Is there spiritual freedom in the U.S.?

An Inquisition by psychiatry continues.

NEWS * issue #12 * April 26, 1989 * \$1.

Ecstatic-rapture energy

by Sheila K. Batey

The problems I was going through in 1973 I now call a Kundalini — psychosis — spiritual emergence. I was hearing spiritual entities, plants, trees, the Earth speak to me. My body was full of an assistic-rapture energy plus bodiny pains. I heard God speak to me. I heard God speak to me in dreams. The Natural World was safe but the human community was hurting, hurtful, and hurrying. I was very afraid but also filled with a Love for Life and the Journey I was commencing.

Symbolic meaning was rich. Synchronous meaningful coincidences occurred. I may have been telepathic. Colors richened and deepened. My mind raced to understand, was full of poetic conjectures.

I created no alternatives. I was put in jail, then involuntary committed to Eastern State Hospital in Washington where I was subjected to mass Thorazine, sleep therapy, and electroshock (ECT). The nightmare had begun. Paradise Lost and thrust into the Bowels of Hell.

What resources would help me & others now?

Publicized, known, inexpensive or free holistic centers where we can safely go through

continued on page 7 →

One reader's personal answer to the political question:

"What actions for social change are you now taking & planning?"

Maria Abdin; Seattle, WA:

I am active in alternatives — basically trying to engage in that type of human interchange which helps both participants grow and heal.

I believe life is a school, and a challenge to learn compassion, competency, and skills for building friendships and communities. Important parts of this process, I think, are ethics (not the "relativistic" type, but one that is based on rights and responsibilities), personal observation and study, and service.

The folks I am most interested in are those who are in really tough situations — undiagnosed physical illness, destructive upbringing, crises of large proportions. I try to be the kind of friend I would want others to be to me in the same situation.

The more I learn of ordinary psychiatry, the more I am convinced that for the most part it is a false promise and productive of results different from those needed.

Specifically, I wrote a booklet to help people get to the bottom of physical illnesses which have eluded diagnosis. Otherwise, I reach people mostly one-on-one as the opportunity presents itself—to street people, co-workers, acquaintances, friends.

I do plan to not only continue what I am doing, but at some point I hope to write a self-help booklet for people who have been through total hell — sort of a manual for those who have been given up on ... who have spent years in institutions, or are victims of torture or extreme sexual abuse, people who have had to suffer alone in impossible situations.

What are the obstacles to action? Psychiatry makes money, and those who practice it (and many of its allied disciplines) seem to me to be hooked on the money and status that go with it. It provides a sense of power and superiority, and a way to feel needed without the vulnerability of the real world.

And psychiatry's "consumers" can get hooked on it, too — continued on page 7 →

The goal of *Dendron* is to provide an independent service to the many individuals & groups concerned about human rights in — and alternatives to — the current psychiatric system.

Published by the non-profit organization Clearinghouse on Human Rights & Psychiatry (CHRP). Edited by David Oaks. Thanks to Ray, Martha, Bea, Cathy, Randy, Lynn, Leslie, Barry & many others.

Write to:
Dendron
PO Box 11284
Eugene, OR 97440

To make an additional donation, tax exempt under 501(c)(3), please make the check to "McKenzie River Gathering," and send to *Dendron*.



Your articles, letters, poetry & art work welcome. Network with other active citizens! Space is limited. Please type, write very clearly, or use any Macintosh disk. Your name & address will be printed, and your writing might be edited, unless you say otherwise. Return of what you send isn't guaranteed, but is helped if you ask & include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Thanks.

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Telephone: Leave up to a 30second message at (503) 341-0100. We can call back more easily if you say we can call collect, & you give the best time to call. Or please give your address for our response.

Editor's note:

As a *Dendron* worker was entering one of the articles for this issue into the Macintosh Plus, she paused and shook her head in disapproval.

"What's the matter?" I asked.

"Oh, this writer said some good things but here they're saying that they give themselves over to a higher spiritual power."

"Yeah, that's the thing about a newsletter. Unless you write it all, there's something in there you don't quite agree with."

"But they're encouraging people to give up their power," she said.

"They didn't instruct us not to edit," I pointed out. With the availability of photocopiers, I figure those who are edited can get out their material themselves. The truth comes out.

"Oh, no, no. That would be censorship. I'm putting it in," she said.

In other words, the material in *Dendron*, especially in this issue, is based on diversity and tolerance, not on a party line. That is one of the points of this Movement, right? That psychiatry needs to be more tolerant? That there are inexhaustible diverse, viable, creative alternatives to their weaponry of shocks, locks, and drugs?

Psychiatry is supposed to mean "soul healer" in Greek. When one interacts with souls, it is based on peace, love, equality.

Perhaps we should flaunt state law in an act of civil disobedience, and issue "Licenses to Practice Psychiatry" to any and all who want one. The only stipulation would be that the license is invalid if the individual violates human rights. With Mac laser printing we could make the licenses look very nice, on high-quality recycled paper.

It would be just like at the end of the film Wizard of Oz. "Ignore the man behind the curtain," says the Wizard. But he then proceeds to give everyone their hearts' desire.

Any takers? The Macintosh awaits.

networking:

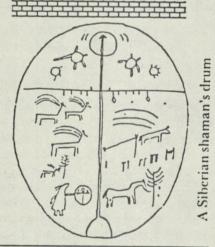


where readers... write

Frank T. Blankenship; Gainesville, Florida:

Locally or in the state of Florida, I seek correspondence from present and former psychiatric inmates. My aim is organizational, directed at eventually developing some kind of inmate/ex-inmate support group. The correspondence may entail no more than sharing experience, sympathy, and knowledge, but I wish to make contact with others who have been through the incarceration experience. Any help that you can offer in this direction will be deeply appreciated.

Frank T. Blankenship Ill S.W. 3d Avenue #8 Gainesville, Fl 32601



Correction-

Please note the contact information for the Tardive Dyskinsia/ Tardive Dystonia National Association and for Ira Gruber, listed incorrectly in the last issue:

TD/TD National Association 4244 University Way, NE P.O. Box 45732 Seattle, WA 98145-0732

Or phone: (206) 522-3166.

Ira Gruber, who is beginning his national tour in Eugene, Oregon in late June, can be contacted personally by writing:

1206 East Pike Street Seattle, WA 98122

SUBSCRIBE to *Dendron*, approximately 10 issues per year. For sample: \$1.1 For a subscription: Regular supporting subscription for one year: \$20.

Very low income: \$5 for five issues, \$10 for ten. Overseas & organizations with paid employees: \$40. Send to *Dendron*, PO Box 11284, Eugene, OR 97440



What is the "Spiritual Emergence Network"?

Perhaps you've heard of the Spiritual Emergence Network (SEN). This national network of therapists says they give spiritual validity to some aspects of people's emotional difficulties. Therapists Christina and Stanislav Grof have been closely affiliated with them.

SEN describes itself as a "unique and caring organization that sees spiritual experience as a natural part of psychological growth. SEN recognizes that certain nonordinary and often frightening experiences may be part of this growth. It supports education and research about these experiences."

SEN makes referrals through their forty regional groups, publishes a newsletter and journal, and holds conferences.

Their Spring 1989 newsletter includes an article called "Sara's Story," written by an ex-inmate whose daughter had been taken away from her. She describes her hurt, and her spirituality, from a psychiatric institution: "This is the way it goes for those who love God too much... Now is the time to free my body from the drugs they forced me to take. The deadly pills that squeezed my mind and made agonies of pain and false visions... The staff was lovely and kind until I questioned the doctors - the gods. The staff was brainwashed in the conformity of the system."

"I was not heard or believed. A rape of the mind, heart, and soul."

For information write to SEN; 250 Oak Grove Avenue; Menlo Park, CA 94025. Or call (415) 327-2776.

"...particularly suspicious of supernatural causes..."

From Eugene Register-Guard; April 20, 1989; Page 3C.

Psychiatrist loses license

ROSEBURG — A Roseburg psychiatrist whose blend of Christianity and medicine repeatedly has brought him to the attention of the state Board of Medical Examiners has had his license to practice revoked. Dr. Robert Feeney's license was revoked after he scored less than 50 percent in an exam administered by a panel of three psychiatrists, board officials said. A score of 75 percent is required to pass. But Feeney, 69, said he believes the religious nature of his practice led to the revocation. Although he said he never has performed an exorcism, Feeney said he believes that some mental imbalances are caused by demonic possession. He said he is particularly suspicious of supernatural causes in cases that do not respond to his usual therapies. When he comes across such cases, he said, he usually turns them over to a minister who is more acutely attuned to supernatural nuances.

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JOKES - from Frog

What's a big reason doctors worry about the rising suicide rate?

Because it cheats them out of a job.

A "neurotic" supposedly builds castles in the clouds.

A "psychotic" supposedly lives in them.

One things for sure. The psychoanalyst collects rent from them both.



A hand carved on the doorway of the Alhambra is perennial symbol of the five basic precepts of Islam profession of faith, prayer, pilgrimage, fasting and charity.

rapids...

Guinea pigs & people, unite!

You've read about the army conducting mindcontrol experiments, in which some subjects died. But did you know that years ago one psychiatrist experimented with electroshock on a six-month old infant? Or that inmates in Oregon and Washington state prisons, between 1963 and 1971, received X-rays to examine fertility and testicular function? These are just son amples cited by Hollis in announcw organization, "Committee for Abolition of Psychiatric Experimen-

(CAPE). Jocelyn states similar atrocities continue to this day. One of CAPE's first actions is a petition to Congress to enact a law to protect the citizens of the United States from unlawful and harmful experimentation. For information write to CAPE, P.O. Box 2013; Upper Darby, PA 19082.

Shock update

In June, 1989, it's very likely that the federal Food & Drug Administration (FDA) will propose that electroshock devices be given a less restrictive classification, reports Marilyn Rice, the Washington D.C. representative of a shock survivors group. And who did the FDA consult? Marilyn found out the FDA asked Dr. Rodorfer - the chief shock proponent at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) - for his

advice. "FDA ought to feel guilty," says Marilyn. "At the policy level the American Psychiatric Association and NIMH are the same thing." Meanwhile, Marilyn reports that two national TV programs (PM Magazine and USA Today) gave more balanced coverage than usual of ECT, but neglected the FDA issue. A 60 Minutes TV-show segment is on hold until the Fall, she heard indirectly. For more information write: Marilyn Rice, CTIP, 2106 S. 5th St.; Arlington, VA 22204. Or call (703) 979-5398.

Psychosocial Conference Draws Ex-inmates

A national professional conference June 13 to 17 in Miami, will include several "consumer experts" as the program describes them. Workshops include "Consumer-Run Drop-In Centers," "The Consumer Revolution," "Peer Advocates," and "Consumer-Run Programs for the Homeless Mentally III." Sponsored by the International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services (and funded partly by the federal NIMH and Community Support Program).

In the program, panels on ex-inmate topics include presenters Judi Chamberlin, Laura Van Tosh, George Ebert, Bob Long, Ernie Peebles, Joe Rogers, Susan Rogers, Don Culwell, Rae Unzicker, Tom Hutton, Andrew Posner, Howie the Harp, Jerry Wang, Kay Omholt, Peggy Timblin, Nola Coulter, Paul Dorfner, Diane Cox, David Pratt, Kay Omholt, Mary McIlory, Sally Zinman, and Glenda Castle.

Canadian "Voice of Psychiatrized" in Danger

Don Weitz of Toronto, Canada announced that the popular ex-inmate magazine, "Phoenix Rising" has suspended publication indefinitely, though they are not closing yet. Their next - and perhaps final - issue (on prisoners and psychiatry) should be out any day now. Don says are not accepting subscriptions, but they do need donations. For information, write to Phoenix Rising, Box 165, Station A, Toronto, Ontario Canada M5W 1B2.

Commitment Papers

A "newsletter of the Coalition Against Psychiatric Abuse" covers selfhelp, human rights, poetry, and more. "We are committed," promises the paper's masthead. A recent issue explained "exchange listening" (also called "re-evaluation cocounseling"), a review of Jeffrey Masson's book Against Therapy, and exinmates' personal experiences. Write to: The Commitment Papers, 154 Locus Street, NE; Atlanta, GA 30317.

NAMP Name Change?

National Alliance of Mental Patients might be changing their name. The May issue of their newsletter will have details and a chance to vote. One name being considered: National Alliance of Psychiatric Survivors. The only problem: That spells NAPS. Write to NAMP, P.O. Box 618, Sioux Falls, SD 57101.

Update on Woman Locked-Up at Conference

If you recall the December issue of *Dendron*, a woman attending a national rights conference was, ironically, locked up in a psychiatric facility.

The bad news, writes eye-witness Jerry Fordyce, is that her legal situation was worse than *Dendron* reported: "The fact is that she was given an opportunity to sign herself into the hospital and refused. Similarly, her choosing to go to the hospital was the result of being told in no uncertain terms by a close friend that she had no other choice."

The good news: Advocate Jenny Miller reports she heard this woman was successfully transported to the East Coast. Again, if anyone has more news, please write.

SmithKline — Makers of Thorazine and Stelazine

 Plans Merger "The planned merger of SmithKline Beckman Corp. & Beecham Group PLC," reports the Wall Street Journal (April 13, 1989; page 1), is "the largest ... business transaction in drug-industry history ..." The new Smith-Kline Beechman PLC would become truly global, and would be the 2nd largest drug company in the world, with \$4 billion annual sales. Merck would be 1st. SmithKline brought the first neuroleptic, Thorazine, to the U.S., but now makes most of its money from an anti-ulcer and an anti-hypertensive drug.

"... a very hot sexual and emotional affair with a disembodied spirit ..."

Nina G. Wouk; San Francisco, California:

I spent 22 years, beginning at the age of four, in and out of shrinks' offices and nut-houses before I began to realize it was all at best useless, at worst harmful. By the time I reached this conclusion — in 1984 — it had been thirteen years since my last withdrawal from phenothiazine psychiatric drugs [a type of neuroleptics]. And it had been eight years since my last try at talking to a shrink.

When I decided to absolutely avoid every part of the therapy industry, alternatives became necessary — and possible.

Every three or four years my cycle peaks, in one way or another. In 1984 I started having a very hot sexual and emotional affair with a disembodied spirit and the rest of my life suffered. I didn't want to work, even though making a living had always been one of my goals and a great source of pride. I didn't want my human lover anymore. I dumped most of my friends. I wanted only to write and to be with my spirit guide. But this wasn't possible because I'm alive and can't afford to get disconnected with life.

At one point I found myself clinging to a very steep hillside high above a busy street, and I then knew it was



all over because I couldn't rely on myself to stay alive. Luckily for me, my best friend was in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and had told me something about asking her Higher Power for help. So I said, unsure to whom I was speaking, "Please take the body and get me to someplace safe," and something did. If you're desperate enough to turn yourself over to a shrink, you're desperate enough to turn yourself over to whatever Higher Power is willing to help. Any time, any where.

I was confused about my relationship with my spirits, so went to three different psychic readers/healers, one time each. After a couple of hours with each, I trusted only one of them to understand me. But the other two didn't do any harm. And they can't lock you up, as psychiatrists can.

I needed more of a relationship with the Higher Power I had discovered, so started going to AA meetings. I wasn't troubled about someone else's drinking, but needed to be around people who were on various spiritual paths. No religious continued on next page →

Ecstatic —

continued from page 1

our madness (see writings of John Weir Perry, M.D.). A place in the Natural World. Techniques, theories and suggestions from humanistic and transpersonal psychology. Swimming pool isolation tanks (see writings of John Lilly, M.D.). Excellent food. No force used except to prevent harm to self and others (maybe property, too). Womb Room with variable lights, colors, sounds, music as a Time-Out place. Lots of art supplies. Dance/movement space. A library with books and videos. Hot tub. Sauna.

Shella K. Batey NE 500 Howard The Flat Pullman, WA 99163 phone: (509) 334-5173

Action — continued from page 1

especially if they have few other sources of human interchange. Self-rumination can feel as good as pot sometimes. I am aware, however, that there is some proportion of psychiatrists/counselors who do more good then harm.

What are actions people can take? Not the ones which one usually thinks of. Firs, ditch almost all TV and the movies — they give the illusion of human interchange without giving any of the responsibilities or teaching any of the lessons the human psyche needs. One cannot learn the art of friendship & intimate relationships from machines.

Second, make sure the influences to which we voluntarily expose ourselves help form habits of thinking and behavior. There are healthy books; humor (a necessity of life) that doesn't hurt, humiliate, or degrade. Then, and some may argue

with this, have a faith in a Power higher than ourselves — whatever we call it, and regardless of what religious background we are in. Human beings need something to reach up to, especially when they are in trouble.

In addition, study ethics — what's right and what's wrong; and learn acceptable social behaviors. Then assess what assets we have and build on them — build health. Nature (trees, birds, etc.) can be a wonderful, compassionate teacher. And finally, serve others.

So much from a long-winded Indian. I look forward to what other ideas your survey turns up. I think you folks at *Dendron* are terrific—constructive, practical, effective, balanced, & have been through enough to avoid acting aloof. May God bless you & your work.

Maria Abdin prensa samizdat P. O. Box 21904 Seattle, WA 98111

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gathering would have done as well, because I have to discover my own path, not be around people who want to tell me what it should be. I have since switched to a similar group, Emotions Anonymous. I need it for a spiritual — not a social — group.

I work the Twelve Steps in this program one day at a time to the best of my ability. This gets me through the rage and despair of every day life and helps me focus on what I CAN do. (Even people who are into therapy often say it never did anything for them until they started working these steps.)

I have a sponsor, which gives me all the good points of having a shrink. This way, there is somebody who, at set times and in emergencies, is there to pay attention only to me. But a sponsor can't force you into anything, not even by pulling rank, and doesn't have "expert knowledge." The only ties are respect and shared values.

In 1984, I was stuck in a pattern of not eating and hardly sleeping. It felt great and I haven't felt so good since. When the energy comes, I don't need food or sleep. But one psychic said I couldn't keep living in the same body as my spirit guide, because then she would become part of me and not a separate person like she should be. So my spirit guide and I tried going a week without "talking" to each other. I cried all the time. But I had decided years ago that I wasn't taking any more psychiatric drugs, so I just cried till I stopped. I started needing to eat and sleep.

I was also really scared that I would turn into something icky (I won't write the actual word). One psychic said I should repeat to myself my name & species & age & sex & where I live. That helped a lot. But I kept being real scared. When I started going with my spirit guide, I had dumped my human lover. I finally got so scared of turning into something icky that my spirit guide said I needed my human lover back. I needed somebody alive who knew me.

Here is what is most important to me in getting through crises (which go on all the time): People I can trust to let me go through it, not lock me up about it. Spiritual Higher Power I can rely on without having to define. Flexible work schedule. My own place to retreat to.

Ways to prevent these crises include: My relationship with the physical world — eating healthy and getting exercise. My relationship with the political world — I do one political thing (usually write a letter) every day. My creative work — I write science fiction, which for me is a form of meditation. My connections with others — animals, plants, the person I live with, and also a lot of friends I write to and some close enough to visit sometimes. Chinese herbs — prescribed by an acupuncturist; these are drugs and not to be fooled around with. My friends (not enough) who agree with me that therapy is absolutely worthless and we have to take care of ourselves and each other.

Nina G. Wouk 2700 19th Street San Francisco, CA 94110

"I became a victim of my own desire to please others."

Sharon XX; Brentwood, NY:

I saw a Dendron ad in Phoenix Rising magazine, & am taking this few minutes out from my housework to reply.

You may use my letter. I have no objection, especially if it might help someone else in the future to avoid a psychiatric interview.

I am impressed with the first issue of *Dendron* that I received. So much so, that I sent the article on lithium to a psychologist who wants to treat me at Community Health Plan of Suffolk for "mood swings."



My first nervous breakdown (and my last) occurred in 1963. It happened because as a nurse I believed in the medical model of mental illness. I was ignorant of what really happens to a person experiencing "madness."

I had run away from a bad situation at home & found myself working at two full-time jobs, neither of which I liked. They were both physical jobs:

nursing, plus baby-sitting & cleaning for a working mother for room & board. I simply overworked myself into a nervous breakdown.

Nothing in nursing school or in my environment had ever warned me to not over-do. So I became a victim of my own desire to please others and to survive.

Dr. Frederick Porton, (a psychiatrist in Miami, Fla.) told my family that I was a "schizophrenic with paranoid tendencies." He also administered electroshock treatments to me against my will and gave me heavy psychotropic drugs which turned me into two-tons. I did go into the hospital with "anorexia nervosa" (which means not eating enough), but this fact was ignored by the medical community, as well as any real problems I might have had, including why I ran away from my family in the first place.

I have had a lot of coercive psychiatry since then, primarily because my family does not like my politics or my personality and way of rebelling against roles I do not wish to play.

One of the foremost ways I now have learned to use to keep me out of the hospitals is to stay away from having "friends" who use the stigma of my label against me and for their own advantage.

I believe some of the stress-reducing things I have learned from Dr. Lowe of the organization "Recovery,

continued on next page →



Victim —

continued from previous page

Inc." He teaches former inmates of psychiatric institutions to say "our insecurities become other peoples' securities." Dr. Lowe & his slogans helped me a lot, even though I do not approve of a lot of things about his program, including the fact that he instigated the idea of insulin shock treatment.

Another thing I try to do now is not to overwork.

Last but not least, I try to understand what is really bothering me, even if it means ignoring ten tons of bullpucky from other people. I must thank my own dear biological sister, Ms. Robin La Georgia Bodiford, for the most help of all in telling me the root of my "mental illness." She was the first human being ever to tell me I had emotional stress! May the Goddess of eternal love and mercy stay with her, and may the wind be always at her back.

Be well.
Sharon XX
185 Plunkett Street
Brentwood, NY 11717

Berserk in the Bluegrass

with Andrew January Grundy III
National Mental Health Consumers' Association
Kentucky Representative

There is a stirring within the ranks of the National Mental Health Consumers' Association.

This August marks the election of new officers in NMHCA. My personal choice for the new NMHCA President is Barbara Peller of Deerfield, Illinois. Barbara has been active as a NMHCA Representative, and she often chairs the national Ex-Patients' Teleconferences.

Barbara would bring a unique perspective to the Presidency of this, the largest psychiatric survivors' group. It's very possible that Barbara could bring together into a coalition of sorts both NMHCA and the National Alliance of Mental Patients (NAMP).

Barbara is well liked in both groups. And she is quite intelligent. My vote is the Peller vote! Do I hear a second?

00 00 00

As for an office I'd like, I'm kind of confused. I know: I'll run for King.

00 00 00

Something funny is going on in the Executive Committee of NMHCA. Apparently, some members are mutinying and usurping other offices. In a recent letter from Carmen Meek, Secretary of NMHCA, this situation was revealed and condemned.

From what I gather from Carmen, after she ended a teleconference on March 12th, Dan Link and Gary Quick, two Executive Committee members, had their own meeting, wrote up their own minutes, and made a whole bunch of decisions that weren't approved by the rest of NMHCA's officers.

And they say crazy people can't govern themselves ...

00 00 00

Those of you who have enjoyed reading my column in *Dendron* might like to know about my first effort in movie-making, a videotape (approx. one hour) called "Andy Grundy Live!"

Send your check for the small sum of \$12. to: Andrew Grundy III, Star Route, Lebanon Kentucky 40033. Or call me at (502) 692-2087 and reserve or order your copy.

00 00 00

What if the national advocacy groups could get funding, buy a small college going out of business, and take it over? Actually own it? The field of surviving psychiatry grows larger every day as more knowledge and data are gathered and more people are added to the ranks of the ex-inmate movement.

00 00 00

Derby Day is fast approaching folks: May 6th. You can camp out at my place. This year on Derby Day, I'll be judging a Derby Yo-Yo Contest. I have \$100 tied up in Duncan Yo Yos. They are on prominent display at a video store where I have my infamous video for rent.

00 00 00

Stay tuned. Later, 'taters.

Editor's note:

Yes, in a way this film is offensive fluff. Stereotypical. Simplistic. But you could sneak off to see it, yuck it up, and later claim, "I was only researching stigma." It's funny! It blasts traditional psychiatry. (And I swear, in the background of a medical scene near the end, the filmmakers have someone page "Dr. Szasz ... Dr. Szasz.") With these disclaimers, and of course for research purposes only, Dendron dares to print ...

a film review of ... Dream Team

by mycall sunanda

Is the new film Dream Team a crazy comedy consciousness-raiser? Or a fun fantasy to forget?

Dream Team makes serious fun of the modern psychiatric industry. Michael Keaton plays the leader of three other escaped psychiatric inmates on the loose in weird New York City, getting dragged into a murder plot by corrupt cops.

The four were part of an experimental "group therapy program" for inmates coming off Thorazine, a drug often mocked in this film. The group has a young, soft shrink who begs his bosses to take the group of inmates to a pro baseball game. One inmate hasn't been off the ward in 12 years.

Keaton plays the lead: A copy of the main character in Cuckoo's Nest, he's a bragging, lying, violent cynic

(but underneath he's a freedomfighting writer secretly cherishing the radical book, Grapes of Wrath). The other three are: A Mr. Clean who plays "shrink," recording everyone's mistakes. A former ad business big shot, now a naked, blaspheming Christ messiah. And a baseball fanatic, only talking sports until he finally chooses to share.

Dream Team shows the standard psychiatric institution: TVwatching zombies stoned on Thorazine. Group therapy forced by threats of lost privileges. Doctors play power trips, toss around labels, and manipulate.

The sad and scared inmates at first wait for help, depending on medical science to fix them. But on the street they slowly turn to help each other and take some responsibility for each others' needs.

Catch the upbeat French film SORCE-Capsule RESS. Loosely based on a

Film Review:

true event from the 13th Century, an idealistic inquisitor inspects a rural village & targets the local healer, a woman who lives deep in a sacred forest.

"You get messages from the leaves of plants, this is heresy!" he claims. But he's in for one cosmic fight. This beautiful film has tips for a struggle that continues to this day.

A review by the LA Times said: "Truffaut's longtime collaborator Suzanne Schiffman makes a stunning directorial debut."

Dendron is now printed on unbleached recycled paper by Save-Our-Ecosystems.

You and I

by Carolyn Schwartz

YOU AND I

WE SIT TOGETHER

IN THIS ROOM

AND FEEL THE PULSE.

OF THE STREAMS

WALKING BY OUR WINDOWS

YOU AND I

CRY IN FRUSTRATION

FOR WE CAN HEAR

THE TALK OF TREES

AND CANNOT ANSWER

AND SEE THE BACK OF SKY'S CLOUDS

INTO THE LIGHT BEYOND

YOU AND I

ARE PITTED

BECAUSE WE TOUCH

THE FLOWERS BREATH

RESERVED FOR BEES.

AND HUMAN CRIES

"SCREAM IN OUR EARS"

WHICH ARE TRAINED

TO HEAR THE GRASS.

You can write to Carolyn either for a booklet or for individual copies of her poems, many relevant to her life as an advocate & former psychiatric inmate: Carolyn J. Schwartz; P.O. Box 5712; Pawtucket, RI 02860.

