

Schefflin, Alan
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Manipulators
CIA-01 Drugs

The great mind-control campaign Professor traces efforts by CIA

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"Every citizen was a potential guinea pig for the CIA's experiments in brainwashing and mind control, and the whole country was a laboratory," according to Alan Schefflin. "It's staggering."

Schefflin, a professor of law at the University of Santa Clara, has spent

the last four years writing a book, "The Mind Manipulators." He will speak on "The CIA and Mind Manipulation," tomorrow at 12:30 p.m. in classroom 3 at the University of Hawaii School of Law.

The CIA got interested in mind control in 1949, two years after it was founded, and had "multilevel research" under way by the early 1950s, Schefflin said in an interview.

"Every conceivable method was considered, with special emphasis on drugs. Drawing on all branches of science they looked into the use of hypnosis, psychosurgery, ultrasonics, radiation, behavior modification, electric stimulation of the brain and even good old-fashioned torture," he said.

The CIA had no trouble finding companies and universities — up to 50 of them — to participate in their research, Schefflin said. And the subjects of CIA experiments were often unknowing American citizens.

The best-known case was that of Frank Olsen, the Army civilian scientist who plunged from a hotel window to his death a week after he as secretly given LSD in an after-dinner cocktail by the CIA in 1953.

But Schefflin says he has more information about CIA experiments in mind manipulation that went under such code names as MK-ULTRA, MK-DELTA, and the innocent-sounding Project Artichoke, which was changed to Project Bluebird for no reason that Schefflin has found.

"The CIA would send agents out to bars to pick up unwitting people at random," he said. "They were invited to go with the agents to a party or to have a few drinks. Then they were given doses of LSD and their reactions filmed."

"But they didn't follow these people when they left, so who knows what happened to them. It was a direct assault on people's minds and bodies. Not only was it illegal and immoral, it was unscientific."

Schefflin said he has records of the CIA's seeking to control all production and importation of LSD and of agents' buying \$250,000 worth of the synthetic drug at a time when scientists still had high hopes for LSD as a breakthrough in the treatment of mental illness.

"The CIA said to hell with curing people. If this stuff will unlock the inner reaches of the mind, we want it."

The CIA had many different goals in their experiments, Schefflin said. For example, LSD might be used to confuse enemy intelligence operations if it were put in the water of a building where spies gathered. The CIA was also searching for an "infallible truth machine" that would be more reliable in interrogations than the lie detector.

Long before the book and the movie "The Manchurian Candidate" alerted people to the possibility of remote-control assassinations, Schefflin said, the CIA was considering programming people hypnotically to

carry messages or to kill but not remember killing. Hypnotically programmed couriers may have been used in Vietnam, he said.

Little is known or ever will be known about the CIA's mind control experiments, Schefflin believes. An inspector general's report in 1963 said knowledge about them was difficult to acquire because only two persons in the CIA knew the whole story.

"Then about 10 or so years ago, Richard Helms (CIA director at the time) ordered thousands of pages about mind control destroyed," Schefflin said. But a box of documents was misfiled and escaped incineration.

Schefflin, who began researching mind-control techniques when he became interested in political trials and prisons, got much of this material from people who had legal access to it, such as Olsen's lawyer.

"But we have only scratched the surface," he said. For example, Schefflin said he knows of investigations under way to determine the truth of reports of a Navy school for assassins in San Diego that is training people who have already killed to form voluntary assassination squads.

Could such James Bond escapades still be going on? "There is not the slightest doubt that such things are still going on," replied Schefflin. "I just don't know the intensity of it."