

INTRODUCTION

In an attempt to cover some of the major topics in the field in an interesting and unique way, we have chosen the widest variety of articles in our five-year history. This issue includes three position papers, a monograph, a practice article, a brief practicum report, a case history, a dream, a poem, and a book report.

The position papers are first. Gary Weaver, "Facing The Crisis in Cross Cultural Child and Youth Care," presents a disturbing and informative case for refocusing our attention on cross cultural awareness and sensitivity. Then Mike Forester and Tom Linton, "Power, Politics and Alienation in Child and Youth Care Work," suggest that structural components play a more important role in burnout than is generally recognized. Rod Durkin and Chris Gudgeon, "The Pursuit of Competence," conclude this section with forceful stance on making competence the central theme in child and youth care programs. These papers will encourage many of us to rethink and perhaps rechannel our energy. For others, they will at the very least provoke some reaction. In either case, we'd like to hear from you.

Next, a monograph, "The Aesthetics of Teaching Through Self-Apprenticeship Training: An Application of Gregory Bateson's Epistemological Analysis to Graduate Education for Child, Family, and Youth Care Practitioners" by Raymond Peterson and George Maciejewski, introduces a model of training that just might be at the edge of child and youth care education for the future. Based on the work of two professional trainers, this is the most comprehensive coverage of a training method ever presented in this journal.

Andrew Munoz, "Strategic Activity Planning For Emotionally Disturbed Children and Adolescents," follows with some helpful and sensitive tips for improving one of the most important but often overlooked areas of our daily work. This is the first major publication for Andrew, a long-time practitioner and, based on the clarity and insight with which he addresses this topic, we are sure that we will be hearing more from him.

Our feature section begins with a very useful practicum report on turnover by Tom Doriety and Norman Powell. Denise Derdyn's moving case history, "Marlene," follows. Then Dan Carlson shares a dream that will hit home for many workers who have faced a similar emotional dilemma. Jerry Jesch's poem will undoubtedly do the same. Jerome Beker closes the issue with a book review of "Competent Caregivers — Children: Training and Education for Child and Youth Care Prac-

tice” by Karen VanderVen and Ethel Tittnich.

We hope you will enjoy this collection of the thoughts and attitudes of your colleagues. We feel their work represents both encouraging and poignant accounts of what is currently going on in the field.