

experimenter Abbé Alberto Fortis observed in a letter chiding Spallanzani for his closed-minded stance on dowsing, '...derision will never help in the development of true knowledge.' (Becker, 1985, p. 331) Derision is a favorite CSICOPian pastime. See Dossey (1998b, 2000) Roy, (2000) and Hansen (1992).

"In the past, these character flaws couldn't wholly prevent the recognition of scientific truths. Both sides of a controversy would fight with equal vehemence, and the one with better evidence would usually win sooner or later. In the last four decades [since 1945], however, changes in the structure of scientific institutions have produced a situation so heavily weighted in favor of the establishment that it impedes progress in health care and prevents truly new ideas from getting a fair hearing in almost all circumstances. The present system is in effect a dogmatic religion with a self-perpetuating priesthood dedicated only to preserving the current orthodoxies. The system rewards the sycophant and punishes the visionary to a degree unparalleled in the four-hundred-year history of modern science." (Becker and Selden)

"This situation has come about because research is now so expensive that only governments and multinational corporations can pay for it. [As I mention later, what is good about research in the field of Energy Psych is that it does not require this huge infrastructure.] "One of the features of small science...is that it...can be done in the home. With the information provided, you will be able to check our small science findings for yourself and not need to rely on 'experts' to pass the truth down to you. This possibility, that allows the average person to check claims for himself, is an important milestone for consumer protection." (see Callahan, 1992, pp. 1-2)] The funds are dispensed by agencies staffed and run by bureaucrats who aren't scientists themselves. As this system developed after World War II, the question naturally arose as to how these scientifically ignorant officials were to choose among competing grant applications. The logical solution was to set up panels of scientists to evaluate requests in their fields and then advise the bureaucrats." (Becker and Selden)

"This method is based on the naive assumption that scientists really *are* more impartial than other people...In general, projects that propose a search for evidence in support of new ideas aren't funded. Most review committees approve nothing that would challenge the findings their members made when they were struggling young researchers who created the current theories, whereas projects that pander to these elder egos receive lavish support. Eventually, those who play the game become the new members of the peer group, and thus the system perpetuates itself...[M]ost research becomes mere water treading aimed at getting paid rather than finding anything new...[T]he urge to test a hunch, which is the source of all scientific breakthroughs, is systematically excluded [using the 'peer review purity of thought certification' method]." (Becker and Selden) (see Siepmann, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, Smith, 1997)

"There has even been a scientific study documenting how choices made by the peer review system depend almost entirely on whether the experts are sympathetic or hostile to the hypothesis being suggested. True to form, the National Academy of Sciences, which sponsored the investigation, suppressed its results for two years."(underlining added) (Becker and Selden) [The CICOPians did a similar, but worse, act in their "investigation" of Michel Gauquelin's discovery that some of the broad predictions of astrology about careers and the positions of various planets were actually true statistically.(Robert Anton Wilson (1986/1991), pp.45-48]

"If someone does start a heretical project, there are several ways of dealing with the threat...The simplest way to nip a challenge in the bud is to turn off the money or keep reports out of major journals by means of anonymous value judgments from the review committees...[again, the "peer

review purity of thought certification" method]." (Becker and Selden)

"Successful academics are almost always true believers who are happy to curry favor by helping to deny tenure to 'questionable' investigators or by harassing them in a number of ways...As the conflict escalates, the muzzled freethinker often goes directly to the public to spread the pernicious doctrines. At this point the gloves come off....In extreme cases, government agencies staffed and advised by the establishment begin legal harassment, such as the trial and imprisonment that ended the career and life of Wilhelm Reich." (Becker and Selden, 1985, pp. 331-334. [For a vivid accounting of this sad affair see R. A. Wilson, 1986/1990, pp. 3-46 and Dossey, 1998b])

"The scientific enterprise that started in the 1950s with such excitement and promise has grown into a scientific establishment that appears unable to cope with today's problems, except to advocate more and more of the same technology. [What I call the MOTS mode of thinking] The problem is not with science itself but with the fact that science is a human endeavor. Scientists are not always logical seekers of the truth, as they are portrayed in the popular press, but human beings subject to the same failings as the rest of humanity." (Becker and Selden)

"The modern career scientist's business is one in which success is measured by the number of papers published. Maximizing this number leads to greater prestige, more grant funds, larger laboratories, and positions on decision-making committees. Unfortunately, it is much easier to get a paper published if it does not challenge the present orthodoxy. As a result, few career scientists are willing to look at issues that cast doubt on established beliefs...For the most part, science today has lost its most essential aspect-- the spirit of adventure..." (Becker and Selden) [Charles Tart has a website for scientists to "come out of the closet" about their mystical experiences and ideas, The Archives of Scientists' Transcendent Experiences (TASTE) <http://psychology.ucdavis.edu/tart/taste> and many scientists are "coming out" through the International Society for the Study of subtle Energies and Energy Medicine, ISSSEEM, Journal of Theoretics, Journal of Scientific Exploration]

"The paradigm that was in place in 1950 was based on the chemical-mechanistic concept of life...This view was reinforced until it became a dogma, the proponents of which claimed to know everything there was to know about life. This paradigm...ruled the medical profession as well, limiting both the methods that could be used to bring about a cure and our perception of the ability of the human body to heal itself." (Becker and Selden)

"As each technological advance entered medical practice, we found ourselves paying an increasing price of unexpected side effects...Because such unexpected side effects have required additional 'technological fixes,' we now find ourselves in a spiral in which technological applications are piled one atop another, with no end in sight and no cure for the patient...This radical change in medical practice [called energy or vibrational medicine] is deeply rooted in ancient concepts of life, energy, and medicine, and it includes a reaffirmation of the innate healing ability of living things..." (Becker and Selden)

"The chemistry of life has been revealed to be based upon the underlying forces of electricity and magnetism...The phenomenon of life is controlled by the same forces that have shaped the universe. From the beginning, life has been dependent on Earth's natural electromagnetic environment. Today this natural environment is submerged beneath a torrent of electromagnetic fields that have never before been present...[B]oth the human body electric and the Earth's body electric have been damaged by this alteration." (Becker, 1990a, pp. *xii-xiv*) For a fascinating and depressing description of the resistance that Becker experienced in his very exact and rigorous but unorthodox research read his "Postscript: Political Science". (Becker and Selden, 1985, pp. 330-347)

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