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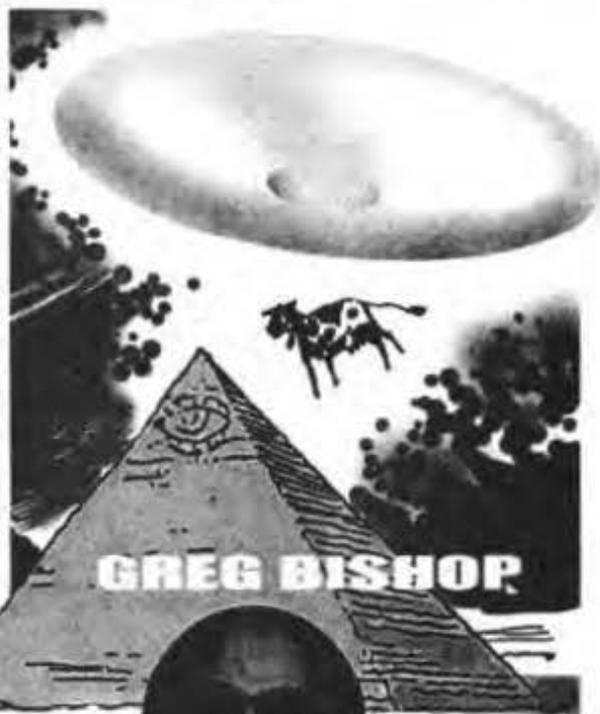
STEAMSHOVELPRESS

Issue 21 \$7
2004

ALL CONSPIRACY. NO THEORY.

Book Preview Issue!!!

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GREG BISHOP



The Bennewitz
UFO



**ROB
STERLING**

NOT

PLUS:
BRACKEN on 9/11
DOWBENKO on GIBSON
LISKER on BIOTERROR
KENN THOMAS on PARAPOLITICS



All conspiracy. No theory.

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STEAMSHOVEL PRESS

NUMBER TWENTY ONE
2004

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Cover by James Romberger

Upcoming Conferences

CONSPIRACY CONFERENCE 4, MAY 29-30, in the San Francisco Bay area.
www.conspiracyco.com

4th ANNUAL NORTHWEST UFO / PARANORMAL EVENT, MAY 28-31 in Seattle.
www.seattlechatchclub.org

ANCIENT SCIENCE & MODERN SECRETS JUNE 11-13 in Kempton, IL; and DECEMBER 4, 5 2004 in Sedona, AZ. Acharya S appears; Kenn Thomas and Greg Bishop appear in Sedona. www.wexclub.com

ROSWELL UFO Festival, Roswell, NM, JULY 1-4. Kenn Thomas appears. www.roswellufo.us

RECOMMENDED READING



Kerry Thornley's path crossed that of Lee Harvey Oswald's. The two served together in the Marines. Were they both used by foes of JFK? Jim Garrison investigated their relationship -- and so does Adam Gorightly in *The Prankster and the Conspiracy*, an account of Thornley's tragic yet hilarious life, the JFK conspiracy, and the chaos caused by worshipping the goddess of discord. Foreword by Robert Anton Wilson.
www.paraview.com/gorightly/



New research in the fields of biogenesis and experimental orgone biophysics, with insightful essays and research articles by 17 different authors on a truly amazing range of subjects: On natural childbirth, sexuality, archaeological evidence on early human violence, Reich's orgonomic functionalism, exposes on Reich's detractors; Giordano Bruno's work, protocells and bion-biogenesis research, new methods for detection of orgone energy, cloudbusting experiments in Africa, plant growth stimulation in the orgone accumulator, several papers on the orgone energy motor with a discussion on the implications of "free energy", plus UFO research, much more, with many striking photos and illustrations. www.orgonelab.org

"Parapolitics!"

by Kenn Thomas

The word "parapolitics" doesn't originate with *Steamshovel Press* but the magazine often champions the word as an alternative to the distorted media handle of "conspiracy theory". Like Wilhelm Reich's "orgone" – a term for atmospheric and body energy – the word "parapolitics" appears in some dictionaries but not most.

Peter Dale Scott defined parapolitics as "a system or practice of politics in which accountability is consciously diminished" Scott defined the term as "an intervening layer of the irrationality under our political culture's rational surface" but called it too self-conscious. He ultimately exchanged it for another self-conscious term, "deep politics" defined as "all those political practices and arrangements, deliberate or not, which are usually repressed rather than acknowledged". Although Scott is the pre-eminent scholar of conspiracy in American politics, *Steamshovel* suggests that its readers not move with haste to an abandonment of the term.

The prefix "para" means "alongside" -- an activity that happens concurrently with visible politics, just as paranormal events happen alongside normal ones. A scientific definition exists involving atoms spinning in different directions (as in "parabola"), providing an apt metaphor for a free society versus one dominated by secret rule. Even the etymological roots of the word "paranoia" suggest a consciousness additional to sanity, not sanity's absence. The term "metapolitics", often offered as an alternative, suggests that the phenomenon is a more evolved form of politics. It is not. The parapolitical runs alongside normal politics but in the opposite direction, a de-evolution toward manipulation and control.

Little need exists, of course, to dress up a study of conspiracy with a quasi-academic term, outside of the need to resist that phony sobriquet, "conspiracy theory". Anyone in America who thinks independently about current affairs, from a perspective other than as defined by authority, is called a "conspiracy theorist". In fact, parapoliticos (intelligence community media assets) concocted the term "conspiracy theory" as a tool of

disinformation. In this way, while the media does its well-known job of lulling viewers into a passive consumerism, woofing down Pentagon press releases along with everything else, it accomplishes three propaganda objectives:

- 1) It robs alternative points of view of credibility;
- 2) It suggests that conspiracies do not really exist;
- 3) It creates a surprisingly lucrative ideational/ entertainment commodity.

"Conspiracy theory" as a theme in movies, talk shows and TV dramas has become a big industry.

Perhaps it is too obvious to point out, but a modicum of any factual knowledge about anything exposes the paucity of actual information found in the mainstream media.

An egregious example recently discussed at www.steamshovelpress.com concerns the comic book artist Jack Kirby. Kirby's comic creations became responsible for

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an enormous chunk of the revenues generated by the megabuck comic book entertainment industry. In the wake of blockbuster movies like *The Hulk*, *X-Men* and the two *Spiderman* flicks, however, all based on characters Kirby created, the media gives all credit to Stan Lee, the editor at Marvel who made contributions to the scripts of the 1960s comic books. In the publicity surrounding the release of the recent movies, the media often credited Lee as the artist, a trade he did not ply, and gave him far more credit for creating the Marvel properties than was his due.

The money involved, and the fact that Jack Kirby remains an unrecognized genius of American art, should quiet any suggestion that this is a trivial example. With it, the media demonstrates not only a profound deficiency but a deliberate intent to obfuscate and distort historical reality. Kirby was a workaday comics artist laboring under work-for-hire contracts. While an enormous (and still growing) entertainment bureaucracy grew up around his creations, he received only his page rate and even had trouble getting back his original artwork. While comfortably middle-class and certainly a success in the eyes of his fans and fellow professionals, Jack Kirby remains in relative obscurity compared to the popularity of his characters, all licensed and exploited for enormous and ongoing corporate profits. The true story of Kirby's career and the question of creator rights obviously does not serve corporate media bosses.

This exposes a parapolitical agenda. It disinforms. A more widely understood example among "conspiracy theorists" (that is, students of the parapolitical) concerns the JFK assassination. More than the dumb show of lone nutters versus conspiracy nutters presented annually around November, the lessons of that important historical event illuminate a wide range of contemporary issues leading away from the media's pre-ordained false dialogue. Had this not been the case, the JFK parapolitical research community would not have had the staying power it still has after forty years and the pathway to the research the reader will find in *Steamshovel* would not exist. Understanding Lee Harvey Oswald's spy career means understanding how spies operate transnationally, having more allegiances than even they understand, like the terrorists of mujahadeen/al Qaeda. Seeing how put-options sold on the day of the

JFK assassination helps students of parapolitics see the same process as it happened after 9/11. Knowing about David Ferrie's secret bio-warfare lab illuminates the subjects of anthrax and AIDS as they have been seen in today's daily news.

These topics emerge in *Steamshovel* books about the JFK assassination: *NASA, Nazis and JFK* (Oswald-as-spy) and *Mind Control Oswald and JFK* (put-options), although the lessons of Ferrie's lab are discussed in Ed Haslam's brilliant book, *Mary, Ferrie and the Monkey Virus*.

Haslam's book provides a back drop to the History Channel recent documentary on the assassination, censored from the airwaves after parapoliticos pressured the cable channel. Entitled "The Guilty Ones", part of Nigel Turner's *The Men Who Killed Kennedy* series, it reported upon an LBJ-did-it analysis by Barr McClellan, the father of the current White House press secretary. The program included the claims of Judyth Baker, which connect her to the story told by Haslam.

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It does not take any naïve acceptance of claims made by anyone with regard to the assassination to see that the History Channel and Lyndon Johnson's toadies not only don't want to discuss it, they don't want anyone else to discuss it either.

NASA, Nazis & JFK, by contrast, was the first annotated book edition of the Torbitt Memorandum, an underground document that had long circulated in photocopy form, under the censor's radar, among parapolitical researchers. Its many revelations included the possible role in the assassination of a man named Fred Crisman, identified in the Torbitt as one of the tramps arrested in the railyard behind the grassy knoll on November 22. Proceeding backward in time from that, the reader will find Crisman's presence at the first post-World War II UFO event, the Maury Island case. Proceed forward and Crisman's presence can be found in the parapolitical research and work of Danny Casolaro, the infamous Octopus conspiracy.

Although *Steamshovel* covers all aspects of the conspiracy culture, few fail to understand why this parapolitical nexus defines the parameters of the majority of the editor's particular research. It goes to the core of every odd dimension of recent American history, from JFK to biowarfare to mind control and UFOs, things that as mentioned are sold as America's mass culture but occupy its parapolitical history. It concerns real people involved in multi-generational links to the covert world and the ufological subculture. It also involves American samizdat literature — not only the Torbitt, but the Gemstone File, the Kiwi Gemstone, the COM 12 papers — that not only reflect a remarkably consistent alternative view of world events compiled by widely disparate sources, but perspectives that would be lost even as literature if not for their appearance in the parapolitical landscape.

In recent internet correspondence, the author of a well-known encyclopedia of UFO history challenged my credentials as a scholar after I pointed out errors of fact he made about the Maury Island case. The correspondence included a third party only dimly aware of Crisman's JFK-UFO connection, a sad and amazing fact only too true of many people. Although both admitted to never having read the only book ever written on Maury Island (mine), the author's contention that it

never really happened and that anyone with interest was "free to believe whatever, er, eccentric notion to which he is attracted" made him imagine that he had the authority to squelch the discussion. Complaining that I was a conspiracy theorist, he took refuge from his errors in pointing out awards he had received from the American Library Association and the Publishers Marketing Association.

I responded that my academic credentials included a twenty year career as an archivist and historian at a major midwestern university. My most recent academic work at the time appeared in a biographical volume published by Harvard and in an encyclopedia on conspiracy published by the University of Manchester in England. I was not interested in bragging or getting into a pissing match with this writer, but I felt it important to underscore that his awards came from marketing and commercial book publishing associations. Such awards mainly serve as public relations tools for their respective

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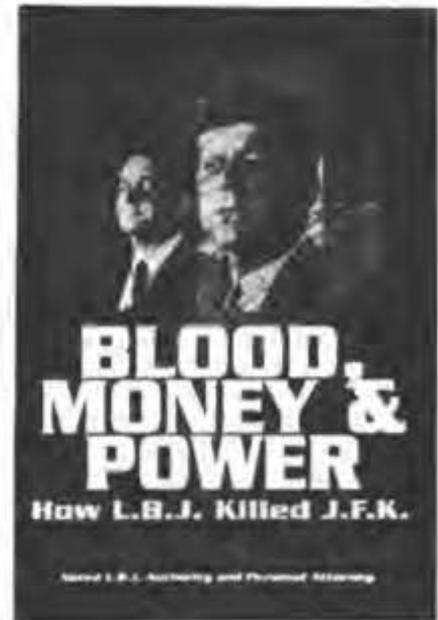
industries and are not imprimaturs of proven, solid research. Moreover, the writer's arrogance, in trying to belittle parapolitical research while getting his facts wrong and discouraging the third party from looking into it more at all, shocked me. Was this a deliberate attempt at disinforming? Or did it fall into Peter Dale Scott's definition of "deep politics" – parapolitics as usual, conscious or not?

The writer also had used Gerald Posner as the source for his understanding of the JFK assassination. Posner's three year lone-nut thesis "study" of the JFK assassination was offered up in the mainstream as some kind counter-balance to the decades long body of parapolitical research by hundreds of others proving conspiracy. To support that weak intellectual pylon, the writer offered reviews of Posner in various daily papers.

No appeal to authority, commercial or academic, will supplant a direct observation of the facts. This is the biggest resistance *Steamshovel* has to the term "conspiracy theory", that it attempts to deprive the notion of parapolitics of its basis in fact. *Steamshovel* is a magazine of commentary but the reader will learn from it a wide range of historical facts. The aggressive moves to suppress these parapolitical facts come from the TV censors and the so-called "skeptical" writers.

As the *Steamshovel Press* motto goes: All conspiracy. No theory. The various rants, screeds, samizdat, Freedom of Information files and oral histories discussed here are offered as artifacts of study. They contain dead end leads, false information, a variety of biases and many authentic revelations. They are not, however, theories. They open a doorway to a realm of facts and perspectives that the newspapers, the media and the academy deliberately ignore.

Kenn Thomas edits and publishes *Steamshovel Press*. He has authored many books on conspiracy topics, including the recently re-released *The Octopus: Secret Government and the Death of Danny Casolaro* (Feral House) and *Maury Island UFO*. His new book, *Parapolitics!*, comes out in September. A companion video of the same name is currently available from *Steamshovel*.



Barr McLellan's book, *Blood, Money & Power: How L.B.J. Killed J.F.K.* (New York, NY: Hannover House, 2003) became one basis of the documentary "The Guilty Ones." The History Channel recently removed the program from the air and no longer allows sale of the DVD. Pressure to do this came from former LBJ aides Bill Moyers and Jack Valenti as well as former Warren Commission member Gerald Ford. McClellan's son Scott now serves as the White House press secretary.



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50 REASONS NOT TO VOTE FOR BUSH

Reason # 1:

HE STOLE THE 2000 ELECTION

by Robert Sterling

With a villain like Shrub, it's difficult to narrow down all the spite he has earned on one single, solitary reason why he does not deserve your vote. After all, nearly everything he has done, both before and during his White House squatting signifies a uniquely repulsive and vile character.

Yet one reason screams out to be recognized as the alpha example of why he must be rejected in the voting booth: his entire claim to the White House is based on fraud.

Let's start with one important fact not in dispute: nationally, Shrub lost the 2000 popular vote to Al Gore by over 500,000 Americans. In other words, if the office of the President were decided in a democratic manner, Dubya would still be stuck in Texas snuffing death row inmates.

Granted, this is an admittedly trivial fact. Like it or not, the US Constitution set out an Electoral College system to select the President, not the popular vote. While the system may seem archaic, it is nonetheless the rule of law, and nobody would argue to trump this legally codified tradition without a Constitutional Amendment. Right?

Actually, there is one group who did indeed argue this: the George W. Bush 2000 campaign. In the polls leading up to the November election, one scenario came up as a likely end: that while Georgie Boy would win the popular vote by a razor thin margin, he would lose the Electoral College. Faced with this potential outcome, the Bush Team laid out a strategy to deal with it: manufacture a massive "popular" campaign of outrage to overturn the results of the election. As reported November 1, 2000 (in other words, before the election) by Michael Kramer of the *New York Daily News*, the mass rebellion would be stoked by paid advertisements and a right-wing talk radio frenzy. The radio blowhards would go against the essential "unfairness" of the Electoral College, which was described in another pre-election *Boston Herald* article as "an antiquated relic" by Republican sources.

The Republic anti-Electoral College campaign would go further. "Local business leaders will be urged to lobby their customers, the clergy will be asked to speak up for the popular will and Team Bush will enlist as many Democrats as possible to scream as loud as they can." For the last part, the Bushistas even came up with a catchy slogan: "Democrats for Democracy." A Bush aide added, "And I think you can count on the media to fuel the thing big-time. Even papers that supported Gore might turn against him because the will of the people will have been thwarted." Most important, members of the Electoral College would be pressured to do the right thing and switch their vote for Dubya.

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In summing up the entire proposed operation, a Bush aide succinctly stated: "The one thing we don't do is roll over -- we fight."

(And lest you believe *Boston Herald* article was part of some "liberal media" plot to smear the Shrub campaign, it was never denied by any member of the campaign, and was cited with gleeful approval by the right-wing GOP-linked website *Newsmax* before the election, which termed as "obvious" the unfairness of the Electoral College system.)

Oddly, when Gore defeated Dubya in the popular vote, the massive talk-radio campaign against the trump of the people's will never happened. Instead, a campaign was railed against Gore and his VP pick Joseph Lieberman (who were quickly referred to as "Sore-Loserman") for daring to challenge the results of the Shrub "victory" granted by an infallible Electoral College.

Gore (to his credit) never challenged the legitimacy of the Electoral College, which would have provoked a Constitutional crisis. Instead, the Gore campaign focused its challenges on the official voting results in the state of Florida, where a supposed win by Dubya granted 25 electoral votes needed for an Electoral College majority. (270 votes were needed, and Bush finished with 271 to Gore's 266.)

At face value, the 2000 Florida election stinks. The Governor of the state at the time was (and still is) Jeb Bush, Shrub's brother. The Secretary of State, whose job was to certify the results and ensure the election's integrity, was Katherine Harris, a partisan right-wing hack with ties to both Bush brothers. (She was co-chair of the

Bush 2000 campaign in Florida.) The official margin of victory in Florida: 537 votes out of nearly six million total. Even without any further evidence, the results would have been deservedly met with snickers and skepticism if they were announced in some backwards banana republic.

Further evidence was quickly noted. The most infamous example was the "butterly ballot" in Palm Beach County. Presidential candidates were listed on two pages in the county, with Pat Buchanan's name listed in between Bush's and Gore's in a manner that confused many voters, who weren't sure which hole was for Buchanan or Gore. The upshot: Buchanan received a total of 3,424 votes in the county, or 0.79% of the total. Statewide, Pat won a mere 0.34% of the vote, and Palm Beach, a haven for retired liberal Jewish voters, was an unlikely candidate to root for the ultra-conservative commentator with a penchant for anti-Semitic rhetoric.

That wouldn't stop Team Bush from arguing precisely that. "Palm Beach County is a Pat Buchanan stronghold," Ari Fleischer would quickly proclaim to explain the discrepancy (in the first of many noted pathological pronouncements.) When questioned about this claim, Jim McConnell, Buchanan's Florida coordinator, told Jake Tapper of *Salon*. "That's nonsense." He estimated the number of Buchanan activists in the county at no more than five hundred. McConnell explained the Buchanan campaign did zero advertising in the county, as "the percentage of people down there who would be receptive to our message is much smaller than in other parts of the state." On the suspiciously high totals, he declared:

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"Do I believe that these people inadvertently cast their votes for Pat Buchanan? Yes, I do. We have to believe that based on the vote totals elsewhere." How many legit votes did he believe Pat received in the area? "I think 1,000 would be generous." His number jibes with the statistical evidence.

Showing more integrity than Dubya, Pat Buchanan would state on the *Today* show, "I don't want any votes that I did not receive and I don't want to win any votes by mistake."

Of course, some of the Buchanan voters were likely confused Shrub fans as well. So let's give him the benefit of the doubt, and assume that a quarter of the 2,400 votes above Buchanan's generous thousand were actually for him (a rather generous assumption.) That still would give Gore a net total of 1,200 votes, more than enough to switch Florida's Electoral Votes to Al and push him into the White House.

But that is only part of the math. As it turned out, the faulty design lead to 6,607 discarded ballots (or "overvotes") for voters who accidentally chose both Buchanan and Gore, a curious schizophrenia. There were also 1,631 overvotes for Bush and Buchanan (less than a quarter of the Pat-Al total) for a net difference slightly under 5,000 votes. Add to that the 2,908 overvotes for Gore and Socialist David McReynolds (whose name appeared below Gore's on the opposite page) and there are a net total of nearly 7,900 votes that likely should have gone to Gore, but did not.

That Al Gore lost thousands of votes - and thus the White House - over a ballot design glitch should outrage anyone who believes in fundamental

democratic rights, but the American press treated it like an acceptable snafu. And yet, this was only the beginning of the deception involving the 2000 Florida election.

The most comprehensive investigation of the 2000 Florida election was by journalist Greg Palast, an American who, ironically enough, was working in Britain for the UK *Guardian*, the *London Observer* and the BBC at the time. While most of the American press was downplaying the Jews for Buchanan fiasco, Palast rolled up his sleeves and researched into a even more sordid scandal.



50 TO VOTE FOR BUSH

BY ROBERT STERLING
CONTRIBUTORS FROM PAUL KRASNER, GREG PALAST, LYDIA LOREN,
SAM SMITH, MATT TARBEL, ROBERT EDWARDS & DEAN PRESLEY

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In the months leading up to the election, Katherine Harris ordered 57,700 voters to be purged from the voter registries, claiming they were felons with no right to vote. There was a problem with the purge list, however: it was a tad inaccurate. For example, on one of the scrub lists, Palast uncovered 325 names with conviction dates in the future. Office clerks in the Secretary of State's office were told to blank out the dates of these time travelers before they sent them to county election supervisors. The compiled purge lists had over 4,000 blank conviction dates.

Even without the Back-to-the-Future felons, the making of the list was a bogus journey. Suffixes (such as "Jr." and "Sr.") and middle names or initials were removed from the matching criteria in compiling the names and ensuring its integrity. Partial matches of first OR last names (the first four letters) counted as a match, even in reverse order: for example, an Anderson Christian could wipe out a Chris Anders. Meanwhile, DBT ChoicePoint, the private firm hired to compile the list, didn't bother to match address history, though they possessed the information. Though DBT had 1,200 databases and four billion records to check the list against, ZERO were checked. Only four criteria were used for verification on the list: the partial name match, date of birth, gender, and, most significant of all, race.

Why race? Looking at the evidence, David Bositis, a voting demographics expert from the Washington's Center for Political and Economic Studies, declared it was "a patently obvious technique to discriminate against Black voters." Forty-six percent of convicted felons are

African Americans: therefore, a list of felons with a racial classification would have a near majority of blacks on it. Bositis concluded the program "must have had a partisan motivation."

African Americans have an interesting voting pattern when it comes to presidential elections. In the twenty years since Reagan and Bush Sr. took over the White House, they have as a group come to distrust the Republican Party. As a result, over 90 percent of African Americans vote for the Democratic ticket (it was 93 percent in Florida 2000.) By setting the criteria for the final, purged list, the Secretary of State's office had hunted down the black vote, removing voters who would have damaged the election hopes of Jeb's brother.

How flawed was the list? At first, DBT ChoicePoint boasted to Palast that it was "85 percent correct." If this is true, that would still have been enough to alter the outcome of the election. However, Leon County officials chose to independently verify the list, and could only confirm 34 out of 694 on the list - a 95 percent error rate. Using this sample data and statistics, Palast concluded that the total list was in error over 90 percent of the time.

To be fair to DBT, they were merely doing what they were instructed to by Katherine Harris' office. Under oath, Choicepoint VP James Lee revealed it was the state of Florida, not DBT, which gave directions for compiling the list that the company warned would cause eligible voters to be erroneously included. Kat Harris, simultaneously was in charge of both voter roles and Shrub's Florida election campaign, ignored their warnings. Not

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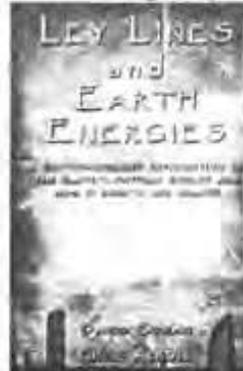
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that ChoicePoint, a company with tight ties to the GOP, complained too loudly on receiving an inflated multi-million dollar contract for intentionally shoddy work.

(Due to the controversy, DBT has left the business of ensuring voter integrity. Their replacement? Arthur Andersen, the upstanding accounting firm that vouched for Enron's books.)

Not all names on the list were removed from the voter rolls. A few counties rejected the scrub list. One notable example was Madison County. Linda Howell, the county election supervisor, had a personal reason to suspect the lists were flawed: she was falsely included on them. In other areas, voters could appeal their inclusion, though some counties didn't bother to inform voters of their loss of voting rights. ("I don't think that it's up to us to tell them they're a convicted felon," explained Etta Rosado of Volusia County, which neither confirmed the information nor informed people they had been dropped from voter rolls.) Palast and the BBC concluded that at least 22,000 votes for Al Gore were lost by the voter purge operation.

Palast also uncovered at least 50,000 Floridians were illegally disenfranchised from voting by Governor Jeb Bush's office. These citizens, convicted felons from other states who never lost their voting rights, were denied their civil rights in defiance of court rulings. As 80 percent of all registered voters cast ballots, and 90 percent of the targeted demographic (out-of-state ex-cons) vote Democrat, Jeb's operation cost Al Gore a net total of at least 30,000 votes.

As a high percentage of these voters were African American, the program was another racially targeted hatchet job inspired (at the very least) by political pragmatism. *De facto* Jim Crow didn't end there. Counties with a high percentage of black voters tend to be poorer: they had older voting equipment with much higher error rates. In some cases, the quality of the equipment wasn't even the factor. Accuvote is a machine that ensures paper ballot errors are corrected before the voter is through. In Leon, a primarily white county, the machinery reduced spoiled ballots to one in five hundred. In nearby Gadsden, a majority black county, they had the same machinery, but, for some strange reason, the reject mechanism wasn't activated. One in eight ballots were spoiled. And these examples are above the more in-your-face news reports of white Highway Patrol officers setting up intimidating checkpoints near voting sites in a heavily black district of Broward County.

Writer Dave McGowan noted on his website other curious reports. In Volusia County, a precinct originally reported to the state that Bush had received 2,813 votes - in a county with 412 total ballots cast. Incredibly, Gore's vote totals were even more suspicious: it was reported as negative 16,022, thus reducing his vote total. At least in this case, the error (described as a "computer glitch" in USA Today) was discovered and corrected, but the error calls into question the legitimacy of the entire vote-counting process. In another Volusia County incident, sheriff's investigated why an election worker left the ballot collection area with two

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uninspected bags. The *Washington Post* reported with a straight face he was "merely taking home dirty laundry." The *UK Times* reported as many as 17,000 ballots in primarily black areas were pre-punched for rival candidates, thus disqualifying the ballot when opponents were selected (this may have something to do with the abnormal number of rejected ballots in African American areas.) All these mainstream news reports are disturbing, but have yet to be properly investigated. Even without these examples, the 2000 Florida election results would beat any swamp-land deal as a sleazy swindle.

You'd think with all the evidence cited, the Gore Team would've had some pretty compelling arguments something was fishy in Florida. And yet, the Gore campaign (to its great shame) ignored all the evidence. It appears the Gore lawyers believed it was a loser bet, as issues like evidence of voter disenfranchisement and fraud are technicalities in a Presidential election. Instead, they argued that, even with the Jews for Buchanan and the twin voter ethnic cleansing programs pushed by Jeb and Kat, Al Gore would have won the election if a proper counting of ballots was done.

Even on this argument, the Gore campaign was met with obstruction from Team Bush, the office of Katherine Harris and the US Supreme Court. Meanwhile, important facts were ignored while terms such as "hanging chad" and "dimpled ballots" became part of mainstream currency and the Bush campaign moaned about "recount after recount." The will of the Florida public was rejected in December 2000 for the highest of offices, and this led to an

invalid election result. At the very least, there could have been a revote done in Florida, either in Palm Beach County or statewide. This is a perfectly normal way legitimately disputed elections are settled. There's even a precedence for this in Presidential elections: due to faulty voting machines, a revote was held in one Maryland county for the 1972 election, eight days after election. The revote was included in the state's final totals and certified by Congress. If Dubya truly desired to restore dignity to the office of the Presidency, he would have demanded no less himself.

None of this was meant to be. The end result is a national disgrace: a phony election illegitimately putting into office a sorry excuse for a man. That the American public has in any way consented to the thievery of the Presidency is a fundamental betrayal of democracy. For this reason alone, Bush deserves to be rightfully snubbed in 2004, to restore any basic level of legitimacy to a government that is supposed to be of the people, by the people and for the people.

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Suns of God: Krishna, Buddha and Christ Unveiled

Jesus Christ, Mason of God

by Acharya S

Over the ages, there have existed numerous brotherhoods that have possessed gods, rituals, rites, myths and mysteries quite similar to those of Christianity, but that preceded the Christian era by centuries and millennia. Many of these brotherhoods have much in common with each other, demonstrated by numerous authorities beginning in antiquity to be related in one fashion or another. The similarities that connect specific fraternities are not limited to gods, rituals, myths, etc., but also include physical artifacts such as symbols and architecture, i.e., masonry. Originating in ancient times, a number of brotherhoods have been both craft guilds and religious organizations. The religious tradition of the Irish, for instance, included "the divine smith" who was likewise "a great builder, or a resourceful master mason." (Stewart, 119) The giant smith or forger was an important and popular image in ancient British culture, as it was in Near Eastern, Greek and Roman. In Egypt, the smith-craft cult revered the god Ptah-Hephaistos, while doctors worshipped the famed and "very ancient" Imhotep, the "god of physicians and those who dealt in medical magic." (Spence, 151) In the same manner, carpenters worshipped a carpenter god and masons revered a masonic or stonecutter god. Indeed, it is apparent that in antiquity there existed masonic guilds or "collegia" that also served as mystery schools, secret societies and religious sects. As related by the historian Plutarch (46?-c. 120 CE), many of these collegia or colleges, which included the spectrum of trades and crafts, were legendarily established in 719 BCE by the Roman king Numa Pompilius and possessed the detailed organization as well as the community support found in later Masonic "lodges."

The many "fantastic theories" regarding the history of "Masonry" as an organization, the *Catholic Encyclopedia* ("CE") states, include that it was founded by God, "the Great Architect," and that "Adam, the Patriarchs, the kings and philosophers of old" were its "patrons." CE continues: "Even Jesus Christ is included in the list as Grand Master of the Christian Church." Over the centuries, Masons have laid claim to "Noah's Ark, the Tower of Babel, the Pyramids, and Solomon's Temple." The famous mysteries, whether Dionysian, Druidic, Egyptian, Eleusinian or Mithraic, are at the heart of Masonry, as are "sects and schools such as the Pythagoreans, Essenes, Culdees, Zoroastrians, and Gnostics." Masonry's origins have been traced to "the Evangelical societies that preceded the Reformation," as well as to the Knights Templar or St. John's Knights. Masonic origins have been asserted of practically every secret society, including "the alchemists, Rosicrucians, and Cabbalists," and so on, from Britain to Arabia to China. "It is claimed also that Pythagoras founded the Druidic institution and hence that Masonry probably existed in England 500 years before the Christian Era." (CE, "Masonry") In *Inside The Brotherhood* (71), Martin Short writes: "In terms of ritual, modern Masons may owe more to Ancient Egyptians than to England's cathedral-builders, something they can scarcely admit today." Short, however, considers the contentions of antiquity based on connections to Druids, etc., to be part of Masonry's "broad lunatic fringe."

Current Masonic lore states that "Freemasonry" only began in England in 1717, an assertion readily disproved by the existence of Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland, constructed between 1440 and 1490, and displaying not only extraordinary masonry itself but also many of the well-known symbols and rituals of the Masonic brotherhood. As Masonic authors Knight and Lomas state concerning Rosslyn Chapel, "the structure is covered in...a combination of Celtic and Templar motifs with elements that are instantly recognisable to modern Freemasons." (Knight and Lomas, *SM*, 24) This fact places Masonry as an arcane organization in the 15th century; however, CE relates that the word "Freemasonry" is found in a manuscript from the 13th century. Also averred by Knight and Lomas is that the "history" proposed by the historians of modern Freemasonry is designed to establish

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supremacy, i.e., for the lodges of the British Isles.

Regardless of the presumed modern history of Masonry as an organized brotherhood, various important aspects of the society are in fact ancient. In reality, the modern Masonic mysteries are "hopelessly garbled and watered-down versions of genuine mysteries of earlier times." (Temple, 74) In *The Brotherhood* (15-16), Stephen Knight submits that claims to antiquity are incautious; yet, he acknowledges that "the philosophic, religious and ritualistic concoction" that is "speculative Freemasonry" is "drawn from many sources--some of them, like the Isis-Osiris myth, dating back to the dawn of history." As stated, for millennia God himself has been deemed the "Great Architect of the Universe," evidenced by the fact that the Egyptian creator god Ptah was considered the "inspiration" for the "mystery of building." (Knight and Lomas, *HK*, 100) The popular Egyptian sun and fertility god Osiris too was the "god of fortifications," equated with Nimrod, the alleged builder of the biblical Tower of Babel, believed in modern Masonry to be the first mason. (Hislop, 43) In the Near East, Masonry as an organized brotherhood may be traceable to at least the 18th century BCE, based on Akkadian writings among nearly 24,000 texts found at the ancient site of Mari in Syria. As Brian Desborough says in "Who Were the Israelites?" "Of masonic interest is the textual discovery that some 2000 of the nation's craftspeople were members of guilds." Another ancient advanced culture of "master builders" was that of the enormous Harrapan civilization in the Indus Valley, dating back at least 4,500 years. In the final analysis, says James Bonwick, "No one can doubt that Free-masonry, *Phré* or Sun masonry, existed B.C. 4000, if not much earlier..." (Bonwick, 198)

Part of the difficulty in accepting such antiquity for the Masonic order stems from the fact that its mysteries were *secret* and were passed down orally for millennia, so that they would not be destroyed by rival cultists. Despite the inculcated disbelief, like the carpenter and smith cults, the masonic cult, with its "symbolic teachings," predates not only Christianity but also Judaism. Evidence demonstrates that there was an "unbroken chain" of masonic knowledge, passing from Egypt to Israel, via "sacred geometry," an engineering and architectural "art

form," as well as other skills. Purportedly, this knowledge was "lost until the Knights Templar discovered documentation about it during their excavations under the Temple Mount in the twelfth century." (Wallace-Murphy and Hopkins, 113-114) Whether or not there were gaps of a century or a millennium, and whether or not Masonic endeavors were made by organizations or by a few individuals, it is clear that, along with the actual physical and scientific elements of building and stonecutting, i.e., masonry, many of the concepts and rituals found in organized Masonry are very old and have been transmitted over a significant period of time.

Although masonic religious guilds long predate Judaism and Christianity, in its current form "Freemasonry" has been highly Judaized. In *Chapter Masonry* (1901), Christian writer Ronayne, a high initiate and Worshipful Master of the "Keystone Lodge" in Chicago before renouncing Freemasonry, described modern Masonry as loaded with biblical references and thoroughly connected to early biblical lore, tracing its origins to "Solomon's Temple" and its purported architect, "Hiram Abiff." Modern Freemasonry includes ancient Judaic Masonic concepts such as the Jachin and Boaz, the two pillars at the entrance of the Temple. Concerning this ancient Jewish masonry, in *James the Brother of Jesus* (46), Robert Eisenman discusses the Zealot High Priest of the first century, Phineas, who was a "simple Stone-Cutter," commenting: "Though we remarked the 'Stone-Cutter' theme above, we did not connect it at that point to the 'Rechabites' being 'craftsmen' in all traditions, not to mention its latter-day spin-off in the ideology of being 'Masons.'" As was the case with priests in earlier times and cultures, the Jewish Zealot high priest of that significant era was a *mason*. The Old Testament Rechabite sect, Eisenman states, was composed of "Potters" and distinguished by its emphasis on artisans or craftsmen; according to Robert Eisler, these craftsmen included carpenters and smiths. (Schonfield, 238)

Masonic imagery is given importance in a number of the Dead Sea scrolls, such as "A Firm Foundation" (4Q541), which makes "the usual allusions to 'Wisdom,' [and] 'Mysteries,'" and contains masonic terms, as in its title. In the "Qumran Hymns" appears other imagery of this type, such as "the Cornerstone," "the Tower," "pillars," "wall" and "Fortress." (Eisenman and

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Wise, 142) In reality, the scrolls are full of architectural metaphors, including the term "Shoddy-Wall-Builders." (Wise, et al., 55) Moreover, the scrolls' Zadokite authors reveal their own Masonic-like brotherhood, replete with rules, rituals, levels of initiations and harsh punishments. Concerning the scrolls writers, Knight and Lomas remark, "Everything we found out about the Qumran Community added to our conviction that they were the spiritual descendants of the Egyptian kings and the antecedents of the Templars and Freemasonry." (Knight and Lomas, *HK*, 202) The scrolls are not the product of a "Qumran community," however, but of a more widespread brotherhood. As Michael Wise says regarding the so-called "Community Rule" found at the Dead Sea, "the work itself refers to various groups or chapters scattered throughout Palestine." (Wise, et al., 123) Concerning this document, Wise further relates that "virtually every structural element of this ancient Jewish writing has analogs in the charters of guilds and religious associations from Egypt, Greece, and Asia Minor." In other words, it reflects a guild or religious brotherhood, which, it turns out, is immersed in masonic symbolism and thought.

A number of important correspondences between Christianity and Masonry are outlined in *The Christ Conspiracy: The Greatest Story Ever Sold*, which shows that Jesus Christ is a mythical personification of the sun and that a Masonic brotherhood transcending religious sectarianism was responsible for creating Christianity. Concerning Masonic imagery within Christianity, Gerald Massey remarks that the key to deciphering it lies in the "Gnostic clue to the Hidden Wisdom." He further says, "Wherever we meet [the Gnostics] they give us the Masonic grip; and by the same sign we know that Paul was a Gnostic." That major players in the creation of Christianity were members of a brotherhood or brotherhoods is a fact, as is the Masonic structure and terminology used in Christianity.

For example, the phrase describing Jesus as "the cornerstone that the builders rejected" (Mt. 21:42; Mk. 12:10; Lk. 20:17) is a well-known Masonic term, with mystical connotations beyond merely representing a physical stone, obviously. In other words, the phrase belongs to a mystery school and secret society, in this case relating to stonemasonry or *masonry*. This phrase

regarding the "rejected cornerstone" comes from the Old Testament (Psalms 118:22), demonstrating the Masonic influence in Judaism as well. This scripture is supposedly "prophetic", however, Christian authority Matthew Henry submits that it may originally have referred to King David, who was rejected by Saul. In any event, this passage is immediately preceded by "I shall give thanks to You, for You have answered me, And You have become my salvation." The word for "salvation" in this scripture is *Yeshua* or *Jesus*. Thus, a pre-Christian reader of the Old Testament would see, "... You have become my Jesus. The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone." This messianic passage is not a *prophecy* but a *blueprint* for the creation of the Christ character.

The phrase for "cornerstone" in the gospels, as well as at Acts 4:11 and 1 Peter 2:7, is "kephalen gonias" or "head of the corner." It is translated as "chief cornerstone" in the New King James Version, the HNV and NASB; as "head of the corner" in RSV, Webster's, ASV and YLT; and as "corner-stone" in Darby's. The Bible Gateway translates the phrase as "capstone," which is defined as a "coping stone," the "high point" and "crowning achievement." The copingstone is that which tops the corner of a sloping wall; in other words, the "capstone" is the peak of a pyramid, representing the Masonic hierarchy. Building upon Isaiah 28:16, 1 Peter 2:6 discusses the laying in Zion of a foundation stone, "a tested stone, a precious cornerstone of a sure foundation." The phrase for "cornerstone" is "akrogoniaios lithos" in the Greek, defined by Strong's as "placed at an extreme corner, the corner foundation stone." This same Greek phrase is used at Ephesians 2:20, in reference to Christ himself. Furthermore, while the canonical gospels discuss the "rejected cornerstone," the apocryphal Gospel of Thomas portrays Jesus as asking to see "the stone which the builders have rejected," evidently "an exact parallel of the ritual of the Masonic Mark Masonry degree." (Knight and Lomas, *HK*, 41)

In addition to the "cornerstone" imagery in the New Testament is the Masonic terminology used by the "wise master-builder" Paul, who spoke "wisdom amongst the Perfected" (Massey, 33) and referred to "brethren," i.e., members of a brotherhood or fraternity. Paul's labeling himself a "Master Builder" (1 Cor. 3:10) signifies that "he was also initiated into the Eleusinian

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Mysteries, where the *epoptae* [initiates] were known by that title." Also in the first epistle to the Corinthians (3:9-14), which likewise uses Isaiah 28:16, Paul discusses "God's building," as well as the importance of a good foundation, which is Jesus Christ. The word for "master builder" is "architekton," which comes from "arche," meaning "beginning" or "origin," etc., and "tekton," or "carpenter." Tekton, the word used to describe Joseph and Jesus as a "carpenter" (Mt. 13:55; Mk. 6:3), also means "builder," "any craftsman, or workman," a poet, songwriter, author and "planner, contriver, plotter." Interestingly, in modern Greek the word for "carpenter" is "marangos," not tekton. In fact, "tekton" in modern Greek means *freemason*, while the word for "stonemason" is "ktistes." "Freemasonry" in modern Greek is "tektonism." Hence, the term tekton, used to describe Jesus, was transmitted over the centuries as a reference to a member of a *Masonic brotherhood*, rather than a carpenter or a simple stone-cutting workman.

As can be seen, there is scriptural reason to associate Jesus Christ with Masonry. In addition to the examples already provided, at Hebrews 11:10 the author states, "For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God." The original Greek word for "builder" is "tekhmites" or "technites," which also means "artificer" or "craftsmen" and which is used at Acts 19:24 and 19:38, as well as Revelation 18:22. In Hebrews, "technites" refers to a *masonic craftsman*, as opposed to a carpenter or smith. The word in this scripture for "maker" is *demiourgos*, i.e., demiurge, defined by Strong's as meaning "the author of any work.



an artisan, framer, builder," signifying carpenter and *mason*.

Like the Gnostic-Christian demiurge, a number of other gods have been "master craftsmen" of some sort or another, such as Agni, the Vedic fire and sun god, and Agni's father, Tvashtar, who was a "modeler," "divine artist," "carpenter," etc. The god as a "master builder" or stonemason is likewise a pre-Christian motif, as demonstrated by the concept of "God," whether as Ptah, Osiris or other, as the "Grand Architect of the Universe." Verifying this association, in his diatribe *Against the Heathen Gods* Christian writer Commodianus (fl. c. 240) remarks:

Ye make Neptune a god descended from Saturn; and he wields a trident that he may spear the fishes. It is plain by his being thus provided that he is a sea-god. Did not he himself with Apollo raise up walls for the Trojans? How did that poor stone-mason become a god?

Not only is Neptune, or Poseidon, a mason god, but Apollo, a sun god, is also a mason who helped build the walls of Troy, confirming the connection between the sun and masonry, long before the Christian era.

The solar origin and meaning behind Masonic myth and ritual were explained succinctly by Thomas Paine in his erudite essay, "Origin of Freemasonry," in which he stated that Christianity and Masonry "have one and the same common origin: Both are derived from the worship of the Sun." Col. Olcott likewise described the solar iconography and ritual of Masonry, quoting *Stellar Theology* by Robert Brown, Jr., who declared that "Masonic tradition" was "one of the numerous allegories" of the sun's yearly passage through the zodiac and its 12 constellations. This "system of astronomical symbols and emblems" was used to "teach the great truths about the omnipotent God and immortality." Olcott further outlined a number of salient correspondences between Masonry and sun worship, remarking: "The Sun, overwhelmed by the three autumn months, returns to life at the vernal equinox, and is exalted at the summer solstice. In this drama the candidate was required to represent the Sun, and

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a solar significance characterizes the whole ritual" (Olcott, 304-305) In addition, the orientation of the Masonic lodges is based on the sun's positions, aligned east and west, as is typical for sacred structures such as temples and churches. A number of Masonic terms are astrotheological, such as E.A.M., M.M. and O.G.M.H.A., which signify the sun, and F.C.M., which represents the moon. The Masons also celebrate the solstices, or specifically June 24th and December 27th, dates with "purely astronomical significance." The two "St. John's Days" are pre-Christian and very important within Masonry, representing ancient sun worship. (Knight and Lomas, *SM*, 67) Moreover, Masonry's "all-seeing eye is distinctly solar in its character." (Olcott, 305)

One of the "modern" Masonic "mantras"--the name of the Great Architect--is "Jahbulon" or "Jahbelon," which breaks down into Jah, Bel and On (Ronayne, 272), three ancient names of the God Sun. The "Excellent High Priest" of Masonic ritual explains that these words are the "Masonic god in Syriac, Chaldeic and Egyptian." (Ronayne, 282) Ronayne remarks that the name for the Lord in Masonry, "GAOTU," an acronym for "Great Architect of the Universe," is "the old pagan title of Baal or the sun god." (Ronayne, 101) Interestingly, according to Bryant the word "Cabal," referring to "a conspiratorial group of plotters or intriguers," means the "place of Baal." Ronayne further relates that the Greater Mysteries in Freemasonry introduce to the initiate "the alleged conflict, death, burial, and raising of Hiram, constituting, as they do, the Egyptian legend of Osiris, or Baal, without even a single change." (Ronayne, 125) He then states that Osiris and the "Tyrian architect" Hiram Abiff "are one and the same, not a mortal individual, but an immortal principle." Ronayne next comments, "Hence, then, we are driven to the inevitable conclusion that the Masonic system is a horrible mixture of paganism and Judaism..."

"Masonry" by whatever name has been an essentially organized fraternity in numerous places for centuries to millennia, reflected in ancient stone buildings and archaic priestly rituals that go hand in hand. This assertion does not insist that a single fraternity has held the keys of power throughout history; on the contrary, various factions, more or less loosely connected, have vied fervently for the top spot.

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In modern times, Masonic organizations have had a tremendous impact on culture, particular in the Western world: "It is no secret that Masonry was a moving force behind the American Revolution and the founding of the Republic of the United States of America." (Knight and Lomas, *HK*, 354) American Founding Fathers who allegedly were Masons include: "George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Ethan Allen, John Hancock, John Paul Jones, Paul Revere, Robert Livingston, and 35 other lesser known men who were signers of the Declaration of Independence and/or the Constitution." The contention that Thomas Jefferson was a Mason is questionable, since the historical record reports the extent of his "involvement" as limited to one visit to a Masonic lodge in South Carolina. In any case, at least 17 American presidents have been Masons, including Ford and Reagan. (Knight, 34)

Since Masonry played such an important role in an event as momentous as the founding and governing of the USA, as well as numerous other nations and/or governments, it is not difficult to believe that it also was instrumental in the creation of various religions. This contention is especially true since it is *masons* and their benefactors who build the temples, churches and cathedrals. It is thus apparent that masons have seen themselves as builders of religions. As David Gallop shows in *In God's Name*, Masonic organizations continue to create mayhem upon this planet, specifically in the name of the *Catholic religion*. Magistrate and Mason Godfrey Higgins declared that the Pope, "who holds many secret things," is the "Grand Master of the Masons," the "Grand Master-Mason of the world." (Higgins, 823fn) Naturally, in its play for global domination the Church has placed itself in competition with "Masonry," or, rather, various factions of it. As Massey states, the "war of the Papacy against Masonry" has occurred because the latter is the heir to the pre-Christian mysteries, which prove that Christianity is unoriginal. (Massey, 58) Masonic rituals are also carried out within the higher levels of the religion of Mormonism; yet, few acknowledge this fact or criticize the Mormon hierarchy for its Masonic origins, similar to those of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Knowing that there were countless fraternities and secret societies "up and down the Roman Empire," a number of which represented craft



guilds or cults such as that of the smith and carpenter, it is illogical to insist that there no such organized *masonic* religious orders, particularly in view of how important were stone-working and stone edifices to secular and religious leaders alike. The rulers over the ages have been well aware of the significance of stone in producing "immortality," i.e., impregnability and indestructibility, as they have desired their monuments, buildings, temples, treasures, fortifications and tombs be made out of it. Included in the grand buildings of most parts of the world—especially the temples, churches and cathedrals—are numerous astrological motifs and symbols. It is a *fact* that religion, astrology and masonry are intertwined. In the end, Masonry as a politico-religious brotherhood goes back much further than is maintained and has been very active in the creation of many cultures and religions, including Christianity and its savior, Jesus Christ, Mason of God.

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The Bush/Cheney Assault on Science

The Gilded Age of Biodefense

by Roy Lisker

In the February 15th, 2001 issue of *Nature* a series of articles announced the anticipated completion of the Human Genome Project:

"Here we report the results of a collaboration involving 20 groups from the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, France, Germany and China to produce a draft sequence of the human genome. The sequence was produced over a relatively short period, with coverage rising from about 10% to more than 90% over roughly fifteen months."

In its lead article the *International Human Genome Sequencing Consortium* makes the prediction that the sequencing of the full genome will be only a matter of time, involving routine labor without requiring the development of any new technologies:

"Already about one billion bases are in final form and the task of bringing the vast majority of the sequences to this standard is straightforward and should proceed rapidly."

The Human Genome Project was completed in April 2003.

Fortunately or otherwise, depending on one's scientific/political orientation, this scientific milestone has come in the wake of a number of other events of historical importance: the assumption of power of the Bush/Cheney regime in January 2001; the tragedy of the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001; the Iraq War; and the creation of a gigantic Biodefense infrastructure.

"The threats of genetic bioterrorism could not have emerged at a worse or better time from the

perspective of scientific knowledge. A little more than a year before the [September 11th] attacks, in June 2000, President Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair jointly announced in a White House ceremony that the rough draft of the human genome had been sequenced." (Eric M. Meslin, from *In The Wake of Terror: Medicine and Morality in a Time of Crisis*; MIT Press, 2003, pg. 201)

Fueled by the fabulous sums that would soon be disbursed in the name of Biodefense, and under the camouflage of a shrill chorus intoning, with mounting hysteria, the urgency of protecting the nation from bioterrorism, we have been witnessing an exponential expansion, at all levels, of the traditional corruption connecting the Federal government, research agencies such as the NIH, NIAID and FDA, the pharmaceutical industry, the military, the universities and the ever-pious scientific establishment endlessly whining for its megabucks.

Not that there is anything happening at the present time that was not already going on in the Clinton era, or in all previous administrations going back to World War II. What's different today is the crudeness of the new-fangled rhetoric, the unique opportunities that have opened up for invoking the presence of a dire external threat, and the sheer amount of money involved.

In setting out to research the biotech universe, I'd had no idea of how quickly I would uncover such criminality of such magnitude. I can not hope to do justice to this subject without the background, contacts or resources to do a fully professional job as an investigative reporter. Also without the staff or funding of *The LA Times*, *Mother Jones*, *The Nation*, *60 Minutes*, the Waxman Committee or the Union of Concerned Scientists, which have been doing exemplary work in this area.

We will consider ourselves lucky if we manage to delineate the broad outlines of biotech's ghoulish goulash. This may not consist of more than passing along indications as to where to look for more extensive revelations.

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The Bush administration's projected budget for science funding in 2002 was formally announced on April 9, 2001. Most governmental research agencies were given perfunctory increases, others were severely slashed. Apart from allocations to research being conducted by the military, the only budget allocated a substantial increase was the \$23.1 billion proposed for the National Institutes of Health, (NIH), a 13.8% increase above its budget for 2001. This was in line with a trend initiated under the Clinton Administration, which had delivered 3 sizable boosts to the NIH since 1998. The long goal was a doubling of its funding by 2003.

All funding to agencies involved in conservation, tracking of environmental pollution or renewable energy alternatives was savagely curtailed: 7% off the budget of the Environmental Protection Agency, 8% from the US Geological Survey, (dooming the important work being done by the Toxic Substances Hydrology and National Water-Quality Assessment Programs) - The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was cut by 4%. Renewable energy research was slashed a staggering 36%. Several of these agencies were able to recoup some of their funding through earmarked amendments to Congressional bills, but most of the losses were unrecoverable and keenly felt. With its fondness for grand and meaningless gestures, Bush/Cheney promised to give the NSF \$200 million a year for improving math and physics education, money that never arrived.

It would be unfair to assert that Bush/Cheney (a Siamese twin with two faces and one brain between them) was interested only in rewarding its allies in the pharmaceutical industry through providing billions for NIH-funded research of which they are the principal beneficiaries. In a speech delivered to the National Defense University (in May, the President revealed that the Reagan-Teller Strategic Defense Initiative - SDI - or "Star Wars") wet dream had not evaporated in a sperm-laden cloud, but was alive and well in the shared Bush/Cheney cranium. Anticipating the abrogation of the 1972 ABM (Anti-Ballistic Missile) Treaty, Bush gave his enthusiastic endorsement to a new generation of nuclear missiles, *boost phase intercept* rockets that shoot down enemy missiles in their initial ascent phase, when their flaming jet exhausts

make them visible against the background of a dark sky. Useless against missiles launched from the sizable interiors of countries like Russia or China, their only feasible deployment would be against "rogue states" like North Korea, Iran, Syria, Cuba and others ominous threats to America's security.

Given that his proposals did not entail the retirement of any of the weapons programs already in the works, the preliminary cost estimates were in the hundred of billions of dollars, an expenditure defended as more than justified by the "urgent threat" of missile attacks from the Axis of Evil.

George Bush is no Demosthenes, although he may wish to compare his fear-mongering rant with the stirring appeal made by Demosthenes to the Athenian polis to resist the encroachments of Macedonian imperialism. These promises to the NDU would re-appear in a key section of his State of the Union message of Sept 2, 2002:

"Our second goal is to prevent regimes that sponsor terror from threatening America or our friends and allies with weapons of mass destruction. North Korea is a regime arming with missiles and weapons of mass destruction. Iran aggressively pursues these weapons. Iraq continues to flaunt its hostility toward America. The Iraqi regime has plotted to develop anthrax, and nerve gas, and nuclear weapons for over a decade...States like these, and their terrorist allies, constitute an axis of evil. We will develop and deploy effective missile defenses to protect America and our allies from sudden attack. Time is not on our side. The United States of America will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons. My budget supports three great goals for America: We will win this war. We'll protect our homeland. We will revive our economy."

The strange mix of ignorance, hypocrisy, belligerence and dishonesty that pervades this speech has been faithfully translated into the unrelenting Bush/Cheney assault on the sciences, an assault in which many of the scientists themselves have shown themselves more than willing to be complicit.

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Despite its comical rant in public about the threat posed by bioterrorism, Mr. Bush/Cheney let the world know, well before September 11th, that it would be subject to no-one's jurisdiction in the matter of germ warfare. In 1992, the signatories of the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention (BWC) (which include Russia and the United States) had pledged to dismantle their arsenals of biotoxigenic weapons. The BWC however has no enforcement or inspection mechanisms. Since 1998, a Protocol designed to remedy this defect has been developed through the initiative of Tibor Toth, chairman of the Ad Hoc Group of the States Parties to the BWC. A final version of the Protocol was worked out at an international meeting in Geneva on July 23rd. However:

" During negotiations in November, 2001, the US announced that it would not permit a binding verification agreement to move forward." (Council for Responsible Genetics (CRG) FAQ: Biodefense Research)

The attitude of the Bush administration was summed up in *Science* as follows:

" Driven by the concerns of the biotech and pharmaceutical industries, the Bush Administration is worried about the inadvertent leakage of trade secrets- vaccines in development for example. The Administration also fears that visits to government labs could compromise national security. " (*Science* , March 16, 2001)

Unbeknownst to Bush/Cheney (the extent to which it was unbeknownst being still unknown) a windfall boost to its aspirations was on the way. The catastrophe of September 11th established the firm foundation upon which the administration could justify and expand upon every goal it had pursued before its occurrence.

Within a week of the tragedy prominent figures in the science establishment were shrieking for inflating the budgets of research programs for combating the threat of bioterrorism. The hue-and-cry amplified in October with the series of deadly anthrax mailings . (These are now

suspected to be the work of Steve Hatfill, former virologist with the NIH. Strong evidence in confirmation of this opinion is available in "The Message in the Anthrax" , by Don Foster, *Vanity Fair*, October 2003, page 180) . So conveniently have these events fit the agenda of Bush/Cheney that one could imagine that they, and the predictable response to them, have been programmed.

In any case, in the twinkling of an eye *Bioterrorism* would quickly become the only biomedical research game in town. In his editorial in *Science* of September 28, 2001, Christopher F. Chyba, co-director of Stanford's Center for Internal Security and Development, writes:

" The horrifying events of 11 September 2001 serve notice that civilization will confront severe challenges in the 21st century.... Biological security provides a powerful example. It must address both the challenge of biological weapons and that of infectious disease. The right approach should benefit public health even if major acts of biological terrorism never occur "

Note the final sentence. Predictably this has become one of the perennial toxins (sick!) of the Biodefense lobby : even if X-trillions of dollars are wasted on biodefense research, the medical spin-off will make the investment worthwhile. Collateral benefit to mankind is the first refuge of a swindler.

In his proposed budget announcement of November 2001, Bush asked Congress to increase the \$1.4 billion already allocated for Biodefense for 2002, to \$4.5 billion by 2003. The actual amount spent in 2003 would grow to \$6.5 billion. The biodefense budget for 2004 is \$6 billion ; this is certain to be exceeded before the year is out.

As if to drive home the point that no good thing can come out of a rotten apple, Bush/Cheney followed up its bonanza to biodefense research when, in December of 2002, the US government obstructed an international agreement being worked out by the World Trade Organization to allow the world's poorest countries to buy prescription drugs at bargain-basement prices in

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the event of an epidemic. After defaulting on its contributions to the UN Global Fund to Fight Aids, it then broke its own Global Aids Initiative promise of \$3 billion in AIDS relief to Africa.



Bioterrorism, by whom and to whom?

What one never finds, either in the praise or criticism given to current *Biodefense* programs is the possibility that the transcendently high-minded and pure American military might actually be interested in using the "fruits" (Bacteria after all are plants) of such research for *Biooffense*. Quoting from Sheldon Krinsky on the CRG website:

" Controversies in biodefense research stem from both the secrecy with which it is associated and the difficulty in distinguishing between offensive and defensive applications. Federally-funded research on biological weapons is marred by a history of secrecy and misinformation, most strikingly in the hidden offensive bio-warfare program carried out by the U.S. military from the beginning of the Cold War through the early 1970s. Over much of the last thirty years, the Department of Defense has provided an annual report to Congress explaining the nature and extent of its biological research program. After this disclosure policy was discontinued in the early 1990s, there has been growing concern about the potential for offensive research in U.S. laboratories ."

This danger is not as far-fetched as one might imagine. given that the very establishment of this nation was based on germ warfare against both Indians and the British. The latter accusation may be stretching the point: the great North American smallpox epidemic of the 18th century killed far more people, on all sides, than the sum total killed in all conflicts of that period. The deliberate *military* use of smallpox was initiated by Lord Jeffrey Amherst in 1763, when he

distributed smallpox saturated blankets to the Delaware Indians during the defense of Fort Pitt during the French & Indian War. Although Lord Jeffrey's contribution to American poetry by the founding of Amherst, Massachusetts is beyond measurement on any scale, it must be rated on a par with Chyba's invocation of innumerable side-benefits to medical research through the creation of biotoxins.

NIAID's Blue Ribbon Panel

In February 2002, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) convened a Blue Ribbon Panel on Bioterrorism and its Implications for Biomedical Research. The princely funding of the new Biodefense Research Establishment was given its justifying document with the release of the NIAID biodefense agenda in March 2002.

" As a result of this meeting ... a research agenda was developed and widely distributed to the scientific community ". NIAID Agenda

These developments appear to be dominated by 4 objectives :

1. To create vaccines and public health technologies, early warning systems and emergency procedures in the event of a major bioterrorist attack.
2. To catalyze spin-off drugs that may prolong life and health, and will enhance price-gouging from the pharmaceutical companies, the #1 profiteers in our economy.
3. To drown the medical research institutions, the universities and the pharmaceutical companies in a tidal wave of federal (e.g. taxpayer) dollars.
4. To convert existing pathogens and those to be invented into lethal weapons ("*Weaponize*" is not English) for eventual use against real, imagined, potential, present, future and fantasy enemies.

One is led to speculate about the relative priorities assigned to each of these objectives. With respect to (1), the production of vaccines, little progress seems to have been made. In Jan,

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2002, *Mother Jones* carried an article by Bill Hogan in which he expresses considerable skepticism with respect to the abilities of government and industry to do the job:

" On October 2001 ... the Bush administration unveiled its plans to build up, in a big way, the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile -- the drugs, vaccines, chemical antitoxins, and other medical supplies that are kept at the ready to respond to large-scale bioterrorist attack...

The White House asked Congress for more than \$1.1 billion in emergency funds ... some lawmakers were soon talking of increasing that amount to as much as \$10 billion ... On the civilian side, the vaccine stock-piling effort is overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services, which contracts with pharmaceutical companies

Some critics warn that the industry supply may not be able to fill national security needs. In recent years, manufacturing problems at some companies and unexpected withdrawals from the market have led to a shortage of vaccines for influenza, tetanus, pneumonia and childhood meningitis."

Project Bioshield

The NIAID recommendations mentioned above have been incorporated into Project Bioshield, another Bush/Cheney brainchild unveiled in February, 2003 . They call for the creation of

1. Regional Centers of Excellence for Bioterrorism ;
2. The construction of 2 new Biosafety Level 4 laboratories (BSL-4 is the highest level for research on infectious disease. The largest one currently in use is at Fort Detrick, Maryland. It is slated for expansion) ;
3. More evaluation and testing of vaccines;
4. More research on 'non-human' primates and other animals;

5. Collaboration with other scientific disciplines in the field of "counter-bioterrorism research " (???) ;
6. Incorporating the work in genomics to create "target" pathogens that attack specific genes. (*What uses could these have, other than as offensive weapons ?*) ;
7. More industry participation;
8. Centralized repositories for reagents and clinical specimens of bioterrorism agents.

8 months later, on September 30, 2003, the program of Biodefense Regional Centers of Excellence was launched. NIAID grants have been given to two major centers for infectious disease research and 9 smaller "National Biocontainment Labs". The two major centers are the Boston University Medical Center (\$128 million) and the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (\$110 million). These maximal security BSL -4 facilities are being added to the 4 already in existence: the CDC in Atlanta; USAMRIID at Fort Detrick , Maryland; the Southwest Institute in San Antonio; and one at the University of Georgia in Athens.

The other laboratories, all in universities, have been granted sums ranging from \$7 million to \$21 million : Colorado State U. , Fort Collins; Duke, North Carolina ; Tulane , New Orleans ; U. Alabama; the University of Medicine and Chemistry in Newark New Jersey; U. Missouri at Columbia; U. Pittsburgh; U. Tennessee at Memphis. The University of California at Davis applied for a grant, then withdrew its proposal under the pressure of enormous community opposition.

Apart from these institutions, dozens of universities, colleges and medical research centers have applied for and received grants to do research on virulent pathogens associated with bioterrorism. These micro-organisms are not even remotely connected to those of the major diseases that now devastate the human race with a renewed violence not seen since the smallpox epidemics of the 18th century: HIV/AIDS , tuberculosis, malaria, cholera, typhus, influenza.

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A short list of institutions which have built research centers in the BSL-3 or 4 range, are in the process of building them, or have received substantial grants, (\$6.1 million to Penn, \$20.5 million to Harvard Medical , etc.) to do research in such facilities includes:

Duke University;
Harvard Medical School;

University of Chicago;
SUNY Albany;
Yale Pharmaceutical Research Institute;
University of Maryland;
University of Texas;
Columbia University;
University of Washington;
Washington University at St. Louis;
University of Missouri at Columbia;
Emory University;
Stanford University;
University of Massachusetts at Worcester;
Boston University Medical Center;
Colorado State University at Fort Collins;
Tulane University, New Orleans;
University of Alabama;
University of Pittsburgh;
University of Tennessee at Memphis;
University of Pennsylvania;
Johns Hopkins University, Maryland;
George Mason University, Virginia

The surreal universe of *Oryx and Crake* is already with us. Be prepared for a world that has ever chance of being as horrible as the one depicted in Margaret Atwood's engrossing novel (Doubleday,2003). Universities — have traditionally been a rich source of material for works of fiction ridiculing the weird *intellectual* viruses infecting their ambient noosphere - behaviorism, psycho-analysis, New Criticism, eugenics, deconstructionism, political correctness, academic 12-tone music , psycholinguistics , structural linguistics, string theory, applied victimhood and others. (The reader is encouraged to draw up his own list, which may differ significantly from mine.)

The exposure of fatuousness is out of date; the time has come to direct one's imaginative energies on the lurid concoctions of *somatic*

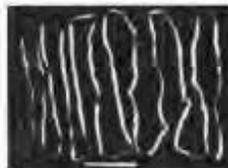
viruses that are destined to hover indefinitely, like Los Angeles smog, over the fabled market-places of ideas.

In the college guides so carefully studied these days by parents looking for the universities best suited to direct the aspirations of their children to a better life, one should anticipate the appearance of paragraphs along the following lines:

" Less than a mile from the main campus of Acropolis U. sits a state-of-the-art BSL-4 bioterrorism research laboratory, staffed by a dozen senior scientists pre-eminent in the field, coordinating research on Ebola, Glanders, Lassa, Machuga, botulism, anthrax, smallpox, tularemia, encephalitis, pulmonary histoplasmosis, Q fever, Hanta virus, Dengue fever, plague and anthrax. Students learn to apply the data available from the sequencing of the human genome to the creation of targeted gene-specific viruses of potential value in the waging of future wars.

There is nothing to fear from the presence of such an installation so close to the university. In the 12 years in which the laboratory has been functioning, there has not been one documented outbreak on Ebola in any of its facilities "

Project Bioshield and the NIAID university grants are only the combined tip of the iceberg. A more comprehensive vision for Biodefense America was revealed a month later in the opening address of John Marburger III, (*Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and science advisor to the President*) at the *Biosecurity Conference 2003* held on October 20, 2003 at Harvard's Medical School . The introductory portion of his speech deserves to be quoted at length:



"Thanks to consistent and, I should add, *persistent*, efforts by President Bush and key members of Congress, funding for bioterrorism research supported through the National

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Institutes of Health increased by nearly an order of magnitude over two years, from \$180 million to more than \$1.6 billion (the final figure is a Presidential request). Within the Department of Homeland Security, an additional \$305 million had been appropriated for biological countermeasures. Altogether in fiscal year 2004, approximately \$920 million are dedicated to science and technology in DHS, to fund a variety of programs, including:

- \$88 million for the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center - a "hub and spoke" system to increase the understanding of and improve measures against potential bioterrorism pathogens;
- \$98 million for Threat and Vulnerability Testing and Assessment including \$11 million for cybersecurity R&D;
- \$ 75 million for the Rapid Prototyping Program to facilitate the rapid adaptation of commercial technologies for counter-terrorism measures by DHS and first responders;
- \$ 70 million for the Homeland Security Scholars and Fellows Program , which will allow graduate and undergraduate students to pursue scientific studies at homeland security, and will fund the establishment of Homeland Security Centers of Excellence at universities across the country;
- \$675 million for critical infrastructure protection , including research, development, testing, and evaluation of anti-missile technology for commercial aircraft;
- \$134 million for the development of sensors and other countermeasures to prevent the unauthorized transport and use of radiological and nuclear materials within the United States;
- \$40 million for developing a database of homeland security -related standards for the private sector for devices such as radiation detectors, and protocols for analysis of high explosives, chemical agents, and toxic chemicals; and
- \$15 million for the Urban Monitoring Program , also known as Project Biowatch."

The Case of the Boston University Medical Center

The NIAID program was announced on September 30th, 2003, by Anthony S. Fauci, its director. It was the outcome of a process that had begun on August 8th, 2002 with a conference on Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the Establishment of a Network of Regional Centers of Excellence and Establishing Regional Biocontainment Laboratories . held at the Marriott Hotel in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Several hundred institutions involved in medical research, goading by the fear of missing out on the big bucks when the giving is easy, including 60 major universities from states across the nation, sent their representatives to this meeting. Among them was Boston University, soon to become the largest beneficiary of imperialist largesse.

Community groups in Greater Boston's impoverished, predominantly Afro-American district of Roxbury (*Ferment* Vol.X #9 January 6,1997) learned in June of 2003 of Boston University's participation in the RFP process of the NIAID . That September it was announced that BU had received the largest single allocation - \$128 million for the first year, with anticipated inputs from all sources of funding to a total of \$1.6 billion over 7 years - for Project Biospace Phase II, an extension of the BU Medical Center in Roxbury's vicinity.

Opposition to the proposal has come from the Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE) , a grassroots organization in Roxbury, from the Council for Responsible Genetics (CRG) directed by Sujatha Byravan and Sheldon Krinsky at Tufts University , and many other organizations and individuals , including ASFSCME local 1489 (Boston Medical Center Employees) ; Boston Mobilization; the BU Germ-Bioterror Lab Opposition Coalition (BUGBLOC); Dorchester People for Peace ; City Councilors Felix Arroyo and Chuck Turner; State Representative Gloria Fox; and scientists and faculty around the Boston area.

Boston University is unique among all of the recipients of these biodefense grants in its reluctance, even refusal, to inform or consult the

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local community. It has also covered its intentions with misleading pronouncements which have, in some instances, been deliberate lies.

Among them:

(i) No resident groups were consulted by BU prior to making the decision to locate the lab in the Roxbury community. Despite this, in its presentations to NIAID it asserted that the community supported the presence of the lab. Roxbury would not have known that BU was going ahead with plans to build a BSL-4 biotoxin lab in its neighborhood had it not been informed by the CRG.

Of great interest is the fact that there is a history of attempts to create such a lab in Cambridge, all of which were blocked. High security Biotech research facilities were proposed for Harvard and MIT in 1976. A citizen's committee, including Cambridge city officials and members of the public, convened hearings at which scientific experts spoke on laboratory safety and accountability issues. Based on these hearings a biosafety committee was formed which ultimately persuaded the City to pass a resolution prohibiting all BSL-4 research in Cambridge.

In the 1980's the Arthur D. Little corporation built a lab in Cambridge for conducting federally sponsored research on toxic chemical warfare. Once again Cambridge was able to pass legislation prohibiting such work. The City's decision was upheld by the Massachusetts Supreme Court.

Alas! Roxbury is not Cambridge, although the #1 bus line which begins at the former and terminates in the latter could become a smoothly functioning conveyor belt for encephalitis, Dengue fever and other biotoxins between the two radically differing communities.

One might even suggest changing the name of Massachusetts Avenue to "Hanta Highway" (Botulism boulevard?)

There is more. *Statutes already exist* in Boston's public health regulations that would ban much of the research at the proposed BU lab. Section 3.01

of a regulation on Recombinant DNA Technology passed in 1994 states: "RDNA use requiring containment defined by the Guidelines as 'BL4' shall not be permitted in the City of Boston".

(ii) Boston University also made the paradoxical claim that the presence of the lab in this neighborhood would make it a safer place to live! Their argument was based on the assumption that terrorists would be infecting Roxbury with just those pathogens for which vaccines had been developed at the lab. In fact there is no equipment for the manufacture of vaccines at the lab, and the terms of the NIAID contract specifically prohibit the creation of an out-patient clinic on its premises.

There is furthermore no guarantee that the lab will not also be engaged in secret research on bioweapons. This is the very issue that galvanized the community opposition that led the University of California at Davis to withdraw its proposal.

(iii) BU also stated that the lab would be doing research in the major diseases afflicting the human race, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, cancer, malaria, and so on. However the NIAID Biodefense Research Agenda of March 2002 clearly states that biodefense research must be limited only to those diseases likely to be used in germ warfare: smallpox, tularemia, plague, botulism, anthrax, viral hemorrhagic diseases, etc.

(iv) It appears, in fact, that Boston University has felt free to say anything to anyone in pursuit of its biodefense grant, without any sense of obligation to keep to its promises once the grant was awarded. Thus, it told the Federal government that it would create 1,300 construction jobs, 50% of which would be reserved for Boston residents.

It then turned around and told the City and State regulators that the entire BioSquare Phase 2 project (which includes more than just the biodefense lab) would employ at most 620 construction workers over a period of 7 years, with no more than 75 workers on the site in a single day.

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Almost all the jobs at the lab itself would require qualified professionals with higher degrees. A more accurate picture of the true intentions of the university was revealed on January 17, 2004, in the BU student newspaper *The Daily Free Press*. It quoted Dr. Mark Klemperer, the prime mover behind BU's acquisition of the NIAID grant, as saying that the lab would "provide the South Boston area with maintenance and janitorial jobs."

Chuck Turner, representative for Roxbury on the Boston City Council, has introduced a resolution that would ban all BSL-4 level biodefense research in Boston. At the present moment Boston University and the community of Roxbury are waiting on the decisions from 3 regulatory processes:

1. An environmental impact review authorized by the NIH (which of course governs the NIAID)
2. Approval by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs of a Final Environmental Impact Report.
3. Approval from the Boston Redevelopment Authority.

The shameless greed displayed by virtually every major university in the country as they scratch and claw to reach out to the fabled millions gushing forth from a hysteria-driven Biodefense program with no relevance to the stark reality of the epidemics now devastating mankind, fills me with bottomless disgust. Yet it comes as no surprise. I have long known that, at the institutional level, these 'temples of learning', 'marketplaces of ideas', or self-styled 'guardians of civilization' are capable of anything.

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Longtime *Steamshovel* contributor Roy Lisker publishes *Ferment!*, a widely influential small magazine of which Bob McGrail, professor of mathematics at Bard College said "few human creations can approach the quality and power of those produced by the true "independent" thinker. Your publication is a shining example of such." On the web, *Ferment!* is at fermentmagazine.com. Roy Lisker can be reached via e-mail at rlisker@yahoo.com or by land at 8 Liberty Street #306, Middletown, CT 06457.

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Hey man, thanks for *The Octopus* and *Shadow Government* books. I read them over spring break. Fine work. Also amazing revelations. Some of it I had heard before, but much I had not. The cumulative weight of all of it is devastating. Thanks for speaking at the Midwest Popular Culture Association in Minneapolis. (www3.niu.edu/mpca/about/) Keep up the good work and hey...let's be careful out there.

Gary Burns
Northwestern Illinois
University
DeKalb, IL

I was glad to hear and meet you at the recent Fortfest in Baltimore and remember you earlier from Bethesda. I have also met and listened to Victor Marchetti and enclose a copy of his "Zionist Watch" feature in the publication he edited for many years from the mid-80s. He was years ahead of the current buzz over "chickenhawks" and "neoconservatives" about Iraq. Marchetti can counter the usual

canard of "anti-Semitic" by championing Alfred Lilienthal's writing or speeches by Rabbi Weiss, who heads Neturei Karta of New Jersey. In a nutshell, he insists that true Judaism claims no land on earth can properly be named "Israel" until the Messiah comes. How come 99% of the world's rabbis don't seem to know that? We think Islam is screwed up; what happened to Judaism?

Oliver Stone's *JFK* movie has a character played by Donald Southerland who in real life was the late Colonel Fletcher Prouty (USAF). I heard Colonel Prouty address

Caries, Cabals and Correspondence

Letters of comment

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audiences here tiny and large and chatted with him myself. In the Pentagon he arranged air service for sensitive activities. At the JFK assassination I recall him saying that he had been detailed to New Zealand. What he hadn't heard before our chat, and NY Times microfilm confirms this, is that on the Wednesday after JFK's election the Ford Motor Company elevated Robert McNamara to president of the whole company, from president of the car and truck division only. No big issue, but what timing for PR purposes. The announcement to Secretary of Defense came weeks later.

Russell C. Mann
Washington, DC

I felt privileged to hear your presentation Sunday in Santa Clara. I have been doing primary research on Sept. 11 (flight schools, Venice, FL), largely because I have a bit of a background in shadow government operations by following about Kermit Roosevelt, the grandson of Teddy Roosevelt. At this time we have loose connections of Wally Milliard (where Rudi Dekkers fronted for Huffman Aviation where Atta and Alshehhi trained in piloting) with the Barry Seal-CIA-drugs in and arms out

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milieu in Florida. And we have Wally Milliard using the same Caribbean-to-South American smuggling channels and routes used by both intelligence and transnational organized crime. We just can't determine "who's in charge of Wally" but it was someone powerful because when his LearJet was stopped loaded with heroin on July 25,2000, all he lost was one plane ... there was no probe of Wally's other businesses which were conspicuously operating illegally and had "just signed up" Atta and Alshehhi (July 3,2000). Furthermore, when the attack occurred, it was Jeb Bush who took control of the flight school records from Huffman and next door Florida Flight Training Center where Jarra trained, Moussaoui visited, and Binalashibh had sent a deposit. Everywhere are Iran-Contra residuals and assets, it makes your head spin (www.madcowmormng news.com, past issues).

As I heard your presentation, there were

two areas of significant interest that suggest you are not aware of Kermit and his evident role in and about the Bay Area, among others areas indeed. And he may be your missing link, since Adnan Khashoggi appears to have reported to him; and Kermit indeed kept Khashoggi safely in his position as arms dealer with the Saudi royal family in 1971.

The second area deals with the CIA-LSD background, and you were nearly in the heart of the area Sunday that "manufactured" most of the world supply of LSD. Experiments included of course those at the Veterans Home/Hospital in Menlo Park (George H. White was out here during much of that time) and when the LSD was "shared for the open market," most was made by Greg Sands on houseboats (actually barges converted to houseboats) tailored for him by H. William Harlan. Harlan goes back to the 1960s as a high school graduate who banded with the Nixon-type Redlands crowd ... by the early 1970s he was developing houseboats right and left in Sausalito while the LSD manufacturing and marketing was going on. Later he worked with one Bill Agee who was CFO of Boise Cascade to "illegally sell U.S. Forest Service" land to Boise Cascade (an other capers) that nearly took Boise Cascade down. Instead of just getting the boot, Agee became President and CEO of Bendix in 1975 then took it down by 1983 and nearly wiped capital out of Martin Marietta that was so weak it was gobbled up by Allied. The Harlan-to-spook-Bill - Agee and Harlan-to-Sands relationships again suggest CIA connections. By 1974 Greg Sands and his LSD ventures were exposed, Sands was arrested, and released on bail. Just before his sentencing hearing, he split in 1975 and "was nearly nevermore found"...

Lois Battuello
St. Helena, CA

To Whoever Is Going To Give The Jim Keith (1949-1999) Tribute (*Steamshovel* debris: Kenn Thomas did this at Conspiracy Conference 4 in San Jose):

I would like to add a few words about Jim Keith's humanitarianism and the ethic he had of seeking the

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truth. He was a remarkable person and a world class investigative reporter. When in 1998-1999 I had exhausted virtually every source that could end the torture and mind control that had nearly killed me, having written to a thousand government and private agencies for help with no reply, and nearly despairing that anyone "out there" could help at all, it was Jim Keith who replied to my plea for help, asking for details. Some of those "details" appeared in his last book, *Mass Control*. His loss is a personal one for me. But his legacy of truth seeking belongs to all of us. I ask that we celebrate his life by continuing to seek the truth about human rights atrocities to which we have all been subject to one degree or another, and hold culpable before God and mankind those found responsible. May Jim know peace. May he know that his work was and is meaningful to us all. May his spirit know that we will carry on that truth seeking. May the light that Jim Keith brought to us all never dim but grow brighter

because of his boundless courage and beautiful mind.

Jo Jo Carey
Marathon, FL

On Channel 9415 on Dish Network-FSTV, from time to time, they run this documentary. *Tree Sit: The Art of Resistance*. It's about the fight that's been going on in Humboldt County, California, to save what's left of the ancient Redwoods. You've probably heard of Julia Butterfly Hill, right? She's the one who lived up in one of those trees for almost two years and was finally successful in getting the surrounding area protected from logging.

That damn Clinton; he'd let the logging lobby talk Congress into allowing logging on public land-PUBLIC LAND, according to Ralph Nader, belongs to us-WE THE PEOPLE-which means that those are OUR TREES! Anyway, the Pacific Lumber Company has been in business for decades and decades; they'd always practiced "selective logging" until they were "bought out" by this big corporation, Maxxam, run by Sol Hurwitz, who'd made a killing selling junk bonds. Well, the shit hit the fan when Hurwitz began clear-cutting the Redwoods. Not only did he devastate the landscape visually, but this clear-cutting has caused massive mudslides, flooding, & has completely ruined the salmon fishing. The residents of Humboldt County are furious and there have been continuous protests and demonstrations to try to get him to "pay attention" to the problems he's caused. Well, I'd peeked at my handy-dandy CFR membership rosters to see if his name was on them. It wasn't--BUT, because I've been hanging out with a John Birch Society member lately, I picked up the latest revised edition of the book *The Insiders: Architects of the New World Order*, which has appendices on the CFR & Trilateral Commission membership rosters...LO AND BEHOLD, on the 2003 CFR roster, 'RIGHT THERE, on page 162, is Sol Hurwitz! Yup!

It gets better: I first found that *Insiders* book "the on the shelf at the Greenhouse !!! Imagine THAT: finding a

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"right-wing" John Birch Society book on the bookshelf of the "left-wing" Green Party's local hangout!!! Is that a hoot, or what? My Bircher friend howled like a hyena when I told him that. I had a bit of explaining to do about where I stood on the issues 'n' stuff; I had to convince him in so many words that, really, the Green Party isn't the gang of left-wing rabble that they've been made out to be; that the reason why the environmentalists are so pissed off is because it's the CFR corporations who are trashing the planet; that we're for the development & conversion over to clean, renewable, sustainable alternative energies because we've HAD IT with CFR Big Oil; & that NO, Ralph Nader isn't a Communist, or even a Socialist. Besides, I'm not a Green Party member, & Nader never was, either--& that NOW, he's actually dropped the Green Party like a hot potato. Anyway, you might guess that my friend wants ME to join the JBS. I just don't have the

\$48 membership dues fee right now, but I DID hook him up with the guy who runs the Greenhouse-the JBS is on a huge campaign to pester Congress (yeah, GOOD LUCK) to stop the FTAA. Since the Green Party isn't very happy about ANY of those "free trade agreements", I figured that the two of them might really develop a "nice working relationship" together on this.

Lori M. Abdou
Gibraltar, MI



Is this the origin of the Face on Mars legend? It's from a Jack Kirby comic book entitled *Race For The Moon*, published in 1958. So-called skeptics will say what they think the Face *isn't*, but even a web search yields only references to old conceptions about canals, not faces, on Mars to understand its history. Was it a Jack Kirby concept? As reported last *Steamshovel*, Kirby—who created comic book concepts like *The Hulk*, *X-Men* and *Spider-Man* that generate enormous revenues for the Marvel entertainment corporation as licensing properties and most recently as blockbuster movies—remains largely under-credited for his work. Could Richard Hoagland and Art Bell also owe Kirby a nod? (many thanks to Stan Taylor for the page repro.)

Steamshovel!

I loved that Jack Kirby cover on the last issue! It brought back memories of all the Kirby comics I bought when I was kid. You are absolutely right that Kirby doesn't get his due, but at least in the latest issue of *Fantastic Four*

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he's featured as a character that the four visit in an alternate dimension called "heaven". That's right—Kirby is depicted as God!

Eun Mitchell
Sedona, AZ

Ain't this some shit! The below recently circulated on the internet. It's from one of those one-note wonder idiots who think the only approach to social criticism is the vague and virtually meaningless idea of "institutional analysis":

"Power structure research is not inherently conspiracist, but conspiracist pseudo-radical parodies of power structure research abound. Examples include right-wing populist critics such as Gary Allen, Anthony Sutton, Bo Gritz, Craig Hulet and Eustance Mullins. Left-wing populist critics include David Emory, John Judge and Danny Sheehan of the Christic Institute. Conspiracism tarnishes the artistic work of filmmaker Oliver Stone. A recent

book by respected left analyst Michael Parenti, Dirty Truths, contains a very problematic defense of conspiracism. There are also a plethora of practitioners who have drawn from both left and right such as Daniel Brandt and the late Ace Hayes."

Look at how many people this guy insults in a single paragraph! Virtually the only name he leaves off the list is Kenn Thomas! God help this fool if he ever has to do any actual research, rather than just list the names of people who do. And he uses that clever, almost subliminal smear word, "conspiracism". Fletcher Prouty was the first to point out how the word contains within it the subtle slur "racism".

Thank you Noam Chomsky for closing down so many minds to the conspiracies that run the world! The Pentagon dollars that pay your salary are well spent.

George Johnson
New Orleans, LA

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HOODWINKED!

***Passion of the Christ:* Jesuit Theater of Cruelty**

by Uri Dowbenko

What do you get when you cross Artaud's Theater of Cruelty with Jesuit Theater?

You could call it Mel Gibson's Crucifiction, a/k/a *The Passion of the Christ*.

Recovering Catholics beware. You know you're in trouble when Mel Gibson has to get a Parkinson's addled Pope John Paul II to officially endorse his movie.

The programming you have tried to escape is *not* finished with you yet.

Mel Gibson's movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, described as a "vivid depiction of the last 12 hours of Jesus Christ's life," has all the signs of religious pornography for Christians -- just as *Schindler's List* was characterized as "emotional pornography for Jews."

Schindler's List, ostensibly an indictment of the German murder of the Jews, is finally just another instance of their abuse," writes David Mamet in his book *Make Believe Town*.

"The Jews in this case are not being slaughtered," Mamet continues. "They are merely being trotted out to entertain. It's not the Holocaust we are watching. It is a movie, and the people in the film are not actively being abused. They are acting out a drama to enable the audience to exercise a portion of its ego and call this exercise 'compassion.'" So it is with Gibson's so-called *Passion*, defined as the "agony and suffering of Jesus during the Crucifixion."

Like Quentin Tarantino's *Kill Bill*, Gibson *could* have called his religious horror movie *Kill Jesus*. Watch him suffer. Watch him die. Buy the crucifixion nail pendant. The merchandising angle can't be beat. (Does the Vatican get the usual cut?)

Gibson's model must have been Antonin Artaud, the French director credited with the so-called Theater of Cruelty. According to the *Columbia Encyclopedia*, Artaud "related theater to the plague because both destroy the veneer of civilization, revealing the ugly realities beneath and returning humanity to a primitive state, in which it lacks morality and reason. The aim of the 'theater of cruelty' was to disturb the audience and reveal the forces of nature. To achieve this end he emphasized the nonverbal aspects of theater such as color and movement and stressed the importance of violence as a theatrical device." Just like Mel's so-called *Passion*, a gross-out horror flick masquerading as a "religious" movie.

Others have said that Artaud envisioned his Theater of Cruelty as a new form of cinema and theater, where representation would be shattered and spoken language set aside in a convulsive, though carefully orchestrated act." Aramaic, anyone?

Like any horror flick, the *Passion* uses state of the art makeup and special effects to create fetishistic violence that belies any "Christian" pretenses. Jesus' skin is endlessly flayed. His blood spurts. The scourging goes on forever. It really is the agony and the ecstasy -- especially if you like S&M.

This movie is literally Sadism and Masochism for Christians.

The question remains -- is this movie another "theatrical mission" by

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the Jesuits? Mel Gibson has not publicized his connections with the *sub rosa* societies known as Opus Dei and the Jesuits.



The Passion has all the earmarks of a Jesuit classical 'spiritual exercise,' in which the Jesuits subject the imagination of the supplicant with all the pain and suffering of the Christ," says Tupper Saussy, author of *Rulers of Evil* (www.tuppersaussy.com).

Designed by Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, "The 'Spiritual Exercises,'" explains Saussy in his book, "was an intensive program of psychological indoctrination designed to align individual thought with papal authority."

How strong was this so-called "psychological indoctrination"? Jesuit obedience "alters the perception of reality according to the superiors' dictates," writes Saussy. "Section 365.13 declares -- 'We must hold fast to the following principles: 'What seems to me white, I will believe black if the hierarchical Church so defines.' Francis Xavier would later describe this quality of submission in a vow that unintentionally summarized the Jesuit

mission: 'I would not even believe in the Gospels were the Holy Church to forbid it.'"

In his book *Rulers of Evil*, which details the sinister history of the Jesuits, Saussy writes, "Embedded in the *ratio studiorum* [Jesuit educational process] were the elements of entertainment, of dramatic production -- composition, rhetoric and eloquence. These courses interlinked with the Spiritual Exercises to intensify the experientiality of Catholic doctrine over Scripture and Protestantism. They resulted in a genre of spectacular plays that won distinction as 'Jesuit theatre.'"

Historically Jesuits have been known for their deceptions and politico-religious conspiracies, commonly called *romanita* inside the Vatican. In fact Webster's dictionary defines "Jesuitry" as "principles or practices ascribed to the Jesuits as the practice of mental reservation, casuistry and equivocation." It should also be noted that President Bill Clinton was educated at America's foremost Jesuit training center, Georgetown University. According to Saussy, Clinton's biographer David Maraniss said "the President owed his formidable skills as a criminal defendant to 'his training in casuistry at Georgetown University.'" Casuistry is equivocal to rationalization, "to cause something to seem reasonable, to provide plausible but untrue reasons for conduct."

Under the guidance of the Black Pope (the Jesuit Superior General), the first western translation of Sun Tzu's *Art of War* was published in 1772 as *The Thirteen Articles Concerning Military Art*. Saussy's position is that anyone knowing the Jesuit "mission" and knowing the nature of Jesuit "obedience" could observe world events

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which followed with an increased understanding of geo-political strategy

Did *Art of War*, a military-political classic, become the *de facto* Jesuit handbook for conquering the world?

The Church Militant (the Roman Catholic Church) has been rocked by scandals of moral, ethical and spiritual depravity for two thousand years, yet it has remained seemingly impervious to judgment, even though sexual predators and pedophiles have been sanctioned by Church hierarchy for generations. The material wealth of these degenerates masquerading as "holy men" has increased almost beyond calculation. The old Spanish proverb, "Don dinero, es muy catolico" says it all.

Tampering with Belief Systems (BS) is, of course, quite dangerous, and Mel Gibson does nothing but reinforce religious indoctrination. If *The Passion of the Christ* is simply S&M for Christians, watching a pretend Jesus suffering a pretended agony is about as twisted as you can get.

This brings up certain questions about Mel Gibson's agenda -- besides making a ton of money on foolish Galatians, I mean, Christians.

Did Mel Gibson ever read Malachi Martin's *roman a clef* called *Windswept House* in which the Roman Catholic Church is formally dedicated to Satan in a ceremonial ritual? [An interview with the late Jesuit operative Malachi Martin is included in *Bushwhacked: Inside Stories of True Conspiracy* by Uri Dowbenko.]

Does Mel Gibson believe he will win converts for the Roman Church showing the torture of Jesus by those he called "the synagogue of Satan"? (The synagogue of Satan is not to be confused with the synagogue of the Jews.)

Even the mind control implications of the movie become undeniable. It should be noted that the Roman Catholic Church does not celebrate the victory of Christ in the Ascension. They do not show the apotheosis of Christ, rising into another dimension, into the clouds and out of sight. They chose to portray the suffering man hung on a cross, bleeding and broken, an icon of guilt and shame -- and a stark warning to anyone who would buck the Vatican's iron-fisted wannabe control of the spiritual evolution of humanity.

The crucifix -- an image of a tortured man, strung up on a cross, head hung down -- has become *the* most powerful symbol of religious and political mind control ever conceived by the dark forces that prey upon the Children of Light and the Sons and Daughters of God on earth.

The Vatican has outlawed and ignored the teachings of Christ on karma and reincarnation because it would reveal the origins of those who have hijacked the spiritual heritage of the souls of Light on earth.

According to the New Testament, Jesus taught about the metaphysical reality of reincarnation, as in the parable of the man who was blind from birth. The disciples asked him --



was it the blind man's sin or was it the sin of his parents that he was born without vision? This was an implicit

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understanding of the principles of karma and reincarnation. In other words, whose karma was it that the man was blind? Jesus replied that it was neither. The man chose to be blind from birth in order for Jesus to heal him to the glory of God, when they would meet later in that time and space.

Instead like Mel Gibson, the Roman Church is focused on the horror story. Lifetime after lifetime, the agony and suffering of the crucifixion has been used to indoctrinate people into believing the lie that we are sinners -- and not Sons and Daughters of God.

This attack on the spirituality of men and women is unceasing, as they are born again and again into the spiritual bondage of the Roman Church - - and other pretenders of Christianity (or Churchianity).

And for those who are ready for a radically new perspective, read *The Bible Fraud* and *The Secret in the Bible* by Tony Bushby (Joshua Books). In these books of unprecedented historical and spiritual revelation, Bushby explains the traditions of the Essenes and Druids and the hidden history of Christianity. After more than twelve years of research citing literally hundreds of esoteric books, documents and works of reference, Bushby describes how our spiritual heritage had been subverted by the Roman Church, whose Jesus Christ was introduced as a new political "god" in order to consolidate control over the population of the Roman Empire.

The Bible Fraud is highly recommended as an eye opener on real history, as opposed to the politically correct version penned by court hagiographers and other minions of Empire.

The Secret in the Bible details the spiritual significance of the Great

Pyramid, the Tarot and the Mystery Schools of Egypt, particularly the historical connections between the Mystery Schools of Egypt, Britain and Rome.

These books are significant in that they are the *defacto* history of the Christian religion, though they differ radically from the bowdlerized Churchianity version promoted by priests and pastors. Bushby's books are not an attack on faith, but an expose' of belief systems (a/k/a BS) invented by the Emperor Constantine in his effort to proscribe a New State Religion for the Roman Empire. This is after all the era when the truth "shall be shouted from the rooftops" and Bushby's books certainly fit the bill.

Meanwhile, Mel Gibson has of course drawn the line. He's *not* playing Jesus in *The Passion of the Christ*. He's just *directing* the Crucifixion.

What does that tell you?

With all due respect, *The Passion* is a Jesuitical masterpiece. By definition, this movie is cunning, deceitful and prevaricating. That's why you *don't* have to see it.

Pax vobiscum.

What do they want you to believe after you've spent two hours in the dark watching a movie? This is the premise of each of the movie reviews in *Hoodwinked: Watching Movies With Eyes Wide Open* by Uri Dowbenko. From *The Matrix* to *Wag the Dog*, Dowbenko deconstructs the movies and explains the hidden meanings of Hollywood's greatest hits.

URI DOWBENKO is one of Alternative Media's foremost writers and media analysts and the author of *Bushwhacked: Inside Stories of True Conspiracy*. He works as a professional media consultant in marketing and publishing. He can be reached through his website www.uridowbenko.com

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Project Beta: An Adventure



In The Disinformation Age

The Expurgated Excerpt by Greg Bishop

The assignment was due on the editor's desktop in two weeks. For over a year, I had been struggling with the infamous story of Paul Bennewitz and his misadventures with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations in the late 1970s and early '80s. Bennewitz, an electrical physicist with his own successful high-tech business, had seen strange lights moving suspiciously around a top-secret nuclear weapons storage facility deep inside the confines of Kirtland Air Force base in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and in a move that sealed his psychological fate, felt duty-bound to report it to the authorities. Unfortunately, the people assigned to monitor his reports and thinking (namely the Air Force Office Of Special Investigations (AFOSI) the NSA, and to some extent the FBI) didn't

bother to tell him that he was looking at and near projects and areas that they were sworn to hide and protect. Bennewitz was encouraged and guided to persist in what was for the most part a delusional folly. By 1987, he was so stressed by the adventure that he was confined to a mental ward for almost three months.

For the last 13 years, I had been following the story, and had decided to finally get to the heart of it. As a sort of icing on this dubious cake, editor Patrick Huyghe and his publishing company had assigned and paid me to write it up as a full-length book.

I called UFO writer and raconteur *extraordinaire* Dennis Stacy to ask him what he knew about the story, and see if there were any more phone numbers he could give me for last-minute interviews (and there were a lot of those.) Before we finished up, I let down what little guard I had left and

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SAUCER SECTION

complained about the chore of an 80,000 word book, as opposed to the 5K-sized babies I had been squeezing out for the last few years. "Yeah, books are a bitch" he counseled. "That's the nicest thing anyone has said to me in weeks" I told him. He let out a good-natured laugh and wished me good luck.

After two trips out to Albuquerque and scores of interviews, there was no clear end in sight. The parts lay strewn about, waiting for the inevitable transformation into a sewn-together Frankenstein-monster of a story that would interest both UFO believer and the general reader alike. Paul Bennewitz' family steadfastly refused any comment or cooperation, and I hoped that their lives would not be disturbed by the opening of this long-sealed can of worms.

By the time my time was up, I had what I believed was the full story, or at least as full as the participants like Bill Moore, Richard Doty, and others like cattle mutilation researcher and former New Mexico State Policeman Gabe Valdez could share. Those chomping at the bit for more will have to wait for the finished product, which will appear sometime in the spring of 2004 (publishing is a very slow business) from Pocket Books/ Simon & Schuster.

The text which follows is the complete afterword for *Project Beta: An Adventure In The Disinformation Age*, but was cut by the editor as being too personal and opinionated for the journalistic tone of the book. Taken together with the full text, (when it is finally released) it may provide some insight to those who will I am sure take me to task for not engaging in more self-righteous indignation and wrist-slapping

of the Air Force and National Security Agency.

I thank editor Kenn Thomas and the vast staff of *Steamshovel Press* for allowing it to see the light of day.

* * *

The long trip to the writing of this book bears some explanation, since the slippery subject it concerns is not always amenable to simple solutions.

My father taught me to read before I entered school, and as I grew up, he took my sister and I to the local library every week. The assignment was to check out two or three books and read them before returning a week later. Within a year, I had cleared the paranormal/ UFO shelves of three local libraries. Then I did it again, but from the sixth grade until well after I graduated from college, interest in the unexplained vanished from my life.

It was almost by accident that I first met Bill Moore. In the summer of 1988, I had just been laid off from my first major job, my best friend squeezed me out of his stock film business, and my girlfriend had left me, all in the space of a week. I was looking around for projects to keep me out of trouble and the funny farm, when I found out that Bill's office was a block down from the stock film headquarters. A major west coast UFO conference was going to be held in Los Angeles, and I proposed a video project with Bill, his research partner Stanton Friedman, and abduction researcher Budd Hopkins. They all agreed to let me record their presentations and sell the edited videos for a split profit. The tapes didn't sell all that well, but I began to see how carefully Moore went about his research,

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SAUCER SECTION

and why he seemed to play his cards so close to his chest.

I also realized that the UFO subject had come rushing in out of my past to cast a psychic net to keep me from falling into despair. An insane subject can save one from insanity.

As the 1989 MUFON convention drew near, Bill started to drop hints that he was going to break the UFO controversy wide open, enraging old foes and creating new ones. I agreed to help him sell his books and documents at the convention. He stayed in a separate hotel from the other speakers and I didn't even see him until just before the Saturday night speech. He still wouldn't tell me what he was going to say.

I grabbed a seat near the front of the 1000-seat room and waited for the introduction. There was cautious applause as he took the stage. No one knew exactly what to expect. I could feel the tension and I didn't even have a good idea about what was going on and the politics involved.

It was the most exciting speech I've ever seen, in terms of audience reaction. People literally yelled, cried, and gritted their teeth in anger. I was surprised that they didn't throw things. If I had known what was going to happen, I'd have picked a case of rotten vegetables out from behind the nearest supermarket and sold them outside the door beforehand. Bill English, who ran out with fists clenched saying "I'm going to get a fire hose!" was one of Moore's fellow APRO members and probably felt doubly betrayed, even though Moore had never "disinformed" him or anyone else he worked with at APRO. Bill had just had too much over the years and wanted to shut the door on the whole business, or more likely, take

it to another level. Like English, many of Moore's colleagues could not handle the cognitive dissonance that he had laid on them. They chose to reject everything he had said in the past, and never trusted him again.



As the subsequent controversy raged about Moore's methods and his dangerous friends, I began to publish a magazine called, tongue-tyingly enough *The Excluded Middle* (now locked in cyberlimbo at www.excludedmiddle.com.) We hoped to look at UFOs and other related subjects in other ways than the "aliens from another planet" viewpoint, and champion alternate ways of looking at the subject and its connections to the paranormal, new science, the drug culture, and even spiritual traditions. Bill was one of the first interviews we published and the talk was revealing enough to be stolen and reproduced on the internet, and referenced in UFO books. I started to realize how seriously the UFO business still took Bill Moore's opinion, even if they couldn't stand the man. The community would publicly denounce him, then *sotto voce*, inquire about the latest news from his camp.

This mixture of admiration and disdain continues to this day, (usually translated as "envy" in the psychology

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books) judging from at least a few of the interviews I conducted with various well-known and not so well known personalities from the much-reduced field of Ufology. To be sure, the indignant outrage Moore inspired was justifiable. Why should anyone have trusted him after Las Vegas? A few, like ufologist Chris Lambright and later researchers like Grant Cameron, withheld most of their condemnation and concentrated on the information that Moore and his colleagues had uncovered, as well as the self-evident revelation that "government sources" in the UFO field have their own agendas.

In 1994, I was introduced to a gentleman who claimed to be a member of Naval Intelligence. He handed me several hundred pages of his writings, which presented an alternate history of government coverups, dastardly deeds, and alien interactions, and suggested the possibility that I was being watched by certain elements of US Intelligence. This sort of attention not only made me desperately paranoid for about a year, but in a sick way, also flattered me into believing that what I was writing about actually mattered to someone "in the know." Before I had met this man I noticed that some of my mail (particularly from one abduction researcher and another who specialized in cattle mutilations) was obviously opened and resealed. My wife at the time was even followed around L.A. for an entire morning by a man in a car with an Air Force insignia on the door.

But nothing happened to me and no one told me to shut up. Paul Krassner's take on rampant paranoia turned out to be true, at least for me: "It gets old after awhile."

For these ego-boosting reasons and many others, some researchers still continue to cultivate their inside sources, naively believing just about everything that comes out of their mouths, even the outrageous stuff. Unfortunately, these people are the ones who often propagate the stories in bestselling books and on radio and television. Paul Bennewitz was not in the game for money or fame. He at least saw a higher purpose in his crusade. There is definitely a concern with the UFO subject in the corridors of the Pentagon and the halls of our government. How much these people actually know is still rightly a subject of hot debate.

There are not too many unexplainables in this book. Sorry. For those (I sometimes include myself in this group) who are looking for the latest and weirdest to add to their thrill factor, I am sure this has been a disappointment, but one never knows what is truly unknown without eliminating what is mundane (or in the case of Paul Bennewitz, the bold-faced lies and self-induced extrapolations.)

Perhaps there really is an alien presence, and some world governments know exactly what is going on. Perhaps there are secret agreements between these visitors and those they perceive as the leaders of the human race. If this is true, the last thing that those in the loop would want to do is admit this publicly. It is the trump card in their hand, as well as proof that there is something greater out there. For them, it is the possibility of salvation and ruin at the same time. The popularity of UFO stories perhaps stems from the idea that a few of us lowly creatures who function as tiny cogs in the insane clockwork machine run by the Man may know that he

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knows, and that we may have a chance to forge a direct link with this phenomenon, which would certainly



shorten the stick that can be held over us. If the military does possess captured alien technology as authors like former Army officer Phil Corso claimed in his book *The Day After Roswell*, this hardware would only be used under the most dire circumstances, such as imminent takeover by a foreign power—or an extraterrestrial one.

The skeptic community seems to function (or wants to) as a benevolent but stern father telling the UFO believers that they will eventually tire of their childish delusions and join the glorious rationality of man-as-God secular humanism. For their part, the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims Of the Paranormal (CSICOP) have uncovered some shoddy and not-so-shoddy scams and delusions that have preyed upon the minds and wallets of the gullible since before Charles MacKay published his groundbreaking study on the matter, *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds* way back in 1841. This account of the sad fate of Paul Bennewitz will probably

have them pointing the “We told you so!” finger firmly at the UFO crowd.

But that was not the intention. The Bennewitz story perhaps lays to rest many of the rumors surrounding the origins of some of the most popular delusions about a few of the weirdest UFO stories that have made the rounds over the past twenty years. And while most of the things Paul Bennewitz experienced were written by the AFOSI and NSA for his own personal horror show, events such as the unexplained landings of strangely bright and highly maneuverable lights at Kirtland, as well as weird orange “balls” drifting in the Bennewitz home are not amenable to simple explanations. The whole mess started with the truly unexplained abduction of Myrna Hansen, who had no interest in the Air Force, secret installations, or even UFOs. Her sighting was even confirmed years later by another witness. And what of the connection to the almost certain human force behind cattle mutilations? Linda Howe recently told me that human artifacts found near mutilation sites were put there to throw UFO researchers and the curious off the track, covering up the alien presence and the government’s inability to deal with them. While there remains a core of really weird aspects to this problem (such as selective removal of organs without any evidence of surgery) there is no denying the human element. Someday, these enigmatic dragons may be slain as well.

Even if this happens, I truly think that there remains something unknown, possessing an “otherness” and traveling with impunity in our skies (and maybe in our minds as well.) Perhaps its origins lay on another planet, or more likely another reality that shares time and space

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with us at least occasionally. This species of "reality" is anathema to the nuts-and-bolts type of UFO researcher who prefers to stick comfortably with the sort of 19th century science that is taught in high school. Creative temperaments and those who are even dimly aware of the concepts of early 20th century physics seem to have little problem with it.

Stay around the subject with an open mind for a few years and see if you can reconcile all aspects of the UFO enigma in some sort of grand unified theory. I guarantee that you will have to purposely ignore some part of the phenomenon to make everything fit. Even if this doesn't come to pass, at least you'll be able to meet some weirdos and genuinely nice and intelligent people who are a lot better company than most of the smug types snuggling up at a skeptics' meeting. (I have been to both sorts of gatherings.) The self-satisfied laughter of the "skeptic" (I use the quotes to indicate the closed-minded variety) is a real turn-off. No one likes a know-it-all, except maybe others of their bland and predictable kind. When UFO researchers don't agree, at least it's occasionally *funny*, and they're a lot more interesting than a skeptic when you, they, or both are drunk or stoned, and if some of the more amazing revelations of the UFO people eventually turn out to be true, our world gets that much more interesting. As Timothy Leary once said, "If isn't funny, it probably isn't true."

CSICOP is famous for incredible examples of *post hoc* judgment on claims before they have even been investigated. As conservative pundit Ann Coulter said about the RFK assassination conspiracy "I don't think

it's true because I just can't believe it." For an example of real skepticism in the face of extraordinary claims, drop a line to (or point the web browser at) the Society For Scientific Exploration—an organization of credentialed scientists who study and publish their findings on a variety of paranormal subjects in a quarterly, peer-reviewed journal. (www.scientificexploration.org)

There seem to be as many reasons clutching at the will to believe as there are skeptical positions trying to pry the UFO contact idea away, but ultimately, both sides are locked into belief systems of their own emotional choosing. There is little doubt that this human dichotomy will be permanent, whether UFOs and aliens ever turn out to be "kick-the-tires" real or not. "Extraordinary claims demand extraordinary proof" vs. "I want to believe" is a struggle that will always be with us.

The Big Show continues.

Paraview/Pocket Books will release *Project Beta: An Adventure in the Disinformation Age* by Greg Bishop in the spring of 2005. For the first time, the secret and complicated story of Paul Bennewitz' mental collapse at the hands of the intelligence community will be told in excruciating detail!

Greg's zine, *Excluded Middle*, can be found on the web at www.excludedmiddle.com He will speak on the Bennewitz book this December at the Adventures Unlimited conference in Sedona, AZ. Greg's radio program, *Radio Mysterioso*—interviews with mind mavericks, classified information and music that forgot to take its Prozac—appears on the web at killradio.org.

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Shoot Down or Stand Down? A 9/11 Mystery

by Len Bracken

The facts about what happened on the morning of September 11, 2001 remain scandalously hidden over two years after the event. The public deserves to know, for example, whether the order to shoot down the hijacked planes was made by the president and if it was made in a timely manner. Vice President Richard Cheney said the order was given, but the pilots who were in the air that morning state that they never received the shoot-down order.

Cheney was in charge of the emergency center in the White House, and according to him, the president authorized the shooting down of commercial aircraft after meeting with school children in Florida. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta testified to the 9/11 Commission that he was with Cheney when a young man came in and said, "The plane is 50 miles out, the plane is 30 miles out," referring to the plane headed for Washington. Mineta described a situation in which the young man said "10 miles out" and asked, "Do the orders still stand?" Cheney turned and said, "Of course the orders still stand. Have you heard anything to the contrary?"

John Judge, co-founder of 9/11 CitizensWatch, has spoken with pilots who were in the air and carefully followed the commission hearings; he contends that these statements and the military's inaction are more indicative of orders to *stand down* than *shoot down*. Questions about basic facts like this

prompted 9/11 CitizensWatch to launch an advertising campaign, coinciding with the March hearings, in the *Washington Post* and local subway - their ad and posters make the public aware of what looks like a massive cover-up. Standard procedure in hijackings, or with any plane that loses its transponder signal, is to immediately scramble jets. Judge notes, adding that he was told by Pentagon security officials in the 90s that there were cameras and radar on the roof "in case they try to fly a plane into the building."

In their March testimony before the 9/11 Commission, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld and Joint Chiefs Chairman Myers claimed - over two years after the attacks - they still did not know why the military failed to respond. Rumsfeld was preoccupied with a meeting on the morning in question; although he made a prescient comment about asymmetrical surprise attacks to congressmen in his office, he somehow thought the hijackings were a law enforcement matter. The possibility that Rumsfeld would be out of the loop seems unlikely given an "instruction" from the Joint Chiefs in June 2001 that amended the standing "directive" used by the operational commanders regarding a "request for destruction of derelict airborne objects" in which potentially lethal support requires the secretary of defense's approval.

Myers was likewise in a meeting, his suddenly angry voice reportedly carrying out the door and down the hall of the congressional office building when he heard the news. General Montague who was in charge at the Pentagon command center - where the conference call between the White House, FAA and NORAD was

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orchestrated - testified in May that no immediate response was mounted because he and his colleagues did not think the hijackings were related. How does this improbable excuse justify flouting routine procedures?

Commissioner Jamie Gorelick, whose line of questioning surprised the secretary of defense, was dismayed that nothing was done to protect the nation's military headquarters. Rumsfeld could not say if the shoot-down order was communicated to the pilots, but the question indicates that the commissioner who asked it knew the answer. Myers previously testified, at his Senate confirmation hearings on September 13, 2001, that fighters were not scrambled until after the American Airlines Flight 77 flew into the Pentagon at 9:37 or 9:38.

A spokesman for NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command), Marine Corps Major Mike Snyder, said the same thing at the time - fighters were not scrambled until after the Pentagon attack. But NORAD, which was engaged in the war game Vigilant Guardian and in a heightened state of readiness, has changed its story for the 9/11 Commission. The intricate debate on when intercepts were initiated and from where is covered by Paul Thompson in "Failure to Defend the Skies on 9/11," which draws on his impressive and reliable timeline found at cooperativeresearch.org. According to Thompson, NORAD's new assertions fail to add up and its timeline is blatantly erroneous in verifiable instances such as misstating when CNN first began showing images of the World Trade Center on fire. If NORAD's claims about intercepts were true, Flight 175 would have been reached by a fighter jet



One of many awkward moments for Joint Chiefs Chairman Richards Myers at a 9/11 Commission hearing in March 2004.

before it hit the second tower of the World Trade Center and there would have been enough time to intercept flights 77 and 93.

Only at 9:38, after the Pentagon crash, did the Secret Service call nearby Andrews Air Force Base to scramble fighters. Moreover, Flight 77, with its loop over downtown Washington, would have been vulnerable to the surface-to-air missiles at the White House if Cheney had given the shoot-down order prior to the Pentagon crash. *The Washington Post* and CBS reported that the shoot-down order was not given until Bush spoke with Cheney from Air Force One at 9:56, although again, no pilots acknowledge receiving the order.

People who have followed the events of 9/11 know that an unprecedented "national ground stop"

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was ordered, reportedly at 9:26, by either Federal Aviation Administration chief Jane Garvey or by Ben Sliney, who was on his first day on the job as the FAA's national operations manager – this order forbade takeoffs and required planes, including military planes, out of the sky. If fighter jets that had been scrambled could have intercepted the last two planes, they probably were called back to base as a result of the national ground stop. If the Class B classification was given for Washington airspace at the same time as the national ground stop, as General Arnold testified in May 2003 he believed was the case, this implies something, however small, was done to protect the skies – planes that were deemed a threat could be shot down.

The public still does not know when or who issued the Class B order, but more importantly, the public needs to know which order had precedence. Were the fighters from Otis called back to base because of the national ground stop? In other words, what difference would it make if Washington was classified as Class B airspace if all the fighters were called back to base or hadn't been scrambled yet?

The FAA, which has statutory authority for hijackings, is under the Department of Treasury, which is ultimately under White House authority. The order in question in Mineta's testimony, said to be given by Cheney around 9:26, clearly appears to be *stand down* rather than *shoot down* given the timing of the FAA national-ground-stop order and what the pilots said about not receiving the shoot-down order. Or else, and this seems unlikely, there was a total breakdown in the chain of command.

Either Cheney ordered a shoot down at 9:26, as Mineta's testimony

implies, and the FAA ordered a stand down at exactly the same time; or the vice president ordered a stand down, for whatever reason, and the FAA complied. Perhaps the thought of attacking hijacked commercial planes was too morbid, which is understandable; or else, as a faithful government servant, the vice president made the decision to let the plane crash into a federal building, sparing the surrounding area the hazards of a shoot down. Whatever the reason, Cheney must explain what really happened. When they testify together before the 9/11 Commission, Bush and Cheney must not get away with drawing perfect records for themselves as the president did at his April 2004 press conference, clumsily pretending not to have made any mistakes. If it was decided - perhaps even after the event, as the facts suggest was the case - that the best course of action would have been to scramble fighters and shoot down the commercial aircraft, Bush might want to reexamine the way he passed his moments after hearing the news of the second attack. Instead of remaining in the schoolroom, it might've been wiser to get out of there and authorize a shoot down right away.

N.B. According to Col. Fletcher Prouty, the public still does not know who ordered the Army's specially trained presidential protection unit in Dallas to stand down rather than report for work with the Secret Service in 1963. He notes that the intelligence unit had up-to-date records on Oswald. Only someone with all the codes, he says, would be able to order the stand down of an Army unit.

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POPULAR ALIENATION

PARANOIC ICONOGRAPHY II:

Masons At Work

By Max Well

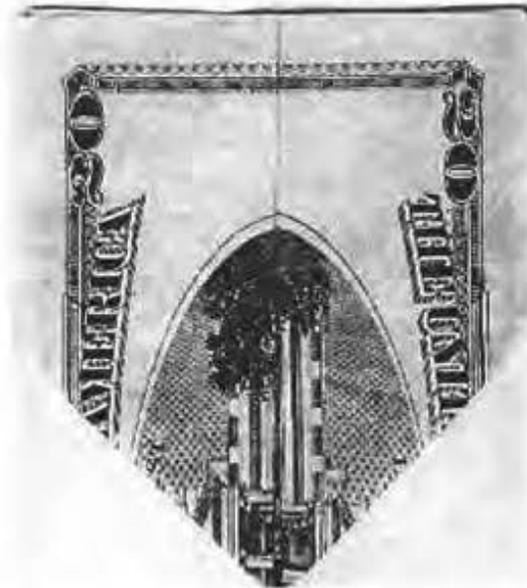


Secret societies compete for the dominance of the world. It's an open secret. The painting of Washington duded up as a Mason laying the Capital's cornerstone in September 1793 is ubiquitous in conspiracy literature. Everyone knows where to look for Masonic imagery and the symbolism, in the money:



James Shelby Downard long ago noted that the JFK assassination was a Masonic "killing of the King" greening ritual involving fertility and death. His essay appeared only in Feral House's first edition of *Apocalypse Culture* in 1987, true to Downard's observation that wider dissemination would erode the "entire mental concept that passes for knowledge about the genuine nature of the government of the United States."

The now infamous twenty dollar fold, revealing the burning towers of 9/11, testifies to long-range Masonic planning.



Public officials struggle to deny that control by secret elites comprises their daily reality. After announcing a "predictive markets" plan to take advantage of insider knowledge about terrorist strikes (as happened on the stock market the very day of the 9/11 attacks), John Poindexter "resigned"—i.e., return to the shadows. Previously, he had created the administration's Total Information Awareness office, designed to track every citizen's personal

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information and business dealings using PROMIS-based software. The public emblem he created for the office was not subtle about acknowledging its dark masters:



It's not just government officials, of course. Conspiracy provides the fabric of everyday life in corporate America. The eye and the pyramid can be seen in logos of popular investment firms...



...and for the employment headhunters of ambitious, elite CEOs...



The Brigade of Abu Hafis al-Masri claimed responsibility for the Madrid bombings of March 11, 2004. On March 10, the allied Jund al-Quds carried out a suicide attack against a Masonic lodge in Istanbul. "America is next," declared the Abu Hafis al-Masri brigade, and the following week in Patchogue, 47 year old William James was murdered while being inducted at the Southside Masonic Lodge of Suffolk County. To al-Qaeda, the Masons descend from its Knights Templar crusader enemies and in this it allies with the Catholic Church and the fascist dictatorships of Franco, Hitler and Mussolini, all brought to power by conspiracies of their own, all banning and executing Masons.

It's the money, though, always the money. No coincidence that US money runs the world and it is all rife with Masonic symbols. Consider the new nickel:



Presented as a handshake of peace between the Native Americans and their European conquerors. Like many official versions of history, this is a lie and each individual must ferret out the truth. Is it a handshake of friendship or a more secret one? Are those the peace pipe and tomahawk, or tools of the building trade? Is it simply coincidence that Lewis and Clark, commemorated by this coin, both were Masons.

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Book Reviews

By Kenn Thomas

Michael Barkun, a political science professor at Syracuse University, makes the latest attempt at an academic survey of the parapolitical world in *A Culture of Conspiracy: Apocalyptic Visions in Contemporary America*, published by UC-Berkeley Press. As with many similar efforts, the book presents itself more or less as a footnote to Richard Hofstadter's renowned essay, "The Paranoid Style in American Politics", with an academic's pretended distance from the daily reality of clashing parapolitical agendas. Although at times the book takes the edge off the "racism" slur by spelling it "conspiricism," it has all the usual obfuscation about normal interest in hidden history and secret power as some paranoid outgrowth of non-mainstream religion.

Everything from aum Shinrikyo to Madame Blavatsky proffer "underground worldviews" of "ill-defined potpourris." Barkun identifies this as "improvisational millennialism", as distinguished from similar religious and secular ideations. Critical thinking about conspiracy by definition, however, is anti-Semitic or goes contrary to "the institutions that conventionally distinguish between knowledge and error". Barkun writes "...those who believe in conspiracy theories are convinced that only they know the true manner in which power is held and decisions are made." These kinds of studies are such mirrors of academic arrogance! Knowledgeable readers--i.e., students of parapolitics hot to look at things from as many points of view as possible--would be hard pressed to find a bigger disconnect between knowledge and error. Barkun reins in the condescension enough to examine writings by the likes of Jim Keith, Tim Beckley and David Hatcher Childress. It seems to register little with him, however, that these writers are not narrow minded fanatics but quite the reverse, encouraging their readers to look at things in non-monolithic ways.

In the debate about the shooting death of Bill Cooper, Barkun notes an irony in *Steamshovel Press'* observation that Cooper died of "federal neglect" -- that is, Cooper could have been peacefully apprehended on federal tax evasion charges long before the local police in Eager, Arizona shot and killed him for being a public danger. The perspectives on this issue are flanked on one side by Don Ecker's opinion that Cooper was a thug who deserved what he got to the more commonly held view that Cooper was a martyr to his tax-resistance and anti-NWO causes. The *Steamshovel* view (a "conspiracist" one) is "loathe to acknowledge the role of accident" in Cooper's death. Huh? The idea that Bill Cooper died from an accident simply does not appear in the spectrum of opinion on that issue. This provides some measure of the extent to which Michael Barkun wants to workaroud the common sense proposition behind most conspiracy-critical thinking: *conspiracy happens*.

The artist Mark Lombardi made much more effective use of this reality with his artwork, thankfully well documented in *Global Networks*, published by Independent Curators International. ICI produced the catalog as part of an exhibition of Lombardi's art



that happened in SoHo at the end of last year. Lombardi died at the end of a rope in 2000, and the catalog's narrative points out that his door was locked from the inside to underscore that suicide was committed and not inflicted upon him for the revelations in his artwork. Lombardi's spiderwebs of connections that follow the ill-gotten capital gain of various conspirators in various historical situations.

Lombardi's concerns parallel those of Danny Casolaro, and his work looks like Casolaro's frantic, handwritten scrawl transformed into elegant orbs of descending fireworks display. Titles of the pieces read chapters in *The Octopus*: "Frank Nugan, Michael Hand and Nugan Hand Ltd. Of Sydney, Australia, ca. 1972-1980", "Gerry Bull, Space Research Corporation and Armacor of Pretoria, South Africa, ca. 1972-80", "Oliver North, Lake resources of Panama and the Iran-Contra Operation, ca. 1984-86." Casolaro's name doesn't come up, although major source Jonathan Kwitny does and, as with Casolaro, the

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FBI reviewed the research, this time to track Khalid bin Mahfouz, Osama bin Laden's brother-in-law.

Another master of connection worthy of such serious study, Loren Coleman begins his book, *The Copycat Effect* (Paraview), by reminding his readers about Frank Corder, who crashed a plane into the White House on 9/11—in 1994. That event triggered a number of additional attacks against the White House at the time and, of course, its echo resonates so loudly now that it virtually obliterates Corder's stunt from the public memory.

The Copycat Effect has as its central concern the amplification of violent actions by the Werther effect, named after a book by Goethe that served as a suicide model for broken-hearted young men in the late 1700s. Coleman first considered the phenomena in his 1987 book, *Suicide Clusters*, which preceded for him a long career in producing well respected histories and studies of parapolitical topics from the JFK assassination to cryptozoology. Perhaps the most meticulous data collector this side of Charles Fort, Coleman reviews many cases in which major news events, encouraged and promoted by the mass media—what Coleman calls “hot death stories”—get repeated in lesser known incidents covered primarily by the local news. After 9/11, for instance, young Charles Bishop slammed a Cessna into a Tampa high rise. A wave of copycat sniper incidents followed the Beltway shootings of John Allen Muhammad and John Malvo, and on and on. Readers will be jolted at how familiar these stories appear once Coleman has jogged them from collective memory. They accompany a survey of copycat clusters, replete with a timeline appendix, all of which seem eerily familiar.

Coleman concludes with seven suggestions on how the media could reduce the copycat phenomenon, by de-sensationalizing its coverage, becoming more attuned to the sensitivities of victims and survivors, by abandoning simplistic concepts like the lone nut, and so forth. Despite this thorough exposure to the malignant copycat process, readers might wonder in the end why such common sense remedies never seem likely to be implemented by the mass media, as if the process is self-conscious, deliberate and meant to foment a violent spectacle it hopes to exploit.

For readers who might work themselves into such a depressive funk over such parapolitical rumination, Flatland's Jim Martin has come up with perhaps the perfect antidote: a book on fishing in the northern California, entitled *How To Fish the Mendocino Coast*: a fisherman's guide to wild seafood. This comes on the heels of a Martin's chef d'oeuvre biography of Wilhelm Reich (*Wilhelm Reich and the Cold War*) and in may seem way out there in terms of Flatland's previous book offering, Len Bracken's

translation of the Situationist screed *The Real Report on Last Chance to Save Capitalism*. But the three books make a logical trilogy, moving from the alienation of a commodified society, to Reich's tragic experiences trying to keep American culture grounded in its natural environment, to Martin's conclusion in this new book: “a society that finds sustenance in wild nature keeps its connection with the environment.”



The proposition is not as simple as it sounds. Australia's parliament, for instance, recently passed a law banning fishing from around the waters of the Great Barrier Reef and everywhere else recreational fishing is diminishing faster than the many species of fish being pushed into extinction by pollution and chemical run off from coastal agribusiness. Potential readers should not be confused, however, this is a how-to-fish book, not a look at any conspiracies among the fishes. (Flatland Books is at POB 2420, Ft. Bragg, CA 95437 and on the web at www.flatlandbooks.com. Martin's fish writing can be found at www.noyoharberconfidential.com.)

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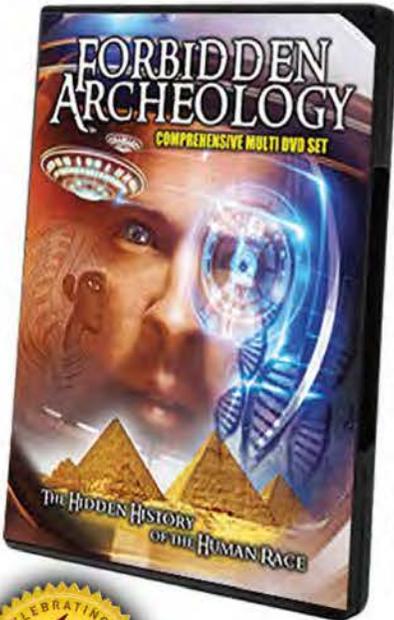
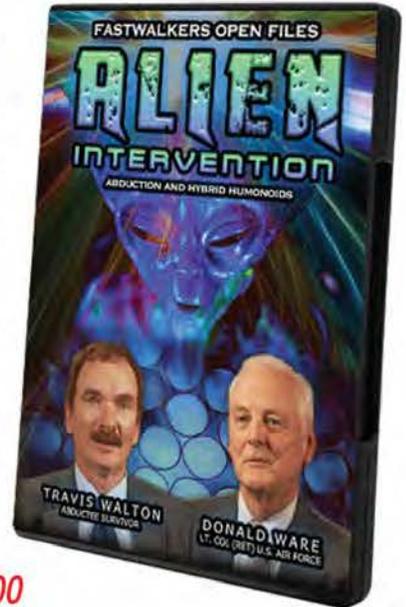
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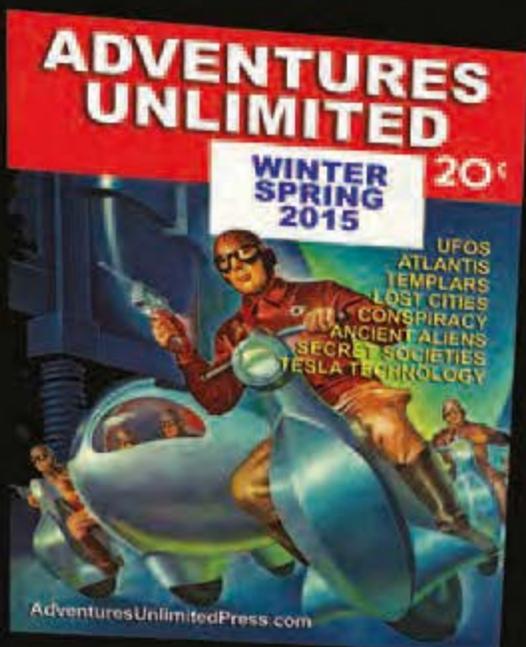


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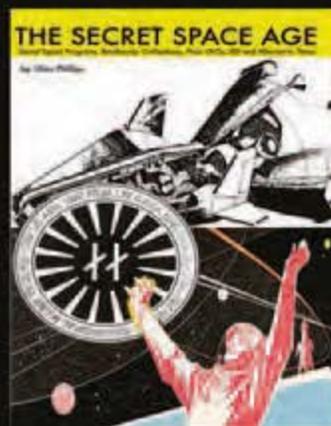
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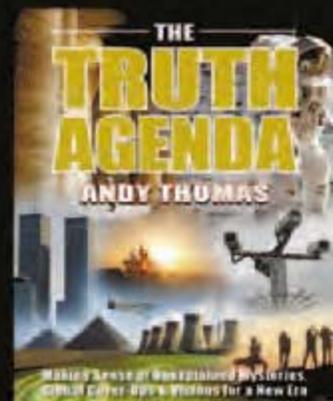


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