

# OpEdNews.com



Lucifer's Dictionary  
of the  
American Language



Get Your Free Subscription

Submit  
Content

Table of  
Contents

Rob's Blog



FREE News  
Box

Add RSS  
Headlines

Search

Article  
Archives

Writers  
Archives

## Blogads

Advertise here to dynamic  
progressives

Reach Passionate  
Liberals with your  
Ad

### JOIN MY CLASS ACTION SUIT



Have you been added to an  
[Alltel My Circle](#) without your  
consent?

Join our [class action lawsuit](#) and  
let our [experience](#) help to  
RECOVER YOUR DAMAGES!

[Read More...](#)

### A MUSICAL PRAYER FOR LEBANON

Click to listen:

[A Musical Prayer for Peace and  
Consolation](#)

Compliments of:

[ConcertsForPeace](#)

Please pray for peace and  
justice.

[Read More...](#)

### Flameland



For Flameland, Michael has

Subject(s): [Bush Admin](#), [Corporate Corruption Crime](#), [Drug Companies](#), [Marketing](#), [Drugs Prescription](#), [Health Psychology](#), [Law](#), [Lawsuits](#), [OpEdNews](#), [Political Opportunism GOP](#), [Press Release](#), [Taxpayer Rip-Offs](#)  
Local Area(s): [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [New Zealand](#), [United Kingdom](#), [United Kingdom England](#), [United Kingdom Nc States of America](#), [Washington D.C.](#), [Wisconsin](#)

August 1, 2006 at 07:11:10

## TeenScreen - Normal Kids Labeled Mentally III

by [Evelyn Pringle](#)

<http://www.opednews.com>

Despite years of public outcry, based on recommendations by President Bush's New Commission to screen all school children for mental illness, TeenScreen is now being implemented in the nation's public school system and children are being regularly diagnosed with 100 disorders chosen from the close to 400 listed in the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV" (DSM), also known as the psychiatric "Billing Bible."

The list of mental disorders to choose from when diagnosing children mentally ill with "voted" into the Billing Bible by members of the American Psychiatric Association, and others, conduct disorder, avoidant personality disorder, mathematics disorder, reading disorder of written expression, general anxiety disorder, nightmare disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, and factitious disorder.

A mental illness that drew a lot of ridicule recently, is called the "intermittent explosive disorder," a mental illness that affects people who fly into occasional but unwarranted fits of rage.

Critics view TeenScreen as a main component in an overall pharmaceutical industry scheme pushed along by the NFC, aimed at recruiting new customers for psychiatric drugs. The report specifically identifies the target population Big Pharma is after when it states

"Schools are in a key position to identify mental health problems early and to provide appropriate services. Every day more than 52 million students attend over 114,000 schools. When combined with the six million adults working at those schools, almost one-fifth of the population passes through the Nation's schools on any given weekday."

The TeenScreen survey is billed as a suicide prevention tool, but according to former investigator, Allen Jones, "Teen Screen is a nefarious effort to recruit our children into biological psychiatry."

"The program employs dubious screening tools administered by non-professionals," based on misleading science and diagnostic criteria that would be downright laughable if they were not so high," he adds.

"While the idea of screening kids for mental problems seems like a good idea, it ends up being more than a Drugging Dragnet," says Jim Gottstein, an attorney who represents children's rights against the psychiatric industrial complex.

"The high rate at which we are drugging America's children with psychotropics," he

written and performs, alone, a collection of desperately needed original protest songs whose lyrics send a message that needs to be heard.

[Read More...](#)

[Advertise here Support OpEdNews](#)

**Support  
OpEdNews with  
Your Ad**

[Reach Passionate Liberals.  
Your Ad Here](#)



[Classics of Liberal Thinking](#)

[Progressive Radio Links](#)

**OpEdNews.com**

**TOP EDITORIALS:**

[Crackpot Christianity and America's Current Moral Degeneration](#)

by Walter Uhler

[One Year After the Death of Chase Comley](#)

by Missy Comley Beattie

[An angel in trouble: Schwarzenegger's war chest is massive! Please help Angelides win in California](#)

by Jane Stillwater

[Death by Nuance](#)

by Russ Wellen

[Americans, Iraqis and Congress Serve Rumsfeld](#)

Notice: Quit!

by Frank J. Ranelli

[FORGOTTEN, AGAIN: DARFUR](#)

[CRISIS RAGES ON](#)

by Jan Baumgartner

[Conyers Releases Massive New Report on Bush-Cheney Crimes](#)

by David Swanson

[Kerry to Bush: "Our U.S.](#)

[troops now caught in this civil war" and you're sending more](#)

by Senator John Kerry

[An Evolution that Would Blow Darwin's Mind:](#)

disgrace."

"This is junk science at it's worst," says Dr Jan Johnson, MD, "follow the money, the back to the drug companies."

Activist groups against TeenScreen have posted an online petition and plan to send and local lawmakers. The petition can also be used to educate people about TeenScreen conveys many of the facts about mental health screening and can be printed off an school board members or legislators. Persons interested in signing the petition can following link: <http://www.petitiononline.com/tscreen/petition.html> As an additional Pharma, Bush set up the overall scheme so that tax payers will foot the bill for the the TeenScreen program. On October 21, 2004, he signed a bill into law that author be spent over 3 years for programs like TeenScreen.

From there, the way the scheme is set up, if a child is diagnosed with a mental illness can not afford the expensive regiment of psychiatric drugs, tax payers will fund the drugs as well through public health care programs like Medicaid.

The fact is, Bush and most of his Republican puppets in Congress, would not be in the financial support of Big Pharma. Drug companies spend hundreds of millions of sending lobbyists to Washington to call in their markers by getting industry-friendly

According to a 2004, report by the consumer group, Public Citizen, drug companies associations and industry-backed advocacy groups spent nearly \$141 million on lobbyists deployed over 950 lobbyists to do their bidding on Capitol Hill and at the White House

In 2003, the top 10 drug makers and trade associations spent \$55.8 million on lobbyists 60% of the industry's total lobbying expenditures. A record 24 companies and trade \$1 million, or more, on lobbying in 2002.

However, spending on lobbying is a drop in the bucket when compared with the \$3 recorded in 2003, by the 10 top companies. The industry soared past all other sectors and-a-half times greater than the median for industries represented in the Fortune

And, the efforts to influence lawmakers have not been limited to lobbying. Since 19 companies with the highest lobbying expenditures, also gave \$48.6 million in campaign with 80% going to Republicans.

According to concerned citizen Barbara Becker, "TeenScreen and similar projects are a stealth trolling of the general population for drug consumers."

"The roots of these projects," she says, "grow straight from the drooling over addictions profiteering by the pharmaceutical industry, with the blessings of too many ever-grow who also profit from it through enormous pharmaceutical political contributions."

In all fairness, it should be noted that Big Pharma has managed to cozy up to a few. For instance, Senator Joe Lieberman has been known to pal around with lobbyists and companies that provide large contributions to his campaign.

In fact, according to Joe Conason in the July 17, 2006, New York Observer, Mr Lieberman been sleeping with one of their Washington representatives ever since his wife Had Knowlton last year."

"The legendary lobbying and P.R. firm," Mr Conason explains, "hired her as a "senior "health and pharmaceuticals practice."

One of the firm's clients is GlaxoSmithKline, the manufacturer of flu vaccines, as well drugs, and Mrs Lieberman joined the firm in March 2006.

[by Jason Miller](#)  
[Organized Labor \(and You\) Can Defeat Republican Corporatism](#)  
[by Stephen Crockett](#)  
["Dial K for Kill Count"](#)  
[by Jayne Lyn Stahl](#)  
[Being a TV Expert Means Never Having to Say You're Sorry](#)  
[by Jeff Cohen](#)  
[TONY BLAIR IS AN 'AMERIPHILIAC'](#)  
[by Allen L Roland](#)  
[A Lebanese Speaks for Israel](#)  
[by Brigitte Gabriel](#)  
[What's Wrong with the Holt Bill in Three Easy Bullets](#)  
[by Nancy Tobi, Democracy for New Hampshire](#)  
[Action Alert! Save Ohio's 2004 Presidential Ballots!](#)  
[by The Free Press](#)  
[How America can FINALLY win a war: Fight it in Utah?](#)  
[by Jane Stillwater](#)  
[The Bush Administration's Energy Policy](#)  
[by Michael Dean](#)  
[What Jews Are and Are Not - Part One](#)  
[by Burton H. Wolfe](#)  
[Holocaust Deniers](#)  
[by Larry Sakin](#)  
[Bush Wants Wider War](#)  
[by Robert Parry](#)  
[Chain of Deceit: From the Pentagon to the 9/11 Commission to the Public](#)  
[by Russ Wellen](#)

"In April 2005," according to Mr Conason, "Mr. Lieberman introduced a bill that would offer new government "incentives" to companies like GSK to produce more vaccines and drug extensions on other products, at a cost of billions to governments and consumers."

Mr Conason noted that the bill drew a critical commentary from Mr Lieberman's hometown newspaper, the New Haven Register, titled, "Lieberman Crafts Drug Company Perk."

The newspaper described the bill as being even more generous to the industry than the bill favored by Republicans. "The government can offer incentives and guarantees for needed pharmaceutical measures," the Register said. "But it should not write a blank check, as these bills would reward the pharmaceutical industry that has such a large cost to the public with what may be a dubious return."

In return for industry support, lawmakers have been very generous when doling out billions for marketing schemes like TeenScreen. On September 21, 2005, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced grants of over \$9.7 million in funding for the implementation of the TeenScreen Program.

"The Columbia University TeenScreen Program," the press release said, "provides early identification of mental health problems, such as depression, that can lead to suicide."

TeenScreen uses a voice computer version of the Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children (DISC) and claims it can show signs of 30 disorders, according to an article by Reuters on 10/1/05.

On March 2, 2004, TeenScreen's Executive Director, Laurie Flynn, testified at a congressional hearing and said that in the screening process, "youth complete a 10-minute self-administered questionnaire that screens for social phobia, panic disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, major depression, and drug abuse, and suicidality."

The goals mentioned are obviously being reached because kids are "flunking" TeenScreen in every part of the country. According to Anne Yates, from Colorado, when the program was piloted at a high school, "a whopping 50% were found to be at risk of suicide."

"Figures from a homeless shelter," she reports, "were even more outrageous: 71% of the youth screened were found to have "mental disorders."

"You can bet psychiatric drugs were pushed at these kids," Ms Yates says, "TeenScreen is a direct result of the drug companies."

During an interview with award-winning investigative journalist, Kelly O'Meara, of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and the American Association of American Physicians & Surgeons (AAPS), described suicide screening in schools as "a dangerous scheme that will heap even more coercive pressure on parents and children with potentially dangerous side effects."

Further, they told Ms O'Meara, "even the government's own task force on suicide prevention and health screening does little to prevent suicide."

Critics say, TeenScreen asks teens about normal thoughts, feelings and emotions and labels them into symptoms of mental illness. Concerned parent, Dennis McLoth says, "it is making more young people dependent on prescription drugs earlier in life when all they need to deal with growing up, just like we all did before there was a drug for every ailment. It is justifying even more new drugs."

Human rights groups contend children are being diagnosed with disorders based on a list of behaviors. Kevin Hall, New England Director of the Citizens Commission on Human Rights, notes that "unlike medical illnesses that are found through scientific research and clinical trials, mental disorders are merely groups of symptoms that are voted into existence by American Psychiatric Association committees."

A May 20, 2006, article on TeenScreen in the National Journal, includes a admission Sharfstein, President of the American Psychiatric Association, that states: "medical biological or chemical tests that can determine whether a person is depressed, suicidal or afflicted with another mental problem. There is no laboratory test that establishes diagnosis."

Psychiatrist, Dr Nathaniel Lehrman says the claim that TeenScreen can reduce suicide by any data. "It is impossible," he explains, "on cursory examination, or on the basis of a brief written screening test, to detect suicidality or "mental illness," however we do

Another complaint heard often from activists is the fact that TeenScreen labels children without testing for possible underlying health problems such as nutritional deficiencies or other physical illnesses, before initiating drug treatment.

And, the medications the children end up taking as a result of the screening are the most and dangerous psychotropic drugs on the market, and include selective serotonin reuptake antidepressants (SSRIs), like Paxil, Prozac, Zoloft, and Effexor, and atypical antipsychotics like Zyprexa, Risperdal, Geodon, Seroquel, Clozaril, and Abilify, and ADHD stimulant drugs like Adderall, Dexedrine and Ritalin.

In recent years, the use of these drugs with children has escalated. An examination by Medco Health Solutions in 2004, for 300,000 children ages 19 and younger, concluded that in time in history, spending on drugs for behavior problems with kids exceeded expenditure in the medication category, including antibiotics.

According to Dr Barry Duncan, author of the book, "What's Right With You," more than 100 million prescriptions were written for antidepressants in 2003, with sales worth more than \$1 billion. He goes on to note that the "rates of depression have not changed for thirty years," and that despite the millions taking antidepressants, have not reduced."

In June 2005, the Washington Post reported that despite "a dramatic increase in the prevalence of psychiatric disorders during the past 10 years, there has been no decrease in the rates of suicidal thoughts and behavior among adults," citing a study by researchers from Harvard Medical School and elsewhere, primarily funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

The study found that although people who attempt suicide were far more likely to be prescribed antidepressants in 2001-03, compared to 1990-92, the rates of suicidal ideation, thoughts, and attempts remained basically unchanged, the Post said.

TeenScreen is being used as a vehicle to get kids on SSRIs, even though there has been a long stream of warnings against treating kids with SSRIs for years, and even though the FDA has never approved for use with children. Back on June 10, 2003, British public health authorities issued a warning of a two-to three-fold increased risk of suicide in pediatric clinical trials during the use of SSRIs.

A week or so later, on June 18, 2003, Glaxo issued a warning to British physicians : "Paxil with children, acknowledging failure of clinical trials "to demonstrate efficacy in the treatment of children with anxiety disorders and doubling the rate of reported adverse events - including suicidal thoughts and attempts - compared to placebo."

On August 22, 2003, Wyeth sent warnings to UK and US healthcare professionals stating that in clinical trials, there were increased reports of hostility and especially in Major Depressive Disorder, suicide-related adverse events such as suicidal ideation and self-harm."

On December 18, 2003, Eli Lilly issued two letters to British healthcare professionals stating that Prozac was not recommended for children - for any use.

During FDA hearings on SSRIs back in February 2004, researchers presented evidence that they were to be little or no more effective than placebos. Psychologist, David Antonuccio, from

Nevada Medical School, was part of a team that analyzed 12 studies and told the cc conclusions were that the advantages of the antidepressants in children were so small to be clinically insignificant."

"In order to evaluate the cost effectiveness of antidepressant use in children, the cc consider the benefits, as well as the risks," Dr Antonuccio testified.

"Clinically meaningful benefits have not been adequately demonstrated in depressed children, therefore, no extra risk is warranted."

"An increased risk of suicidal behavior is certainly not justified by these minimal benefits. Neither are the established increased risks of other commonly reported side effects: agitation, insomnia, and gastrointestinal problems," he added.

On July 21, 2004, the Journal of the American Medical Association, also reported the significantly higher risk of suicide and suicidal thoughts during the first 9 days of treatment and that children who were first starting treatment were 4 times more likely to think about suicide and 38 times more likely to commit suicide and that children as young as five had come to take these drugs.

In the fall of 2004, the FDA ordered drug makers to post a black box warning on SSRI's, a serious warning a drug can carry. The problem is black box warnings do not stop doctors from prescribing SSRI's to children.

"Unfortunately," says Senator Charles Grassley, who has been conducting oversight in this position as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, in response to the news of the problems with SSRI's, "the poor performance data for these drugs has been coupled with the very heart-wrenching testimony from parents and other public witnesses who identify themselves as triggering tragic and unexpected suicides and suicidal behavior among their children."

"I understand," he continued, "that the testimony yesterday even included discussions of children who had not been suffering from depression, yet were prescribed these powerful drugs who may perhaps have been all too ready to medicate their patients."

When reviewing studies that had previously been suppressed, the FDA found one trial for Paxil, with a "possibly suicide-related" risk of 6.5 percent, and a 5.4% risk of suicidal thoughts compared to a 1.1% and zero, respectively in patients taking a placebo.

In fact, in 2004, Paxil maker, Glaxo, was sued by New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo for committing fraud by hiding studies that "not only failed to show any benefit for the children but also demonstrated that children taking Paxil were more likely to become suicidal than those taking a placebo."

In September 2005, British public health officials instructed doctors to never prescribe antidepressants to children without providing psychotherapy as well. Physicians were also told to never prescribe antidepressants without trying other alternative drugs first, and to not prescribe Effexor or Paxil to children for any condition.

In addition to all the other problems with SSRI's, previously suppressed studies show that SSRI's are addictive. In June 2003, Glaxo, removed labels that said Paxil was not habit-forming. In fact, patients claimed they had become addicted to the drug.

Experts warn that SSRI's can also cause children to become violent as well as suicidal. Julian Whitaker, MD, says SSRI's cause akathisia, a mental and physical agitation that sparks violent behavior, and induce disassociative reactions that make patients who take them unaware of the consequences of their behavior.

This is the type of drug, he says, that Eric Harris was taking when he killed his fellow Columbine.

Kip Kinkel was on Prozac, Dr Whitaker says, when he killed his parents and then went to school in Oregon, and killed two students and wounded 22 others, and says Joseph taking Prozac when he killed 7 people at a printing plant in Kentucky, before taking

In 2003, seventeen-year-old, Julie Woodward, took a test at North Penn High School in Pennsylvania, that said she was suffering from depression and two doctors convinced her and Kathy Woodward, to put her on Zoloft.

Julie's parents say they watched as her behaviors got steadily worse as soon as she started on the drug. On the third day, Julie was arguing with her mother, and all of a sudden pushed her to the floor.

Everyone in the family was shocked because Julie had never been violent before. "I don't see this as a character act," Tom Woodward notes.

Over the next few days, the usually calm Julie, became extremely irritable, could not sleep, and began pacing incessantly. She also became reclusive, her parents recall.

Six days after she began taking Zoloft, Julie hanged herself in the family's garage. In the wake of her daughter's suicide, Tom and Kathy have become activists and have worked diligently to educate other parents about the dangers of SSRIs.

Sue Weibert, is an ardent activist against TeenScreen, and has been investigating it for over a year. She recently found that when a school enters into a contract to administer a survey, it must agree to screen a minimum of 200 children per season.

According to Ms Weibert, a recent study showed 33% of the kids screened test positive. The figure provided by TeenScreen's inventor, Dr David Shafer, seven years ago in 1999, the cost was about \$37 per child per screening.

So all total, 200 times a rounded off fee of \$35 would amount to \$7,000 in tax deductible cost per screening. After that, the 33% who screen positive are sent for a "further assessment" at a cost of \$250 to parents.

Screening promoters claim that currently, only one out of every 3 children who are screened receive treatment. "That being the case," says Jan Eastgate, the International President of the American Commission on Human Rights, "with mass screening already in play, if we do not act now, we can very shortly expect to have 30 million American children prescribed mind-altering drugs."

Parents are beginning to strike back against schools when their children are screened without their consent. Last year, an Indiana high school was sued for subjecting 15-year-old student to health testing with TeenScreen and diagnosing the teen with two mental illnesses, without parental knowledge or consent.

A Massachusetts department of education investigation recently determined that a Thomas Hamilton Primary School violated federal law in April 2005, when a student in a special education class due to a speech delay, was screened for ADHD, without parental consent.

The investigation followed complaints by the mother that the counselor had pressured her daughter on drugs for 3 years. The mother said she did not give consent for a medication and pulled her children out of the school because of the incident.

Wilmette, Illinois, attorney, S Randolph Kretchmar, defends patients who are violated by the psychiatric industry, and says he is dead against drugging and labeling children with mental disorders. "The great crime of psychiatry and the pushers of psychiatric drugs," he says, "is that they have purposely confused us to sell their products."

"What the drugs do is disable people," he says, "it's just that simple."

"They may disable people from behaving badly," he explains, "but they also disable ways, generally, neurologically."

He points out that a slow reader or difficult middle-schooler is no threat to public safety becomes popular," he says, "to neurologically disable children from being disagreed and their parents, we descend into some horrific barbarism, and sacrifice the future race."

This month, the CCHR issued a report titled, "The Side Effects of Common Psychiatric Drugs" explains the various adverse effects of psychiatric drugs and defines the complex manner often makes it hard for readers to understand the side effects. The report also includes warnings about specific drugs, as well as information, they say drug makers have kept for years. Copies of the report can be obtained from their web site.

Evelyn Pringle  
evelyn.pringle@sbcglobal.net

Evelyn Pringle is a columnist for OpEd News and investigative journalist focused on issues in government and corporate America.

[Contact Author](#)

[Contact Editor](#)

[View Other Articles by Author](#)

4 comments | [Post A Comment](#)

**Comments:**  Expand  Shrink  Hide

---

### Zyprexa diabetes link

Well said,i applaud your article, mental health consumers are the least capable of self advocacy,my doc prescribed zyprexa for 4 years which was ineffective for my symptoms.

I now have a victims support page against Eli Lilly for it's Zyprexa product causing my diabetes.--Danie victims.com

by **DannyHaszard** (0 articles, 8 comments) on Tuesday, August 1, 2006 at 8:34:41 AM

---

### Making a Buck

What won't BushCo do to make a buck?

by **skyreader7** (0 articles, 52 comments) on Tuesday, August 1, 2006 at 9:55:31 AM

---

### Drug companies making money labeling teens mental illness

I heard about this plan a while back. Absolutely insane ... but what can one expect from a mentally ill p  
please read "Bush on the Couch" by Justin Frank. Our country is being run by a madman.

Also, aren't our schools run by each state and not the feds??? If my children were young I would simply  
and hire a tutor. Thank God all of my children are tax-paying adults now. But now it is their children (n  
will be paying the price. I will send your article to them. Hope they believe it.

Oh, and will we all be tested for mental illness?

Thanks for writing about this very important subject.

Peace,  
Blessings,  
Aimee  
www.dataoptions.com

by **dataoptions** (0 articles, 13 comments) on Wednesday, August 2, 2006 at 11:34:25 AM

---

### Teen Screen is a GREAT idea...

...if you happen to own pharmaceutical stock!

Sorry, I'm a little rushed right now, but I just had to stick in a couple'a cents worth. I once thought the  
ones to take over the world...now I think it's the shrinks. Thanks for the article, let's help people learn

by **teacherdave** (1 articles, 2 comments) on Wednesday, August 2, 2006 at 2:30:13 PM

4 comments | [Login](#)



---

Copyright © OpEdNews, 2002-2006