



Dear Friends,

Do you know what a “Sybil attack” is? We didn’t until we saw a reference in a recent *Nature* article. [1] “Security experts call the creation of a network of impostors a Sybil attack.” For example, if a single person opens multiple computer accounts and has all of them recommend the same article, that article could receive an unfairly high rating. This is a delightful notion of “multiple personalities,” with a base in reality, unlike the story of the fictional *Sybil*.

In a metaphoric sense, *Sybil* has been attacking the credibility of psychiatry since its publication in 1973. To its shame, the American Psychiatric Association uncritically accepted the phenomenal increase in the diagnosis and the phenomenal claims that went with multiple personality disorder (MPD). To its shame, the American Psychiatric Association did nothing to rein in the enthusiasms of the group of psychiatrists, mostly affiliated with the International Society for the Study of Multiple Personality Disorder and Dissociation,[2] who became carried away with ever more bizarre beliefs and claims, such as writing that they had patients with 4,000 personalities. [3] To its shame, the American Psychiatric Association did nothing to help the courts dispose of the MPD junk-science cases.

What will the American Psychiatric Association do about multiple personality disorder (or the same concepts and beliefs encompassed in the new name of dissociative identity disorder (DID) in the upcoming revision of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM)*? At least one group of psychiatrists has signed a letter asking the editors of the *DSM* to reconsider the inclusion of DID. There is nothing left to hide behind. *Sybil* was a fraud. The branch of psychiatry inspired by *Sybil* is without factual foundation; it is cut from the proverbial “whole cloth.”

“If M.P.D. was supposed to rescue insight therapy, it did the opposite: it covered insight therapy with shame.”
Joan Accocela
New Yorker (April 6, 1998, p. 78b)

The final “nail in the coffin” that the story behind *Sybil* was other than a hoax has been hammered by Mikkel Borch-Jacobsen in his new book *Making Minds and Madness: From Hysteria to Depression*. (See p. 3) In chapter three, the author presents irrefutable documentation that the MPD movement was based on a myth.

When the book *Sybil* was published, all of the papers, transcripts, and recordings were sealed. No one was able to confirm or contradict the claims of Dr. Wilbur who treated Sybil or Flora Schreiber who wrote the book. Over the years doubts about the truth of the story have been leaking out. In 1997, Herbert Spiegel, MD, who also treated Sybil, said he did not think that she had MPD. In 1998 Robert Rieber disclosed that he had tapes documenting Wilbur’s highly suggestive therapy sessions with Sybil.

With a determined investigation, Borch-Jacobsen was able to identify the real person on whom *Sybil* was based, Shirley Ardell Mason. Knowing that, he was then able to collect the testimony of people who had known her and to gather her correspondence, writings and photographs. At that point, there was so much media coverage that one of the colleges holding the archives lifted restrictions and granted access to Borch-Jacobsen.

Sybil is, without doubt, a fascinating story. But its fascination is due to the insights it provides about our society and our beliefs about the mind and mental illness. It is a compelling story, not a factual account. Tremendous harm was done to patients and their families by psychiatrists and other therapists who succumbed to the allure of *Sybil* and who then unwittingly treated their patients based on a hoax. Unfortunately, although it has greatly diminished, there are

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still pockets in which belief in multiple personalities is alive and there are still many families trying to cope with the aftermath.

During the same years that multiple personalities have flourished, great harm has also been done to untold numbers of people caught up in the day-care and child sexual abuse panic that ignited by the publicity of the McMartin case in the mid 1980s. We are delighted to report that in Massachusetts, Bernard Baran who was a 19-year-old day-care assistant when he was convicted of child abuse, is now completely free. (See p. 10). His original conviction was overturned a few years ago and since then he has been living under the cloud of another trial. In May, the district attorney in the case stated that he will not retry Baran. Baran is free due to the help of a great many people, but the person who led the effort was Bostonian Robert Chatelle.^[4] On page 12, Chatelle writes about his thoughts on trying to help wrongfully convicted people:

“Should it really take citizens over ten years and over half a million dollars to right a grievous wrong committed by their own government?”

Once a person is convicted in our justice system, it takes almost super-human effort to show that it was a wrongful conviction. In the American justice system if a person is guilty, there are many legal safeguards. However, the system has almost no procedures to help those wrongfully convicted. No one knows that better than James Toward who has been in prison since 1986 in the Glendale, Florida Montessori day care case. On page 7 there is a letter from a parent whose children attended the school. She gives an insightful perspective of the climate of hysteria that surrounded day care sexual abuse cases at the time. Although James was up for parole in 1999, legislation passed in 1998 allows him to be kept in civil confinement indefinitely.

Bruce Perkins is another person whose efforts to have his conviction reexamined have faced wall after wall. Similar to Gerald Amirault and others caught in the system, his very refusal to confess is interpreted as a lack of remorse. Perkins who has been in prison in Texas since 1993, was found guilty of the impossible in the heat of panic. Wouldn't it be wonderful if all the people wrongfully convicted were now free? We could go on with our lives

Making Minds and Madness: From Hysteria to Depression

by Mikkel Borch-Jacobsen

See Chapter 3 “A Black Box Named Sybil”

Cambridge University

Press 2009

and not have to think about the fact that sometimes things go wrong in the justice system. As Robert Chatelle reminds us:

“Democracy requires more than voting — and far too few Americans even do that. Democracy requires that citizens inform themselves, work for needed reforms, and hold their government accountable for its actions.”

The truly good news is that the FMSF office is hearing from fewer new families. Telephone calls, letters, and even emails have all diminished. The FMSF volunteer contacts across the country have reported fewer and fewer calls. Some have not had any calls in several years. There is plenty of scientific information readily available to support attorneys who become involved in the few legal cases that proceed.

This is not to say that the problem of recovered memories has disappeared. It may not totally disappear in our life time. But the changes, changes we have been hoping for years would happen, indicate that it is time for the FMSF to consider its future role. The structures and systems that were set up to help families are less needed. The effort to work for freeing those wrongfully accused is greatly needed as is the need to work for reforms.

Have a wonderful summer.

Pamela

1. Laursen, L. (2009, April 30). Fake Facebook pages spin web of deceit. *Nature* Vol 458, #7242, p. 1089.
2. The organization changed its name in 1994 to International Society for the Study of Dissociation.
3. See, for example, Kluft, R. (1988). The phenomenology and treatment of extremely complex multiple personality disorder. *Dissociation*, 1(4), p.52.
4. Robert Chatelle founded the National Center for Reason and Justice organization. See website www.ncrj.org



Try to Remember: Psychiatry's Clash Over Meaning, Memory, and Mind

Paul McHugh, M.D., Washington, DC: Dana Press
(*Excerpts from Wall Street Journal Book Review*)

“One of the most extraordinary outbreaks of popular delusion in recent years was that which attached to the possibility of ‘recovered memory’ of sexual and satanic childhood abuse, and to an illness it supposedly caused, Multiple Personality Disorder. No medieval peasant praying to a household god for the recovery of his pig could have been more credulous than scores of psychiatrists, hosts of therapists and thousands of willing victims. The whole episode would have been funny had it not been so tragic.”

Theodore Dalrymple. (2008, November 19). Destructive delusions. *Wall Street Journal*. Retrieved on November 20, 2008 from <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122714489697843157.html>.

Sybil: The Myth

*Making Minds and Madness: From
Hysteria to Depression*

Mikkel Borch-Jacobsen

Cambridge University Press 2009

Making Minds and Madness is a fascinating book. [1] It examines psychoanalysis and biomedical psychiatry and argues that some mental illnesses are cultural and historical artifacts that are “co-produced” by therapists and patients. For example melancholy, vapors, grande hysteria, neurasthenia, and shell shock are all diagnoses that became popular and then virtually disappeared.

For *FMSF Newsletter* readers, the chapter called “A Black Box Named ‘Sybil’” is sufficient reason to purchase the book. It is dynamite! Borch-Jacobsen considers multiple personality disorder to be a diagnosis that is a cultural artifact. In this chapter, he provides the documentary evidence to lay bare the fact that the multiple personality industry that exploded after the publication of *Sybil* was based on nothing more than a myth.

It is important to note that Borch-Jacobsen does not approach the subject of transient mental illnesses by asking if they are “real” or not. He observes that in the legal arena it is fair to ask whether an illness is real, but for the rest of the population it is more informative to ask how it is made, out of what elements, how it works, and what purpose it serves. The author writes that we often do not know the causes or origins of the diagnoses that appear and then disappear. He argues that multiple personality affords an opportunity to study a transient mental illness.

For multiple personality disorder, he observes, we can see clearly the influence of the book by Flora Rheta Schreiber, *Sybil: The True and Extraordinary Story of a Woman Possessed by Sixteen Separate Personalities*. The book was an instant best seller with 11 million copies in 17

different languages. The movie contract was signed before book was even published.

Consider the growth in the number of multiple personality disorder diagnoses.

1944-There had been 76 cases over the past 128 years.

1957-*Three Faces of Eve* appeared—book and film.

1973-*Sybil* book appeared.

1976-*Sybil* movie appeared.

1980-George Greaves reported 37 cases since 1971.

1980-Eugene Bliss said he had personally seen 14 cases.

1982-Myron Boor – 79 cases.

1982-Richard Kluff – 130 cases of which he had treated 70.

1984-There were 1,000 cases.

1989-There were 4,000 cases.

1991-Colin Ross said MPD affects 1% of population. (The population in 1990 was 248,709,873 million. One percent would be 24,871,000 people with multiple personality.)

Borch-Jacobsen writes: “from the beginning of the 1990s onwards, ‘multiples’ were everywhere – in therapy, in psychiatric hospitals, on television, and in the courts.” (p.65)

Not only does it seem obvious from the huge increase in cases after the publication of *Sybil* that it was uniquely influential, but we also have comments from the psychiatrists who pioneered the diagnosis. Borch-Jacobsen quotes Frank Putnam, M.D.:

[The book] “*The Three Faces of Eve*, while well known, gives a misleading picture of MPD and ironically may have helped to obscure the clinical features of the disorder. The book *Sybil*, with its graphic treatment of the amnesias, fugue episodes, child abuse, and conflicts among alters, served as a template against which other patients could be compared and understood.” (p. 72)

How could it be that so little was

known about the subject of such an influential book? That is because the identity of the real person on whom the book was based was kept secret. Although Schreiber claimed that her book was the result of careful research and original documents such as analysis notes, tape recordings from the therapy sessions, diaries, letters, family archives, and medical files, no one was able to corroborate her conclusions. Schreiber said that *Sybil* was a true story and not a novel. Yet, she and Dr. Wilbur saw to it that all of the records were sealed. No one had access.

The true history of *Sybil*, however, has been leaking out ever since psychiatrist Herbert Spiegel, who also treated her, first spoke in 1997 to say that he did not consider her to have suffered from multiple personality disorder. Spiegel made this comment in an interview written by Borch-Jacobsen and published in the *New York Review of Books*. [2] This was followed in 1998 by Robert Rieber’s disclosure of tape recordings of analysis sessions between *Sybil* and her psychiatrist Cornelia Wilbur that were in his possession. [3] “A Black Box Named ‘Sybil,’” the result of extensive research and access to the diaries and notes of both Wilbur and *Sybil*, completes the disclosure.

How did Borch-Jacobsen get access to all the records? Wilbur, who died in 1992, stated in her will that the section of her personal archives that pertained to *Sybil* should remain confidential for seven years after the death of the person known as *Sybil*. But unless one knew the identity of the real *Sybil*, that basically kept the archives closed forever. Schreiber’s records about *Sybil* were also placed in a confidential collection at John Jay College in New York.

The first step for Borch-Jacobsen was to determine the identity of the real *Sybil*. He and his colleague Peter Swales managed to do that by careful

examination of the non-confidential part of Schreiber's files. In 1998, they identified Shirley Ardell Mason. Borch-Jacobsen related that after that it was "easy to collect the testimony of relatives and friends who had known her," and to gather the things she had left behind such as correspondence, writings, art work and photographs. At that point, because of the extensive media coverage of the discovery of the real Sybil, John Jay College decided to de-restrict the archives and grant access to the documents about Sybil, in spite of the opposition of Schreiber's estate.

We cannot begin to cite all of the discrepancies between the original records and the book that are documented by Borch-Jacobsen. Publishers have withdrawn books with fewer fabrications. [4] Borch-Jacobsen notes that the Mason's family was not at all as described by Schreiber. They were not fanatical about religion, her parents read a lot, and her father took her to movies. Shirley's mother did not prevent her from playing with other children. People who knew Shirley deny that she was ever malnourished. They also deny that her mother was schizophrenic. No one in Dodge Center ever noticed any change in Shirley's personality. She was a normal child. Her teacher said that it was nonsense in the book that Shirley ever forgot her multiplication tables. Even the episode of the accidental death of her playmate was fictional. There was a boy who died in that way but Shirley was 17 when it happened. The hospitalization for malnutrition when Shirley supposedly had her first dissociation experience had actually been a hospitalization for tonsillitis.

Shirley's psychological problems began at the end of high school. She suffered anxiety attacks when she moved away to study to become an art teacher. She was diagnosed at the Mayo Clinic with hysterical neurosis and given drugs, but she got worse.

She was referred to Dr. Cornelia Wilbur with whom she seemed dazzled. Wilbur saw Shirley six times in Nebraska in 1945.

Wilbur moved to New York, and Shirley finished school and became a teacher. In 1954, however, Shirley moved to New York in order to get a master's degree in art at Columbia University. She seemed to be doing fine with her life in New York. Shirley soon discovered that Wilbur taught at Columbia and she went to Wilbur's office to say hello. By the end of 1954, Shirley began analysis with Wilbur. By 1959, Shirley was unemployed, depressed and constantly sedated. What is known of the period 1955 to 1959 comes from a diary that Shirley kept of her analytic sessions.

Borch-Jacobsen observes: "before Shirley started her analysis with Wilbur in New York, no one had ever noted the slightest shift in personality – neither her family, nor her playmates, nor her schoolmates, nor her doctors, nor even Shirley herself." (p. 80) The multiple personalities were only evidenced in therapy. Only Wilbur, Schreiber and one other patient of Wilbur's ever saw them. Shirley's personalities clearly seem an artifact of her therapy.

Following are some notes from Shirley's analytic diary written at a time when Wilbur was going to Shirley's apartment to treat her:

January 27, 1956: "She came at 4 o'clock. Pentothal . . .

Treatment electric first, must have been shock. Saturday – pentothal"

February 5, 1956: "Asked for pentothal instead of electric treatment."

February 9, 1956: "Barbiturate, intravenous, also pentothal. Very nauseated.

Same arm, very dizzy, couldn't walk to bathroom alone. Willie carried me.

[Wilbur] Came two or three times a day. Talked about mother."

February 10, 1956: "[Wilbur] Came three times. Gave pentothal and shock.

Sustained release spanuals [sic] of phenobarbitol. Began to menstruate."

February 16, 1956: "[Wilbur] Gave equinol and dexamyl. Should be all right in 30 minutes or so."

Borch-Jacobsen observes that Shirley's health deteriorated; she accumulated addictions, self-medicated wildly, mixed medications and regularly took more than the prescribed dose. He writes: "It was during this long 'trip' under medication that most of Shirley Mason's personalities appeared and that she remembered the gruesome abuses to which she had been subjected... Shirley's traumas were also, in large part, hallucinated in a drug-induced state."

Wilbur and Shirley were both familiar with the work of Morton Prince. In fact, in 1955, Shirley asked Wilbur if she could do some research on multiple personalities. Wilbur was familiar with the 1954 paper by Thigpen and Cleckley that later became the book *The Three Faces of Eve*. According to Shirley's analytic diary, Wilbur asked her in December 1955 if she would collaborate with her on a book about her case.

One aspect of Shirley's background that differs from most current multiple personalities is that her mother, not her father, supposedly abused Shirley. Shirley's "memories" of maternal abuse came at the time when "schizophrenogenic mothers" were considered to be responsible for the problems of their children. Wilbur actually made Shirley's mother a schizophrenic – a diagnosis that could never be corroborated. In 1965, Schreiber wrote to Wilbur:

"What do we say, by way of selling the idea, that establishes uniqueness, that makes a publisher feel that this is sufficiently different from Eve to justify his interest? . . . One [factor] I can think of, of course, is the linkage with

the battered child syndrome.”

Schreiber and Wilbur played loose with the facts in order to make a compelling story.

Even the end of the book is a lie. The “end of analysis” and the therapy relationship was nothing like the happy ending presented in the book. What actually happened is that Wilbur moved to Weston, West Virginia. Shirley soon followed and obtained a job as an occupational therapist in a psychiatric hospital a few hours down the road from Weston.

According to Borch-Jacobsen, Shirley spent all her weekends and vacations with her ex-analyst. In 1973, after the publication of *Sybil*, Shirley retired and she supported herself with the royalties. She moved a few blocks away from Wilbur and the two continued to spend much time together until separated by death.

Borch-Jacobsen writes:

“MPD lasted as long as the consensus of psychiatrists, hypnotic practice, the concept of repression, insurance companies, judges, the campaigns for the prevention of child abuse, the feminist movement, the media, and a number of other elements conjoined to make it last, to support its existence in the manner of a ‘continued creation.’” (p. 70)

Sybil is, without doubt, a fascinating story. But its fascination is due to the insights it provides about our society and our beliefs about the mind and mental illness. It is a compelling story, not a factual account. The revelations in *Making Minds and Madness* should hasten the ultimate demise of the diagnosis of multiple personality.

We strongly recommend *Making Minds and Madness: From Hysteria to Depression*.

1. An overview of the chapters: Introduction: Making psychiatric history (questions of method); Part I. Microhistories of Trauma: 1. How to predict the past: from trauma to repression; 2. Neurotica: Freud and the seduction theory; 3. A black box named ‘Sybil’; Part II. Fragments of a Theory of Generalized Artifact: 4. What made Albert run?; 5. The

Bernheim effect; 6. Simulating the unconscious; Part III. The Freudian Century: 7. Is psychoanalysis a fairy-tale?; 8. Interpretations: Freud’s legendary science (in collaboration with Sonu Shamdasani); 9. Portrait of the psychoanalyst as a chameleon; Part IV. Market Psychiatry: 10. Science of madness, madness of science; 11. The great depression; 12. Psychotherapy today; 13. Therapy users and disease mongers.

2. Borch-Jacobsen, M. (1997, April 24). *New York Review of Books*, 60-64.

3. Rieber, R. W. (1999). Hypnosis, false memory, and multiple personality: A trinity of affinity. *History of Psychiatry*, X, 3-11.

4. See, for example: *Fragments* by Benjamin Wilkomirski; *Angel at the Fence* by Herman Rosenblat; *Love and Consequences* by Margaret Jones; and *Misha: A Memoir of of Holocaust Years* by Misha Defonseca.



Update From New Zealand

Gordon Waugh

Kim McGregor, Ph.D, the director of the Rape Crisis organization in Auckland, continues to tell us that one in three girls and one in six boys will be raped or otherwise sexually abused by the age of 16. She even teaches this to children in some of our high schools. When applied to our actual population, that dubious claim implies that hundreds of thousands of our children have been sexually abused and that hundreds of thousands of ordinary citizens are sexual abusers. Exaggerating statistics is not a good way to address the all-too-real problem of abuse.

Related to those broad claims is a recent publication of guidelines for sex abuse counselors written by a Massey University psychology team. The publication states that they found over 700 indicators of sexual abuse. [1]. Didn’t they see the absurdity of that number? It’s as though the team had never read the many statements from professional organizations about the danger of using “symptoms” to determine sexual abuse. And so the battle continues.

I understand that the New Zealand Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) commissioned the “research”

behind that book. ACC is a wide-ranging, no-fault form of insurance, covering the entire population, which provides rehabilitation and compensation after accidents at work, on the roads, in sports, by medical misadventure, and at home. It began with new legislation in April 1974. Funds are provided for it by individual and business levies and by general and specific taxation. For example, our annual Vehicle Registration Fee includes a component which directly funds ACC’s Motor Vehicle Account. ACC has a website at: <http://www.acc.co.nz/index.htm>.

ACC has a department called the Sensitive Claims Unit which deals mainly with claims for mental injury caused by sexual abuse. It publishes statistics annually that cover the previous ten years. Prior to 1988, ACC did not pay compensation on such cases. At that time, New Zealand had only a handful of counselors working with sex abuse victims.

“There is no single set of symptoms which automatically indicates that a person was a victim of childhood abuse. There have been media reports of therapists who state that people (particularly women) with a particular set of problems or symptoms must have been victims of childhood sexual abuse. There is no scientific evidence that supports this conclusion.”

American Psychological Association
Questions and Answers about Memories of
Childhood Abuse, 1995.

“Psychologists recognize that there is no constellation of symptoms which is diagnostic of child sexual abuse.”

Canadian Psychological Association, Position
Statement on Adult Recovered Memories of
Childhood Sexual Abuse, 1996.

“Previous sexual abuse in the absence of memories of these events cannot be diagnosed through a checklist of symptoms.”

Royal College of Psychiatrists, Reported
Recovered Memories of Sexual Abuse, 1997.

Legislation was changed and in the year 1988, ACC paid compensation on just 221 such cases. By the early 1990s, and coincident with the spread of “recovered memory therapy” and related belief systems, ACC began receiving tens of thousands of sexual abuse claims. For a good part of that decade, new claims averaged about 11,000 per year. Many of these—impossible to know for certain—were based on recovered memory therapy.

From just a handful of counselors, there were suddenly thousands. In the 1990s ACC had some 1,000 “approved counselors” doing sexual abuse /mental injury work on its behalf.

Compensation of \$10,000 per alleged abuse event was virtually automatic. Claimants were not (and are still not) required to provide proof that abuse actually occurred, proof that any mental injury was caused by that abuse, identify the alleged assailant, or report the alleged assault to the police. ACC uncritically accepts the word of the claimant and the counselor.

During the early 1990s the costs became enormous, amounting to hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars. The (then) national government finally realized what was going on and amended the legislation to stop the virtually automatic compensation. Predictably, the number of new claims fell. The new level was typically about 4,000 a year. In 1999 there was another change of government and that resulted in a revision of ACC legislation. Lump sum compensation exceeding \$100,000 is now available.

In 2008, ACC published a new set of statistics showing the annual average number of new sex abuse claims for the decade 1998 to 2008 was a mere 184. [2] That low number really got my attention and I sought clarification from ACC.

They admitted the published data showing an annual average of 184 new claims was wrong. The answers they provided indicate that each year about

4,000 people make ACC claims for mental injury allegedly caused by sexual abuse. Almost all make single claims, while a very small number claim for multiple alleged events.

In the 2008 financial year, ACC paid out NZ \$47 million that was shared by counselors, 4,000 new claimants, and more than 18,000 ongoing claimants whose treatment extends between one and ten (or more) years.

To diagnose and treat those claimants, ACC maintains a list of approximately 1,400 “approved counselors” to do such work. The majority of ACC counselors are not registered under the New Zealand Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

The activity of “counselor” is not registered partly because amateur counseling organizations have much difficulty trying to specify why a counselor is the same as, better than, or worse than a registered psychologist or a registered psychotherapist, and in describing how and why counseling differs from those activities. I am continuing to pursue this matter.

1. See: <http://www.acc.co.nz/publications/index.htm?ssUserText=sexual+abuse+and+mental+injury>. ACC4451 Sexual abuse and mental injury practice guidelines for Aotearoa NZ PDF 2. Excerpt from Page 100 “To identify effects of sexual abuse, the international literature and traditional diagnostic systems were thoroughly searched and researchers and practitioners across New Zealand consulted. This led to a large number of effects (initially more than 700) being identified and reviewed.

3. For details of the stats see: <http://www.acc.co.nz/about-acc/statistics/acc-injury-statistics-2008/index.h>

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Motivation to Remember

Kassam, K.S., Gilbert, D.T., Swencionis, J.K., Wilson, T.D. (2009). Misconceptions of memory: The Scooter Libby effect. *Psychological Science*, 20(5), 551-552.

In his 2007 trial, Vice-Presidential

Chief of Staff I. Lewis “Scooter” Libby said that he did not remember mentioning the name of a CIA agent to other government officials and reporters.^[1] The jury didn’t believe that someone would forget such important information and found him guilty of obstruction of justice, making false statements, and perjury.

Kassam and colleagues note that although Libby’s conversations were important, they were much less important at the time he had them. They became more important after the Justice Department investigation.

The authors said that research has shown that people are motivated to remember important information. The question the researchers sought to explore was whether people take the timing of the motivation to remember into account when they judge other people’s memories.

One hundred thirty people were shown photographs and asked to learn facts about them. Some were given special motivation to remember information about the photos and others were not. Some were given motivation before learning and others after learning. The judges saw the same pictures as the subjects and were asked to predict the percentage of motivated memorizers who would remember the facts.

The results showed that the people motivated before the learning remembered more. People motivated after the learning didn’t remember any more than those who were not motivated. The judges expected the motivated memorizers to remember more whether they were given the motivation before or after the learning.

“Participants who were asked to judge another individual’s memory did not distinguish between information that was important when the individual encountered it and information that became important only later. Clearly, people’s theories about the effects of motivation on memory are imperfect.”

The U.S. District Court did not

allow Libby to have a psychologist testify about the foibles of memory and metamemory because the court said that the jurors already knew such information.

The authors comment that although “people do encounter frailties of memory as a matter of course,” that doesn’t mean that they understand the nature of the frailties. They observe that people can sometimes expect others to “remember more than they possibly can.”

1. *United States v. Libby*, 461 F. Supp. 2d12 (D.D.C. 2006.)



“I am not a cognitive neuro-scientist but I recently met one at a party. He told me rather a lot about memory. I’ve forgotten most of it, of course, but I do recall him telling me that memory comes in long-term and short-term varieties and that neither is much cop*. The short-term memory’s feeble; the long-term memory’s fictional.”

“Apparently the short-term memory, even when in mid-season form, can only hang on to about half a dozen separate bits of stuff.”

“The long-term memory is a lot more capacious but a lot less honest. It works like a Marxist historian. It revises the past.”

“Every time you tell a story, the memory erases what actually happened and replaces it with your latest version of what happened. Eventually, there’s none of the original program left and the truth and your story have had a divorce.”

Bennett, J. (2008, September 10). That’s how I remember it. *The Dominion Post*. Retrieved on 9/11/08 from <http://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/opinion/columnists/joe-bennett/620990/Thats-how-I-remember-it>

* According to Gordon Waugh who called our attention to this article, “cop” in this context is a bit of local New Zealand slang, meaning the article, idea, proposal, etc. has little value, or is not very good.

We have written previously about James Toward who has been in prison since 1989 for allegedly abusing children at the Glendale Montessori School in Stuart, Florida. After reading several of the child interview transcripts, we have no doubt that James is a victim of a miscarriage of justice, of the hysteria that spread in the wake of the McMartin case. In the past two years, an effort has started to have James released. The following letter was written to James and we think that it provides a sensitive insight into the thoughts and feelings of parents when the case exploded. Printed with permission.

Letter to James Toward From A Glendale Montessori Parent

Retrieved on April 14, 2009 from <http://freejamestoward.com/2009/04/13/from-a-glendale-montessori-parent/>

James ... I wish you good luck in your hearing, apparently slated for later this month (April 2009). I think what you have written on the website should be read by all whose lives were impacted by the alleged events at Glendale, back in the Eighties. I remember only too well the panic of the times, and the way in which so many of us (parents) were caught up in the horror of it all.

It was impossible to know whether what we were hearing was real, or not. My personal experience consisted of a phone call from another parent, begging me to get my three children “evaluated by a therapist” as soon as possible because “it looks as though every child at Glendale has probably been involved, in some way, in what went on there!” And, this was a parent who was a supporter, in the beginning!

Despite conflicting thoughts, I felt, naively, that there was nothing to be lost by taking the children to the therapists, Jean Ralicki initially, then Dr. Tesson. It became clear, thankfully all too soon, that my children were more intimidated by the therapy itself, one of them dissolving in tears, after a visit with Dr. Tesson declaring “Mommy, it’s so scary to think that you can’t remember something so bad you can’t

remember it,” I recall the feeling of shame, immediately, that I’d subjected them to this. I had sat in on most of the sessions with Dr. Tesson, and concur that there was simply nothing to uncover. I was reading the same books, knew all about what was going on across the country, and found myself in a state of suspended disbelief much of the time. I think Dr. Tesson was a victim of his own belief system, just as caught up in the furor as the rest.

I belonged to a “support” group of Glendale parents who were pretty much in the same boat as myself—torn between disbelief and dubious conviction—mostly convinced that the behaviors of their own children could be attributed only to the reported events at the school.

It was the worst of times. The rumor and innuendo that circulated was insane. Gossip and speculation presented as truth—I know this because I frequently took it upon myself to go to the root of “he said/she said” to try to get at the truth for myself. Many of us behaved as if we were completely mad. We withdrew our children from Camp High Rocks in the Carolinas because it was represented that “the Cult” was reprogramming our children while they were there! I know of two parents who actually went out under cover of darkness to keep watch on one of Dr. Tesson’s patient’s home because she was so convinced that members of a Satanic Cult were visiting her on nights of the full moon! One of them actually “bugged” a local nursery school hoping to catch the teachers in the act of molesting children. One family was so persecuted that it became “common knowledge” that they held Satanic rituals at their home, and were probably at the root of “everything”! One parent dug up the grounds at the school, looking for tunnels and hidden graves. It was “reported” that a case of chloroform was found in the attic, and so on. But, for all of it, the nagging reality in

the back of my mind was always there “but, we were DROP-IN PARENTS, always showing up at the school, unannounced, day in/day out”! It was part of the attraction of consigning your child to Montessori—you could always be “hands on”. I can’t ever remember being discouraged. So when, I would ask the support group, could the children have possibly been “kidnapped” and taken off campus for nefarious purposes?

It was a time of total insanity, and though there are few of us who maintain contact today, most are only too happy to let those times fade into obscurity. I often wonder how many there are who, like me, feel that it was all some sort of mass hysteria that infected our community even as examples of the same happened all over the country. I often wonder when are the children themselves likely to come forward and recant? Probably never, I think. As you pointed out in your poignant essay, the majority were probably so damaged by the therapy itself that the time is to be a terror for them, one way or other, no matter what. Frankly, I can’t believe that there have been so few retractions. I’ve read every publication on the aftermath of those times I could get my hands on. And though there is plenty to hear from the accused, there is little from the accusers; the children OR their parents.

To my own children, it’s become a sort of “urban legend,” though I’ve expressed my feelings about what happened (or what I believe never happened) and encouraged them to contact their old friends and classmates via the auspices of MY SPACE and FACE BOOK to see if there is anyone, a “survivor,” who might come forward to shed some light at this time.

I don’t know what purpose this letter will serve, other than to let you know that there’s at least one person who supports the probability that you are, indeed, completely innocent. I suppose I want you to know how sad I

feel for Rosario and Margaret, and for you and the years you have lost. And, indeed for all the rest of us, who got caught up in it, despite ourselves, and who—however unwittingly—contributed to what happened to you.

Good luck, James.
Sheila Rimer



Creating False Memories

Wade, K.A. & Laney, C. (2008). Time to rewrite your autobiography. *The Psychologist*, 21(7), 588-592. Available at http://www.thepsychologist.org.uk/archive/archive_home.cfm?volumeID=21&editionID=162&ArticleID=1375

Wade and Laney present a clear and concise overview of the research on creating false memories. They note that “as strange as it might seem, plenty of psychological research shows that it is possible to plant . . . false autobiographical memories, using various techniques.” The authors relate those techniques to techniques used in therapy.

One method that has been well documented is the *Suggestive interview*, in which an adult is asked to read descriptions of events that he or she experienced as a child. The subject, does not know that one of the events has been fabricated by the experimenter. Looking at 560 subjects in 10 published studies, the authors found that 17 percent of the subjects developed partial false memories and 17 percent developed complete false memories for the fabricated events. They found that the false memories could be emotional, extremely detailed, and that the participants held them with confidence. [1]

Some studies have used *Suggestive Interviews with Props* such as photographs. In one study people were asked to recall three childhood events, with one being false. The false event was about the time when the subject was punished at school for sneaking Slime into the teacher’s desk. All the participants heard the same story but

some were also shown a class-group photo from the school year. Twenty-three percent of the people who only heard the story claimed that it had happened. Sixty-five percent of those who saw the photo, came to believe the story. [2]

False Feedback is an even simpler procedure that has been used to plant false memories. People who have been given a feedback profile indicating that they once got sick from eating hard-boiled eggs are less likely to eat them at a future time. In another study in which participants’ dreams were interpreted by a psychologist as evidence of repressed memories of being bullied when they were young, became significantly more confident that this had happened compared to people who did not receive that feedback. [3]

Recent research has documented *Social Influence* as a way in which false memories can develop. When people talk to family members about shared experiences and try to determine what actually happened, they often incorporate the memories of others into their own. [4]

The authors conclude:

“Finally, one of the ultimate purposes of conducting false-memory studies is to determine whether there is some characteristic that differentiates real from false memories. If such a characteristic could be found, then psychologists might be able to look at a particular memory and determine whether that memory is true or false. Thus far, there is no such characteristic.... Like true memories, false memories can be held with great confidence, can be detailed, can be vivid, can have behavioral consequences, and can even be emotionally rich. But the fact that a particular memory is confidently held, detailed, vivid, consequential or emotional, or even all of these, cannot guarantee that the memory is real.” (p. 592)

1. See for example: Loftus, E.F. & Pickrell, J.E. (1995). The formation of false memories. *Psychiatric Annals*, 25, 720-725. Wade, K.A.

& Garry, M. (2005). Strategies for verifying false autobiographical memories. *American Journal of Psychology*, 118, 587-602. Hyman, I.E., Jr. & Billings, F.J. (1998). Individual differences and the creation of false childhood memories. *Memory*, 6, 1-20. Porter, S., Yuille, J.C. & Lehman, D.R. (1999). The nature of real, implanted, and fabricated memories for emotional childhood events. *Law and Human Behavior*, 23, 517-537. Heaps & Nash 2001 2. See, for example: Lindsay, D.S., Hagen, L. Read, J.D., et al (2004). True photographs and false memories. *Psychological Science*, 15, 149-154. Gary, M. & Wade, K.A. (2005). Actually a picture is worth less than 45 words: Narratives produce more false memories than photographs do. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 12, 359-366. Nash, R.A. & Wade, K.A. (in press). Innocent but proven guilty. Fake video evidence and false confessions. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*.

3. See, for example: Mazzoni, G.A.L, Lombardo, P., Malvagia, S. & Loftus, E.F. (1999). Dream interpretation and false beliefs. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 30, 45-50. Bernstein, D.M., Laney, C., Morris, E.K. & Loftus, E.F. (2005). False memories about food can lead to food avoidance. *Social Cognition*, 23, 10-33. Laney, C., Morris, E.K., Bernstein, D.M. et al (2008). Asparagus, a love story. Healthier eating could be just a false memory away. *Experimental Psychology*, 55, 291-300.

4. See, for example: French, L, Sutherland, R. & Garry, M. (2006). Discussion affects memory for true and false childhood events. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 20, 671-680. Peterson, T, Kaasa, S.O. & Loftus, E.F. (2009). Me too! Social modeling influences on early autobiographical memories. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 23, 267-277.



“Forgiving does not erase the bitter past. A healed memory is not a deleted memory. Instead, forgiving what we cannot forget creates a new way to remember. We change the memory of our past into a hope for our future.”

Lewis B. Smedes

“I’ve never tried to block out the memories of the past, even though some are painful. I don’t understand people who hide from their past. Everything you live through helps to make you the person you are now.”

Sophia Loren

New MPD Misery Memoir

Today I’m Alice - A Memoir of Multiple Personality Disorder by Alice Jamieson

Reviewed by FMSF Staff

According to an article in the *Birmingham Post*, (UK) Alice Jamieson’s saving mechanism was to repress the memories of being raped and tortured by her father that began when she was two-years-old. In her teens she used alcohol, drugs and self-harm to keep those memories out of her mind. In her 20s, Ms. Jamieson began to suffer voices in her head that developed into multiple personalities.

When she was a teenager, Jamieson went to various mental health services and she was hospitalized in a closed unit. She said that she was not helped by any of this because her doctors did not understand how her personality had fractured. She said that many of her psychiatrists and therapists would not refer to her nine alters. She feels that she moved forward when she finally found a counselor who would talk to the alters by name.

Validating her memories seems important to Jamieson. In one case she says that reading what she had written was validation:

“I had all these memories of my childhood and I wanted to write them down. Once I started, it all just came tumbling out. It was hard to do in some ways but they were all things we had touched on in therapy. Seeing it in black and white was difficult but it was also a validation of what had happened to me.”

Although Jamieson did not have enough evidence to sue her father, she did apply to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority that awarded her a “substantial” amount. She felt validated. The award showed that people believed her.

Parkes, D. (2009, May 6). Multiple personality disorder: A battle with nine lives. *Birmingham Post*. Retrieved on May 16, 2009 from <http://www.birminghampost.net/life-leisure-birmingham-guide/postfeatures/2009/05/06/>



Do Repeated Interviews of Children Increase Children’s False Reports?

Goodman, G.S. & Quas, J.A. (2008). Repeated interviews and children’s memory: It’s more than just how many. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 17(6), 386-389.

Abstract: A crucial issue in the study of eyewitness memory concerns effects of repeated interviews on children’s memory accuracy. There is growing belief that exposure to repeated interviews causes increased errors. In some situations, it may. Yet, several studies reveal increased accuracy with repeated interviewing, even when the interviews include misleading questions. We review repeated-interview research in relation to event veracity, interviewer bias, and delay. We conclude that when and how children are interviewed is at least as important for their accuracy as is how many times they are interviewed.



“Memory is not so much like reading a book as it is like writing one from fragments. As time goes by, details get lost.”

“Long-term memory may reflect a tendency “to see one’s self as a hero of a drama worth telling. It may become a positive affirmation of a life well-lived through “mythisizing.”

“Our memories recreate a past that justifies our self-esteem. We seek to order our universe. We are inconsistent and self-serving, even with the best intentions.”

“Humans also tend to recall details of the past in terms of what is important in their current lives.”

Walter Menninger, M.D.
Emporia Gazette
April 27, 2009

Menninger describes traps of memory
http://www.emporiagazette.com/news/2009/a/27/menninger_describes_traps_memory/

**Colin Ross, M.D.
Receives Pigasus Award**

On April 14, 2009, the James Randi Educational Foundation (JREF) announced that it had given the Pigasus award to Colin Ross, MD for his work claiming that he had the ability to send a beam of energy from his eyes and make a tone sound out of a speaker. The Pigasus Award is given each year, “to the scientist or academic who said or did the silliest thing related to the supernatural, paranormal or occult.”^[1]

FMSF Newsletter readers are probably familiar with Dr. Ross because of his promotion of multiple personality disorder and beliefs that encompass satanic ritual abuse and CIA mind control conspiracies. He has been sued by several former patients who claimed that they developed false memories during therapy. Along with Richard Kluft, M.D., Colin Ross, M.D. is an advisor to the CBS television series “United States of Tara.”

According to the Randi website,^[2] the awards seek to expose parapsychological frauds that Randi, the noted magician and a member of the FMSF Scientific Advisory Board, has noted over the previous year. The website states that “the awards are announced via telepathy, winners are allowed to predict their victories, and the Flying Pig trophies are sent via psychokinesis. We send; if they don’t receive, that’s probably due to their lack of paranormal talent.”

Dr. Ross has stated: “I am not the first unconventional thinker who has had to endure the snickering of cynics and skeptics, so I happily accept this recognition. Every significant scientific advance faces resistance, but it is time that the JREF stop ridiculing me and test the protocol.”

From the JREF website:

“Now, to be fair, this was long thought to be how vision worked... in the Middle Ages. However, we now understand that light emitted or reflected by external objects enters the eye, and that’s how we see. But Dr. Ross claims to have reversed this process, and not only can he send EM beams from his eyes, but he has rigged up a system to detect it. He applied for our famous Million Dollar Challenge with this idea, and when we sent it to our team of experts, they objected, saying it was the movements of Dr. Ross’s eyes that triggered his system. ~~He has since put his application on hold while he works on this, still claiming, of course, that there is “definitely a beam” emerging from his eyes. [It has come to our attention after posting this originally that Dr. Ross has re-activated his application. -Ed.]~~ Oh, and did we mention he’s writing a book on this as well?”

1. Retrieved on June 4, 2009 from <http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS144178+14-Apr-2009+MW20090414>.

2. <http://www.randi.org/site/index.php/pigasus-awards.html>



L E G A L

C O R N E R

Bernard Baran Finally Free

On June 9, 2009, Berkshire Massachusetts District Attorney David F. Capeless stated that he has dropped the case against Bernard Baran who was sentenced to three concurrent life sentences for child molestation when he was just 19-years-old. Baran was the first person convicted in the day-care-panic that followed in the wake of the infamous McMartin trial and he spent 21 years in prison. Baran was released in 2006 when an appeals court found that his original attorney had been incompetent and that conduct during his trial provided sufficient grounds to overturn his guilty verdict. In fact, the appeals court suggested that there may have been prosecutorial misconduct. Baran was granted a new trial and has been preparing for it for the past three years. No reason was given by Capeless for dropping the case. If the case had gone to trial, it would surely have involved the misconduct charges by the former assistant district attorney who is now a Superior Court judge.

* * *

For background on this case, we reprint an article about Bernard Baran that appeared in the *FMSF Foundation Newsletter*, 15 (5) in 2006.

**Pittsfield Massachusetts Day-Care Worker
Conviction Overturned**

Massachusetts vs. Baran, No. 18042-51; 18100-1,
Superior Ct, Berkshire, Mass., June 13, 2006.
Frank Kane

Superior Court Justice Francis R. Fecteau, in his 80-page decision of June 13, 2006, granted Bernard Baran’s request for a new trial. Fecteau noted that Baran “raises several issues generally including whether he was convicted upon unreliable evidence, that he received ineffective assistance of counsel, and that there is newly-discovered evidence that appears to have been improperly withheld, amounting to prosecutorial misconduct, as well as other issues.”

The Berkshire County District Attorney states unequivocally that he will appeal Judge Fecteau’s decision. Hence, Baran had to post \$50,000 cash bail, and he must wear a transmitting ankle — despite the fact that the verdict was overturned.

On June 30, 2006, Bernard Baran (he prefers to be called “Bee”) walked free from the Berkshire County Court House, into the arms of his family, three months shy of 22 years since his arrest for alleged sexual offenses against children in the Pittsfield Massachusetts Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC). Baran, a teacher’s assistant,

was the first day-care worker to be convicted in the United States during the wave of day-care sex abuse hysteria of the '80s and '90s.

Arrested in early October, 1984, three weeks after the arrest of the Amirault family in Malden, Massachusetts, Bee was convicted just 115 days later, and sentenced to three concurrent life terms. He was slammed into the general population at the maximum security prison in Walpole, the Commonwealth's "home" for its worst, most dangerous offenders. Even though Assistant District Attorney Dan Ford had offered him a deal of five "easy" years for his guilty plea, Bee refused, declaring, as he always has, that he was innocent. Bee thought that he would never again see the light of day as a free man.

And so it seemed, to Bee, for many years. Four days after his incarceration, he suffered his first rape and beating. His family was without a car because his mother had had to sell it to raise money to pay the lawyer. Consequently, they were able to visit Bee only rarely, and the rest of the world seemed not to notice that it had allowed a slight 19 year-old, of less than 100 pounds, to be thrown away like damaged goods. In 1989, he was transferred to the "Treatment Center" in the Bridgewater Correctional facility where he had a modicum of safety, but there he was tossed into the maelstrom of mostly truly-guilty sex offenders.

In 1995, Bee's case was cited in Debbie Nathan's and Michael Snedeker's book, *Satan's Silence*. Later in the 90s, he was mentioned in a letter from an FMS parent to the *Wall Street Journal*, correcting the columnist's statement that Gerald Amirault was the "the last day-care worker still in prison." A full-page column by Katha Pollitt followed in February, 2000 in *The Nation* magazine, helping immeasurably in fund-raising efforts.

In 1999, Bostonian Robert

Chatelle took up the banner to get justice for Baran. During seven years of Herculean effort, Chatelle was a driving force pressing for a new trial. Chatelle enlisted attorney John Swomley who then sought an evidentiary hearing into the original trial and its perfunctory appeal. Because the Berkshire County District Attorney's office dragged its feet, claiming the bulk of the trial evidence had been lost or destroyed, nothing happened.

Two events in late 2003 opened up the possibility for a new trial: Superior Court Judge Fecteau's order to allow attorney Swomley full subpoena power to locate any and all evidence in criminal and civil domains, and the snowshoveling death of Berkshire County District Attorney Gerard Downing who had been responsible for the delays. A few months later, the new District Attorney found most of the long sought unedited tapes of the children's interviews that had never been seen by the grand jury or the defendant. These tapes were presented in an evidentiary hearing along with comments and observations by Dr. Maggie Bruck.

Judge Fecteau's June decision contains four pages of the most egregious of the interrogations of these three- and four-year olds, who often said, frequently under duress by several adults at the same time, that "Bernie didn't do anything" and/or named other individuals, including teachers and children. These segments had been edited out of the final tape seen by the grand jury and the court, a final, neat package on a 40-minute tape of several children's comments, selectively chosen by the prosecution from the original several hours of tape which contained contrary exculpatory evidence.

The person who apparently had orchestrated the editing was Assistant District Attorney Dan Ford, now a Superior Court Judge in Berkshire County. During the original trial, Ford even had to intercept one little boy who hollered out, "Hi, Bernie," and tried to

run over to Bee. Ford then dropped the boy from the case, apparently due to his lack of cooperation and unreliable testimony. Ironically, this boy's mother was the first accuser and had filed a civil suit against the day-care center, even before indictments were brought. In September, 1984, this same woman and her boyfriend had demanded the center fire Bee because he was gay. When the day-care center refused, they brought sexual abuse charges.

Historical Context

How could all this have happened to Bernard Baran and to so many others? How does this case relate to FMS adult-children situations?

In the 80s, there was a tsunami of satanic ritual abuse, sexual abuse, and child pornography-ring hysteria that flooded North America, drowning out "innocent-until-proven guilty" rights. Fad theories gave energy to the wave. For example, Roland Summit's "Child Sexual Abuse Accommodation Syndrome" suggested that children didn't lie about being sexually abused. They might, however, effectively block out the abuse until aggressively questioned. If a child retracted the "disclosure," he or she was not to be believed because a retraction was just part of the "syndrome." Summit's theory influenced many, if not all, of the more than 100 day-care cases.

The McMartin Day-Care case in Manhattan Beach, California was the first to hit the headlines starting in 1983. Prosecutors from the Massachusetts Fells Acres (Amirault) case went to Manhattan Beach to get advice from the prosecutors there, returning with questions to ask the parents and children about secret rooms, magic rooms, and evil clowns. On September 12, 1984, the police in the Amirault case held a meeting in which parents were recruited to question their children.

Exactly one month later, in Pittsfield, the Department of Social Services and police held a similar pro-

gram at the day-care where Baran was employed. A puppet show and anatomically-correct dolls specifically targeted Baran.

Fear and paranoia about child sexual abuse had spread throughout the land. Lest we blame it all upon a hysterical element of true-believer adherents, we need to remember that even the FBI helped fuel the spread. In January, 1984, the FBI devoted the entire edition of its Law Enforcement Bulletin to the subject, "Child Pornography and Sex Rings." It was written by Ann Burgess, a Boston College Nursing School professor, and Kenneth Lanning, a Special Agent in the Behavioral Science Unit of the FBI. Lanning was instrumental in assuring funding for police officers throughout the nation to be trained in the investigation of non-existent Satanic-ritual abuse rings. Burgess went on to write several papers on the effects of ritual abuse on day-care children. Almost one decade later, Lanning grew more cautious and in 1992 issued a 41-page report commenting: "until hard evidence is obtained and corroborated, the public should not be frightened into believing that babies are being bred and eaten."

The therapist who was responsible for the interviewing of the Fells Acres children, Susan J. Kelley, was an intern at Boston College Nursing School. As further evidence of the spread of beliefs into institutions of higher education, Kelley was awarded a doctoral degree in 1988 for a study on the "Responses of Children and Parents to Sexual Abuse and Satanic Ritualistic Abuse in Day Care Centers."

By the early 90s, the hysteria had spread to a new generation of therapists who saw evil behind every family, who "knew" the terrible nature of the incestuous patriarchy, who accepted Roland Summit's theory, and who developed even more lists of symptoms of child sexual abuse. These symptom lists extended to identifying

adults who had been allegedly abused decades earlier (i.e. *Courage to Heal*). The beliefs invaded many of our institutions. Lurid books and Hollywood movies also influenced the culture. For example, *Sybil*, the book and the movie, promoted childhood sexual abuse as the cause of Multiple Personality Disorder. Recovered memories were everywhere, on TV talk shows and in popular magazines. Scores of celebrities suddenly discovered that they, too, had been abused as children.

Go to www.freebaran.org for the complete story of Bee's experience.

Frank Kane is a retired financial manager and during the mid-90s was the manager of the FMSF office. He has been a frequent contributor to the newsletter.

* * *

Comments on Baran's Freedom

Robert Chatelle

Bob Chatelle has led the effort to free Bernard Baron. From his blog:

June 9, 2009: This morning Berkshire County DA David Capeless finally announced that he would no longer pursue the Baran case. When I spoke with Bee a little while ago, he was shedding some very well-earned tears. He and his family have been living this nightmare for almost a quarter of a century. Jim D'Entremont and I are relative newcomers to the case. We've only been involved for 11 years.

One question that pops into mind: Does this mean that the system worked? My first inclination is to say, "Hell, no! The system didn't work. We worked. We worked damn hard fighting the power of a heartless machine."

But this wouldn't give credit to those people in the system who did work, and who worked very hard. I think especially of Judges Fecteau, Lenk, Duffly and Green and their staffs. There was a tremendous amount of material. They read it all, they read it thoughtfully, and they responded with two beautiful decisions. I am most grateful. Whenever I'm tempted

to think too unkindly of judges, I will do my best to remember these.

Nevertheless, this hard-won victory proves that there are very serious things wrong with our judicial system.

Ten years ago, I read the Baran trial transcript for the first time. It is appalling. The injustice was so blatant, that I naively thought it would not take that long to free him. Boy was I wrong.

You can't fight power without money. And we had none. So we started to raise it. To date we've raised about \$320,000. We were lucky to find a few big donors. But most of that came from concerned citizens of limited means. This is what it costs when ordinary people are forced to do the job that should be done by the government.

Our expenses, however, thus far total \$589,000. This is just what has been actually billed. A great many services were donated. Our expert witnesses, for example, were not paid a dime. The lawyers donated time. And the lawyers know that most of their bills will never be paid.

Should it really take citizens over ten years and over half a million dollars to right a grievous wrong committed by their own government?

I would like to think that the Baran case might eventually lead to some meaningful judicial reform. But I'm not holding my breath. That would require a lot of work from good citizens. Democracy requires more than voting — and far too few Americans even do that. Democracy requires that citizens inform themselves, work for needed reforms, and **hold their government accountable for its actions.**

What comes of this is not up to me. It's up to you. As for me, as soon as we catch our breath, we are going to savor this victory and celebrate it.

Retrieved on June 9, 2009 from <http://web-mail.earthlink.net/wam/msg.jsp?msgid=47030&folder=INBOX&isSeen=true&x=882235626>



It's Still Going On!

Recently, I was taking a “Foundations of Marriage” class at my local church with my girlfriend. They had a guest speaker one week who was a marriage and family therapist. About 10 minutes into the class, apropos nothing, he said “Some of the most personally meaningful work that I’ve done is with people who have Dissociative Identity Disorder, formerly known as Multiple Personality Disorder, helping people to recover memories they have repressed due to trauma, to work with the alters, to give them a voice, and to bring them out of trance.”

Unfortunately for him, a brother falsely accused of ritual satanic abuse based on “recovered memories” was sitting in the front row!

I was so infuriated that I didn’t hear a word he said for the balance of the session. After it was over, I asked to speak with him privately, took him into a conference room, asked him to shut the door, channeled Chris Barden, and read him the riot act. I opened by saying that “I wanted you to know how much therapists like you and the techniques you use are hurting clients and their families.” He blanched. I told him my family’s story and the bogus satanic ritual abuse memories my sister had supposedly recovered. He started making the usual excuses. “Oh, I don’t do the satanic ritual abuse stuff ... no family has ever objected to my work ... I bring the family members in ...” I reviewed the scientific evidence and pointed out that: there’s no evidence that documented trauma survivors repress memories in the first place; even if they did, no techniques have been shown to be safe and effective for helping people recall memories that have been forgotten; the techniques that have been attempted are highly

suggestive; DID is an iatrogenic condition; the same techniques he was advocating have been used to “recover” memories of satanic ritual abuse and alien abduction, so the techniques themselves have to be fundamentally unreliable; and it was inappropriate for him to use a church-sponsored class about marriage as a forum for promoting junk science beliefs about repressed memories. He acknowledged that if he could do the class over again, he wouldn’t have brought this up.

He couldn’t even claim ignorance as a defense; he commented at one point that “I’ve been on panels with people on both sides of this debate.” Evidently he was only paying attention to one side.

Finally, he said that it was clear he wasn’t going to change my mind. I said that since I was right and he was wrong, that was absolutely correct. He fled the room.

It is stupefying to me that in 2009, after everything we’ve been through and all the hard lessons the industry has learned, there are still therapists who are so irresponsible that not only do they continue to practice this garbage, but they’re foolish enough to talk about it openly in public!

The next day, I sent the coordinator of the class a lengthy email debunking the claims he’d made, saying I found it unacceptable that a church-sponsored event on marriage was being misused to promote junk science beliefs about repressed memories, and demanding that some kind of disclaimer be given to the class. I then had a lengthy phone call with the coordinator. They had already talked, and he had claimed that he had only used these techniques on two clients in his entire career. I said that was two clients too many. Interestingly, I was not the only member of the class who had contacted her to object to the statements. That’s an encouraging indication that our educational efforts are getting

through. It’s remarkable that in a class of only about 30 people, there were two people who were knowledgeable enough about false memories and confident enough about their knowledge to proactively contact the coordinator and object to his false claims.

The following week, he was scheduled to give a second presentation. The coordinator opened that class, with him present, by referring to his statements of the previous week, categorizing them as a “comments about a personal experience he’d had,” and giving a lengthy disclaimer that ran on for several minutes noting that there had been “a lot of research and debate on both sides of this issue” and encouraging class members to contact her if they wanted more information.

I think it’s safe to say that the visiting presenter will never forget the private dressing-down he received, has learned a painful and memorable lesson, and will hesitate to bring up his “recovered memory” work in future presentations he gives. The war against junk science never ends, but we are making progress. People are learning, remembering, and speaking out against junk science and bad therapy. Truth wins in the end!

A brother

□

Unreconciled

Here we are, among the remaining and aging victims of the ghastly dirty joke, probably one day facing death unreconciled. I am leaving a note with my other daughter that if her sister does ever come to her senses she should know that I forgive her—for a worse guilty fate must await those who realize the irreparable and completely unnecessary harm they’ve done.

A dad

□

“We cannot change our memories, but we can change their meaning and the power they have over us.”
David Seamands

Remembering Our Childhood: How Memory Betrays Us

Karl Sabbagh
Oxford University Press (2009)

Shows how fragile and unreliable our memories are, especially those of childhood.

Making Minds and Madness: From Hysteria to Depression Chapter 3 “A Black Box Named Sybil” Mikkel Borch-Jacobsen Cambridge University Press 2009

Hungry for Monsters

A limited supply of the VHS version of the remarkable documentary *Hungry for Monsters* is available through the FMSF at the reduced price of \$15.00 (includes postage). (Foreign price is \$20.00)

Hungry for Monsters is the account of one family's ordeal with memory-focused psychotherapy, the cultivation of memories, and accusations of sexual abuse. It is an excellent resource for showing others how someone can come to believe in abuse that never happened and the tragic consequences that inevitably follow.

DVD version is available at full price on Amazon.

For full description of the video see: <http://www.zalafilms.com/films/hfmorder2.pdf>

To order VHS send check for \$15.

Web Sites of Interest

www.seweb.uci.edu/faculty/loftus/
Elizabeth Loftus

<http://www.theisticsatanism.com/asp/>
Against Satanic Panics

comp.uark.edu/~lampinen/read.html
The Lampinen Lab False Memory Reading Group,
University of Arkansas

www.exploratorium.edu/memory/
The Exploratorium Memory Exhibit

www.tmdArchives.org
The Memory Debate Archives

<http://www.psyfmfrance.fr>
French False Memory Group

www.psychoheresy-aware.org/ministry.html
The Bobgans question Christian counseling

www.IllinoisFMS.org
Illinois-Wisconsin FMS Society

www.ltech.net/OHIOarmhp
Ohio Group

www.afma.asn.au
Australian False Memory Association

www.bfms.org.uk
British False Memory Society

www.religioustolerance.org/sra.htm
Information about Satanic Ritual Abuse

www.angryparents.net
Parents Against Cruel Therapy

www.geocities.com/newcosanz
New Zealand FMS Group

www.peterellis.org.nz
Site run by Brian Robinson contains information about Christchurch Creche and other cases.

www.werkgroepwfh.nl
Netherlands FMS Group

www.falseallegation.org
National Child Abuse
Defense & Resource Center

www.nasw.org/users/markp
Excerpts from *Victims of Memory*

www.rickross.com/groups/fsm.html
Ross Institute

www.enigma.se/info/FFI.htm
FMS in Scandanavia - Janet Hagbom

www.nctj.org/
National Center for Reason & Justice

www.traumaversterking.nl
English language web site of Dutch retractor.

www.quackwatch.org
This site is run by Stephen Barrett, M.D.

www.stopbadtherapy.com
Contains information about filing complaints.

www.FMSFonline.org
Web site of FMS Foundation.

Legal Web Sites of Interest

- www.caseassist.com
- www.findlaw.com
- www.legalengine.com
- www.accused.com
- www.abuse-excuse.com

The Rutherford Family Speaks to FMS Families

The DVD made by the Rutherford family is *the* most popular DVD of FMSF families. It covers the complete story from accusation, to retraction and reconciliation. Family members describe the things they did to cope and to help reunite. Of particular interest are Beth Rutherford's comments about what her family did that helped her to retract and return.

Available in DVD format only:

To order send request to
FMSF -DVD, 1955 Locust St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
\$10.00 per DVD; Canada add \$4.00;
other countries add \$10.00
Make checks payable to FMS
Foundation

Don't Miss It!

Try to Remember: Psychiatry's Clash Over Meaning, Memory, and Mind

Paul McHugh, M.D., Washington,
DC: Dana Press

Recommended Books

Remembering Trauma

Richard McNally

Science and Pseudoscience in Clinical Psychology

S. O. Lilienfeld, S.J. Lynn, J.M. Lohr (eds.)

Psychology Astray:

Fallacies in Studies of “Repressed Memory” and Childhood Trauma

by Harrison G. Pope, Jr., M.D.

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Phoenix

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CALIFORNIA

Sacramento

Jocelyn 530-570-1862

San Francisco & North Bay

Charles 415-435-9618

San Francisco & South Bay

Eric 408-738-0469

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Judy 925-952-4853

Central Coast

Carole 805-967-8058

Palm Desert

Eileen and Jerry 909-659-9636

Central Orange County

Chris & Alan 949-733-2925

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Madeline 954-966-4FMS

Central Florida - Please call for mtg. time

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Francis & Sally 941-342-8310

Tampa Bay Area

Bob & Janet 727-856-7091

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Wallie & Jill 770-971-8917

ILLINOIS

Chicago & Suburbs - 1st Sun. (MO)

Eileen 847-985-7693 or

Liz & Roger 847-827-1056

Peoria

Bryant & Lynn 309-674-2767

INDIANA

Indiana Assn. for Responsible Mental
Health Practices

Pat 317-865-8913

Helen 574-753-2779

KANSAS

Wichita - Meeting as called

Pat 785-762-2825

KENTUCKY

Louisville- Last Sun. (MO) @ 2pm

Bob 502-367-1838

LOUISIANA

Sarah 337-235-7656

MAINE

Rumford

Carolyn 207-364-8891

Portland - 4th Sun. (MO)

Bobby 207-878-9812

MARYLAND

Carol 410-465-6555

MASSACHUSETTS/NEW ENGLAND

Andover - 2nd Sun. (MO) @ 1pm

Frank 978-263-9795

MICHIGAN

Greater Detroit Area

Nancy 248-642-8077

Ann Arbor

Martha 734-439-4055

MINNESOTA

Terry & Collette 507-642-3630

Dan & Joan 651-631-2247

MISSOURI

Kansas City - Meeting as called

Pat 785-738-4840

Springfield - Quarterly (4th Sat. of Apr.,

Jul., Oct., Jan.) @12:30pm

Tom 417-753-4878

Roxie 417-781-2058

MONTANA

Lee & Avone 406-443-3189

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jean 603-772-2269

Mark 802-872-0847

NEW JERSEY

Sally 609-927-4147 (Southern)

Nancy 973-729-1433 (Northern)

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque - 2nd Sat. (BI-MO) @1 pm

Southwest Room -Presbyterian Hospital

Maggie 505-662-7521(after 6:30pm) or

Sy 505-758-0726

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Westchester, Rockland, etc.

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Rick & Renee 412-563-5509

Montrose

John 570-278-2040

Wayne (includes S. NJ)

Jim & Jo 610-783-0396

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Nashville

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TEXAS

Houston

Jo or Beverly 713-464-8970

El Paso

Mary Lou 915-595-2966

UTAH

Keith 801-467-0669

WASHINGTON

See Oregon

WISCONSIN

Katie & Leo 414-476-0285 or

Susanne & John 608-427-3686

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The British False Memory Society

Madeline 44-1225 868-682

Deadline for the FALL 2009 issue is
September 10. Meeting notices **MUST**
be in writing and should be sent no later
than **two months before meeting.**

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