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Any acknowledgement would be greatly appreciated when referencing or distributing material from this eBook.

Dedications

Dedicated in loving memory of my wonderful parents:-

Konstantinos (Dino) Christopoulos who took me to see my very first science fiction film in the early 1960s, *The Man With The X-Ray Eyes* (1963)

Rosemary Christopoulos who sat with me after school as I watched on TV episodes the first two doctors of the Doctor Who series and insisted on asking me interminable questions about who was who and what was going on! Thanks mum and dad!

The SCI-FI FILM FIESTA eBook series is intended as a salute to the pioneering work of science fiction film makers. May future generations have the privilege of enjoying your work and never stop wondering....What if?

Dedicated also to you, the reader who appreciates these classic gems from the golden age of sci-fi film-making. It is you who help to keep such films alive for future generations to enjoy.

Other eBooks in the Sci-Fi Film Fiesta series:

Volume 1: “Here Be Monsters”

Volume 2: “Into Space”

Volume 3: “Other Worlds”

Volume 4: “Journeys Within”

Volume 5: “Alien Contact”

Volume 6: “Alien Invasion”

Volume 7: “The End Is Nigh!”

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**SCI-FI FILM FIESTA
Volume 9:
Accidents & Experiments**

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Introduction

This 9th volume of the Sci-Fi Film Fiesta eBook series features classic science fiction films from the 1950s whose subject matter involves discoveries and breakthroughs made through experiments or even by sheer accident. The important point about such discoveries, though are the consequences that result from them.

- How far are we prepared to go to make an important scientific breakthrough?

- **What are we exactly prepared to do to unlock the secrets of the universe and make the unknown, known?**
- **At what point do we stop and consider the potential price to be paid?**
- **What are the limits to be set on how and whether experimentation should proceed?**
- **Under what conditions (if at all) should haste, the pursuit of profit or prestige take precedence over prudence and caution?**
- **What of the moral and ethical questions that arise from scientific advancement?**
- **Just because we *can* do something, does it necessarily follow that we *should*?**

These are just some the questions that have to be considered as our species progresses and develops its technology. Failure to do so could result in our acquiring a degree of power which we are ill-equipped to handle and may even wind up abusing to the detriment of our own survival. We cannot afford to believe that we can simply forge ahead with impunity without instituting meaningful checks and balances on our scientific and technological research and developments.

Among the principles that should inform or underpin such checks and balances surrounding new discoveries, scientific advancements, research and development of new technologies are;

- **Improvement in the quality of life for all.**
- **Enhance & further equality of opportunity.**
- **Enable wide access to technological discoveries and benefits derived.**
- **Ensure adoption of new technologies is compatible with health of environment.**
- **Free access to information and knowledge.**
- **Minimise potential psychological and physical harm.**
- **Establishment of agreed moral and ethical parameters for research, development and application of new technology.**
- **Enshrine the right to personal privacy, to determine the ownership and use of personal data and freedom from surveillance by the state and private corporations.**
- **Regulate spread and influence of as well as degree of control exercised by artificial intelligence.**
- **Determine the kinds of rights to be accorded to forms of technology deemed to be sentient.**

The Victorian age was one during which amazing advancements were made in the areas of engineering, scientific discoveries, industrial processes and more. However, it also ushered in new and horrible ways to exterminate people; pollution and degradation of the environment; social inequality; exploitation and subjugation of whole sections of society and peoples of other nations.

Many modern scientific and technological developments also arose out of the Second World War while the post-war world of the 1950s laid much of the groundwork for our own modern 21st century era. Think of vaccines, passenger jet

flights, space exploration, integrated circuits, random access memory, nuclear power generation and so on.

Unfortunately each era in its rush to forge ahead has tended to leave a mess behind for future generations to clean up. Consider for instance, space junk, catastrophic climate change and global warming, plastic pollution, technology and social media addiction, separation and alienation from nature, social fragmentation and polarisation, surveillance proliferation, loss of personal privacy, threat of nuclear and chemical warfare: These are among the messes / consequences we and our descendants will need to set about cleaning up; compliments of scientific and technological progress in the interests of our comfort and convenience, as well as the vested interests of powerful political and corporate entities.

Let's face it, despite the marvellous advances our species has made, (and despite our expressions of deep furrow-browed concentration as we ponder our smart phone screens) many of us in our way of thinking have barely progressed beyond an Aristotelian, ancient biblical or even medieval view of the nature of the universe. In fact, many of us still feel more at home in a universe governed solely by Newtonian laws of plummeting apple physics. As for Einstein's theories of relativity, well over a century or so later it is still viewed as being weird and something that makes our heads hurt – depending on one's point of view of course. And don't even get me started on Quantum physics – a magic carpet acid trip ride, man!

A case in point involves the recent development of Covid-19 vaccines. Consider what might have occurred should no vaccine had been discovered to combat this virus. By and large our minds seem to have been firmly fixed in the 1950s at the time when the polio vaccine was introduced by Jonas Salk who took six years to develop and test the first polio vaccine, starting with the isolation of the virus. This does not include the research that began on developing a polio vaccine in the 1930s, resulting in unsuccessful early attempts. By contrast, the Pfizer-BioNTech and the Moderna COVID-19 messenger RNA vaccines were developed in less than a year. Many people could not come to grips with the speed with which these vaccines had been developed and therefore erroneously concluded that they *must* be dangerous, if not evil. However, since the 1950s great progress had been made in the area of genetic manipulation thereby reducing the length of time needed for study and testing. And so the anti-vaxxer movement was born and grew on a diet of fear and misinformation. Science and reason has increasingly been on the back foot as flat and hollow earthers, conspiracy theorists, creationists and alt-truth proponents held hands and shouted from social media pulpits of stupidity.

By the way, our thumbs had evolved to clutch things like tree branches and assorted tools with which to beat one another over the head and not as we might imagine to merely text and tweet! As for our brains? Well, that's why we're developing artificial intelligence, isn't it? Otherwise, human evolution might just come to a grinding halt before reversing direction, if it hasn't already!

There was a time when those who made great scientific breakthroughs (ie., Einstein in the early 20th Century) who were lauded as heroes and treated like rock stars! Can you name one person from any country who contributed to developing a Covid-19 vaccine and thereby had a hand at saving countless lives? We can, however name

and worship numerous sporting celebrities who earn obscene sums of money for doing what they do!

Well, I guess it's now time for us to turn our attention to our collection of entertaining cautionary sci-fi screen tales from the 1950's and see what they offer up on the matter of humanity's drive to command, control and master nature and treat it as if it exists purely for our own benefit, while often ignoring the price to be paid for doing so.



The Magnetic Monster (1953)

*Intelligent & well-paced
Plausible-sounding science
Builds up to an excellent climax*

Director: Curt Siodmak, Herbert L. Strock
Producer: Ivan Tors, George Van Marter
Writer: Curt Siodmak, Ivan Tors
Narrator: Richard Carlson
Music: Blaine Sanford
Cinematography: Charles Van Enger
Editing: Herbert L. Strock
Distributor: United Artists
Running time: 76 minutes
Budget: \$105,000 approx.

Cast

Richard Carlson: Dr. Jeffrey Stewart
King Donovan: Dr. Dan Forbes
Jean Byron: Connie Stewart
Harry Ellerbe: Dr. Allard
Leo Britt: Dr. Benton
Leonard Mudie: Howard Denker
Byron Foulger: Mr. Simon
Michael Fox: Dr. Serny
John Zaremba: Chief Watson
Lee Phelps: City Engineer
Watson Downs: Mayor
Roy Engel: Gen. Behan
Frank Gerstle: Colonel Willis

John Vosper: Captain Dyer
John Dodsworth: Dr. Carthwright
Robert Carson: the Pilot
Donald Kerr: Nova Scotia Lab Worker

1953: Taste Of The Times:

- Trade unions gained strength with greater numbers of workers belonging to unions. (How times change!!!)
- Unemployment was at 2.9%.
- Standards of living continued to grow seemingly without limits.
- The yearly Inflation Rate in the US was 0.82%
- A new house could set you back at \$9,550.00, while a new car could cost you \$1,650.00. which you could run on 20 cents per gallon of petrol.
- You could expect to earn on average \$4,000.00 per year.

(Spoilers are contained in the following;)

**Office of Scientific Investigation
Official Summary Report
Operation: "Magnetic Monster"**

***TOP SECRET
EYES ONLY***

Background To Investigation:

- On the morning of July 18, 1953, 'A-Man' agents, Jeffrey Stewart and Dan Forbes received a report from the power company representative, Chief Watson as part of a DIRECTIVE 149 response, concerning a local hardware store where all of the clocks had stopped at the same time.
- Investigation revealed that a strong magnetic field had magnetized every metal item in the store and that the source of this was traced to an office above the store.
- An examination of the room revealed the presence of scientific equipment, as well as a dead body.
- Detection of radioactivity was confirmed, the cause of which was not immediately apparent.
- Initial fears centered on the possibility of someone trying to build a small atomic bomb.
- Further investigation based on information received from a taxi driver and an examination of airport facilities led investigators to an airline flight carrying a research physicist, Dr. Howard Denker and more importantly, to the contents of his suitcase.
- Dr. Denker had developed signs of radiation sickness due to an artificial radioactive isotope, serratium, which in an experiment he had bombarded

with alpha particles for 200 hours. This deadly microscopic product of his experiment was contained in the suitcase in his possession.

- Dr. Denker died from radiation sickness on board the plane while passing on information to the agents about his creation.

Nature of Emergency:

- Based on the findings fed into the MANIAC system, it was able to deduce that the element would double in size and mass every 11 hours by absorbing energy from its surroundings.
- The process of transformation released deadly radiation and extremely intense magnetic energy.

Danger Posed: Extreme

- OSI determined that, if left unchecked, the element would have eventually become large enough to affect the Earth's rotation and cause the planet to spin out of its orbit.

Course Of Action:

- The isotope could not be destroyed or rendered inert by any known means.
- It was decided there was no option but to use a Canadian experimental power generator then being constructed in a cavern under the ocean. It was intended to use this to bombard the element with as much energy as possible in one surge in the hope that this would neutralize it.
- With US and Canadian government cooperation, the isotope was transferred to the new ("Deltatron") project facility.
- Dr. Benton, in charge of the project, when shown how much energy would be needed, raised objections and voiced concerns about the safety of the personnel involved.
- Due to the urgency of the situation, Agent Stewart took it upon his own authority to assume control of the experiment himself despite the risks to his personal safety.
- Despite Dr. Benton's efforts to thwart him, Agent Stewart was able to activate the machine and seal the device off from the rest of the underground operation and the project workers.

Outcome:

- The isotope was successfully stopped.
- Deltatron was destroyed as a result of the operation.

End Notes:

- A full report of the above operation will follow at the conclusion of OSI internal investigation of operation, 'Magnetic Monster.'
- As part of the report, the following items will be included;

1. Recommendations of ways & means to meet such future challenges to our existence.
2. Elimination of opportunities for “lone wolves” to conduct nuclear research.
3. Managing the dissemination of information to the public via media outlets.
4. Commendations for those who took part in the success of operation, ‘Magnetic Monster.’

End Summary Report

Points of Interest

The main character, Jeffery Stewart narrates the story in a manner similar to a detective-crime genre film complete with lines like, “July 18: The morning quiet,... peaceful...The world seemed safe and good.”

We also learn with due seriousness that in order to combat threats that pose a “challenge to our existence,” a new agency has been created, The Office of Scientific Investigation (OSI). As if taken from the pages of the creation of the FBI, the men who work for this agency are known as A men, who perform as “detectives of science,” something akin to J. Edgar Hoover’s G-Men.

In the case of the FBI’s formation, science in the form of forensics became the key weapon in the fight against crime. Science is also the weapon of choice for the OSI in the film, “Magnetic Monster.” For instance, we see many examples of gadgetry being employed such as an electronic counter to determine that there were “2200 disintegrations per minute” occurring as well as traces of radioactive dust. There were gadgets to monitor the speed and distance of particles and to examine dust particles and fingernail scrapings. An electronic microscope was used to examine the element whereby the investigators could see that it was “adding new structure to the old,” that “mass is forming into supposedly empty space” and that with this tool of science they were “witnessing the secret of creation.”

The silence that followed the last statement above was laden with profound implications. At what point does science cross over into areas where some people believe it should not and cannot cross. The name given to this new breed of investigators is A-Men which as we are told by the narrator, “sounds like the final word of a prayer.” Perhaps it is no wonder that people sometimes worry that materialistic science seems to assume the mantle of a new kind of religion. After all, the world and what seems to be inexplicable appears to be able to be explained by the new religion of science and its own version of the priesthood. In the face of the hysterical and panicked reactions of those in the hardware store, we have the calm and methodical resort to paper, tacks, fishing poles and Geiger counters to locate the epicentre of magnetic force in the store. In days gone by people would have been reassured by the priesthood that certain inexplicable occurrences were part of God’s will or the result of the Devil’s work, often resulting in the immolation of innocent people to rectify the perceived problems.

In the area of science, there is a certain unease of the times being reflected in the film. After all, it was scientific research that produced an element that even in the

initial stages resulted in the production of radiation that was “strong enough to kill us or wipe out a few city blocks.” Whether done independently or not, science had created something new that “turned out to be unstable,” that was “monstrous” and capable of “reaching out with invisible fingers” to kill! If only such research was removed from the hands of “lone wolves” and placed in the all-knowing secure embrace of government scientific centralised control!-at least as implied in the film. Similarly, once upon a time all knowledge about the world remained securely within the province of the church and its priesthood. “Lone wolves” and the threat posed by the spreading fingers of their devil’s work were dealt with using the tried and tested tools of the time.

The unease of the times is further highlighted by the fact that the element created by Dr. Denker appears to be as Forbes exclaims, “a live thing!” If it is not “fed” it draws on available energy and causes an implosion. Even the plan to destroy the element involves an attempt to “overfeed it until it bursts.” Instead of the usual monsters from space, the ocean depths or from under the ice, we have an impersonal, apparently indestructible and unseen monster. For many, the products of science and technology seem to take on a life of their own, growing more powerful, demanding more and more from us, reaching out and infiltrating all aspects of our lives and even threatening our own existence.

In “Magnetic Monster” and many other similar films of the time, it seems as if it is felt that people’s fears and concerns can be assuaged by controlling how much and what type of information they are to be exposed to. In the film, the city is put on alert but people are informed via radio broadcasts only that the authorities are “conducting a test.” Even today we find ourselves grappling with issues of freedom of information and are left wondering how much information is being withheld from the public about matters that effect all of us; how truthful the information is that we are being presented with and whether or not matters of “national security” should override our need or right to know the truth. Such matters are frequently put to the test in relation to the treatment of whistle-blowers. For some people, organizations and governments, they are seen as traitors, while for others they are simply upholding the principles of free speech and the right to know and who often pay a high personal price for their bravery. One can only hope that we don’t have a re-emergence of the kind of witch hunts that were prevalent at the time of the making of “Magnetic Monster.”

“Magnetic Monster” was shot in eleven days. Footage from a clip of an atom smasher from the 1934 German film, “Gold” was used in the scene of the Nova Scotia Deltatron. It seems to have been quite a seamless fusion of the footage in the film.

The “M.A.N.I.A.C.” computer with the “cathode ray memory unit” consisted of footage featuring a computer being developed at the University of California in Los Angeles. Glad to see scientists and technicians (film makers?) have a sense of humour and irony!



Donovan's Brain (1953)

A solid science fiction film containing elements of horror in the tradition of Frankenstein and Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. A refreshing departure from the typical 1950s era mutant monsters and alien invaders style of film.

Director: Felix E. Feist
Producer: by Allan Dowling, Tom Gries
Adapted from: Curt Siodmak's 1942 novel
Adaptation: Hugh Brooke
Screenplay: Felix E. Feist
Music: Eddie Dunstedter
Cinematography: Joseph F. Biroc
Editing: Herbert L. Strock
Studio: Dowling Productions
Distributor: United Artists
Running time: 83 minutes

Cast

Lew Ayres: Dr. Patrick J. Cory
Gene Evans: Dr. Frank Schratt
Nancy Reagan: Janice Cory (as Nancy Davis)
Steve Brodie: Herbie Yocum
Tom Powers: Donovan's Washington Advisor
Lisa Howard: Chloe Donovan (as Lisa K. Howard)
James Anderson: Chief Tuttle (as Kyle James)
Victor Sutherland: Nathaniel Fuller
Michael Colgan: Tom Donovan
Peter Adams: Mr. Webster
Harlan Warde: Treasury Agent Brooke
Shmen Ruskin: Tailor
Don Brodie: Detective Who Follows Dr. Cory from Hotel
William Cottrell: Dr. Crane
John Hamilton: Mr. MacNish, Bank Manager
Sam Harris: Man leaving Fuller's Office
Paul Hoffman: Mr. Smith, Treasury Dept.
Stapleton Kent: W. J. Higgins
Faith Langley : Fuller's Receptionist
Mark Lowell : Allied Supply Clerk
Frank McClure: Man leaving Fuller's Office
Walter Merrill: Town House Desk Clerk
Charles Sullivan: Auto Passenger at Accident Scene
Max Wagner: Station Agent

“Donovan’s Brain” is the kind of film that under other circumstances could allow the viewer’s attention to wander. However, the good performances of Lew Ayers as the possessed Dr. Cory and Gene Evans as Dr. Frank Schratt add significantly to the film’s appeal.

Lew Ayers played both "minds" extraordinarily well with his seamless shifting from mild-mannered researcher Cory to the despicable Donovan. Without any overt fanfare or unnecessary special effects, we know when Donovan’s brain takes control simply by the controlled and subtle nuances of Lew Ayres’ performance such as a mere in change of posture or a hardening of his expression.

Another example of the film’s subtle communication with the audience is the scene with Herbie Yocum when he confronts Cory/Donovan for a blackmail payment. Notice that he is wearing a shabby and worn out suit. When he later returns for another blackmail payment, he is seen wearing a pretty sharp and expensive-looking suit. No need for any lengthy explanations!

“Donovan’s Brain” is still a very relevant film as it reminds people of any era that there is a cost to any aspect of human progress. The question is; is it a cost we would wish to bear even if we go into it with our eyes open?

Plot

“Donovan’s Brain” is a film about Dr. Patrick Cory, a middle-aged physician who experiments at keeping a brain alive.

A millionaire by the name of W.H. Donovan crashes his private plane in the desert near the home of Dr. Cory.

Dr. Cory is unable to save Donovan's life, but removes his brain in the slim hope that it might survive. He places Donovan’s brain in an electrically charged, oxygenated saline solution within a glass tank.

The brainwaves suggest that thought and life continue and Cory makes several unsuccessful attempts to communicate with the brain.

Finally, one night Cory receives unconscious commands and he writes down an instruction containing people’s names in Donovan's handwriting.

Cory successfully establishes telepathic contact with Donovan's brain, much to the concern of Cory's alcoholic assistant, Dr. Schratt.

Gradually, the malignant intelligence of Donovan takes over Cory’s personality and uses Cory to do his bidding such as signing checks in Donovan's name, and continuing the reprehensible millionaire magnate's illicit financial activities.

Cory becomes increasingly mentally and physically like Donovan himself, even down to his limping.

How far will Donovan's criminality extend?

Will Donovan assume complete control over Cory’s mind and body?

***Can Cory find a way to resist the brain's power?
Can Cory do anything to destroy the brain?***

Witness the unfolding terror of humanity's struggle against the self-destructive and unforeseen consequences of its own genius!

Donovan's Brain - A 'What If?' Alternate Reality

For the whole world, everything changed in the latter part of the 21st. Century. The year now is 2153 and unimaginable advances have been made in the fields of science, technology and communications.

One advance in particular that is the subject of this narrative concerns the preservation of human consciousness after physical death. People now have the option to continue their existence over and over as many times as they wish within their own unique virtual world.

Virtual immortality!

It is where we find ourselves now at the Cory Human Consciousness Afterlife Exhibition Building, standing immersed within an exhibit dedicated to the history and development of this once controversial technology.

Exhibit Guide: Welcome everyone to our interactive exhibit which we are sure you'll find to be both informative but also entertaining. Please be patient as you download the virtual component of this exhibit into your Nano cerebral storage devices. Once this is done, you can transition instantly between the real-time and virtual parts of the exhibit.

As you are aware, in the middle of the 20th century when the United States of America began its century-long period as a world super-power, the first steps toward the preservation of human consciousness were being taken.

You should now be able to see reconjec-images (reconstructed and manipulated) based on actual photographs of Dr. Patrick J. Cory, his wife Janice Cory and a map showing Green Valley, AZ, USA. Images and graphics will appear to you throughout the presentation. Of course, a lot of what you will see will be based on conjecture and interpretation for your viewing benefit and understanding.

It was with the little monkey that the Cory's brought home with them that they hoped to extract its brain and keep it alive, since four previous attempts on older subjects resulted in failure. With the assistance of Dr. Frank Schratt, they placed the monkey brain in a large tank and hooked it up to support equipment. At first there was no activity so they increased the voltage and a strong alpha wave appeared and remained steady.

We are fortunate to have here the very notes Cory's wife took as her husband dictated the details of the procedure. Not only that, but we have another primary source in the form of Dr. Cory's very own diary to help us understand this very important period of time in human history. Please feel free to browse the physical exhibits during this presentation.

As fate would have it, Dr. Cory was at that point called away to help out at an airplane crash. One body was carried away from the smoking wreckage on a stretcher and conveyed to Cory's house which had its own lab with a fully equipped operating room.

As you can see from Cory's diary, he was told that Warren H. Donovan was supposed to have been worth a hundred million dollars (what passed as currency in those days) and that the sky would be the limit on his fee.

Question Upload From Exhibit Visitor: Did the prospect of making money influence Cory at any stage of his research?

Exhibit Guide: I'll answer this and further questions orally if that's OK with everyone. You'll still be able to access any question from your fellow visitors.

Cory lived in a time when making personal wealth almost defined who a person was. Donovan was one of the worst examples of this. Initially, Cory just wanted to save a human life, no matter who he was. I suppose Cory's motivation later was to see if keeping a human brain alive could be done and how that could add to the sum of our scientific knowledge. It was the pioneering experiment and the discovery that mattered above all else. As it turned out, and unforeseen by Cory, more than just keeping the human brain alive was the result of Cory's experimentation.

As a result of the accident, Donovan had lost both legs and his chest was crushed. While Cory and Schratt operated, his pulse stopped. Incidentally, what we know about Dr. Frank Schratt is that he was a practicing physician, but he was also an alcoholic. People had any addictions in those days from tobacco, alcohol through to opioids and barbiturates.

[Gasps and shaking of heads]

Amazingly, alpha waves were found to be present on the recently deceased Mr. Donovan. Cory decided to try and talk Frank Schratt into helping him remove Donovan's brain. Frank and Janice were horrified at such a prospect as it was against the law, and he could've lost his medical license. Janice had told Cory more than once, that he was carrying things too far. However, Cory got his way by explaining that, [from diary] "If this brain lives, maybe we can discover how it thinks." With such research, it would, according to Cory, hold out the possibility of a cure "for Frank and every other alcoholic."

Question Upload: If his wife raised objections and the procedure would've had such drastic personal and legal ramifications, then why did he proceed with it?

Exhibit Guide: As with the early development of genetic engineering and human cloning, there were laws preventing scientific pursuits such as that undertaken by Cory. Objections were raised by ethics committees and religious denominations as to the moral implications of such research. Public opinion was strongly against it for a while at least. Signs and banners, as well as various forms of social media of the time containing messages such as, “What about the human soul?” “Unnatural & Unholy” and “We are not God!” greeted the first proposals for preserving human consciousness. Remember, Cory was attempting and succeeded in preserving a human brain. Even his friend Frank suggested to Cory that he was really “looking for the soul” and that he was “trying to play God.” Interestingly enough, there’s an entry in Cory’s diary in which he states, “I couldn’t have gotten this far without God’s help.”

Advances in technology have progressed since those times, thereby negating the need for hanging on to that portion of our biology, since we now understand most of the workings of the human brain and we can now extract, preserve and transfer its consciousness. Once the technology advances and a few independent or even rogue researchers, organisations and governments undertake once previously taboo forms of research, the door is inevitably opened up a bit wider. The once unacceptable soon becomes the accepted and established way of doing things. Questions of morality become just that little bit more blurred.

Questions of ethics and morality were evident when Cory assured Donovan's son and daughter, Chloe and Tom that everything possible was done for their father, except for the fact that he had taken his brain. Cory had to add this deception to his moral, ethical and professional misconduct. Yes indeed, there are consequences, foreseen and unforeseen, in most human undertakings.

A certain individual by the name of Herbie Yocum, a freelance photographer who was following Donovan's death, had already visited the morgue and noticed that Donovan had stitches in his head, even though the plane crash injuries did not involve his head. Cory eventually agreed to Yocum's request to take his pictures of the operating table. While doing this, he covertly took a picture of the tank with Donovan's brain.

In those days representatives of the media called journalists actually did investigative work in person out in the field. Unfortunately over time the mass media degenerated to being purveyors of propaganda and editorial mouth-pieces of their influential owners. The real work of informing the public was done by individual and organisational whistle-blowers. These days we rely more on remote tech surveillance and citizen reporters who operate on an almost freelance basis like Yocum.

I also refer you all to the link to the draft copy of Yocum’s article, **DEAD MAN’S LIVING BRAIN!** This would have appeared in what was called a newspaper which was actually made out of paper. A far cry from the plethora of sources of news and information which we can access, share and upload directly into our devices and brains today.

Over time Donovan's brain started to respond to outside stimuli, grow in size and absorb nutrients. Cory eventually wanted to try telepathy to communicate with the brain.

The record shows that W.H. Donovan was a very cruel and unscrupulous individual who was even hated by his own children. No wonder Cory's wife and Frank objected to Cory's plan to establish telepathic communication. Not only that, but he was also a tax cheat and the IRS had an ongoing case against him.

You may wish to conduct a quick THEMIS search for the term "taxes" and the abbreviation, "IRS."

Today, such a person as Donovan would not be permitted to have his consciousness preserved. Repeat criminals, murderers, sex offenders, paedophiles, those convicted of violent crimes, fraud and so on, have been over the years, automatically excluded from the consciousness preservation program. Fortunately, such crimes are far and few between these days.

As you are aware, all possible forms of communication between the real and virtual human consciousness worlds is strictly prohibited and safeguards have been put in place to prevent this from ever occurring.

With Cory's attempt to actively communicate with Donovan's brain, he awoke one morning to find a slip of paper with "get to N. Fuller, WH Donovan" written on it. He soon discovered from a magazine article that the writing on the paper and Donovan's handwriting and signature matched.

Question Upload: Didn't that raise the question in Cory's mind as to who was really in control? I ask this because I notice that there's an entry in Cory's diary referring to Frank's comment to him, "Do you control it, or does it control you?"

Exhibit Guide: Definitely a question human-kind has had to grapple with from the time we fashioned our first piece of technology. Every new advance, invention and idea eventually becomes a double-edged sword for us. For Cory, his ideas held out the hope for increasing our understanding of the human brain and thereby improve the human condition. Little did he know that he would be drawn in too far with his experiment by being possessed by Donovan, who used him to access Donovan's account to withdraw cash; to virtually walk, talk, dress and act like Donovan; to make Donovan's tax problem disappear with the aid of a payment of \$250,000 so that arrangements would continue as usual involving the Attorney General; to use the power of blackmail, only to be blackmailed himself by Yocum, and to eventually resort to murder by arranging for Yocum to be eliminated, not to mention being forced to almost kill his friend, Frank!

Somewhere deep inside Cory there was a human need to resist and regain control which surfaced when he recorded a message to his wife informing her that he was finding it harder to resist Donovan's influence, and that he might not return to be himself again. On the recording he told her of his plan to use a lightning rod on the house. Later on, after he was followed, he deliberately exited the cab he was in and

was hit by a truck. When he woke up in hospital he was briefly himself again and told Janice that he was afraid until Donovan again took over.

With the help of a plan cooked up between Cory's wife and Frank Schratt, along with Cory's idea involving a bolt of lightning striking the house and blowing out the equipment supporting the brain, the brain and all that was W.H. Donovan was destroyed.

Although Cory faced disciplinary procedures and a loss of his medical licence, over subsequent years, the results of his work were taken up by the Centre for Consciousness Studies which helped to refine work being conducted in the area of human consciousness. The result is that each of us today has the opportunity to, in a manner of speaking, cheat death and explore our full potential unhindered by the limitations of our biology.

Thank you everyone for attending our exhibit which will be open until 16.30 today. Be sure to go on a virtual re-visit and remember that all of the exhibit's features can be accessed anywhere any time via your preferred devices.



Four Sided Triangle (1953)

A thought-provoking and engaging film despite its low budget constraints and disappointing ending.

Director: Terence Fisher
Producer: Michael Carreras, Alexander Paal
Written by Paul Tabori
Based on William F. Temple's novel
Music: Malcolm Arnold
Cinematography: Reg Wyer
Editing: Maurice Rootes
Studio: Hammer Film Productions
Running time: 81 minutes

Cast

Barbara Payton: (Lena Maitland/Helen)
James Hayter: (Dr. Harvey)
Stephen Murray: (Bill Leggat)
John Van Eyssen: (Robin Grant)
Percy Marmont: (Sir Walter)

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