Editor's notes

Tone Brejc treats the syndrome of professional burn-out in employment services which is in view of the increasing burdening upon those services certainly becoming a very pressing problem. Professional burn-out has been thoroughly researched by Anica Kos (whom the author doesn't fail to quote extensively) and, hopefully, we shall soon be able to publish her contribution on this subject in relation to helping services.

In the proportion of divorces, Slovenia does not lag behind the most developed world, as it does not in the range of related problems. Among them, the problem of the children who are often only the victims of their parents' conflicts. Franc Udovič, in his contribution, suggests the ways of mediation in these conflicts that can be applied by social workers.

The next two problems that place Slovenia in the top of the world, and which are dealt with in Franc Hribernik's article, are alcoholism and fatal traffic accidents. We might only add we are facing the deadliest possible combination in traffic security: bad roads, traffic disorder, strong cars and too brave, intoxicated drivers.

Janez Drobnič's contribution points out the enormous work yet to be carried out in relation to the weakest citizens of this country. The problem ranges from the protection of rights to the technical standards that include their needs to their vocational and social rehabilitation, when necessary. The article deals with only a segment of this problem, the vocational rehabilitation of the disabled as related to the possibilities opened by the privatization of this field (albeit it would seem inappropriate to completely drive it out from the state system of education and training), so that we shall certainly return to it again. Let us mention in passing, that (in the Slovenian language) the universally applied term "invalids", though etymologically correct (meaning "weak" or "infirm"), has become so impregnated with pejorative dimensions (probably because of the connotation of "value") that it seems rather in need of a renaming.

Further in this issue, there are the final episodes of the two remaining "serials".

In the last part of her research on the position of women - psychiatric patients of the Ljubljana Psychiatric Clinic, Darja Zavišček finds some structural peculiarities of the psychiatric milieu, and then defines "anthropological advocacy", that is, raises the question of what an anthropologist-researcher can do in the micro-situation she observes and in which she is personally engaged (with her points of view, etc.).

In the last part of his re-thinking of subcultures and subcultural practices Milko Poštrak argues that these notions are today probably out-timed and should be replaced with the notions of "different cultural practices" and "lifestyles". Though his discussion ends here, the author already prepares new articles on the topic.

After his visit at the clinic La Borde, Bogdan Lešnik wrote an article in which he compares some concepts, principles and activities of this famous and quite unique French psychoanalytic clinic for psychoses with the British reform in the field of community mental health. Many concepts developed at La Borde would remain incomprehensible without references to the works of Jacques Lacan, G. Deleuze & F. Guattari, and of course the head of the clinic, Jean Oury.

Last but not least, there is another contribution by Srečo Dragoš, classified among "Documents": the first articulation of the code of professional ethics for social workers in Slovenia. There are, to be sure, some formal questions that remain open even after his elaboration - e.g., who is to adopt it (although the association of social workers is an obvious choice) - but it contains solutions that will certainly have to be included into the final version, not to mention the solution to the key problem, namely, that such a code does not yet exist.
ABSTRACTS

Tone Brejc
Professional burn-out of workers in employment services

Psychologist Tone Brejc works at Vocational Rehabilitation Unit of Rehabilitation Institute in Ljubljana.
The problem of "professional burn-out", that is, the particular emotional and attitudinal state jeopardising
the efficiency of "helping services", especially when it is overwhelming, has not yet been expertly scrutinised.
The same is true for employment services and for their professionals who have become liable to heavy
frustrations since the beginning of the economic crisis. The author describes the basic causes and contribut-
ning factors of the "professional burn-out", outlines its most characteristic forms, and presents a methodical
approach to its prevention and cure. The second part of the article presents the results of a pilot study that
has tested, using a questionnaire on the sample of 47 employment service workers, four factors of "profes-
sional burn-out". It has been found that with this group, "professional burn-out" is limited to the emotional
exhaustion, the consequence of being overloaded with problems. Therefore, measures could be applied to
improve the experiential level of professional conduct.

Franc Udovič
Managing contacts between children and their divorced parents

Social worker Franc Udovič is a marital and family counsellor at Social Work Centre in Maribor, former supervi-
sor at the Institute for family education in Graz, Austria, and participated in the conceptualisation of education
for mediators in Austria.
Children have a right to be taken care of by both parents. Consequently, the question at divorce should not
be: who of the two is more suitable for further care and education of the child, but: how could both be helped
to form a new, post-separation relationship with regard to their children. That relationship should enable
both parents to actively perform their parental roles and thus participate at their best to the formation and
development of their child's personality. Parents at divorce should be offered "help for self-help" to (again)
be able to solve their conflicts in consent. Rather than by traditional approaches (administrative or legal
arrangements), such help may be offered by the process of mediation. This approach promotes the parents'
ability to communicate and co-operate, strengthens their self-confidence and self-esteem. It also qualifies
them for responsible and autonomous decision-making in the emergence of a new, post-separation, rela-
tionship.

Franc Hribernik
Social implications of alcoholism in road traffic

Sociologist Franc Hribernik, Ph. D., is an assistant lecturer of rural sociology at University of Ljubljana Biotechnical
Faculty, Department of Agronomy.
The author quotes statistic data which show that alcoholic intoxication is the immediate cause of fatal traffic
accidents in 6%, and of accidents involving heavy and light injuries in 6.5% (among the drivers of tractors in
an even higher percentage). It is also the most frequent cause of the suspension of driving licences (in more
than 95%). If, however, alcohol is considered in combination with other factors of traffic accidents (speed,
style of driving, etc.), then it is involved in a quarter of all serious traffic accidents. Since these trends remain
unchangeable by legal means, the author suggests direct involvement of social workers (and other profes-
sionals) in traffic education.

Janez Drobnič
The privatisation of the vocational rehabilitation of the disabled

Sociologist Janez Drobnič, M. A., is a counsellor to Director of National Employment Office and member of
Governmental Commission for social care of disabled persons.
As the starting point to deal with the problem of privatisation in the field of vocational rehabilitation of the
disabled, the author takes a structural privatisation model, on the basis of which it is possible to analyse the
attained degree of the privatisation activities, or, in accordance with the set goals, to predict the desired one.
The author uses the structural model in analysing the existing situation of the privatisation of the vocational
rehabilitation, and suggests ways to better solutions in practice.
ABSTRACTS

Darja Zaviršek

Psychiatric ward between illness and its cultural manifestation - A case study (V)

Sociologist Darja Zaviršek, Ph. D., is an assistant lecturer for anthropology at University of Ljubljana School of Social Work.

The structural characteristics of traditional psychiatry are related to the culture in which the institution exists. Typically, the people who are in the worst state and who, because of their social position, have the least choice, get the worst treatment in it. In Slovenia, the cultural features of the psychiatric institution are: non-specialisation of procedure, empty spaces in the "continuous coverage", familialism, openness on the one hand and closeness on the other. The second part of the paper treats cultural advocacy, in the sense of understanding different languages of the involved, taking sides, mediation, understanding different cultures, forwarding messages between the world of staff and the world of patients, as well as of encouragement and empowerment for self-advocacy.

Milko Poštrak

Where have all subcultures gone? (V)

Sociologist Milko Poštrak, M. A., is a junior researcher at University of Ljubljana School of Social Work.

In the final contribution on the situation in the field of subcultural studies the author briefly summarises some fundamental tendencies of those studies and then raises the question whether there is still any sense in speaking about subcultural studies. He finds it more suitable to set the research on the variety of cultures, or cultural practices (lifestyles). In this context even the research or investigation of the so-called subcultures and their significance would become more wholesome. In the author's view, anthropological knowledge is a valuable contribution to the cultural studies, as it is more and more frequently resumed, referred to, and based upon in further research, by humanistic sciences. Anthropology also contributes to a better understanding of cultures or lifestyles that are different from our own, which is of key importance for the survival of us all.

Bogdan Lešnik

Clinic La Borde - Some concepts, activities, principles: an attempt at placing

Psychologist Bogdan Lešnik, M. A., is a psychotherapist, an associate of University of Ljubljana School of Social Work, and Editor of this journal.

The author resumes some key references used by the (psychoanalytical) clinic for psychoses La Borde (near Blois, France) and compares them with some key concepts of the British reform in the field of (community) mental health. Albeit neither different starting points nor to some extent different goals entail any significant differences in their relationships with patients, the differences observed by the author between the two "models" are nevertheless visible. They are also notable when the patients' organisations and their influence in both "models" are compared - wide, autonomous patients' movement in Britain and hospital-bound Therapeutic Club in France (at La Borde and one or two other hospitals) -, but in this respect the "models" are complementary: what they offer is an opportunity for confrontation (the former), which is a good starting point for analysis (the latter).

Srečo Dragoš

A draft of the Code of professional ethics of Slovenian social workers

Sociologist Srečo Dragoš, M. A., is an assistant lecturer of sociology at University of Ljubljana School of Social Work.

Since professionals of social work in Slovenia are still without a code of professional ethics, the author presents his draft and offers it for discussion. Initially, he scrutinises his own starting-points in seven items, drawing attention to the anti-discriminatory language, to the suitable terminology that is generally admitted in the profession, to the optimal extent of the code, to the appropriate regard for the professional autonomy, to the problem of protecting personal data, to the practical range of the norms contained in the code, and to the structure of its contents.