

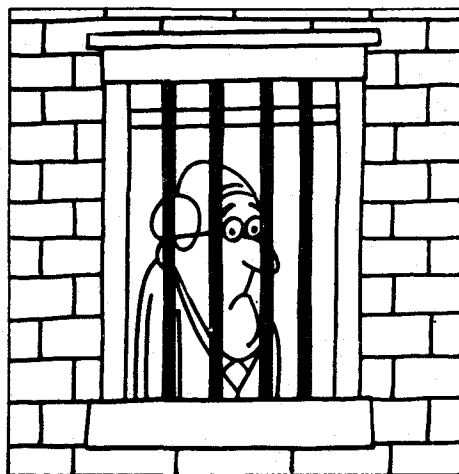
# dehumanization VS DIGNITY

Most persons, no matter how disturbed or disabled, tend to live up to what is expected of them. In planning and programming for the mentally ill and the mentally retarded, it must be assured that the individual retains his rights and his capacity for self-direction insofar as the disease or disorder permits. Any limitations that are imposed should of necessity be due to the particular disease process or condition. Such limitations must be constantly scrutinized and adjusted in the direction of increased self-responsibility, self-control, and adaptability on the part of the patient.

Each patient possesses a sense of individuality and self-worth. He must be treated in a manner that is humane and that honors his dignity and retains his humanity and human attributes. Thus, in treatment programming, staff of the state's mental health and mental retardation facilities must constantly be concerned that what they do and how they do it is always based upon patient needs.

The material presented below reflects the concerns of the staff on the maintenance of humane practices within the various institutions. Permission to reproduce this material was given by the Minnesota Department of Public Welfare.

## dehumanization is:



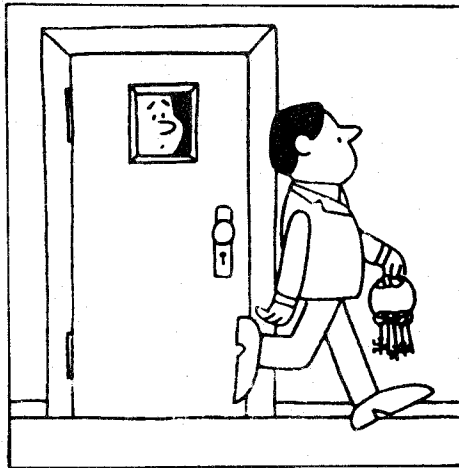
Being treated as a prisoner—instead of a patient.



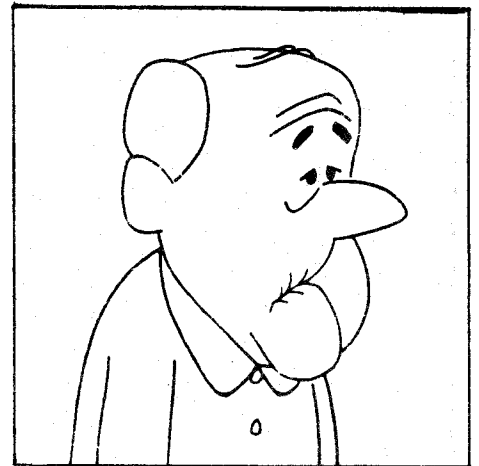
Being called "Hey, you."  
Being shouted at when a normal voice would do the job.



Having only certain day for bathing & shaving.



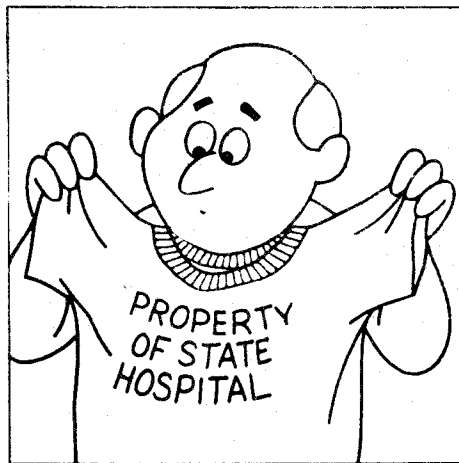
Being behind locked doors.  
Being subjected to standards set for the least capable patients.



Not being able to obtain dentures, eye glasses or hearing aids.



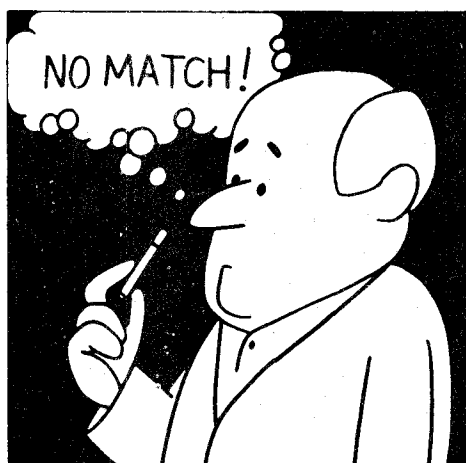
Being expected to "Participate," even in childish games, regardless of your feelings in the matter.



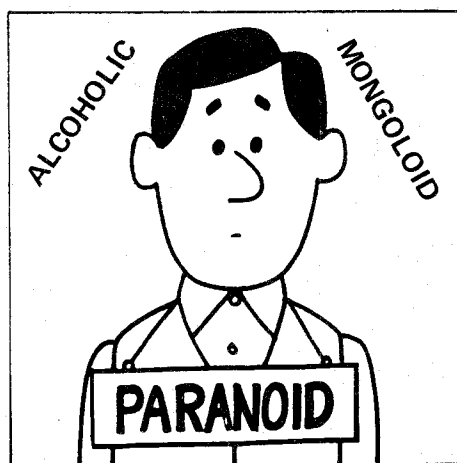
Having "State Hospital" stamped on your clothing.



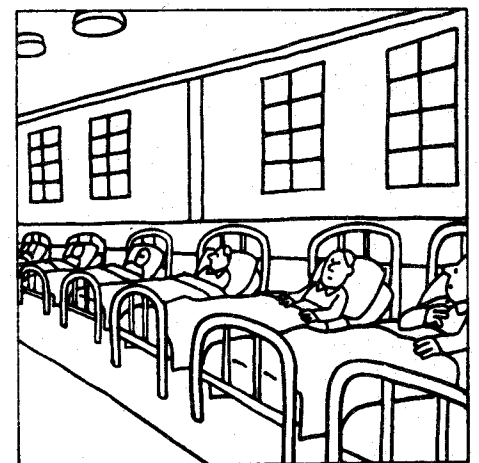
Being brought to the hospital by a sheriff or police officer.



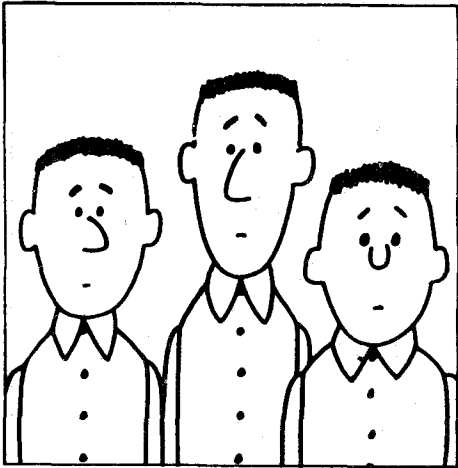
Having to ask for personal items.



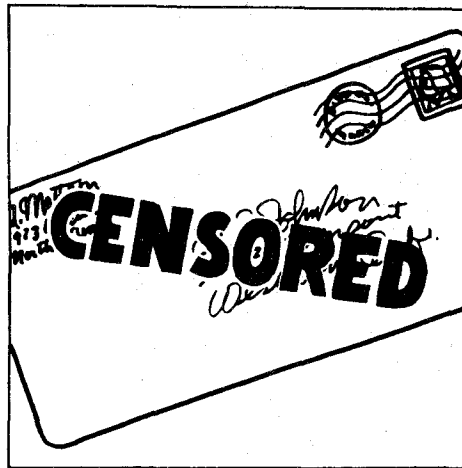
Being treated & referred to as a diagnosis.



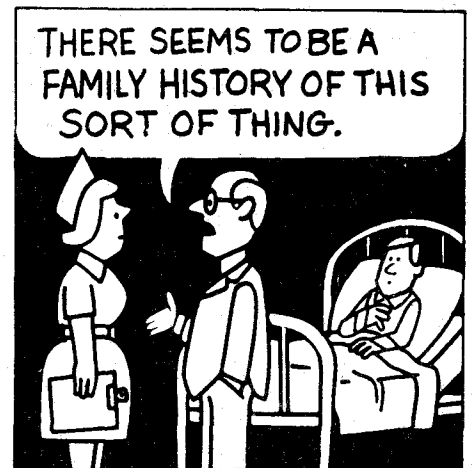
Having 40 room-mates.



Being subjected to the "batch" process.



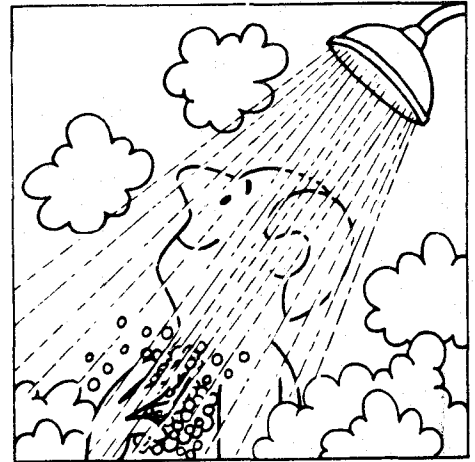
Having mail & packages opened & censored.



THERE SEEMS TO BE A FAMILY HISTORY OF THIS SORT OF THING.

Being discussed as if you were not present.

DIGNITY IS:



Privacy in dressing, in the lavatory and the showers.



Receiving encouragement & an occasional word of praise.



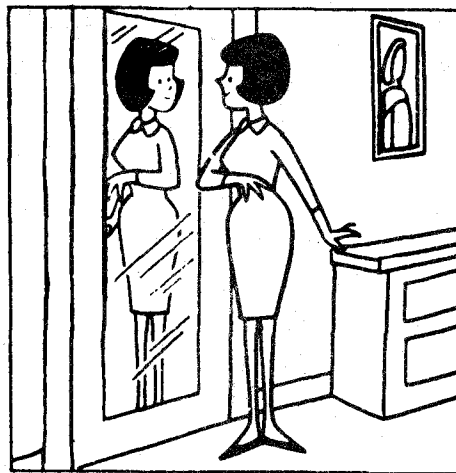
Being recognized as an individual—with individual needs.



Having someone care enough to listen to you. Not being ignored or humored.



**Having a place  
of your own for  
personal belongings.**



**Being able to see yourself  
in a full length mirror &  
having clothes that look  
and fit appropriately.**



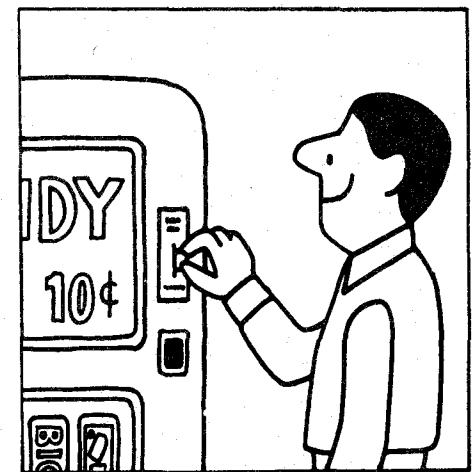
**Being told "why"  
about things affecting  
your health & welfare.**



**Being paid appropriately  
for work performed.**



**Having an opportunity  
to contribute your ideas  
or suggestions.**



**Having money  
in your pocket for  
ordinary purchases.**