

# Dr. L. Jolyon West: the LSD cult behind the Cult Awareness Network

by an EIR Investigative Team

The sixties are back! Teens in suburbia are corroding their brain cells with LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide), taking trips into psychosis. *EIR* has learned that the same people who made the LSD culture possible 20 years ago are now leading activists in the Cult Awareness Network.

The *Washington Post* on Aug. 21 reported an increase in LSD use among white, middle-class suburban teens, describing an LSD party which was attended by a *Post* reporter, who was allowed in on the condition that the teenagers would only be identified by their first initials. Reporter Laura Blumenfeld calls these teens the “golden children,” “90s-60s hybrids,” and romanticizes the return to the psychedelic heyday of the 1960s. The spaced-out children say they can see God, and see roses bloom and dance before their very eyes, Blumenfeld reports.

LSD and other hallucinogens made their grand entrance into American society through the CIA and military intelligence’s vast brainwashing research experiments run during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, known as MK-Ultra. Volunteers and unwitting citizens were administered LSD, mescaline, psilocybin, amphetamines, and a host of other psychotropic drugs, while neuropharmacological researchers studied the drugs’ effects under various conditions. New varieties of eastern and ancient pagan religions were spawned from the “mystical insights” achieved under LSD; satanic and violent groups like the Process Church and the Charles Manson cult grew out of LSD experimentation.

Some of the leading psychiatrists, behaviorists, and social controllers who led these MK-Ultra experiments now lead the Cult Awareness Network. CAN is a political vigilante group ostensibly set up to expose cults, but in fact its controllers include individuals who created the counterculture in the first place, including irrational cults. Through a sinister mind control and social engineering process, these mind-benders became the architects of the destruction of family life and traditional American values, the purveyors of the “New Age.” Cults were created as a political targeting operation, and CAN also stepped in to “expose” as “cults” groups which they wished to destroy politically.

The most prominent target of this hate group, along with its fellow travelers at the Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith (ADL), is political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche, whose 20-year fight against the drug-sex-rock counterculture has

aroused the ire of the dope lobby. CAN spends so much time and money attacking LaRouche and his associates, because its leading personalities helped *create* the drug-rock culture in the first place.

## The Nazi doctors

The Cult Awareness Network bestowed its highest honor, the Leo J. Ryan award, on Dr. Louis Jolyon West in 1989, for “extraordinary courage, tenacity and perseverance in the battle against tyranny over the mind of man,” yet West’s entire career has been to manipulate and destroy minds. West is an advisory board member of the American Family Foundation, the mother organization of CAN, and he lectures frequently to CAN conferences. He is held in reverence by CAN supporters and members—and he was a pioneer in the creation of the drug culture.

CAN cannot plead ignorance as to who West is. As early as 1977, Dr. West was exposed on the front page of the *New York Times* as being funded by the CIA to perform LSD experiments as part of the MK-Ultra project. In his book *In Search for the Manchurian Candidate*, John Marks also fingered West as being among the pioneers of LSD and mind-control experiments funded by the CIA. CAN’s decision to honor West exposes the true nature of the organization.

West got his start in psycho-behaviorist research experiments with the pool of returning Korean War veterans, many traumatized by combat. As the Air Force chief of psychiatry at Lackland Air Force Base from 1952-56, West put these veterans, among them former prisoners of war, under intense study like so many white mice. He published several papers detailing his studies of Air Force POWs and presented an overview of his work in 1957 entitled, “U.S. Air Force Prisoners of the Chinese Communist Methods of Forceful Indoctrination: Observations and Interviews.”

Dr. West moved to the University of Oklahoma armed with information about Chinese indoctrination methods and began to set up hideous sleep and sensory deprivation studies. From 1956 to 1969, he conducted his research in Oklahoma. As head of the Department of Psychiatry, Neurology, and Behavioral Sciences, he oversaw numerous studies of the effects of hallucinogenic drugs under various conditions of stress, as well as studies of teenage gangs and violence. He continued to work on war-weary veterans at the Oklahoma

City Veterans Administration Hospital and the Tinker Air Force Base Hospital.

To further his studies on LSD, he collaborated with Aldous Huxley, the British pioneer promoter of LSD and satanism. Huxley praised West in a 1957 letter to Dr. Humphrey Osmond, the man who coined the phrase “psychedelic” (later changed it to psychedelic to take away any connotation of madness). Huxley wrote: “Dr. L.J. West, of the Medical School of University of Oklahoma, was here a few weeks ago—an extremely able young man, I think. His findings are that mescalinated subjects are almost un hypnotizable. I suggested to him that he should hypnotize his people before they took LSD.”

In 1961, Dr. Osmond wrote to Huxley that West had one of the best equipped sensory deprivation centers in the United States. In 1962, West shocked Oklahoma residents by killing a 7,000-pound elephant, in an experiment testing the potency of LSD.

## Group manipulation

Trained in Group Dynamics at the British Tavistock Institute, the “mother” agency for most of the postwar Anglo-American intelligence and “dirty tricks” apparatus, West became an expert in small group manipulation. Tavistock’s Group Dynamics taught how “thought control” could be very successful in small group “encounter” or “therapy” sessions; entire groups could be manipulated by correctly directing tensions within the group. West coupled his expertise in group behavior with his knowledge of the effects of hallucinogenic drugs. He studied the behavior of drug-ingesting hippies in isolated communes.

As a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University (1966-69), West gained access to the large population of flower children, runaways, and hippies that was flooding into California. West was running his LSD/group dynamic studies in California during the early days of what he termed a “cultural transition.” West said that in the early days of the cultural transition, LSD symbolized “entering a new way of life and casting off the old.” West did “field work” in the Haight-Ashbury district of Berkeley.

West studied the use of drugs for controlling group behavior and said that drugs can be used “as adjuncts to interpersonal manipulation or assault.” He also saw their usefulness in other controlling ways. “The role of drugs in the exercise of internal political control is also coming under increasing discussion. Control can be imposed either through prohibition or supply. The total or partial prohibition of drugs gives government considerable power. . . . An example would be the selective application of drug laws permitting immediate search, or ‘no knock’ entry, against selected components of the population, such as members of certain minority groups or political organizations.”

But, West continues, “government could also supply

drugs to help control a population. This method, foreseen by Aldous Huxley in *Brave New World* (1932), has the governing element employing drugs selectively to manipulate the governed in various ways.”

## Studies of violence

If drugs did not prove an effective method of controlling behavior and ensuring controlled political activity, West resorted to other methods. He moved to the University of California at Los Angeles to head the Neuro-Psychiatric Institute in 1969, where he took his isolation and sensory deprivation studies one step further. He proposed in 1973 the establishment of a multidisciplinary Center for the Study and Reduction of Violence. Among the programs planned were genetic, biochemical, and neurophysiological studies of violent individuals, including prisoners and “hyperkinetic” children. Treatments considered were chemical castration and psychosurgery. West described the program as an attempt to “predict the probability of occurrences” of violent behavior among specific groups. The group described by West as most prone to violence was young, black urban males. The purpose of his proposed Violence Center was to use the “treatment models” developed in California prison facilities during the CIA’s brainwashing research programs of the 1960s and 1970s, to treat “pre-delinquent” children before they became a “problem” to society.

Among those West recruited for his proposed Violence Center was Dr. Frank R. Ervin of the Harvard Medical School. Ervin had already become notorious through his racist book *Violence and the Brain*, which proposed psychosurgery. Ervin professed concern about urban riots and violence, asking whether there was something intrinsically violent about the “slum dweller,” and proposed treatment with drugs and psychosurgery.

Although West’s Violence Center was never approved, he continued to receive millions of dollars in research funding for the Neuro-Psychiatric Institute. Studies of gangs, alcohol and drug abuse continued.

West was a pioneer in bringing psychiatry into the evaluation of criminal behavior and using such psychiatric expertise as testimony in criminal trials. He was an “expert witness” for several court cases, including the Patty Hearst kidnaping case and the case of Jack Ruby. His job was to perpetrate the myth of the deranged individual or “lone assassin,” and cover up the political nature of these cases.

Although a jury thought the evidence was insufficient to find Ruby either insane or suffering from brain damage, West interviewed Ruby after the guilty verdict and found Ruby in a paranoid state suffering from hallucinations and suicidal tendencies. West asserted that Ruby was truly mentally ill, because he rejected West’s repeated suggestions that he was. “The true malingerer usually grasps eagerly at such an explanation,” West concluded. Since Ruby claimed to be sane, he obviously was not!