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Bruce Ross,
editorial page editor

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June 19, 2006

Comments from all over

Thanks to the miracle of the Internet, a wire story -- say, [the Washington Post story](#) that the Record Searchlight published in Saturday's paper about screening teenagers for the risk of suicide -- can draw comments from the strangest places.

In my inbox this morning I had letters from Concord, N.H.; Sunland, Calif.; Portsmouth, Ohio; Las Vegas, Nev.; Clearwater, Fla.; and Fresno.

Usually, when mail floods in from hither and yon, it's part of an orchestrated online "astroturf" campaign, and there are a few telltale signs of that kind of thing in e-mails. I don't see those clues in these letters.

Maybe people just have very, very strong opinions about psychiatry.

Anyway, we don't normally publish letters from out of our area in the newspaper, but they are shared below the fold for the blog-reading public.

Concord, N.H.

Dear Editor: How could anyone think that taking psychiatric drugs, with or without "talk therapy" would be beneficial? Scientific data reveals that antidepressants cause suicidality in children and adults. And more than 19 warnings have been issued on the dangers of psychiatric drugs since October 2004. Suicides, deaths, violence have been connected with the drugs given to children and teens. An epidemic is occurring: the number of children who have been and are taking lethal drugs as a result of screening, labeling and treatment given by psychiatrists. The teens are given drugs that are in the same class as morphine, opium and cocaine. ("Drug Scheduling", U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration). Psychiatry's treatments are not safe, nor do they cure. But there are proven methods that do help and are safe. Depression is often a symptom of several physical ills, that can be helped by seeing a medical doctor. Lack of proper nutrition can cause teens to go "wild" . Excessive sugar, and no breakfast will do it. Help with this has proven to be effective. Getting real education. Many children have gotten rid of depression with just getting the skills of reading and math. The risk of suicides can be handled so much easier, and with methods that do not kill.


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- N.I.E.**

Sunland, Calif.

You are one of the papers who ran with the UPI release regarding teen suicides and proposed solutions to those problems.

The premise of the UPI release is flawed and you as a responsible journalist should make the correction known to your readers.

There is no "suicide epidemic." Child suicide rates have been declining since the early 1990s.

As long as you continue to spread obvious falsehoods and do not correct them, you will lose readership.

Portsmouth, Ohio.

I have done my own research as a parent and have talked with thousands of parents across the east coast and the verdict is that screening is only about the drugs. TeenScreen will tell you all day that they are only interested in preventing suicide, but the end result is putting those kids they think are at risk of committing the act on psychiatric drugs. Most kids are misdiagnosed or are already on a stimulant like Ritalin or Adderall for ADHD and they have side effects which look like a psychiatric disorder so they may be given another disorder and put on another medication and now we really have some mental problems going on as these side effects are pretty serious, some being permanent, such as tics (Tourette's syndrome). I am very happy to see that the press is taking a second and third look at this science that claims to help people with their mental illnesses because all I saw was people in misery on their drugs.

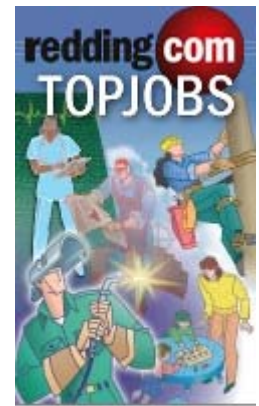
Las Vegas.

RE: "Screening for teen suicide risk debated - More drugs and less privacy cause worry"

Teen Screen's information is misleading and disingenuous at best, and completely dishonest in its intent.

Teen Screen claims that "no child is screened without a parent's permission". What she doesn't admit is that this is a recent change in policy resulting from litigation brought against Teen Screen by the parents of an Indiana minor who was screened without their knowledge or permission. That was due to Teen Screen's previous policy of using "passive consent", a covert attempt to bypass parental authority over their own children. Teen Screen justified such an action because it increased the number of students they could snare in their web. If parents had to actually consent to their kids being screened, why that would drastically reduce the number of target children they could divert toward psychiatric "treatment". Unfortunately for Teen Screen, the Indiana parents chose to stand up for their rights and challenge the legitimacy of Teen Screen's underhanded tactics. Full details on the Federal lawsuit are available here: http://www.psychsearch.net/teenscreen_lawsuit.html

Teen Screen's widely trumpeted "statistics" on suicide and



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mental illness are based solely on "research" funded by pharmaceutical companies, in an attempt to promote the sale of their latest toxic concoctions. What they don't tell us is that a large percentage of adolescent suicides occur with individuals who either had been under, or are currently under the same type of psychiatric "treatment" which TeenScreen attempts to promote - psychiatric drugs. These types of suicides are not isolated incidents, but an all too common result for the victims of psychiatric care. This should be a huge red flag, alerting all to the total failure of Psychiatry as a means of helping those with mental problems.

Teen Screen also fails to tell us that the lengthy list of mental "disorders" for which they wish to screen our children are merely groups of symptoms voted into existence by a cabal of psychiatrists. Based solely upon such pseudo-scientific data, they proclaim a "public health crisis" where none exists. Meanwhile, Teen Screen's attempt to incite mass hysteria by proclaiming a "Suicide Epidemic" is also founded on totally false information. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the suicide rate for all children ages 0 thru 19 between years 1981 and 2002, per 100,000 of the populace in the given age range, is as follows: 1981 - 2.7; rising to a high in 1988 of 3.24. Since then the number has shown a marked decline excepting 1993 and 1994 - 2.96 and 3.00 respectively. In 1997 the rate dropped to 2.69 (below the 1981 numbers) and has continued to plunge ever since, with a 2002 rate of 2.19. Where then is the so-called "epidemic". It exists solely in the minds of those who would profit by screening our kids, falsely labeling them with bogus "disorders" and then drugging them into a stupor, all in the name of greed and corporate profit.

For all of its pervasive propaganda, Psychiatry as a profession remains a complete and utter failure. If this were not a true statement, we would be reading daily accounts of the wonderful and "miraculous" recovery of afflicted persons who are now leading perfectly normal and happy lives as a result of the efficacious treatment received. No such tales of wonder are trumpeted in the daily news. Why not? Because psychiatric care, consisting primarily of prescribing mind-numbing pharmaceutical agents, doesn't work. The FDA has mandated "black box" labels to warn doctors and patients about the potentially lethal side effects (eg. increased risk of suicide) of those very drugs which are supposed to treat such problems.

The sad fact is that we, as a society, are the victims of a huge money-making scam being perpetrated by Psychiatry and Big Pharma, a scam facilitated by the false offers of help trumpeted by Teen Screen and their ilk. Families whose children fall victim to their avaricious plots, and those children who are damaged by these psychotropic medications, or worse yet, die as a result of the very real side effects of same, are simply considered "collateral damage", the cost of doing business.

Fortunately, the internet provides a readily available source for information about almost any subject one wishes to research. It simply requires one to type in a few key words, and then spend the time sifting thru the available data to reach a conclusion. Maintaining an objective point of view, and a willingness to confront a degree of evil usually credited only to comic book villains, will allow the researcher to discover the real truth about this sordid mess.

As a starting point, I strongly encourage your readers to find out the truth for themselves by taking a look at:
< www.psychsearch.net/teenscreen.html >

Clearwater.

Even though your article paints the Teenscreen program in a positive light - the very core of the opposition to this program is contained in the sentence "He had seen a psychiatrist shortly before he committed suicide and was given a prescription for an anti-depressant". This is exactly why informed individuals are opposed to funneling more kids to the drug/psychiatric industry - their "solution", drugs, cause suicide, as at-long-last recognized even by the FDA.

Fresno.

Teen suicides have been on the decline for ten years. Almost 40% of the suicides were on anti-depressants. Now psychiatry is creating the 'impression' that there is an epidemic. Their solution, of course, is to put 90% of them on the very profitable anti-depressants which, by the way, have a side effect of suicide. How could such a dishonest propaganda campaign be allowed you may ask. Follow the money. You can use Google to find out. How much does each 'elected representative' accept in campaign contributions (bribes) from pharmaceutical companies. How many lobbyist's do pharmaceutical companies assign to each 'elected representative'? Can you as a parent compete with that? Then most important find out the propaganda techniques used by psychiatry to manipulate your opinion. Find out all about Sigmund Freud's nephew Edward Bernays 'Here is a quote: Bernays (assistant to William Paley, head of CBS): Those who manipulate the organized habits and opinions of the masses constitute an invisible government which is the true ruling power of our country. . . It is not generally realized to what extent the words and actions of our most influential public men are dictated by shrewd persons operating behind the scenes.

- Edward L. Bernays, PROPAGANDA

To quote the truth from your article seems almost boring compared to the fear being fanned by psychiatry but the truth will set you free of the clutches of the unscrupulas.

"Although the argument that treating mental disorders would reduce suicides is intuitively appealing, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, a federal panel of independent experts, concluded in 2004 that there was insufficient evidence either for or against general physicians screening the public for suicide risk."

I hope I have appealed to the other half of your intuition

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