

DO YOU MIND?

The two hundredth term of the International Tribunal of Justice and Equity recently started considering its new slate of cases. Actually this court seldom officiated over actions, since most legal matters were settled within national boundaries. Usually this body served in a legal advisory capacity by keeping a watching brief over international juridical matters. However there were occasions when the legal issue in question was of such international import that it became necessary to refer to a trans-national body. Such was the case in this narrative.

The presiding judge for the first case was Chief Justice Artificio Cerebrus. The tribunal was called to order by the chief clerk whereupon the Chief Justice entered and took his place on the dais. Because of the importance and general interest in the case he was accompanied by a select number of Associate Justices. Justice Cerebrus then addressed the court.

"We are here to judge the validity of the case being brought against Global Commercial Enterprises (G.C.E.) by the peoples of all nations under our rubric. Is the prosecution team present?"

"We are, Chief Justice," replied the chief prosecutor, Stephen Accusé.

"Is the defense team present?"

"We are, Chief Justice," responded the head of the defense team Wiley Innocenté.

The Chief Justice then read out the charge.

"The charge against the defendant is that the defendant knowingly entered the minds of the populace for the purpose of brain washing, using means that had not been approved by the government and that these means were meant to oblige the aforesaid populace to make purchases of particular brands and services. This constitutes two crimes. The first is entering minds in a manner that has potential attendant risks that have not been assessed and without the informed consent of the public involved. The second is the unabashed attempt to take over the market place in its entirety, thus making competition impossible.

Now, since the defendant has pleaded 'not guilty', all pre-trial motions have been disposed with and a jury has been selected, is the prosecution ready to present its case and does it wish to make an opening statement?"

"We are ready and we do wish to make a brief opening statement."

"Will the defense wish to make an opening rebuttal?" queried the Chief Justice.

"We will make a statement when we present our defense."

"Then, Mr. Accusé, please proceed with the case for the prosecution."

"Thank you, Mr. Chief Justice! In a sense, when you read the charges against G.C.E., you neatly and nearly summarized the case that we intend to prove. I do not wish to

presume or to allow anyone to imagine that you have made our case. On the contrary, it is our view that the crime committed by the defendant is more heinous than you made it out to be. It is not so much the brain washing charge per se that disturbs us. After all, there are plenty of precedents particularly in the advertising field. For a very long time we have been bombarded and inundated with all sorts of sales pitches, characterized by sex, feminine wiles, macho imagery, subliminal messages, social pressures, humor, downright lies, etc. These were and are attempts to brain wash us into a belief that is often far from the truth or that is not in our best interest.

However in all previous cases, at least, we had the perception that we could exercise a measure of 'free will'. Also, it is not our intention to argue that the defense used coercive means to brain wash. That would be self defeating because by definition when one is being forced to do something one is usually aware of his/her predicament. True brain washing leaves the victims of that procedure with no awareness of their state. Simply put, what we intend to prove is that G.C.E invaded our minds surreptitiously and invidiously for their own purposes, using means that were invasive and damaging to both our physical and mental well being. They also represent unimaginable social, political and economic perils, since they endow those who use this process with a measure of power never before procured by anyone. Since these means were known only to them they represent a measure of mind control totally unacceptable in a free society. Chief Justice, that will be the essence of the prosecution's case. I am ready to proceed."

"Then do so!" intoned the Chief Justice.

The prosecution's first five witnesses were marketing and advertising experts. They all established that by a mechanism unknown to them and despite their best efforts to learn what it was, G.C.E has had a one hundred percent success rate, in that every one of its clients has become extremely successful, indeed so much so that they all had a monopoly.

Cross examination by the defense lawyers was perfunctory. They were able to establish that as far as anyone in the trade knew, G.C.E had not and was not contravening any of the canons of the trade and that there was not one shred of overt evidence of criminal activity.

The next five witnesses were the C.E.O.s of various businesses, once very prosperous, that had gone under because of the hegemony established by G.C.E.'s respective clients. They all attested that their products were at the very least no worse and often much better than those of their successful competitors. Again, the cross examination was casual and again, no evidence of malfeasance was forthcoming.

Mr. Innocenté then rose.

"Chief Justice I wish to move that the case be dismissed on the grounds that after ten witnesses, the prosecution has not established any type of case and that continuing along the same line would be pointless, a waste of the court's time and a needless expense."

Mr. Accusé immediately retorted.

"Chief Justice, with all due respect to my worthy opponent, the motion to dismiss is somewhat premature, since I have not finished making the case for the prosecution. It must be evident that the witnesses just heard from were called to establish that in some mysterious manner, G.C.E. has eliminated all competition and has caused major financial and unwarranted harm to major portions of a variety of industries that are not its clients. With the court's permission, I wish to proceed with my next two and final witnesses who will establish the character of the methodology employed by G.C.E."

"The motion to dismiss is overruled. However, I will hold the prosecution to its assurance that it will now provide much more solid evidence. Please move on, Mr. Accusé."

"I call Dr. Wilder Abnormalis to the stand," Mr. Accusé pronounced.

"Dr, Abnormalis, what is your profession and your status in that field?"

Mr. Innocenté then stood up and allowed that Dr. Abnormalis was an internationally recognized para-psychologist with distinguished credentials.

"Dr. Abnormalis, have you also made an in-depth study of the history and approaches to brain washing?"

"Yes, I have," was the curt response.

"Please give us a thumbnail sketch of your findings."

"Objection, on the grounds of relevance, Chief Justice!" Mr. Innocenté asserted.

"Overruled! Please continue, Dr. Abnormalis but try to be as brief and as non-technical as possible."

"I will try, Chief Justice, but you must understand that this is a complex field and that the path through it is not linear. There have been times, during my studies that I have felt like someone wandering aimlessly through a maze. However, I think I can give a lucid account that will satisfy the court. I will certainly make an effort."

While there have been many research approaches, two stand out. First of all is the historical approach. Throughout history, students of parapsychology have noted that there have been a variety of symbols, slogans, rituals, institutions, personages, etc. that seem to have effected behavior in a manner inconsistent with their apparent quality. Religious and nationalistic symbols such as the Cross, national flags, ideological banners like the red flag and the swastika, national anthems etc.; slogans like, "My Country Right or Wrong;" and "Deutschland Uber Alles" have imbued scores of young people to go to war to kill, coupled with a bizarre willingness to sacrifice their lives for their so-called beliefs. Another example from the 20th century was the anti-communist hysteria that gripped populaces in the industrial countries, despite the fact that a vast majority had never read Karl Marx and did not have a clue about the fundamental purpose and nature of communism. For no apparent reason, the word had become an anathema.

Perhaps the most striking example was the power that certain national, religious and cult leaders exercised over their followers. Hitler was a prime example. He seemed able to

mesmerize a whole nation with his orations which, for the most part, contained nothing more than empty bombastic rhetoric.

I could cite many more examples. History is replete with them. After many years of fruitless research into attempts to identify common factors in all the aforementioned that could explain their effectiveness, a panel of the most expert scientists in the field concluded that the only common factor was that all were symbols, and that they have enormous influence and control because of the presence of as yet unidentified receptors in our nervous systems. For most, these receptors seem to ride roughshod over all other neural connections and natural filters such as skepticism and curiosity. We noted that resistance varied between individuals. However, we also learned that we are all susceptible.

If the receptor theory was correct, a second line of research tapping into other areas of expertise such as neurology, Freudian psychology, hypnotism, extra-sensory perception and quantum wave mechanics became necessary. The fundamental aim of our research was to ascertain a way in which thought could be directly transmitted to the receptors while bypassing all natural barriers. We had to identify the receptors in the brain. We then had to find a way to translate thought into energy patterns. Finally we had to identify an appropriate energy carrier wave. I cannot divulge more about what we were doing except that we achieved our specific and ultimate goals, with one caveat. The procedure involved was so complex that we were able to infuse thoughts into the brain of only one person at a time."

"One final question! Was your project given a code name?" Mr. Accusé queried.

"Yes, it was. It was called "Project Mind Control".

"Thank you, Dr. Abnormalis. That will be all."

"Thank you for your cogent testimony," intoned the Chief Justice. "Does the defense wish to cross examine?"

"We certainly do," Mr. Innocenté asserted.

"Dr. Abnormalis, would you please tell us, who funds your research, who are the other experts on your team and where is your research carried out?"

"For reasons of international security, I am afraid that I cannot respond to any of those questions. I am surprised that I have been allowed to testify to the extent that I already have. It is obvious that if the technology we have developed fell into the wrong hands, the results could spell the end of all democracies."

"What a pity! After all we have only your testimony attesting to the existence of such a potentially horrific tool."

"Chief Justice, objection to that last remark. Without any evidence to the contrary, it questions Dr. Abnormalis's integrity," Mr. Accusé proclaimed loudly.

"Calm down, Mr. Accusé. Your objection is sustained. The remark will be stricken from the record and the jury is enjoined to ignore it. Please proceed, Mr. Innocenté with your

cross examination. Also, please refrain from extemporaneous remarks of I will be obliged to cite you.”

“Dr. Abnormalis, are or were you or any member of your team in the employ of G.C.E.?”

“No!”

To your knowledge were you or any member of your team ever contacted by anyone from G.C.E.?”

“Not to my knowledge!”

“Finally, Dr. Abnormalis, did your research team do its work in a compartmentalized fashion, so that any one member did not have a grasp of the whole?”

“That is correct.”

“Then who, if anyone, had his or her hands on the whole project and could put it all together?”

“The Head of the team!”

“By any chance, are you the Head of the team?”

“Yes!”

“In your view, is there any way that espionage agent could have received this information from you or your team?”

“I suppose anything is possible, but I just do not see how. However, I must qualify my answer somewhat. I am not an expert in such affairs.”

“In other words, as far as you know, and who should know better than you, this classified information is only in your hands and in those who supported your research?”

“I am the only person who can put it all together. Of course all relevant data and methodology have been secured in a most secret manner. Besides myself, there are only two others who can retrieve this knowledge.

“Thank you, Dr. Anormalis. That is all.”

Mr. Accusé then called his final witness, a Dr. Joseph Hertz, an electronics communication expert. Again the defense stipulated to the expertise of the witness.

“Dr. Hertz, I have just a few questions for you. Are you or were you in the employ of C.G.E.?”

“I was. I am no longer.”

“What happened?”

"I accidentally overheard a conversation between the Head of C.G.E.'s research team and the company's C.E.O. Actually, the only thing I caught was something about "Project Mind Control" and something about a mole in that project. By my own indiscretion, Security learned what I had listened to. I was subsequently questioned, accused of eavesdropping and let go with the admonition that I must never reveal why I was fired."

"Dr. Hertz, without becoming too technical, can you tell us what your line of research was for C.G.E.?"

"I was asked to find a way of transmitting a peculiar band wave, totally unknown to me, one that combined analog and digital characteristics in a most peculiar fashion. The parameters I was given made it clear that the resultant transmissions were to be as surreptitious as possible and that any electronic device in popular use should be considered as relevant."

"Thank you, Dr. Hertz. That is all."

Mr. Innocenté then approached the witness and with an air of resignation cross examined.

"Dr. Hertz, is it not the case that you were let go because of your incompetence? After all, you had been at work at some project or other for over five years without any tangible results."

"It is true that was the ostensible reason. However, there are others there that have no better success rate for far longer periods of time. In any case any true research effort never can promise a positive result within any given time period."

"Dr. Hertz, I have before me a copy of your research project, which you signed. There is no mention anywhere of wave band transmission. How do you account for that?"

"The copy you have was never signed by me," rejoined Dr. Hertz. "Both the copy and my supposed signature must be forgeries."

"Would it surprise you that every researcher and member of the top brass of G.C.E. claim to have never heard of 'Project Mind Control'? That was a rhetorical question that you need not answer. That is all, Dr. Hertz."

"Does the prosecution have any more witnesses?"

"No, Mr. Chief Justice. The prosecution rests its case."

"Then Mr. Innocenté, please proceed with the case for the defense," intoned the Chief Justice.

"Mr. Chief Justice, with the exception of a brief statement, I wish to make, the defense also rests its case and will call no witnesses."

"Then make your statement."

"The reason we have rested our case is that as far as we are concerned, the prosecution has no case. The evidence presented against my client, at most, is circumstantial. The truth is that it is nothing more than unsubstantiated innuendo. Further, even if one assumes that there is a smidgen of truth about how we have convinced the public to favor our products, we were doing nothing more than exercising our rights granted to us by the first amendment of the American Constitution. I have nothing more to add.

"Then Mr. Accusé, does the prosecution have a closing statement and if it does, please make it."

"If it pleases the court, we do have a brief closing statement. Contrary to what the defense counsel asserted, we feel that we have made a strong case. We have shown that G.C.E. and its clients have created a unacceptable monopoly by means that are criminal. Freedom of speech has certain limits. We have presented strong evidence to clearly show that the behavior exhibited by the public was not an exercise of free will, but rather one of a sort of mental coercion never before used, although strongly resembling techniques used by monsters such as Hitler, et al. That is our case.

The Chief Justice then addressed the jury. "The decision you have to make is whether G.C.E. has behaved in a criminal manner during the process of establishing itself as the prime player in its field. Please retire to the jury room to consider your verdict."

It took the jury thirty minutes to reach its 'not guilty on all counts' verdict. When the verdict was read, the courtroom broke into wild applause. Even Chief Justice Artificio Cerebrus, his Associates and Mr. Accusé were seen to be applauding with wide grins on their normally stern countenances.

As the jury was leaving the courtroom the jury foreman made the following observation to a reporter. "We could not accept the prosecution's theory that we have all been brainwashed into purchasing certain products. The fact that nearly everything that we, the members of this jury, have recently bought for our personal use was of the same brand is nothing more than a reflection of our collective intelligence since it must be obvious that these products are, in fact, the best buys in their respective areas."

Epilogue:

Dr. Conrad Sellers, chief scientist of G.C.E and its C.E.O., John Robbafello were having a private conversation in the latter's private dining room.

"Conrad, you did it. I was rather skeptical about your proposition but you convinced me. I do not want to know how it was done. All I wanted was results and you certainly provided them. You managed to stage a trial that never was anything more than a fiction, in that it existed only in the minds of the participants. Despite the overwhelming evidence against our company, it never was a contest. Now we have the power to control the whole world. Let us drink to our partnership!"

They raided their glasses and toasted each other. Later, when alone, Dr. Sellers could not refrain from laughing aloud. "John, John, John, don't you realize that you, as all others, are also under the influence of the technique. You will also gladly go along with anything I want. You will have no choice. In another epoch I would have been

considered the mad scientist which I may very well be, except that I am the only person who is cognizant of that. I will now rule the world according to my whims.”

What Dr. Sellers was not aware of is that he too was under someone else’s influence and that person was, who else, but Dr. Wilder Abnormalis.

Addendum: The following represents an error on the part of the author of the previous triviality. It should have been put in as a foreword.

Alert! Alert! Alert!

Anyone reading the following unbelievable story runs the risk of having their mind contaminated and distorted in an irreversible fashion. You read it at your own peril. Do you mind?

Jack Basuk

March, 1999

<http://www.jackbasuk.com>