



Our History Part 1

Colleen Wieck, Ph.D. | Executive Director

Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

Acknowledgments

- Anniversary of the Minnesota Council
- Anniversary of *Partners in Policymaking*®
- Thank you to Sponsors
- Not People First Language

Quadrant of Practices

Bad Example
of a Bad Idea

Good Example of
a Bad Idea

Bad Example of
a Good Idea

Good Example
of a Good Idea

Discussion Question 1

- Have You Personally Experienced What Has Been Discussed?
- Do You Have An Example From Today To Illustrate The Same Idea?

From the earliest times until the 18th Century, there is little or no recorded information about people with disabilities.

In other words, what will be shared today, can be disputed through your own research into the history of services and perceptions of people with disabilities.

Know the Social Context



Dr. Burton Blatt,
from Syracuse University wrote,

“Virtually all histories in our field are dangerously incomplete...that which is preserved may be less relevant than that which is unknown; and the facts however pertinent are to a degree divorced from the social psychological context of the period...”

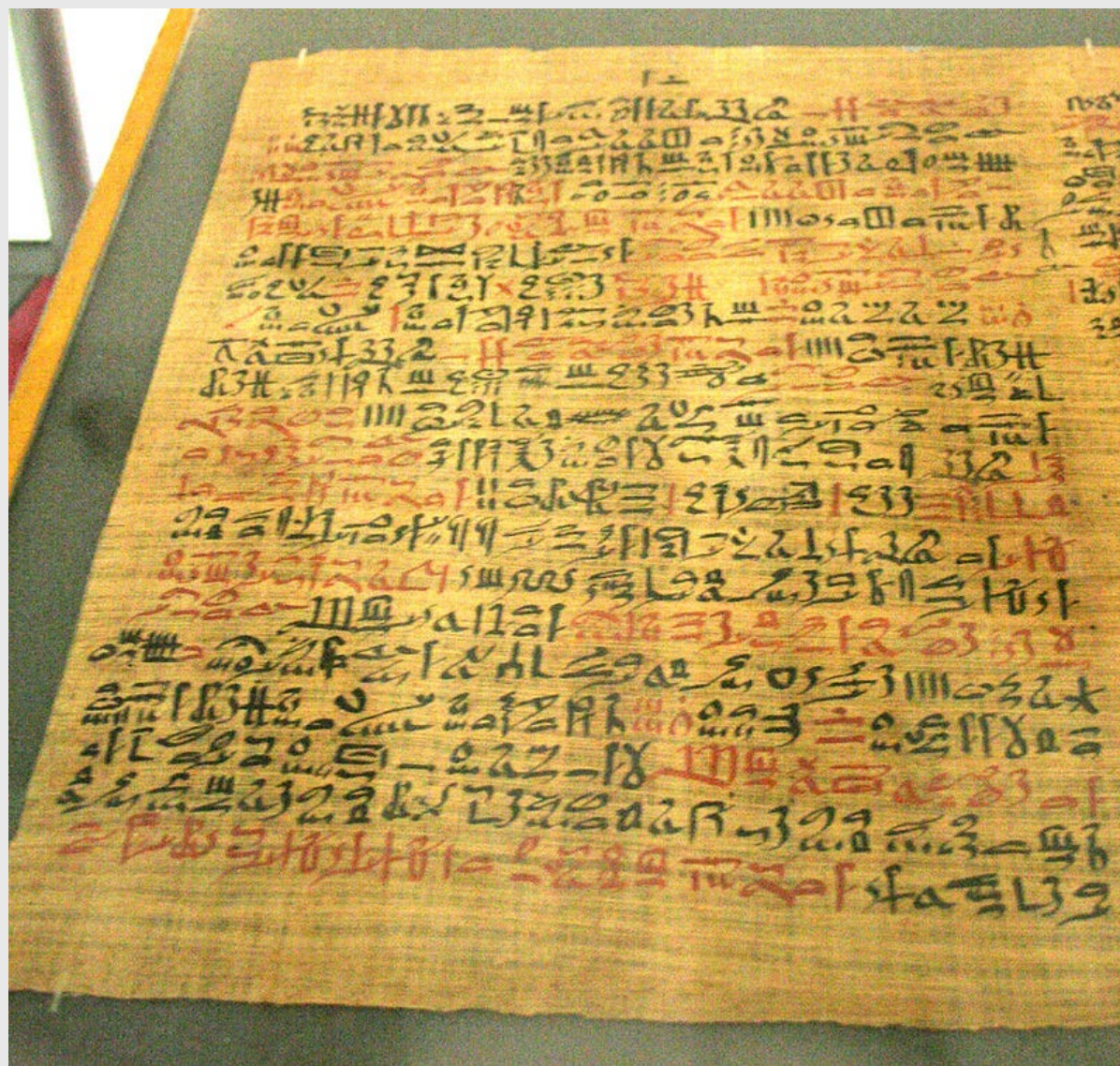
History Is Not Just Cruelty

- ❖ History also means compassion, sacrifice, courage, and kindness.
- ❖ You must understand the context of the times.

We can begin 3500 years ago at 1522 BC and find the first reference to intellectual disabilities in a document called the *Therapeutic Papyrus of Thebes*.



Therapeutic Papyrus of Thebes



The “wisdom teachings” of the culture stressed
RESPECT:

- *“Amenemope, a wise man who lived during the New Kingdom, wrote that care for the old, the sick, and the malformed was a moral duty.”*

The wise man should respect people affected by reversal of fortune.

Quote by Hubert H. Humphrey

At the 1976 National Democratic Convention in New York, Hubert H. Humphrey said,

❖ *“The moral test of a government is how it treats those who are at the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged: and those who are in the shadow of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped.”*

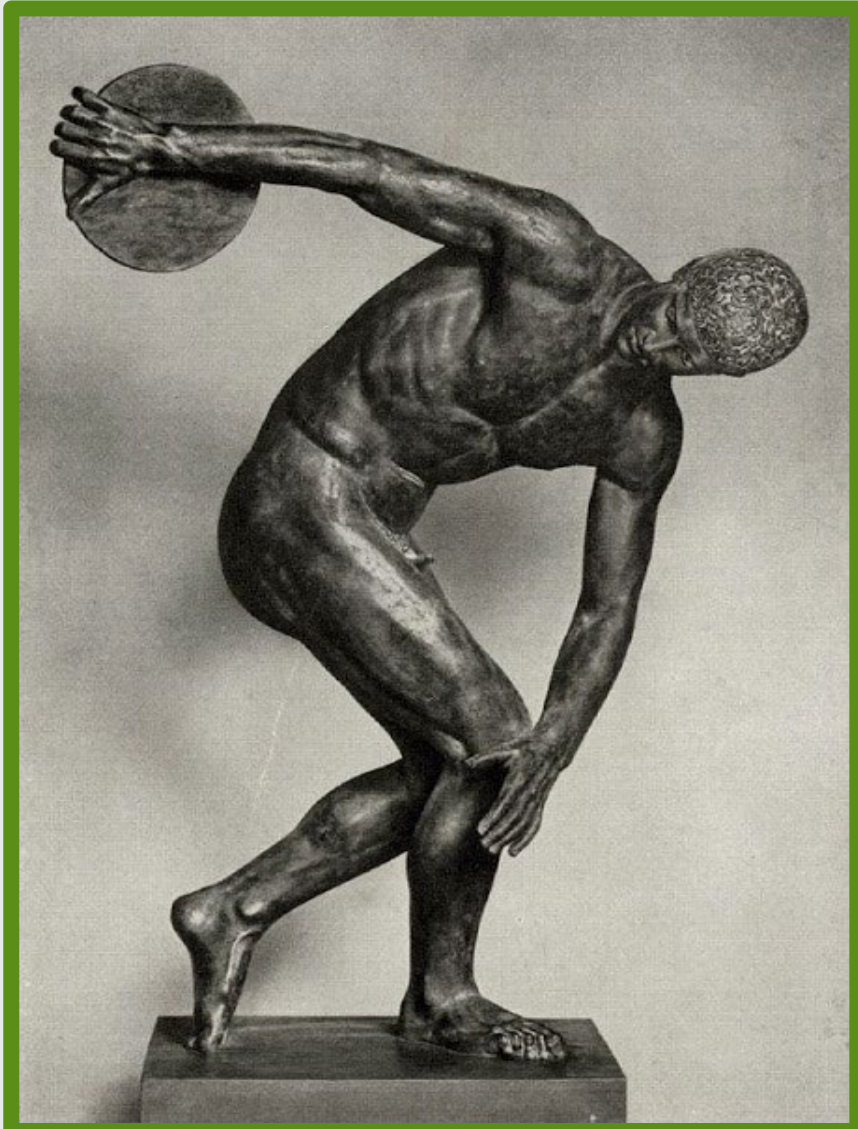
Ancient Egyptians Held People with Disabilities in High Esteem

- Worshipped several gods who were “little people”;
- Depicted “little people” on tombs;
- King Tut may have had a rare bone disorder and a club foot.

Jumping Ahead to the Greek and Roman Era



Difference Means Inferiority



The Greeks and Romans believed they were “Ideal Humans.” They were masters of art, philosophy, literature, and science.

Any physical difference meant you were inferior.

In a brief to the US Supreme Court about the Americans with Disabilities Act, the same sentence appeared.

The Court was asked to recognize that physical difference did NOT mean inferiority.

George Lane Lawsuit

Tennessee v. George Lane et. al. (1998-2004).

In 1998 George Lane had to crawl up two flights of stairs to appear in court for a traffic violation. There was no elevator for his wheelchair in his small-town courthouse. He refused to crawl. The Judge ordered him to be arrested for failure to appear. Lane sued, and his case went to the U.S. Supreme Court.

- ***“Justice for all, we won’t crawl.”***

In 2004, the Court decreed:

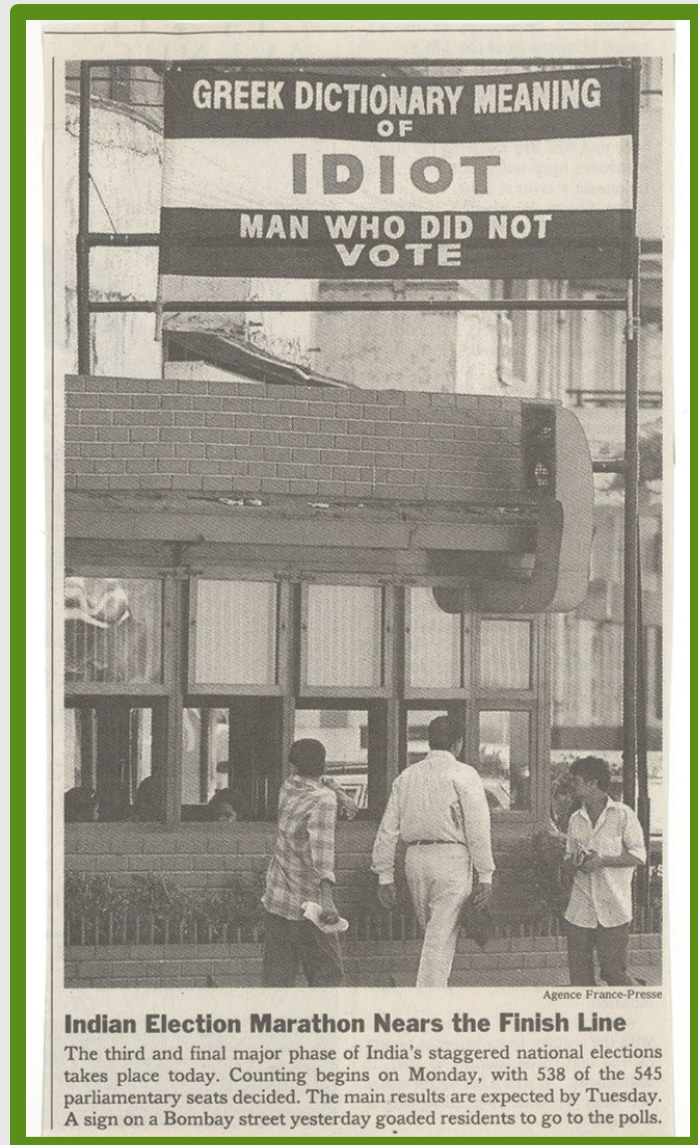
- **You cannot deny access to the courts.**

The Greeks were the first to use the word IDIOS (idiot) which in the beginning meant not a public official or an elected official. It meant a *“private person.”*

Then the term changed to mean *“someone ignorant”* and through the 1900s it meant *“someone with an IQ of 0-25.”*

In one day, your challenge is to count the number of times you hear or see the word “idiot,” whether it is in the cartoons, the radio, television ads, or by commentators.

India's National Elections

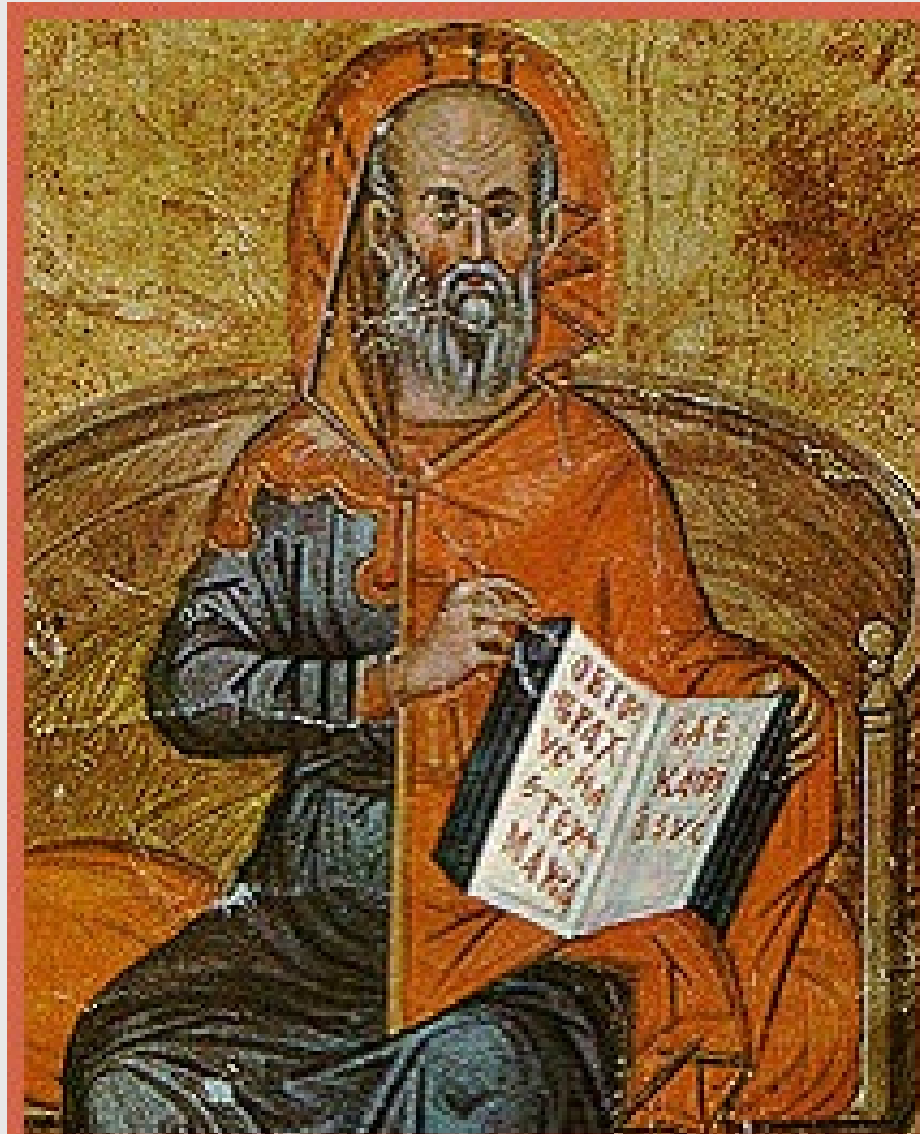


This photo from the *New York Times* (1998) goads Bombay residents to go to the polls and vote.

The previous slide showed a page from the *New York Times* in 1998, which had a photo from an election in India. The sign above the voting location reads, “Greek dictionary meaning of ‘idiot,’ man who did not vote.”

Language is critical to this field, as I will explain throughout our session.

Hippocrates



Hippocrates, the father of Medicine in the 4th Century BC, believed that Epilepsy was the result of physical causes, not a result of being sacred or touched by God.

Hippocrates performed an “autopsy” and found evidence of seizures in the brain.

- A seizure was **not** communication from God.

Hippocrates wrote,

“As to cause of epilepsy, it is not any more divine or more sacred than any other disease. Epilepsy has a natural cause, we just don’t have enough experience.”

Examples of Punishment:

- 2012—A stranger poured lighter fluid on a woman in a wheelchair and tried to ignite her because she was “the devil.”
- 2010—In Haiti, kids with disabilities are seen as a curse and will get food if there is any extra.
- 2010—Virginia legislator, “Kids with disabilities are punishment from God.”

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- ❖ *Disability is a natural part of human existence and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to participate or contribute to society.*
- ❖ *Why? To counter the belief that difference means inferiority or punishment.*

Seeking Miracles



Robert Nickelsberg for The New York Times

Visitors to the Sufi shrine give alms to the gatekeeper, always one of the revered "small-headed ones."

Seeking Miracles From Cruelty and Beauty

By RICK BRAGG

GUJRAT, Pakistan, Oct. 25 — Surrounded by caged birds and blessings, touched in reverence by throngs of people who believe that she is touched by God, the young woman with the startling deformity sat at the door of a place of miracles and pawed clumsily at the women and babies who bowed for her favor. The gatekeeper of a shrine to health and fertility, she has a shrunken head that is too small for her body, her words are nonsense and screams, and even her face, with its pointed forehead and wide, round jaws, is in the shape of a tear.

The worshipers say she is beautiful. One by one they paused in front of her before slipping off their sandals and passing into the Sufi shrine of Shah Daula, a procession of the afflicted who dream to walk again, rich men who humble themselves on their knees for a promise of heaven, mothers with the slack bodies of sick babies in their arms.

But most of the people who pass through the shrine, the smell of crushed rose petals thick in the

air, are young women who have not been able to have children. They believe — as women here have for 300 years — that praying at the shrine and being touched by the disfigured young woman will bring them a baby.

"I don't have a child — but I almost did," said Riffaat Parveen, who lost a baby in a miscarriage. So she came to pray for her miracle, to give alms to the gatekeeper. The saint entombed inside, a beloved Sufi Muslim mystic, was a kind man who surrounded himself with children born with this cranial defect.

The small-headed ones became known as chuhas — "rat children" — and generations of them have been abandoned here by parents to take their place in the legend. It is as much of the history as Ms. Parveen cares to know.

There is more, and it is the difference between heaven and hell. Generations of chuhas have wandered the streets of this city of about 400,000 people with begging bowls in their hands, only to turn the

Continued on Page A4

New York Times

October 25, 2001

The caption under the photo reads:

"Visitors to the Sufi shrine give alms to the gatekeeper, always one of the revered 'small-headed ones.'"

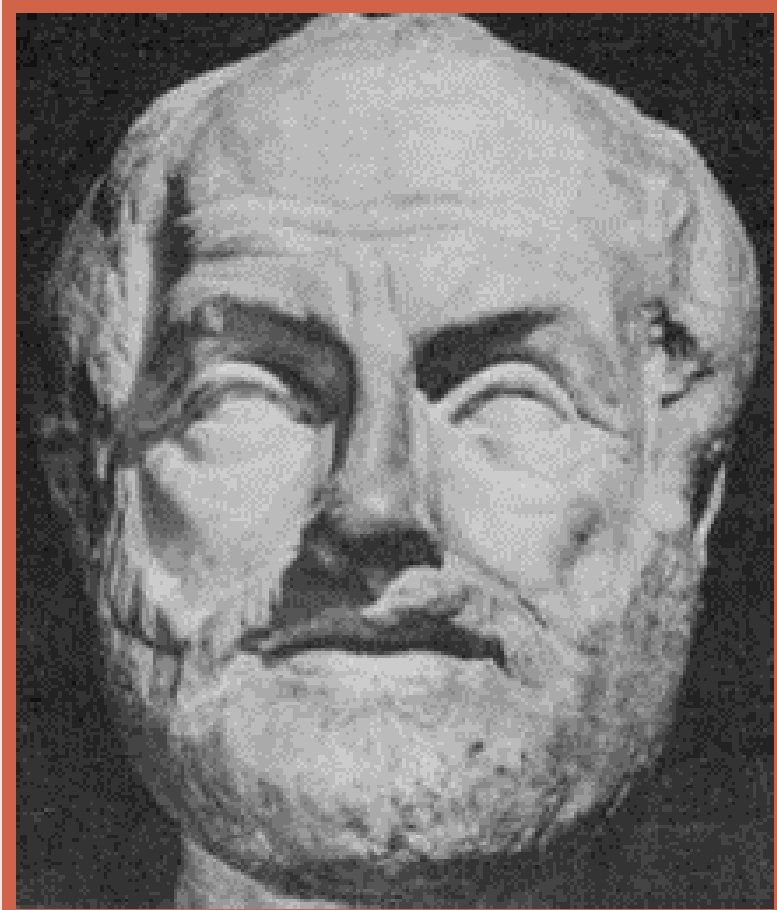
Miracles in Pakistan

From the *New York Times*, October 25, 2001 comes an article from Pakistan. The accompanying photo is of a young woman with a startling deformity, whose words are screams or nonsense.

Surrounded by caged birds and blessings, she is touched in reverence by throngs of people who believe she is touched by God.

The young woman sits at the door and receives money from anyone who wants to have a baby or is seeking a cure. The young woman is called the small-headed one or rat child (she has microcephaly). The worshippers describe her as beautiful. This tradition has lasted 300 years.

Aristotle



One of the great philosophers, Aristotle (384-322 BC), wrote over 400 books on every branch of learning.

He organized, categorized, and compartmentalized subjects such as logic, ethics, politics, and psychology.

Aristotle Writings

Aristotle (384-322 BC) studied movement, analyzed how muscles degenerated, and developed theories about how defects developed in humans.

Over 2350 years ago, Aristotle believed that man was the most highly evolved being and that woman was one giant evolutionary step below, representing the first step along the road to deformity.

Aristotle recommended that there ought to be laws to prevent the rearing of deformed children. In his book *Politics*, Aristotle wrote:

“As to the exposure and rearing of children, let there be a law that no deformed child shall live.”

Aristotle and Disability

- Children with physical deformities were thrown into rivers.
- Children with disabilities were mutilated to increase their value as beggars.
- Children were left in the woods to die. Parents tied their feet to discourage anyone from adopting the children.
- In Sparta, abandoning infants with disabilities was a legal requirement because they were not humans.

What are some parallels today?

Dr. Peter Singer

Washington Times, June 16, 2015

Professor Singer, who teaches bioethics at Princeton University, has for years **promoted public policy that would legalize the killing of infants with severe disabilities.**



- *“If a decision is made, by the parents and doctors, that it is better that a baby should die, I believe it should be possible to carry out that decision, not only by withholding or withdrawing life support — which can lead to the baby dying slowly from dehydration or from an infection — but also by taking active steps to end the baby’s life swiftly and humanely.”*

Jack Kevorkian was an American pathologist and euthanasia proponent. He claimed to have assisted 130 patients commit suicide.

He advocated the establishment of suicide clinics, and earned the nickname “Dr. Death.”

The New England Journal of Medicine performed autopsies on 69 cases of euthanasia carried out by Dr. Kervokian.

❖ The *Journal* found that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the people had not been terminally ill.

From the newspapers, we have the following stories.

Children Exported

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21 • 1997

WORLD & NATION

India's deformed children become exports

They are sold, then sent to beg in Arab nations

Associated Press

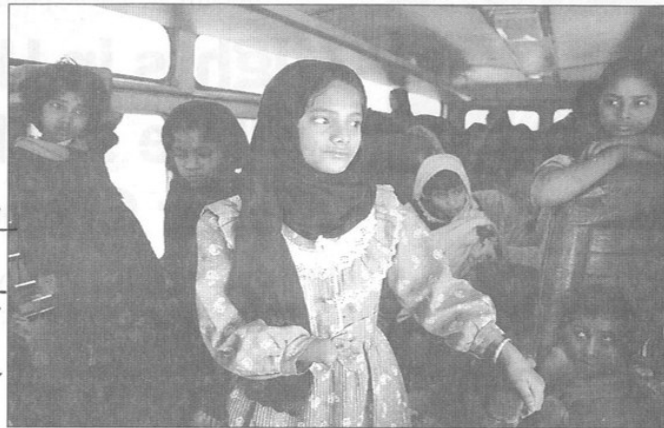
MURSHIDABAD, INDIA — In this desperately poor corner of India, villagers with handicapped children were among the few people making any money. For years, they sent their children, deformed by burns or birth defects, to Saudi Arabia to beg.

The practice was little known until Saudi Arabia deported 76 Indian girls last week. Now, Indian officials are investigating the export of beggar children to wealthy Arab nations, and the girls are coming home to families less than happy to see them.

"We will have to starve now as we do not have any other source of income," said Altaf Hossain, who described how he sold his 16-year-old daughter to a trafficking ring for beggars.

Hossain, who lives in Murshidabad, a farming district 120 miles north of Calcutta, said his daughter, Begum Khatun, was among the girls flown from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to Bombay, India, on Jan. 12.

At first, police and social workers in Bombay were baffled by the arrival of the girls, some as young as 6 and many with physical handicaps or deformities. They were being cared for at four children's homes in Bombay while authorities traced their par-



Associated Press

The children — like 14-year-old Hasina, center, whose hand was amputated under mysterious circumstances — were taken to a shelter in Bombay, India, where authorities are trying to find their parents.

"We will have to starve now as we do not have any other source of income."

— Altaf Hossain, who sold his 16-year-old daughter to a trafficking ring for beggars

ents and tried to arrange to send them home.

Hossain said his daughter's feet were damaged during her birth. She could not walk properly and therefore could not work. In fact, there is little work in Murshidabad. There are no factories

or other large-scale businesses. Most people farm, but seasonal droughts and floods prevent farming for most of the year.

So Hossain sold his daughter for \$800 to traffickers who arrange passports and transportation for children to go beg in rich Arab nations. Disabled children are prized as beggars because they elicit sympathy.

The trips are considered especially lucrative now, during the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims are known to be most generous.

The government of the West Bengal state of India plans to question the girls once they re-

turn. But those involved said that the traffic in beggars has been going on for about two decades and that children are taken from villages in other Indian states, too.

Traffickers accompany the children on the flights to Arab nations, posing as relatives.

One man, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he has invested in the racket, supplying money to pay parents and to buy forged passports, visas and plane tickets. He said an investment of about \$3,000 could be doubled in three months from what is collected by the children in Arab nations.

Villagers in Murshidabad said "investors" included schoolteachers, government office workers and local politicians.

It was not immediately clear how long the girls had been in the Persian Gulf. Apparently, they lived and begged around mosques.

Social workers in Bombay said there were tattoos of flowers and fish skeletons on the hands of most of the girls — perhaps branding them as belonging to a particular boss in Saudi Arabia.

Social worker Anil Gite said one of the girls sent home from Saudi Arabia told him she made about \$100 a day and turned all of it over to her "uncles."

The girl was about 7 and had burn marks on her legs. She said she was burned in West Bengal before leaving, but it is unclear whether traffickers deliberately disfigured her.

Child Trafficking

In 1997, Saudi Arabia deported 76 children back to their native India, some as young as 6 years old. **All the children had disabilities or disfigurements, and were sold by their parents to be trafficked as beggars in the wealthy parts of Saudi Arabia.**

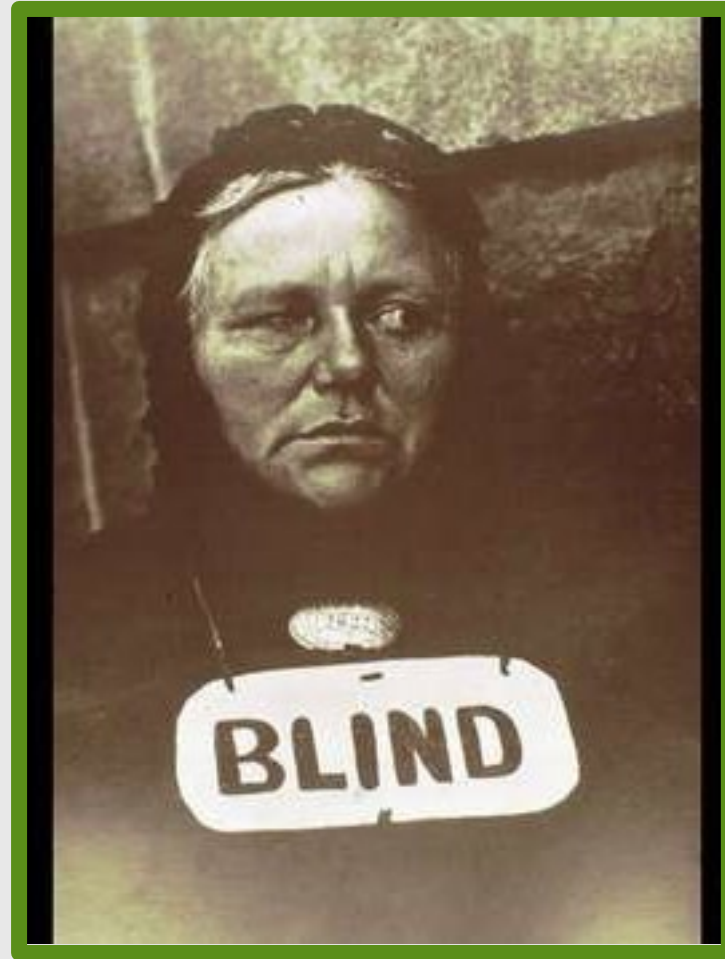
Upon his young daughter's return, her father said, *"We will have to starve now. We have no other source of income."*

Parents sell their children for \$800 to traffickers who arrange for transit and passports.

Children with disabilities are prized as beggars because they elicit sympathy. The practice has gone on for 20 years. An investment of \$3,000 doubles within 3 months. Those investing in the practice include teachers, social workers, and local politicians.

Beggar Badge

Beggar Badges are issued (1916).



Children Starved

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 1996

H 31

TELEVISION

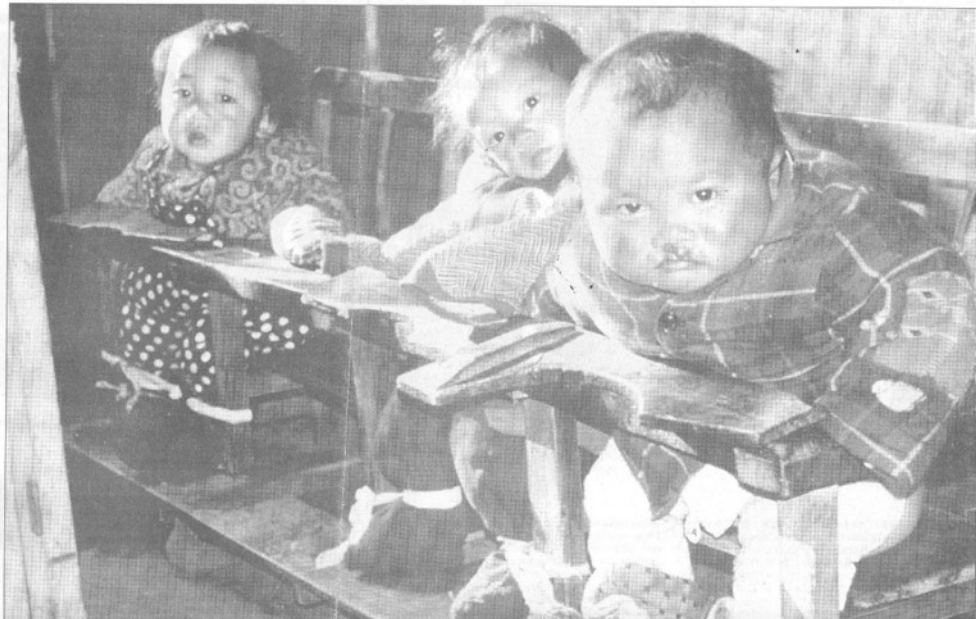
In China's Orphanages, a War of Perception

By PATRICK E. TYLER

HER NAME IN CHINESE IS rendered Mei Ming, which means No Name. Her cheeks are sunken, and her eyelids are crusted with blisters of neglect. When she cries, the exertion stretches, perilously, the parchmentskin of her face. Her hooded eyes refuse to tear. Instead, they are filled with such desperation that when you see the terror in them, then hear the rasping sound that escapes her, you know that death is not far away.

Mei Ming lies in a state-run orphanage in Guangdong Province, formerly known as Canton, China's richest and fastest-developing region. When the six layers of clothes swaddled around her are peeled back by Kate Blewett, a British journalist who, using a false identity, has invaded the orphanage with a crew carrying a hidden camera, the skeletal body of the extremely malnourished child is revealed, proof of the abuse she has suffered.

But at whose hands? "The Dying Rooms," a 38-minute film made by Ms. Blewett and Brian Woods, was shown last June on Channel 4 in Britain and will be seen in the United States for the first time on Cinemax on Wednesday night at 8. It



alleges that the orphanage staff sentenced Mei Ming to death by placing her in a "dying room" 10 days before the damning videotape of her condition was recorded. Her crime, the film makers say, was being born a girl in a society in which a preference for boys is still strong, a society that is under increasing pressure from a childbearing policy that allows only one roll of the biological dice per family.

Mei Ming was brought to the orphanage by police officers who had found her abandoned and were delivering her into the state social-welfare system, where she joined countless thousands of castoffs, most of them girls. In this case, however, it is alleged that she was then selected for death by a venal child-welfare bureaucracy in the Communist system.

In "The Dying Rooms: A Patchwork of Lies," a filmed rebuttal produced last year, the Chinese Government asserts that Mei Ming was actually a boy, admitted to the orphanage last year in an extremely malnourished state, with blisters covering his eyelids. The records of the Guangdong orphanage show that the staff fought valiantly to save his life, administering intravenous fluids, vitamins and round-the-clock medical care, the Government says.

"Sadly, they couldn't save his life," the rebuttal adds. It then accuses Ms. Blewett of

Children tied to a potty bench at a state orphanage in China—The youngsters were filmed for "The Dying Rooms" by British journalists working under false identities.

they have received the blessing of a child could be guilty of the wretched abuses captured on film and in the documentation of human-rights organizations.

Alice A. Jardine, a professor of romance languages and literatures at Harvard University, said in a fax to the Beijing bureau of The New York Times that as a prospective adopting parent of a Chinese girl, she had spent "hundreds of hours" researching China's program of adoption from state-run orphanages. Her impression from this research, she said, was that "the Chinese Government, and in particular the caretakers in the orphanages in China, are working as hard as is humanly possible in a third-world situation to take care of these thousands of abandoned baby girls."

These contradictions are baffling and disturbing. How in China, where the Communist regime has worked assiduously to reduce infant mortality, improve public health and eradicate illiteracy, could there be such a thing as dying rooms?

Dr. Zhang, who is 53 and was a public-health specialist for two decades before she left China, said in an interview recently that she had tried to answer this question for herself. "When I was still in China and we were trying to report these abuses to the authorities in the party," she recalled, "we asked if there was an internal policy to eliminate some babies, and they said: 'No. We have never had such a policy. All babies are a treasure, and every life is valuable. How could we eliminate them?'"

But this answer did not explain the conditions that Dr. Zhang found in Shanghai and that led her to conclude that because human rights are not enshrined in Chinese culture, no life is guaranteed and human-rights abuses will occur.

AN WEICHENG, A FORMER

Are infants banished to 'dying rooms'? Amid wider charges of abuse and neglect, a film says yes and a government says no.

ducers of "The Dying Rooms" to produce "Return to the Dying Rooms," which was broadcast in Britain a couple of weeks ago as a sequel to the original documentary. In the new film, Dr. Zhang's account of her experiences in Shanghai is used to confirm the allegations of the original film.

"A lot of journalists had told us that they had some doubts about the first film, that there was not enough backup for the claims we were making," Mr. Woods, the "Dying Rooms" co-producer, said in an interview. "But the second film was able to address all these questions, because the Human Rights Watch report has now come out."

"The Dying Rooms" is a documentary in the style of a narrative quest made by intrepid correspondents and cameramen who enter China under false colors with hidden cameras to prove that the dying rooms do exist.

"When we first discussed the story, we all thought that it was important but that it would only work if we could get the evidence of it on film," Mr. Woods explained. He and his co-producer, Ms. Blewett, set out to sell the idea to Channel 4, one of Britain's two independent nonstate networks, and then to plot a clandestine journey across great swaths of southern and central China.

In some cases they were following up on tips about orphanages with bad reputations. In other cases — in the provincial capital Chengdu in Sichuan Province, for example — they simply set out by taxi to find a state orphanage, then walked in with a camera hidden in a shoulder bag. In all, they were able to enter a dozen institutions; scenes from about half are included in the film.

Finding dying rooms did not prove so easy. In the first orphanage the film makers visited, in Guangxi Province, where they were proceeding on a tip, they found no evidence of such dying children. After much further travel, the crew had to admit that the dying rooms were "more elusive than we had expected" but that "we knew they were out there." Their discoveries were nonetheless significant as they walked into institutions unannounced and found children lashed to potty benches or suffering from serious neglect in foul-smelling wards.

Dr. Zhang says she decided to flee China and seek political asylum in the West after her crusade to expose the orphanage conditions in Shanghai was quashed by senior Communist Party officials concerned that a public airing of such charges would embarrass China.

Two weeks ago, Chen Jian, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said, "Dying rooms do not exist in China," adding: "It is extremely unfair to pass off part of the story as the entire story and defame China." Senior Chinese officials in Beijing deny any policy of deliberate starvation. Still, the Government in Beijing refuses to release the large body of orphan-mortality figures that are collected every year by the Ministry of Civil Affairs and classified as secret information. These records could shed light on the total number of China's orphans and their condition. In the absence of any public accounting, the recent revelations and rebuttals

may simply fade without any resolution. It is hard to imagine that China would allow an independent investigation of its state orphanages, whose supervision it considers a strictly internal matter. But even in Shanghai, some party members, lawyers and journalists working inside the system pressed hard for an investigation, and it is conceivable that a groundswell could arise and demand greater accountability, perhaps within China's National People's Congress, which meets in March.

IN "THE DYING ROOMS," THE FILM makers provide cut-away commentary from two experts on China. One is Steven W. Mosher of the Claremont Institute, a California research center; he has written extensively about China's population control program and asserts that China's one-child policy is "hated by the people of China."

For anyone who has traveled in China, as Mr. Mosher has, this statement should set off alarm bells. Family planning and population control are concepts that a large number of Chinese willingly support. Of course there is opposition to the one-child policy and even hatred of it, but a large portion of China's 1.2 billion people profess a willingness to sacrifice their desire to have a boy or a second or third child to the greater goal of population control. Mr. Mosher's enthusiasm for overstatement has prompted Beijing to brand him a less-than-objective analyst of Chinese social affairs. But his basic point — that the preference for boys in Chinese culture, with the pressure of the one-child policy, has led to the death and abandonment of countless infant girls — is supported by a number of authorities.

The other expert consulted by the film makers was Jonathan Mirsky, the respected Hong Kong correspondent of The Times of

Chinese Orphanage

Mei Ming to death by placing her in a "dying room" 10 days before the damning videotape of her condition was recorded. Her crime, the film makers say, was being born a girl in a society in which a preference for boys is still strong, a society that is under increasing pressure from a childbearing policy that allows only one roll of the biological dice per family.

Mei Ming was brought to the orphanage by police officers who had found her abandoned and were delivering her into the state social-welfare system, where she joined countless thousands of castoffs, most of them girls. In this case, however, it is alleged that she was then selected for death by a venal child-welfare bureaucracy in the Communist system.

In "The Dying Rooms: A Patchwork of Lies," a filmed rebuttal produced last year, the Chinese Government asserts that Mei Ming was actually a boy, admitted to the orphanage last year in an extremely malnourished state, with blisters covering his eyelids. The records of the Guangdong orphanage show that the staff fought valiantly to save his life, administering intravenous fluids, vitamins and round-the-clock medical care, the Government says.

"Sadly, they couldn't save his life," the rebuttal adds. It then accuses Ms. Blewett of stripping the sick child to bare chest for 20 minutes in a cold room for the purposes of filming, thus further endangering the child's life. "If this had been her child," the narrator asks, "would she have left it uncovered?" (China has made its filmed rebuttal available through its embassies around the world. Cinemax was not asked to show it and does not plan to.)

These conflicting accounts of Mei Ming's last days underscore the nature of an information war that has been raging between China and its critics in human-rights organizations since whispers first emerged more than two years ago that children were dying at alarming rates in the country's 67 state-run orphanages.

"The Dying Rooms" is being shown in the United States just a couple of weeks after Human Rights Watch, the advocacy group based in New York, published a 331-page indictment of China's child-welfare system. The report, centering largely on the testimony, records and photographs of Dr. Zhang Shuiyun, a Chinese physician who served on the staff of the Shanghai Children's Welfare Institute before leaving China last March, alleges that thousands of children have died in the same manner as Mei Ming: from deliberate starvation, abuse and neglect.

Again, the Chinese Government mounted a rebuttal, inviting foreign journalists to visit the Shanghai orphanage and see for themselves that the facility provides a healthy and nurturing environment for the 500 or so children who reside there now.

Since the report was published on Jan. 6, testimonials from American couples who have adopted children in China over the last several years have poured out of fax machines in news bureaus in Beijing. For most of these couples, adoption has been a life-affirming event of joy, and it seems inconceivable to them that the hands from which

search, she said, was that "the Chinese Government, and in particular the caretakers in the orphanages in China, are working as hard as is humanly possible in a third-world situation to take care of these thousands of abandoned baby girls."

These contradictions are baffling and disturbing. How in China, where the Communist regime has worked assiduously to reduce infant mortality, improve public health and eradicate illiteracy, could there be such a thing as dying rooms?

Dr. Zhang, who is 53 and was a public-health specialist for two decades before she left China, said in an interview recently that she had tried to answer this question for herself. "When I was still in China and we were trying to report these abuses to the authorities in the party," she recalled, "we asked if there was an internal policy to eliminate some babies, and they said: 'No. We have never had such a policy. All babies are a treasure, and every life is valuable. How could we eliminate them?'"

But this answer did not explain the conditions that Dr. Zhang found in Shanghai and that led her to conclude that because human rights are not enshrined in Chinese culture, no life is guaranteed and human-rights abuses will occur.

HAN WEICHENG, A FORMER director of the Shanghai orphanage who has tried to improve cerebral-palsy treatment in China and who has supported China's participation in the Special Olympics, acknowledged to reporters earlier this month that as many as one-fifth of the orphans under his care in 1989 died from disease and bitter cold because the orphanage had no heat that winter. But protesting that he has devoted his life to the handicapped, Mr. Han bitterly denied that there had ever been any policy of deliberate starvation in Shanghai. Shown a photograph of an emaciated child tied to a bed, Mr. Han said he recognized the child, but he denied that the child's malnourished state had been caused by neglect, and he said children were never tied up during his tenure.

Despite these rebuttals, there is a growing body of evidence that high mortality rates have afflicted China's orphan population and that China's abandoned children are cared for in a system in which neglect and abuse have occurred, perhaps to an alarming extent. "There are shortcomings," one Communist Party official acknowledged earlier this month. The more serious charge of deliberate starvation in some orphanages has yet to be investigated by any independent body.

The importance of the testimony and records smuggled out of China by Dr. Zhang last year is that they document the unnatural deaths of more than 1,000 children from 1985 to 1992 in Shanghai. Death certificates often cited as the cause of death "third-degree malnutrition" or "malformation of the brain." In some cases, malnutrition is cited as the cause of death for 207 of the 400 children who died between November 1991 and October 1992, Dr. Zhang says.

After collaborating on the Human Rights Watch report, she cooperated with the pro-

ducers of "The Dying Rooms" to produce "Return to the Dying Rooms," which was broadcast in Britain a couple of weeks ago as a sequel to the original documentary. In the new film, Dr. Zhang's account of her experiences in Shanghai is used to confirm the allegations of the original film.

"A lot of journalists had told us that they had some doubts about the first film, that there was not enough backup for the claims we were making," Mr. Woods, the "Dying Rooms" co-producer, said in an interview. "But the second film was able to address all these questions, because the Human Rights Watch report has now come out."

"The Dying Rooms" is a documentary in the style of a narrative quest made by intrepid correspondents and cameramen who enter China under false colors with hidden cameras to prove that the dying rooms do exist.

"When we first discussed the story, we all thought that it was important but that it would only work if we could get the evidence of it on film," Mr. Woods explained. He and his co-producer, Ms. Blewett, set out to sell the idea to Channel 4, one of Britain's two independent nonstate networks, and then to plot a clandestine journey across great swaths of southern and central China.

were proceeding on a tip, they found no evidence of such dying children. After much further travel, the crew had to admit that the dying rooms were "more elusive than we had expected" but that "we knew they were out there." Their discoveries were nonetheless significant as they walked into institutions unannounced and found children lashed to potty benches or suffering from serious neglect in foul-smelling wards.

Dr. Zhang says she decided to flee China and seek political asylum in the West after her crusade to expose the orphanage conditions in Shanghai was quashed by senior Communist Party officials concerned that a public airing of such charges would embarrass China.

Two weeks ago, Chen Jian, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said, "Dying rooms do not exist in China," adding: "It is extremely unfair to pass off part of the story as the entire story and defame China." Senior Chinese officials in Beijing deny any policy of deliberate starvation. Still, the Government in Beijing refuses to release the large body of orphan-mortality figures that are collected every year by the Ministry of Civil Affairs and classified as secret information. These records could shed light on the total number of China's orphans and their condition. In the absence of any public accounting, the recent revelations and rebuttals



A Chinese orphan in a chair designed to prevent virtually any free movement.

IN "THE DYING ROOMS," THE FILM makers provide cut-away commentary from two experts on China. One is Steven W. Mosher of the Claremont Institute, a California research center; he has written extensively about China's population control program and asserts that China's one-child policy is "hated by the people of China."

For anyone who has traveled in China, as Mr. Mosher has, this statement should set off alarm bells. Family planning and population control are concepts that a large number of Chinese willingly support. Of course there is opposition to the one-child policy and even hatred of it, but a large portion of China's 1.2 billion people profess a willingness to sacrifice their desire to have a boy or a second or third child to the greater goal of population control. Mr. Mosher's enthusiasm for overstatement has prompted Beijing to brand him a less-than-objective analyst of Chinese social affairs. But his basic point — that the preference for boys in Chinese culture, with the pressure of the one-child policy, has led to the death and abandonment of countless infant girls — is supported by a number of authorities.

The other expert consulted by the film makers was John H. Hirskey, the respected Hong Kong correspondent of The Times of London. After he filed trenchant dispatches during and after the Tiananmen massacres of 1989, the Chinese authorities barred him from traveling to the mainland. The makers of "The Dying Rooms" offer no commentary from any China scholar or expert who might be regarded as a slightly more neutral observer. "Those were the only ones who were prepared to take part in the program," Mr. Woods said, referring to Mr. Mosher and Mr. Hirskey. "No one else of the many people we contacted would go on, and they all said the same thing: they were afraid that if they were linked in any way to the film, they would never get a visa into China again."

The main concession to balance in the program is a visit to a private orphanage in Wuhan, where a nurturing staff is filmed tending to the revels of happy children. "Some people in China do care for abandoned children," the narrator says. But viewers are not offered any comments from the private-orphanage staff that might help make sense of the differences between public and private attitudes toward orphans.

The final segment of the film is the discovery of Mei Ming at the orphanage in Canton. (At first the crew thought the orphanage was empty until a towel draped across a cot "started to cry," Ms. Blewett says.) Compelling images of neglect were captured on tape at this orphanage, and the rebuttal offered by the Government did not succeed in addressing the poor condition of the infants found on the day of the film crew's visit. And in the room where Mei Ming lay alone, there was no sign of an intravenous drip or medicine trays or anything else that might have supported the rebuttal film's contention that she had received intensive care.

Just for the record, said Mr. Woods, Mei Ming was a girl. □

Dying Rooms

From China comes this full page article about the systematic deaths of children with disabilities in orphanages by starvation.

The places are called Dying Rooms. The BBC filmed a documentary.

In Shanghai, 1,000 children with disabilities died of unnatural deaths in state run orphanages from 1986-1992.

Father Kills Daughter

★ STAR TRIBUNE • PAGE A7

A Canadian who murdered his disabled daughter will spend two years in custody.

Father gets leniency in 'mercy killing' case

Associated Press

"It's a sick world when killing is called compassionate and punishment for killers is called cruel," said Jim Hughes, president of a coalition of abortion opponents that backed disabled activists' demands for a tough sentence.

Latimer admitted to killing his 12-year-old daughter, Tracy, in 1993 in what he called "an act of mercy." He placed her in his pickup truck at the family farm and pumped carbon monoxide into the cab.

Tracy had a severe form of cerebral palsy that left her unable to walk, talk or feed herself.

Latimer's wife, Laura, told jurors that she had wished for death for Tracy but had been too cowardly to end the girl's life.

After convicting Latimer last month, jurors told Noble they felt the mandatory sentence was too harsh and recommended that Latimer be paroled after one year.

Contrary to the predictions of most legal experts, Noble agreed with the jurors.

"The evidence establishes Mr. Latimer was motivated solely by his love and compassion for Tracy and the need — at least in his mind — that she should not suffer any more pain," Noble said.

Latimer was first convicted in 1994, but the Supreme Court threw out that conviction because some jurors had been improperly questioned.

Latimer received thousands of letters of support from people across the country who saw him as a loving father who spared his daughter from a life of misery.

But many disabled people argued that letting Latimer walk free would be like declaring open season on society's most vulnerable.

Latimer has been free on his own recognizance since his latest conviction.

Judge agreed

X

Robert Latimer

A Saskatchewan farmer admitted to killing his 12 year old daughter, Tracey, in 1993 as “**an act of mercy.**” Robert Latimer killed his daughter, who had cerebral palsy, by placing her in a pickup truck and pumping carbon monoxide gas into the cab. Tracey’s mother told the jury that she, too, wanted Tracy’s life to end, but had been “too much of a coward” to do it. Both parents described Tracey’s life as one of “incessant agony.”

- ❖ The jurors felt a mandatory sentence was too harsh and recommended one year in prison. The judge agreed, saying the girl should not have had to suffer any more pain.
- ❖ Latimer was tried twice for Tracey’s murder, and eventually served 10 years for 2nd Degree Murder.

An art gallery in Canada created an exhibit and portrayed Mr. Latimer as Jesus. Then they removed it.

No Remorse

2008

Robert Latimer granted day parole.

*“What I did was
the right thing.”*

2018

Latimer asked to be pardoned
under the Canadian Royal
Prerogative of Mercy.



Mother Kills Daughter

Mother ignored cries in fatal fire, Hastings jury hears

By Jim Adams
Star Tribune Staff Writer

When a disabled Hastings toddler screamed for help in her burning bedroom, she didn't get the help most children expect from a parent, jurors were told Thursday.

Instead, Hannah Ritt had to watch as her mother, Kelly Ritt, turned her back and walked away, prosecutor Lawrence Clark said in his opening statement in the murder trial of Kelly Ritt.

Clark also said witnesses will testify that Ritt, who also is charged with arson and manslaughter, told them before the fire that she wished Hannah, nearly 2, was dead and asked several people to adopt her. She asked others if a space heater could cause a fire and ignored their advice to discard it, he said.

But Ritt's attorney, Anthony Torres, said the fire was accidental and offered explanations for her seemingly incriminating statements before and after the March 25 blaze that killed Hannah, one of four children.

Turn to TRIAL on B7

Hastings Mom

TRIAL from B1

Insurance fire expert says accelerant was used in blaze

Torres said Ritt's husband's family disliked her and gave police false or misleading information about her.

Ritt's family was "divided by dysfunction, hate and vindictiveness," Torres told the jury in Dakota County District Court in Hastings. The same people told her husband, Brian Ritt, to move out of their home after the fire because he maintained his wife's innocence, Torres said.

Torres agreed with Clark that Ritt was under financial and family stress from caring for their baby boy and Hannah, who was deaf, had heart and liver problems and was fed through a stomach tube.



Kelly Ritt

But Torres said some of the medical professionals who worked with Ritt will testify that she was a conscientious mother and that they encouraged her to vent frustrations rather than internalize them. He said Ritt told some people that she thought Hannah suffered so much that she would be "better off dead."

Torres said, "Kelly Ritt may not always say what is politically correct, but that's a long way from murder."

Clark said that after the fire, Ritt, 33, told a relative, Barbara Jack, "Hannah is better off now." Later Ritt told Jack, "I don't know why I didn't remove the afghan. I don't know why I didn't turn off the heater."

Robert Svare, a fire expert, will testify that without an accelerant, such as alcohol or nail polish remover, a space heater couldn't have ignited the afghan that Ritt told police she put on a bed near Hannah's crib, Clark said. Nor would the fire have melted aluminum such as that found inside the space heater, Clark said.

Richard Kleis, a fire marshal, will testify that he saw a crusty material on the 3-foot-long space heater that indicated an accelerant was used, the prosecutor said. But when Kleis touched it, the crust disintegrated, Clark said.

Torres said a defense expert will contradict Svare. He said Svare is not credible because he was hired by State Farm Insurance. That company has refused to pay fire insurance claims on the Ritts' home because it suspects arson by an owner.

Torres noted that Hannah's 8-by-12-foot bedroom adjoined her parents' and was across the hall from her brother's.

Pounding on the jury rail, he said:
"The state wants you to believe Kelly Ritt started a bonfire in that room and

knew how it would come down the hall so she could get all the kids out of the house and it would just kill that one child."

Jurors will also hear testimony from Ritt's 10-year-old daughter.

The girl told police that she saw her mother standing in Hannah's half-open doorway while the fire burned in the room and that Ritt was looking at Hannah, who was screaming with outstretched arms. Ritt told police she hadn't been able to open Hannah's door.

Torres noted, however, that the girl changed her story when she testified later before a grand jury. She said maybe she didn't see Hannah that night, although she recalled telling an officer she did. The girl is expected to testify during the trial, possibly without the public present in the courtroom.

As Clark closed, he projected computerized video of Hannah in a red shirt and checkered coveralls on a courtroom screen.

"Kelly Ritt went into her daughter's bedroom and intentionally set the fire, knowing and intending that her daughter, Hannah Jean Ritt, would die," Clark said.

Later Thursday, the jury heard Ritt's voice on a tape recording of her emergency call the night of the fire.

"There's a fire . . .," the voice says breathlessly. "I got to get all my babies out."

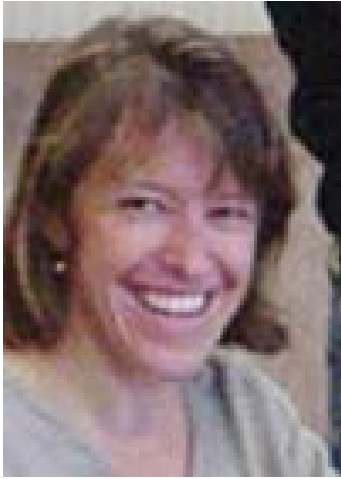
Prison Sentence

Kelly Ritt was sentenced to life in prison after being convicted of intentionally starting the fire that killed her daughter, Hannah, a 2 year old who was deaf and had other serious disabilities. Hannah had been receiving in-home support, while Ritt begged friends and relatives to adopt her.

- ❖ Ritt admitted leaving an afghan on a hot space heater in Tracey's room.
- ❖ Witnesses recalled conversations in which Ritt said she believed her daughter was in so much pain that the toddler "would be better off dead."

Mrs. Ritt was sentenced in 1997, and will serve 30 years before being eligible for parole in 2027.

Professor Murder-Suicide



Professor, charged with killing baby daughter, dies in custody

St. Paul (AP) — A Villanova University professor charged with killing her baby daughter with a kitchen knife apparently committed suicide in jail by putting a plastic garbage bag over her head, authorities said. Mine Ener was found unconscious Saturday with the bag over her head while lying on a mattress in a common area outside a group of cells, the Sheriff said.

She was being held on a charge of 2nd Degree Murder after allegedly cutting the throat of her 6-month-old daughter, Raya Donagi, during a visit to her mother's home.

The 38-year-old popular history professor told police she couldn't bear seeing her daughter, who had Down syndrome, go through life suffering. Ener also said she was considering suicide and was on medication for postpartum depression, according to court records.

Data Base of Homicides

Dr. Dick Sobsey, University of Alberta

Professor Emeritus, Department of Educational Psychology

Associate Director, JP Das Centre on Developmental and Learning Disabilities

Dr. Sobsey studies the relationship between violence and disability. He maintains a data base of 1,800 people with disabilities who have been victims of homicide.

- ❖ In a review of 95 instances of parents who killed children with disabilities, 15 were not sentenced to prison, and 9 people served less than 5 years.

Participatory Activity:

Discuss examples of begging and deaths.

Begging and Death Examples

Examples:

Begging—

Knights of Columbus

Telethons

Death—

“Who Should Survive?” CNN report

Suicide bombers

Exorcisms

Euthanasia (31% Dutch pediatricians)

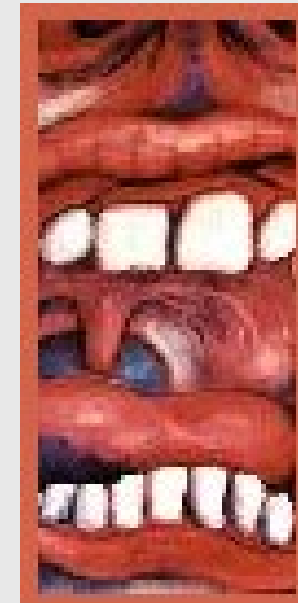
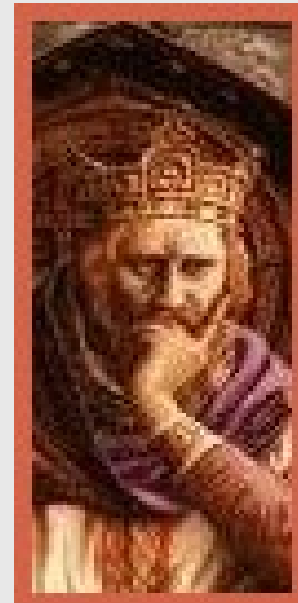
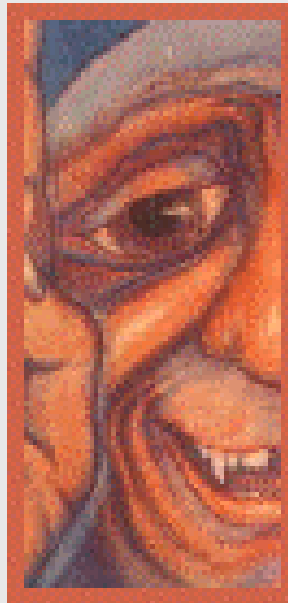
Guillotine – 2010



Court Jester



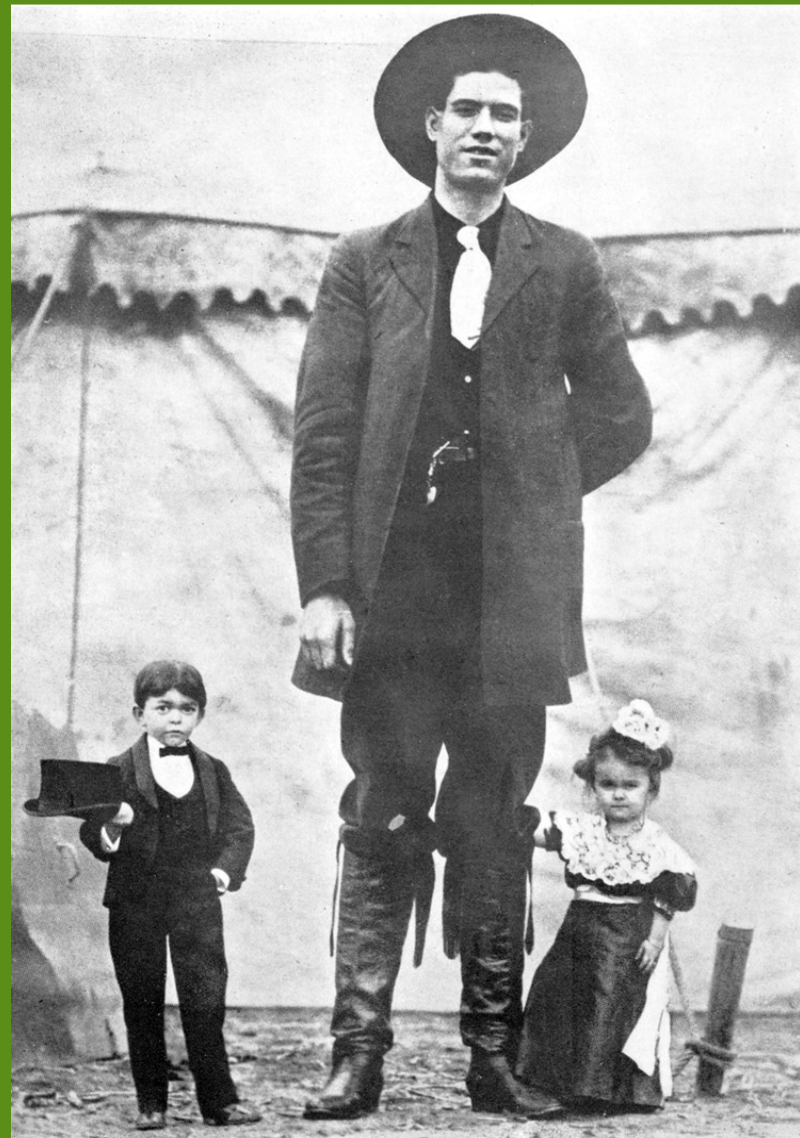
In many royal courts, people with disabilities were kept as court jesters. What are some examples of keeping people as entertainment?



Richard the Lionfaced



Marfan Syndrome



Tom Thumb



Mexican Troupe



Tiny Toreadors

Tiny toreadors give big show

By M. Scot Skinner
The Arizona Daily Star

Let no one say there's a lack of culture in Tucson.

We've got professional theater, a symphony orchestra, a ballet company and fat ladies singing opera.

But none of that hoity-toity stuff can hold a candle to the jaw-dropping spectacle of midget bullfighting.

The famous touring group Los Enanitos Toreros de America brought its special artistry to the Tucson Rodeo Grounds last night and, well, it was something to see.

This was truly midget madness.

In addition to midgets chasing livestock, you had livestock chasing midgets. And whenever there was a lull, one midget or another would go for the sure-fire laugh and fall on his butt in the dirt.

Children of all ages giggled at the sight of midgets hitting each other with plastic bats, midgets acting sloppy drunk, midgets lip-syncing popular tunes, midgets doing hoochie-mama dances, tropical midgets in big Afro wigs, midgets on minibikes and, of course, midgets in drag.

The Mexican troupe - said to be the first of its kind, and I believe it - performed a two-hour show that was all midgets, all the time. The rambunctious performers borrowed a few tricks from the World Wrestling Federation and a few more from the Three Stooges.

The main event, of course, was the bullfighting, although the starring animal actually was a mid-sized calf. The black beast was taunted for our amusement; it's not clear whether he found any of it the slightest bit amusing.

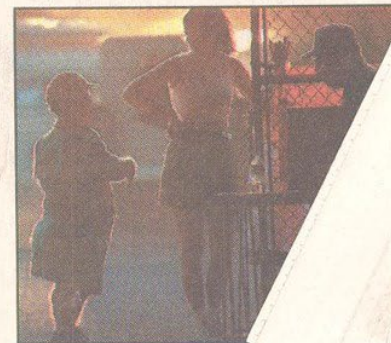
The crowd of about 1,000 roared when the "bull" chased one or more midgets and made them, yes, fall down on their butts in the dirt. At one point, the festively costumed midgets circled the creature and threw ropes around its neck, yanked on its tail, and finally hog-tied it.

While some might consider this sort of thing a tad tasteless, others call it lots of fun.

You can judge for yourself when the show is repeated at 5 p.m. today at the rodeo grounds on South Sixth Avenue near East Irvington Road. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for the little ones.



Candy was flying. So were the midgets and their "bull." At right, short fans - who turned out en masse to catch the merriment, pratfalls and songs - congregated at the front gate.



❖ From Arizona comes a news clipping entitled *Midget Madness*.

Children of all ages giggled at the sight of midgets hitting each other, acting drunk, doing hoochie-mama dances, dressed in big Afro wigs, and in drag.

The Mexican troupe, said to be the first of its kind, performed a 2 hour show. The crowd of 1,000 roared when the bull chased the midgets and made them fall down.

Some call it tasteless, others call it fun.

- Florida legislator wants to bring back “dwarf” tossing in bars as a way to increase employment of people with disabilities.
- Film for purchase (\$19.98) called “Born Different” featuring “Elephant Man, One-legged dancers, Pinheads, Two-headed people.”

In the 8th Century, the first asylum was created for infants who had been abandoned, called foundlings.

A *foundling* was a baby who had been abandoned in the woods or exposed to the elements, and left for the public to find (or not). The Archpriest Datheus wrote:

“As soon as a child is left at our door, we will receive and provide care to those who will be paid.”

Since then, out of home care has always been funded. If you give up parental responsibility, someone else will be paid to care for the individual.

Thomas Malthus, an economist we will meet in a moment, was violently opposed to foundling hospitals.

When you devalue people,
you separate, congregate, and segregate.

❖ During the 12th Century, leprosy began disappearing. The leper colonies were converted to other uses such as serving people who were orphans, prostitutes, widows, criminals, or those with any mental problems.

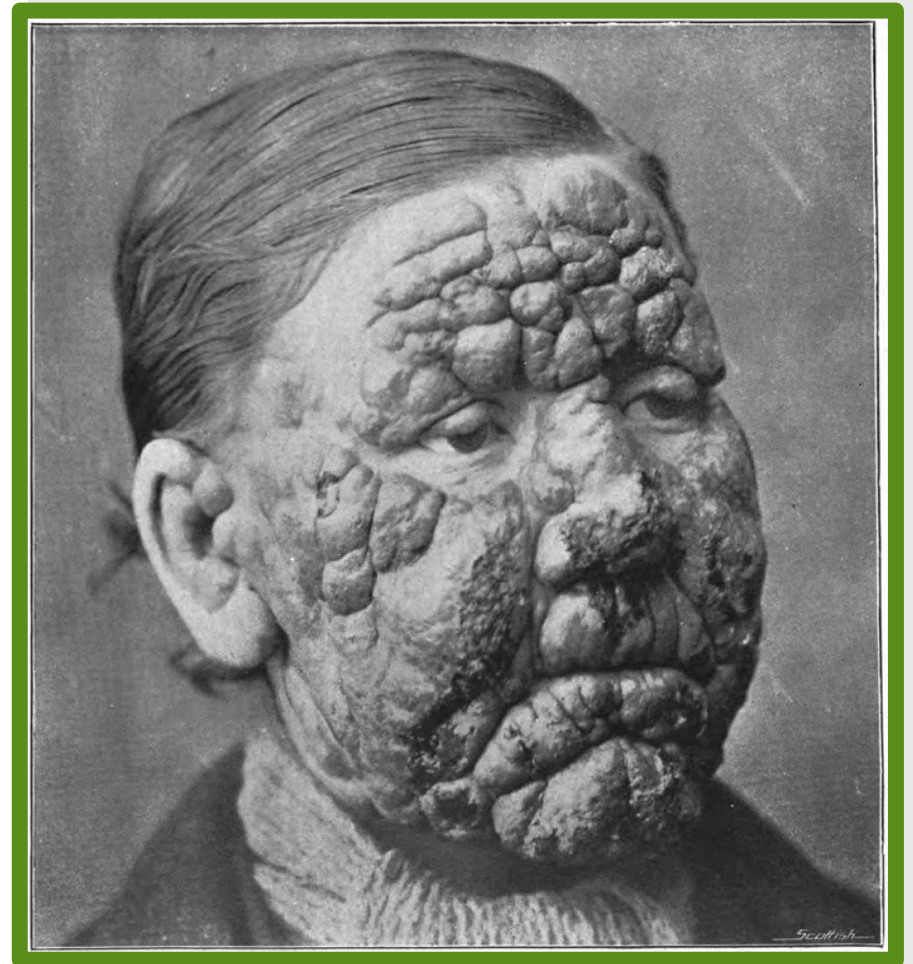
Leprosy is caused by bacteria that targets nerve cells under the skin. There are 200,000 new cases per year.

Leprosy In the United States

The U.S. closed its federal hospital for leprosy in Carville, LA after 100 years of operation.

If you tried to escape you were placed in a prison on the campus grounds.

Between 400-500 people were served at one time.



Hospital Closing

Drivers wanted

THE NATION

USA TODAY • FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1999 • 11A

Once-shunned patients to leave safe haven

Federal hospital in Carville, La., that's treated people with leprosy for more than 100 years is closing soon, leaving many patients contemplating life back 'outside'

By Larry Copeland
USA TODAY

CARVILLE, La. — The secluded federal hospital here that has treated people with leprosy for more than 100 years is preparing to close, sending some patients back into a world that once shunned them and their disfiguring disease.

In another era, when mention of leprosy evoked dread, the Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center was both refuge and prison. Here, people with leprosy could escape society's ridicule. Yet those caught fleeing the fenced enclave were punished with time in its on-site jail. ~~At the time, the 30-acre complex — the only facility of its kind in the continental United States — housed nearly 500 patients.~~

But science learned how to control leprosy — today known as Hansen's Disease — preventing patients' conditions from worsening. The center then became a caretaker facility, allowing patients' conditions to be monitored, rather than a facility to keep them from infecting the outside world.

Early this year, the federal government will turn over the complex to Louisiana, which plans to close the center and use the site as a "boot camp" for troubled youths. With the shutdown looming, for Center's 130 patients — many older than 70 —

there were three choices.

They could leave with a \$3,000 annual federal stipend, move to a federal nursing home and research center to be set up at Baton Rouge or remain here in a smaller facility, or return home after years assigned by a smaller staff.

In recent weeks, 47 patients chose the stipend and left. Among those remaining on a recent weekend, there was a heightened sense of anxiety as they weighed their options.

For some, life outside is a daunting prospect. "It's hard to leave this place, when you've gotten used to being treated by people who don't act like they don't want to touch you," says Josefa (pronounced you-seefa) Misaul, 53, who came here in 1973.

Once a guitarist in his native American Samoa, he lost nearly all his fingers to the disease around 1968. He says, "There is no other place like Carville. Nobody stares at you here." Misaul says he will take the stipend and leave, although he has not decided where he'll go.

"It's going to be really hard for a lot of these people," says Tanya Thomassin, a federal employee who has worked here for 30 years. "A lot of them have a spouse buried in the cemetery here, and they don't want to leave them," she says of some who met and married here.

Leprosy was associated for centuries with Biblical stories. New research has shown that the disease is caused by a bacterium that causes it.

Although those afflicted used to be shunned because the disease was hereditary, it is not. The bacterium attacks nerves and causes atrophy of muscle, skin and cartilage, most noticeably in the extremities.

The Hansen's Disease Center, known as "Carville" in medical circles, is on a former plantation nestled in a bend of the Mississippi River about 20 miles south of Baton Rouge. It has been a fore-runner in leprosy research and gets its name from the Carville family, for whom the town in which it is located is named. James Carville, President Clinton's friend and adviser, is a member of that family.

The complex — with its miles of walkways, oak-lined drives and ubiquitous bicycles — resembles a college campus but has all the amenities of a rural town. It has a farm, dairy, power plant, fire station, homes, school, churches, a post and a 9-hole golf course — all reachable by bike. It was designed so patients would have no need to confront the world outside.

Leprosy is no longer a considered a major public health danger. An estimated 6,000 people in the United States have the disease, and about 200 new cases are diagnosed annually. Scientists now know the disease is not nearly as contagious as once thought. About 95% of humans are naturally resistant to the disease, and

it is spread through prolonged skin-to-skin contact or through inhalation of droplets containing the bacterium.

But Johnny Harmon, 57, who came here in 1935 and lived 36 years on the outside before moving back in 1990, remembers a different time. Harmon was an engineer with the Texas Highway Department when he was diagnosed with leprosy. "In 1935, this was a leper colony; I don't care what people call it now," he says. "You would meet people that had holes in their head where there used to be a nose."

In those days, nobody hardly ever got out of here," he remembers, sitting in his apartment at the facility. "You could go home twice a year, but you had to have a pass for every state that you were going through," says Harmon, who intends to stay

and predicts that he'll die here. "You couldn't ride a bus or a train. If you ran away and they caught you, they put you in (the center's) jail for 30 days."

There was a time when people like Harmon were treated even worse. Leprosy was so frightening precisely because its effects were so apparent. The disease affects the nerves in skin, eyes and cooler parts of the body, leaving discolored, swollen and red bumps, missing fingers, fingers and toes and clawed hands.

When the Carville facility opened in 1884 as the Louisiana State Lepro-



Longtime resident Johnny Harmon, 87, came to the Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center in 1935, lived outside for 36 years and returned in 1990. In 1995, this was a leper colony. I don't care what people call it now, he says. "You would meet people that had holes in their head where there used to be a nose."



Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center Once housed nearly 500 patients.



Plans to stay: Harmon, who was an engineer with the Texas Highway Department when he was diagnosed, says he'll move to a smaller facility in Carville, one of the options offered to patients.



By Chris Tan, USA TODAY



Misaul: There is no other place like Carville. Nobody stares at you here.

a fence topped with barbed wire. To leave, they had to test negative for the bacterium in a dozen consecutive skin tests, given once a month for a year. Outgoing mail was sterilized, and the money used to pay for outside labor was fumigated.

Patients were not allowed to vote. "There are not many people, even in Louisiana, who even know this hospital was here, and who even knew that leprosy was still occurring," says Bruce Clements, clinical director of patient care.

The center became a federal hospital in 1921, and 20 years later, Guy Faget, a director of the center, found that a sulfone drug similar to one used to treat tuberculosis also was effective against Hansen's Disease.

That discovery revolutionized treatment of the disease around the world. Subsequent study at Carville, particularly research on armadillos, the only animal other than humans that shows vulnerability to leprosy, has led to other breakthroughs.

Still, Hansen's Disease continues to pose a serious health threat worldwide.

More than 10 million people are thought to have the disease, and about 650,000 new cases are diagnosed every year.

Carville patient Theresa Wilson, 80, knows how painful such a diagnosis can be.

"Because of the stigma of this disease, we have lost things like identity and dignity," says Wilson, who has lived here for two decades and is considering moving to her native Trinidad. "This place allows you to get some of that back."

THE NATION

Once-shunned patients to leave safe haven

Federal hospital in Carville, La., that's treated people with leprosy for more than 100 years is closing soon, leaving many patients contemplating life back 'outside'

By Larry Copeland
USA TODAY

CARVILLE, La. — The secluded federal hospital here that has treated people with leprosy for more than 100 years is preparing to close, sending some patients back into a world that once shunned them and their disfiguring disease.

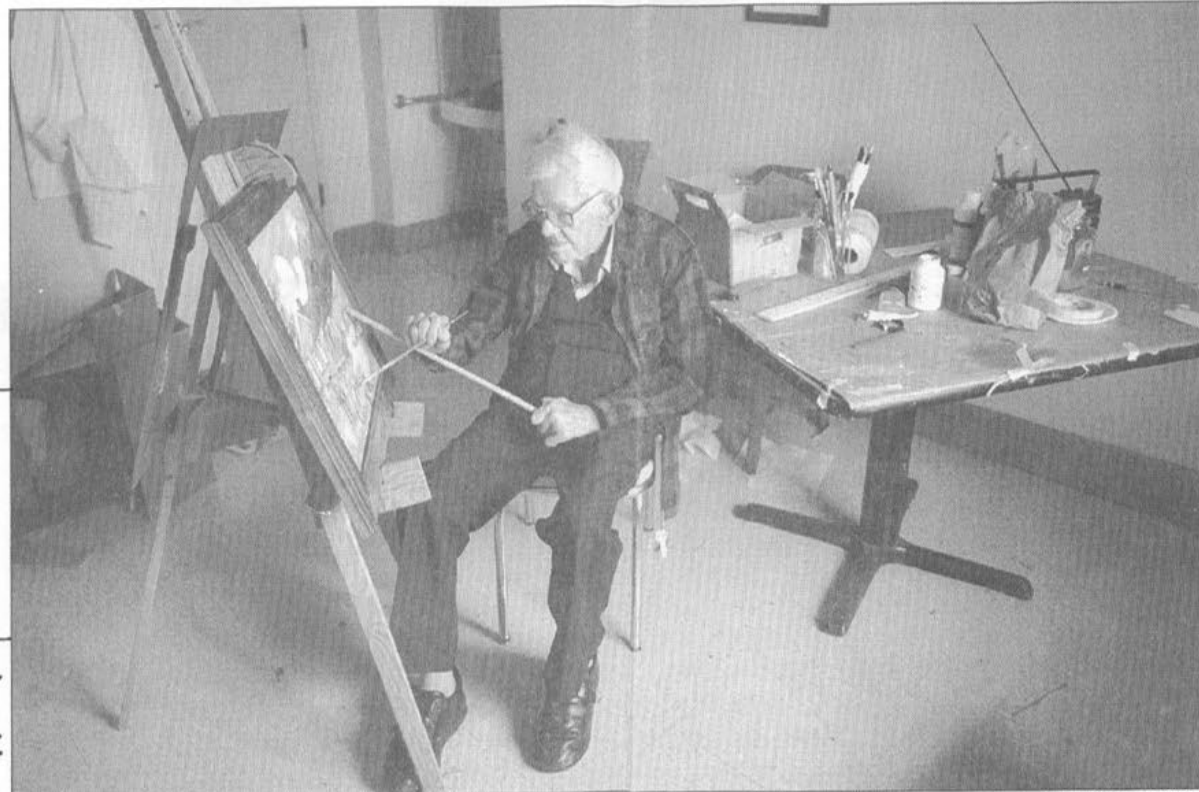
In another era, when mention of leprosy evoked dread, the Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center was both refuge and prison. Here, people with leprosy could escape society's ridicule. Yet those caught fleeing the fenced enclave were punished with time in its on-site jail. At its peak, the 330-acre complex — the only facility of its kind in the continental United States — housed nearly 500 patients.

But science learned how to control leprosy — today known as Hansen's Disease — preventing patients' conditions from worsening. The center then became a caretaker facility, allowing patients' conditions to be monitored, rather than a facility to keep them from infecting the outside world.

Early this year, the federal government will turn over the complex to Louisiana, which plans to close the center and use the site as a "boot camp" for troubled youths. With the shutdown looming, the center's 130 patients — many older than 70 — were offered three choices.

They could leave with a \$33,000 annual federal stipend, move to a federal nursing home and research center to be set up in Baton Rouge or remain here in a smaller facility for three more years assisted by a smaller staff.

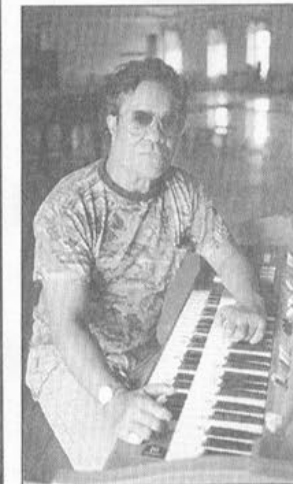
In recent weeks, 47 patients chose



Longtime resident: Johnny Harmon, 87, came to the Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center in 1935, lived outside for 36 years and returned in 1990. 'In 1935, this was a leper colony; I don't care what people call it now,' he says. 'You would meet people that had holes in their head where there used to be a nose.'



By Quin Tan, USA TODAY



Misatuli: 'There is no other place like Carville. Nobody stares at you here.'

"Nobody stares at you here."

X here in a smaller facility for three more years assisted by a smaller staff.

In recent weeks, 47 patients chose the stipend and left. Among those remaining on a recent weekend, there was a heightened sense of anxiety as they weighed their options.

For some, life outside is a daunting prospect. "It's hard to leave this place, when you've gotten used to being treated by people who don't act like they don't want to touch you," says Iosefa (pronounced you-seefa) Misatuli, 53, who came here in 1973.

Once a guitarist in his native American Samoa, he lost nearly all his fingers to the disease around 1968. He says, "There is no other place like Carville. Nobody stares at you here." Misatuli says he will take the stipend and leave, although he has not decided where he'll go.

"It's going to be really hard for a lot of these people," says Tanya Thomassie, a federal employee who has worked here for 30 years. "A lot of them have a spouse buried in the cemetery here, and they don't want to leave them," she says of some who met and married here.

Leprosy was associated for centuries with Biblical stories. Now known as Hansen's Disease, it was named for a Norwegian scientist, G. A. Hansen, who discovered in 1873 the bacterium that causes it.

Although those afflicted used to be shunned because the disease was considered a curse, scientists now know that the bacterium attacks nerves and causes atrophy of muscle, skin and cartilage, most noticeably in the extremities.

The Hansen's Disease Center, known as "Carville" in medical circles, is on a former plantation nestled in a bend of the Mississippi River about 20 miles south of Baton

Longtime resident: Johnny Harmon, 87, came to the Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center in 1935, lived outside for 36 years and returned in 1990. "In 1935, this was a leper colony; I don't care what people call it now," he says. "You would meet people that had holes in their head where there used to be a nose."



Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center: Once housed nearly 500 patients.

Rouge. It has been a forerunner in leprosy research and gets its name from the Carville family, for whom the town in which it is located is named. James Carville, President Clinton's friend and adviser, is a member of that family.

The complex — with its miles of walkways, oak-lined drives and ubiquitous bicycles — resembles a college campus but has all the amenities of a rural town. It has a farm, dairy, power plant, fire station, homes, school, churches, a pond and a 9-hole golf course — all reachable by bike. It was designed so patients would have no need to confront the world outside.

Leprosy no longer is considered a serious U.S. public health threat. An estimated 6,000 people in the United States have the disease, and about 200 new cases are diagnosed annually.

Scientists now know the disease is not nearly as contagious as once thought. About 95% of humans are naturally resistant to the disease, and

it is spread through prolonged skin-to-skin contact or through inhalation of droplets containing the bacterium.

But Johnny Harmon, 87, who came here in 1935 and lived 36 years on the outside before moving back in 1990, remembers a different time. Harmon was an engineer with the Texas Highway Department when he was diagnosed with leprosy. "In 1935, this was a leper colony; I don't care what people call it now," he says. "You would meet people that had holes in their head where there used to be a nose."

"In those days, nobody hardly ever got out of here," he remembers, sitting in his apartment at the facility. "You could go home twice a year, but you had to have a pass for every state that you were going through," says Harmon, who intends to stay



Plans to stay: Harmon, who was an engineer with the Texas Highway Department when he was diagnosed, says he'll move to a smaller facility in Carville, one of the options offered to patients.

and predicts that he'll die here. "You couldn't ride a bus or a train. If you ran away and they caught you, they put you in (the center's) jail for 30 days."

There was a time when people like Harmon were treated even worse. Leprosy was so frightening precisely because its effects were so apparent. The disease affects the nerves in skin, eyes and cooler parts of the body, leaving discolored skin patches and red lumps, missing noses, fingers and toes and clawed hands.

When the Carville facility opened in 1894 as the Louisiana State Lepro-

sarium, there were no drugs to combat the disease.

The first seven Carville patients came from "pesthouses" or "Lazaretts" (after the Bible's beggar Lazarus, who was afflicted with leprosy) in New Orleans, 60 miles south. They were brought up the Mississippi River in darkness on a barge.

After two years of scrambling for themselves on the ramshackle plantation, they were cared for by a Catholic order of nuns, the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

In the early years, many patients were brought here against their will by police, to a facility surrounded by

Misatuli: "There is no other place like Carville. Nobody stares at you here."

a fence topped with barbed wire.

To leave, they had to test negative for the bacterium in a dozen consecutive skin tests, given once a month for a year. Outgoing mail was sterilized, and the money used to pay for outside labor was fumigated.

Patients were not allowed to vote. "There are not many people, even in Louisiana, who even knew this hospital was here, and who even knew that leprosy was still occurring," says Bruce Clements, clinical director of patient care.

The center became a federal hospital in 1921, and 20 years later, Guy Faget, a director of the center, found that a sulfone drug similar to one used to treat tuberculosis also was effective against Hansen's Disease.

That discovery revolutionized treatment of the disease around the world. Subsequent study at Carville, particularly research on armadillos, the only animal other than humans that shows vulnerability to leprosy, has led to other breakthroughs.

Still, Hansen's Disease continues to pose a serious health threat worldwide.

More than 10 million people are thought to have the disease, and about 650,000 new cases are diagnosed every year.

Carville patient Theresa Wilson, 80, knows how painful such a diagnosis can be.

"Because of the stigma of this disease, we have lost things like identity and dignity," says Wilson, who has lived here for two decades and is considering moving to her native Trinidad. "This place allows you to get some of that back."

Photos by C. Ross for USA TODAY

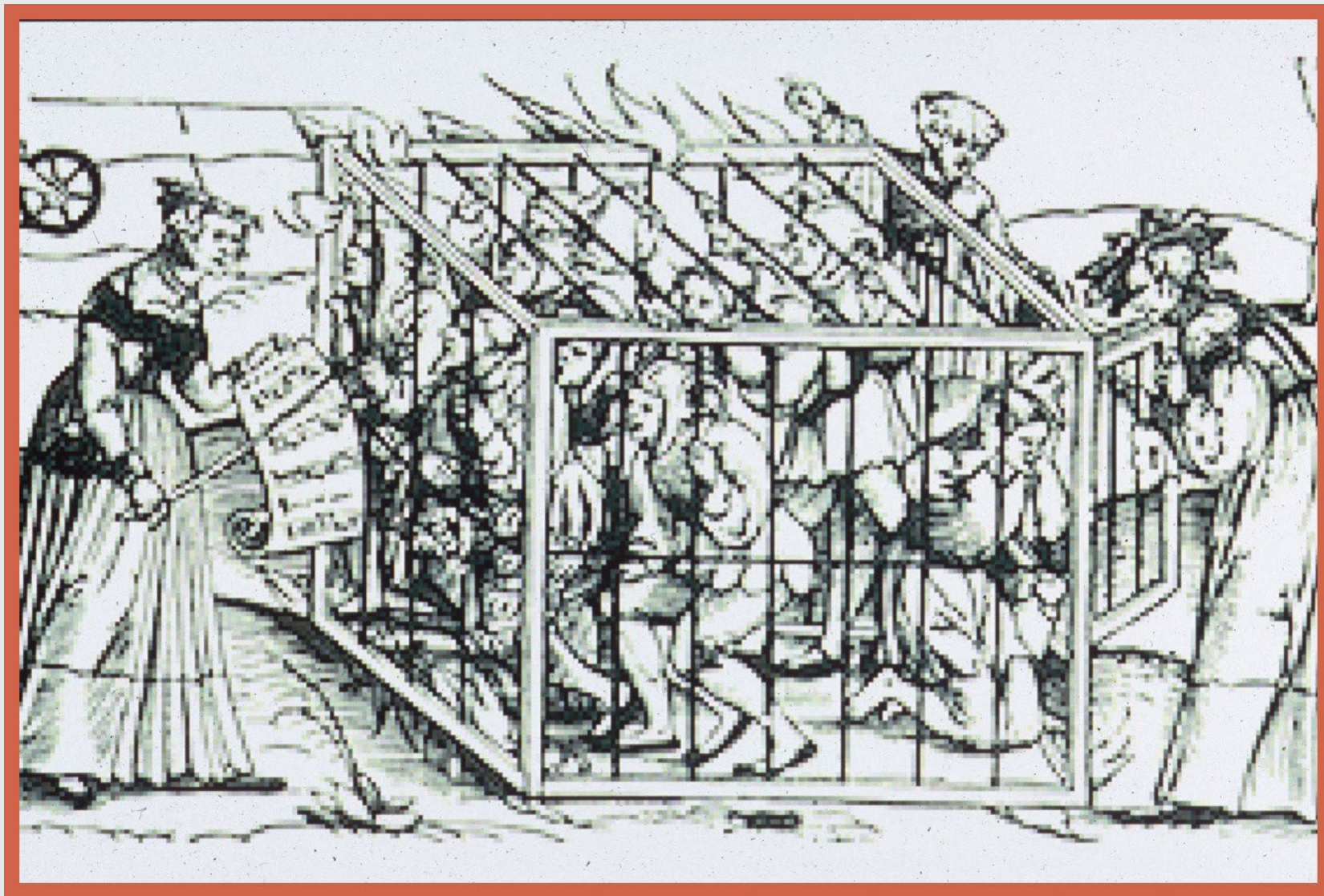
What will replace the folks with leprosy?

A boot camp for adolescents.

The next development was in 1346 in Hamburg, Germany, with the creation of the Idiot Cage attached to a tower in the city wall.

These small imprisonments were used to keep people out of trouble, but they may also have been used to entertain the townspeople.

Enclosure



Eastern Europe Cage



School Cage

The California
school called it
“A Sanctuary.”

2015



Home-made Cage

From a 2001 press clipping, a couple in Seattle, WA created a 6-feet deep and 5-feet wide cage made of steel tubing and steel mesh.

Their son with a disability went into the cage at night in the basement with a bucket for a toilet. They padlocked the door behind him.

saljournal.com
YOUR SALINA JOURNAL ONLINE

Minneapolis, KS 1-800-750-8282 • Salina, KS 1-800-569-5653

School official denies boy put in box

Friday, October 01, 2004 10:12 pm

Woman who testified before lawmakers 'has absolutely

■ By Chris Grenz
Salina Journal

TOPEKA — The superintendent of schools at a small district near Salina wants a chance to

respond to claims made by a foster parent earlier this month that teachers had routinely put a developmentally disabled child "in a box."

Ohio Case 2005



Eleven Children Found Caged In Northern Ohio Home

Wakeman, Ohio -- When deputies removed 11 disabled children from a home where they were made to sleep in cages, the adoptive parents didn't seem to see anything wrong with the children's treatment, authorities said.

Mike and Sharen Gravelle denied in a custody hearing that they'd abused or neglected the children -- ages 1 to 14, with conditions that included autism and fetal alcohol syndrome.

Children in Cages

“The investigator spotted a face peering out of one of the cages.”

The Gravelles said a psychiatrist recommended they make the children sleep in the 40-inch tall cages that were stacked in bedrooms on the second floor of their house.

- Some of the cages were rigged with alarms.
- One had a dresser in front of it.



More Headlines

2014—Greece locks up children in cages in state run homes. “It is better than tying arms and legs to beds.”

2014—CA—Parents arrested for locking child in a dog kennel.

2013—NM—8 year old girl locked in a wooden cage.



VA Couple Jailed

Brian and Shannon Gore are serving 30 years in prison for nearly starving their 6 year old daughter to death. Alison, who is developmentally delayed, was found starved and naked in a makeshift cage in their Gloucester home.



Turpin Family in California



MN House of Horrors

Star Tribune, 2018

Twins with severe developmental disabilities were repeatedly raped, beaten with bats and chained for days at a time without food. Doctors who examined their scars told the court that this was “clinically diagnostic of torture.”



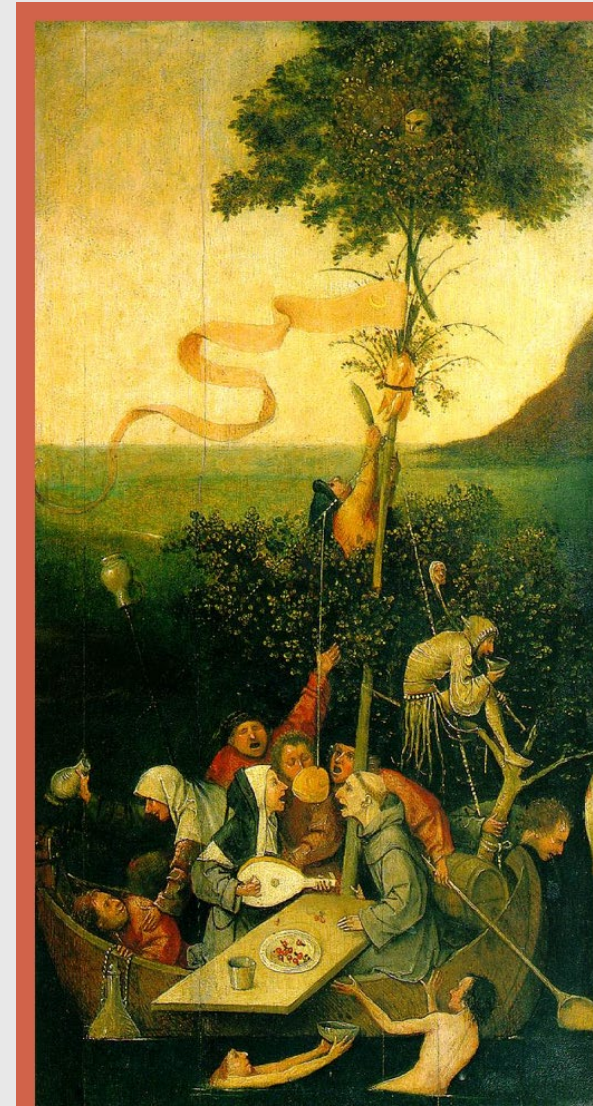
Ship of Fools



The Ship of Fools enabled people with disabilities to be sent away to other lands.

Communities paid sailors to take people away so they wouldn't pose a burden. The boats would sail from port to port charging admission to view the strange human cargo.

Eventually the ships would abandon the people.



What are some examples today?

Mom from MS goes to Tulane University in New Orleans so her son can have several medical procedures. She was told to stay there. “We don’t have anyone like him in MS.”

Parents from SD are told to move to MN because SD is not going to provide services for their child with disabilities.

Gheel, Belgium – 700 years ago

- Created family care by taking people with disabilities into their private homes and showing them love and respect.
- The practice continues today.

Discussion Question 3

Participatory activity:

Discuss any examples of court jester, idiot cage, ship of fools, or leper colony that occur today.

Examples:

- Idiot cage—closets, quiet rooms, whisper rooms
- Court jester—*Howard Stern Show*
- Ship of fools—Hennepin County sent 3,316 people away
- Leper colony—prisons, nursing homes

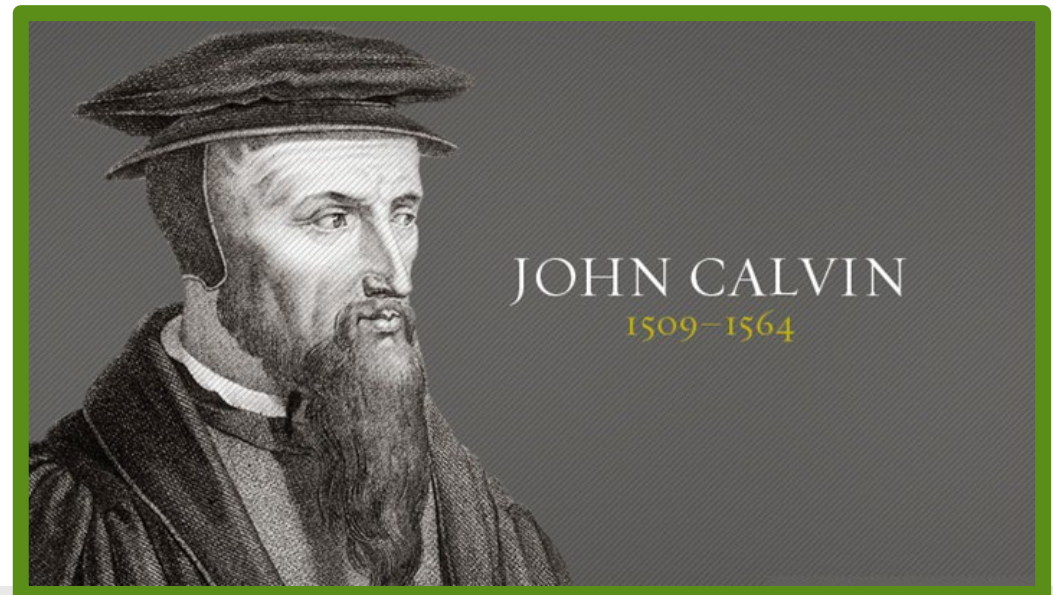
Preacher John Calvin

The next major event that had a profound effect on people with disabilities was the Protestant Reformation, which began in 1517.

During this period, people with disabilities were seen as subhuman.

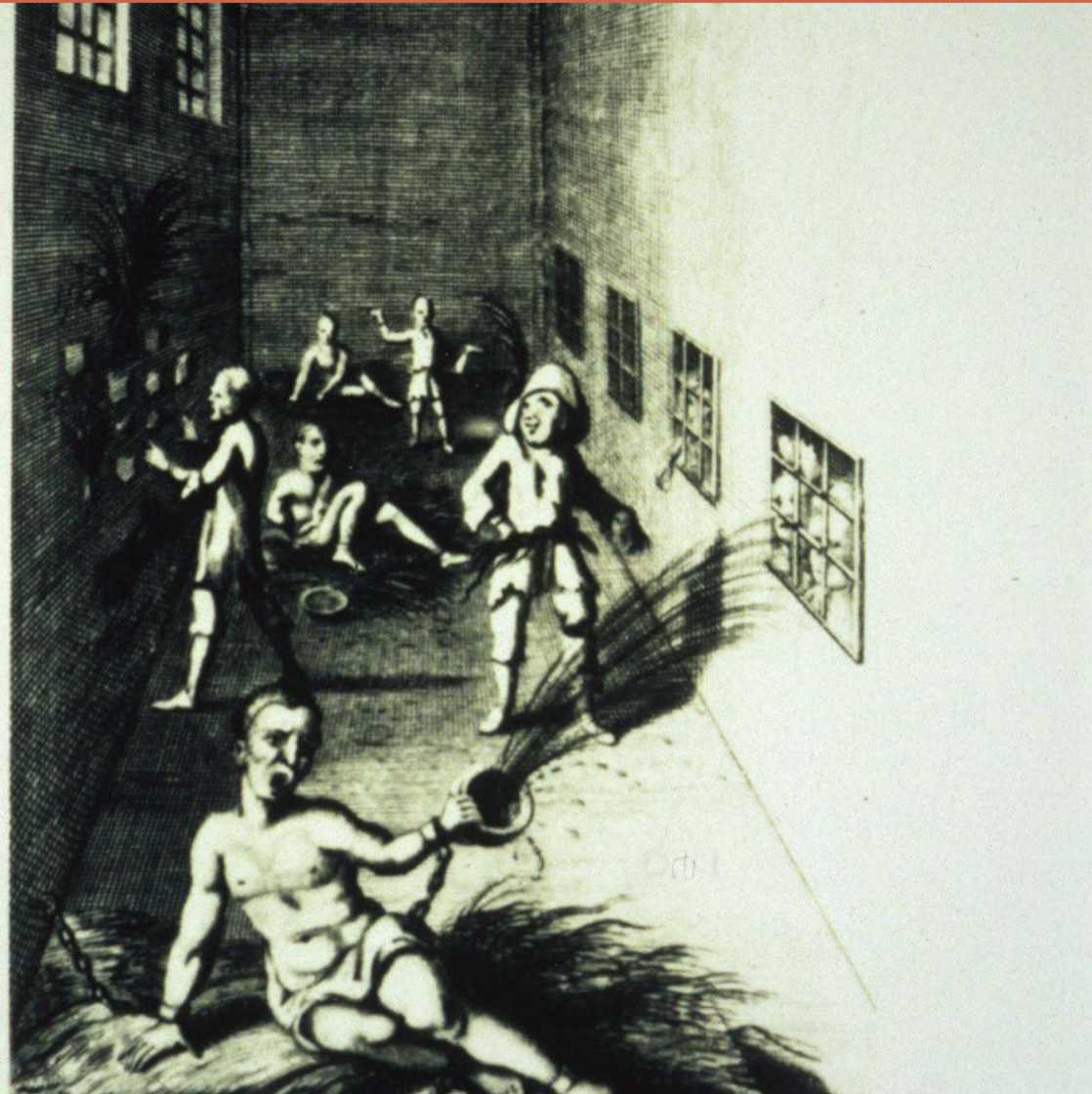
John Calvin preached the notion of predestination stating that God had already chosen who will and who will not be saved.

Those with disabilities were not chosen.



Bedlam

PLATE 61. Bedlam, from an engraving by Bernard Lens and John Sturt for the fifth edition of Jonathan Swift's *A Tale of a Tub* (1710)



From a recent Wisconsin Master's Thesis about the 1800s:

County supervisors would inspect poor houses and write reports with sentences like:

❖ “I saw a naked man on a heap of straw with a bucket for a toilet.”

Asylum in Germany



Fig. 438.—DER NARRENHAUS—A GERMAN INSANE ASYLUM

Queen Elizabeth I

Between 1563 and 1601, Queen Elizabeth the First prompted Parliament to pass a series of laws to take care of poor people.



The poor were put into categories such as;

- Deserving poor;
 - Indoor Relief: If too old, too ill, too young to work then placed in almshouses, hospitals, poor houses, or orphanages.
- Idle or Undeserving poor.
 - Outdoor Relief: Clothes and food on the dole.

The Elizabethan Poor Law, in effect, shifted responsibility for the care of people to tax money of property owners.

The concept was worthy poor & unworthy poor...who is a person unworthy of help?

Those who can work, but don't; from 1994 until 1999 who was first targeted to be eliminated from social security?

- Those with substance abuse problems.
- Children with emotional/behavioral problems.
- AFDC recipients.

Those who are worthy tend to be those born with a disability or acquired a disability, **especially if it is visible.**

More Headlines

- 1994—Kids feigning disorders for federal dollars. SSI has run amok.
- 2010—Boston expose—21,000 kids on medication to get checks.

Moral Treatment

Philippe Pinel, who lived in the late 1700s, was the leading French psychiatrist of his day.

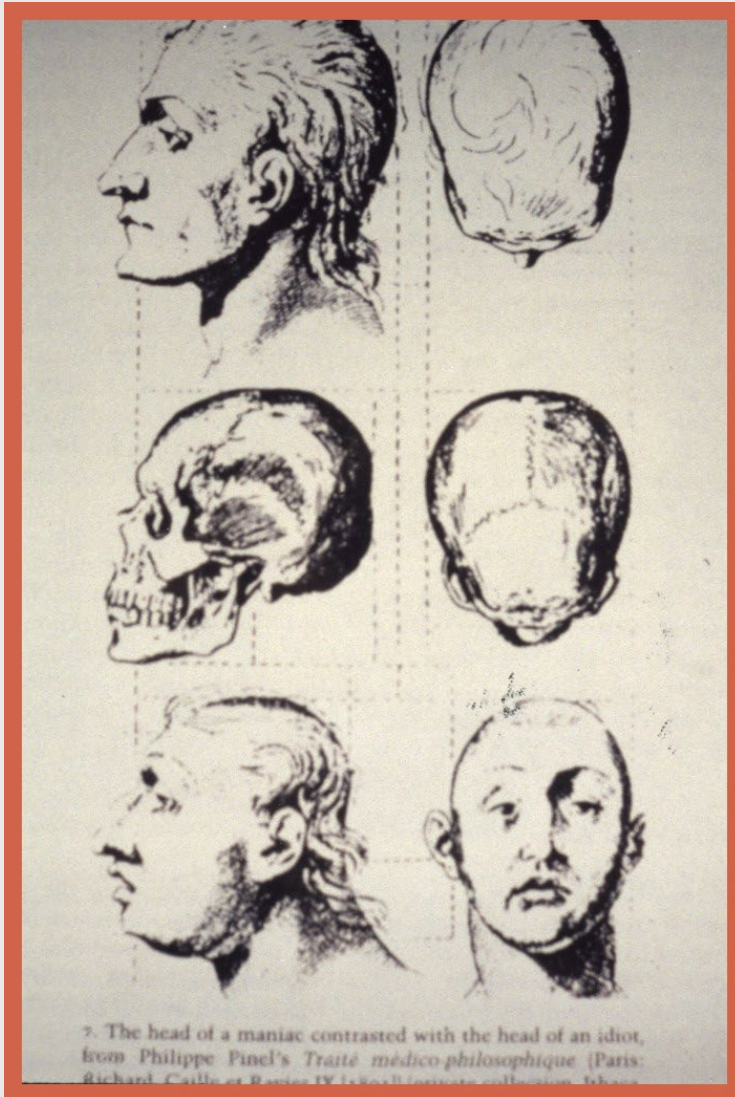
He was one of the first to say that people with mental difficulties were diseased, as opposed to sinful, immoral, or possessed by demons.



He removed chains and restraints from people living in asylums. He used gentle treatments, created humane environments, and did not “bleed” people.

He also classified types of disabilities based upon phrenology.

Phrenology



In this slide, Dr. Pinel contrasts the head of someone with mental health problems (on the left) compared to someone with learning problems (on the right).

The 27 lumps on a head represented the organs of the body.

Phrenology Diagram



REASONING FACULTIES.

36. CAUSALITY.—Ability to reason and comprehend first principles; the “why and wherefore” faculty; originality. *Excess:* Too much theory, without bringing the mind to a practical bearing. Such a mind may be philosophic, but neither practical nor scientific.

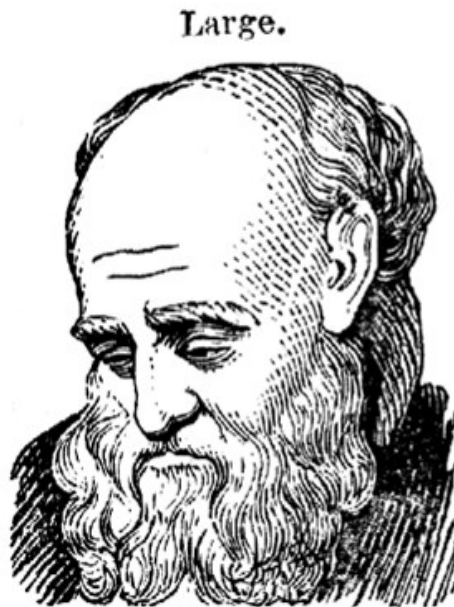


Fig. 160.—GALILEO.*

37. COMPARISON.—Inductive reasoning; ability to classify, and apply analogy to the discernment of principles;



Fig. 161.—IDIOT.*

Slope of Forehead

INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY.

259

house; there, it slopes like a roof or like the sides of a pyramid; and none of these forms are accidental or unmeaning, as we shall now proceed to show



Fig. 358.



Fig. 359.

INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY.

The forehead is the region of intellect, and the question for



Fig. 360. - THE GORILLA

the observer to settle, in judging of the intellectual capacity of another, is how much brain has he in that department? How deep, how broad, and how high is the forehead? What proportion does it bear to the other parts of the head? Quality must be taken into account, of course, in all cases; but, other things being equal, size, as we have had occasion to say before, is the measure of power, whether in body or in brain.

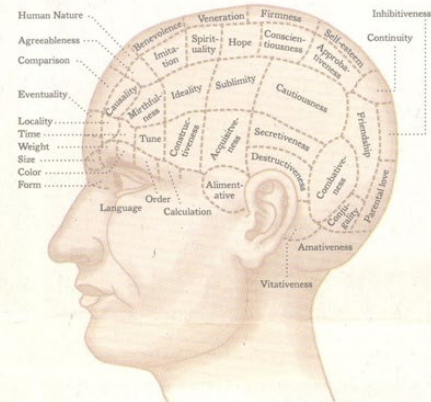
What's the parallel today?

Health & Fitness

The New York Times

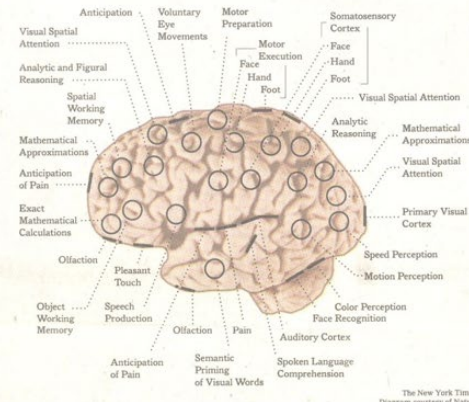
19TH-CENTURY HEAD EXAMINATION

According to phrenologists of the period, analysis of the shape and lumps of the skull would reveal a person's personality and intellect. Below, a contemporary map of localized characteristics.



CURRENT MAPPING THROUGH FUNCTIONAL MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (FMRI)

Now scientists can capture the brain in action by measuring changes in cerebral blood flow. Critics say the technique isn't being used to answer more complicated questions about the brain's processes.



Just What's Going On Inside That Head of Yours?

Some Question the Value of New Brain Maps

By SANDRA BLAKESLEE

Two hundred years ago, the German anatomist Franz Joseph Gall dazzled the public with his science of phrenology, the practice of divining personality and intellect from the shape of the bumps on a person's head. Each localized bump, he said, represented a different characteristic, like secretiveness, acquisitiveness or cautiousness. Later practitioners of phrenology even found locations for pampering children, gluttony and Republican politics.

Now the public is being dazzled once again by a technique called functional magnetic resonance imaging, or fMRI, which is finding precise brain locations related to all sorts of human traits and activities. Among them are hyperactivity centers in children, cells that specialize in the naming of fruits and even a spot in the brain that lights up when a man is sexually aroused.

Instead of having their bumps "read" during a Victorian parlor game, people lie down and put their heads inside a powerful magnet device that detects certain molecules in blood flowing through the brain.

When a particular location of the brain is engaged in a cognitive task like naming

fruits, it requires extra energy to do its job. The energy arrives in the form of glucose, a simple sugar, that is carried to the fruit-naming location via increased blood flow. This increase in blood flow is then detected by the magnet and depicted on a screen as splotches of light inside the brain.

F.M.R.I. is wildly popular with researchers, thrilled to have a tool that can peer inside the thinking, feeling human brain, said Dr. William Newsome, a professor of neuroscience at Stanford. Unlike standard M.R.I. scans that take static pictures of brain anatomy — used when doctors search for abnormalities — functional imaging captures the brain in action as it plans, schemes, imagines and hallucinates.

Thus, each week journals report new studies of ways the brain works based on analyses of F.M.R.I.-based splashes of light inside human heads. But many leading neuroscientists, including Dr. Newsome, now chide colleagues, saying they are misusing a potentially priceless research tool on studies that are often poorly designed and sometimes bordering on the simple-minded.

Most researchers using the new imaging are not asking difficult questions about brain function, these critics say. Instead of asking how the brain works, the technology

is being used to answer simple questions that repeat what is already known about the brain or shed little light.

For example, Dr. Newsome said, a researcher might put someone in a scanner, ask the person to count from 1 to 10 and later to count backwards from 10 to 1. The end result: an area for counting backward that lights up as a blob in the brain.

The technology is seductively easy to use, said Dr. Christopher Moore, a postdoctoral fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston who is carrying out a number of imaging studies. "You can think of an idea, throw five friends into the scanner overnight and write up your results the next day. People don't have to think very hard about what they're doing."

Just because an area lights up does not mean something important was found, Dr. Newsome said. Nor will researchers understand the brain when the entire map is filled with blobs.

"Localization data provide little insight into the exact nature of the signals encoded in a given structure, the computations being performed and the interactions between different structures," Dr. Newsome said. In other words, knowing where something happens does not reveal how it happens.

Neurologists now know that the brain is a dynamic system of cellular circuits that constantly shift as people go through the day. So the hard part of deciphering brain function is to figure out how cells and wide-

spread circuits are interconnected. How do they fire together to produce behaviors?

Moreover, "there's a dirty little secret that people who publish these studies don't reveal," said Dr. Terry Sejnowski, a neuroscientist at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, Calif. "The signals they get are highly massaged. It means they clean up their data to make it look good, like applying makeup, for a general audience." The actual data they collect are far more complex, he said, but difficult to decipher.

Another problem is that some parts of the brain seem to light up all the time. The anterior cingulate — found in front of the brain near the fissure separating the two hemispheres — is active when people carry out scores of tasks, including, as French researchers found, thinking about sex.

And just because a brain area is correlated with a behavior in F.M.R.I. studies does not mean that it causes the behavior, said Dr. John Moore, a psychology professor at the University of Massachusetts. Imaging studies often make this mistake, he said.

The most serious criticism of the imaging has to do with what the researchers are measuring. Increased blood flow, as shown in splashes of light, may not be an accurate surrogate for brain cell function, some say. Sometimes a signal is picked up by the magnet because the blood is draining into a larger vein and not from cells that are using more energy. Thus, some imaging experi-

Continued on Page 10

MRI Disproves Phrenology

The *New York Times* reported that phrenologists could diagnosis personality and intellect based upon the shape and lumps of the skull.

For example, your benevolence was at the top of your skull, your parental love was at the back of your skull.

Today, using functional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), which captures the brain in action, a person is asked to count backwards and a part of the brain lights up.

- ❖ Instead of parental love, today that area is known for visual perception;
- ❖ Instead of benevolence, that area is math and space perception.

Victor the Wild Boy Found in the Woods



Raised by Wolves

In 1799, three hunters found a boy abandoned in the woods of France who had been raised by wolves. Victor the Wild Boy was 11-12 years old and was taken to Paris to the National Institute for Deaf-Mutes, to Dr. Itard.

Victor was chosen for an experiment to prove that people were blank slates and that his disability was caused by a lack of human interaction.



Special Education Begins

Jean-Marc Gaspard Itard was the 25 year old physician who vowed to civilize Victor. Itard worked with Victor for 5 years.

Victor did learn but not at the rate that Itard had hoped. He was taught social skills, the use of symbols, and awareness of environmental stimuli.

If Victor had been younger there might have been greater progress, but Itard did fight against hopelessness.



Thomas Malthus

In 1798, Thomas Malthus, a British clergyman and economist, published an essay on the *Principle of Population*.

The essay introduced the concept of Return on Investment.



Return on Investment

The *Principle of Population* argued that the population was increasing geometrically while the food supply was increasing arithmetically. Therefore, England was destined to run out of food. He argued that the birth rate needed to be cut and that **all people who looked defective or were different should be eliminated.**

Only those who are normal and can make the greatest contribution to society should survive. The term is called Return on Investment and has been used throughout hundreds of years.

Remember Thomas Malthus being mentioned earlier in the presentation? This is the economist who advocated *against* founding hospitals.



In 1997, the Governor of Iowa, Terry Branstad, stated that all special education kids have a right to education, but to spend tens of thousands of dollars on kids who will not support themselves or won't learn a great deal, at the expense of the other kids, "is not fair."

Minneapolis Star Tribune

Average kids are losing

soaring special education costs squeeze Minnesota school budgets

Governor Dick Lamm of Colorado stated that old people should just die, that in fact, the elderly had “a duty to die ... and get out of the way.”

Regarding disabilities, he said, “Why spend money to teach someone to roll over?”



Scrooge

Charles Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol* in response to the *Principle of Population* essay by Thomas Malthus. Malthus is Scrooge.



The poorhouse was created in the 19th century in the U.S.

There was a bit of wealth, which allowed for help to poor people.

The poor were thought of as a source of disease. If placed in the poorhouse, it was thought, the poor would learn how to work hard, which would **save money**.

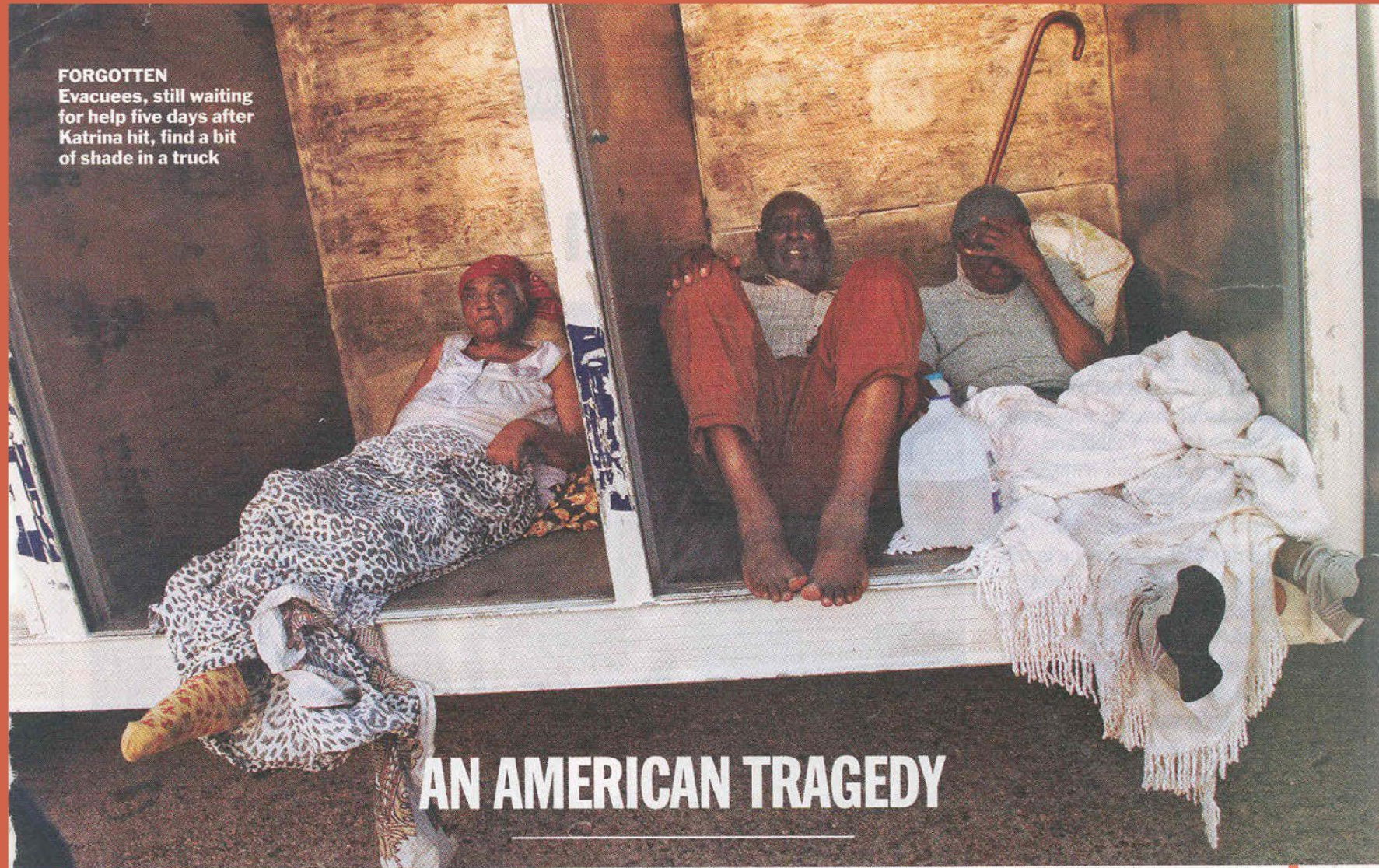
Minimum Shelter



English Poorhouse



Katrina Survivors



Napoleon Bonaparte

In France and England, laws had been passed to provide basic shelter.

Napoleon decreed in 1811 that abandoned children and poor orphans should be entrusted to charities. Those infants who cannot be put to board, the crippled and the infirmed will be raised in hospitals.



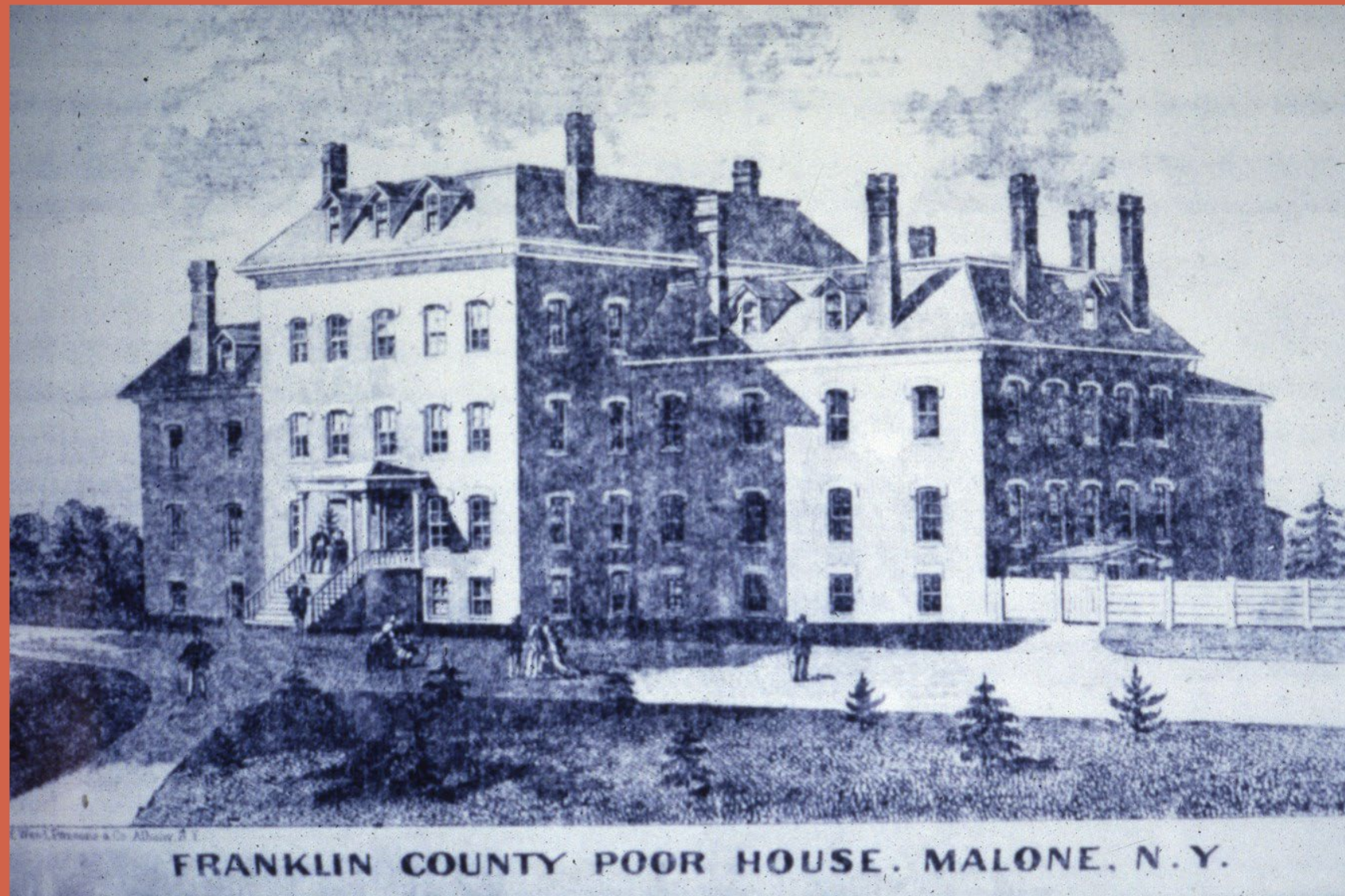
The Poor Law of 1834



The Poor Law of 1834 in England stated that every idiot, lunatic, and insane person who cannot be provided for by his or her family was entitled to basic provisions at public charge.

The Law formed the basis of policy for 200 years.

US Poorhouse



Who went to the poorhouse?

Anyone who lived in poverty because they were widows, orphans, alcoholic, or had any type of disability was put into a poorhouse.

Why were people hidden in closets?

Because almost every state passed laws requiring proper segregation. Each state differed, but clergy, teachers, and public officials were required to report anyone who looked different.

People lost their rights.

A person in England who was labeled an *idiot* could not vote, own property, be elected to office, be a witness in court, or be married. This was the period when the concept of Guardianship began. Take people's rights away.

It was so automatic and so linked with services that the practice continues today ... people are so familiar with the term parent/guardian that it runs together.

Dorothea Dix



They're not human

Social reformers were advocating for better conditions.

Dix had taught school children, taught Sunday School in women's corrections, and was appalled at the living conditions. She found dungeon cells where the insane were chained to walls and locked in pens.

She worked to add stoves in cells and put clothing on people.

The belief of the time was that people with mental illness were not human.

In 1843, Dix said people were confined in Massachusetts in cages, closets, cellars, stalls, pens, chained, naked, beaten with rods, and lashed into obedience.

“I come to advocate for those who are helpless, forgotten, insane, and idiotic who are kept wretched in our prisons.”

Recent Treatment

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Kirkwood, MO (2010)

Edward “Master Ed” Bagley was one of 4 men arrested by the FBI for torturing a mentally disabled woman for 5 years.



Master Ed “beat, whipped, flogged, suffocated, choked, electrocuted, caned, skewered, drowned, mutilated, hung and caged” a girl with mental disabilities. He restrained her, hung her in the air, and locked her in a dog cage. He used staples, nails, and a sewing needle during torture sessions too violent to describe.

Congressional Plea by Dix

She spent two years touring the U.S. to gather evidence about the appalling conditions and brutal treatment of people with disabilities and mental illness. In 1848 she appealed to the 30th Congress for federal funds having visited more than 9,000 people.

Dorothea Dix worked with Samuel Gridley Howe and asked that 5,000 acres of land be set aside in trust with the income to be used to help the mentally ill.

The legislation passed and was **vetoed by President Pierce.**

PA – Doctors were performing surgery without anesthetic.

GA – Care managers were purchasing life insurance policies for people with profound disabilities. Of the 20 policies, 7 people were starved to death.

- ❖ The care manager collected the benefits.



Department of Justice

Kansas Couple Convicted On Involuntary Servitude Charges For Abusing Mentally Ill Patients

Washington, D.C. (2005) - The Justice Department announced today that Arlan Kaufman, 69, and his wife, Linda Kaufman, 62, were convicted on federal charges for forcing mentally ill patients to perform sexually explicit acts on videotape and to perform physical labor in the nude. The jury found Arlan Kaufman guilty on 31 federal counts and Linda Kaufman guilty on 30 federal counts, including involuntary servitude, forced labor, conspiracy, healthcare fraud, mail fraud, and Medicare fraud.

The AG for the Civil Rights Division said, "Society will not tolerate this form of modern-day slavery." For over 24 years, the Kaufmans operated Kaufman House, a home for mentally ill patients.

Life Insurance Scam

Los Angeles Times (1989)

The small, frail-looking woman doesn't know it, but she is paying monthly premiums on \$5,000 worth of insurance on her life.

Neither does she know that, when she dies, the sister of the woman who owns and operates the run-down community care facility in which she lives will collect the insurance money.

When asked, the thin young woman with wide vacant eyes **didn't even know the meaning of the word *insurance*.**



LARRY BUSSEL / Los Angeles Times
Bobby Jean Hopkins, center, owner of the Galubrium, an old motel on West Washington Boulevard that now is a care center for the retarded, disburses money to clients. A staff member is at the right. The picture has been retouched to obscure the faces of the patients.

Patients' Life Policies Name Kin of Operator

Washington Post (Pulitzer Prize)

DC – Expose about deaths with no death certificates, cremations and social security checks cashed.

MN – One week expose in the *Star Tribune*, the greatest revelation that convicted felons were given waivers to the criminal background check process.

- Atalissa, Iowa—Henry's Turkey Plant
- Phone calls—neglect leading to death
- Left on buses and dying (2015)
- Nursing homes
- Human trafficking
- Murder-suicide

Fight Club in New York

Staff laughed at the residents forced to fight.



Beginning of Institutions

Training schools were being established in:

- Europe in 1842 in Berlin;
- Germany in 1846 in Leipzig; and
- England.

Dr. Johann Guggenbuhl



Cure Cretinism

Dr. Johann Guggenbuhl was a young physician who established a training school in the Swiss Mountains to cure cretinism.

Cretinism (thyroid deficiency) results in severely stunted physical and mental growth.

Guggenbuhl was inspired by a person with cretinism mumbling the Lord's Prayer at a wayside cross.

He dedicated his life to helping people with cretinism.



Abendberg

He decided that a 40-acre training school at 4,000 feet above sea level would be the cure.

- Health (fresh air, exercise),
- Mind (speaking skills); and
- God.

He traveled across Europe talking about *Abendberg* and a cure rate of 1/3.

- *Abendberg* operated for 17 years.

Another young, influential doctor who studied under Itard was Edward Seguin.

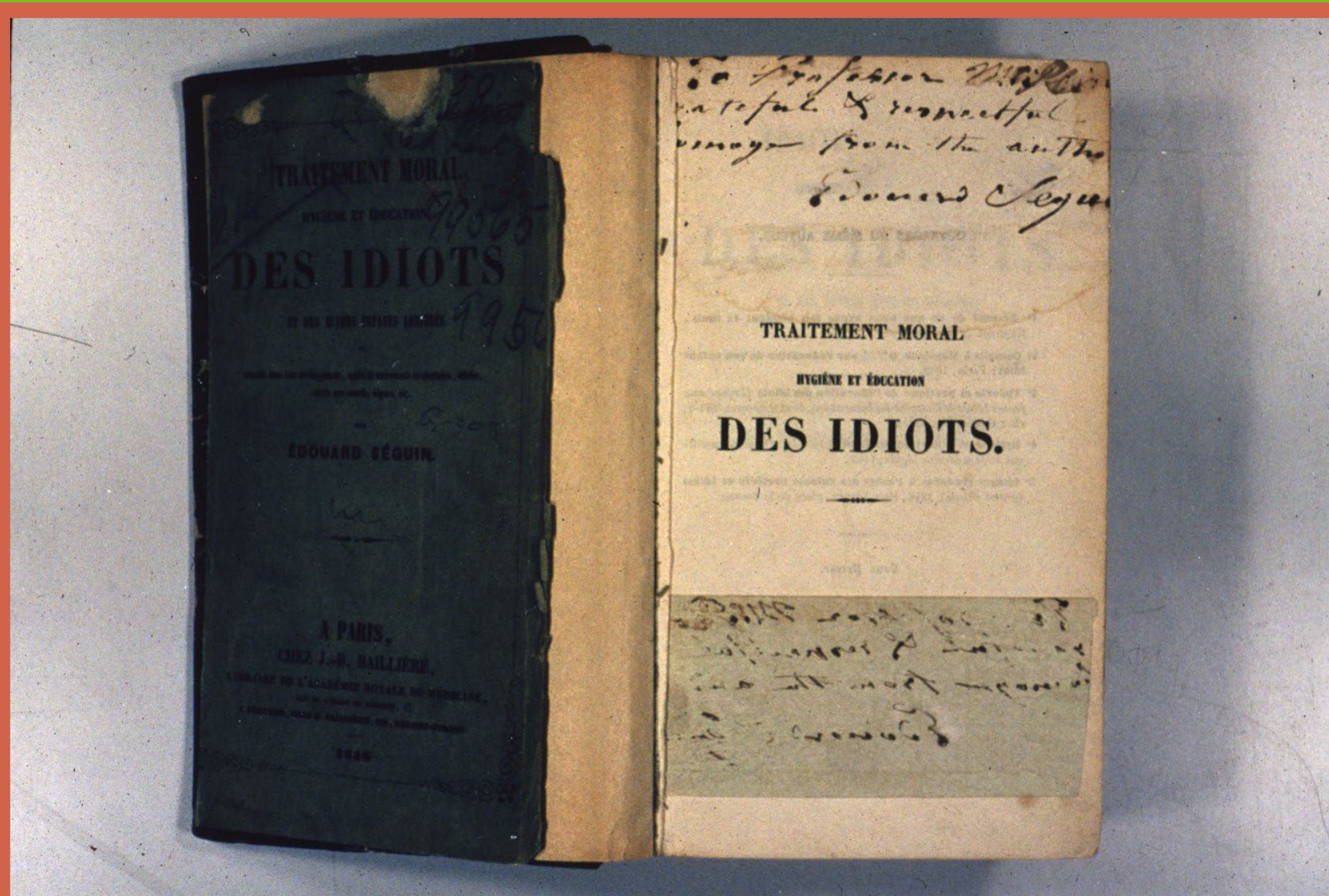
He was an art critic, economic essayist, friend of Victor Hugo, and considered a great teacher in disabilities.

Pope Pius IX recognized his achievements and called him “**the apostle to the idiots.**” He worked in an asylum and improved upon sensory training.

Seguin Moves to the US



Seguin's Book



Seguin's Treatment

- Seguin saw the potential of physiological methods of treating disabilities.

Mental deficiency was a weakness of the nervous system and could be cured by developing motor/sensory abilities. If you could control your nervous system, then you could control your will.

Pull Heavy Wagon



TE 208. Pulling a heavy wagon as exercise in the asylum, from Horn (1818)

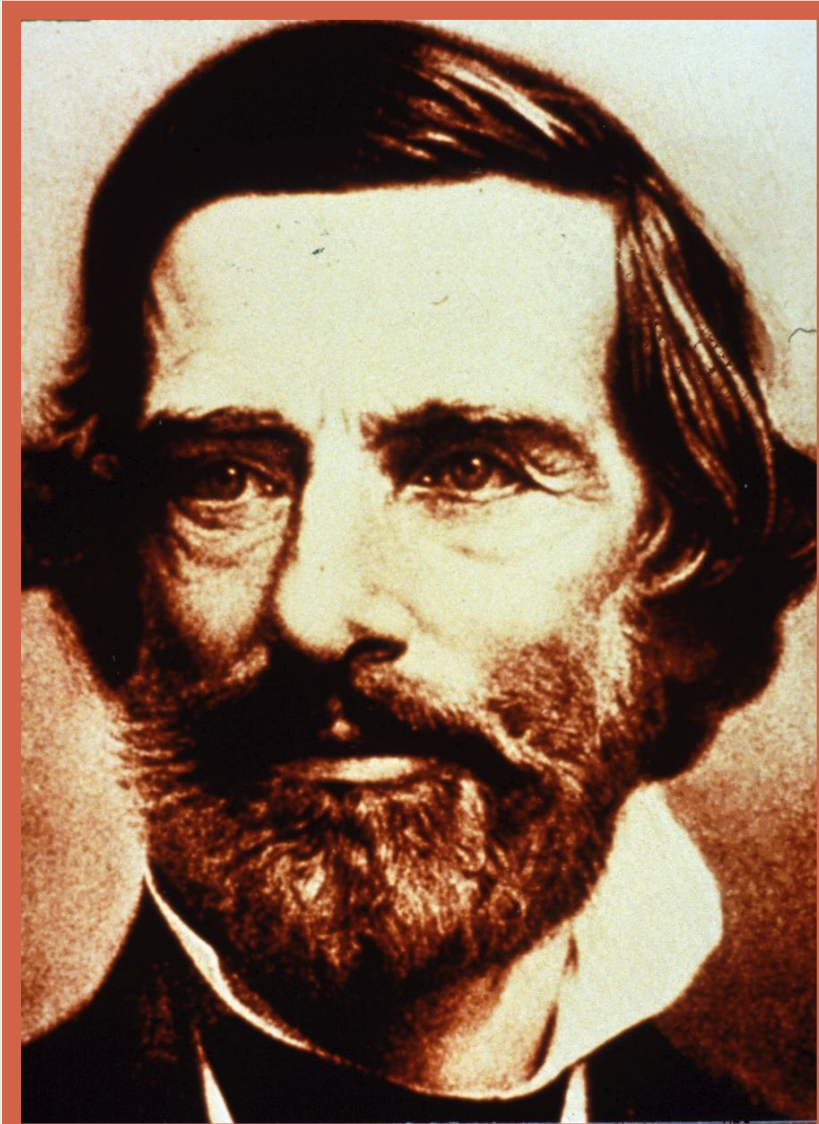
Seguin and Montessori

- As a result women in the institution would pull wagons to develop their motor skills.

In 1844 the Paris Academy of Science praised the methods and said this was the cure.

He influenced Maria Montessori's methods of teaching children.

Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe



Boarding School

- Seguin left France for the US to work with Samuel Gridley Howe in creating training schools.

Howe worked at the *Perkins School for the Blind*.

He created an experimental boarding school in South Boston in October 1848.

- Dr. Hervey Wilbur opened a school at Barre, MA in July 1848.

"The founding of the early institutions was accompanied by a pride, hope, and euphoria we can scarcely comprehend."

Wolf Wolfensberger

The Faribault Report

First Biennial Report of the State Board of Corrections and Charities to the Legislature of Minnesota
for the Biennial Period Ending July 31, **1884**, St Paul: Page 25

“THE SCHOOL FOR IDIOTS AND IMBECILES

has ceased to be an experiment. With its capacity increased to one hundred, and pupils ready to fill it, it is an established institution. No public charity is, in our judgment, more important or more beneficent than this.

Anyone who has seen the lamentable condition of this class in county poor houses, their senseless gibbering, their loathsome appearance, their beastly feeding, their bantering or abuse by other paupers, will mark the contrast with the cleanliness, neatness and civilized appearance of the inmates of this school.”

The Education of the Feeble-Minded

By Kate Gannett Wells.



"FUN Home" is Freddy's name for the School for the Feeble-Minded at Waltham, Massachusetts, where he has lived for years, often answering in impromptu rhymes when challenged in conversation.

"I like to sit under the grapery
Clad in Japanese drapery."

was his instant reply to a visitor, who asked him why he did not go indoors one hot day, when he was sitting in an arbor overhung by grapevines. Not one of the attendants supposed he had ever heard of Oriental fabrics. He has an ardent admiration for a boy named Walter, and once when told to be very good and amusehimself, pleaded in trembling tone:

"If you'll only let me
play with Walter,
Truly then, I will
not fail'er."

Yet Freddy is only one among thousands of children who present in themselves problems which

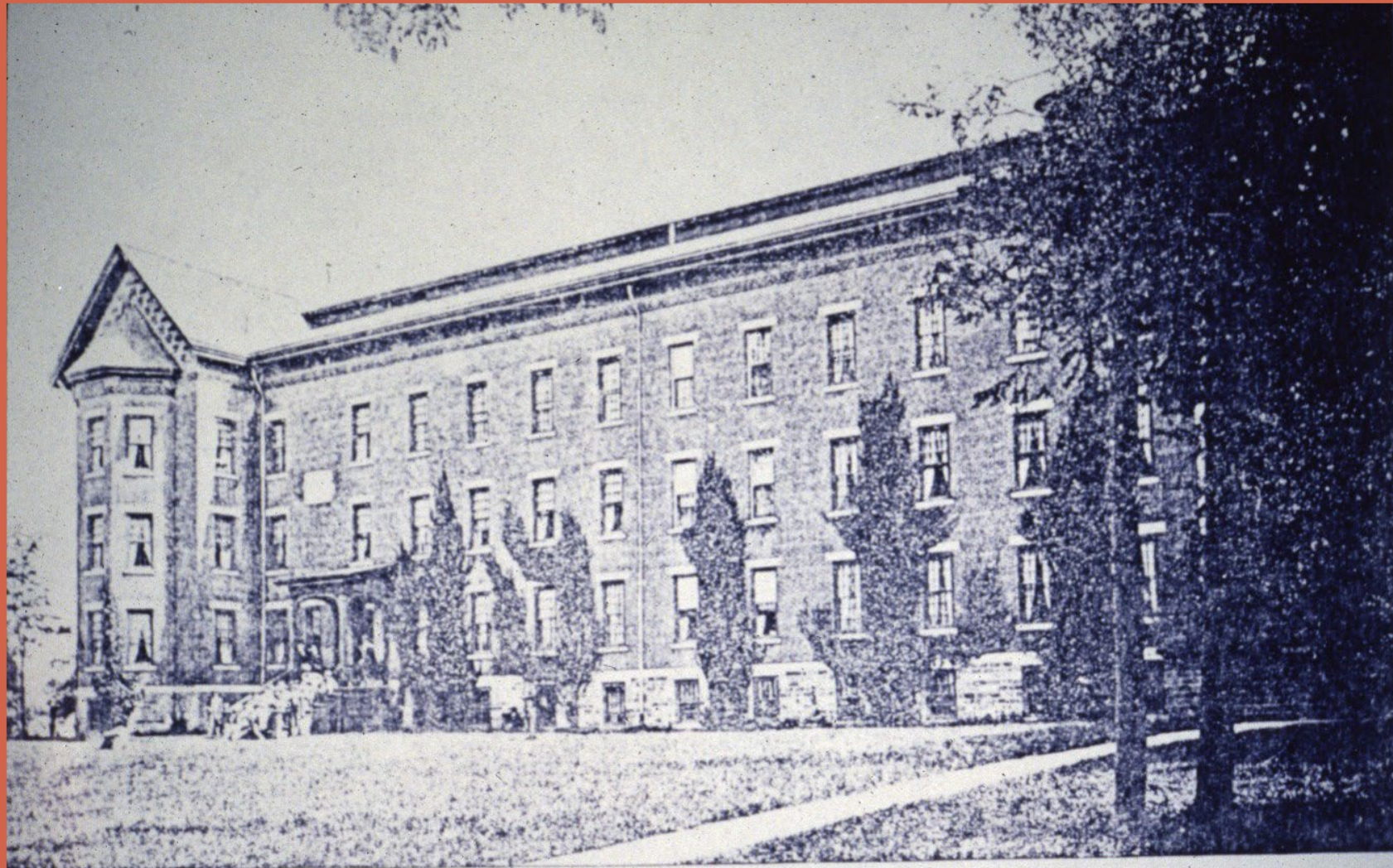
must be solved by processes of education as well as by the intuitions of philanthropy. There is no more interesting phase of psychology than that of the development of a low-grade, feeble-minded child into an intelligent, self-guiding person, with due regard for the rights of others.

It was as an "Experimental School" that the first state institution in America was established at South Boston, Massachusetts, October, 1848, "for teaching and training idiotic children," though the repulsive adjective was in time modified and it is now



THE FIRST HOME FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED AT SOUTH BOSTON.

Boston Institution



Ward Building D. Accommodates 150 growing school boys, 4 to 12 years old

- As parents heard of success in training schools, families wrote seeking admission. Some wanted an education, others wanted relief.

We asked the Samuel Gridley Howe library if we could copy some letters and the next two slides are one of them.

Please Admit

Middleton, N.H. June 13, 1857

Dr. J. I. Have

Dear Sir

I have been requested by a widow lady of this place to write to you, & make some enquiries respecting the terms on which you receive pupils into your school for idlers & South Boston. This is my apology for addressing you at this time. The student above named, has a son, 7 years old, who ~~was~~ when he was first, had a fall from the bed, striking the head on the back part. The injury was severe, causing him to have fits for several years. The fits have ceased, & the boy appears to be in good health, is quite active, and has

Begging for Admission

sits for several years. The father was deaf, & the boy
appears to be in good health, is quite active, and has
~~a fine~~^{has a} bright & intelligent but cannot talk, & has many
odd ways & motions, resulting I appear to me from
want of proper training, & over indulgence more than
any pointing mental defects. With proper care & culture,
I think he might be reclaimed so as to be able
not only to take care of himself & materially assist his
parents, instead of becoming a still greater burden to her
as he grows older & stronger, & more unmanageable. His
mother is in quite moderate circumstances, but would
make every exertion & sacrifice in her power, to re-
move her child from his present condition, if there was
a reasonable prospect of success, & if the expenses

“Curability” of Idiocy.

In answer to the question, “What do you hope for, in the training and treatment of your child?” a parent of a feeble minded child will often answer, “That it may be cured.”

In an application now before me for the admission of a child to this institution, with the opinion of a physician in the case, that the child is in a condition of “Genetous imbecility—middle grade,” the parent says

Cures

- Feingold diet
- Patterning
- Chiropractors
- Vitamins
- Spaghetti
- Ping Pong balls
- Spina bifida—memory is in abdomen
- Dolphins
- Drugs

Boys Exercising

Remember the cure is for boys to do physical exercise.



Girls Exercising



Randall's Island, N. Y.— Scarf dance; girls under twelve years

Schools Became Custodial

People with disabilities had immoral tendencies: Lack of self control, were open to suggestion, and at the mercy of bad companions.

As the enrollment increased, training changed to custodial care. Pupils became inmates.

No longer called training schools, the term became **custodial institutions**.

Punishment Squad

Education was sacrificed.

Control of people set in, so that you had images like this of a punishment room in the basement.

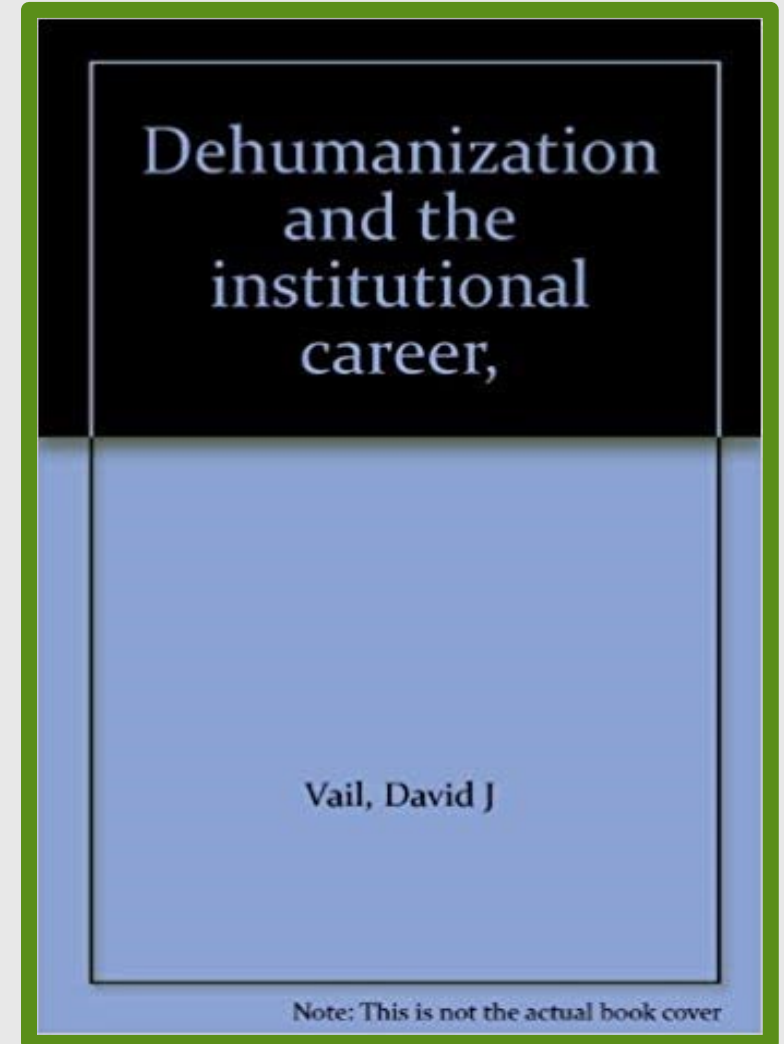


Syracuse State Institution for Feeble-Minded Children, Syracuse, N. Y.— Punishment squad in basement

Dehumanization

In 1966 David Vail published a book entitled *Dehumanization* in which he described how people have their respect and dignity stripped away.

Take away clothes, name, line people up, make them wait for hours, take a bath once a week, feed people at odd hours at the convenience of the staff, and make people go to bed for 14 hours because of staff shortages.



Discussion Question 4

Participatory activity:

What are some ways people are dehumanized today?

Vice to Squeeze Heads



Digging Ditches

This is a photo of people working in the fields.

If you didn't know that, what does this look like to you?

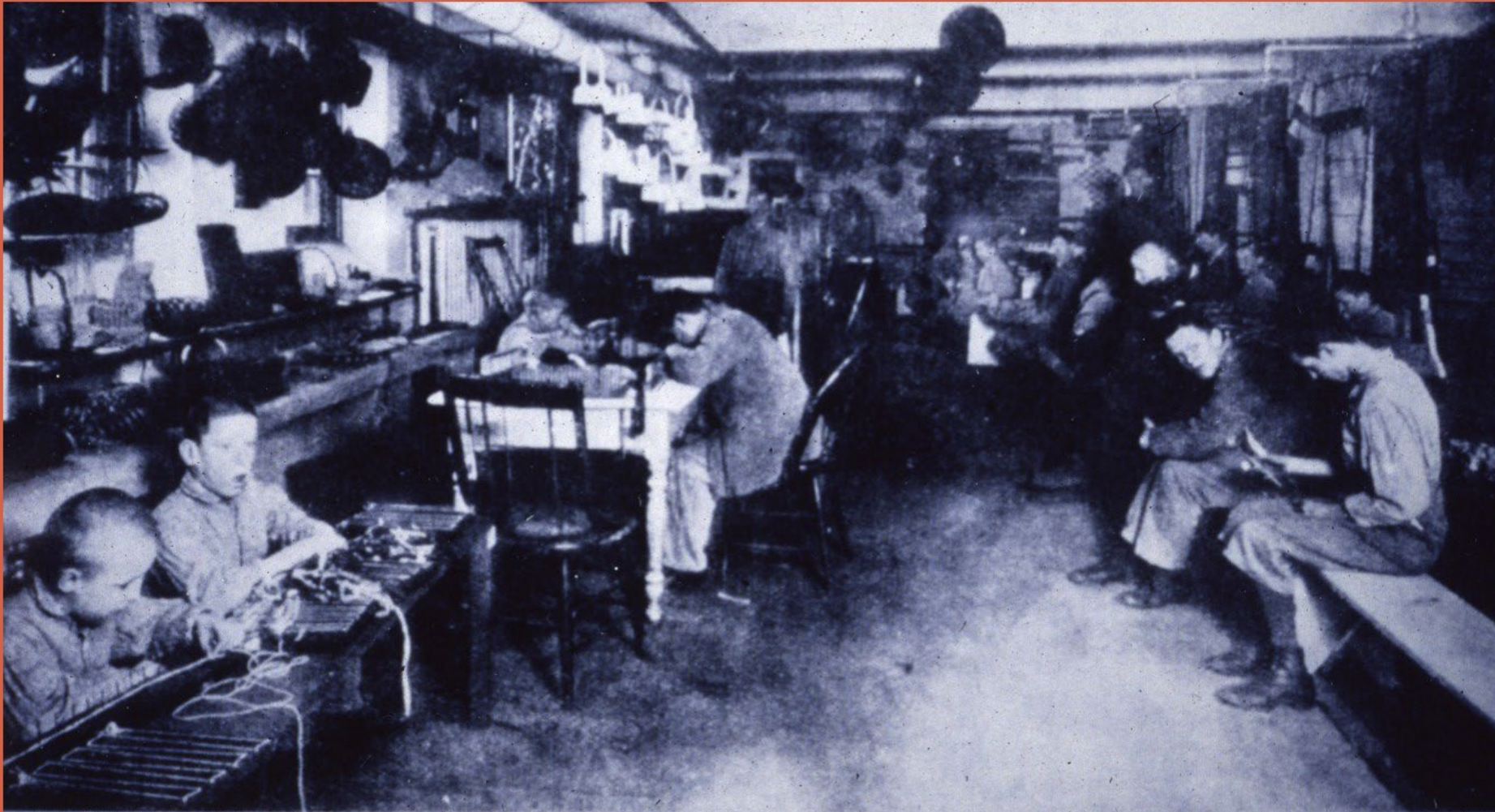


Massachusetts Training School, Waverley, Mass.—Clearing ground of stones and tree stumps
Idiots and lowgrade imbeciles leading happy and useful lives

Women Working in the Kitchen

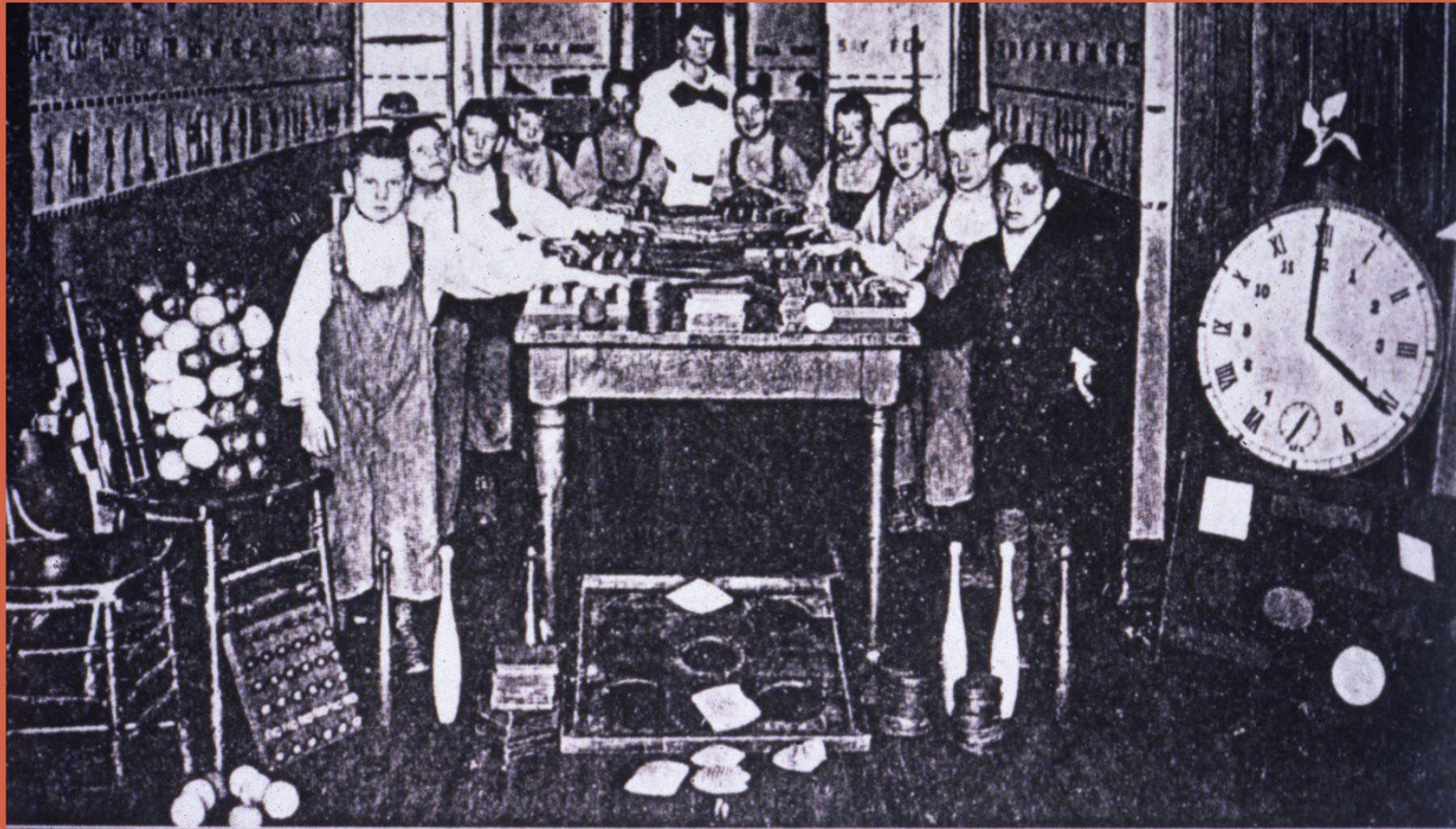


Making Baskets in the Asylum



Rome State Custodial Asylum, Rome, N. Y.—Basement shop for basketry

Early Special Education



Special sense training—color, form, size, telling time, hand-weaving, lacing shoes, buttoning clothes, etc.

Children are receiving special education training, learning colors, shapes, telling time, and tossing beanbags.

“Low grades handling stones”



Massachusetts Training School, Waverley, Mass.—Low grades handling stones near North home
No longer community liabilities

The message was one of self-sufficiency, and of no longer being a liability to the community.

How inexpensively can we operate?

The major causes of disability were thought to be:

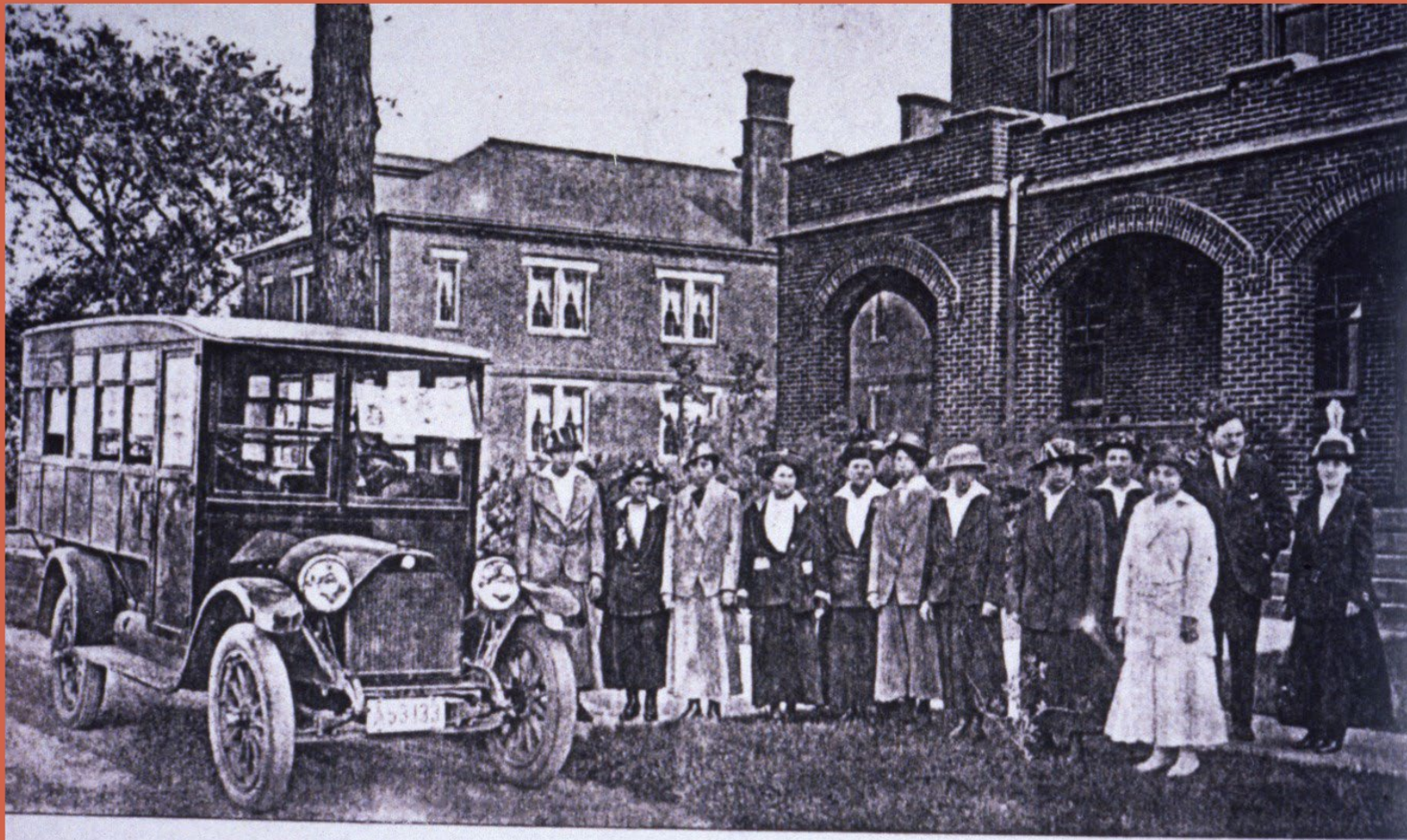
- Alcoholism
- Deficiency of Nutrition
- Tuberculosis

Colonies – 1914



First girls' colony—Evans Colony—Opened 1914. Accommodates 14

Maids – 1916



Domestic workers going back and forth from School to Rome each day to do housework for families—1916

Adults who live in an institution but work in town during the day as housekeepers.

The institutions kept growing so that colonies were created:

- Females only;
- Epilepsy only;
- Non-ambulatory only.

Segregation was strongly reinforced – males and females had separate sidewalks, separate eating areas, and separate living quarters.

Babies Alone

There is one staff member for 23 “young crippled children and babies.



Rome State Custodial Asylum, Rome, N. Y.—Very young crippled children and babies

Idiot Cage / Crib



Women Waiting



Please Don't Build

In 1866, Samuel Gridley Howe was asked to give a keynote address for a ceremony entitled “Laying the Cornerstone” for a new institute for the feeble-minded in Batavia, NY.

Howe pleaded with them not to open any institution.

“Society is moved by pity to build buildings that increase the very problem it is trying to reduce.”

First, ask whether an institution is entirely necessary?

- Is there a more natural way to deal with the problem?
- Why build a building that depends on clockwork?

Thank You!

Colleen Wieck, Ph.D.

Colleen.Wieck@state.mn.us

651-296-9964