

Work heightens retardates' self-esteem

Mentally retarded adults are capable of holding down productive and complicated jobs, a University of Michigan research study shows.

And the mere fact of working appears to significantly increase their feelings of self-esteem and self-confidence.

These and other findings from a three-year federally funded project seem to mandate a complete rethinking of programming for the mentally retarded, according to the study.

"Mental health workers who have spent their time taking retarded adults to work and bowling alleys could be better occupied supervising them in factories or sheltered workshops," says Kevin P. Lynch, a research scientist at the U-M Institute for the Study of Mental Retardation and Related Disabilities (ISMRRD).

"They want to work and they can work—often at a pace approximating that of the non-handicapped population."

The project provided comprehensive vocational evaluation and training to some 35 adult clients during the three year period. The training was carried on at a simulated workshop at the Institute, where the clients learned to operate specialized equipment and assemble 15 and 20-piece industrial items.

"Many of the clients' parents and special workers were amazed at their accomplishments. These are severely handicapped workers," reminds Lynch. "Most of them had multiple physical and emotional handicaps in addition to being mentally retarded."

"They grew up before special education became mandatory for the handicapped," he adds. "Some had even been institutionalized. They had never been exposed to the concept of doing a job for a designated period of time each day and seeing it through to completion."

"Programs for the severely mentally retarded have instead consisted almost exclusively of social/recreational activities, like those designed for preschoolers," Lynch says.

"These have only served to emphasize to retarded adults what they are already acutely aware of—that they are different from other people. And what sets them apart is not their appearance or behavior, but the fact

that they don't work in a work-oriented society.

"The few vocational programs that do exist for the handicapped have been designed to determine work capability," he adds. The ISMRRD project presumed at the onset that all people are capable, and proceeded to train them.

"We've learned a tremendous amount about training methods," Lynch observes. "For example, we have developed an entirely positive teaching approach. Words like 'don't' and 'can't' are removed from the vocabulary. All of their lives, the mentally retarded have been reminded of their inferiorities. We stress what they can do instead."

"Our clients have learned to drive tractors, operate pneumatic screw-

drivers and assemble 20-piece flush valve units. It has been traditionally assumed that the mentally retarded are capable of only simple, monotonous tasks, like sanding wood blocks or stringing beads. Our experience has shown that they are capable of very complicated tasks, as long as the environment is kept simple."

A third phase of the project, job placement, has met with more limited success. Although nearly all of the 35 clients were trained for some degree of outside employment, only seven are currently working in the community.

"We found in the course of the project that 'sheltered workshops'—supervised assembly work designed specifically for the handicapped—are practically non-existent," Lynch says.

"This is disturbing because, due to the new federal legislation mandating special education, we will be graduating large numbers of handicapped adults into communities which are in no way ready to employ them."

Lynch expresses optimism for the long run, however. "There are alternatives to placement in the traditional job settings," he notes. "For example, entire businesses in areas like grounds maintenance or snow removal could be staffed by adults who are mentally retarded."

"We have consulted with over 350 agencies throughout the United States and already see evidence of many changes in approaches to basic programming for the handicapped," he adds.

OK, RUFF IS SURE GONNA MISS DUGG'D UP YOUR FLOWERS THIS SUMMER, MR. WILSON.

IT GOES TO HIS IT, TOO, DENNIS!

- Protects children, pets and property
- Self-closing, self-latching gate for security
- Available in galvanized steel or handsome green vinyl coating that blends into landscape
- Plus other exclusive features such as square post & gate frame for added beauty
- Call for free estimate

You buy good fence by the year. Not by the foot. Only sales outlets for genuine Anchor Fence.

Anchor Fence
532-6100

AMERICAN IS REALLY OLD FASHIONED

We Believe In Giving 100 Cents Worth for a Dollar

Some things change, but the good old-fashioned integrity of the folks at American is always the same. They believe in giving you full value...and usually, extra value, for the dollars you spend here! That's why, when you shop at American Home Center, you'll get more of the newest (and some of the oldest, in our decor sections) and always the finest and the greatest service, for less. Come in today and see for yourself...it's a treat for your eyes and your pocket book!

TUF KOTE DRIVE WAY SEALER
5 gal. 8.95 **\$4.93**

SOLID CALIFORNIA REDWOOD
4"x4" 4"x6" 78" ft. **99¢ ft.**

Check these Savings
EVERGREENS 20% OFF
Also Save On
• SHADE TREES
• FRUIT TREES
Delivery Available

GREOSOTED HARDWOOD TIMBERS

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| 4"x4" x8" | 344 |
| 4"x6" x8" | 499 |
| 6"x8" x8" | 999 |

MIAMI PATIO STONE

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 16"x16" Color thru and thru Reg. 1.99 | 144 |
| 8"x16" Reg. 49¢ | 29¢ |

WHITE MARBLE VERMONT CHIPS
Reg. 2.49 50 lb. bag **166 C/C**

DECORATIVE BARK CHUNKS
3 cu. ft. bags **777** or 2.99 per bag

MICHIGAN Sta-Red BRICK CHIPS
50 lb. bag **219**

MICHIGAN PEAT
Reg. 1.59 40 lb. bag **97¢**

BLACK SLATE CHIPS
100 LB. **499**

COW MANURE
Reg. 2.89 40 lb. bag **163**

LANDSCAPE BOULDERS
15¢ LB.

SILICA PEBBLES
100 LB. **499**

Great selection
• SANDSTONE • AMHERST
• CANADIAN FLAGSTONE • SPONGE ROCK
• ROSE QUARTZ etc.

BUY NOW By the Pound or Ton

OUT-OF-SEASON SALE
SAVE! SPECIAL SALE!
SOLID CAST AMERICAN MADE
FRANKLIN FIREPLACE
Reg. \$349 Super Low Price **\$199**

Our Famous 2nd Floor
WINE CELLAR
has a Father's Day Special!
20% Off Wine Concentrates

BLUE RIBBON MALT
Reg. \$3.89 **\$2.88**

FATHER'S DAY

Give One to Dad
WEBER COOKERS
Reg. 89.95 only **\$54.88** Black Only
MODEL #310

Dad Will Thank You Forever!
LIL' RED BARN
Large 8'x8' 8 feet high **\$399** KD
Available KD or Finished
In just a few hours you can build one and be the envy of your neighborhood. Simple and easy to do!

A Great Gift
PATIO QUEEN PICNIC TABLE METAL FRAME
1895
Make your table as long as you wish! Wood not included in low price. Ask us to custom cut your needs at our low cost.

Dad Will Really Use This Gift!
40 pc. 1/4" & 3/8" Drive
SOCKET SET
Regular 39.95 **19.88**
Sets contain ratchet, sockets, extension bars, etc. One is sure to fit the bill and will make a perfect gift for Dad or yourself!

15 pc. 1/2" DRIVE SOCKET SET
Regular 34.95 **18.88**

7 pc Set ALLEN WRENCH
Reg. 89¢ **38¢**

OTHER POPULAR SETS ON SALE TOO!

WEED EATER
EDGER TRIMMER
ELECTRIC Reg. 19.95 **17.77**

Large Selection
SAWS-DRILLS TRIMMERS
ALL SPECIALLY PRICED

FAMOUS WARM MORNING
broilmaster with permanent pest
"Finest outdoor Gas Grill and Accessories"
Save 102.20 **188.** Model G-1000 HURRY FOR THIS!

KILLS DANDELIONS AND MOST OTHER WEEDS AS IT FEEDS!
SCOTTS
TURF BUILDER PLUS 2
Regular 12.45 5,000 sq. ft. **877** C/C

Turf Builder
5,000 Sq. Ft. 10,000 Sq. Ft. 15,000 Sq. Ft.
688 1366 1966

SOLID CEDAR SPLIT RAIL FENCING
2 Rails 1 Post KIT **\$1388** C/C

SAVE ON THESE
HALF BARRELS
Reg. 14.95 **888** C/C

watch the green grow!

wondergro Top Green

5,000 sq. ft. bag **\$6.33**

10,000 sq. ft. bag **\$12.33**

wondergro Top Green

"Top Green" gives any bluegrass or bluegrass blends the special nutrients needed for a hardy, longer lasting green. If you're serious about beautiful bluegrass, get "Top Green."

ON SALE NOW AT ABOVE PRICES

MICHIGAN'S MOST UNUSUAL HARDWARE STORE

American
LUMBER & SUPPLY COMPANY
Your Complete Home Center
31245 EIGHT MILE ROAD corner MERRIMAN
LIVONIA Store Hours: Daily 8-6, Sundays 10-4 **476-6240**