not really because he wants to buy anything. When community members go to buy their things, he comes along and introduces himself to various other shoppers. After getting to know their names, he then in turn introduces them to each other. As they begin to redirect their attention from their shopping business to chatting with their new acquaintances, John's unique mission is completed and he stands back and smiles (Dialogue on Disabilities, Summer 1982).
Despite the tremendous benefits of Citizen Advocacy (CA), and despite the fact that CA is very much the kind of thing which the present federal administration would supposedly endorse, CA services are faring very poorly across the US. The CA Division of the National Association for Retarded Citizens (NARC), has had to dissolve because of a drop in its membership. (It had been the first division to form under NARC, and did so with a great deal of support.) However, CA vignettes which underline the unique importance of this helping form are continually encountered. An example is contained in the last issue of the NARC Advocacy Exchange (Summer 1982), telling how an advocate attended meetings, wrote letters, and made phone calls on behalf of a teenage boy who had been institutionalized for ten years. As a result, a foster home was found for the boy which apparently would not have happened without the advocate's efforts. Not only has the relationship between the advocate and the protege continued, but the advocate sees it as life-long, and (an unusual and most noteworthy development) has included the protege in her will.

On September 17, 1981, John L. McKnight, professor at the Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research at Northwestern University in Illinois, gave a most profound, incisive and illuminating testimony on the family before the US Senate Subcommittee on Aging, Family and Human Services, reprinted in Institutions Etc. (April 1982). We urge readers to write to Professor McKnight for a copy of his testimony.

There has been a boycott by people in eight countries of Nestle products, because of Nestle's brutal policy of promoting artificial infant formulas in non-industrialized countries. After vigorously resisting on the issue for years, Nestle may be about to crumble and come into compliance with the World Health Organization Code established in 1981 (Gray Panther Network, March/April 1982).

Language, Consciousness & Deception Within the Empire

In Discipline and Punish (1977) Foucault wrote that "a stupid despot may constrain his slaves with iron chains, while a good politician binds them even more strongly by the chains of their own ideas. The link is stronger because its captives are not aware of what it is made."
*The extent of nuclear testing is not known to most people. Since 1945, the US has exploded at the very least 700 nuclear devices. Tests are so common that they are apparently no longer newsworthy enough to be reported. Work to continue underground tests has been busily going on (New York Times Service, 4/13/82).

*At the state institution for the mentally disordered in Concord, New Hampshire, three residents died in rapid succession, one by self-strangulation and two by hanging themselves on exposed sprinkler pipes. The state's answer was to bring in carpenters to build crude plywood boxes around the pipes. The institution does not like to reveal when a death takes place because that might upset the staff (Institutions, etc. September 1982).

*The manufacture of nuclear bombs in the US now takes place under the Dept of Energy—which makes it look better.

*The Reverend Robert Schuller's electronic church has a new motto for Lent. It is called LENT, or Let's Eliminate Negative Thinking. This new Lenten practice consists of a rigorous denial of fasting, penance, and self-examination (Sojourners, March 1982).

*Things must be infinitely worse than any of us had imagined, because Norman Vincent Peale in his April 25, 1982 column insisted in a headline that "Life doesn't have to be all gloom." Such qualifications on pollyanna would have been unthinkable from him just a few years ago.

**Societal Values**

*In December of 1962, a British rock band called The Who held a "concert" in Syracuse in a stadium owned by Syracuse University. The performances of the group in the past have been punctuated by violence and death, including people being trampled to death and audiences being high on drugs. The group travels in a huge caravan of tractor trailers with no less than 120 crew members. The Syracuse performance drew 45,000 people who had to submit to a personal frisking at the gates. Some people spent up to $200 to attend. The gross take was almost $1 million. The newspapers devoted page after page to the event, including front pages.

In October 1982, the Training Institute gave a 3-day conference on the growing trend toward death-making of societally devalued people. The event had been announced long in advance and to thousands of addresses. Preparations for the event consumed the full-time equivalent of several months of staff time. There were just over 30 participants, and the Training Institute cleared less than $500 on the event. The question now is: is this good news or bad news?

*The professional literature promotes books (such as Guilt-free, by McDonald & McDonald, 1977) which tells people that there are no standards to live up to but their own, that they should be kind primarily to themselves, and do what they want to do without feeling any guilt. (e.g., Psychotherapy & Social Science Review, 15(4)). At one time, such phrasings would have been deemed sufficient to diagnose a proponent thereof as a sociopathic personality. Today, proponents of such views are acclaimed as leaders in mental health, psychotherapy, the human potential movement, self-actualization, liberation, humanism, etc.
An interesting juxtaposition of two articles side-by-side occurred in the September 21, 1981 Indianapolis Star (p. 13). One article reported that a nursing student in Vancouver, Washington, for a payment of $15,000, was offering to rent her womb to a couple unable to have their own child, because the divorced mother of two "didn't have time to work." The woman had gotten married at seventeen and had a nine-year-old child from that marriage. After her divorce, she artificially inseminated herself with the sperm of a friend, from which she had a two-year-old child. She received four immediate replies to her offer.

The adjacent article told of a Spanish-speaking man who was reading a Spanish Bible in the public library in Philadelphia, and who was so absorbed that he got locked in the library at day's end. When he tried to get out, the police came and arrested him, and he spent thirteen days in prison until a social worker rescued him.

This juxtaposition is rather illuminating of what can happen in a society that on the one hand is exceedingly permissive, and that on the other hand, and probably not surprisingly, has such a high crime rate that people can no longer differentiate between little mistakes and serious crime. (Source: items submitted by Joe Osburn)

Social Relationships

Any society whatever is held together by only a relatively small number of approximately fifteen dynamics which we can call "social glues." In our society, virtually every single relevant glue has been coming apart. Among other things, this has led to divisions among different age groups, and between the sexes. One of the many manifestations of the increasing resentment of different age groups toward each other is for elderly people to reciprocate the rejection they experience from young people by voting against school bonds, school taxes, and similar mechanisms for funding local schools. Thus, there has been a growing number of communities where citizens will no longer approve sufficient local tax rates to run their local schools. For instance, in Alpena, Michigan, the school district went broke as early as the school year as in October (of 1961). Its high school alone had 2000 students (UPI, in Syracuse Herald-Journal, 10/12/61). The good news is that the immensely popular movie ET has been banned for children in 3 Scandinavian countries because it was felt that it portrayed adults as enemies of children.

We all know that art, literature and the media are an index to their culture. Ours is a culture which makes idols out of youth and depreciates older people. One manifestation of this is the number of literary plots in which children are wiser than their parents. An example is 'Silver Spoons,' a TV comedy series initiated in fall of 1962, in which a nature child tries to teach an immature father how to live.

Fashion Hit? The latest fashion involves dressing in bullet proof clothing, on the assumption that it is no longer safe to wear ordinary clothing in our society (Newsweek, 5/10/62).

Beware of the MCSIIWITP

With the help of a few friends, the TIPS editor has been able to identify an ancient but hitherto unpublished menace to people in general, and to human service workers specifically. It is the "Master Computerized Satanic Iterative Individual Weakness-Identifying Temptation Program" (MCSIIWITP). Its simple elegance is staggering, and it is remarkable how long the relevant authorities have managed to keep it out of view. The MCSIIWITP is a moderate-sized computer program (much less complicated than that needed to send an astronaut to the moon) which contains all the recurring modes by which human beings can be tempted. Though myriad in their specific application, these fall into a surprisingly modest number of universal category clusters such as carnal lust, intellectual pride, thirst for power, passion for recognition and/or fame, desire for wealth, etc.
The way the program works is as follows. Vis-a-vis each individual, the authorities play out the computer tape containing these universal appeals, recording every instance of a "positive" response emitted by the "temptadum" (i.e., the individual to be tempted, or a "temptsee"). By iterating (i.e., repeatedly playing out) the program, a profile can rapidly be constructed of which temptations fail to stir the temptadum, and which penetrate the temptadum's defenses. The results are then entered into the individual's personal computer file, the successful temptations are rank-ordered, and a series of sub-routines of the program are played out, each of which contains a huge number of randomly-presented specific variations of the temptations to which the temptadum is susceptible.

Whereas the universal categories have remained virtually unchanged since the master tape was first established several eons ago, the sub-routines (i.e., the expressions of each class of temptation) are constantly being updated. These sub-routines can be conceptualized to function like a multi-dimensional grid system, where the dimensions exceed three, so that the grid can only be conceptualized mathematically rather than visually. One of the most important dimensions is culture, i.e., one of the sub-routines identifies temptations which are particularly promising within the culture in which the temptadum is currently embedded. There are special sub-routines for each sex, for temptadum (plural of temptadum) of certain age categories, socioeconomic status, etc., etc.

As mentioned, the sub-routines are constantly subjected to searching statistical analysis (the computer never sleeps). Outdated temptation appeals get dropped once their "catch rate" (CR) fails below cosmic significance (CS). With the help of a remarkably robust theory of human nature, new specific appeals expressive of the universal temptations are constantly being constructed, inserted into the program, field-tested, and retained if their CR achieves CS. However, it should be noted that CS must not be confused with either our primitive notion of "chance," or our human notion of "statistical significance above chance." Indeed, what we humans call "chance," at least in regard to the occurrence of temptations and the succumbance rate (SR) thereto, is itself actually a design of the MCSIIUTF that has so far successfully misled us into thinking that such things are insignificant.

The whole system staggers the imagination, not to mention the intellect and one's credulity. But facts are facts, and we would have felt remiss in our TIPStership if we had failed to bring the entire scheme to light in TIPS as early upon its discovery as possible.

Follow-up to Our Animal Issue

In a previous TIPS, we reported on, and poked fun at, the companion animal and animal therapy craze. It was a big hit. Apparently, the single biggest thing people remembered about the issue was the seeing-eye pig. As a follow up, we received all sorts of tidbits from our readers along similar lines. One was an invitation to "an education symposium of international significance" entitled "Animalking 1982: An Educator's Guide to the New Science of Human-Animal Interaction." Remarkably enough, the symposium took place in November 1982 at--
believe it or not--Farmingdale (NY) State University, and was sponsored by the Bide-A-Wee Home Association. The latter organization is not concerned with foster homes for children, but promotes the "adoption" of pets. One announcement promised the presence of hearing dogs, state police tracking bloodhounds, bomb detection dogs, peregrine falcons, wolves, transit police dogs, and US Customs Detectors dogs—all live.

*Even though TIPS prints a lot that is hard to believe, some things are so hard to believe that not even TIPS readers may believe them. One of these is the name of the Garden of the Gods Nursing Home in Colorado Springs, Colorado. By a peculiar coincidence, the former activity director of this nursing home garden recently wrote a book on Animals in the Nursing Home (1981) (Aging, Sept./Oct. 1982).

*The September/October 1982 issue of Aging, published by the US government, was almost entirely devoted to animal therapies, and even had a cover displaying several hundred cats and dogs and one old woman. The lead article was entitled, "Are Companion Animals Good for Your Health? Review of the Evidence."

*The December 9, 1982 Syracuse Herald-Journal carried a huge feature with 4 pictures taking up the better part of two pages on companion animal therapy, and the story of a dog "visiting" a local nursing home.

*Be My Valentine, Pussycat? On Valentine's Day in 1982, stars of the entertainment world held a big variety show to save animals from being inhumanely treated in medical research. Said one actress, "There is an awful lot of suffering involved" (Syracuse Herald-Journal, 2/15/82).

*Science Brings Good News to Monkeys. A learned article in Science (6/27/82) reported that monkeys have orgasms during intercourse. Can monkey sexual surrogates for sexually deprived handicapped and abandoned people be far behind? And would that be good or bad news for monkeys?

*Charles Galloway sent in a clipping from the November 1982 Atlantic Monthly in which Saul Bellow observed that more and more people, when asked who their best friend is, reply "my dog." At this rate, the poet observed, it is entirely possible that people will eventually elect a dog to the White House—as long as the dog comes from an attractive strain, such as Golden Retriever. However, some people think that the poet has been overtaken by events, and that the dog has already been preceded by a chimpanzee named Bonzo.

*In a previous issue, we remarked on the attempts to raise chimpanzees like human beings. One of the psychologists involved in this type of endeavor recently (APA Monitor, November 1982) said, "Tell me how you can prove a child has a soul, and then using your methods, I'll try and see if a chimp has one. But you can't just look at a chimp and say 'he is hairy all over; therefore he doesn't have a soul.'"

*Atlanta has a new pet hospital called "Pets are People, Too" (item submitted by Don Trites).

Institutions ———> Prisons Update

*Our joy on hearing that this or that mental or retardation institution is to be closed is profoundly dampened when we also learn that the "closed" institution is being converted into a prison, or that at least efforts to that effect are underway, as in the case of the Dixon Developmental Center, at one time the third-largest mental retardation institution in the world. Other Illinois institutions being closed are the Hermann Adler Mental Health Center in Champaign and the A. L. Bowen Developmental Disability Center in Harrisburg.
*With a grant from the United Technologies Corporation, Rehabilitation
International USA has been working with the International Air Transport Association
to improve airplane access to handicapped and elderly people. Much progress along
this line has in fact been made (Aging, Jan./Feb. 1982).

*In 1980, the Boy Scouts of America established a new merit badge for
"handicapped awareness." In June of 1981, the first such award was given to a
14-year old scout (American Rehabilitation, March/April 1982).

*Ten retarded persons were employed by a bank and a museum in New York City.
During the first 3 months of their employment, they had not one single tardiness
or absence among them, compared to an average of three tardinesses and four
absences on the part of the other employees (The Star, Fall 1981).

*A survey of the work performance of handicapped workers conducted by DuPont
found that regardless of type of handicap, handicapped workers performed somewhat
poorer in all categories but did relatively best in the area of safety, second in
performance of job duties, and third in attendance. However, none of the handi-
capped groups in any of these three categories performed more than 20% below the
average norm (Syracuse Herald Journal, 10/13/82).

*According to Time (10/11/82), a 17-year old cerebrally palsied pupil at a
Boston school for handicapped children advanced from virtually no academic skills
to the college freshman level in writing by means of an educational computer. He
now plans to major in computer science at the University of Massachusetts.

*A high-school senior in Wisconsin Rapids invented a hypodermic syringe for a
friend who has diabetes and is blind. With the help of special markers, his blind
friend can now give himself insulin doses which can be adjusted to his need of the
moment. (American Rehabilitation, March/April, 1982).

*The September 1982 issue of Down's Syndrome News carried a collection of ten
vignettes of people with Down's Syndrome being featured positively in various news
media.

*In May 1982, the US Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp on the theme
of "aging together," showing four people from babyhood through old age.

*There is a Journal of Therapeutic Humor (1054 East 13th Street, Brooklyn, NY
11230), initiated in 1980, which makes fun—mostly about human service workers
and practices. For instance, in its "Help Wanted" section, one finds entries such
as the following. "Am making final attempt, after 34 tries, to find social worker
to assist me with welfare applications. NO THERAPY PLEASE!!" "Heavy drug-oriented
psychiatrist in downtown Chicago area being sought for struggling pharmaceutical
chain." "Embarrassed man with severe hemorrhoid problem seeks qualified shrink."
"Am standing on 64th floor ledge. Need shrink pronto...should convey willingness
to reach out to patients." (Drawn to our attention by Milt Laker)

Change Agent Resources

*There is a new Canadian quarterly that looks at the mental health system from
the perspective of the consumer. Individual subscriptions are only $5 a year.
Send inquiries to Phoenix Rising, Unit M, P. O. Box 7251 Station A, Toronto
Ontario M6H 1A6, Canada.
Health Wise is a small but superb monthly digest of medical facts and news. In simple language, it gives brief updates on medical developments of a clinical nature, with emphasis on recent findings. This newsletter can help a person become more educated about health issues and medical conditions which one may encounter anytime in one’s life and family. Even though the newsletter is relatively expensive ($19.70 per year, P.O. Box 1756, Indianapolis, IN 46206), even only one little item in a single issue can easily pay for itself when the reader finds that it is applicable in his/her life.

Workshop News

On January 6-12, the Training Institute conducted a workshop on “How to Function With Personal Moral Coherency in a Dysfunctional & Immoral Service World.” This workshop, which was held in Toronto and co-sponsored by the Canadian National Institute on Mental Retardation, systematically lays out the dysfunctionality of our current human service system, and the fact that these or similar dysfunctionalties and immoralities are inevitable, given the nature of the world, our time, and our society. It then presents a series of strategies and moral stances that a person can adopt if s/he wishes to act morally within such a system that punishes, and commonly destroys, morality. This workshop was remarkable for the degree of commitment and seriousness of purpose with which almost all the participants attended. Furthermore, these remarkable participants gave the TI the most positive feedback on the workshop that the TI has ever received for any event it has previously conducted. The next workshop on this topic will be held in late August/early September in western Massachusetts, co-sponsored by the Normalization Safeguards Project. For information, contact either the TI or Mike Kendrick, Normalization Safeguards Project, P.O. Box 389, Northampton, MA 01061, 413/584-1044.

Psychopostcard Corner

We have a new major breakthrough on the psychopostcard scene. One of our student assistants has discovered that many museums sell picture postcards showing the paintings or other items that they possess. There are a good number of paintings and drawings depicting human service scenes or themes. Commonly, paintings reproduced on these postcards are of high quality. We have obtained a full dozen of assorted postcards with human service (orphanages, prisons, and other old institutions) scenes from the Municipal Museum of Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

Challenge

(by H.W. Longfellow)

There is a greater army
That besets us round with strife,
A starving, numberless army
At all the gates of life.

The poverty-stricken millions
Who challenge our wine and bread,
And impeach us all as traitors,
Both the living and the dead.

And whenever I sit at the banquet,
Where the feast and song are high,
Amid the mirth and music
I can hear that fearful cry:

And hollow and haggard faces
Look into the lighted hall,
And wasted hands are extended
To catch the crumbs that fall.

And within there is light and plenty,
And odors fill the air,
But without there is cold and darkness,
And hunger and despair.
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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