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**INSIDE:  
JFK VIDEOGRAPHY**



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**JFK's LSD PARAMOUR?**



**DEBORAH DAVIS**

*author of Katharine the  
Great, Katharine Graham*

*& Her Washington Post Empire*

**on Nixon, Bob Woodward,  
JFK & Mary Pinchot Meyer**

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**Was the Turin Shroud Buried?**

**Reagan and the Pope, Allies**

**Lenny Bruce in the Midwest**

**Italian Air Space Mystery**



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**PLUS:** A Look At The New Conspiracy Books; Feedback from Readers; Jack  
Anderson's Fidelity to Fidel; More On AIDS; Lance Boyle Rebounds!



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Philip Gounis

*This issue dedicated to Paul Kammerer, in on-going appreciation*

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An Interview With

## DEBORAH DAVIS



### author of *Katharine The Great*, *Katharine Graham and Her Washington Post Empire*

**Q:** Tim Leary suggested that your book was originally censored and pulped because of references to Mary Pinchot Meyer. Do you feel that way and can you tell us a little bit about Mary Meyer?

**A:** Mary Pinchot Meyer was the sister of Ben Bradlee's second wife, Tony Pinchot. She was a very beautiful, talented artist who was living in Washington in the early sixties and she was the lover. I would say the principal lover, of John Kennedy, who was President of the United States. He was supposedly very much in love with her and wanted to divorce Jackie and marry her. The Timothy Leary connection is interesting because at that time in the early sixties there was a group of society-type women in Washington who thought that if they could get men in power involved in mind-altering drugs they could see the world in a different way and this would end the Cold War and end all warfare. It was a very ambitious plan and a lot of them got their marijuana and LSD from Timothy Leary, who at that time was a professor of psychology at Harvard and had access to these drugs which at that time were very experimental and they were going around in a lot of the elite circles. It didn't have the same connotation that it has today of the hard stuff, of the cocaine and the heroin, this was all very beautiful and mind-expanding type stuff. So she was involved with Kennedy and they used to supposedly smoke marijuana together in Kennedy's bedroom and I think Leary said that she also gave him LSD, although I couldn't swear to that. Anyway, she got murdered. She was murdered a year after Kennedy died. Kennedy was killed in November '63 and Mary Meyer was killed in 1964. She was walking her dog in Georgetown through a wooded area and she was stabbed to death. And they never found the killer. Some young black man was put in jail for ten months, held over until his trial and then he was acquitted because there was no evidence. And they've never found the killer, but people who have investigated the case say that it had all the earmarks of a professional assassination.

**A:** She was, of course, married to Cord Meyer, who was an intelligence agent.

**A:** She had been. She was divorced from him at the time she was with Kennedy but that was...she had been with Cord Meyer in Europe when they were living. He was involved in a lot of counter-espionage over in Europe and she was supposedly a security risk because she tended to fall in love with handsome men and have affairs with handsome men and she had an affair with one Italian count who was supposedly an intelligence agent and this constituted a security risk. And I suppose that their divorce was partly caused by the gulf between them because he really just couldn't talk about his work. Anyway, she was a very talented painter and very charming and beautiful and Kennedy was in love with her.

**Q:** And so the way that her relationship with John Kennedy was handled by the press--or not handled--and her death would be just the tip of the iceberg in regards to the whole way mediapolitics handled President Kennedy's whole career, would it not be? And also the cover-up regarding his death? That would all kind of plug into that, would it not?

**A:** Yeah, it's all kind of part of one great big, giant society that these people have created for themselves where the most important thing to them is putting forward this myth about themselves that they are supremely moral, supremely powerful, all-knowing, all-caring, that

they'll take care of the rest of us and anything that they do that is questionable they try to cover it up because that would...you might ask why they're so afraid of having these things found about them because after all nothing that anyone knows about them is going to take away their money, their power, their friends, their influence or anything else, but it's a sense of they want to maintain this myth about themselves because that's the only way that people will buy into everything else that they do. You know, the newspaper that they put out, the whole aura that they create, that they are the one who are in charge, not only in charge of things, but should be in charge, and it's because they're morally and intellectually superior to the rest of us.

**Q: Let's talk a bit about what exactly happened to your book. The first edition came out in the late seventies, right?**

A: 1979. November '79.

**Q: And it was pulped before it was distributed?**

A: No, it was distributed and they recalled it from the bookstores and shredded the entire print run of twenty five thousand copies. A few copies that had been sold out of the bookstores and had gotten into private hands in the six week period before it was recalled, those books are still around and they are very valuable. The last I heard they were going for sixty dollars in used bookstores.

But the book came out in November '79 and right away there was an orchestrated attack on it by the people that have reason to try to make common cause with the *Post*. The *Post* itself didn't attack me. They didn't need to. They had people do it for them. David Ignatius, who is now the foreign editor of the Washington Post, was a young, ambitious reporter at the *Wall Street Journal* at that time. He did a very, very nasty, damaging piece about my book. There's a way that, if any of your audience have read the new paperback edition of *Silent Coup*, it describes the same process going on for that book. In the back there's an appendix that talks about the campaign against that book. And they're so much alike, so much the same what happened to me. Because they start this thing about "errors" in the book. This is like the worst thing you can say about a book, right?

**Q: Right.**

A: "Errors" in the book. And then the authors: Who are they? How do they know these things? They're outsiders, they weren't there the way we were. They're just speculating and OK, this is about a 400 page book. They named four errors. One of them is that he got somebody's name wrong. Of course, the people who are accusing you are lying, so they're not really errors to begin with. This is the same thing that happened with me. Errors in the book. Errors in the book. This was like a flag that was being waved. David Ignatius did it in the *Wall Street Journal* piece and then Alexander Cockburn did it in the *Village Voice*, so they were attacking me from the left and the right, right?

**Q: You were right in the middle.**

A: It was a non-partisan attack on me because the attack came from two people that were in different places in the political spectrum. This was supposed to be an objective evaluation now.

**Q: So we can assume that the authors of *Silent Coup* were on to something then, if the powers that be want to do away with the book. *Silent Coup* is...am I mistaken in calling it a pro-Nixon book? Isn't the issue here, what they're afraid of, is the story of Nixon's real fall from power as opposed to the way it was played in the media?**

A: I don't think that characterizing it as a pro-Nixon book is very useful because it's like the rationale Alexander Cockburn used for attacking the movie *JFK* because it's trying to bring back Camelot. I mean, that is sort of irrelevant. There is some merit to wanting to know the truth without having to say that it's furthering another agenda.

**Q: Right. That's why I'm saying that isn't the real story, the thing the powers-that-be are afraid of is the real reason Nixon was run out of office, from whatever perspective you want to put on it.**

A: Well, different people have different motives. The motive of the *Washington Post* in attacking *Silent Coup* was to protect the reputation of Bob Woodward because his reputation is what has earned the *Post* and Woodward and a number of people associated with him many millions of dollars since then in book and movies and inflated salaries, you know. I don't think the *Post* cares why Nixon was brought down. I don't think that that's what their interest is. Their interest is in closing ranks around Woodward and saying you can't, you know, question our golden boy because if you question our golden boy, that means that the greatness of the *Washington Post* is all a lie.

**Q: Let's question the golden boy a bit. Can you tell us what you know about Woodward?**

A: Bob Woodward has consistently lied about his background ever since the first time anybody started asking who this person is. He came from Wheaton, Illinois. His father was a judge. He joined the Navy and became a communications officer in the Navy, which is, it's not Naval Intelligence per se. Naval Intelligence is a separate organization, but what it does, what communications officers do, they are at the very highest level of receiving coded and top secret information from around the world and they get it before anybody else does and it's up to them to relay this information to the people in power. In Woodward's case, first he was in the Navy serving somewhere in California for four years. At the end of his term in four years he was in California, before that he was on a ship I believe. He's never said what he was doing in California. He just won't talk about it. But you remember that this was the time of the, the height of the anti-war movement and there was a domestic counter-intelligence operation going on called Operation Chaos, which was coordinating army, navy and FBI and CIA intelligence on the anti-war movement, spying on leaders and so on, trying to find foreign influence. And I believe that this is what Woodward was involved in at that time. So after his four years were up, he was eligible to leave the Navy having completed his service but instead he re-enlisted for another year and he came to Washington and he started working in a top secret Naval unit inside the Pentagon. Actually, they went between the Pentagon and the White House. This was during the first years of Nixon's presidency. And I believe that at this time he started working directly with Richard Ober, who was the deputy chief of counterintelligence under James Angleton. He was the one who was running Operation Chaos and I believe that he was the one who was Deep Throat. I disagree with those people in *Silent Coup*, although it hardly matters who exactly it was because I know Woodward had many sources. But the point is that at this time he was getting top secret information. He was briefing the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he was briefing the National Security Council and he was briefing Alexander Haig, who was Nixon's chief of staff. And he was right in the very, very center of the Nixon White House in terms of the information that was being conveyed and the people he knew. After that, he decided for some mysterious reason that he wanted to be a reporter and he went to the *Post* and the *Post* has thousands of applications a year of experienced reporters, most of whom never get in. But instead they took this guy who couldn't write, who had never been a reporter in his life and they said, "You have to learn how to write better so go work on the suburban paper for a year and then we'll hire you." Now I don't know how they decided that he was somebody they

**It didn't have the same connotation that it has today of the hard stuff, of the cocaine and the heroin, this was all very beautiful and mind-expanding type stuff. So she was involved with Kennedy and they used to supposedly smoke marijuana together in Kennedy's bedroom and I think Leary said that she also gave him LSD, although I couldn't swear to that.**

wanted to cultivate or whether somebody had the word on him ahead of time or what. But after a year he came to the *Post* and right away Ben Bradlee, the executive editor, started giving him the choice assignments. They felt a common bond between each other because Bradlee had had a very similar background in the Navy himself.

**Q: Was Carl Bernstein completely unaware of Woodward's background when he was working with him? Or was he naive enough just not to ask?**

A: Bernstein was coming from a whole different place. He was a very messed up person, you know, had a lot of trouble keeping his job at the *Post*. He would always fall asleep on the job, stay up all night and miss deadlines and he was just a mess. And if it weren't for the newspaper guild rules about not firing reporters, he would have been fired a long time ago. But he had a sense about politics. He still does. He had a very good sense about politics and he hated Nixon because during the McCarthy era, when Nixon was a congressman, he had experienced, his family, his father and mother, who were very left-wing, had experienced a lot of persecution during the McCarthy era. And so he associated Nixon with this. And he had his own reasons for wanting to do a story that he thought might lead to exposing Nixon and bringing down Nixon. I don't know. It's a very strange friendship. There's a lot of tension between them and there's a very strong bond between them because each of them owes the other one the fact that they are now millionaires and can get book contracts for any amount of money they want. So I don't think it occurred to Bernstein. These were just two guys working together.

**Q: Let's get back to Ben Bradlee. I know part of what's in the book and part of what upset those forces that caused the withdrawal of its first publication is what you've said about Ben Bradlee and his connection to the Ethyl and Julius Rosenberg trial. Can you talk about that a bit?**

A: Yes. Well, in the first edition, which was the one that was recalled and shredded, I looked in State Department lists for '52 and '53 when Bradlee was serving as a press attache supposedly in the American embassy in Paris. This was during the Marshall Plan when the United States over in Europe had hundreds of thousands of people making an intensive effort to keep Western Europe from going Communist. Bradlee wanted to be part of that effort. So he was over in the American embassy in Paris and the embassy list had these letters after his name that said USIE. And I asked the State Department this meant and it said United States Information Exchange. It was the forerunner of the USIA, the United States Information Agency. It was the propaganda arm of the embassy. And I said, "Well, what did this group do?" They produced propaganda that was then disseminated by the CIA all over Europe. They planted newspaper stories, they had a lot of reporters on their payrolls, they routinely would produce stories out of the embassy and give them to these reporters and they would appear in the papers in Europe and this would be... it's very important to understand how influential it is, how influential newspaper stories are to people because this is what people think of as their essential source of facts about what is going on. They don't question it and even if they do question it, they have nowhere else to go to find out anything else. So Bradlee was involved in producing this propaganda. But at that point in the story I didn't know exactly what he was doing. I published the first book just saying that he worked for USIE and that this agency produced propaganda for the CIA. Well, anyway, he went totally crazy after the book came out and he went...one person told me who knew him then that he was going all up and down the East Coast having lunch with every editor he could think of saying that it was not true, he did not produce any propaganda. And he attacked me viciously and he said that I had falsely accused him of being a CIA agent. And the reaction was totally out of proportion to what I had said.

**Q: You make a good point in the book that other people who have had similar kinds of, I don't even know if you want to call them accusations, but reports that they in some way cooperated with the CIA in the fifties, that the times were different and people were expected to do that kind of thing out of a sense of patriotism and they kind of blow it off.**

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**Bob Woodward has consistently lied about his background ever since the first time anybody started asking who this person is.**

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A: That's right. People say, yeah, this is what I did back then, you know. But Bradlee doesn't want to be defined that way because, I don't know, somehow he thinks it's just too revealing of him, of who he is. He doesn't want to admit a true fact about his past because somehow he doesn't want it known that this is where he came from. Because this is the beginning of his journalistic career. This is how he made it big.

**Q: And that sensitivity to that reveals a lot about his ongoing motives in working with the press, wouldn't you say?**

A: Yes, absolutely. Anyway, subsequent to my book being shredded in 1979, early 1980, I got some documents through the Freedom of Information Act and they revealed that Bradlee had been--he always claimed that he had been a low level press flack in the embassy in Paris, just a press flack, nothing more. And these documents that I got from the State Department revealed that he had been the person who was running an entire propaganda operation against Julius and Ethyl Rosenberg that covered forty countries on four continents. And the purpose of this operation was to...Julius and Ethyl Rosenberg had already been convicted of being atomic spies and they were on death row waiting to be executed. And the purpose of Bradlee's propaganda operation was to convince the Europeans that they really were spies, they really had given the secret of the atomic bomb to the Russians and therefore they did deserve to be put to death. The Europeans, having just very few years before defeated Hitler, were very concerned that the United States was going fascist the way their countries had. And this was a very real fear to the Europeans. They saw the same thing happening in the United States that had happened in their own countries. And so Bradlee's job, by using the Rosenberg case to say no this isn't what you think it is, these people really did this bad thing and they really do deserve to die and it doesn't mean that the United States is becoming fascist. So he had a very key role in creating European public opinion and it was very, very important. This was the key issue that was going to determine how the Europeans felt about the United States. Some of the documents that I had showed him writing letters to the prosecutors of the Rosenbergs saying "I'm working for the head of the CIA in Paris and he wants me to come and look at your files." And this kind of thing. So in the second edition, which came out in 1987, I reprinted those documents, the actual documents, the readers can see them and it's got his signature and it's very, very interesting. And he subsequently has said nothing about it at all. He won't talk about it all. He won't answer any questions about it. So I guess the point about Bradlee is that he went from this job to being European bureau chief for *Newsweek* magazine and he went right from there to the executive editorship of the *Post*. So this is how he got where he is. It's very clear line of succession.

**Q: And Phillip Graham's association with American intelligence would parallel at least Bradlee's, correct? In fact, in a large way he was the architect of this kind of arm-in-arm relationship of the press with intelligence, wasn't he?**

A: Yes, well, Phillip Graham was Katharine Graham's husband, who ran the *Post* in the fifties and he committed suicide in 1963 and that's when Katharine Graham took over. He was close friends with Allen Dulles and Phil Graham, the paper wasn't doing very well for a while and he was looking for a way to pay foreign correspondents and Allen Dulles was looking for a cover. Allen Dulles was head of the CIA back then and he was looking for a cover for some of his operatives so that they could get in and out of places without arousing suspicion. So the two of them hit on a plan: Allen Dulles would pay for the reporters and they would give the CIA the information that they found as well as giving it to the *Post*. So he helped to develop this operation and it subsequently spread to other newspapers and magazines. And it was called Operation Mockingbird. This operation, I believe, was revealed for the first time in my book.

**Q: To get back to Phil Graham for a minute. There are two things that I'd like to bring up about him: first, he supported Alger Hiss, first, right? And he flip-flopped on that issue?**

**But he was at loggerheads with Nixon on that and that was the beginning of this kind of life-long enmity between Nixon and the Post.**

A: Yes, he supported Alger Hiss largely because he had been a Supreme Court law clerk for Justice Felix Frankfurter. Frankfurter felt very strongly that Hiss was innocent. Hiss was accused of spying also. But Phil was interested in being a with-it kind of guy, very modern, up to the minute, involved in the thinking of his times. So the thinking of his times was the Cold War and was anti-Soviet and get all the domestic spies and this was, he eventually gave in to this way of thinking and with the majority of his friends and associates thinking if Hiss wasn't a spy himself he should at least be made an example of because there were spies among us, as we say. So he was instrumental in that, but before he did turn around on Hiss, I believe he accused Nixon of excesses in trying to prosecute Hiss because Hiss was one of the...the Hiss case was how Nixon made his reputation as an anti-Communist and as an important national political figure. And he was the one who was running around screaming about Hiss and so Phil Graham criticized Nixon for this. And Nixon takes things like that very personally and he never forgot it. So when he became president a number of years later, Phil Graham was dead, Katharine was the head of the *Washington Post* and she made her usual overtures to the incumbent president, you know, "Come over, get to know my editors, tell them how you want your stories covered." And Nixon, instead of accepting it, he rejected it because he was still angry about what happened fifteen years ago. So he rejected her overtures and then for her own reasons. I guess she had nothing to lose by going after him. You see, everybody that was involved in that Watergate investigation was doing it from their own perspective. Woodward was doing it from the Naval Intelligence perspective, Bernstein was doing it from the perspective of being a reporter who finally wanted to do a story that would get him out of his suburban courtroom beat. Katharine Graham wanted to keep Ben Bradlee happy and Bradlee had his own sources of information about, you know, Nixon is going to be brought down and you're going to be the one to do it. And she didn't care because she hated Nixon by that time. If she had had a close friendship with Nixon, if Nixon hadn't rejected her friendship, she would have protected him the way that she had protected Reagan. Because none of those Reagan scandals ever got pursued by the *Post* the way the Nixon scandals did. In fact, one of the first things that the Reagan people did when Reagan got into office was to make friends with Katharine Graham and that was precisely for that reason. They decided that Nancy should be best friends with Katharine Graham and they did it. They got her over there, they met her, they had her invited over to the White House, they just did all these things. And nothing bad about Reagan ever got in the *Post* unless it was somewhere else first and they just had to do it to show that they were still a legitimate newspaper. But they never broke any stories on Reagan that were damaging and he sailed through eight years looking as good as she could keep him looking.

**Q: Before we get too far from Phil Graham, I'd like to talk a little bit more about his suicide. Getting back to that article that Leary wrote, he seemed to suggest that there was a reason to believe that it could have been something more than suicide, that there's no indication or public record that Graham wasn't done in. And that the "suicide" happened shortly after this public event where Graham was talking about the JFK/Mary Meyer liaison. Can you talk a little bit more about that?**

A: Yeah, there is continuing...Phil died in '63 and it's now 1992. There's still continuing speculation, twenty nine years later that he was murdered. In my book, I wrote it as a suicide because that's the way that it's been represented and I didn't have any independent knowledge of anything else. If I were doing it today, or if I ever do another edition, I will probably expand on that and spend some time investigating it and finding out whether there is any evidence that it was murder. But there were a couple of reasons why it could have been murder. One is the one you mentioned. The people that were protecting Kennedy might have done it because of he was a manic depressive. He was in and out of institutions and he was very mentally unstable. A lot of that probably had to do with the fact that he married into a wealthy family. He married the boss' daughter and they gave him the newspaper but they were watching every move he made. So he did not react well to that because Katharine Graham's father had owned the *Washington Post*. He may have been killed for that reason, if he was killed. He may have been killed because he had a mistress named Robin Webb, who was...by that time he had moved out

of Katharine's house and he was living with Robin Webb in another house and he was actually behaving as if they were married. He had dinner parties over there with her and invited various members of the Washington elite over there for dinner parties and making it very clear that this was the woman he preferred to Katharine. And at the same time, he was re-writing his will. He re-wrote his will three times. Edward Bennet Williams was his attorney. Edward Bennet Williams, who is very well-known as a Washington power broker. He recently died but he was very much involved in this. Each time, he willingly, at Phil's request, wrote a will that gave Katharine less and less of a share of the *Washington Post* and gave more and more of it to Robin Webb. By the third rewrite she had nothing and Robin Webb had everything. And this was at a time when Katharine had pretty much given up on the marriage and realized that in order to save the newspaper, which she thought of as her family newspaper, her father built that newspaper and she didn't want to let it go to some mistress of her husband's, and she had come to the conclusion that she either had to divorce him and win the paper in a divorce settlement, or she had to have him declared mentally incompetent. And each of these alternatives was very unattractive to her. And so there's some speculation that either she arranged for him to be killed or somebody said to her, "don't worry, we'll take care of it" and there's some speculation that it might have even been Edward Bennet Williams. So, anyway, she took him out of the sanitarium one weekend and took him out to their farm in Virginia and this was where he blew his brains out with a shotgun. And the police report was never really made public. And even after my paperback edition was published this fall, I got a call from some woman who claims that she knew for a fact that it was murder. And if I ever do publish another edition, I intend to look into that. This is the kind of talk that people live with in Washington, DC.

Mary Pinchot Meyer had her, after she divorced Cord Meyer, she moved to Washington and she was living in Ben Bradlee's garage, which had been made into an art studio and this is where she was living. And when she was killed on this tow path, James Angleton showed up at the garage at the studio and there's two versions of the story that I've heard. One is that he searched for the diary and found it and took it away and the other is that Ben Bradlee handed it to him and he took it away. Supposedly he burned it but people that knew Angleton say that he never burned anything, he saved everything. So supposedly it still exists. Now Angleton is dead now but if anybody has it it's probably his widow.

**Q: There's no Freedom of Information way of accessing it I guess.**

A: Not unless it's in official government files. It's a sketchbook. In fact, Bradlee talked about this in an interview with David Frost a couple of months ago and he said that it was just a sketch book and he's seen it and it only has sketches in it and a few pages of writing, but it wasn't a diary per se. Now I trust Bradlee about as far as I can throw him.

**Q: NBC did a series on the JFK assassination and the last thing they did was roll a list of people who had been killed that were somehow connected to the JFK assassination and there Mary Meyer's name rolled by.**

A: Really?

**Q: Yeah. Now how do we connect Mary Meyer to JFK's assassination?**

A: I don't believe she was involved in his assassination.

**Q: We're thinking in terms of CIA henchmen. Is that the connecting principle? It was surprising to see her name in connection with the assassination. I knew they were lovers but her death...might it have had something to do with knowledge that she had?**

**If Nixon hadn't rejected Katharine Graham's friendship, she would have protected him the way that she had protected Reagan.**

A: She was alive for another year. I don't know what went on in that year. Maybe she was trying to expose something. That's something that also worth looking into. There's a man right now doing a book on Mary Meyer which should be very interesting. His name is Leo Damore and I'm very much looking forward to reading that book. I'm sure it's going to have a lot of new information in it. It's not out yet but it will be soon.

**Q: He did a book on Ted Kennedy and Chappaquiddick...**

A: .. called *Senatorial Privilege*. He's a very diligent researcher and I know because I've spoken to him about the pains that he goes through to check out every little thing. And I think his research is beyond reproach. He's got a funny personality but that shouldn't detract from his...

**Q: Let's turn the conversation back to this term that you coined in the book, mediapolitics, the political uses of information. Is there a way that any average person who picks up the paper--is there a way they can read it in which they could judge it against what is just a regurgitation of a government report or press release and what is actually true? What are the sources that one looks to for the truth, or as close as they can get to it?**

A: The way to read the *Washington Post*, and I suppose this applies to any newspaper in any city that you live in, is certain reporters of certain beats, they develop certain contacts with certain politicians and if you know that and if you know who they're talking to every day and you can just sort of know by whose by-line is on the story, where their information is coming from. So you don't read it as this reporter's story, you read it as the politician using this writer to say something. In the case of the *Post*, even Katharine Graham has described it this way, that the *Post* is the internal memo system of the U. S. government. I mean, politicians try to get things in the *Post* to talk to each other. To say, "I have something on you, if you don't play something my way I'm going to leak more of this. This is just a taste of what I know about you." This kind of thing. So that goes on all the time and you have to kind of spend some time studying who your reporters are and who their sources are. I look at the *Washington Post* and I see a Bob Woodward piece on there and I say, "Oh, OK", like when he did the series on Dan Quayle. A seven part series on this complete non-entity, all about what a decent human being he is and even though he doesn't have brains, his wife does and it took up more column inches probably than any story they've done since Watergate. And it was Bob Woodward doing it. And I thought, "OK, now either he has gotten the word to push Dan Quayle or he's gotten the word that Dan Quayle is going to be it and he wants to get on the band wagon and look like he's in on the big thing." That's the only two ways you can read it with Bob Woodward. And depending on what you know about the reporter, you can understand that. Now some people are very independent and they won't really probe all with their sources, they'll ask hard questions and not just be a cipher for letting the politicians say whatever he wants through them. But these people tend to lose their access and the sources tend to get mad at them and not talk to them anymore and start giving the good stuff to reporters who will tell it their way because, you know, they know that the reporters have a job and they've got to fill a certain number of inches everyday or they're in trouble. You just don't have time to go running around, digging. That's why I personally never really wanted to be a reporter because I like to spend my time developing stories for as long as it takes. So it's just a way of looking at the newspaper where it's not facts but it's people fighting to get their points of view out to you through using the reporter as a vehicle.

**Q: So there's no particular publication that you look to as there used to be, maybe a *Stone's Weekly* or as I mentioned the *Covert Action Information Bulletin* or any particular publication that you go into and you know you're going to get credible information?**

A: Well, I think that you have to read more than one. You have to know the biases of each publication and then read as many as you can and then compare them.

**Q: Just kind of sift through the information yourself.**

A: And if you're interested, if you're really interested in the story, you make phone calls and ask your own questions. The publications that really want to be in the big time are the ones that are most suspect because they are the ones that are most vulnerable to black mail or withdrawal of prestige or that kind of thing. Like the *Post* and the *Times*. They are also the ones that are in a very strong position to go against the grain if they really want to because they are financially independent and don't need to be worried that they're going to lose their advertisers or lose readers if they do something courageous once in a while. It's ironic because it's the very function of being so inside, and playing the game so well and getting so much money and so much power that they can occasionally turn against the establishment and really do something courageous if they only want to. But they don't want to do it too often because they don't want to make a habit of it and they don't want to get a reputation of being like that. After the Watergate stories, the first number of speeches Katharine Graham made were all about getting back to business. She didn't want the reporters to think that they were always going to be against the government, that they were always going to exposing politicians. That was her first concern. She didn't want to be like that ever again. That was it. That was an aberration. She wanted her reporters to understand that. And to underline this, she withheld a contract for three years, a Newspaper Guild contract, she made them work without a contract, no raises, made them very vulnerable to being fired or being moved to night assignments or out of town if they didn't do what she wanted in the way of just cooling it in terms of the way of antagonism to the powers that be.

**Q: Had your book been given the push that they originally intended to give it in its original edition, how do you assess what kind of impact it would have had back then, in the late seventies, and I wasn't familiar with the second edition, I'm not sure who published it or how well known it is, and this third edition, the publisher is Sheridan Square Press. The editions have all been much smaller than they would have been had there not been such a reaction to its original publication.**

A: The first edition was their biggest book for that season. The first printing was 25,000 and it was sold out before publication. And they were already into a second printing and it was a Literary Guild selection and it had a publisher in London and it had seven paperback houses bidding on it at the time they pulled the book off the market. And I think it would have had a very big impact because it was the first book about the truth underneath the myth of the Washington Post which had come out ever since Watergate. And these people were at the height of their power, the height of their glamour and nobody really thought twice about who these people were. I think it would have had an enormous impact.

**Q: And you sued, right?**

A: I sued Harcourt Brace for breach of contract for taking my book off the market.

**Q: And won.**

A: And won, yeah.

**Q: Who published the second edition?**

A: A little publisher called National Press in Bethesda, Maryland. That was out for a year or two but he didn't promote. And the third edition is now out with Sheridan Square Press who is small but a very good publisher. And they're the people that published the Jim Garrison book that became the JFK movie.

**Q: On the Trail of the Assassins.**

A: That's right. And they're very sharp politically and they're very courageous and I like them a lot.

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**When Mary Pinchot Meyer was killed on this tow path, James Angleton showed up at the garage at the studio and there's two versions of the story that I've heard. One is that he searched for the diary and found it and took it away and the other is that Ben Bradlee handed it to him and he took it away.**

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**Q: Can I ask you what you do now? You've got the book out. Are you a reporter?**

A: I'm writing a book on Henry and Clare Booth Luce, which is going to be a further investigation of mediapolitics. But it's going to be a much broader scope book. It's going to be about *Time* magazine and how it transformed American culture. And it's going to be a psychological portrait of Henry Luce and Clare Booth Luce and how these people projected their own needs to be powerful on to this enormously successful, influential...

**Q: Empire?**

A: Well, the magazine is really one of the most, I want to use the word Thought Control, it really worked on peoples minds in a way that nothing else had before it.

**Q: If that book is any bit the eye opener that your current book is, it's certainly going to be interesting reading.**

A: Thank you.



**Katharine Graham and Ben Bradlee, laughing**

## Has Carbon Dating Buried The Shroud of Turin?

By John Hayward

On October 13, 1988, it was announced to the world that carbon-dating (C-14) results from the famous Shroud of Turin, reputed to be the actual burial shroud of Jesus of Nazareth, showed that the cloth was dated between AD 1260-1390, suggesting that it could not be that of Jesus, who was crucified about AD 30. For most people, that settled the question: the Shroud was a fake, even though no one can still explain, much less duplicate the front and back, full-length images, which are photographically negative (photography wasn't even invented until the nineteenth century), superficial (only on the top several thousands of an inch of the fibers), three-dimensional (no other picture in the world contains true three-dimensional information) and physiologically/anatomically correct (poorly understood in the thirteenth-fourteenth centuries).

One could usually count on seeing many articles on the Shroud in religious periodicals, especially in Lent. Despite the fact that there have been five major symposia on the Shroud since the C-14 results (and one to come in Rome in 1993), even religious periodicals are now virtually ignoring the Shroud. But many eminent researchers and scientists, including those who actually examined the Shroud in 1978, have expressed at these symposia and elsewhere grave reservations about the C-14 test. They believe that the tests were performed in such a way as to cast severe doubts on the validity of the results. These protests have fallen on deaf ears. The media has given very little air time to the doubts expressed. Most people seem happy to put out of their mind such an important issue, which deals with no less than the meaning of life. As one author writing about the Shroud put it, "Many categorically refuse to notice any issue that is ontologically important; they refuse to think beyond beer, sex, TV, and money."

Another case associated with the death of a famous leader, albeit a secular one, has seemingly taken the place of the Shroud --ironically even in the religious media: the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. There are some fascinating similarities between the two cases. As mentioned, both deal with the death (some might use the word "execution") of a famous leader. Both cases have people in powerful or exalted positions espousing a view that is contested by groups that do not accept the discrepancies, irregularities, and suppression of evidence emanating from the "official" view. Both cases are hampered by the decision of the people in positions of power, who seem to be afraid to let all the data to come out in each case.

In the case of the Shroud, carbon-dating officials, who knew virtually nothing about the Shroud and its history (the latter being crucial for proper C-14 testing) and who had never observed the whole cloth first-hand, pronounced that the Shroud was definitely medieval, despite the fact that this data conflicted with over eighty years of other scientific data that suggested that the Shroud is authentic. The labs refused to release the raw data from their experiments, normal procedure for all scientific experiments, and only released their final report, which was not peer-reviewed (i.e., analyzed and critiqued by other scientists--another standard procedure in science) and left many unanswered questions.

In the case of JFK, the official government position is that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone, despite the fact that there is overwhelming evidence that there was a conspiracy. Officials who were not at the scene decided that dozens of people who witnessed the assassination and had testimony that conflicted with the "official" view were simply wrong. Many documents pertaining to the assassination were to have been sealed until 2039. Although it has been reported that researchers will get access to some of these documents very soon, there has been enough abuse and tampering with previous evidence to cause concern about the integrity of the remaining documents. It has also been reported that any bill passed to release these documents will get a Presidential veto. No surprise there!

However, let us return to specific details concerning the controversy surrounding the Shroud of Turin. Much doubt has been cast upon the validity of the C-14 results by many researchers and scientists, especially by a French priest named Bruno Bonnet-Eymard, whose work appears in a periodical published by his religious order, and Italian authors Orazio Petrosillo and Emanuella Marinelli, who published a book in 1990. The evidence presented by Bonnet Eymard and Petrosillo/Marinelli is startling. It indicates that there was an enormous lack of professionalism in the testing process. Discrepancies and irregularities abound in the saga. The Cardinal of Turin's scientific adviser, Luigi Gonella, indicated after the results that he believed that an anti-Catholic conspiracy had been at work. "There are those who speak of a Jewish-masonic conspiracy," write Petrosillo and Marinelli. The Vatican Secretariat of State has reportedly opened a dossier to examine whether such allegations are true.

Why would the Masons get involved? According to French author Yves Marsaudon, "Only Masonry can resolve the vast problems imposing themselves upon man today and which despite irrefutable goodwill neither the organized Churches nor political parties are fit to tackle."

Many scholars had expressed the need for caution in interpreting C-14 results on the Shroud, which has been in several fires and exposed to many contaminants over the years. The test, which was performed on a miniscule fragment of the cloth, is extremely sensitive, and it doesn't take much for the results to be completely misleading. Michael Winter, a C-14 specialist, has written, "If a dating by Carbon-14 confirms our theories, we put the results in plain view in the main text: if it contradicts them, but not entirely, we relegate the results to footnote; and if the dating contradicts our theories completely, we hide the fact from everyone." But in reality, the errors in some C-14 cases are well publicized. The magazine *Science* in December 1988 revealed that some *live* shells of snails were dated to 26,000 BP (Before Present). The geographical periodical *Antarctic* reported recently that a newly killed seal dated to 1,300 BP. The journal *Radiocarbon* reported that the skin of a 26,000 year old mammoth was judged to be only 5,600 years old. Such errors are not rare. Not long after the Shroud C-14 results, the British Research Council gave 38 laboratories around the world objects of a known age to be tested. Only 7 laboratories achieved results deemed acceptable by the BRC.

The three labs that performed the Shroud dating have all recently had some interesting results on other objects. The director of the laboratory of Zurich, Switzerland had attempted to date the linen handkerchief of his mother-in-law. Although the handkerchief was about 50 years old, the C-14 results indicated an age of 350 years. "The fault of detergents" was the explanation. The Tucson laboratory dated a Viking horn to the year 2006 AD (that's right--we haven't reached it yet). In 1991, the Oxford lab (England) was asked to date ancient rock painting by South African bushmen. Their results estimated the rock to be 1,200 year old, but they were dumbfounded when a grandmother named Joan Ahrens said she had painted them 11 years previously.

It seemed that the C-14 test was to be only be one test, inserted into a context of multi-disciplinary examination. The Shroud had already been subjected to various tests, with results suggesting that the Shroud dated to the time of Jesus. Pollen analysis showed that the cloth had been in Palestine and Italy and including all the places in

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**The Cardinal of Turin's scientific adviser, Luigi Gonella, indicated after the results that he believed that an anti-Catholic conspiracy had been at work.**

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between where tradition maintains that the cloth once was. The late Fr. Francis Filas, a professor at Loyola University in Chicago, had found evidence of the imprint of coins placed over the eyes of the man in the Shroud, a practice known to have existed at the time of Jesus. The imprints of the coins match coins minted by Pontius Pilate, who reigned in Palestine from 26-36 AD. Jesus is believed to have been crucified in 30 or 33 AD. Traces of aragonite, a rare mineral present in the grottoes of Jerusalem, has been found. There are traces of hemoglobin; the coagulating blood had been interrupted without the stains being altered and before the decaying process started. With such scientific results, the Shroud of Turin Research Project (STURP), a group of 40 American scientists, presented in 1984 to Cardinal Ballestrero of Turin a new plan of research, called Phase II. In Phase II, the STURP team proposed to see answers to 85 questions related to the formation of the image (still a complete mystery to this day), its preservation and its authenticity.

A bitter struggle began at this point. According to Bonnet-Eymard and Petrosillo/Martinelli, the scientists who eventually carbon-dated the Shroud, had the objective of preventing any inter-disciplinary research and to base the verdict of authenticity on C-14 alone. The tests would be conducted with as little input as possible from the Turin archdiocese and the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, the Pope's advising body on scientific matters. Two men who were allegedly key figures in this saga were the Episcopalian priest David Sox and C-14 scientist Harry Gove.

Sox, who had been secretary of the British Society for the Turin Shroud, had for years been urging C-14 for the Shroud. Beginning in 1976 he had contacted a number of laboratories and interested them in being involved in a dating of the Shroud. In 1977 he contacted Harry Gove, one of the pioneers of C-14 dating. Gove then contacted two Oxford scientists, Robert Hedges and Edward Hall. These two would be the men who would present the results obtained by the three laboratories to a press conference on 14 October 1988. Along with them, Michael Tite, director of London's British Museum, which was the sole coordinating institution and "guarantor" of the results. On the blackboard behind them, the results were written with a large exclamation point following. According to the authors, this behavior showed a lack of impartiality and scientific neutrality.

Sox, who resigned from the British Society for the Turin Shroud in January 1981 after stating his belief that the Shroud was a painting, based on the opinions of Chicago microscopist Walter McCrone, whose work was contested by the STURP group. Although the testing was to be performed in secret, Sox managed to get in to the Zurich lab with a BBC television crew to watch and film various phases of the test. A book by Sox, *The Shroud Unmasked: Uncovering the Greatest Forgery of All Time* was ready for release long before the results of the test were even made public. Gonella, Ballestrero's adviser, would say, "I realized only at the end of the tests there was a veritable radio-carbon mafia."

Harry Gove appeared at the Radio-Carbon Congress of Dubrovnik in June 1988 and presented himself as "the principal spokesman and coordinator for the dating of the Shroud." In fact, there had been an on-going dispute between Gove and Gonella for some time. In 1986, Gove had confided to Carlos Chagas, president of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, that Gonella did not respect him. Shortly before that, Gove had declared that if STURP, which had proposed the program of interdisciplinary research, was allowed to participate, he would pull out.

In the preparatory meetings held in June 1986, Gove had proposed that Sox be present along with the directors of the laboratories that would be chosen to do the testing. Gonella, who preferred that STURP participate in the testing, wrote a private letter to Chagas. Another official in the Pontifical Academy of Sciences saw the letter and revealed the contents to Gove; the letter was even published in Sox's book. In the letter, Gonella accused Gove trying to obtain funds from the National Science Foundation and wanted to present himself as the leader of the laboratories (which at

(the time was going to include Gove's Rochester lab) to increase the prestige of his lab. From that time on, there were two "camps", one led by Gove and Chagas, the other by Gonella and STURP. The former seemed to prevail, although Gonella managed to get Gove's lab removed from the testing. Not to be outdone, Gove managed to get himself invited to the Tucson lab for observation of the testing (here).

Although there are two types of C-14 tests, one being older and more proven, the three laboratories chosen all use the newer and more suspect AMS method. Since the sample was also taken from only one suspect area of the cloth instead of from several places as recommended, the notion of independent tests, essential to a rigid scientific methodology, being performed is absurd. One simply has 1 sample being tested 3 times under similar conditions.

So why did Gonella, though hostile to Gove and favorable to multi-disciplinary testing and who had authority to accept or reject procedures, accept such conditions? At a Shroud symposium in May 1989, Gonella stated, "The Church found herself faced with a challenge launched by a few persons who, with their requests, did everything they could to make us say no, in order to say that the Church was afraid of science. So, faced with this danger, it was decided to proceed to the scientific examination at all costs, even with protests." And he added: "It was a matter of blackmail. They backed us against the wall with the threat of blackmail: either we would accept the Carbon-14 dating tests under the conditions set by the laboratories or a campaign would be unleashed against the Church with accusations that the Church feared the truth, that the Church was the enemy of science...In any case, the laboratories acted very badly. I protest their absolute lack of scientific professionalism. I protest the base way they conducted their experiments. I have told them to their faces that they are *mafiosi*."

One can understand those who are knowledgeable about the Shroud continue to hold to their belief that the cloth is authentic. One expects a neutral and detached attitude on the part of scientists performing such an important experiment but it clearly was not the case. Edward Hall, director of the Oxford lab, said in an interview in 1989, "I certainly did not believe that the Shroud was the burial cloth of Christ" and added that he did not know whether the blood on the linen was that of a man or a pig. And although to this day, the image-formation process on the Shroud is a mystery, Hall states that it's not an important question in light of the fact that the results show it to be medieval. What kind of scientist is it that is satisfied while major questions are still unanswered?

The tests to date the Shroud were supposed to be "blind" tests; the Shroud samples along with control cloth samples (dates of which were known by the authorities but not supposed to be known by the labs) were to have been prepared in such a way to avoid tampering or exchanges and to insure the trustworthiness of the dating. But the sole overseer of the whole operation, Michael Tite of the British Museum informed the labs of the dates of the "control" samples. In addition, the representatives of the laboratories had been able to see the Shroud, which has a very unusual weave, during the cutting of the samples in Turin. "They did not trust the cardinal and a whole group of them came to Turin," Gonella would say later. They were easily able to identify the Shroud sample when it came time for the testing. The director of the Zurich lab admitted in front of Sox's television camera: "All that you need to do is look at the photographs of the Shroud's fabric published in *National Geographic*. It is not difficult for me to recognize the Shroud's material: it is the sample marked Z1."

There is more. On April 21, the three small pieces cut for the testing were packaged along with the "control" samples in steel cylinders in a private room (this part of the proceedings were not videotaped) by Tite and Cardinal Ballestrero. At this point Gabriel Vial, an expert on ancient fabrics, introduced a piece of cloth dating from the medieval period. Vial had obtained the cloth from French C-14 scientist Jacques Evin, who had been asked by Tite to find a piece of material as similar to the Shroud as

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**"It was a matter of blackmail. They backed us against the wall with the threat of blackmail: either we would accept the Carbon-14 dating tests under the conditions set by the laboratories or a campaign would be unleashed against the Church with accusations that the Church feared the truth, that the Church was the enemy of science."**

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possible dating from the medieval period. Tite had asked that the fabric be brought to London, but Evin, fearing it would not arrive on time, had it brought to him in Turin.

This sample, not called for by the official protocol, requested and delivered in a strange way, when Cardinal Bellestrero, believing the procedure concluded, had left the room, was also cut into 3 pieces and given to the laboratories. This sample was put into envelopes rather than steel containers, making it easily identifiable. Almost no report, note even the semi-official one of that day, mentions this last sample, which is so close to the age eventually announced for the Shroud, has led some to claim that there was a substitution.

There are also discrepancies regarding the supposed weights of the samples. In a lecture in Paris, Giovanni Riggi, who made the actual cut, said it was 497 milligrams. But later in the talk, he gave the figure of 540 milligrams. In the film made of the the cutting, the scale showed 478.1 milligrams. Another textile expert involved in the operation, Franco Testore, indicated a figure of 298 milligrams.

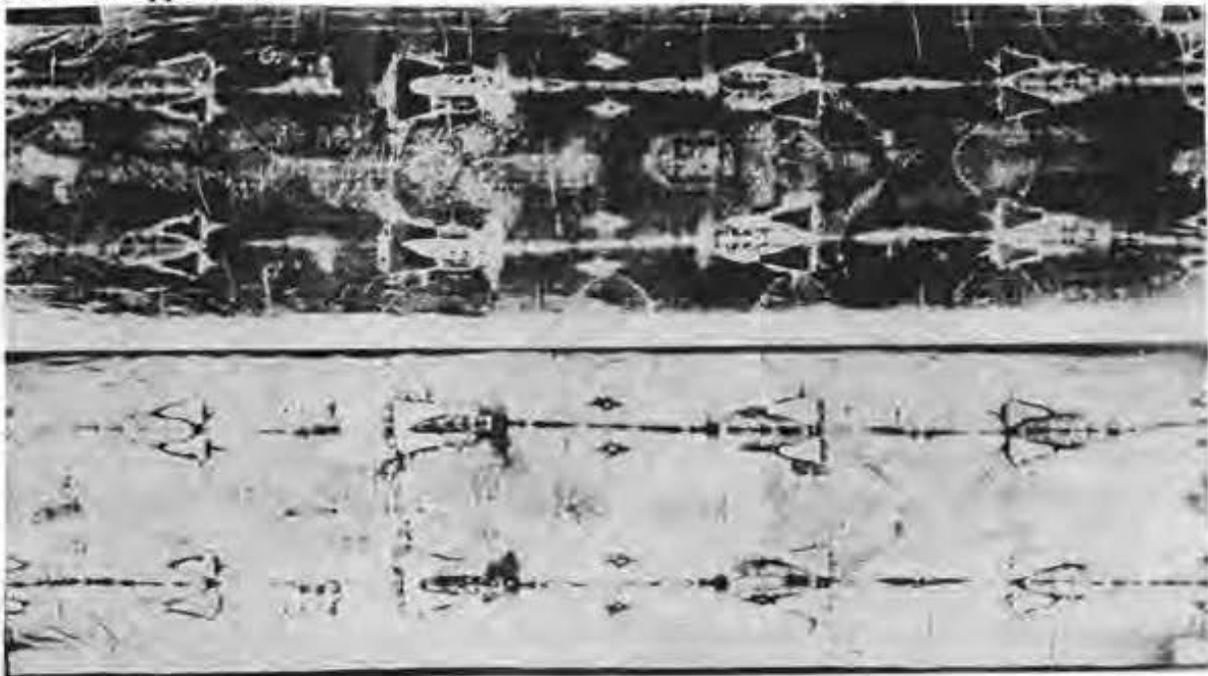
In short, there are many unanswered questions. This has led some to speak of an "anti-Catholic plot" designed to erasing traces of the visible presence of Christ. Although there are no immediate plans for another round of testing, it seems certain that the Vatican does not consider the case closed.

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# SCIENCE TRIVIA TEST

1. Who invented the household electrical system we use today?
2. Who invented radio?
3. Who invented television?

If you answered: 1) Edison, 2) Marconi, and 3) I don't know, then just maybe your knowledge of science isn't where you think it is!!

The real answers to the above questions are:

1) Nikola Tesla, 2) Nathan B. Stubblefield, and 3) Philo T. Farnsworth. Once famous, international household names, they have now sunk sadly into obscurity. But these extraordinary inventors went on to greater works — major discoveries in the field of alternative energy. Discoveries important enough to threaten the oil-coal-railroad energy monopolists of their day. *If their energy inventions had become as popular as radio and TV the world wouldn't be so polluted and electricity from nuclear power might never have been needed!!!*

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## The Vatican's Alliance With Reagan by Tom Flynn

We note with concern recent media allegations that former President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul formed a secret alliance to help topple communist rule in Poland. If true, the stories help to explain certain elements of the Solidarity saga that always seemed incredibly fortuitous. But they also mark a papal return to geopolitics on a scale unmatched in more than a century. And they raise serious questions about church-state separation: How can a secular democracy order its relations with an entity that is both a sovereign foreign power and a religious community? An what is implied when the Vatican makes United States compliance with its moral program a *quid pro quo* to secure the church's political cooperation?

Writing in *Time*, Carl Bernstein reported that Reagan and the Pope forged a secret alliance to preserve Solidarity, whose leaders had gone underground in Poland after General Wojciech Jaruzelski imposed martial law on December 13, 1981. They acted swiftly: United States' sanctions were imposed upon Poland and the the USSR Top-security intelligence data was funneled to the pope on the authority of Reagan and then-CIA director William Casey. If the United States enjoys superior military intelligence, the Vatican had more timely, better quality intelligence regarding social and political matters as the crisis unfolded. On at least one occasion in 1984 Reagan relaxed certain sanctions against Poland when Archbishop (now Cardinal) Plo Langhi flew to the western White House to warn that the pope felt the sanctions had grown counterproductive. At other times Philadelphia John Cardinal Krol is said to have served as a papal intermediary to Reagan.

Within Poland, American spies and Catholic priests worked hard in hand to distribute millions of dollars worth of fax machines, video recorders

two-way radios, mimeographs, cash, and more--all the accoutrements of a propaganda "war from below" against a repressive communist regime. We read that Casey himself coordinated efforts to build the remnants of the Socialist International within Poland into a force like the Christian Democratic parties in many Western European countries.

All of this reflected a vision that Reagan and the pope shared: a vision that the post-World War II division of Europe, ceding Eastern Europe to the Soviets, could be overturned. In the fifteenth century, the Borgia pope Alexander VI had imposed a similar partition, dividing the known world between Spain and Portugal. With little less audacity a twentieth-century pope joined forces with the president of United States to dissolve the partition of Yalta. "This," said Reagan national security adviser Richard Allen without a trace of irony, "was one of the greatest secret alliances of all time."

But the alliance was not without its cost to the United States. Secularists cannot help but be concerned at the spectacle of an American spymaster laying clandestine foundations for "Christian Democratic" *anything* in a foreign land. Equally dubious, in our view, was the Administration decision to grant the Vatican full diplomatic recognition as a sovereign state. Perhaps most disturbing was the *quid pro quo* on birth control policy that Rome is said to have extracted from Washington as the price of alliance. William Wilson, Reagan's first ambassador to the Vatican, told *Time* that the Vatican demanded an outright ban on the use of American funds for the promotion of birth control or abortion, whether by foreign countries or international health organizations. However reluctantly, the State department had no choice but to accede. This is the background of Reagan's 1984 bombshell that rocked the World Conference on Population in Mexico City--and led to America's defunding of the UN Fund for Population Activities and the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

During the 1980s, the unfolding drama of Polish resistance galvanized the world. To the degree that developments in Poland laid the groundwork for the collapse of Soviet communism, we must endorse them. Yet we must ask what price America paid when it allied itself with "the church that thinks it's a nation...the nation that thinks it's a church." That alliance altered American policy in the direction of Catholic dogma, to the detriment of millions in the third world. And it caused the frequent repetition of a spectacle we have long been encouraged to dismiss as an anti-Catholic delusion: namely, the spectacle of Catholic prelates like Langhi and Krol acting incontestably as agents of a sovereign foreign power while within the borders of the United States.

At the highest level, these disclosures would suggest that Vatican leaders have enjoyed broad access to Washington policymaking. At the local level, during the abortion debate numerous conservative prelates have dared to remind Catholic judges, politicians, journalists, and others that their church demands of them a loyalty higher than their oath of office, their professional code, or the duty they perceive as American citizens. Perhaps it is time to look more favorably on calls that high-ranking Catholic churchmen register officially as agents of a foreign power.

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**"This," said Reagan national security adviser Richard Allen without a trace of irony, "was one of the greatest secret alliances of all time."**

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**Babylon** by Steve Thomas

Our words are quiet and empty.  
Their silence surrounds our animal  
And spiritual sounds.

Our lies are like black mountains  
Without passes, like dark valleys  
Without streams

Our word's loss of meaning  
Cuts across our dreams of seeming  
Articulate and alive.

Our words are dead and empty  
And lifeless mouths like barren wombs  
Speak in pain our garbled doom.

# When Lenny Bruce Played the Midwest

by Kenn Thomas

"Bread!" was the motivation behind Lenny Bruce's appearances in as unhip a place as St. Louis, Missouri in 1959, he made that clear. "I honestly don't think I have a function as a comedian," he told then *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* staff writer Joe Pollack, "Except maybe to make money for the guy who books me."

Bruce made his share of money during his meteoric rise to prominence as America's premiere "sick" comic in the 1950s. He died a pauper, however, in August 1966, of drugs and on a toilet, like Elvis. Like Elvis, too, Bruce became enshrined in the lexicon of pop culture heroes. He still exerts an enormous influence over what gets said and heard in 1990s America. Andrew Dice Clay only walks through doors that Lenny Bruce opened, and if the content of Bruce's stand-up pales in comparison, the style certainly does not. Joe Pollack regarded him as an "expert boxer. He keeps them off balance. He jabs them here with a quip, there with another--then hooks with a biting remark on some facet of society." Moreover, Bruce made an impression on people in St. Louis, Missouri that still lingers.

"The motivation for work is bread," Bruce repeated to Jay Landesman, the proprietor of the Crystal Palace, where Lenny Bruce played. The Crystal Palace served as the central showplace of St. Louis' Gaslight Square, the bohemian district that bordered the city's West End in the 50s and 60s. Bruce regarded the club as a "church gone bad," with its ornate interiors of chandeliers and stained glass, and its beatnik reputation.

In his book, *Rebel Without Applause* (The Permanent Press, 1990), Landesman records his disbelief at Bruce's cynical assessment that money was "all that matters," insisting that if Bruce really meant it, he would have wound up rich. And apparently Bruce did take advantage of the more than the three thousand dollar fee Landesman paid him. He propositioned Landesman's wife Fran during his first visit to St. Louis and shot Dilaudin with her in a "more intimate" dressing room setting on his second. Landesman holds no grudges. *Rebel Without Applause* serves as a virtual picaresque of his entrepreneurial and sexual dalliances and those of his wife.

Although Landesman clearly relishes his memories of Bruce, his book is perforce self-serving. After patting himself on the back for taking a chance on Bruce (much less of risk in 1959 than during the public clamor around Bruce in the 60s), a significant part of the Lenny Bruce chapter concerns the club owner's admittedly over-long on-stage introduction of the comedian to his audience. Elsewhere, Landesman mistakes a rare booklet Bruce published called *Stamp Help Out!* with Bruce's autobiography, *How To Talk Dirty*. But in the overall he provides a thoughtful glimpse of Bruce's transformation from a snappy hipster to a zoned-out junky.

Landesman's earliest impressions of Bruce match the kind of admiration that Joe Pollack heaped on the comedian as the champion against social hypocrisy. Bruce arrives at Lambert Airport in "a mohair suit and fifty dollar shoes," a kind of Don Quixote with even a Pancho Villa in tow to help keep him off heroin. Bruce also was well regarded by the local audience. He offended only one older couple enough for a walk-out, according to the *Globe*, which was quite good for Bruce. He played to an SRO audience the following night.

A reel-to-reel tape of a Lenny Bruce show at the Crystal Palace has long been rumored to be the possession of a local politician's son, but even the doggedness of avid Bruce collectors has never brought it to the surface. The only real documentation of those nights came in 1984 when Bruce's daughter Kitty published some of her father's papers. Bequeathed to her by long-time Bruce supporter and friend Ralph Gleason, the jazz critic for San Francisco's *Herald & Examiner*, the papers included Lenny's notes for the St. Louis and Chicago gigs of 1959.

At the show, Bruce apparently returned to his theme of money: "Why can you people afford to sit at the tables? Because you people have exploited the people who sit in the bars!"; and opining about some unidentified socialite with a strange haircut, "That's how his family got rich--they never spent money on haircuts." Bruce also lamented that

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page 20

**Bruce lamented that he couldn't kill a fly anymore without thinking of Vincent Price and expressed his wish to get Kruschev "balled, juiced, loaded; forget the museum."**

he couldn't kill a fly anymore without thinking of Vincent Price and expressed his wish to get Kruschev "balled, juiced, loaded; forget the museum."

But the Lenny Bruce that played the Crystal Palace the second time worked for half the fee, according to Jay Landesman. Landesman gives no dates for that second show in his book, only that it occurred after a Chicago obscenity bust that cost Bruce the majority of his bookings. Landesman recounts that from the airport to the club stage, Bruce rattled off one long litany about the legal dimensions of obscenity, the constitutional protections of free speech, and his own precarious legal predicament.

Instead of money, Bruce had become enamored with how threatened the world seemed by his harmless sex and drugs humor. "His lectures on jurisprudence failed to captivate the audience," according to Landesman, "and they left feeling cheated out of the real Lenny Bruce." Bruce regarded his trials simply as stand-up bits funnier than the ones he could concoct himself. His real obsession was drugs—teaching Landesman and his wife "how to get the maximum high by jacking off the blood in the needle while it was still in his arm." Landesman did succeed in steering his St. Louis' prosecuting attorney and his two daughters from attending the show. Landesman saw Bruce only once more, in New York. According to *Rebel Without Applause*, at the show Bruce did ten minutes on the Crystal Palace and his relationship to its owner.

Today, it is difficult to get into a discussion about the 60s in St. Louis with Gaslight Square veterans without Bruce's name being dropped—by someone who knew him, or someone who hung out with him on those nights, or even someone who claims to have shot up with him. Bruce also lives on in perennial St. Louis stage productions, one at the old Union Station in 1977, and as recently as 1989 when a locally produced one man show entitled *The Return of Lenny Bruce* played the New City School. Joe Pollack termed the latter "surprisingly tame." Certainly the irony of local performers still pulling in the "bread" from his stand-up bits would not have been lost on Lenny Bruce himself.

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# Italian Air Space Mystery

From The Other Side of The Pond

by Jim Cregan

One night in June 1980 an Alitalia flight from Bologna to Palermo mysteriously disappeared from all radar and crashed into the sea near Ustica Island off the coast of Sicily. Early investigation revealed nothing and the aircraft was not recovered. It seemed a curious coincidence that every major radar unit in the area, from Civil aviation in Rome and Sicily to the American sixth fleet in Naples was turned off. Each one with a convenient excuse about repairs, maintenance or the technician in the bathroom. No one saw what caused the DC9 to go down.

After years of building political pressure from families of the victims to re-open the case, with accusations of a cover-up and wild theories of midnight dogfights between American pilots and marauders from Libya, the plane was found.

Thanks to advances in diving technology and a hand from the French government, investigators brought up parts from the plane. However, the evidence was inconclusive and the case passed from the scene again.

The case has come back to public attention in recent months and new investigations are in progress. A second dive by an Italian company has finally brought up crucial parts from the damaged plane as well as the black box flight recorder. It appears that the plane was indeed hit by an air-to-air missile. There were subsequent accusations that the French had purposely left certain evidence on the sea floor, leaving questions deliberately unanswered.

In the same period, a wreckage from a Libyan Mig was found in Calabria, on the southern tip of Italy. No cause was ever determined for the crash, but official reports give the date of the crash one month later than the date given by eyewitnesses.

After numerous and intensive interrogations of military personnel, one officer finally decided to talk. He testified that he was on duty and that every radar unit watching the Tirreno sea, including those of the sixth fleet, was on that night. Numerous Italian, French and American radar technicians saw the entire scene. No one knows to this day the nationality of the pilots involved in the pursuit of the Mig observed crossing the Mediterranean from Libya. No one knows why the Mig was there. But the flight from Bologna to Palermo was caught in a crossfire and the cover up has gone on for ten years.

We only know at this point that the planes attacking the Libyan Mig were NATO planes. The Italian Air Force has adequately demonstrated that none of its aircraft were in the region that night. The Americans and the French have been accused. The American government has officially denied any involvement, although it has given little cooperation in the investigation. It has not explained the contradictions with recent testimony that the sixth fleet radar recorded the events of that evening. The French have offered no additional cooperation and have neither denied or admitted the accusations.

The latest development: the head of the Italian Joint Chiefs of Staff and the head of the Air Force at the time of the incident have been formally accused of high treason for their part in the cover-up and will stand trial.

Jim Cregan is a free-lance writer living in Italy.

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## Ram Dass Addresses The African-American Predicament on Martin Luther King Day 1992

"Two nights ago I was at San Quentin Penitentiary for a church service and I just went there as a visitor and I looked around at the crowd that was in the chapel and I'd say ninety percent of them were black. And I realized that they were just...I think one in ten black males are now in prison. And we have a horrendous situation in which we are so (long pause)...under-hearing the minority groups in this country. And it is economically linked now and linked to opportunity. People that are African American or Latino, Chicano or other minorities, Cambodians or whatever, they really have a hard row to hoe in this culture. It's not...you know we talk about ourselves as being a melting pot and mixing and so forth but it's not...we still have an enormous amount of injustice.

We have to acknowledge that we have a major problem, which I don't think that certainly our government isn't publicly doing. And I think that we have to face the economic imbalances in our society the way that the haves and the have nots are getting farther and farther apart and these kind of permanent underclass conditions that we are creating.

As we brew it—the free market economy and capitalism around the world--this is one of the unfortunate spin off things about it. That it, unfortunately, doesn't trickle down as President Reagan has suggested that it might.

I'm afraid that it is going to take a little bit more trauma for the culture to realistically reassess it, because it really does involve people that are a little more affluent giving up some of their privilege to make the game work. That's where the transformation is going to come from."

# WILHELM REICH IN HELL

by Jim Martin

*"My factual position in this case as well as the world of science today does not permit me to enter the case against the Food And Drug Administration, since such action would, in my mind, imply admission of the authority of this special branch of government to pass judgement on primordial pre-atomic cosmic orgone energy."*  
--Wilhelm Reich's letter to the Court.

Although they are sporadic and brief, documents revealed in a recent FOIA release to the editor, Kenn Thomas, indicate many details about the tragic final months of Dr. Wilhelm Reich, who was sentenced to two years in federal prison and died in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania Federal Penitentiary on Sunday, November 3rd, 1957. Kenn passed them on to me and asked for a report.

Dr. Reich had been ordered by the FDA and federal courts to cease distribution of his medical device, the orgone accumulator. When an assistant, Dr. Michael Silvert, transported the devices across state lines, he and Reich were charged with the violation of the court injunction. Unbelievably, the 59 year-old scientist, researcher, and teacher was sentenced to two years and, as with many people his age, this proved to be a death sentence.

Upon sentence recommendations, Reich was ordered to undergo psychiatric counseling, mostly to determine whether he knew the difference between right and wrong. At that time, there was a general agreement that Reich suffered from "paranoid schizophrenia" among professionals in the medical and psychiatric communities. They felt constrained to say that this assumption was "not based on personal observation." It is an idea that somehow found its way into early governmental assessments of Reich as a national security risk. It was repeated in subsequent documents. This diagnosis can be traced back to a rumor begun by Otto Fentchel, a co-worker of Reich's, in Europe. The diagnosis, based on a personal animosity rather than on therapeutic treatments, was confirmed by the prison psychiatrists, who reported in their evaluation: "In his discussions he unraveled a rather intricate and somewhat logical system of persecutory trends, particularly regarding the Rockefeller Foundation 'which made me a tool of its socio-economic interpersonal relations'."

By the way, in layman's terms, one of the symptoms of schizophrenia is hearing voices in your head. Schizophrenics can be the most outwardly "crazy" people. However, the doctors claimed that "Reich gave no concrete evidence of being mentally incompetent." However, "it is felt that Reich could easily have a frank break with reality, and become psychotic, particularly if the stresses and environmental pressures become overwhelming."

Reich's parole officer commented that he had an "unusually keen interest in getting an early release," (I've been in federal prisons, and it's filled with such people, so what did the officer mean by "unusually keen?") Reich went so far as to initiate an executive clemency hearing with President Eisenhower. The parole officer, Frank Walker, Jr., reported that "Reich went on to state that he was the victim of an international conspiracy and that is why he was sent here... that his situation was unique and different because the fate of the planet was involved." Reich's appeals for early release were denied. That line of reasoning didn't get me anywhere, either, when I was involved in anti-nuclear demonstrations.

Reich openly suspected a conspiracy of "Hoodlums In Government" (HIGs) had been behind the decade-long, multi-million dollar prosecution. Indeed, his own personal lawyer, Peter Mills, turned up on the prosecution team, and much of the evidence provided by the FDA failed to take into account Reich's experimental protocol.

"I have carefully observed the methods of destruction of the moral fabric of society by Stalinite murderers by proxy." Reich wrote in a letter to his third wife, Aurora Karrer. My sense is that Reich wasn't talking about a literal cabal of commies so much as a loosely organized but coordinated attack on free sexual and emotional expression. In his therapeutic work, Reich was fond of extremely concrete metaphors (such as "character armor" to describe physical attitudes of emotional withholding). To

describe the bureaucratic assault upon his work he seems to have drawn on his own recent experience with the Stalinist left in Europe. Prison officials derided Reich's marital status (common law) and his views on compulsory sexual morality. "Since the defendant does not believe in marriage as an institution, he has never developed any strong home ties. Where he lives is mostly a matter of convenience to the defendant and if he has any sentimental attachments they are not connected with the home as an institution," reads Reich's "Prison Classification Study."

"Our marriage, love and oneness have already become widely known as a model of clean living as against the usual filth," Reich wrote, as if he was responding to that in a letter to Aurora from Lewisburg.

After Reich's death, Aurora requested information about a packet of unsent letters that Reich wanted published after his death. "You may one day read that (Not Sent) letter /blank line: erased/ ...large publishing house my "Silent Observer" or "Creation": The 3rd Volume of the History of Orgonomy. This volume is nearly completely conceived and constructed." This reference, found in Reich's letter to Aurora dated Sept. 16th, 1957, apparently refers to the mysterious book Reich mentioned having written while in jail. This manuscript has never turned up. If it exists, it would complete a trilogy with *The Oranur Experiment* and *Contact With Space*. Reich sent it to the Department of Education, to be forwarded to Aurora, where she worked.

Reich and those around him had developed an elaborate conspiracy theory involving leftists, government officials, Stalinist spies, and social moralists. He called them the Emotional Plague, signifying the contagious nature of the affliction.

Thus he was suspicious when two volumes of specially-prepared defense briefs, called "Vol IV and V of the Suppressed and Secret Evidence" was sent to him in prison with different colored binding and "handwriting that is familiar to me but which I cannot identify" on one of the covers. Reich seemed to have believed that someone pulled a switch on him.

After Reich's death, Aurora's lawyer wrote to the Warden at Lewisburg in an effort to obtain the missing manuscript, as well as to mention that on her last visit, Reich mentioned "that he had asked for aspirin and had been given two pink pills instead. ...I wondered whether you would permit us access to the prison hospital and dispensary record concerning the decedent." In the margins of the letter in the records, the Warden pencilled "NO."

The autopsy revealed damage to the heart (Reich had previously suffered a heart attack but was in good health when sent to prison.) However, the stomach contents were not analyzed, because of "lack of facilities to do so." In any event, Reich's immediate family, in this case, his daughter Eva, had not even requested an autopsy, believing, as she stated to the coroner, that her father "had died of a broken heart." The prison, in fact ordered the autopsy.

It might be easy to read into some of these facts explanations of a conspiratorial nature, but it seems to me to be more important to look at the wider social realities of America in the 1950s, a big Gulag where free thinkers led short and nasty lives. Reich's jailers didn't seem to have a clue about their famous charge, as evidenced by a copy of *True* magazine's expose called "The Marvelous Sex Box" filed dutifully in Reich's background papers.

The Warden himself, before he tired of Reich's numerous requests for an audience, reported about one such session, "He is difficult to follow in his statements, but generally he feels that there is a subversive group operating in our country that rail road people like himself to prison to get them out of the way. He pledges to devote [sic] his life to uncover this subversive force and he prefers to use great secrecy here in the institution and is not willing to deal with anyone but the Warden. Claims there are others here in the same position as he is in and he will confer with me from time to time if I will listen to him."

To me, this account lacks some of the subtlety of Reich's

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**Reich's jailers didn't seem to have a clue about their famous charge, as evidenced by a copy of *True* magazine's expose called "The Marvelous Sex Box" filed dutifully in Reich's background papers.**

---

conspiracy theory, but I recognize Reich's naiveté when talking about "others here in the same position".

Jail must have been pure hell for Reich, who had never crossed paths with the law before and who was already pretty well isolated before his sentence. In an effort to find someone inside who could hear him out, he began speaking with the prison chaplains. He introduced himself as the author of a book called "The Murder of Christ" and began with saying, "Due to my discovery of the Cosmic Orgone Energy and its social implications, I am in deep trouble, emotionally and socially." Reich was reaching out to the only officials in the prison who dealt with emotional life, to unburden himself of an unbearable weight.

To Reverend Silber, Protestant minister, Reich wrote in a handwritten "Inmate Request to Staff Member":

"I am burdened by a conflict between the rational necessity to fight for my freedom from *unlawful imprisonment* by removing irrational obstacles in the way toward freedom here and the danger of falling prey to "buying" my freedom by concessions to political pressure. The borders are not sharp. As a free man, I refuse to yield under pressure what I would gladly give under conditions of responsible freedom. As the central object of an international conspiracy and foreign espionage, I must succeed in tackling the *abuse of human personal relations by political highway robbers*. The case of this [wavering?] demonstrates clearly the ineffectiveness of the routine security measures. The methodology used by the Devil to deceive due, bona fide authority are unknown, therefore unchallenged. We are faced with the task of, instead of having eternally and without success to expel the devil into hell, to reconvert him -speaking in terms of Christian Mythology- into the heavenly angel or even par of God (= Cosmic Orgone Energy) within the *bedevilled organism*. It requires far more than praying. The political devil operates in *practical terms of living life by perversion of all our virtues and their abuse to political, evil ends*.

---(signed) Wilhelm Reich, June 6, 1957

"I am merely fulfilling my public duties as a U.S. Citizen and worker in planetary affairs if I continue to point out where the *true danger* to our social and personal existence is placed: it is Emotional Poisoning; disruption through sowing distrust throughout our society, doping and drugging of our population, esp. our YOUTH; draining us financially through arms race, a camouflage of the true menace, the *Emotional Poisoning à la Little Rock* racial upheavals; keeping our high-placed officials at bay through fear of sexual scandal; railroading efficient men and women into prisons or lunatic asylums through breaking up their environments; subverting justice by whispered little lies & frightening or using judges. Doing all this destruction unnoticed as it were by all those responsible. It was clear from the very beginning that prayer, and now lyrics, were subverted by such use of *stupidities and evasions* on our part, especially by the staid reluctance to talk bluntly & take the bull by the horns. The bull is really no more than a few *slimy tapeworms* eating away at our emotional guts. It is high time to start giving social power to the established functions of Love, Work & Learning as bastions against the tapeworms."

(signed) Wilhelm Reich, Sept. 14, 1957

Ever the man for the historical moment, Reich requested that this and other letters to the Chaplain be placed in his file. This should end the conjecture that Reich "got religion" in his final days. And I find it pretty heady stuff, and can only

It was clear from the very beginning that prayer, and now lyrics, were subverted by such use of *stupidities and evasions* on our part, especially by the staid reluctance to talk bluntly & take the bull by the horns. The bull is really no more than a few *slimy tapeworms* eating away at our emotional guts. It is high time to start giving social power to the established functions of Love, Work & Learning as bastions against the tapeworms.  
 --Wilhelm Reich

imagine what the prison staff, especially the chaplain, thought of Reich.

In the end, I can't help comparing Reich's case with the case of the current death sentence which has been placed upon the head of contemporary British writer Salman Rushdie. In a series of public and pathetic attempts to mollify the Emotional Plague of Islamic Fundamentalism, Rushdie has shown the strain of losing his wife and family, loss of public access privileges, and simple isolation from one's best friends because of the enormous social pressure directed at him *personally*. One can only imagine the petty details and consequences of such a life. Because of one sentence issued by the Ayatollah Khomeini, hundreds, if not thousands of assassins are ready to enter heaven by killing a writer. That makes for a conspiracy of insidious proportions, as if a contagious disease had been suddenly introduced into the general population.

But the virus is extremely discriminating, selecting only specific individuals or cell clusters. The emotional plague killed Reich in jail, but most of us can take comfort that we aren't "high-risk". Or are we?

**Jim Martin publishes *Flatland*, a catalog of obscure and difficult to locate literature, including much on Wilhelm Reich. The new *Flatland* catalog is available from POB 2420, Department K2A, Fort Bragg, CA 95437-2420.**

Adv. Form No. 11  
 (Rev. May, 1962)

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 Bureau of Prisons

INMATE REQUEST TO STAFF MEMBER

To: Reverend Silber, Protestant Chapel Date: June 6, 1957 (sent 6/11/57)  
(Name and title of officer)

SUBJECT: State completely but briefly the problem on which you desire assistance. (Give details.)  
*My conflict between fighting for freedom from a lengthy imprisonment here and falling prey to "paying" my freedom by concessions to political pressure. The borderline is very sharp. As a free man I refuse to yield under pressure what I would gladly give under conditions of responsible freedom. As the central object of international conspiracy and foreign espionage, I must*  
(Use other side of page if more space is needed)

ACTION REQUESTED: (State exactly how you believe your request may be handled; that is, exactly what you think should be done, and how.)  
*Please, put this note on file. Should you feel my thoughts are worthy of an interview, please, call me out.*

Name: Wilhelm Reich No. 23937  
 Work assignment: Library Living quarters: B-2, 218  
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NOTE: If you follow instructions in preparing your request, it can be obtained more promptly and intelligently. You will be interviewed, if necessary, in order to satisfactorily handle your request. Your failure to specifically state your problem may result in no action being taken.

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## SAUCER SECTION

# The Octopus Conspiracy: Fictional Tale or Factional Trail?

*Do Tentacles Reach Out To Danny Casolaro, Michael Riconosciuto, MJ12 and Lee Harvey Oswald?*

by Kenn Thomas

### THE CASOLARO CASE

Danny Casolaro might not have been the central figure in the real story behind the media flash accompanying his death in a hotel room in Martinsburg, West Virginia on August 10, 1991. Casolaro was not an investigative reporter. He was more a novelist (*The Ice King*) and a poet, a "sensitive" type who had some experience writing for tabloids and news services. He had more credentials as the publisher of a computer industry PR organ (*Computer Age*) than as an investigator. Moreover, his sad fate may have been more the result of a factional rift in the intelligence community than of any impending fictionalized account of the Octopus story he would have written.

Police found Casolaro's body atop a razor blade in the tub with deep gashes in the wrists. His previous admonition to his brother to not believe any "accidents" that might happen to him belled a terse and ungrammatical "suicide" note. The body was mysteriously embalmed without the family's permission before the autopsy, eliminating any chance of discovering poisons. The all-to-familiar pattern, of course, brings to mind the dictum that if they control the coroner, they control the city. Two veritable MIBs even attended Casolaro's funeral, one in a light-colored overcoat and another dressed as a soldier.

Most of Casolaro's notes and his manuscript have disappeared, too, naturally. The only information available to an interested reader comes from friends, family and reporters who pieced it all together *ex post facto*, most notably James Ridgeway and Doug Vaughan of *Village Voice*. Apparently the tentacles of Casolaro's Octopus reached out from a small body of Illuminati, a half-dozen or so conspiratorial cognoscenti. They have reached out to the October Surprise, BCCI, the Savings and Loan scandals and Iran-Contra. Ridgeway and Vaughan keep the door open to the possibility that Casolaro did indeed commit suicide and they assure *Voice* readers that the Illuminati definitely do not exist.

### OCTOPUS SURPRISE

The central figure in the Casolaro story might be Michael Riconosciuto, the techno-wizard who first let on about Justice Department head Ed Meese giving his buddy Earl Brian a software program called *Promis* in exchange for Brian transporting forty million dollars to Iran as part of the October Surprise deal. Brian apparently made a fortune bootlegging and selling *Promis* internationally to police agencies. *Promis* tracks legal cases through various prosecutors' offices. This October Surprise connection brought the story to the attention of the media. October Surprise, of course, is the catch phrase for the 1980 Reagan-Bush campaign's alleged payoff to the Khomeini regime to delay the release of American hostages in Iran and thereby steal the election from Jimmy Carter. The *Promis* software, produced by a Washington firm called Inslaw, co-owned by St. Louisans Bill and Nancy Hamilton, was sold for six million dollars to the Justice Department for the department's exclusive use. The Hamiltons have engaged the services of Watergate attorney Elliot Richardson to continue that legal battle.

Riconosciuto now sits in a jail in Tacoma, Washington for manufacturing and selling drugs. Police busted him in April 1991 after providing testimony that he

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modified *Promis* so the U. S. could have "back door" access to the intelligence files of their illegal customers, police agencies like the Mounties in Canada. Riconosciuto also claims to have been in on the October Surprise funds transfer with Earl Brian while both worked for Wackenhut, a security group that had William Casey as counsel. Ridgeway and Vaughan trace Riconosciuto's misadventures with the law back to police surveillance in 1968 that led to a 1973 bust for manufacturing psychedelics. Since childhood, Riconosciuto had been adept at electronics to the extent that as a teenager he worked as a research assistant in a laser lab and with a Nobel laureate.

Riconosciuto adds to his list of accomplishments the development and manufacture of weapons technology, including see-in-the-dark goggles designed for the Contras, chemical and biological weapons, and a way to convert an ordinary explosive into an atomic bomb and air into fuel. Much of this was done, according to Riconosciuto, as joint development projects with Wackenhut, a private security firm called Coral Gables and the Cabazon tribe of Native Americans in Riverside County, California, from whose sovereign reservation this technology was created for export. That sovereignty allowed the Cabazons to open megabuck gambling facilities. Casolaro planned a visit to the reservation at the time of his death.

### QUICK AND THE DEAD

Reporters for the *San Francisco Chronicle* Jonathan Littman and Michael Taylor have written at length about Riconosciuto's link to a series of strange murders among the Cabazons. Someone named Paul Morasca, who had been in on Riconosciuto's high-tech deals with the Cabazons, was found brutally hog-tied and strangled. Riconosciuto admitted finding the body a day before the police and reporting it only to the Cabazons' non-native administrator, John Phillip Nichols. Shortly thereafter an elderly school teacher named Mary Quick was murdered in what Riconosciuto later claimed was a robbery connected to his machinations with the Cabazons: Quick's body was missing a super secret ATM card that she was to pass on to him.

According to Lippman and Taylor, the Morasca and Quick deaths were parts of a string of murders involving the Cabazons, including that of tribal council vice chairman Alfred Alvarez, who made public statements decrying the mismanagement of Cabazon funds. Pressure from higher-ups in the police bureaucracy caused one investigator working on the murders to leave California altogether. Like Casolaro, investigators have discovered "so many spokes leading out...by the time you finish going out on one lead, another crops up and drives you to distraction." Are these the throes of the Octopus?

### THE SAUCER SPIN

Riconosciuto's inability to produce tapes and photographs he says supports many of his claims undermines his most recent revelations. According to an article in *Technical Consultant*, Riconosciuto reports that the only information Casolaro had resulted from a factional split in the intelligence community. One faction, COM-12, has leaked the information to embarrass the other, called Aquarius with a sub-group leadership known as MJ12. MJ12, of course, appears on the still debated memoranda ostensibly documenting the retrieval of aliens from a 1947 flying saucer crash in Roswell, New Mexico. According to *UFO Magazine*, Wackenhut does the security work for the rumored "Area 51" flying saucer hangars.

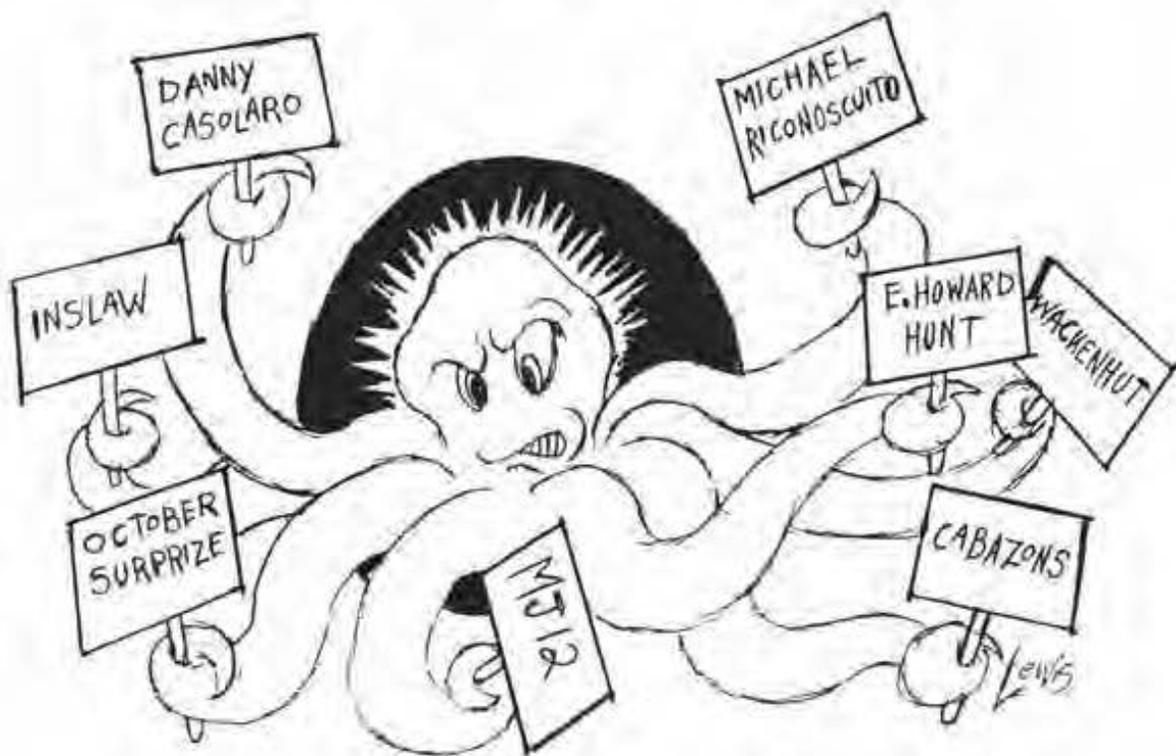
William L. Moore and Jimmy Ward carry on the discussion about the veracity of

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**Like Casolaro, investigators have discovered "so many spokes leading out...by the time you finish going out on one lead, another crops up and drives you to distraction." Are these the throes of the Octopus?**

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the MJ12 documents in a newsletter entitled *Focus*, available for \$6 from the Fair Witness Project, Inc., 4219 W. Olive Avenue, Suite 247, Burbank, CA 91505. *The MJ12 Documents: An Analytical Report* by Moore and Jaime Shandera, which provides the up-to-the-minute minutiae of the debate, can be ordered from the same source for \$25. Without reproducing its detail, the report supports the authenticity of a series of documents connected to MJ12 and the Roswell crash, expressing doubt about only one Harry Truman signature on one document. (It's an improbable original because of its similarity to a signature on a non-related document. The report does not even entertain the possibility of a signature machine being used for secret UFO memos.) Thus far, *Focus* has not addressed Riconoscutto's claims. Stanton Friedman has done some interesting research suggesting that UFO debunker Donald Menzel back-channeled MJ12 information to John Kennedy. Jacques Vallee, who fails to credit Friedman for this information in his recent *UFO Chronicles of the Soviet Union* (Ballantine, 18.00), nevertheless speculates that Menzel had a role in discrediting an important scientific study of UFOs in the Soviet Union. At one point, a rift developed between Friedman associates Moore and Shandera after Friedman became involved with a Roswell book project that all three now seem to view as a disinformation scheme. Moore has admitted his own involvement in similar schemes. (See the interview with Stanton Friedman in the *Saucer Section* following this article.)

### HUNT CONTINUES

The Kennedy connection is interesting in that *Voice* reporters Ridgeway and Vaughan note that Casolaro's Gambino crime family contacts put him in touch with E. Howard Hunt, the Watergate burglar and author of fictionalized spy novels. These

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contacts were developed from sources close to jailed presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. LaRouche, of course, has a long history as a politico and intelligence gadfly. His crank status belies his power among followers and his real connections to officialdom. In his other current book, *Revelations* (Ballantine, \$20) Vallee suggests a link between LaRouche's European followers and the UMMO cult of UFO hoaxers in Spain, Argentina and lately of Russia.

E. Howard Hunt lost a defamation suit he filed against a group called Liberty Lobby when it published claims of his involvement in the Kennedy assassination. In a new edition of *Coup D'Etat In America* (Quack American Archives, 12.95) by Alan Weberman and Michael Canfield, the authors describe Hunt's inability to sue them over similar claims. The first edition of *Coup D'Etat* originally produced the photograph overlays of Hunt's picture superimposed on that of one of the "railroad tramps" arrested after JFK's murder. Mark Lane describes the Liberty Lobby case, with depositions from the key players and supporting testimony from witness Marita Lorenz, in his book, *Plausible Denial* (Thunder's Mouth Press).

Ridgeway and Vaughan describe the relationship between Casolaro and Hunt as "cordial, even effusive." They also tell of an incident in Casolaro's life when friends found him in his home with a bloodied towel wrapped around his head. Casolaro blamed it on a weight-lifting accident. After his death, Casolaro's autopsy revealed a mild case of multiple sclerosis that friends and family believe Casolaro knew nothing about. In support of the suicide argument, however, the *Voice* writers note that he did discuss "slow viruses, including MS" with a nursing professor friend. Kerry Thornley, a Marine acquaintance of Lee Harvey Oswald who fictionalized Oswald's life in much the same way Casolaro planned to fictionalize the life of the Octopus, told *Steamshovel Press* interviewers of a brain implant he felt he received after conversations with E. Howard Hunt.

Another similarity between the cases of Danny Casolaro and Lee Harvey Oswald concerns surveillance technology. Inslaw designed *Promis*, of course, precisely to track and control people. Thornley knew Oswald around the time of the latter's experiences at the Atsugi Air Force base in Japan, where Oswald worked in a radar tower that tracked the U2 surveillance plane missions over China and the Soviet Union. Gary Powers blamed his famous shoot-down on information supplied to the Soviets by Oswald. Before getting his job at the book depository, Oswald worked at a graphics business that contracted to work on U2 photo data. A Minox spy camera that officials tried to pass off as a light meter was found among Oswald's belongings. The space connection is there, too: Oswald's closest co-workers at another job later got work at NASA when he went to Dallas. The last interesting comparison between Casolaro and Oswald may be how, in lieu of all the facts, the best speculation makes both look like hapless patsies in a game of control played by larger, more invisible forces.

### BACKED UP BY RUSSBACHER

Was Casolaro used by feuding intelligence factions, was he brainwashed outright or merely victimized by a talented acid head who kept up on the UFO scene? Riconosciuto needed only to have watched a 1989 TV documentary entitled *Cover-Up* for the MJ12 material he now includes in his weird tales. If so, a pilot named Gunther Russbacher caught the same program. From a Missouri prison, Russbacher--who claims to have video proof of flying George Bush to an October Surprise meeting in Paris--tells a nearly identical tale. "Faction one is the pro-Bush or loyal faction within the agency," Russbacher recently told a reporter, "Faction two is comprised mainly of ONI (Office of Naval Intelligence) handlers." Other details, like the amount of Ed Brian's payoff, match what Riconosciuto says as well. They may be co-ordinating tall tales from behind prison walls and the MJ12 connection may be a ruse to erode the credibility of other parts of the pair's story. Casolaro is no longer able to divulge further information about the Octopus. *Nightline* apparently does have some of Casolaro's files. A bibliography follows for those interested in the details of the Octopus conspiracy that

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have emerged before and since Casolaro's death. The article by Ridgeway and Vaughan contains the most information; *UFO Magazine* is a good place to look for new developments. Developments--and corroboration--are most likely to come from Michael Riconosciuto, still awaiting trial in the Tacoma prison for manufacturing metamphetamine in a process he claims to use in refining platinum.

*Please note that Edward Brian and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police deny any connection to events surrounding Danny Casolaro's death.*

*Thanks to Kevin Belford for bibliographic research assistance.*

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### "Uncharted Areas of Space and Science,"

—JFK's New Frontier speech

### Stanton Friedman, co-author of *Crash At Corona, on UFOs & Disinformation* interviewed by Kenn Thomas

**Q:** I would like to alert the readers to research you did uncovering Don Menzel's role in MJ12 and in order to get that far we have to talk about MJ12...

**A:** I think that most people will recognize that if the government's got two crashed saucers and some dead alien bodies and a live alien, they're going to do something about it. They obviously would like to know what the technology is and so forth. That means that they probably set up some kind of a very highly classified group. And *The Roswell Incident* came out in 1980 and when Bill Moore was promoting that he met some Air Force insiders and in 1984 at the end of the year a roll of film showed up at another colleague's house, Jaime Shandera, and on the roll of film were eight pages of a top secret, eyes only, "Magic" briefing for President-elect Eisenhower dated November 18, 1952. There was a list of attachments, only one of them, attachment A, was there and I'd give my left arm for the rest of them. And this casually, well, maybe not casually, tells the story of a recovery of a crashed saucer outside Roswell and four alien bodies and the establishment of this group, Operation Majestic Twelve, accountable only to the president, Harry Truman originally in 1947. And it names the twelve members and some of them were pretty much what you'd expect: the first secretary of defense, James Forrestal; the first three directors of central intelligence; several outstanding scientists like Dr. Vannevar Bush, who was the top dog in technology development during World War II.

But there was one kicker on the list, and that was Dr. Donald Menzel, a Harvard professor of astronomy. It's hard to imagine: why would a Harvard professor of astronomy have a high-level security clearance in the first place? And much more important, I guess, was the fact that he was known as a thorough debunker of flying saucers. He was sort of the Phil Klass of his day. And he had written three anti-UFO books, so when I first heard the other names, they made sense, but Menzel's name made me think this must be a hoaxed document. Somebody's trying to get us to take the bait, you know, and they're going to say, "A Ha! Gotcha!"

I did a lot of checking and there was too much good stuff in there. There was name like General Robert Montague, who very few people had ever heard of but we had noted that he was introduced to the Secretary of War in the second week of July in 1947. And he was named the head of a special group in a base in New Mexico right around this time. That's not the kind of name a hoaxter would pick up on and there were several others.

Anyway, I had to get permission from three different people to look at Menzel's files. All the members of this group were dead by the time we got the document. Interestingly, the last survivor died only two months before the document arrived. I don't know whether you can say that that's convenient negatively or positively, but, anyway, I got permission, I went to the Harvard archives, discovered much to my surprise, because I didn't like Dr. Menzel when he was alive, such a debunker we don't need, I discovered that he led a double life. Oh sure, he was a Harvard professor of astronomy and he led eclipse expeditions and he served on various committees and he debunked UFOs. But, amazingly enough, he wrote John F. Kennedy in 1960 that he, Menzel, had a longer continuous association with the super-secret national security agency, the NSA and its predecessor group, than anybody else in the country. Turned out that he had taught cryptography. Turned out he had done work for the CIA of all people and had a top-secret, ULTRA clearance, had close connections to Dr. Bush and

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several other people...it's a long story, but I found stuff that isn't in any of the bios of Menzel. Even people who knew him for twenty years, and I talked to some of them, didn't know, that he had learned Japanese, that he was an expert in code-breaking, that he had written some science fiction. I found his travel book and he made several trips to New Mexico in 1947 at federal government expense. It's a long, involved story and we tell part of it in the book.

But my finding, which took me totally by surprise along with everybody else in this field, certainly made it appear that Menzel belonged with those other guys. That made it much more likely that the document was genuine. I put together a big, fat report, *Final Report of Operation Majestic Twelve*, it's a hundred and eight pages long, and in it I have a list of more than thirty pieces of information, trivia if you will, that are in the documents that turn out to be true but that nobody on the outside knew at the time. Some of the dates, for instance. If you pick a date for a document and say that two people met, and one was in Berlin and one was in Tokyo, you're in trouble. So there's a lot of that kind of stuff which I found that took a lot of work for me to dig out and that nobody had dug out before that can hardly be explained away as coincidence.

**Q: In his book on flying saucers in the Soviet Union, Jacques Vallee mentions Don Menzel's role in disrupting the organized efforts to form UFO study groups in the Soviet Union, although he doesn't acknowledge your research...**

A: You know, one of the many interesting things about Menzel was that in his 1953 book, his first book on UFOs, was translated into Russian, and because it was favorably reviewed in both the Soviet Union and the United States, in the United States by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, who was the Air Force consultant on UFOs, it effectively kept two groups of scientists, Americans and Russians, from seriously looking at UFOs. Because, after all, Menzel had spoken. How much higher can you get on the totem pole than Harvard? National Academy of Sciences and all that sort of stuff.

So those findings, I believe, are very important, totally unexpected, certainly I didn't know...some people have accused Bill Moore of faking the document, I guarantee he didn't know about Menzel's background either. Some people have suggested that, well, anybody could have just gone in to the library and found that. Well, it isn't true. The stuff is in archives, which means they bring you the boxes you ask for, but...

**Q: You had to get Menzel's widow's permission, didn't you?**

A: His widow's permission to read his unpublished autobiography and the head of the astronomy department, head of the Smithsonian Institution, in writing, and that took a while, before I could gain access to those papers. So the notion that anybody could have found that out...and it's the same with some of those other trivia bits that I mentioned. It took the Truman Library and the Eisenhower Library, working pretty hard, to dig out some of those pieces of information. It wasn't something that you just walk in and go rummaging around and anybody can find...it wasn't like that at all.

**Q: It's interesting that you brought up J. Allen Hynek's name up. Are you suggesting that he had some kind of disinformation role?**

A: No, you see Hynek was many years younger, lower on the totem pole than Menzel was. And Hynek was a kind of skeptic for a long time. It was only after he left his Air Force project Blue Book role as a consultant that he started to speak up a bit, in the late 60s. Anyone who might have gotten interested in UFOs would have turned to the two experts at that time, two astronomers. I don't know why people want to link astronomy and UFOs. Certainly astronomers aren't competent to talk about interstellar travel, technology and motivation...areas in which they are always sounding off. But

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any scientist who was interested would have noted the favorable review by Hynek of this negative book by Menzel. And if they read Menzel's book, they would think that there were no sightings that couldn't be explained by a smart astronomer, as long as you allowed him to change the data to match his explanation, which is what he did.

It would have taken an awful lot of courage, in other words, to go against the current, so to speak, in the field. And remember this was before the space age. Hynek once told me that in a real extreme case there might be a year in which seven satellites were launched. Astronomers know from nothing about space stuff. No, I'm not implying that Allen was part of disinformation, only that he was sticking to the party line. His excuse later on was that, well, he wanted to keep his foot in the door. Allen, I should mention...Menzel is noted in this MJ12 document as pushing for an interstellar origin for flying saucers. Not another planet in our own solar system, in other words, but other solar systems. Hynek had never done his homework about the technology of interstellar travel.

**Q: I would guess that some of the incompetent assessments of interstellar travel from official sources are not intended to explain anything but to explain things away and confuse the issue.**

A: I'm sure there has been some disinformation put out about flying saucers frankly my feeling often with some of the pro-UFO types is that with friends like this, who needs enemies? The government doesn't have to do anything.

**Q: So you don't think that someone like Phil Klass is actually working officially to discredit your work?**

A: I don't know. It may be a *quid pro quo* thing. Certainly as somebody who wasn't married until he was age sixty and with training in electrical engineering and working in Washington, he would have been approached by intelligence agencies. So whether he's doing *quid pro quo*, "hey, Phil, we'll give you all kinds of information but you've got to help us keep this on the back burner," or whether he honestly believes that he's protecting Americans against this nonsense, the zealot, you know, the PSICOP types...

**Q: The people who know everything.**

A: Yes.

**Q: What do you think about the Paul Bennewitz affair and Bill Moore's confession to his role in disinformation?**

A: Well, he passed some disinformation on to Paul. He tried to convince Paul that it really wasn't worth paying a lot of attention to. Paul fell for it. It's unfortunate. Paul was determined that he was going to...I mean he looked at pictures and he saw stuff that nobody else saw on those pictures. He fell for it. But I don't consider Bill a disinformation specialist.

**Q: But you do say that he does have the contacts to do this sort of thing.**

A: People approached him after his book, *The Roswell Incident*, came out and said they

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**Don Menzel wrote John F. Kennedy in 1960 that he, Menzel, had a longer continuous association with the super-secret national security agency, the NSA and its predecessor group, than anybody else in the country.**

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liked his style and they'd try to help him and certainly on occasion had pieces of information they could only get from inside. Stuff about me that the outside world wouldn't have known about. So they had established their bonafides, alright. That doesn't mean you believe anything they say.

**Q: Apparently there was some kind of split between you and Moore and Shandera over your cooperation with Kevin Randle and Donald Schmitt's book *UFO Crash At Roswell*?**

A: That was a whole involved mess but I have also written a quite negative review of the book in the MUFON Journal last year because although we had all cooperated together, Don Berliner, my co-author, and Randle and Schmitt, especially for conferences sponsored by the Fund for UFO Research, we seriously disagreed over things. I know they worked darn hard, they found a lot of new witnesses, they pursued it. I suppose the difference is simple. I'm a nuclear physicist who has had to please his bosses for a lot of years and Kevin has written more than sixty seven books of fiction. I keep running across instances where he confuses what might have been with what must have been. Those aren't the same thing.

**Q: Does he have a military intelligence background?**

A: Yes and no. You have to be little careful about that. Kevin was a helicopter pilot in Vietnam. He went to school and joined the Reserve and in the Reserve he was an intelligence captain. I am not suggesting he therefore must be working for the government or anything like that. There's a couple of UFO encyclopedias and one of them has several articles by Kevin and his approach is close to Phil Klass' in the reasoning than it is to a scientist's. That's unfortunate but I must give them credit. They found the witnesses, they worked hard at it.

I was cooperating with them but there were other reasons for the rift. Bill Moore was very upset that I didn't let him know about the *Unsolved Mysteries* program. My reason was pretty straightforward: I live in eastern Canada, Bill lives near Hollywood. I didn't figure that they would go for using me if they used him. Also, I felt that he had two shots at the whole Roswell story, first with the book, and second with what I look at as a terrible UFO show, *UFO Cover Up Live*.

We patched up our quarrels and we got together and shouted at each other for a while and agreed, what the heck, let's get on with it. It's kind of a shame. Bill shot himself in the foot at the MUFON conference in Vegas in 1989 by talking twice as long as he was supposed to, he didn't submit his paper, and he wouldn't take any questions, and he admitted that he had been involved with Bennewitz but he never said that he was sorry if there had been any problems with Bennewitz, which he should of.

**Q: Do you think that his admission about Bennewitz has any bearing on the credibility of the MJ12 documents?**

A: No. No, I don't. I think they are completely separate matters. Bill can be a darn good researcher when he puts his mind to it. He can be very persistent, travel a lot and do a lot of digging. So you have to look at everything on its own merits. Guilt by association is not a scientific technique.

**Stanton Friedman's book, *Crash At Corona*, co-authored with aviation/science writer Don Berliner, is available from Paragon House (1-800-PARAGON.) Friedman can be reached directly by sending a large SASE to POB 958, Houlton, ME 04730.**

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# The Hoax That Jack Builds

**Syndicated Columnist Jack Anderson Fervently Perpetuates the "Fidel Did It" Fallacy**  
by Philip Gounis



On April 13, 1953 then director of the Central Intelligence Agency Allen Dulles authorized a super-secret drug and mind control project called MK-ULTRA. In a memorandum dated December 17, 1963, CIA Deputy Director for Plans Richard Helms stated, "For over a decade the Clandestine Services has had the mission of maintaining a capability for influencing human behavior...if we are to continue to maintain a capability for influencing human behavior, we are virtually obliged to test on unwitting humans."

His deep background in the details surrounding MK-ULTRA notwithstanding, the venerable syndicated columnist Jack Anderson doesn't like to talk about the notorious CIA brain drain. He prefers to pontificate *ad nauseam* on what his "sources" lead him to believe about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

During an April 1, 1990 televised call-in segment on the Financial News Network, instead of quizzing Mr. Anderson about the national debt or the future of the semi-conductor industry in the United States, I opted to ask him to comment on the MK-ULTRA program and also on the use of LSD in regards to directing political assassins.

He replied, "The MK-ULTRA program I knew a lot about at the time. I don't remember all the details. It did have to do with assassinations. There was a period of time when the CIA was trying to assassinate foreign leaders, particularly Fidel Castro. The CIA actually hired Mafia killers to knock off Castro...these are rather sordid things from our past." No mention of mind control or LSD.

On another 1988 television broadcast entitled *American Expose: Who Murdered JFK?* Anderson, the host and main commentator, extrapolated on the Mafia/Castro theme again. This time he stated that the CIA plot to kill Castro had been discovered by the Cuban premier, and that in retaliation Fidel had sent the would-be Mafia assassins back to the United States to execute then president John Kennedy.

Recently, no doubt in response to the can of military/industrial/CIA worms reopened by director Oliver Stone's movie *JFK*, Jack Anderson has decided to take his show on the road. On April 8, 1992 before his lecture at Meramec Junior College in Kirkwood, Missouri, entitled *The Truth About the JFK Assassination*, I had the opportunity to question the one-time investigative reporter-turned-media obsfucator.

Replying to my query about why or how Fidel Castro could have perpetrated a cover-up of Kennedy's assassination for three decades, Anderson said, "I'm going to talk about that." He didn't. "As I said, it's a very difficult thing to explain in a few minutes, but the cover-up was perpetuated by Lyndon Johnson. Lyndon Johnson did it because he wanted to save the country from World War III." Although Lyndon Johnson died in 1973, Anderson did not speculate on who might have held the reins of subterfuge for the last nineteen years.

To answer my question about why Senator Frank Church's investigative committee had not come down more forcefully for the theory of Mafia/Castro collaboration, Jack Anderson said only, "I have no idea. I presume because they weren't able to put the story together. The House Assassination Committee went into it more thoroughly than any others. I talked to the investigators. They believed that my theory was right, but they didn't say so because there was just not enough evidence."

"I don't really have a theory," continued Anderson, "I can only report what my sources told me."

Indeed. To report the findings of one's sources (well verified, of course), is sometimes all that a good investigative reporter can do. However, to digress from the matter at hand in order to cast aspersions on other researchers and thereby bolster one's own position is self-serving to say the least.

"Jim Garrison was a phony," proclaimed Anderson as our discussion continued, "For your background, he was on the payroll of Carlos Marcello. Carlos Marcello had jurisdiction over the Dallas

underworld. There was enough evidence that pointed to New Orleans and Carlos Marcello that Marcello got nervous about it so he had Jim Garrison run a diversionary thing to make it look like a ring of homosexuals; poor buggers had nothing to do with it all."

"Mark Lane is a self-promoter, a total whore," stated Anderson, "Anybody who knows anything about the investigation can go through any of his books...they're full of flaws."

At the outset of the press conference, in response to a question from a local ABC-TV affiliate reporter, conspicuous in his presence (in contrast to the non-attendance of the NBC and CBS affiliates), Anderson said this: "Oliver Stone is an immature flower child, still living in the 1960s and 70s. At that time it was popular to believe that the CIA and the Pentagon were responsible for all the ills of mankind." Mr. Anderson did not elaborate on the widespread deceit and treachery by those agencies, perhaps epitomized by MK-ULTRA, that caused that belief to become so popular.

In reply to questions about the media being subverted in the Kennedy assassination investigation, journalist Anderson proudly proclaimed, "I'm a member of the media and nobody's ever been able to subvert me."

If indeed the seemingly crusading, investigative, muck-raking reporter of the ITT Scandal and Watergate skullduggery has not been subverted, maybe it was just those idle, off-hand reminiscences of G. Gordon Liddy that took their toll. Perhaps Liddy's widespread pronouncements on how he considered exterminating Jack Anderson in the early seventies resulted in Anderson's present skewered outlook on the twentieth century's most outstanding unsolved crime and those attempting to bring the assassination's still pervasive cover-up to light.

**Philip Gounis is the co-publisher and co-editor of Steamshovel Press.**

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## BOOK REVIEWS

Committee for An Open Archives co-founder John Judge perhaps said it best to *Steamshovel* editors at the JFK assassination symposium in Chicago last June: "When you have a state based on secrecy, on covert operations and criminal activity and on manipulation and control, it's those people who don't want to use violence, who want to break free from the control, to improve human relations and rely on human trust who really are threatening to that system. And so we find that the people they spend the most time surveying and going after are those that aren't doing any violence or terrorism or illegal activity of any sort but are in fact trying to figure out a way to improve basic human values of trust and integrity, normal human relations. Because this system is designed to alienate us from each other." Presumably this spirit inspired the organization of the Chicago symposium as well as a similar event, the ASK conference in Dallas in October, and is the guiding force behind the recent successes and improved visibility of the "conspiracy research community," for lack of a better term, more so than the recent attention foisted upon it by Hollywood. Chicago conference organizer Doug Carlson also told *Steamshovel Press* that he hopes some kind of consensus can develop within that community by the time of another conference planned for April. Next year may indeed be a banner year for assassination research: it observes the twenty-fifth anniversaries of the deaths of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, the thirtieth anniversary of JFK, and the possible advent of a Democratic administration (the last one led to the formation of the House Select Committee on Assassinations), as well as the continued momentum proffered by the efforts of Oliver Stone.

Would that the various researchers, advocates and activists spoke in one voice, however. Experience teaches that the complexity of the topic and the egos, rivalries, misunderstandings and accusations among various factions in this community make it unlikely. Mark

Lane, for instance, complained to *Newsweek* editors that they attempted to discredit his work by reporting Gus Russo's doubt about testimony from Marita Lorenz he used in his book, *Plausible Denial*. *Steamshovel* reported this last issue with the note that the two extant references to the "well-respected researcher" bore a strange resemblance. Russo's name has since emerged as a consultant to Stone, *Frontline* and other documentary efforts. He introduced himself to SP editors in Chicago, insisting that Lane knew very well who he was. Russo also insisted on his mistrust of Lorenz, even when questioned about Frank Sturgis' break-in of her apartment during the time of her testimony to the House Select Committee.

At this weird point in the Kennedy labyrinth, *Steamshovel Press* would like to apologize to Mr. Russo for any suggestion that he doesn't exist. (It also apologizes for calling Perry Russo, "Phillip.") Lane's point, that *Newsweek* editors used second hand sources to discredit testimony that Lane verified with FBI documents, still needs to be made, however, and new suspicions that the mainstream media might be pitting the burgeoning "research community" against itself need to be considered. If this is a community that values communication and interaction, it also has been one tolerant of conflicting and contradictory views: questions about Lane's intelligence background have long been asked, as have those pertaining to Jim Garrison's mob connections; A. J. Weberman and Michael Canfield have made good research efforts supporting the view that E. Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis were the railroad tramps, but Weberman does not believe in the grassy knoll gunman and others who support that view don't believe the Hunt/Sturgis scenario, and on and on. The media previously had hoped to confuse the average reader by reporting on the cacophony of conflicting views. The only consensus conspiracy researchers have ever reached seems to have been that truth will emerge from the cacophony. This is a view that can be disrupted and manipulated by the mis- and disinformation plays in the

mainstream, hence the need for the trust, integrity and communication that Judge spoke about.

In the interest of fostering communication and interaction links among various elements of the research community, *Steamshovel Press* offers the following list as the most recently visible, making no claims to being comprehensive:

John Judge's *Committee for an Open Archives* continues to press for the release of documents from the Warren Commission and the House Select Committee on Assassinations, despite the emasculation of legislative efforts to get this done. A twenty five dollar contribution gets updates on the work, as well as new research and transcripts of media events that flashed by too fast on TV. POB 6006, Washington, DC 20005. An interview with Judge will appear in the next issue of *Steamshovel*.

Fifteen dollars will get twelve monthly issues of *Conspiracy Update*, a newsletter produced by Jon Arnold and SSG Publishing, 5715 S. Harper, Chicago, IL 60637. According to Arnold, "unlike the American left, *Conspiracy Update* is serious about putting the CIA out of business." If this can be done by exposing a wealth of information on a variety of topics, the obvious JFK/RFK/MLK material but also including less examined issues such as the Israeli A-Bomb link to the USS Liberty and the October Surprise, readers can look forward to some success in this area.

*Prevailing Winds Research* offers a catalog of such like, collections from the works of John Judge, Mae Brussell, Barbara Honnegger, Daniel Sheehan, John Stockwell, etc. in affordable, accessible formats, for a one or two dollar contribution in the form of money or stamps, from POB 23511, Santa Barbara, CA 93121.

Kennedy-focused researchers would do well to send \$7 plus \$2 postage to Bob Harris, another Oliver Stone consultant and Gus Russo compatriot, who has pulled together an enormous amount of material into a photocopy-cum-lecture he tours with and makes available through the mail, Box 4-18, New York, NY 11215.

*Steamshovel Press* looks forward to hearing more from Dave Emory's *Archives on Audio*, available from POB 170023, San Francisco, CA 94117-0023.

Two recommended sources for the JFK books reviewed here: Tom Davis Books, POB 1107, Aptos, CA 95001-1107; and the Last Hurrah Bookshop, 937 Memorial Avenue, Williamsport, PA 117701. The latter carries copies of the previous issue of *Steamshovel* as well as an impressive array of JFK materials and research.

(Caution: Some publications identifying themselves as vanguards of the left, most notably *The Progressive*, consider many of the sources above "unreliable." And Alexander Cockburn still believes the findings of the Warren Commission.)

What to make of Howard Donahue's assertion, as reported by Bonar Menninger in *Mortal Error, The Shot That Killed JFK* (St. Martin's Press, 23.95), that Secret Service agent George Hickey accidentally shot JFK when he picked up an AR-15 rifle in response to gunfire from the Book Depository? Donahue does have credentials as a ballistics expert. For one thing, he remains the only marksman to perform the Warren Commission's fantasy firing feat by hitting a moving target three times with a rigged Manlicher in under 5.6 seconds. Donahue now admits the scenario is demonstrably false but for reasons widely at variance with other critics. His thesis "explains" much evidence that others easily dismiss as faked, but he makes no convincing argument that Hickey's actions were accidental--Oswald's shot could just as well have been signals for a *coup de grace* from inside the motorcade.

Harry Edward Livingstone's *High Treason 2, The Great Cover Up: The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy* (Carrol and Graf, 25.95), has become the latest best source for good, many and color reproductions of photographic evidence, as well as the arguments that much of it has been doctored, including that "blob" of brain matter seen on the Zapruder film. Excessive and confusing in some respects, Livingstone's book nevertheless makes passionate

arguments not only indignant about the cover-up but with a view that connects JFK's death to other political murders, including those of sixteen anti-Vietnam rock stars, John Lennon among them. Livingstone also deserves credit as the only visible critic at the *Journal of the American Medical Association* press conference.

Photographs abound too in *Destiny Betrayed, JFK, Cuba and the Garrison Case* by James DiEugenio (Sheridan Square Press, 19.95), including a photo-within-a-photo of David Ferrie's brain. If Livingstone waxes almost too eloquently in his enthusiasm for Kennedy, DiEugenio does the same for Jim Garrison here. It is enthusiasm well-deserved and long overdue and a study that complements the Stone movie in many ways better than the book version of the film, but it lacks a sustained critical look at the Garrison-as-mafioso proposition, making only one reference to Carlos Marcello in the text and four in the endnotes. Any reader wondering if much of what has been revealed about the JFK assassination has surfaced because of Mark Lane's intelligence agenda or Garrison's mob connections, will leave this book wanting. *Destiny Betrayed* is also distinguished, however, by an appendix containing the Shaw trial testimony of Dr. Pierre Finck, the only Bethesda autopsy doctor to resist the misdirection and falsification of the *JAMA* article. It clearly indicates military manipulation of the autopsy proceedings.

Vigorously argued theses have served to emphasize and amplify aspects of the JFK assassination in two books: *Act of Treason* by Mark North (Carroll and Graf, 26.95) and Craig Zirbel's *The Texas Connection* (Texas Connection Company, 21.95.) In addition to copious documentation that J. Edgar Hoover's only response to assassination plans he learned about in September 1962 was to position himself to best take advantage of the act, North presents an old photograph in a new light. Hoover's countenance shines out from behind the hearse as the casket is lowered with RFK and Jackie O. in the background. David Lifton might argue

that Hoover is making sure the casket is empty.

Zirbel's book spells out the case against Lyndon Johnson. It draws together much information and renews suspicions everyone has had about Johnson since the event, but needlessly dismisses every countervailing theory at the very beginning. This is conspiracy macho, with Zirbel presenting the Johnson-did-it theory as the bully on the playground. What could the author, a co-panelist at the opening press conference in Chicago, made of co-panelist Dick Gregory's suggestion that Johnson's death, coming weeks after his statement of belief in a conspiracy to CBS, may have been connected to JFK's, like RFK's and many eyewitnesses.



Long haired Lyndon Johnson a week prior to his passing.

By now, Dr. Charles Crenshaw's admission in *Conspiracy of Silence* (written with Jens Hansen and J. Gary Shaw, Signet, 4.99) that at Parkland he observed a head wound inflicted from the front, has been entered into the annals. Crenshaw's soft-spoken manner belies the anguish he must feel

over his thirty year silence, although he mentions this repeatedly from the lectern. One aspect of his book also deserves more attention, however: he reports that Ted Kennedy told Evelyn Lincoln, JFK's personal secretary, that autopsy materials collected by Robert Kennedy, whose public statements indicated that he would have used the power of the presidency to re-open the investigation of his brother's murder, were "under control." Here we find the suggestion of privately held materials--undoctored autopsy records--that potentially could yield more information than the recent efforts to unlock government files.

Another inexpensive Signet paperback, *The JFK Assassination: The Facts and Theories* (Signet, 4.99), is a tremendously useful overview by Carl Oglesby that includes--hallelujah--a chapter on Inslaw. Professor Oglesby mentioned to *Steamshovel* editors an "information burden" on this topic that underscores the need for this kind of handy but encapsulating short view. To this end, Oglesby (whose *Steamshovel* interview will also appear next issue) has produced a second, even slimmer and still quite comprehensive, volume for the smaller Odonian Press entitled *Who Killed JFK?* (Odonian Press, \$5). Odonian specializes in affordable paperbacks examining important issues. It recently released *Burma: The Next Killing Fields* by Alan Clement, with a forward by the Dalai Lama. Contrast both with John Newman's *JFK and Vietnam* (Warner Books, 22.95) a large study continuing decades-old pioneering research begun by researchers like Peter Allen Dale. The emphasis is less the assassination than the likelihood that the trauma of the Vietnam War was not as much the product of Kennedy's sensibilities as is often assumed. Newman has made a good case that this issue should not be looked at in terms of "would Kennedy have pulled the US out of the war", but would he have instituted the same policy reversal that cost Johnson the presidency.

-reviewed by Kern Thomas

### **Through a Tunnel Sprightly - RAW Reminiscences and Ruminations**

It has been said that the cinema is becoming the literature for the millennium. As long as printed literature such as Robert Anton Wilson's *Cosmic Trigger 2* (New Falcon, \$12.95) is available, that won't happen. The rapid succession of projected flickering, celluloid film frames of any scope just does not allow for the multi-layered revelation and mental spectacle exposted in this RAW combination of incantation and straight narrative. Whether exposing the frauds and prejudices of Catholicism, which he experienced first hand growing up in Long Island, or depicting his experiences with the natives of Ireland, involving a particularly labyrinthine case of infanticide in one of the the villages, Wilson's scenarios are perluucid and tight.

As in all his writings, RAW's keen historical perspective is evident as are his "intellectual time-bombs", which he credits to the influence of H. P. Lovecraft. *Cosmic Trigger 2* contains more autobiographical narrative than in most of Wilson's other books, yet this is certainly no Irish-Catholic Brighton Beach memoir. It's more like Andy Hardy grows up listening to the Pipes of Pan.

With a finesse that only the most accomplished shaman of the written word can conjure, Wilson walks the reader through a series of personal vignettes chronicling his evolution from dutiful, young Depression Era parochial gossoon to the free-thinking, futuristic, psychedelic explorer of today. In "reality" the author is presenting to his audience a numerous catalog of possibilities for their own psychological and mystical assay.

This literary spook/fun house array of semantic slides and mirrors transports the RAW reader to a final episodic tumble. In the end, the reader finds his/herself "out of the timeless Buddhist reality-tunnel and surrounded by the New York 1959 reality-tunnel." None the worse for the wear and tear, and quite a bit more entertained and edified than when they entered.

-reviewed by Philip Gounts

Salvador Freixedo's *Visionaries, Mystics and Contactees* (IllumiNet, 12.95) is the latest entry into the "we are chattel" school of ufological thinking, that an alien presence manipulates mankind for its own dimly perceived purposes. Freixedo served as a Jesuit priest for thirty years, wrote a book that got him kicked out of Batista's Cuba and another one that got him kicked out of the church. Church authorities apparently became nervous over some of Freixedo's theological arguments, that "miracles"--including stigmata and various paranormal gifts--are best understood as interaction with alien intelligence, not interaction with God and/or Satan.

*Visionaries, Mystics and Contactees* contains an intelligent critique of religion and ends with a renewal of an "immortal faith" that recognizes the spent mission of Christianity and points to the application of scientific intelligence to transcendental affairs. One could quibble with Freixedo's particulars and construct alternate theological arguments. His assertion, for instance, that various revisions of the Bible, from the Dead Sea Scrolls to the 1611 King James Bible, belie any notion of holy inspiration and infallibility. Others might suggest that constant revision reveals the hand of an intelligent, ever-changing Almighty. In other places, Freixedo admonishes against the "short cut of drugs," offers a terse dismissal of homosexuality in the church, and refers to one woman contactee as "a little impressionable," indicating that he has not strayed entirely from many orthodoxies.

But Freixedo concerns himself mostly with the paranormal and the Fortean, in some instances adopting Charles Forte's laundry list approach to detailing unusual happenings. He shares that basic Fortean outlook: "something unknown uses us the same way we use animals" and while perforce not very forthcoming about the identity the alien presence, he nevertheless reports lucidly on attempts at getting to know it. One anecdote tells of a brave woman who unsuccessfully attempts to bed one of the buggers in the name of research. Freixedo

arguments center on the notion that UFOs are "semi-real," extra-dimensional and malignant.

John Keel contributes the introduction, again deriding the majority of ufologists as porn-obsessed illiterates. Strangely, in addition to disagreeing with Keel's assessment about the size of the UFO community, Freixedo accepts as credible much of what one assumes Keel would reject: Uri Geller, Billy Meier, UMMO and even the Shaver mystery. He also mentions Jim Jones as a possible contactee, a suggestion that bears more discussion and research.

Jacques Vallee, of course, has contributed two good additions to the UFO literature: *UFO Chronicles of the Soviet Union*, *A Cosmic Samizdat* (Ballantine, 18.00) and *Revelations* (Ballantine, 20.00), and readers should be looking forward to the rumored publication of Vallee's journals from the 1960s as well as the film version of his 1979 book, *Messengers of Deception*. In *Cosmic Samizdat*, Vallee notes an unusual resemblance between the belt symbols on sketches of aliens made in Voronezh and the symbol found on photographs of the obviously hoaxed UMMO spacecraft. He fails to note, however, the similarity between that symbol and the company icon of his publisher. The significance of this connection will no doubt be left to that long overdue study of the relationship between synchronicity and UFOs, by Vallee or anyone who cares to undertake it.





Was it Terence McKenna who first noted the similarity between the titles *Messengers of Deception* and J. Edgar Hoover's *Masters of Deceit*? Like the UMMO/Ballantine symbol and the concession worker named Bill Burroughs who misdirected the police searching for Oswald and the Texas Theatre, it's hard to know what to make out of that as well, but McKenna's *Food of the Gods* (Bantam, 21.50) certainly contributes greatly to the understanding of psychedelic plants in history and modern culture. It is philosophically a bit quiescent, however, and maybe a bit macrobiotic for some tastes, particularly those who hold views that regard overpopulation, pollution, alienation, etc. as space migration signals. Eco-awareness, after all, is one trip among many. But McKenna makes a good study of an old conundrum: that tobacco, sugar, alcohol (and McKenna adds television to the list), which enslave and alienate people, seem favored over psychedelics, which encourage thought and natural harmony. Further proof of the veracity of the latter can be found in Wavy Gravy's *Something Good For A Change, Random Notes on Peace Through Living* (St. Martin's Press, 18.95), a memoir of the 56 year old psychedelized personality who has harmonized rather gracefully over the years. Mr. Gravy co-founded the charitable group Seva Foundation, became director of Camp Winnarainbow, a performing arts summer camp, and enjoyed life with a number of notables, including Bob Dylan, Janis Joplin, Abbie Hoffman, Bill

Graham and Ram Dass, all of whom he reminisces about here.

The varieties of psychedelic experience can also be found in two important books by independent publishers: *PIHKAL* by Ann and Alexander Shulgin (Transform Press, POB 13675, Berkeley, CA 904701; 18.95) and *Freeplay* by Len Bracken (Backbone Books, 1142 North Stuart St., Arlington, VA 22201; 8.95). *PIHKAL* presents an elaborately detailed account of love and drugs, with much "conception, synthesis, [and] definition" of the former and even the chemical structures of the latter. *Freeplay* details the fictional adventures of a group called the Players in a cross-cutting, info-bite style that almost outdoes the *JFK* movie. It would make a great hypertext, in fact, if it was available in some kind of software format. The Players traverse settings that include the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, made even more interesting by the recent geopolitical transformations, and are as familiar as the Hawaiian surf scene. Designer drugs, electromagnetic propulsion and artificial intelligence make up part of the book's intellectual landscape. Mike Gunderloy, of the late and greatly lamented *Factsheet Five*, called it "unexpectedly delightful."

*Steamshovel* must also apologize for last issue's typo concerning Blast Book's anthology of drug-inspired writing. It's called *The Drug User*, not *The Drug Abuser*. It's a good book, either way. Anticipating the desired location of the reviewer's head with precision, the publisher of that volume has now produced a text entitled *Guillotine: Its Legend and Lore* (Blast Books, POB 51, Cooper Station, New York, NY 10276-0051) by guillotine memorabilia and artifacts collector Daniel Gerould.

-reviewed by Kenni Thomas



## More on the AIDS Conspiracy

Terrence Jackson is a black activist and conspiracy researcher who is also the author of a recent controversial book, *Putting It All Together: World Conquest, Global Genocide, and African Liberation* (AKASA Press, POB 313, Manhattanville Station, New York, NY 10027, 9.95), which (so I gather from his recent appearance on PBS' *Tony Brown's Journal*) is an eclectic stew of left, right, and racial conspiracy theories, sort of a *None Dare Call It Treason* for black nationalists. As such, Jackson's foremost concern with AIDS is that it is being used as a weapon, one with "plausible denial", in a covert war against African peoples worldwide. By no means a new claim, it is nevertheless significant that the highest incidences and concentrations of AIDS deaths are located in equatorial Africa, and among the heterosexual masses, not among homosexuals.

In this booklet, a collection of often disjointed articles that repeat information and may have been printed elsewhere originally (at least one chapter is an outtake from *Putting It All Together*), Jackson cites (and occasionally quotes without credit) a variety of experts and commentators including leftists (Noam Chomsky, *Covert Action Information Bulletin*), right-wingers (Anthony Sutton, Bo Gritz), gay activists (John Lauritsen, Jon Rappoport), and medical authorities, both establishment and alternative. He runs through the various and contradictory AIDS origin theories, the medical anomalies associated with the disease, and alternative therapies and cures for it. Most of this is familiar territory to veteran researchers of alternative AIDS theories, but Jackson here offers two new clues (new to me, at any rate) to the possible solution of the AIDS mystery, and both involve Mr. HIV himself, Robert Gallo.

One is the allegation of Raymond Charles Manchester, currently incarcerated in a New York state prison on homicide charges, who claims to have been framed because he was given documented proof (a manuscript and two cassette tapes) that AIDS had been engineered by the military at Fort

Detrick, Maryland (see my "AIDS: Act of God or the Pentagon" in *Steamshovel Press* #4). At the time, Manchester was in the Army, serving as a top-security clearance staff driver stationed at Fort Meyers, near Fort Detrick, and one of his duties was to ferry high-ranking officers between top-secret installations like Fort Detrick. Manchester had a friend stationed at Detrick, an MP assigned to guard one of the many laboratories there. Manchester's friend had become disgruntled with the Army, and stole the damning evidence on the creation of AIDS and gave it to Manchester.

"The manuscript was by Robert Gallo; it and the tapes made it clear that Fort Detrick, under Gallo's supervision, had produced the virus well before the time and had stored it there for later use. It was also clear from these documents that plans had already been carefully drawn up for letting the virus loose on the world." (p. 9)

Jackson also contends that Gallo, while head of the National Cancer Institute's Tumor Cell Biology Laboratory from 1962 to about 1976, oversaw a bizarre virus inoculation project where two thousand plus monkeys were injected with a variety of immunosuppressive agents, everything from human cancer cell tissue to sheep's blood (Dr. Robert Strecker has theorized that AIDS was the result of splicing together bovine leukemia with sheep visna virus) to create "a transmissible cancer". And all this time we thought they were soliciting all those millions of dollars to find a cure for cancer, not a better way to spread it!

These are heavy charges to lay on anyone's head, to claim that Gallo engineered the very virus (HIV) that he has so steadfastly insisted is the sole cause of AIDS seems illogical if only because it would seem more likely that he would want to distance himself as much as possible from identification with HIV, and minimize it as the cause of AIDS. Unless the case may be that Gallo is so egotistical and possessive of his alleged creation that he cannot bear to let anyone else get credit for identifying it. A bizarre thought, but perhaps not so unlikely when it is remembered that Gallo was embroiled

in a dispute that spilled over into a lawsuit brought against him by the Paris Pasteur Institute over who had first isolated and identified the HIV virus. Gallo lost and had to admit that the French had been the first to publish their findings. If Jackson, or whoever is the source on this matter, is correct, it must have been an especially bitter and ironic pill for Gallo to swallow.

Unfortunately, although he does provide a bibliography, Jackson does not bother to provide specific references for these claims. Is there anything to them, or are they just more wild rumors? I would have liked to know more about Manchester and the fate of his MP friend, as well as where the information came from.

I also think Jackson fails in his stated intention to solve the AIDS mystery. Mainly he lays the various theories out on the page but makes no attempt to "put them all together"; plainly, many of them can't be reconciled. Jackson admits, in the apologia that opens the book, to releasing an incomplete work, citing the need to disseminate such important information as quickly as possible, as well as lack of adequate financial resources (the one irritating constant in the life of any independent researcher) as reasons for doing so. If his booklet is more confusing than enlightening at times, it's hardly his fault, as trying to solve the AIDS mystery is one of the most frustrating, exasperating tasks anyone can undertake.

But someday, someone will solve it; someone better, before it's too late.

--reviewed by G. J. Krupey

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# A JFK Videography

by G. J. Krupey

In the wake of Oliver Stone's film *JFK*, a plethora of books on the Kennedy assassination, many of them re-issues of long out-of-print or hard to find titles, have flooded the market. Video cassettes have not been far behind, as a nearly equal number of tapes dealing with the subject have also suddenly appeared, many of them quite obscure. It might come as a surprise to some to learn that Stone was not the first to commit conspiracy theories on assassination to celluloid, and documentary-makers have never stopped dealing with it.

The following list makes no claims at being complete or definitive. I found most of these through sheer chance, not even knowing of their existence. It wouldn't surprise me to learn that there are more out there that I still haven't heard of. If you can't find any of these at your local video sales or rental store, you might have better luck at discount chain stores, where I found many of these, sitting in the cut-out or clearance bins, nestled between Cathy Smith exercise tapes and the *Friday the 13th* rip-offs. Happy hunting.

## Docudramas

*The Trial Of Lee Harvey Oswald* (1964, Larry Buchanan, black & white, 120 minutes; Burbank Video, 1991) This appears to have been the first film made about the Kennedy assassination, apparently even before the issuance of the Warren Commission report. This film was supposed to have been suppressed until recently, but I can't understand why. There is no attempt to unearth any conspiracy; the only question being whether or not Oswald was guilty, or not guilty through reason of insanity. If this was the best defense Oswald could have gotten, then he was better off being shot by Ruby and getting it over with, because by the end of this film, even I would have voted him guilty!

The odd thing about this film's advocacy of the lone assassin theory is that it was made by a man "noteworthy for his paranoia. A firm believer in almost any conspiracy theory, he's made several movies purporting to tell the 'truth' about subjects that the government (or Hollywood) have hushed up." (*RE/SEARCH #10: Incredibly Strange Films*, 1986, RE/SEARCH Publications, SF, CA.)

Qualitywise, the film is obviously low-budget, with a cast that never heard of subtlety. Very much a product of its time, it's reminiscent of a typical 1960s weekly TV courtroom drama, even to the typeface of the titles. I kept expecting Raymond Burr to burst in at any second, and utter in a stentorian voice, "Your Honor, I have vital evidence to prove that this man is not only innocent of having assassinated the president, but is himself the victim of a frame-up by conspirators within our government!", while the courtroom erupts into pandemonium, the judge's gavel pounding furiously...

But no such luck. Instead we get a film that could have been made to demonstrate How Our Legal System Works for high school civics classes. Just as the jury is about to render its verdict, the film ends, making this the first of the "you be the jury" films. Finally, the lawyer who served as consultant to the film is wheeled out to deliver a somber lecture on the awesomeness of the American judicial system, while suitably melodramatic music swells on the soundtrack. In the final analysis, this film is a campy period piece, outdated almost as soon as it was completed, and nothing more than a curiosity piece to the serious student of the Kennedy assassination.

*Ruby and Oswald* (1967, Mel Stuart, color, 96 min.; Star Classics, 1989) A mainstream theatrical release that adheres to the Warren Commission view of the star-crossed trajectories of Oswald (Frederic Forrest) and Ruby (Michael Lerner). Filmed on location in Dallas and intercut with actual footage from the events of 11/22/63, it's an engaging film, largely sympathetic to Ruby (just a big old, soft-hearted but excitable palooka whose grief leads him to a desperate act), yet manages to raise more questions than provide satisfactory answers, just like the Warren Commission report it's based on. To

be fair, Oswald is not shown firing a rifle at the motorcade; instead the viewer sees only a stack of boxes in front of the School Book Depository window from which shots are heard to come. Overall, the film is well done, even if it is "politically incorrect" from the JFK conspiracy researcher's viewpoint.

*Executive Action* (1973, David Miller, color, 91 min.; Warner Home Video, 1992) Based on the novel by Mark Lane and Donald Freed (which purported to be a likely scenario of how the assassination was plotted and executed), and scripted by Dalton Trumbo (one of the Hollywood Ten accused by the House Un-American Activities Committee of subverting movies with communist propaganda, and author of the antiwar classic *Johnny Got His Gun*), this film was as controversial in its day as Stone's later film would be, or so the copy on the slip-case would have it. Personally, I can remember 1973 fairly well, but can't recall this film...The film stars Burt Lancaster, Robert Ryan, and Will Geer as the head conspirators, wealthy industrialists with military and intelligence connections. Lancaster and Ryan were (again, according to the slip-case note) persuaded to believe in the conspiracy hypothesis after acting in this film (although Lane has since expressed his displeasure with the finished product.) *Executive Action* is swift-paced and gripping, and I found it as compelling as Stone's film, but without the often hysterical sentimentality that marred the latter.

*The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald* (1976, David Greene, color, 192 min.; Good Times Home Video, 1990) A different film than Buchanan's in every way, this seems to have been a made-for-TV movie (which, again, I don't recall; what was I doing in the seventies?). As in Buchanan's film, Oswald is not shot by Ruby, and instead stands trial for murdering the president. This film also ends without a verdict being rendered; once again, permitting you, the viewer, to be the jury. Despite this, there is a twist ending that I'll forego revealing for the sake of the one or two people reading this who might actually want to expend the effort to find this and watch it. While this film attempts to be unbiased and balanced by presenting the evidence from both sides, I seem to detect a pro-conspiracy tilt to it, nonetheless. With Ben Gazzara as the prosecutor, Lorne Greene as the defense attorney, and John Pleshette as Oswald.

### Documentaries

As interesting as fictional treatments of the JFK assassination can be, they are handicapped by the fact that, being fiction, the director or screen writer is free to portray subjective interpretation as historical fact, no matter how unlikely or unverifiable it may be. This, of course, is what got Stone in so much trouble (or to be more precise, this is the pretext upon which his critics seized in their attempts to discredit the entire film, and the very idea of a conspiracy in general). In contrast, a documentary film-maker is less free to improvise, and must, if honest, stick to the facts and label speculation as such.

*The Plot to Kill JFK: Rush To Judgment* (1966, Emile de Antonio and Mark Lane, b&w, 98 min., MPI Home Video, 1988) Without a doubt the first and most famous documentary on the subject, *Rush To Judgment* (somebody obviously felt it necessary to re-title it to emphasize the subject) is based on Lane's book of the same name, one of the earliest, if not first, to take on the Warren Commission. An attorney who was briefly retained by Oswald's mother to represent her murdered son's interests before the Warren Commission, Lane is the star of this film, appearing as both narrator and interviewer of witnesses, most of whose testimonies contradict the official findings. The demeanor of the witnesses is extremely interesting; many of them are obviously very nervous, and it doesn't seem to be due to camera shyness, either. A few of them seem

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**In this post-literate, if not illiterate, age, one moving picture is worth a thousand books...**

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downright afraid, the prime example being Warren Reynolds, who chased the killer of Tippit for a block. Two days after he told the FBI that he could not positively identify Oswald as the man he chased, he was shot in the head by an unknown assailant. He survived, and getting the message, told the Warren Commission several months later what it wanted to hear, that Oswald was the man he chased. Another witness, who originally claimed to have heard shots from the grassy knoll in Dealey Plaza, changed his story because, since the Warren Commission had deemed it otherwise, he must have been mistaken. But most witnesses stick to their initial claims; they heard what they heard and saw what they saw. Some of these witnesses would later die in what many would see as suspicious circumstances. Lane covers some of these deaths in an interview with Penn Jones, Jr., editor-publisher of a Dallas suburban newspaper, and the primary chronicler of the Kennedy witness deaths. Some of these witnesses died between the time the film was made and released, as noted in the film itself. Lane quizzes former Ruby employees, and tours the grassy-knoll-overpass area with one of the witnesses as well. Lane has managed to alienate many within the "assassination community" over the decades, but that does not diminish the importance of this film, the closest thing (along with the Zapruder film) most researchers will ever get to a first hand account. It bears repeated viewings.

*Declassified: The Plot To Kill President Kennedy* (1983, John Sharnik, color, 58 min.; VidAmerica, 1988) Focusing on the findings of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, this film champions the Mafia-did-it school of thought that the HSCA more or less recommended. While the evidence for the Mob's participation is certainly persuasive, those who seek to finger the Mob alone beg the question of how the Mob was able to influence the government to issue a cover-up of their crime. Perhaps the implications are just too unnerving for some people to contemplate. One highlight is an interview conducted by Anthony Summers (author of *Conspiracy*) with a "Dr. Peters", who claims to have been present when CIA agent and Howard Hughes crony Robert Maheu discussed plans to murder Castro with Johnny Roselli and Santo Trafficante in Miami.

*Reasonable Doubt: The Single Bullet Theory* (1988, Chip and Mike Selby, color, 60 min.; White Star, 1988) This film (which apparently is not based on the book of the same name by Henry Hurt) focuses on the Warren Commission's most controversial finding, the ludicrous single bullet theory (the baby of Commission counsels David Belin and Arlen Specter). As is pointed out here, so crucial is acceptance of the single (or "magic") bullet theory--that one bullet fired from Oswald's alleged Mannlicher-Carcano rifle caused all of Connally's and all of Kennedy's wounds save the fatal head shot, yet was found in pristine condition on a stretcher in Parkland hospital--to the lone assassin claim, that to demolish it is to destroy the entire edifice of the Warren Report.

*Who Didn't Kill...JFK* (1980, Jim Marrs and Jack White, color, 60 min.; 3-G Home Video, 1990) Who didn't kill JFK was, of course, Lee Harvey Oswald, and Marrs (author of *Crossfire: The Plot That Killed Kennedy*) and White, a photoanalyst who worked for HSCA, attempt to prove it by showing that the famous photo of Oswald brandishing firearms and commie propaganda that were so prominently displayed by *Life* (or was it *Lie*?) magazine on its cover were fakes, composites (and crude ones, at that) of Oswald's head on somebody else's body.

*Best Evidence: The Research Video* (1980, David Lifton, color, 35 min.; Rhino Home Video, 1990) Based on research done for his own book of the same title, Lifton attempts to prove that Kennedy's corpse was tampered with between the time it left Dallas and before it reached Bethesda Naval Hospital where the official autopsy was performed. The wounds were altered so that Navy coroners would find entrance wounds in the back of Kennedy's head and neck, consistent with Oswald the lone assassin firing from the sixth floor of the School Book Depository at the retreating motorcade. This is in opposition to what doctors at Parkland Hospital in Dallas found: entrance wounds

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**Without a camera present at the most crucial moments of the events of November 22-24, 1963, the Warren Commission's conclusions may have remained an open and shut case...**

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indicating shots fired from the front caused the fatal head shot. Lifton speaks to those responsible for shipping the corpse and receiving it, as well as medical personnel present at the autopsy, the former having been under military-imposed gag orders until recently. From them he learns that Kennedy's body arrived in a different casket and in a different wrapping than how it left Dallas, that it arrived in Bethesda in a different ambulance than left the airport, and that the official autopsy photos were faked to conceal the massive head wound that killed Kennedy.

As Oliver Stone recently proved, in this post-literate (if not illiterate) age, one moving picture is worth a thousand books. With one stroke, and several million dollars, Stone took the Kennedy assassination conspiracy debate out of the preserve of a relative minority of cognoscenti, and put it in the public domain. Whatever the failings of Stone's film, whether or not its errors (of commission and omission) will ultimately help or harm the quest for truth, he hit a raw nerve with both the public and its masters. Anybody who can cause *Newspeak* magazine to attack an unreleased movie with an hysterical cover story must be doing something right!

And what that something is, is the seductive power of the moving picture on film. You can read any number of books on the subject (and I'm not trying to discourage anyone from reading them; hopefully many were impelled by seeing *JFK* to seek out the documentation), they don't convey the same impact as seeing the events recreated by skilled actors, or, even better, the actual people who witnessed or participated in the events speaking out. It's not that the camera never lies, but that it can perform as the only impartial witness. Without a camera present at the most crucial moments of the events of November 22-24, 1963, the Warren Commission's conclusions may have remained an open and shut case, impossible (or at least difficult) to doubt, let alone refute, except for a handful of eyewitnesses. Without the Zapruder and Nix films of Kennedy's death, the live telecast of Oswald's death at the hands of Ruby, and the myriad still photos taken that day in Dealey Plaza and elsewhere, could there have ever been any ammunition for the conspiracy hypothesis? Could any of the above films have been made? Surely Stone's film could never have been made, could it?

Perhaps I overstate my case, but in the final analysis, photographic and cinematic evidence has been crucial to the claims of both sides of the story. That premier publication of fearless investigative journalism, *Life*, was created on the premise that the image is paramount to the word. After all, it was *Life* that printed still frames of the Zapruder film out of sequence to "prove" that the fatal headshot came from behind; and it was *Life* that tried and convicted Oswald, *post mortem*, on the flimsy "proof" of those two photos of him (or of his face superimposed on someone else) posing as a militant communist. Even if it really was Oswald in those photos, he could easily have been posing for a joke as for posterity as the mighty hunter of fascists. So the power of images is undeniable, often succeeding where words fail, but combined with powerful words, an imposing tool for persuasion.

Burbank Video, 2001 Glenn Parkway, Batavia, Ohio 45103

Warner Home Video, 4000 Warner Blvd., Burbank, California, 91522

Goodtimes Home Video, 401 5th Avenue, New York, New York 10016

MPI Home Video, Dept. 1400, 15825 Rob Roy Dr., Oak Forest, Illinois 60452

White Star/Kultur, 121 Highway 36, West Long Beach, New Jersey 07764

3-G Home Video, Montebello, California, 90640

Rhino Home Video, 2225 Colorado Ave., Santa Monica, California 90404

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## Jonathan Vankin

A journalist at the San Jose Metro, Jonathan Vankin's startling book *Conspiracies, Cover-ups, and Crimes: Political Manipulation and Mind Control in America* was recently featured in the magazine *Mondo 2000*. PhenomiCon 1992 will be Mr. Vankin's first east coast appearance.

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## Kerry Thornley

Author of *The Idle Warriors*, *Zenarchy* and *Principia Discordia*, and recently featured on the television show *A Current Affair*, Kerry, along with being one of the masterminds behind Discordianism, was Lee Harvey Oswald's pal in the Marines in the late 50's. Probably one of the most important "unknown" individuals of the 20th century.

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## CARIES, CABALS and CORRESPONDENCE

### Letters From Readers

I am a person who writes letters to people I've never met. I find out about people by listening in on their phones. I never go anywhere. I live in a large room filled with millions of dollars of eavesdropping equipment that allows me to listen in on people all over the world. (So, people really should be careful when they're talking because you never know!) You might think that never going anywhere would be boring. Not at all. Since I can listen in on anyone, I can "go" anywhere. Since I can find out about anything, I am never bored. Often I find out things that almost nobody else knows about. Sometimes, I know about something long before most people know. For example, I know that some day in the future your family is going to throw you a giant surprise party. (But don't tell yourself. It's a surprise!) Please do not write to me. I do not like receiving mail from anyone. I only like to send it.

*Sincerely,*  
*George B.*

I must disagree with John Robert Martin's belief that the 1981 attempt on Reagan's life was theatre ("Presidency As Theatre," SP5), staged to enhance Reagan's popularity. I don't have any disagreements worth mentioning with the rest of the article. Reagan really was shot. Three months afterwards, back page news items revealed he had been in much more serious condition than had been initially told. It was even publicly revealed that a photo of him released a couple days after the shooting had been retouched to delete the IVs in him and the nurses holding him up. This doesn't mean that the failed hit wasn't staged ahead of time. The mystery in this case is that Hinckley's father and George Bush were old friends in the oil business together in Texas and in worldwide missionary organizations with rumored ties to the CIA. John Jr. had previous psychiatric care. I think he could have been an unwitting patsy a la Lee Harvey Oswald, but all I know there

is to go on are these suspicious facts. I dunno why a hit would've been planned against Reagan, although rumors've spread that he was pulled up short early in his presidency for not keeping in line with the secret government's agenda. Who knows? Not me.

*David Crowbar Nestle*  
*Ann Arbor, MI*

I am glad your mag is available in Los Angeles--at Midnight Special book store in Santa Monica. I would like to see interviews in your magazine with Sherman Skolnick, Dave Emory and Walter Bowart (he wrote the book *Operation Mind Control*). Please keep going and don't stop. Zen proverb by Huang Po: "The foolish reject what they see, not what they think; the wise reject what they think, not what they see."

*Gerry Flalka*  
*Ventice, CA*

### *Fourth Issue Forum* **Comments from Contributors**

Thank you for your recent publication of materials related to the life of my grandfather, late of the blessed memory, Professor Luther X. Frankenfurter. For well over a decade now, the Regents of Smythe College at San Patattoh have—for reasons I can only begin to speculate—denied the existence of my grandfather. G-d rest his soul. I can only say that as a young girl I spent many a weekend with him at San Patattoh and witnessed not only the incidents alluded to in "The Kabbalah Papers" (SP4) but also a great deal more that showed me the true character of President Temitta Crackenworster. These shocking truths are detailed in my book *The Emerald Prism: An Independent History of Smythe College at San Patattoh*, which will be published this fall.

*Lyla Frankenfurter-Goldstein*

No author enjoys having to correct mistakes in an already-published piece; especially when factual errors are involved. However, since the

publication of "Hotel Kalifornia," (SP4), I've lucked up on more accurate figures, one of which leaves me feeling rather sheepish, the rest of which actually bringing the situation into stark relief. Hence, I'll beg your indulgence as I correct the aforementioned errors. There's no excuse for shoddy research, but in my own defense I must say that facts are hard to come by here in the Hotel Kalifornia chain...

In the first paragraph comes the figure that embarrasses me. I state there that "the stock in trade stands at approximately one million unit." Having come up on more reliable figures, I'm forced to cut that in half. The actual numbers, while hard to get and open to an error of plus-or-minus about five percent, are as follows:

*in CDC facilities: over 110,000*  
*in outprograms: up to 225,000*  
*(includes parole, probation, work-release, drug and alcohol programs, etc.)*  
*in CYA (Youth Authority) up to 10,000*  
*in youth versions of above-listed adult programs: no more than 10,000*  
*in county jails, awaiting trial or official CDC intake: approximately 20-25,000 (split among 55 counties, 6,000 or more in LA alone)*  
*best estimate for CDC and affiliated programs: 370,000*  
*approximate number of incarcerated in 'mental hospitals' and 'medical facilities': approximately 70,000 (low estimate)*  
*TOTAL (approximate): 440,000*

While I was wrong by half, the numbers are still pretty scary.

In the second paragraph, "tens of billions" is a misprint; I'd originally written "tens of millions," but I'm forced to revise upwards here: the budget for CDC alone (not counting CYA, the Psych facilities, etc.) stands at 4.5 to 5 billion. I also state that the average guard makes about the same, per annum, as is spent on the upkeep of a single prisoner; again I must revise upwards. The upkeep figure is actually between \$28,000 and \$30,000/annum, while CDC guards average \$58,000/annum, after their first year. They are matched only by the CHP officers as the highest-paid law enforcement officers in the state, but

the average partner in a drug-cooking operation will make more in one week.

CDC facilities are currently operating, system-wide, at 175% of capacity; California returned more parolees to prison in 1989 (the latest year for which I have figures) than the other 49 states put together: 39, 976 for California, as opposed to 33,235 for the rest of the country.

I also touched briefly on prison slave labor. I mentioned that the average prisoner pay was \$30/month but neglected to mention that the overwhelming majority of prison jobs are *unpaid*. Most "lifers" are denied pay--perhaps one in twenty jobs designated for lifers actually receives pay and that pay is on the low end of the spectrum (\$19/month). I'm sorry if I gave the impression that all prisoners, or even most of them, that actually hold jobs are making \$30/month.

I also have to correct the percentage of state residents presently incarcerated: the actual figure is one in sixty, give or take ten either way (based on population estimate of thirty million in the state.) This one in sixty figure includes all the categories delineated at the beginning of this addendum.

I hope that readers will forgive these inaccuracies. I have no intention of misleading you, I think the truth is frightening enough to stand without augmentation. All other facts are as given in SP4. I stand by what I wrote, and when you consider that I could easily be shot "by accident" by one of the guards in any of the gun emplacements--as has happened before, once within three hundred feet of this writer without any nasty questions being asked of those responsible--that I write this at all, let alone sign my name to it, must say something.

The facts remain the same. These revisions come courtesy of an individual within the CDC who has read the initial article and truly hates the system, and who desires anonymity. All I can say in closing is, to quote a character in a recent film, "Be afraid...be very afraid..."

Wayne Hendersen  
Represa, CA

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Building on this solid foundation, ASK '92 will offer four days of new panel discussions, intensive group workshops, and other special events related to assassination research. This second Symposium will continue the effort to convince the United States government to make public all evidence that is currently sealed and reopen an inquiry into the assassination.

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Registration cost for ASK is \$100 if fee is postmarked by Sept. 4, \$125 if postmarked by Oct. 2 and \$150 thereafter. To register, send your name, complete mailing address, and phone number to ASK, Box 4999, Austin, TX 78765 (Fax is 512/451-0754). Pay by check (made to "ASK"), Visa, MasterCard or American Express only. If paying by credit card, be sure to include card number, name on card, expiration date and signature. In letter containing registration fee, please also indicate whether you want your name and address kept confidential or if you would like this information published in the ASK Program Book/Registrants' Directory.

For information on purchasing a table at the ASK Mart and/or placing a classified ad in the ASK Program Book/Registrants' Directory, call 512/467-7979. For information on hotel reservations at the Hyatt Regency at Reunion Square, call 214/621-1234. For information on discount airline reservations on American Airlines, call 800/433-1790 and refer to STAR # S2902PH. For updated information on confirmed ASK panelists and speakers, call 512/445-8390.

# Bless Me Father

by Lance Boyle

Unbeknownst to me at the time, the gossip continued even after I had left. Edith Gobbler was going around poking all the protagonists in their armatures and asking them if they had heard the one about the Cosmetologist and the Little Leaguer. It was down write! Needless to say half the party went lurching forward looking either for pictionary or barf bags - or in some fastidious cases both.

Another wild innuendo that made the rounds was that Frankie Half Pint had been discovered alone in somebody's Olds Cutlass Supreme sucking on a burnt bit of Ye Olde Beef Jerky. Times are tough, I guess. Meanwhile all the Little Leaguer could think about was all the weirdness that went down thirty summers ago.

Back then all "touch" was to him was an alternate game play with baseball flip cards. The other game was "match"; where you tried to match either face up or face down, the baseball card of your opponent that he had just flipped down on the ground. Yeah, back then the Little Leaguer still walked in the spirit of the Holy Ghost and couldn't see it coming to an end.

Bathed in sweat on his knees in front of Mister Television in lieu of Tuesday night devotions. With his family praying for what? Bathed in the Most Holy Blood of Jesus Christ more real than John Foster Dulles or Joe McCarthy. The Holy Eucharist wafer sliding down pristine child throat to the soul. Fiendish, barbaric Hungarian Commies pulled out Cardinal Midstzenty's fingernails with pliers as thousands of miles away the Little Leaguer genuflected and beseeched, "Bless me, Father for I have sinned."

It was baseball cards and holy cards all the way. Pictures of the gentle Saint Francis of Assisi aglow surrounded by the Blessed Creator's bees and birds. Stan "the Man" Musial crouched and eager, bat in hand. Images of wholesomeness and enthusiasm permeated the limited consciousness of the Little Leaguer. Why do you think he is referred to as the Little Leaguer?

The Little Leaguer. The Little Leaguer marching in holy procession with his angelic classmates clasping their tiny prayer books (black for the boys, white for the girls) between innocent thumbs and forefingers, hands folded in dedication to their deity and his mother. Purity and light. Their very diminutive existence proof of the untarnished alliance of Church and the United States of Nineteen Fifties America. And Sam Giancana and Johnny Roselli marched with the little angels and genuflected with them and bowed in humble supplication, "Bless us Father for we have undermined the basic decency of the concept of democracy....it's been two weeks since our last confession."

Through the black night the ghost of William Blake watched over the urine soaked Little Leaguer as he lie in his bed of poverty and boyhood piss. Outside in the hallway his mommy and daddy lunged for the same butcher knife of relief. Mother and father only wanted to end each other's misery. One good turn...

The Little Leaguer sound asleep with visions of pasties and G-strings dancing in his head. There was what seemed like a towering mural on the wall outside the loan company's office. The Little Leaguer waited outside in the car with his brother, sister and mother while his father went in and petitioned the loan officers for some needed dough to keep the domestic boat afloat. The Little Leaguer stared at the mural of the naked woman advertising kinship to the enth degree inside the neighborhood go-go lounge. Mysterious and large. Certainly larger than his reet petite parochial world. Boobies. Titties. More boobies. More titties. Gargantuan breasts and nipples. They were hiding but humungous. Beyond the entire concept or expected concept of "peaches and cream." These titties exceeded to utmost degree the parameters of the Little Leaguer's lame invocation of "looking impurely at impure pictures." Only a few years later the courts legal in the home of the brave would refer to it as arousing prurient interest. That was putting it mildly as far as this Little Leaguer was concerned. His eyes delved into the deepest enclaves of a labyrinth that he would spend his lifetime attempting to dismantle to no dharmic avail. Ah, the breaths that would be heaved in earnest attempts to decode the twin messages of those atomic heavies in the lifetime of the Little Leaguer already intently burrowing headlong into What?

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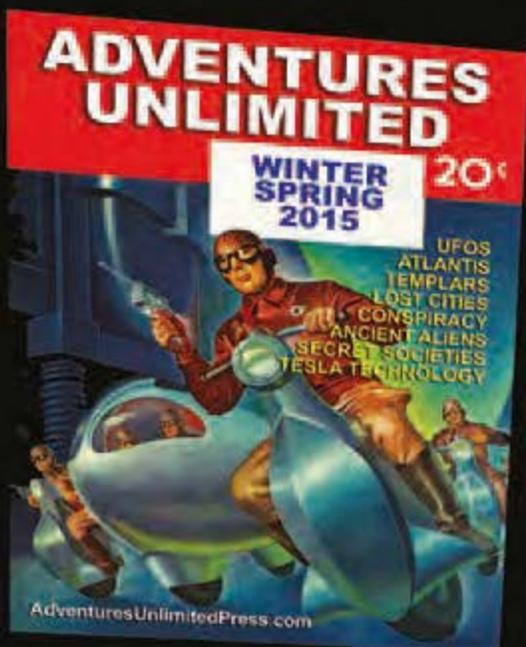


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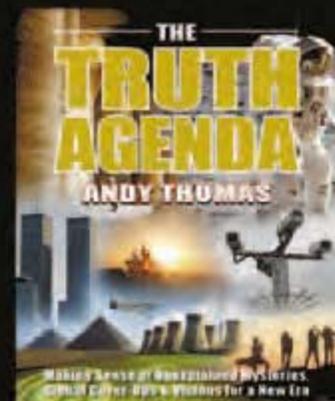


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