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## TIPS, Volume 08, No. 5, 1989

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### Recommended Citation

Wolfensberger, Wolf P., "TIPS, Volume 08, No. 5, 1989" (1989). *Training Institute Publication Series (TIPS)*. 39.

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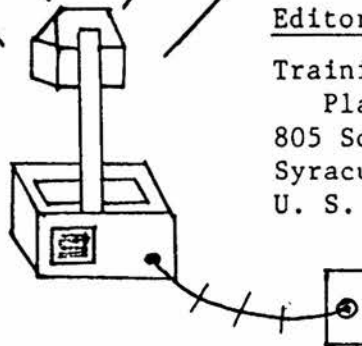
# TIPS

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Vol. 8, No. 5,  
February, 1989

TRAINING INSTITUTE  
PUBLICATION SERIES

Syracuse, New York  
13244-2280

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In the 4/84 & 2/88 issues of TIPS, we explained some of the major contemporary dynamics which make for disfunctional human services these days, and how these express themselves. Readers are encouraged to leaf through those issues once again in order to fully appreciate some of the material presented in this issue.

Our theme this month is contemporary human service practices. For readers who have recently joined us, we briefly recapitulate that many of the most important contemporary service patterns in developed nations must be understood in light of the fact that ours is a "post-primary production" economy, abbreviated PPP.

In a PPP economy, the production of primary goods needed to sustain life (food, clothing, and shelter) is done by a very small percentage of the population, usually with the aid of machinery and other technology. The rest of the population must therefore be occupied in other ways, but since none of these others ways are productive, they must de facto be unproductive or even counter-productive. Thus, for example, such an economy employs whole armies of people in paperwork and creates and maintains entire classes of people in devalued dependency, so that they can provide employment to entire other sectors of the population. Of course, all of this is done in complex and hidden ways, and is interpreted as beneficial, progressive, etc.

In some of the TI workshops, we point out that in a post-primary production society, the wealth must be redistributed from those who produce it to those who do not, by a complicated system that in our society involves militarism, the production of goods and services that are not needed, the manufacture of objects that do not last--and by human services that create a handicapped and dependent population. The recent mass destruction of family farms is a good example. The people who produce our very wealth do not receive enough income to be able to support themselves, and are stripped of their land and livelihood. One of the consequences would be that ruthless industrial agriculture firms will take over that are notorious for poisoning land, water, and air, and for reducing the life-carrying capacity of the Earth. Surely, such an evil scheme as ours cannot long escape terrible retribution.

## Post-Primary Production Phenomena in the Larger Culture

In order to illustrate the post-primary production phenomena, we give a few vignettes, from the larger culture. By seeing the non-human service version thereof, we can better appreciate its operation or expression in human services.

\*Relatively recent signs of both the transition of our economy to a PPP one, as well as of related maladaptive trends, are the following. For a whole series of years, 2 million workers a year have been displaced because of industrial plant closings; 90% of new jobs created between 1983-86 have been in the service sector; 60% of the new jobs created since 1979 have paid less than \$7000 a year; unemployment rates throughout the 1980s have been around 7% or higher; almost as many people as are unemployed are working part-time, but would have preferred to work full-time; an indeterminable but high number of people have quit looking for work; and another high but indeterminable number are not counted among the unemployed for various reasons (San Francisco Chronicle, 1/87; source item from Sandra Meucci).

\*The peak of the US farm population was in 1916 with 32.5 million, and stayed near that level until World War II. In 1987, the US farm population fell below 5 million, which is only 2% of the population, and fewer than there were in 1820 when the US population was 9.6 million. (Source item from Tony Wainwright).

\*Since 1981, the price of a box of wheat breakfast cereal has gone up 84%, while the farmer has been receiving 33% less for the wheat (Greenpeace, 1 & 2/1989).

\*While family farms are being driven into bankruptcy, agri-business firms that farm are reaping unconscionable benefits from federal farm subsidy programs initially said to have been passed for the benefit of family farmers. One California farming operation will get \$20 million in federal subsidies, and multi-million dollar payments to others will be common.

\*In its various training events, the Training Institute has often made the point that one of several major reasons why society needs to designate some people as deviant is to assure that there will be people willing to do the unpleasant but necessary chores that valued people would refuse to do. It is remarkable how poorly understood, or even rejected, these realities are by many human service workers, yet how obvious they are to the "naive" citizen. This was brought home most strikingly in a CBS Evening News report on 28 July 1983, on the recruitment of poor, homeless, mostly alcoholic people of the streets to work as laborers in the fields harvesting crops. Apparently, this system of employment is often so set up that a laborer's pay is docked for food, cigarettes, even alcohol, and shelter in very run-down shacks, and many laborers thus end up in debt rather than having earned any money for a few days' or weeks' work. One farmer who employs such laborers defended this system by stating that it is necessary to hire these poor people at low wages because "those high-paid teachers and lawyers aren't gonna come out here in the hot sun and do it, only the poor people that have to do it," and that if there were no such cheap labor, food prices would skyrocket and "those people who think food grows in the grocery store are gonna go hungry."

\*Just how alienated contemporary city folks are from the source of their existence was underlined by the following vignette. In response to requests from hard-pressed farmers, the government of the Canadian province of New Brunswick saw itself compelled to introduce a "right to farm" law in 5/86 because farmers were being sued by all sorts of neighbors who moved into the vicinity of farms on their own volition in the first place, but who did not like the smell of manure and the occasional noise of farming operations.

\*A sales campaign for raisins that sells plastic raisins and cut-outs is expected to earn more money (\$250 million in 1988) than the raisin harvest itself (Newsweek, 26/9/88). A most despicable PPP phenomenon.

\*In the northeast US, the 100 largest non-profit organizations employ more people than the region's 100 leading industrial companies (Newsweek, 5 January 87).

\*In Boston, the sewage system first separates sludge from the waste water-- and then dumps both the waste water and the sludge into the harbor. As a conservation lawyer put it, "If that sounds unbelievable, it's because it is" (Newsweek, 1 August 88). This is certainly yet another wonderful way in a PPP society of employing people and devouring resources.

\*There were 16.3 million government employees in the US in 1988, and probably many more today. In many cities, government is the single biggest employment sector.

\*Unlike in the olden days when a small town or rural area might be almost totally dependent for employment on its local institution or prison, today, some very big cities are equally dependent on defense contracts. (War work is not productive!) For instance, for the Syracuse, NY area, a \$161 million defense contract through General Electric Company was described by the local media as "vital to local employment." (SHJ, 6 April 88)

\*At a cost of \$3.3 billion, the Air Force built a missile launching complex at Vandenburg Air Base that is so poorly constructed that it may never become usable (Perpetual Notions, 12/88). Of course, an unusable missile complex is not only more PPP than a usable one, but also better.

\*A fashion article in the Syracuse Herald Journal (13/8/86) proclaimed that the life expectancy of bathing suits is two seasons, for sweaters three, and for jackets four. The TIPS editor has used ties for over 30 years, a pair of shorts for 30 years, the same swimming trunks for almost 30, some shoes for about 20, several suits for several decades apiece, one shirt served at least 20 years, and so on. What all this proves is that the media are systematically brainwashing the population to think in terms of speediest possible discard of attire, so as to promote a post-primary production style of economy.

\*A particularly striking phenomenon of the already highly PPP fashion industry is the invention and promotion of children's fashion which took on an entirely new thrust during the 1980s, and which has culminated in regular childrens' fashion shows in ad sections of newspapers, particularly when it is time for "school fashions" or spring fashions.

\*The changes of modernism and the PPP economy come so subtly that a lot of people may lose awareness of them. For instance, it is only since the 1980s, or at least so it seems, that one could see cat food advertisements on prominent time slots on TV.

\*Few people have fully realized how much the news media actually serve an entertainment function. Every day, news reports on newspapers, radio and TV are scheduled to go out regardless of what actually happens in the world. Thus, in order to fill these slots, spaces and media, and so that everyone involved can earn their keep, news often has to be manufactured. On the one hand, there is not a great deal going on that is newsworthy. On the other hand, some things which are very newsworthy do not get reported, or get underreported, and it is often the entertainment value rather than the newsworthiness that decides what gets included. For instance, some environmental disasters have great entertainment value (e.g., Three Mile Island), while others do not. Into the latter category might fall the genocide of the people of Timor by the Indonesians, which has been going on for some years, and yet is rarely even mentioned. Also not very entertaining is news of lengthy famines, or environmental news which are experienced as very unpleasant, such as prolonged drought in much of Africa. As a result, and in essence, the media very commonly manufacture news with entertainment value.

\*A fish story of our time. In the 1930s, a boy set a world record in catching the world's biggest large-mouth bass at 22+ pounds. His reward was a few tiny items in some newspapers and \$14 worth of fishing equipment sent to him by manufacturers. Because this was during the Depression and his family was poor, they ate the fish and never even thought of stuffing it, and after all, the only reason they fished was for food. In 1988, a woman in San Francisco caught a 21+ pound bass, and within hours, she was overrun with demands for public appearances and speeches, all sorts of financial offers, contacted by oodles of lawyers, and able to earn thousands upon thousands of dollars. She had to turn the whole business end of this over to an attorney. (SHJ, 22/3/88).



\*Many researchers in the so-called life sciences (medicine-related) have to write half-a-dozen grant proposals a year in order to keep their laboratories or research projects going. What this means is that research is no longer the major function of so many researchers, but grant-writing--a phenomenon perfectly consistent with post-primary production economic realities (Science, 9 August 85). A Feiffer cartoon (listed in Adams, 1988) has an academic give the following monologue. "I applied for a grant to do research on competitive games in the Weimar Republic. I didn't get it. So I applied for a grant to do research on the psychodynamics of rejection in early childhood. I didn't get it. So I applied for a grant to do research on the oppression of talent in the Soviet Union. I didn't get it. So I applied for a grant to do research on sadism as public policy in post-industrial America. I didn't get it. So I applied for a grant to do research on how to get a grant. I got \$10,000 from Guggenheim!"

\*The British Medical Association has been working on a medical plan for the aftermath of nuclear war. Medical services would give the highest priority to saving plumbers, because they could make an invaluable contribution in the restoration of uncontaminated drinking water. Closely behind would be carpenters and stone masons, having the skills to rebuild the country. Lowest priority would go to people over 60. People now highest in the social hierarchy, such as business executives and civil servants, would end up very low. All that is the bad news; the good news is that this gang apparently has gained insight into PPP realities (Daily Mail, 10 May 88; source item from Paul Williams).

\*In all seriousness, Eric Satie's "Vexations" was performed in 1982 at Hendricks Chapel of Syracuse University. The work was composed of 108 notes lasting a total of 80 seconds, which have to be repeated a total of 840 times for a duration of 18 hours and 14 minutes. People actually paid admittance to the event, and a team of performers took turns playing for 20 minutes each, a professor taking the first portion. Patrons paying \$20 were given a discount for every hour spent at the concert. The event was a classical example of what a post-primary production society has to do in order to circulate the wealth and keep people occupied.

\*We have discovered an entirely new and most ingenious utilization of manpower in a PPP economy. A few years ago, there was a tiny little left-wing party in the US with a mere 466 members--but it turned out that 52 of these actually worked for the FBI (Augustus, 1986, No. 9). We can anticipate entire subversive parties made up of nothing but FBI, CIA and police employees. In fact, this might be a most wonderful ingenious type of solution for the unemployment problem of handicapped people. Indeed, a single handicapped person could belong to perhaps a score of suspect movements and parties, all composed of people on the payroll of the empire.

\*In 1988, there were 16.3 lawyers in DC for every thousand inhabitants. If one substracts children, the ratio becomes even more remarkable (Newsweek, 26/88).

\*A Texas humorist made fun of East coast lawyers in a way that revealed that he must have grasped some of the mysteries of our PPP economy: *"What young, ambitious attorney could pass up the opportunity to be a junior partner in a Wall Street firm that advises Canadian liquor conglomerates on the strategies for suing Scottish competitors in American courts to leverage hostile takeover attempts against Caribbean holding companies that build condos in Tokyo?"*

\*Every year, \$300 million are spent in the US to sprinkle rock salt on roads in wintertime to de-ice them. This practice inflicts about \$15 billion in damage to road and bridge deterioration and ground water contamination (Greenpeace, 1 & 2/1989). Salt is often put on the roads not because it is needed but in order to use it up so that all sorts of people can be employed or make a profit. Also, other countries manage quite nicely with hardly any salt, using a variety of other measures.

\*Otto Friedrich, a noted commentator on numerous aspects of modern life, asked the question what the ratio was between people who actually make things or provide services, and those who are paid to prevent the others from doing so. He believes the ratio might be 1:2, or even 1:3 (Time, 7/7/86).

\*We must not be deceived by the official unemployment rates, because these very deceptively do not include those people who have simply been defined out of the labor force, which includes, among others, chronically dependent persons such as large numbers of mentally handicapped people supported by SSI. For some time now, official unemployment in the US has hovered between 7 and 8%, and if one adds those defined out of the labor market, and those who have been pushed out of the labor force by early retirement, the figure rises dramatically. Obviously, a large proportion of those defined out of the labor market are not incapable of working, if only suitable opportunities and incentives existed.

Post-Primary Production Dynamics Expressed in Human Services

\*As TIPS readers know, we feel that the organized structures in contemporary human services--we call them the imperial service structures--do just about as much harm as they do good, and perhaps even do more harm in balance than good. In our type of PPP economy, their major mission is to support the economy rather than to develop, heal and habilitate people; and the major way they support the economy is by employing people and consuming resources (drugs, stationery, computers, etc). But even beyond this, our society is in a state of collapse which expresses itself in all its sectors, including the human service sector, where it accounts for some mighty bizarre, or at least stupid and ineffective, practices.

How much human services are really PPP economic activities on behalf of human service workers and society rather than on behalf of clients is underlined by the appearance of a book in 1985 entitled Marketing Strategies for Human and Social Service Agencies. A reviewer of the book in Contemporary Psychology (2/1987) said "marketing is a new, hot concept in human service administration...the entry of aggressive for-profit organizations into the health and human service sectors and the growing competition for human service dollars have made marketing practically a crusade. Over the past several years, seminars on applying marketing techniques in human service settings have been among the most popular in national health and mental health conferences." Indeed, it is now quite common for private psychiatric facilities to have "marketing departments"--something that would have been unthinkable once.

\*Gordon, A., Bush, M., McKnight, J., Gelberd, L., Dewar, T., Fagan, K., & McCarains, A. (1975). Beyond need: Toward a service society. In L. Basaglia (Ed.). The crime of peace. Turin, Italy: New Politechnic.

As early as 1974, Gordon, Bush, McKnight, Gelberd, Dewar, Fagan, and McCarains wrote a paper (1975) in which they sketched a "serviced society" in which human services function very much as a bureaucracy alienated from any genuine human service purpose. They sketched a scenario in which such a service sector would be characterized by four phenomena: (a) the artificial creation and/or expansion of "needs" for services; (b) a scheme for the "management" of a clientele; (c) the control of information and accountability to non-clients on the outside; and (d) the promotion of the growth of public perception of a need. Need and need perception would be so managed that there would always appear to be a greater need than the service system could meet. This enables the service system to engage in opportunistic selection from the needy class, usually taking care to select those who will least disrupt the service system itself. Accordingly, one favorite client group would be those who are actually least in need of service because when they are "rehabilitated," the public is apt to perceive the service system as successful. In this fashion, healthy people are defined as having undiagnosed diseases, perhaps even symptomless diseases, and as being de facto sick or pre-sick. Sane people are said to be pre-mentally disturbed, and law-abiding ones to be latently criminal or pre-criminal. All need services lest they slip into acute and severe stages of their undesirable condition. Another favorite client group are those who are powerless and have few outside defenders, thereby minimizing outside interference. An additional advantage would be that such persons may often be perceived by the public as most in need of service.

It is in the interest of the service system to manage clients in a fashion that imposes the least inconvenience upon that system. Accordingly, efforts will be made to persuade clients that that kind of service is what they in fact need. A wonderful example of this nowadays is of course office-based psychotherapy which is enormously lucrative and phenomenally convenient for its practitioners, often even being located

in their own homes, and indeed millions of people have been persuaded that this is what they really need. In order to set up in this kind of practice nowadays, it takes very little education, no common sense whatsoever, nor even life experience or success in managing one's own life. The clients must also be socialized so as to be unable to think of any alternatives for their predicaments other than that which the service system offers to them. Further by sketching service goals which are extremely amorphous or unattainable, such as "actualization," the service function can be expanded to infinity.

Obviously, all of the above implies an enormous manipulation of language, and the imagery<sup>3</sup> concepts related to it. Also contributing to the smooth running of the service system is its systematic labeling of any client behavior which interferes with it as deviant, accompanied by the systematic reinforcement of compliant client behavior as adaptive, and as signs of progress.

Another adaptive mechanism for the system is to persuade the public that nobody is competent to examine and evaluate the operation of the service system except those who have already been licensed and trained in it. To make sure that this interpretation is accepted, the language of the service system is made mystifying to those outside of it. Professional organizations and other means can actually be used to bear down on colleagues who challenge the status quo while appearing to the public to be mechanisms for accountability to it.

As evidence of its own validity and success, the system particularly capitalizes on the common phenomena of healthy clients who have not been harmed by its ministrations, spontaneous remissions, placebo recoveries, or improvements due to efforts of parties outside the system. On the other hand, failures can be explained in terms of lack of funds most of all, and problems resultant therefrom, such as insufficient numbers of workers, low salaries, inadequate equipment and facilities, etc. Even research may be said to be insufficient so as to gain support for the kind of research that is consistent with the service system's operation.

The service system also persuades the public that failures are actually successes. Where failures become undeniable, one ultimate kind of self-justification is to suggest to the public that the service system was simply not allowed to exercise enough control over certain kinds of clients in order to be able to help them.

When all of these conditions are fulfilled, the system has achieved a self-perpetuating stability because there is not really anything or anybody outside the realm of the service system. Society itself has become the service system. Equality before the law will be defined as the right to be a client of the service system and of society; and in turn, the service system and society will be defined by law as meaning that the service system has a right to treat citizens as clients.

\*McKnight, J. (1978). Professionalized service and disabling help. In I. Illich & J. McKnight et al., Disabling professions. London: Marion Boyars. Pp. 69-91.

In "Professionalized Service and Disabling Help" (1978), McKnight points out that it is no coincidence that the advent of the post-primary production economy was accompanied by a reconceptualization of human services as businesses and economies, and soon thereafter by a massive entry of entrepreneurship into human service. For instance, clients began to be called "consumers," service sectors (such as nursing homes) "industries," the terms "inputs," "outputs" and "products" began to be used, plus other terms such as "management" and "managers," "units of service" and "providers." Among the concepts which these replaced were those of "care" and "love." As John McKnight has put it in one of his articles, "removing the mask of love shows us the face of servicers who need income, and an economic system that needs growth."

John McKnight has identified several theoretical reconstructions that PPP services have engaged in in order to enlarge their empires. The existence of a need gets interpreted as proving that a deficiency existed, when in fact it could have been understood as a right, an obligation of someone else, an illusion, a desire, or an unresolved problem. McKnight likens this to defining a half-full glass of water as half-empty. Further, the service system overwhelmingly tends to ascribe the locus of deficiency as being inside the client, as exemplified by interpreting homeless children as problem children rather than as children who lack homes because either their families do not exist, are not competent, or are poor. If a person is poor because of lack of employment opportunities, it is not the economic patterns that get blamed as much as the poor person.



Further, he says that a PPP service system is shaping a feedback loop between specialization of service on the one hand, and fragmentation of the client on the other. For instance, to a podiatrist, people are not so much people as they are hoofs--but so many hoofs that have something wrong with them that need the podiatrist's ministrations. The shrinks have discovered seven life crisis, with specialists for each. Even dying has been divided into stages, and if somebody had the temerity to skip one of these and die anyway, much research will be called for to find out how s/he did it, and why, and what can be done about it.

Assumptions regarding service providers are: that they have the answers to people's needs and deficiencies; that they have answers in preference to other alternatives such as informal help or socio-economic and political changes; that they know best or at least better; and that if the service providers invent a remedy, then there are more than enough people with some need or other to whom the remedy can be applied. For instance, it is only today that people are waking up to the fact that they have needed bereavement counseling all these many zillions of years. And in order to enhance their empire, providers develop a strategy of developing specialized and esoteric language which serves the process of mystifying the citizen. Finally, since genuine and needed client improvement in a PPP service system actually declines, success of the service system is defined in terms which satisfy the service providers but which may have no reality basis. An example are the many accreditation bodies that give accreditation to human services which, on a reality-referenced evaluation scheme such as PASS or PASSING, would score as utterly atrocious.

Overall, the message to the client is: "You are deficient, and that is because you have or are the problem, and not only that, but you are a living collection of problems. We know what problem you have, and we are the solution to your problem. You can't understand the problem or the solution, and only we can decide whether the right solution has been applied to your problem, and whether your problem is now solved."

\*McKnight, J. (1976). The professional service business. Social Policy, 8(1), 110-116. If there are an awful lot of lawyers, there certainly will be discovered a "need" to deploy them, and so it is in human services. One way to interpret the human service world of a PPP society is to understand that available remedies will in good part define perceived needs. This helps us understand why people who are alleged to be depressed are interpreted as having a "lithium deficiency" so that they "need" lithium, because lithium and those who make it their business to preside over its utilization happen to be available. If psychotherapists proliferate, people will be defined as "needing" psychotherapy. We have even been told that a famous clinic in the US had provided a costly opportunity for people who do not feel that there is anything wrong with them to find out what problems they have so that available remedies that they never dreamt of could be applied to them.

\*Galper, J. H. (1975). The politics of social services. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall. This book documents that the real purpose of the social service system is to make and keep a dependent and impoverished segment of the population in dependence and poverty. The book's main emphasis is on that sector of the social services system having to do with welfare and poor people, although its analysis is just as applicable to other sectors. However, the book suffers from the author's socialist-Marxist perspective, which assumes that under a different political or political-economic system, there would be no oppression or poverty. Thus, while the analysis is very useful and valid, both the implicit and explicit suggestions as to what to do instead are probably not nearly as valid. Galper also demonstrates how some programs which were useful and helpful to the lower classes served the purposes of the wealthy at least as much as they served the poor.

Galper shows that while public expenditures for human services are very visible to the taxpayers and are constantly under attack, there exist vastly more "programs" in the form of subsidies for services to middle and upper class people than for the poor. For instance, while poor people may receive government subsidy in the form of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and public welfare, members of the middle and upper classes receive subsidies in the form of tax deductions. As early as 1962, the



US government spent approximately \$820 million on housing for the poor--but \$2.9 billion in subsidies for housing for middle and upper income people in the form of tax deductions (e.g., for interest payment). Thus, public financing undergirds a great deal of human service for all classes, and does not benefit the poor more than it does those who are not poor; it only looks that way.

\*A certain percentage of poor and/or unemployed people will, in time, find jobs on their own, and the percentage is increased only about 3-8% by the mammoth governmental work and training programs that we have seen in recent decades (Wash. Post, 24/12/86).

\*A classical example of PPP profiteering from the poor (PPPPP) occurred in just one single one of the numerous public housing projects, apparently all of them subsidized by the federal government, in Syracuse alone. Some years ago, the federal Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (or its forerunner) subsidized "urban renewal" which, as in most cities, consisted mostly of removal of the urban housing of the poor. It then subsidized the construction of a public housing project for the poor from which vast profits were made by all sorts of private parties involved in the design, construction, operation, etc. Not long after, the project was in such miserable shape that the government subsidized a very costly renovation. Not long after, the project was declared uninhabitable, and the government chipped in another \$2.2 million to tear it down, while also approving at least \$4.3 million more to build a new one in its place. It is absolutely staggering to consider how well the poor residents would have lived if they just had been given the money all along directly. All the housing that was torn down in the first place by urban removal could probably have been salvaged, outfitted like palaces, and the poor supported to live in it like kings and queens during all these years, with money left over. Instead, we have more homeless people than ever.

\*In Rhode Island, the housing authority that oversees subsidized and public housing for the poor had just the answer for poor families who get behind in rent payments: they authorized a social work position to "work with" such families (Providence Journal-Bulletin, 26/9/86).

\*How much of a boon to our post-primary production society the vague construct of "learning disabilities" has been is borne out by the fact that while the rhetoric of the 1975 US Federal Education For All Handicapped Children Act (PL 94-142) evoked images of severely handicapped children, the reality is that 90% of the children served as handicapped are very mildly handicapped (Exceptional Children, 1/87, p. 327).

\*In a post-primary production society, our human service journals are becoming ever more esoteric in order to provide publishing outlets for human service workers who have nothing else to do. Thus, there are now periodicals entitled "Journal of Aging and Judaism," "Pre- and Peri-Natal Psychology Journal," "Phobia Therapy Journal," a "Journal of Gambling Behavior," and even a "Journal of Rational-Emotive Therapy," which after all is merely one of over a thousand types of mental therapies.

Poetry therapy must be so popular that there is an entire journal devoted to it, sponsored by the National Association of Poetry Therapy. But it really takes the cake that there is also an American Journal of Dance Therapy. The Journal of Compliance in Health Care is "the first journal to focus exclusively on patient non-compliance," which seems to tell us to expect several more journals on that topic (source item from John Morris). Further, there is a new book out entitled Meaningful Counselling, which makes us look forward to one on Meaningless Counselling. Finally, there is such a thing as a periodical Directory of Unpublished Experimental Mental Measures, and soon we can expect a "Journal of Unpublished and Unpublishable Articles."

\*Brazil is one of the most prosperous countries of the Third World, yet half of its population lives in poverty, and there are an estimated 7 million homeless children. But progress appears to be coming fast to Brazil: in 1986, 500 street children were conveyed to a site to "talk about being homeless" (SHJ, 19/7/86).

\*In 1985, the government of Victoria launched a "youth guarantee" scheme that promised that all youths between the ages of 15-18 would get either education, training, or work. An independent study of the scheme in 11/88 disclosed that in its 3 years, the project had served 8500 young people, but youth employment actually decreased by 5%, that 76% of trainees had not met eligibility criteria, and that during the previous year, there had been only 77 trainees. Yet the government spent \$2.4 million alone on advertising the scheme. Young people would probably have been served better if the money had just been handed to them (Herald, 25/11/88; source item from Michael Steer).

\*A former Australian who now is a restaurateur in England has come up with the perfect post-primary production society scheme for what to do with unemployed people. He wants them put to work as "leisure consumers" who are paid to put in a full working week going to music recitals, dining in restaurants, throwing darts in bars, visiting sport centers to play ping pong, etc. However, he missed the boat in his proposal that the government cut out subsidies to things such as the arts and instead give the money to leisure consumers. Obviously, the PPP society must do both in order to keep the economy going. (Source item supplied by Michael Steer.)

\*The shrinks are finding fertile soil in the fact that farming is one of the most dangerous occupations, and that family farmers are being driven into bankruptcy and extinction. Accordingly, they have targeted the farm population for stress management programs, and all kinds of resources are being produced for programs along these lines. (Source item from Debi Reidy.)

\*During the drought of 1988, some agencies in the US set up hot lines for farmers and other rural residents who were having their farms and livelihood taken away. Apparently, it is less shameful to subsidize human service workers than farmers, though farmers are much more ashamed about it than human service workers. (Source item from Brian Silberberg.)

\*Yet another enlargement of the PPP human service system is reflected in recent claims that when a child below 6 has headaches, chest pain or stomach aches, the child is really "depressed"--which of course implies that the shrinks must be called in. Other "symptoms" of such depression supposedly include "sadness," fatigue, appetite loss and sleep changes. (Source clipping from Joe Osburn.) The shrink world has "discovered" that even babies can get depressed, even when they have nothing identifiable to be depressed about. This interpretation is probably meant to bolster the theory that depressions have genetic origins and have something to do with one's biochemistry.

\*Castellani, P. J., Downey, N. A., Tausing, M. B., & Bird, W. A. (1986). Availability and accessibility of family support services. Mental Retardation, 24(2), 71-79. A survey of 133 public and private agencies in New York State that supposedly deliver "family support services" revealed that a problem of many decades standing in this area still prevails. Agencies were most apt (87%) to provide "information and referral," and 77% provided diagnosis and evaluation. Only 11% provided in-home respite, and 26% provided out-of-home respite. Unfortunately, some of the services provided were difficult to ascertain because of vague names such as Parent Training (50%) and "home habilitation" (30%). One of the best bits of news was that 76% provided transportation, which used to be a rarity a few decades ago, but in most cases they provided this transportation to recreational services which they largely provided themselves (69%).

\*PPP human service absurdity has gone so far that a book has appeared, entitled At Peace With the Unborn, which says that there is a need for healing of relationships with the unborn, presumably for the offense of having conceived them.

\*P. T. Barnum supposedly said that a sucker was born every minute. Since then, suckership must have vastly increased, because we can probably now say that a human service sucker is born every minute, not even counting all other suckers. It was under the Nixon administration, which began to shift monies from certain human service and research categories to others, that an explosion took place in the propagation of systematic "grantsmanship." Books, conferences, and even entire centers sprang into existence that sold themselves by claiming to teach people how to capture the elusive federal grant dollar. The irony in all of this is that this was very lucrative to its entrepreneurs, but did not contribute one penny to the totality of available grant money; it merely intensified the competition for it. This is yet another typical example of contemporary PPP activities. For instance, the Grantsmanship Center cleverly located on Grand Avenue in Los Angeles offered as many as 16 grantsmanship workshops a month, charging \$325 fee (which was worth a lot more a few years ago than now), taking these workshops to virtually every city of any size in the US. Obviously, it was only able to do this because there were enough suckers to be sucked.

\*A highly sophisticated 10-year research project in Hawaii appears to have proven that children of Hawaiian ancestry are capable of learning--including learning to read. The project also appears to have been of particularly spectacular benefits to its staff.

\*According to one study, the steady rise in education expenditure over the last two decades has not been accompanied by any increase in student performance. Also, the amount of teacher education has not been found to be predictive of how much students learn, though we must assume that this refers to education beyond a given level only (AP, in SHJ, 2/9/86).

\*In 1985, the Dakota Indian Foundation sent out a pitiful fund-raising letter pointing out that the proud Dakota Sioux Indians were losing their culture, and the the foundation was trying to address "some of the more serious of the problems"--by means of establishing speech and hearing clinics to diagnose learning disabilities on the Indian reservation, doing research on the causes of speech and hearing problems there and why American Indians do not achieve well in schools, running mental health services, etc. One could cry, seeing how the loss of traditional culture was proposed to be combatted by doing all the crazy disfunctional deceptive things that happen in the mainstream culture.

\*An Irish government agency has given an Irish firm a \$3 million grant to create employment by developing a soap that has mercury in it, to be marketed in Africa because it lightens skin color--despite the fact that it causes anemia, kidney failure, and damage to the unborn. Its sale has been banned in the Common Market (In These Times, 4 May 88). This just goes to prove how far a PPP economy will go, and that the idea of deviancy-making of people in large numbers so that they can be made dead for the sake of keeping the economy humming cannot be far-fetched.

\*In many ways, human services can be imaged the way Hieronymus Bosch (ca. 1453-1516) depicted hell in one part of his triptych entitled the Garden of Earthly Delights. There, one sees among other things a demon who eats live human beings, and then defecates them into a pit. Other people also vomit into this pit; and interestingly, one person is seen as defecating gold pieces into it. In this symbolism, Bosch anticipated Freud who equated avarice with infantile attitudes toward (the retention of) feces.

Similarly, in his triptych entitled The Hay-Wain, the central portion which depicts life on this earth shows a hay wagon (the grass become hay symbolizing the transiency of human life and experience) being pulled vigorously and determinedly by a gang of demons toward hell, together with the people on it (some of whom are fornicating) and around it. As all sorts of atrocities are being committed by the surrounding people (including a cripple being knifed), the important people of the world (secular as well as ecclesiastic) solemnly and in utter seriousness follow the wagon to perdition in a triumphal procession, satisfied with their movement through the world, and oblivious to the fact that the whole procession will end up in hell.



### Human Service Counterfeits

A PPP service system is particularly apt to produce counterfeit services, i.e., activities that masquerade as service but are not for real. Many of these things are well described as "make-believe" services. Though this is obvious throughout the entire PPP service domain, we highlight it here separately with a few vignettes.

\*Our friend Bob Jones recently described a handicapped man who, in lieu of a family, received therapy where somebody would talk to him for 45 minutes a week; in lieu of love, he got service; in lieu of a place, he got a placement; and in lieu of a vocation, he had programs. The day he turned 18, he lost the 3 agencies who had been serving him, his 5 social workers, and all his programs, became homeless (because they were the ones who had arranged his place to live), and ended up with no place in the world, no family and no friends. Among other things, this once more illustrates the counterfeit nature of so many formal services.

\*There is a new movement based on a theory that people need body contact in order to thrive, and in order to get well if they are ill. As a result, groups and agencies are springing up (e.g., "Therapeutic Touch") that provide a form of massage to people--usually for a price. Thus, the sparsity of body contact that is available to people in an alienated world is being compensated for by a form of counterfeit body contact for which one has to pay--somewhat akin to the provision of prostituted sex as a substitute for conjugal sex. An even further perversion of the basically valid idea here is for the "therapist" not even to touch the person, but merely to move his/her hands up, down and around the person, about one inch away from the body, so as to "deal with energy." However, that too is being professionalized and then done on a paid basis.

\*A whole book appeared based on the despicable theory that because the lives of elderly people are impoverished, the way to remedy this is to have them involved in theatre. If this is not a classical example of offering a make-believe substitute for the real world and for meeting real needs in real ways, then what is? (Contemporary Psychology, 2/87).

\*After a study of articles published in the literature on personality and social psychology, a psychologist concluded that researchers in this area have contributed little to the knowledge about personality or society because they rely on faulty assumptions and inadequate research methods. They fail to use samples from meaningfully defined social groups, to consider socio-economic variables, or to study genuine interactions that are not experimentally manipulated. Personality researchers use predominantly college student subjects and rarely engage in genuinely longitudinal research of individuals, and instead rely on cross-sectional studies of groups. They also tend to concentrate on isolated variables because they can be easily quantified but that contribute little to knowledge about personality or society. Unlike in earlier days (the 1930s and 1940s), there is also no unifying intellectual force in these two fields. (Source item from Jack Pealer.)

### Human Service "Therapies"

\*In 1950, a then prominent American clinical psychologist, Victor Raimy, defined psychotherapy as "an undefined technique applied to unspecified cases with unpredictable results. For this technique, rigorous training is required." Not too much has changed since then.

\*The recent US tax reform was supposed to simplify things, but as everyone has probably learned by now, it has actually complicated things for taxpayers and is driving them insane. Not even the IRS knows what to make of the new tax laws and gives out a high percentage (about 50%) of invalid advice. In Los Angeles, a former IRS attorney with a PhD in finance has set up a practice to counsel clients who have emotional problems related to tax returns. The new therapy is called "tax therapy" (Newsweek, 29/2/88). Can tax neurosis or psychosis, with relevant professional training programs, doctoral degrees, text books, and university institutes, be far behind?

\*The German human service empire has come up with a new trick: Modifizierter Festhaltetherapie (MFT). What it means is "modified holding fast therapy." What it really is is a pin'em-to-the-ground technique, applied to so-called autistic children. Naturally, it was announced as yielding "significant" improvement across all symptom categories.

\*John Morris sent us an article on "wood therapy" written by a psychiatrist in the Vermont Castings Newsletter, a journal published by a woodstove manufacturer. The article told the advantages of doing psychotherapy in a rustic cabin heated by a wood stove. At first, one thinks that the article is facetious, but when one reads on, it sounds more and more as if the author were serious, extolling how wood fires recall childhood memories, how diagnostic it is to see whether clients will participate in stoking the fire, how the setting helps reduce social difference, and how living close to nature makes people better psychiatrists. Can wood therapy training programs, textbooks and degrees be far away?

\*Rumination is the term used to refer to habitual regurgitation of food. In handicapped young children, it is one of the most intractable problems, and commonly ends with the death of the child because hardly anything one tries seems to work. Because the condition is so deadly, one does not encounter it very often in mature adults. In the literature, one will find virtually every treatment known to humans tried out on people who ruminate. Quite naturally, the reports that get published will almost always announce rousing success. However, if one goes back months or years later, one will find that the person or persons reported upon are either dead or ruminating again.

We have often made fun of people offering dance therapy to persons with virtually any problem of living or impairment, merely because this is all that the person knows how to do and is interested in, and not being prepared to offer to the needy what they really did need. We have now run across an example which comes spookily close to this situation, being both amazed and amused to read about an article in the Journal of Music Therapy (Fall 1983) in which a form of music therapy was used to combat the rumination behavior of a profoundly retarded person.

\*One would think that "voice therapy" has something to do with improving one's voice, but not so. In 1988, a book on "voice therapy" appeared, ballyhooed as "an innovative therapeutic procedure...that can be used to elicit and bring to the foreground negative thought patterns antithetical to the self and cynical to others."

\*Most psychotherapists settle in with one particular school of psychotherapy or concoct their own idiosyncratic style which they then usually call "eclectic." Insofar as there are already over 1000 shrink therapies, one really wonders how much more eclectic one can become. Be that as it may, Abraham Maslow likened the practice of psychotherapists applying their own chosen psychotherapy to virtually all of their clients to the expression "if all you got is a hammer you treat everything like a nail" (CP, 30(10)). And there actually is a book (by Fix) entitled Selective Eclectic Therapy

\*Yes, it has finally happened: kiss therapy has arrived. We saw it in an article on education of handicapped children in Italy where it is being used (and where it might even work), but we can certainly and easily anticipate male psychiatrists administering it at \$85 an hour to masses of attractive young neurotic women who have not yet found or actualized themselves.

\*While many of the mental therapies have been uni-dimensional technologies, along came "multimodal therapy" which proposed "an armamentarium of more than 36 specific procedures" promised to yield "rapid and durable results," providing "humanistic integration, systematization and a comprehensive blueprint for assessment and therapy." Yet by August 1981, the textbook on this cluster of technologies (The Practice of Multi-Modal Therapy, by Arnold A. Lazarus) was selling for 90% off through Psychotherapy and Social Science Review.

\*The University of Houston-Clear Lake announced a "communications therapy" workshop in 1985 that promised 22 sessions on various "therapies," such as "pluri-dimensional communication therapy" and "video therapy." (Source item furnished by John Morris)

\*Yet another new shrink therapy is "transversional therapy," which allegedly "incorporates Psychoanalysis, Bioenergetics, Attach Therapy, Direct Method, Communication Theory, Group Dynamic Theory, Encounter Therapy, Shamanism, Social Anthropology, Sociology, Cultural History, Philosophy, Political Theory, and Social Practice" (CP, 1986, No. 12)

\*Yet another new therapy is "ethical therapy," which consists of telling people that if they embrace and practice traditional ethical values, they would stop being bad and start being good, and consequently feel better. One good aspect about this kind of therapy is that it is cheap and does not have bad side effects. A major problem with it is that an awful lot of people who want to be good just don't make it, no matter how hard they try. Even the apostle Paul complained about having that problem: "I do not do what I want to do, but what I hate...I cannot even understand my own actions."

\*Psychotherapists have claimed for decades that clients get more benefit out of psychotherapy if they pay for it. Of course, this claim has been rather conveniently self-serving to psychotherapists, and despite its nature as almost a mega-theory relevant to psychotherapy, it had never been subjected to any rigorous and empirical evaluation until 1984 when a study was published which suggested that clients may actually be more responsive to therapy if they do not pay for it, because then they are more apt to perceive the therapist as warmer and more caring. In turn, this appeared to create an environment more conducive to change.

\*In his 1983 book, The Shrinking of America, Zilbergeld claims that many psychotherapy clients are victims of a modernistic myth of human perfectibility, the psycho-culture's intimation that life must be understood in psychological terms, that all events have hidden meanings that only experts can ascertain, and that people are entitled to individual freedom which can be attained through change in themselves which, in turn, can be brought about by the psychotherapy experts who have knowledge and skills that are not accessible to others. A wounded reviewer in Contemporary Psychology responded by accusing the author of "muckraking."

\*Another psychiatric rebel (J. M. Masson) has written an anti-psychotherapy text, entitled Against Therapy, in which he claims that psychotherapy is apparently invalid, not to mention that there is nothing like a "mental illness" in medical terms.

#### Conclusion of the PPP Coverage

\*Toch and Grant have published a book entitled Reforming Human Services (1982) that naively claims that human services can be reformed from within by their own staff without reference to what is going on in larger society, and all that by an array of remarkably naive measures: giving grassroots staff information about the organization, their involvement in an ongoing study of it and access to decision making within it, and so on.

\*In a 1988 article, Ann Turnbull wrote the following (p. 268). "About 18 months ago I learned an incredibly valuable lesson. It was that the service delivery system was not going to prepare Jay" (that is her son) "in the way that he needs to be prepared. I learned I could not depend upon them or anyone for that matter to do the job that they needed to do. I learned that my family and I literally and figuratively had to take charge of his education and do our own jobs, in addition to those of the director of special education, the teacher, the work study coordinator, the adult agency case manager, and the vocational rehabilitation counselor. That's a sobering experience—one you awake in the middle of the night to ponder. It was both frightening and liberating to essentially walk away from the school system and the adult service system and to tell both that we had tried repeatedly to collaborate, that Jay's program was highly inappropriate and not offered in the least restrictive environment, and that our decision was to create a program that would be in Jay's interest. It is scary to do that, but it is incredibly empowering to know that you are not stuck with mediocrity."



"I personally feel a deep sense of pride and empowerment when I reflect that after making an 'F' in sheltered workshop, Jay succeeded magnificently as an employee in the Cataloguing Department of The University of Kansas library. Every school and adult service employee had said Jay was not a candidate for supported employment and that as a family we were 'highly unrealistic.' It was through sustained effort from the moment we withdrew him from the sheltered workshop program that this goal was realized, and I am confident that it would not be happening if we had heeded the advice of others."

\*Is it possible that contemporary human services are unconsciously practicing a form of sympathetic magic? (It operates on the principle that "like cures like.") After all, human services approach poverty by making and keeping people poor and taking their income and possessions from them; the insane are treated by exposing them to insane therapies administered in insane settings by insane human service workers; people who have never had an enduring relationship are being given high-turnover staffing; senile people are given confusing and disorienting service settings, and "reality therapies" with objects such as plastic fruits; people with not one lick of common sense are assiduously selected to work with the mentally retarded.

\*David Schwartz, as executive director for the Developmental Disabilities Council in Pennsylvania, raised the question in 1988 whether any service that has the high clinical staff turnover that we have been seeing lately in many services can still be considered valid, no matter what the service may be or does. Of course, this question is particularly pertinent when we are dealing with a long-term dependent population, rather than with people such as in acute care hospitals who may very well get better and be able to leave before any, or many, of their caretakers have turned over.

\*At the Training Institute, we have a vacuum cleaner which we salvaged from the garbage on the street curb. Having tried valiantly to extract utility out of it, we discovered that it uses up a lot of energy, makes a lot of noise, but doesn't accomplish a bit of good, and sometimes even makes things worse by belching out a big cloud of dust from a leak in its bag. In consequence, Susan Thomas started calling it the "human services vacuum cleaner," because in its characteristic mode of functioning, it performs much as human services do.

A Few Tidbits of Social Role Valorization

\*Down Syndrome News (9/88) ran a short biography on a woman with Down Syndrome who celebrated her 78th birthday in November. She still has good social and self-help skills, does not take any medication, does not have osteoporosis nor hearing loss, can do some reading, and can write in print. All of this goes to show that people with Down Syndrome do not necessarily die early, get "Alzheimer's" early, and particularly not if they have had a stimulating life from early days.

\*The TASH newsletter (9/88) carried a fairly good critique of the Special Olympics in the light of "normalization" principles, though it was by no means exhaustive. (For instance, it failed to even as much as mention the normative ubiquity of clowns at such events.) As an alternative, it proposed a "national youth olympics" where both the competition and the preparation for it during the rest of the year would be as integrated as possible.

\*There is a new picture book out for young children that is apparently meant to positively shape their attitudes towards children with Down Syndrome. Unfortunately, the book's title is Where's Chimpy, and the title page shows, right below this title, an adult holding a child with the unmistakable stigmata of Down Syndrome, conveying the impression that the child is Chimpy, and thus evoking an image association to chimpanzees.

\*The founder of a residence for handicapped people in Lake Mohegan, NY, has proposed that persons who are unable to groom themselves be called "tetrasansgroomable," because they lack (sans) use of the four (tetra) limbs to do so. Persons even more impaired are to be called "tetrasanscustodial." She claims that at present, the two conditions are unfortunately hopelessly confused with each other (Social & Health Review, furnished by David Schwartz).

\*Ye old fashioned segregated school has emerged under a new euphemism, namely "alternative school," as in Cincinnati (Cincinnati Enquirer, 11/2/88; source item from Griff Hogan).

The Deathmaking Scene

Abortion Facts and News

\*First, the "morning after" do-it-yourself abortion drug RU 486 was approved in France for public sale, then shortly thereafter discontinued by its manufacturer because of public opposition, and shortly thereafter ordered to be sold by the French government as an "indispensable safeguard to women's health." The company, Roussel Uclaf, is part of the giant West German chemical firm Hoechst, but the French government owns about a third of the shares in Roussel Uclaf, and thus has a considerable financial interest in the sale and use of the drug. The drug has also been approved in China, and is expected to be approved in Britain, the Netherlands and other countries (RLR, 10/88). RU 486 is taken in a regime that is "95% effective," producing an abortion that is experienced by the woman as heavy bleeding that can last for 10 days to 6 weeks. Unlike with surgical abortions, the woman cannot see herself as a passive patient on whom surgery is being performed, because she has to take the pill, and the abortion process may be experienced much more for what it is than the "surgery" (NRLN, 6 Oct. 88).

\*Yet another test promises to identify whether an unborn child has a congenital anomaly. This is a blood test of the mother that supposedly identifies whether the child she is carrying has Down Syndrome. It would be less risky than either of the other two tests currently in use, but of course would hardly ever be used unless an abortion had already been deemed the solution to a positive test.

\*In 8/88, the Canadian Medical Association voted to approve of abortion on demand up to the 20th week of pregnancy, and referred to abortion as a "medical decision" (Interim, 10/88).

\*We increasingly run across the expression that some woman had a "need" for an abortion. This reminds us of an American folk expression particularly common in the south and west, that somebody "needs killing," much like certain uppity Negroes in the south were at one time interpreted to "need lynching."

\*Contrary to common claim, statistics reveal that when contraceptive services are made available to unmarried teenagers, their pregnancy rates do not go down but up. The availability of contraceptive services is apparently highly related to an increase in the rate of sexual intercourse by those who receive or accept these services. What does go down are teen birth rates, because the availability of abortion is apparently heavily linked to the availability of contraceptive services (JBEM, 10/88).

\*At pregnancy counseling places, an interesting common response of pregnant young women is that when it is suggested to them that adoption is readily available for their baby, they respond something to the effect, "I could never do that; I would rather have an abortion" (ALL, Fall 88).

\*We have reported before on China's one child (abortion) policy, and some of its long-term ramifications. It is now reported that one of the provinces of China (Gansu) has banned retarded people from having children altogether because they would be "a burden on society" (Speak Out, 12/88).

\*Feminism strongly predisposes women in most of the world to promote abortion on demand. In India, it is the other way around because there, it is almost 100% the female offspring who are being aborted. Therefore, the feminists there talk about "murder of girl babies," and use similar language which we would only hear from the "pro-life" elements (NCR, 28/10/88).

\*Attitudes toward reproduction are now such that women of childbearing age who are fertile are now being interpreted as being "at risk" for pregnancy.

Child Deathmaking & Child Rescue

\*Mary Cunningham, who was in the news in the early 1980s after she was forced to resign from Bendix Corporation because of her romantic involvement with her boss William Agee, has recently founded an organization called Nurturing Network, described as "a non-profit support service to help working women and college students cope with unplanned pregnancies." She claims that working women are apt to be discriminated against if they become pregnant. Although laws prohibit discrimination against pregnant women, many single pregnant women are pressured either to have abortions or resign, or at least are refused promotions that they might otherwise be due. While various programs exist for pregnant teenagers, few are available to assist older women. The agency provides counseling, low-cost medical care, in some cases temporary employment, and housing.

While we applaud the fact that this effort may help save the lives of unborn children from abortion, we are concerned about two things. (a) Cunningham has refused to make public her views on abortion, which leads us to suspect that the agency either is not strongly opposed to abortion, and/or that Cunningham is afraid her own opposition to abortion would reduce the support her agency receives from corporations. (b) This sounds like relief for the middle classes. Working and college women are not the most needy of those who find themselves pregnant. After all, many of these women earn healthy incomes, do have skills, and have family, friends and other resources. (Source item from Carolyn B. Wheeler)

\*Just before Christmas 1988, a middle-class couple under comfortable circumstances where the father was a professional with two college degrees had twin babies. One was determined right away to be impaired, with mental retardation being nearly certain. The parents had tests done on the other twin to make sure it was healthy, took that one home, and said that they didn't want the other one. The father did not even want to look at her. They decided that they would tell their family that the baby they rejected had died at birth. A reporter commented that the parents had sent the baby back as they might a sandwich that arrived with too much mayonnaise. "Returned due to damage at birth. Discarded like a lamp or a watch" (Boston Sunday Globe, 18/12/88; source item from Joel Green).

\*A late 1988 report prepared for the US Commission on Civil Rights concluded that the deathmaking of handicapped babies that was supposed to have been stopped in 1984 with the so-called Baby Doe Amendment to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act was, in fact, continuing, and that in many states, child protective agencies had abdicated their enforcement roles, deferring to committees at the very hospitals where treatment was being denied to infants. The report cited published surveys of pediatricians and articles in numerous medical journals in support of its contention.

\*On 4 December 88, "60 Minutes" carried an episode that chastised a Christian Scientist couple for failing to obtain medical services for their child who had a bowel obstruction and died. A number of authorities interviewed insisted that parents had no right to withhold medical care from their children, and the Boston prosecutor was pushing the case. However, nobody commented on certain important aspects of this case. (a) When children are handicapped, it is now widely agreed, particularly among liberals, that it should be up to the parents whether to seek medical services or whether the child should be allowed to die. In fact, it is particularly in cases of bowel obstruction where there is widespread sentiment that children with Down Syndrome should not be operated on, and should not only be permitted to die, but should even have nourishment and liquid withheld that might be administered by other means.

(b) There is also something hypocritical about the whole case and issue when one considers that millions of people, including children, are being denied medical services because they are poor.

(c) Where would we end up if physicians were the only people who were authorized by law to determine who gets treated and how? This is the kind of power they have long striven to gain, together with the power to say who should die. At a time when medicine becomes ever more high-tech, this could well mean that people who chose not to pursue high technology treatment could be legally forced to seek and/or accept it, with of course the physicians then also deciding when to withhold or terminate it. Under these circumstances, rather than to compel people to seek medical services, we deem it by far the lesser evil to permit parents to withhold medical services from children provided that their reasons are religious or highly ideological, rather than utilitarian.




Thus, what we are really dealing with here is not a genuine concern about medical services having been withheld from a child, but a power play as to whether physicians, the law, or parents have greater authority over their children. Unfortunately, none of these issues were brought out by the program, and for good reason, since "60 Minutes" has been consistently on the liberal deathmaking and anti-religion side.

\*Abuse of children in foster care in NY City is about double the citywide rate of child abuse. However, we should note that this applies to the kind of foster care operated by the child placement system, i.e., the imperial child placement circus. This type of foster care must not be confused with certain programs of quasi-adoptive fostering which are largely outside of that particular circus.

\*Many child protective workers are young and inexperienced, have to deal with tragedy on a daily basis, and are commonly not able to do anything about it. Every case involves endless paperwork and maneuvering through a labyrinthine bureaucracy. The child protective agency in Dallas had a 45% turnover in 1987. As a result of all this, many children get abused and die even when they are on the rolls of a child protective agency (Newsweek, 12/12/88).

\*Improper baby formula feeding kills about 1 million infants worldwide (Greenpeace, 1 & 2/1989).

#### Deathmaking of the Poor by Poor Medical Care, or Its Denial

#12  PERVERSION ALERT -- Medical services available to the poor have been increasing in most developed countries, but decreasing in the US, and everyone is standing around wringing their hands and lamenting it but not doing anything about it, including the hospitals, the insurance firms, the medical personnel, other human service agencies, state government people, and federal government people. The US has entered a phase of systematic deathmaking of its vulnerable long-term poor because now, on top of everything else, we are witnessing a process of systematic withdrawal of health care from the indigent. This will also make some of the short-term poor dead, but will have a much more devastating impact on the long-term poor, those who used to be called paupers.

The amazing thing is that even the Wall Street Journal (29/11/88) wrote a very long article on the fact that emergency medical services and hospital care for the poor is becoming a de facto deathmaking operation. It punctuated its report with a whole series of horror story vignettes that ended up in the death of the indigent person who was either being denied a health service or dumped from one.

\*In late 1988, a US court ruled that the US Health Care Financing Administration had arbitrarily denied thousands of valid home health care claims by restricting the definition of part-time or intermittent services that are covered by Medicare, contrary to the plain language of the Medicare Act. The result of the policy had been that some people who needed 20 or more hours of home care a week got it, while those who only needed about 1 hour every day didn't. We suspect that among other things, this has to do with the fact that travel time between homes has to come out of the hours of coverage for which agencies are reimbursed, and thus people who need longer blocks of home care get favored. The judge noted that the policy had forced into nursing homes many aged and sick people who would otherwise have remained at home (AARP News Bulletin, 10/88).

\*Science (9 Dec 88) claims that the growth rate of Medicare and Medicaid will no longer be supported by the present administration, which will therefore almost certainly continue to squeeze the availability of health services to the elderly and poor.

\*If one goes to an emergency admission unit of a hospital these days, one will often find that the majority of people showing up there are poor and marginal, but that nonetheless, they have a family member or friend with them. Observation will also reveal that the presence of even one single caring person plays a tremendous role in the processing and well-being of a person on an admissions service. The family member quite commonly will handle all sorts of details that the afflicted person may not be in a good state to handle, and will often advocate on behalf of a sick person, which can be of great importance considering how people on emergency services are commonly treated.

A not uncommon experience these days is for a profoundly retarded agency client to be brought to a hospital, and the accompanying personnel to leave once the client is admitted. Aside from the fact that the handicapped person may be unable to communicate any symptoms or desires to the hospital personnel, it can also happen that such a person is admitted through the emergency department of a hospital, and could be laying around on a gurney for hours and even days after admission before being given a hospital bed and the more appropriate treatment and attention that usually goes with it than that given to a person in a state of limbo between emergency admission and bed assignment. All this underlines yet again the desperate situation of already handicapped, and usually competency-impaired, persons when they become sick or have an accident, and are taken to an emergency service. The person with them may not be a concerned family member or volunteer friend, may not have the same capacity for extending consolation and reassurance, and in those cases where the emergency service is part of a hospital, and where the person requires inpatient treatment, may only stay long enough for the individual to be admitted.

\*A study of hospital transfers and dumpings of indigent patients in Memphis, Tenn., disclosed that 89% of them were the result of patient indigency. Yet one-quarter of the patients who were transferred were in such unstable condition that the transfer severely jeopardized their health and recovery, and indeed, two-thirds of the transferred patients who died had been moved around because of their indigency. However, similar results have been reported for many other locales. In some of these, 38% of transferred patients have been in unstable condition. Altogether, such hospital dumping is believed to affect at least 250,000 patients annually, not even counting more subtle dumping of less seriously ill patients via so-called referrals (American Journal of Public Health, 10/1988; Health Letter, 11/1988).

#### Miscellaneous Human Service News

\*The impact of complexity in medical services is also underlined by the fact that with great regularity, changes in laws governing the funding of medical services turn out to have consequences which were generally unpredicted, and certainly not anticipated by those who worked for the changes to begin with. In the United States, the new Medicare law going into effect in 1989 will set in motion a new pattern of money flow that supposedly was motivated by humane considerations, but it is so complicated that for once, even its advocates wonder what its consequences will be (Geriatric Consultant, 11 & 12 88; source item from Kirk Mescon).

\*British child care agencies have begun to issue "health passports" to children. An expressed concern was the discontinuity in their care, so that people who have contact with these children do not know what immunizations and health services they have received earlier, or what special medical problems they have. Of course, it is an indictment in itself that a system of care for children is in such disarray, though of course that is no news to us. However, what is additionally worrisome is that this may yet be another wedge of entry into the issuance of real passports in an effort by the imperial powers to increase surveillance and control over its population, and particularly over the troublesome sectors of its population, which have historically included the poor (Community Care, 11/88; source item from Diane Stanton).

\*Things got so desperately bad in the Philadelphia region mental retardation program in 1988 that even the Philadelphia Inquirer (5 October 88) suggested that the state take over the failing local county program.

\*We recently learned about a new concept of a "spinal community" and "spinal network," that works towards "spinal survival." Spinal Network is a periodical "for the wheelchair community."

\*Parade (10 July 88) carried an article on 4 members of the US military who, without violating any laws or rules, blew the whistle on all sorts of malfeasance within the military. One of them discovered theft of military equipment that eventually was found to amount to \$118 million. However, in response, all three were subjected to psychiatric examinations, the implication being that they were insane or unstable. A specialist on military law in Washington said, "There are horror stories

all the time in the military." In several cases, but not all, the only helpful party was the inspector general of the respective armed forces branch (Source item from John Morris). These shenanigans are all the more surprising considering how the Russians have been accused of using psychiatry as a means of intimidating political dissenters (Source item from Michael Sclafani).

\*Vanier, J. (1988). The broken body: Journey to wholeness. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press. In his most recent book, Vanier says that the only way for persons to be healed of their universal wounded identities is through a deep encounter with a very wounded person that brings one to an awareness of one's own brokenness. Thus, he says, it is only as we descend into discovery of our brokenness, into powerlessness, that we can be healed, because it is only then that we recognize and admit our own weakness. He also says that "the poor are the best teachers in theology."

\*Louisville is the US headquarters of the private prison business. As of late 1988, only three states allowed private prisons, but Business First (12/12/88) predicted a private prison boom (source item from Wayne Marshall).

\*A hotly controverted program in Denver that pays teenage girls \$1 a day not to get pregnant has apparently achieved greater success than any other program designed to prevent unwed teenage pregnancy. On the one hand, this is sad; on the other hand, it certainly proves again the absurdity of the so-called "education" programs, sex and otherwise, that are currently in vogue.

\*How reality can imitate fantasy and fiction is sometimes absolutely amazing. In 1988, a Linda Bimbo was running for office for one of the regional branches of the American Association on Mental Retardation.

\*A new periodical, entitled National Report on Substance Abuse, comes out 24 times a year--at \$327. See how cheap TIPS is? And TIPS probably carries not only 10 times as much copy--but also tells the truth. (Source information from John Morris.)

\*A columnist in the francophone Montreal La Presse (19/10/88) observed that for the first time, the mentally ill in Canada are allowed to vote in the federal election, including those in mental institutions. She noted that the ruling did not affect the ordinary insane person "comme vous et moi," but only those in mental institutions. We ourselves view voting patterns and political systems in most western countries as pretty much insane anyway, not to mention that the insane tend to vote pretty much in the same patterns as the supposedly sane. Therefore, the columnist's proposal that we might as well now give the franchise to children between the ages of 0-18 might actually be an improvement since they would probably produce more rational and more honest office-holders than their elders.

#### Miscellaneous News

\*The appearance, for the first time in recorded history, of locust swarms swept from Africa to the Americas in 1988 has a potential for changing human history. If African locusts can establish themselves in the Americas, they can have a catastrophic impact upon plants and crops, and precipitate massive famine or loss of income which can destabilize many countries and trigger yet other major sociopolitical upheavals.

\*Computers are among the most destructive human inventions and developments ever. The chore of destroying the earth would have been infinitely more difficult if computers had never been invented or developed. We are always amused either when hackers dismantle the pretensions of the computer empire, or when it suffers insults from computer worms or viruses. Apparently, computer viruses will become as common as the common cold, and people who do not hermetically seal off their computers from outside input will one day be very sorry. During the first 9 months of 1988, 250,000 computers, from smallest to largest, have suffered virus invasions, as have many of the 3000 electronic bulletin board systems. In one instance, a tiny program virus multiplied so rapidly as to disable 350,000 computer terminals in a matter of days (Time, 26/9/88). New virus strains are being discovered virtually every week. Virus writers tend to be men in their late teens or early 20s who have spent an inordinate portion of their youth in a computer culture. Many display a "nerd syndrome" commonly encountered in that culture, characterized by a sheltered life, a narrow base of accomplishment, and a prankish bent. What we have is an extremely powerful technology that has escaped from moral control.



In early 11/1988, one of the nerd-type computer hackers, ironically the son of one of the top computer security experts in the US, disabled at least 6000 mainframe computers by means of a computer virus. We think the young man should be put in the same category of folk hero as young Rust who flew a plane into Russia and landed it in Red Square without being intercepted en route, to the mortal consternation of the imperial powers in Russia. One suggestion that we have is to simultaneously give the nerd a Nobel Prize and throw him in prison for a year. We also advise those who use computers to hermetically isolate them from all external inputs, because in our opinion, computer viruses will become as common as AIDS.

\*The pretensions and inconsistencies of modern science are amusingly revealed in the classified advertisements section of Science Digest, as, for instance in the February 1982 issue which carried ads on magic, horoscopes, biorhythms, ESP and fortunetelling.

\*He didn't use his rabbit foot. In 12/88, a NASA worker tripped on the tail of his lab coat, bumped against the exhaust nozzle of a space rocket, and caused a crack that could not be fixed. Thereupon, the whole first stage of the rocket had to be replaced at a cost of \$6 million, and the mission postponed (Time, 19/12/88). This shows how vulnerable complex systems are to disablement.

\*Newsweek (12/12/88) carried an interesting column on religion in Hollywood. It said that it is hard to imagine a more atheistic community than the TV and film people, and that this has accounted for the largely shallow and outright unsympathetic depiction of religion--if any--in that medium. But now the drug culture has so overtaken Hollywood that there are 2000 Alcoholics Anonymous meetings a week in Los Angeles, attended by people hooked on either alcohol or drugs. As a result, Hollywood is catching a bit of religion because half of the famous 12 steps of AA have something to say about the divinity. This may soon be reflected in the medium, because Hollywood produces output about the things that are on its mind.

\*One reason Japan opposes the importation of rice is that it would entail "the collapse of the spiritual life of the people in the agricultural areas" (Newsweek, 17/10/88). In our society, people would hardly even be able to think or say such a thing, much less judge the issue in terms other than "efficiency" of farmers, as exemplified by Stockman. Our society hardly attaches any special value to rural life and culture, nor does it see it as lying at the core of society. Therefore, it also cannot deal later with the signs of societal collapse that emanate out of urban life and manifest themselves in their most devastating forms there.

#### AIDS

\*About \$480 million of all the money spent by the US government on AIDS will be spent on "educating the public," and educating people at risk in such things as using condoms and disinfecting the "works" of their drug paraphernalia with bleach. One PR campaign aimed at homosexual men used an old cigarette ad ploy in claiming that three out of four of their peers were engaging in "safe sex," even though there was no evidence whatever that this claim was true. One "education poster" has featured a chorus line of dancing penises, each wearing a condom. Surely, people who believe in this sort of thing will believe anything. Thus, social workers who fall for this nonsense will be running around handing out clean needles, bottles of bleach, and packages of condoms to people who are used to buying drugs with brand names such as Suicide and Overdose. One naive AIDS prevention "researcher" said, "When movie stars all wear condoms, our job will be done" (Science, 2 Dec. 88).

\*Yet another new development, probably related to the spread of AIDS, which we witnessed in a hospital emergency room, is for police officers to take protective precautions when handling the leather restraints and handcuffs put on prisoners when they are taken to a hospital setting. Officers will touch the prisoner only with gloved hands, and then put the gloves in separate bags for special treatment and disposal. Yet such precautions are generally extended only to those who are already at image-risk as a menace, and not to other people who may actually pose a greater health risk.

# Citizen Advocacy Forum

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of The Citizen Advocacy Forum is to provide an international publication committed to the principles of Citizen Advocacy, its conceptualization, program developments and implementation. The Forum will serve as a means of disseminating information about resources or training events; inviting critical review of current or potential practices in Citizen Advocacy; sharing positive and instructive stories from programs all over the world; and providing a centralized point for collection of information pertinent to existing and developing Citizen Advocacy efforts. Such a publication will solicit contributions from people involved in Citizen Advocacy and will offer a one-page insert which local programs could use in their newsletters.

Carolyn Bardwell Wheeler, who has been involved with Citizen Advocacy since 1976, will assume the responsibility for the editing, publication and production of The Forum for at least the first three years. For the first year, The Forum will be published bi-annually. If The Forum is successful, it will be published on a quarterly basis.

## EDITORIAL BOARD

In order to lend legitimacy and support to The Citizen Advocacy Forum, as well as safeguard the endeavor, the following individuals have agreed to serve on the Editorial Board for the first three years of its publication:

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