



Dear Friends,

For the past 20 years in each newsletter issue, we have tried to show through the various articles what people believe about the reality of “recovered repressed memories.” Are people leaning toward acceptance or toward skepticism? When we began in 1992, there was a solid wall of belief in recovered memories. Many even seemed to think that “recovered memories” were better than other memories because they had been kept in some “bubble” in the brain out of the reach of ordinary memory processes of decay or change. People who were accused of abuse based on this belief were told they were in denial if they claimed innocence, that they must have repressed the memory also. An accused person was guilty if he or she denied guilt and, obviously, was guilty if he or she confessed. To be accused was to be found guilty.

The first cracks in that wall of belief came when enough data was collected to show that therapists had used risky techniques to excavate most “recovered memories.” These techniques had already been shown to be suggestive: hypnosis, guided imagery, sodium amytal, relaxation exercises, self-hypnosis, and survivor groups. Once that realization was accepted, the idea that “recovered repressed memories” could be inaccurate also began to be accepted.

From that first opening crack, the wall of belief has continued to tumble for the past two decades. Judging from the papers and articles and emails that cross our desk, however, it seems that there has not been as much change in the last year or so. Yes, at the higher levels of science, understanding about the malleable nature of memory is well understood. At the popular level, in the media, and among therapists it seems to be a mixed bag. Belief in the notion of repression runs deep in our cultural psyche, and it is a much more romantic and dramatic notion than the simple message of science about the malleability of memory.

The articles mentioned in this newsletter are good examples of the current climate. On page 3 we note that FMSF Scientific Advisory Board member Elizabeth Loftus

has received another important award. In February, 2010, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) honored her with its Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award.

Dr. Loftus was honored “for the profound impact that her pioneering research on human memory has had on the administration of justice in the United States and abroad.” and the fact that she is “an ideal example of a scientist who is distinguished for both advancing science and applying it to make critical contributions to society.” Many honors have now been awarded to Elizabeth Loftus *because of her work in false memories* and for her courage in dealing with the litigation to try to stop her from publishing some of that work. The awards are from the highest levels of the scientific establishment in our country.

In contrast, on page 5 there is news about misleading information on one therapist’s website. The article is actually ludicrous to anyone who knows anything about this Foundation or Elizabeth Loftus. The author writes that Loftus’s prestige has fallen. She doesn’t need to explain Loftus’s many awards because she does not bother to mention them. The author also claims that the United States Army provided funding for the FMSF. This misinformation must have been plucked from thin air. The author could easily have checked online and learned that the FMSF has never received such funding. But why let real facts get in the way? Although such an article may seem amusing, in its absurdity, it is also a bit dangerous. Along with other similarly ill-informed papers on the web, it can mislead people with no background or context in the recovered-memory phenomenon. Such misinformed people appear to keep the

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The next newsletter will be sent in July 2011.

“memory wars” dragging on.

On the other hand, the very fact that people attack the FMSF can be seen as positive, in a strange way. It means that they at least know that there is skepticism of their beliefs. They may act cultish by not reading what critics say that science has shown to be true about memory—a way to avoid listening to conflicting information that causes them discomfort. They may repeat all kinds of misinformation about FMSF or its advisors believing that what they say justifies their not opening their minds to the message of the FMSF. But they really have to work quite hard to build the “walls” that let them avoid the discomfort of scientific information that undermines their belief system.

For those newsletter readers who have been involved with the FMSF since the early 90s, the article about Roseanne on page 3 may seem bittersweet. In 1991 Roseanne was all over the airwaves and on the cover of *People Magazine* with her wild accusations of childhood sexual abuse. Has she now retracted? It would appear that she has backed off far enough to answer “yes.” Has that retraction made the cover of *People* as did her accusation? The memory wars grind on in part because of the media predilection to emphasize scandalous and salacious accusations, not their calm retractions. This predilection is not peculiar to the recovered memory phenomenon but rather to most scientific explanations of extraordinary claims. Wild claims make headlines. Thoughtful, scientific explanations don’t.

If only it were possible to make the research reported on page 4 about a study that failed to find an expected association between trauma and dissociation (Dutra et al.) as exciting as a story about multiple personality disorder. Would it speed up the passage of belief in recovered-memories to its ultimate demise? The study is important but surely more people know about the program *When the Devil Knocks* shown by the CBC last fall. (See page 8). Even though the CBC produced one of the most thoughtful documentaries ever done about MPD in 1993, a few months ago they aired a program that was irresponsibly uncritical of the diagnosis. There was no political, social or medical context of the diagnosis of MPD. Without that, the program sinks to the unfortunate category of “mental illness as entertainment.” Although the director states that the film was intended as a training video, it was shown to a mass audience. Viewers may be forgiven for gaping at the bizarre behavior of “switching” from one personality to another by a mentally ill person as viewers more than a century ago may have gaped at patients in Bedlam. The CBC should feel embarrassed by their airing of this film.

There are two legal cases reported this month that are disturbing. (See page 7). They are not standard recovered memory cases but they do reflect overzealous prosecutions

and the inadequacy of our legal system for dealing with anyone who many have been wrongfully convicted for murder. Ryan Ferguson, convicted when he was 19-years-old is now 26-years-old and he is still in prison even though there was never any physical evidence found and the only two witnesses to testify against him have retracted their statements.<sup>[1]</sup> And Joseph Allen and Nancy Smith who have been free for two years after spending more than a decade in prison in one of the early day-care hysteria cases have been informed that they are to be prosecuted again. We are reminded of the following statement by Robert Rosenthal:

“Our judicial system is based on the Constitution and is designed to apply the law with an even hand, providing an assurance of fundamental fairness, equal protection, and due process to every defendant, regardless of the particular passions or prejudices of any given moment. Just as the law does not permit children who have been victimized to be ignored, it does not allow unequal access to constitutional protections.”

Although there are still many recovered-memory legal cases in the works, most of them are in the category of clergy cases. Most of these seem to be settled for large amounts of money if they are civil cases but they do not affect case law. Some continue through the legal system. Clergy cases have been inspiring a new wave of legislatures to introduce bills to extend the statute of limitations for childhood sexual abuse in both criminal and civil cases.

We expect that no future recovered-memory legal case will come close to the combination of heartbreak and joy of the Johnson case reported last month. The decision in this case did not affect case law but it has affected most FMSF families. That case took almost 15 years to wind its way through the legal system. There was joy that the Johnsons were awarded \$1million and that the therapists’ negligent care of their daughter was recognized. There was heartbreak because their daughter has not returned, in spite of the exposure of her negligent therapists and the bankrupt theory on which their practice rested.

It is wonderful that so many families have been reunited and that those involved can get on with their lives. Unfortunately, there are also still thousands of families that have not reunited and who are coming to the point of giving up hope that they will live to see a change. (See letter p. 10) It is the accuser who holds belief that his or her recovered repressed memories of abuse are true who must change. On page 12 is a retractor’s story. We are always impressed at the courage of people who can say they made a mistake.

**Pamela**

1. See: 48 Hours Season 311 Episode 0326, March 27, 2011  
Available at: <http://www.clicker.com/tv/48-hours/extra:-ryan-ferguson-police-interrogation-1555624>



**American Association for the Advancement of Science Honors Elizabeth Loftus with Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award.**

In February, 2010, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) honored FMSF Scientific Advisory Board member Elizabeth Loftus with its Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award. The AAAS noted that Dr. Loftus is “an ideal example of a scientist who is distinguished for both advancing science and applying it to make critical contributions to society.”

Founded in 1848, the AAAS is the world’s largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal *Science*. The award is presented annually by the AAAS to honor individual scientists and engineers or organizations for exemplary actions that help foster scientific freedom and responsibility.

Dr. Loftus was honored “for the profound impact that her pioneering research on human memory has had on the administration of justice in the United States and abroad.”

Zambon, K. (2011, February 11). ‘False memory’ investigator Dr. Elizabeth Loftus receives the 2010 AAAS Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award. Press release. American Association for the Advancement of Science.

\* \* \*

**Elizabeth Loftus  
Acceptance Speech for the Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award**

I feel grateful and privileged that the research I have done on memory in the past three decades has been honored for its contributions to science and human welfare. But of all of these awards, this one, in honor of Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, has a special poignancy for me. I never set out to carry the banner for those glorious words, freedom and responsibility; I was merely a scientist interested in the fallibility and malleability of memory, a subject that turned out to be central to the “repressed memory” moral panic

that swept this nation in the 1980s and 1990s. If anyone had told me in advance that my scientific commitment to knowledge would make me the target of organized, relentless vitriol and harassment (not to mention expensive litigation), I might have laughed at them—“Memory? Who gets angry over different memories?”

Every now and then I’d find myself wondering, if I’d known this in advance, would I have made the same decisions. Would I have decided to do the same kind of research, to spend countless hours in courtrooms testifying for the falsely accused, to write endless articles in rejoinder to dubious but persistent clinical ideas?

I do know that once faced with the choice between yielding to the wave of hostility and criticism that my research provoked or standing as strong as I could for science and justice, it was a no-brainer for me. But it was a decision that took an enormous personal toll, which is why this award is so meaningful and gratifying to me.

We live today in perilous times for science: conflicts of interest that taint research; pressures on scientists to cut corners to get fast results; a public culture that alternates between hostility to science and irrational expectations of what science can provide. If we as scientists want to preserve our freedom (and the welfare of others), now more than ever we have a responsibility: And that responsibility is to bring our science to the public arena and to speak out as forcefully as we can against even the most cherished beliefs that reflect unsubstantiated myths.



**Has Roseanne Retracted?**

In 1991, celebrity Roseanne publicly accused her parents of sexually abusing her as a child. That accusation spread around the world and helped to fuel the false memory phenomenon. On February 14, 2011, Roseanne was a guest on the Oprah Show and she

spoke about that accusation.

R: “I think it’s the worst thing I’ve ever done. It’s the biggest mistake that I’ve ever made.”

O: “Calling it incest? or going public?”

R: “Well, both of those things...I think what happened was that—well, I know what happened was that I was in a very unhappy relationship. I was prescribed numerous psychiatric drugs. Incredible mixtures of psychiatric drugs to deal with the fact that I had, and still in some ways, have and always will have some mental illness. And the drugs and the combination of drugs that I was given, were some strong, strong drugs, I totally lost touch with reality in a big, big, way.”

Roseanne did visit her father before he died 10 years ago. She has commented:

“My father and I had a conversation where we said the final words we would ever say to each other, and I think that we had come to a new opening.”

In her new book *Roseannearchy*, Roseanne writes:

“I was mistaken to use the word incest, but I can’t really think of another word, and when I do, I’ll use it.”

Although she apparently does not now believe that she suffered “incest,” Roseanne also says:

“I want to say that nobody accuses their parents of abusing them without justification to do that. I didn’t just make it up. A lot of things were true and abusive and horrible things that happened to me that my father did.”

Her present comments are a far cry from her early accusations that her father sexually abused her and that her mother also abused her.

“I remember my mother molesting me while she was changing my diaper. Sally Jessy Raphael (1991, October 11)

The climate was certainly different

in 1991.

"When someone asks you, 'Were you sexually abused as a child?' there are really only two answers: One of them is 'Yes,' and one of them is 'I don't know.' You can't say 'No.'" Oprah (1991, November 8)

Has Roseanne retracted? A comment from the website of someone who identifies herself as a survivor is revealing:

"Well great, but now what she has done is probably made countless victims and survivors question their own memories, caused many people to disbelieve and even scoff at victims who speak about previously repressed memories of abuse, and has caused victims and survivors to wonder if speaking up about having been abused is even the right thing to do." Retrieved on March 22 from <http://ordinaryevil.wordpress.com/2011/02/15/roseanne-barr-i-was-the-victim-of-incest-i-wasnt-the-victim-of-incest-oh-well-lets-talk-about-my-sex-life-instead/>

A look at Roseanne's original accusations will demonstrate how far away from them she has moved. You might go to *People Magazine* (October 7, 1991) at: <http://www.people.com/people/archive/article/0,,20111007,00.html>

Much of the recent Oprah program can be found on the web. Try: [www.oprah.com/.../Outrageous-Controversial-Roseanne-Barr>Returns-to-The-Oprah-Show](http://www.oprah.com/.../Outrageous-Controversial-Roseanne-Barr>Returns-to-The-Oprah-Show)

□

### **Study Fails to Find Association Between Trauma and Dissociation**

Dutra, L., Bureau JF, Holmes B., et al. (2009). Quality of early care and childhood trauma: A prospective study of developmental pathways to dissociation. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 197,(6) 383-390.

The mantra of the recovered memory movement has been that trauma causes dissociation. Critics of that assumption have pointed to the need for longitudinal studies to show that such a relationship exists. Dutra and colleagues have conducted such a

study.

The researchers studied 56 children and their mothers from infancy for 19 years. The families had been referred for clinical home-visiting services because of concern about the quality of parent-infant relationships. Thirty-five nonreferred socioeconomically-matched families were comparisons.

Dissociation was measured with the Dissociative Experience Scale. Quality of early care was measured by observer ratings. Childhood trauma was indexed by state-documented maltreatment, self-report, and interviewer ratings. Dissociation was measured when the participants were young adults. The authors hypothesized that childhood trauma would be associated with dissociation in young adulthood.

The results did not show such a relationship. They showed that verbal abuse and a lack of parental responsiveness in infancy added to a prediction of dissociation in early adulthood. Other abuse such as sexual abuse did not.

The authors write:

"These findings do indicate that caregiver emotional availability may play a more significant role in the genesis of dissociation than previously thought..."

□

### **With Gratitude to Robyn Dawes, Ph.D.**

Jeanette Bartha

Robyn Dawes and I met in 1993 at a meeting of the FMSF advisory board in Philadelphia. Only a year earlier, I had escaped repressed memory therapy and the FMSF invited me to share my experience.

I sat next to Robyn at that meeting and our friendship began. Over the years we wrote lengthy letters discussing the profession of psychology and what he called psychogists' "cognitive delusions of omniscience." He spoke in a reserved manner, but with a

pen in his hand, he spoke with passion and conviction. He was angry, and so was I.

I often wondered why he took the time to write me. He, a distinguished professor; I, a former patient holding a Bachelor's degree in psychology. Robyn shared his insights and the difficulties of being an independent thinker, writer, researcher and author. I think he wrote because we shared the same mission but from different vantage points—to address the irrationality of the psychology profession.

My mind was only beginning to recover from the coercion of being led to believe I had multiple personalities. I was grateful when he shared the manuscript of his forthcoming book, *House of Cards* while it was gestating in his brilliant mind. He sent me chapters and I read them thoroughly, squeezing out every morsel of knowledge he offered.

I hope that Robyn knew how much he helped my mind recover. Conversing, writing, and thinking was my return-ride to mental health. We didn't discuss the psychotherapy I fled, or the doctor, or the difficulties I was having. We discussed the field of psychology and shared ideas. Robyn kept my mind active and I pushed forward in my recovery.

What struck me most about Robyn was his kindness and gracious manner. For all the retractors out there, I will share what he wrote on November 30, 1993. "One of the big appeals of the "survivor movement," is the message that "you are not alone." I'm writing this letter in part because I think many of you who have survived that movement might have an interest in knowing that you too are, indeed, not alone."

Join the discussions at my blog "Multiple Personalities Don't Exist" [www.jeanette-bartha.wordpress.com](http://www.jeanette-bartha.wordpress.com). There is no membership and comments can be made anonymously.

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## New Survivor Book

*You're Only as Sick as Your Secrets*  
Donna Jacques Temm, Balboa Press\*

Another in the stream of books written by women describing how they came to recover repressed memories of childhood abuse. And as we usually note, there is no way that this reader can know the truth or falsity of any of the claims in the book. A reader, can, however, note if there was a suggestive environment connected with the memory recovery. If the memories were recovered in a suggestive environment, the historical accuracy is less likely.

The author, Donna Temm, writes that she had struggled with periods of undiagnosed depression for most of her life. During one such episode, she telephoned her sister who told Temm to seek professional help. Temm began to recover memories after the second session with her therapist. She continued recovering childhood abuse memories for many years in a number of different therapeutic settings.

Temm writes that in her first session the counselor had her make a family tree and then had her talk about past relationships. "I was shocked and taken aback when in a very matter-of-fact tone she said, 'So you're telling me you've never had a functional intimate relationship with a member of the opposite sex. They've all been dysfunctional.'" Temm asks herself where the therapist came up with that notion since that was not what she had described.

Temm tells us that the second therapy session involved "EMDR, a process that would focus on unexpressed trauma being stored in the body." She explains: "Events perceived as traumatic are stored in a child's body if the brain has not yet formed the synapses that allow communication between the left and right hemispheres. Eventually, unremediated trauma will manifest itself in a variety of ways; often as an emotional imbalance or physical dis-ease."

A few days after the second session, Temm needed support. She began to realize she had been sexually abused. This is what Temm wrote: "Two days earlier, after completing my first session of EMDR, my counselor had informed me that it was not uncommon for people to process 24 to 48 hours after such a session. What we didn't discuss was that she had recognized signs (as I would later learn) that pointed to possible sexual abuse."

Was the author in a suggestive setting? Most certainly she was if her therapist saw "signs" of possible abuse in the first meeting and used EMDR to uncover unexpressed trauma stored in the body.

Currently the author is "self-employed as an alternative and massage therapist." She writes that she relies "on my intuition and ability to discern and redirect clients' irregular patterns that may be negatively impacting their well being."

One wonders what might have happened if Temm had turned to a therapist with a cognitive-behavioral orientation.

\*Balboa Press is a division of Hay House, a vanity press (Meriam-Webster: "a publishing house that publishes books at the author's expense").



## Beware Misinformation on the Web

Spotted by a reader in Australia who sent an email to a member in Canada who forwarded it to friends, the Foundation email box was soon swamped in early February. What caused such a flood of mail? People were upset about an article on the website of a Dr. Faye Snyder called "The politics of memory: When one is requested to shut the eyes."

As are most anti-FMSF websites, the content of the article is ludicrous, a few facts mixed with falsehoods, innuendo, and imagination. The first sentence sets the tone of error: "It has been nearly fifteen years since The False Memory Syndrome Foundation

dropped a bomb in our midst, proclaiming there is no such thing as recovered memories."

On the contrary, the FMSF pointed out that people remember all kinds of things all the time. The Foundation did raise the issue of historical accuracy of memories and printed the following statement many times:

"Some memories are true, some memories are false and some are a mixture of fact and imagination, whether those memories are continuous or remembered after a time of being forgotten. The only way to know the truth or falsity of a memory is with external corroboration."

In another example Snyder writes: "After its principles successfully advised the defense at the McMarrin trial, 'The False Memory Foundation' was founded in 1991." Which principles? Who is she talking about? The people who founded the FMSF had no connection with the McMarrin trial. Is she referring to members of the FMSF Advisory Board? They did not start the Foundation nor are they principles, although they are "principled" and experts in issues of memory.

Snyder believes the McMarrins were guilty and that if the prosecutors had spent the money to dig up the tunnels, the results would have been different. "Even though no tunnels were found, and the verdict was 'not guilty,' there *were* tunnels." She cites the discredited work of Gary Stickel.

Snyder says of the FMSF:

"They also enjoyed major funding, even from the U.S. military. . . ."

Funding from the U.S. military? The FMSF? Ludicrous. FMSF financial records are available. Funding is from the contributions of families. Snyder's statement is a lie.

Snyder writes of the "silent fall" of Elizabeth Loftus and at one point mentions that her work "does not measure up to basic scientific standards." What? How does Snyder explain that Loftus was made a member of the

National Academy of Science? How does she explain the copious and prestigious awards bestowed upon Loftus in recent years *precisely because of her research work with false memories?* We don't know how Snyder explains it because she doesn't mention these honors. There is no excuse for such misrepresentation.

Faye Snyder even seems to blame the FMSF for a complaint was filed against her with the California Board of Marriage and Family Therapists.<sup>[1]</sup> She goes into some depth about the issue in her article.

In another section of the papers Snyder writes of her own practice:

“Witnessing the results of my own techniques for depth work causes me to believe it is possible to recover memories without any suggestibility, including the suggestion, ‘You are going deeper.’ Almost every week I witness clients recover memories that they had completely forgotten through ‘couchwork’, which. . . Most of these recovered memories are not about sexual abuse. When a client of mine recovers such a memory, I believe him. To disbelieve him would be to harm him further.”

Beware misinformation on the Web.

1. Susan Faye Snyder, PsyD, MFT 29816, ([http://www2.dca.ca.gov/pls/wllpub/WLLQRY\\_NA\\$LCEV2.QueryView?P\\_LICENSE\\_NUMBER=29816&P\\_LTE\\_ID=720](http://www2.dca.ca.gov/pls/wllpub/WLLQRY_NA$LCEV2.QueryView?P_LICENSE_NUMBER=29816&P_LTE_ID=720))

Dr. Snyder received her PsyD from Ryokan College of Psychology, a school that is not accredited but is “approved” by California.

2. See:

[http://www.fayesnyder.com/?page\\_id=27](http://www.fayesnyder.com/?page_id=27)



### In Memory of Charles Curry

I am sorry to report to the passing of an extraordinary man, Charles Curry. His life came to an end at his winter home in Key Largo, Florida on December 13, 2010. He was 92. This quiet and modest man had an enormous impact on many people and institutions including The False Memory Syndrome Foundation. A descendant

of Daniel Boone, he was born in Kansas City, Missouri, became an Eagle Scout, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Kansas just before the outbreak of the Second World War. He served as a captain in the U.S. Navy, much of that time on a submarine chaser.

The impact of his life has been felt in business, politics, religion, and charitable causes. Charles Curry's interests and accomplishments are so long and varied, only some of them will be touched upon in this column. He was a prominent and successful businessman, who served as president of the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and worked to forward important legislation, like the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. In politics, he successfully ran for the judgeship held by Harry S. Truman before Truman was elected to the U.S. Senate. He served for a time as treasurer of the Democratic National Committee. Charles was a devout and spiritual man. He served as church deacon and as a member of the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. He established and funded the Curry Foundation. Through that foundation, he provided financial support to many religious, educational and charitable foundations.

Charles Curry was an important force in The False Memory Syndrome Foundation. In 1992, he became one of its founding members. He was often at board meetings of the organization, sharing his wisdom and offering guidance. His financial support helped make important FMSF projects possible. One of his daughters "recovered memories" of abuse while under a therapist's care and publicly accused him. At the service honoring his life several people spoke of him quietly reaching out to individuals at times of trial and stress. Their comments resonated with me. Shortly after my own daughter also falsely "recovered memories of abuse," I spoke with Charles by phone.

A little later, I received another telephone call from him inviting me to have lunch with him and his wife, Charlotte, when they would be visiting San Francisco, where I live. To this day, I do not know if he happened to be traveling through San Francisco on his way back to the east coast or if he simply understood my need and made a special effort to reach out and be of help. Which ever the case may be, I will always be grateful. I have loved that man ever since!

He cared deeply about his family all of his life. The end of his life was bitter-sweet. The accusing daughter came to his bedside during his last days and a reunion took place after a separation of two decades. There were expressions of love and caring - and Charles finally met his grandchildren, whom he had never seen. From all the FMS Foundation can determine, perhaps only 30% of the thousands of families torn apart by “recovered memories” have managed to come together again. How wonderful it would be if those separated from their families because of “recovered memories,” or therapists that recommended such separations, would pick up the phone and reach out to correct this horror while there is still time.

Charles Caviness



### A Cautionary Tale

*A Heart Held Ransomed*

Steve Skotko via Teila Tankersley

Available at:

<https://www.createspace.com/3576486>

Steve Skotko is an Oregon man who is suing recovered-memory therapist Marion Knox, a Christian counselor. Knox's bizarre beliefs and treatment destroyed Skotko's family. (See Winter 2011 FMSF Newsletter issue for a description.) Skotko has now published his story in a book: *A Heart Held Ransomed* that is available on the web. It is truly a cautionary tale.



**RYAN FERGUSON CASE UPDATE**

State vs. Ferguson No 165368-01, Boone County, MO Circuit Ct

Ryan Ferguson was 19 when he was convicted of the murder of a reporter for the *Columbia Daily Tribune*. The 2006 conviction was based solely on the evidence of his friend Charles (Chuck) Erickson's recovered memory that came to him in a dream. There was no physical evidence presented to connect Ryan to the crime. Indeed, videos available on the web show that Chuck recovered his "memories" in the context of outrageously suggestive police interrogations.

When last Ryan Ferguson was mentioned in this newsletter in 2008, his attorney had filed a motion to vacate the conviction based on the argument that Ryan was denied his rights to a fair trial because the State did not disclose information and evidence in its possession for the defense. Specifically, the State failed to disclose law enforcement interviews with a person who claimed to have additional information about the murder. Ryan was effectively barred by the state from investigating a plausible suspect for his defense. That motion was denied, as was an appeal filed in 2009 after Charles Erickson retracted his original testimony.<sup>[1]</sup> In 2010, an appeal was made to the Missouri Supreme Court which should issue its decision in early May, 2011.

Since the 2010 appeal was filed, another person has now retracted her trial testimony. The only two people to testify against Ryan have both retracted.

An overview of the Ferguson case was presented by "48 Hours" on March 27, 2011. <sup>[2]</sup> That program, which is available on the web, presents amazing evidence of the multiple errors that were made by the prosecution which resulted in Ryan's wrongful conviction. Ryan was 19 and just starting college when he was convicted. He is now 26 and instead of college, has spent the intervening years in prison.

1. See <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/.../erickson-says-he-acted-alone-heitholt-slaying/> -

2. See: 48 Hours Season 311 Episode 0326, March 27, 2011 Available at: <http://www.clicker.com/tv/48-hours/extra:-ryan-ferguson-police-interrogation-1555624/>



**Press Release:**  
**National Center for Reason and Justice**  
**Nancy Smith and Joseph Allen Case**  
[www.ncrj.org](http://www.ncrj.org)  
 January 30, 2011, Robert B. Chatelle

In an unprecedented and unconstitutional move, an American court has ruled to send two people to prison even though they were previously acquitted.

The move has sparked outrage among supporters of the defendants, including the National Center for Reason and Justice, a legal and advisory group for the falsely accused and wrongfully convicted.

Joseph Allen and Nancy Smith were convicted of child sex-abuse in 1994 in Ohio. As in other cases during the moral panic of the 80s and 90s, the evidence against these two defendants was inherently unreliable. It included the testimony of small children who had been improperly and coercively interviewed.

Virtually all other victims of the child sex-abuse panic, such as the McMartins, Kelly Michaels, and Bernard Baran, were acquitted or freed, sometimes years or even decades later, on appeal when common sense began to override irrational panic. But Smith and Allen remained in prison until 2009. During a hearing that year on a procedural matter, a judge ordered them acquitted due to lack of evidence. (For more information see <http://www.ncrj.org/cases.>)

But on January 27th, 2011, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the judge who acquitted them lacked the authority to do so. The court reinstated the dubious convictions and ordered Smith and Allen back to prison.

We know of no other instance in American law where a Court has attempted to imprison the acquitted—a blatant infringement of Constitutional protection against double jeopardy, as well as the constitutional principle of Due Process of Law.

The NCRJ has sponsored Nancy Smith's and Joseph Allen's cases for years, and we firmly believe in their innocence. They will continue to have our full support. We will fight for them until justice is achieved.



**“Our judicial system is based on the Constitution and is designed to apply the law with an even hand, providing an assurance of fundamental fairness, equal protection, and due process to every defendant, regardless of the particular passions or prejudices of any given moment. Just as the law does not permit children who have been victimized to be ignored, it does not allow unequal access to constitutional protections.”** Robert Rosenthal. (2002).

*Developmental Review* 22, 334-369

## Canadian Broadcasting System Takes a Giant Leap Backwards: Training for MPD

### *When the Devil Knocks*

CBC January 26, 2011

Bountiful Films

<http://www.cbc.ca/documentaries/passionateyeshowcase/2011/whenthedevil-knocks/>

In November, 1993, the Canadian Broadcasting System's Fifth Estate program aired an outstanding documentary about multiple personality disorder (MPD). The program featured experts both supportive and critical of the diagnosis. Therapy sessions of patients of Colin Ross, MD, were shown and viewers could make their own judgments since the sessions were shown in the context of the controversy. [1]

*When the Devil Knocks* is a giant leap backwards for the CBC, even though the film's website states that the documentary had a "truly triumphant appearance at the Vancouver Film Festival in October 2010."

This new documentary about MPD incorporates material from 40 hours of tapes of the actual therapy sessions of Hilary Stanton. The tapes were filmed over a period of 12 years and the documentary was made to help train other therapists in the treatment of Dissociative Identity Disorder (formerly Multiple Personality Disorder). A review in the *Vancouver Sun* noted: "In the film, director Slinger treats the legitimacy of the illness as a foregone conclusion, and instead of examining it politically or in broader context, chooses to focus specifically on Stanton's experiences living with D.I.D. and her attempts to best it." [2]

According to the file, when Hilary Stanton of Edmonton, Alberta was in her mid-forties, she had a breakdown that resulted in her entering therapy. Until then, Stanton had assumed that the gaps in her memory were normal. In therapy, however, she learned that those gaps were really times that other

personalities (alters) were taking over from her.

Hilary had 35 alters, "a phalanx of inner children who fought to protect Hilary's core self from memories of horrific childhood abuse." Cheryl Malmo, Hilary's therapist, states that she saw her job as convincing each of the alters "that the abuse is in the past" and that "it is safe to give up their memories to Hilary and, finally, to merge their personality with hers." Hilary said: "For years, my alters went to therapy and I wasn't there for more than five minutes."

Dr. Cheryl Malmo has a private psychotherapy practice in Edmonton, specializing in adult survivors of childhood trauma, sexual violence and women's issues. She counseled each of Stanton's alters as a whole person, a new client in the same woman, and obviously talked extensively to each of them. *When the Devil Knocks* could have done some service, perhaps, if this practice of talking to alters were put in the context of critics who contend that symptoms of MPD disappear when the alters are ignored. This is one of many important issues that were neglected.

Without the political, social and medical context of the diagnosis, the program falls into the unfortunate category of "mental illness as entertainment" even though the director states that it was intended as a training video. If it was intended as such, why is the program being shown to a mass audience? Viewers may be forgiven for gaping at the bizarre behavior of "switching" from one personality to another by a mentally ill person as viewers may have gaped at Bedlam [3].

The experts for this film were Frank Putnam, M.D. and Ruth Lanius, Ph.D., M.D.

An unfortunate postscript to the video: Stanton was on vacation in Mexico with her wife Debbie, when they struck a dead animal on the road. Debbie survived, but Stanton was

killed in the crash.

1. (1993, November 9). Mistaken Identities. Fifth Estate. Canadian Broadcasting System.
2. Gelinis, B. (2011, January 25). When the devil knocks. *Vancouver Sun*. Retrieved on March 23, 2011 from [http://www.vancouver-sun.com/story\\_print.html?id=4166028&sponsor=](http://www.vancouver-sun.com/story_print.html?id=4166028&sponsor=)
3. In the 18th century people in London used to go to Bedlam to stare at the lunatics. For a penny one could peer into their cells, view the freaks of the "show of Bedlam" and laugh at their antics. (Bedlam is short for Bethlehem Royal Hospital.)  
To see the trailer for this film, go to:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8V0Jza4p8IU&NR=1> - Trailer.



### **When Does "Oral History Data Collection" Under Hypnosis Become Facilitation of False Memories and Confabulations of Personal History?**

David Jacobs, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History at Temple University, studies twentieth century popular culture, but he is best known in the field of ufology for his research in alien abduction and UFOs. Jacobs is neither an M.D. nor a psychologist.

"Emma Woods" is a former research subject of Jacobs. Emma claims that Jacobs conducted 91 hypnotic regressions with her during 37 hypnosis sessions during two years between December 2004 and February 2007. She claims, among many things, that he put "hypnotic suggestions" in her mind that she had Multiple Personality Disorder and that she should take medication for it.

Emma Woods has created a well-documented website about her experiences as a research subject of David Jacobs.

(See: <http://www.ufoalienabductee.com/hypnosis/information-hypnosis-david-jacobs.html>)

Woods' charges present serious issues for the study of abductees and the credibility of the research results and methods. On her website, Emma has posted transcripts and tapes from some of her sessions with Dr Jacobs.

Following is an example:

DR. JACOBS: "I'm going to count from five to one, and just remember now, my diagnosis is that this is Multiple Personality Disorder and you should take medication for it. I have seen lots of cases of MPD, and this absolutely fits the MPD profile. And, my professional diagnosis therefore is Multiple Personality Disorder. I am studying it. I am writing a book about it. That is my next book. I feel that the whole, sort of, alien business is all a matter of Multiple Personality Disorder. It's a much more widespread phenomenon than people think. Lots of people are walking around with it. It's a public health problem. And that, you are unfortunately suffering from it. And, my opinion is that yours is a classic case, and that – that the only thing that will help you will be medication. ... your stories, I am only interested in the fact that you tell those stories, because multiple personalities are all different. As you know, that each – each individual within Multiple Personality Disorder ... comes out. And, I think that we've been dealing with three or four personalities here ... yours is, in fact, Multiple Personality Disorder. And, when people want to talk to you about the - about your contact with me, that is the first thing you tell them. I have decided it is all Multiple Personality Disorder, and that's what I'm going to be talking about. A psychiatric condition. Multiple Personality – Personality Disorder, well-known in the world. And, you think I may be wrong, but I think that I'm right. And, that's what it is. And, this is what it is. And - and this is where my studies are leading. My studies are going directly to Multiple Personality Disorder. And that's all there is to it. So, now I'll count from five to one and bring you out of this. And, we'll talk about MPD a little bit more. Five, kind of coming out of this ... "

Retrieved 3/24/11 from <http://www.ufoalienabductee.com/david-jacobs-suggestions-mpd.html>

Emma's hypnosis sessions were by

telephone because she lived in another country. She was referred to Dr. Jacobs by her former therapist. For a good part of her life, Emma says that she has had anomalous experiences. The therapist that she was seeing in her own country sent an email to David Jacobs asking for information and advice in dealing with Emma's case of anomalous experiences. He and Emma both believed, that Dr. Jacobs could help Emma research what she considered to be anomalous experiences. In a 2002 psychological assessment of Emma her therapist mentioned that Emma had never undergone hypnosis and that:

"Emma does not believe that they are necessarily UFO type experiences but is currently exploring that possibility as the experiences follow a similar pattern of that associated with the documented UFO phenomenon."

Contact was made and after Emma signed a Temple University consent form, she underwent many hypnotic sessions by telephone starting in 2002. Dr. Jacobs did tell her that it is possible to confabulate false memories under hypnosis. Emma was alone during these sessions. No therapist was with her.

In late 2005, Jacobs suggested that, Emma publish her accounts anonymously on the web. At that point the relationship with Dr. Jacobs seems to have fallen apart. Emma claims (and has posted many tapes) that Jacobs began issuing warnings about conspiracies and alien hybrids. Things became stranger and stranger. Whatever the spark, Emma stepped back from the work with Jacobs in 2007. By late 2009 she wrote:

"Later, in mid-late 2009, an analysis of the recordings of all of the hypnotic regressions that Dr. Jacobs conducted with me showed that he engaged in extensive leading and suggestion, which I was not fully aware of at the time. It is probable that many of my hypnotically retrieved memories were

confabulated as a result of this. The detailed summaries and sketches that I have presented of what I remembered under hypnosis (see Hypnotic Regressions with Dr. David Jacobs - Summaries) should be viewed with this in mind."

Emma did file a complaint with Temple, but apparently Temple decided that Jacobs had engaged in no wrong-doing. The University referred to his hypno-regression sessions as oral history data collection.

Dr. Jacobs has claimed that Emma is engaging in a "defamation campaign" against him, and has posted private information about her.

Be that as it may, the fundamental issue of the use of hypnosis in alien abduction research has definitely been brought to light. It certainly raises many doubts about resulting claims.

□

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Susan A. Clancy

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Richard McNally

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"A Black Box Named *Sybil*"

Mikkel Borch-Jacobsen

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

Paul McHugh, M.D.

### What Caused the Change?

In 1991, my daughter accused me of sexual abuse. At the time, I was living thousands of miles away but decided to move closer to her to try to understand what was going on. In 1993, I went to see my daughter. The day before our scheduled meeting, a friend told me to listen to NPR to a program about recovered memories. I don't know what I would have done without learning about FMSF because the meeting with my daughter was part of her therapy -- a confrontation. She claimed she had learned that I belonged to a cult and would take her out in the middle of the night to a wooded area to be raped by me and other people. I asked where her mother was but she had no answer.

In 1997, my daughter sent me a note saying that she loved me but that she was saying "goodbye." In 2005, I decided to phone my daughter. In our second conversation she told me she had continued therapy and that she did not even remember the meeting in 1993 or anything that was said.

We spoke on the phone for over a year. She was on one coast and I was on the other at the time. I never brought up the accusations. One day when I called, she did not sound like my daughter. She said she didn't want to talk to me and hung up.

I recently took a trip close to the area where my daughter lives. Before I left home I called to see if I could see her and the two grandchildren. Her last words were: "You'll never see the grandchildren!" I told her when I would be there but I did not plan to call her again.

On the last day before leaving to visit another of my children, my daughter called and said that she wanted to see me. We met that evening with her husband. They treated me to dinner and we talked about some of the happy

times we had had on vacations. It was as though nothing had ever happened. All smiles!

My daughter was the person I remembered but had not seen for 18 years. I had missed her graduation from college, her marriage, and the birth of two grandchildren. My son-in-law was cordial and talkative.

I wonder what brought about my daughter's decision to see me. Her husband has just lost his mother to cancer. Could that have been a factor? Time will tell if I ever get to see her children and whether this relationship will keep on improving.

All this took place after I had just about convinced myself that I would never see my daughter again because of my poor health. Prayers do sometimes work.

An overwhelmed and happy Dad



### Email Note

#### From One FMSF Friend to Another

Today, at a child psychiatry conference, I heard a presentation by Dr. Charles Scott, on the faculty at UC Davis, an expert in forensic interviewing in child sexual abuse. He presented information from the McMartin Day Care Center investigation and material from the Fells Acre Day Care Center case as examples of how an investigation can go off track. He also presented the research on the reliability of various child interviewing practices and how they can be led astray.

His talk was well received and accepted by the group. I thought to myself how it has taken twenty years to get to this point. I thought how the FMS Foundation had been a part of the effort to restore sanity during this time. I further thought about how fortunate we personally were to have worked out the issues with our daughter, and of those who have suffered so greatly, in prison, families fractured, careers destroyed, who had been caught up in the storm.

I thought of you and wanted to share my thoughts.

S.W., M.D.



### False Memory Is Destroying Our Hope

Despite my wife's optimism, I think that life has moved down the road too far for relationship repair, even if the principals desired it. It's one of those un-ringing the bell sorts of situations; too much damage left untended for too long for trust to stand a chance anymore. There are grandchildren in the equation now, so we hear, and it might be that these persons will eventually try to check us out, a possibility rife with screenplays which I have no wish to imagine. We'll deal with what comes up when it comes up if it comes up.

Our original longing for fixing things has quite vanished, and it seems to me that any latter-day moves into some kind of rapprochement will be more trouble than they are worth. How much responsibility might modify that view in the face of a sea change is moot.

Re-writing history in the posture of "what if" and "if only" seems a waste of time, but we are still moved, almost daily, into a speculative state. This is because there is such a mystery at the core of the situation, that it compels speculation, although we have long-understood that such pondering gets us nowhere except into deeper melancholy. I have to pull back all the time from assumptions about other persons' roles in what may have transpired, but it's tough to resist and tempting to do. Assumptions are always thin-ice on which to try to understand things. I don't know if they are ALWAYS wrong, but they are always part wrong in my case.

So, we are left with a conundrum, and little motivation to address it in real time. It would be pleasant to think that the "truth will out," and that "jus-

tice will prevail," whatever the terms of those chestnuts might be, but the longer I live, the less I believe in such notions.

Still, there seems to be something writing the screenplay of life that is not me, and that is characterized by synchronicity and serendipity to a remarkable (and inexplicable) degree, so I am chary of slamming the door shut on possibility. Life is a cliff-hanger by nature.

I suppose you have as much trouble as I do equating the persons you perceived your daughters to be with the mendacious and destructive acts they have committed. Maybe they will some day explain themselves, but don't give up your day job, to mix a metaphor.

As Gerald and Sara Murphy said, "Living well is the best revenge." That ought to be taken with a dollop of caution, if one knows much about the Murphys, since they said this motto when they were in clover of every kind, and their lives became hell afterward. I wish somebody would write a good screenplay about these people. I wish I could do it. They were the ones who made the Riviera fashionable in the 20s and had all the Paris luminaries (Hemingway, Picasso, etc., etc.) hanging out at their villa at Cap d'Antibes, where the most roiling sorts of embroglios were going on constantly, except with the Murphys themselves, who were a sort of calm center with the Lost Generation whirling around it. If only they knew that all generations are lost. This is the psychic landscape we have to live with in the post-existential world.

I keep on making sculptures out of a combined necessity and force of habit. The burning idealism I had as an undergraduate has long-since waned, and my expectations for the redemptive possibilities of Art are inundated by the prosaic and banal nature of public sensibilities in the cyber-generation. I hold to the aesthetic values of the

cave painters of the Neolithic, trying to stay in line with them as a latter-day representative of whatever it was they were up to. Why not? The alternative is to join the contemporary mummies' parade of brainless non-sequitur which can only lead nowhere. In this regard, I was lucky enough to get a civic commission here in Flagstaff last year to sculpt a life-size mountain lion which has been reproduced in an edition for purposes of youth outreach. It was a poor pay-day, but I get to keep the original welded steel cat, which I have hopes of placing at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum next year. If I live that long.

Life has always been a precarious proposition, but the longer we stay at it, and the more consciously, the more fragile and vanishingly temporary it appears to be. This is a salubrious mental state to inhabit, and we'd all be better off if the exquisitely shimmering transcendence of our ultimate reality were to assert itself on our perceptions far earlier in life. This is particularly true of irresponsible twerps.

I must now be practical, I suppose, so I'll sign off, and check in with you in another decade? It will be miraculous if we both manage to survive so long as that.

Dion Wright



### **Did You Know About Introjects?**

Introjects are alters, created during a traumatic incident just as any other alter. "Introjects typically truly believe they are separate people, but they are, in fact, part of the DID system."

Many controlling abusers and organized perpetrators will create these introjects of themselves on purpose as a way to maintain control and dominance over the survivor-victim even while the survivor is away from the perpetrator."

Retrieved on 1/27/11 from <http://discussingdissociation.wordpress.com/2009/05/08/introjects—what-are-introjects/>

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

Paul McHugh, M.D.

### **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

Checks payable to FMS Foundation

## Web Sites of Interest

[www.seweb.uci.edu/faculty/loftus/](http://www.seweb.uci.edu/faculty/loftus/)  
Elizabeth Loftus

[www.theisticsatanism.com/asp/](http://www.theisticsatanism.com/asp/)  
Against Satanic Panics

[comp.uark.edu/~lampinen/lab.html](http://comp.uark.edu/~lampinen/lab.html)  
The Lampinen Lab False Memory Reading Group,  
University of Arkansas

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/memory/>  
The Exploratorium Memory Exhibit  
[theretractor.angelfire.com/](http://theretractor.angelfire.com/)  
Site for retractors run by Laura Pasley

[www.process.org/](http://www.process.org/)  
Site of Investigative Journalist

[www.psyfmfrance.fr](http://www.psyfmfrance.fr)  
and

[www.afsifrance.org](http://www.afsifrance.org)  
French False Memory Groups

[www.psychoheresy-aware.org/ministry.html](http://www.psychoheresy-aware.org/ministry.html)

The Bobgans question Christian counseling

<http://www.IllinoisFMS.org>  
Illinois-Wisconsin FMS Society

[www.ltech.net/OHIOarmhp](http://www.ltech.net/OHIOarmhp)  
Ohio Group

[recoveredmemorytherapy.blogspot.com](http://recoveredmemorytherapy.blogspot.com)  
Matt Stone's updates on Australia FMS

<http://www.bfms.org.uk>  
British False Memory Society

[www.religioustolerance.org/sra.htm](http://www.religioustolerance.org/sra.htm)  
Information about Satanic Ritual Abuse

[www.angryparents.net](http://www.angryparents.net)  
Parents Against Cruel Therapy

[www.peterellis.org.nz](http://www.peterellis.org.nz)

Site run by Brian Robinson contains information  
about Christchurch Creche and other cases.

[www.falseallegation.org](http://www.falseallegation.org)  
National Child Abuse  
Defense & Resource Center

[www.markpendergrast.com](http://www.markpendergrast.com)  
Excerpts from *Victims of Memory*

[www.rickross.com/groups/fsm.html](http://www.rickross.com/groups/fsm.html)  
Ross Institute

[www.enigma.se/info/FFI.htm](http://www.enigma.se/info/FFI.htm)  
FMS in Scandinavia - Janet Hagbom

[www.ncrj.org/](http://www.ncrj.org/)

National Center for Reason & Justice

[www.traumaversterking.nl](http://www.traumaversterking.nl)

English language web site of Dutch retractor.

[www.quackwatch.org](http://www.quackwatch.org)

This site is run by Stephen Barrett, M.D.

[www.stopbadtherapy.com](http://www.stopbadtherapy.com)

Contains information about filing complaints.

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The FMSF Newsletter will be published 4 times in 2011 by the False Memory Syndrome Foundation. The newsletter is delivered electronically and it is also available on the FMSF website: www.FMSFonline.org Those without access to the Internet should contact the Foundation.

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