

AGENTS *of* DISCORD

DEPROGRAMMING, PSEUDO-SCIENCE,
AND THE AMERICAN ANTICULT MOVEMENT



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on at least two kidnapping-type deprogrammings involving members of The Way International. Both Kisser and Coates were involved in giving me referrals for involuntary deprogrammings prior to the actual formation of the CAN, while the organization was still more "loose-knit" operating as the CFF. They were both, in my opinion, fully aware that the parents they sent to me as referrals were planning to have their children/family member kidnapped or unlawfully detained. Many of us in the deprogramming field would frequently attend the CFF/CAN conferences and conventions, both regional and national. At these conventions we would speak to parents and other attendees, for the purpose of soliciting deprogramming business, or at least making our availability known in anti-cult circles. Many of us involved in deprogramming were actually guest speakers, or served on discussion panels where deprogramming was discussed. I was a speaker on "exit counseling" at the 1985 CAN

convention. This was a play on words as it was well-known that most of my

Likewise, a former NRM member named Garry Scarff, who had self-promoted his expertise on brainwashing techniques for years, suddenly reinvented himself during the late 1980s as a surviving member of the Rev. Jim Jones' Peoples Temple. He claimed to be a victim having allegedly lost his father, his fiancé and his eight-month-old son in the Guyana massacre. He eventually went on not only a speaking tour touting his story but also published his testimony in a scholarly anthology. However, by his own later admission, all of his Jonestown claims were fraudulent. Neither Scarff nor any member of his family were ever involved in the Peoples Temple. Even the CAN leaders, who probably knew beforehand that Scarff's claims were bogus, broke off all connections with him after this entrepreneurial stunt.

CAN's Tier II, how reliable are they?
 One needs to be a skeptical detective in dealing with ex-members of a deviant organization. For example, Blockson has always downplayed his drug use, particularly during deprogrammings, though it was known by other anti-cultists³⁸ as well as by his deprogrammees (see next section). Likewise, a former NRM member named Garry Scarff, who had self-promoted his expertise on brainwashing techniques for years, suddenly reinvented himself during the late 1980s as a surviving member of the Rev. Jim Jones' Peoples Temple. He claimed to be a victim having allegedly lost his father, his fiancé and his eight-month-old son in the Guyana massacre. He eventually went on not only a speaking tour touting his story³⁹