

# ECHOES OF THE GULAG

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## Editorial

By Tony Iannalfo

### OUTPATIENT CIVIL COMMITMENT

Texas established in 1999 outpatient civil commitment for sexually violent predators discharged from prison with or without parole.

To screen those individuals identified as possible S.V.P., the law created a multidisciplinary team consisting of reps from the Dept. of Mental Health, Dept. of Criminal Justice, Dept. of Health & Safety and the Council on Sex Offender Treatment. Written notice is given to the multidisciplinary team not later than the first day of the sixteenth month before release or discharge of the individual in question.

The diagnostic tools used are Personality Assessment Inventory and actuarial assessments including Static 99 and MnSORT-R. An expert in sexually violent behavior, either a psychologist or psychiatrist is then retained to conduct a clinical review of file material and any other assessments as deemed necessary.

If a behavioral abnormality is found, the Special Prosecution Unit is required to file a petition for commitment not later than 60 days after referral and the court must then bring that individual to trial within the next 60 days. The individual has the right to a jury trial, and the judge or jury shall be held to the reasonable doubt standard to commit the individual.

If committed the individual must agree to all conditions of community release, including participating in treatment and Global Positioning.

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## VOLITIONAL IMPAIRMENT

By L.D. Halbert

The only obvious link between all the case law which interpreted Hendricks is that the individual's ability to control their sexual impulse must be impaired in some sense that distinguishes the individual from other criminals so as to warrant their civil commitment.

The United States Supreme Courts decision in CRANE makes clear that a specific finding that the individual suffers from some "mental abnormality" or "personality disorder" that shows the condition seriously impairs the individuals ability to control their dangerous behavior.

The Supreme Courts use of the phrase "serious" should be taken seriously because the word is a power word. The consistent standard has been that where a condition is said to impair an individuals control, the State must prove that the particular condition is one that historically has been regarded as effecting the ability to control.

Therefore, looking at both the professional literature and the case law together, in order to reach the conclusion that an individuals control has been adequately impaired to justify commitment, it seems legitimate that the State must present more than just the run of the ill anti-social personality disorder or some not-otherwise-specified disorder that can be linked to all criminals.

Under the American Psychiatric Associations Taskforce report on sexually dangerous offenders, the taskforce opined that the Sexual Predator Commitment Laws represent a serious

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## ACTUARIAL RISK

By Lance Purcell

The hypothesis, that the use of actuarial tables may be used as a means of predicting an individual's risk, may not achieve the threshold required by true science. Neither is it informative. In order to qualify as science a theory must be falsifiable. The gathering of empirical evidence by the evaluator community in order to verify or falsify the theory is something that is simply not done, relying instead upon the same failed methods of Marx and Freud who sought only confirming evidence of their hypotheses. Before congratulating themselves and proclaiming this hypothesis 'science', it might be a good idea to study the record of predictions based upon such data. I'd like to see a comparison: those persons for whom the actuarial tables indicated they were at risk of re-offense, but did not do so; and those who were deemed to not be such a risk, but who actually did re-offend. Anecdotal evidence seems to indicate that the numbers are not encouraging for proponents of such methods. As many as twenty-four percent of those not recommended for commitment proceedings were subsequently arrested, while less than four percent of those who were felt to pose a threat sufficient for commitment proceedings, but who won at trial, actually reoffended.

Specifically, we should be interested in persons for whom actuarial tables indicated were at significant risk for re-offense, but who did not do so (false positives).

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## VOLITIONAL.

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assault on the integrity of Psychiatry. With regard to defining mental illness and a clinical conditions for compulsive treatment, under the APA's Model Guidelines, civil commitment is permitted only if a person has a "severe mental disorder" which is defined as an "illness, disease, organic brain disorder or other condition that substantially impairs a persons thought, perception of reality, emotional process of judgment or substantially impairs behavior as manifested by recent disturbed behavior."

There is nothing in the diagnostic criteria to suggest that people diagnosed with pedophilia are unable to control themselves. Professor Bruce J. Winick, University of Miami School of Law, (Sex Offender Laws in the 1990's: A therapeutic Jurisprudence Analysis, in Psychiatry, Public Policy and Law, 1998, volume 4, number 112, 505-570. at 523-24; as Dr. Winick explained, many people with a variety of bad habits and addictions may have strong convictions about their inability to exercise self-control. An example would be of a person who often abuses alcohol and experiences being out of control and unable to resist the object of their strong desires. Assuming that the person may not have the will to avoid drinking to the point of intoxication, his conduct was not so involuntary as to compel him to become drunk in public. If he possessed the capability of avoiding public drunkenness the volitional conduct was thus present. That he was a chronic addictive alcoholic did not make it inevitable that he be found drunk or sprawled across a public sidewalk at night.

Professor Winick specifically pointed out that some mental disorders may cause volitional impairment that in certain circum-

stances produce behavior that is not purposive or goal directed. However, he concluded that pedophilia or paraphilias do not seem to prevent control in any of these ways. "There is nothing in the diagnostic criteria for pedophilia or any other type of paraphilias that suggest that individuals diagnosed with these disorders suffer from any cognitive impairment that effects their ability to understand the wrongfulness of their conduct or that renders them irrational in any respect or unable to control their actions. Such persons may have strongly felt urges to gratify their aberrant sexual desire for children, but there is nothing in the diagnostic criteria to suggest that these "conditions" render individual(s) unable to avoid acting on their desires. Moreover, there is nothing in the clinical literature that sex offenders are unable to exercise self control in fact, the claim that sex offenders are unable to control their actions is directly contradicted by leading clinical Practitioners and Theoreticians. Sex offenders may experience difficulty in controlling their actions, but no involuntary motor activity or impairment of cognition or mood is present that can be considered responsible for this difficulty."

It is important to note that in CRANE the U.S. Supreme Court made it clear that their decision does not at all rely on a "volitional impairment" but rather, the state has the burden of proving that the individual has a "serious lack of self-control." It did not specify that a lack of control must be linked to a specific impairment, but did say that commitment is only constitutional upon a finding of dangerousness either to one's self or to others and that finding must be linked to the existence of a "mental abnormality" or "personality disorder" that makes it difficult, if not impossible, for the person to control their behavior.

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## ACTUARIAL

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Suppose for a moment that you are an F.B.I. profiler. You are notified of every single homicide in America, and asked to provide a likely profile for the killer. You say he's a white male, aged 20-35, left-handed, who walks with a pronounced limp, is balding, and drives a green VW. Every time. Sooner or later you're going to be right. The law of averages rule. As long as you keep your mouth shut about the thousands of times you are wrong, it will appear you are a genius, and that you have discovered a scientific method for profiling this type of criminal. However, you, gentle reader, know the truth of the matter: you have avoided the falsifiability criterion; let me explain.

Karl Popper (1902 - 1996) Professor at the London School of economics and author of several books said that both Marxist and Freudian thought shared common characteristics, among them the tendency to see whatever the observer desires to see. This comes about as a result of "... the effect of an intellectual conversion or revelation, opening your eyes to a new truth hidden from those not yet initiated. Once your eyes were thus opened you saw confirming evidence everywhere: the world was full of verifications of the theory. Whatever happened always confirmed it. Thus its truth appeared manifest; and unbelievers were clearly people who refused to see it, either because it was against their class interest, or because of their repressions... The Freudian analysts emphasized that their theories were constantly verified by their 'clinical observations.'" Popper saw that a theory that appears to explain everything actually explains nothing. A psychoanalyst could explain why a man could commit murder or, with equal facility, why the same man would give his own life to save another's. Continued on page (3)

According to Popper however, a theory with genuine explanatory power makes predictions which exclude most possible outcomes. Success in prediction is impressive insofar that its failure is a real possibility.

So it's not the few correct guesses the FBI profiler was able to point to that are in any way significant, rather, the ratio of times he was right compared to the times he was wrong. If you're wrong a lot, something is wrong with the theory and it needs adjustment. Sometimes the theory must be abandoned altogether. In the same way, if diagnoses were to submit to the rule of empiricism proposed by Popper they could still hope to find many truly dangerous people, and perhaps explain much, but they would have to admit that they have made a big mistake. Thomas Kuhn said that those scientists engaged in the paradigm are the least likely to do so. When a paradigm becomes established, as has the use of aggregates in establishing an individual's risk, it serves as the grand organizing principle for that science of prediction.

What I mean by risky predictions which exclude most possible outcomes might be understood by a glance toward Albert Einstein. He recklessly predicted several effects based solely on his theory which ran counter to intuition. Light would bend around the sun. Time would dilate as speeds increased. Advancing technology has enabled his theory to be verified to a stunning degree of accuracy.

On the other hand, the inability of psychology, using the best principles and practices, to predict any individual's behavior is perhaps the only thing predictable about the 'science.' It's uselessness is legendary in courtrooms across the

land. Yet it's adherents are adamant about their ability to provide explanations about every behavior. Such is the desperation of courts and legislators that they believe them when they claim for themselves this ability. In order to get around their miserable track record they retreat into vagueness, which vagueness is hidden behind the appearance of precision. But it is still only group behavior applied to the individual, and intellectual integrity cannot be maintained by covering up the historical failure of psychiatry in this arena by blurring the resolution to the level of the group. This is not the ideal 'risky prediction' true science demands.

Popper's method was to discard the inductive method altogether and describe science as beginning with an imaginative conjecture about the world. It might be completely false, however, it provides a starting point for investigation when it is stated with sufficient clarity and precision that it can be criticized. This is especially necessary in the case of diagnoses upon which are based the removal of liberty and the imposition of any treatment schemes created, essentially, by the same, persons who have abducted their unwilling 'patients.' Progress is made not by searching the world for confirming evidence, which can always be found, but by searching out falsifying evidence which reveals the need of newer and better explanation.

"The wrong view of science," he wrote, "betrays itself in the craving to be right." In some cases the craving results from the pride of the discoverer, who defends his theory with every artifice at his disposal because his reputation is at stake. A theory which seems to make sense to the world provides a sense of security and safety in and environment that appears increasingly hostile.

(This may simply be an artifact produced by the media but it serves

the purposes of empire builders like the DMH.) People can base their careers on theories like that. Both the proponents of such theories and their clients (the public) may feel threatened when the theory is under attack, and fear will lead such persons to uncritically embrace any device that preserves that theory from falsification. Its fairly simple in the case of psychiatric diagnoses to simply ignore any evidence which would tend to disprove them, such as the absence of signs or symptoms of the currency of the putative mental disorder, or even positive evidence such as new ideation and behaviors at odds with the diagnosis (theory). Those who would be in a position to notice such things are routinely insulated from the process of diagnosis and testimony, such as clinicians and psych technician.

Instead, Popper proposed that falsification is the test for distinguishing science from other intellectual pursuits, such as pseudoscience and metaphysics. Scientific methodology exists wherever theories are subjected to rigorous empirical testing, and it is absent wherever the practice is to protect a theory (or diagnosis) rather than to test it. The point is not to reject metaphysical thought completely, but to attempt, where possible, to transform them into theories that can be empirically tested.

Unfortunately this thinking (one could almost call it a cognitive distortion) has infected the entire program at Atascadero State Hospital, mainly in its rejection of evidence that would tend to falsify, or disprove, the diagnoses. This tautology is something I will discuss in another article, but this background will help, I hope, in understanding the dynamics of fraud

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## ACTUARIAL

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practiced at ASH and in places where these schemes are concocted, such as Canada through Dr. Hanson. Everything that has been said about theories may be said about diagnoses, and the empirical testing would be the absence or presence signs or symptoms thereof which, you may recall, are not easy to hide: they are florid and acute.

My criticism is not that all of these diagnoses are nonsense, but that diagnosticians can be deluded into thinking that they can verify them solely through chart reviews and/or two hour interviews in which the conjecture that aggregates make good predictors of individual behaviors plays any significant part at all. This scheme allows them to always find whatever they expect to find, and ignore any evidence which tends to disprove their hypothetical "diagnoses".

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### PSYCHIATRY COMMITTING FRAUD

From Citizens Commission on Human Rights

How do you stop violent crime? For Governments, the initial societal fix was to spend millions on "experts" who claimed to have all the answers. But when the problems worsened, the experts said they needed billions not millions. And when the problems continued to worsen, the experts said they needed more billions.

According to these experts, we are facing a truly alarming epidemic that is going to strike one out of every two, half the population treating the other half, and will cost even more billions to resolve.

After World War II, these experts estimated the epidemic affected only one in ten, less than a decade later, they stated that one out of every three people were suffering, and today,

every other person is going to suffer the consequences of this epidemic.

Why then, is it that literally billions of dollars in government funding for research have failed to halt this epidemic, spending further and wider, in spite of the money, in spite of the research?

Could it be that they represent nothing less than camouflaged funding to push, not only scare, the government into keeping the faucet open, but to open it even wider?

This does not mean that serious mental difficulties do not exist. It does mean that the situation has been exaggerated for the sake of profit and the expense of not only the tax payer and government, but in people's lives. This is simply Fraud. Fraud encompasses the taking of something for the giving of nothing.

The obvious question of course, is how could such a massive fraud be conducted without detection? The answer is simple. Psychiatry and Psychology were given a monopoly over mental health care by the government. They asserted themselves as the experts and nobody else was willing to accept responsibility. Unfortunately, they were given no accountability.

It must be that since they have been unable to effectively resolve the problem, they have proven themselves to be technically incompetent. If they are knowingly incompetent yet claiming to be effective in handling the problem, then by definition, they are guilty of fraudulent conduct.

Charges of fraud are not new to psychiatry. Unsubstantiated claims of special inner knowledge of the mind and behavior, of being able to cure the disturbed individual and the denial of the effects of their harm that is inherent in the various treatments. Such things in any other field would lead themselves to accusations of quackery.

What is needed is for people in positions of trust and power, including doctors, politicians, educators, law enforcement and legislators, to see that what is happening amounts to nothing less than extortion, and that is being perpetuated in the name of healing.

"We have uncovered some of the most elaborate, creative, deceptive, immoral and illegal schemes being used to fill empty hospital beds. This is not just unreasonable it is fraudulent." Texas Senator Mike Moncrief stated at a congressional hearing. "These people have no ethics at all. They're morally bankrupt." Paul McDevitt, Massachusetts Mental Health counselor.

Pat Schroeder, a U.S. Representative said, "Clearly, this business of treating minds has not policed itself, and has no incentive to put a stop to the kinds of fraudulent and unethical practices that are going on." Some examples of this random fraud are:

Billing insurers for therapy that was given to people who had died. "False Claims" billing for services never rendered. Charging \$150.00 per day for use of a television as a therapeutic device and passed off as psychotherapy and billing for playing "BINGO."

According to the United States Attorney General's, Accounting Office, America lost One Billion dollars to health care fraud in 1998. That's 10% of the annual health care budget. The largest health fraud suit in history involved Mental Health. And, the scandal caused a domino effect with numerous other psychiatric hospitals paying millions in refunds, penalties and settlements.

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**In Re: HOWARD., 2005  
DJDR 2209**

Enacted in 1963, W&IC §1800 extended the detention of dangerous persons. Civil commitment of a person at the time he could otherwise be discharged from California Youth Authority commitment.

The California Supreme Court considered whether this extended detention scheme violates due process because it does not expressly require a finding that the person's mental deficiency, disorder or abnormality causes serious difficulty in controlling dangerous behavior.

The Court concluded that such a scheme should be interpreted to contain such a requirement to preserve its constitutionality.

Because the jury was not instructed on this requirement, and there was little evidence that the mental disorder caused him "serious difficulty in controlling his dangerous behavior" a new trial was granted and reversed the Appellate Court's judgment.

The California high court said that a recent series of cases, both in the U.S. Supreme and in this court, have clarified that to be a sexually violent predator, the person must, as a result of a mental illness, have a "serious difficulty controlling his dangerous behavior. [citing Kansas v. Hendricks, Kansas v. Crane, Hubbart v. Superior Court and People v. Williams.]

The High Court's pronouncements are particularly pertinent that they stated, "the extended detention scheme must contain a requirement of serious difficulty in controlling dangerous behavior" and spoke about the Crane decision where the U.S. Supreme Court said, "Hendricks underscored the constitutional importance of distinguishing a dangerous sexual offender, subject to civil commitment, from

other dangerous persons who are perhaps more properly dealt with exclusively through criminal proceedings" and ended with a conclusion that "such a requirement is constitutionally mandated."

Then continuing to further conclude... "that the extended commitment scheme should be interpreted to contain a requirement of serious difficulty in controlling dangerous behavior. In so doing, we are mindful that if 'feasible within the bounds set by the words and purpose, statutes should be construed to preserve their constitutionality and ...construing the existing language to include such a requirement does not appear inconsistent with legislative intent. To read the entire seven page report the case No. is S123722 Decided 02/25/05

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### **PAINLESS DEATH**

Mr. Dean's Corner

Can I say something about health without sounding like some patient? There is a select group of men that need to be a little more aware of what's happening with their health being as they are suffering for it.

They are suffering for it and it's their own damn fault.

Diabetics in this hospital are doing some pretty loud crying about not getting appropriate care here in this hospital. To keep it simple so as there's no misunderstanding that's a load of bull!

I'm a case in point. I ran around for the longest blaming my lack of care on everyone other than myself, it wasn't until I found myself really hurting that I came to terms with myself. I was to blame for everything that was happening to me, my cheating and not following my diet and in general screwing up.

It really sank in when I almost died because of a hole in my foot, not giving a damn about my blood sugars almost killed me, that and blood

poisoning. My life was riddled with one infection after another.

Open sores that took forever to heal, and internal maladies that can drive anyone into doing things to themselves that aren't even worth talking about. As any Diabetic can tell you, Diabetes can be a long life of torture and pain with constant allotment of the latter.

Is Diabetes something you'll have to live with for the rest of your life? Not always, but its up to you.

If you go at it with a positive attitude and the will to win you can beat diabetes. I'm not saying that is always the case, because some diabetics do exercise and watch their diet and remain in the grip of diabetes their whole lives. Sometimes it rears its ugly head and there's no stopping it once its in the blood.

Its hard to tell yourself the truth and live with it so, its not fair I know, but that's just one of those things that are going to happen no matter who you are. Move on is all you can do in some cases, but just don't lay down because the fight's not over. How you live with it after you've found out is what matters. I don't have all the answers, but one of the answers I do have is that how you take care of yourself now will determine whether or not you get it or not. The enemy is "Adult Onset", the answer on how to beat adult onset is "knowledge"

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### **NO ONE KNOWS ALL THE LAWS**

By Rober Wenzel

(Source: Life Extension Aug. 2004)

State and Federal Legislators have passed so many laws that criminalize various behaviors that no attorney knows them all. Today, attorneys brought in on criminal cases sometimes have to ask the question: "Is the activity my client is accused of 'against the law'?" "Jurors are 'instructed' by the judge as to -

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## LAWS

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specific law(s) a defendant is accused of breaking because the average person has no idea if the alleged activity is legal or not.

Even prosecutors do not know all the laws are not shy about admitting it. If defense attorneys and prosecutors do not know all the laws and if a person can be incarcerated without there being a victim, what assurance do average citizens have that they will not fall into a trap that results in them serving a significant part of their life behind bars?

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### QUOTE OF THE DAY

By Glen Green

Humans are divided into different clans and tribes and belong to countries and towns.

But I find myself a stranger to all communities and belong to NO settlement.

The universe is my country and the human family is my tribe.

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### THE MEDICAL BOARD DODGES COMPLAINTS

By Norm Morrow

There have been approximately 100 + hosprisoners, here at ASH, who have submitted or filed complaints to the Medical Board of California, Central Complaint Unit, in the year 2003-04. Regarding unethical doctors who have, with malice and forethought, maliciously and fraudulently misdiagnosed 6600's here at ASH. All of those who have filed these complaints should remember and listen.

These complaints were complaints on the **Ethical Principles of Psychologists/psychiatrists and the code of conduct**. They were filed with the Medical Board of California in 2003-04 and then forwarded to the California Department of Mental Health, by Thomas O'Conner

If you are one of the 100+ that

filed complaints, the Introductions or Supplemental compliant or have served ASH doctor on your units with the **"This request is made pursuant of California Civil Code §1798, The Informations Practices Act of 1977 and if your complaints have been DODGED, do not go to the Patients Rights or even the Medical Board of California. They will have deaf ears to those issues.**

I have discussed these matters with Octavia Robinson from Latham & Watkins and she suggested we go to the Department of Health Services, Licensing & Certification, 1889 N. Rice Ave., Suite 200, Oxnard, CA. 93036.

According to the administrative Procedures Act (APA), this type of complaint, it is not proper for Patients Rights to investigate. (ie., ethical code standards of psychologists or psychiatrists) I did, in fact, explain to Ms. Robinson in full detail of these complaints and they are aware of the situation.

If you need more info about these complaints and you are tired of these unethical doctors, state evaluators /unit doctors, committing those fraudulent 90 day team reports current fraudulent forensic reports on state evaluations, please contact Norman C. Morrow on unit 24.

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### REPUBLIC v. DEMOCRACY

By David Barton

We have grown accustomed to hearing that we are a democracy; such was never the intent. The form of government entrusted to us by our founders was a REPUBLIC, not a democracy. Our founders had an opportunity to establish a democracy in America and chose not to do so. In fact, the founders made it clear that we were not, and were never to become a democracy:

"Democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible

with personal security, or the rights of property; and have, in general, been as short in their deaths."

James Madison

Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide."

John Adams

"A democracy is a volcano which conceals the fiery materials of its own destruction. These will produce an eruption and carry desolation in their way. The known propensity of a democracy is to licentiousness [excessive license] which the ambitious call and the ignorant believe to be liberty." Fisher Adams, Author of the House Language for the 1st. Amendment.

"We have seen the tumult of democracy terminate... as [it has] everywhere terminate, in depotism... Democracy! Savage and wild. Thou who wouldst bring down the virtuous and wise to thy level of folly and guilt." Governor Morris Signer and penman of the Constitution.

"The experience of all former ages had shown that of all human governments, democracy was the most unstable, fluctuating and short lived." John Quincy Adams

"A simple democracy ...is one of the greatest of evils." Benjamin Rush Signer of the Declaration

"In democracy ... there are commonly tumults and disorders ... Therefore a pure democracy is generally a very bad government. It is often the most tyrannical government on earth." Noah Webster.

"Pure democracy cannot subsist long nor be carried far into the departments of state, is is very subject to caprice and madness of popular rage." John Witherspoon Signer of the Declaration.

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## DEMOCRACY

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"It may generally be remarked that the more a government resembles a pure democracy the more they abound with disorder and confusion."

Author of America's first legal text.

More Americans today seem to be unable to define the difference, a big difference. That difference rests in the source of authority.

A pure democracy operates by direct majority vote of the people. When an issue is to be decided, the entire population votes on it; the majority wins and rules. A REPUBLIC differs in that the general population elects representatives who then pass laws to govern the nation. A democracy is the rule by majority feeling (What the founders described as a "Mobocracy"); A REPUBLIC is ruled by law. If the source of law for democracy is the popular feeling of the people; Then what is the source of the law for the American REPUBLIC? according to founder Noah Webster;

"Our citizens should early understand that the genuine source of correct republican principles is the Bible, particularly the New Testament, or the Christian religion."

The transcendent values of biblical natural law were the foundation of the American republic. Consider the stability this provides: In our republic, murder will always be a crime, for it is always a crime according to the Word of God. However, in a democracy, if the majority of people decide that murder is no longer a crime, murder will no longer be a crime.

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### THE CULT OF PERSONALITY TESTING

BY R. Lefon

Psychological theories about a person's nature, purpose, condition, and means of change rely on limited human perception, personal experience, and creative imagination.

Each theory has its own system of rules about how to analyze a person's psyche and evaluate one's progress towards a desired goal, such as self-improvement, personal comfort and "cure." Although they believe it to their ability, what psychologist can see into another person? Many think they have gained this ability through the theories they have studied, but they end up with guesses based upon their theories and their own limited perception, as well as the models for testing one's personality.

Mostly everyone has been exposed to personality testing, or will be, at some point in time. Whether this testing is done upon the entering the public school, or in applying for a job, or your admission to the prison system, your personality has been assessed. Your potential for dangerousness has also been assessed by the same testing.

Most people have heard of the MMPI test, but surveys have shown the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) is one of "the world's most popular personality assessment" tests, and it has been translated into numerous languages. There are chapters of the association for psychological types all over the world. In appraising the MBTI, the National Research Council said: "It is probably fair to say that the MBTI is the most popular "self insight, insight into others," instrument in use today. The National Research Council members are drawn from the councils of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of medicine. (See, In The Mind's Eye. Daniel Druckman & Robert A. Bjork, eds. Washington: National Academy Press, 1991. p. 96.) Many users of the MBTI have claimed that it's value lies not in its diagnostic accuracy which is problematic, but in its probative guidance. The original idea of the personality types was a brainchild of the occult psychiatrist Carl Gustav Jung.

Katherine Briggs read Jung's psychological types and introduced her daughter, Isabel Myers, to Jung's typology. The MBTI provides the following four bipolar scales: "Introversion--Extroversion; Sensing--Intuition; Thinking--Feeling; judging-- Perceiving." These four scales yield 16 possible types.

Annic Paul is devoted to the subject of personality tests like the MBTI. She contends, "Personality tests, produce descriptions of people that are nothing like human beings as they are: Complicated, Contradictory, Changeable across time and place."

"The reality is that personality tests cannot begin to capture the complex human beings we are. They cannot specify how we will act in particular roles or situations." (Annie Murphy Paul, The Cult of Personality, at p. 221, New York: Free Press, 2004) Her book states that personality testing is a Cult "that celebrates the superficial over the substantive, the static over the dynamic, the standard and average over the distinctive and unique." Why is so much faith placed in these personality tests and inventories?

The research has revealed that individuals are very prone to accept the most general character descriptions as being specifically applicable to themselves. The term given to this phenomenon is the "Barnum effect," named after P.T. Barnum, who believed that a good circus had "a little something for everybody." This fits perfectly into the circus the SVPA scheme has become in the courts with predictions. Of course, this general character description is exactly what happens with the reading of mostly every horoscope (whether it is yours, or not), palm reading, and predicting, or "crystal ball gazing." This is known in the research literature as the illusion of uniqueness and occurs at - Continued on page (8)

## Editorial

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If any of the conditions of release are violated the individual can, by law, be charged with a 3rd. degree felony punishable by 2 to 10 years in prison. The treatment program is divided into 5 stages and it is anticipated to take about 5 years to complete. The committed person may annually petition the court in writing for release from the program.

Of the nearly 25,000 sex offenders in Texas prisons approx., 4,000 were eligible ( have two or more victims) for civil commitment. As of late 2002 there had been 1,526 individuals referred to the multidisciplinary team. Of those, 302 were identified and recommended by the multidisciplinary team for expert assessment. The expert assessment was done on all but 6 of these individuals. 294 were deemed eligible. Two were deemed ineligible. Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice referred 210 of them to the Special Prosecution Unit. Of those a petition was filed against only 51.

Of those 21 were committed.

The cost of outpatient civil commitment in Texas is less than \$20,000 / per year / per person compared to more than \$100,000 for inpatient civil commitment in other states (California for one). Texas has found outpatient civil commitment to be an effective and relatively low-cost way to protect the public and treat the offender. California prides itself as being "state of the art" and "on the cutting edge" in sex offender treatment and civil commitment. However it appears California could take lessons when it comes to effectiveness and cost efficiency. California, at present has, by their count, 535 individuals at Atascadero State Hospital.

At a cost, by their figures, of \$107,000 each/year. That's over 57 million dollars / yearly at the present rate. By the way, that does not

include any major medical expenses or court and transportation expenses. Annually, California spends millions of dollars on sex offender treatment and civil commitment with little or nothing to show for it. California's civil commitment scheme is an albatross strangling already tight dollars from a state budget that's been out of control for years now.

Who pays the price for irresponsible spending? Education & health care are always the first to be hit by government cuts. Does the government save a dime? Not hardly. They will continue to spend more and more each and every year. And they spend and spend some more, until society comes to their senses and say "that's all folks."

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## TESTING

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least for the positive traits in people.

In other words, "There is a sucker born every minute." So, don't allow these crystal ball gazers to present to the jury the most general personality traits for dangerousness, as being specific to you and your case, just because they have learned what traits fit the profile, and have studied how to place you into these types. It all sounds so scientific to a jury that does not know that the wool is being pulled over their eyes. Remember the Barnum effect, a "little something for everybody." Parts of this article have been cannibalized and except from the psychoHeresy Awareness Letter, Vol. 13, No. 2, 4137 Primavera Road, Santa Barbara, CA. 93110; [www.psychoheresyaware.org](http://www.psychoheresyaware.org) PAMWeb Site contains twelve years of articles, papers, and chapters from books. Invite you friends. Remember, prayer is a powerful weapon. Use it, and don't let your mind become stagnant.

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## Absent Comrades In Memoriam

ECHOES ask everyone, everywhere to pause for a brief moment each day and remember, with kindness, each of these, our 24 Absent Comrades.

Dan Cloverdance.....	1998
Jim Davis.....	1/21/1999
Dean Danforth.....	7/27/2001
Larry Goddard.....	6/02/2001
Edward Samrati.....	5/10/2001
Donald Lockett.....	1/23 /2001
David Stansberry.....	5/10/2000
Charles Rodge.....	5/29/2000
Colman.....	2000
Greg Bowen "Sluggo".....	7/04/2002
Lloyd Johnson.....	2002
Wayne Graybeal.....	2002
Freddy Lopper.....	2000
Patrick Brehm.....	3/15/2003
Robert Alperin.....	3/15/2003
Tim McClanahan.....	3/15/2003
Wayne Porter.....	8/18/2003
Cash O'Dowd.....	12/11/2003
Elmer Bock.....	4/07/2004
Dave Gomick.....	8/23/2004
Vinhols Joe.....	12/04/2004
Carwin Welley.....	12/13/2004
Rex Washington.....	01/30/05
Richard Bishop.....	02/07/05

Released from this oppressive prison by the Compassionate Hand of God.

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