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Whenever we do one or more specialty issues, such as February's on medicinal drugs, we fall behind with other topics. Therefore, this double issue will try to catch up with miscellaneous topics.

Human Service Disfunctionalities or Bankruptcies on a High Level of Systemicness

*In the US specifically, we have witnessed a massive transfer of responsibility for handicapped people from mostly state to federal auspices. While the federal government does not run a great many services, it has become the major funder and, thereby, also the major regulator and standards-setter. This has proven to be an advantage only in the short run. In the long run, it has led to increasing complexity, monumental wastages of money, and many other deep problems. One of the big wastages of money that this system entails is that all the funds that formerly came from state and local taxes and were spent within the state are now extracted through the federal tax system, and by the time these funds rise up to the federal treasury and descend back down to the local service, a much larger percentage gets lost to bureaucratism than would be the case when funds rise only through state treasuries.

One other disadvantage is that while state provisions were often scandal-plagued, the scandals were at least local enough in nature that citizen initiatives would be able to do something about it. In contrast, federal-level scandals seem to be totally out of control because they are too far removed from citizen action initiatives. Another negative consequence has been that with the federal government assuming ever greater service-related responsibilities, local citizens have felt ever less responsible, and vulnerable people are thus de facto handed over to a government very far away in both distance and hierarchism.

*On bumping. We discovered a new source of job discontinuity among human service workers, described below by Jo Massarelli.

"Bumping is the Massachusetts (and other states') public employee policy that allows one state worker to overtake the job of another state worker with less seniority. Bumping is described as a 'right' to be exercised either when one's present job is threatened or simply when one feels like a change. A state worker
doesn't need a reason to bump, nor the minimum qualifications for the new job. The only requirement for the bumper is to have been in the state system as long or longer than the person being bumped. The 'bumpee' has no legitimate protest nor legal recourse. They can, however, turn around and bump yet another state worker with less seniority.

"The effect of bumping on people who have handicaps in state-run programs is observable in Western Massachusetts. In one residential program, six out of seven managers were replaced in a three-week period!! In mental retardation services where positive, consistent relationships among people served and their staff are often the only bright spot, this 'here today-gone tomorrow' policy wreaks havoc on lives already so lacking in human involvement. As the Belchertown State School and similar institutions close, it is expected that bumping will become rampant.

"The bumping policy in Massachusetts came from agreements made between employee unions and the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR). DMR clients' interests were not included in the collective bargaining negotiations. DMR clients and their families are the commodities around which state workers' jobs are created, and yet when it comes to labor relations, the commodities have neither rights nor representation. If only this policy worked for the elected officials on the state payroll. Imagine the possibilities..."

*Another service insanity of which we have recently learned is that some programs for handicapped people get gerrymandered together from a wide variety of different funding sources, each with its own peculiar, and often senseless, bureaucratic requirements. Then staff scurry frantically from one program corner ("enclave") or location to another in order to put in a little program time here and there. But because they have to scurry around so much from place to place and person to person, they get totally fragmented, confused and disoriented--to say nothing of the clients.

*A 75-year old man who had to get around in a wheelchair needed $70 for his heart medication, and not having it, he tried to rob a bank in San Diego (NY Times, 18/1/91). One thing we can be pretty sure of: there was a parking space for the handicapped for him in front of the bank.

*A mother of a mentally retarded person born in 1952 said in 1988 (NEJHS, 8(4)) that her family's "lives have been enmeshed with the bureaucratized human service system, an enmeshment that resulted in more pain than the initial discoveries of our child's developmental handicap.

"Parents often face people who have a minimal understanding of their child's needs and have practically no knowledge of where the family is coming from. They are told that they can always 'appeal' a plan that they object to, but an appeals process can take months, an annual review is never finished, and the state can keep you in limbo forever.

"An option to appeal without sufficient resources to have a fair chance of winning adds insult to injury for the retarded and their families. Legal assistance is costly and the number of attorneys available through grant or public funding to represent families and their retarded children in appeal processes is extremely limited. Parents should not be forced to hire attorneys in their search for appropriate medical, therapeutic and programmatic services for their retarded children."

*In 1990, we learned for the first time that there is such a thing as an all-day workshop entitled "Charting with a Jury in Mind," taught by a nurse who is also a lawyer. This brings out the sad fact that clinical records these days cannot just merely be established with client concerns on one's mind, but must be carefully framed and guardedly constructed so as to meet the criteria of sufficient defensiveness against legal suits (source item from Steve Holburn).
*John McKnight said a most remarkable thing (in The Other Side, 1989): "I've been around neighborhoods, neighborhood organizations, and communities in big cities for 36 years. I have never seen service systems that brought people to well-being, delivered them to citizenship, or made them free." We suspect that by "never," he means (a) organized agency services, and (b) in any aggregate, true overall fashion. After all, it is the occasional uncharacteristic success story that is deceptively used by service agencies—and even more by systems—as their legitimization.

*In some states and locales, there are certain governmental offices that one can never reach by phone, because the phone lines listed in the phone directories are always busy. Apparently, in at least some such offices, the workers cope by taking the phones off the hook at the start of office hours, and keep them off until they leave. In Syracuse, one can never reach the regional state tax office, and virtually never certain local welfare, Medicaid, etc. offices.

Mostly for other reasons, but at least in part also for the above one as well, telephone "hotlines" of all types have been instituted by the zillions. There are a number of problems with these hotlines and the assumptions that often underlie them. One example, which also exemplifies the collapse of structures all around us, is what has been happening to the emergency 911 phone lines in many cities across the US. These lines have been instituted so that in an emergency, people can dial one short and easily remembered number, which is answered at a switchboard that both provides emergency information, and can contact the appropriate authority (fire, police, ambulance, etc.) to send to the emergency. These systems are touted as being a quicker and simpler way for people to reach help in an emergency, and in many cities, one does not need a coin to dial 911 from a pay telephone. Unfortunately, according to a CBS News report in mid-March 1991, in many locales, the 911 systems are being swamped—not with emergency calls, but with calls from marginal and isolated people who are lonely, hypochondriac, playful or mischievous, and from people who need help but whose situation is not of an emergency nature. For instance, one woman has regularly called 911 when she really needed to take a taxi somewhere, because she knew that whoever showed up (police or fire) would drop her off where she wanted to go just to get rid of her, thus saving her the cab fare. People call because their television or refrigerator goes on the fritz, or because they have trouble with the plumbing. These lines are becoming so swamped with these types of calls that they are commonly busy when real emergency calls come through, and they often end up sending emergency crews out on wild goose chases. And the operators are becoming so cynical about the calls that they receive that when a real emergency does occur, it may not be treated as if it were real. In one instance, the operator thought that a man calling in a gang shooting was making a crank call, laughed him off, and people were killed.

The imperial powers pretend that the installation of 911-type numbers will give people quick access to help, and people believe it until they need quick help, call such a number—and get nothing but busy signals.

*We keep running into more and more unsolicited testimony from people associated in some way with human services of how profoundly disfunctional formal services are, and how the only hope for handicapped people lies in informal voluntary relationships. Here is an excerpt from a mid-1990 letter from Western Canada.

"I have worked in human services for a little more than ten years, mostly with children and adults who have some sort of mental handicap. I also worked in business and industry before these positions. Shortly after I began to work with 'special needs' populations in a service capacity, I also began to develop a gnawing feeling that something was terribly wrong. At first I attributed this to the same sort of administrative disfunctionality and human failings that I had seen in my previous work. After a while, the feelings grew more intense, and I felt that I was involved in something more insidious, and indeed was in some way complicit.

"When I saw the children I had taught go on to adult lives that were disappointing and incoherent at best, and tragic and brutal at worst, my feelings grew to nausea. I decided that I should leave the world of special education for
children, and go on to serve adults who had grown up in that culture, and were now at risk as a result.

"Imagine my surprise when I came to the same realizations in working with adults as I had with teaching children! (Pardon my facetiousness.) It was as though I was continuing in my complicity with these seemingly indeterminate forces that were ensuring that the people we claimed to serve would not have a decent future. Now the question occurred to me: 'If this "service" was only ostensible, then what was really going on?'...This was a reluctant exploration on my part, since it also involved the questions, 'If this is going on, then has my society lied when it claimed to be caring for the people it is actually oppressing?,' and 'What am I actually doing if I earn a living as such a "caring professional"?'

"It was like a breath of fresh air then, to take my first PASSING workshop and meet people who had been asking similar questions of themselves for years. Moreover, they were asking them of each other, and debating answers...

"I am still employed in human services, albeit of a new species. I am also fortunate to be involved locally with Citizen Advocacy. While I may not always be employed in direct, formal services to disabled or otherwise vulnerable people, I feel that it will be my life's work to serve them in some way. I met and became friends with one person in my last place of employment, and service for me may just mean continued friendship with her.

"Whatever form this service does take, I know that I will not serve in a complacent or offhanded way."

While we know that these types of discoveries and admissions are very difficult for those who make them, we find tremendous joy in letters such as these, because they reveal that someone has sought truth, has found it, and has submitted in obedient fashion to it regardless of cost. Such a person is much more apt to be a faithful companion and supporter of handicapped people than one who is still under the spell of false hopes.

*At our workshops, whenever we document the very serious problems or even atrocities in human services, very regularly there are human service workers there who object that their own hardships and efforts are not being properly appreciated. This reminded us of the story about former guards of concentration camps who were made to view concentration camp scenes from television series such as Holocaust, and who grumbled something to the effect that nobody ever gave any consideration to what they had to endure, such as endless cold nights on the watch towers (Saturday Review, 23/6/1979, p. 10).

Human Service Disfunctionalities or Bankruptcies on the Level of Various Subsystems

*Year goes by after year (maybe soon century after century), and the various US congressional committees on long-term care keep issuing study after study and report after report documenting the miserable conditions of nursing homes, and of the elderly people in them. One such 1990 report, entitled "Elder Abuse: A Decade of Shame and Inaction," said that 1.5 million seniors in the US are abused annually, some by their children, some in nursing homes, and some elsewhere, with neglect being the single largest abuse category. In nursing homes, this would mean that something that an elderly person needs simply does not get done.

*Based on three years of study, the Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy (the state protection and advocacy office) concluded in a report entitled "The Active Treatment Myth," dated 5/89, that the concept of "active treatment" that plays a significant role in US federal requirements (e.g., ICF/MR units, which are nursing home-type residences for the retarded) is pretty much a misleading hoax. The report concluded that while the active treatment requirements do have some merit, they deal mostly with improving the "conditions of confinement" of people in institutions, and do not really promote most of the things that we would include under the construct of Social Role Valorization. Particularly, a great gap was
noted between Wisconsin State Policy Proclamations about normalization and integration, and the realities of "active treatment" carried out under federal requirements. The report also noted certain internal contradictions in the active treatment conceptualization, in that it sets up outcome goals which are not usually achievable in institutional settings. A further irony is that complying with federal active treatment standards which are not very productive can actually devour the available state monies that could be used for real programs. Yet further, the report found that people who were not making much—or any—progress under "active treatment" would commonly make dramatic and virtually instant leaps forward simply by moving into community settings. Thus, living in the community is itself one of the most important elements of genuine active programming.

*After zillions of people in human services and government had worked together to put hundreds of thousands of retarded people into nursing homes, the same powers suddenly decided that perhaps some of these placements had not been appropriate! In 1990, it was "determined" that as many as 50,000 such retarded people now in nursing homes should not be there, and should receive preference in transfer to community residences. Close to 50% of these people are now aged 65 or over. All of this would also mean that people living at home would have second priority, and their own admission to a community residence might be delayed by up to eight years (Government in Brief, 9/90; source item from Guy Caruso).

*Most retarded people who live in generic nursing homes do not participate in any type of day programming or community activity whatever. In other respects as well, they were faring very badly (Mitchell & Braddock, 1990).

*No matter how bad so-called ICF/MR residences in the US were, of those with 15 or more "beds," not one single one was ever terminated for Medicaid eligibility between 1981-1984. All this despite report after report of problems and even atrocities (Mitchell & Braddock, 1990).

*By 1990, the cost of one resident in one of the state institutions for the mentally retarded in New York had reached $150,000, which equaled $440 per day. Despite all this money, there was hardly anything good that could be said about the lives of the 6,000 persons still then residing in the state's institutions (Our Children's Voice, 12/90). --

*Farel, A. M. (1988). Choice of priority area by state developmental disabilities councils: Child development as a case example. Mental Retardation, 26(3), 155-159. Farel obtained the state developmental disabilities plans of the period 1984-1986 from apparently all the US states, and then identified 27 of the state plans as having designated child development as a priority service area. She then analyzed the percentage of the money that was available to developmental disabilities councils that was actually allocated by them to child development projects, and correlated these with various indices of child distress or unmet needs. The correlations all hovered around 0, and the author concluded that there was no relationship between declared priorities and actual allocations, despite the fact that developmental disabilities councils were made up of about 50% of handicapped people or their family members. To this, we would add that this is yet another example of the discrepancies between rhetoric and decisions that prevail in human services.

*Even in early 1988, the chief psychiatrist of one of the New York City hospitals said that the mental health system in New York City was "moving toward disaster," and the New York Times pronounced the system as "near collapse" (SHJ, 22/2/88).

*The Nader-inspired Public Citizen Health Research Group teamed up with the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, and took a global look at the US mental
health system. Their findings were covered in various sources, one being a summary in *Health Letter* (10/1990, the PCHRG periodical). Their report concluded that public psychiatric services in the US are in a state of "near-total breakdown." Among other things, it claimed that while there are not quite 100,000 people with major psychosis in public mental institutions, there are at least that many in prisons and jails, and at least yet another 150,000 living on the streets and in public shelters.

The largest "de facto mental hospital" in the US was identified to be the Los Angeles County Jail where, on an average day, there are 3,600 inmates who are seriously mentally disordered, about 700 more than the nation's largest mental institution. As early as 1981, there were already an estimated 350,000 residents in US nursing homes who had serious mental disorders other than mental retardation or dementias of aging. Also, by the late 1980s, there were 172 Veterans' Administration Hospitals in the US with a total budget of $9 billion, with 40% of all of their "beds" occupied by persons with a mental disorder.

The report claimed that mental health professionals have abandoned the more seriously mentally disordered as well as the public service sector, and that most community mental health centers have been "abysmal failures." Funding of public services for such persons with major mental disorders is chaotic, and a significant portion of such funds are literally being stolen—not by individuals, but by organizations or local government, including by many human service organizations. Guidelines for services to mentally disordered people are often constructed on very high governmental levels by people who have no experience with the wounded people concerned.

The report also claimed that overall mental health care in the US is steadily getting worse, and is now comparable in some respects to the way it was in the 1820s.

Unfortunately, the rankings of states in terms of public mental health care by this report cannot be accepted as valid, particularly considering that it ranked the unbelievably abominable conditions in New York State as seventh best in the US. If such a rating were, in fact, valid, it would, indeed, mean that the mental health system in the US is probably a thousand times worse than none at all (would it make any difference if it were merely a hundred times worse?).

However, the report noted that even the highest-rated state (Vermont) achieved only 68% of all possible quality points, and the average state score represented only 34% of the possible attainable points. This is roughly comparable to the average human service scores attained in hundreds of PASSING evaluations.

One of the insane proposals of the report is that all workers in the mental professions should be "required to donate" one hour a week of pro bono work to public programs in mental health. The reason this is insane is because the last thing that one wants to bolster with scarce voluntary time is absolutely hopeless public programs, when instead people should be devoting their extra time to informal and extrastructural relational engagements with vulnerable people apart from their professional identities. The report also proposed that since psychiatrists have abandoned the public sector, a number of non-medical professions should be trained, and permitted, to prescribe "psychiatric medication." This is a classic example of trying to drive the devil out through Beelzebub, but we probably will not have to worry about this since the devil on the spot will presumably make sure that this will not happen. We do agree with one of the recommendations that all administrators in the mental business should spend at least one-half day a week working with mentally disordered persons.

It is unfortunate that the Public Citizen Health Research Group teamed up with the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill in this project. The partnership was unfortunate in that the Public Citizen Group capitulated to the Alliance in regard to its totally materialistic disease model of "mental illness," exemplified by the following stated assumption (*Health Letter*, 10/90): "Serious mental illnesses are brain diseases whose precise causes are still unknown. They are, therefore, like multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease." Accordingly,
service to mentally troubled people is a medical service, as the above article further emphasizes.

Unfortunately, the same issue of *Health Letter* also carried an approving article on RU486.

*Even Time magazine (22/10/90) referred to "America's brutal indifference to the mentally ill," and agreed that it is a "disaster by any measure used."

*The state of mental health services in the US is exemplified by the fact that Time magazine (22/10/90) said that "one of the most successful programs" in the US is Fountain House in New York City, which is a large multi-purpose center attended by 400 people in the day time.

*A Louisiana State University psychologist said most of the "court expert testimony" by shrink types about the dangerousness of mentally disordered people is "best described as fraud" (Science, 28/9/90).

*In Western New York, youth homes run by the state are reported to routinely abuse their residents. They are so bad that some state officials in the very department that runs these homes have refused to send any youths there (AP, in SHJ, 2 Oct. 90).

*According to a 1990 Canadian publication (Poor Places), there are bedridden people in Canada who need, but do not get sufficient, attendant service, so that they sometimes have to have several days' supplies of food piled on their beds in order to make it until an attendant shows up again several days later.

*A National Endowment for the Humanities report in 11/90 said that teacher training, student testing, and textbook selections are so bad in the US that American education is in a failure mode. However, the report had not seemed to realize the profundity of the causes for all this, nor the larger context of societal structural collapse generally. Accordingly, the report held out hope for the success of semi-easy solutions.

*According to US News & World Report (28/5/90), the US spends more for education per child than any other country except Switzerland, and yet ranks near the bottom in most international comparative tests of child competencies.

*A study conducted at the University of Vermont attempted to identify what "best educational practices" were for severely handicapped youths, and a list of nine were developed in consultation with a "panel of nationally-recognized experts in the delivery of services to students with severe handicaps and their families." The results reveal just how bankrupt pedagogical thinking by even the reputed experts is, because only one single of the nine practices involved a direct and immediate pedagogy (curricular expectations); all the others were of an entirely facilitating nature, various levels removed from pedagogy itself. Most removed was "systematic program evaluation"; second-most removed was "home-school partnership,""transition planning," and "systematic data-based instruction" which mostly had to do with schedules, defining of objectives, and data management. The closest to direct pedagogies were "age-appropriate placement in local public schools,""integrated delivery of services,""social integration," and "community-based training." What the experts apparently failed to realize is that several of these practices deal merely with the arrangements for the delivery of the actual pedagogy of instruction through modeling, imitation, and teaching for maximal transfer.
How They Do Things in Human Services These Days

*Another smashing service success story. We recently learned of a man who had been mentally retarded from his youth, and because of bad behaviors, was placed as a young adult into the mental disorder service system, including several years in a mental institution. After 10 years in the mental system, his IQ had risen to 76, placing him practically in the non-retarded range. Thus, he had been "cured" of his retardation by a period of incarceration with people of mostly normal intelligence—but at the cost of having definitely crazified him, i.e., he got more disordered than he had been when he was more retarded.

*The American Association of Retired Persons conducted a survey of its membership as to what forms among those they had to cope with were the most difficult to fill out. Most difficult of all, and indeed more than twice as difficult as the second highest category, were health care forms, followed by Social Security and tax forms, with about 10 other categories ranked below (Modern Maturity, 2 & 3/91). Sometimes, the forms are difficult because the accompanying letters or instructions are not intelligible, with Social Security being a common horrible example. All this is the more regrettable considering that elderly people may have difficulty comprehending such complex challenges. Some elderly people are not getting their entitled benefits, and in order to try to get them, they get such confusing letters and forms, or no reply at all, that they eventually just give up.

*In New York State (maybe elsewhere too), a new term is being used at least since 1990 for naming the specific human service worker who may have done something awful, and the term is to "indicate." Thus a staff person may be "indicated" of abuse or neglect, or "indication" may be recommended. This neologistic language use is probably meant to avoid legal-sounding terms (e.g., indicted), or terms that imply that a final conclusion about a specific person's culpability has been reached.

*The supported employment movement—which actually employs a very small number of handicapped people—has made so many people in vocational programs ashamed of sheltered workshops that a lot of sheltered workshops or sheltered workshop places are being cut, but the former clients are then put into even less vocational, and less adult, day-activity programs. This is a very sad but classic example of where an awful lot of handicapped people are being made to suffer for the benefit of a very small number of them who actually do end up in supported employment. Because supported employment is now the craze on the vocational services scene, we are also discovering that almost anything may be called supported employment, including things which formerly might have been called work stations in industry—or even sheltered work in sheltered workshops. Indeed, even lowly day activity programs below the level of sheltered work may be called supported employment.

*One computerized individual education or program plan package for children up to the 12th grade offers users 27,389 objectives under 448 goals (MR, 2/91).

*We think that there is something profoundly wrong when so-called "gentle teaching," i.e., non-violent pedagogies, is being taught as a distinct course by colleges or universities. Yet this is precisely what is happening, and at Syracuse University in particular. Such institutes of higher learning are supposed to teach human service workers universally valid pedagogies to begin with, and when they then start teaching entire courses of a particular craze nature, or even merely on how to teach non-violently, it implies that in their numerous other educational courses, they have not taught the valid principles to begin with, and now have to make amends. If that is the case, the answer is not merely to establish such courses, but to make a public confession and apology, particularly to earlier graduates.
*An amazing fact is that so-called "anatomically correct" dolls that have become the craze in child sexual abuse cases, and which are often used by human service workers to virtually dictate horror stories of sex abuse to children, may indeed have highly explicit genital areas—and yet lack hands, and have only painted eyes. With so much more detail devoted to the genital areas than to other parts of the body, quite normally inquisitive children could readily be drawn to play with these dolls in a way which suggests to observers that they have been abused when this has not been the case.

*Merely in order to transport mentally handicapped people from one place to another, and merely in terms of Medicaid funds alone, cost New York State almost $100 million a year as of circa 1990 (1990 Commission on Quality of Care Report).

In February 1990, a small group of clients and staff members from a community residence in New York State went on an outing to a museum, using a van. During the outing, the driver, undoubtedly with good intentions, let a client hold the van keys for a moment. The client took the opportunity to get into the driver's seat, insert the keys, start the engine—and drove the van smack into a brick wall, which unfortunately killed him (11/90 Quality of Care Commission Report).

*According to some authorities, 500,000 elderly Americans in hospitals and nursing homes get physically tied to their beds, chairs or wheelchairs every day (NY Times, 28/12/89).

*A senile woman in her 90s in a Syracuse nursing home who gets around in a wheelchair was in the habit of snitching little things here and there. She would quickly forget that she had stolen an item, and then would generously "give" them away so that they got back to where they belonged. Alternatively, while she slept, staff could retrieve the items from her room or purse, and she would have no recollection later either that she had stolen the items or that they had disappeared from her room. Yet one day in early 1989, when it appeared that she had again snitched something, 4 attendants descended upon her while she was about in her wheelchair in order to take away her purse and search it. The scene was reminiscent of a mugging as one of the attendants snatched the purse and pulled on it while the old woman held on to the strap on the other side, there was much screaming, the other attendants wrestled with her, one of the attendants hollered out, "call the police, call the police," and the purse was finally taken from her. An appalled observer later consoled the old lady and told her that the nursing home people were really insane, once a month went into a fit where they had to try to show their superior strength, and that she should laugh about this insanity. This interpretation helped enormously to dissipate the old lady's sense of outrage. The episode shows again how little sense human service people have.

*A little incoherency. The Humana Seniors Association in Louisville, KY, provides Senior Days at the zoo where it also makes available vision and dental examinations, health screenings, live music and catered lunches. (Source item from Milton Tyree).

*Australian pensioners have been complaining that living standards for elderly people have fallen dramatically in recent years. In response, the Australian government allocated $102 million for—could you guess—nursing homes and residential care places (Weekend Australian, 24/12/88; source item from Michael Steer).

*One reason why there appears to be once more a slow but distinct increase in the administration of electro-convulsive shock is that psychiatrists have gotten some very bad press in consequence of the awful ways in which they have used psychoactive drugs. Thus, the resurgence of ECS can be viewed as a revolving door phenomenon.
How They Do Research Related to Human Service & Human Identity These Days

The pressure on academicians to publish often leads to something like indifference to proper scientific procedures. Getting a study published becomes more important than whatever it is that is being reported. It is difficult to say whether these faulty scholarly procedures can be interpreted outright as fraud, or simply a part of the prevailing research culture. For instance, a Stanford University psychiatrist used certain subjects in one of his studies as a normal control group, while using them in another study as subjects with pathological memory losses (Science, 20/4/90).

A scientist has pointed out that the way research and statistics is being handled in the contemporary scholarly context, an archaeologist who finds an unbroken ancient ceramic vase would be well advised to quickly smash it. The numerous fragments that would result would give one a sample large enough to permit statistically significant, and therefore publishable, analyses and inferences, whereas the intact vase would give one only a single data point, and much less material on which to base a scholarly career (American Scientist, 4/88).

A serious 1988 research article in a serious research journal conducted by serious university people was entitled, "Reducing inappropriate behaviors of developmentally disabled adults using antecedent aerobic dance exercises"--and was based on two subjects!

When W. Wolfensberger was a doctoral student in 1959, the US government began to fund an elephantine longitudinal study of 50,000 pregnant high-risk women which was to track the women, the outcome of their pregnancies, and the status of their children through at least age 7. This was known as the "Collaborative Perinatal Project," because it enlisted multi-disciplinary teams at 12 US medical centers, and involved the largest and most representative US sample of its kind ever assembled. This was trumpeted to be sure to lead to major insights into child development, and especially child impairment and mental retardation. Data collection was conducted for 15 years between 1959-74. While there were occasional progress reports, the final report (a book) was not published until 1987, and was entitled Retardation in Young Children: A Developmental Study of Cognitive Deficit. It was based on 36,000 children (many others were lost during follow-up), and the whole project had cost more than $100 million. One 1989 reviewer (in AJMR, 1/89) of the report said that a good part of this project was worthless because of a failure to adequately build epidemiological expertise into its design! Another reviewer (Contemporary Psychology, 1989, No. 9) said that the analyses and their reporting were "simplistic and unrevealing." He said that unless somebody goes back to the data and starts all over—which is extremely unlikely to happen—the project should receive one of Senator Proxmire's "golden fleece" awards. We would add the following. (a) Like virtually everything else in the field of technology and medicine, the project was hyper-hyped, and despite its vast expense, did not yield even a tiny fraction of the benefits that were loudly trumpeted as expectable. (b) As Jack Tizard used to point out in the 1950s, these kinds of epidemiological studies are severely constrained by sample size if one tries to analyze the results in relation to multiple criteria, such as severity level by sex by age. Accordingly, even the 50,000+ sample size here proved to be very limited, since it yielded only 220 severely retarded children by the time they were 7. Obviously, all sizes would be too small to permit meaningful statistical analyses across subsamples, and generalizations therefrom. Thus, even 50,000 subjects (the pregnant women) were too few for drawing all sorts of conclusions.

An article we consider to be hilariously absurd, by three cognoscenti from the Boston Children's Hospital in the American Journal on Mental Retardation (1/89), was entitled "The Greeting Behavior of Fragile X Males." It claims that
when one goes up to males who "have" the so-called fragile X syndrome and extends a handshake greeting to them, they "turned their head and upper trunk away from the line of gaze almost mechanically, but at the same time paradoxically accepted and shook the offered hand while muttering a socially appropriate verbal phrase." This behavior was said to appear during the teens. This will probably now enter the fragile X mythology.

*A learned article in the Australian Psychologist (7/88) discovered that the attitude of hunters toward animals differed from that of animal liberationists, or as they put it in their learned language,"...rated liking for the animals, as a function of the dimensions of meaning, was found to differ between the groups." (Source item from Martin Elks.) As for the TIPS editor, he cries everytime he shoots one of his pet cats for Sunday dinner.

*A left-wing intellectual in Britain simplistically thought that the problems that we are seeing in the human service system were the result of right-wing neo-monetarist Thatcherism, supporting this thesis in an article with 77 references, published in a very learned periodical, Int. J. of Health Services, No. 3, 1987.

*We have come to yet another milestone of the technologization of the ephemeral as research studies are beginning to study the FSs of handicapped people, (e.g., Psychol. Med., 2/89). FS is the new symbol for friendship.

*A 1982 meta-analysis of 157 research studies on the effects of racial desegregation on the academic performance of the integrated students concluded that there were "glaring methodological weaknesses in all but 19 of the studies," and that therefore, there was really very little of a useable data base (Science, 3 Aug. 90).

*Of the world's 100 most frequently cited researchers, almost all are in the biomedical domain. AIDS researcher Gallo was the single most-referenced scientist in the world in the 1980s, being cited more than 23,000 times. However, the single most-cited publication in the 1980s was by a Japanese scientist, Yasutomi Nishizuka, and was entitled, "The role of protein kinase C in cell surface signal transduction and tumor production," published in Nature (Science, 27/7/90).

*Specialization in research has been proceeding at such a pace that there are now a number of scientific journals devoted to just one part of the brain (e.g., Cerebral Cortex, and Hippocampus). We're looking forward to Little Left Toe.

*A dramatic example of ideology making it impossible to conduct certain types of research projects has been the decision by some universities to no longer accept any grants to study differences in achievement of different racial/ethnic groups that might be interpreted as having a bearing on the genetic factors. Such research is getting branded across the board with "racist" labels (e.g., Science, 9/90) even though nothing would be more natural, considering what we know about genetics generally, than the possibility that groups that evolved in widely divergent ecological environments also evolved certain specific mental capabilities (including, of course, perceptual-motor ones) that have proven highly adaptive in a particular environment over several score or even several hundred generations. For instance, living in the desert, the arctic, forests or savannah might select humans for different kinds of capabilities much as it clearly has selected for bodily characteristics.

*An article in the 9/89 issue of the American Journal on Mental Retardation claimed that computerized so-called expert systems have "staggering potential for helping people in human services make better decisions..."
In 1989, it was disclosed that even a hospital affiliated with Harvard University (the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary) reviewed human experiments in a slipshod fashion, inadequately oversaw research studies on human subjects, and let researchers deviate from approved study designs in significant ways. If this happens at Harvard (please everyone bow), there are surely no safe niches left (Science, 24/2/89).

In the 5/88 issue of the American Journal on Mental Retardation, there was an article entitled "Effect of Typicality Level on Proactive Inhibition in Adults With Mental Retardation," with the following hilarious abstract. "Adults with mental retardation heard four triads of highly typical, atypical, or unrelated words (Experiment 1, proactive inhibition buildup) and three triads of typical, atypical, or unrelated words, shifting to either typical or atypical words (Experiment 2, inhibition release). Our purpose was to examine the structure of their semantic system and determine whether they encode information in semantic memory on the dimensions of item prototypicality and list organization. No list differences occurred in Experiment 1. Apparently, interference effects inhibited encoding by organization and typicality. Amount of release varied as a function of item typicality and list organization (Experiment 2), demonstrating multidimensional encoding in semantic memory."

In 1969, one of the most prominent US sociologists, R. K. Merton, wrote a brilliant satire on sociological writing which, however, is also applicable to many other scholarly areas. It is entitled, "Foreword to a Preface to a Prolegomenon to a Discourse on a Certain Subject." The text begins: "There can be no doubt, I think, that the subject we are about to consider is one of profound importance to us all. Indeed, this hardly needs to be said. Surely, the significance of the issues we are to examine here is almost self-evident. And yet..."

Human Service-Related News—Mere Absurdities

President Bush said in 1989 to the nation's governors that "US students will be first in the world in science and mathematic achievement" by the year 2000. As if this lie were not bad enough, a federal Committee on Education and Human Resources (with the amusing acronym, FCSSET) issued a report in 2/91, entitled By the Year 2000: First in The World.

A US federal law taking effect 10/90 requires nursing homes to draw up annual plans for each patient's care, and to up-date each plan every 3 months. The futility of the hope in such an additional formalism is staggering, but it should be a dramatic boost to nursing home employment.

A senior university official in Britain advocated that contraceptives be put into all foods so that only those who go on a very special diet would be able to have children (Times, 30/7/90, in SpeakOut, 2/91).

Politically correct! The chairman of the Black Studies Department at the City University of New York believes that the endless savagery of "whites" is due to the low melanin in their skins that makes dark-skinned people benign and gives them intellectual advantages (USN&WR, 12 Nov. 90).

A resident at an Australian governmental institution for the mentally retarded heard that the institution would be closed, and decided that in that case, he might as well burn it down. After failing the first time, the second time his fire caused $1.5 million damage in 1988. In response, the government spent another $1.5 million to protect it from future fires, with more such money to come (source clipping from Michael Steer).
A workshop, put on by a voluntary group in New York City in 1990, was entitled "Survival Training for Human Services," and defined as the critical issues in human service work unresolved group conflict, lack of community support, burnout, and high turnover—which we find to be a very low-level analysis. Interestingly, the person giving the workshop listed the letters MIA after his name, which to most people would mean "missing in action."

*It is mostly modern—and mostly secular—ideology from within militant groups of handicapped people themselves that has raised the question whether handicapped persons should wish to be healed, cured, or (re)habilitated, or whether such persons should even wish that they had been born unimpaired. Probably inspired by the "black is beautiful" ideology, an ideology of "handicapped is wonderful" or something similar to it has arisen. In essence, many members of these movements, or the ideologies that they have spawned, would deny other handicapped persons any opportunities for all sorts of ameliorative procedures. One prime example is found in the so-called deaf community, where many people make war against those people who are hard of hearing or deaf who are seeking operations that would restore their hearing, or increase it. It is remarkable that the human service community has been so oppressed by its own liberal ideology that one very rarely hears this kind of mentality forthrightly condemned and interpreted for all the bad and nasty things that it is. Presumably, Christ would have been these people's greatest enemy, going around restoring sight to the blind, ambulation to the halt, speech to the dumb, etc.

*One of two 1990 candidates for the vice-presidency of the American Association on Mental Retardation (election to which office means virtually automatic advancement a year later to the presidency) stated, "I believe in self-determination for all people, including people with mental retardation," making no allowance for any competency-impairments by any retarded persons.

The Fates of Children These Days

*We have repeatedly commented on slavery, and warned that slavery will probably exist as long as mankind does. The British Anti-Slavery Society, founded in 1839, has recently said that children are being enslaved for sex, labor or as professional thieves in India, Thailand, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Yugoslavia (SpeakOut, 1/91). Also, there are reports that in some such child abduction projects, the children are butchered for body transplant parts.

*As we reported before, millions of children are being discarded in Brazil, and one concomitant phenomenon is that a lot of people who want to adopt children, mostly in Europe, literally buy them either from Brazilian parents directly, or from intermediate organizations that often outright steal such children (AW, 7 April 90).

*At any one time, there are two million people in the US trying to adopt a child, and only 25,000 available infants, at least as far as the official child placement circuit goes. A lot of child-seeking parents from the two coasts advertise in Iowa, and to some degree other midwestern states, for "healthy, white infant," presumably corn-fed and conforming to the city-slickers' image of midwestern wholesomeness. A lot of midwestern parents cooperate and let their children be privately adopted, bypassing the agency circuits with lawyers who act as brokers making huge profits. Much of that is of course the fault of the agencies in the first place who are seen by birth mothers willing to give up their children as impossibly bureaucratic to deal with (AP, in SHJ, 18/5/90).

*Given that children are increasingly treated as disposable commodities, and that citizens are becoming increasingly disfunctional as parents, it would not surprise us that an increasing number of relatively ordinary married couples are giving away their children if they find them to be handicapped. Many of these couples are just
middle-class or lower-middle-class people who already have other children, and many
of them are locked into two-career lifestyles in which a handicapped child simply
does not easily fit. Some are even upper-middle income professionals to whom the
idea of one of them giving up a job is about as horrible a thought as death itself,
if not worse. A lot of deceptive psychobabble accompanies this practice. A lot of
people mediating adoptions for such throw-away children tell the birth parents not
to feel guilty, and that what they are doing is being done out of love, and that an
adoptive home is really better than a birth home in which one is not wanted.
Apparently, there are very few counselors who tell parents to shape up their value
system and lifestyles and to hunker down. Many such parents tell others that their
handicapped child had died (Newsweek, 22/10/90).

*An ancient child care practice in parts of China has been to pack infants into
cloth bags that are lined with a thick layer of sand. The practice is similar to
swaddling. The major motive is to allow mothers to spend more time on their work
chores, though a stated rationale is that reducing stimulation like this is good for
babies. Chinese experts are now saying that the practice that still continues in
parts of China makes children retarded, particularly if carried on into the child's
third year (China Daily, 7 Sept. 89).

*The percentage of US women with children under 18 who work has continued to rise
dramatically, to 65% in 1988 (Time, 12/6/89). As of early 1990, the staggering sum
of about $16 billion was being spent annually in the US on child care by governments,
private sources and parents. It was also estimated that by 2000, about 70% of
children below school age would have mothers who work (Science, 23/3/90).

*According to some estimates (Time, 12/6/89), there were 2.2 million abused or

*In 1988, a nationwide survey by the US Department of Education found that
average US 8th graders watch 22 hours of TV a week, but that children from Asian
families watch 20% less, while "black" children watch 27% more. These differences
cannot account for all of the achievement difference between these groups, but they
might account for some of it (CM, 6 Dec. 90).

*In New York State, students are only required to pass a 4th grade reading level
in order to graduate from high school.

*Between 1980-1990, there was a 10-fold increase (to 500,000) in home schooling
of children in the US, most of it undoubtedly motivated by declining confidence in,
satisfaction with, the school system. Not surprisingly, professional educators
who bear a big proportion of the blame for the schooling collapse detest home
schooling, and make war against it as best as they can (Time, 22/10/90). Among other
things, the empire detests home schools so much that it requires children schooled in
them to meet proficiency tests which it does not require of the pupils in its own
public schools.

*American students used to have a "homeroom," which referred to a room and a
teacher that defined that one belonged to a specific group and place, even while one
might take classes and various subjects from other teachers in other rooms. Starting
in 1990, we noticed for the first time that the term "home school" was being used in
a perverse and confusing fashion. Until then, the term had been used to refer to
parents educating their children at home, almost always because they were
dissatisfied with public--and perhaps other private--schools. And as perversions go
these days, suddenly we found the term everywhere, being used as if it had been used
for eons by everybody. By now beginning to refer to public schools as home schools,
the education establishment has found another tool in its warfare against a rise in
home schooling.
*A wave of about half a million crack children is currently (1991) in the process of entering US schools, to be followed by additional waves every year for who knows how long. Even though this is apt to constitute a major challenge to the school system, we have hardly heard any discussion or anticipation of this issue, even in educational circles.

*In face of the widespread collapse in parenting competency, demands are growing for the re-establishment of an orphanage system (e.g., US News & World Report, 8 Oct. 90). In fact, a lot of places that today are called congregate care institutions or group homes would at one time have been called orphanages. As all of this is happening, the average reimbursement for foster families in the US has been dropping to less than $10 a day per child.

*In New York City, the foster care system is in such bad shape that more than 100 mentally handicapped children under the wardship of the city's foster care system were being housed in hospitals, sometimes for more than a year, and at costs of up to $900 a day. Often, such children are simply locked up in a crib because there is not enough personnel to provide attention (SHJ, 11 April 89).

*A couple in England were turned down as adoptive parents because their home was too good and would not expose the child to a sufficient number of "negative experiences." (Source item from Marylou Sullivan)

Human Service-Related News--Straight Up, Some of It Actually Good

*The size of both American households and families hit an all-time low in 1987, with 2.66 and 3.19 respectively (AP, in SHJ, 2 June 88).

*Officially, all members of the American Bar Association are supposed to provide at least some free (pro bono) legal service to the poor, but only about one in six lawyers does (USN&WR, 5 Nov. 90).

*As of the 1985-86 school year, 3.8 million handicapped students aged 6-17 in US schools were 43.7% in resource rooms, 26.5% in regular class, 23.9% in (special) segregated classes, 4.2% in separate (segregated) facilities altogether, with the rest in various other arrangements. However, among the retarded, 55.8% were in special classes, 25.3% in resource rooms, 15.8% in miscellaneous segregated settings, and only 3.1% in regular classes (Int. Rehab. Rev., 9/89). This is a far cry from what one would have guessed from the rhetoric of the "mainstreaming" people.

*Able Connections is a company in Knoxville, TN, that makes connections between single handicapped men and women who want to meet each other for dating and socialization, though non-handicapped persons will also be included in the matching pool if they so desire. (Source item from Milton Tyree).

*An American firm has started to mass-produce a portable 4-room cottage than can be installed in the backyard of one's house, promoted as permitting elderly relatives to live very near-by but not in the same house. The cottage has a bedroom, parlor, kitchen and bathroom. These so-called granny cottages can be bought for about $50,000 or rented by the month.

*People in public intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded (ICF/MRs) have a legal right in Kentucky to a jury trial to determine whether they are entitled to move to less restrictive settings. Obviously, this is both good news and bad news. It provides for recourse to carefully chosen ordinary citizens who might come to more valid common sense judgements than either human service people or family members who desire such a residence for their handicapped family member. The
bad news is that there are often no resources available to serve the person in a less restrictive setting. A person could be "court-ordered" to leave the facility, and thus get de facto "dumped," or the jury may decide to leave the person in the facility only because there are no other alternatives available. It is a good example of the limitations of the law to provide answers to social disorder or moral problems. Interestingly enough, this particular statute does not apply to people living in private ICF/MRs or nursing homes.

*In 1981, Norway created a special governmental ombudsman office to work on behalf of children's issues. The phone number of the office is published in every telephone directory in the country.

*For many years, we have been told that only a very small percentage (about 5%) of elderly people reside in nursing homes, but now we are told that of all Americans who turn 65 in 1990, 43% are expected to enter a nursing home at least once before they die, and almost 200,000 will spend more than five years there (AP, in SHJ, 28/2/91).

*Thomas Neuville sent us something new, namely, a 1989 coloring book for children that is all about nursing homes, and which devotes one picture and few lines of text each to a variety of occupations of people who work in nursing homes, obviously in order to predispose children to eventually become nursing home workers.

*Don't forget our Confederate widows! In 1989, it was announced that the Confederate Home for Women in Richmond, VA (once called Home for Needy Confederate Women), charted in 1898, would close for want of public financial support, and be converted to a fine arts museum; the eight remaining residents, daughters of Civil War soldiers, who had been promised this home for life, were to move to another place 20 miles outside Richmond (AP, in SHJ, 11 April 89).

*An International Congress on Education of the Deaf opened in Rochester, NY, in 7/90 with a concert by ten deaf musicians. The Associated Press news network thought this so odd that it carried an item on it.

*At the request of its General Assembly, Presbyterians for Disability Concerns developed a definition of "persons with disabilities" which, in essence, says that they have an "impairment."

*Larson and Lakin (1989) conducted probably the most extensive review to date of the literature on parental satisfaction with the residential placement of a retarded son or daughter in relation to deinstitutionalization. About 90% of parents who had offspring in institutions were satisfied with the placement, and about 80% of those with offspring in community residences were satisfied. In longitudinal studies, once an institutionalized retarded person had in fact been placed in the community and lived there for some time, there was a dramatic change in attitude by the parents, from extremely high endorsement of the institution to a very high endorsement of the community settings.

*As recently as 1990, a study was published (Stoneman & Crapps, 1990) that found that families did very poorly at maintaining contact with their retarded relatives even when these relatives resided in family care rather than institutions or even community residences. About half of the residents were never visited, and never traveled to see their families, despite efforts by about half of the family care providers to increase involvement of the retarded persons with their families. Even where there were visits, the relationships between parents and handicapped offspring were rated as not being very close. Interestingly, sisters were much more likely to maintain contact with retarded persons than brothers, and sibling relationships were quite often closer than with the handicapped person's parents. Amount of contact was
significantly, but not very highly, correlated with the length of separation, and distance. The retarded persons' characteristics played only a moderate role in family involvement.

*Between 1970-1990, 44 state institutions for the mentally retarded in the US closed, or were scheduled to be closed very soon. Only 15 of these had started out as MR, or mixed mental disorder/MR, facilities. One of these had been newly built as recently as 1977. Among the other 29, 12 had started out as TB hospitals. Among the remaining 17, there were such strange antecedents as a convent, a naval base, and a missile base. We are surprised that the missile base was not kept to shoot handicapped people into outer space (AJMR, 1/91).

*While some institutions had previously served other purposes, including such exotic purposes as missile sites, some former institutions have in turn been converted into other peculiar purposes. One of the most hoary mental retardation institutions in England, Darenth Park, has been rented to serve as a war games facility where people chase each other through the buildings and grounds with pistols that fire pellets of paint, which reveal who has gotten hit and has "died" (Speak Out, 2/91).

Human Service-Related News—Difficult to Classify

*A plastic surgery group in Los Angeles advertised "flowers, chocolates, and a limousine too, recover in luxury and wake up brand new" (Health Letter, 1/10/90).

*A man said to a friend, "I would like to start up a tavern. Can you suggest a suitable location?" The friend said, "Certainly, build one directly adjacent to the detoxification center. When patients are released there, they usually have an insufferable thirst."

*In 8/1991, there will be held in Hong Kong the Third International Abilympics— for handicapped people.

*In 10/90, 500 people who have had various kinds of organ transplants met in Indianapolis for the fourth US transplant games (we had not even been aware that there had been a first). This was the largest assembly of transplant recipients ever in the US. Competitions took place in at least eight kinds of sports. (Source item from Joe Osburn.) Whether this includes head throwing, kidney rolling, etc., is not known to us.

*In recent years, more and more US states have introduced state lotteries. At the same time, there has reportedly been an astronomic increase in gambling in the population. Some people are now raising the question whether state lotteries socialize people into gambling generally, in that once they become strongly attached to lottery gambling, they may gamble in other ways as well. State lotteries are also yet another mechanism for transferring the wealth from the poor to the upper classes because it is predominantly the poor who buy lottery tickets (CM, 22/6/89).

*It is hard to believe that in 1991, a bill was being debated by the Georgia legislature to issue a special kind of identification card to people who have ever before been "hospitalized" for mental problems or drug abuse. The identification card would look to the naked eye like other ID cards, but would reflect orange color if exposed to a flashlight or spotlight. (Source item woefully submitted by David Truran.)

*Earlier and/or elsewhere, we have made the point that some wounded people are so needy that they could easily absorb 15 people full-time in meeting their needs. And we are not just talking about people who require full-time bodily care, but about people who are very emotionally wounded, need much socialization, practical help and
supervision, etc. It has recently been impressed upon us that such people cannot only use 15 full-time people serving directly upon them, but that many such people could use in addition 15 full-time advocates who serve them indirectly by advocating that the right thing be done for them, in part because services are so crazy.

*Matthew Israel, director of the infamous Behavior Research Institute in New England that became notorious for its extreme aversive behavior modification methods, argued as follows against a bill pending in early 1989 before the Massachusetts legislature: "If aversives can be eliminated today, than why not anti-psychotic medication or time-out tomorrow? Once the legislature embarks down this 'slippery slope,' there is no telling where it might end up." (Source material from Jan Doody.) We always thought of the slippery slope starting with the good and ending with the awful, but this is a reverse slippery slope dreaded by the other side.

*Perhaps the single biggest predictor of whether a retarded client will be abused by a staff member is client aggressiveness (AAMR News & Notes, 9 & 10/1990).

*A lead editorial in the May 1991 issue of Exceptional Children claimed that there was a close relationship between illiteracy and violence. This is of course a recapitulation of the enlightenment theme that if people only got educated, they would become morally better.

*Dr. Wolfensberger moved to Syracuse, NY, in 1973, and there was much trepidation that he might import Citizen Advocacy (CA) there. So that very year, in Rochester, NY, a defanged form of CA was founded, in our opinion in order to coopt CA. The scheme is called Compeer, its major thrust being the recruitment of "trained volunteers" working with mental health clients on a friendship (rather than advocacy) basis, "as an adjunct to therapy" (NY Office of Mental Health News, 6/89). Between 1973-1989, 100 Compeer programs were established in 37 states. Not surprisingly, President Bush gave the organization the 1989 President's Volunteer Action Award, which is not likely to happen to CA which is several years older than Compeer, has had many more programs, and has also been implemented in several countries other than the US.

*Wilson & Kouzi (1990) studied 764 board-and-care homes, and found that those for "developmentally disabled" persons were less worse than those for the "mentally disabled," especially on measures of physical and environmental quality.

*In early 1990, both Canadians and others were amazed (some shocked) when, for the first time ever, something other than a rightish-wing government was elected for the province of Ontario. The new government by the New Democratic Party was hailed by many as a positive sign, and people expected big things from it, particularly for handicapped and other lowly groups, since left-leaning governments have historically been perceived to be sympathetic to such people. However, in early November 1990, the new government declared that there were to be no further discharges from provincial institutions until there could be an examination of how such deinstitutionalization was impacting—not on handicapped people themselves, but on the institution workers! Thus, handicapped people are to be sacrificed to more valued people's economic interests. Again, we were not surprised, but apparently, a lot of more naive people were.

*One phenomenon we are currently seeing on the human service scene is that many states, local governments and specific agencies have entered into some very high and long-term financial obligations on behalf of a very small number of clients. As costs go up, as they always do, and resources go down, as eventually they must, this could very well mean that a very small number of clients receive very disproportionately costly services, while many others are totally frozen out. While a particular client may indeed have higher requirements, these decisions are commonly
made with only narrow and short-term considerations in mind, rather than in a
context of a long-term overall policy and strategy context. Readers are warned to
keep this in mind, and to raise a warning when they see such commitments being made
in a non-contextual fashion.

*One of the largest recorded epidemics of what appears to be hysterical
blindness or partial loss of vision has been reported from Cambodia. The victims
are primarily women, and the most common factor appears to have been their
witnessing of unspeakable atrocities, mostly under the Khmer Rouge. Cultural
inhibitions against discussing one's feelings seem to be a major facilitator of
this somatization (APA Monitor, 7/90).

*An article in the 9/90 issue of Social Service Review charged that the social
work profession is being "engulfed by the popular psychotherapies," and that the
profession's other functions are in danger of soon becoming negligible. It added
that these social workers are trying to assume the functions that were formerly
played by other social institutions, such as church and clergy, and thus are
becoming "secular priests," and psychotherapy is becoming the "church of individual
repair." Traditional churches provided morals, values and beliefs, while the new
secular priests help each individual construct his or her own personal church. It
also charged that many students of social work pretend to their professors that
they are driven by devotion to the poor and the oppressed, while secretly aspiring
to go into individual private and lucrative psychotherapy. In part, this reflects
the increasing financial capacity and willingness of the American population to
seek and pay for psychotherapy, and there is reason to believe that about a third
of the population has had some such.

This shift in the focus of social work is believed to parallel a shift from an
erlier orientation to sociology, to one toward psychiatry, that took place after
World War I. An associated disaster was that psychiatry itself was overwhelmingly
oriented toward one-to-one interactions, with social psychiatry gaining prominence
only later, but even then always remaining a psychiatry side-show. For us, it is
fascinating to consider that if Social Role Valorization theory had been available,
it might have been the salvation of social work. (Source item from Debi Reidy).

*In the shrink culture, the construct of "depression" is nowadays commonly
invoked to be applied to people who are unhappy with their lives. For instance, it
is commonly said that elderly people have an extremely high rate of depression,
which seems to be a relatively recent cultural phenomenon, and is probably related
to the unfavorable condition of elderly people in today's society. An article in
the Journal of the American Medical Association (2/91) reported that of a cohort of
elderly people being admitted to eight nursing homes, 47% were severely depressed,
and 24% mildly or temporarily depressed. Of course, one would think that close to
100% of people would be rather unhappy about being put into a nursing home. The
study also found that those who were admitted in a so-called depressed state had a
60% higher probability than the others of dying within the first year. Again, this
would not be surprising. (Source item from Joe Osburn.)

*A whole newspaper page in the Indianapolis Star (13/1/91) was devoted to a
story about retarded—and mostly also cerebral palsied—people in the Soviet Union
who had gotten diagnosed as insane and locked up in mental institutions and
drugged, and who finally in recent years were found to be retarded instead—but for
whom "liberation" then meant being transferred to nursing homes where conditions
were still pretty bad. (Source item from Joe Osburn).

*We have always thought that the founding of the National Association for the
Dually Diagnosed in 1983 was rather peculiar, not to mention that we thought that
the term "dual diagnosis" was one of those modernistic and inappropriate
euphemisms. Looking at a 1991 conference program of this organization, we have now
come to the conclusion that one of its major functions, either consciously or unconsciously intended, is to give a continuing foothold of power over mentally retarded people to shrinkery, and particularly to psychiatric medicine.

**Peculiar Human Service Projects**

*A number of professional photographers in the US got together to give some thought as to what they might be able to do about homelessness, and particularly homeless children. They decided that the answer was to enable such children to express themselves with cameras.* To this end, they handed out free cameras to homeless children. Next one knew, there were art exhibits of photographs taken by such homeless children—which very much impressed all sorts of viewers *(USN&WR, 8 Oct. 90).*

In 5/91, a half-hour documentary of the project was shown on public television, to accompany the exhibit of the children's work. Unfortunately, the project itself, and the documentary, are entitled "Shooting Back," which carries an image of violence and retribution—particularly problematic since many of the children live in a violent world, would be perceived by many people with fear, and are at risk of becoming long-term members of a violent street culture. As almost always, there are some good elements in this incoherency. For instance, one adolescent has apparently become a quite good photographer, and ended up acting as de facto assistant to the professional photographer in charge of the project. Further, the project has provided an avenue for relationship between valued and devalued people, in that some professional photographers involved in the project have developed special relationships with specific children. And the project was able to get a grant to take the children on a photography vacation in Maine, an environment of great beauty which they had never experienced before.

One funny element was that because film is very expensive, the project had to limit the children's use of film until they had learned at least the basics about cameras. So when the children were first being taught how to use cameras, they used what the project director called "air film," i.e., make-believe film. A violation of what Dr. W. calls pedagogic verisimilitude if we ever heard one! Even old or exposed film would have been more real.

*Bizarrely, a group of children between the ages of 14-20 living in foster homes were taken from Syracuse on a bus trip to Toronto for a weekend in order to learn organization and planning, and offer the satisfaction of setting a goal and attaining it,* according to the director of the Foster Care Youth Independence Project which organized the trip. The youths reported having enjoyed themselves very much in the city, but we wonder about both the coherency and the image of such an event. For instance, it may be that some of the youths who live in foster homes are impaired in various skills and abilities that would foster independence, perhaps due to their usually disordered family backgrounds. But beyond that, what could youths of such an age range, and who live in foster homes, have as a relevant common identity? And what is the advantage in congregating them together for such a trip? Why not just have them go on a classroom trip, as many high school classes take trips to other parts of the country, or to Canada, and do so with similar goals in mind? And further, some such classes take trips simply to have fun, which undoubtedly the children in the foster homes could also benefit from. *(Source item SHJ, 24 April, 1989).* It is also peculiar that all this happened only a few months after a major scandal about the local foster system made the news media, which revealed, among other things, that caseworkers were carrying impossible caseloads, with of course devastating impacts on the children under their supervision. Would it not have been better to have invested the money and planning that went into this trip into providing relief to the caseworkers, and thus prevent some placement disasters?
*A recreation specialist in Melbourne, Australia, started a segregated recreation and exercise program for street and homeless people. This worker even hoped to one day hold their own version of the Special Olympics. On the one hand, this is the kind of thing that we always make fun of, namely people doing something merely because they know how to do it rather than what is needed, and thereby often even drawing attention away from the things that are needed. On the positive side, this sort of thing does activate people physically, and could lead to better things. (Source clipping from Rob Nicholls).

The Undermining of Worthwhile Efforts

*One way in which modernistic and imperial forces consistently try to undermine extra-imperial ways of doing things is by subtle strategies that push the latter toward formalization, because formalized developments are almost certain to become part of the imperial realm. We believe that this is exemplified by a 1987 book entitled How to be a Friend to the Handicapped: A Handbook and Guide. What this book implies is that in order to be a friend to a handicapped person, one needs a "handbook," which traditionally implies a (big) book that is constantly at hand where one can quickly look up all the answers that one would confront, much as an engineer needs a voluminous handbook of all sorts of tables, coefficients, and constants. One can almost imagine a Citizen Advocacy coordinator who is trying to recruit a citizen advocate thrusting this handbook into the hands of a prospective advocate candidate, and saying, "when you have learned this by heart, let's talk about it again."

The point is not that the book does not contain useful information, but that it is coming out at the wrong time, and plays into strong prevailing currents of perversion. Of course, all this also goes hand in hand with the ridiculous proliferation of written guides on how to talk to handicapped people.

PERVERSION ALERT -- To our astonishment, we learnt that there are now "paid social network members" (JAPSH, summer 1990).

*Over a two-year period, US Navy plastic surgeons in San Diego alone performed 544 free cosmetic surgeries on naval personnel and their dependents. When accused of wastefulness, the Navy said that the practice helped develop the skills of its physicians. At the very same time, the Navy reprimanded and fined one of its surgeons for borrowing surgical instruments to perform free cleft-palate and harelip operations on hundreds of Third World children (Time, 25/6/90).

Miscellaneous News Related to Health & Medicine

*There is a new mysterious disease syndrome that has such a complicated name that it is simply called EMS. In 1990, there were 5,000 mysterious EMS cases with 27 deaths, all in connection with the consumption of L-tryptophan. For a while, it was thought that the disease was due to a contaminant in the drug, but since the drug itself was illegally genetically engineered, there is still the possibility that the disease was the result of an unanticipated (by the manufacturer) outcome of the recombinant genetic engineering, which had at first been vigorously denied. If this turns out to be true, it will be an acute embarrassment to the medical and biogenetic community that has attempted to get as little regulation of recombinant techniques as possible. To us, it seems an inevitable certainty that such recombinant techniques are bound to create organisms, or variations of substances, that have either unforeseen harmful effects, or that may get away from human control and, in the worst case scenario, could cause plagues (Science, 2 Nov. 90).

*In the United Kingdom, "mad cow disease" has broken out. This is a degenerative brain disease caused by an unusual virus which previously only affected other animals. Like certain other degenerative brain diseases, this one
develops very slowly. The fact that this disease jumped from certain animals to cattle has raised the question whether it can also jump to humans, in which case we could be in for a terrible plague. The cattle apparently caught it by eating cattle feed made up of ground-up sheep tissue, and the question then becomes whether humans can catch it by eating beef. About 20,000 cattle have been slaughtered, and beef consumption in the UK has plummeted. As is to be expected in such cases, the imperial powers have done their best to keep this out of the US news (Science, 28/9/90).

*One of the most serious breaches of research safety in medicine took place at the University of Pennsylvania in 6/90 when sheep were inoculated with the HTLV-1 virus, which has some similarity to the HIV virus and which can cause fatal leukemia. The sheep were then turned loose into a larger herd of sheep instead of being separated. Later, 20 other people handled the animals in connection with other projects, not aware that the herd contained inoculated animals.

*In 1988, 12,000 health care workers got infected with hepatitis B, and 250 of these died as a result. It is estimated that almost 90% of homosexual people either have or have had hepatitis B, and they are now major transmitters of the disease (AIA, 10/90).

*After having long wondered what is beyond hepatitis A and B, a whole series of additional hepatitis viruses and diseases have been identified, and we are now up to hepatitis E (Discover, 12/90).

*Automation and computerization have reduced an increasing number of jobs to an endless repetition of the same relatively simple manual motions, and this is causing "cumulative trauma disorders" which are limb-disabling. It has become the most frequently reported job ailment (almost 50%), has been called the industrial disease of the information age, and could affect half the work force by 2000. Even the higher-ups are affected because they spend so much time before computers (USN&WR, 21/5/90).

*According to the World Health Organization, iodine deficiency disorders (which cause lethargy and even mental retardation) afflict 1 billion people in the Third World as of 1990. Optimistically but entirely unwarrantedly, the WHO set the goal of eliminating such disorders by the year 2000 (International Rehabilitation Review, 10/80).

*If one listens to the medical community, one would think that so much progress has been made in research and treatment on cancer that we are now way ahead of where we were a few decades ago. However, when we look around us, we can't help noticing that almost everybody seems to have, or to die of, cancer. Now some respected scientists have begun to also make the point that cancer progress has been misinterpreted, and that cancer is actually on the rise in several major industrial countries; indeed, some cancers that were once relatively rare are becoming much more common. One of the most dramatic rises in cancer rates has occurred in lung cancer, which was about 5 per 100,000 males in the US, and which has risen steeply ever since to 75 per 100,000 by 1985. Rather mysteriously, brain cancer has also been increasing more recently (Science, 16 Nov. 90).

*Asthma rates declined over the years—until 1978, and have since increased sharply. Among children, it has become the leading chronic childhood disease. The medical profession is treating this as a clinical problem rather than the public health problem that it appears to be (NCR, 18/11/90). It is our guess that environmental degradation, combined with the stress of collapsing structures and viable life styles, is destroying people's immune systems.
*The more one learns about lead poisoning, the worse it gets. Latest findings indicate that even small amounts of lead can inflict permanent damage on the nervous system and the functions it controls, and that a woman who accumulated lead in her bones as a child may pass the lead on to her babies during gestation. Major sources of lead these days are old paint, which often distributes as dust in the air, and the solder in water pipes. Even some food cans still use lead solder. Unfortunately, as is to be expected, there are people who try to explain child and adolescent disfunctioning in the ghettoes in terms of lead poisoning (APA Monitor, 7/90).

*Serious questions have arisen whether the mercury in the amalgam fillings of many people's teeth is the cause of a wide range of human malaise, including immunity suppression. In some countries, the use of mercury in tooth fillings is being outlawed. The amazing thing is that even though mercury is one of the heavy metals that is known to be very toxic, its safety in teeth fillings had never been tested in the more than 75 years during which it has been used for this purpose. Nonetheless, the American Dental Association has declared that any dentist who questions the safety of such fillings vis-à-vis a patient is acting unethically and can be deprived of the license to practice. Rather grotesquely, the ADA argument is that danger has not been convincingly proven, ignoring that safety has not even been examined.

*It is stupendous to learn that the entire Mediterranean has become so polluted that the dolphins in it appear to be dying out, and that the pollution is so extensive that it would take many years to bring about significant improvements (Time, 12 Nov. 90).

*US firms are able to sell abroad pesticides that are forbidden in the US. Whole armies of workers abroad who come into contact with these pesticides reported adverse effects, and some of the environmental impacts have been disastrous, such as the unintended decimation of bee colonies in Tunisia. The whole issue is again one of preference for a high technology strategy that in some respects is more convenient to use than more effective low-technology strategies (Science, 10 Aug. 90).

*During a 10-month period in 1990, there were almost 160 major petro-chemical spills or explosions around the world, discharging 28 million gallons of oil. Most people are aware of only a few spills a year, which is part of a pattern of cover-up and deception. Yet 1990 was actually quite typical of the way things have been going on for the previous decade—in fact, things had been worse in a number of other years. North America led the world by far in such spillage (Discover, 1/91).

*Here is another example of what good news these days boils down to: The NY Times ran a headline in early 1990 that screamed, "Worst Fears on Acid Rain Unrealized."

*Environmental and public health in Eastern Europe has deteriorated so much that in many areas, it is simply no longer safe to live, even though people have little alternative. In East Germany alone, it has recently been discovered that 400,000 miners have been exposed to very dangerous levels of radiation while mining uranium. This also underlines how indirectly the nuclear arms race has contributed to deathmaking, since most of the uranium went to nuclear bomb-making in Russia (AN, 3 Nov. 90).
Half the antibiotics produced in the US are consumed by farm animals. Efforts to stop this go back at least to 1977, but this is just yet another problem which the government and the Congress have managed to ignore. Between the increasing resistance of bacterial strains to antibiotics, and the reduced immunity of people because of pollution and stress, we are beginning to see old and new disease strains that can be quite deadly. The routine use of antibiotics in animal feed is a major culprit for this. One such strain is a strep bacterium that causes something that is currently called toxic shock-like syndrome (TSSL) that has popped up all over the world. The disease can strike suddenly and kill within hours. It can start with a little skin infection or sore throat or cough, progressing rapidly to high fever, drop in blood pressure, and loss of circulation. It may even result in loss of a limb if it does not kill. It is a well-known fact in the science of epidemics that one and the same organism can cause entirely different kinds of symptomatologies in the population that is not immune to it than it does in one with extensive immunity to it, and some people think that this strain is simply scarlet fever coming back in a more virulent form to a population that has lost its immunity to it (Science, 6 July 90).

Reading & writhing. On top of the agony of emergency victims and ambulances not being able to go to the nearest hospitals because their emergency services were overloaded, and consequently being "diverted" to hospitals far away, such patients in the central New York area are now also subjected to having ambulance drivers read a bureaucratic paragraph to them explaining the diversion, and what their rights in regard to it are. Thus, no matter that you may be in the middle of a heart attack or in a coma, someone will stop everything and read this statement to you. Amazingly, ambulance drivers welcomed this requirement because they felt that it took the blame off them when they had to take a patient to someplace other than where they thought they were going (SHJ, 13/1/90). This shows how service policies can junk the minds of human service workers.

In 1990, one of the major Syracuse hospitals had to evacuate a baby unit and close down almost all of its surgery rooms because of an invasion of clouds of tiny flies which came out both from above (the air vents) and below (the drain pipes). The event was declared an "unusual incident" by hospital spokespersons who tried to minimize the incident and, in very imperial style, announced that there was "nothing to worry about," that the flies really would not have been a problem anyway, but that they closed the surgery merely because "we're a hospital, and we wanted it to be as clean as possible." However, a housekeeping employee who spoke anonymously said that the flies had to have been around for quite a few days because of their large number in so many parts of the hospital system (SHJ, 31/7/90).

A large-scale University of Michigan study concluded that the best defense against poor health in old age is high income and high education. It hardly seemed worth all the effort to find this out (NC Register, 17/2/91).

Evidence is also beginning to emerge that the best things one can do to combat the ailments of old age are to pursue the low-technology strategies of exercise and good diet. This is bad news for medicine and humans, because modern medicine has a profound horror of low-technology strategies and is, therefore, not very likely to extensively incorporate and deploy this new knowledge (Discover, 1/91).

This is the way we cut them up, cut them up. Caesarean section is the most frequent major surgery in the US. Second is hysterectomy, with 600,000-650,000 in 1990, each costing on the average $20,000, and requiring weeks of recovery--and yet 20-50% of these operations involve a basically healthy uterus (Newsweek, 22/10/90; Consumer Reports, 9/90).
*A study released in late 1990 reported that 78% of all obstetricians and gynecologists in the US have been sued for malpractice, many more than once, with the average being 3 suits, and almost 10% more than just two years previously. Suits commonly revolved around still-births and neonatal mortality, brain damage in babies, and failure to diagnose maternal breast cancer. As a result, 12% of the physicians had dropped obstetrics altogether, and 25 no longer took on high-risk deliveries (National Catholic Register, 6 Jan. 91).

*When the largest chain of walk-in clinics in the US began to allow its physicians to keep part of the patient fees, the number of tests and X-rays performed increased by about 20% (NEJM, 12 April 90; in IAETF, 8/90).

*According to some estimates, health care might devour 28.5% of the gross national product in the US by the year 2010 (Modern Maturity, 10 & 11/90).

*Even those provisions which are instituted to supposedly make paperwork easier can end up complicating the system. For instance, in 9/90, the US government instituted a new rule that physicians, rather than patients, should fill out Medicare claims. However, physicians may take a year to file a claim and, in the meantime, patients have to pay the bill up front in order to be eventually reimbursed, and with long-time delays, this might be forgotten or otherwise never happen. Furthermore, this constitutes yet a further incentive for physicians not to serve Medicare patients.

*We herewith predict an early collapse of the US Medicaid system. Please take note of this prediction and give us credit for it when it happens. We modify this prediction by admitting that the collapse could be averted if there were a major reorganization of health care finance, but we also believe that the collapse could occur before a fundamental reform does.

*In 10/90, the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Health Insurance of Charleston, W.Va., declared bankruptcy—the first time that a Blue Cross plan did so in the company's 57-year history. The plan left behind unpaid bills to patients, physicians and hospitals in the amount of $30 million (Health Letter, 12/90). There is also concern that AIDS alone could wreak havoc in the health insurance field in the years ahead.

Resources

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A New Monograph on Social Role Valorization (SRV) by Prof. Wolfensberger

*A new 50-page, single-spaced monograph on SRV (the successor to the principle of normalization) by the TIPS editor is now available, entitled A Brief Introduction to Social Role Valorization as a High-Order Construct for Structuring Human Services. It is much lengthier and more detailed than the previously available brief written explanations of SRV, such as journal articles, but much less detailed than the most thorough explanation of SRV implications, namely, the 500-page PASSING Manual. In addition, it contains material on the dynamics of social devaluation not contained in any of Wolfensberger's other SRV publications—not even PASSING. The monograph should be very compelling to intelligent readers. It is useful for anyone who has not been, or cannot go, to an SRV workshop, but who wants a fuller explanation of SRV than the short journal articles provide. However, even for people planning to go to an SRV and/or PASSING workshop, the monograph provides a very useful preparatory preview.
Available from the Training Institute for $7 per copy, plus postage and handling; 15% discount for orders of 10 to 49 copies; 20% discount for 50 or more. Postage and handling charges: 15% of cost of order within North America; 20% of cost of order outside North America. MINIMUM CHARGE IS $1.50. Make checks payable in US funds to "Syracuse University Training Institute," at the TIPS editorial address.

Because the quantity price of this monograph is so low, several parties have bought it by the score or the hundreds for wide dissemination.

*Readers are reminded that the second edition of PASS—the first edition that was made publicly available—can still be purchased from the TI at the scandalously low price of $2 per set (Handbook and Field Manual). Those who use PASS or PASSING, and especially those who teach PASS and PASSING, really should have at least one set for archival and historical purposes, as a record of how PASS evolved over its various editions, and what preceded PASSING. Even adding $1.50 for postage and handling, one can own this historical set of works for only $3.50!

**War, War-Making, & Preparations for War**

*People in human services need to retain consciousness how war impacts on human services, as via infliction of impairment, destruction of wealth, transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich, destruction of the environment that decreases health and food production, etc.

We continue to speak of World War III, which is what the Persian Gulf Oil War really was, though no one else has been willing to call it that.

*War for the sake of war. (Simone Weil (1909-1943) was a brilliant French philosopher and writer. She actively shared the lot of the working class and victims of war. The following excerpt is from her essay, The Power of Words, taken from The Simone Weil Reader, pp. 272-73, and the Unity Grapevine, 3/91).

"...If we examine the term 'national interest' we find it does not mean the interest of capitalist business. 'A man thinks he is dying for his country,' said Anatole France, 'but he is dying for a few industrialists.' But even that is saying too much. What one dies for is not even so substantial and tangible as an industrialist.

"The national interest cannot be defined as a common interest of the great industrial, commercial, and financial companies of a country, because there is no such common interest; nor can it be defined as the life, liberty, and well-being of the citizens, because they are continually being adjured to sacrifice their well-being, their liberty, and their lives to the national interest. In the end, a study of modern history leads to the conclusion that the national interest of every State consists in its capacity to make war. In 1911 France nearly went to war for Morocco; but why was Morocco so important? Because the populations of North Africa would make a reserve of cannon fodder; and because, for the purpose of war, a country needs to make its economy as self-supporting as possible in raw materials and markets. What a country calls its vital economic interests are not the things which enable its citizens to live, but the things which enable it to make war; petrol is much more likely than wheat to be a cause of international conflict. Thus when war is waged it is for the purpose of safeguarding or increasing one's capacity to make war. International politics are wholly involved in this vicious circle. What is called national prestige consists in behaving always in such a way as to demoralize other nations by giving them the impression that, if it comes to war, one would certainly defeat them. What is called national security is an imaginary state of affairs in which one would retain the capacity to make war while depriving all other countries of it. It amounts to this, that a self-respecting nation is ready for anything, including war, except for a renunciation of its option to make war. But why is it so essential to be able to make war? No one knows, any more than the Trojans knew why it was necessary for them to keep Helen.
That is why good intentions of peace-loving statesmen are so ineffectual. If the countries were divided by a real opposition of interests, it would be possible to arrive at satisfactory compromises. But when economic and political interests have no meaning apart from war, how can they be peacefully reconciled? It is the very concept of the nation that needs to be suppressed—or rather, the manner in which the word is used. For the word national and the expressions of which it forms part are empty of all meaning; their only content is millions of corpses, and orphans, and disabled men, and tears and despair."

Miscellaneous War-Related Points, Mostly WW III

*An estimated 140,000 US military personnel are married to each other (i.e., to other military personnel), and another 57,000 are single parents (Time, 18/2/91).

*In World War I, only 5% of the casualties were civilians; in World War II, 75% were. The reason is that modern weapons and warfare are much less discriminating between combatants and civilians (USNAWR, 18/2/91).

*No one will ever know how many people were killed in World War III. Only at the end of the war did US authorities allow that 70,000-100,000 might have been killed. Shortly after the war, the estimates rose to "at least 100,000 military deaths," and a few weeks later it was admitted that the final total, including civilian fatalities, would probably be double that. Even then, deaths due to the civil war within Iraq called for by Bush's appeal for Iraqis to rise up against Saddam were still not accounted for, and of course this killing is still in progress. In mid-May 1991, we were told that up to 170,000 children might yet die in Iraq because of the destruction of the infrastructure, the collapse of sanitation, and the breakdown in medical services. By the time all the effects have taken their course, deaths may amount to half a million. It is also interesting that the war was declared over merely because the coalition forces declared an armistice, even though war-making continued both within Iraq and Kuwait all along. When the war will be truly over remains to be seen.

*The Kurds were not just once but twice betrayed by President Bush. They were betrayed once when he was director of the CIA and called upon the Kurds to rise up against the Iranian government in the early and mid-1970s. The very same man then called upon them to rise again during World War III, and after they did, abandoned them yet again. While one is obligated to feel sorry for them, honesty requires that one admit that they were not very smart, and seem to have poor moral discernment.

*There was no reason for the Allies to destroy certain parts of the infrastructure of Iraq, such as its water supply and sewage disposal. Should many ten thousands of civilians die from this, they will undoubtedly not be counted as war casualties.

*It is quite possible that the lives of hundreds of thousands of people will be significantly abbreviated as the result of the air pollution in the Gulf region from the burning oil and gas emissions. Even Allied soldiers who will have been there for only a short period may suffer life-long damage, and lose years of life expectancy, with their governments later probably denying how it happened. Even soldiers who had to stay around in this air for months were not even issued rudimentary breathing filters. As far as the local civilian population is concerned, it is conceivable that we may see absolutely massive die-offs since, unlike the soldiers, it will be virtually impossible to evacuate them.
Experts on crime and violence have anticipated that World War III would cause more crime by the simple mechanism of contagion. The experts have noted that violence is contagious, and data from 50 nations show an increase in homicide rates whenever war breaks out. In fact the highest increases have occurred in those countries that have won wars. Not only are soldiers who return from wars more likely to commit violence, but so are people who were too old to be soldiers (USN&WR, 4 Feb. 91).

So much of all the grim news about us has its hilarious elements, if only one can "read" it with a mind that is not surrendered to the imperial epistemology. An example is President Bush's announcement shortly after the end of World War III that the same "moral force" that "freed Kuwait" can also "free America's cities from crime" (SHJ, 6 March 91).

Any person who has read a lot will have read stories of people who got shot, but where the bullet was stopped by a Bible that they carried on their person. During WWIII, a US publisher began to sell an armor-plated Bible at $20 that invoked the name of the Lord in vain on its frontispiece with a verse from Psalm 28: "The Lord is My Strength and My Shield," alluding to Operation Desert Shield.

Pakistan has a number of nuclear weapons, is building more, and is converting its US-supplied fighter planes (even as the US kept sending more) so as to have the capacity to carry nuclear weapons. Yet further, Pakistan is helping Iran to develop its nuclear capacity (USN&WR, 2/12/90).

It is an irony of fate that while the United States went to war in the Persian Gulf largely in order to protect its access to cheap foreign oil, the war itself resulted in the loss of an incalculable amount of "cheap foreign oil," via the spilling or burning of the many Kuwaiti oil wells by Iraqi occupiers. Approximately 400 million gallons of oil were being burned away each day during the first week of March. One estimate was that it would take 3 years to extinguish all oil fires, and the most optimistic predictions were that it will be at least one year before Kuwait is able to sell its oil on the markets again. Thus, a war that was fought in order to secure oil has ended up in a good percentage of the world's remaining oil reserves—and they are diminishing rapidly each year—being uselessly and purposelessly spoiled—while also wreaking vast environmental damage. This is yet one more example of how humans cannot predict the results of their actions, in good part because they cannot possibly know—and often cannot even predict very well—what their actions will lead to.

After the French had been among the prime sellers of arms and industry to Iraq, the French prime minister declared in 3/91 that there was an urgent need to "destroy Iraq's military-industrial potential" (Time, 11 March 91). Presumably, the more often you destroy it, the more often you can resell it.

Yet another absolutely staggering transfer of money from the unrich to the rich has been precipitated by World War III. In order to rebuild, Kuwait will be spending many billions of dollars for contracts, much of which will go to US firms. At the same time, the war itself had been financed heavily out of US tax monies. Thus, the cost of the war falls on the taxpayer, while the profits from it and its aftermath will accrue to the US business empires. This is how this particular money transfer will take place.

The chairman of an international construction company said "the rebuilding of Kuwait is going to be big business" (USN&WR, 4 Feb. 91).

Chevron, one of the big oil companies, made a killing on World War III, with its fourth quarter in 1990 chalking up a profit 250% above that of its 1989 counterpart. The company attributed this windfall to an "abberation" (Time, 18/2/91).
Below is another "easy essay" by Peter Maurin.

"Bourgeois capitalists don't want their pie in the sky when they die. They want their pie here and now. To get their pie here and now, bourgeois capitalists give us bigger and better commercial wars for the sake of markets and raw materials.

But as Sherman says, 'War is hell.' So we get hell here and now because bourgeois capitalists don't want their pie in the sky when they die, but want their pie here and now."

*Just how perverted the M.L. King cult has become was underlined by the fact that the Southern Christian Leadership Conference invited General Powell, the highest-ranking US soldier, to be Grand Marshall for the 1991 King Week Parade in Atlanta. In an even greater irony, Powell, who had accepted, had to back out because he was too busy making war in the Gulf. King had been one of the leading advocates of non-violence in the US, had declared the US government to be the greatest purveyor of violence in the world, and had vehemently opposed the Vietnam war in which Powell had served two tours of duty.

The Reimagining & Ablinguistification of War & World War III

*There is an adage that the first victim of war is always truth. We certainly found this to be the case in WW III.

*The government of Saudi Arabia did not permit the news of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait to be announced on its news media for a full 3 days. Empires do not like bad news.

*When people tried to telephone Iraq during World War III, they often got a recording that said "due to an emergency situation, your call can not be completed," which is a typically imperial formulation trying to avoid saying what was really happening, namely a war.

*During WW III, the news media were informed that they could show mildly wounded soldiers, but never one who was in severe agony or shock (USN&WWR, 18/3/91). As one commentator put it, the media were only permitted to show "tasteful horrors." The government also banned all taking of pictures of coffins arriving stateside from the war theater.

During all of World War II, not one single image of a dismembered American soldier was ever published, nor was any such ever published afterwards in the many photo anthologies, even though the loss of limbs was a common battle phenomenon. In fact, flying body parts themselves caused many injuries, deaths and madness among those uninjured by enemy fire. Some observers have argued that one reason why returning veterans have shown so much bitterness and trauma is that they saw that back home, the truth about war was never really told, and there was a radical discrepancy between what they had seen and knew, and the image of war in the minds of everybody else back home (USN&WWR, 18 March 1991, p. 26).

*A US Army engineer disclosed in 10/90 that 2/3 of all the Blackhawk helicopters in Saudi Arabia lacked the infrared exhaust suppressor that they were supposed to have. He made the disclosure because without the suppressor, the helicopters would be easy targets for weapons with infrared detection capacities. For his honesty, he was arrested, handcuffed, removed from government premises and fired.
*In early April 1991, a US undersecretary of commerce was fired because he revealed that he had warned the administration for years about the dangers of exporting (for profit) high technology for war-making to Iraq.

*The American B-1B Bomber has never worked, though the government has interpreted its development a "super success story." One way in which it has deceived everyone is by redefining the standards the plane has to meet: it has to be able to fly for one hour without breaking down (CC, 11 & 12/90).

*A professor of physics at Emory University wrote in a column widely carried by newspapers (e.g., Daily Hampshire Gazette, 7 March 91) that World War III removed moral doubts and guilt from his support for high-technology warfare, because the war made clear that high-tech weapons "saved lives" on both sides, and that therefore, his work was "good technology." (Source item from Michael Kendrick).

*People who followed the news of the war and have any memory left at all may recall that early during the war, we were told that 60 Iraqi tanks had defected. The TIPS editor found it very strange that after a day or so, this news was subsequently never mentioned again, and only after the war was over did it turn out that the CIA had completely invented the episode and planted it in the news channels in order to elicit real defections (Time, 11 March 91).

*Because initially at least, there was so much ambivalence about World War III among the American public, a brand-new slogan was manufactured that succeeded marvelously in eliciting support for the war. The slogan was "Support Our Troops," implying that one should support them even if one did not support the war. People were swept up wholesale by this slogan so that within a few weeks to months, they failed to realize that they had begun to support the war itself through the medium of supporting the troops—whatever that latter phrase means.

*America at work. A 3/91 Doonesbury cartoon poked fun at the way so many of the US military people sent to the Gulf interpreted their war-making and killing as "a job to get over with...The job we are being paid to do...The job I was trained to do." Of course, when war-making becomes a necessity in order to keep the economy humming, there is something to all this, and warring does become a job like any other—almost the same as a human service job that only exists to support the economy at the cost of wasting the lives of clients.

*We might also note that according to Time (18/2/91), many members of the US Armed Forces joined only out of "sheer economic necessity," which underlines the PPP role served by the military these days.

*Three workmen fashioning a cross
On which the fourth must die!
Yet none of any other asked
"And why? Any why? And why?

Said they: "This is our business,
Our living we must earn;
What happens to the other man
Is none of our concern!"
(by Clyde McGee, ca. 1875.)

*President Bush and his advisors have referred to WW III as an "uplifting" experience (USN&WR, 15/4/91).

*To our list of deceptive or detoxifying WW III language in the 2/91 issue, we can now add the following. The US artillery refers to their weapons as "grid-square removal system." "Incontinent ordnance" refers to bombs and artillery shells that fall wide of their targets and hit civilians. Cluster bombs that wreak vast damage over a large area are called "area denial weapons." The destruction of anti-aircraft weaponry was called "asset suppression." A bullet hole in a body was
called a "ballistically induced aperture in the subcutaneous environment" (Time, 25/2/91). And then there were "target-rich environments." There were so many coalition aircraft over its enemy that keeping them from running into each other was given the novel euphemism "target deconfliction."

*A lengthy article in US News & World Report (18 March 91), written by the former US Air Force Chief of Staff, said "laser and TV-guided bombs have a near-zero probable error: that is, each bomb has a high probability of hitting within 3 feet of its target." This was certainly the image that TV news conveyed during WW III with its gee-whiz gunsight picture sequences. Only several weeks after the armistice did the truth come out that these picture sequences were extremely selected ones, and that many "precision" bombs and missiles had indeed been quite inaccurate. In fact, a total of 70% of all bombs dropped by the US during WW III missed their target, but the Pentagon did not release a single gun camera video of bombs missing their target (CC, 5&6/91).

*A number of polls since 2/91 have discovered that Americans with the least factual knowledge about the Gulf events were the most likely to support WW III. The more facts people possessed, the less likely they were to support the war. Those who watched the most TV were the most pro-war--and knew the fewest facts about the dispute.

*A number of prominent Americans (and probably foreigners too) who had opposed World War III quickly came out in favor of it after the military victory. This can surely not be good for people's morality.

We Warn: The US is Headed Toward de Facto Military Dictatorship

*Organisms have developed such adaptational mechanisms that when they are under attack or stress, they will protect their more vital parts even if that means having to surrender others. For instance, many lizards will shed their tails when under attack so as to escape with the rest of their bodies and lives. Similarly, the human body will often withdraw vitality from the extremities in order to protect the torso, and especially the brain. Under many types of risk to life, brain functions are the last thing to be surrendered.

Societal organizations, including entire societies, can be observed to do similar things. Many organizations will surrender virtually everything that they have except existence, to which they cling to the very last even when there is no longer a purpose to their existence.

A fascinating but ominous such process is now at work in our society. As society is dying and losing one of its functionalities after another, we have to ask not only what it is that is being shed and given up on, but also what it is that is being protected to the last. It has become increasingly clear to us that one of these latter things is militarism, and also how much sense this makes from an imperial perspective. As we have said many times before, and as World War III has underlined, the military is unfortunately one of the few remaining sectors in society that operates with some degree of efficiency and functionality. We can also note that even as our society had shed virtually all of its industrial capacity, it has tenaciously maintained--and even enlarged--that part of it that has to do with militarism. Along the same lines, we are seeing an increasing militarization of our society, which has also become apparent during World War III. In fact, shortly after the war, public opinion polls showed that the public had vastly more faith (soaring to 93%, Time, 18/3/91) in its military than it has had in any other social institution for decades, and most certainly including its own government. No one seems to note the dangers when a population trusts its military more than its government!

We have also warned of the ominous signs of the militarization of our police forces, which we expect to continue in very gradual and subtle ways so as to draw very little opposition.
We believe that all the signs point towards the US eventually becoming a de facto military dictatorship, even though this dictatorship may retain some of the disguises of democratic structures and processes that in reality have become defunct.

One sign of the times in regard to the militarization of US society was the extensive militarization of the St. Patrick's Day Parades (17 March) which should have been an ethnic and religious affair. Even the diocesan Catholic newspaper in central New York noted approvingly that the local military units in the parade in Syracuse constituted "the highlight of the parade." Some of the participating units were those who, with their aircraft, had machine-gunned helpless soldiers on the ground when they were running aimlessly about trying to escape the bombing of their shelters in the desert.

Good News at Last: Structures With a Long History of Corruption & Evil are Failing

Left & Right

*With so many people either ruefully or gleefully contemplating the implosion of Communism and its economic structures, hardly anyone is recognizing that Western capitalism and Communism are merely 2 sides of the same coin, based on largely the same set of materialistic assumptions, and are therefore in our opinion equally invalid. Both systems are based on the Enlightenment ideology that evolved in 18th century Europe that deposed God and enshrined the rational use of human intellect, and its product, a technologized industrialism. This false ideology underlies all of modernism, though most people have no consciousness of it. However, some of the Russians at least have caught on that they have been fooled. A Soviet scientist quoted in The New York Times (20/3/90) claimed that all of the contemporary social problems of the USSR, as well as those of most other developed nations (economic disaster, inflation, loss of ideals) can be traced to the Enlightenment dogma that to "all problems of our lives we can and should provide a technological solution." He claims that this is a "rather simplistic if not naive belief in a model of society" that is based on "idealized notions of human nature and...egalitarian concepts of a very primitive type" (Source item from Peter Millier). This comes very close to what we ourselves have been saying, namely, that modernism is based on inherently invalid assumptions about the cosmos, human nature, and human society.

Thus, both Communism and Western capitalism are inherently invalid, and the fact that Communism crumpled first is a fluke of history; it could easily have been the other way around. What people also do not recognize is that collapses can take different forms, and that is in fact what is happening. The collapse engendered by Western capitalism, at least in the broader value context in which it has been functioning, focuses on the individual and renders individual human beings disfunctional. The collapse of Communism that we are witnessing is more a collapse of social structures that were based on invalid assumptions. The social structures in the west are collapsing primarily for a different reason, namely, their individual members become disfunctional, and structures need people with competency if they are to work.

In the light of what is happening, one might contemplate two of the "easy essays" of Peter Maurin which he wrote in the 1930s.

**America and Russia**

"But business is only business whether it is the state business or private business; and I am trying to make it my business to put all business out of business, including the state business, which is big business."

**Capitalism, Fascism, Communism**

"The three, Capitalism, Fascism, Communism, are three in a chain. Imperceptibly one passes into the other. All three are fundamentally materialistic, secularistic, totalitarian."
Our capitalistic totalitarianism relies on a subtle but all-pervasive mind control, largely via the mass media. Why do it the brute force way, as the Russians tried, if one can get people to submit voluntarily?

*The chief executive officer of Honeywell Corporation said in late 1990 that business leaders are seeing "society coming down around us" (Newsweek, Special Issue on Education, Fall 1990).

*The weekly US News & World Report, which ordinarily is a mirror image of the imperial structures of the US, appears to have undergone something like a conversion under its chief editor, Mortimer Zuckerman. In recent months, it has persistently declared the virtual end of American business and government polity and morality, in contrast to its traditional defense of imperial structures and functions. It has declared the government to be virtually nonexistent, the banks and financial system to be on the verge of a collapse, politics to be in the pits, and truthfulness in public life to have vanished.

It even referred to the federal budget process as a gigantic "fraud," and even one of its covers (22/10/90) proclaimed "Government is Paralyzed..." "Throw the Bums Out!" In fact, that this weekly has begun to tell a few of the awful truths is itself one of the few hopeful signs on the current public scene. It is also surely a sign of how terminal things are, or else such an imperial party would try to hang on to whatever shreds of deception were still possible. US News & World Report (8 Oct. 90) also said that the US "political system is broken," and that the behavior of its politicians is "shameful." In its 22/10/90 issue, the periodical declared, "The Government is Imploding," and that what goes on on all governmental levels is "flailing." Senator Moynihan of NY said that "we are having the same sort of institutional collapse as the Soviets." However, the periodical also said that voters are as much at fault as politicians.

People who have a hard time accepting the profundity of the disfunctionality of human services should take heart from the fact that Newsweek itself (24/4/89) has called the US Congress a "fortress of unreality." If Congress is a fortress of unreality, why should it be so far-fetched that the human service system is?

*Special interests have so much bought up the US Congress that 382 of 405 incumbents for the 11/90 election were virtually assured of re-election beforehand (USN&WWR, 12 Nov. 90).

*In reference to the US Congress, Common Cause magazine summed up the 1980s as "the shameless 80s" (11&12/90).

*As we keep pointing out, when even imperial parties begin to denounce some of the prevailing disasters, things must be really bad. Time itself (8 Oct. 90) said that the US leadership, including Congress and the President, have been deficient in "wisdom...decency...and even economics" when it comes to their stands about the nation's children. It all but called President Bush a hypocrite for mentioning "families and children" in his 1990 State of the Union message more than 30 times. Time predicted terrible catastrophes for the future when the generation of children currently being junked grows up. Unfortunately, as is so commonly the case with critics, they have no answers. The single biggest answer called for by Time boiled down to more money on programs for children, which it defined as "values."

*Between 1960 and 1990, US Congressional employees almost doubled, and expenses went up almost 20-fold. The congressional term that ended in 1990 produced 800 useless commemorative and symbolic bills while failing to deal with some of the most fundamental issues.

*The political flailing and stupidity both on the part of voters and the government is underlined by more and more offenses in the US being moved legislatively from local to federal jurisdiction. An example is a proposed federal "Violence Against Women Act."
More and more, it is difficult to find politicians in the US on any level--local, state or federal—who are uncorrupted. By uncorrupted, we do not necessarily mean that they do not violate law, but that their minds and morals have not become corrupted by the political process of which they have been a part.

As of 1990, there were 5.7 lobbyists for every state legislator in the US. Passing a state law takes much longer than it used to, and yet all over the US, state legislatures contend with 200,000 bills, despite the fact that they have 40% more staff to help them than 10 years earlier (USN&WR, 22/10/90).

We recently discovered that it is not only the federal government that disguises its real budget in order to mislead the citizens, but that state governments have been doing the same thing regularly, and perhaps increasingly so. For instance, in New York State, the official general funds budget shows a 10-year increase of about 50%, while the real overall state expenditures during the same period went up about 100%.

A North Carolina bill required that all state agencies report all of their "procurement activities" to yet another state agency, they must do so quarterly, and each report must include documentation of the extent to which an enterprise with which the agency deals is a "small business," and/or owned by minority, women, and "disabled" people. Just the reporting alone would be a crippling (pardon the expression) task, but in addition, the state agencies (which may be dealing with hundreds of businesses) now have to send out questionnaires to every such business they deal with and ask them to what extent they are any of the above. This is a typical example of why things will come to a total breakdown, as they did in Russia.

In order to meet a new federal requirement for truck driver safety, the state of New York required that all of the half million truck drivers in the state take a written examination. However, the state mailed the examinations to the drivers along with all the answers, so all the drivers had to do was take the answers from a booklet and insert them into the test, and send the test back. In response to criticism, the state said that there was no other way to keep trucking alive in the state and still meet federal deadlines (SHJ, 23/10/90).

Apparently all the more popular rock singers or groups have at various times resorted to lip-syncing, particularly if they were also performing a dance routine at the same time (Time, 3 Dec. 90). As everything in New York State is falling apart, as several of the key leaders of the State Assembly are under indictment, as the state is experiencing a great budget deficit crisis, and even as its legislators seem to be incapable of doing much constructive, lawmakers managed to introduce a bill that would outlaw deceptive lip-sync performances. However, no effort was being made to outlaw deceptive lip movements by politicians.

Yet another low-level sign of high-level collapses occurred in Syracuse when the school system prohibited students from bringing food to school. The concern was that if they brought food, they might share it with others, and that in turn might spread hepatitis, which in turn often gets on food in the first place because it has been handled by people on drugs who have not washed their hands after going to the toilet.

According to an episode on the weekly CBS-TV news program "60 Minutes" of 2 Dec. 90, it costs between $100,000-400,000 in California to dismiss a teacher, and because school systems are short of money, they will put up with almost anything from teachers, including child abuse.

Getting what they deserve. We have commented before on a peculiar, irrational, political schizophrenia among Americans. One manifestation thereof is
that the majority of Americans view the Congress in very negative terms—and at the same time give extremely high performance ratings to their own congressional representative (SHJ, 1 March 90). In poll after poll, people say that many things are worse—but only in somebody else's back yard. For instance, while voters are absolutely disgusted with politicians in general, they fervently re-elect their very own worthless incumbent politicians. While citizens vociferously state that they believe that schools and education have gotten much worse, they also believe that their own local schools are quite good (e.g., SHA, 11 Nov. 90).

*Particularly for those readers who have heard us speak about the signs of the collapse of societal structures, we want to point out that the crisis of national identity and unity that we have seen in Canada is not merely an issue of ethnicity or language, but is also an expression of the crumbling of structures, which of course includes human service structures. English-speaking Canada has had endless years to make plans and accommodations for the undeniable peculiarity of its French minority, but has persisted in paroxysms of irrationality, resistance and paralysis. A bitter irony is that if Canada should fall apart, chances are extremely high that nobody in Canada will benefit from it, not even the French-Canadians, and the very people who opposed special accommodations to Francophone Canada may be the ones who get hurt most. For instance, it is ironic that some of the eastern provinces that would be cut off from the rest of Canada by Quebec's secession are the very ones that are economic basket cases, and have been living off subsidies from the rest of Canada. They may have to come crawling for acceptance into the US in order to have any economic viability at all. Even if national integrity is preserved, the whole spectacle is nonetheless still a striking illustration of structural incompetence, and of the general kinds of structural collapses that we must expect.

*Thank goodness it is not only in the US where the court system is breaking down. In 1990, it was announced that as many as 150,000 criminal charges in the Canadian province of Ontario alone might have to be thrown out because of court delays, including even assault and murder charges. A characteristically modernistic way of responding to this crisis has been a requirement by the government that crown attorneys must write to crime victims and witnesses if a prosecution cannot proceed—and refer victims to "victim service groups," i.e., to the shrink and touchy-feely sector (Toronto Star, 8 Nov. 90).

*The Los Angeles juvenile gangs, the Crips and the Bloods, are said to have spread to more than 100 US cities, and to have more than 40,000 members (USN&W, 3 Dec. 90).


*It is amazing how many of the more specific signs of social collapse are appearing in one country after another. An example is the proliferation of firearms in Russia among the population (AW, 3 Nov. 90).

*How dysfunctional things are becoming, and what role the computers play in it that were supposed to have made things better and easier, is underlined by the fact that many competent people nowadays have to contest errors in virtually every one of their telephone bills, credit card statements, bank statements, newspaper bills, health care insurance and/or similar reimbursement bills, home repair bills, and car repairs. Where a job is to be done, it rarely gets done right the first time around, necessitating many repeat contacts, and often endless controversies over the bills. Where errors occur in one's computerized billings, one commonly cannot reach anyone who can do anything about it, and it may take literally years before they are cleared up—if ever—and this only after several dozen phone calls and/or letter exchanges, perhaps even office visits. In consequence, many
competent people feel ground down, and often simply give up. In order to avoid further hassle, they just give up on certain credit cards, telephone companies, bank accounts, and so on, write off their losses, and start up with others.

*The Ford Foundation has been looking for someone to direct a program in human rights and democratic governance who has "strong values but not a fixed point of view or a predetermined agenda." Apparently, what is being sought is someone with strong convictions about nothing in particular (source item from Joe Osburn).

*It is a sign of the times that more and more cartoons and jokes have been appearing in the news media about there not being any good news.

*TIPS reader Chuck Burkhouse recently commented that with what is increasingly filling the newspapers, "one doesn't even need to read TIPS anymore."

*The very fact that more and more formal human services appear to be needed every day should inform us that society is in a failure mode, insofar as a healthy society would need relatively few paid human services.

*Our good friend, Dr. Aharoni from Israel, who has a retarded son, has been trying very hard to remain an optimist, but has decided that perhaps the best strategy is to "hope for the worst, and then let us be surprised by a few really nice things which still happen from time to time," which is a very good way of putting it.

*A parent of a handicapped child said in 1990 that "to be optimistic today is a social and moral crime."

*We are saving for another issue more good news, namely, that a world financial collapse cannot be far off.

**Miscellaneous (Filler) News**

*The contemporary societal decline in competence in regard to even the simplest aspects of living, and certainly in regard to procreation and child-rearing, has meant that there has been a dramatic increase in children who are being raised by their grandparents, and in some instances even great-grandparents, because the older people were of a generation that still possessed the necessary competence which the young adults raised recently never acquired, and in many cases never will. What this means in turn is that as the younger adults become older, they will not become competent to raise either their own nor their children's children and grandchildren, and the child-rearing needs currently being met by grandparents and great-grandparents will no longer be met, with disastrous impacts on children and human services.

*During the one year when the borders between East and West Germany were opened but the country was not yet reunited, 17,000 East German fathers absconded from their families, went west, and disappeared without a trace. Some claimed that they would establish themselves in the west and then bring their families over, but did not. So far, few of the wives left behind have been able to track down the men (AW, 26/1/91).

*Mentally disordered people sometimes perceive societal realities and the signs of the times very clearly, but because they see or report them in unconventional ways, they are declared insane and get shrunk for their insights. A classic example is a man in New York who, according to Time (22/10/90), saw "things that are not there...like abandoned babies." Of course, abandoned babies are everywhere, and the man saw them more clearly then most other people do today.