

heretofore unknown. Client groups will operate from an integrated position that began to coalesce in the early 1970's when "client power" first became a force to be reckoned with — arising as it did from the very serious unemployment, inflationary, and other socioeconomic problems afflicting millions of people in Canada. The throngs of young intellectuals who experienced economic hardship, disenchantment or normlessness a decade earlier will tire of experimenting with different life styles and very possibly form an integral part of the power base on which the new consumerism will rest.

Consumers may develop cooperative arrangements and themselves employ innovative, creative social workers in self-help service delivery systems. In this way some kind of a integrating bridge may start to be built between establishmentarian, status quo agencies and their clienteles. During the 1980's social workers are likely to find themselves being required to operate as generalists on system boundaries. They will be heavily involved in inter-professional spheres of activity, in mediating roles between labour and management, between elected representatives and their constituents, and between big business and the vociferous social environments to which they at last will be forced to adapt.

Indeed, 1982 will be a fascinating point in time and will see us launched into a decade that hopefully will be as humanistically civilized as it is technologically advanced.

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VOCATIONAL COUNSELLING 1984 AND BEYOND

By 1984 the State will have moved back into the bedrooms of the people and into the living rooms and workshops too. As machines gradually take over much of the toil done now by humans, humans will be displaced from many occupations into a jobless market. The State will be forced to provide organized activity for people as well as economic sustenance. Activities that are now considered recreational and pleasurable will be controlled by government officials and administered through leisure centers.

Thus, there is little point in talking about vocational counselling as we know it today. To predict that computers will have replaced humans in this area of expertise is to be unoriginal. For not only will computers have replaced counsellors, but also most people, in occupations that can be programmed on a decision-making flow chart. For example, medical diagnosis will be computerized and after a person is probed and measured by a technician and his machine, the com-

puter output will advise him that there is a 75% probability of his having the flu, a 13% probability of pleurisy, and a 12% probability of minor dysfunctions. Treatment will, of course, follow the line of greatest probability and work down the list with failure to recover.

Vocational counselling will be disappearing together with the disappearing labour force (it would have disappeared almost entirely but for feather bedding). This will follow on the recognition of two principles: that vocations are not forever, and that the square peg theory of vocational choice is a failure.

Certainly there will be no need for test administrators. Every citizen will have undergone a battery of personality, achievement, interest, ability tests at his local computerized data collection center, administered, scored, and analysed courtesy of the local IBM tenth-generation computer. Scores and profiles will be readily available to educators, employers, politicians, and others who will want to know everything about everyone.

For the majority of people vocational concerns will have given way to concerns about how to spend all that free time. Choice among leisure activities will be vast and people will move about among these activities learning new skills and abandoning old ones at will. Work careers that demand a long investment of time and energy will be few in number and generally unpopular, and people will enter these careers either because of the attraction of extra privileges over and above those that the State will give all citizens, or because they will be part of the unique minority who will be work oriented. Most other careers will be part time in terms of hours per day, days per week, or months per year.

This will create a situation where much of the work done by humans will tend to be sloppy, hasty, and poorly performed. Only machines will do precise, accurate work. Therefore, people will prefer to purchase products and services made or dispensed by machines rather than by humans. Pride in a product will virtually disappear with the death of the Work Ethic. Obsolescence will be the order of the day, for repairs will be more expensive and less reliable than replacement, and will be unwarranted in terms of time waiting for the repair to be made. Rather, equipment will come with easily replaceable parts that can be returned to the factory if defective.

Since vocations will be part-time, to be easily undertaken and easily abandoned by most of the population, choice will not be fraught with great tension. It will matter little to an individual, moving out of formal education (yes, Virginia, there will always be some type of formal education, for teachers believe in feather bedding too, and parents like to send their kids off for the day) what he occupies his time with. In 1972 some people still believed that an occupation was forever, and that certain careers are for certain types of people, but by 1984 most realized that all activities become dull and boring if carried on too long. Gradually people realized that there was no purpose in investing a great deal of energy in becoming proficient at any

vocation because one might want to abandon it at any time. So why go to a vocational counsellor?

Only to uncover limitations. And most of the limitations will be readily eliminated by science anyway. For example, suppose one wanted to become a good surgeon or run a four-minute mile. The computer center would tell him which characteristics are necessary to perform delicate operations or run swiftly. It would also prescribe the proper drugs or psychological treatment that would remove the limitations, making it possible for him to achieve his goals.

Knowing that almost anything is possible, mankind will be divided into two groups: the minority that cares and strives for perfection, for creativity, and for knowledge, and those who are unmotivated — the uncurious. The former group will probably be in the minority for they will face the tension of doubt and uncertainty, the drive for accomplishment and the frustration of failure. They will care. And because of these self-generated tensions they will also need human counsellors to listen, empathize, and comfort. The rest of the people will be contented recipients of goods, services and vocational counselling.

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ACCOUNTABILITY IN COUNSELLING — WHO WILL ANSWER?

It is conceivable to me that man, in the course of his development, is both a work of art and a scientific endeavour. The infant artist, artless, an unconscious part of the larger consciousness of the universe, is doomed to eventually experience himself as a part of and apart from something greater than himself. Shock! With this awareness comes the effort to control the show. The mindless matter attempts, more or less, an almost impossible feat — that of jumping over his own head to get a better look at his brain. He is, gigantically, sometimes, a peak of consciousness peering out over consciousness — grandeur without delusion.

The scientist, half-mad, seeks to heal the agonizing mind-body split. He searches desperately for the unity which renders him unconscious. It is a life and death struggle, a backward tug, and a forward thrust. The womb-tomb dilemma burdens man with the desire for that which he dreads — the end of this agony.

Healing measures are applied in the form of rituals, rites, **rights**, work, overwork, overweight, overexpenditure, overindulgence, notions and love potions, feast and famine, crime and punishment, **capitalism**, communism, puritanism, catholicism, fanaticism — and **therapy**.

For what purpose and to what avail? What do we, as counsellors, do, when man utters his first conscious scream? Behavior modification