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prove some minimum adaptation to the culture of their new home country (mainly some knowledge of German). After 15 years of residence, according to a new Federal Aliens Law in force since January, 1991, they even have a legal right to German citizenship. They have that right even if, for example, they have a criminal record not exceeding half a year of prison.

They are required, though, to give up their former citizenship if this is possible. So, in legal terms, guest workers in Germany are definitely not — as you state — "second-class citizens as in Saudi Arabia or Kuwait."

WALTER LEUCHS  
Deputy Consul General  
of Germany, Toronto

### A shameful payoff

The \$100,000 "compensation" payoff the Mulroney government recently awarded Linda Macdonald and about 80 other survivors of psychiatrist Ewen Cameron's brainwashing experiments seriously insults and grossly undervalues their incredible pain, suffering, losses and permanent disabilities (Brainwash victims to get compensation, Nov. 18). Although no amount of money can make up for their brain damage and ruined careers directly resulting from these "treatments," the \$100,000 figure is a shameful payoff, and I hope some survivors will appeal.

DON WEITZ  
Toronto

THE STAR  
DEC. 2/91

### Racism worrisome all over Europe

The Star's review of the ripple effect of the racist assaults that are paralyzing Germany included references to Hungary, Poland and Spain, where such assaults have been relatively few (Germany is torn by refugee crisis, Nov. 21).

Inexplicably, no mention was made of the much more worrisome and frequent manifestations of the same problem elsewhere in Europe. In the Czech lands, the killings of 10 Gypsies are attributed to skinhead attacks. In Britain, the home office has recorded about 8,000 racially motivated attacks annually and a committee of European MPs last year put the figure at about 70,000.

Even in once tranquil Denmark, incidents of random racially motivated violence occur regularly. Countries which once did not have sizable ethnic minorities in their midst are striking back with a vengeance now that they do.

LUDWIKA SAS-KORCZYNSKI, Toronto

### Inane picture

Re the Nov. 25 picture of Winnipeg quarterback Matt Dunigan striking "a dangerous pose with linebacker James West's sunglasses." How can you possibly reconcile this silly picture to the otherwise sensible daily paper aura created by The Star? This photo did not belong on the front page. It was inane and totally out of place.

BILL KELLY  
Milton

### Immigration system not corrupt

According to Sister Mary Jo Leddy (A door half open or half closed? Opinions page, Nov. 24), just about everyone from lawyers to judges to translators is aligned against the refugee claimant.

One wonders how it is that over 50 per cent of those claimants are found to be refugees and allowed to stay in Canada. Of course, it may be that Sister Mary Jo believes that every single person who claims refugee status is a genuine refugee. That would be as naive as believing that none is genuine.

According to Sister Mary Jo, the immigration officers at "removals and control" (whatever that is, we have no such organization) have been told that "these refugees are 'frauds' and 'cheats.'" Come now, not even the most vociferous of our critics have ever said that. Certainly our staff has never been told that.

In the first place, the people to whom she refers are not refugees, they are people who claimed refugee status, and were found not to meet the United Nations criteria for refugee status.

The same refugee board mem-

bers and judges who find over half the claimants to be refugees find others not to be refugees.

Is the door half open or half closed? Does it matter? The door opens and closes on the hinges of Canadian and international law. Ours is not a perfect system but it is not the corrupt system described by Sister Mary Jo.

ROBERT LAND  
Director General, Immigration  
Ontario Region  
Willowdale

### Has refugee board gone quite bonkers?

So a convicted Palestinian terrorist is closer to winning refugee status in Canada (Nov. 26). Has our Immigration and Refugee Board gone quite bonkers? I wonder how it would handle my suggested refugee applicants?

□ Adolf Hitler: "I had absolutely nothing to do with the Holocaust. My twin brother Ludwig, was responsible. Check with my minister of propaganda, Dr. Joseph Goebbels."

□ Czar Ivan the Terrible: "No, no, my nickname is 'Ivan the Terri-fied,' as I am an abused husband. Yes, I did kill my son and heir, but I told him not to be late

### Wrong impression may have been given

Re the Nov. 9 article Bishops urge Ottawa to ban replacement workers in strikes. I am unable to recall the sequence of questioning by your interviewer on the telephone, but I did not intend to leave the impression that the bishops' letter was held back because of the "intense debate" in Ontario and British Columbia over labor law reform proposals. The letter was held back as a result of the events in Yellowknife, for obvious reasons.

Bishop J. FABER  
MACDONALD  
Grand Falls, Nfld.  
Co-Chairman, Human Rights  
Canadian Conference  
of Catholic Bishops

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RD K. TAYLOR

Please address contributions to Letters to the Editor, One Yonge St. Toronto, Ont., M5E 1E6.

**TORSTAR**  
Office of the Chief Executive  
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DAVID A. GALLOWAY

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Ext-Cameron  
TORONTO STAR - Nov 18/92

# Brainwash victims to get compensation

By Stephen Bindman  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

OTTAWA — The federal government has finally agreed to compensate unwitting victims of government-funded brainwashing experiments in the 1960s.

Justice Minister Kim Campbell announced yesterday the former patients of the late Dr. Ewen Cameron at McGill University's Allan Memorial Institute in Montreal will each be eligible for \$100,000 compensation.

Although Ottawa still does not admit legal responsibility for the experiments, Campbell said the victims deserve financial assistance on compassionate and humanitarian grounds.

"In recognizing the plight of these people, I believe that this financial assistance responds in a way that expresses the fairness and compassion Canadians expect from their government," Campbell said in a statement.

Linda Macdonald is a 55-year-old Vancouver woman who lost all memory of the first 26 years

of her life as a result of the experimental treatment called "depatterning." She said she's glad the compensation fight is over.

"It took too long," said Macdonald, who launched a lawsuit against Ottawa in 1990 but has been in lengthy discussions with Campbell's department about an out-of-court settlement.

"I accept the government's symbolic apology through compensation, but no amount of money can compensate me for the loss of memory of the first 26 years of my life and the enormous difficulties my family and I have suffered subsequently."

Macdonald received over 100 electroshock treatments, was fed massive amounts of powerful drugs and was put in a drug-induced sleep for at least 86 days after she was admitted to the hospital in 1963 at age 25 for fatigue and depression following the birth of her fifth child.

Macdonald, who was speaking from Los Angeles where she is discussing a film on her life,

was also subject to intensive "psychic driving" — forced to listen to a continuous repetition of words and phrases intended to alter her mind.

A classically trained singer who had won national competitions, she couldn't read or write when she was released after six months, had to be toilet trained and didn't recognize her husband or young children.

Cameron's experiments were originally secretly funded by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency through an organization called the Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology as part of top-secret research into brainwashing. Later, when Macdonald was a patient, Cameron received \$70,000 from the Canadian health department.

In 1989, nine Canadians who were unwitting guinea pigs of Cameron's mind-altering experiments, reached \$100,000 out-of-court settlements with the CIA. Macdonald was unable to collect because the CIA had cut off funding by the time of her treatment.



EWEN CAMERON: He performed the experiments in the 1960s.

Although the government paid \$20,000 toward legal fees for each of the nine Canadians who took the CIA to court, until yesterday it steadfastly refused further compensation.

A justice department official said at least 80 patients were subject to the treatment and between 20 and 25 people have launched lawsuits or sought compensation.

Macdonald's lawyer, Tom Berger, praised her for her "spirit and courage in standing up to a government which has repeatedly refused to acknowledge wrongdoing." SOUTHAM NEWS

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Stories ask  
Canadians  
to decide  
on policies

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# St Clair

the paint and paper people

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the paint and paper people

**SAVE 50%**

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File: 201-113  
Cameron

# Cameron's treatment best available at the time

DR. JOHN M. ELDER

I would like to oppose your editorial "After the Sleep Room" (*Gazette*, Jan. 23) and present another viewpoint on the late Dr. Ewen Cameron's psychiatric research activities - some CIA-funded - at the Allan Memorial Institute.

As a medical student at McGill from 1948 to 1951, and later as intern and resident in the McGill teaching hospitals with Dr. Cameron for a number of years,

A recent book describes Winston Churchill as "a warmongering megalomaniac... whose policy led to the collapse of the British Empire." *The Gazette* seems to feel much the same way about Dr. Cameron although I doubt that any of your staff members met him. He has unfortunately been dead for many years and cannot speak for himself. It is unfair for *The Gazette* to use the "medical correctness" of today to con-

## DIALOGUE

A column of commentary and opinion open to readers.

dern a research project of almost 40 years ago, which seemed hopeful at the time but was overtaken by major advances in drug therapy for harrowing conditions.

During his lifetime, Dr. Cameron was one of the world's foremost researchers in psychotic and severe psychoneurotic illnesses. Students came from all over the world, considering themselves fortunate to be under his guidance. I would suspect that only one applicant in 10 was accepted for a resident position.

There were no psychotropic drugs beyond anti-convulsants and barbiturates available at that time. The only recourse was permanent, complete sedation and/or incarceration in one form or another. Psychoanalysis, popular at the time, had rarely proved effective with

psychotic or aggressive acting-out patients.

Insulin shock therapy and electroshock therapy were used widely and held in high esteem. It was before such books and movies as *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

Dr. Cameron and the Allan were used by many physicians and psychiatrists, as well as authorized next of kin of the treated patients, as a last resort. He always explained that he was pushing the electroshock therapy into new frontiers, but what else was there to do, and yes, certainly there were risks attached to it.

The funding for research in those days was very much a private affair and only very partially supported by government. Moreover, the CIA was then considered to be a gallant organization that had helped win the war.

I have never seen evidence anywhere that Dr. Cameron's research activity was dictated by the CIA. Certainly the results would have been interesting and, indeed, useful to them. At the time, we

would have said "Cheers" for any help the CIA could get. But the work, usually supported by the piteous pleading of the protocol to try to help otherwise untreatable people.

Now with a vast arsenal of chemical medications which have been much more successful, shock therapies are rarely used. They have largely been consigned to a huge reservoir of medical acts which includes the use of leeches for bloodletting and massive purgatives of the digestive tract for all manner of ailments.

Medical wisdom goes through cycles. For example, the Victorian gentry avoided sunburn. That attitude was scoffed at during the middle of this century only to become an article of faith in the 1990s. Who knows? Maybe some of Dr. Cameron's work and ideas will be reinstated, modified, of course by the times, and perhaps directed at different needs and in different ways.

Dr. Elder is a Montreal pediatrician.

MONTREAL GAZETTE - FEB 8, 1993

COMMUNICATIONS

2/8/93

Shuzhijia

**C**HRISTMAS 1988, I left London and went home to a family wedding. My youngest brother greeted me with a grim story. He had been seeing a psychologist in Vancouver, trying to sort out his childhood memories. In the mid-fifties, our mother had been diagnosed schizophrenic, and while as children we had not noticed anything out of the ordinary in her behaviour, we had always suspected and feared what she might be capable of. We had, at the same time, worried that madness lay secretly in us. Throughout my early adulthood, I too had seen one therapist or another for the most minor of complaints, always terrified that I was, mysteriously, about to erupt.

All through the mid-eighties, Canadian newspapers had been reporting the progress of a law suit in progress in Washington DC. Our mother's psychiatrist, Dr Ewen Cameron, a Scots-born American, had been found to be in the pay of the CIA, experimenting with mind-control techniques in a project called, melodramatically, MKUltra, sub-project 68. The law suit against the CIA had been launched by nine of Cameron's former patients.

These patients claimed that, under directives from the CIA, he had misdiagnosed and critically over-treated their minor psychiatric complaints. At no time before or during their treatment had these patients consented to be used as clinical subjects. The results of his experiments, the plaintiffs claimed, had been lifetimes of pain, disability, memory loss, financial bankruptcy and ruined family lives.

I had known about our family's connection with this story for some time and had ignored it. Our mother was mostly healthy and strong; more than that, she was witty and talented. But in 1954, she had suffered severe postnatal depression, which at the time was often misunderstood and mistreated. When we were very young, my brothers and I both romanticised this hospitalisation and also feared terribly that we might lose her again — for ever.

In the stifling social environment of upper-middle class Canada, she was considered flawed, even dangerous, by some, and so were we. But she had recovered and had not needed hospitalisation again, although she often turned to her psychiatrist, Dr Cameron, for advice. She guardedly reports, even to this day, a mostly supportive, warm friendship. This was not the case for hundreds of others.

Cameron had not believed in "talk therapy". He believed that science could provide a short cut to a cure for any psychiatric malaise and, above all else, he passionately wished to find a cure for the mystery of schizophrenia.

After admission, the patient was treated by massive amounts of

electroshock therapy, coupled with drugs such as LSD and PCP, as well as others which, it was eventually revealed, Cameron was testing for the CIA. The process, which was designed to reduce the patient to an infantile state, unaware of identity, time or space, was called "depatterning". It was followed by a procedure called "psychic driving". The patient was drugged into a half sleep. A football helmet was placed on her head. Fitted into the helmet was a tape recorder which, on a continuous loop, played a "driving" message, for up to 20 hours a day, three weeks at a time. The messages were negative for the first two weeks and often cut from taped interviews with the patient. After that, the negative message was

highway late at night, while my brother crouched at my ear from the rear seat, smoking cigarettes so furiously that the windows fogged. A friend drove, her eyes wide. It was cold, the trees were laced with snow and my heart was pounding. The possibility that something so completely evil could have reached into our lives and destroyed my mother's sanity frightened me so badly, I could barely listen to the details. Tom's fears that he was possibly ill because of this family history was the worst thing of all.

Bruce, my older brother, visiting from Tokyo, was equally horrified but pointed out that, compared with others, our family had been relatively undamaged. Our mother coolly refused to discuss either the

experiments or her experience with Cameron. Her life was just fine, she told us. She had not been affected and she didn't want to talk about it.

Despite some confusion, with effort, I set my fear aside and returned to work in London at Life Magazine. My assignments were involving and fascinating. Yet despite the exhilaration, each of these assignments sent me to my bed, exhausted and aching, miserable beyond reason.

So I started researching. There had been much good non-fiction published about the Montreal experiments and about the entire MKUltra programme, which went far beyond what had happened in Montreal. But, somehow, very few people were aware of what had happened, particularly outside Canada. It seemed no one cared.

I sifted through the evidence of my childhood, measuring my memories against the suffering reported by the plaintiffs in the Washington case. I compared the dates and investigated when, exactly, the LSD treatments had begun, when Ewen Cameron had started depatterning people suffering from the rigours of

alcoholism and the anxiety of menopause and postnatal depression. I recognised that my mother could not have suffered the full range of treatments, because her memory was intact and her physical health almost continuously strong. Her one admission had taken place three years before the CIA financing had begun, before Cameron's brilliance had turned destructive.

But the horror of what had taken place, and the extraordinary suffering with which so many had been forced to live for decades, stayed with me.

The Monkey-Puzzle Tree by Elizabeth Nickson is published by Bloomsbury on October 6 at £15.99.



ILLUSTRATION: IVAN ALLEN THE INKSHED

**'Dr Cameron believed that he could first wipe a mind clean and then rebuild it'**

replaced by a positive one. At the end of psychic driving, the patient was put into a full sleep for two weeks, with the purpose of inducing amnesia of the entire process.

Dr Cameron believed that with this procedure, he could first wipe a mind clean and then rebuild it with more constructive elements. It was a theory that the CIA, in the full battle cry of the Cold War, was interested in pursuing, in the lingo of the time, to the "terminal point", or death. In Ewen Cameron, the Agency had found a doctor willing to pursue the experiments as far as necessary. Most importantly, Cameron's hospital was in Canada. The experimental subjects were not American citizens.

I remember driving along a snowy

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*Cameron*