

Centralized human services more effective

by Sherry Baker, Ginger Gay, and Mr. Eugene Sumner
The social work profession consistently borrows relevant ideas from

other professions and disciplines such as sociology, economics, and psychology, modifies them, and uses them to provide valuable services to the public. In 2028 social work

continues to be utilitarian and eclectic in its selection of ideas and resources, adapting its techniques to the changing needs of people from all economic and social strata of

life.

With the centralization of human service delivery systems becoming more of a reality in 2028, more people are being effectively and efficiently served. Any individual with financial, emotional, physical, family, legal, school, or any other problems is served in a centralized agency in some counties. As more and more counties are moving to this system, the duplication of services that has been such a problem in the past is now being eliminated. Some cities are also beginning to establish referral centers in some of their shopping centers and office complexes. These centers are staffed with counselors who can refer you to the appropriate department of the centralized agency known as Human Services Delivery System. There has arisen some opposition to these referral centers because the agencies dislike being accountable to these referral centers.

Another area in which social workers are beginning to find just cause for debate is the computerization of confidential records and files. At the touch of a few buttons we are able to locate individual files and other pertinent information on any person in the state who has received help from the Human Services Delivery System. Fortunately, computerization has provided only ongoing records of services rendered to the individual; it has not yet categorized individuals according to the specifics of their treatment plans. Social workers are striving to preserve one of the most important aspects of the social worker - client relationship: confidentiality.

This concern for the preservation of human dignity and respect is now penetrating the realm of health care. With genetic counseling now being required for couples obtaining a marriage license, it is hoped that problems related to birth defects will decline. However, social workers are emerging as advocates for the right of individuals to make the final decisions regarding their future. In 2028 social workers continue to respect the principle of client self-determination. Social workers are now in battle against some leaders who feel that progress can be made only when people are told what to do and think. Of course, this is often the easiest way, but most professional social workers today are committed to providing the atmosphere, information, and support that will encourage the client to help himself. There does appear, however, an increasing tendency for social workers to diagnose, react, and provide services to individuals in a pre-determined manner. Here again, forms and stereotypes are the easiest way, and individualization presents more of a challenge - one that all social workers are not accepting in 2028.

Social workers are however accepting the challenge of a more active role in social policy development and implementation. For example, social workers are initiating and participating in groups of professionals from different

disciplines who are meeting to make policy recommendations relative to changing social conditions. For example, policies supporting the family such as a policy to provide a guaranteed annual income for all families and policies encouraging the use of demogrants so that more families will have children are being discussed this year very seriously by legislators.

These are two very important policy considerations for several reasons. First of all, since our population is slowly declining because fewer and fewer couples are choosing to have children, such a policy would have implications for the job market. Reports show that for the year 2028, workers are more unhappy with their jobs than they have ever been. The reason lies in the fact that everything is now so automated and impersonal; people are not challenged by their jobs and find themselves bored and unhappy. If policies to support families and children become a reality, which means that more individuals will be competing for jobs; it may be that once again people begin to do the jobs that machines are now doing. Secondly, the above two policies are significant for the social work profession because some of the stigma now associated with welfare will be reduced. Thirdly, the profession will begin not to be tied so closely to making monetary allocations, which would help increase the public's respect and appreciation of the skills and training social workers are receiving.

The training social workers are receiving this year on the undergraduate level is from a specialist as opposed to a generalist perspective. Most social work certification programs are now providing extensive training in one of the existing social work models such as problem solving, socio-behavioral approach, the game model, encounter groups, or crisis intervention. Group work and community organization are proving to be more effective means of dealing with individual problems according to a study conducted during 2026-28.



Newspaper of the Students of Meredith College

VOL. LII, NO. 18 MEREDITH COLLEGE, RALEIGH, N.C. MARCH 22, 2028

Biology

Sickle Cell Anemia cured

by Dr. Clara Bunn and Lisa Biddix

The research team for Genetic Alterations at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York has announced success in the first correction of the inborn error, Sickle Cell Anemia. The team has achieved this breakthrough by employment of a virally mediated transduction of fetal cells from an eight cell embryo.

The parents of the child were selected by a government clinic from among those who applied for permission last year to have a child. The prenatal tests conducted at that time on the parent-candidates indicated a 50 percent chance of the appearance of the trait in their offspring and were denied permission. But as a result of the development of the virally corrected DNA these parent-candidates were chosen to be the first test case. The pregnancy saliva test was conducted by the mother routinely. She reported to Mt. Sinai as soon as the test paper indicated positive results, the second day after conception.

Doctors there injected the viruses into the mother by the endometrium cell layer technique on three consecutive days. The mother is now in the third trimester of pregnancy and cells taken by amniocentesis from the embryo sac indicate a complete correction of the Sickle Cell error.

The hospital reports that they now have pools of the virus containing a sufficient amount of the corrected section of DNA

CAAGTAACTGAGGGGTT GTTTT with its complementary strand. This virus will be for use on parents screened by a government clinic who are found to have a high chance of producing a child with the sickle cell trait. This procedure would be for those who do not wish to undergo the routine removal of the embryo at the four to eight cell stage. Use of the transduction procedure will be available for high risk sickle cell parents who have previously been unable to have children and who have a pregnancy that they wish to enter into the transduction

program. However, since the first transduced child will be a boy, the viral correction of sperm may be an alternative to the transduction of the embryo in the female.

As a result of this success in Genetic Alterations, new legislation will have to be passed when Congress meets next week. The main concern of this Congressional meeting will be a bill that would give permission for child-bearing to individuals who are a product of transductions. This measure is expected to cause great debate but is predicted to eventually be passed.

Art

Exhibit includes color holograms

by Beth Wicker

An art exhibit by senior art majors will open Sunday in the art gallery of the Women's Center. The works include alkyd paintings, fiber structures, photographs, holograms, and ceramics.

One selection is specialized in the areas of color and light, with the majority of works being color photographs and color holograms. The works include both pictorial and non-objective pieces. Art majors consider one of the best works to be a moving hologram, designed to be viewed in the round, and appearing to extend beyond the film plane.

This is a brilliantly colored non-objective piece, with vivid reds and blues.

Another speciality is a three-dimensional work in a sculptural format. Most of these artist's pieces are non-objective fiber structures. They have a loose, free motion and an uninhibited use of color. The artist's ceramic works are all flowing, airy, sculptural pieces. Both the fiber and ceramic pieces have an organic feeling and sense of motion.

There will be an opening reception Sunday from 2-5 p.m. in the art gallery. All Meredith students and faculty are invited.