

Letters

Psychiatry Bears Guilt in Brainwashing Tests

To the Editor:

Congratulations for "The C.I.A. and the Evil Doctor" (Op-Ed, Nov. 7) by Leonard S. Rubenstein, a lawyer who represented the plaintiffs in a case settled out of court last month that involved the Central Intelligence Agency and Dr. D. Ewen Cameron's unethical brainwashing experiments in the 1950's. As Mr. Rubenstein explains, "The research project tested the theory that a person could have some of the contents of his mind obliterated and replaced by ideas of the researcher's choosing."

The late Dr. Cameron's psychiatric tortures were chiefly funded by the Canadian Government, specifically the Department of National Health and Welfare. From 1950 to 1964, Health and Welfare gave Dr. Cameron approximately \$500,000 in "mental health" grants; most was targeted for his brainwashing research, which the government knew about or should have known. (The C.I.A. gave Dr. Cameron roughly \$65,000 from 1957 to 1961.)

Like the C.I.A. and the Canadian and United States psychiatric establishments, the Canadian Government still denies legal and moral responsibilities to all of Dr. Cameron's brainwashed victims. Last January, the Canadian Government announced it was paying each of the nine victims in the case a mere \$20,000 — for their legal costs only!

Dr. Cameron's torturous, mind-control methods were the logical extension of biological psychiatry, which still promotes the myth of "mental illness," including "schizophrenia," and which still inflicts brain-damaging procedures such as electroshock therapy, psychosurgery and psychiatric drugs upon millions of people. Such "treatment" is actually social control.

Dr. Cameron's failure to obtain informed consent from his guinea pig "patients" was no aberration. He clearly and knowingly violated the Nuremberg Code for medical experimentation. In psychiatry, forced treatment is the rule, not the exception.

Dr. Cameron had the support of many psychiatrists and psychiatric

residents, whom he trained or worked with, and not one had the guts or integrity to speak out or criticize his brainwashing methods. The Canadian Psychiatric Association and American Psychiatric Association are also culpable for refusing to denounce Dr. Cameron or his experiments.

It is not only Dr. Cameron, the C.I.A. and the Canadian Government that should be on trial in these experiments, but psychiatry itself. This pseudoscience, particularly institutional psychiatry, is destructive and immoral, and the Dr. Camerons are still among us.

DON WEITZ

Toronto, Nov. 9, 1988

The writer, a psychiatric-patients' rights advocate, is co-editor of a book, "Shrink Resistant: The Struggle Against Psychiatry in Canada."

Brainwashing, Brain Damage and Ewen Cameron - Recommended Readings
Compiled by Don Weitz

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Leonard Frank. (2006) *The Electroshock Quotationary* [online] endofshock.com

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Naomi Klein. (2008). "The Torture Lab: Ewen Cameron, the CIA and the Maniacal Quest to Erase and Remake The Human Mind," in *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise and Disaster of Capitalism*. Vintage Canada, pp.27-55.

Linda Macdonald. "Breakthrough", in B. Burstow & D. Weitz, eds., *Shrink Resistant: The Struggle Against Psychiatry in Canada*.. Vancouver: New Star Books,1988, pp.206-210.

John Marks. (1980). *The Search for the Manchurian Candidate: The CIA and Mind Control*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1980.

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Harvey Weinstein. (1988). *A Father, a Son and the CIA*. Toronto: James Lorimer & Company,

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