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A Nation in Denial: The Truth About Homelessness.
Alice S. Baum and Donald W. Burnes.

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perspective of disabled people and support disabled people as they seek to change the social, structural and economic barriers which impede their attainment of full citizenship.

Christopher Bagley with Loretta Young and Anne Scully. *International and Transracial Adoptions*. Aldershot, England: Avebury, 1993. \$66.95 hardcover. (Distributed in the United States by Ashgate Publishing Co. Brookfield, VT).

In Western countries today, adoption practice is changing very rapidly indeed. The conventional mode of adoption in which childless white middle class families adopt children born outside marriage to young white women is fast disappearing. Consequently, childless couples are engaging in new forms of adoption of which international and transracial adoptions are becoming much more prominent.

The authors report that the outcomes for children in international and transracial adoptions can be extremely positive. Based on extensive empirical studies, they show that the majority of children who are placed make healthy adjustments and do well in the longer term. The authors do not deny that a minority of children do not succeed, and they do not fail to recognize that some adoptive parents experience difficulty in rearing and children of different cultural backgrounds. Nor do they avoid the complex controversies that attend international and transracial adoptions. Nevertheless, they believe that if the current trend towards truly open adoptions continues and if the cultural identity of the child is sustained, transracial and international adoptions offer a positive means of meeting the needs of abandoned and neglected children around the world.

Alice S. Baum and Donald W. Burnes, *A Nation in Denial: The Truth About Homelessness*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1993. \$49.95 hardcover; \$16.95 papercover.

Most experts agree that the problem of homelessness has become more visible during the last fifteen years. However, there is less agreement about its causes and about the steps needed to address the problem. While much academic research points to the role of economic and social factors in the etiology of

homelessness, many ordinary citizens believe that the homeless have no-one to blame for their condition except themselves.

In this provocative book, Baum and Burnes argue that the truth about homelessness is not widely known. They claim that the vast majority of homeless people are homeless because of mental illness, drugs and alcoholism. Challenging currently accepted explanations of the causes of homelessness, they are particularly scathing of social scientists who attribute homelessness to poverty and social structural factors and who urge solutions that require significant social and economic change. The solution to the problem of homelessness, they argue, can be found in programs that treat mental illness and substance abuse and not in ambiguous appeals to policy makers to deal with wider social issues such as poverty, injustice and access to affordable housing.

David Clark. *Partners in Care: Hospices and Health Authorities*. Aldershot, England: Avebury, 1993. \$58.95 hardcover. (Distributed in the United States by Ashgate Publishing Co. Brookfield, VT).

The hospice movement has grown rapidly in recent times filling a gap which conventional health care providers cannot meet. In caring for the terminally ill, hospices have enjoyed considerable support and many have benefited from generous public contributions. However, there is a danger that public sympathy for hospices will foster the haphazard growth of new facilities and that no attempt will be made to coordinate programs, prevent duplication and match services with need. If the hospice movement is to be viable, it will need to enter into an effective partnership with the community in which its programs are properly planned and adequately supported.

The question of forging an effective partnership between hospices and communities is examined in this book by David Clark, an English author who has extensive knowledge of the field. Clark focuses on two English hospices and shows how they evolved, raised funds and established relationships with local health authorities. He offers eleven recommendations that will be helpful in establishing programs that effectively combine local initiative with public services. The English experience