



# mental retardation

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## Federal Court Ruling Assures Education For All Retarded Children in Pennsylvania

### State Legislatures Implement Mandatory Education Bills In Rhode Island, Washington

*In these days, it is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education. Such an opportunity, where the state has undertaken to provide it, is a right which must be made available to all on equal terms.*

Chief Justice Earl Warren  
Supreme Court — 1954

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — A three-judge Federal court here has ordered Pennsylvania to assure an education for all retarded children in the state. Further, the court has set a 90-day deadline for the state to identify every retarded child denied a public education. It gave educational authorities until September first of next year to begin actual teaching.

It is expected that approximately 5,000 Pennsylvania children will benefit from the ruling next fall.

According to *Time Magazine*, "The decision is expected to encourage suits around the country and will ultimately affect tens of thousands of retarded

"The real impetus of this bill," states Dennis Haggerty, member of NARC's Residential Services Committee, "aside from the starting age of the child is that there are no slats that children can fall between; that is, education for all means just that, and there is no shifting of responsibility to a department of welfare if the bureau of education feels that child is not educable at all for so-called 'training.' In a sense, it broadens the definition of education or — makes it more simple."

The basis for legal action dates from May 1969 at the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children's Convention which permitted implementation of the bill of rights for retarded persons through advocate action. PARC then hired Thomas K. Gilhool as special consul to research areas to implement a bill of rights for retarded persons and Gilhool chose the right to education suit as his first priority.

Early this year, when the case neared its determination, Gilhool told *The New*

**MANDATORY EDUCATION** — Now strides taken in assuring education for all retarded children. Concerned citizens and ARCs push for new legislation on many legal fronts. Some states outstrip others in pioneering for greater educational opportunities. (See related story.)

## Southwest Region Holds Poverty and Mental Retardation Workshop

As a step toward meeting one of NARC's top organizational priorities, a training workshop on poverty and mental retardation for volunteers and staff from NARC's Southwest Region was held in Las Vegas, Nevada, Dec. 10-11.

The workshop was sponsored by the NARC Organization Development Committee and the Training Center in Mental Retardation, California State College at Los Angeles.

The program was coordinated by NARC and Training Center Director Dr. David Bilovsky. It was launched with a general presentation on the involvement of poverty and minority groups with local ARCs by Earl Long, recently named as national director of Project STAR, which is co-sponsored by NARC, the National Urban League and the family Services Association of America.

Among the highlights of the workshop was a session in which minority group mothers who have retarded children related their experiences with local ARCs.

During a four hour segment of the workshop, Mrs. Moonyeen Weiss and Mrs. Mary Ann Jensen of the Organization Development Committee and Dr. Brian McCann, NARC assistant director for Program Services, presented NARC's training program "A Second Look at Poverty." Using leadership training techniques, the program is aimed at increasing, through experience-based learning, participant effectiveness in working with low-income and minority groups. Training materials and guidelines for conducting the training program will be available to state and local units from NARC early this year.

In the final sessions, participants from each state were asked to select target areas for action and to develop initial steps for attacking these problems. Members of the Training Center staff will follow up with each state representative to determine progress made.

In commenting on the Las Vegas meeting, Dr. McCann stated "I hope that this workshop will serve as a prototype for similar programs at the regional, state and local levels. By supplementing

NARC's poverty training materials with resource people from universities and agencies involved in poverty-related activities, it should be possible for ARCs to mount programs of this type throughout the nation. Such workshops should serve to increase knowledge of, and commitment to, poverty and mental retardation among our members."

## NARC Delegates to Attend Fifth Int'l MR Congress

Montreal, Canada, will be the site of the 5th International Congress on Mental Retardation, sponsored by the International League of Societies for the Mentally Handicapped Oct. 1 to 6, 1972.

The National Association for Retarded Children will not have a regular convention this year as registrants will participate in the program planned by the League. NARC will, however, conduct its annual business on Oct. 1 prior to the official opening of the congress. The Council of Executives of ARCs will also conduct training sessions at the congress.

The NARC Membership and Support Committees will meet on Friday, Sept. 29 and the Board of Directors Saturday, Sept. 30. There will be regional luncheons Sunday, Oct. 1. The credentials room will be open the 29th and 30th for delegates to obtain their voting credentials. More than 800 NARC delegates are expected to attend from the six regions.

Registration forms will be printed this year in the February issue of *Mental Retardation News*. Those expecting to attend should get their registration forms in early. Delegates from 50 countries are expected at the congress in the Queen Elizabeth Hotel. Late registrants will have to be registered at other hotels where access to the sessions may not be as convenient.

The theme of the congress is: "The Rights of the Retarded — Suit the action to the word, the word to the action." Among the features will be an international film festival, outstanding

The wheels have been rolling around the country on mandatory education for some time, and considerable progress has been made recently in several states, including Rhode Island and Washington.

However, Mrs. Patricia Clapp, president of the Pennsylvania ARC, has hailed the ruling in her state as a "landmark."

*York Times* that '62 percent of all retarded children in the country were not getting a public education and that at least 50 percent in Philadelphia were not.

The new ruling overturned several sections of the state's Public School Code, including provisions that a school psychologist could relieve a school of its obligation to educate a child by finding him "uneducable and untrainable" or finding a beginner had not reached "the mental age of 5."

The final order, which was signed October seventh, includes clarification of the intent of the school code as it relates to mentally retarded students. The following sections can no longer be used as an automatic reason for the exclusion of a mentally retarded child from school:

- Requiring beginners to have attained a mental age of 5 years...
- Using "compulsory school age" as meaning *only* from age 8 to age 17 ...
- Excluding children who are "unable to profit" from school...
- Defining "exceptional children" in an arbitrary way...

(Continued on page 6)

speakers and training sessions, visitations to facilities and programs as well as sightseeing tours.

Thomas Cook and Son, the official travel agent for the congress, can provide travel information. The official carrier is Air Canada. For further information, write: The Congress Committee, P.O. Box 1060, T.M.R., Montreal 304, Quebec, Canada.

## Prevention to be Theme Of YOUTH-NARC Convention

YOUTH-NARC will hold its 6th Annual National Convention at Robert Morris College, Moon Township, Pennsylvania, August 15 through 20, Kate Roden, president of the organization, has announced.

Based on a theme of prevention, the program will encompass general health concerns as well as cognitive aspects of prevention. YOUTH-NARC is dedicated to the concept that prevention of mental retardation includes the elimination of those conditions before and after birth which damage the child's ability to learn.

Maryann Steel of YOUTH-PARC will serve as general chairman of the convention. Carol Cleary of Lindstrom, Minnesota, a YOUTH-NARC board member, is in charge of the program.



**PUBLIC SCHOOLING** — Many retarded children once denied the right to attend public schools are benefiting from recent legal action.

# Editorial

## N.Y. Times on Mandatory Education

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The ruling by a three-judge Federal court in Philadelphia that the State of Pennsylvania must provide free public education to all retarded children constitutes a historic step in an area that has suffered from public and professional neglect. Similar court tests will inevitably be instituted elsewhere unless school systems across the country move toward voluntary compliance with what will surely become the universal legal requirement.

The education of retarded children is a difficult task, but it is clearly a responsibility to be borne by school and society. For parents it is, under present chaotic and often callously inadequate provisions, both a personally heartbreaking and financially ruinous problem. School systems apply widely differing standards in categorizing youngsters ineducable. Even where districts nominally accept the responsibility for keeping such children in school, they often fail to provide effective instruction, thus adding frustration to disability. Yet the few existing private institutions of acceptable quality are beyond the financial reach of most families of even comfortable means.

The court ruling is humane and socially sound. Whatever the cost of educating retarded children, the cost of setting them adrift in the world without giving them the means to lead useful lives is far higher. It is also morally indefensible. With only about three percent of the school-age population in the retarded category, the nation is surely able to provide the means to point these youngsters on a productive course.

A court order alone, however, is not enough. To translate the law into educational policy requires fully trained personnel and adequate staffing in existing schools and in special facilities. United States Education Commissioner Sidney P. Marland Jr. urges that 1980 be set as the target year for assuring all retarded children a free public education. The Pennsylvania ruling provides a new legal basis for eliminating a glaring neglect.

## NARC to Urge Modernizing Of MR Medical Education

As a result of a resolution passed by the delegates at the Denver Convention, NARC is now in the process of urging the American Medical Association Council on Medical Education and the Association of American Medical Schools to upgrade, expand and modernize medical education in the field of retardation.

The proposed recommendations have been based on the fact that although there are approximately six million retarded persons in the United States, there is an immeasurably small percentage of medical education given in retardation. And much of this education is given to developing physicians and is focused disproportionately on the exotic, the rare and institutionalized forms of retardation.

Although the majority of retarded people are capable of functioning in the Medical Association Council on Medical

## Accreditation Survey Procedures Formally Approved by AC/FMR

The Accreditation Council for Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (AC/FMR) held its seventh council meeting in Chicago, November 22 and 23, 1971. The council formally approved the accreditation survey procedures to be used in applying the standards which were published earlier this year. The survey procedures provide the mechanism whereby a residential facility may seek accreditation.

Certain fundamental principles were adopted which govern the accreditation survey procedures, and examples of these principles are summarized below:

1. The criteria of an adequate residential program for mentally retarded persons are stated in the standards. The purpose of the accreditation survey is to determine the extent of compliance with the standards.

2. The extent of compliance with the standards will be assessed in the following ways:

- The statement of a responsible, authorized administrator or staff member that the facility complies.

- Documentary evidence or certification of compliance provided by the facility.

- Answers to detailed questions concerning the implementation of an item in the standards, or examples of its implementation.

- On-site observations by surveyors.

3. A self-survey conducted by its own staff is of benefit to a facility, whether or not followed by a site visit by Accreditation Council surveyors.

4. Surveyor observations will concentrate on:

- Observations of the implementation of selected items of the standards in ways which make a difference in the day-to-day lives of facility residents.

- Related observations of the resident-living environment which verify the facility's response to certain items.

- Resolution of questions concerning compliance which remain after a facility has indicated its compliance and provided supplementary information and/or documentation.

- Review and discussion of survey results with the facility's staff.

The Accreditation Council has defined a residential facility for mentally retarded

of those skills, habits and attitudes essential to adaptation in contemporary society."

NARC's council representatives have urged every state and local association to familiarize themselves with the new standards and to develop cooperative strategies with residential facilities to assist the facility in gaining accreditation. Since accreditation is voluntary, it may be necessary for state and local associations to actively encourage facilities to seek accreditation and to assist them in the process.

## Maryland ARC Launches Family Guidance and Resource Service Program

A new in-the-home counseling service for families of retarded children has been launched by the Montgomery County Association for Retarded Children, Silver Springs, Md. The project is financed by a \$32,413 grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The program is an outgrowth of MCARC's recognition that family guidance and resource services are essential to a successful community program for retarded persons. At present, families must struggle to rear a retarded child with no central resource for guidance and no relief. The accompanying problems of the retarded family member, temporary family crises, inadequate knowledge of community resources or simple desperation often drive a family to choose institutionalization unnecessarily. With guidance and supportive service parents can be assured that the retarded child will reach his maximum

knowledge of alternatives, continue to encourage great numbers of commitments into institutions. Medical doctors in community practice have repeatedly told leaders in the field of retardation that they have been taught little or nothing in medical schools about retardation. As a result, they are therefore aware that they have little counseling, referral or prognostic expertise to offer troubled parents of retarded persons who look to them for advice.

Inasmuch as retardation is not, beyond some basic diagnostic considerations, a continuing medical problem, but rather a behavioral and educational one, NARC is, in addition, urging the American

can Medical Schools:

To provide medical education in some reasonable proportion to the incidence of handicap in the community....

To recognize that in the strengthened emphasis on family medicine in medical education, the students should be instructed in:

(a) The fact of the proven physical and vocational potentials of most retarded people to function in the normal streams of society, and

(b) The multi-agency network of advice and guidance sources available to parents and guardians of retarded people, as well as to the retarded citizens themselves.

has physical identity and administrative integrity and conducts a program of services directed primarily to enhancing the health, welfare and development of individuals classified as mentally retarded. The primary purpose of a residential facility is to protect and nurture the dignity, health and development of each individual requiring twenty-four-hour programming services. Inherent to this commitment is the responsibility to provide those experiences that will enable the individual to: (a) develop his physical, intellectual, social and emotional capacities to the fullest extent; (b) live in an environment that is conducive to personal dignity while in the residential facility; and (c) continue development

teed a secure, productive place in the community.

"This program will not follow the traditional approach where services are provided only to those who have the motivation to seek them," advises Mrs. Gloria Grant, director of the Family Guidance and Resource Services Program. "We will reach beyond the traditional physical boundaries and move into the home in order to provide programs tailored to meet the needs of the individual child and family."

The new Family Guidance and Resource Services Program will provide services in crisis intervention, family and individual counseling and sibling support. The staff will be making informal unhurried visits in the homes, and will be available in the evenings and on weekends when the father and other family members are in.

The program will provide a central focal point where information and consultation on community resources, i.e., social, educational, legal, medical, financial, recreational and religious, can be provided to families of mentally retarded children. Community receptivity services such as consultation, education and in-service training will also be offered to agencies to increase the community's receptivity to mentally retarded persons.

No fee is charged for the program services. Persons needing assistance can be referred by agencies, physicians, ministers and clinics. Most of all it is hoped that the parents themselves will feel free to call MCARC to make an appointment or to talk to the director, Mrs. Grant.

## MENTAL

### RETARDATION NEWS

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*RING THE BELL—At their recent meeting in Dallas, the National Association for Mental Health, Inc. gave the Mental Health Bell Award to the National Association for Retarded Children "For Stimulation of Programs for the Mentally Handicapped and Promotion of Voluntarism."*

*Mrs. Lillian Walker, NARC South Central regional vice president, holds the plaque presented by Irving Chase, NAMH president, at a reception prior to the awards luncheon, while Dr. Brian McCann, NARC assistant executive director, Program Services, looks on.*

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

When notifying *Mental Retardation News* of a change of address, it is MOST important that you give your old address as well as your new address.

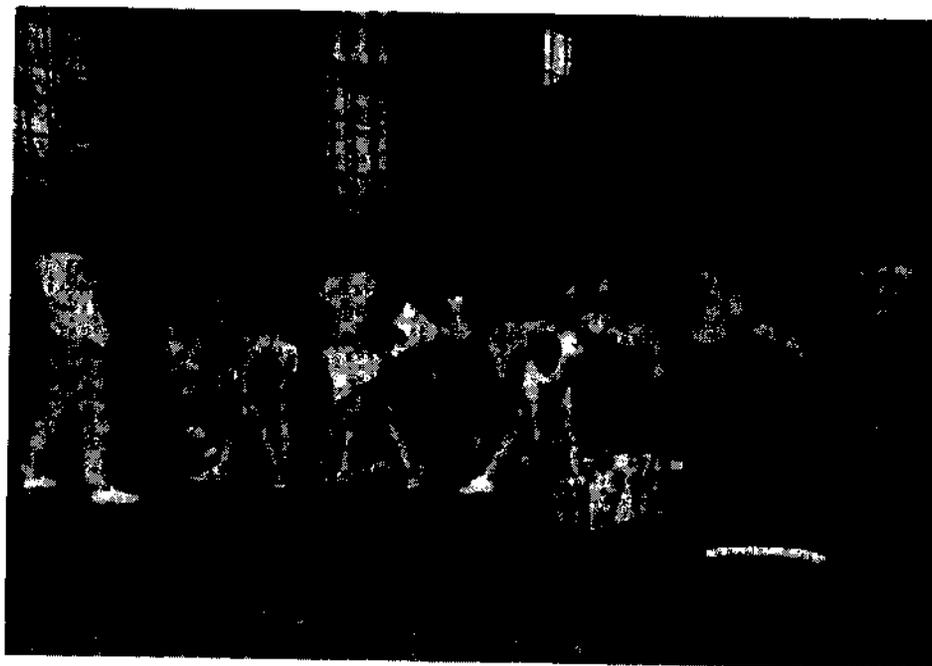
To add a new address, we must first find the old address and remove it. Subscribers are listed by address and zip code, not by name.

We would appreciate your cooperation.

# MOTOR development

By Susan Radabaugh  
from "challenge"

Motor development for the retarded child must be demanded, developed and pursued. For too many years this potential was not recognized or emphasized. To ignore motor development of the retarded child is to deny him a chance for successful achievement. Without a foundation in basic motor skills and abilities, more complex learning tasks are not likely to take place. For example, a child who is not aware of how his body moves in space may have difficulty writing his name or staying within a defined area on paper. In order to achieve an awareness of body movement, motor activities must be initiated at an early age. Poor motor development often is not the result of the child's inability to perform but a lack of exposure to an experience in motor activities. Parents as well as educators must provide activities which will help the child develop an awareness of body movement.



## NARC TO HIRE MINORITY REPRESENTATIVE TO IMPLEMENT 1970 POVERTY RESOLUTION

Strategies have been implemented throughout the past year on Resolution 5A adopted at the 1970 NARC Annual Convention, dealing with poverty and mental retardation, and the involvement of low-income groups in NARC membership and programs. These developments culminated at the 1971 Denver Convention, in recommendations, which were passed by the delegates.

As a result, NARC will hire, as soon as possible, a program services consultant on the national staff who will devote full time to working with NARC volunteer committees and staff in evolving overall policies and program guidelines in the area of poverty and mental retardation.

Sufficient funds will be made available to enable this consultant to carry out his responsibilities effectively. As additional funds become available, more representatives for the minority interests will be added to the field staff.

NARC will also utilize the Minority Affairs Coalition (MAC), the National Urban League, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and other appropriate national organizations in efforts to recruit these additional representatives.

MAC will, in addition, serve as an Advisory Committee to the NARC Board of Directors. The chairman of the Poverty and Mental Retardation Committee will be a member of MAC and the liaison between MAC and the NARC Board of Directors. There will also be one additional MAC member who will serve on the NARC Poverty and Retardation Committee.

**Tw » NARC Newsletters  
Available by Subscript!**



## Job Seekers Told How to Find Work

Seldom does one small briefcase contain as complete a vocational orientation program as the *PREPARING FOR WORK* occupational kit developed by the St. Paul School Vocational Rehabilitation Program, St. Paul, Minnesota.

The kit includes 14 filmstrips, a syllabus guide and supplementary materials such as job application forms, job information cards and want ad sections. These materials comprise an audio-visual program which introduces young adults with learning difficulties to the world of work.

The filmstrips cover the basic factors with which young adults need to be familiar when they consider finding employment. The program content is divided into three sections: work orientation, occupations and work adjustment.

The occupation filmstrips picture several types of jobs which retarded adults can realistically hold. Although every occupation for which retarded persons have employment potential isn't pictured, the selection includes "The Maintenance Worker," "The Restaurant Worker," "The Factory Worker," etc.

The teacher, vocational counselor or placement adviser who shows the filmstrips can easily regulate the depth of discussion to his student's level of understanding.

The kit may be purchased from Audio Visual Extension, University of Minnesota, 2037 University Avenue, S.E., Minneapolis, Minn. 55455. Price \$120.



## "Quite a Talent" Is the Word on Governor's Wife

Mrs. Muriel Shapp, the wife of Governor Milton Shapp, Pennsylvania, is probably as active in the field of mental retardation as any Governor's wife in history.

She initially worked one day a week at the Dauphin County Mental Health and Retardation Program's Harrisburg Hospital Mental Health Clinic. She now will work four days a week, providing counseling for families and training other staff members.

This past summer Mrs. Shapp also made available the Governor's Mansion for the New Day School nursery, a non-profit school for brain-damaged children. This is the first time the Governor's Mansion has been used for such a purpose.

Although almost all the Governor's wives supported their husbands' political efforts by appearing on the social circuit and fulfilling the rather innocuous, ceremonial First Lady duties, Mrs. Shapp is the first to apply professional skills in an assignment where party dresses aren't worn and a butler doesn't open the door, the *Harrisburg Evening News* reports.

Two of the most vital and informative publications put out by NARC are *Action Together* and *Information Exchange*. Did you know that both are published monthly and are available on a subscription basis?

*Action Together* is designed to keep ARC units informed of vital legislative needs and other projects that require active support on behalf of mentally retarded persons. *Information Exchange* serves as both a clearing house for useful information on ARC activities and a digest of ideas and projects current in the field of mental retardation.

While these newsletter style publications are produced for NARC's member units their content is in no way restricted to NARC activities. They cover subjects of interest to all readers concerned with the needs and problems of mentally retarded children and adults. Recent subjects in *Action Together* have included "Poverty and Mental Retardation," "Employment of the Mentally Retarded," and "Special Federal Income Tax Dependency Rulings Related Specifically to Mental Retardation." Recent *Information Exchange* topics include "MH-MR — Does the Public Know the Difference?," "Model Day Care Centers," "New Dangers of Lead Paint Poisoning," "Social Security Benefits for the Mentally Retarded," and "New Standards for Residential Facilities."

These two publications are received free of charge by NARC's state and local presidents and executive directors, state and local publicity chairmen and fund raising chairmen, and NARC's national committee chairmen and board of directors. Still other concerned persons have also found these publications informative and others have found extra copies useful for distribution to local NARC board members, legislators, interested organizations, businessmen, doctors, attorneys, special education teachers, libraries — and other persons seeking informative material related to varied activities in the field of mental retardation.

Subscriptions — and additional single copies — are available as follows:

- Individual subscriptions—\$1.25 per year (12 issues)
- Bulk subscriptions — (min. order, 25

copies per month, 12 issues per year) — \$12.50 per year. Add \$1.00 for each additional 12 copies per year. Example: 26 copies per month, \$13.50 per year, etc.

• Single additional copies of a particular issue are available free upon request. Additional copies of a particular issue — in quantity — 5c each.

Address orders to:

*Information Exchange* (or *Action Together*) National Association for Retarded Children, 2709 Ave. "E" East, Arlington, Texas 76011

Make checks payable to The National Association for Retarded Children.

## Second Film Festival Planned on Handicapped

The Second Annual Film Festival on the Exceptional Individual will be held in Los Angeles at Hancock Auditorium March 4.

The festival will be sponsored by the University of Southern California's University Affiliated Project at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles in association with the Southern California Region of the American Association on Mental Deficiency.

Included will be outstanding professional, lay and commercial films portraying handicapped children and adults.

An attendance of approximately 500 is expected and an award will be given to the outstanding film selected by a panel of representatives from the film industry, parents and professional persons.

Those wishing to submit entries made during the past 18 months should send a one-page written description of their own film including length, intended audience and content, to:

Mrs. Tessa Warschaw  
University Affiliated Project  
Children's Hospital of Los Angeles  
4650 Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90054



**BUSY BAKER** — A mentally retarded girl is making cookies for Grandma's Kitchen, the bakery at the Lambs, Inc., as three supervisors look on.

## The Lambs- a very special flock

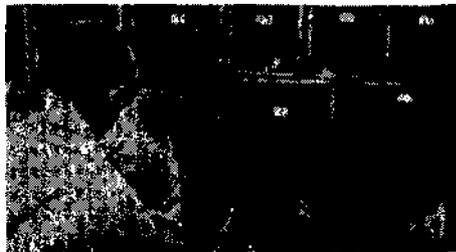
by Zoe Ann Mason

Editorial Assistant, *Mental Retardation News*

The whining of small puppies, the chirping of birds, the smell of freshly baked bread and the contented faces of the employees doing their daily work with special pride — these are the sights and sounds of The Lambs Farm, a non-profit organization run by and for retarded persons at Libertyville, Illinois.

The farm, which was founded by two teachers of retarded children who thought their students should have broader experiences than are available in sheltered workshops, includes a pet store, tearoom, bake shop, children's zoo, farmers' market and a silk screen print shop.

Bob Terese, co-founder of the Lambs with Mrs. Conine Owen, explains the inspiration behind the farm. "We felt that more should be done than just keeping the young people 'busy'. We wanted to give them a purpose and meaning in life." He explained that 12 or 13 years ago there was nothing a retarded teenager could do except pass time in a non-productive program such as finger paint-



## Problems, Challenges and Importance Of Proper Dental Care For Retarded Children

by Sylvia Rost

*NARC Public Inquiries Correspondent*

The wise parent works with his child in order to teach him to care for his teeth, but even then normal dental problems such as tooth decay and irregular spacing of the teeth cannot always be eliminated. The dental care of the mentally retarded child presents more of a challenge to the parent, since normal dental problems are complicated by dental abnormalities that frequently accompany the retardation, such as a delay in the appearance and development of the child's temporary teeth, and a tendency for them to be lost at an early age. The permanent teeth also often appear irregularly, and sometimes are never complete.

### Many Variations

All kinds of variations involving teeth alignment occur for the retarded child. For instance, teeth are often crowded together, or they may be spaced very far apart. The child with Down's Syndrome especially experiences difficulty in chewing because of a crossbite or an overbite. However, the tooth alignment is not always to blame; the child is already handicapped by an unusual mouth structure: the oversized lower jaw protrudes in front of his too small upper jaw, causing his lower teeth to project beyond his upper ones.

As can be expected, the mentally retarded child may be a victim of dental disease that steadily grows worse throughout his life. Surprisingly, however, neglect to obtain dental service is generally the basic cause of a child's severe dental decay. There is the additional danger of a possible attack from periodontal disease, which affects the surrounding tissues and structures of the teeth. In its devastating march across the dental area, periodontitis first inflames and then destroys the gum areas, finally causing the permanent teeth to loosen and then fall out.

Because of these dental abnormalities that sometimes accompany mental retardation, it is especially important for parents to take active measures in providing good dental hygiene. One reason that so many retarded children have serious dental problems is that parents, may

small enough to reach all the surfaces of the teeth. For some children, the electric toothbrush will be quite helpful; other children with motor difficulties may need special adaptations. The dentist can give advice as to the particular brush or device that the child needs.

### Other Aids Helpful

Other aids in teaching the child to care for his own teeth are a pleasant-tasting toothpaste, that will tempt him to brush his teeth, and his own mirror by which he can examine them.

Routine dental examinations are vital throughout the retarded person's life, and should begin by the time the child is two years old. Most retarded children require two examinations a year, and children whose teeth are especially prone toward decay will need to make more frequent visits.

There is no reason why a retarded child should not become a cooperative dental patient. By accompanying other family members on their visits to the dentist, the child will gain confidence in the dentist, especially if his first few visits are pleasant experiences. The most important factor in successful dental examinations for the child is the patience and understanding on the part of the dentist toward his patient, which will usually lead to the child's trust and cooperation. Some children will find it difficult to relax when receiving dental treatment, and

came the sheltered workshop idea where the kids were made more productive through such projects as putting ten hairpins on a card to be sold in a dime store.

"But we felt that even this wasn't enough. We continually thought of opening some kind of business of our own, and hiring retarded young adults," he added. Finally the two teachers put their plan into action.

The retarded employees do all of the work on the farm from feeding and cleaning the animals to cooking and serving the food in the tearoom.

The Shepherd's Inn, formal name of the tearoom, is open Saturday and Sunday for buffets and during the week by special arrangement for club meetings. It serves a wide variety of food which the girls cook themselves. Their cuisine has met with such success that reservations are now hard to get.

Because of the success of the tearoom, the farm has opened a store called Grandma's Kitchen where delicious breads, cookies and strudel are baked. Again, demand for these items has added another dimension. Specially decorated



*LUNCH TIME— Employees in the pet shop of the farm take care of the animals from cleaning their cages to feeding them.*

tins full of cookies are mailed all over the United States at Christmas time.

Christmas cards are the main product in the Silk Screen Shop. Orders for these cards are so great that the shop works year round to produce enough cards to meet the demands. Last year alone, the shop produced 65,000 hand-screened cards.

Largest part of the farm, and the base for the entire organization, is the Pet Shop. The 5,000-square-foot facility is the largest pet shop in the state of Illinois. The stock includes puppies, kittens, tropical fish, exotic birds, monkeys, hamsters, gerbils, turtles, guinea pigs, rabbits, mice and flying squirrels.

A new aspect of the pet shop in which retarded youths have shown a surprising expertise, is the care of injured wild birds. Passersby bring in injured owls, ducks and wild animals they have found. The instinctive love, sympathy and devotion of the employees soothes the creatures and aids their recovery.

The employees move from department to department throughout the week to broaden their experience and also to hold their interest.

Many retarded persons who work at the Lambs for a while are then able to go out into the community and find employment.

The Lambs earns 65 percent of its operating budget through its business operations. Since beginning in 1961, the annual gross volume from the shops has risen from \$18,000 to \$90,000. The remainder of the funds is contributed by interested individuals and foundations. In fact,

mental retardation and neglect to provide normal care for his teeth. Parents would perhaps feel more of a responsibility for this type of care if they realized how much their child's health can suffer through neglect of his teeth. For instance, loss of teeth or gum disease may cause the child to reject some solid foods because of the difficulty he has in chewing. In addition, bad teeth and gums increase drooling, and can even affect the child's ability to develop good speech habits.

#### Healthy Diet Important

A healthy diet is a great factor in protecting the child's teeth. Foods that actually help clean the teeth are fresh fruits and raw vegetables such as carrots, celery, and apples. Many sweet-tasting foods that are not good for the child, even though he may crave them, are those containing a lot of sugar, such as candy and lollipops.

Another way that a parent can help protect his child's teeth is to teach the child how to care for his own teeth. Of course, at a very young age, the child may not be able to brush his own teeth; the parent must see that they are brushed after meals. As soon as possible, however, the child should be encouraged to brush his own teeth on a regular schedule.

much of the equipment used in the shops has been donated.

But the Lambs is not resting on its laurels. At present, negotiations are under way to have a service station on the farm. Other future plans include dormitories for the employees, a food shop, hot dog stand, pet cemetery, resale shop, green house, farm and boarding kennel.

The success story of Lambs Farm has its antecedents as far back as the Bible, when Jesus said to Peter, that if he really loved him, "Feed my lambs."

And Bob Terese and Corrine Owen are giving these words a truly contemporary meaning.

The selection of a good toothbrush is necessary, because the brush must be

that reason. For a very few children, the sedative may be ineffective, and it may be necessary for the child to receive treatment under a general anesthesia in a hospital. Hospital treatment, however, is rare; most dental work can take place in the dentist's office.

#### Parents Not Alone

Parents of mentally retarded children will be glad to know that others are interested in providing good dental hygiene for their children. More and more dentists are receiving training in undergraduate or refresher courses in dental schools in the proper dental care for the handicapped child. As the result of grants awarded by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, universities are conducting research studies into dental problems and treatment of the handicapped child. Some communities offer education programs for parents of retarded children to instruct them in the proper care of their children's teeth.

Although the retarded child may require more understanding by his parents and his dentist, the dental care he receives should be no different than that given to any other child. Parents of retarded children will find that frequent trips to the dentist combined with their own efforts at home care will eliminate most potential dental problems and lessen the difficulties the child will encounter as a result of his retardation.

## Wagner O'Day Act Updated To Benefit MR Persons

The current Congress has updated the 33-year-old Wagner-O'Day Act — a law which once helped only the blind — to benefit other handicapped including retarded persons.

The new legislation, which was signed into law by President Nixon, enables workshops and other facilities employing retarded workers to list the commodities and services they provide and thus receive preferential treatment in selling them to the Federal Government.

**PRINT SHOP— Hand screened Christmas cards are being made by these girls at the Lamb's Silk Screen Shop. Last year the shop produced 85,000 cards.**



## FROM A DEVELOPMENTAL POINT OF VIEW

**G. Thomas Rowland, Ph.D.**  
The Institute for Epistemic Studies

### *Intelligent Behavior: Thinking,*

Though retardation ordinarily involves some physical insult or injury, there is almost always some collapse or impairment of mental functioning. Much current research in psychology and mental retardation is concerned with learning, abilities and talents, and skill development as well as perception, all of which are related to thinking and the development of intelligent behavior.

Man has been concerned with his own thought processes at least since the beginnings of academics and science. Aristotle discussed the concepts of early philosophy in the epic *De Anima*, and the mind remained the concern of philosophers until Prof. W. Wundt established psychology as a science in the late 1860s. Since that time, this area of study has been the concern of science, and some of the earlier confusion has been clarified by the imposition of appropriate methodologies and accurate techniques for quantification and analysis.

There is nothing mystical or magical about intelligent behavior; it is a long-term, developmental process which appears to be a matter of invariant sequence and which occurs in stages as a consequence of the person interacting with the environments.

The stages. Almost all scholars concerned with intelligent behavior propose that mental development occurs in clearly identifiable stages. The earliest developmental stage is evidenced when behavior is closely linked to the environment. This level of thinking can be seen in most young children as the physical environment (external) dominates their behavior. "I" is the important person, and almost every event and thing is seen in relation to "I." Though this level of thinking is usually attributed to the very young or the profoundly retarded, it seems to persist to a greater or lesser

called them "the levels of abstraction." Bruner calls them the enactive, iconic, and symbolic modes of representation, while Piaget calls them sensory-motor, concrete, and logical operations. More important than labels is the probability that individuals seem to function at all levels throughout the life cycle. We cannot establish a link between stage of development and chronological age. In other words, sensory-motor behavior cannot be attributed to infants and retarded persons when individual and collective greed drives societies (nations) into indefensible wars. Concrete operations are not the domain of adolescence when adults are insensitive and arrogant; and most certainly, logical thinking is not the asset of a corrupt politician.

Perhaps, we have failed to learn from our retarded citizens and our children, but hopefully, that is the past. We can



**MUTUAL SELF-HELP PROJECT**— *It works both ways when the inmates of an Illinois maximum security prison join forces with mentally retarded boys at the nearby children's center. Prison officials say the program definitely helped change attitudes of some inmates for the better and the boys appreciate the fact that somebody cares.*

## Convicts Working with Retarded Children in Self-Help Program

*Adapted from features in the Washington, D.C. Post and "Reaching Out," the quarterly publication of the Illinois Department of Health.*

Men who have been ostracized from society and are serving time, have found an outlet for their desire for rehabilitation, and mentally retarded youths who also may need encouragement in their pathway to progress, have found new friends in two separate but related programs in Illinois and Maryland.

Ernest (Doolum) Johnson, a 22-year-old Lorton Reformatory inmate serving a life term, feels he has established something in the several weeks he has been working with a 5-year-old retarded child.

"Dave is not really retarded," Johnson says, "he's just shy and won't talk to people. You should hear him talk when we're alone."

Johnson and five other Lorton Reformatory inmates worked with some of Williamson County, Illinois, is virtually

**degree throughout** life. Many people who live to eat, for purely physiological enjoyment, or are on an "ego-trip" of their own choosing tend to exhibit this lowest level of mental functioning.

This lowest level of functioning can occur among ministers or social misfits, among college professors and students or corporate executives. In this light, we can all be said to be in some significant way "retarded people." It is the degree of dominance which determines our skills and abilities, but we can clearly see that some level of retardation is normal, that is, retarded behavior of some type is *the expected* rather than the unusual.

**The next level** of mental functioning appears to develop when the individual can determine cause-and-effect with some accuracy, and can function in the ordinary social milieu without being damaged and without causing serious damage to others. Again, there are degrees and some scientists hold that many societies never evolve beyond this very concrete level of functioning. Upon closely examining some of the institutions developed within some American states, it must be admitted candidly that as a society, we have been rather primitive in our attitudes toward our retarded citizens. Hopefully, with careful and developmental planning, these types of "human warehouses" will cease to exist.

Finally, humans seem to think on a high level of logic, wherein symbols become meaningful in a very powerful sense. The logical thinker can generate propositions and deduce conclusions, and reach decisions which project or predict the possible. This type of thinker, who is frequently considered brilliant, is also **retarded when the environment (e.g., the public school) fails to stimulate his development of intelligent behavior by ignorant faculties, inadequate materials, or by compelling these individuals to conform to criteria established for the mediocre.**

These three stages in the development of intelligent behavior have been identified by various scientists. Aristotle

see beauty and meaning when a person with Downs' Syndrome stops to touch a flower and breaks into delighted laughter. The full impact of such a simple event will be ours only when we realize that retardation is in all of us. Retarded people belong among us, as normal members of our society — not average, but normal. Perhaps they can dampen our aggressiveness and teach us the meaning of candor and gentleness.

## Membership Status Report For Fourth Quarter 71

Membership Services reports the following new units have been admitted as local member units of NARC: #1897 Imperial Valley ARC, California; #1906 Hendry County ARC, Florida; #1902 Vermillion County ARC, Indiana; #1896 Todd County ARC, Kentucky; #1900 Northern Tri County ARC, Minnesota; #1901 Central Montana ARC, Montana; #1908 Colfax County ARC, Nebraska; #1907 Conway Regional ARC, New Hampshire; #1905 Birdville ARC, Texas; #1898 Cherokee County ARC, Texas; #1903 Sullivan County ARC, Tennessee; #1904 Bedford County ARC, Virginia; and #1899 Platte Valley ARC, Wyoming.

The Support Payment Committee reports that the following unit memberships have been terminated for failure to meet support requirements. These units, however, are eligible for reinstatement through NARC readmission procedures. They are: #1577 Bethel Chapter of the Alaska ARC, Alaska; #1513 Pearl ARC, Mississippi; #623 Dunklin County Council for Retarded Children, Missouri; #1159 Mississippi County ARC, Missouri; #899 Eastern Montana ARC, Montana; #996 Deer Lodge Valley ARC, Montana; #1388 Dona Ana County ARC, New Mexico; #16 New York State ARC, New York; #1207 West Surry ARC, North Carolina; #1401 LeFlore County Association for Mentally Retarded Children, Oklahoma; #1059 West Warwick Coventry Chapter, Rhode Island; and #1733 Haywood ARC, Tennessee.

attended a four-week day camp run by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of the late President John F. Kennedy, this past summer.

Johnson and inmate Gerald Evans feel a lot can be done for mentally retarded children if the youngsters are given enough individual attention.

"Some are really retarded," Evans says, "but the others have been handicapped by their environment. They just need someone to give them what they need the most — some attention."

Having inmates work with handicapped children is "tied in with the idea of altruism in changing these men's attitudes," said Lorton Supt. John O. Boone.

Several months ago Johnson and Evans were sitting outside a dormitory at Lorton "rapping" about what could be done for handicapped children. Evans was telling Johnson about his 9-year-old son who since birth has been paralyzed below the waist.

Educational Youth Services, a Lorton inmate organization that has been tutoring inner-city children and wants to expand its work to handicapped children, grew out of that conversation.

All members of the group, which has grown to 50, must be approved by the member inmates themselves, Johnson said. "All members must be enrolled in school at Lorton, not deal in drugs, and act as if they're in a law-abiding society," he points out.

The six Lorton inmates, all members of Youth Services, worked with 84 high school and college volunteers at the day camp located at the Shriver's Timberlawn estate in Rockville. The Lorton inmates were bused out to the camp site daily.

"The Lorton men have been very impressive," Mrs. Shriver has said. "They have a lot of compassion for these children."

\* \* \*

It was billed as the "world's only maximum security prison without walls" when it opened in the mid-1960's. But the U.S. Prison, located inside the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge in

The Egyptian Jaycees, sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and barred from society for their law-breaking activities have been volunteers, and then some, to the boys at the Mental Health Department's A. L. Bowen Children's Center, located 30 miles away in Harrisburg.

Joe Wick, Jaycee volunteer chairman for Bowen, and a 34-year-old prison inmate, said "What a welcome they give us. When we enter the dormitories, the little boys start running and yelling The Jaycees are here, Jaycees are here."

Only privileged Jaycee members have been allowed to make the monthly visit to Bowen but during the past two-and-a-half years, the Jaycees have done more than just visit the mentally retarded boys.

One Jaycee donated numerous large and small size paintings for the Bowen boys' residential living areas. Others made frames for the pictures. The Jaycee band, prior to parole of some of the musicians, played once a month at Center resident dances.

The Jaycee prisoners **provided gifts at Christmas and bought caps and shirts for the Bowen intramural softball teams.**

**In one highlight of the program last year, 50 Bowen residents came to the prison to play two exhibition softball games and then ate dinner with the prisoners.**

**However, the big event came last autumn when, at the urging and promotion of the prison Jaycees, all of the Jaycee chapters in Southern Illinois held a huge picnic-jamboree for Bowen residents at the DuQuoin State Fairgrounds.**

**Apparently there's no doubt that both the residents and inmates are benefiting. One prison official said the Jaycee program definitely helped change attitudes of some inmates for the better. And Mrs. Emilee Robertson, Bowen volunteer supervisor, said the Bowen residents cherish the inmates.**

"They don't care who they are or where they come from, or what they've done," she said. "The Bowen boys just know the prisoners are people who care about them."



**HE'S NOT HEAVY, HE'S MY BROTHER**—Drake University sorority and fraternity members put their slogan to full use during their annual Greek Week when they invited retarded children and their parents to participate in campus activities planned especially for them.

## Greek Week Helps Iowa Students Meet and Help Retarded Youths

The Greeks may have had a word for it, as the saying goes, but they would be hard pressed to find enough kind words to describe what Drake University accomplished this past fall for mentally retarded children and adults during the campus Greek Week.

Located in Des Moines, Iowa, the university is a private school with an enrollment of 7,000 students, most of whom belong to a fraternity or sorority. And this Greek Community sponsors a week-long series of activities, such as a football game and exchange dinners and picnics.

This year Greek Week offered an example one of the most well rounded programs ever devised to bring retarded persons into the main stream of community living.

A year ago the Greek Week Committee added a public service project to the activities and chose four possible areas: ecology, drug abuse, alcoholism and mental retardation. After visiting with each of the agencies concerned with these areas, the committee decided to work with the Polk County Association

ternity and sorority members escorted retarded persons . . .

- The Sunday luncheon and Gamma Gamma Convocation at which Dean Mitchell, past president of the Iowa State ARC, gave the main address.

The Polk County ARC found Greek Week a most rewarding experience. It proved very constructive in helping to destroy old myths and misconceptions about mental retardation. Most of the

## ACTION, New Government Program Unites Six Volunteer Agencies

"University Year for ACTION" is the government's latest—and potentially broadest—response to the hundreds of thousands of young people now interested in doing something gratifying with their lives. ACTION was created by President Richard M. Nixon last summer to bring together six volunteer programs of the citizens service corps which represents a vast reservoir of goodwill and community service. These include the Peace Corps, VISTA, the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), the Active Corps of Executives (ACE), the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Foster Grandparents.

In a unique one-to-one relationship, 4,400 Foster Grandparents provide nearly 9,000 mentally retarded, emotionally disturbed or hospitalized children in 203 institutions with a physical and emotional answer to many of their needs.

Now, with a core of approximately 24,000 volunteers, ACTION has the manpower and experience necessary to develop a system of voluntary service which uses to the fullest advantage the skills of all the American people who wish to serve.

### Mandatory Education

*(Continued from page 1)*

- Denying a retarded child homebound instruction...
- Considering some children "uneducable" and "untrainable" and having the Welfare Department provide for their "care and treatment" . . .
- Not including mentally retarded under the term "brain damage."

In summarizing the successful court action, Attorney Gilhool stated "Pennsylvania ARC has taken the lead in moving from just providing services to retarded persons to advocacy through law to assure that public authorities provide to all retarded children what is theirs

ACTION'S first initiative, "University Year for ACTION," is a program in which nearly 1,200 student volunteers from 31 colleges and universities receive academic credit while working on anti-poverty projects sponsored by community organizations.

"I believe the potential number of participants is enormous and that this participation will do immeasurable good, not only for the poverty communities serviced but for the participating institutions and students," Senator Robert Dole (R-Kansas) told the NARC Denver Convention in his keynote address when he outlined the ACTION program to the delegates.

In addition to "University Year for ACTION," several other pilot projects which would harness the unused energies of Americans not now serving in any volunteer capacity are under consideration.

ACTION is more than just an amalgamation of federal volunteer-oriented programs. It is the fulfillment of a pledge President Nixon made a year ago at the University of Nebraska, when he called for "an alliance of generations" which would combine the "commitment and compassion of one... to the will and experience of another so that together we can serve America better."

may not have to take it to court.

In the State of Washington, the Washington ARC, along with other allied groups and individuals pushed their mandatory education legislation through the last legislative session.

This bill has several outstanding features which include:

- Insuring all handicapped children of common school age an opportunity for an appropriate education at public expense.
- Requiring each school district to insure an education that is directed to the

for Retarded Children. They chose mental retardation as their theme for the Greek Week festivities. And they chose the slogan — "He's not heavy. He's my brother."

A special slide presentation, showing Drake students with mentally retarded young adults, was made, and shown to each of the 19 fraternities and sororities. The presentation was also shown to dormitories in order to reach those students not affiliated with Greek houses.

A Drake University journalism class also volunteered to write a supplement on mental retardation for the *Times-Delphic*, the Drake University newspaper. With very little direction or assistance, the class turned out an excellent and accurate account of the needs and problems of mentally retarded persons in Polk County for campus distribution.

The Polk County ARC participated in most of the Greek Week activities and retarded persons who attended the many activities went to Drake fraternity and sorority houses and were taken by the students to the various functions. These included:

- Sweetheart Sings given by several Greek houses...
- A "Teach and Tell" in the Veterans Memorial Auditorium attended by 1500 children and adults which included discussions on mental retardation and behavior modification, slide presentations showing services provided by the Polk County ARC and an auction of articles made by the Work Opportunity Center...
- A carnival for retarded children and adults with 27 booths which attracted a particularly large crowd of retarded persons ...
- Exchange dinners at Greek houses for parents of retarded children and adults who answered frank questions from the Drake students...
- Special Olympics for nearly 50 retarded children followed by a picnic and a dance...
- The Drake versus the University of Tampa football game and subsequent street dance and picnic to which fra-

Week Committee. The association merely helped to carry them out. But one of the most constructive elements of the program was that the committee decided not just to have seminars and talk about retarded persons, they wanted to meet them and share their activities with them. And the Drake students, in all the get-togethers, showed compassion, not pity, and acceptance, not tolerance.

"We, as an association," stated Jon F. Doidge, administrative assistant for the Polk County ARC, "feel that a program of this type is extremely important, since it will enhance a permissive climate of opinion for services for retarded children and adults, as well as encourage concern and leadership from young people, the future members of our association."

The Polk ARC has planned a continuation of Greek Week through its citizen advocacy program. Interest in the program by Drake Students has been noteworthy. Hopefully, the continuation will offer students an opportunity to continue the friendships with retarded persons made during Greek Week.



*GREEK WEEK GAMES—As part of the week-long activities, Drake students held a special "Greek Olympics" for the retarded youngsters.*

#### What Dots It All Mean?

- It is now the right of each Pennsylvania child to have a free public school education, even if mentally retarded.
- A school district may not refuse to accept a child.
- A parent may put his child in school before the compulsory age of 8 and if the school has lower classes for "regular" children, it must provide a special class for retarded children.
- A retarded child having homebound instruction must be re-evaluated and have a due-process hearing every three months.
- Under the tuition and maintenance section, a maximum of \$4,200 per year can be received if the child, because of his disabilities, must be enrolled in a private school.
- If a school district has not adequately equipped its schools to handle all the retarded children as soon as possible and not later than Sept. 1, 1972, it will be liable for a contempt of court citation.

Gov. Milton J. Shapp, who took office after the complaint was drawn up, praised the ruling and said it "recognized the relative ineffectiveness of I.Q. tests as a gauge of the development potential of a retarded child."

Special education has been the subject of significant legislative developments in at least 10 states earlier this year.

Pennsylvania's bill is for all children between the ages of five and twenty-one, which is the normal age range for the child in the public school system to be provided educational opportunities, and was achieved through the court system. In Rhode Island they used a different approach. They got the State Legislature to pass mandatory legislation which says that the State of Rhode Island is responsible for the education of all, without exception, retarded persons between the ages of three and twenty-one. In Pennsylvania, they had the legislation, but now it has been mandated through the court system, which binds the state to produce the service. In Rhode Island, they

the handicapped children.

- School districts have several options: their own programs; join programs with another district; contracting with an agency)
- Cost of approved board and room shall be provided for students who live away from home (not in institutions) because there are no nearby programs.
- School districts may have programs for pre-school children.
- If a school district denies a handicapped child a program, the local superintendent must give the parents a written statement within 10 days. The parents may then appeal directly to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- The Superintendent of Public Instruction may apply appropriate sanctions against school districts which do not comply with the law.
- School districts must provide transportation to all handicapped children who are not ambulatory or who are not capable of protecting their own welfare.

Existing mandatory education statutes were expanded by legislatures in Minnesota, Montana and Kansas. The requirement that local school districts provide programs for educable (mild) retarded children was broadened to include trainable (moderate) youngsters in both Minnesota and Montana. In Kansas a 1969 law providing mandatory special education programs for retarded children was amended to include cerebral palsied and epileptic children.

Mandatory special education bills were also considered in Vermont and South Carolina but in both cases final action was postponed until the legislature reconvenes in January, 1972.

The New Mexico legislature approved a 30 percent increase in state formula aid to local school districts for special education programs.

Local school districts may extend special education programs to retarded adults over 21 years of age under a law recently enacted in West Virginia.

The above roundup of new legislation, while far from complete, indicates the progress currently being made.



ISLAND INPUT — Flags of the Pacific area nations participating in the First Pacific Forum on Mental Retardation back up a throng of delegates at the Forum's conclusion.

## International MR Leaders Discuss Health Education Issues in Hawaii

HONOLULU — Experts from the U.S. and other countries met here early last fall for the First Pacific Forum on Mental Retardation.

The purpose, according to Dr. Joseph Douglass, executive director, the President's Committee on Mental Retardation, was to exchange "new ideas on an old problem. .. common to all nations."

Delegates from Hawaii and the U.S. Trust Territories, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong included educators, medical doctors and related health personnel and administrators of residential services.

The forum focused on challenges which the professionals encounter in working with mentally retarded persons from infancy through adulthood.

"Using present knowledge, it is possible to reduce the overall occurrence of mental retardation by 50% before

Special education for retarded persons requires "a massive reconstruction," Dr. Marie D. Neale, professor of Special Education, Monash University, Victoria, Australia, told the attendants.

"Now that the groundwork of demonstrating that retarded children can learn has been established," Dr. Neale said, the task ahead is to "balance formal education programs with informal vital experiences that provide the emotional cement for diverse learning."

## The Theological Views Of Some of My Mentally Retarded Friends

by Robert Perske

(formerly director of Chaplaincy Services, The Kansas Neurological Institute and staff affiliate, The Menninger Foundation, now executive director, Greater Omaha ARC)

During my tour of duty as pastor to mentally retarded boys and girls, I grew aware of those special moments when they dare to say what they are really thinking about God, the church and religion.

These are not the times when they struggle to reveal what they perceive as being the nice or the proper things to say about God. (They often do this because some want so much to be a recognized part of the human race and to be accepted by us.) These are not mystical statements. They are refreshingly honest. These are those precious moments of freedom, genuineness and trust when they dare to "tell it like it is."

Through the years I have been recording these special conversations. The following selected vignettes are from my collection.

During the Advent Season, eleven-year-old Raymond was helping me place poinsettia plants in the chapel. While we worked we were talking about the Christmas season and Ray articulated a rather profound thought: "I know what Christmas is all about. He sent Jesus to let us know that He wasn't out to smash us."

We know that religious people used to sacrifice animals as burnt offerings in a precise, ritualistic way, in order to placate a deity who might get mad enough to "smash" them. Ray rather beautifully communicates the joy of Christmas with the theological thought that God is not out to "smash" us. Instead we can now believe we have been accepted as part of His human family.

"God sure was a hell of a dad. Any dad that would get his son killed ain't much good."

This was the way thirteen-year-old Jim seemed to hear what was being said



"Like all of us, they have tried to use theology to make sense out of what life has done to them."

develops in a family that can accept her and love her, she can feel comfortable with who she is and how she functions. For example, one of the warmest theological questions about heaven was in the home of friends.

Their fifteen-year-old daughter quizzed her parents about what heaven was like: "Will I be retarded when I get to heaven?" The parents answered that she would not. There would be no sickness, or pain. Everyone would be perfect. To this she responded "But how will you

the end of this century," Dr. Douglass told the forum.

The need for a population policy was stressed by Dr. Sharon Bintliff, medical director, Children's Hospital, Honolulu, who called the United States "among the most backward in terms of defining what its population policy ought to be."

Mental retardation will increasingly come to notice with urbanization and industrialization in the developing countries, Man Kee Wong, vice president of the Singapore Association for Retarded Children, predicted.

## Calendar of Events

The Calendar will list all NARC state and regional meetings, plus other events of interest to those involved in the field of mental retardation. Items must be submitted seven weeks in advance.

### FEBRUARY

10-12 South Central Regional Conference, Kansas City, Mo.

### MARCH

19-25 Council for Exceptional Children 50th Annual Conv., Washington, D.C.

23-26 North Central Regional Conference, Omaha, Nebraska

24 Nebraska ARC Annual Meeting, Omaha

### APRIL

7-8 Oklahoma ARC Conv., Oklahoma City

8-9 NARC Spring Board of Directors Meeting, Arlington

14-15 Arkansas ARC Conv., Hot Springs

14-16 Oregon ARC Conv., Bend-Redmond

14-16 Louisiana ARC Conv., Lake Charles

20-22 Texas ARC Conv., Longview

20-22 Indiana ARC Conv., West Lafayette

21-22 South Dakota ARC Conv., Belle Fourche

21-22 Montana ARC Conv., Kalispell

21-23 Wisconsin ARC Conv., Racine

28-29 Kansas ARC Conv., Salina

28-29 Kentucky ARC Conv., Lexington

A psychiatrist in Japan's Division of Welfare for the Handicapped, Dr. Akihiko Takahashi, described as a "suggestive example of a community plan for retarded persons" a facility in a Tokyo suburb, unique for the primary role of parents in its own operation.

The four-day -conference was co-sponsored by PCMR, the Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped, the National Institute of Child Health and Development and the Office of Child Development.

### MAY

5-7 Ohio ARC Conv., Cincinnati

6 Wyoming ARC Conv., Greybull

6-7 South Carolina ARC Conv., Columbia

11-13 Illinois AMR Conv., Peoria

15-20 American Association on Mental Deficiency Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, Minn.

20-21 Northwest Regional Convention, Pendleton, Oregon

### JUNE

2-3 Alabama ARC Conv., Decatur

8-9 North Dakota ARC Conv., Richardson

8-10 Minnesota ARC Conv., Marshall

8-10 Northeast Regional Conv., Boston

9-11 Georgia ARC Conv., Macon

9-11 Iowa ARC Conv., Waterloo

15-17 Southwest Regional Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii

22-24 Michigan ARC Conv., Detroit

24-25 Missouri ARC Conv., Jefferson City

### OCTOBER

1-6 5th International Congress on Mental Retardation, International League of Societies for the Mentally Handicapped, Montreal, Can.

15-17 Washington ARC Conv., Vancouver

about the doctrine of atonement. His frank statement haunts us with the fact that theological thinking may not always be healthy. One also could be haunted by the fact that Jim may have picked up this idea from listening to the words and emotions of other professing persons.

Another view of the atonement was communicated by ten-year-old Jack. "Adam and Eve ate this apple that God told 'em not to eat. So God gets real mad at everybody. Then He sends Jesus and beats Him up and gets it out of His system. Then He could love the rest of us again."

It was easy to see why Jack could believe this. For much of his life he lived with big people who could be violent. One could understand that the calm after a storm might be the warmest and most relaxed time of his life.

• • •

One day Melvin and I were working together hanging a large mural of Jesus and some children above the altar in the chapel. When we finished Melvin placed an elbow on the altar, pointed toward the picture of Jesus, and said "You know, Chaplain, that's the only guy in the world who never kicked kids."

It's interesting to note that when a mentally retarded child grows up and

## Rose Kennedy's Memoirs Purchased by Doubleday

The memoirs of Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy have been purchased for \$1,525,000, one of the largest sums paid by a single publisher for a memoir, the Associated Press reports.

Mrs. Kennedy, 81, was reported to have begun writing her memoirs a year ago. The 150,000 word manuscript, which will be published by Doubleday & Co., is expected to be completed next year with the aid of writer Robert Coughlin.

Mrs. Kennedy's income from the sale of the book will be donated to the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation for the Mentally Retarded.

know me then?"

### In Summary

These simple, genuine statements can help one to discover the fact that one's theological views can be constructive and nurturing. But they can also be destructive.

Ray's view of Christmas, Sue's hopes about heaven, or Melvin's strong belief that Jesus would never "kick a kid" could be nurturing forces in their lives, helping the children to grow toward a healthy and trustful view of life. However, this may not be so with Jack, who believes that God "beat up Jesus" or with Jim who felt anger for a "dad that would get his son killed."

My friends have taught me that when one makes a theological statement it is not necessarily "good." They have shown me that there can be statements that do not contribute to growth or to a healthy personal adjustment.

Another thing these statements have taught me is that certain theological statements can be so profound that both highly intellectual persons and retarded persons can be moved and touched by the same simple sentence. The emotional quality and cognitive value in the statement is enough to "turn on" people comprising a wide range of intellectual functioning.

My friends haunt me at another point. They, to some degree, have "mirrored" back to me the thoughts about God that they have earned from those around them who profess a faith. They have given back not only the words we gave to them but their perception of the emotions with which some of the words were given.

On the other hand they have coupled with the words and emotions the experience of what has happened to them in life. Like all of us, they have tried to use theology to make sense out of what life has done to them. It is possible that some of the less nurturing theological views may be a direct result of living in an institution for mentally retarded persons for a long period of time.

After knowing these boys and girls, and knowing something about their lives, these statements speak volumes to me.

# - Letters to the Editor ~

## Grateful for Porterville

To: Another Mother  
Reedsville, Pa.

I read your Letter to the Editor in the June, 1971, issue of *Mental Retardation News*.

I, too, have a child in a state hospital. My Judy was committed to Porterville State Hospital, Porterville, Calif., in July of 1956 when she was only four and one-half years old.

She is now almost 20 and I feel very gratified indeed that she is in such good hands, and receives the kind of compassionate care that she has for the past 15 years.

Since Judy needs the protective environment of an institution, I thank God that there are places like Porterville.

One source of satisfaction to me is helping the hospital. I am a collection agency for toys, books, clothing, etc., in my community, and people who learn of the hospital tend to be very generous.

Perhaps if a Parents' Group were formed in the hospital you refer to, it would help its patients, the staff and certainly the parents.

(Mrs.) Charlotte Brahman  
China Lake, Calif.

## Found Trip Rewarding

In your Oct. issue, 1971, Mrs. Elkin gave an account of her visits to schools and facilities for retarded persons abroad. I read it with great interest, and it prompted me to add my own experiences of a similar nature this summer, which may be of some interest to your readers — if for no other reason than getting to know about an inexpensive and informative study-tour in Scandinavia.

I am a Special Education teacher, having taught both retarded and physically handicapped students. My husband, who is now retired, worked in a related field. This summer we took part in a seminar or study-tour called "Special Education

offered as a solution.

Are we, in the name of progress, actually regressing to the philosophy of the Third Reich, where the senile, the retarded and the handicapped were exterminated before the mass genocide of the Jews? All of this was done in the name of mercy and progress.

We "high risk" mothers should keep in mind that it is precisely because the unborn child is human that diagnostic and medical treatment is possible before birth.

We should cooperate in undergoing amniocentesis when the purpose of early diagnosis of a defect is for the positive purpose of early treatment to preserve the life of the baby. Never should we consent to it for the purpose of "weeding out" and then exterminating the weak, helpless, unborn child.

Mrs. Leonard Brennan  
Merrick, New York

## Only Half the Story

It was with great interest that I read the two articles about Down's Syndrome ("A Worldwide Problem" and "This Home Is a Haven") since we are the parents of two boys so afflicted. Like all the other articles written about this, it only tells half the story. That is, they always talk about the retarded *child*. What happens to that child and his family when he is no longer the happy, affectionate, lovable child but a *man* with the same child's mind? Our boys are ages 22 and 19 now and we have done all of the things for them that Vincent's parents are doing for him, and more, for we never had any help from grandparents or anyone else. However, our older boy was never accepted in any school and was further handicapped by a stroke at age 13. The 19-year-old finally got into part time day school at age nine, after much pleading and begging by me, so he lost a few

Unless, of course, you can take care of him until you die even when you are ill and disabled yourself.

If I sound bitter—I am. Also frustrated by the amount of *nothing* that is available for a retarded adult. Can't someone please come up with some help and concern for the *parents* for a change?

Mrs. R. Williams  
Milwaukee, Wis.

## Replies to Mother

To Letter to the Editor signed "Just another mother who loves her child" (*Mental Retardation News* Oct. 71).

Mother, in effect you say the world's wrong and I'm right. We all feel this way, sometimes. And we feel whatever we do goes bad and blame the other fellow for the problems, which is only human. But in most cases, if we sit down and evaluate ourselves, we will find that many times *we are the problem*, even though we don't like to admit it.

As an example: smoking by mothers can cause many problems, even mental or physical retardation. Yet many mothers, who may or may not have caused this problem in their child, refuse to admit that they could have been at fault. They would rather blame their luck or the environment. Yes, we feel guilty but always try to pass the blame on to something else.

I'm the father of 13 living children, all healthy. Yet we lost a little three-year-old girl with a blood disease. We have no mental problems but we have our share of other problems. We give thanks for the good things that we have. This is why I joined the Austin Retardation Center a few years ago. We feel fortunate in being able to help some of the less fortunate.

"Understanding" is the real word, not to blame others.

When we believe, we should sign our name so the world knows we believe. Or how else are we allowed to defend ourselves, or how can the accused defend themselves? Most of us love our children. But we have too many people who won't use their names in facing reality.

I liked your letter, Mother, but I don't condone an unsigned letter. If that fellow upstairs is truly our God, then the fear we have for him will give us strength to face ourselves in this world.

Dennis A. Althoff  
Austin, Minnesota

## Helpful Hints

If space permits, it might be helpful to include from time to time in *Mental Retardation News* a column with comments from family members about their experience with the problem of mental retardation. Some of the reports would provide encouragement, I know, to those who are newly confronting the problem.

'Mrs. Hubert H. Humphrey  
Washington, D.C.

(Editor's Note: *Mental Retardation News* would be more than happy to consider any submissions of this nature.)

## HEW Awards Funds To Study MR Offender

Funds for a three-year study on "Criminal Justice and the Mentally Retarded" have been awarded to the Mexia State School in Texas by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The main purposes of the study are to: investigate the status of the retarded person in the criminal justice system; determine the relationship between mental retardation and various aspects of crimi-

in Scandinavia," which was conducted by the Danish Institute or Danske Selskab in Copenhagen. It started in a beautiful mountain lodge near Oslo, Norway. The tour then led us through much of the Danish countryside and then by boat to Goeteborg, Sweden. We visited a great variety of schools and workshops, some of which were very modern in concept and equipment. We talked to therapists, teachers, students and community leaders.

There were just 25 participants in our group which made it interesting as there was a wide professional, geographical and age span in it. We were teachers, social workers, students, psychologists and therapists. We came from various parts of America, Canada, Denmark, Austria and Japan. We ranged in age from 20 to 70 and yet we lived, traveled and studied together for 12 days in a most pleasant way.

I for one, am deeply grateful to the Danish Institute for this wonderful opportunity and can recommend this seminar to anyone interested to see methods for teaching retarded persons in the Scandinavian countries.

Mrs. Use Riesenfeld  
Trenton, N.J.

### What Price Progress?

As a "high risk" mother, I was particularly interested in Celia M. Wyman's article entitled "Down's Syndrome — a Worldwide Problem."

The science of genetics and feteology has made great strides in recent years so that now, not only mongolism, but over 70 congenital defects can be diagnosed anywhere from the second to the seventh pre-natal month.

Feteologists are excited because they are saving babies by treating them *before* birth in utero.

From the many articles I have read, the prevalent thinking seems to be that if there is a known cure, the unborn child is medicated and treated before birth just as he would be after birth. If there is no known cure, however, abortion is

quite well.

However, let's face it, no matter how much training and love they get as a child, when they become adults they are still retarded, totally and forever dependent on someone else for their care and supervision.

Day care programs and sitting services are totally non-existent for retarded adults. Recreation programs have an age limit of 19. Work programs are so crowded that they are very selective as to whom may enter. And if you have a transportation problem and are working for a living, forget about receiving any help there.

For us, we have reached the point of no return. We have loved and cared for our boys all their lives without relief or assistance. Friends our age, too, have raised their families. They are now free to bowl, golf, travel, see a movie or play, vacation, go out to dinner, etc. We have *never* been able to do this so by now we have no invitations. Sitters for a retarded adult are impossible to get, so we go nowhere that the boys can't go. Even excursions to the store or any other public place have become intolerable. The squeals of delight coming from a small child in a store on seeing Santa or some other exciting sight are accepted and smiled at from children but when those noises come from a man's body with a man's voice the sick stares we get are something else again.

So what are we to do? Who will help us? Not words and advice but help! Who will care for them when we are no longer able? Must my husband and I continue to exist only to care for two men/boys who will never be on their own?

Institutionalize, you say. State institutions and nursing homes do not offer anywhere near the decent, human life they have been accustomed to. All other places have long waiting lists.

So to Vincent's parents I say, place your child now on a waiting list so when he becomes an adult there will be a place for him. He will make the adjustment much easier now than when he is grown.

**I believe, as you say about your child,** that most handicapped people do their job well and appreciate a pat on the back. Many are also limited in their abilities. But, really, isn't this true with all of us?

## NARC Publications: A Selection Guide

J23. A HELPFUL GUIDE IN THE TRAINING OF A MENTALLY RETARDED CHILD, by *Elsie Blanton*. Authoritative collection of suggestions for care and training of retarded children. Classifies activities by mental age. Reprinted by NARC. 32 pages, 35¢.

J24. HOW CHILDREN DEVELOP INTELLECTUALLY, by *J. McVicker Hunt*. Study of effective innovations in techniques for stimulating intellectual development of normal and retarded children during pre-school years. Reprinted by NARC from *Children*. 16 pages, 25¢.

J25. IMPROVING TEACHING SKILLS FOR WORKING WITH THE MENTALLY RETARDED, *Report of a conference sponsored by the Greater Hartford ARC, 1967*. Solutions to educational needs of the retarded suggested by 10 speakers; social worker, public health nurse, physician, psychologist, educator. 121 pages, \$2.00.

J26. THE MENTALLY RETARDED CHILD, by *Sidney W. Bijou*. An explanation of the behavioral theory of retar-

nal behavior; discover what programs and resources are now available to meet the specific needs of the mentally retarded delinquent; and make recommendations concerning future action in this area.

ation, with emphasis on the physiological and environmental factors which influence learning capacity. Reprinted by NARC from *Psychology Today*. 16 pages, 25¢.

J28. TOILET TRAINING YOUR RETARDED CHILD, by *Molly C. Gorelick, Ed.D.* Describes practical steps parents can take in toilet training retarded children. Topics covered include the child's ability, parental attitudes, signposts of readiness, procedures, routines, and reward techniques. Reprinted by NARC. 8 pages, 10¢.

J30. ANNUAL REPORT OF NARC, A summary of NARC accomplishments each year and statement of major projects planned for the coming year. *Single copies free*.

J31. THE LOCAL ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, by *NARC*. A guide for boards, officers and committee chairmen of local associations of NARC. Describes structure and program of local units, and their relationships to state and national organizations of ARC. 224 pages, \$2.00.

To: NARC Publications, 2709 Avenue E East, Arlington, Texas 76011.

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