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Each of the previous TIPS issues has had one major theme, but as a result, we have fallen behind in the coverage of news and miscellaneous content. Therefore, this issue foregoes a specific theme and tries to catch up with the "miscellany" category, and with a few follow-ups to previous themes.

HUNTING AND FISHING IN HUMAN SERVICES

Milton Baker

Did you know that an important part of normalization is being practiced practically every day even in institutions where handicapped people live? Well, it is!!! Normalization is really very easy to apply in any segregated setting. All we have to do is be well intentioned, a little innovative in our efforts and committed to hunting and fishing.

In our society, hunting and fishing are respected sports enjoyed by many people. In institutions, many human service workers are participating in this sport as part of their every-day job. I can hear many of you asking: what are people in human services doing, hunting and fishing as part of their work? Well, the answer is very simple. People who have heard about normalization and had some training in it are busy hunting and fishing for cultural analogues to justify a myriad of dehumanizing or bizarre institutional activities.

Hunting and fishing on the part of some human service workers has become so common, so much a part of their role, that they have sought and obtained a license in the sport. Licenses are given in an informal manner, though the requirements for licensure are rigorous. They are as follows: (a) a working lack of understanding of normalization, (b) a strong belief in bureaucracies and bureaucrats, (c) a demonstrated ability at perverting the major tenets of normalization, (d) investment of an abundance of physical and emotional energy to see destructive causes to their completion, (e) a tenacious commitment to segregation and congregation in all its forms and representations, (f) a demonstrated ability to
repeatedly act in a cowardly fashion, along with a thirst for pleasure and comfort, (g) a knack for consistently doing the wrong thing, (h) vigorous resistance to participation in any consciousness-raising, and (i) overt or covert contempt for handicapped people.

Although the licensure is not formal, if one is to get recognition for his/her ability to hunt and fish, the abilities and commitments relative to licensure must be in evidence to authority and power structures.

Hunting and fishing may be carried out at many levels in any service setting. No one is immune from the invitation to participate in the sport, or from its "rewards." Competency in hunting and fishing in human service appears to be a prerequisite especially for many leadership positions, and certainly is one of the major criteria of perceived success in the leadership role.

The sport goes something like this. A human service worker plans and carries out dehumanizing acts, but when someone points out that the particular plan and/or mandate is non-normative and potentially dangerous to handicapped people and the workers who transact the effort, the hunting and fishing begins for cultural analogues to the action. The following are a few examples.

**Roller Skating as a "Normative Experience"**

The scenario goes something like this: everyone knows that handicapped adults confined to wheelchairs have not had the pleasure of roller skating. So an innovative idea is explored: could roller skates be attached to wheelchairs so that the handicapped person in the wheelchair could experience roller skating? Wouldn't that be great?! After all, there is a cultural analogue: almost all adults have roller skated earlier in their lives, and if we are going to apply normalization, then we must pay attention to analogues.

**Changing Societal Attitudes About Handicapped People**

Human service organizations say they are concerned about the negative attitudes thrust upon handicapped people and are moved to do something about it. So puppets are made up to represent handicapped children, puppeteers are hired, and community re-education programs are organized with presentations to groups of children. When the promoters of this scheme are told about the potentially counterproductive effects of this method with its negative representations of handicapped individuals as animal-like puppets, the licensed hunters and fishers respond with assuredness that "there is a cultural analogue, puppets are used to educate children." "Why, aren't you aware of how powerful puppet programs, such as the Muppets and Sesame Street, are in teaching children? You believe in normalization, and yet you don't agree with this application of a cultural analogue? That's the trouble with you normalization fanatics; you are so negative and everything is always wrong. Can't you ever see anything good in anything? Your unwillingness to see anything good in projects such as this is one of the reasons why normalization is rejected by so many people. And involving typical children directly and intimately with handicapped ones would be too traumatic for the non-handicapped children."

**Using Technology to Provide Better Services to Severely Impaired/Handicapped Adults**

Another recent proposal is that to the clothing of severely impaired individuals, a small device be attached that emits a radio beep which can be picked up by receivers. This device can be used to monitor the whereabouts of severely impaired people. The rationale for this approach to "surveillance" is thoroughly thought out and proposed as being consistent with a cultural analogue. If we hunt and fish enough, we will learn that similar devices are used in children's camps as a means of preventing children from being lost. "You believe in normalization, right? Well, normalization is a goal. Our goal is to prepare people for living in the community, you know that! What is wrong with using a simple, little inconspicuous device? At least, it won't do any harm, and maybe it will save a person's life. We have a responsibility to assure a person's safety until he can
learn the necessary skills to move into the community. This is an example of using a method that facilitates the achievement of a normalization goal, namely living in the community. And we have the technology, so why not use it? Couldn't we be criticized for not doing all we can to protect people who cannot protect themselves?" The fact that the device projects an image of the handicapped person as a menace or an infant is not comprehended and the fact that normalization is both a process and a goal is rejected.

Providing "Culturally Normative Holiday Events" for Institutionalized Handicapped Adults

Some folks claiming a commitment to the activation of handicapped people conceive of a holiday party for 350 handicapped people. The party will be held on a day between Christmas and New Year in the gymnasium of the institution. A band will be hired, food will be served to everyone, and all "invited guests" are mandated to attend. "Everyone will have a good time; who knows, we may even learn something about having fun with handicapped people. The event will be conducted consistent with a cultural analogue. In our society, we often have large office parties. Why, whole businesses have Christmas parties. People love to get together for a little merriment around the holiday season. Everyone will love it." The impact of congregating so many handicapped people is ignored. The mass event is easier and more comfortable to arrange, and may even bring personal recognition and reward to the arrangers. Maybe one should plan a similar event to celebrate Independence Day?

In Summary

The application of normalization can obviously be great sport, much fun, and everyone can participate in it. Try it, you'll like it! Once you get accustomed to doing it, you can tell all your friends. You can even get a reputation in some circles for being deeply committed to the application of the normalization principle. Applications for analogue hunting and fishing licenses are available in any bureaucratized human service setting where normalization has been rejected.

PASS, PASSING, and Social Role Valorization Training

The last TIPS issue featured service quality and its evaluation as a major theme. Until the recent appearance of PASSING, PASS has been the major tool available to measure the quality of services in relation to social role valorization (normalization) criteria. The TI recently sent a letter to about 30 people known to us to be involved in PASS training, either as trainers or sponsors. We expressed our concern about the haphazard way in which PASS training has begun to deviate from its original format. One of the recipients of this letter replied, "I was most gratified to read your views on this subject, as they confirm my feelings. The integrity of what is perhaps the most coherent and rigorous tool for assessing human service endeavors is in jeopardy in the hands of its staunchest supporters. This appears ironic but is actually most predictable. I congratulate you on your clear firm approach to the matter."

The recent appearance of the Guidelines for PASS, PASSING and Similar Evaluations will hopefully restore some order and coherency to the way these types of training are conducted so as to assure at least a minimal comparability of introductory training with these tools.

Interested parties that have not received the above letter may request a copy from us. The letter was a plea for conformance to at least a minimal standard of procedures and quality as laid out in the Guidelines, and proposed that training formats that deviate from this minimal standard not advertise themselves as providing PASS and/or PASSING training, but as being some other kind of training, either "leaning on" PASS or PASSING, or "using selected normalization practica experiences" without mentioning PASS and PASSING.
An Innovative Social Role Valorizing Cooperative Residential Program

Prairie Housing Cooperative (PHC) in Winnipeg, Manitoba, is a very creative scheme designed to provide highly varied and thus flexible options for mentally retarded persons to live in the community within the context of an informal support system. Because we are so used to clear-cut and narrow-range service options, the scheme may be difficult to understand unless one is able to step out of traditional agency thinking.

The scheme has several but unified major thrusts. They include the vehicle of a corporation organized as a cooperative. In order to join, one needs to purchase at least one share at a cost of $10. If a member leaves the cooperative, the shares are purchased back by it. Both handicapped and non-handicapped members join. Resident members live in various kinds of settings owned by the co-op, which may include apartments, townhouses, condominium units, or houses. In some instances handicapped and non-handicapped members live in separate dwellings; in others, they share one. Handicapped members may live alone, in a dwelling with another handicapped member, or with non-handicapped members. The cooperative also welcomes a number of non-voting "associate" members who do not live in housing owned by the co-op but who belong in order to demonstrate their support to the enterprise and perhaps to provide social and practical support to its resident members. None of the members are employed by the cooperative, but the expectation is that the non-handicapped members provide friendship, guidance, supervision and/or support to the handicapped ones on an informal basis. Again, this support may vary from very little to a great deal, and may vary over time; a handicapped member may initially receive a great deal and later much less. Whatever additional supports or professional services are needed are sought from outside the cooperative.

So far, the PHC has utilized government-subsidized housing which it has been able to purchase without downpayment and at extremely low interest rates. This arrangement benefits not only the handicapped members whose incomes may be very low, but also the non-handicapped ones who may thereby live much less expensively than they might otherwise. Of course, the expectation is that they will function in support roles to handicapped members, and that they will do so gladly and generously.

So far, the co-op has operated by purchasing "clusters" of three to five houses in neighborhoods scattered throughout Winnipeg. This allows small social support networks to develop around members who need such assistance, and at the same time avoids congregation of many handicapped individuals on any one site.

A major long-term goal of PHC is to build up a circle of friends and advocates around each handicapped member so that even when certain non-handicapped members leave the co-op over time, a vulnerable person will by then be surrounded by a sufficient support system to prevent major harm to befall him/her, and especially to protect such a person from what the TI calls the "service super-system."

PHC specifically was launched through staff support from the local association for the mentally retarded (equivalent of the ARC), and has continued to receive their staff support. However, it is expected that in time, the members of the co-op can take over all the administrative functions in addition to the governance ones.

One of the advantages of the co-op arrangement is that handicapped members are full voting members and are not under anyone's formal control within the co-op, though they may still have guardians, counselors, etc., outside the cooperative. Since the cooperative is self-governing, there are also many opportunities for social role valorizing (normalizing) committee work, interactions, etc.
There are many additional interesting and positive features to this scheme. For instance, traditionally, co-ops have cooperated with each other, and thus a co-op of this nature can often call upon the help of other co-ops such as those concerned with money-saving food distribution. One of the major problematic aspects for US contexts may be the absence of suitable inexpensive integrated housing opportunities, but this obstacle might conceivably be overcome. It may also be necessary to raise a front-end money fund, which might conceivably be done through donations of people in sympathy with such a scheme, including non-resident members. Interested parties are advised to contact Prairie Housing Cooperative, 2020 Burrows Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2R 1G7; or the Winnipeg Branch of the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded, 809-259 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 3L1; telephone 204/947-1249.

RIP: G. Allan Roeher

On June 2, G. Allan Roeher perished in the airplane fire which forced a plane on a flight from Dallas to Toronto to make an emergency landing at the Cincinnati airport. Dr. Roeher was on his way home from the convention of the American Association on Mental Deficiency. He had been a key figure in the creation of the National Institute on Mental Retardation (NIMR) which he headed until recently, and had been highly esteemed around the world. He was responsible for my (the TIPS editor) spending two years (1971-1973) at NIMR. He was a person who had custody of his heart, i.e., who was always able to reflect before responding, and then respond with sensitivity for the other person, kindness, and often with good humor. He had become a fatherly friend to me, and I deeply mourn his absence from this world.

AS OTHERS SEE IT

Seven Things That Will Destroy Us:
Politics without principle,
pleasure without conscience,
wealth without work,
knowledge without character,
business without morality,
science without humanity,
worship without sacrifice.

—Mahatma Gandhi

The Doings of the Imperial Powers

*After President Reagan announced his startling plan on March 23, 1983, to develop some kind of ray for disabling enemy missiles and thus making nuclear war an impossibility, there was an analysis of this plan in Science (4/8/83). Apparently this plan has no basis in reputable scientific research to date, and even some of the President's closest science advisors did not know what he was talking about or believe that it could be done. The President thus presented with great authority as quasi-fact something which is almost in the domain of science fiction. The analysts also observed that even if this, or any other defense system, were 95% effective, then even with only their present force, the Russians would still be able to get 300 nuclear warheads on US cities, each 30 times larger than the bomb that devastated Hiroshima.

*As we have mentioned before, many TIPS readers lust for good news and "hope." Well, if they want hope, then all they need to do is listen to President Reagan who, in his national TV address of 4/4/83, said, "let me share with you a vision of the future which offers hope," and then spelled out that this hope consisted of bigger and better missile systems. Sometimes, we simply have to trade off truth against what to many people looks like hope.
President Reagan has coined a new name for the MX missile program: The Peacekeeper.

We have all heard of cost overruns in the defense contracting and procuring business, but a recent study found that one aircraft turbine seal listed for $16 one year was priced over $3000 the next. A part used to mount engines in C141 transport planes and B52H bombers rose from $77 to $1017. An engine component for an F-14A fighter zoomed from $35,000 to $191,000 (Time, 11/29/82).

The Reagan administration has been examining 748,000 handicapped people to see how many it could cut off from Supplemental Social Security payments—and cut 345,000 of them. One of the results was a dramatic increase in suicides and suicide threats by desperate former recipients—prompting the Social Security Administration to prepare a manual for local offices on how to deal with such events and threats. In the North Central states alone, 15,000 were cut, but then were reinstated by a federal court. At least in some states, the files of handicapped people under review were sent to Washington to be examined and decided upon by some bureaucrat. This once more underlines the point the TI has made for many years: how wrong it is to hand one’s afflicted people to the federal government. Some visitors from North Dakota explained what was happening to one of our friends in Manitoba who was able to share this good news with the Dakotans: "Thank goodness, we can cut off our handicapped people from their disability payments right here on the spot without having to wait or having to go through the federal capital."

The US Social Security Administration in 1983 instituted PASS—believe it or not, but it stands for Plan For Achieving Self-Support.

Many people will be amazed to learn that the single fastest growing US federal agency is the CIA. Obviously, there is a message in this.

Advocates for the elderly have long pointed to the many ways in which aging people are stripped of possessions and rendered poor. Defenders of the establishment have often countered with the claim that elderly people are better off than others because of their accumulation of wealth. At least one interesting bit of fact emerged from the 1983 passage of legislation to salvage the US Social Security system. The government estimated that only 11% of all recipients have individual incomes above $25,000 a year, or joint incomes above $32,000 for couples. While such incomes are gratifying if one does not have to rear children and pay the same taxes as before, they are still far from lavish and tell us that 89% of elderly people fall below this range. By the way, while the salvage package was multifaceted, the single biggest elements were higher payroll taxes and later retirement, rising gradually to age 67.

The Corporate Welfare Bums. People are slowly awakening to the fact that particularly under the Reagan administration, it is largely the middle class citizens who bear the tax burden, and the rich are getting off easier and easier every year. In fact, middle class citizens are actually subsidizing the profits made by some of the richest corporations. E.g., in 1981, General Electric was entitled to so many deductions from its $2.66 billion profit that it was able to sell some of these deductions (!) and end up with—believe it or not—a tax refund close to $100 million.

It is little known that despite the complaints from business about their taxes, corporate income taxes have contributed a steadily declining percentage of the total US treasury receipts since 1945 when they were 36.2%; they are now only 5.9%, with some of the biggest and most prosperous firms paying no taxes at all.
*There is a new federal tax law that applies to all tax returns filed after August 1982. It increases ten-fold the penalty for filing "frivolous" "groundless" tax returns, and includes under this category various kinds of returns that have been filed by war tax resisters. Thus, a war tax resister is not merely apt to suffer injury, but also the insult of this resistance being branded as "frivolous" and "groundless."

*In early 1983, the US government tried to pass regulations that would have forbidden almost all non-profit organizations and their staff to communicate with any branch of government. In essence, this was an attempt to silence the voluntary organization sector from criticizing or influencing government--a most peculiar and almost fascist move by a government pledged to give the private sector a larger role. Under a storm of protest, the proposed regulations were withdrawn, but another set is expected in the near future (Science, 4/22/83).

*The US administration is trying to change regulations so that less truth would be required in advertising. One of the rationales promoted by the administration for reducing or eliminating restrictions on deceptive practices has been that consumers do not believe advertising anyway, and any claims will merely increase consumers' scrutiny of the realities. Further, requiring a high degree of substantiation supposedly "increases the risk of prohibiting true claims" (Science, 12/24/82).

*In its efforts to reduce controls over toxic substances, the Reagan administration has been subverting the English language. A government official had written that a certain pesticide caused sterility and was suspected of causing cancer. The word cancer was deleted by a superior, and "adverse health effects" was substituted for "sterility." In fact, the word "cancer" has been edited out massively from government documents. One reason for all this is that many of the top officials of the Environmental Protection Agency were recruited from the industries that the agency was supposed to regulate (Common Cause, 1/2/83).

*We have noted in previous issues how well the Watergate crooks are doing for, in a way, betraying the country: they got a rap on the knuckles, and most of them have been doing exceedingly well financially ever since. Now we learn that the men who discovered the Watergate burglars at work and caused their arrest was sentenced to a year in prison for supposedly shoplifting a $12 pair of tennis shoes. Furthermore, we learn that he has been unemployed, and if he committed the deed, he may have been driven by need. It may not teach him anything, but it certainly should us. A fraction of a fraction of all the money the crooks have made off their Watergate crime by writing or speaking about it might have prevented this man's penury.

*Mercenary troops, paid by the US and stationed in Honduras, have been making raids into Nicaragua where the civilian population has been massacred, tortured, mutilated and raped, turning a good part of the northern frontier area of Nicaragua into a war zone. An entire issue of the March 1983 Sojourners was devoted to this reality which was first laid before the public in a major American news medium in a cover story of Newsweek. Representatives of Sojourners toured Nicaragua, and the only place where their tape recorder and camera were taken away from them was in the US Embassy.

*It is little known that many of the refugees from El Salvador who are being forcibly returned there have been systematically murdered. An example is 40 Salvadorans murdered by the Salvadoran military soon after their arrival at El Salvador's national airport on January 4, 1981 (Peace Newsletter, 3/83).
*American news media have apparently not clearly enough interpreted the news about recent developments in Afghanistan. Indications are that the Russians have decided that they will stay and control the country even if it means eradication of the Afghan population. Accordingly, they are devastating the countryside so as to make it impossible for people to live in it anymore, much as the Americans did in parts of Indo-China (Amerika Woche, 4.83).

*The truth is the truth, no matter how unpleasant. One unpleasant contemporary truth is that Israel is becoming one of the major Nazi empires of our age. The historical past, the incongruency of this phenomenon, or Israel's geographical location must not blind us to what is happening. The most recent element in this tragedy is that Israel is becoming a major supplier of arms to at least four oppressive governments in Central America which are slaughtering their poor (largely Indian) populations (New York Times, in Syracuse Herald Journal, 12/17/82). Actually, no one should be surprised at this unless they fail to understand the nature of human beings and of states. Anybody can be a Nazi or a victim; all of us have the propensity to be either.

*The TI has long taught that all humans have a propensity to violence, and that each one of us can become a dehumanizer and oppressor. We have also taught that the oppressed must be liberated and raised up despite the fact that they are apt to turn around and become oppressors in their turns—perhaps even lashing out at their liberators. All this is dramatically and sadly illustrated by the Israeli state. In one generation, its people have turned from being the most abject oppressors into one of the most dangerous aggressors in our day. Currently, it treats its own Arab population almost the way Jews were treated in Germany just before the exterminations began. It has also entered into genocide, lying, deceiving, and refusing to acknowledge these offenses and do penance. All this was highlighted by Israel's ongoing refusal to acknowledge its complicity in the massacre perpetrated by its Lebanese Christian allies, by its efforts to cover up the facts, and by its denial of relevant truth. The lesson stands: any of us can be oppressors or oppressed. Which is preferable?

*In 1942, Jewish terrorists from several gangs, which included the one of which Begin was a member, spent 6 hours massacring 200 civilians in a little Arab village near Jerusalem, with to this day Begin interpreting the action as a legitimate military mission. In revenge, enraged Arabs ambushed a Jewish supply convoy that left 76 dead, mostly medical personnel and scholars. This exchange of violence was one of the things that set off a cycle of violence that reverberates to this day. Later, an institution for the mentally disordered was built on the site of the massacred Arab village—yet another fascinating image-juxtaposition that defies the law of averages.

*The good news is that at least 300 members of the Israeli armed forces have been imprisoned for refusing to serve in Israel's war in Lebanon.

*During the 1982 US elections, congressional candidates spent $300 million. The National Association of Realtors was the biggest-spending lobbying group, followed by the American Medical Association (Common Cause, 1/2/83).

*The Urban Development Corporation in New York which has mostly been concerned with housing for the poor has now been authorized to go into prison construction (Syracuse Herald Journal, 4/18/83). This obviously contributes to the image that the poor are a criminal class.
Nursing home investigators of New York State believe that nursing homes have overcharged the state by $115 million, which they should give back. In response, the state government has decided in 1983 to organize the investigative unit practically out of existence—purportedly as an economy measure, although only about 20 or so positions were at issue.

Even as dismissal notices went to thousands of employees of the Departments of Mental Health and Mental Retardation in New York State, lavish renovation was going on in the staff houses at the Rochester Psychiatric Center, with $75,000 alone being devoted to the 15-room home of the center director (Institutions, Etc., 4/83).

An ominous development is large-scale fingerprinting of children, in some instances of entire schools or school systems. Ostensibly, the rationale is to identify a child if it should ever be abducted. However, in our kind of society, there are almost bound to be abuses of the fact that a major portion of the population, and perhaps eventually all of it, may have its fingerprints on file and in the hands of officials, and that from their early school days onward.

Nestlé continues its recalcitrant ways, and succeeded in marshalling enough political pressures to get the US National Institute of Health to cancel a discussion of the infant formula dispute at a 1/83 bioethics symposium (Science, 4/2/83).

Time (10/4/82) reported that after a 4-day strike in the fall of 1982, railroad engineers received a 29% pay hike that will raise average annual salaries to more than $47,000 within two years.

What Is A Hobo, and Why Is He?

A hobo is a man who builds palaces and lives in shacks,
He builds Pullmans and rides the rods,
He builds automobiles and pushes a wheelbarrow,
He serves T-bone steaks and gets the soup bone,
He builds electric-light plants and burns oil,
He builds opera houses and goes to the movies,
He makes silk suspenders and holds his pants up with rope,
He reaps the harvest and stands in the bread line,
He weaves silk shirts and wears bull wool,
He makes broadcloth and wears overalls,
He weaves linen sheets and sleeps on a plank,
He digs gold and has his teeth filled with cement,
He digs coal and shivers in the snow,
He builds the factories and is denied a job in them,
He builds skyscrapers and has no place to call a home,
He builds roads and is arrested on them for vagrancy,
He creates labour and is denied the right to labour,
He fights for freedom abroad and is put on the chain gang at home,
He has made America and is denied a vote.

My Lodging and Some Others
(by Sidney Lanier)

The poor, the poor, the poor, they stand,
Wedges by the pressing of Trade's hand,
Against an inward-opening door
That pressure tightens evermore;
They sigh a monstrous, foul-air sigh
For the outside leagues of liberty,
Where art, sweet lark, translates the sky
Into a heavenly melody.
Euthanasia

Karl Williams

(Karl Williams is a song writer and performs with song, acoustic guitar, and mouth harp. He sent us the song below on an audiotape. His address is 300 West Winona Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144 (215/843-5414).)

In Germany before the war
Will you listen while I sing
In Germany before the war
Oh the scientist was king
In Germany before the war
At Leipzig and at Koenigsberg
In Germany in '21
The killing thought was born

It was in the universities
And not in a prison cell
The words were put to paper
That would make a living hell
It was in the universities
At Munich and at Charité
At Jena and at Heidelberg
The killing thought was born

Of scientific prime concern
Was the economic drain
For if some lives had no value
Then the action was humane
And so they wrote the definitions down
Who was weak and who was sound
And they passed their facts and figures round
And made the plan their own

And when the demon came to power
The program was in place
And all the ethical decisions
Had been discussed and made
In the cradle of bureaucracy
The scientific aristocracy
With crisp determination
Made the work their own

First the doctors chose their patients
To receive the final cure
A blessing for the suffering they called it
Painless and pure
And once the program was in place
And grinding down at a deathly pace
They had to choose at last by race
So the program could go on

And so by evolution
While the country went to war
And the marching bands were playing
And the German heart did soar
The demon and his scientific crew
Chose the Poles and Gypsies too
And in the end six million Jews
So the program could go on

The scientist seeks answers
To the questions that he finds
Spending years and years in training
His training sometimes leaves him blind
Because the final problem that is brought
Will never yield to human thought
But once he hooks it then he's caught
And a solution must be found

Forty years have passed away
Will you listen while I sing
Forty years have passed away
And it hasn't changed a thing
Forty years have passed away
And in the universities today
Right here in the USA
The killing thought is born

The Genetics of Mental Disorder

Ever since the scientification of medicine about a little over 100 years ago, there has been a tendency among people in the medical sciences to invoke heredity as a likely cause whenever other causes could not be demonstrated. Many people are not aware how deep-seated this tendency is, and that its ideological roots are mainly those of a hyper-materialization of medicine that tends towards seeking answers in the most material modality of action, and that places the cause and expression of illness at the personal level. This view tends to denigrate developmental, emotional, social, systemic, etc., causes for individual ills, and dynamic
A good example of what we are talking about has been the tendency of many people in the medical sciences to practically declare categorically that mental disorders are inherited (e.g., Science, 12/18/82). Such claimants will vary in their opinion as to the degree to which heredity is a predisposer rather than determiner of such conditions. Today, we often hear the claim that both schizophrenia and depression have been "proven" to be heredity diseases. We caution readers to be extremely skeptical of such claims, keeping in mind a number of facts.

1. Even elaborate genetic research studies commonly presuppose accurate psychiatric diagnoses, yet psychiatric diagnoses have been shown to be phenomenally unreliable. In fact, most people by now have heard of Rosenhan's studies which showed that mental institutions are apt to label perfectly sane people insane. There even exist cultural differences in conceptions of what schizophrenia is and how it should be diagnosed, with British psychiatrists being much more apt to diagnose on the basis of hallucinations and delusions than American psychiatrists who are apt to pay more attention to what are presumed to be the underlying dynamics rather than endpoint symptoms of schizophrenia.

2. Hyper-biologically oriented people have also been apt to grossly underestimate the power of socialization, and how very fundamental perceptual cognitive patterns can be built into a child by the social environment. Thus, reoccurrence of mental disorders in families could quite readily be transmitted socially from one generation to the next. In fact, even very basic perceptual, linguistic and other patterns can be transmitted for several generations. This means that simplistic pedigree analyses which are so often cited as proof for a genetic hypothesis are often outright naive, and certainly suspect.

3. Twin studies are often invoked with great fanfare as constituting almost critical experiments. However, they are fraught with difficulties and weaknesses. One of the most important data sources particularly is most difficult to come by: identical twins that have been reared (a) in truly dissimilar environments, and (b) from birth on.

4. Virtually every year for several decades, researchers have claimed to have found some substance in the blood that is indicative of schizophrenia. Hard as it is to believe, these investigators so far have largely fallen prey to the simple mistake of equating correlation with causation. They commonly assume that whatever substance they have found causes (or contributes to) the schizophrenia, rather than the other way around. Actually, even if one posited a purely psychogenic origin of severe mental disorder, it would be remarkable if one did not find some biochemical differences between some severely disturbed people and other people.

5. In contrast to the above confusions, one can posit the reasonable hypothesis that certain types of mental disorders, or mental disorders that take a certain course, are the result of a small class of toxic biochemical processes. However, this hypothesis most definitely would not necessarily imply that all psychoses of a certain type must have the same kind of cause, since there may very well be such a thing as a common ultimate pathway. Furthermore, even if such conditions are found (which is reasonably likely), there is much reason to anticipate that a very large proportion of mental disorders are entirely due to psychosocial causes, no matter what biochemical expressions they may involve.

6. Ultimately, insanity in various forms is probably of the essence of the human condition. As Szasz has argued forcefully, people will differ widely in space and time as to what they will declare to be insane. Currently, the greatest insanity ever committed by the human race has been elevated to its greatest idol, namely the nuclear arms race. Are we to look for some kind of nuclear insanity microorganism that infects people and drives them insane? Obviously, unless there has been a mutation, the heredity hypothesis would have to be ruled out since the disease is relatively new. Infectious mechanisms seem the most plausible, considering how quickly the disease spread across the globe, and it obviously has considerable affinity to social class insofar as it is usually the ruling classes of a society that succumb to it.
There has been yet another flurry of announcements that "scientists" have "found evidence that alcoholism is genetically transmitted," and that its presence can be identified through cognitive deficits displayed by those who are "vulnerable to the disease" (APA Monitor, 6/83). We interpret these developments as components of the continuing medicalization of human afflictions, and of the lust for applying narrow technological solutions to all kinds of human suffering and dysfunctions.

*A highly scientifically study in Science (3/18/83) claims to have found that a specific reading disability can be an autosomal dominant genetic trait carried on chromosome No. 15. The TIPS editor respectfully registers profound doubt.

*It was not until the late 1950s that chromosomes could be visualized well enough under microscopes in order to be visually examined and even counted. During the 1970s, techniques were developed to stain chromosomes so that distinct bands on a chromosome could be differentiated from each other, and mapped. In humans, there are between 320 and 500 bands that can be distinguished. This brought researchers closer to associating different inherited characteristics not only with specific chromosomes, but even with specific locations on a chromosome.

In an article in Science (3/19/82), the chromosome bands of chimpanzee, gorilla, orangutan and humans were examined, and at least this set of evidence suggested that the four shared a common ancestor out of whom sprang two lines, the orangutan and another. Out of the latter, the gorilla branched off first, then the chimpanzee, with the remaining line becoming our current human. Humans tend to look upon themselves as vastly removed from chimpanzees, but in terms of chromosome bands, there is hardly any difference between us, and only a little more between us and the gorilla. In contrast, the chimpanzee is many times more different from the orangutan than from the human. Considering that we have almost exterminated the gorilla and are not doing very well by the chimpanzee, this is very sad.

*We mentioned previously that it may not be long hence before scientists will genetically cross humans and animals. The fertilization of hamster eggs with human sperm has now been suggested as a test for male fertility (The Human, 4/83). At present, the human-hamster (manster?) hybrid would not develop beyond the 2-cell stage, but we should be wise enough from past developments and from our knowledge of human nature to know that scientists will not stop there if they can help it.

*A factory for making test tube babies is being planned for Toronto. Strangely enough, its name is LIFE (for Laboratory-Initiated Fetal Emplacement), and its planned location is the East General Hospital (The Human, 3/83).

*There are now scientists who claim that by the turn of the century, every major human organ except the brain and the central nervous system will have artificial replacements (Newsweek, 7/4/82).

*Remarkable progress has been made in the control, or even the eradication, of childhood diseases such as diphtheria, measles, mumps, polio, rubella and tetanus. Dramatic improvements have also been made in the treatment of certain types of cancer, such as bone cancer. Smallpox has been declared eradicated worldwide. While these developments are commonly cited as evidence of "progress," we are confronted by the fact that these conditions have been or are being replaced by others. Cancer seems to be an almost epidemic affliction of affluent society with almost a million new cases occurring every year in the US alone. Since 1940, thyroid cancer has increased 5-fold. There is some belief that influenza has become more common as well as more deadly since the world-wide epidemic of 1918-19. Snail fever has been on a rapid increase, afflicting 200 million people in 71
countries. Malaria, that had once been eradicated in countries like India, has staged a devastating comeback and kills a million children under 5 in Africa alone. Venereal diseases were once driven to the edge, but have made a grim comeback as well, with new forms evolving that are less treatable and old forms becoming resistive to previous treatments.

*Readers of TIPS may recall that TIPS was in the forefront of reporting news of the new deadly "acquired immune deficiency disease," AIDS, which has afflicted mostly promiscuous homosexual males, addicted people who inject drugs by presumably contaminated needles, Haitians, and people suffering from hemophilia who often must rely on blood donated by homosexual carriers of the disease. Now, evidence is beginning to pour in not only that AIDS is spreading rapidly, but also that women and children are beginning to be afflicted. To date, there is no cure. The number of victims has been doubling every six months, and is now being called an "epidemic." Victims very rapidly lose their immunity to all sorts of infections which then usually cause death.

In March 1983, the US Public Health Service recommended that individuals highly at risk of developing AIDS refrain from donating blood, but it still leaves the choice to them. There were still no plans to screen donors by blood tests, medical histories, or interviews in regard to their sexual practices. On the other side, the National Hemophilia Foundation has called for an end to blood collection in areas with large homosexual populations, and for direct questioning of donors as to potential membership in high-risk groups (Science, 3/18/83). Hemophilia blood recipients are extremely at risk from tainted blood.

*American Brands has been advertising that Carlton has less tar than any other cigarette. Unsuspecting consumers who go to the store will encounter 8 varieties of Carlton cigarettes that look generally much alike, only one of which is low in tar—and it is not readily available on the market (Consumer Reports, 1/83).

*A scientist who has been disputing cancer risks of all kinds of chemicals recently said, "We don't think a chemical should be banned at the drop of a rat" (Environmental Action, 12/82-1/83).

*It is absolutely amazing how delicate the chemical balance of life is. A single gene from a normal human bladder cell contains about 6,000 chemical constituents. It takes only one single one of these to go wrong in order for cancer to result (Time, 11/8/82).

*Many years ago, studies showed that x-ray equipment very commonly leaked radiation, and was often used improperly. Not too much has changed. One-fifth of the x-ray units are not in compliance with the law, leak radiation, or administer excessive doses—all this on top of the about 30% of x-rays some experts believe are administered unnecessarily (AP, in Syracuse Herald American, 3/23/83).

*Some people suffer very ill effects if they drink even small amounts of alcohol while being on aspirin doses (Healthwise, 11/82).

*It has now been found that bay leaves and cucumbers (if sliced) are so unpleasant to roaches that most of them will abandon the premises where they encounter these. Scientists are now extracting the active agents, which are more benign than the chlorinated hydrocarbons in widespread use which are very poisonous and resistant to degradation (Science, 10/15/82).
*NIMH scientists have discovered that there is a contaminant in certain abused drugs that can produce substantial brain injury within a few days. The injury may not produce immediate symptoms, although sometimes it does. These include symptoms of Parkinsonism and/or senility. After only a few days of drugs so contaminated, some people become completely paralyzed. It is believed that others, even if they stopped using the drugs, have suffered enough brain injury to precipitate mid-life senility. The good news in all of this is that this contaminant can now be used for research on Parkinsonism. Previously, no good "monkey model" of Parkinsonism was available (Science, 5/13/83).

*It has been legal for meat processors in the US to add finely ground bone to processed meats, in part as a "stretcher." A consumer advocate group recently proposed that hair be added instead, because it is a renewable resource rich in valuable amino acids (Sojourners, 11/81).

*The latest evidence indicates that a woman who takes a modest amount of fluoride supplement before and during pregnancy can dramatically improve the development, strength and whiteness of her baby's teeth and insure that they will remain virtually caries-free through most of childhood. Also, the children will be bigger and taller (Healthwise, 12/82).

*Until now, it was assumed that ultrasound examination of the womb of a pregnant woman was harmless. Now there is some indication that ultrasound might damage cells so that these in time become cancerous. This might be the result of genetic material within the cells being broken up by the ultrasound (Amerika Woche, 10/21/82).

*Apparently as a result of earlier abortion, venereal disease, contraception, drug use, etc., the proportion of ectopic pregnancies (occurring in the wrong place, outside the uterus) is dramatically increasing from 4.5 to 9.4 per 1000 pregnancies between 1970 and 1978.

*Some scientists believe that sporadic cases of congenital neural tube defects (such as spina bifida) are due to the mother's difficulty in metabolizing folic acid, and that appropriate supplements prior to and during pregnancy (especially in the first few weeks) could completely prevent these occurrences. However, it is believed that there are additional causes of neural tube defects which cannot be addressed in this fashion.

*With the introduction of PKU testing and PKU diets, an increasing number of children with the condition escaped mental retardation and are now coming of reproductive age. Yet there is increasing evidence that where intellectually normal women who have PKU get pregnant, all kinds of anomalies happen to the fetus, to the point where spontaneous abortions may take place. Research on this situation is only now getting under way, and it will be a few more years before more definite answers will be at hand, such as whether maternal diets during pregnancy can prevent harm to the fetus.

*Some specialists have called the brain the most complicated thing in the world. The cells of one brain, laid end to end, are said to reach from Chicago to Mexico City. If in addition, one added the tiny fibers which in essence constitute the "wiring" of the brain and laid them end to end, they reportedly would go to the moon and possibly even back. There are some 11 billion neurons interconnected by some 11 trillion synapses. At this point, the brain still greatly outclasses any existing or foreseeable computer.
*It is generally not widely recognized among non-specialists that the brains of most higher organisms display such gross sex differences that specialists can often differentiate with the bare eye, or with only modest magnification, between the brains of males and females. Furthermore, it has been concluded that the mammalian brain is essentially a female brain, which becomes "masculinized" through hormones secreted during the pre-natal development. Ordinarily, this happens in males, though through some accident it can occasionally also happen to females. Obviously, it would be the influence of messages carried on the male Y chromosome that would trigger this masculinization. In a recent study (Science, September 24, 1982) it was also shown that when fetal or neo-natal brain tissue of male rats is injected into the brains of female litter mates, they are partially masculinized in their adult behavior. This was taken as proof that the injected brain tissue made structural and functional connections in the host brain. In other words, it was viewed as evidence of successful brain tissue transfer.

*A study by Ericsson, Chase, and Faloon (Science, 1980) bears eloquent testimony to some of the more optimistic views of the capacity and functionality of the human mind. These authors engaged an average college student who had average memory talents in regular memorization practice. Most people of college calibre can memorize a seven-digit series of numbers. Practicing an hour a day, three to five days a week, for about 1.5 years, the student was able to memorize series with seventy-nine digits. Thus, with a relatively small amount and duration of practice, the student has equaled the performance of the world's most famous mnemonists and life-time memory experts.

*There is some evidence that pre-linguistic infants respond more meaningfully to visual and auditory input while they are looking to the right instead of the left. So if you want a smart baby, coo to it while it looks to its right (Science, 3/18/83).

*Although the facial and body response that goes with the startle reflex is somewhat suppressible and channellable by cultural expectations, certain of its elements, such as the eye blink, are among the most universal stimulus-response linkages among humans. In fact, this element of the startle reflex is even shared with many animals, and thus probably goes back to very primitive origins. The startle reflex overrides all other ongoing behavior and re-focuses the organism's attention to a new stimulus or reality which is potentially dangerous. Because of its reorienting function and capacity, it has sometimes also been called the orienting reflex. It is obvious that the presence of such a reflex has great adaptational and evolutionary importance. Obviously, a person can be disadvantaged both by having too high or too low a startle threshold. A high threshold may result in lowered survival, while a low threshold could result in a form of hyperactivity.

*Currently, research is being conducted on a drug that would increase the blood pressure within the spinal cord after a spinal injury. This might increase the flow of oxygen to the damaged nerve cells and thereby reduce damage or accelerate healing (American Rehabilitation, March/April 1982).

*At one time, it was said that "the eyes are the windows of the soul." Science has a new answer, namely "the eyes are the windows to the immune system." A number of disorders of the immune system may be identifiable by eye examinations, as has recently been discovered with research with pigs (Science Digest, August 82).
*In so-called senile macular degeneration, new blood vessels grow over the retina so that the person may eventually become blind. It now appears that this growth can be stopped with very simple and brief laser beam treatments administered in a physician's office. However, the treatment only works very early after the onset of the symptoms (Archives of Ophthalmology, 1982, p. 911).

*In 1963, Jack Dreyfus, a Wall Street institution, felt a surge of electricity pass out of his body. On the advice of his psychiatrist, he began taking Dilantin, which most of us know as an anticonvulsant drug. Those of us in mental retardation see its ugly side effect quite often in the facial expressions (swollen lips and gums, etc.) of people who use it. However, Dreyfus began to wrap his whole life around the promotion of the use of this drug for virtually any ailment by virtually anybody, much as Nobel prize winner Pauling has promoted megadoses of Vitamin C. Dreyfus liquidated his business and established the Dreyfus Medical Foundation with a budget of $1 million a year to promote Dilantin. He has also authored a book on the issue (A Remarkable Medicine Has Been Overlooked). He charges that there is a conspiracy to withhold this miracle drug from mass use by the general public (Newsweek, 11/16/81).

*Both phenobarbital and Dilantin, given against seizures, have a tendency to deplete the body's Vitamin D, producing bone thinning, and thereby resulting in increased propensity to fractures. Under the supervision of a properly oriented physician, people on these drugs may have to take supra-normal doses of Vitamin D in order to reduce this risk (Healthwise, 5/83).

*At present, there is considerable controversy whether Depo-Provera should be approved as a nearly foolproof contraceptive which can be administered by injection, lasts three months, and eliminates menstruation. One problem is that the drug has apparently caused cancer in beagles and monkeys—and breast cancer in 3 of the 533 mentally retarded young women in institutions in Ontario who were given the contraceptive during 1981.

*Among the psychoactive drugs so lavishly administered by the medical professions to the population are lithium compounds, especially to so-called manic-depressive people. Much as thorazine was found to have devastating long-term effects, lithium is now also believed to have very destructive side effects, including possibly even epilepsy. An article in Science (4/15/83) documented some brain injurious effects of lithium in rats.

*It is little recognized that the single most potent treatment known to humans consists of the placebo, i.e., medication which consists of an ineffective substance but which is considered to be effective by its recipients. The expectancy effect is so great that people commonly get better if they take a placebo in which they have faith. It is estimated that 35-45% of all drugs prescribed in the US function essentially as placebos.

**Human Service Craziness**

The Good News-Bad News Conflict

One TIPS reader was trying very hard to help us find some good news, but instead got so overwhelmed by an item in the newspaper that he sent that instead. The item (Toronto Sun, 5/4/83) reported that medical students at Queens University were taught to give rectal examinations to five mentally retarded residents at an institution in Kingston in order to "show the students how to relate to the handicapped." The newspaper item also reported that the Ontario and Canadian Associations for the Mentally Retarded were "up in arms" about this and had requested that criminal assault charges be filed, which were rejected by the Ontario Attorney General. (Item submitted by Joe Ellis)
People who want to change the public's attitudes toward some disadvantaged group commonly come up with the craziest ideas. Apparently, one reason these ideas are often crazy is that they seem to express the unconscious devaluing attitudes that the designers themselves have, and which they propose to change in the general public. What may well be an example of this comes from Pediatric Projects, a non-profit organization that produces 8 stuffed animals that each has some kind of affliction, on the assumption that non-handicapped children will develop more positive attitudes toward handicapped people if they play with handicapped stuffed animals. The problem is that these toys include such unfortunate elements as a monkey in a wheelchair, which raises the distinct possibility that people in wheelchairs who are seriously impaired may end up being viewed by the children as monkeys or possibly otherwise subhuman.

Everybody knows what a chess club, a bridge club, a nightclub, and literally thousands of other clubs are. But what is one to think of a "psychosocial club." At least the name is a perversion, even if the idea has merit in some instances. However, some "psychosocial clubs" conduct case management and other peculiar activities (e.g., This Month in Mental Health, 12/82).

All kinds of diseases keep getting discovered and attributed to societally devalued people. We have seen the "learning disabilities" and "hyperactivity" crazes, with overtones that these are due to brain damage or heredity. Old fashioned foul-mouthedness has become Tourette Syndrome. When elderly people act strange after having been abused, they are said to be senile. Now a lot of elderly people, and a lot of retarded ones who are still middle-aged, are said to have Alzheimer's Disease. All kinds of publications on the issue are springing up, conferences are held on it, etc. Readers are warned that this is one of those lies that has a kernel of truth, and since it also meets a societal need, it is apt to catch on big. Actually, the term Alzheimer's Disease designates no more than a supposedly irreversible degeneration of the brain which probably befalls anyone who lives long enough. As for senility, the condition is commonly attributed to people who appear to lose some of their mental faculties after having been deeply wounded in other ways. It is thus another strategy of blaming the victim. In reality, many people attributed with Alzheimer's Disease make spectacular "recoveries" when they are decently treated and exposed to positive expectations.

In the Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, there is a "handicamp back country campsite." At its entry is also a sign that says "access by permit only" (featured in the Exceptional Parent, 6/82). This is really funny when one considers what "access" in relation to handicapped people usually means. One can just see a person in a wheelchair at the foot of a huge flight of stairs that is marked "access by permit only."

Camping tonight, camping tonight. In our last issue, we commented on the deplorable trend of identifying ever more specific groups of people to provide perhaps rather unusual services to, and we cited as an example a summer camp for children with cancer. Coincidentally, the issue of Institutions Etc. for the same month (4/83) carried a spoof on this very phenomenon, observing that there are also camps for overweight girls and children who wet their bed. The author predicted a tremendous upswing in "problem camp" franchising, with camps for children who need to be detoxified from their drug habits, homosexual children, and children with bad masturbatory habits. The author also had the perfect names for these. Misbehaving children could be sent to Attica Canyon Ranch, children with confused sex identities to Camp Straight, druggie children to Synanon Pines, and children with unspeakable habits to Camp Onan-No-No. Of course, the sad thing is that if there were such camps, they would probably have names such as these.
The dogma of yet another self-defense course for handicapped people taught at Georgia State University is "the handicapped must learn to be suspicious of people, places and things." "The first spot to go for is the eyes. The attacker who loses his eyesight is instantly disabled. From there you move downward. The stomach, rib cage, groin and kidneys are all vulnerable." The teacher must have been a gentleman, because he did not go any lower.

The logo of the Special Olympics has long been a human figure with six arms and legs flailing about—not very human but at least active. The 1983 International Special Olympics Summer Games have adopted as their official mascot Pierre Pelican, a 10-inch tall brown Pelican with a blue beret and a big yellow beak who can be bought for $10 (This Month in Mental Health, 3/83).

Now here is a contradiction in terms, namely a "culture-free self-esteem inventory" published in 1981. One wonders how Neanderthal man or woman would score on this.

The scientific nincompoop award of this two-month period must surely go to the gerontologists at the University of Southern California who "discovered" that elderly people became more sociable and active when humor is injected into their lives (Newsweek, 10/4/82).

The Cosmos

It is physicists, astronomers, and cosmologists who study issues concerned with what one might call the "ultimate nature" of the physical universe. For the first time in history, physicists have verifiable theories in place to explain all the known forces of nature. Thus, for the first time, and at least within the constraints of the available theories, every phenomenon accessible to experiment can be understood at least in principle. However, because different theories explain different aspects of the universe, there continues to prevail dissatisfaction with the fact that these theories have as yet not been successfully pulled together into a sufficiently applicable single super-theory, usually called a "grand unified theory." The remarkable thing is that some theories postulate physical states that have up to 32 dimensions: three for space, one for time, and all of the others something else. That the cosmos must be thought of as having more than three dimensions has been known for almost 100 years, but space with dimensions that must be at least multiples of 4 stagger the ordinary person's imagination.

While astronomers know a great deal about the firmament, there is still much that is mysterious about our own region of the universe. For instance, it has been obvious that many more celestial objects are visible from the northern than the southern hemisphere, but it has only been recently that astronomers have concluded that the reason for this is that our galaxy (the Milky Way) lies at the edge of a whole cluster of galaxies called the "Local Super Cluster," and that the northern hemisphere is oriented toward the major portion of this super cluster.

Another one that is hard to believe: astronomers have discovered a collapsed star only 15,000 light years away that rotates 642 times per second, i.e., once every 0.001557806449023 seconds. Because of its unusual regularity, it is being considered a sort of galactic clock.

The sale of pie in the sky has arrived for real, with a firm in California selling for $25 each far-off stars which astronomers have discovered but only numbered rather than named. The buyer receives a chart showing the celestial address of the star, and a certificate of registration of the name that the new owner decides to give to it (The Futurist, 1982).
Fighting Perversions With Perversions

In this age of babble, confusion of tongues, degeneracy and societal collapse, it is very difficult to walk the path of rationality and justice, and not to be taken in either by the perversions of the oppressors nor by those of the oppressed, neither the wrong-doers nor the wronged, and to remain sympathetic to the oppressed even when these become as perverse as the oppressors, as illustrated by the following vignette.

Women victims of rape have often gotten bad treatment from police, courts, and the public. Unfortunately, the response of women's groups is equally unjust and irrational. A Central New York woman was arrested for perjury, supposedly for having falsely claimed to have been raped (Syracuse Herald Journal 5/10/83). A spokesperson for a sexual assault organization and for the National Organization for Women (naively at best) asked, "Why would someone make this up?" even though it is well-known that at least some women, and for very understandable reasons, have falsely accused someone of raping them. Even more perverse was her statement that, "Our position is always you believe the woman"—which, of course, implies that women always tell the truth and no man can be trusted.

Attention Catholics: This Is the Year to Have an Abortion

According to an old Church rule, certain sins have been considered so heinous that a priest would not be allowed to give absolution during confession unless the penitent's life was endangered. Instead, penitents had to petition the bishop for absolution. An example of such sins is murder, and in turn this has included abortion which Catholicism has long ranked with murder. However, because the Pope has recently proclaimed a Holy Year, confessors in at least one archdiocese (Chicago) have been empowered to grant absolution for the sin of abortion without a penitent having to go through the bishop. Unfortunately, this measure gives the appearance of increasing Church tolerance for abortion, while also saving the thought that if one were to commit an abortion, the best time to do so would be a Holy Year.

"The April 1, 1965 cover story of Time was on the burgeoning trade and use of cocaine. One psychopharmacologist called it "the most rewarding and reinforcing drug for primates," since it has similar effects on our non-human cousins. Apparently, this has something to do with the unique effect which the drug has. For a few minutes, it gives its users the illusion that they are smarter, more competent, powerful, masterful, in control, radiant, sexier, better in every way than anybody else, and even omnipotent. One former user explained that in the beginning, he felt the drug helped him to communicate with God, but at the end, he thought he was God. Some users have therefore described the drug as "ego food." One cocaine preparation is called "Jesus bread," and according to some experts, narcissistic people are particularly vulnerable to taking coke. Users are said to display a "hard, artificial arrogance" that becomes particularly disturbing when it is encountered in a whole group of people who have just used the drug. Users also refer to the drug in sexual terms, calling it orgastic and superior to sex, so much so that many drug users forego sex for the drug.

The sad reality is that people on the drug are actually out of control and headed toward the type of ruin experienced by DeLorean. Even more than with certain other drugs, cocaine has a high potential to lead to yet other drug uses. One unusual element about "coke" use is that it is popular among the higher strata of society, whereas use of other drugs had been more popular in the lower ones. Thus, people with heavy responsibilities may be on coke. At one time, perhaps your luggage carrier at the airport was a drug user; now, the captain, mechanic, or steward(ess) of your 747 jumbo jet may be. One user claimed that coke use in Virginia boarding schools and finishing schools is "as common as clipping coupons." According to one estimate, one-third of the fashion industries sales people are regular cocaine users.

Much as the habit is very expensive, so are some of the therapies for it. One Florida hospital charges $6300 for a four-week program.
*Social scientists believe that our society’s tolerance for the use of illegal drugs that are addicting or debilitatively habit-forming is continuing to increase, with no end in sight.

*Some interesting events happened at the commencement exercises at Syracuse University in the Spring of 1983. A man was given an honorary doctorate for having invented a mechanical heart that replaces the human heart of flesh. He got the biggest ovation of five honorary degree recipients. During the solemnity of the exercises when various student bodies were awarded their degrees, scores of bottles of champagne (some very expensive) were opened by the students, shaken, and sprayed all over each other—never mind the expensive clothes or caps and gowns because, after all, the latter were all rented anyway. Students were not supposed to bring in bottles, but in at least some instances, parents smuggled them in and could be seen slipping them to their spoiled little brats. What was not sprayed was conspicuously guzzled from the bottle in the very midst of the exercises while a distressed body of university officials tried not to notice and do business as usual. An honor student gave a brief address correctly reciting the ills of the world brought about by technology—and then concluded that the very technology that had brought about these ills was what the students should look to as a solution.

*Evidence suggests that women will be given greater credence in a court room by men jurors and judges than by female ones, presenting a peculiar paradox for women's liberation (Science, 5/20/83, p. 841-842).

*One out of 11 US citizens receives food stamps. Mississippi has the highest proportion with 20%. Few people realize that Mississippi is not inherently a poor state, but that it still has not recovered from the ravages suffered during and after the Civil War.

*Newark, New Jersey, has the highest poverty rate (33%) for any large American city.

Resources

*An organization called Mobility International USA (P.O. Box 3551, Eugene, Oregon 97403) has a series of publications on travel, international, educational, and service opportunities for physically handicapped people.

Opening

*Assistant Director of the Normalization Safeguards Project directed by Michael Kendrick in Massachusetts. Requires maturity, expertise in, and commitment to, social role valorization, skill in teaching and communicating, and capacity to work with people in mental health. Up to $20,000. 56 Suffolk Street, Holyoke, MA 01040.

Emendatum

In our April issue, we carried a memorial to Marc Gold. It was written not only by Phil Jay, but also by Marion Jay.

Human Service News—Both Good and Bad

*For many years, people who reported hearing radio broadcasts in their heads were in deep trouble, and generally ended up in psychiatric services, on psychotropic drugs, or even with shock "therapy." Finally, it was discovered that radio broadcasts can be picked up by the fillings in one’s teeth.
Shocked Shockers

In 1982, voters in the city of Berkeley, California, voted more than 60% to outlaw electroshock treatment. The question was brought to a vote by a coalition which included former clients of the mental health system, physically handicapped people, and a few others. The campaign was conducted with only $2,000 of expenses. The opposition was led by the Berkeley Committee for Patients' Rights, who actually were mostly psychiatrists, and who spent at least $17,000. Psychiatrists now transport their clients to other localities nearby to give them shocks (APA Monitor, 1/83).

*In March 1983, the US government attempted to curb infanticide in hospitals by requiring that a notice be posted in infant nurseries that said no more than that "discriminatory failure to feed and care for handicapped infants in this facility is prohibited." The government notices also included a free hot line number, and 572 calls were received in the four weeks it was operative. Four of the calls were deemed worth following up, including the case of Siamese twins in a University of Rochester (New York) Hospital. However, no violations were identified, though rather ominously, the parents of the Rochester twins refused to let federal investigators examine the children. Also, the measure apparently did alert some citizens to the existing danger, because in Rochester, the parents of a critically ill child signed it out of the hospital against medical advice because they feared for its life.

The medical establishment is a truly imperial entity that vigorously resists any attempt at oversight, regulation or legislation. Vast numbers of people who have been totally indifferent to the infanticide that has been practiced became "infuriated and enraged" at the government's requirement. At the University of California, they posted a sign next to that required by the government, calling the latter "an affront to our staff's professional commitment and performance." Within ten days, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions, and the Children's Hospital National Medical Center sued the government, and in a remarkably short period of time (within less than a month) the government's requirements were overturned by US District Judge Gerhard Gesell, the son of the famous child psychologist who developed the Gesell Infant Development Scales. Amazingly, Judge Gesell found that the government "had insufficient reason" to do what it did (Science, 4/29/83). By citing the same rationales as were used in the 1973 US Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion (Roe vs. Wade), the court ruled in essence that the killing of handicapped newborns is a "private matter" to be settled between parents and physicians (Lex Vitae, 4/15/83). The decision was rendered one year (to the very day) after the Indiana Supreme Court refused to act to prevent the starvation and dehydration death of Infant Doe, the Bloomington baby born with Down's Syndrome and a repairable trachoesophageal fistula. The Wall Street Journal (4/18/83) approved the court's decision in an editorial.

*Social Security in the US supports masses of elderly people in institutions (we mean essentially nursing homes) at a cost of billions which is one of the major drains on the money available to the Social Security Administration overall. In contrast, its support of home services is microscopic, despite the spectacular successes of such programs. For instance, Maryland has supported 101 families to take care of elderly relatives, the maximum cost being $67 a month--chicken feed compared to nursing home costs. California has provided similar aid to families since 1958, with up to $838 a month--which is commendable. Florida has been supporting 2000 frail elderly people in someone's home at the modest cost of only $3 million (Aging, Jan/Feb, 1983).
A retarded man had gone out to dinner with family and friends at a fashionable city restaurant. During the course of the evening, the waitress spilled a pot of scalding hot coffee on this person's arm, causing severe burns, in part due to the fact that he was wearing a short-sleeved shirt. The waitress failed to acknowledge the man, nor did she apologize, but apologized profusely to the man in the next seat who had a few drops of coffee spilled on his three-piece suit. The retarded man did not openly respond to the incident (with anger, crying, outrage, etc.) but remained stolid throughout the affair. When asked about this by his sister, he responded, "It's okay; I'm used to it." One of the friends of this family who witnessed the event was an attorney. He sued the restaurant on behalf of the man who was burned, and was successful in receiving a modest compensation.

This vignette underlines how wounded people continue to be further wounded throughout their lives—and expect it. (Item submitted by Luca Conte)

A vocational agency in Wisconsin offered $100 to anyone in the community who could get one of their clients a job, and $400 more on the 5-month anniversary of that client's job. The program had higher success at lower cost than conventional rehab programs (Coastal GAO Advocate, Fall 1982).

In a religious and scriptural context, one may often run across the expression "the blind see again...the deaf hear again." In German, there is a satiric song which makes fun of a quack who promises that he can make the "blind to walk and the lame to see again." A curious variation on the above themes occurs in a title of two films by Lawren Productions (apparently 1981), designed to help change student attitudes towards handicapped persons. The films are entitled "The Deaf Communicate," and "The Blind Participate" (Exceptional Children, 1/82).

The Theater Access Project of New York City provides a remarkable array of services to make entertainment accessible to handicapped people. It reserves physically accessible spaces for them, and sometimes even sign interpretation for certain plays. There are audio stations where blind people can listen to descriptions of sets, costumes, actions, etc.

Compensatory Exhilarity

A speech and hearing lesson. While language use can be affected by all kinds of early experiences, it can also be impaired by certain brain dysfunctions. It is believed that a severe tendency to transpose similar-sounding word parts may be due to such a brain dysfunction. An example of a person notorious for this habit was the Reverend William H. Spooner who was dean and warden of New College at Oxford University from 1903 to 1924. His speech errors became so famous that this whole class of speech errors began to be called "spoonerisms." In time, students invented spoonerisms and attributed them to him, much as Yale students today invent outrageous letters to write to Ann Landers. An example of a spoonerism attributed to Spooner is the following rebuke which he reportedly directed to one of his students: "You have hissed all my mystery lectures. I saw you fight a liar in the back quad. In fact, you have tasted the whole worm!!" (Adapted from a review of a new book, Errors in Linguistic Performance, reviewed in Science, 1/22/82).

There is a new book out (which we would not recommend) entitled Exceptionalities Through the Lifespan. A reviewer in the American Journal of Mental Deficiency (5/83) thought that the book displayed a "noticeable lack of coverage" of areas in special education such as "odor, blushing, fecal smearing and art."

A sympathetic reader has recently characterized TIPS as being "the jester to the human service system." Jesters commonly had license to poke fun at what the high and mighty of society were doing, often holding a mirror before them in which was reflected the true nature of who they were and what they did, rather than the image that they had of themselves or attempted to project to others. These ideas make it very tempting to consider renaming TIPS into "The Human Services Jester."
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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