

Austin Chronicle July 14, 2006

Postmarks

http://www.austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2006-07-14/cols_postmarks.html

Join ECT Fight

Dear Editor,

I hope you are well!

I am writing in support of the End of Shock movement here in Austin ["Naked City," News, July 7].

While I do not dispute the strong, obvious evidence that brain damage always occurs from electroconvulsive treatment, I am writing from a very personal and heart-centered position.

My oldest brother, Roky, received ECT in the Sixties. He told me that he wishes that he hadn't had that experience and that he believes that it did not help him.

Further, if there were a long history of wonderful success from ECT, we would all be lining up to celebrate shock.

Sadly, not only can we not celebrate, but we are left to mourn for those whose lives have been ravaged by ECT.

I believe in the human spirit and the human body's great ability to restore wellness after the most devastating of experiences. *Thank God*: Roky is proof of that! But let's not give people something tragic to get over by design.

Please let us all join together to stop ECT, first at Seton Shoal Creek Hospital, then in all of Austin ... Texas ... then the world.

Peace, love, compassion, nonviolence, and understanding must always be the basis of all our actions, especially for those who are challenged with mental-health issues.

Peace and love,

Sumner Erickson

Prove Electroshock Claim

Dear Editor,

Your coverage of the June 28 protest of electroshock treatment at Seton Hospital quoted Mary Ann Dale, manager of Shoal Creek's Electroconvulsive Therapy Department, as claiming, "Research has proven that it [electroshock] does not damage the brain" ["Naked City," News, July 7].

I question this statement and call on Seton and Ms. Dale to provide citations to the research that would back up their claim. I highly doubt research can prove that shock treatment does not damage the brain.

Best regards,

Ruth Rinehart

Shocking Denial

Editor,

I am so amazed by the level of denial people stand in when what they are involved in has opposition.

Of course it [electroconvulsive therapy] causes brain damage. How could it not?

Mary Ann Dale and Seton's statement that it causes no brain damage is insane ["Naked City," News, July 7].

Perhaps we should have a public ECT viewing with Mary Ann Dale and the other heads of Seton be the subjects to show us how safe it is.

The attitudes of these people who find delight in ruining peoples lives is criminal at the very least. What ever happened to the Hippocratic oath, "Cause no harm"?

Until Mary Ann Dale and her counterparts come forward for a public show of the safety of this draconian treatment by being subjects for the public to view, I will stand in the space of saying these people are bald-faced lying to the public and, worse yet, their patients.

It is my opinion that the use of anti-depressants offers a false hope to people who have already been exploited and hurt. Sadly, they find they are worse off at the hands of their supposed helpers, the white-coat executioners who then assault their brains with electroshock.

There is no excuse for this type of treatment. It is cruel and unusual punishment – torture, which is a crime. A crime is: harm to a person or their property, which this practice definitely does.

Let's not be afraid to speak truth to power.

Beth Jezik