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Thirty adults, physically handicapped from birth or early childhood, were interviewed on their views about their impairment and their lives. Most of them simply saw their impairment as part of their identity, with only 50% choosing surgery that might have improved their condition. These findings were not much different from a number of earlier studies which documented that people handicapped from early life, sometimes very severely so, may lead very satisfied lives. In one such study, only 49% wished to be no longer handicapped, only 11% saw their impairment as "terrible," and only 7% saw it as the worst thing that ever happened to them (Weinberg, 1984).

A staff member at the Shoreline Association for the Retarded and Handicapped (in Connecticut) is using a task analysis approach to train the parents of a 12-year old child with Down's Syndrome to teach the child to use a Texas Instrument personal computer. (Source item submitted by Ed Goldman)

Let's even up, partner. Handicapped people have been denied many things, including an early education, a full educational day with competent teachers, and so on. In 1983, a conservative research institution in Washington, the Heritage Foundation, blamed handicapped people for the decline in standards and competency in American education. It claims that the federal government has paid so much attention to the handicapped and disadvantaged that it has neglected other children. We can characterize this claim as yet another blaming of the victim that just might find a favorable ear among people looking for scapegoats, and possibly among educators who have never liked the idea of having handicapped kids around. (Source item submitted by Ron Haskell)

The chairperson of the Westport (Connecticut) board of education is reported to have observed that while the community had been very supportive of special education programs, she wished that there was a way to do more for regular youngsters 'to make things more equitable.'

Since 1974, the special education enrollment of New York City has grown from 34,000 to 111,000, making up 10% of the school population. The mayor would like to integrate more of these pupils--but apparently mostly because this would save money (CARC News, 3/84).

T-shirts and sweat shirts have been coming on the market that have on them the pictures of two street women ("bag ladies") and inscriptions that are supposed to be funny, such as "shopping is my life." The pictures are those of two real street women who have lived at the Maryhouse in New York run by the Catholic Worker. One of the ironies here is that one of the poor and homeless women recently died, whereas the shirts sold for between $12.50 and $25 (CW, #2, '84).

On April 8, the Atlanta Journal and Constitution carried on its obituary page a news item about a 96-year old woman who was declared incompetent and put into a nursing home because she refused offers to have her filthy house cleaned up which she shared with five cats. (Source item submitted by Jacquelyn Mincey)

An incongruous development took place in Omaha where a Miss Telethon Beauty pageant was conducted in 6/83, entitled "In Search of the Perfect 10." The telethon was conducted by the March of Dimes which, in recent years, has been a major promoter of prevention of birth defects through abortion. (Source item submitted by Dan Costello).

A book on scientific fraud, Betrayers of the Truth (1982), reported that one scientist took many already published medical papers, retyped them, and submitted them to other journals in the same field where they were unfailingly accepted and republished without the editors or the reviewers noticing.
*Apparently due to poor management, a sheltered workshop in Ithaca, New York, became unable to pay a large tax bill which it had run up, and announced that it would close in a week's time. Management having given up, the clients themselves took over, and with the help of some others, they started a fund drive which in only a few days raised $200,000--twice what was needed, and all that during the busy 1983 Thanksgiving season! (Source information from David Schwartz)*

*A few years ago, some mental health researchers claimed that they could teach people with alcoholism problems to become controlled drinkers rather than requiring total abstinence. Now, follow-ups suggest strongly that this research was faulty. The research subjects who supposedly had become controlled drinkers were found to have had devastating life experiences, with most of them either dead or in institutions (Newsweek, 12/7/82).*

*The members of the world-wide steering council of the International l'Arche movement met in Rome in early 1984, and among other things had an audience with the Pope. While the Pope talked to them, a mentally retarded participant from the first l'Arche community in Italy casually made himself at home in a chair next to the Pope meant to be reserved exclusively for archbishops (Letters of l'Arche, 3/84).*

*When a mentally retarded man who had lived in an institution was moving to a l'Arche community in 1984, two members from the community went to the institution to pick him up. However, they were 30 minutes late for their appointment. When they arrived, they asked the man if he had been waiting long, and he replied, "Since 1952." This is a profound example of how even very mentally handicapped people can see and speak truths which surprise us, and which seem to be beyond the grasp of intelligent human service workers. (Story from Lori Adamchick)*

*A mentally handicapped man who had lived in various boarding homes in the past, and was now living more independently in the community, received a very small grant ($1000) from the federal government to educate the public about mentally handicapped persons. With the money and the help of an advocate, he prepared a slide show documenting the day-to-day lives of mentally handicapped people in his local community. He took photographs of places where people lived, including boarding homes and institutions, where they worked and played, etc. Although he had received permission from the owners and operators of the services to take the photographs, the owner of one 32-person residence later confiscated his photographs of that particular service. This handicapped man also took photographs of one home with 70 residents, one showing a day room where the television was broadcasting only a test pattern, and one showing a playground with adults on children's play equipment. The manager of that residence made an appointment with the man—a former resident of the service—to discuss the issues, and then provided the former resident with a tour throughout the service. Despite the fact that the slides the man was taking and showing were embarrassing to the services, he had now enough status as an "official government worker" (via his tiny grant) to merit an appointment and an official tour from someone who had formerly treated him only as a devalued client. (Vignette submitted by Gregor Smith).*

*What is one to think about the use of human cadaver dissection in high school anatomy, together with the dissection of cats and frogs? It has been happening in California and created "tremendous enthusiasm among the kids" (AP, in Syracuse Herald Journal, 14/12/82).*

*An AP news item headline of 21/12/82 in the Syracuse Herald Journal announced in big letters "Rubinstein's death shocks music world." The pianist died at age 95, and thus we should not have been particularly surprised. Could one imagine a headline "Death of Poor Handicapped Disoriented Young Man in Institution Shocks Human Service World"?*
One hospital in which more than 20 mentally handicapped children lived had a playground, but the neighbors whose homes overlooked the playground complained to the city council about the fact that they had to look at handicapped children playing. The council pressured the hospital administrator, who then had the playground moved to the back of the building. (Vignette submitted by Gregor Smith)

The first handicapped athlete to appear on a Wheaties cereal box is a 35-year old man who can roll a wheelchair a mile in under five minutes, which is a phenomenal achievement considering that for a long time, the four minute mile was an almost utopian dream for runners. (Springfield, MA Morning Union, 30/12/83).

Para-Media Productions in Memphis, Tennessee, has come out with a self-defense program for people in wheelchairs entitled "How to Wheel and Deal with your Attacker" (Rehabilitation Literature, 10-11/82). We have commented in the past upon this most problematic development.

In Arizona, a teacher forced a supposedly "learning disabled" child to wear a dress, a wig and a dunce cap in front of his 4th grade class. The family was awarded $42,000 in damages. It seems to us that a much fairer, more restitutive, more educational, and in fact more healing, punishment would have been to have the teacher spend a day teaching while wearing a dress, a wig and a dunce cap (AP in Syracuse Herald Journal, 2/3/84).

In Ogdensburg, New York, a physician performed urinary, bladder and prostate operations on 6 patients after he had lost all his vision in an accident. In one case, nurses had to guide his work during an operation. A disciplinary board forbade him to perform further operations, or to have his seeing-eye dog come into patient care areas. He is also required to tell his patients that he is blind.

A classical example of "mutual disablement" occurred in 1984 when the parents of a 24-year old man sued a pastor for "clergy malpractice," because in response to the pastor's theological views on suicide, the man took his life. If pastors and churches were forced to pay large sums in such instances, they might be inclined to either forego pastoral counseling or to no longer say what they believe, thereby not only disabling the pastors but also those people who could, in fact, benefit from their counsel (Syracuse Herald Journal 29/6/84).

Ohio has a new scheme called the "family resource plan" under which families would be subsidized to maintain a retarded person in the home. Unfortunately, the subsidy is on a sliding scale, which means that more affluent families might receive hardly any subsidy even though they might have to bear expenses that might exceed their resources (The Communique, Summer 84, furnished by Doug Mouncey).

A very problematic "deinstitutionalization" episode has been in progress in British Columbia. The government announced plans to close one of its institutions for the mentally retarded, Tranquille School, but like governments over much of North America, it apparently did not have a clear plan as to how to do it and what was to happen to the residents. In order to legitimize reinstitutionalization of about a fifth of the residents, the government pronounced that no one was eligible for living in a community residence if they were "non-ambulatory" and/or "required the availability of 24-hour nursing care," with even these definitions being left wide open to interpretation. Ironically, such persons were labeled "extended care eligible," as if de facto institutional warehousing were a boon rather than a sentence. At one point, parents and advocates were congregating in front of the institution in order to demand open communication and inclusion in the planning process, and while government officials were there giving them all sorts of positive assurances, clients were being loaded into vehicles in the back of the institution and spirited away to another institution on Vancouver Island, very far away from
the homes of the families, and very difficult and expensive to reach. For many of
the families, this would require a trip of 700 kilometers and involving one or
more of the following: slow ferries, plane rides, and vehicle rental. For some
families this would, in effect, mean a severance of relationship ties.

Tranquille started out as a TB sanatorium, and is now being "upgraded" into a
prison. Workers formerly serving the retarded will most likely be found taking
jobs as guards.

*Some cities have explored the option of spraying their garbage cans with a
repulsive odor so as to discourage an in-migration of vagrants and bums. "You
cut off their food supply, they'll go elsewhere," said a Ft. Lauderdale, FL city
official. However, one city attorney was concerned that the scheme might violate
the bums' constitutional rights, in that garbage can be considered abandoned
property that people have a right to eat if they have the stomach for it (The
Nation, 1981). Another proposal was to toss vagrants into paddywagons and drop
them off somewhere in the Everglades swamps.

The hedonism of our age is strikingly brought out by a catalog of the
materials sold by Automated Learning, Inc. It features an entire array of "instant
learning courses," which include instant math, instant memory power, instant
shorthand, instant music, instant yoga, instant meditation, instant word power,
and instant self-hypnotism. It promises that you can sky-rocket your child's
grades in school, double your reading speed in one week, push a button and learn,
double your learning power in a single weekend, speak fluent Spanish, French,
Italian, Hebrew or German in exactly 24 hours (at only $20 a language, and without
decending or conjugating a single word), to stop smoking now, to "use witchcraft
to get what you want out of life," to become a consistent big money winner, to
learn while you sleep, and so on. The most depressingly long-term promise is that
you can enroll in a "ten-day master plan to link your mind with the vast eternal
powers that bring you wisdom from worlds beyond, it makes golden blessings shine
into your life." A good number of these programs marketed by this firm are backed
by highly credentialled (doctorates, etc.) human service workers.

*Triteness and superficiality has progressed so far that in 1979, an
educational publisher brought out what amounts to an entire educational curriculum
based on comics and cartoons (such as Beetle Bailey and Popeye), and on pop and
show business culture materials, such as are associated with Broadway and Hollywood.
Interestingly and perversely, instructional materials that feature an Elvis Presley-
type character cavorting across a stage are brought to us under the curricular
title of "Real World."

*What a hell of a life. Among the signs of the times must surely be a flyer
of the Family Service Association of America which we received in 6/83 which listed
the following books under the heading of "life education": Stress Management:
Participant Workbook for Stress Management Training; Separation and Divorce;
Parenting Children of Divorce; The Single-Parent Experience, Growing With Your
Learning-Disabled Child; Aging Parents: Whose Responsibility; and Assertiveness
Training.

The 11th annual international conference on "human rights versus psychiatric
oppression" was held in Syracuse in May 1983. We have previously reported on the
1982 meeting in Toronto. Action reported on the conference and carried some
poetry by various unknown "mental patients," of which we reproduce a few lines here.

Some landed in Camarillo,
Some landed in Mcleans
But wherever they go,
They see a horror show,
Because shrinks are paid
to keep us in chains.
Inmates did they tell you
The drugs will set you free
Strange how that rumor got around
That's exactly what they said to me

Why are psychiatry books so full of lies
When no word is written about why the mental patient dies
How can they shock children who are so young
Why are there only shrinks around when it's done
Why are so many patients black or brown
Do they say it's because they're no good at keeping their anger down,
Well that's just a lie
One of the many and we've had plenty
I don't want more of the same
No more genocide in my name.

A woman up at Napa
Not 40 miles away
Was murdered by a shot of Prolixin
Cause she didn't want to stay
When a woman cries out angry
They'll drag her to the ground
It could have been me, but instead it was you,
So I'll keep fighting the war you were fighting as if I were two

*It is estimated that in 1975 alone, $60 billion were spent on psychotherapy in the US.

Some Observations on Human Services in the Netherlands

In October 1984, the TIPS editor gave a 1-day workshop in Brussels. In preparation, he read a 1984 monograph by the World Rehabilitation Fund entitled Independent Living and Disability Policy in the Netherlands. Here are some interesting glimpses from the monograph, augmented by other sources, including a TV program on the Netherlands welfare system in a "60 Minutes" episode in Fall 84.

Formerly, Dutch human services were largely organized along denominational lines, but this system began to break down rather rapidly starting in the 1970s. Furthermore, the vast majority of services are funded from generic programs in contrast to the proliferation of category-specific programs in the US and many other countries.

The Netherlands are an excellent example of a post-agricultural post-industrial, and therefore post-primary production, society in which a great deal of money is spent to make and keep people dependent and unproductive. In a population of 14.3 million, the labor force is only about 4 million, and almost 1 million people receive some kind of subsidy for purported ailments and handicaps. Most of these, by all indications, are either outright malingering, or the ailment is minor or imaginary. Unlike in the US, handicapped people, and/or those that are or have been made dependent, are lavishly supported—by a bewildering array of provisions and agencies, and there appear to be a number of disincentives to truly independent autonomous living by handicapped people insofar as all the funding incentives are for handicapped people to live at least in clusters if not in outright institutions of medium or large size. The larger the congregation of handicapped people, the more in the way of attendant and nursing care is available. It appears to be very difficult for handicapped persons to get sufficient attendant service if they live in open society in ordinary housing. Small group homes as we
know them, i.e., with about 3 to 7 residents, and possibly with handicapped and non-handicapped people living together, seem to be very rare. Thus, this system of disincentiving parallels our own many disincentives that discriminate against independence, communality, and non-congregate and non-institutional living. The largest institution, the internationally renowned Het Dorp, was created with a national charity telethon in the early 1960s and was placed on 100 acres of one of the hilliest locations in the Netherlands, so that the residents' wheelchairs constantly break down, greatly reducing their mobility. However, the institutions do otherwise provide maximum independence within their setting, as via separate private apartments. Also, most institutional settings are within wheelchair distance of neighborhood shopping and resources.

Those who do live in congregate settings are required to be engaged in day activities, but the day programs for all handicapped people were heavily influenced by the earlier sheltered workshop system for mentally retarded people. Thus, the day activity program has been historically mental retardation-imaged. While this day activity keeps people active, it sounds rather Mickey Mouse, with much emphasis on arts, crafts, hobbies, recreation, and make-work such as publishing newsletters for the handicapped. Day activity centers are placed close to congregate residential settings, and thus, the residents live together, largely eat together in communal dining rooms, ride the same special transportation to the activity center where they spend the day together pretty much with the same people they live with. Thus, there is a great deal of segregation. Apparently, there are also still 80,000 retarded people in sheltered workshops, which of course is a mixed blessing.

As elsewhere, the larger institutions cost much more than smaller ones ($80 per day versus $60), while the cost of a day activity center is a phenomenal $50 per day or more.

One of the amusing absurdities of institutions in the Netherlands is that hallways are given street names, and every resident is given a separate mailbox with a separate street address.

Handicapped people who wish to become more adept and advanced in understanding their own sexuality may receive the sexual services of a "surrogate partner... from an organization or foundation specializing in human sexuality," which in one of the larger institutions would cost about $60 for a 2-hour "session"—a splendid professionalization of whoredom.

A good aspect of the Dutch system is that by national policy, services are governed at the lowest level of social organization that seems feasible. This is called the "principle of subsidiarity." However, as we can see, there is a deficiency in imagination and will in fully actualizing this system in light of the incentives toward at least moderate congregation.

Bucking the trend toward congregation at least to some degree is the Dutch version of the Swedish Fokus concept. However, the local Fokus projects violate subsidiarity by being administered nationally rather than locally. Despite its limitations and small size, the Fokus model apparently constitutes a major challenge and threat to the large and small institution arrangements.

In an earlier TIPS issue, we reported on the paradoxical situation where a few years ago, the Dutch pension benefits of retarded people were made so lavish that they began to accumulate large estates, precipitating family efforts to take control thereof. When a retarded person died, the family then stood to inherit this estate, creating all sorts of conflict of interest.

The above critiques are not meant to deny the many good or even exemplary things that are being done, but to underline how some dysfunctions are nearly universal in developed countries, probably because they spring from yet deeper dysfunctions that are partially universal and partially quasi-universal to such societies.
Human Service Insanities

*Agency double talk. The Department of Social Services of the county in which Syracuse, New York, is located announced in January 1983 that it was facing a one-third cutback, but then its deputy commissioner stated that he did not feel that clients would suffer as a result. The incongruity of such claims is staggering: either the claim was untrue, or the welfare services had been so poor to begin with that the same kind of service could easily be rendered by fewer workers.

*A 67-year old woman, crippled since infancy, and selling newspapers from her wheelchair on the streets, had her Medicaid benefits withdrawn because a welfare worker discovered that the woman had acquired a $1000 burial certificate, which constituted her entire life savings (Kilpatrick column in Syracuse Herald Journal, 3/8/82).

*A 1984 Pfizer (a drug manufacturer) ad addressed to the lay public warned readers that they may be depressed and not know it, and punctuated its dire message by calling it "a depressive illness" which can be found not only in adults but even in children, twice as often in women as in men, in 30 million Americans at any one time, and in one out of five "of us" at least some of the time. It claims that "ongoing research" has shown that there are "different kinds of depression," but that some of them are due to "chemical imbalance in the brain or a change in body chemistry."

*In late 1984, the US National Institute on Mental Health released a study that claimed that one out of every five adults suffers from a mental disorder. Psychiatric gadfly, Dr. Thomas Szasz, repudiated and ridiculed this assertion in the 11/84 issue of Institutions, Etc. He refers to the tendency to classify deviant behavior as illnesses as "disinformation" which serves to strengthen the mental health establishment while weakening the common sense and moral values of the people. He is not optimistic and believes that things will go on this way until at least 51% of the public has been called mentally ill. While agreeing with Szasz that the medical model of mental disorder is inappropriate in the vast majority of cases, the TIPS editor also believes that insanity is already the norm in our society, and possesses all but a few percent of the population.

*One of the theories of the genesis of schizophrenia is that children are apt to develop a schizophrenic mind if they are persistently exposed to so-called "double-binds," i.e., to mutually contradictory messages about the same issue at the same time. An example would be being verbally encouraged to do something for which one is then physically punished, or being told to do something in one sentence and told not to do it in the next. Obviously, this pattern of communication can send the mind reeling, and possibly develop a split between what a person learns to say and what they learn to do, and/or a split between ideation and affect.

In Spring 1984, the TIPS editor read a story written by a mother of a schizophrenic son in which she told of the founding of a group of parents and relatives of the mentally disordered who pushed the mental health agency in the county in which Syracuse is located into developing a new program. Now get this: the next two sentences said that the program was called Delta Program (the Greek letter delta is a triangle, and is commonly used to denote that something has three elements), that the Delta program had four components, and then it went on to list them--and it listed five. The TIPS editor's mind went reeling, and he had to review the two sentences three times to make sure that there was not something wrong with his mind or perception.

*What kind of Affect? The peculiarly named publishing firm, Affective House, publishes cassette packages such as "Lessons for Living: Psychology of Self-Interest," and "How to Separate Successfully" (mostly from lovers and spouses), for $79.50 and $69.50 respectively.
New York's Office of Mental Health has announced that the "personalized care model" which it had used primarily with the elderly will now be employed in the treatment of people of all ages in the state psychiatric centers on Long Island. We are told that this strategy implies "treatment of the whole person rather than of specific illness only." One might be misled from this announcement to believe that the state can point to significant successes in its earlier history when, in fact, it is a prime exemplar of human service failure (This Month in Mental Health, 11/84).

A most peculiar "Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre" has recently opened in Manitoba, Canada which, on the one hand, has been described as a "comprehensive residential treatment program" for youngsters with psychiatric problems, but which has also been said by its board chairperson as "not being meant for people with emotional or psychological problems." (Source item furnished by David Wetherow) (Winnipeg Free Press)

It is hard to believe, but there is now a "National Association for the Dually Diagnosed," which "has been established to help the professional community understand clinical issues and improve the delivery of services to mentally retarded persons suffering from mental illness."

The Relations of Humans with Animals

"Animal Therapies" & "Companion Animals" Update

The major theme of the October 1982 TIPS issue was the recent animal craze in human services, the animalization of humans and the humanization of animals. Here are some further developments along these lines.

In 1983, a whole new and very serious book on the companion animal and animal therapy craze came out from one of the citadels of 'progress' on this topic, the University of Pennsylvania. In turn, the book is largely the proceedings of a 1981 conference on the topic.

The field is becoming 'international' with the appearance of contributions such as "the human-pet bond in Australia." (Being able to report within academia that anything one does is international earns one brownie points.) The scholar who reviewed the book in Contemporary Psychology confessed that the only time he was ever depressed was during a six-month absence, for the first time in his life, from constant relationship with his pets.

An honest-to-goodness research study was conducted by the University of Nebraska College of Nursing that "proved" that petting a dog has greater relaxation effects on heart patients than quiet reading--from which the smart people at the university concluded that pets should be allowed to visit the wards.

Maybe it is time for a new song, called "Canine Companion"--one can almost imagine Johnny Cash singing it, "When I need you, you are there" "Your fur gives me that certain calm," "Your moist nose gives me thrills."

There is, in fact, a corporation in Santa Rosa, California, entitled Canine Companions that provides people with three types of dogs: service dogs (turn lights on and off, open doors, pull wheelchairs--only monkeys can push them, etc.), signal dogs (operate the telephone, wake master up at appointed time, draw people's attention to the baby crying, etc.), and social dogs ("communicate with needy individuals"--and not only that but in ways "that technology and trained personnel cannot"). One may be further amazed to learn that Canine Companions has been supported by the Lions--the Lions Club, that is. One can only hope that the Elks and the Moose stay out of the area.
*There is a "Support Dogs for the Handicapped" organization headquartered in Ohio.

Yet another organization that promotes pet ownership among the elderly is called PACT, i.e., People and Animals Coming Together. (Information furnished by A. J. Häidebrand) Sounds like bestiality to us.

A blind man in Australia has a very clever guide dog. In a crowd, the dog does not like to stand behind other people, as at bus stops, so he has learned to look around for a female wearing skirts, and then he sneaks up on her from behind and puts a cold, wet nose against one of her legs. Usually, there ensues a squeal and a jump sideways, upon which the dog triumphantly occupies the gap (Link, 1/9/81). For a long time, the blind man was not aware of what was going on except that he always managed to make good progress in a crowd and somehow ended up in the front.

Now that the smart people have figured out that animals are better company and workers for handicapped people than real people and real human service workers, someone has figured out the next logical step. If you cannot get real animals, the next best thing is to get stuffed and toy animals. Already, a university professor (!) in California has conducted "research" comparing the utility of live as against stuffed animals in nursing homes. The toy animal industry is ecstatic (Scarab, 1982, 31(4); item submitted by Beth Moyer). We can only wonder what the next logical step after this will be? Pictures of animals? Names of animals written on the walls?

Oops, we were overtaken! Another new twist in this bizarre new human service game is to dispense with both live and stuffed animals altogether, and to merely "reminisce" about one's memory about the pets in one's life, hence "pet reminiscence therapy," apparently discovered at the South Central Community Mental Health Center in Bloomington, Indiana. (News item submitted by Mike Morton)

The Syracuse Herald Journal headlined an article on monkeys serving on handicapped people as "Monkey business to help disabled" (19/12/82).

Someone has finally discovered a drawback to pet therapy: falling, as a result of tripping over the beast.

A very bizarre incident was mentioned in Our Children's Voice (9/84). Dr. Boris Levinson, professor at Yeshiva University's Graduate School of Psychology, had been one of the pioneers in the animal therapy craze of recent years. He published a book in 1972 entitled Pets and Human Development. The news item reported his death at age 76--at the Blueberry Treatment Center for Seriously Disturbed Children in Brooklyn where he served as director of "human companion animal therapy."

An obvious conclusion one can draw from the animal companion and therapy craze is that human service is less and less viewed as a service of one person upon another but as a technology which can be transacted by whatever means happen to be available. If today, an animal is a good substitute for a human service worker, then tomorrow, a robot will be a good substitute for the animal—not to mention the human service worker. Creating human service robots will then be hailed as the latest breakthrough in solving people's problems and in human services. Unfortunately, there is a kernel of truth in all this, insofar as a robot may indeed be able to help some people perform adaptive tasks, and in many ways is preferable to an animal "service worker" because an animal constitutes a much more negative image juxtaposition than a robot. However, one of the most obvious negative points in all this is that when animals, robots and humans are seen as interchangeable, and as arbitrary means for performing a service resolved mostly by cost consideration, then human service itself will come to be seen as no longer a noble ideal to which to aspire. It will only be viewed as an intermediate
instrumentality to meeting the needs of the served, rather than as a means of ennoblement and betterment of servers. Yet in our TI teaching events, we emphasize that the human service must better the server before it can do any good, and a society which no longer serves except for material enrichment rather than moral growth can be expected to suffer a great loss in its moral identity.

Animals as Humans

*We have commented before on the peculiar phenomenon of the recent radical redefinition of what constitutes human life. On the one hand, some kinds of humans are being defined out of human identity, while on the other end of the continuum, there are sectors of society that try to define certain animals into the human identity. Among these is a sector of the animal rights movement which asserts that "the idea that humans are superior to animals is a prejudice in the same category as racism" (AW 7/4/84)

*There is a whole new book out entitled The Case For Animal Rights by Tom Regan, a professor of philosophy, that proposes to give mammals who are one year old at least the same rights as "mentally enfeebled humans." He cites all the human-like qualities that mammals have ("beliefs and drives, a sense of their own future, an emotional life, welfare interests," etc.). However, animal rights activists might get a shock if they achieve their goals, insofar as in many circumstances, animals today enjoy greater rights than handicapped or retarded people do. However, if the animal rights movement continues to make progress the way it has recently, we might see proposals that animals receive welfare payments, non-voting citizenship, and interspecies marriage rights, as noted in a 1984 New York Times review of the book.

*Frontier Insurance Company has recently begun offering pet insurance, it being promoted by a brochure that says "pet health insurance, because they are family too" (Environmental Action, 12/82-1/83).

*An Associated Humane Societies ad in the Syracuse Herald Journal of 15/12/82 showed an emaciated dog under the prominent caption "There will be no Christmas for Red." Obviously, the ad constituted a parallelism of pictures of starving children often run about the same time with approximately the same message in order to elicit donations from guilt stricken citizens around Christmas time.

*An increasing number of "family therapists" include in their concept of "family" a family's pets, i.e., "those beings with fins, hoofs, claws, and paws". Among other things, this development is buttressed by "research findings" such as that of a Scottish veterinarian who reported that 18% of pet owners whose pets had died were "unable to cope." This means that pet therapy is family therapy, and vice versa. A March 1983 article in Practice Digest brought in great detail a vignette which revolved around the question whether Jules (the dog) should be euthanized. In every respect, the family therapist spent vast time, thought and effort in the case, much as if Jules had been the grandfather of the family. The decision-making process and ethical considerations were reviewed totally as if a human being were at stake. While people are sometimes still arguing about whether society should pay the cost of somebody's hemodialysis, an increasing number of pets who are suffering kidney failure are being furnished with hemodialysis, as was considered in Jule's case. Great thought was given to issues of advocacy (i.e., for the animal), "bidding farewell," and burial (everyone knows that one cannot trust pet cemetery managers). Said this family therapist, "Ideally, I would be present whenever a euthanasia case came into the office." Concerns pet/family therapists address include "how will I tell the children?" Conceded the therapist: "The question of the fee is difficult." Another name for this kind of specialty is now "Veterinary Counseling." Such counseling is especially indicated when the doctor suspects pet abuse." (Source item submitted by John O'Brien)
A couple in Ottawa had their sick dog hospitalized at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and after exploratory surgery, she had a pacemaker installed. For a month, the university called the owners every night to give a progress report on the dog. The spoiled dog was a picky eater, taking meat only if it was roast beef and occasionally a steak. At other veterinary schools, similar operations have begun to be performed in recent years, using human pacemakers. This vignette reveals once more how some animals are promoted into humanhood while some humans are demoted out of it (The Ottawa Citizen, 29/3/83; source item supplied by Ray Lemay).

The bride was a real dog. Women came and went in Cliff Edwards's life, so he decided to marry his one long-time companion who remained faithful through it all, namely his blonde dog Spunky—to the surprise of the hundred friends who had shown up in response to his wedding invitation (UPI, 6/2/82). Well, why not? Makes about as much sense as many of the animal companion therapies.

Research on the fertilization of animal ova by human sperm is proceeding, with no one being certain how far this might go and where it might lead (The Human, No. 6, 1984). We have reported previously on the genetic crossing of humans with mice and hamsters. The latter crossing, now said to be widespread, has been called a humster. The resulting embryos so far have been destroyed soon after cell cleavage (Pro-Life News, 7/84). To this menagerie, we can now also add rats, and soon, pigs and others will be added.

Another proposal is now to test drugs and chemicals on laboratory-cultured embryos as an intermediate stage between animal and "human" trials (The Human, 4/83).

Other Animal-human News

The mayor of Charlestown, W. Va., said that if women on welfare continued to have children they should be spayed like dogs and cats. In response, and not very surprisingly, women's organizations went bananas, though one never hears from them when handicapped people are animal-imaged.

The U.S. Postal Service spends about $7,000,000 per year trying to protect its mail carriers from dogs.

The Deathmaking Scene

Tinkering With the Forms & Definitions of Human Life

With the advent of biotechnology and so-called biological or genetic engineering have also come (successful) attempts to lay ownership claims to the biological products and life forms that scientists have created. Accordingly, there has been extensive success in patenting, copyrighting, and trademarking biological products. It is entirely conceivable that one day, biogeneticists may create some new life form, perhaps even composed partially of human genetic material, that they "own" and can sell or have manufactured under license.

Abortion

A review of a wide variety and types of surveys (Respect Life Report, 10/84) suggests that there may actually be a gradual decline in public support for abortion. Perhaps the wanton and shocking adoption of abortion policies since the 1973 Supreme Court decision have astonished and revulsed some people. However, about 60% of the public still seems to favor abortion under at least some
circumstances, as also borne out by various local initiative votes in the 11/84 election. While people with strong religious commitments evidence considerably less support for abortion than the public in general, Catholics have become virtually indistinguishable from the general population in their responses to the issue.

*Canadians seem to be under the impression that abortion has not made as much headway there as in the US. However, recent statistics show that in Ontario alone, over 31,000 abortions were performed in 1982 in 80 hospitals (The Interim, No. 4, 1984).

*The degree to which the medical profession has decided to flout any laws that might seek to protect lives is apparent in the abortion practices of New York State. Laws currently restrict Medicaid funding of abortions to those deemed "medically necessary," though 46,000 abortions were paid for in New York State in a recent year which were all euphemistically labeled as "medically necessary." At the very most, one abortion in a thousand had anything to do with saving the life of a mother, nor have these medical judgments been questioned by the parties providing the Medicaid reimbursement for them.

Four requests to the New York State Health Department to define what a "medically necessary abortion" is have gone unanswered. However, a look at a New York State Department of Social Services Directive of August 1977 states in effect that an abortion is deemed medically necessary if a physician says it is. The circumstances which the physician may take into account in this "medical judgment" include emotional, psychological and social parameters, judgments of the "patient's" feelings of well-being and, believe it or not, absence of "suffering."

State governments, public welfare departments, and similar offices have a tremendous vested interest in the performance of abortion among indigent women, because abortions might be performed at a cost of somewhere near $100, but probably less than $300, whereas a child carried to term might cost the public thousands, tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of dollars. (Source material supplied by Tim Gorman)

*Congress passed a law banning use of federal funds to be used by the Department of Defense to pay for abortions, except to save the life of the mother. A similar bill was passed applying to the use of Treasury and Postal appropriations, for employees health benefits. Since the law is not to take effect until later in 1985, it may very well be repealed by then. Thus, once more, enthusiastic claims of success by pro-life groups are premature. While Congress also passed a law restricting research on aborted children, the bill persistently referred to the children as "fetuses ex utero."

*In Alaska, an opponent of abortion referred to a proponent of abortion as a baby killer, whereupon the baby killer sued the other one for libel. Obviously, if the Supreme Court says that abortion does not kill unborn children, then anybody who calls abortionists baby killers might indeed be subject to libel.

*A peculiar phenomenon one sees over and over in court trials in which abortion is an issue is that potential jurors who confess to being opposed to abortion are routinely and virtually totally eliminated, while jurors who state that they are in favor of abortion are seated, obviously resulting in many decisions in support of abortion. Presumably, judicial partiality would be strained either by selecting people who have not yet made up their minds, or by at least roughly balancing the jury with pro and anti abortion members.

*The Canadian weekly news magazine, McClean, rejected an advertisement showing photographs of an intact beautiful 19-week old aborted baby on the grounds that readers might find such a photograph "offensive" (The Human, Fall 84).
Whereas less than 1% of Canadians using contraception receive contraception information from the Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada, the Federation is the largest abortion referral agency in Canada, revealing once again that it must be viewed much more as an abortion than a birth control agency. By policy, it also has promoted the legal requirement that all hospitals perform abortions if patients demand it (Campaign Life News, 16/84).

*Virtually all attempts to require that women be given full information before they have an abortion, or are advised to have one, have been struck down in the courts. Yet at the same time, a woman who has a problematic pregnancy and refuses to have prenatal tests to see whether her child might be handicapped is very apt to be advised repeatedly to have prenatal tests, and will probably be asked to sign a statement that she had been informed of all the dangers but had refused for this and that reason—usually because she does not believe in the morality of abortion (e.g., NCR, 16/11/84, p. 14). Thus, we clearly have a double standard.

*Injury resulting from abortion is apparently so common that at least in Florida, each abortionist must now pay $41,000 a year for malpractice coverage pertaining to abortion issues alone (Pro-Life News, 7/84).

*A new 1984 monograph on The Law and Abortion: An International Study, published by Toronto's Human Life Research Institute, provides fascinating analysis and refutation of many of the claims of pro-abortionists. For instance, it concludes that the estimates of the extent of abortion prior to its legalization were grossly inflated, as were maternal deaths from illegal abortion. Furthermore, women who had sought an abortion but were denied an opportunity for it will almost always complete the pregnancy and be quite content with the results. Furthermore, the monograph provided impressive documentation that a major portion of the current abortion scene can be described as the legalization of the infamous dangerous backroom abortion of yesteryear. For instance, an expose of four abortion clinics in Chicago that had accounted for a quarter of the abortions in the area found such things as physicians aborting non-pregnant women, physicians subjecting women to high pressure tactics and false information, practitioners being unqualified and inexperienced, sometimes not even having a license, and conditions and procedures being haphazard and unsanitary. Assembly line procedures were common, there was shoddy record keeping, falsification of records, lab tests getting lost or scrambled, and some physicians performing abortions after drinking. Mortality rates were surprisingly high. Other horror story exposes took place in Detroit, Miami, Orlando, Philadelphia, Toronto, San Diego, Washington and El Paso.

*Contrary to the claims of many feminists, an article in the Canadian Medical Association Journal (15/2/84) found that women who sought an abortion but were denied it turned out to be essentially undistinguishable from those who obtained an abortion, in terms of subsequent mental health, acceptance of the infant, and the child's psychosocial (dis)advantage.

*We continue to hear of instances where nurses who refuse to take a rotation tour of duty in the abortion operation of a medical facility such as a hospital will be denied employment or outright fired.

*The Ministry of Health in the province of Ontario has revealed that vaccines for German measles (Rubella) and rabies have been harvested from cultures derived from the lung tissue of aborted human fetuses, and that these are the only vaccines available for these two diseases in Canada. Apparently, the American Merck, Sharpe and Dohme Company is one of those that uses such fetal cultures (Campaign Life News, 10/84). This development imposes an almost unbearable moral dilemma on parents who are opposed to abortion, because unless their children are vaccinated, they may be suspended from school in the event of a disease outbreak. Thus, people opposed to abortion have practices which they consider deeply immoral virtually forced upon them by the law.
To those children killed by abortion, and by the use of so-called contraceptives that in reality prevent the implantation of fertilized ova, we must now also add the embryos that are the products of in vitro conceptions that are discarded when they are no longer needed for research purposes or for implantation.

We have previously commented on the cosmetic industry, particularly in France, using body parts from aborted fetuses in their products. We have since learned that British soap manufacturers do too. People used to be outraged when they were told that Germans were making soap out of concentration camp victims, but those days appear to be past. People will think nothing of using soap that has murdered babies in it. Amazingly, about 20 cosmetic companies that were asked whether they used natural collagen in their cosmetics, and where it came from, either did not reply at all or gave ambiguous replies as to whether they came from a human source. Those that do use a human collagen source do not necessarily get it from ground-up babies, but may get it "only" from human placentas. Some are very up front in referring to their products by name as "Collagen Body Lotion," "Placenta Plus Treatment Pac," "Palm Beach Placenta Plus," "Revlon Protina With Placenta Collagen," and so on (Pro-Life News, 7/84).

For about $90, a Chicago biological supply firm has been selling plastic paperweights in which bodies and organs of aborted babies are embedded (Seed, 6/84).

A man in New Jersey had contracted with abortion clinics around the state to dispose of their aborted fetuses, both those who were all in one piece and those who had been dismembered as part of the abortion process. Apparently, the way he disposed of them in turn was by putting them into the garbage in front of his house. This was discovered by accident when a city garbage collector noticed a small foot sticking out of a box, whereupon the remains of somewhere between 40 and 100 fetuses were discovered, the exact number being unclear because of their dismemberment. The only penalty to which the man will be subject is a $500 fine for violating a local zoning ordinance (Philadelphia Daily News, 3/8/84; source item submitted by Chuck Burkhouse).

In Milwaukee, there is a Bread and Roses Women's Health Center, which happens to be an abortion clinic. One day, a group of children aged 4 to 11 were caught throwing gray plastic containers off a bridge. When asked what was inside, they said "little people"—and that is what it was: the bodies of babies aborted in the first few months of pregnancy, by the above clinic, and discarded in a trash dumpster.

The bodies of about 1000 babies were recovered over a period of 3 months from a trash bin behind the Dallas Women's Center in Texas, a local abortion clinic. The bodies were buried in a Dallas cemetery, and women who have regrets about their abortions are said to go there to visit.

The above jurisdictions, and others, have no laws against the discarding of such bodies (The Human, Fall 84).

By eight weeks of age, a human fetus possesses the entire organizational structure of the nervous system, including the sensory nerves, and by 13 weeks will move in response to being touched, emit startle responses to a noise, and drink more rapidly from the amniotic fluid if sugar is added to it. However, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has disputed the claim that a human fetus experiences pain during abortion by stating that "we know of no legitimate scientific information that supports the statement that a fetus experiences pain early in pregnancy," presumably referring to the fact that no fetus at that age has been interviewed or lodged a formal complaint, especially not after having been aborted. A Harvard neurologist said "Pain is not a sensation, its a perception" and "the fetus may respond physically to a stimulus, but it is not suffering." He based this claim on the fact that the cerebral cortex is the last part of the nervous system to develop, maturing around the 28th week (Science 84, 5/84).
*Sixty-five physicians, including two past presidents of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, released a statement in Washington in 10/84 that reaffirmed that "a human ovum fertilized by a human sperm produces a biologically identifiable human embryo," which is biologically unique and contains all the "information" required for its future development. The statement said that just as a child cannot be interpreted to be any less human than an adult, and an infant no less than a child, so can an embryo not be called any less human than a newborn.

*Baseball star Chris Spier founded an association entitled Athletes for Life which tries to work against abortion (The Human, Fall 84).

Infanticide

*Aside from homicide committed in the name of medicine or human service, it is estimated that approximately one-half of all the murders committed in Canada involve victims below the age of five, and most of these died from being battered, neglected or killed directly by members of their families or people living in the household. Hardly any of these deaths (amounting to perhaps 500 a year) get counted as homicide, in part because in contrast to homicides involving adult victims, relatively little effort is made to pursue the issue. (Quest, 3/84, p. 50-55; source item supplied by Ray Lemay).

*The Dawson case, and related developments in British Columbia. The case of Stephen Dawson in British Columbia elicited a tremendous amount of coverage and commentary. He was a young (six years old in early 1983) mentally retarded child with hydrocephaly who needed a life-saving shunt operation, and whose parents went to court in order to block the operation, and to thus insure that Stephen die soon. Salient observations include that, contrary to the parents' claims, the child may not have been in constant pain, that the parents were probably mistaken when they claimed that the child's condition resulted from meningitis at age 2 (he looks like he has a congenital condition), that both parents had clearly harbored death wishes toward the child, and that the child may have been more responsive than they knew or were willing to admit. One can also note that the parents had hardly ever gone to see him during the several years he was at the Sunny Hill Hospital, and that the parents may have lied when they repeatedly emphasized their love for the child if, in fact, they hardly ever visited him for years as some of the news coverage noted. The fact that his operation only took thirty-five minutes is also noteworthy. Also, the physician who told them that their son would die painlessly and soon without the operation may also have lied, and should certainly have been well aware of the possibility that the child's head would greatly and painfully enlarge, and that he might live for years with a grotesquely enlarged head.

The Dawson case elicited a tremendous amount of commentary, including a great deal of support in favor of letting the child die on the part of the public, parents, priests, members of the legal and medical professions, and prominent newspaper columnists.

The attorney who acted in defense of the child's life submitted a bill for $5000, while the attorney who argued for the child's "death with dignity" submitted a bill for $26,000, even though this was her very first case upon being admitted to the bar. Both bills were submitted to provincial agencies, but the former to the Family and Child Service, and the latter to the Human Resources Ministry.

The Dawson parents separated sometime after the court ruling, but the father has become much closer to the child, has joined an association of parents of the mentally handicapped (who sued on behalf of the child), and sits on its board; Stephen himself is developing nicely though still residing at a small institution (The Human, Fall 84).

In mid 1983, there was an investigation of the death rate at Cradle Haven, a small private institution for 24 severely handicapped retarded children in British Columbia. In a 3 year period, 20 children died at the facility. Advocates have claimed that a similar facility in Toronto had no deaths at all during the same time period.
No one is claiming that deliberate neglect has taken place, but that a passive approach to programming and medical supports has contributed to these deaths. For instance, any child from the facility that was sent to Vancouver Children's Hospital for treatment was automatically tagged with a "no-code blue" order, which meant that no means should be taken to counter a life-threatening emergency. Furthermore, several physicians publicly advocated euthanasia for people such as at Cradle Haven.

The government of British Columbia has been saving a great deal of money by placing children into Cradle Haven for $55 a day instead of $130 a day at its own large institution. Thus, it has been defending the level of care provided at Cradle Haven.

A fascinating linkage between the Cradle Haven case and Dawson case is that the Ministry of Human Resources who offered to pay the legal bill for the Dawsons' fight to see their son dead is also the agency that inspected Cradle Haven and pronounced it sound.

*Between 1981 and 1982, 13 children on the pediatric and intensive care unit of a San Antonio, Texas, hospital experienced sudden and unexplained problems involving mostly breathing arrests, seizures and uncontrolled bleeding. Ten of the 13 died. All these incidences occurred on only one shift, and only when one specific licensed practical nurse was on duty. The nurse in question was described as a very aggressive, hard, but bright woman whose speech was punctuated by profanity and who boasted shamelessly of her sexual interests and adventures. Even though many staff members suspected her of causing these incidences and deaths, not only was no action taken against her, but some of her superiors were very lax in responding to the danger signs and to documentation of the facts by fellow workers. When in 1982, the nurse took a job with a pediatrician in private practice, the emergencies at her previous job virtually disappeared, but the same kind of emergencies started occurring in even more rapid order in the pediatrician's small practice so that in a single month, seven children had a total of eight medical emergencies, and one died. There had been no such emergencies before or after. Interestingly, it was the physicians in the small county where the pediatrician practiced that came to the conclusion that something improper must be going on, barred the pediatrician from the local hospital, launched an investigation and finally called in a law enforcement agency. The pediatrician, although she had been aware of the nurse's previous history, seemed to have been involved in an inappropriate relationship with her that blinded her to all the evidence until she found irregularities in her supply of muscle relaxant, and even that only after the local physicians confronted her and withdrew her hospital privileges. All together, the indications strongly pointed to secret or disguised administration of either a muscle relaxant and/or a blood anti-coagulant at the two services where the nurse

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*Between February 28 and March 3, 1983, WNEV television in Boston broadcast a four part investigative news report entitled 'Death in the Nursery.' The series documented things such as the following. A newborn baby with spina bifida was being starved and dehydrated to death in a Phoenix hospital. While it has become very common to starve to death infants with Down's Syndrome who have a blocked bowel, the program found the reverse kind of death-making where such an infant was fed—and after 40 days finally died of a distended abdomen and a burst intestine. A nurse in Milwaukee tried to save a child with Down's Syndrome that had been condemned to death (and did die after 19 days), and for these efforts she was fired after 27 years of nursing. She was so intimidated by this that she asked that her name not be used so that she might find a job again.

Aside from well-known cases publicized elsewhere, the program identified previously obscure cases in Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and "even Massachusetts."
The program also identified children who were marked for death but who were rescued, and in some instances it was found that their impairment was quite minor. In one such instance, the child will have to walk with braces on the ankles. In another case, Siamese twins in Danville, Illinois, were being 'let die.' Their father was a physician, the mother a nurse. As a result of publicity and the threat of prosecution, they changed their minds, the infants were surgically separated, and they both lived.

The program revealed some terrible horror stories about Dr. Duff who, according to some of the parents on the program, apparently urged parents to institutionalize their handicapped children for many years before he began urging them to kill them. He has also had a tendency to grossly, and apparently quite incompetently, misinterpret the likely future capacities of handicapped children, such as painting pictures of people with Down's Syndrome being profoundly retarded and 'vegetables.'

If the reports are true, one can only be astonished at the errors physicians make. One neurosurgeon mistakenly diagnosed a newborn child as having anencephaly which is a very drastic condition in which the higher brain parts are simply missing. As a result of this diagnosis, the infant was 'allowed to die,' but an autopsy showed that there was a perfect brain that merely had some of the characteristics of prematurity.

There are some people who sound trustworthy who claim that investigations into the deathmaking of handicapped newborns were sometimes sabotaged by the personnel from within the US Department of Health and Human Services. For instance, incoming complaints about ongoing starvation or injection deaths of handicapped newborns have supposedly gotten lost not just once but twice.

*While in the Army and stationed in Germany, a man got fed up with his 17-month old infant daughter's crying, and beat her to death. He confessed the deed after he had been returned to the US and discharged. To everybody's surprise, it turned out that no one seemed to have jurisdiction for a case like this, with the crime having been committed on US Army property in Germany, and the perpetrator no longer residing in Germany or being in the Army. It thus seemed that no legal consequences would ensue.

*Progress in the treatment of spina bifida has been such that with proper treatment, a majority of such children will no longer become mentally retarded. However, old stereotypes die hard, and it will be several decades before this phenomena will be fully acknowledged, even within the medical profession where such children are often viewed as legitimate candidates for euthanasia.

*Children with spina bifida at the State University Hospital in Iowa who were denied medical treatment were said to be 'targeted for non-treatment' (1984 E & B Public Service Video Cast)

*The Board of Directors of the Spina Bifida Association of America has finally adopted a set of guidelines recommended to its local chapters (published 9-10/83) on what to do when treatment is denied to a child with spina bifida. Unfortunately the guidelines are rather mild. For instance, they include escheat of any kind of publicity or statements to the media by association representatives. The trouble with non-militant stands on this issue is that they have historically been followed by neutral stands, and neutral ones by pro-death ones.

Violence, Abuse & Brutality—Even Unto Death—By Human Services

*In 1983, a 2½ year old girl, with bruises all over her body, was found starved to death in Chester County, Pennsylvania, and her parents were charged with third degree murder. It turned out that 6 agencies, all dedicated to protecting children, knew about the abusive situation but failed to act because they thought that keeping the child in the family was more important than protecting her from abuse (Syracuse Herald Journal, 20/3/84).
In little more than one year, 18 youths under government care in the Canadian province of Alberta committed suicide. An investigation into the 18th death concluded that the provincial Department of Social Services and Community Health was more efficient in arranging his funeral than in moving the 18-year old youth through 16 foster homes and 6 group homes in 14 years. His files had been handled by 25 different social workers. Shortly before his death, he wrote "I didn't want no ones [sic] to love any more. I had been hurt so many times so I began blocking out all emotions and I shut out the rest of the world." Frighteningly, the provincial government has 15,000 children in its custody, and almost half of them are Indian or Metis, i.e., of mixed Indian and Caucasian heritage.

*As of 1984, in various parts of Canada, women with children were eligible for welfare, but single men with children were not, thus setting up a disincentive to keeping children at least with one parent.

*A couple in Florida sold their two infants. When they got caught, instead of leaving good enough alone, the State Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services jerked the children out of the homes that had bought them and placed them in foster homes, where one promptly broke an arm, was scalded, and died from a severe head injury. His brother who had been at the same foster home was promptly moved once more—to a county institution. When the father, sentenced to jail, heard of his son's death, he tried to kill himself by swallowing rat poison (Ottawa Citizen, 8-9/3/84; source item supplied by Ray Lemay).

*In May 1974, Winifred Halderman filed a suit charging that her 20-year old mentally retarded daughter Terri Lee suffered more than 40 incidences of abuse, ranging from a fractured jaw to a drug overdose, at the Pennhurst Institution for the Mentally Retarded in Pennsylvania. Out of this suit grew the movement, the suit, and eventually the agreement, to close Pennhurst. However, this was more than Ms. Halderman had expected, and she recently vowed to kill her daughter before allowing her out into the community. Apparently, her aspirations revolved around a less abusive institution rather than an at least potentially social role valorizing community residential placement (Institutions, Etc., 8/84).

*A state social worker in Fort Dodge, Iowa, was on a waiting list to adopt a child. When the state tried to transfer him to another city, he refused the transfer because he would lose his family's place on the adoption list. In consequence, the state fired him, and the Iowa Merit Employment Commission upheld the firing. The commission also ruled that he was not entitled to unemployment compensation, and must return nearly $2000 that he had received. Said his wife "Never in my life have I met such ruthless individuals who claim to be serving needy Iowans" (Cedar Rapids Gazette, 11/10/84, source item furnished by John Morris).

*We reported earlier on sexual abuse at a number of state institutions for the deaf. It has now turned out that at the Iowa School for the Deaf in Council Bluffs, four of the staff members have had previous records of sexual abuse-related arrests. There had been allegations of such sexual abuse there for about 15 years before things finally came to a head! (Source item supplied by John Morris)

*In late 1984, the Montgomery Journal in Maryland ran a long series of exposés (collected and sent to us by Marilee Fosbre) of the conditions at Great Oak Center in Silver Springs, the second largest institution for the retarded in Maryland. The exposé pointed to all sorts of abuses at the center, including destructive use of prescription psychoactive drugs, resident abuse, employee alcohol and drug use on the grounds, bizarre things such as roach-infested wheelchairs, and a superintendent who blandly pleads ignorance of anything wrong. Employees who squeal have their automobiles vandalized. One of the many bizarre elements in the case is that the institution people blame a low pay scale, compared to community services, while community people claim that they receive 28% less than institution personnel.
During the July 1963 heatwave, the air conditioning failed at a nursing home in Chicago for 225 people, and as a result, three residents were actually found dead in their beds and a fourth one died shortly after a city health department investigator arrived. Rather bizarrely, the name of the facility where this happened was the Center for Human Development. The Illinois Department of Health imposed a $150,000 fine for deficiencies, but no sooner had the operators promised to correct the deficiencies than the fine was waived (UPI, in Syracuse Herald Journal, 26/8/83). An article that reported this tragedy also reported that at Shadowood Farms for Arabian horses in Georgia, fans were installed in each animal's stall during the same heatwave. The problem is that Arabian horses are infinitely more valuable to their owners than enfeebled elderly people are to those who, in effect, own them, i.e., their human deviancy managers. After all, there is no shortage of elderly people with whom to fill nursing home "beds," while Arabian horses are very difficult to replace.

According to NBC's 20/20 news program of early June 1983, 35 residents of a Texas nursing home died over a 90 day period, which averages about one death every 2.5 days. Reportedly, the residents were beaten, tortured and starved even as the home received large Medicaid payments for services which it did not provide. However, an assistant district attorney who wanted to sue for murder lost his job, and the charge was reduced to involuntary manslaughter. One member of the local grand jury wondered how this could happen in the US--but the nursing home continued to operate under a lease to another nursing home company (Advocate Newsletter, 6/83).

An investigation of 9 of the psychiatric state institutions in New York, housing about 10,000 clients, i.e., about 45% of the total, revealed that conditions at some of the centers were so bad that they would not even meet court-mandated standards for prisons--despite annual costs of $42,000 per resident per year. Among the atrocities was the grossest kind of neglect of the health of residents (Syracuse Herald Journal, 6/12/84).

Two of the 42 mentally retarded residents at an Ontario facility named Ark Eden died, and the facility was condemned as operating under atrocius conditions. In July 1983, the provincial government took over the facility and said that it plans to close it after finding other places for its residents. Interestingly, parents of some of the residents defended the facility and referred to it in terms such as "dedicated care," and expressed fears that their children (ranging in age from 6 to 32) will fare worse elsewhere. (News item supplied by Ray Lemay).

In South Carolina, 200 deaths have been investigated at the state hospital in Columbia, and 50 of these were deemed to require further investigation because of suspicious circumstances, such as potential negligence or violation of procedures (Institutions, Etc., 9/84).

In a little over a year, between January 1981 and March 1982, 21 patients died at the Central State Hospital in Indiana, and 18 of these deaths may have been caused by staff negligence or error. Half of the people who died were below the age of 40, and almost half of them involved suicides in which the bad conditions at the institutions are believed to have played a precipitating role or which could otherwise have been prevented. Even after an investigation was launched, there was yet another death which may have been "heat-related," i.e., probably due to tranquillizers (Institutions, Etc., 8/83).

In June 1984, federal prosecutors filed criminal charges against Smith, Kline, (a pharmaceutical firm) and four of its executives (at least three of them physicians) for failing to disclose the lethal side effects of its highly-touted blood pressure drug Selacryn. Between May 1979 and January 1980, at least 34 deaths have been attributed to the drug, but only action by the US Food and Drug Administration took the drug off the market. How profitable the drug business is
was underlined by the disclosure that in 1983, the firm had profits of almost $500 million on sales of 2.8 billion.

In some of our TI workshops, we show how unspeakably psychoactive drugs are being abused, and how they cause approximately 100,000 deaths a year in the US alone. Now the latest human service technology craze is to advocate the administration of Haldol, a powerful tranquilizer, to autistic children, and some children have already been on the drug for 4 years (Newswear, 28/5/84). In a few years, we can expect to see the ravages of this practice because of the powerful side effects that these drugs have, and especially so in young children. Tardive dyskinesia, which may take several years to develop in adults can develop within months in children. Furthermore, euphoric reports are touting another drug, Fenfluramine, as improving the IQ of autistic children. Chances are overwhelming that this is yet another in a long, long line of similar premature euphoric, and ultimately destructive, crazes.

*One of the many terrible consequences of a prolonged and/or excessive administration of psychoactive drugs is that people start to drool. The New York Office of Mental Health (which directs the services that have been leaders in the abusive use of psychoactive drugs) has now developed several treatments for drooling, including cutting the nerves that control the secretion of saliva—which also eliminates taste sensations at the front of the tongue, or relocating the saliva ducts so that the person has to swallow more frequently (This Month in Mental Health, 12/84). Thus, one abuse and mutilation leads to another, and one abuse gets trumpeted as the treatment for a previous abuse.

*One reason why so many prisoners die is that they commonly are either not given medical attention when they need it, are given it too late, or are given substandard medical care. For instance, if a medical examination is conducted, it is often conducted by a medical student or a physician's assistant. The Houston Chronicle obtained five random autopsy reports on prisoners who had died in the Houston City Jail, and asked two physicians at the University of Texas Medical School to review the reports. The reviewers reported that one of the prisoners would probably not have died had he been properly attended to medically after his arrest, and that three more had a good chance of surviving with proper medical care (Institutions, Etc., 7/83).

*An increasing number of Mexican farm workers end up dead after the US Border Patrol gets through with them. The problem has so escalated that even the Catholic Bishop of Stockton, California, participated in a public walk of 1000 people in regard to the issue (NCR, 2/3/84).

*In Florida, the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services has been putting people out of institutions, and sometimes out of overflowing group homes, into proprietary homes that have, on occasion, been described as posing "mortal dangers to its residents," but that have continued operating even after they were delicensed (Institutions, Etc., 10/84).

In September 1984, the American Psychiatric Association issued a statement that as many as a million people may have been dumped out of institutions and "cast adrift under conditions that most persons think can no longer exist in this country." However, in a grotesque perversion of reality, the Association blamed patient rights lawyers for the situation (Institutions, Etc., 10/84).

*A classical case of mutual disablement is the passage of a bill in the US Congress that ensures a fairer review process in deciding whether handicapped people will be denied Social Security payments. This bill would not have been necessary or passed if the Administration had not disqualified 500,000 handicapped people since 1981, and the vast majority of them unfairly and even brutally so.
An administrator for the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services sent out a letter recommending that agencies whose clients are "hard-to-serv" send their employees to a "crisis prevention institute workshop." It is a euphemism for dealing with physically aggressive clients, but such techniques are now apparently widely used for physically "man"-handling clients for management reasons even when they are not being physically aggressive. The administrator highly praised the teacher of this kind of workshop as "well qualified...through personal work experiences" and in the elicitation of "traumatic resolution, therapeutic rapport, and trusting relationships." When one looks at the instructor's vita, one is astonished to find that one of his major qualifications is that he was world karate champion and judo champion of several American States. (Source material submitted by Ray Lemay)

In September 1983, an organization favoring voluntary euthanasia was holding an international conference at which some well-known physicians admitted that they had "helped terminally ill patients to finish their lives under the least bad conditions possible" (New York Times, in Providence Sunday Journal, 23/9/84, source item submitted by Sheila Brown-Netl-).

One problem with deciding who should live and who should die is that then firemen may decide who to save from fire and who not, farmers as to who should eat and who should hunger, and construction workers as to who should be housed and who exposed, and so on. There is something intrinsic about the ethics of different occupations. Firemen should save people from fire, sanitary workers should save them from contagion and poisoning—and physicians should save peoples' lives.

Job Openings

Efforts are underfoot to establish a manpower Training Institute, somewhat similar to our own, in Pennsylvania, with emphasis on providing workshops to human service workers already on the job. If these efforts are successful, there will be one or two openings for trainers. In all likelihood, the recruiters will be interested in people with strong positive values and the capacity to provide training from a Social Role Valorization perspective. People who might have an interest in this type of position, or know others who might, can request to be kept informed by writing to David Schwartz (Developmental Disabilities Planning Council; Room 569, Forum Building; Commonwealth Avenue; Harrisburg, PA 17120). If things go well, recruitment should commence sometime during 1985, probably in the latter part of the year.

Resources

A Pocket Guide to Federal Health Services for the Disabled Person can be obtained for free by calling 1-800-852-3405. (Source information from Doug Mouncey)

Increasingly, access guides are also available that tell the various places and resources accessible to the handicapped in various locales.

AT&T, The American Telephone and Telegraph corporation, has opened a National Special Needs Center that offers equipment and repair services to handicapped persons nationwide, though not free of charge (NYS Advocate, Summer 84).

The Disability Rag (Box 145, Louisville, KY 40201) is an awful name for a periodical devoted primarily to physical handicap, and largely written by handicapped people for handicapped people. However, it is cheap ($5 per year) and claims to be "a dashing little periodical." It has featured articles such as "Wheelchair Woman Meets Elephant Man." As publications of this type tend to be these days, it is a bit on the angry and bitter side, but nevertheless presents some worthwhile perspectives.