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With this issue, we are catching up with our publishing schedule. However, we may never be able to publish single issues again unless our subscriptions increase. Many people renew their subscriptions only after multiple reminders, and many more drop out altogether. Being relentlessly reminded of the signs of the times is apparently unbearable to some people, and offensive to others. Thus, with our small circulation, publishing double, triple, and even quadruple issues saves a fortune in processing and mailing costs.

In addition to our coverage of the disasters of 11 September and since, we will also present several—but not all—of our traditional year-end topics.

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The media quickly began to use euphemisms for the attacks that began on 11 September 2001. In Britain, the media began to refer to "the recent events in America" (as Kathryn Smith informed us). Amazingly, Osama bin Laden also referred to the attacks of 11 Sept. as "the events" (SPS, 14/12/01). In America, we repeatedly encountered the phrases, "the recent developments," "the recent tragedies," and "the recent circumstances." To save space, and to poke fun at the media, we will be referring to "the events."

Everybody also quickly adopted the term "terrorism." We will use the term on some occasions, but we have reservations about it, to be explained in a later section. "The events" and their aftermaths are worth reporting on at length in TIPS because they constitute powerful lessons on many topics on which TIPS has discoursed in the past, especially the signs of the times, the characteristics of imperality, and political correctness. (Though TIPS has not as yet published a major issue on the latter, it has been accumulating a great deal of copy in preparation of such.) As we will point out, these disasters are part of the signs of the times, as well as things earlier signs have pointed to. "The events" will also have great impacts on human services. Rather than recapitulating the better known facts pertaining to "the events," we will try to bring out the ones that have not been widely reported or well interpreted in the mainstream media.

We had a hard time putting the "events" material together. Even though we started to do so right after 11 Sept., new things happened or became apparent all the time, including things that we predicted in our earlier drafts, that then had to be rewritten as past information rather than predictions.

The Signs of the Times

"The events" were both a sign of the times, as well as a fulfillment of earlier such signs. And of course: We told you so. We have been teaching for decades that the world order—bad as it was—is coming to an end, that Western societies and their social structures are collapsing, that any one little event could be the one that acted as the first domino in a row, but that any number of things—many of them quite unexpected—could be that first domino. We specifically pointed to biological, chemical and nuclear weapons as likely to be eventually used by either countries or other groups.

Little of this was really believed by our audiences. The kinds of things we have been predicting for almost 25 years were as unimaginable to most people in North America as seeing the World Trade Center (WTC) pass by them in an endless caravan of dump trucks.
If 20, 10, or even 5 years ago we had told people that we would see headlines such as "Afghanistan a world threat," or "American armed forces ready to invade Afghanistan," we would probably have ended up committed to a loony bin. Who would have believed—if it had been predicted—that in Fall of 2001, the US would be bombing places like Bagram, Taloqan, Jalalabad, Moqor, Khan Agha, Shindad, Barikab and least of all, Kunduz? Kunduz? You must be kidding!

Considering that the Gulf War (as we have pointed out repeatedly) was really WW III, who would have thought that in 2001, there would be a WW IV that did not involve Iraq, but in which 140 nations (including Russia) would gang up against the poor and barren country of Afghanistan? Who would have believed that the US, Britain, France, Germany and several other European countries would actually participate in military action against Afghanistan, and that Afghanistan would be attacked by missiles from U-boats, surface ships and airplanes, and that Stealth bombers would actually fly from their bases in Missouri all the way to Afghanistan and back to bomb it?

If we had told people that by 2001, National Guard troops would be stationed at US airports, we would have been told that this could only be the case under extreme warlike conditions. Who would have predicted that AWACS radar surveillance planes would begin to scan the US airspace nationwide, and that fighter planes would take up regular patrols over major metropolitan areas? Even an air force general said that he never thought that he would see fighter patrols over American cities trying to protect them from a threat from inside the US. Who would have thought that in 2001, US forces would be stationed in Uzbekistan, and that Kyrgyzstan also offered bases and airfields?

Who would have thought that anything short of a nuking of DC could close down major government buildings for weeks and months?

And imagine the cost of all of this!

*The WTC was the longest-burning "building site" in history, with lava-like areas deep down glowing for 3 months despite rivers of water poured on it.

*What happened on and after 11 Sept. 2001 constitutes a watershed in history, perhaps comparable to the French Revolution of 1789. It will have the profoundest impact on Western societies (not to mention others), and will deeply affect human services.

However, to our amazement, we keep discovering that a great many people to this very day, even shortly after the events, do not believe that things are collapsing. Obviously, it will take infinitely more than what they experienced, and quite possibly they will have to experience it in person instead of through the media.

The Role of Western Modernistic Hubris in the Disaster

It is well-known—as we teach at several of our workshops—that as systems become more complex, (a) they become more vulnerable, and (b) it takes less and less to disable them. In other words, extremely complex expensive systems can be brought down with simple means at next to no cost.

The ease with which the World Trade Center towers could be brought down merely illustrates how easy it has been to bring down innumerable other complex systems in the US, and in part in the world, such as the air industry. It is staggering to contemplate that 19 determined men may have changed the course of world history with an amazing minimum of investment of time and effort. Maybe some day, their leader will be called Atta the Great.

*It has been estimated that worldwide, the toll of "the events" would cost hundreds of billions of dollars, which we would say was a very good return for an investment of at the very most $300,000 that—according to some estimates—the long-term planning and execution of the terrorist attack took. Apparently, the baseline on-site tools that enabled the terrorists to disable the world and inflict hundreds of billions of dollars of damage upon it consisted of a small number of plastic knives, and perhaps a few box cutters.

*It is also amazing that the terrorists were greatly inspired by American movies, TV shows, TV games and flight simulators glamorizing the ever more spectacular blowing up of just about everything. The Islamic warriors apparently got the idea for the plane bomb from these media, especially the TV games and flight simulators.
One expression of wisdom is having a sense of one’s creatureliness, and what is and is not proper for humans as creatures. But the WTC was a monument to human hubris and amathic foolishness. The reason the towers were so tall was to purposefully make them the world’s tallest buildings at that time, designed to hold 50,000 people. The reasons for building the towers were very much like those for the Tower of Babel, which was built to "make a name for ourselves," and to equal God by piercing heaven. The WTC architect had actually boasted that the towers were so well-built that even a jet plane running into them could not bring them down. ("Pride comes before the fall.") It turned out that the staircases were so few in number and so narrow (only 2 persons-wide) that people could not evacuate fast enough, particularly with firefighters trying to climb up them at the same time. Even with good staircase availability, just how had the hubristic people imagined a tower could ever be evacuated? The whole idea that rescue workers might have to climb by foot and with heavy gear up as many as 110 storeys was preposterous. Even just to come down by the stairs took an able-bodied man 2.5 hours during the first (1993) bombing of the towers. If it had not been for the 1993 WTC attack, there would have been no reflective stripes or even lights in the staircases, and no PA system, all of which reduced the casualties on 11 Sept.

Furthermore, the towers were built extremely close to each other and to many other buildings so that like dominos, the collapse of one brought about the collapse of the next one for a total of more than a dozen buildings destroyed or severely damaged. Of course, this also meant that the streets were too narrow to hold rubble, or for good access by rescue efforts. It also explains why so many rescue workers became victims: they were too close by because of lack of other space. Even the 1993 attack that necessitated an evacuation had not been enough to limit the number of people in the towers, e.g., perhaps by closing (unthinkable!) the top-floor restaurant.

The WTC architect had earlier been involved in other architectural follies, such as the infamous housing project in St. Louis that proved to be so unlivable that some years after it had been constructed, the authorities blew it up again, in 1972. However, this apparently did not diminish the architect’s public reputation.

Very tall buildings, such as the Empire State Building, have been known to sway by several feet in the wind, but the WTC also creaked as it swayed, discomforting the people in it even in normal times. Many preferred to work in inner offices where they could not look out the windows, which scared them (Syracuse, Winter 2001).

Given all these facts, it is amazing how many people were stupid enough or greedy enough to obey their masters and actually take or keep jobs in these towers.

It will take an estimated 100,000 dump truck trips to remove the debris just from the two towers alone, not counting the other buildings.

Within hours after the towers came down, there was talk of them being rebuilt "greater than before." Some spoke of 140 (rather than a mere 110) storeys. The 9/01 memorial issue of Time also called for rebuilding new "cathedrals, and if they are bombed, build some more." However, we doubt seriously that enough people foolish enough to take occupancy so far up will be found.

One irony was that New York City’s disaster command post was in one of the WTC buildings which was destroyed shortly after the collapse of the towers. As a result, the mayor and his senior retinue marched for hours around Manhattan, looking for a place to set up a headquarters. We found this rather bizarre.

We suspect the successes of the terrorists of 11 Sept. exceeded the wildest expectations of the planners. Among other things, they probably never anticipated that the WTC towers would totally collapse, or that they would take close to 20 other buildings of major importance down with them. They had probably also not expected many, or the extent, of the other impacts of these acts--nor the ferocity of the American response.

Other sections below will speak further to hubris.

The Motives of the Islamic Terrorists

It is important to acknowledge the two major motives for Islamic terrorism against the Western world. One is the quite valid recognition that the culture of modernism is evil and destructive, and that the United States is one of the leaders in formulating and propagating this culture. The second
is the support of the West, and particularly the US, for Israel, while at the same doing little to check Israeli extremism and injustices against the Palestinian population, even though the United States and other western countries have been quite in a position to do so by threatening to withhold their financial and military support, or actually suspending it.

We believe bin Laden is right that there will be no end to the Islamic war against the West, and no peace in Palestine, until Israel reverses its policy of establishing indefensible settlement enclaves in Arab territory, and returns to defensible borders. While this does not guarantee peace, it is a minimal precondition to it, a total separation of the two populations being the fallback position so that they cannot bother each other without transgressing the borders.

In S. Africa, 220 Jews signed a "declaration of conscience" which said that while Israel has a right to exist, and has valid security concerns, its treatment of Palestinians was oppressive. While we share these views, this proved to be profoundly divisive among the 80,000 Jews of the country (SPS, 20/12/01). It is quite possible that Israel may refuse to compromise, and eventually suffer the same fate as the crusader empires in the Holy Land.

Among the elements of Western modernism that Islamic fundamentalism is afraid of, and rejects, are capitalism as the predominant economic system, English as the major world language, modernistic Western values as a major lifestyle, and tourism as the world's major industry. We can see the point, believing that at least three out of these four actually are bad things, and aside from being maladaptive, are not even sustainable over the long run.

By coincidence, we covered the decadence and destructiveness of modernistic entertainment in our last TIPS issue. This entertainment culture is virtually irresistible to developing juvenile minds, and wreaks destruction on indigenous cultures.

While to Islamic radicals, the US has been "the great Satan," it is really the culture of modernism that is the real Satan, in that it is, as Islam puts it, "the insidious tempter who whispers in the hearts of men," and what is whispering is not powerful weapons, but the seductive voice of modernistic culture.

In light of all the above, imagine the poor judgment displayed by the Voice of America in broadcasting to Afghanistan, shortly after the bombing of it began, a lot of modern rock and pop music, to which the fundamentalists could only have said, "we told you so."

Ironically, when Afghanistan was invaded by the Soviet Union, there was little protest by the major world Islamic organization, and some Islamic countries actually approved of the invasion (New Yorker, 19/11/01). Obviously, the Soviet attack upon Afghanistan was not seen as an attack upon Islam, whereas American culture is seen as such a threat.

*Al-Qaeda is actually only one of several extremist reactions toward Western modernism. In many respects, the Boxer Rebellion in China around 1900 was very similar, and was also crushed by an invasion of a multinational European army. The Chinese have resented it ever since.

*The Taliban government had a Department for the Preservation of Virtue and the Suppression of Vice, and we sure wish that we had something like this in the US and other countries. One does not have to be an Islamic terrorist, a Taliban or even an Islamic fundamentalist to be deeply afraid of Western popular culture; everyone with any moral discernment ought to be.

*One of the best things the Taliban did was to confiscate people's TV sets. If only we could be so fortunate!

*One thing that rankled Atta specifically and quite rightly was the bulldozing of ancient Islamic cities, and the replacement of traditional small inner courtyard-centered houses with high-rises and apartment living. This also entailed massive relocations of people. He saw all this as an assault on dignity and privacy. (It is also a way to control the population. The Communists always tried to perch everyone into high-rises.) He tried normative ways to stop this by taking graduate work in urban studies, but got nowhere.

*One of the things Islam opposes is drug use, and especially addiction. Even the drugs that have historically been widely used in Islamic societies are relatively new, such as tobacco and coffee. The Taliban abolished the growing of opium in Afghanistan, much to the advantage of Western drug-addicted countries. Now, one consequence of the overthrow of the Taliban is that Afghanistan will
once again become a major exporter of opium and its derivatives, depress the prices thereof, and increase dope addiction.

*Time (17/12/01) carried at least parts of the verbatim interrogation of American Taliban John Walker by 2 CIA agents. Walker had joined Islam and the Taliban in a quest for purity of life, while the 2 CIA agents could only converse in profanity, with the f-word in every sentence, and sometimes twice per sentence. No wonder Walker would not respond. We wished we had the fortitude to remain silent in the face of such infuriated profanity.

*The Taliban had hardly evacuated Kabul when a riot took place with thousands of men trying to force themselves into a movie theater to watch movies. Also, Kabul market stalls quickly filled with posters and other art work of buxom movie stars, and people used what little money they had to buy consumer electronic goods. All this shows how irresistible the Western media culture is, and why it should be feared. For some Westerners, Afghanistan deserved to be bombed just for restricting Western pop entertainment.

*In Kabul is an insane asylum. No sooner had the Taliban withdrawn, the physicians started studying Freud and prescribing mind drugs (SPS, 5 Jan. 02).

*One person characterized the rationales that the terrorists harbored for their actions as "the just-war version of Islam," or at any rate, one of its just-war theories. After all, nothing else seemed to sink in on the West (not even the politically correct sensitive diverse multiculturalists) that it should keep its culture out.

*The cover of Time of 26/11/01 featured a picture of bin Laden with a sniper's cross hairs between his eyes. And in the back of the same issue was an ecstatic and long paean to a new genre of pornographic art films, inspired by the French film industry. So in a sense, tens of thousands of people in Afghanistan must die so the liberals can have their pornographic art films. One message seems to be, "anyone who would try to interfere with our sexual decadence, and our promotion of it, will end up dead."

*After 11 Sept., the entertainers who are one of the causes of Islamic fear started doing charity benefits, and one of the songs (also often heard on radio stations) was "Imagine," by John Lennon. The song sketches an imaginary ideal world ("imagine there is a heaven") with all causes of division removed, such as possessions, borders, and "nothing to kill or die for"--including "no religion." So a religion-less world is heaven. No wonder devout Muslims would like to kill these celebrities.

*One of the things conservative Muslims feared happened the moment Afghan cities were cleared of Talibans: loud music blaring away into the streets, from shops and houses, "just like in America." It won't be long till it will be S & F rap. Time (26/11/01), apparently approvingly, showed liberated Afghan men setting up their TV sets, and looking at trading cards showing scantily attired young women.

The Issue of "The Sins of the Nation"

Most Americans did not make a connection in their minds between the sins of the nation (including its modernism) and the September disasters. For instance, Mother Teresa had prophesied that a society in which people killed their unborn babies would be visited by violence. Only days after the bombing, a federal court prohibited Ohio from enforcing a ban on partial-birth abortion--which is also what modernism would try to export to Islamic countries. Also, Cardinal Bevilacqua of Philadelphia sharply repudiated the notion that the terrorist attacks were "God's punishment for moral decay within our nation" (NCR, 28/10/01). Might it have been the devil's reward instead? Or the natural consequences of a culture embracing death?

*Very shortly before 11 Sept. 2001, George Bernard Shaw's play, "Major Barbara," was performed on Broadway. One of its major figures, a utilitarian industrialist, asks his son what he knows or cares for, and the son replies, "I know the difference between right and wrong"--upon
which the sophisticated post-modernist PC New York audience erupted into howls of derisive laughter (NCR, 19/8/01).

*Again and again, for days, TV showed shots of the Manhattan disaster from across the Hudson River, on the New Jersey side, as well as across the East River. From either side, one had dramatic views of the dark smoke plumes rising over New York, sometimes covering all of lower Manhattan, as if all of it were afire, sometimes looking like plumes from nuclear explosions rising high into the sky. Often, a reporter would lament as these shots were shown, or shocked viewers were interviewed. During these scenes, we could not help being reminded of certain passages from Revelation: "The kings of the earth who committed fornication with her and wallowed in her sensuality will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke arise as she burns. They will keep their distance for fear of the punishment inflicted on her, and will say: 'Alas, alas, great city that you are, Babylon the mighty! In a single hour your doom has come!' The merchants of the world will weep and mourn over her too, for there will be no more market for their imports. The merchants who deal in these goods, who grew rich from business with the city, will keep their distance for fear of the punishment inflicted on her. Weeping and mourning, they cry out: 'Alas, alas, the great city, dressed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, adorned all in gold and jewels and pearls! In a single hour this great wealth has been destroyed!' Every captain and navigator, all sailors and seafaring men [one could substitute here, everyone in the air industry] then stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke go up as the city burned to the ground: 'What city could have compared with this great one?' They poured dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and mourning: 'Alas, alas, the great city, in which all shipowners grew rich from their profitable trade with her! In a single hour her destruction has come about!'"

The WTC towers and the surrounding buildings were indeed one of the world's headquarters for a parasitic and exploitative class of functionaries. Hardly anything was getting done in any of these buildings, at least by the office workers in them, that was productive, or even wholesome.

The Anthrax Scare, & Issues of Bio-Chemical Attacks Generally

Introduction

*In our workshops, we had warned for decades of the devastating capacities of biological and chemical weapons, though we had not used the word "terrorism," but "warfare." Again, the word "terrorism" may not be appropriate when applied to one person who is crazy and spreads germs or chemicals around because he or she wants to feel important or is mad at God and/or the world, or to a group or country that uses it as a weapon.

*While the anthrax attack has been virtually meaningless in terms of scope, or even in terms of danger because it is not communicable among humans, it certainly has brought the issue sharply back into focus where it should have been all along.

Background to Biological Warfare & Terrorism

*In 1630, there was a plague in Milan. Trying to explain it, some people claimed that "enemies" were spreading the plague by painting a poisonous oil on various surfaces around the city. Next thing one knew, someone actually went around town at night and painted doors and walls all over the city with some kind of yellowish oily substance. The terrified citizens went around holding torches against the soiled surfaces, trying to scorch off the dreaded substance--a premodern version of sanitizing surfaces. Another common theory was that "poisoners" were going around spreading white powders that gave people the plague (I Promessi Sposi, 1909). In those days, this was not called a hoax, and had the responsible party been caught, it would probably have been hung.

*In 1967, one of a series of arrogant US Surgeon Generals proclaimed, "We have basically wiped out infection in the US" (Smithsonian, 1/02).

Smallpox, which humans used to acquire from animals and then each other, was declared eradicated worldwide in the early 1980s.
*In 1984, a Buddhist cult called the Rajneeshee staged two salmonella attacks on the residents of a county in Oregon, one of which made almost 800 people sick. Only two of the perpetrators served brief prison terms. One reason the Rajneeshee bioattack was not reported was allegedly because federal officials feared it would set off copycat attacks.

*As recently as 1995, a white supremacist had no problem purchasing three vials of freeze-dried bubonic plague bacteria for the pittance of $240 (Newsweek, 22/10/01). He kept the vials in the glove compartment of his car (Time, 22/10/01)!

*In French, anthrax used to be called charbon, for the black wounds it caused. In German, it is called Milchbrand, i.e., spleen burn.

*It was recently discovered that the Los Alamos National Laboratory in NM had been experimenting with live anthrax while lying to the public, claiming that the research was limited to inactive spores (AP in SPS, 18/12/01).

*There is great irony in the anthrax that terrorized the US in 2001 being of the very strain that the US had produced itself between 1950-1969 for its own biological warfare stores.

*We recently learned that anybody in recent decades has been able to buy anthrax quite legally on the open international market, even as security experts were warning the public over and over that anthrax would be one of bioterrorism's likely weapons. American firms were totally unrestrained in selling all kinds of anthrax to Iraq until the very eve of the Gulf War (Newsweek, 22/10/01). Other bioweapon strains apparently can still be traded—until they get used (Newsweek, 8 Oct. 01).

One of many other ironies about the anthrax scare is that one reason why the authorities have found it so difficult to trace the route that the "terrorist" anthrax has taken is that nobody knew which laboratories in the US were keeping anthrax cultures on hand (SPS, 18/10/01), despite its enormous potential for harm. As recently as at least late October, one could still buy anthrax from at least 50 sources worldwide (Time, 22/10/01).

*Cyanide is an extremely deadly gas, and yet is relatively easily obtainable (SPS, 2 Dec. 01).

*Aware that the Americans were preparing biological warfare and were making anthrax for that purpose, the Russians had been developing a vaccine against that very strain of American anthrax—and in 10/01, they offered it to the United States.

*Below is an item we ran in TIPS in the 12/99-4/00 issue.

"Of the 31 infectious agents that have biological warfare potential, 11 are relatively easy to deploy, and therefore are the most likely to be used. However, even from these 11, it is smallpox and anthrax that are the most likely to be used. Considering that a number of unfriendly parties are believed to possess stock of the smallpox virus, it is amazing to contemplate that many bleeding hearts are demanding that the few remaining stocks of smallpox vaccine in the world be destroyed as a symbol of the victory of medicine over smallpox disease, especially considering that there is no treatment against smallpox, and the facilities for quarantining persons who have smallpox are minuscule. One thing that complicates the smallpox situation is that we now have a large population with depressed immune systems, mostly due to HIV, who are apt to catch and spread anything that comes about and hand it on to people whose immune system is not depressed (Science, 26/2/99). Few people are aware that in 1984, members of the Rajneeshi religious sect put salmonella stock into salad bars in Oregon and poisoned 750 people." One reason so few people knew this was that "the authorities" tried to keep the event secret, from fear of copycats.

*As late as in its 1 October 01 issue, Time magazine said that the chances for an anthrax "attack happening anytime soon are remote, most of the terrorism experts consulted by Time agree." We need to keep in mind that the actual appearance of Time magazine antedates its cover date by several days.
The Recent Anthrax Scare More Specifically

*The September cases of anthrax were the first ones in the US since 1976--or at least the first ones recognized as anthrax. We wonder how many people caught anthrax, and even died from it, but had been misdiagnosed. We also wonder whether people like the lady in her 90s who mysteriously died from anthrax would have been written off in other times as an old person dying from a flu who "would have died anyway." We can hardly tire of pointing out how little it takes to disable almost everything in the modern world, and what may have been a single nasty person with a handful of anthrax has been able to throw the whole world into a tizzy, and cause billions of dollars worth of damage and waste.

*There has been relatively little coverage in the US media about the fact that after 11 Sept., anthrax scares had been washing over the entire world, with alarms, evacuations and similar incidences reported in scores of countries, as far away and apart as Germany, Australia, Lithuania, France, Canada, England, the Czech Republic, etc. Amazingly, Canterbury Cathedral in England had to be closed for a day after a man was seen spreading white powder in one of its chapels.

*The anthrax attack precipitated four kinds of futile responses. (a) Overreactions, (b) avalanches of scared or hysterical people calling in alarms, (c) a hoax epidemic, and (d) imperial responses that, while futile, tried to make the imperial entities look less worse.

*After the first anthrax scare, the authorities were quick to tell everybody that there was no cause for alarm, that it had apparently no connection to the terrorists, and that it was contained. The claim of containment continued to be made even after additional cases surfaced. According to Time (29/10/01), many things the US Secretary of Health said early on during the anthrax attacks simply did not square with the facts.

*As the scope of the anthrax attack became more apparent, there was much outcry about the classic imperality with which the authorities had responded to it initially, and which apparently was also responsible for at least some of the spread of anthrax because it delayed tighter measures. We ourselves heard radio interviews of international medical authorities as late as 30 October in which over and over, straightforward questions were not given straightforward--but deceptive and oblique--answers. As was the case with the WTC bombing, New York mayor Giuliani was the one major public authority that was believed to be forthright in sharing information if he had it, and in admitting what he simply did not know.

*Amazingly, the federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, the world's foremost authority on unusual outbreaks of diseases, and premier emergency resource, was discovered not to have an emergency phone number. It is amazing how the feet of clay of an imperial entity are only discovered after a disaster.

*We can hardly think of a better place being disabled by an anthrax scare than the US Capitol which, after all, is the site of the very people who could have done something long ago about the freely available dissemination of anthrax, and the wanton use of antibiotics in animal husbandry. As Time (5 Nov. 01) put it, "the deadly germ had penetrated every branch of government," to which we could only say, "which germ was it this time?"

*A woman expert on the PBS TV network testified at great length about the anthrax found in Florida shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and simply could not wipe the smile off her face. Also, on 9 Dec. 01, a woman bioterrorism expert was shown on the TV news, claiming that the government had a good idea who the anthrax attacker was. She too smiled big. This is consistent with the "please look at me" phenomenon that we documented in our last TIPS issue.

*One of the few methods for ridding a building of anthrax is to flood it with toxic chlorine dioxide gas. However, once the gas is evacuated, it leaves behind--a fine white powder (Time, 19/11/01)!
The anthrax scare brought forth its own brands of mindless overreactions. First of all, there are many countries in the world where anthrax is actually quite common, and no constant panic about it. Secondly, a lot of junk mail comes in envelopes without a return address, and people began to call such letters "suspicious," and called them into the authorities, creating a tremendous overburden upon them from such people that perhaps do this only to get attention. Thirdly, every time somebody was tracking in some mud somewhere and somebody else found it, they started calling in suspicious powders, and one such call resulted in one of the major US-Canada bridges being closed for six hours on October 12.

In late October 01, US postal authorities informed Americans that they should regard their mail as a threat, and protective masks and gloves were issued to every mail handler in the country. The US Postal Service purchased, and has begun distributing, 4 million masks.

*Newsweek* began (5 Nov. 01) to discourage readers from sending it letters, asking them to either e-mail or telephone.

*The anthrax events have precipitated paroxysms of new bureaucracisms in the postal and parcel business, and the mail services of even small businesses. E.g., without explaining why, Syracuse University instituted, or cracked down on, the following regulations:

"Addresses which are written by hand will be delayed a day in processing, because they cannot be optically scanned and the barcoding will need to be manually applied to the envelope. Stamped mail weighing 16 ounces and over, whether it is domestic or international, will have to be presented in person at the US Post Office.

International and military APO/FPO mail weighing 16 ounces and over will need the contents written on the package, so that the University’s Mail Services Department can apply the proper customs form.

Computer disks, pens, bottle caps, pins, and similar odd-shaped items are not acceptable in letter-size envelopes. We suggest that you either use a jiffy bag or a small box to send odd-shaped items through the mail.

Address for success: type and capitalize everything, do not use punctuation, use abbreviations.

Mail weighing 1 pound or more can no longer be deposited in the orange (intra-university) mailboxes. Pieces weighing 1 pound or more must be picked up at your department’s normal pick-up area by Mail Services personnel.

NEW! It is recommended that you always use a return address on all outgoing mail pieces. This will increase the chance of it being read, and not just thrown out."

Some post offices now wipe all surfaces with bleach, some no longer allow cooling fans to be run; post offices overall may no longer sweep floors but must mop them; mail carriers now take extra plastic bags in which to quickly seal suspicious-looking mail; they also lock their vehicles now; etc.

*Government and news media people were much more vigilantly protected from anthrax than the poor postal workers who, in some instances, were not even told that they were at risk, or that they had even been infected. However, one obstacle to postal workers being informed of dangers was the doing of their own union. Fearful that management would try to contact employees who reported sick or failed to show up, the union had negotiated a contract that employees did not have to reveal either their home phones or even home addresses to the postal service. Can you imagine not letting your employer know where you live or how to reach you?*

*The FBI issued a warning to the public to be on the lookout for letters or packages with misspelled addresses, but then it turned out that the advisory itself contained a misspelled word: possibly (SPS, 20/10/01).

We can see where some of our handicapped and lowly friends are going to be in big trouble, because everything they write, including their mail, looks pretty awful, and has a lot of misspellings on them.
*During the anthrax scare, a package arrived in Germany marked "gift" on its duty form. "Gift" means "poison" in German; the fire department came and transported it to a laboratory where it was minutely examined.

*The US Social Security Administration has also launched a campaign to get its benefit recipients to bypass the postal system via direct deposits of their checks (AARP Bulletin, 12/01).

*Some private citizens have indeed begun to even treat the mail to their homes as potentially lethal. Some throw out all unsolicited mail, some open their mail over a garbage pail, some have set aside a mail-opening table that they wipe with bleach each time, some wash their hands after each mail handling.

*For a while, every little bit of white powder found anywhere in the nation seemed to trigger an anthrax call. Labs have been testing an awful lot of sugar, artificial sweetener, crumbled cookies, talcum powder and dry wall dust. Often, these were substances that the very people turning in an alarm had accidentally spilled themselves. As one local emergency director said, if he dropped a little package of artificial sweetener, it would lead to the evacuation of his building (Time, 22/10/01). Anthrax hysteria has gone so far that at least one airline will no longer use the little packets of artificial sweeteners and powdered coffee creamers on its flights, apparently not so much because they are afraid that someone will put anthrax into them, but that every time that somebody spills one of these and somebody else finds a trace of white powder anywhere in an airplane, the panic buttons get pulled (Saturday Sun, 20/10/01).

*One firm has offered the business world machines to sanitize mail at the cost of between 40 cents and $1 per letter! (Newsweek, 5 Nov. 01). One problem with irradiating mail with gamma rays is that this would be yet another way radioactive material would be widely disseminated, without any safe place to dispose of it later. Also, one batch of mail being irradiated got so hot that it burst into flames.

*After members of a cult in Japan gassed the Tokyo subway with nerve gas in 1995, killing 12 and sickening thousands, throngs of perfectly healthy Japanese checked themselves into hospitals believing that they had been poisoned, though the only way they had been poisoned was in their minds (Time, 3 April 95). Similar outbreaks of mass hysteria began in 9/01. On a ferry between NYC and near-by Staten Island, mass hysteria broke out, with 80 passengers streaming to a hospital believing that they had been exposed to anthrax (Time, 29/10/01). Similarly, in Los Angeles, the subway was shut down the first time ever when, in a mass hysteria, passengers complained of itchy eyes and dizziness (Time, 8 Oct. 01).

*Before 1998, the grand total of all anthrax hoaxes in the US had been 2, but then as a result of so much publicity in the media about the possibility of biological warfare, anthrax hoaxes exploded, with 51 threats in 1998 alone. A sizable proportion of these threats were sent to abortion clinics and abortion organizations. In those instances where the perpetrators were caught, it turned out that almost all of them were either adolescents trying to disrupt the schools, mentally disordered people, and people who had drug or alcohol problems (SPS, 16/10/01). By early 11/01 the US postal service alone received 8,600 false or hoax reports on anthrax--about 400 a day! The FBI dealt with 2300.

*Shortly after the anthrax attacks began, 136 powder-filled envelopes reportedly were received by at least 110 abortion clinics and Planned Parenthood offices in 19 states. While other such hoaxes were not characterized as terrorism, these were immediately interpreted to be exactly that (e.g., SPS, 19/10/01).

*It also did not help that some of the anthrax scares that were called in came from foreigners residing in the US! In California, one such foreign worker--possibly of low intelligence--called his threat in to 911, where operators had difficulty understanding him because of his accent, and they first thought that he was threatening Amtrak. Apparently he did this to get time off work. Again, we would be utterly amazed if the man would get deported, as he probably should be (SPS, 16/10/01).
*By the time the anthrax hoaxes had reached 10,000, only 25 people had been arrested for them (SPS, 8 Nov. 01).

*Another element in the imperial game is the issuance of masks as if that would do anybody any good against anthrax. According to experts, the usual type of mask people such as postal workers have been wearing will not protect one from virtually anything. Even higher-grade masks that physicians wear around tuberculosis will not protect from anthrax in the air (SPS, 25/10/01). Thus, the whole mask farce is the anti-hoax to the anthrax terror and anthrax hoaxes, fighting hoaxes and terrorism with hoaxes.

*No sooner had the anthrax scare exploded upon the world than the government of the province of Ontario in Canada fired 3 of its 5 microbiologists who would be the only people able to respond scientifically to bioterrorism (Saturday Sun, 20/10/01).

*The US Senate voted down a proposal to increase meat safety by enforcing bacteria limits on meat (SPS, 27/10/01), at the very same time as there is much fear about the safety of the US food supply in the light of terrorism and craziness.

*Amazingly, the two people in the world who reportedly know more about anthrax than anybody else, namely a former Soviet bio-weapons expert and an American one, have never even been consulted about the recent anthrax attacks. Typically imperial!

*What are we at the TI going to do when we encounter white powders? Provided the powder has not been on the floor or some other unsanitary surface, we plan to shake it into our tea, stir it and drink it down.

*According to some experts, it is very unlikely that anthrax sent through an envelope would come in the form of a white powder. If true, this is very reassuring, because apparently the hoaxers do not know about this and thus, as we said, when one receives such white powder, one can put it in one's tea with considerable confidence. It is probably sugar, powdered milk or flour.

*We hope (probably futilely) that one positive fallout of the anthrax scare will be a dramatic diminution in junk mail.

*Once the anthrax scare started, there was a great deal of publicity about the antibiotic drug Cipro being the drug of choice against it. This started a run upon Cipro, which turned out to be in insufficient supply. Even physicians started writing Cipro prescriptions for each other. Also, one of the awful results of anthrax hoaxes was that many thousands of people got put unnecessarily on Cipro. However, what was rarely mentioned, and in some media never, was that many experts believed that Cipro is utterly useless once the symptoms of anthrax have appeared. Furthermore, it took some time to come to light that many other antibiotics are also effective, especially if started early. Apparently, this was not revealed right away because only Cipro had been officially released for use against anthrax.

Also, hardly anyone who got put on Cipro early on was told of its potentially terrible adverse effects (some lasting for years), and some people said that they got so sick from it that they wished that they were dead. The adverse effects are particularly strong in children. The other drugs against anthrax are more benign.

The manufacturer of Cipro had every reason to pretend that Cipro was the only antibiotic effective against anthrax. Bayer makes Cipro pills for a cost of 25¢ each, but the public has been paying up to $5 each (Time, 29/10/01).

One effect of the indiscriminate use of Cipro is that this will contribute yet further to the development of antibiotic-resistant disease-causing bacteria. Also, for some other diseases, Cipro is the biggest drug of choice, and thus people with those diseases may soon be left without defenses.

A drug similar to Cipro has long been given to healthy chickens on chicken farms. If Cipro really is effective against anthrax—which is actually questionable—then this merely shows how easily such effectiveness can be lost when antibiotics are used so wantonly for unessential purposes (SPS, 22/10/01). This is why many scientists have called for a stop to the use of almost 25 million pounds
of antibiotics being given to healthy animals in the US, while humans only consume 3 million pounds.

A lot of people have infections that they are not aware of, including gonorrhea. Apparently, Cipro is effective against it, and this is why some medical authorities said that the indiscriminate administration of Cipro to probably hundreds of thousands of Americans in the wake of the anthrax scare "could do wonders for curing the clap" (Newsweek, 22/10/01).

*More people in the US died of West Nile virus in 1999 than died of anthrax in 2001, yet there was no West Nile hysteria.

**Potential Future Terrorism**

*We have warned for decades that all sorts of systems disablement efforts were inevitable, and that either terrorist or the more usual kinds of wars with chemical and biological weapons were very likely, especially since at least 16 countries have experimented with bioweapons. We also reported that there was much stupidity in getting rid of the last laboratory samples of smallpox virus and smallpox vaccine stocks in the world as long as there was reason to believe that rogue nations still had stores of the virus. We are now being told that biological warfare is a virtual certainty in the future, and that smallpox might be one of the agents. What makes it so threatening is that vaccinations stopped in 1980, and even people who were vaccinated before then are believed to have lost some or most of their immunity. At the same time, the US has only 12 million vaccine doses left. However, since 9/01, it has become widely known that the vaccines for several diseases were derived from tissues of aborted babies, and many people were shocked to learn that the smallpox vaccine is one of these, even though vaccine produced from untainted tissue sources could just as readily be made.

The warfare advantage of biological agents is that they can be sprayed, and then become invisible, odorless, and cannot be detected by monitoring devices.

Chemical warfare is also said to be a very distinct possibility. For instance, if plutonium got put into a water supply, such as a reservoir, it would go unchecked through the treatment system and make the entire affected water supply system useless. Also, it would not kill people right away, but cause slow diseases. Because the poisoning will be identified so late, the water supply source is apt to remain contaminated before this is recognized.

Unlike most forms of chemical warfare, some of the biological agents can get passed on from person-to-person, so after one has infected a certain pool of people, the disease can propagate through the entire population, though eventually it may come back to the people who spread it. However, many terrorists would not be deterred by this, though governments might be.

*Almost immediately after the Soviet Union signed an international treaty banning germ warfare, it went big time into producing exactly such germs. Among other things, a single one of its biological plants produced more anthrax than was needed to kill the entire American population, and yet this was only one of 6 such production facilities, among 100 facilities in total devoted to biowarfare (SPS, 5 Nov. 01).

Currently, a large number of countries are actually violating the biological weapons treaty, worst of all being that six of these have had rogue nation status in recent years.

*Some people have contemplated sanitizing all mail in the future by irradiation, and not only against anthrax.

*There has been a demand to spend $5 billion to protect the US drinking water supply, though it has been admitted that on the one hand, determined terrorists could poison the water reservoirs, but on the other hand, there might not be all that much impact because of the dilution of poisons that would be taking place in large bodies of water.

*If terrorists wanted to hurt America, it would be much more efficient to go after its livestock and crops than after people. Such attacks would be much easier to carry out and much less risky for the terrorists. Many diseases are fatal to animals but do not spread to humans, which makes them safer for terrorists to spread. There are at least 22 kinds of germs that are known to be lethal or contagious to animals, many more than can harm humans. Most of these agents can live for long
periods and are fairly easy to acquire and/or produce. When an outbreak occurs, it will probably be much more difficult to trace to a terrorist because such outbreaks can also occur naturally. An attack on animals would not only cost a fortune in the value of the animals, but another fortune disposing of carcasses.

An attack on a significant export crop could do tremendous damage to the American economy. Some farms have already cracked down on visitors, and put gates on their access roads.

We have often warned of the devastating long-term results of homogenizing US crops and livestocks. We are now told that US livestocks are extremely vulnerable to biological attack because they have very low resistance due to decades of being fed antibiotics and steroids (Time, memorial issue, 24/9/01).

Ironically, return to traditional natural farming practices and to greater diversification of animal and plant varieties, such as existed a few decades ago, would be a major defense (CS, 8 Nov. 01). However, this looks rather unlikely to happen unless such a terrorist attack not only occurs but also succeeds, which is the way we do things in the culture of modernism.

*Until "the events," one could retrieve from the web where the 15,000 facilities in the US are that produce or store toxic chemicals, many of which are close to schools and homes. One could also retrieve maps of almost half a million miles of pipelines carrying hazardous liquids and natural gas.

*There are 500,000 shipments of explosives in the US every year. The hijacking of a single shipment could yield enough explosives for several terrorist attacks.

*We have taught for decades that it is only a matter of time before somebody will use nuclear weapons. We now suspect that this somebody will be a terrorist group, or a government acting secretly, rather than that it will be a nuclear exchange between countries at war.

*Many people do not realize that terrorists do not need a nuclear bomb in order to do nuclear bombing. All they need is a conventional explosive device with which is placed radioactive material which will be widely scattered by the explosion. The euphemism for this now is a "radiological dispersal device." Nuclear materials can be found stored at approximately 10,000 sites around the world. Sixty years of wanton use of radioactive material have assured that it is now everywhere in the form of spent nuclear fuel, medical waste and contaminated tools and other objects, much held under little or no security, even in labs and hospitals. So there is no problem getting such stuff, though in a range of radioactivity. How much damage will be inflicted will depend on how radioactive the material is, how much of it there is, and what the winds are.

*Despite the danger of conventional explosives laced with radioactivity, the Bush administration has systematically cut down funds and efforts at securing such materials—even of weapons-grade stuff that could have been simply bought up from the former Soviet states (Time, 17/12/01).

*Radioactive wastes from medical uses have been sold on the nuclear black market to terrorists trying to make nuclear weapons. While this waste is too weak or dilute for this purpose, this development does underline what we have always said: non-war uses of nuclear material cannot be separated from war uses.

*The organized terrorism we think of as highly plausible is attack on nuclear power stations, and possibly even more on their poorly protected waste storage than their containment towers. However, even these are easily accessible by bazooka, mortar, or a light artillery piece. We are being told that these towers could withstand a plane crash, but we do not believe it. Also, in 1940, it was discovered that the Germans could pierce supposedly artillery-proof Maginot line towers by hitting the same spot 8 times with the shells from a relatively light field artillery piece.

The fact that nuclear power stations have no place to store nuclear products makes such facilities particularly attractive as a target of terrorism, because not only could a nuclear reactor be attacked, but a by-product could be the diffusion of the nearby nuclear wastes. Each decommissioned fuel rod at a power station in northern New York State has as much radioactivity as ten Hiroshima bombs, and must be constantly kept in a cooling pool of water on the site. Thus, even merely
managing to shut off the water input or containment would cause a disaster. A successful terrorist attack on such an installation could make an area as big as that of a small country uninhabitable.

*At the nuclear power station in Oswego, NY (not far from us), heightened security resulted in an accident, as a newly-assigned sheriff's deputy shot a power plant security officer in the foot while demonstrating his pistol to her (SPS, 4 Dec. 01). This is very symbolic: the new security measures shooting themselves in the foot!

*The one kind of terrorism we eagerly look forward to is the one that is much feared to be feasible (Newsweek, 5 Nov. 01): a take-out of the Internet.

The PPP & Economic Dimensions of the September Disasters

The Economic Impact of the Disasters: Larger Considerations

*On 3 Sept. 01, Time magazine carried a full page column with the headline "One Spark Could Ignite a Worldwide Economic Crisis." The spark lit up 8 days later.

*"The events" will have enormous and long-term economic consequences. We would not even be surprised if history recorded that the years 1999-2000 were the peak of American prosperity, were never equaled again, and that the events were the crucial turning point. However, top economists think otherwise. The economic experts for both Time (15/10/01) and Newsweek (24/9/01) thought that the economic impact of the catastrophe would be relatively slight, and might even spur a recovery, which would amaze us. The Time memorial issue (24/9/01) also predicted a quick economic recovery, which may be imperial whistling in the dark. One of the biggest private retirement funds (TIAA-CREF) also sent a letter to the millions of its participants trying to reassure them that the "US economy is solid for the long term...we fully expect the markets to return to their normal patterns." One problem is that the market need not be in sync. After all, even companies without prospects of profits for a long time, if ever, were among the glamour stocks of the 1990s.

*An estimated 100,000 New Yorkers alone lost their jobs as a result of the 11 Sept. disaster (Time, 12 Nov. 01).

*US airports in the future will add "security fees" to air tickets. We predict that these fees will increase sharply over their initial level, or that the new security costs will be hidden in other expenses.

*Overall, buying lust went down after 11 September with the exception of certain things. This has meant that people have been diminishing their indebtedness for the first time since 1992, which of course infuriates the merchant world (NCR, 4 Nov. 01). During World War II, people were asked to collect scrap metal, wild herbs for medicines, keep gardens, go without all sorts of things, and be rationed. The current generation is called upon to save civilization and combat the economic decline by going shopping and touristng. As George Will put it, Americans have been told to stiffen their sinews, gather up their courage--and start going to the mall to shop (Newsweek, 29/10/01). The US government launched a $12 million ad campaign to get people "back to normal," meaning back to spending more money than they earn or have. In essence, having National Guard personnel standing functionless around airports is a form of corporate welfare, i.e., a federal subsidy to airlines to restore consumer confidence.

*Even ignoring the more or less direct costs of the 11 Sept. disasters (up to $200 billion, according to some authorities), the combination of terrorist and anthrax scares and hoaxes is breaking the budgets of American communities. Madison, Wisconsin, lost $200,000 on false alarms by late October; Atlanta spent $15 million on these plus new security; Philadelphia predicted a $60 million bill. Every time the hazard unit in the small town of Beaumont, Texas, is called out, it costs the city $400--and it had 400 calls by late October (Newsweek, 5 Nov. 01)!

*Oops, there went the much-promised federal budget surplus!
*Thousands of rescue workers in Manhattan are beginning to develop "World Trade Center Syndrome," i.e., severe and possibly life-long respiratory problems that may soon end their careers (Newsweek, 5 Nov. 01).

*While even a single killing is, as the Talmud says, as if one killed the whole world, it should not be overlooked that the office worker victims of the WTC attack were mostly members of a parasitic PPP class, in contrast to the firefighter victims who were disciplined to reflexively risk their lives to save others.

*Amazingly, we did not hear one single politician or commentator say that now the time had come to finally beef up the train services and make them a viable mode of rapid and reliable transportation. After all, rail transport is less vulnerable than air transport, and vastly less consumptive. It consumes only one-eighth to half the fuel that plane travel does. Also, US passenger trains have only gotten 4% as much federal subsidy as airports have, with highways getting the most: $30 billion a year. Instead of renewed support for the rails, airlines are now getting billions of emergency and post-emergency subsidies.

*One thing that struck us about "the events" was the vast amount of paper that filled the air, and then covered the ground, around the WTC. We thought that this was yet another very symbolic element, among many. We even began to wonder whether the designers of the towers had taken into account the weight of all the paper that would end up in the building at any one time.

*We have been told that it is impossible to keep drugs from crossing over the Mexican border, but it turned out that once security at the border was tightened after 11 Sept., there was a sharp decline in attempted drug smuggling, showing that it had been possible to interdict drugs at the border all along. But as we said, a PPP economy needs drug addiction.

*The State of New York began to suggest to its employees that they should "take advantage" of the direct deposit option whereby their paychecks would be electronically deposited into their bank account rather than sent through the mail. The reason given was that mail deliveries have become unreliable, and might be delayed for who knows how long.

*One impact of the September 11 events and the subsequent anthrax attacks is that humongous increases in expenditures on PPP security are bound to displace some of the allocations to PPP human services. In other words, one kind of PPP employment is going to displace another kind. One possible outcome could well be that the human service system will be less able to create dependency, and that vulnerable people will benefit from this.

The Economic Impact of the Disasters: A Golden Moment of Opportunity for Shrinkery

*In the aftermath of "the events," the shrink culture promptly reported that there had been precipitated "a massive mental health crisis" in the US, but that fortunately, the events have broken down people's barriers against seeking mental health "treatment." Obviously, the shrink system is going to be one big beneficiary of these "events." In fact, this has been a bonanza to shrinkery. Almost the entire 11/01 issue of the flagship publication of the American Psychological Association, the Monitor on Psychology, was devoted to how much psychology can benefit from the Sept. 11 events. One prominent psychologist in New York City said that "psychologists will be needed every step of the way." One article almost gleefully noted that there are 70,000 employees of family members of the US State Department who are "eligible for services." One can only wonder why there is such restraint in this profession, and why we have not been told that 6 billion people are eligible for services. Another article noted, also gleefully, that Medicare would now pay for "telehealth services," which to psychologists means mostly long-distance shrinkery without actually being in the physical presence of the shrinkee. The journal gave short shrift to one dissenting letter that pointed out that post-disaster "psychological-interventions," where survivors are typically virtually demanded to discuss the details of their traumatic experience, have not been found by research to be helpful, but that there is even evidence that they can make things worse.
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is supposed to be prepared to tide people over in emergencies, as by assuring that people have water, food, tents, etc. But in 9/01, it gave New York State's Office of Mental Health $22.7 million (!) for crisis counseling in the greater NY City area. The purpose of this counseling was "to help people understand that emotional reactions to disasters are normal, grieve their losses, and develop coping skills that will allow them to resume their pre-disaster level of functioning and equilibrium" (OHM Quarterly, 12/01). One requirement was that all this money be spent in 60 days! That is $380,000 worth of shrinkery per day. Even shrinking away around the clock, 24 hours a day, that would be about $16,000 per hour. How can one do this? One would have to go to the highways and byways to impress shrinks to shrink, or one would have to recruit ordinary citizens to become both emergency providers and consumers of FEMA shrink funds.

One counselor in upstate New York---250 miles away from "Ground Zero" in Manhattan---said that almost everyone living in New York State can be expected to suffer from post-traumatic stress as a result of "the events" (Syracuse Post Standard, 11 Dec. 01).

The New York City Board of Education alone planned to spend $110 million on disaster-related counseling of students (Time, 15/10/01). Business at campus counseling centers doubled after 11 September (Newsweek, 12 Nov. 01). Young people are very impressionable.

At least one charity that received $48 million in donations spent 17% ($16 million) on shrinkery (Newsweek, 17/12/01). It is amazing how quickly shrinkery can absorb all available resources. How does it do it? Does shrinkery never sleep?

Newsweek (8 Oct. 01) said that America has grief counselors the way Third World countries have aid workers.

With shrinks running amok, it was no wonder that there was a sudden sharp upturn in the sales of tranquilizers—but there also was in liquor sales, thank goodness (Newsweek, 26/11/01).

Literally scores of millions of people have endured unspeakable horrors in the last 100 years, and somehow managed to pull themselves together and to carry on with their lives. Thus, the hysterical shrinkish assertions that everybody who gets a bit rattled by frightening events should be shrunken are utterly outrageous and self-serving.

There used to be a German saying that skilled labor stood upon a golden floor, meaning that skilled workers could always find a livelihood. Given the psychologization of public life, the PPP culture, and "the events," one can now tell young people that at least until our economy collapses, they will find a golden floor by going into shrinkery.

With the shrinks descending like locusts on a scared and frazzled public, insisting that everybody spill everything out of their mouths, the shrinks themselves are becoming unraveled, and a large number end up getting Shrunken by their fellow shrinks (e.g., SPS, 16/10/01).

The Economic Impact of the Disasters: Other Beneficiaries

Obviously, while the events have devastated the American—and partially also the world—economy, many economic sectors other than shrinkery will greatly benefit from them. Among these are the armament industry, and anything that has to do with security and security devices. Some people checking passengers at airports doubled their salaries overnight upon federalization of oversight. A "haz-mat" (hazardous material) suit costs at least $20,000, and local authorities now see themselves obliged to acquire lots of them (Time, 12 Nov. 01). Etc., etc.

While in the long run, the events will be a bonanza for lawyers, in the short run they will give society a reprieve from them, in so far as nearly 20% of all the lawyers in New York City, or about 14,000 of the city's 76,000, were prevented from access to their offices after the attacks.
Among the beneficiaries of the bioterrorism scare are firms that immediately started hyping and selling all sorts of devices that falsely claim to protect one from anthrax or other bacteria. For instance, in early November, we began to receive packages sealed with a tape that had a message imprinted on it that it was a "secure sealant." We also received letters with stickers on the back announcing, "inspected and sealed for your protection." Apparently, junk mail firms had these stickers quickly printed up and slapped on their fund-raising letters in order to reassure recipients, though of course the sticker is utterly phony. Of course, such measures raise the costs of mailing for some parties.

With people afraid to fly, car rental businesses have made a windfall. Sometimes, customers would find that the only vehicles left to rent were very large vehicles or trucks, and in desperation would rent these.

A major Internet executive gloated, "It's incredibly positive for the Internet" (e.g., Time, 15 Nov. 01).

After 11 Sept., the pro-gun pro-military Soldier of Fortune magazine nearly doubled its sales.

The events have also been both a disaster and a bonanza to insurance firms. On the one hand, their losses are staggering, but on the other hand, there was almost immediately a 20% rise in the number of Americans buying life insurance.

With people speeding up wedding plans, another beneficiary has been the "wedding merchandise" (as it is called) business.

Responses by Various Parties to the September Disasters

We will look in this section at how various parties or sectors responded to the September disasters.

Hysterical or Symbolic Responses

Many of the responses to the events were vastly overblown or absolutely ridiculous. There was no reason in the world to close down and evacuate relatively minor buildings all over the country, or to send people home from work. Parents in insignificant places all over the US rushed to their children's schools to take them home. One can understand why schools might cancel plane trips to France, Spain, etc., but not why children from New York state would have their bus trips canceled to exhibits in Ontario or camps in Quebec. Several kindergartens even canceled trips to pumpkin patches. In the small town of Sioux Falls in South Dakota, a shopping mall was promptly closed on the far-fetched assumption that terrorists might want to attack it (Newsweek, 29/10/01).

One thing that the media did not tell us is that people in Toronto were told to prepare to evacuate the city, which was totally unnecessary and would have been a terrible disaster if it had been attempted.

In Canada, a hapless 81-year-old checking in on a flight wisecracked about his aged wife carrying a bomb in her purse and was promptly charged, until the authorities recovered their senses.

After a single illegal foreign resident attacked a Greyhound bus driver shortly after the events, it made no sense whatever to shut down all the Greyhound transportation system while leaving intact and operating the Trailways one. Also, it was only after this incident that the public was told that for years, people had been trying to wrest control of long-distance buses away from drivers, and to steer the buses off the road. Thus, this was not even a novel event.

We were very amused to learn that after "the events," radio stations took 150 songs off the air because they would supposedly be "insensitive" to play nationwide. We can understand this for some songs, such as "You Dropped a Bomb on Me," "Blow Up the Outside World," "Hey Man Nice
Shot," "I’m On Fire," "Jumper," "Great Balls of Fire," etc., but were puzzled by songs such as "Bridge Over Troubled Waters," and "Dawn is Breaking."

*One thing that is noteworthy is that people who are thoroughly decommunitized on the personal level go through paroxysms of grief for people to whom they literally would not have given the time of day on the street, especially when you consider the New York City culture. On 11 October, when some people were observing the first month after the attacks, there were airline passengers shedding tears, as Darcy Elks told us.

*More on hysterical responses was in the earlier section on the anthrax scare.

The Fortification of Society

The events gave a quantum boost to something one might call the fortification of society (not only in America), including to innumerable measures of objectification, formalization and bureaucratization that were already bringing down American society specifically. What will become of us?

For the very purpose of preventing domestic tyranny and military supremacy, domestic security in the US has always been left in the hands of local and state authorities, and nonmilitary federal agencies. Now the Pentagon wants to set up, for the first time, an inland military security region headed by a 4-star general.

We have long predicted that the more civic society was collapsing, the greater became the risk of a military-type dictatorship. In the wake of the events, the US public overwhelmingly said that it would be necessary to give up some personal freedoms in order to prevent terrorist acts.

*One thing that these events revealed even more strongly than we had commented upon in our last TIPS issue was the extent of monitoring of public places in the US. It turned out that the terrorists could be identified by TV monitoring of gas stations, ATMs, various stores, airports, etc. It is amazing that recordings on a very small number of people who moved through many locales could be retrieved even weeks after they had been recorded.

*At one California airport, the faces of the passengers have all been videotaped and checked against the faces of criminals and suspects in a databank. This has been an experiment, and its success bodes very ill for democracy (~ 21/12/01).

*The German city of Bremen is planning to install TV surveillance cameras in its entire inner city (10/01 clipping from Susanne Hartfiel).

*Some firms are installing satellite-transmitted transponders (like those in airplanes) on their trucks, so that the movements and whereabouts of these trucks can be known at all times.

*At big public gatherings such as ball games, people were not allowed to bring in backpacks or even water bottles.

*On 23/10/01, we noted for the first time that the reception desk in the building where the Training Institute is located had the people who received and distributed the mail wear gloves. Furthermore, we were told by Susanne Hartfiel that when ballots were counted in local elections in Germany shortly before the above date, people were using both gloves and masks because the ballots were in envelopes.

*After 11 Sept. there has been a 100% increase in applications for handgun permits in Texas.

*Almost overnight, 100,000 US citizens signed up for a scheme to have their fingerprints and hand pattern digitally recorded so as to be able to bypass lengthy passport examinations when returning from traveling abroad. Of course, they are playing into the hands of police state-ism for the sake of a small short-term convenience.
*We learned that instead of searching the luggage of airline passengers before they get on an international flight, as the Israeli airline El Al does, passengers on other airlines have gotten their luggage searched after they have arrived in the US.

*Flying shortly after 11 September, a friend of ours was asked to take off his shoes and put them through the carry-on luggage x-ray machine. The machine ate his shoes and refused to spit them out. He almost missed his plane, and threatened to sprint to his gate in his socks. The machine finally returned the shoes at the last second. This was 3 months before someone tried to use shoe bombs on an AA flight at Christmas time.

*Some people who work in skyscrapers have been buying parachutes! Now there is a good gift for a newly-hired executive: a golden parachute.

*The federal government has routinely deposited its own publications in 1300 libraries all over the US, including our own at the private Syracuse University. Suddenly after 11 September, a frantic order was issued to all such libraries to seek out, and destroy, all sorts of government documents (paper and electronic) on the shelves. States followed the federal lead and removed documents on water systems.

*It is a very ominous day when members of the armed forces are afraid to reveal their names, and when the Pentagon forbids the revealing of their names, for fear that foreign terrorists with foreign names and often distinguishing characteristics may retaliate against them at home, in the US. In other words, the US military is afraid that there are vengeful Islamic fanatics freely roaming around the US who might want to attack the families and homes of US armed service personnel involved in the Afghan war, and the military has no confidence that such families can be protected!

*Traders on the NY Stock Exchange are no longer allowed to have food delivered to the trading floor. The only food allowed on the floor is any that has passed through an x-ray at the entrance.

*These days, a safety personnel "modified tactical alert" means no alert at all, but a fallback from a high alert (Time, 12 Nov. 01).

Godly Blood Lust

*Major Christian churches in many countries felt compelled to go on record that making war in/on Afghanistan was permissible. The Catholic hierarchy in the US opined that this was a so-called just war, even though the formal criteria for a so-called just war had not been met. Even groups of otherwise peaceful nuns waxed nationalistic. In churches of most Christian denominations, the American flag was prominently displayed, and patriotic and war songs were sung as part of church services. In one Catholic church in our area, the national flag was even draped over the tabernacle!

*A panel of Muslim scholars in the US ruled that Muslims in the US military had an obligation to fight for their country, even if it meant killing other Muslims. However, a group of 172 Yemeni Islamic scholars said that this would be a betrayal of God. One prominent Islamic scholar had the same answer as the sex educators: more education is the answer to Islamic terrorism. Sounds like Christians arguing with each other.

The War in Afghanistan

*As we said, unlike virtually everyone else, TIPS pointed out 10 years ago that the Gulf War was WW III. Accordingly, considering all the countries lined up for or against Afghanistan and/or bin Laden, we have been in WW IV. What will bring on WW V? And what will it be like?

*One of the things we find most distressing about the war in Afghanistan is that it is fought as much against the Taliban as against al-Qaeda. It was al-Qaeda and similar fanatics who made war abroad, not the Taliban who were almost all lowly, uneducated, poor people, already ravaged in many ways by the war against the Soviet Union and the civil war following it.
One of the things that led up to the war against Afghanistan is that in Islamic culture, and perhaps even Mid-Eastern culture before the advent of Islam, it has been unthinkable to break hospitality, and surrender one's guests to the guests' enemies. After all, we can read of a similar incident in Genesis where Lot would rather have handed his daughters over to be gang-raped than hand over the guests whom he had welcomed.

The bin Laden people had come as welcome helpers to the aid of the Afghans when these were attacked by the Soviet Union. Thus, to throw them out, or hand them over, would have been almost unthinkable. Before the war broke out, the Islamic scholars in Afghanistan deeply pondered the American ultimatum, and many would likely have handed bin Laden over if only Islamic teaching had allowed it. Equating the Taliban with al-Qaeda was, in our opinion, a very dumb thing to do! If war was to be made at all, it should have focused on al-Qaeda, and only those Taliban or other parties who stood in the more or less immediate way. What happened was that even the Taliban who were not supportive of al-Qaeda were attacked, as well as Taliban far away from al-Qaeda forces. This could be a cause of troubles for generations. Particularly sad is the vengeance with which the allied forces have tried to kill the Taliban chief Omar, who was strictly an internal affairs person, uninvolved with terrorism abroad.

*There are at least two non-nuclear weapons that are the closest things to an atomic bomb. One is a fuel-air explosion. We suggest that this was the weapon used by the US on the "highway of death" out of Kuwait near the end of the Gulf War, where everything and everyone was apparently incinerated. Because of its similarity to a nuclear weapon, the US government has released very little information on this weapon. Apparently, this weapon has been considered for use against Afghan caves.

The second one is the delicately-named "daisy-cutter," which is a 15,000 pound van-sized canister of ammonium nitrate (such as McVeigh used to blow up the Oklahoma City federal building) and aluminum dust. It wipes out everything in a circle about a mile across, and ruptures lungs and ear drums of survivors in the vicinity. It has actually been used on several occasions in Afghanistan.

Surely, one can call these devices "weapons of mass destruction."

*It is rather telling that the air war portion in and against Afghanistan was directed out of a military base in Tampa, Florida. Apparently, the military no longer felt safe enough in the Pentagon.

*It took B-2 bombers 44 hours to make the round trip from Missouri, which is so exhausting to the crew that crews had to be changed several times--and of course, there was endless refueling. Obviously, this means that these kinds of bombers could not strike very often. Furthermore, each bomber was only able to drop 16 bombs of 2,000 pounds each, which must have set a world record for expense per bomb (NYT, 11 Oct. 01). Altogether, the B-2 participation was part military exercise, and part a PR gesture--but oh, at what an expense!

*US troops going into Afghanistan were given lists of phrases of the local language to learn. Hilariously, one such phrase was "We are here to help." The military has never had a sense of the ridiculous.

*While the PC people spout diversity and multiculturalism, and teach (as they do in academia) that no culture is better than any other, they do not tolerate politically incorrect diversity or cultural traditions. Because the Taliban implemented old-fashioned practices of restricting females that are ancient, and partially even predate Islam, the PC people have hated the Taliban with deep passion, and wanted them removed. Yet the women were actually much safer under the Taliban than the cutthroats of the Northern Alliance. The Northern Alliance forces that captured Kabul are the same ones who, before losing Kabul to the Taliban the last time, rampaged through the high-class districts of the city in order to find girls and women to rape, because high-class females are prettier and cleaner than low-class ones. They often also mutilated the raped women. There is no record of Taliban rapes, as far as we know. Also, among the Taliban have been many upright Islamic clerics and scholars who have been trying to discern what to do with the bin Laden people, and how to respond to terrorism. The Bush ultimatum deprived them of the time they needed to resolve this in their councils. However, their uprightness was underlined by their mild treatment of their Western missionary prisoners. The clerics had postponed their trials on the grounds that they themselves might not be able to render a fair ruling while Afghanistan was under attack. The West lost an
opportunity to concentrate its war on the bin Laden circles while giving the Taliban a chance to extricate themselves.

*Dire poverty is now a guarantee for Afghanistan for the foreseeable centuries, because decades of warfare have led (aside from millions of land mines) to deforestation, which in turn caused erosion and contributed to drought. This is the eventual fate of all countries that denude the soil.

**Imperial Management of "The Events" & Information**

As we teach at several workshops, imperial powers respond predictably to untoward events, involving elements of denial, and claims of being in control.

*When we were told what we thought might be a rumor of the attacks on the WTC and the Pentagon, we turned on the public radio, and were relieved to hear very pleasant music being played. We assumed that therefore, no disaster had taken place. However, when it was confirmed that it had taken place, we went back and checked the public radio station again, and it was still playing pleasant music, but this time it explained that it did so in order to "be a diversion from grief." Apparently, the station must later have gotten so many complaints about this that it sent out a letter to all regional subscribers explaining why it had done so, namely, to provide a "refuge of classical music."

*In characteristic imperial fashion, the people in the WTC tower that had not been struck right away were told repeatedly not to evacuate, or even to return to work if they had been trying to escape. There were even people on the lower floors with bullhorns trying to command the fleeing people to go back upstairs. Amazingly, the announcement that the building was safe and people should be returning to their offices took place even as these people, looking out of the windows, could see persons jumping out the windows of the other tower. In a locale where people are less cynical about public authority, a lot more people would have been lost.

*Compared to the news coverage of the New York scene, the coverage of the Pentagon bombing was very modest, apparently in order to minimize the enormity of what had happened.

*These days at airports, one can hardly find a spot before or in between flights where one can sit without being within view and sound of a TV set. The empire insists that you keep your eyes on it. However, on 12 September, passengers at the Toronto airport were forbidden to watch TV because it kept showing the four air disasters (source information from Susanne Hartfiel).

*Apparently, the building complex was designed for 50,000 people, but we never learned from any of the media how many people actually were in each building at a typical daytime hour in the recent past, or even how many were in the buildings when they were struck, and how many got away. Another question to which one did not get any answers was just how many rescue vehicles were lost, because one saw them all over in the debris, and some were obviously the most super-expensive versions. Did the drivers of these destroyed fire engines and ambulances get away? How many people were lost due to flying and falling debris rather than from being in the buildings when they collapsed? How many people managed to get out of the two buildings alive?

*If it had not been a firemen's union official announcing that at least 300 firemen probably had lost their lives, the public might not have been told of this incredible loss for days, because nobody else wanted to mention any figures of any kind. Even for some days after that, nobody else was willing to give figures except for quoting the union official over and over. As it turned out, 343 firefighters ended up dead or missing, validating the union official's early estimate.

*We were also struck by the fact that after the first four buildings had collapsed, one was no longer given information about the total loss of buildings, or contradictory information. It was only with the 24/9/01 Time issue that more definite information was given that 5 buildings had collapsed altogether, 4 more had partially collapsed, 6 more had suffered major damage, and another 6 were believed to have "likely structural damage." The trouble with tall buildings is that if anything gets bent out of shape, or off-center, the whole thing becomes unstable because of the tremendous weight derived from its height. One of the buildings flattened by the World Trade Center one heard hardly
anything about, namely, a Greek Orthodox church that had been founded in 1916. It does not even show up on the maps of the buildings destroyed or damaged by the events, and may not have been included in the above numbers.

*In contrast to the higher buildings that cannot tolerate any misalignments, a relatively tiny church, St. Paul’s Chapel, survived without any damage a mere 90 meters from the WTC. It immediately began serving vast numbers of rescue workers in all sorts of ways.

*One thing we learned was that the capital city/DC was totally unprepared for a big disaster, despite the fact that it is the head of the nation, and that on paper at least, there were all sorts of emergency plans. There was a very slow response in many of the key government buildings, and for several hours there was total chaos and gridlocked streets. Even top-level Pentagon generals were tying things up by calling their families and giving them instructions, including that they should not drink tap water for the next 36 hours. It is interesting that the generals knew something that told them that their families should eschew tap water, but the rest of the nation was told nothing of the sort.

*While National Guard units soon were stationed at airports, it soon became apparent that this, too, was merely a PR measure to reassure the public so that it will start flying (and consuming) again, and boost the economy. As one cynic noted, the Guard members watched the screening personnel let lots of people through with contraband.

*While there was a vast amount of commentary on the dramatic drop-off in people flying, we did not notice anybody commenting on what appeared to be a really dramatic increase (still persisting) in traffic on the interstate highways. Perhaps this was bad news that the empire wanted to downplay.

*One response measure not taken by US government has been to crack down on fuel consumption, gas guzzlers, other frivolous gas consumption, vehicle mileage standards, etc. Also, there has been no new attention paid to renewable energy.

*One of the things that struck us watching the TV news in November and December was that so often, the very same shots of some scene of the Afghan war would be shown again and again, some of them for weeks, giving the impression that a scene was a new development.

*Of course, there is normal and there is "normal," and Vice President Cheney called the present normal "the new normal."

*At various points, US Defense Secretary Rumsfeld used the phrase "addressing" Taliban targets, meaning bombing them, and said that the American forces would "deal with these people," by which he meant killing them. After one such killing, he declared that "these people had been dealt with." There was also talk of "taking out command and control elements," and striking "strategically decisive blows," all referring to efforts to kill the al-Qaeda and Taliban leadership.

*On 8 Nov. 01, officials claimed to have a "firm grip on anthrax" (CBS evening news). No one imperial laughed.

*People have been taught by the imperial powers to discourse about "the events" in terms of "terrorism" and "terrorists." While we are using these terms to some degree, we do so uneasily. One problem with the term "terrorism" is that it is applied selectively when certain people commit certain crimes, but not when other people commit the same crime, or a different crime. For instance, the word terrorism is virtually never applied to all the crazy people constantly causing chaos, incredible disruption of public life and the spreading of much fear with mostly hoaxes, but sometimes with the real thing, though terror is actually the product of much of this. Furthermore, to Islamic extremists, what the "terrorists" are doing is fighting a war, and they would therefore view them as warriors. For instance, the attack on the Pentagon was not just meant to spread fear, but to decapitate American warfare capacity. The attack on the WTC was a combination of attack on Jewish life (in the finance business), on the economy of the Western world, and on a symbol of
modernistic hubris. That WTC was not only an extremely symbolic structure, but an extremely strategic one, is evidenced by the amount of economic understructure that was destroyed or incapacitated by the fall of the towers and the adjacent buildings. Thus, it would be far more accurate to speak of the Islamic "terrorists" as warriors in a war of not only cultures (after all, the West is engaged in an internal culture war), but of civilizations.

It is also worth considering that when American bombers and missiles attack equivalent targets in Libya, Bosnia, the Sudan, Serbia and Afghanistan, few people outside of these countries call it terrorism. Or when America uses bombing and "daisy-cutters" to demoralize the Taliban, it certainly spreads terror (including in the nearby civilian population), but this is never called "terrorism." Instead, in Afghanistan at least, it was called, over and over, "pounding," which does not lend itself well to speak of poundism and poundicists.

*Also, the suicide terrorists who hijacked the planes to fly them into their targets were widely denounced as "cowards," whereas the truth is that they were extremely courageous people of determination and dedication, whatever else they may have been. Thus, interpreting them as cowards is pure propaganda.

The Blood & Charities Scam

*The events elicited the single biggest outpouring of donations in American history, but one could say that the blood banks virtually hijacked the generosity of Americans, and many charities hijacked the money that donors meant to go the victims, and the American Red Cross hijacked both.

We were utterly scandalized by the huge number of people who thought that the best thing they could do after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington was to donate blood, and how the blood banks deceived the public. It became obvious almost immediately that there was no dramatic increase in the need for blood because of the small number of wounded survivors. Also, anybody who knows anything about the blood market knows that blood has a relatively short shelf life. Indeed, already by late October/early November, the blood discarding had begun, and literally tens of thousands of surplus units of blood--maybe even more--went down the drain (Newsweek, 17/12/01). Already by mid-December, the Red Cross had once more a critical shortage of certain blood types. Scandal was piled on top of scandal when all the people in the blood business actually encouraged this blood-giving even though they themselves knew that most of the blood would have to be thrown away. Imagine all the pain and inconvenience people went through to give blood that the blood suckers knew would be thrown away; and all the people that had to be deployed to suck the blood, and all the work and money wasted processing and storing it. The blood people did this largely in order to build up a culture of blood-giving in the long run, and otherwise gain visibility and public favor. Very disappointingly, the Red Cross was at the forefront of this massive deception. Even the executive director of the Red Cross, certainly a knowledgeable physician with credentials from Harvard and Johns Hopkins, campaigned tirelessly for further and ongoing blood donations when it was already very obvious that much of the recently collected blood had to be discarded (SPS, 27/10/01). All this was remindful of the scrap collection scheme that Churchill launched in England during the blitz, though he admitted later that he knew that the scrap was not needed, and he did it only in order to activate the martial spirit of the public, and get them to do something that made them feel that they were contributing.

Shortly after the advent of AIDS, blood banks began to disqualify homosexuals from donating or selling blood because of the high-risk status. However, after 11 Sept., the leader of a homosexual group at Harvard University wrote in a homosexual newspaper that homosexuals should go and give blood, and should deny on their application form that they have had homosexual contact. Things were not helped any by the fact that we learned this from The Harvard Crimson newspaper (NCR, 14/10/01). We can only be grateful that the writer's name was not Simpson.

*In an earlier section, we reported that shrinkery is one of the big beneficiaries of the events, and that huge sums of donated money are being paid to shrinks instead of being given to victims. No one is asking victims, "what would you rather have: $5000 in cash, or $5000 worth of shrinkery?"

Some charities, now swimming in money, want to assign an individual caseworker to every person who may have suffered in the New York attacks, of which there may be somewhere between 10,000 to 25,000. Once again, this would mean that instead of being given money to deal with their
“‘Sending a child off to college can be jolting as well as joyous. *Letting Go* offers a treasury of insights into this rite of passage rooted not in psychological jargon but in experience and common sense.’”

- Edward B. Fiske, author of *The Fiske Guide to Colleges*

A wonderful book for parents of college bound students is *Letting Go: A Parents’ Guide to Understanding the College Years*, by Karen Levin Coburn and Madge Lawrence Treger. The quote below, from this book, may reflect some of your feelings:

“Parental ambivalence about sending a child off to college, particularly a first-born, is common. The sense that family life will never be the same again, a sense of loss, even jealousy - all are likely to be mixed with the anticipated satisfaction of launching one’s offspring. For many parents, in the midst of all the hustle and bustle of daily life, this is a period of reflection - of poignant memories about times past. For many there is a coming to terms with one’s own limitations, while exploring the ever-expanding horizons of the next generation. . . .”
problems, the victims may have their lives flooded with caseworkers, and it is really these who—in classic PPP fashion—would be getting the money.

Insofar as an ungodly proportion of all the money donated for disaster relief ends up being spent hiring shrinks for counseling victims and prescribing mind drugs, we suggest strongly that people no longer contribute to the usual charitable aid agencies, but as much as possible try to donate money and other resources directly to affected persons, and forget about the tax write-off. Even money donated to churches and synagogues often ends up going to shrinks (Newsweek, 8 Oct. 01).

*As regards the money donations, it became obvious also very quickly that the September 11 disasters did not create a large number of financially dependent persons, since the victims were mostly from the more favored classes. The military has good provisions for people who die in the line of duty, and most of the white-collar workers at the WTC were affluent to begin with, or had very good health and survivor benefits. Survivors of NY City police officers and firefighters will get a full-salary pension and health insurance for spouses for life, at least $150,000 from federal funds, and $25,000 from the mayor’s office, to say nothing of private charity. The federal Victim Compensation Fund rapidly enacted after the attack will allow big compensations even for the more lowly victims.

However, already the survivors are squabbling with each other or The Fund. Some are outraged that some survivors are getting more than others (some may get up to $25 million), and some are outraged that they are only getting a few millions, even though in other kinds of deaths, they would have gotten nothing other than life insurance—if they had any. Also, some of the survivors were not even dependent on the victim’s support, such as middle class relatives of young unmarried childless victims.

However, many people who really needed financial assistance quickly had a hard time getting it, or at least getting it quickly and without undue hassle. Some such families found themselves in a bureaucratic quagmire, inundated by paperwork. Some could not even get telephone calls returned by the “charities.”

Also, it now turns out, people gave donations to agencies that are obliged to give money to small businesses, and to the unemployed and traumatized, but not the survivors, as the donors had assumed (SPS, 2 Dec. 01).

Also, some people of tenuous ties to victims have tried to cash-in on their deaths. Among these were women merely fiancéeed to victims, but the only ones with a just claim seemed to be those who had babies with their fiancées. One victim was a 25-year-old man, with a fiancée and a baby, but the fiancée felt that the $1 million she was to get from the government alone was not enough.

*After the 11 September disaster in New York City, people donated almost anything imaginable to rescue workers and victims, raised money by conducting carwashes, and similar things. The NY Planned Parenthood promptly offered to do its part by providing free contraception and abortion to women adversely affected by the tragedy, and claimed that the response had been overwhelming (NRLN, 10/01). It is hard to believe that there should be such an assault on life at the time of such a tragic loss of so many lives. More specifically, dozens of wives were left as pregnant widows by the WTC bombing, some already with older children. They were certainly primary targets of Planned Parenthood’s offer of free abortions. However, as far as is known, not a single one said that she regretted her pregnancy, or wanted an abortion. Surely, these women were as heroic as the firefighters who risked their lives. Planned Parenthood also claimed that after 11 September, there was a high rate of pregnancies, and attributes it to some people finding solace in sex. Its response was to rush out a supply of red-white-and-blue condoms.

Similarly, the UN Population Fund rushed $20 million worth of contraceptive and abortion devices to Afghan refugee camps where the refugees existed without shelter or food—and were shocked to discover that “relief” agencies expected pregnant women to abort, rather than be fecund, and make up for the terrible loss of life in the country (NCR, 18/11/01).

The Mobilization & Channelling of Craziness by the September Disasters

Immediately after 11 September, we predicted that the spectacularity of the events, given such impressive TV coverage, would electrify crazy minds, and inspire and motivate them into all sorts of spectacular anti-social acts of their own. Not only Islamic fanatics who had never thought of doing such things will now begin to do awful things, but also many more ordinary run-of-the-mill
disgruntled and crazy people who are not foreign born, not Islamic, and not necessarily religiously fanatic. The prediction started becoming true even before we had time to publish it.

*It was not widely reported that immediately after 11 Sept., there was an avalanche of bomb threats all over the US, directed not only at schools, but at all sorts of public and private facilities. However, once the anthrax attacks started, the anthrax hoax threats exploded, and were somewhat better reported. All this raises the question whether there will be a let-up in the school bombing threats, with crazy people's minds being encaptured by the new possibility of issuing anthrax threats instead. The slogan in the crazy craze culture may become, "bomb threats are passe; anthrax threats are in."

*The threat wave by crazy people was quickly imitated abroad, though to a lesser extent, because, "as everybody knows," there are more crazy people in America than elsewhere.

*Seeing the dramas of the real and the false bad things unfold on TV has an irresistible appeal to innumerable mentally weak people, compelling them to add to chaos and fear, and to pour fuel on burning flames and broken hearts. At one time, many of these people would have been in residential settings where they did not have easy access to telephones, but now they do, and they often take advantage of it in many maladaptive ways. In turn, the authorities often crack down hard on people who issue bomb and other threats under such circumstances, when all they would need to do is to assure that such persons are not able to get to a telephone. We would guess that in many cases, all it would take would be a stern order to stay away from making telephone calls of any kind whatever for a certain period of months.

And this is now increasingly the problem: with a world full of crazy people, and there no longer being any places where even the dangerous ones can be sequestered, Western countries are now apt to be flooded with deranged acts committed by deranged people which will make life more difficult for ordinary citizens, and even outright unsafe, in the latter case as much as if bona fide terrorists had been at work.

*What is particularly amazing is that even the crazy spirits in Third World countries were aroused by the spectacle of the anthrax scare, and driven into copy-catting; e.g., offices in Pakistan and India received envelopes with harmless but scary white powders, disrupting things (SPS, 3 Nov. 01).

*It is certainly erroneous to assume that all the people who begin to emit crazy behaviors in response to "the events" and the anthrax attacks are psychotic. Some are mischievous, but many are apparently only neurotic. For instance, within hours of the attack on the WTC, a woman appeared on the site in a scrub uniform, all hysterical, claiming to be a survivor and getting a phone call from her husband buried alive in the ruins--all of it fake. Behavior like this probably falls into the category we discussed in our last TIPS, the "Please, please, please look at me" famine of so many people these days whose minds are media-dominated.

*Many "hoaxes" or perceived threats were not reported, in part because they became too numerous, and in part to prevent adding further motivation to the perpetrators. For instance, someone apparently left a note or package in a toilet stall in one of the rest stops on the New York Thruway, and the rest stop was promptly shut down. In fact, the public might not even be told why a particular facility is being shut down when it is in response to one of these scares.

*The first Greyhound cross-country bus hijacking shortly after the events was the product of a deranged Croatian who was trying to perpetrate with a box cutter--on a low-tech, cheap, and ground level--what the hijackers had done with greater skill in the sky. However, then came the copycat of the copycat, namely, another Greyhound bus hijacking in Utah in October, and something very unusual about this was that the bus was hijacked by a couple who tried to flip it over. The two were apparently both deranged, suffering from a folie à deux (SPS, 19/10/01).
The Abandonment of Dependent People

We have been teaching an entire workshop on the awful things that happen to dependent people during societal calamities and collapses, and how to prepare for it. What happens was dramatically brought out by the terrorist attacks in New York. Reportedly, there were hundreds of mobility-impaired people in the WTC, almost all of whom were abandoned during the evacuation, with only two people in wheelchairs getting rescued in time. There probably were some other heroic and selfless attempts to rescue handicapped people. At least one man was seen carrying a wheelchair-bound stranger down a smoky stairwell. Both perished, and the Samaritan left a widow and 5 orphans behind (Newsweek, 17/12/01).

In a public housing project near the World Trade Center, handicapped people were stranded for days without power, water, phones, fresh air, and--worst of all--attendant services. This happened to them apparently without anybody else being aware of it (Mouth, 11/01).

Not only were immediately endangered handicapped people abandoned on September 11, but we have since learned that even in human services far away from the disaster scene (i.e., in other states), a lot of human service workers simply walked off their jobs that day and went home to be with their families, apparently to comfort them or be comforted by them. This underlines even more dramatically just how vulnerable dependent people are at a time of civic disaster.

One thing that struck us is that the 100 or so mobility-impaired people who perished in the September 2001 World Trade Center disaster because they could not get down and out fast enough, or even at all, did not perish from a lack of rights. (This is also relevant to the section on social advocacy and rights further below). In fact, they were people who were extremely rights-privileged, both in relation to other handicapped people, and even in relation to the average American. They held jobs in prestigious firms in one of the most prestigious buildings and locations in the US economy, and they had been provided with 100% "access" to their work sites by means of dozens of elevators in each of the two towers. Furthermore, it is also illuminating that the two people in wheelchairs who did survive were the ones who had been picked up by men who were also fleeing the towers, and who carried them laboriously, and at great risk to themselves (underlined by the death of the rescuer who did not survive), down many stairs, in one case from the 68th floor. This act of unselfish voluntary help, service and rescue was not a legal entitlement, and risking their lives thusly was certainly not part of the rescuers' jobs, as would be the case for firemen, such as those who perished in the disaster.

Miscellaneous Responses

*One of the first things NY City mayor Giuliani did after he realized that the WTC towers got hit by planes was to scream repeatedly, "Get a press conference" (Time, 31/12/01).

*To the Israelis, the 11 Sept. attack on America was a bit comparable to the British response to the German sinking of the "Lusitania": a regrettable loss of life--but much hidden glee. How good for us: Now the others know what it's like, and what we have had to endure; and no matter how the Americans react, we will benefit. It was also comparable to the president of America Online saying that the anthrax deaths were "unfortunate," but that the anthrax attack was "incredibly positive for the Internet" (Time & Newsweek, 5 Nov. 01).

Other terrorist countries responded the opposite way: Oh my gosh, if we don't disavow this attack, then we will get clobbered by the Americans, even though we never got a chance to pull off anything so spectacular.

*When the Pentagon arrogantly and mindlessly named the new war "Operation Infinite Justice," both Christians, Jews and Muslims knew that only God is infinite justice--but only the Muslims protested, and that was enough to change the name. The Jews were probably too happy over the new Islam- and Arab-bashing to protest, and the Christians did not have the coherency and guts to do it, and probably would not have been heard anyway.

*One reason many people in the US government (including Congress) opposed crackdowns on off-shore banking after 11 Sept. was that tax cheating is actually very good for the US economy, as Time (22/10/01) explained.
Mouth, a periodical from the perspective of handicapped people, felt inspired by President Bush's avowal to "rid the world of evil-doers," and proposed that he start with the School of the Americas, the nursing home industry, and legislators who have been bought out by the prescription drug industry.

A survey found that 74% of Americans responded to the attacks by praying, but 82% took recourse to flying the American flag (NCR, 7 Oct. 01).

There are some rather peculiar ways that some Americans reacted to the events. Women went out and bought a record number of fancy shoes, but unfortunately not the kind that would enable one to run away quickly from a disaster. Couples in record numbers have withdrawn their divorce proceedings from the courts, which is good news but also underlines how fickle the mentalities of the people of the culture of modernism are in respect to marriage and divorce, and presumably remarriage as well (Newsweek, 8 Oct. 01).

Rodents kept in cages develop the habit of responding to any stressful event by jumping into their running wheels and running like hell, regardless of what the stress is: unpleasantness from a cage mate, a cat looking in on the cage, or whatever. If you are a woman show business "celebrity," and you get stressed, what do you do? Why, take off your clothes and prance. This explains why many show business celebrities responded to the events in several interesting ways. Some of the women more or less took off their clothes in benefit performances for the victims. Others went crazy with fear, cancelled performances (feeling that they were so important terrorists would come after them), bought "safe houses" in the West, and gas masks for their pet dogs (Newsweek, 12 Nov. 01). Poster lesbian Ellen Degeneres tried to think what would vex the Talibans the most, and decided it was "seeing a gay woman in a suit, surrounded by Jews." Jennifer Lopez decided that nothing could keep her from showing almost all, expressing a sense of "responsibility as an artist to bring some lightness into people's lives...," lightness presumably referring to what little she wore (Time, 3 Dec. 01).

Nothing will stop the naked ladies. On September 12, the Miss America pageant proceeded first with a prayer by a multi-culturally correct array of ministers of different races and faiths, followed by the near-nudity contest. One of the contestants said, "terrorists cannot stop us" (NCR, 30/9/01). Again, this is the sort of thing strict Muslims fear as much as strict Christians and Jews should be fearing but do not.

After 11 Sept., everybody in the US sang from "America the Beautiful," "confirm thy soul in self-control," but didn't mean it, especially not the glamorous media glitterati who sang it for the public.

Overnight, UCLA added 50 new courses related to "the events," plus 50 seminars, many of them more group therapy than academic content (Newsweek, 12 Nov. 01). One can also view this as a PPP response.

A man in New Jersey who was apparently illegally in the US had the bad sense to go out in mid-October to buy $15,000 worth of Halloween candy, which promptly and quite appropriately brought in the FBI (SPS, 24/10/01).

The Canadian Mint promptly designed and released a silver medallion with the image of the US flag and the American motto e pluribus unum in the hope that many Americans would buy them at $20 each.

Even before the US government launched its attack upon Afghanistan, the public was informed and warned over and over that this was not going to be a short campaign with easily visible victories. As a columnist in Newsweek (19/11/01) pointed out, the American sense of time and hardship is so distorted that American wars are in trouble if they don't show big results within 3 weeks, because almost the entire American punditocracy had declared the Afghan war ineffective, a failure, or even lost, by then. This goes to underline what we have been teaching for a long time,
namely, that our culture is one of a pathetic here-and-now-ism, and anything that does not show spectacular instant results is not acceptable to people.

*Our sometimes nasty but very humorous friends at Mouth developed a two-sided lunch box, one side marked "biohazard," and the other "radioactive," with the appropriate symbols of these, for human service clients to take to meetings with agency folk.

*We suspect that many people's sense of security has been shaken, and/or that they are afraid now in new ways, but do not consciously explicate this to themselves. This may explain a great deal of the drawing-in behavior that we seem to be seeing.

*A writer to Newsweek (19/11/01) asked whether people, such as the September terrorists whose "whole concept of life is tainted by hate" can be considered human, because if not, then they could be treated without observing the standards of human rights. This is certainly a new criterion of humanhood.

**Other Impacts & Aftermaths**

*For years, particularly in our December issues, we have been predicting that a military-type of dictatorship is coming ever closer in the US. Many responses to the recent events certainly mark yet another milestone in that direction.

*Since 11 Sept., people have not been permitted to visit the Statue of Liberty, for fear they might blow it up or die being blown up. How symbolic! Welcome to the land of the free where you can blow up Liberty.

*While the 9/01 bombings and anthrax attacks should have further fed American distrust of their authorities, exactly the opposite happened, merely because of the heroic actions of NYC firefighters and police, and the mayor's forthrightness. It is amazing, and utterly alarming and portentous, just how easily the American public can now be duped.

*Until 11 September, all it took to hijack a plane was to pass a note to the pilot via a stewardess, and the pilots would respond by pretty much doing whatever the hijacker demanded. In other words, the pilots would take the hijacker's word for it that the hijacker had a weapon or a bomb, and therefore, anybody who for whatever reason was in a mood to hijack could do it easily and peaceably. Those were the "good old days."

*"The events" are believed to have a large impact on the entire civil and criminal justice system. It is believed that on the one hand, juries are now much more ready to convict people, and on the other hand, are making lower damage awards in civil cases because jurors are comparing the often minor or fictitious pain and suffering of plaintiffs with what they saw people go through from the terrorist attacks.

*Apparently, there has been a surge of interest in real estate in Western states, with people from big Eastern cities trying to buy land and houses there in order to get away from danger.

*Please affirm me. One consequence reportedly is that unmarried people are rushing more quickly into having sex, sometimes on the first day they meet, which has already been given the name of "apocalypse sex" or "Armageddon sex," which some of the mindless modernistic practitioners thereof have reported to be "affirming" (Time, 1 Oct. 01).

*Note how the recent terrorist events have revealed the modernism of people. So many people have become virtually paralyzed by them, and/or became enraged that their entitlements were taken away. Many are externalizing their rage on the road, by "road rage."

*In 9/01, people discovered that they had to add a few new words to their computer spell-check programs, such as bioweapons and bioterrorism, because these had not been in its database.
*The oldest religious building in NYC, St. Paul’s chapel near the WTC, had been down to 30 parishioners, on its last leg, but the 11 Sept. attack proved to be its gold mine salvation. The pastor decided to get rid of the parishioners (they are no longer welcome), and after serving as a respite center for rescue and clean-up workers, to convert the church into a shrine/museum to disaster. This has been enabled by the receipt of huge donations. A church shrine museum with a pastor, much money, but no parishioners.

*Accidentally, someone took firefighter Mike Kehoe’s picture going up into the WTC. Minutes later he was ordered to evacuate, and ended up running for 5 blocks for his life. He tells everyone that he saved only one life: his own. Nevertheless, the picture made him a mythical worldwide hero, with children even saying their prayers before his picture, to the point he cracked mentally. Foolishly, he could not withstand all the publicity by simply saying no to requests for appearances, but all this ruined his relationship with his peers. The fire did not harm him, but the PR ruined him, and made him crack (Time, 31/12/01).

Miscellaneous Other Impacts on Human Services

*One impact that "the events" seem to have had in human services is that fewer people are going to human service training events if they can help it. Among the contributors are apparently fear of travel, training and travel support becoming scarcer as agencies are being hit by the economic recession, and people wanting to stay at home and with their families.

Among the reasons why this is so is that people are not only afraid to travel, but are also much more concerned with themselves than they used to be a generation ago. People who are focused on themselves and their navel will be vastly less concerned about learning more about human services, as long as they can keep their jobs.

*We were delighted to hear that a news analysis talked about people who are now scared of flying as being "challenged," and we hope that this would put the kibosh on handicapped people being interpreted as "challenged."

*In Syracuse at least, volunteering for the Salvation Army and other agencies during December 2001 was way down, for the first time, and has been attributed to the 11 Sept. attacks.

*In light of "the events," changing from normalization to Social Role Valorization may have been a mistake. When President Bush started begging Americans to please act normal, imagine how a normalization scheme would have resonated with that! One could hardly have expected the president to beg people to "please play valued roles."

Miscellaneous Observations

*One thing that struck us in viewing pictures of people escaping from the WTC was that almost all of them had peed in their pants. One man coming down one of the WTC towers almost did not make it because instead of peeing in his pants, he took a minute to dash to a toilet to pee. Lesson for the future: pee or not, run!

*A number of people fraudulently claimed that relatives were victims of the events in New York City, while some people feared to be missing apparently took their sweet time making their whereabouts known. If somebody wanted to stage a disappearance act, this was certainly a golden opportunity for it.

*Death is near! After the events, clowns showed up to entertain travellers being screened at security checkpoints at the Baltimore airport (Time, 19/11/01). Terrorists didn’t keep us from flying only days after 11 September, but clowns just may.

*When an airliner crashed in Queens on 12 November 01, the authorities warned the residents to leave the area because of jet fuel in the sewers. But when people hopped into their cars they found that there was no way to get out of the neighborhood because the local bridge had been closed (apparently out of sheer hysteria), and so people were circling around the area in gridlock for hours
without a place to go (SPS, 13/11/01). This again underlines that one must respond to instructions from the authorities during calamities with some discretion, and particularly with skepticism when one is told that all the problems are in hand.

*We were absolutely amazed to read in Newsweek (22/10/01) commentary on "the events" that "a key fact about America is that this is a nation never actually corrupted by affluence."

*There is much hypocrisy in treating Pakistan as an ally against Islamic terrorism, considering that Pakistan has been giving shelter to Islamic terrorists even after 11 September, including those who fled from Western countries before or after 11 September because of their terrorist involvements.

*Motivated by political correctness, the US issued its first postage stamp honoring the Muslim faith on 1 Sept. 01. The only thing that could have been worse would have been to have issued it on September 10 or 11.

The War of the Civilizations, The Role of Political Correctness in Facilitating Terrorism, & the Bankruptcy of Political Correctness Revealed by the Islamic Terrorism

Introduction

Once communism collapsed, a huge number of former Marxists, and people who would have become Marxists, turned to post-modern political correctness as their religion. Those who once were Marxist but are now PC hardly ever admit that they were ever Marxists. Obviously, these are people who cannot tolerate the truth, and therefore will turn to some false religion--if not this one, then that one. This is an important thing to know as a baseline to what follows.

There has been much debate whether Sept. 11 marked the beginning of a "war of the civilizations." The best the politically correct (PC) liberals can say at this point is "we hope not," and "not yet." However, this war has actually been going on for 1300 years already, and probably entered a new phase in the 1970s. Political correctness has been dealt a severe blow by the events, and possibly even a death blow. People of a PC mentality are being given a severe lesson about the errors of their religion. They have befouled their own nest, and have depreciated Western civilization so long, in part because they have never understood some of the major alternatives which now stare them in the face in the shape of a skull, crossbones, and crescent moon.

One of the lessons is that any social grouping, in order to function adaptively, or even survive, needs to have some important things in common, as we have taught in many of our workshops. On the societal level, multiculturalism and diversity are not things to celebrate, and to enlarge artificially, but to try to tolerate, and work out--i.e., to diminish if they get too large. The PC have never admitted that diversity can become too diverse, and multiculturalism too multicultural. Therefore, the PC circles that have brought their Western societies to the breaking point bear a huge burden for many bad things, including for the import of Islamic terrorism into Western countries, in part by being militant in indiscriminately opening their borders. However, so far, there have been no signs of repentance from those quarters, even though a long list of Islamic "terrorism" against Western countries in the last 25 years should have been ample warning.

We are certainly in favor of harmony, nonviolence, personalism, individualization rather than stereotyping, etc., but we do viscerally object to many elements of the PC culture, such as the following: (a) its promotion of materialism; (b) its campaign to deny the existence of any objective morality--other than its own; (c) its promotion of radical decommunitized individualism, and its celebration of the privatization of many kinds of deathmakings; (d) its warfare against Western culture; (e) its war of eradication toward Christianity; (f) preaching tolerance for every conceivable aberration, while practicing a profound intolerance, just short of a blood persecution, of parties who dissent from political correctness; and (g) its endless and massive campaign of deception and lying about all the above, and many other things.

The submodules following will speak to these issues. However, be it noted that our war in TIPS is not against Arabs, Islam or immigrants, but against the culture of modernism (see the previous TIPS issue) that is not only destroying morality and civilization, but is a culture of death, homicidal, generative of impaired and dependent people, and disabling to rational moral human service. This is why our readers need to have a powerful understanding of what is going on, and that the liars have been winning the intra-Western culture wars.
After 11 September, the PC culture went into shock for a few days, and then pulled itself together to wage a war of lies in order to save itself. One of the systematic lies was that Islam is a religion of peace, that Islamic terrorism was an aberration, and that therefore, no obstacle should be laid to the further enlargement of Islam in the West.

A major feature of Time (1 Oct. 01) contained, verbatim, the historically false statement that "Islam did not impose itself by the sword." (Among other things, Time recently ran a guest column entitled "The True, Peaceful Face of Islam.") However, armed struggle in both the promotion and defense of Islam has been of the essence of Islam from its very beginning, and is enshrined in the Koran by the concept of jihad. Everything that did not belong to "the house of Islam" belonged to "the house of war" (New Yorker, 19/11/01). The periods between wars on the infidel were called not "peace" but "truces."

The fact is that Muhammed himself fought a deadly war at the very beginning of his new religion (which he crafted himself in part from Jewish and Christian elements). Islam then came sweeping out of Arabia in an orgy of warfare, and rapidly conquered much of the Western world, and beyond. The conquest swept north across the mid-east, and west across all of North Africa, across the Iberian peninsula, and into Southern France, being just barely stopped there in 732 by Charlemagne's grandfather, Charles Martel. Eastward, conquest reached portions of what is now China and the Philippines. Many of the areas that became Islamic had once been extensively or mostly Christian, such as North Africa, the mideast, Turkey, and some areas in central Asia. Islam also repeatedly invaded Italy, and raided the European coasts as far north as Iceland for centuries. Eventually, it invaded the Balkans and swept close to Vienna several times, the last time still in the 1700s. This is why so much of the Balkans, especially in Bosnia and Albania, is Muslim today. (It was not a very happy conversion!) The non-Islamic peoples of the Balkans were not freed of the Islamic yoke until just before WW I.

Just how radical Islam was in imposing its religion is borne out by the facts that (a) there was very little spread of Islam except by conquest, and by emigration, until the late 20th century, and (b) the areas that once had been Christian became Muslim very quickly.

Also, from the first, Islam has engendered fanaticism. If it had not, it could not have conquered much of the Mideastern and Western world in no time flat.

While there is much badmouthing about the Christian crusades between ca. 1100-1300 AD, hardly anyone seems to know that when the remnant of the Christian population of the Iberian peninsula tried to reconquer their country--which took 700 years--the North African rulers sent waves of Islamic jihad armies across the straits of Gibraltar. In reality, the crusades were a Christian imitation of the Islamic jihad. Jihad's good, crusades bad?

Altogether, Islamic armies have been making war on Christianity--or at least the Christianized West--on and off for the entire existence of Islam except for a lull between roughly 1910 and 1980.

Altogether, the fact that Islam was born in warfare, and engaged in constant wars of conquest and conversion, has impressed itself upon Islamic mentality ever since. While the Koran itself has passages that admonish to peacefulness under at least certain circumstances, there are also many passages in the Koran that admonish the faithful to do ill to, and even persecute and kill, the infidel, and only a few that admonish to the contrary. If one starts quoting holy books, then one will find many more passages on peacefulness in the Christian Bible than the Koran.

However, much as most people who say they are Christian do not really know the Bible well (if at all), so many Muslims do not know the Koran well, may not know of the incendiary passages, and therefore may claim that they do not exist--and of course, the PC people will only cite the one and not the other.

We are also told by the PC lobby that suicide is not permissible by Islam, but death-defying warfare has always been a feature of Islam's wars, including an eager anticipation of death in Islamic wars. Examples of such fanatical death-defying warring include the decrepit North African volunteers in the Islamic "crusades" against Spain in the late Middle Ages, the virtually unarmed hordes who threw themselves at Napoleon's armies in Egypt, and the armies of the Mahdi in the Sudan between 1881-1908 who were told that they were bullet-proof, but weren't. In fact, it was the ferocity of their suicidal onslaughts that routinely overwhelmed vastly better armed and organized Egyptian and British armies. Even the last battle in which they were slaughtered by Lord Kitchener was, as he put it, "a near thing."
Also closely related to suicide is fanatical and bloody self-mutilation that is part of the observance of certain Islamic holidays, at least in the Shiite portion of Islam.

It does not help any that Islamic suicide attackers, or attackers who get killed, are widely venerated even today as "martyrs," and in some Islamic cultures almost universally so, such as in Palestine. That such "martyrs" will be rewarded with the seventh heaven and 72 beautiful virgin maids is not a Taliban or al-Qaeda invention, but original and ongoing Islamic teaching.

There is also great confusion about what constitutes suicide in Islamic warfare. We would call an attack by unarmed people against a heavily armed army suicidal, but Muslims would not because the attackers are killed by the defenders, not by their own hands. Even flying a plane into a target is more sacrificial than primarily a suicide, since the death of the attacker results secondarily from the successful attack. However, someone blowing themselves up in a crowd in order to kill as many bystanders as possible would be seen as suicide.

The PC, and certain Muslim leaders (mostly in the West), have been saying recently that Islam (in its pure form) forbids attacking non-male noncombatants, and that is probably true. But apparently, the vast majority of Islamic experts in Islamic countries consider the terrorism against Israeli civilians justified, and one of the few teachers of Islamic law at Islam's most respected university in Cairo who says that the Koran absolutely bans suicide even in a legitimate holy war has no students or listeners (Newsweek, 15/10/01). Also, 81% of Palestinians are allegedly in support of suicide bombing attacks against Israelis, and only 10% are opposed to it (SHA, 2 Sept. 01). Even religious leaders, including those of the Christian-Arab communities, are widely supportive of violence. Of course, Christian teachers who teach the facts of nonviolence of Christianity in its pure form do not have much of a following.

So we have a problem in that it hardly matters in today's world what Islam or Christianity in their pure forms teach, but what people who are identified as Muslims and Christians, and Islamic and Christian cultures, actually do. Whatever Islam may teach, the fact is that the vast majority of the Islamic clergy in Islamic countries has not denounced the 11 Sept. attacks, most seem to have even endorsed them as legitimate acts of war against the West, or against America specifically, and a great many have done so explicitly. Even the Islamic clergy in the West who did denounce the attacks may often have done so for reasons of utility rather than by conviction. This is illustrated by an Islamic scholar at the world-famous Al-Azhar University in Cairo, who had taken the post of leader of the Islamic cultural center in New York City, and who, after praying with Jewish leaders in New York shortly after September 11, fled back to Egypt, and from there started claiming that the September 11 attacks were actually carried out by Jews, and that Jewish doctors were poisoning Muslim children in US hospitals. The latter has a kernel of truth insofar as abortions in the US are disproportionately carried out by Jewish physicians, and that there are at least some Muslim women in the US who are getting abortions.

What is thus needed is an unequivocal proclamation by the majority of Islamic scholars and clerics that either there must not be a jihad against the West, against the US, or against Israel; or that if there is to be one, it must only take the form of warriors fighting warriors. Of the latter, we have had plenty of recent examples, such as the blowing up of the US Marines' barracks in Lebanon, the fighting against US forces in Somalia (who had come to avert mass starvation), and the blowing up of the US destroyer Cole.

There is much in the Koran that is equivocal toward Islamic treatment of nonMuslims, especially in and by an Islamic state. However, though based heavily on Jewish and Christian tenets and scriptures, the Koran singles out from among the infidel generally the Jews and Christians, and calls down the curse of Allah upon them (Surah 9:30). Doing this explicitly toward these two classes, but not equally explicitly against all sorts of other infidels, certainly contributes to a strong negative disposition among Muslims toward these two groups. At any rate, it is Islamic teaching that once Islam has conquered an area, the infidel who submit peacefully must be permitted to live as long as they do not practice or display their religion publicly, and do not try to convert anyone. This concession is, however, accompanied by relegation of the infidel to an "inferior" (Surah 9:29) form of citizenship, and a restriction of certain rights. Also, the infidel must pay a special tax, much like was commonly levied on the Jews in Europe. This has meant that Christianity (and other infidel religions) in such countries became hereditary, being practiced in family lines, but was unable to expand by conversion. This has resulted in very peculiar forms of nonMuslim religions, similar to cultural Judaism in the West, where people who may have practiced little or no Jewish religion identify themselves as Jews, or where whatever vestigial religious ritual there was served more the
functions of a cultural "tie-sign" (as Goffman called it) than as a proclamation of a strongly-held, or any, religious faith.

However, there was no toleration whatever for Muslims who converted away from Islam; for them, death has been mandatory.

One of the big differences between most value traditions (including Islam) and the Christian one is that the Christian one holds (though often fails to teach) that every single human being, including the very worst one, was made in the image and likeness of God, was loved by God, and was therefore of absolute, intrinsic value, equal in value to all other human beings, regardless of their differences. (One can call this the celebration of nondiversity.) Despite the fact that Christians rarely live up to this teaching fully, its absence in equally strong form in Islam and most other religions accounts in part for many differences in how killings, freedom, women, and slavery are viewed.

One implication is that Christianity does not permit taking satisfaction in the death of anyone. Even Western people who have been removed for generations from Christian faith (including the nonChristian PC) still have at least some sensibility about this issue, and are very restrained in expressing approval over someone's death. When a small number of fanatics explicitly celebrate outside of a prison when a criminal inside is put to death, our Western world still recoils in disgust. This also explains why even those Westerners who do gloat over someone's death will, in the vast majority of cases, do so discreetly, and will rarely use explicit language to refer to the killing of their enemies. For instance, we earlier noted Rumsfeld using euphemisms, such as "dealing with." In fact, few nonWestern cultures share the inhibitions of most Westerners to be overt about their killings, or to show their satisfaction at anyone's death. This is the very reason why Westerners engage in so much detoxification of killing, and in using euphemisms (such as those mentioned above, by Rumsfeld and others) about killings. Some Western cultures and languages (e.g., in Western Europe) are even more touchy about this than Americans, not having had hundreds of years of Indian-killing and a lawless frontier behind them.

People forget such things as that the very reason the Nazi extermination camps were set up was, at least in part, because even the SS had scruples shooting to death huge numbers of civilians, including women, children, cripples, and old men, and the gas chambers spared them a lot of trauma over this. In cultures without long religious inhibitions against killing noncombatants, and especially people other than men, there might be no problem with finding innumerable people willing to slaughter an unlimited number of such humans each.

The lack of a clear notion in Islam that the human (and hence both men and women) is of absolute intrinsic value accounts for the uninhibited jubilation and dancing that is so common in many nonWestern (including Islamic) cultures and traditions when foes are slain or otherwise die. E.g., as an Egyptian newspaper correctly reported after 11 Sept., "millions across the world shouted in joy" (Time, 10 Dec. 01).

The widespread public celebrations of the 11 Sept. bombings (as well as of Arab suicide attacks in Israel) in Arab countries, and in Arab enclaves in Western countries, and the failure of the vast majority of Islamic religious leaders to condemn these attacks, should have been a sobering wake-up call to Western multiculturalists. (The Western media greatly played down news coverage of people dancing in the streets from joy in some Islamic nations.) Do we really want to admit such celebrators to Western countries, perhaps in order to increase our diversity so that we can celebrate it--while such guests celebrate our deaths?

The Jewish Bible has much in common with the Koran in sanctioning war and execution of certain offenders, while the Christian New Testament contains many admonitions to meekness, submission (not just to God, but to fellow humans), and loving nonviolence. This accounts for the fact that together with very few other religions, Christianity had a continuing tradition of nonviolence even after the majority of Christians began to reject nonviolence after ca. 400 AD. Even among pro-violence Christians (who make up over 99% of them), there prevailed a near-universal acknowledgment that Christians who practiced personal nonviolence were better, and more saintly, Christians. In contrast, because of its many passages in support of selective violence, Islam has had no ideology or tradition of radical nonviolence, and very few models of it. While there are passages in the Koran that extol the same ideals of peacefulness, hospitality, etc., as in Christianity, there are also others such as those that call for "fighting and slaying pagans wherever you find them, and seize them, beleaguer them and lie in wait for them." Also, it insists that nations must be fought "until they embrace Islam." Also, in Islamic history, force has been seen as effective in gaining land, power and converts (Sjoqvist, 10 Sept. 01). In Christianity and Hinduism, there has been a tradition of
seeing force as bringing short-term and surface benefits, but also as having many pernicious hidden and long-term effects.

Further, over and over in Islamic history, there were movements of religious violence that, unlike many Christian such movements, were not merely cover-ups for thoroughly worldly and material motives. One such movement deserves special mention, namely, a Medieval one that systematically engaged in assassination of its opponents, especially those of some political or religious prominence, and which became so widespread, well-known and feared that it has given English the very word "assassin." In fact, the bin Laden movement has much in common with the ancient Order of the Assassins in having no country, no throne, and no ordinary kind of army.

With a weak notion of the dignity of all humans, each and every one, it is no wonder that Islam (i.e., the Koran) has counted women as worth half as much as men: murdering a woman incurs half the penalty of murdering a man; their testimony in court is worth half that of men; their inheritance is half that of their brothers, and if she accuses a man of rape, double the usual number of male witnesses are needed for a conviction. And of course, promising a martyr 72 virgins ups the ante even more. Also, there is no prominent public role for women in Koranic Islam. Islam is a thousand times more patriarchal than Christianity or European culture was until recently. So much for celebrating this diversity!

The above accounts at least in part for the fact that much of Islam, and especially Arabic Islam, has had an extremely poor record on slavery. Slavery became part of Islamic culture early on because Islam won so many wars, killed many men, and used the surviving women routinely as multiple wives or sex slaves. The Arab slave trade was contained in the 20th century, but never fully abolished, and recently resurged in several Arab countries. An ancient common Arabic word for dark-skinned Africans is actually "slaves." It is the word bin Laden normatively used even when he did not mean to be denigrating of "blacks" (Time, 31/12/01).

Despite the Koran's toleration of a severely delimited infidel population in an Islamic state, the Koran also had very bad things to say about the infidel (i.e., they will all end up in hell). For this reason, there actually has been an endless series of oppressions and persecutions of the infidel (mostly so Christians) in various Islamic countries. Recently, this has included several countries in Northern (e.g., Mauritania) and Central Africa, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and Egypt, where the indigenous Coptic Christians have been pushed to the very margins. The Christians in Palestine have been oppressed by both the Muslims and Israelis, and are essentially abandoning the area, as are many Lebanese Christians. Similar situations exist for Christians in other Islamic countries, such as Iran and Pakistan, the dear current ally of the US. In some Islamic countries, or Islamic regions of countries, persecution of Christians has recently become genocidal, the most obvious examples being on Timor, in parts of Indonesia, and in the Sudan. A million South Sudanese are believed to have died in recent years from northern Islamic persecution, plus an estimated 100,000 pressed into slavery, with minimal notice by the PC media. In Indonesia alone, 10,000 Christians were slain by Muslims just in 2001. In some African countries, such as Uganda and Nigeria (both very populous major African states), the Islamic population has been making war on the Christian one—in Uganda, for decades. Iran has bloodily persecuted religious minorities, including non-Christian ones. Even in Turkey, which the PC people in their sheer desperation often interpret as an exemplary Islamic but secular (Islamic "moderate") state, Christians have suffered at the very least the kind of informal but very common discrimination that Jews used to suffer in several European countries, including Germany, before 1933, when at least by law, they were supposed to have equal rights (VOM, 10/01).

Christians have rarely made war on others for being non-Christian, but instead, and scandalously so, have made war on each other for being allegedly schismatic or heretic, or for reasons unrelated to religion though often couched in religious idiom. While religious wars of all sorts are a seemingly nonending part of history, what is despicable today is that the PC people are so deeply deceptively one-sided. The liberal media and other circles wax apoplectic about a hint of a hint of discrimination against non-Christian parties in Western countries, while entire decades-long genocides of Christian populations go virtually unreported. Also, the shortfalls of Muslims from their purer ideals are lavishy ignored or forgiven (after all, they are multiculturals), while not one iota of shortfall of Christians from Christian teaching is overlooked or forgiven (after all, they are patriarchal ethnocentered Western chauvinists).

The point here is not to whitewash the scandalous history of violence in the Christian West, but to unmask the PC lies about it. While the PC culture has been frenetic since about 15 September about portraying Islam as an exemplary and peaceful religion and culture, we do not recall the liberal media even one single time, ever, referring to Christianity as a peaceable religion. (According to
them, Ghandi invented nonviolence.) We are also not told that among Islamic religious leaders and scholars, there is much disagreement about issues of war, violence, suicide, jihad, religious oppression, etc., but we are only told those opinions that please PC ears.

The PC circles must be amazed and appalled at the fact (if they ever notice it) that as far as the Islamic extremists are concerned, the Western PC people themselves (whether Christian or not) are considered to be both Christians and Crusaders, and locked in a Zionism-Crusader alliance in a war against Islam. Obviously, the PC warfare against Christianity, and its promotion of diverse multiculturalism, cuts no ice whatever with Islamic extremists. One of the ironies here is that the PC people are simply not aware just how Christian they really are culturally, and in part even morally, even if they lack any Christian faith, or only hold a politically correct version thereof.

We suspect that unless rather drastic steps are taken, many Western societies (mostly the US) will see much domestic Islamic terrorism roughly comparable to what has been happening in the Holy Land. Westerners have become here-and-now-istic, and do not think in terms of 500 or 1000 years of warfare, the way Islamic Mideasterners can, for whom the Crusades happened only yesterday, and still call for retribution.

As we said, one of many examples of systematic PC lies about the above is that over and over after 11 Sept., the media told people that the word "Islam" means "peace," when it really means submission, namely to God—and if need be, to God's will that war be made against the infidel. Bin Laden himself said (Newsweek, 26/11/(1) "we love death" (meaning we true Muslims), though he added a bit incorrectly, "The US loves life. That is the big difference between us." (He probably did not understand the culture of death issue.)

People who call for Muslims to be "moderate" (e.g., Time, 3 Dec. 01) want them to be moderate the same way they want Christians to be moderate, i.e., to think nothing is wrong with premarital quasi-promiscuity, allow serial marriages, deem abortion a non-moral issue, approve of suicide and euthanasia, etc. One Swiss-based Muslim (Tariq Ramadan) has stepped in to oblige by developing a "European Islam" (Time, 11 Dec. 01).

*There are an estimated 900 radical Muslim organizations, with some in virtually every country of the world (NCR, 30/9/01).

*In November 2001, it began to emerge that some of the past Islamic war and terror may not have come from al-Qaeda, but from a movement called Takfir wal Hijra, which reportedly means Anathema and Exile (a wonderful name). Compared to its extremism, al-Qaeda is said to be moderate (Time, 12 Nov. 01). Members of Takfir are instructed to blend totally into their host societies (even pretending not to be Muslims) so as to be able to better sabotage them.

The Incompatibility of True Islam With Civil Liberty & Western Liberal Democracy

The PC people also cannot get it into their heads that an Islamic society cannot be Islamic and a free democracy at the same time. To be the latter it must retreat extensively from the former, because the Koran and Islamic tradition call for a theocracy in which there is no civic law other than religious law. The fact is that in Islamic countries, one will find either no democracy, or only minimal approximations of it, and hardly any free press, trade unions, or even civic forums for freely debating public issues. Even Newsweek (15/10/01) admits that in the contemporary Arab world, there are no real political parties, no free press, and few pathways for dissent—hardly the kind of culture that one wants to celebrate so as to be multicultural or diverse. In 12 Arab countries, only two ranked number four on a scale from 1 to 7 from the most to the least free. Of the 57 member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, only Turkey has been able to just barely and fitfully operate democratic institutions over several generations, punctuated by military coups and executions of deposed politicians. And Turkey has managed its marginal democracy only because Islam in it has been weak and attenuated since 1918.

Also, as mentioned, there can be no prominent public role for women in truly Koranic Islam. Being actually more open-minded than the PC, we are not saying that all this is bad, only that this is the way it is.

*When the Italian prime minister pointed out that Western civilization has respect for religious and political rights, values an understanding of diversity and tolerance, and is therefore superior to
Islamic countries where such rights were lacking or at least suppressed, he or at least his remarks were widely and howlingly condemned, and he was severely censured (Newsweek, 8 Oct. 01).

*Apparently, the Nobel committee made a mistake in awarding V. S. Naipaul from Trinidad the Nobel prize in literature, having misunderstood his writings. It turns out that the Nobel laureate is decidedly politically incorrect in declaring Western civilization to be superior to Islamic ones. Traveling widely through non-Arab Islamic countries, he was appalled by what he found and interpreted them as being parasitic, apparently meaning that they sponged off Western technology and democratic institutions (Smithsonian, 12/01).

Unpreparedness For the Predicted Unthinkable

It was in large part the PC mentalities and historical ignorances that left the West unaware that it was in a war, and also unprepared for the events of 11 September, even though all the signs were there. First, we will review some of the milestones in the new war of radical Islam against the West that has actually been raging for decades.

*France became the target of Islamic/Arabic terrorism soon after WW II, having taken in a lot of immigrants and refugees from its North African colonies.

*Many early attacks were carried out by the PLO, which obviously inspired al-Qaeda and others later on. As early as 1970, 3 planes (US, British and Swiss ones) were hijacked simultaneously over Europe and forced to fly to Jordan, and blown up there. A fourth plane was hijacked to Egypt, and a fifth such hijacking was foiled. At the 1972 Munich Olympics, Muslim (PLO) radicals murdered several Israeli athletes.

*Islamic radicals seized the Saudi embassy in the Sudan in 1973, and murdered 2 Americans and a Belgian diplomat.

*1979 marked not only the Iranian attack on the American embassy there, holding hostages for 2 years, but also an attack by a small army of about 1000 foreign pilgrims to Mecca upon the Saudi Arabian government.

*The last US ambassador in Afghanistan was kidnapped by Islamic militants in 1979 and died in the cross fire when Afghan security forces tried to rescue him.

*There had been several Islamic plots upon the Pope’s life for decades, poorly reported in the mainstream media (NCR, 21/10/01). When the Pope was actually shot and wounded, the would-be assassin turned out to be an Islamic Turk. As recently as June, a Pakistani citizen was arrested in—Utah(!) who belonged to a terrorist network in Europe that planned to attack the Vatican.

*Islamic radicals hijacked the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro in 1985, and murdered one of its American passengers—a man in a wheelchair.

*In 1986, Islamic terrorists planned, and largely carried out, the bombing of a nightclub in Berlin, killing 3 people. Only in 2001 were 4 people out of 5 charged found guilty of the crime, and received mild sentences (the most any got was 14 years). The one acquitted for lack of evidence will get good government compensation; the victims got none, including one who was badly burnt (SPS, 14/11/01).

*A number of Western airliners were blown up in flight by Islamic radicals, including the PanAm airliner over Scotland in 1988.

*In 1989, an airliner was blown up over Africa by terrorists sponsored by Libya.
There have also been Islamic attacks (some by the PLO) against schools, malls, restaurants, dance clubs, and passenger lines at airports (New Yorker, 19/11/01). (By the way, while many PLO leaders used to be Christians, the terrorists they recruited were apparently all Muslims.)

Islamic radicals were foiled trying to blow something up at the soccer World Cup in 1998 and the Strasbourg cathedral in 2000.

For a long time, most Islamic radicals were Arabic, but in recent years, a growing number of non-Arabic Moslems--including Turks--have become radicalized, and especially Turks in Germany. Where? Yes, Germany, which had afforded them a better life than they had at home.

Islamic terrorism in the US actually started as long ago as 11/1990 when an Afghan war veteran gunned down Jewish radical Rabbi Meir Kahane in New York--and despite a smoking gun and a room full of witnesses got off with no more than an illegal weapon possession conviction due to the brilliant efforts of his American lawyers, and despite the fact that a search of his apartment turned up instructions for building bombs and a list of targets, including the World Trade Center and the Empire State Building. This underlines the inadequacy of ordinary courts to deal with terrorism.

In 1998, al-Qaeda people bombed the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, with great loss of life (224), including of many Muslims. There have also been plots to bomb many other US embassies (e.g., in Delhi and Dhaka) that so far have not succeeded.

An Arabic extremist involved in the 1993 WTC attack managed to get away to Manila to plot the blowing up of 12 US airliners over the Pacific in 1995, but was caught. It had also been known that the US embassy in Paris was a major target of Islamic plotters in Europe. The Paris embassy seems to be one of the bigger prizes that has so far eluded the Islamic radicals.

An Arab plot by the ringleader of the 1993 WTC bombing to blow up 11 US airliners simultaneously in 1994 was intercepted, as were several plots by the same people to assassinate the Pope (Newsweek, 10 Dec. 01).

An Islamic radical started a shooting spree in front of the CIA building in DC just a few years ago.

An Islamic Arab was caught at the US-Canadian border in 1999 trying to smuggle in explosives to stage a millennium bombing of the Los Angeles airport. Amazingly, a judge at first threw out the case, but he was still (though quietly) convicted in 4/01.

In 2000, bin Laden operatives blew up, and nearly sank, the US destroyer "Cole" in Yemen.

Among Islamic foreigners residing in the US, many had been known as supporters of bin Laden, and yet all the bad things bin Laden did before 11 Sept. were insufficient to lead to the expulsion of these people.

One hallmark of al-Qaeda attacks specifically has been to attack 2 different targets at the same time, i.e., within minutes or hours of each other. E.g., blowing up 2 airplanes, two embassies, the WTC and the Pentagon, etc. Sometimes, when only one attack occurs, it means that its intended twin got foiled.

Just to show how much the computer web is about websites for website's sake rather than for conveying truly productive information, it was only after the "events" that we were told that from websites, one could have downloaded detailed information about all sorts of sensitive potential targets within the US, including diagrams and photos of US intelligence facilities! One could have gotten maps of military installations, including Strategic Air Command bases. Also, the times and places of meetings of important government officials were wantonly broadcast.

The US government now claims to have prevented 131 Arab/Islamic terrorist attacks between 1981-2000. (Strange that we are only now being told.)

One thing that the "recent events" revealed to us that most citizens probably did not know was that the American armed forces had no air bases along the East coast between Boston in the north and Hampton, Virginia, in the south, leaving the obvious targets of New York City and DC undefended against aerial attack. No ordinary citizen would have believed this before it happened. The fighters that were scrambled from these two bases arrived much too late to prevent the "events."
*Not only was the West ignorant that there was a war of the civilizations, but it was also pitifully unprepared for the 11 Sept. attacks, despite the following warnings and signs.

Apparently, the significance of more than 10 years of Islamic terrorism within Islamic countries themselves failed to register with most people, to say nothing of the many suicide attacks in Islamic countries and Israel. Apparently, people assumed that Islamic fanatics would only do these things in Islamic countries and not elsewhere.

It also turned out that all sorts of government agencies have been warned, even for years, that airplanes might be flown into major government buildings and other vulnerable targets. The government also knew that Arab and other foreign Islamic men of questionable purpose, including bin Laden associates, were receiving flight training in the US, which apparently did not motivate the authorities to screen who was taking such flying lessons. Even the Islamic terrorist who was convicted of masterminding the first WTC bombing in 1993 was known to have wanted to fly a plane full of explosives into CIA headquarters. Later, we will note that many Islamic terrorists (including the 1993 plotter) had actually been brought into the US by the CIA itself; therefore, it would have been an utterly logical natural consequence if only such terrorists had flown into the CIA headquarters.

The 1993 WTC bombers had also stated that they had been trying to bring down the "towers that constitute the pillars of their civilization" (Time, 9/01 memorial issue).

If the plotters of the 9/11/01 WTC attack could be identified, apprehended, and tried, the trial would make for a supersensational media spectacle. And yet when many of the people who bombed the WTC in 1993 were actually caught and tried, there was hardly any publicity in the Western media. Why not? Because of the "cultural sensitivity" of the PC media, and so as not to create an obstacle to the celebration of diversity and multiculturalism.

In 1994, a gang of Islamic Algerians hijacked a French airliner in order to steer it into the Eiffel Tower, but they did not know how to fly the plane--and were barely outwitted by the pilot--and it was after that that waves of Islamic radicals began to take flying lessons.

Then there was the Egyptian pilot who had suicided his transatlantic plane into the ocean only about two years ago.

It had been known that Islamic fanatics had planned to fly a plane into the world economic summit in Genoa, Italy, as recently as 6/01. Several foreign countries had warned the CIA of this bin Laden plot.

Microsoft flight simulators and another popular simulator actually allowed one to pretend to fly into the WTCs. These computer software programs will probably become collectors' items.

Apparently, the biggest favor McVeigh did to Islamic terrorists was to be an American, because this dulled American security people’s alertness to the Islamic threat (Time, 29/10/01).

The West’s Unpreparedness & Naivety in Hosting a Non-Native Islam, & the Mideastern & Arab Cultures

Starting in the 1950s, the West began to admit large numbers of Moslems on an immigrant basis, or as temporary workers that often became permanent. This might have been no different than previous migrations, except that a new ideology developed which has since been termed political correctness—a left-wing liberal materialistic ideology that eventually largely inherited the large numbers of people who had been disillusioned Marxists, or who would once have become Marxist, and that is based on all sorts of false worldviews and assumptions, including about human nature. This worldview opposed earlier ideologies of assimilation, and actually discouraged assimilation of immigrants, even as such large numbers of newcomers were admitted, and congregated with each other, as to make assimilation more difficult.

In most cases, these guests were de facto refugees from three conditions back home: (a) poverty and/or lack of opportunities, (b) discrimination for ethnic or religious reasons, and (c) political repression. The vast majority of such migrants found at least better opportunities, usually a vastly superior standard of living, and political and religious freedom—all this even if there was some discrimination in their new countries.

There is also considerable irony in the fact that people who claimed to be fleeing from persecution in their Islamic countries applied for asylum in European countries to which they had zero connections, rather than to other Islamic countries, as many Palestinians used to do. Obviously, they wanted to also take advantage of the economic opportunities in Western countries, and furthermore, it was so easy to get into a European country by law or by stealth.
The host countries proved such good places to be that soon, vast numbers of foreigners entered illegally or fraudulently (including by fraudulently claiming political asylum), and the new PC ideology defeated any efforts to either stem this tide, or deport illegal or fraudulent entrants.

However, many guests turned against their hosts who, overall, had been very generous to them--sometimes lavishly so, as in Germany. A disproportionate number turned to crime--sometimes almost on a class basis, exemplified by Nigerians, Chechens, Albanians, and Albanian Kosovans, the latter two especially in Italy that had been very generous in admitting them from persecution and civil war at home. (One wonders if they were, or might have stayed, law-abiding at home.) Another number brought their historical conflicts with them to their new countries. Another number used their host countries parasitically to wage war against them or other Western countries, which is what many Muslim, Arabic or other Mideastern guests did. Many European countries--perhaps almost all except the Nordic ones--eventually became havens for Islamic Arabic or Mideastern radicals.

Also, some of the enclaves of legitimate immigrants began to shelter illegal immigrants and radicals from back home. For instance, tens of thousands of Afghans were smuggled illegally into Europe. As it turned out, these countries had been suckling many serpents at their breasts, which only broke through the PC media censorship barrier after 11 September. For instance, it became apparent that bin Laden associates travelled freely all over the world into and out of all sorts of countries without being turned back, arrested, or deported, even though many of these persons seemed to have been known for their bin Laden connections, or were suspected of them.

One consequence of the PC policies is that bin Laden cells have not only been reported to exist in at least 60 countries, but even in many countries that until relatively recently had no, or only a miniscule, Islamic minority.

By any reasonable moral standards, one would say that if a disadvantaged party is being freely helped by another one, the party being helped should show respect to its rescuer, and not misbehave toward it. And indeed, in "olden days," the host countries would not have tolerated much of the bad behavior of foreign guests, and would have deported such ungrateful and rebellious guests, but the new PC ideology either pretended that these things were not happening, were not a big problem, should be tolerated at any rate, and that deportation would be inhumane.

Even when people from Islamic countries with questionable purposes in Western countries were actually arrested for some kind of nonpolitical lawbreaking, they were virtually never deported (Newsweek, 8 Oct. 01). Only 50 years ago, such people would have been deported from the US even if they had no associations with terrorism. To many guests, this was a signal to license, and released many inhibitions. One must also imagine how amused these unsavory elements must have been all along at the stupidity of the Westerners in cutting their own throats.

At any rate, we strongly feel that anyone from abroad residing in Western countries who responded to the September 11 events by celebrating them should be deported, and those residing abroad known to have celebrated should not be allowed to enter Western countries.

One amusing fact of PC policies in Europe is that if any Christian groups had been as "extremist" as some of the Muslims have been Islamic extremists, they would have been severely "dealt with." In fact, in 12/01, the only Christian radio station in Britain was given a stern warning for merely criticizing moral practices that Christianity has always held to be sinful, while Islamic extremism, and incitement and recruitment for terrorism, has thrived freely.

Britain became a world headquarters for harboring Islamic radicals, and for these to recruit enlistees. London has come to be known as "the capital of the Arab world." How and why? Because so many of the banks once located in Lebanon relocated to London. Thus, Britain has been soft on Islamic radicals and known terrorists because it was financially lucrative to do so. Also, some Muslims have paid fortunes to get smuggled illegally into Britain, which has been reluctant to deport them, if they got caught at all. Britain has even granted asylum to Muslims involved in terrorism in other countries. There are mosques in Britain which have become world leaders (!) in preaching anti-Western jihad, which explains why London has been a fertile recruiting ground for Islamic terrorists (Time, 12 Nov. 01). In some such mosque circles, terrorists skills have been taught, in some cases by people known to have close connections to bin Laden (Newsweek, 8 Oct. 01). As late as at least 10/01, there were radical Imams in London who were still openly preaching the destruction of the infidel and of the US. One of the terrorists already under death sentence in Egypt, and additionally suspected of involvement in assassinating the leader of the Afghan Northern Alliance on 8 Sept. 01, lives in safe asylum in Britain (Newsweek, 5 Nov. 01).
The Islamic foreigner who paid the rent for two of the WTC suicide terrorists in the US took off for England where the worst that has been happening to him has been that he has been "under observation."

A website supporting bin Laden, spouting outrageous extremist Arab/Islamic propaganda, recruiting "martyr" terrorists, and possibly containing coded messages to terrorists, was being operated out of Britain as recently as December 2001 (Newsweek, 17/12/01).

We would say that it is time for something important in Britain to be bombed--Big Ben, let us say, Buckingham Palace, or the Tower Bridge; or maybe the Tower itself.

After having brutally oppressed their Islamic North African territorial population during the long war of liberation after WW II, the French felt so guilty that they admitted a huge number of these North Africans to France, which promptly created a huge culture clash and social problem. One result has been much crime and terrorism, with even naturalized or second generation North African immigrants either engaging in terrorism, or supporting terrorists (SPS, 1 Dec. 01).

Amazingly, 1300 mostly Mideastern, Arab and/or Islamic people have been held in a limbo camp in France right next to the channel tunnel to Britain, and every night, some of them have been trying to sneak into Britain for asylum either by hiding on trains, or on foot through the tunnel. Despite all the bad reputation such people have been getting recently, a whole army of 550 of them tried to storm the tunnel on Christmas day--and they almost made it. This made it necessary to shut down traffic for a night. It then came out that 18,500 such people had been trying to sneak through the tunnel in just 6 months in 2001. That a channel tunnel would be used by foot invaders had been one of Britain's worst fears for centuries, but now they deserve it.

Germany may be the biggest immigration country in Europe. It has become what the US once was: the country that takes in wave after wave after wave of economic or political migrants, and refugees from warring places, as well as foreign students. Foreign university students in Germany do not have to pay tuition. As a result, some foreigners came and became perpetual students--and sometimes plotted terror. Also, Germany has been swept by a crime wave by the people it generously let in.

Germany has been another Mecca of Islamic extremists and terrorists (Newsweek, 5 Nov. 01), some of whom have paid fortunes to get smuggled in there if they could not just walk in the front door. Germany now has a huge Islamic (especially Turkish) population, often congregated in large enclaves, and while some are assimilating, and most are well-behaved, the German authorities have long known that in their city of Hamburg alone, there were at least 2400 Islamic extremists. Islamic clergymen in Hamburg have run some very radical mosques where they recruited Muslims to radicalism and terrorism. These preachers were free there to preach a radicalism that was not allowed in Islamic countries such as Egypt.

In Germany, 14 Tunisians were arrested in 2000 because they were believed to be plotting to bomb a market in Strasbourg. They had been in touch with five other Tunisians in Italy who had been plotting a cyanide attack. All are believed to be al-Qaeda operatives or recruits.

Ordinary citizens in Germany have long built up a great deal of anger at the indiscriminate and very large-scale admission of people from Arab, Mideastern, African and Islamic countries, and the people responsible for this are now reaping some of the fruits of this mindless policy, because it turns out that Germany was one of the major hotbeds of Islamic terrorists in Europe, and a springboard for many of the terrorists of 11 Sept. Even after 11 Sept., Islamic Mideasterners actually known to have terrorist ties, or as having favored or supported terrorism, were still permitted to remain on the loose in Germany (Time, 12 Nov. 01), much as in Britain.

It is amazing that Nigerians in large numbers can smuggle illegally into European countries via--Ireland (SPS, 9 Dec. 01). One would think that some very basic profiling could prevent this, to say nothing of the Bulgarians and Turks who do the same. Ireland also gladly tolerated the presence of a Saudi-backed charity agency even though it had been linked to bin Laden's 1998 bombing of two American embassies in Africa (Newsweek, 19/11/01).

As of late October, Belgian authorities still had not cooperated in the investigation of Islamic radicals believed to have been plotting an attack on the American embassy in Paris (Time, 29/10/01). That despite the fact that already in 1998, Belgium dismantled a militant Islamic network (Time, 29/10/01), but additional associates of this network, also associated with al-Qaeda, were not arrested until after 11 Sept.

Canada has been even worse than the US in letting anybody in, so that it has become an Islamic extremist haven from which such extremists can easily cross back and forth to the US. Canadian immigration policies have gone so far awry that Toronto even has Tamil gangs and crime
mobs, but until after "the events," members of these gangs had never been charged with immigration violations. Amazingly, all this changed after the events: 51 members of such gangs were promptly arrested, and 31 charged with immigration violations. This is not merely all to the good of Canadian society, but also of the greatly intimidated Tamil community that had been terrorized by its own wayward members (Saturday Sun, 20/10/01).

A Palestinian who had actually participated in an attack on an El Al airliner (which destroyed it) at the Athens airport in 1968, during which one passenger was killed, and got released from prison in return for hostages taken from a Greek airliner by Palestinians, was nonetheless allowed to settle in Canada. His deportation case has dragged through the courts for at least 13 years, because of his claimed "refugee" status (Ottawa Citizen, 23/11/01). His terrorist participation may have been long ago, but there do not seem to have been any regrets.

A Yemeni man was on an airplane from Frankfurt to Chicago on 11 Sept. When his plane was diverted to Toronto, it was found that he had 4 different passports, and in his luggage were 2 Lufthansa crew uniforms and a Lufthansa ID card. His lawyer complained that he was being held in a Toronto jail under Taliban conditions (Ottawa Citizen, 23/11/01). The Canadians being so PC, they may end up making him an honorary citizen.

One would have thought that at least after the 11 Sept. attacks, if an Islamic Mideasterner in Toronto was found to have downloaded onto his computer pictures of jumbo-jet cockpits, box cutters, hand grenades, decapitated Russian soldiers, and bin Laden in his glory on horseback (as one did; Newsweek, 3 Dec. 01), that this would be ample reason to deport him--guilty or not.

A Palestinian arrived from Israel in Canada after Sept. 11—with a forged American green card, claiming refugee status. After 57 days of detention, he was let loose (Ottawa Citizen, 27/11/01). The Canadian Arab Federation screamed "discrimination" because he was held so long!

In a post-Sept. 11 survey, 84% of Canadians said they want stricter controls over immigration, but the same percentage said they want no interference with Islamic or Arab immigration (Ottawa Citizen, 27/11/01). The 12/2001 "shoe bomber" had years of notoriety behind him as a suspect. When El Al once reluctantly let him fly, they put an air marshall next to him, but he got on an American plane from Paris to Miami.

Who would have thought that in the corner where Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay adjoin, there would be a large Muslim population that has been contributing to Islamic "charities" that supported terrorism (Time, 26/11/01)?

We now come back to the problem of the PC anti-assimilationist ideology. The assimilationist ideology of the US until recently demonstrated how immigrants from countries around the world could become assimilated by the second generation. For instance, in WW I, the second generation of immigrants served their adoptive country with unswerving loyalty, even against their parents' homeland. One of the very few failures of this tradition in the US have been elements of the Irish-American community that even after multiple generations has consistently and generously given financial support to the warring parties in Northern Ireland.

In contrast, we are now discovering that the anti-assimilationist PC ideologies and immigration practices have produced second (and possibly already third) generation Muslims that constitute a "fifth column" in their adoptive countries, because their cultural values have been, and remain, at odds with those of their host countries.

For example, many now wanted Islamic terrorists are second-generation. One former roommate of the apparent mastermind (Atta) of the 11 Sept. attacks was born in Germany of immigrant parentage and is now sought by police. Muslims from Islamic and/or Arabic countries who have been admitted into Western countries were reported to be returning in large numbers to the Islamic world in order to fight with the Taliban in Afghanistan. Britain had very long been very generous in admitting people from Pakistan, and has recently been told that at least 200 Britons of Pakistani ancestry went to enlist with the Taliban in Afghanistan (and fight British troops there), and some have already become casualties of the war and are being hailed in mosques in England as martyrs (SPS, 30/10/01)! Obviously, yet another failure of mindless multi-culturalism, and a token of the bankruptcy of the immigration policies of the West.

We at least find it both amusing and illuminating that it took a really, really big offense, such as the 11 Sept. attacks, for the West to wake up, and for the European countries to crack down at least a little bit on the open border and anti-assimilationist policies. It so often takes a catastrophe before the authorities and the public wake up and do what they should have been doing all along, and had even been told was necessary. Thus, a number of countries are beginning to re-examine their
immigration policies, including their asylum policies, which in many cases have been totally insane, one example being Britain, and another one Germany that gave almost indiscriminate asylum and generous welfare benefits to people from Third World countries who showed their gratitude by extremely disproportionately embarking on a career of crime in their host country.

In 12/01, several dozen nations of Europe, North America and Central Asia agreed to become less friendly for terrorists (SPS, 5 Dec. 01) -- mind you, not necessarily unfriendly, only less friendly. Germany actually went after one Arab terrorist organization in its own country, after passing a law that it felt was needed first. Britain too quickly passed a new Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act, and arrested 8 foreign terrorism suspects. However, some of the new such laws being passed by various countries are cover-ups, trying to give the public the impression that the governments had no discretions before to get rid of unwanted aliens. We wonder: is it really true that it takes special laws? Is terrorism, and its plotting, otherwise actually legal?

Here is where the Muslims in Europe made their biggest mistake: not following their cultural tradition of thinking long-term. Namely, all they had to do is to take over Europe bloodlessly and quietly was by waiting -- and being fruitful and multiplying as they have always done. It would not have taken long to outbreed their generatively exhausted and decadent new hosts. One reason Europe has been so hospitable to these immigrants has been that its countries have been committing what the social Darwinists called Volkstod, i.e., ethnic or national suicide, by not reproducing, and need immigrants for their economies and power politics (i.e., small populations mean small international power). This Volkstod was being accomplished by contraception, abortion, and turning to homosexuality, whereas the Islamic immigrants were breeding prolifically.

In 1/02, travel restrictions for people from Rumania to Western Europe were greatly loosened. This means that anyone who managed by hook or by crook to get into Rumania (and that seems to have been easy) will probably find it also easy to get into a Western European country. The Rumanian government is begging its own citizens (who have had a bad reputation) to behave in Western Europe, not to use drugs there or litter, and to learn to say "please" (SPS, 30/12/01).

The US Problem of Open Borders, PC Anti-Assimilation Policies, & Hostile Guests

We will now elaborate on the relevance of the above to the US.

For many generations, there used to be 4 expectations placed on immigrants to the US. (a) Not become a welfare burden. A sponsor had to agree to support the immigrant if he/she was unable to be or remain self-supporting. (b) To behave, and not engage in law-breaking during the probationary period of at least 5 years. Law-breaking was grounds for deportation. (c) To learn at least the very basics of American civics. (d) To leave behind, and not bring with them and perpetuate in the new country, the national, ethnic, religious, class, or whatever hatreds, strife, conflicts and wars of the old country. For citizenship, it was also expected that one uphold the Constitution -- at least as written, though not necessarily as interpreted. That and the last two other expectations were seen as essential to become an American with new loyalties. The message was, "why try to resettle here if all you want is what you had and did back there, or tried to get away from?"

However, unlike almost all the immigrants of earlier generations, a bothersome minority now never had the intention of meeting these expectations, nor are they grateful for the benefits of the generosity with which they were given new opportunities. This is very problematic.

According to an article in Commentary, there are a fair number of Muslim clergymen in the US (hardly any women so far) who look forward to "conquering" the US, rather than to assimilating, and to eventually imposing Islamic law. If this is so, we are not aware of anyone having called for their deportation.

An immigrant from Italy living in Rochester, NY, was or became drug addicted, was sentenced to a drug program, and then started shoplifting. Despite all this, and after 11 Sept., she was "given another chance" (SPS, 21/12/01). Chances are that she had these problems before coming to the US. A few decades ago, she would not have been admitted, or would have been deported.

Second-generation German-Americans in huge numbers loyally served in the American armed forces against Germany in WW I. Now, we are learning that a surprising number of second-generation Muslims from America, Britain, France, Germany, etc., flocked to the Taliban side. Obviously, this attests in part to the PC abandonment of the melting pot ideology in the PC era, and
in part to the vitality and attraction of radical Islam. However, unlike the radical Islamic recruits from Islamic countries, they are mostly from the privileged classes (Time, 12 Nov. 01).

As in many US cities, many small neighborhood grocery and deli stores in the poorer and more dangerous neighborhoods of Syracuse are run by first- and second-generation Palestinians. One told a friend of ours in 1/02 that he had no disagreement with Hitler’s dealing with the Jews.

In 12/01, an Arab boy was denied admission to a rock concert in Syracuse, and afterwards was seen roaming the downtown area shouting out hatred toward Israelis. Of course, we also see hatred for Arabs among many native-born American Jews, except it is seldom openly proclaimed. Where are things like this going to end?

*The Jews in the US approve of various of the post-Sept. 11 measures against terrorism and Afghanistan, between about 80-92%, depending on the measure.

As we said, at least the immigrants who settle in the US are supposed to leave their old grudges and loyalties behind.

*It has been extremely PC to denounce any anti-Muslim or anti-Arab actions in the US, and to be against "profiling" people as Arabs or Muslims, yet we are also being told that not only bin Laden, but also other militant and extremist Islamic groups such as Hamas (aided by naturalized Palestinians in the US), have been collecting money big-time in the US, and for quite some time. Much of this money has come from mosques, which certainly could make one prejudiced against them. That this was happening had also been known for years, but no action was taken, almost certainly because it would have looked "insensitive." Theoretically, the US already has had a law forbidding material support by private parties to terrorists, but has apparently not enforced it well--especially not against the Irish terrorists.

Arab-Americans and the PC have been howling in protest over the freezing of the funds of some of these charities after 11 September. One argument we read was that Hamas collects money for widows and orphans, but these same parties would never tell us that Hamas assures potential martyrs beforehand that they need not be inhibited by worries about their survivors because these will be taken care of.

*After 11 Sept., we learned that there were 2 big problem patterns. One was that Islamic radicals--even if known to have or have had terrorist connections--had no trouble getting into the US legally. The second was the official indifference to the illegal presence of such persons.

*It is ironic that not too long ago, the CBS "60 Minutes" program revealed that almost anybody can arrive from abroad at one of the major American airports without sufficient papers, an unclear purpose, and an unclear destination, and they merely get hassled for a few hours and then let loose rather than being deported. The problem with US immigration law or policies is that unless somebody with insufficient documentation is charged with a crime within 24 hours, they have to be let go, and of course once they are let go, they may never be found again. Expanding this time window to 48 hours, as proposed, is totally futile.

As of 11 September, there were an astonishing 20 million "aliens" in the US, of whom an also astonishing 9 million were there illegally: 6 million of whom had gotten in illegally in the first place and 3 million who got in legally but overstayed their visas.

More than 300,000 foreigners who--wonder of wonders--have actually been ordered deported from the US have simply gone underground and cannot be found (SPS, 6 Dec. 01). Only now have their names been entered into a police database.

We were astonished to learn that 6000 (yes, 6000) men (men alone!) in the US from Islamic Middle Eastern countries that are strongholds of al-Qaeda are currently under deportation orders--but have ignored these and gone underground (SPS, 2 Jan. 02)! This is one of the clearest reasons we ever heard for profiling.

*Even though it is across the Canadian rather than Mexican border that Islamic/Arabic terrorists are most likely to try to get into the US, already by 12/01, the US government had withdrawn a large contingent of border guards from the Canadian border, and sent them to the Mexican border, to the distress of the border people themselves.
*We have recently learned that many Islamic terrorists came to the US on passports arranged for them by the CIA because the CIA was allied with them when the war in Afghanistan was against
the Russians. However, these new immigrants had no gratitude, but harbored implacable hatred
atoward Western modernism and America. One of the radicals admitted with the help of the CIA was
a blind sheik with a very shady past, linked to the assassination of Egyptian president Sadat. The
sheik promptly became deeply involved with the first bombing of the WTC in 2/93.

The "blind sheik" legal resident who "oversaw" the first WTC bombing in 1993 had many
followers in the US who were not in on the 1993 plot, but who should have been closely scrutinized
or even expelled, but were not, and they were either somehow tied in with the 11 September plot,
or were fellow travellers--the kind who rejoiced upon the 11 Sept. news.

When bombers of 2 American embassies in East Africa were quietly tried in 1998, it came
out that an Islamic Imam in Laurel, MD, may have had close ties to bin Laden (who was behind
the bombings), but was no more than questioned at the time. Another Imam in Texas is actually known
to have been very close to bin Laden's secretary, and to have had ties to the 1993 WTC bombers.

*The indiscriminate and large-scale entry of, or tolerance for, radicals in Western countries
has created a new dilemma for the US, in that such radicals could enter the US legally with passports
from their adoptive Western countries, as many have been doing.

One reason tourist visas to the US were handed out so freely is that tourists bring much money
to the US. Soon, this may turn into blood money.

*After the "events," we also learned that a number of the involved terrorists had already been
on FBI and CIA watch lists, but nonetheless managed to legally cross in and out of the US on several
occasions, as did a number of people on watch lists who may or may not have been involved. The
CIA knew that two of the suicide terrorists had bin Laden connections and had been put on a watch
list, but had nonetheless been allowed to enter the US, where they promptly went underground.

Just on the one flight that hit the Pentagon alone, three of the five hijackers had been
identified earlier as terrorism suspects. One of the 11 Sept. hijackers had been detained in the United
Arab Emirates on his way from Pakistan 7 months earlier on US request--and was then allowed to
travel from Afghanistan to Florida.

It is telling that an Islamic resident of Germany believed to have been meant to be one of the
to complete the group that hijacked the airliner that crashed in Pennsylvania had been just barely
kept out of the US by being denied a visa. He absconded to Germany (possibly for Pakistan) just
in the nick of time (Time, 29/10/01).

*Also not well-known to the public is that persons from Arab countries with ties to terrorists,
and who are quite likely bent on terrorism themselves, had been identified even before "the events"
to be enrolled at at least one major US university, and quite likely there are such persons scattered
throughout the US university system even now.

In any year, there are now about 600,000 people in the US on student visas, a certain
percentage fraudulently. For instance, one of the terrorists who exploded a bomb at the WTC in
1993 was in the US on a student visa. When the government then tried to tighten tracking of whether
people on student visas were actually studying, the American educational establishment blocked these
efforts.

One big reason why American colleges and universities have been very uncooperative with
the government with respect to their foreign students is that these students not only help the schools
rather painlessly to achieve their "diversity targets," but they also all pay full tuition and have
become virtually indispensable to the financial soundness of innumerable academic institutions. In
California alone, there are 66,000 foreign students in academia worth $700 million a year in tuition
and fees. One warning was the fact that the driver of the explosive-filled van that tried to blow up
the WTC in 1993 was in the US on an expired student visa. It took the events of 9/01 for the
Association of International Educators in the US that had loudly opposed a database on foreign
students to very quickly come around.

We were told by an academic friend that there were Arab or Islamic students at the University
of Arkansas that got together at their center and started celebrating after the 11 Sept. attack, and
instead of immediately being expelled and deported, they merely got a severe dressing down by
university officials. This was hardly reported in the media, nor did the media report how many other
such events took place elsewhere in the US.
Imagine this: in Queens, a borough of New York City, a large proportion of an Islamic congregation from abroad rejected their Imam's condemnation of the WTC destruction. By any reasonable standard of the past, this would have resulted in their prompt expulsion from the country (Time, 1 Oct. 01). Thus, there are thousands and thousands of people living mostly legally in America who—if not actually physically dancing with joy over "the events"—are at least doing so in their minds, and are not at all shy to be open about it because they are not afraid of jeopardizing their immigrant or visitor status. However, many foreign Islamic students left the US precipitously when they learned that their status and situation might be reviewed by the government.

*Foreigners in the US needed little more than a credit card to charter private airplanes, and there were nearly 8000 business jets in the US that were subjected to very little scrutiny. One Saudi man had his small plane fitted with an extra fuel tank in Maine, and simply abandoned it after the events, either because he had been up to no good or to avoid scrutiny for other reasons. (This is remindful of Atta doing the same in 1998, as reported below.) About 300 foreign nationals were receiving flight training in the US every year. All of this will now be more tightly regulated.

A year before the WTC attacks, an Islamic Arab in Florida refused to answer questions during an interrogation about his ties to bin Laden and his own pilot's training—but was still allowed to remain unmolested in the US.

The FBI knew that one of the 11 Sept. terrorists was an Islamic extremist, knew where he was, that he had taken flight training and had been turned in by his instructor, and yet twice, the FBI field office was denied permission to take a closer look at him by the FBI central office.

One of the Arab associates of the 9/11/01 terrorists was a French citizen who was believed by French police to have had involvement in terrorist organizations, and even though he had been arrested in the US in August for taking flying lessons without wanting to learn take-offs or landings, he was not extradited to France even though France had been asking for his extradition. This man had also moved freely around, and had spent a lot of time with a radical mosque in Britain. It should have been also suspicious that he managed to get into the US on an entry visa that he got in Pakistan. The apparent 11 Sept. ringleader, Atta, despite having been suspected of bombing an Israeli bus as early as 1986, and having been under surveillance in Hamburg in 1998, had no difficulty crossing innumerable borders, under his own name, including the borders of Germany and the US, and on repeated occasions. Atta was able to get his pilot's license in the US 3 weeks after his tourist visa (which he should never have had in the first place) expired. After receiving pilot licenses, Atta and a co-conspirator abandoned their plane in 12/00 in the middle of the runway at Miami International Airport, and walked away. This was the 9th-busiest airport in the US and in the Christmas season (Newsweek, 31/12/01). This alone should have been enough reason to deport the two for good. But this is not all. In 1/01, Atta was admitted to the US with an expired student visa, and in 4/01 he was caught in Florida driving without a license (another potential reason for deportation), never showed up for his court date, but was never pursued for this either (Newsweek, 31/12/01).

A surprisingly (to us, at least) large number of Islamic aliens in the US had been enrolled in trucking schools in the US, and/or had applied for hazardous material trucking licenses, often fraudulently so. Also amazing is how many actually got trucking licenses even though they could not speak English, and even though that is a licensing prerequisite (Time, 22/10/01). One person with close ties to the terrorists had actually had a criminal record before, and yet had been given a license to transport hazardous materials, including loads of 20,000 pounds of explosives (Time, 1 Oct. 01).

*Since the "events," it has also become public that there were oodles of Arabic Islamic people in the US illegally (many had gotten in legally, but were staying illegally)—and on top of that, lied to authorities when they got caught after Sept. 11. One has been getting conflicting reports on how many of the 19 attackers of 11 Sept. had been in the US illegally. Reports have ranged from one to half.

*Some of the suspects who were investigated after 11 Sept. turned out not to have terrorist connections, as far as anyone can tell, but to be definitely in violation of all sorts of laws, and to have committed various crimes, such as engaging in sham marriages with Americans in order to get into the country, selling concealed weapons, drug dealing, Social Security fraud, child pornography, fencing stolen property, etc. (e.g., SPS, 28/11/01). Only now (SPS, 20/12/01) are we being told
that the Shiite terrorist group Hezbollah had been operating a cigarette-smuggling ring out of North Carolina in order to raise money for arms, and that the case was being processed against 18 people in the courts well before 11 Sept. Also, the case could end up in yet another lawyer and media circus, showing how inadequate the structure of a liberal democracy is to handle large numbers of people who do not want to live under a liberal democracy, but only "use" it. One surprising discovery was how many of the people arrested ("detained") after 11 Sept. as possible terrorists or collaborators had owned, and traded in, guns: at least 36 out of 186 (SPS, 17/12/01). This is yet another strange, or even offensive, thing for a foreign guest to do, and used to be a strict no-no "in our days."

Apparently, no one had the fortitude to be "insensitive" to all sorts of shady characters as long as they had an awful lot of diversity credentials. The amazing thing is that even now, residents from Islamic countries in the US who have a record of repeated crimes, including federal crimes, are not being deported (e.g., SPS, 30/10/01). The reason probably is because that would be discriminatory unless residents from other countries who have criminal records were also deported. This highlights the fact that a free nation that hands out liberties without limits and obligations can end up digging its own grave, and with a dictatorship.

*A Palestinian was caught Sept. 16 near a phone from which bomb threats had just been called in. In his possession were kits for making at least 8 box cutters. It also turned out that he had passports from Jordan and Israel, 4 Florida ID cards, and Georgia and California drivers' licenses; and he had entered the US at least 5 times through at least 5 points of entry between 1994-2001. Immigration laws ought to be such as to place no obstacle to the speedy and unbureaucratic deportation of such a person, and government policy should be dedicated to the removal of such persons--even if they were victims of a chain of amazing coincidences.

*After the Oklahoma City federal office building bombing, the US Immigration and Naturalization Service was actually authorized to establish a new court to consider and expedite the deportation of suspected alien terrorists, but this was not implemented (Time memorial issue, 24/9/01).

*Thank goodness, the US government has also begun to crack down on Israeli aliens in the US who either were in the country illegally, or had illegally engaged in business.

*One columnist in Time (26/11/01) said that many of the suspected Islamic terrorists put in jail after 11 Sept. were being held on "flimsy charges," such as illegal presence in the US. Not being PC, we would not have considered this "flimsy," especially in view of the high problem rate in this population. It is amazing that the PC would interpret visa violations by Arab/Islamic men as trivial, when the detention or interrogation of such violators after 11 Sept. is believed to have been the very thing that disrupted plans for more terrorist acts (Newsweek, 17/12/01). There is some reason to believe that two more planes were meant to be hijacked on 11 September. If so, the would-be hijackers may still be on the loose, or among the detained people who may end up at liberty again--possibly even within the US.

Apparently no offense is serious enough to warrant deportation.

One day, many suspects will have to be let go--quite possibly without being deported--because even though they were would-be terrorists, the evidence would not be of open court quality.

*Regardless whether in the US legally or illegally, a number of Islamic Arab men taken into custody after September 11 have remained utterly uncooperative with questioners. What made a number of them suspect in the first place was that they were monitored celebrating the bombings over the telephone. Also, a to us surprisingly large number had ties to known terrorists, with these ties being difficult to untangle as to whether they were harmless or not. Many of the detainees have mysterious histories, and are not forthcoming what their real history or even identity is. Some of them were almost certainly about to commit some act of terrorism, such as the men traveling from New York City being caught in Texas with large amounts of cash, phoney passports, shaved bodies, and hair dye.

Several Islamic men arrested in NYC were found to have in their possession notes on poison gas and biological weapons (Time, 29/10/01). This may not mean that they were terrorists, but we
would say that unless they can cite very compelling reasons for having such material, then at the very least they should be deported.

*There are hardly any countries in which citizens have more rights than in the US, where foreigners have almost as many rights as citizens, plus where a large percentage of foreigners have more rights than in their own countries. If we were trying to be super-PC, we would campaign for letting all illegal residents in the US vote.

Until 11 September, the US did not treat acts "of terrorism" (such as the blowing up of the airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988) as "terrorism," but as criminal cases. In consequence, there was very little success, because criminal justice in free countries was never meant to deal with this type of war-like crime. For instance, it is believed that Syria, Iran and Libya had a hand in the above attack, but after 12 years, only one lowly functionary was convicted, and another freed from lack of evidence sufficient for a criminal trial.

While the return of military tribunals would certainly be another herald of the advent of military dictatorship, even foreigners tried before US military courts would have more rights than they would in many of their own countries.

In a 17/11/01 episode, CBS "60 Minutes" was apparently trying to generate sympathy for Islamic aliens detained after 11 Sept. when there was no clear evidence (yet) that they were terrorists, or accomplices. However, CBS shot itself in the foot because it turned out that the person they paraded out (a) had been a friend of some of the terrorists, (b) was illegally in the country, and (c) was shown whining that he had not been able to brush his teeth during his 17 days of detention. CBS was apparently quite unconscious of what a bad impression all of this made on most of the viewing public, rather than elicit the apparently desired sympathy for "diversity" from them.

Also, one of the PC complaints about the Islamic (Arab) detainees after 11 Sept. has been that they were held in jail without being given Muslim meals. Elsewhere, they would be lucky not to have their heads chopped off.

*In early November, a man from Nepal who could barely speak English was arrested trying to smuggle aboard an airliner an entire arsenal of weapons, including a can of mace. It turned out that he was in the US on an expired student visa—but not only was he not deported, he was not even held, but released on bond. This is literally beyond all imagination given the previous events, and shows how thoroughly the American authorities either have internalized, or been totally intimidated by, the PC multi-cultural and diversity lobby. There is a very large danger that a disagreeing and irate American public, being totally ignored by a small minority of opinion leaders and power-holders, will turn to very maladaptive extremism because it simply does not know anymore what else to do. This is what historically has happened many times in previous eras and/or in other countries.

*The 12/01 "shoe bomber" incident is very instructive. The man met the public's nightmare stereotype of a suicide bomber in appearance and behavior, but was allowed to get on the plane in Paris to Miami, even though he had no luggage, only a one-way ticket, bought it with cash, had no clear purpose for being in the US—and was deemed crazy and/or suspicious. But, the authorities said, after interviewing him, they had no reason to deny him passage because he had a ticket and an apparently valid passport. Unless there is some discrimination in the future, hardly anyone will fly again, especially after a few more planes have been blown up, which seems inevitable.

*One police officer said (Time, 8 Oct. 01) that the US had been made into a police state by the September events. While this is still exaggerated, it is something to contemplate that security forces now do have a great deal of power within the US, and are getting yet more—but the government cannot and will not control its borders. We would prefer less internal control, and better border control. But when one surrenders border control, one should not be surprised—at least these days—if one has to escalate internal control. Contrary to what Supreme Court Justice Jackson said 50 years ago, the US Constitution may turn out to have been interpreted by the courts in a way that makes it a suicide pact.

*One of the biggest US supporters of open borders (among other things) has been Senator Edward Kennedy, who was so embarrassed by the results of his policies that he quickly announced he would support passports with computer-readable fingerprints (Time, 29/10/01).
*On 1 Nov. 01, we learned for the first time, and to our utter surprise, that much of the airport security in the US is handled under contract to foreign companies. A news analyst even said that if these contracts were terminated by federalizing airport security, these companies would have a legitimate case for litigation. Apparently, they are "entitled" to making money off American citizens, even when they are unable to maintain adequate security standards. Furthermore, many of the employees staffing the passenger checkpoints are illegal aliens, some of whom speak hardly any English. At the Los Angeles airport, 80% of the security people are noncitizens! One is sympathetic to the plight of these lowly people, but it is a peculiar situation.

*One reason why the African-American Islamic community has been a mostly constructive force in the US is that it (a) is a new, homespun, and attenuated form of Islam, (b) it does not carry cultural baggage other than that of American history, and (c) it has been a vigorous force against the decay of African-American morals, family, work ethic and against drug use.

*In hindsight, one can ask how is it possible that with the mountainous evidence of earlier attacks by Islamic (mostly Arab-rooted) radicals upon Western societies, plus the evidence of intent to do more of it, and do it more effectively, that the issue was never clearly drawn by or to the public, leaving it so unprepared for 11 Sept.? One thing much of the above tells us is that there is a vast web of deception about something having to do with people coming to the US, and especially with Islamic, Arabic or Mideastern migrants or visitors. And we know that violence is always accompanied by deception, and that behind much deception hides violence. The scenarios that we sketched here were so unlikely (and get worse the more we learn about them) as to call for an extraordinary explanation, and we have concluded that political correctness was one of the major factors, if not the major one. Thus, one reason to dwell at length upon all these issues is that it reveals the bankruptcy of the PC and multi-culturalism ideology that is now also deeply embedded in human services, and wreaks all sorts of other kinds of havoc there. The next section will take a look at the PC bankruptcy in more detail.

The PC Sanitation of the 11 September Attacks and Related Phenomena

Why do the media rage,
And go on a rampage?
Early media coverage after 11 Sept. featured many reports of Muslims celebrating the attack and its spectacular success, including many pictures of Islamic (mostly) men in threatening motions and screaming mouths demonstrating in various countries, often in large mobs. Within days, the media got a hold of itself, recovered their religion in pure form, and went on a virtual diversity rampage, trying to salvage political correctness and the celebration of multiculturalism. This rampage not only tried to sanitize Islam, and Arab history and culture, and to interpret Islamic/Arabic radicalism and terrorism as a minor aberration of Islamic history and culture, but "celebrated" any and all nonWestern cultures, ethnic groups and religions--anything other than Western culture, in order to create a generalizing effect. Accordingly, through the media, the public was drenched in selective news coverage (and censorship), special reportage, columns, special programs, certain reruns and other special features that were aimed to accomplish the above.

Virtually every media columnist, after paying the obligatory (often brief) respect to the victims of the terrorists' attacks, rushed to pontificate heavily, repeatedly and at length in defense of diversity and multiculturalism. For instance, by late November, almost every issue of our local newspaper had pages and pages of generally favorable coverage of Islam, Islamic countries, Africa, Palestine, and Muslim entertainers in the US, good Muslim US citizens etc., and rarely less than it did before 11 Sept. Altogether, it became very clear that political correctness is fighting for its very life.

The media also scoured the country to carry items of local news nationally, as long as it sanitized anything nonWestern. For instance, our local newspaper carried a big item on a local fashion show in--of all places, PC Berkeley, Calif.--on Afghan women's costumes. But amazingly, one model being shown did not have her face covered, and provocatively (to Islamic men) displayed bare feet and pretty ankles (SPS, 20/12/01).

One extremely amusing aspect of this propaganda is that to the PC, multiculturalism means exotic food dishes, ethnic costumes, ethnic dancing, ethnic music and songs, and interesting and exotic practices around different feast days. Being knowledgeable about these things is often called "cultural competence," and even made a criterion for hiring people. Yet one is never told the deeper
elements of cultural differences—to say nothing of eating sheep’s eyeballs and dogs, and having women wear face and body coverings such as burqas. Of course, these notions of “diversity” and multiculturalism are utterly superficial and naive at best, and deeply deceptive and polity-destructive at worst. Instead, multiculturalism often means profoundly different values, a resistance to liberal democratic ideals, lifestyles that are difficult to reconcile with Western ones or even with public order, and moral codes that require committing what in Western countries would be considered crimes and atrocities (such as female circumcision; or a brother, with the approval of the entire family, killing his sister for having lost her virginity), and sometimes different ways of being violent or committing crimes that bring shudders to Westerners, such as carrying barber razors, cutting throats, or decapitating people, rather than shooting them the way civilized people do. It may also imply customs that circumvent Western institutions and civic structures in a way that is subversive of these, and it may imply an attitude of using and exploiting public social structures and customs without contributing to their continuity and functionality, thusly undermining civic culture, perhaps parasitically so.

*If one were asked what the greatest asset of a liberal democracy was, what would one answer? Constitutionalism? Separation of the branches of government? The rule of law? Free elections? Here is what one PC writer thought: "diversity is our greatest asset," and the newspaper gave it a quarter page with a "Celebrating Diversity" headline (SPS, 24/12/01).

*The CBS "60 Minutes" TV program is relentlessly PC, promoting abortion, "euthanasia," suicide and diversity. It had run on at least two previous occasions a reportage on the Louisville ex-boxer Cassius Clay who converted to Islam and called himself Muhammad Ali, and on 23/12/01 ran it a third time with special emphasis on exaltation of Islam, as if the boxer’s benign version of American-born Islam were the real Islam, and the radical Islam of the Arabic and Taliban culture were not.

*When a group of people were naturalized in Syracuse in early November, the PC newspaper saw its opportunity: of all the new citizens, it published one positively-imaged photo of a new citizen from Pakistan (SPS, 15/11/01), though at most 4 of the 31 came from Islamic countries.

*Just after the war with Afghanistan started, a group in Syracuse found it necessary, and perhaps even multiculturally educative, to offer to the public a course on Mid-Eastern cooking. As we said, to the PC crowd, this is multiculturalism, whereas the fanaticism of genuine Islam apparently is not.

*After 11 Sept., we were startled to encounter a new line-up of victim groups in the PC discourse: women, gays and lesbians, blacks (the old stand-bys)—and Arabs, Muslims and non-Americans.

*The leader of the Canadian NDP (left-wing) party said that "Osama is a Canadian name," because a few Canadians of Arabic origin have it (Ottawa Citizen, 27/11/01).

An Egyptian engineer worked with Atomic Energy Canada. After 11 Sept., the media complained that he was "questioned for no apparent reason," and reinstated only "after an unpardonable delay" of a few weeks (Globe & Mail, 27/11/01).

*One almost got the impression that many media people were more concerned with defending, and further promoting, an insane religion of PC and multiculturalism than they were concerned about the tragedies that happened, and the tragedies that terrorists were undoubtedly planning for the future. A few examples follow.

A college student wrote (Newsweek, 17/12/01) that after Sept. 11, the professors and fellow students began to cite the various things Westerners have done to provoke terrorism (as we also did above), but then could never bring themselves to say that the WTC bombing was an objective wrong or evil. Of course, among the reasons are that (a) multiculturals can do no wrong unless they violate political correctness themselves, (b) academia, post-modernism and the culture of political correctness believe in no objective morality other than PC itself, and (c) academia teaches that one should be a perpetual skeptic without ever taking a stand. All this reminds us of the reporter reporting that the saber-tooth tiger has just devoured Urg, and adding, "first, let’s try to understand the tiger’s point
ACT: The American College Test is designed to measure classroom achievement in four broad content areas (English, math, reading and natural science reasoning.) It also measures the ability to apply problem solving skills. The highest achievable score on each part is 36. The exam is about 3.5 hours.

EARLY ACTION: The individual who elects this college application procedure is notified of acceptance or rejection well in advance of the usual notification date. If accepted, the candidate is not obligated to attend this school.

EARLY DECISION: The individual who elects this college application procedure is notified of acceptance or rejection well in advance of the usual notification date. Upon acceptance, the candidate is obligated to accept the offer of admission and to withdraw applications from all other schools. This is a binding contract.

ROLLING ADMISSIONS: This is an admissions procedure in which a candidate's college application package is reviewed when all the required documents are received (e.g. application form, transcript, test scores, recommendations, etc.). Once the decision is made, the candidate is notified.

SAT I: The Scholastic Assessment Test is designed to measure academic aptitude in regards to verbal and numerical reasoning. It also assesses one's ability to recognize standard written English. The SAT I is a three hour exam. The highest achievable score on each part (math and verbal) is 800. Therefore, a perfect score is 1600.

SAT II: These exams measure your knowledge in particular subjects (English, social studies, math, science, languages) and your ability to apply that knowledge. There are approximately 23 SAT II exams - one subject per exam. The exams are usually one hour. The highest possible score is 800. Some colleges require one or more SAT II exams to help with decisions about admission and about course placement. A student may also consider taking the SAT II if he/she has an expertise in any of the subject exams offered. This will add to a candidate's credentials.
of view." However, the young woman--obviously with still the mind of an unsophisticated child--wrote, "there comes a point where the refusal to take a stand on what is wrong results in its victory."

*Time* (10 Dec. 01) was worried that the interrogations or detentions of Arab or Islamic young men was "arousing ill will in the Arab-American community," as if this were worse than the public suffering an endless series of 11 Septembers.

Our local newspaper carried a very sympathetic article about an Arab-American family in our area reporting being discriminated against and harassed. But this backfired when it came out that the father of the family had lost his medical license for trying to steal $1.4 million from Medicaid, and served a prison term for it; and one of his sons had loudly announced in a bar that he was a Muslim terrorist (*SPS*, 24/11/01). By holding up such people as victims of mindless and low-class discrimination, they are actually pushing public tolerance to the edge, or over it.

In Syracuse, one of the many PC items the newspaper ran after 11 September was a full-page story of local non-Muslims apologizing to the local Muslims about all *their* troubles, which actually were very minor, especially considering if they were not born in the US, and the fact that the Syracuse community has close ties to New York City, and suffered much from 11 September.

**Colorless people from nowhere without a religion did it.** The Chancellor of Syracuse University stirred up a storm when, on 15 October 2001, he wrote to 150,000 alumni that "we must not blame any person or group on the basis of religion or nationality or color" for the September attacks—at the same time as campus security was tightened.

On the one hand, the US government has issued several alerts and asked people to report anything "suspicious." On the other hand, when people do report things that are out of the ordinary and that involve what looks like Arabic men, they are castigated by the PC circles and media. An example is the following alleged "profiling": two "Mideastern-looking" young men were seen videotaping St. Patrick's Cathedral in NYC from top-to-bottom, in depth—at 9 p.m. in October. Other such men have been reported videotaping tall NYC buildings and a petrochemical factory.

*A lot of PC parties took the occasion of the September events not only to escalate their exaltation of cultural diversity, but to take swipes at what the PC culture has been rebelling against, such as Western civilization, Christianity, dead white males, etc. For instance, both in their desperation to resume political correctness, while also taking a swipe at "religion" (as if PC were not one), PC parties began to assert that it was "religion" rather than Islam that was to blame for violent Islamic attacks on the West. Some examples follow.*

One editor/columnist wrote a headline, "How Religion Inspires Hate," which so resonated with the news media that it was reprinted in papers (e.g., *SPS* 27/11/01) that ordinarily do not carry that columnist.

Syndicated columnist Ellen Goodman said (also citing other feminist authorities) that there is fundamentalism in all religions, from Protestant to Buddhist, and it is all inimical to women. She added "fundamentalist Christianity is truly the American Taliban" (*SPS*, 12 Oct. 01). She also said that the Protestant religious leaders Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson could not be better spokesmen for the Taliban (*SPS*, 21/9/01).

Editorial cartoons began to equate such leaders with Islamic terrorists (e.g., *SPS*, 22/9/01). A columnist in the 21/11/01 *New York Press* that is published for and by homosexuals equated the Pope with bin Laden, and said that the Pope "inspires thugs across the globe" (*NCR*, 2 Dec. 01).

One writer in *Time* (12 Nov. 01) said that what has happened in Iran and Afghanistan is what will happen in the US if "fundamentalists" get political power.

The famous pro-death academician Peter Singer at Princeton University announced that the only salvation from religious books like the Koran or the Bible was "education," presumably by people like himself (*CS*, 6 Dec. 01).

British PC leaders, though otherwise intellectual, pontificated similar to US ones. A Cambridge academic asserted that a major source of hate on earth is religion, and recommended therapy for that, so that people would start feeling guilty if they used words like faith, orthodoxy, Allah or Jahweh. (We thought that people in Britain already did that anyway.) In the *Scottish Herald*, the "ugly many-headed monster, religion" was blamed for the events, and the writer singled out not Islam but Catholicism as "threatening women with Dark Age views." In *The Guardian*, Polly Toynbee said that "the only good religion is a moribund religion; only when the faithful are weak
are they tolerant and peaceful." An Australian pundit in the Sydney Morning Herald similarly asserted that bin Laden-type "fundamentalism" has its parallels in Catholicism (CS, 6 Dec. 01).

All these people are repressing the fact that the highly cultured and educated Nazis, and the utterly materialistic Marxists of the 20th century (often well-educated), were responsible for innumerable persecutions and wars, and the deaths of perhaps as many as 200 million people.

The fact is that it is the PC people who multicultrated America to the breaking point who surely bear at least some—if not heavy—responsibility for "the events," insofar as it is that mentality that opened the borders virtually indiscriminately. Rather than repent and recant the errors of their ways, the PC parties have gone into virtual paroxysms of reiterating their bankrupt position. Doing this by vituperatively and vehemently equating Christianity, Catholicism and Protestant fundamentalism as being the equivalent of Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism has been a truly despicable calumny that presages outright persecution.

*Along similar lines, the PC saw in the 11 Sept. attacks, and the Taliban resistance to the US ultimatum, a golden opportunity for bashing people who believe that abortion is the sinful killing of a human being, and an innocent one at that. Again, a few examples follow.

One PC columnist who went into paroxysms of sanitation and attacks on non PC-ness was Ellen Goodman. One of her columns (SPS, 22/10/01) was entirely devoted to the drawing of an analogy between "abortion clinic terrorism," the September 11 events, and the subsequent anthrax scare.

As late as 17/12/01, Newsweek columnist Anna Quindlen equated "The terrorists here at home," referring to saboteurs of abortion clinics, to the 11 September terrorists, asserting that "There's no real ideological difference between these people." One of many things she ignored was that the 19 "terrorists" of 11 September were also comfortably "here at home" in the US. Our local paper was so enamored of this angle that it reprinted the entire column with a huge headline, "The Other US Terrorists," plus a cartoon showing a hand grenade attached to a copy of the US Constitution.

For conducting his annual prayer before the main local abortion clinic, the Catholic bishop of Syracuse was compared by an abortion supporter to a Taliban (SPS, 26/10/01), and the public was told with "outrage" that this is "the wrong time for bishop to picket outside clinic" (SPS, 20/10/01). (The PC are always "outraged.")

*In their rampage, the PC media and other circles engaged or continued in systematic distortions, deceptions and cover-ups. Again, a few examples follow.

As a counterpart to carrying material aggrandizing diversity and multiculturalism, the media began to censor out material that is embarrassing to this ideology.

For instance, after about 20 Sept., the media began to withhold information from reportage that would have identified the perpetrators of crimes as Islamic, Arabic or Mideastern. For instance, names might not be given if these sounded Arabic.

Similarly, in hardly any of the media--and never in days of reporting on the CBS evening news--was it ever mentioned that the 12/01 "shoe bomber" was a Muslim. Instead, CBS consistently referred to him--technically correctly, but deceptively incompletely--as an "Englishman." (His parents were immigrants to Britain.) Also, within only a few days, reporting on the shoe bomber disappeared almost entirely from the American media. Apparently, the media were embarrassed by his multicultural credentials.

There was much denouncing of Sikhs being mistaken for Muslims, and suffering some indignities after 11 September. The PC--and the Sikhs themselves--asserted that the Sikh religion was one of peace (which is, of course, what was also falsely claimed for Islam), conveniently ignoring that Sikh men are required by their religion to wear a big knife at all times, and forgetting that not long ago, it was almost certainly Sikh plotters who blew up one Air India plane off Ireland and another off Japan within hours of each other.

After unrelenting PC propaganda about the poor Afghan women being forced to cover their faces in public because of Taliban radicalism, we now learn that a large percentage (perhaps even the majority) prefer to go about covered, even though they are now free not to do so (SPS, 31/12/01). If it were for the PC, there would be no "choice," but women would be forbidden to wear face and body coverings. Actually, we suggest that the answer is for men everywhere to adopt the burqa, because it enables one to see without being seen, so that men can ogle uncovered women without being accused of swinish sexism.
One way the PC, as well as moderate Muslims, are trying to sanitize the image of Islam is by declaring that "the Taliban are not real Muslims" (SPS, 12/01).

One columnist branded the Taliban as "bandits who believe they possess the sole truth that God provides to humans" (SPS, 24/12/01). Chances are high this columnist, like most of the widely syndicated ones, does not believe that God provides any truth, or that there is truth.

Unreported in the mainline news was that an Islamic immigrant in Los Angeles vandalized 3 Catholic churches in 11/01. His local mosque quickly interpreted him as deranged (NCR, 18/11/01).

It is hard to believe that after NATO and (largely) American forces had saved the Islamic Bosnians from obvious genocide by the Christian Orthodox Serbs, Islamic Bosnians would turn around and begin to try to wage terrorism on the US and Britain, which also sent many peacekeepers to the Balkans (Time, 12 Nov. 01). However, with European and American troops still risking their lives to keep the multiculturals apart, there was hardly a breath in the media about this biting of the hand of the life-saver—the same as in Somalia.

One desperate attempt at upholding political correctness was the reporting in the media that there actually are a handful (actually, a tiny handful) of disaffected light-skinned young men of European stock who have thrown in with Islamic terrorism, as if this made up for millions of Muslims around the world ecstatic over the 11 Sept. attacks.

*Now a few points in conclusion of this submodule.

*We mentioned earlier the singularly ill-timed release of a PC postage stamp by the US Postal service, celebrating the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr. However, there must have been a non-PC underground sleeper in the bureaucracy, because when the US postal system published a poster in November advertising "holiday stamps" for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Ramadan, the "Eid" stamp was not featured on it, precipitating a probably not very wise protest by the American Muslim Council.

*After 11 September, the PC people smelled the coffee and laid off—but only very briefly—from their militancy in attacking prayers in schools or by pupils.

*There is just an awful lot of PC hypocrisy. In the wake of events, one school district in suburban Minneapolis thought it was politically incorrect to have the children recite the Pledge of Allegiance—but promptly capitulated when a group of veterans who had been contributing $100,000 to the school district said that they would cease contributing (SPS, 25/10/01).

*One of the things that is necessary in order for Muslims and Arabs in Western countries to be viewed with less suspicion, and perhaps to even prevent being severely discriminated against, is to abjure violence in support of Islamic or Arab causes in other countries, not give shelter to their own who are bent on violence or crime, and to surrender those whom they have reason to believe have committed violence or serious crimes, or to be planning such. As long as people with a past or present history of terrorist affiliation, with violent thoughts, or a criminal bent, continue to be able to disappear in Arab or Islamic enclaves in non-Arab and non-Islamic countries, there will be a quite justifiable resentment, with numerous negative consequences to members of such enclaves. It is also necessary for the PC people to say all this, and to say it to Muslims and Arabs.

*What is necessary for the Western media and other PC circles is to become as militant in exposing and attacking persecution and terrorization of Christians as of non-Christians, and in whatever country it happens to take place, as well as the persecution and terrorization of Caucasians in non-Caucasian countries, such as the former south African ones.

*In many ways the PC are right about one thing: in certain respects, devout Muslims and devout Christians have more in common with each other than with materialistic PC modernists.

*Readers should consider that if the entire PC ideology of aggrandizement, and active increase in, multiculturalism and diversity, is based on false assumptions and lies about human nature and how societies function, then what other or related PC assertions (e.g., about human afflictions, about language, about human sexual identity and proper relations) are also bound to rest on false assumptions, or to be lies?
Other Political Correctnesses Pertaining to "The Events" & to the Reactions to Them

*It is exceedingly amusing to contemplate that with great delicacy, the PC were worried about making war on Muslims during Ramadan, apparently totally oblivious of the fact that in 1973, Egypt launched a totally unanticipated surprise attack on Israel during the holiest day in the Jewish calendar (Yom Kippur)--which also happened to fall during Ramadan, and there was no Islamic protest about that. Even in 2001, Muslim terrorists killed 17 other Muslims (including 10 children) in a single Ramadan attack in Algiers (SPS, 9 Dec. 01). Very insensitive. However, the media will only tell us that Algerians are killing Algerians. Very sensitive!

*We noted that one of the new code words for Muslims who are lukewarm about their religion is "educated." Presumably, a bright educated person would--consistent with liberal Enlightenment notions--not be a "fundamentalist" or "religious fanatic." Accordingly, some pundit proposed that the "educated" classes of Afghans constitute its hopes for stability in the future. This propaganda is all very amusing and completely ignores that so many of the 11 Sept. warriors were highly-educated professionals, and bin Laden was an educated genius.

*Berkeley, California has been one of the capitals of political correctness in the world, and has been a leader in launching boycotts of non-PC places and people. When its city council (!) was moving toward a resolution against making war on Afghanistan, other people began to threaten Berkeley with boycotts. One local student said, "They should be fixing roads and stuff" (Time, 5 Nov. 01). Very amusing.

*After the 11 Sept. attack, Catholic Marquette University in Wisconsin forbade its students, with supreme PC sensitivity, to hold a vigil around a flagpole because it might offend foreign students, rather than that it might be an unChristian or unCatholic thing to do (NCR, 7 Oct. 01).

*One picture showed an Afghan man fleeing across the border to Pakistan with his "30 children and 10 female relatives," which was a delicate PC way of failing to acknowledge that some or all of these "female relatives" were his many wives (SPS, 11 Oct. 01).

*The president of the InterReligious Council of Syracuse, which is an extremely sensitive PC Christian body, wrote a long article on how the "community finds unity in its diversity," totally ignoring how unity and diversity are at odds.

*The good news is that the Arab-American population is not as diverse as the PC lobby would like, with only 23% of them actually being Muslim (Newsweek, 1 Oct. 01). Many of the others are Christians fleeing strife or persecution.

*There is diversity--and then there is diversion. Talk about fiddling while Rome burns: Babylon was still burning while its citizens went to the polls to decide whether to change all pronouns in the NY State constitution to a gender-free idiom; to our surprise, this amendment was actually carried. Maybe PC is not as moribund as we thought. At any rate, now PPP employment comes in, with all the state’s innumerable laws having to be reworded and republished.

Further Thoughts on the Failure of Political Correctness

*Poor Afghanistan has to be understood as one of the great many "failed states," which failed because it was overwhelmed by diversity and multi-culturalism, and should never have been a country in the first place. Afghanistan is home to at least 10 ethnic groups, divided by language, religion, and long historical traditions, to say nothing of customs and political agendas. Some of the languages even fall into very distinct language families. Indeed, when PC people speak or write with any degree of realism at all about Afghanistan, the words "diversity" and "multiculturalism" seem to be sticking in their throats, choking them up.

*One of the things that ties the PC up in knots is that they certainly do not want to be insensitive toward the "multiculturals," but they cannot possibly approve of traditions of discriminatory practices among them against women or girls that are simply part and parcel of a
deeply embedded non-Western culture, and maybe have been for thousands of years. While the PC are ever so sensitive about Islam and Muslims, they do not seem to be bothered about the lack of Islamic women clergy, though they become apoplectic about that lack in Catholicism. Very insensitive about that! Also, in many cultures, most forms of abortion are not considered permissible, and being totally permissible about abortion—or even "celebrating" it—is a sine qua non of political correctness. This sets up a profound conflict between being accepting toward the cultural differences, versus being unforgiving on a PC point of religion. Almost normatively then, it is the multi-culturalism that cracks.

*Academic postmodernistic deconstruction and its moral relativism failed a big test after 11 Sept. As one Princeton student complained, he had been taught well how to dissect and deconstruct, but had never been taught how to construct and decide (Newsweek, 12 Nov. 01).

*The Palestinian said to be the most famous one after Arafat is a Columbia University professor, Edward W. Said, an agnostic of Muslim heritage. When he visited Lebanon in 2000, he was photographed throwing a rock at the Israeli border. Columbia U. staunchly upheld his right to do so as an act of academic freedom, but when a reporter went to put Columbia to the test by throwing a rock at Columbia U. in the name of free speech, campus police pounced on him (B&C, 9/01).

*There can be no doubt that bin Laden was the "man of the year 2001," but to underline how cowardly the PC basically are, Time designated Mayor Rudy Giuliani as its "person of the year," afraid of reader backlash at having ObL thusly featured.

*For years, the liberal media have made a big scandal of the point that under the Taliban, girls were not receiving an education. Only now do we learn that hardly any boys did either, in that even before the Taliban, only about 10% of girls and about 35% of boys received schooling, and fewer boys since.

*When World War II was over, the Allies instituted a denazification program in Germany, but lo and behold, it turned out that hardly any Nazis could be found. Hardly any of the people who were investigated admitted that they had ever been Nazis, and some of the survivors deny it to this day. What one never heard were confessions such as, "yes I was a Nazi, yes I did bad things, I was wrong, now I'm sorry, and I will make whatever restitution and penitence I can, and pay the price for my errors and sins." We predict that some day, the same will happen in regard to political correctness and the celebration of multi-cultural diversity. The foremost, and rather Nazi-like, promoters of these ideologies and practices will probably some day deny that they did or said any of the things that they did do and say, once the totality of the bankruptcy of this ideology and its concomitant practices will have been more fully revealed.

*It is ironic that instead of cracking down on illegal presences in the US, the burdens of new security laws still have to be largely borne by US citizens and legal foreign residents, encroaching on the civil liberties of citizens. Here is a related great irony: the American Civil Liberties Union is afraid that increased security measures might turn America into a police state, while it makes no admission at all that it, and people like it, have already turned America into a nation terrorized, and living in fear, about lawsuits and liabilities.

This concludes the coverage of issues related to "the events." The rest of this TIPS issue will deal with some of the usual December issue topics, but not all of them. Even under these other headings, occasional items relate to "the events."

Religion in Society

*One big difference between both pre-Christian and most other paganisms, and the culture of modernism, was that originally, all pagan cultures had strong convictions that there was such a thing as a moral order, and that things went ill with people who dared to violate it (NCR, 7/1/01). Modernism does not believe in a transcendent moral order.
*Americans particularly have had very distorted ideas of what Communism was, and therefore also failed to see parallelisms of its identity in other forms of modernism. The Communist ideology denied any transcendent dimension to human existence, any internal source of dignity in the human, any such thing as a call or calling to humans to which they should freely respond, or any standard of truth, evidence, moral integrity or goodness; instead, the highest moral authority was the collective will of the party. Anything done in its name became justifiable, including murder, extermination, oppression, etc.

Here are some of the things Adolf Hitler said (The Nazi Revolution, 1990): "I am freeing men from...the dirty and degrading modification of a chimera called conscience and morality...Conscience is a Jewish invention. It is a blemish like circumcision.... We must distrust the intelligence and the conscience.... Only when the time comes when the race is no longer overshadowed by the consciousness of its own guilt then will it find internal peace." All these things are also embraced, though with a different idiom, by our contemporary culture of modernism. People simply do not realize that key elements of modernism can be found as much in the leftism of Marxism as the rightism of fascism, as in our own forms of modernism, such as liberalism, constructionism and political correctness.

*For many years, there was a shrine in the hometown of Mao Tse-tung where people actually prayed to him, much to the consternation of the atheistic Chinese authorities (SPS, 27/9/01).

*Oops. I made a little mistake. The Russians have always been known for having a peculiar mentality, and at the very least one could these days describe it as "multi-cultural" and "diverse." Being nostalgic for their Soviet national anthem, they reverted to its melody in 2001--but with a new text which refers to Russia as a holy country protected by God, with the poet who wrote the Soviet anthem for Stalin reviewing and approving the new text.

*Hysteria with a Christian veneer. An entire cover story in Newsweek (16 July 2001) was about Christian entertainment, emphasizing especially rock music and music concerts by Christian singers and bands. Except that the people at such concerts are much better behaved than those at ordinary rock concerts, and do not smoke, drink, or fornicate, and may even bring their parents along with them, all the externals are the same: extremely loud music with special effects such as colored smoke, revealing clothes, sales of T-shirts and souvenirs, dance pits in front of the stage, body surfing, etc. Some of the young Christian pop women singers/performers show off just as much b and b and gyrating as the other ones. We see this as another example of people being controlled by the media.

*Even though the population in southeast Asia is largely Buddhist, Moslem, Hindu or Taoist, it has begun to enthusiastically embrace Western media-mediated Christmas customs, such as erecting figures of Santa Claus, and artificial snowscapes in areas where it never snows. Is there no more sensitivity among the "diverse" people, only among the PC themselves?

*According to a recent poll, there has been a sharp decline in Bible readership since 1990. Of course, this could reflect decline in readership of anything, as TV and computers replace static print media. Of particular scandal to the PC is that diverse people read the Bible vastly more than the kind of people (Caucasian college-educated liberals) the PC usually are.

*The Orthodox Church of Greece has begun to wage a rear-guard battle against certain aspects of modernization, and especially technologization and computerization. There have been Greek Orthodox protests against establishing data banks mandated by the European union, and against new state identity cards that no longer list religious affiliation. Ironically, some monks made widely popular rap music and music videotapes decrying the dangers of technology. One such CD was distributed without a bar code because some of the Orthodox faithful consider it a symbol of the encroachment of technology (AP, 12/00).

*A Christian antipornography website masquerades as a pornography site in order to attract hits, and then to go to work on them.
Only about a quarter of the world’s population lives under conditions of "broad religious freedom," 36% live in countries where there is systematic violation of religious freedom, and the rest fall somewhere in between. To the scandal of certain (mostly PC) parties, it is precisely in historically Christian countries where there prevails the broadest religious freedom of all, though ironically, the less Christian some European countries become, the less tolerant are they becoming of certain other religions. Buddhist countries also fare relatively well, and historically Islamic ones the worst (CS, 8 March 01).

Some thinkers have referred to secular humanism that has no supra-material basis or source as "ungrounded humanism" (FT, 1/01, p. 44).

Biologist Ursula Goodenough wrote a book, The Sacred Depth of Nature, in which she states that she does not believe in a deity or life after death, and yet the book has been sold as a religion book on religion shelves (FT, 4/00).

The big difference between scientists and others falling into superstition is that the bright, well-educated scientists embrace scientific/technological superstitions and religions, as exemplified by several items below.


Sensitivity and political correctness in the peaceable kingdom? A columnist in our local newspaper who also happens to be a social studies teacher amused us greatly with her PC propaganda that on the Galapagos Islands, where Charles Darwin did much of his revolutionary work, "all the animals still live in harmony after nearly 200 years," and called it "the Peaceable Kingdom" (SPS, 23/11/01). We can only wonder (a) what all these animals are eating, if not each other, and (b) what kind of "science" her pupils get taught.

Since the late 1980s, Discover has been the only remaining US science periodical for the educated non-scientist. Amazingly, its 7/90 issue carried a full-page ad for scientology, which is a modernistic cultish religion which has brainwashed many externalistic young people.

The widow of "cosmos" guru Carl Sagan no more believes in God or an afterlife than her late husband--but she hears his voice telling her what to do as she edits his works (SPS, 6 March 01).

Some of the world leaders in work on cloning humans are members of a new religion, called the Raelian for their founder Rael. This religion is based on all sorts of ideas about extraterrestrial creatures of great intelligence and learning.

It is hard to tell what about Satanism is media hype, or "please look at me" posturing by people, or real practices that often go unreported. According to some commentators, a significant proportion of rock music has satanic themes, many missing children are believed to be victims of satanic rites, and much kiddy porn is also said to be tied to satanism, and one practice of the producers of such films is to start selling such porn only after about 10 years, so that there is little likelihood that the child "actors" in them will be recognized. People with ties to satanism are reportedly frequently involved with drugs. However, when crimes with satanic elements take place, police, prosecutors, the courts and even the media are said to often keep these quiet and try to exclude them from publicity. Connections between satanic crimes are reportedly also often kept quiet. Shrinkery apparently refers to the crazified victims of satanic rituals, sexual and other, as "victims of ritual abuse," and reportedly thousands have "come out" of the closet or have otherwise come to shrink attention. However, all of the above may be untrue.

In 1989, two air soldiers in New York State set up a satanic temple in a building belonging to the Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center, and next door to a building occupied by employees of a nearby prison--a marvelously meaningful set of combinations.

Witchcraft is one of the many paganisms that is attracting many followers these days. Like other neopaganisms and "New Age" religions, it seems to attract modernistic people who want to
create their own religion according to their criteria, rather than to seek and discern the truth, and then submit to it. Thus, for example, one professor of theology at a Catholic college in Pennsylvania says that witchcraft is "more attractive to women because it is positive and openly affirms the transitions in a woman's life." A great number of lesbians are involved in witchcraft. One practitioner describes herself as a "radical Christian neopagan with overtones of Native American spirituality," and correctly notes that there are many people who do not integrate their faith into their life—but claims that witches are an exception: "There are many Sunday-morning Catholics, but few 'Sabbat pagans'." (Source item from Mike Guglielmo.)

In Central New York, there is a witches' rights group called the Broomstick alliance (SHA, 17/10/93).

*As of 2000, there is a Pagan Awareness Day (on the autumn equinox, 22 Sept.).

*Perhaps there has been much less Satanism than some people believed, but the recent increase in the occult (psychics, seances, etc.) seems to be real (NCR, 25/3/01), and occultism is continuing to invade human services.

In 1994, we first saw TV advertisements that encouraged viewers to "call a psychic," supported with glowing testimony by people (who looked somewhat hysterical and crazy) who had done so. Major consumers of New Age and the occult are entertainer "celebrities," and of course whatever they are and do, the modernistic public mimics.

Another harbinger of the invasion of the mind-snatchers has been the mindless popularity of the Harry Potter products.

In 1980, psychics in the US began to meet at an annual fair. Among the fair's many attractions in 2001 (in Syracuse) was "full moon belly dancing." Perhaps the dancers should call themselves physics instead of psychics. One of the participating psychics admitted that bad news is hardly ever conveyed to customers.

One of the signs of the ascendancy of the occult is that an astrology program in Arizona was, for the first time ever, accredited by the Accreditation Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology. One of the rationales was that it does teach a content to its students, and when the students graduate, they actually get jobs (AP in SPS, 29/8/01).

*A woman with a history of "eating disorder," alcoholism, and divorce has set herself up as a self-help guru in a scheme with sappy music and New Age trappings called "The Work"—and gives workshops around the world (maybe this is a baby-est) for managers of otherwise serious corporations.

*Dear TIPS reader: Please tell us what you have not yet heard of that might conceivably shock you. What taboo is there that you think has not yet fallen?

We were not particularly surprised to learn that there is an entire cult that developed around media programs dealing with the motif of vampires. After all, there are fan clubs for virtually every celebrity and every entertainment media component. However, we did not know that some people have gone one step further and not only formed such things as nocturnal ecstasy vampire covens, and vampire research centers, but that about 1000 people have actually become vampires in the sense that they are sucking or drinking other people's blood as part of their vampire cult membership. One of these people is—not surprising to us—a rock musician who has been into ritual blood-sucking for years, despite its potential health hazards. However, he practices strictly "safe blood-sucking," saying "I am monogamous, I only drink from my wife" (Newsweek, 21/11/94).

*Time (23/4/01) devoted a cover story to the recent ascendancy of yoga as a craze religion and school of physical culture intimately intertwined with the New Age spirituality. To a large degree, this explosion has been the result of movie idols, rock stars and psycho-pop sales people promoting it. There have been innumerable instructional videos on it, and much emphasis in popular magazines such as Self and Vogue. Some specific yoga school workshops attract as many as 20,000 paying participants a year. Like virtually all schools of physical culture, yoga has its considerable kernel of truth as regards health benefits. Because of this, yoga, like other such schools, is anathema to the pharmaceutical industry that would prefer to see people pop pills for everything, instead of
doing exercises. Also, at least some schools of yoga teach their adherents disciplines of silence, which is certainly a godsend these days.

*A former nun, now a New Age "freelance monotheist," has written a best-seller on "Buddha" even though she cannot read any of the original languages of Buddhist literature, nor (according to Time, 27/8/01) is familiar with recent Buddhist scholarship.

In fact, Time (27/8/01) referred to the peculiar current religious trend in the US as a "collective leaving of the senses," judging by the recent religious best-sellers. "How easily wispy spirituality passes these days as ancient wisdom." "It's a seller's market."

The best-seller, "The Prayer of Jabez," appeals enormously to the self-concerned people of today because it implores God to "enlarge my territory." The ideal prayer for sales people, office bosses, etc.

A 6-times married former Catholic has been writing a 5-volume series (it seems like he is one volume behind) entitled "Conversations With God," where God talks to him like a buddy over a beer--and people have been slurping up 5 millions of it (also, it appears, about a million short), even though God has been pontificating very positively about Hitler in these little talks.

*Q. What did the Buddhist mystic say to the hot dog vendor? A. Make me one with everything!

*One of the many contemporary new modernistic religions is constructionism. One way in which the constructionists trash reality is by accusing people of "privileging one story about reality over another." Perhaps the constructionists have failed to put their theory to higher practical uses, such as trying to comfort cancer victims by telling them that they are merely suffering from a social construction, even if a fatal one, and might conceivably reconstruct their condition in a manner preferred by them.

*Some new modernistic religions try to hijack older ones. E.g., a 4/01 advertisement by the Humane Society of the United States encouraged people to financially support the society in memory of their deceased pets. It called this the Kindred Spirit program, and the society's acronym is HSUS, which looks like the name Jesus as well as the abbreviation IHS of his name, and sounds very much the way Spanish-speaking people would pronounce this name.

*One thing that struck us about big and media sports being one of the American religions is that the women groupies that attach themselves to big male sports figures or teams can be perceived as the temple prostitutes of this religion because like the latter, they too render their services gladly and free of charge to the sports priests and worshippers.

*A Jewish woman wrote a fictional enlargement of a brief Bible episode generally referred to as the Rape of Dinah. With the enthusiastic support of the women Reform rabbis in the US, it eventually became a best-seller that in time was also embraced by Christian women ministers, all to the scandal of Orthodox rabbis. What made it a best-seller, according to Newsweek (5 Feb. 01), was that it combined themes of "God, women empowerment, and quivering thighs," and turned the rape story into a love story. We would have thought that a woman would get mightily disempowered by having quivering thighs.

*A lot of people are very sensitive about so-called anti-Semitism (a terribly bad word for someone having prejudices about Jews), but over time, we have learned that a lot of people, including a great many Jews, harbor vast amounts of prejudices against Christianity and Christians, even though nobody has thought of coining a term for this, or calling it "insensitive." We are suggesting antinazarenism as one possibility, but regardless what it is called, we believe that it requires as much vigilance and commitment to ferreting it out as people are devoting to ferreting out other kinds of prejudices and negative sentiments towards certain classes of people.

*People who say they hold the Jewish faith have declined sharply in the US in the last 10 years, and are almost equaled by the number of people who "consider themselves Jewish for some other reason," such as ethnicity or descent (NCR, 4 Nov. 01).
*One of the Orthodox/Hasidic Jewish sects in America believes that the Messiah has indeed come, and was Rabbi Schneerson who recently died in old age without ever denying that he was the Messiah as his followers suspected. Can one be accepted as a Jew by other Jews if one believes that the Messiah has "been and went"? Are they no longer Jews but Schneersonians?

*A British comedy show, "Father Ted," by its own admission set out to undermine Catholicism, and has been portraying priests as "imbeciles, hypocrites, alcoholics, cross-dressers and users of pornography" (NCR, 8 July 01). Not particularly sensitive, we would say.

The American TV series "South Park" is along the same line, and relishes episodes such as a priest fornicating in a confessional box, and the Pope (who has Parkinson's disease) dribbling saliva. Next one knew, the show was eagerly picked up by other countries, such as Australia, where anti-Catholic art and entertainment is rampant.

*A clever children's TV cartoon in 2001 managed to contrive a story involving, and finally juxtaposing, Godzilla, the Hunchback of Notre Dame--and the Pope. (Source information from Anne Costa.)

*The PC media have made much in recent years of "black" churches being burnt down, and have given hardly any publicity to the torching of other churches in large numbers by people who hate churches (certainly this should qualify as a "hate crime"). Now we learn that one of the "black" churches burnt down in 1996 was set afire by its own pastor (who had founded and run it for 36 years) for the $270,000 insurance money (AP in SHA, 9/9/99). Almost goes to prove that the "Father Ted" show is right--except that it got its denominations mixed up.

*Claiming that she was mistreated by nuns in her childhood, pop singer Cher came out with a song in late 2000 that chastised nuns as "mothers of shame, masters of pain, and twisters of truth." This should make it and her song very popular in liberal and PC circles.

*At Temple University in Philadelphia, the theater department announced that it would produce the play "Corpus Christi," written by a homosexual activist, which portrays Jesus as a homosexual who had sex with Judas and is crucified for being "king of the queers." A student protested against the play, whereupon the university had him handcuffed and delivered to a state mental institution against his will. Not surprisingly these days, the performances of the play were all sold out; and also not surprisingly, the aggrieved protestor has been suing (miscellaneous early 2001 clippings).

*At many American universities today, and we suspect Canadian ones as well, religious groups that believe that homosexual acts are immoral have been deemed to be discriminatory and are no longer permitted to meet on university properties. There are many scholars, including those who do not believe that homosexual acts are immoral, who are saying that it may be the legal right of universities to discriminate in this fashion, but that it is extremely stupid of them to do so, and contrary to their proclaimed missions (FT, 3/01).

*Canada is rapidly becoming one of the most anti-Christian nations, or at least its social and political structures are. For instance, Christian ministers at public eulogies have been prohibited to mention Christ, while no comparable restrictions were placed on Jewish or Islamic clergy. A wide range of government officials have denounced Christianity in strongest terms (e.g., that Christian beliefs are an insult to all other beliefs).

A wide range of organizations and parties have been trying to prevent the certification of teachers who have only studied at Christian academic institutions (apparently, studying at a voodoo or Satanic one is no obstacle), unless they first get at least a year of study at a non-Christian one. This position has the support of at least 2 justices of the Canadian Supreme court, who said that biblical Christianity or morality makes hypocrites out of people and brings them to hatred (NCR, 3 Dec. 01).
*When a Protestant minister was asked to give the invocation for the opening of the new Kansas Senate in early 2001, the senators were startled to hear the following (source item from Robert Flynn):

"Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know your Word says, 'woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of your Word and called it Pluralism. We have worshipped other gods and called it multiculturalism. We have endorsed perversion and called it alternative lifestyle. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem. We have abused power and called it politics. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of statement. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment. Search us, oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent to direct us to the center of your will and to openly ask these things in the name of your Son, the living Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen."

First several senators started walking out even before the end of the invocation. Afterwards, there was both a wave of approving messages from all over the world, as well as a trickle of disapproving ones.

*The Episcopal primate of Scotland declared that there are really no moral rules about sex except that any sexual behavior between two persons be consensual. For instance, there is nothing wrong with mutually consenting sadomasochism as long as it "stops short of the heavier kind of wounding," though one wonders what is wrong with heavier wounding as long as it is consensual (FT, 2/00).

*A new Spring 01 TV series for children, "7th Heaven," features a liberal Protestant minister who dishes out messages of "safe sex," but not of salvation.

*Confused religious peoples of many faiths constantly go around wanting to know "why bad things happen to good people," and because such things happen, they often give up their faith. Yet never before have we heard them complaining, "why do good things happen to bad people," and giving up their faith over that.

*Two related, and exceedingly amusing, developments have occurred. First of all, almost overnight, materialistic geneticists, neurologists, and other life scientists, have admitted that the religious nature of the human is for real--a fact they had vigorously denied. The reason they are now willing to admit it is that they have developed a theory to explain it, namely, that humans have evolved toward an inclination to hold religious beliefs and have religious experience, and that these are not merely socially transmitted. Obviously, this tendency must serve a biological and evolutionary function, they have concluded. In other words, genetics has "hard-wired" spirituality into the human, the same as other hard-wired tendencies, such as the orienting and alerting reflexes to significant sudden changes or new stimuli in the environment. However, they insist that religious yearnings and experiences must not be interpreted as evidence of the spiritual nature of the human or of a divinity, but merely as "proof of the existence of the brain" (Newsweek, 7 May 01). In other words, religious impulses or experiences are a trick of the brain.

Noting that spiritual experiences are amazingly consistent across cultures, time and faith, these scholars confidently interpret this to mean that there must be common and innate brain structures and processes where spirituality takes place. Some people have "located" these circuits in the temporal lobes of the brain, and because there are also speech centers there, this is believed to explain why some religious people claim to have heard the voice of God. Vivid religious experiences particularly are apt to be attributed to a minor or undiagnosed temporal lobe epilepsy, and some people may be genetically more predisposed than others to mystical experiences. Furthermore, the reason that many people turn to God at times of crisis is being attributed by this school of thought to anxiety, lack of oxygen, low blood sugar and fatigue. Altogether, the above explains why the branch of scholarship that has begun to study religious human experience from this perspective has come to be called "neurotheology," and such scholars have even begun to speak about the brain's "spirituality circuit."
One criticism of all this has been that neurotheology confuses spiritual experiences with religion, because truly spiritual experiences supposedly are relatively rare, whereas religion is ubiquitous (Newsweek, 7 May 01).

*Researchers claim to finally have discovered the scientific reason why churchgoers live longer: they smoke and drink less, get more exercise, and have more friends (Newsweek, 26/3/01).

The Interface of Religion & Human Services

*Regularly reading Contemporary Psychology, the journal of the American Psychological Association devoted entirely to reviews of books relevant to psychology, we were struck by the fact that books about religion have begun to be reviewed as if they were scholarly psychology books--but only as long as they are hostile to religion. For instance, a 1999 text by an English zoologist at Cambridge University, Why Gods Persist, was reviewed by a philosopher even though the book is nothing but a polemic by an intellectual against theism, and Christianity specifically as an irrational religion (CP, 2001, 46, No. 3). What this informs us is that attacks on religion and Christianity by intellectuals are treated as if they were high science, and are given a forum in inappropriate places related to human service because of the bias of the editorial decision-makers. We see this as yet another step on the road to religious persecution.

*Dial-a-Denomination. We learned of one nursing home that had a chapel with a turntable on which there were four altars, one per quadrant. Depending on which denomination was holding worship, a button could be pushed to spin forth the appropriate altar. This also illustrates a lust for high-tech worship.

*Amazing greed. In 9/2001, a Catholic hospital in Syracuse began to post billboard ads by highways that contained the following juxtaposition:

    Amazing Technology
    Grace ful Care,

thus trying to capitalize on what the ad people assumed to be one of the best-known Christian hymns, "Amazing Grace." Just to make sure, a radio campaign was launched at the same time, trumpeting the same slogan--to the background strains of the music to the song itself.

*There is a series of 26 books of what we call theotechnology, that each deal with some kind of therapy, such as play therapy, gratitude therapy, making-sense-out-of-suffering therapy, friendship therapy, etc. Unfortunately, these books are published by the Benedictine Abbey Press as an "elf-help" series!

*An Internet shrink site has the grandiose name Metanoia, which refers to a form of spiritual rebirth.

*There have long been sayings about doctors playing God, but now we have proof: a medical advice columnist is actually named Dr. Peter Gott, which is the German word for God (source item from Susanne Hartfiel).

*The Mormon religion does not allow its members to use alcohol, tobacco and caffeine products. Apparently at least in part for this reason, their death rates from cancer and cardiovascular diseases are about half that of the general US population, and Mormons live on the average 8-11 years longer than other Americans. Their strong emphasis on chastity also keeps sexually transmitted diseases very low, and the emphasis on communality and mutual support makes homicide and suicide rare. Similar results have been found in other tightly-knit communities with strong religious faith (FT, 3/00).

News of the Year-End Season

*In the now extremely PC Canada, the PC phrase in French is "les fêtes de fin d’année," i.e., "the feasts of the year end."
In 2001, Christian churches began singing Christmas carols on Sunday, 2 December. Even Catholic nuns began putting up full Christmas decorations right after Thanksgiving in late November. Nursing homes had to endure caroling groups touring through much of the earlier weeks of December 3-4 times a day. The poor residents sometimes have to be virtually corralled into do-gooder caroling conscription audiences so as to prevent the carolers from getting mad at ungrateful old folks in nursing homes.

After 24 Dec., there were hardly any more Christmas-related TV shows on evening TV programs by any of the 7 non-cable TV stations in the Syracuse area. Even on Christmas day itself, there were only 2 Christmas-related shows after 6 p.m.--and none on the Christian religious network PAX. Once Christmas has arrived, the "Christmas season" is over for TV, the same as for the merchants and for many people who throw their tree out Dec. 26. The "twelve days of Christmas" between 24 Dec.-6 Jan. survive now almost only in a quaint song that people no longer understand.

In 12/01, a public school in the Syracuse area "gathered all the children and sang Christmas carols, lit a menorah and Kwanzaa candles, and had a Ramadan component. It was beautiful and very moving" (SPS, 23/12/01). Of course, the only carols allowed in public schools are Hollywood ones, such as "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire." No wonder children these days grow up terribly confused, without strong moral foundations, and very crazy.

Social Advocacy & Radical Rights Issues

*Let's have your 40 cents worth of advocacy. The state Protection and Advocacy offices have been mandated to expand their services to all mentally handicapped people in their respective states, but their funding was increased only by a token amount that comes to about 40 cents per mentally handicapped person. One might call this "three-bit advocacy."

*We have reported before on one form of social advocacy, namely, court-appointed special advocates (CASA) who serve children in the US juvenile and family courts. At the latest count, there were more than 42,000 of them. They have to make a commitment to at least one case for at least 18 months, and to attend a minimum of 40 hours of training. What this advocacy form has in common with Citizen Advocacy is that there are paid staff who provide training and backup to the unpaid volunteers. Volunteers typically devote 10-12 hours a month meeting with a child, interviewing, doing home visits, appearing in court, etc. They must visit the child for whom they advocate at least once a month (APA Monitor, 11/00). However, while Citizen Advocacy is reluctant to recruit human service professionals as advocates, CASA is not.

*A so-called "child advocacy site" has been receiving much pre-opening publicity. It is merely a building that is supposed to help already existing organizations deal better with child abuse, by having one single site in which police, lawyers, social workers, etc., can collaborate on child abuse cases. On top of this perversion of the term "advocacy," the director said that acquisition of computers is the first tangible example of how the agency will perform its function (Syracuse Post-Standard, 6 April 01, p. B5).

*Let them eat computers. The Court-Appointed Special Advocates program (for abused/neglected children in the court system) of NY State received grants of $110,000--and spent it on computers and Internet connections (SPS, 19/7/01).

*It used to be that adopting some form of informal conflict resolution was the norm, and litigating the issue was the alternative exception. Increasingly these days, the normative has become the alternative, in that there is now something called "alternative dispute resolution" to address disagreements or conflicts between health care providers and patients (Newsweek, 27/3/00).

*All of us take long-term relationships pretty much for granted, and even the low-intensity ones make much-appreciated contributions to our lives. By low-intensity, we mean that the people at issue may not see each other very often, and when they do, their interaction may not be very profound. However, such low-intensity relationships sometimes become either high-intensity, or can suddenly assume new importance, including possibly one party rendering much needed support to the other, or advocating for it.
When the relationship needs of devalued people are discussed, great importance is commonly placed on such people having relatively intense relationships with valued people other than paid service staff. However, the importance of ongoing low-intensity relationships with valued people commonly receives little emphasis.

People who enter the lives of devalued persons in order to offer them intensive and important supports and instrumental problem-solving may literally save somebody's life, but such persons may be here today and gone tomorrow, while another individual may relate with a devalued person with low intensity but over a long period of time, and during this time may see many other individuals who relate intensely and importantly to that person come and go.

However, it can be very important to a devalued person to know that there is another individual who first of all is steady in the maintenance of a relationship even if it is of low-intensity, who at any one time may be one of this person's few contacts to the valued world, and who may even be able to be called upon for something very important in case of an emergency.

Thus, our desire to see devalued people have high-intensity relationships with valued persons should not keep us from also trying to value, recruit, and support enduring low-intensity ones. This is the case even when the relationships at issue cannot be classified as Citizen Advocacy ones.

With high consciousness of this issue, we may even assign greater importance to ourselves extending such relationships to devalued people aside from whatever high-intensity ones we may be able to offer.

*One curious phenomenon in the rights culture is that despite the erudition one finds in it, it seems to have completely forgotten or ignored something that educated rights people certainly are bound to know, because it has long been taught in virtually all courses on government and political science, namely, that freedom and equality are profoundly at odds with each other, and that when one is increased, the other inevitably decreases. Since freedom is intimately linked to rights, this means that a rights culture is bound to contribute mightily to social inequality, which is exactly the opposite of what so many people who spout rights claim to be aspiring to.

*One more PC practice that is extremely irritating and indeed disabling is, for the sake of equal rights, to put people who cannot communicate well in English into positions where English communication is of the essence. For instance, there are agencies where when one telephones them, one will be answered by mentally retarded people who cannot be relied upon to pass on messages, or to pass them on correctly; or by people who have speech defects whom one finds difficult or impossible to understand; or by people who are foreign-born and who neither understand the callers nor can give intelligible responses to them. We have been in airports where the announcements were made in foreign accents that we could not understand, and in one instance, we realized only at the last moment that the departure of the flight we were on had been announced, which we therefore almost missed. In the Central New York area, the US weather service has around-the-clock weather announcements by a foreign-born person who is extremely difficult to understand, which can be very problematic when there are severe weather warnings. This is a good example where one person's "rights" take precedent over the public good and welfare, and its rights.

*Another post-modernist development is people with mental problems having demanded "the right to define what recovery is" (Mouth, 5/00). This is a bit comparable to Italians demanding the right to define Italianness.

*Jordan, B., & Dunlap, G. (2001). Construction of adulthood. Mental Retardation. 39, 286-296. One form that the denial of incompetence takes these days is exemplified in this article that in essence argued that because no one is fully competent in all domains and decisions of life, a severely retarded person should be considered competent and merely in need of support.

*We learned with some alarm that the latest politically correct ideology is that the independence of handicapped people should no longer be fostered through educational, daily living, and work skill development, but by letting handicapped people define themselves what they want, and surrounding them with relationships (TASH Newsletter, 2/01). While the latter is meritorious, the idea that one can replace the former, and that the two strategies are mutually incompatible, just brings out the irrationality and insanity of so-called post-modernism.
Wehmeyer, M. (1992). Self-determination and the education of students with mental retardation. Education & Training in Mental Retardation, 27, 303-314. We need to be very clear that leading figures in the field of human impairment have totally decoupled the construct of self-determination from that of mental competence, with definitions of self-determination that would allow all but perhaps the most severely mentally impaired people, as well as persons who need full-time personal assistance, to be "self-determining." An example is the definition of self-determination by Wehmeyer (1992): "acting as the primary causal agent in one's life and making choices and decisions regarding one's quality of life, free from undue external influence or interference" (p. 305). This almost sounds like a definition of God.

One phenomenon that has struck us is that mentally retarded people who have begun to be identified as "self-advocates," and who begin to attend self-advocacy conventions and similar events, apparently get told and socialized to always "speak up." In consequence, they may attend any kind of public event where many of them seem compelled to make public statements, usually about their personal lives, even when these are not appropriate to the occasion. As more and more of this happens, the novelty of this to other people begins to wear off, and even though they may not say or do anything about it, they probably start taking away negative impressions or sentiments.

The more persons we met who played leading roles in the self-advocacy movement, the more we became impressed with the fact that many are not mentally retarded. For instance, some of them are cerebrally palsied, some have spent much of their early years in institutions, and so on, but to a skilled observer, it is apparent from the level of their ideation, as it is expressed in their discourse, that they were never retarded even if they may have been very deprived in life. Of course, it makes perfect sense that retarded people would vote into leadership such persons who seem to be particularly articulate, if they attend their meetings.

One problem with all of this is that some people who might very well escape the image and designation of being mentally retarded get anchored into career mental retardation identity and self-advocacy roles, and this keeps many of them out of other kinds of valued roles and relationships.

One of the ironies of the ideology/idolatry of absolute self-determination is that on the one hand, it posits a kind of free will, i.e., that people are free to make all sorts of "choices" about all sorts of things in life. On the other hand, this ideology is intimately tied to a materialistic worldview and its implied determinism, and that bad things happen to people as a result of their "bad choices" or "mistakes." Furthermore, this very same peculiar version of free will is then used to justify people abdicating responsibility for the plight of others. That is, people can freely (and presumably legitimately) choose not to help others in any way whatsoever, on the basis or with the rationale that whatever problems others have are their own fault, the result of their own self-determination and (bad) choices. Thus, radical self-determination lets everyone off the hook of responsibility for each other, and therefore actually greatly jeopardizes all sorts of vulnerable people.

A case came to court in Chicago where the Department of Children and Family Services of the State of Illinois took a 5-year-old boy away from his mother on charges of child abuse because she was still breast-feeding him. However, the case was drawn not so much on breast-feeding a child of that age as that the child allegedly did not want to be breast-fed. This case contributes to many others on the current scene where children are granted (or attributed with) all sorts of "self-determinations." One now wonders whether another child that demanded to be breast-fed, but where the demand was declined by the mother, might also be taken away from her on charges of child abuse. Another interesting question here is whether a child taken away from a mother because of prolonged breast-feeding will then be better off in the foster care circus.

A girl who was enabled by the authorities, against the wishes of the parents, to be promiscuous became pregnant by age 14, had a baby by 15, and one day at age 17 when she was trying to go out got frustrated at not finding a babysitter, so she took her 16-month-old infant and hurled him into a nearby river where he died. There is nothing particularly unusual about any of this these days, except for one thing: the mother's name was not being released to the public because she was a juvenile entitled to special protection, and her crime was chalked up as juvenile delinquency (AP in SHJ, 8 June 2000, p. A10). In other words, she was too young to be held fully responsible,
but not too young to be turned loose sexually and from under parental tutelage. This is typical PC self-determination.

*In many ways, an ideology of radical self-determination constitutes a declaration of independence from both the moral order and even from reality itself.

*In light of the radical self-determination dogma, it is surprising to read that even a very liberal newspaper asserted in an editorial that children "sometimes have to be protected from what they think they want" (Syracuse Herald-American, 8 Oct. 2000, p. D2). So why does the same not apply to adults of impaired mentality?

*Turnbull, A., & Turnbull, R. (2001). Self-determination for individuals with significant cognitive disabilities and their families. Journal of the Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps (JASH). 26(1), 56-62. This is one of the few publications in the contemporary human service literature concerned with mentally limited people that offers even a modicum of critique of the currently-reigning self-determination religion. This article defines self-determination as "having or experiencing quality of life consistent with one’s own values, preferences, strengths, and needs." This is a problematic and tautological equation of "self-determination" and "quality of life." The article focuses entirely on one family’s experience with their own severely handicapped adult son, though it does make reference to other severely and profoundly mentally handicapped people, and to other families. The main thrusts of the article are these. (a) Not every culture places the same high value on having a lot of choices and being self-determining, and this includes cultures that are widely represented in the US (e.g., Hispanic and Asian cultures); (b) people who are severely mentally handicapped need a lot of help to "be" self-determining, even though they may be able (via their behavior) to indicate their preferences and desires; (c) helping even only one handicapped person to be self-determining requires a tremendous amount of time/financial resources/sacrifice of their own interests and needs by many others, e.g., family, friends and allies, taxpayers, even other handicapped people who may not receive time and financial resources because these are being diverted to the self-determining person. For instance, the authors, who both are highly intelligent and credentialed university professors in human services, discovered that each of them had to spend 15 hours a week for several months to support their impaired adult son’s "self-determination." Obviously, this makes a mockery of this particular (but now common) construct of self-determination. They reported a significant loss in their own "quality of life" to do this.

Unfortunately, the authors do not seem able to bring themselves to say that there is something totally unrealistic, and even wrong, about the self-determination ideal for everyone, and that it can be a cover for, and an endorsement of, just plain selfishness. Instead, they recommend: "more research" on the issue, particularly when applied to severely mentally impaired people; "partnerships" of various kinds; and changes in service practice (e.g., streamlining of funding provisions, and establishment of broker agencies) to do some of the work of supporting self-determination.

*Reading yet one other study that attempted to increase self-determination in mentally handicapped people, the TIPS editor conceived the following title of a publication that undoubtedly is bound to come along one of these days: "Experimental Enhancement of Self-Determination in Multiple Pedophile Offenders Who Successfully Eluded Probationary Supervision."

*McKnight, T.J., & Kearney, C.A. (2001). Staff training regarding choice availability for persons with mental retardation: A preliminary analysis. Journal of Developmental & Physical Disabilities. 13(1), 1-10. Just to underline how much the "choice" craze is ideologically rather than empirically grounded, one can cite a study by McKnight and Kearney (2001) that giving mentally retarded adult residents in community residences greater "choice availability" did not change their behaviors either for the better or the worse.

*We were told the story of a mentally handicapped woman who had rings on all of her fingers. These rings eventually became ingrown, and suddenly created an emergency in the middle of the night. The doctors told her human service workers that they either had to cut off the rings or the fingers, but when the woman preferred to have nothing done at all, the workers interpreted that as a "personal choice" issue, rather than to take energetic efforts to save her fingers and possibly her life—until one determined worker with more common sense stepped in.
*Newsweek (4 Dec. 2000) carried an article with the headline "The Right to Choose," which actually referred to women deciding whether to have Caesarean births. One of several problems with this headline and the mentality behind it is that when a person's right to choose imposes on another person (e.g., the taxpayer) the obligation to pay, then one gets into one-sided entitlement attitudes. In the case of private insurance coverages, a simple way out of an entire class of such dilemmas is to offer people a vastly greater range of "choices" as to what their policy would cover, and adjust rates accordingly. This way, subscribers could opt in or out of plans that cover fertility treatments, contraception, Viagra, mind drugs, shrinkery generally, abortions, Caesarean on demand, etc., etc. Why is there so little "choice" along these lines?

*The Canadian humorist Red Green has commented that having so many choices just complicates life, and that with all these choices, we end up with "an unlimited variety of mediocre" instead of a few versions of something good. He also noted what we have long felt: that having so many choices is crippling, rather than liberating, and that on an ongoing basis, most of us want and need other people to make decisions for us (Syracuse Herald Journal, 22 Nov. 99, p. B6).

*If it is true what the modernists say these days that the more choice the better, then it just occurred to us how one can make a contribution to maximizing choice in the world. Our answer is to flood the world with multiple choice tests for every conceivable purpose and on every conceivable occasion; to have a huge number of choices for each item, rather than the customary 2-6 that we are used to; and to assure that all the answer choices for every item are equally correct. This should at least make a small contribution to the apparently unquenchable thirst of modernists for "choice."

*Huge grants intended to combat smoking among youths have been awarded under the category of "youth empowerment" in New York State (SPS, 30/4/01).

*Government giving money to businesses in poverty areas has led to the designation of such areas as "empowerment zones."

*In Syracuse in 1999, there was an exhibit of art by "artists who are challenged by disabilities," and totally unnecessarily, its title was "Empowerment Expo 99." One cannot even draw a picture of a house, tree or person anymore without it being called "empowerment."

*In Britain, there is a government-appointed board for licensing new drugs. It came out that two-thirds of its members (mostly scientists) had financial interests in pharmaceutical firms producing drugs the board is supposed to regulate (NCR, 27/8/00).

*In 2001, it was discovered to much embarrassment that some of the top suspects in the Rwandan genocide of 1994 were actually working in the very UN tribunal that was supposed to prosecute such killers. This is truly making the fox the guardian of the henhouse (SPS, 17/7/01).

*There are people who believe that the self-determination and radical rights movement has peaked, at least as it pertains to impaired and devalued people, and that the next craze wave will be the address of citizenship functioning. We believe that there may be some truth at least to the former, insofar as at our workshops that deal with the deconstruction of the radical rights position, we have seen a great deal of agreement with our critique. However, we can foresee the next perversion in any new such direction as well, and feel that as usual, one craze may replace another without sufficient thought, depth and analysis.

*The human rights commission of the Canadian province of Saskatchewan ruled in 6/01 that public references to certain Bible passages constitute "hate speech." Specifically, these were Bible passages that referred to homosexuality. People who testified before the commission characterized Judaism and Catholicism as extreme religions, and fundamentalists as "satanic" (NCR, 15/7/01).

*Georgia Advocacy Office. (1998). Reaching out to people in state psychiatric hospitals 1996-1997. Atlanta, GA: Author. Members of the Georgia state protection and advocacy office went into a mental institution and interviewed many residents. Here are some of the things the inmates told them.
Pills, that's about all, and going outside to smoke but I don't smoke. I can't stand it.
I thought I needed something for depression, which I am getting, but this place is making me a nervous wreck.

[My social worker] is tops. However the staff, for the most part, cannot control themselves let alone help us.
Get me out of here. They are so disorganized. I need my meds. They won't give me my meds [for AIDS] but they have everyone else zombied out.
I might as well be in prison.
There is nothing to do. We do nothing but sit and sleep. One day a woman came and played a tape to do exercise for five minutes. That night we played Bingo for ten minutes.
Being in this hospital is like losing my wife.
We have been to those silly classes (i.e., "group therapy") so many times...I don't need those.
There is lots of things I could be doing rather than just sitting here.
I do not get treatment here. My days consist of getting up at 6:00 a.m., having meals, taking meds and going on smoke breaks. That's all.
What happens is the opposite of what you need.
The showers and bathrooms are not clean. People need thongs for their feet.
Our TV hasn't worked in three months.
There are too many roaches in the bedroom. There is a stink from the other side of the building.
The bathroom is so dirty and wet, one girl slipped and hit her head and had to be hospitalized.
There is a urine smell in the quiet [seclusion] rooms. Huge bugs everywhere.
The place is nasty. The clothes don't fit, have to walk around barefooted, take showers with no shoes. They don't clean the showers after people use them.
The building is like a 1945 car.
Staff don't question me right or get to know me. They always asking these technical questions and writing down what they observe.

*The cost of whistle-blowing. An anesthesiologist at a British hospital, the Royal Brampton in London, discovered that the mortality of children being operated on there was about 6 times the national average, but he got nowhere trying to draw attention to the problem internally, and when he eventually blew the whistle, he was practically drummed out of his profession (Sunday Age, 14/6/98; source item from John Armstrong).

*The American poet James Russell Lowell (1819-1891) said,
"They are slaves who fear to speak
For the fallen and the weak."

Human Service News

*While people may have learned from the media that close to 30,000 government workers in Minnesota had gone on strike in early October (despite the September tragedies), few of the media also reported that the governor of Minnesota actually called out the National Guard to take over these jobs, including the staffing of public services for the handicapped and the elderly. We found it ironic that the National Guard would have to be called out to change beds and wipe butts in places such as nursing homes.

*One thing we noticed was that the fall TV season began with a literal blizzard of advertisements, on all major channels, for both prescription and over-the-counter drugs of all kinds. This blizzard continued through the coverage of the terrorist acts of 11 Sept., and is still going strong as this is going to press in mid-January. During an ad break of a program, there might often be advertisings for 3 or 4 different drugs, one following the other. What amazes us is how few people seem to be aware of such obvious massive strategies and events.

*Among the people who are supporting cloning are rich owners of pets who love their pets as much or more than their children. They would pay almost anything if they could have their pet cloned (Newsweek, 16/7/01). Maybe these are the kinds of people who keep dissolving in tears about the 11 Sept. victims whom they never knew.
In a sample of supermarket ground meat and poultry, 20% was found to be contaminated with salmonella, and usually a strain that is resistant to antibiotics. This is the result of having used antibiotics routinely in feeding livestock. Unless drastic measures are taken, this will get worse and worse until there will be the inevitable wave of fatalities and drastic changes in lifestyle that we have seen along other fronts after predictable disasters actually happened.

We were told in late 2001 that almost all MR services in many states are now financed by Medicaid, with residential services often having been converted from ICF/MR types with their regulations to Medicaid "waivers" and their even worse regulations—but that there are hardly any officials on the state level who can understand the arrangement.

Just how much Medicaid and health care fraud there is is unknown, and estimates vary very widely between $10-$100 billion annually (Quality of Care, Fall 2000). One is astonished to learn that a couple were able to set up a not-for-profit service agency with a 10-place group home for persons with "autism" and other impairments near New York City, and managed to steal $752,000 in Medicaid funds, with the husband at the same time claiming disability benefits for allegedly having no earned income. When the couple realized they were being found out, they fled (NYSCQC, 1/99). What is remarkable is that in the US, even a relatively small human service agency can, if it wished to, perpetrate gigantic fraud. In New York State, the operator of a small agency running a 10-bed intermediate care facility and a transportation program managed to steal $500,000 in Medicaid funds, of which he was eventually ordered to return half (Quality of Care, Fall 2000). Apparently, crime paid! We suspect that service operators who understand Medicaid better than government officials are the ones most successful at stealing the money.

Prior to the 1970s, few children were "in therapy." Since then, there has been a sharp increase in youths who are deemed to be emotionally disturbed, or who at any rate are receiving shrinkery, and much of it supplemented with, or consisting of, psychoactive drugs, even though the drugs have received very little testing on children. This is both an expression of the PPP dynamics, which rope ever more people into clientage, and of the increasing dysfunctionality and collapse of society and the family. Also, child shrink facilities, including the number of "beds," are increasing.

In the US, there are various ways in which a person can be involuntarily committed to a mental facility. Interestingly, the police can bust into somebody's home if they have an involuntary psychiatric commitment order without having to serve any warrant, as is required under the 4th Amendment right to be "free of unreasonable search and seizure," nor is such busting-in interpreted to violate the 14th Amendment right of "due process," all of which once again underlines how shrinkery feels that it should be above the law (Culture Wars, 7/97).

In 1996, a Massachusetts man left a meeting with his psychiatrist with a sarcastic remark, and shortly after coming home, the police were at his door with an involuntary commitment order faxed to them by the psychiatrist. When the man turned to put on his jacket, the police threw him on the ground and knelt on his back as his wife and child watched and screamed in horror. The police explained that they did not have time to wait for people on commitment orders to get their toilet articles and clothes together, because this ties up too much police time.

In Massachusetts alone, there are 18,000 involuntary commitments annually, which can last as long as 24 days before there is any judicial review. By this time, a person may have been severely drugged, and even beaten and abused. But even when the person being forcibly committed suffers injury, state employees are immune from penalty. Advocates for the mentally disordered say that there is no legal way to avoid these sorts of things, advising "stay calm, don't make a scene, hopefully it won't be too bad," much like Jews used to be advised to act during a pogrom. Interestingly, "patients" defined as dangerous sometimes are very suddenly declared "cured" and released when their insurance runs out. Cynics have called running out of money the cure for mental illness.

In 12/97, Doug Mouncey sent us a flyer of the Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Health Care, of which we had never heard before. Even after reading this multi-page flyer, we found it very difficult to understand whom the association represents. It appears to be mostly shrink-types working with people (including drug dependent ones) who are not, or not yet, in a residential service.
According to recent studies, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is spectacularly unsuccessful, despite the hype that surrounds it. With CPR outside of a hospital setting, survivor rates are only between 1-3%, and even within hospitals, it is only about 15%, and at least half of these suffer significant neurological impairments. All this contrasts with the success rate of CPR depicted on TV which ranges between 67-75% (B&C, 7/00). CPR is much more likely to be successful in certain specific conditions such as hypothermia, drowning or electrocution. Also, training programs in CPR and similar programs convey grossly over-optimistic expectations to the trainees.

The Danish-born and German-raised psychologist Erik Erikson, born in 1903 and who lived into his 90s, is credited with having forged the notion of "identity" as a major psychological construct which has since entered common parlance. What hardly anybody has known until recently is that Erikson and his wife had a fourth child that had Down's syndrome, and which they institutionalized immediately after birth, virtually never visited, and was not publicly acknowledged. The son died at age 21. This is a good example of what particularly privileged parents quite commonly used to do in the "bad old days" before the reform era.

How times have changed. On 23 Feb. 2000, the PAX television network presented a program called "Miracle Babies," about a number of children with birth defects. The mother of one little girl said the information she received told her the child would be severely retarded and "would end up in a group home." In the "bad old days," "ending up in an institution" used to be the horror phrase, and being able to get into a group home was the Mecca.

During the Christmas season of 1999, a wealthy Pennsylvania couple drove their 10-year-old severely impaired and retarded son to a children's hospital in Delaware and abandoned him there. The mother had served as a member of the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Planning Council since 1997. The boy had been receiving 10 hours of nursing service a day, and the parents had hired additional help for another 8-10 hours each day. Apparently, the abandonment was the result of a crisis in the parents' marriage. The event triggered an avalanche of media publicity, commentary and debate in the generic media, the professional ones, and those controlled by impaired people themselves. The generic media and public tended to be sympathetic with the parents, while the other two kinds of media and responses were rather condemnatory. What surprised us was that hardly any party tried to first get the parents' story before opining and judging on it.

One result of all this was that five months later, an Oregon couple also dropped off at a hospital their 11-year-old daughter who also had intellectual as well as emotional impairments, and was very misbehaved. The parents said that they were not abandoning their daughter but trying to get help for her. They admitted that they were no longer able to control their anger about the situation. Apparently, no one drew a connection between the two cases and proposed that this was a copycat event, and that we may now see a small avalanche of similar ones.

There are many demographic trends in developed countries that have dramatic impacts, but they have not yet sunk in on most people. For instance, with a larger proportion of the population becoming older, and the younger population shrinking, services for the elderly have increasing difficulty recruiting and retaining staff. This problem comes on top of astronomic turnover rates in such services even during the preceding 20 or 30 years (e.g., SHA, 10 June 01). The biggest crunch may come between 2010-2020.

We are in danger of a new form of human service vagabondism, as private firms are hiring nurses to send on an ad hoc basis all over the United States to help out with temporary nursing shortages in various hospitals. In 2000, just a single one of the four hospitals in Syracuse had 30 such traveling nurses on its staff.

There is a new discipline that calls itself psychoneuroimmunology that is concerned with how stress depresses people's immune system, makes them sick, and impairs their mental functioning. In some people it produces the behavior that is these days called depression.
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