

As to the reality of psychological suffering, I made my views clear at the outset of the paper, in the third paragraph: "... Nor does raising such questions deny the existence of the personal anguish that is often associated with 'mental illness.' Anxiety and depression exist. Psychological suffering exists. But normality and abnormality, sanity and insanity, and the diagnoses that flow from them may be less substantive than many believe them to be." Let me be perfectly clear about this: To say that psychological suffering is a myth is to engage in massive denial. But to imply, as Wiedeman does, that psychological labeling does not itself create suffering is to similarly engage in denial.

Some assert that the appearance of this paper can only hurt psychiatry. The possibility that it might help psychiatry, that sensitization to issues in diagnoses and treatment might lead to beneficial change, seems not to arise. For the record, let me make clear that the theory that underlies this effort, and the report itself, do not support the vilification of psychiatric care. Psychiatry may be less knowledgeable than it believes itself to be but that is hardly surprising when one considers the magnitude of the problems which it must address. In the closing paragraph, I wrote, "It could be a mistake, and a very unfortunate one, to consider that what happened to us derived from malice or stupidity on the part of the staff. Quite the contrary, our overwhelming impression of them was of people who really cared, who were committed, and who were uncommonly intelligent. Where they failed, as they sometimes did painfully, it would be more accurate to attribute those failures to the environment in which they, too, found themselves. . . . Their perceptions and behavior were controlled by the situation. . . . In a more benign environment . . . their behaviors and judgment might have been more benign and effective."

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References

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other name . . . : Clinician group difference in labeling bias" (unpublished manuscript, Yale University).

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Communication among Scientists

The article by Griffith and Mullins, "Coherent social groups in scientific change" (15 Sept. 1972, p. 959) is complementary to a research project we are currently conducting. Communication among scientists should be of vital concern to all of us, as scientific endeavor is inextricably intertwined with the flow of information through the scientific community. We are specifically interested in the process by which "revolutionary" theories, data, and methods become known to researchers, and the factors influencing the impact of these new perspectives and information on the people concerned.

We are seeking communications from scientists who feel that they have been denied a platform for the expression of new ideas, or of valid but controversial data. All communications will be handled in a professional manner.

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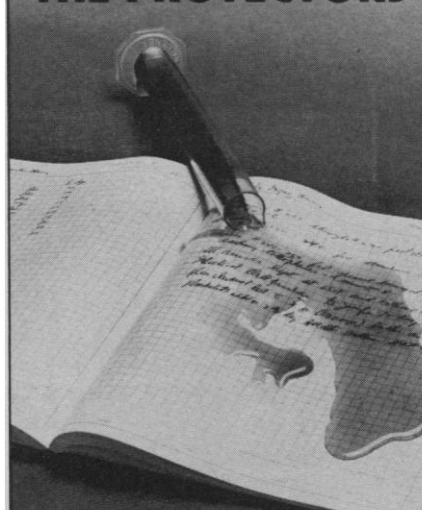
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Inexhaustible Energy

In his letter to *Science* of 2 March (p. 856) Alvin M. Weinberg asserts that "an inexhaustible energy source is a necessary—not a sufficient—condition for mankind's ultimate survival." This confuses the needs of mankind with the needs of an industrial system that is devoted to the endless increase of color television sets and aluminum beer cans.

Mankind managed to survive numerous millennia before the advent of energy-hungry industry. The continued survival (in reasonable comfort) of the human race entails conditions such as adequate food, sanitation, medical facilities, and effective contraception—none of which requires heavy industry

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