



Call re. Amner

to Amner NY

Duckworth

Massachusetts Mental Health Center

Department of Mental Health
A teaching hospital of the Harvard Medical School

Called 9/5/95

Beep 673 8048

August 29, 1995

*Sent 29-30
Nov 8 NY -
Nov 9 Boston
Called back Boston
will use time*

*Boston
will send
tape.
They do tape
in Boston*

George Gerbner, Ph.D.
The Cultural Environment Movement
University City Science Center - 1 East
3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

Dear Dr. Gerbner:

I have long admired your work and incorporate it in my lectures to Harvard medical students to help them better understand mental illness and how their perceptions have been influenced by the media. While earlier this year I requested materials from you for a Grand Rounds presentation on the stigma of mental illness, I now write to request your input on an "anti-stigma" project.

As the Medical Director of the Massachusetts Mental Health Center and Instructor in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, I have given Grand Rounds and lectures on stigma at various institutions and facilities, talks which have been well received and stimulated significant discussion. Recently, I received funding from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health to produce a 15-minute video to be distributed to medical students throughout the country. The video will include a number of film clips of portrayals of the mentally ill -- ranging from films for children such as Disney's "Aladdin" and for adolescents, "Halloween," to adult films such as "One Flew Over a Cuckoo's Nest"; a history of how mental illness has been viewed and portrayed over time, highlighted by cartoons, quotes, newspaper headlines; a "stigma quiz," and a summary of your work.

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I plan to attend the Board meeting of the American Association of Community Psychiatrists next month to enlist their support for this project and its distribution. I am also working with the Association for Academic Psychiatry.

As to your role, I would like you to make a brief appearance on the video (my production person would come to Philadelphia), or we could incorporate a short pre-made clip summarizing your conclusions about portrayals of the mentally ill in the media. I will call you in a few days to discuss this matter further and receive your input. Or, feel free to call me at 617/734-3182. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ken Duckworth, M.D.
Medical Director
Continuing Care Service