

# Letters by Ted Arguing the Harvard Psych Experiments Had Little Effect on His Personality

Ted Kaczynski

Nov 20 2005, Nov 17 2017 & Feb 2 2018.

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# **#1. Excerpt from a letter to the author of 'Dostoyevsky's Stalker' (Nov 20 2005)**

I experienced a lasting resentment of Murray and his co-workers. This resentment was not primarily due to the “dyadic disputation” that Chase makes so much of. What I mainly resented was the fact that I had been talked into participating in studies that involved extensive invasion of my privacy—and by people whom I disliked personally. I am quite confident that my experiences with Professor Murray had no significant effect on the course of my life.

disputing the respective merits of their philosophies. A biographer of Kaczynski at Harvard wrote:

As instructed, the unwitting subject attempted to represent and to defend his personal philosophy of life. Invariably, however, he was frustrated, and finally brought to expressions of real anger by the withering assault of his older, more sophisticated opponent while fluctuations in the subject's pulse and respiration were measured on a cardi tachometer.<sup>6</sup>

It is difficult to imagine a better way to humiliate, disrespect, and discredit another human being than by invalidating his or her philosophy of life, the major guiding principles by which that person lives. Kaczynski, however, denied that Murray's experiments had any important effect on his psyche:

I experienced a lasting resentment of Murray and his co-workers. This resentment was not primarily due to the "dyadic disputation" that Chase makes so much of. What I mainly resented was the fact that I had been talked into participating in studies that involved extensive invasion of my privacy—and by people whom I disliked personally. I am quite confident that my experiences with Professor Murray had no significant effect on the course of my life.<sup>7</sup>

Perhaps the impact of Murray's deliberately disrespectful encounters had more of an effect on Kaczynski's psyche than he realized. He told a court-appointed psychiatrist, Dr. Sally Johnson, who conducted competency hearings prior to his trial in 1998, that while he was at the University of Michigan, where he was studying for a doctoral degree in mathematics, he began having nightmares, which continued for several years:

In the dream I would feel either that organized society was hounding me with accusation in some way, or that organized society was trying in some way to capture my mind and tie me down psychologically or both. In the most typical form some psychologist or psychologists (often in association with parents or other minions of the system) would either be trying to convince me that I was "sick" or would be trying to control my mind through psychological techniques. . . . I would grow angrier and finally I would break out in physical violence against the psychologist and his allies. At the moment when I broke out into violence and killed the psychologist or other such figure, I experienced a great feeling of relief and liberation.<sup>8</sup>

In his fifth year at Michigan, Kaczynski envisioned having a sex-change operation and made an appointment to see the Health Center psychiatrist, but he ultimately could not bring himself to talk about the subject and left

phy; . . . Within four years after leaving Harvard his life's plan would be firmly fixed.<sup>12</sup>

In order to understand this profound impact, it is helpful to consider in more detail a constellation of symptoms that the Austrian pediatrician Hans Asperger first noted in a group of youngsters referred to him because of behavioral problems involving aggression, malice, and violence. In the next chapter (which concludes this section on stalking), the Unabomber's problems are explored in connection with Dostoyevsky's Underground Man, who may be considered his fictional counterpart.

### NOTES

1. Robert Graysmith, *Unabomber: A Desire to Kill* (Washington DC: Regnery, 1997), 52.
2. *Ibid.*, 50.
3. *Ibid.*
4. Hans Asperger, "Autistic Psychopathy" in *Children* [1944], in Uta Frith, ed., *Autism and Asperger Syndrome* (London: Cambridge University Press, 1991), 82.
5. Qtd. in Alston Chase, *Harvard and the Unabomber: The Education of an American Terrorist* (New York: Norton, 2003), 232–33.
6. *Ibid.*, 233.
7. T. Kaczynski, letter to the author, Nov. 20, 2005.
8. Chase, 304.
9. *Ibid.*, 305.
10. *Ibid.*, 305–06.
11. Graysmith, 24.
12. Chase, 294.

## #2. (Nov 17 2017)

November 17, 2017 ...

TED KACZYNSKI

To

November 25, 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

To continue from the enclosed card, I'm sending you herewith a letter postmarked 10/24/17 from an anonymous "Harvard alumna", and a letter dated 8/7/16 from one Jan Irvin. These are just two examples of the many letters I've received from people who believe that in the course of the psychological study at Harvard directed by Henry A. Murray and partly described in Kenneth Keniston's book The Uncommitted (see List of Works Cited for the new Tech Slavery), I was subjected to psychological "torture" as part of an "MK Ultra" mind-control experiment conducted by the CIA. But it's all bullshit. There was one and only one unpleasant experience in the Murray study; it lasted about half an hour and could not reasonably have been described as "torture." The Murray study consisted mostly of interviews and filling out paper-and-pencil personality tests. The CIA was not involved.

This legend ~~that the~~ to the effect that the Murray study was some sort of CIA mind-control experiment was started by an irresponsible article that Alston Chase published in The Atlantic around 1999-2001. Other people apparently latched onto Chase's speculations and embellished them on the Internet, and every time some blogger passed the story on he embellished it further, until this monstrous legend became so widespread, repeated by so many irresponsible individuals, that many people accepted it, and still accept it, as proven fact.

## #3. (Feb 2 2018)

February 2, 2018 ...

Actually there was only one unpleasant experience in the Murray study; it lasted about half an hour and could not reasonably have been described as “traumatic.” Mostly the study consisted of interviews and filling out pencil-and-paper personality tests. The CIA was not involved.

About 15 or 20 years ago a TV journalist named Chris Vlasto ... looked up some of the other participants in the study and found that nothing had happened that was worth reporting in the media...



TED KACZYNSKI  
to  
ANDREW KACZYNSKI

February 2, 2018  
Groundhog Day

Dear Mr. Kaczynski,

Thank you for your undated letter postmarked 12/5/17, which I received on 12/21/17. I'm sorry I've taken so long to answer it, but I have too much work to do, and at the age of 75 I can't keep up with it all.

I'm writing mainly to call your attention to my book Anti-Tech Revolution: Why and How, which may be of interest to you. You can order a copy from [www.fitchmadison.com](http://www.fitchmadison.com) or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

But I'll also answer your question concerning the Discovery Channel series about my case. I haven't seen the series myself, but to judge from what people have written to me about it, it's mostly fiction. This does not surprise me in the least; media reports about me have generally been loaded with bull manure. In particular, reports about the Murray study have been wildly, wildly exaggerated. People write to tell me how sorry for me they feel because I was "tortured" again and again by the Murray group as part of an "MK Ultra" experiment allegedly carried out by the CIA. Actually, there was only one unpleasant experience in the Murray study; it lasted about half an hour and could not reasonably have been described as "traumatic." Mostly the study consisted of interviews and filling out pencil-and-paper personality tests. The CIA was not involved.

About 15 or 20 years ago a TV journalist named Chris Vlasto (if I remember the name correctly) looked up some of the other participants in the study and found that nothing had happened that was worth reporting in the media. My brief correspondence with Vlasto should be available in the University of Michigan's Special Collections library at Ann Arbor. On the inaccuracy of the Discovery series, see "Discovery Channel TV Series on Unabomber Disrespects the Investigation's Achievements," by ex-FBI agent Greg Stejskal,

<http://ticklethewire.com/about-us/greg-stejskal/>

Yours,  
Ted Kaczynski

The Ted K Archive

Ted Kaczynski

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Debunking the Ted Kaczynski "MK Ultra" myth & Dostoyevsky's Stalker

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