



THIS CAN BE YOUR "BIG BREAK"

if you're a man who's ever said...

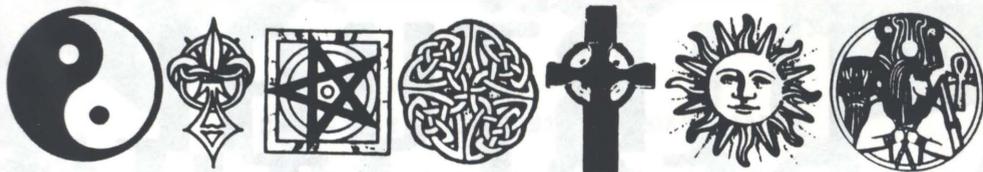
"Art =
wotta loada
CRAP!"



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- REPEAT TO YOURSELF: IT'S ONLY A COMMODITY! IT'S ONLY A COMMODITY!
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- VOLUME! VOLUME! VOLUME!
- USE CREATIVE PRODUCT TIE-INS! JULIAN SCHNABEL CONDOMS (ouch)! KAREN FINLAY YAMS!

SPECIAL GUARANTEE FOR POLITICALLY CORRECT ARTISTS: This in no way conflicts with the ongoing art strike, if you really think about it



This is DHARMA COMBAT #11 - a magazine about spirituality, metaphysics, reality, and other conspiracies. The staff does not necessarily agree with the loose talk in these pages, but they don't necessarily disagree, either. If you're wondering, the size change is due to the fact that some of our distributors had trouble handling the larger format.

SINGLE COPY PRICE: \$3.00, and still too cheap.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are available for 12 bucks per year (4 Issues), Payable to Keith, P.O. Box 20593, Sun Valley, NV 89433. Add one buck per copy for outside US and be thankful for it. We trade DC for items that will enhance the editor's image in society such as ancient religious artifacts, situationist and anarchist books, and deranged and preferably artistic T-shirts (XL). Huge cash contributions should be sent in those lined security envelopes that you can't see through.

TRADES for publications are selective and getting more so, just because I'm not that much into what you seem to think of as poetry, and if you think DC is bad, you should see some of the other junk coming out these days. If you publish a mag and want to trade display ads on a continuing basis, that's different; send yours in. I'll trade ads with just about anyone.

SPECIAL OFFER TO ARTISTS: For a limited time (like the next thousand years) I'm likely to trade a sub for an original and impossibly strange camera-ready ad for Dharma Combat.

PUBLICATION DATES are irregular, but we average 4 issues per year.

SUBMISSIONS should be SINGLE SPACED and typed to save me a lot of time. Send clean photocopies, not original artwork. If you want stuff returned, send an SASE.

ADVERTISING: Display ads are 50 bucks full page, 25 half, 15 quarter, and cheap at twice the price. Declassified ads are 1 dollar up to 50 words, 10 cents per word after that.

PRODUCTION DRUIDS this issue were Vicky Bolin, Jarod O'Danu, Lau, Nigelra, Leetha, Rev. Sam Hains, Chad Way-Hybarger, Michael Way-Hybarger, Thomas Kinyon, Cathy Chamberlain, Keith, J. Christ, and Michael Drax put in a brief appearance but was too drunk to be of much help. Also particularly appreciated were the efforts of Greg Kruprey, David Crowbar, Peter Lamborn Wilson, Matt Love, Mike Gunderloy, and Occult War Against the IRS.

If, through some miracle, you have a number on your mailing label, that is the last issue you have subscribed for.

ART CREDITS: James Koehline: cover, 50, 80; Kent: centerfold; Heep: 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39; Rude: 41; Dadata: 44; David Crowbar: 597; J. Christ: 77 (lettering); J. Smith: 80 (lettering); Seth Tobocman: 23; Tom Tomorrow: 25; S. Gustav Hagglund: 78... Everything else has a mysterious origin.



REALITY

"It's as large as life, and twice as natural!"
Lewis Carroll

If you haven't already heard about VR (Virtual Reality), you're a bit out of touch with the latest self proclaimed, avant-garde art movement. Take solace in your ignorance; it may be that you're still in touch with reality. What is VR, other than an oxymoron? In brief, it is the simulation of reality by means of "3-D" stereoscopic computer graphics.

You're probably wondering what is avant-garde about "3-D" imagery. Doesn't it sound similar to the mid-century stereoscopic movies that required special glasses to be viewed, and amounted to no more than a gimmick? The difference is the gadgetry.

It's still a gimmick, and the claim to be avant-garde art is pretentious, if not fraudulent. Whereas the arts put artifice in the service of representation or abstraction, VR's apparent goal is to erase the distinction between representation and reality with technology. Whereas the authentic European avant-garde art movements were in opposition to the status quo, the partisans of VR are in collaboration with NASA and Mattel.

It isn't my intention to bore you with technological banalities, but, for better or worse, VR is likely to become as commonplace as television and telephones. The best example to date is NASA's Virtual Interface Environment Workstation (VIEW), although several commercial versions are already being marketed. The hardware includes a stereoscopic display that changes perspectives as the result of head movement. Gloves that register tactile input control real-time computer graphic and video equipment. The technology also allows one to speak with, and hear the computer.

The operative prefix for the gadgets of VR is inter--interface, interactive, interchange.

The partisans of VR say they have perfected the

interface between humans and computers to the point where the word no longer applies. Magnetic sensors track head movement so that when one tilts one's head up, the virtual environment moves down; pan right and the scene shifts left. Goggle displays bring the screen close to the eyes and encompass peripheral vision. The gloves transmit data from finger movement, through optic fibers, to a computer giving one the apparent ability to fly in the direction one points, or to grasp virtual objects, etc.

The interactive aspect of VR is being touted by Timothy Leary as the technology that will liberate humans from television dictatorships. The "participant" can create environments and scenarios, albeit within the confines of the program and available data. So instead of TV network oligopolies, and it remains to be seen if they will be supplanted, we would be imprisoned by programmers who are run by computers.

The likely scenario is that if interactive programming is popular, the TV networks will create the most seductive spectacles for the masses. They will usurp any technological innovation originating in the margins, or the military, and use it in accordance with mainstream public opinion. TV networks are reportedly considering broadcasting digital, dual stereo images that have interactive capabilities.

The dictum, "the medium is the message" still holds. The prospect of a network interface that allows my telepuppet to interact with the puppets of others in environments of mutual creation leaves me cold. Supposedly, the force feedback hardware under development, such as a suit lined with effectors that transmit and receive tactile data, will make VR the hottest medium, i.e., when your puppet touches another puppet you would be able to feel it, and vice versa.

This development has opened the door for sex through computer characters. Not surprisingly, many people look with great excitement to the day when they can appropriate the body of a movie star in VR. I adore my lover not because she is glamorous, but because of her blemishes, because without them she wouldn't be who she is. Her feelings are focused on my scars.

The hottest medium is human flesh, and I'd wager actual sex is better than virtual sex. The latter may allow cold expression of desire, but it isn't as malleable or as vivid as an onanist fantasy. Because our bodies are outside it, VR doesn't permit the most genuine and profound form of commu-

nication: sexual intercourse. Despite the fitness craze and its more prevalent but equally corporeal antithesis, gluttony, we are alienated from our bodies. Technology is largely responsible for this sad relationship. VR's disembodied telepresence that disallows unconscious communication, can only make matters worse.

Writing in the October '90 issue of Exposure, and posing as the Grand Mandarin of Cyberia, Timothy Leary would restrict bodily experience to pleasure and thinking to VR. He ignores the Chinese sages who saw the spiritual value of chopping wood. His vision is of automated ploughs operating in Nebraska by remote control from Acapulco. I would be very surprised if Leary doesn't have a Mexican maid.

In VR we exchange places without occupying spaces. In other words, we enter an abstraction. Reality is left behind, along with our bodies; in addition to the costly equipment, they are the price we pay for this exercise in escape. Is stereoscopic apparatus necessary, or desirable, to perceive dimension in reality?

Reality, for most of us, is already always three dimensional. The stereoscopic images of VR give us the appearance of three dimensions on a screen, nothing more. We should have the perception to see VR for what it is, reification of images, a misplaced concreteness.

The VR process is one of interchange--the exchange of reality for abstraction, the commutation of one's unique and sovereign body into a telepuppet that can be shared by one and all, and the interchange of being able to do what one wants to do, with what the machine allows one to do. And on the simulated horizon looms the displacement of intercourse by interchange.

Being entirely outside the realm of authentic sexual intercourse, one must ask how effective a tool VR is for non-sexual intercourse. Without the body, the possibilities of unconscious communication are foregone, or at best relinquished to the proxy of telepuppets. It is true that VR gives the user a plethora of symbols to manipulate into various configurations, more than he or she would have in a face to face conversation.

However, the meaning of these symbols is often unclear, even to the user. Artists featured in the Art Futura '90 Virtual Reality exhibit in Barcelona, Spain, a watershed event for VR, were often hard pressed to communicate the meaning of their work. What you have is the possibility of expression, but does this expression emanate from the

user, or the computer?

In the first article of the AF (Art Futura) catalogue, award-winning Rebecca Allen tells us, "...computer generated characters realistically simulate 'human-like' logic and behavior." Does she mean that human behavior and logic are reconcilable?

When commenting on her piece "Steady State" on BUZZ MTV, Allen referred to her characters as objects. In the obscure reality of art, characters are imbued with the subjectivity of the creator, and thus become subjects in their own right. The viewer is the object, no?

Allen foresees a day in the near future, once our perceptions of reality have been properly expanded by VR, when our interaction with computer characters will be indistinguishable from reality. This, she says, will be putting her, "...technical capabilities to use to improve the human condition." Is this not a hiatus from reality and substitution of the human condition for an inhuman condition? Does she propose virtual food and shelter for the poor?

Lest you think I've singled out Allen for my derision, I'll pass to the second essay in the Art Futura catalogue by Luis Racionero. He evokes Judeo-Christian millenarianism and states that the AF exhibit displays this quest to escape reality. This charitable admission prepares the simulated ground for more exasperating nonsense.

According to Racionero, the traditional arts and our senses have reached their limits. What is needed is, "a different program for the brain," based on chemistry and computers. The apparent goal is to short circuit the brain so that it mistakes data from a program for "data" from reality, as part of a "religion of science" founded on quantum physics!

In his essay Timothy Leary states that "new vehicles and information devices" are linked with human evolution. To my less than transhuman mind, these means-oriented engineering advances with no clear objective race ahead of human evolution. I'm leary of efforts to improve man by technological means. To me, the former drug guru smells like a zoo keeper who wants to tame the animal in us by putting us behind the bars of a screen.

Is the "assumed, if not obvious goal," of making representation indistinguishable from reality, as Scott Fisher of NASA wrote in the AF catalogue, a worthwhile objective? Do not the traditional arts that make no pretense to being anything other than representation bring us closer to reality. Through distortions and exaggerations we enjoy a

certain distance that illuminates human experience. Paradoxically, distance brings us closer to the real.

To paraphrase a venerable ancient; what appears real to me is real for me, and what appears real to you is real for you. If you fail to make the distinction between representation and reality, between the virtual and the veritable, then VR will appear to you to be real. Indeed, the simulations provided by cyber lenses, data suits, and data gloves, are perceived by those with a taste for VR as being more real than reality.

We now see kids playing Nintendo with Mattel's simplified version of the data glove. The man who stands to make a fortune on this device, Jaron Lanier, said in an interview in the willfully trendy Mondo 2000, "If the technology makes people more powerful or more smart, then it's an evil technology." This statement begs to be converted into the affirmative; good technology makes the user weak and stupid.

Personally, I don't believe Lanier is being altogether honest with us. Indeed, later in the interview he jokingly admitted, "But my nose is three miles long." Would NASA be interested in VR if it didn't give them the power to manipulate an environment? Of course, Lanier could be correct in that the power to manipulate nonexistent environments is emasculated power.

None of this bodes well for the future. In Exposure, cyberpunk novelist William Gibson understated a very real danger, "Virtual Reality will just be another way to get even further into the consumer than we already have." The Power Glove toy certainly does its part to socialize rich children to consume the spectacles of technological society. It also gives them the illusion of power, and alienates them from their bodies at an early age by hypnotizing them before the screen for hours on end, rendering them more and more sedentary. Instead of wiffle ball, they should be playing hard ball.

Instead of the interactive multi-media education some children are already receiving, they should be encouraged to interact with low-tech multidimensional forms, such as the book. In my opinion, the hours humans spend in front of screens, saps their imaginations and promotes illiteracy. What would Duchamp think of a variation of his Mona Lisa transformation being used by Apple to advertise computer education?



stop dreaming...

NEVER!

CREATE PARADISE

Why use a word like paradise with so many different meanings applied to it? This is precisely why I like paradise cos it can be individualized and we can all dream about it. Though I often don't use words that can mean lotsa things; I choose this one because of the circumstances. I feel paradise is an eternal situation, something everyone can create not just experts (in this case called Utopians and Dreamers -- as if we all don't dream!). Paradise is something that always changes, not stagnant like civilization: with the illusion of change as if Science & Religion, Work & Slavery, Feudalism & Republics, Capitalism & Communism are opposits and not just different TV shows by the same producers. Paradise is not perfect rather it is various dreams coming together striving at perfections or just fun. I don't know maybe it is to much of a distorted word to be considered, maybe it is to pure in its connotations. Well I can pretend right here that it is not. I really like the look/sound of CREATE PARADISE. In that I see/hear something other than the "Web of Domination." Paradise is almost solely the one word that contrasts with civilization [besides two die out usually better than one]. Visions and dreams are things that can be shared not bought and sold like ideologies; power is not created when we develop on our desires. After all would: you rather be stuck in the back of the speed boat next to the icky motor or swim naked wild and free?

SMASH CIVILIZATION

Sounds impossible? Hmmm I don't think so. I'm not talking about going back to pre-history, though maybe I'd like to. I'm saying we can shed the shackles of authority: the state, war, religion, environmental destruction, work, patriarchy, factories, propoganda, history, money, police, advertising, the (market) economy, experts, institutions, etc. Then we can begin to play with our dreams and create futures and presents/presence! I'm hoping that we are at the end of civilization and as the walls crumble we can shed our iron shells. If not we are in danger of cooption and pacification or of being crushed and headed for more of the same authoritarian abuses and ideological organization(s).

engine's loud fumigation

CIVILIZATION
is not liberation



GIVE UP ART SAVE THE STARVING

IMAGINE a world in which art is forbidden! Art galleries would close. Books would vanish. Pop stars would shed their glamour overnight. Advertising would cease, television would die. We could refocus our vision not on a succession of false images but on the world as it is. A stillness would fill the air. Art has provided us with fantasy worlds, escapes from reality. For whatever else it is, art is not reality. Soap operas, novels, movies, concerts, the theatre, poetry. None of these are real as a starving child is real, as a town without water is real. Art is the glamorous escape, the transformation that shields us from the world we live in. Injustice, endemic disease, famine, war. These are real. Art has replaced religion as the opiate of the people just as the artist has replaced the priest as the spokesman of the spirit. Once men reached inside themselves to find God. Now they find art. We are regulated by our addictions and art has become an addiction. We struggle through life in a drugged dream, searching for escape, for brighter fantasies, longer voyages of the imagination, louder music. Another man's life is always more interesting than our own. It is only those who have given up art who can experience the true nature of creation. Now a self-perpetuating elite market art as a commodity for the wealthy who have everything while making the artists themselves rich beyond their wildest dreams. Art is money. It is ironic that the myth of the artist celebrates suffering while it is those who have never heard of art, the poor and wretched of our earth, who truly suffer. To call one man an artist is to deny another the equal right of vision. Paint all the paintings black and celebrate the dead art, there is no booze in hell. We turn away from mountains of food that rot in storage while across the globe men grow too weak to eat because it is time for our favourite TV programme. We live up to our knees in blood, wasting not only hours but days - whole lifetimes - in the blind belief that art is good, art is pure, art is its own justification - and a nightmare scourges our planet. Until we end famine there will be no peace. Artists are murderers! Artists are murderers just as surely as the soldier who sights down the barrel of a gun to shoot an unarmed civilian. Without art, life would be unendurable! We would have to transform this world. Overnight, one man's dream can become a nation's future - but we do not seize power because we are enchanted by art. Forbid art and revolution would follow: the withholding of creative action is the only weapon left to men. Seeing and creating are the same activity. Those who create art are also creating the starving. In a world in which art is forbidden the deserts would flower. Give up art. Save the starving.

Tony Lowes



**"ADVOCATING THE ABOLITION
OF THE STATE."**

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"SMASHING." - DHARMA COMBAT

IMMEDIATISM

i. All experience is mediated -- by the mechanisms of sense perception, mentation, language, etc. -- & certainly all art consists of some further mediation of experience.

ii. However, mediation takes place by degrees. Some experiences (smell, taste, sexual pleasure, etc.) are less mediated than others (reading a book, looking thru a telescope, listening to a record). Some media, & especially "live" arts such as dance, theater, musical or bardic performance, are less mediated than others such as TV, CDs, Virtual Reality. Even among the media usually called "media", some are more & others are less mediated, according to the intensity of imaginative participation they demand. Print & radio demand more of the imagination, film less, TV even less, VR the least of all -- so far.

iii. For art, the intervention of Capital always signals a further degree of mediation. To say that art is commodified is to say that a mediation, or standing-in-between, has occurred, & that this betweenness amounts to a split, & that this split amounts to "alienation". Improv music played by friends at home is less "alienated" than music played "live" at the Met, or music played through media (whether PBS or MTV or Walkman). In fact, an argument could be made that music distributed free or at cost on cassette via mail network is LESS alienated than live music played at some huge We Are The World spectacle or Las Vegas nightclub, even tho the latter is live music played to a live audience (or at least so it appears), while the former is recorded music consumed by distant & even anonymous listeners.

iv. The tendency of Hi Tech, & the tendency of Late Capitalism, both impell the arts farther & farther into extreme forms of mediation. Both widen the gulf between the production & consumption of art, with a corresponding increase in "alienation".

v. With the disappearance of a "mainstream" & therefore of an "avant garde" in the arts, it has been noticed that all the more advanced & intense art-experiences have become recuperable almost instantaneously by the media, & thus are rendered into trash like all other trash in the ghostly world of commodities. "Trash", as the term was re-defined in, let's say, Baltimore in the 1970s, can be good fun -- as an ironic take on a sort of inadvertent folkkultur that surrounds & pervades the more unconscious regions of "popular" sensibility -- which in turn is produced in part by the Spectacle. "Trash" was once a fresh concept, with radical potential. By now, however, amidst the ruins of Post-Modernism, it has finally begun to stink. Ironic frivolity finally becomes disgusting. Is it possible now to BE SERIOUS BUT NOT SOBER? (Note: the New Sobriety is of

course simply the flipside of the New Frivolity. Chic neopuritanism carries the taint of Reaction, in just the same way that postmodernist philosophical irony & despair lead to Reaction. The Purge Society is the same as the Binge Society. After the "12 steps" of trendy renunciation in the 90s, all that remains is the 13th step of the gallows. Irony may have become boring, but self-mutilation was never more than an abyss. Down with frivolity -- Down with sobriety.)

Everything delicate & beautiful, from Surrealism to Break-dancing, ends up as fodder for McDeath's ads; 15 minutes later all the magic has been sucked out, & the art itself dead as a dried locust. The media-wizards, who are nothing if not postmodernists, have even begun to feed on the vitality of "Trash", like vultures regurgitating & re-consuming the same carrion, in an obscene ecstasy of self-referentiality. Which way to the Egress?

vi. Real art is play, & play is one of the most immediate of all experiences. Those who have cultivated the pleasure of play cannot be expected to give it up simply to make a political point (as in an "Art Strike", or "the suppression without the realization" of art, etc.) Art will go on, in somewhat the same sense that breathing, eating, or fucking will go on.

vii. Nevertheless we are repelled by the extreme alienation of the arts, esp. in "the media", in commercial publishing & galleries, in the recording "industry", etc. And we sometimes worry even about the extent to which our very involvement in such arts as writing, painting or music implicates us in a nasty abstraction, a removal from immediate experience. We miss the directness of play (our original kick in doing art in the first place); we miss smell, taste, touch, the feel of bodies in motion.

viii. Computers, video, radio, printing presses, synthesizers, fax machines, tape recorders, photocopiers -- these things make good toys, but terrible addictions. Finally we realize we cannot "reach out & touch someone" who is not present in the flesh. These media may be useful to our art -- but they must not possess us, nor must they stand between, mediate or separate us from our animal/animate selves. We want to control our media, not be Controlled by them. And we would like to remember a certain psychic martial art which stresses the realization that the body itself is the least mediated of all media.

ix. Therefore, as artists & "cultural workers" who have no intention of giving up activity in our chosen media, we nevertheless demand of ourselves an extreme awareness of immediacy, as well as the mastery of some direct means of implementing this awareness as play, immediately (at once) & immediately (without mediation).

x. Fully realizing that any art "manifesto" written today can only stink of the same bitter irony it seeks to oppose, we nevertheless declare without hesitation (without too much thought) the founding of a "movement", IMMEDIATISM. We feel free to do so because we intend to practise Immediatism in secret, in order to avoid any contamination of mediation. Publicly we'll continue our work in publishing, radio, painting, music, etc., but privately we will create something else, something to be shared freely but never consumed passively, something which can be discussed openly but never understood by the agents of alienation, something with no commercial potential yet valuable beyond price, something occult yet woven completely into the fabric of our everyday lives.

xi. Immediatism is not a movement in the sense of an aesthetic program. It depends on situation, not style or content, message or School. It may take the form of any kind of creative play which can be performed by two or more people, by & for themselves, face-to-face & together. In this sense it is like a game, & therefore certain "rules" may apply.

xii. All spectators must also be performers. All expenses are to be shared, & all products which may result from the play are also to be shared by the participants only (who may keep them or bestow them as gifts, but should not sell them). The best games will make little or no use of obvious forms of mediation such as photography, recording, printing, etc., but will tend toward immediate techniques involving physical presence, direct communication, the senses.

xiii. An obvious matrix for Immediatism is the party. Thus a good meal could be an Immediatist art project, esp. if everyone present cooked as well as ate. Ancient Chinese & Japanese on misty autumn days would hold odor parties, where each guest would bring a home-made incense or perfume. At linked-verse parties a faulty couplet would entail the penalty of a glass of wine. Quilting bees, tableaux vivants, exquisite corpses, rituals of conviviality such as Fourier's "Museum Orgy" (erotic costumes, poses & skits), live music & dance -- the past can be ransacked for appropriate forms, & imagination will supply more.

xiv. The difference between a 19th century quilting bee, for example, & an Immediatist quilting bee, would lie in our awareness of the practise of Immediatism as a response to the sorrows of alienation & the "death of art".

xv. The mail art of the 70s & the zine scene of the 80s were attempts to go beyond the mediation of art-as-commodity, & may be considered ancestors of Immediatism. However, they preserved the mediated structures of postal

communication & xerography, & thus failed to overcome the isolation of the players, who remained quite literally out of touch. We wish to take the motives & discoveries of these earlier movements to their logical conclusion in an art which banishes all mediation & alienation, at least to the extent that the human condition allows.

xvi. Moreover, Immediatism is not condemned to powerlessness in the world, simply because it avoids the publicity of the marketplace. "Poetic Terrorism" and "Art Sabotage" are quite logical manifestations of Immediatism.

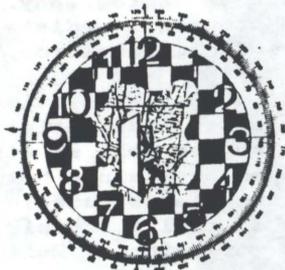
xvii. Finally, we expect that the practise of Immediatism will release within us vast storehouses of forgotten power, which will not only transform our lives through the secret realization of unmediated play, but will also inescapably well up & burst out & permeate the other art we create, the more public & mediated art.

And we hope that the two will grow closer & closer, & eventually perhaps become one.

Spring, 1991

Len Bracken's novel FREEPLAY fantasizes a worldwide subversive group/network called Players whose loose mission is to reconceive life and society as a freeform series of games and ever-shifting situations, rules, and relationships.

Seth Tisue SYZGY



Plenty for the metaphysical anarchist to chew on. Mark Hand INCITE INFORMATION

It's a work I'm sure I'll come back to many times. Mike Gunderloy FACTSHEET FIVE

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MISERABILISM AND ANTI-MISERABILISM

Some Characteristics of the Current Period and Some Possibilities for Surrealist Intervention

1. Extreme economic dislocations, provoked in large part by multinational corporations even more powerful than nation-states. Enormous expansion of advertising. Internationalization of standard commodities. Omnipresence of automobiles, junkfood, cigarettes, etc.

-- Use surrealist objects to challenge commodity-fetishism, to free people's thinking about objects and reality, and thereby to help overturn the dominant exploitative ideologies, and to reawaken the practice of poetry by all. Use collage and other methods of "forcing inspiration" -- from the exquisite corpse to the photomorph, from cubomania to gommage -- to subvert the enslaving "message" of advertising and to free images from repressive contexts.

2. Political stagnation, with increasingly authoritarian regimes, in the developed countries; bureaucratic paralysis of the organized labor movement. Growing revolt throughout the Third World. The inane bogey of "terrorism" used as a smokescreen to crush all resistance. Reappearance of fascist groups in many countries. Worldwide increase of prisons.

-- Take part as fully as possible in revolutionary and anti-fascist struggles. Affirm authentic communist alternatives. Support workers' "wildcat" actions and rank-and-file initiatives. Use humor to attack pathological politics and to unmask the true terrorists: the capitalist class and the state. Pursue objective chance for ways out of all the miserabilist dead-ends. Open the prisons! Disband the army!

3. Rapid industrialization of the Third World. Global extermination of native peoples. Destruction of natural environment. Rise of a new form of neocolonial government -- tortureocracy -- pioneered by the CIA.

-- Defend and celebrate the poetry, ideas and ways of life of "primitive" peoples and Third World cultures against the genocidal industrial onslaught. Elaborate the most radical notions of the relations of humankind and the natural environment. Develop the theory of "pure psychic automatism" and of resolution of contradictions. "There is no solution outside love" (Andre Breton).

4. Catastrophic increase in influence exerted by the profit-hungry culture industry on all forms of creativity. Significant innovation, except by marginal and emphatically oppositional individuals and groups, has been virtually stifled. Rise of "minimalism" and neo-fascist trends. Sterilization of most "popular" culture (comics, film, radio, etc.). Music alone is a dynamically expanding mode of expression, drawn largely from Third World and minority cultures, but more and more restricted by the commercial requirements of "entertainment" magnates.

-- Highlight innovations achieved by surrealism and its allies independently of the bourgeois cultural apparatus. Show the minions of cost-conscious "artistic" sterility in their true light, as venal apologists for misery. Defend

the surrealist revolution in music, and extend its glory to other realms of expression. Hasten surrealist intrusion into other arts. Expose, disrupt and sabotage Official Culture. Assert the prerogatives of poetry at all times and no matter what!

5. Rapid development of information technology: communications, computers, video. Television becomes an indispensable adjunct of state power.

-- Demystify the neo-technocrats' manipulative mythology. Approach sympathetic individuals involved in new technology with proposals for turning these hitherto oppressive devices to possible emancipatory (surrealist) advantage. Attack and undermine the deadly TV fantasy-life: passivity in the service of Capital. Dream and defend dreams!

6. Universal militarization, nuclear proliferation and the crypto-military "Space Race" used by superstates to appear all-powerful, and to foster cold war paranoia so as to legitimate and multiply their domination. Reappearance of "patriotic" delusions.

-- Combat the preposterous myth of a "Free World" worth defending by means of nuclear terror and global devastation. Develop new strategies and tactics, inspired by surrealist research, for anti-draft and anti-war agitation and activity. Counter the myth of the inevitability of war and the alleged necessity for a killer elite.

7. Established religions make a ridiculous comeback using the latest technology. Reappearance of religious politics; TV evangelism, "liberation" theology and quasi-religious neo-fascist cults.

-- Emphasize poetry's incompatibility with religion. Attack religious imposture relentlessly, exposing its role in sexual and political repression. Ridicule scientists and scholars who offer hypocritical lip-service to religion in exchange for peace of mind and a piece of the action.

8. Increasingly large numbers of women leave the home to become super-exploited wage-slaves. Women's movement enters a conservative phase.

-- Provide information and analysis regarding new possibilities of organizing women's resistance and revolt in the workplace and the home. Promote direct action. Defend women's emancipation against the ruling class "feminist" elite. Renew the promise of social transformation implicit in erotic revolt. Mobilize humor against the patriarchy! No return to sexual ghettos or erotic blinders!

9. Regressive developments in the area of sexual understanding. Increasing political exploitation of sexual problems and fears. Leading feminists join the government's and rightist's "war on pornography".

-- Expose politicians' authoritarian manipulation of sexual repression, and the death orientation of anti-sexual politics. Defend absolute sexual freedom. Explore sexual implications of dreams and unconscious life. Eroticize revolutionary activity.

10. Schools and universities are completely integrated into the repressive apparatus, totally dominated by government and Capital. Knowledge for the sake of truth and the improvement of humankind's prospects is ignored and even hindered to protect the managers of industry, political power and the religious establishment. Growing illiteracy

in developed countries, especially the U.S.

-- Initiate a mass campaign to inform children and youth (as well as their parents) that students are being "educated" for profitability, subservience and death, not for freedom and the advancement of human life through knowledge. Expose the dominant role in education of those who have vested interests in promoting ignorance. Create alternative educational opportunities -- meetings, forums, picnics, etc. Develop the pedagogy of revolt.

11. Speed-up of daily life. Intensification of work: longer hours, less pay. "Free" time completely dominated by trivia and coercive consumerism.

-- Encourage workers' point-of-production revolt. Promote awareness of the potentiality of the practice of poetry versus alienated labor/leisure. Play surrealist games to annihilate the work-ethic and to advance the collective pursuit of pleasure and discovery. Develop the theory of play and of the role of play in socialist reconstruction. Call for the boycott of all high-pressure commercial "leisure" activities. Revive and experiment with pre-industrial uses of free time.

12. Increasing interconnectedness and monolithism of heretofore distinct elements of the repressive structure. In contrast, separation of -- and competition between -- groups seeking radical social change.

-- Expand consciousness of existing rebellious currents. Explain the total failure of parliamentary and other reformist (essentially miserabilist) partial solutions. Form combat alliances with any and all groups whose aspirations and activity are fundamentally opposed to the social order based on privilege and power. Strive to unify all anti-miserabilist forces. Start anywhere and proceed in the direction of surrealist revolution.

Penelope ROSEMONT, Joseph JABLONSKI 1986

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THE SUPERCESSION OF THE ART STRIKE

If "one cannot create a revolutionary situation, complete with the required general "desperation", as Perneczky says in YAWN #16, then who can? Certainly not the Art Strikers; their context for "desperation" lay within the parameters of an already elitist structure, namely that of the art gallery. Who really cares about Art, much less mail art? Most people spend their entire lives as Art Strike participants; it's just that they don't notice it--- they're too busy working, or trying to forget work.

Perneczky compares the Art strikers to the Jews that conquered Jericho. A more realistic comparison would be with the flagellants, dragging their lacerated bodies through town, while constantly whipping themselves with their theoretical fetishes. The few among the populace who might even notice this motley group would only laugh at them, maybe even pausing to throw a few rocks down upon their heads.

If one performs the simple act of disengaging from the incredibly significant implications being generated internally by the Art Strike, and takes the whole controversy, critiques and all (including this one), and places it within the context of the world, i.e., life today in all of its totality, it soon becomes obvious that the Art Strike is little more than yet another device for mystified diversion, in this case, targeted for the consumer group of disaffected intellectuals, whose palate is oh-so discriminating. It is another game being played by another schizophrenic sub-culture.

But really, at the heart of my complaint is that this game just isn't enough fun. There are intelligent things being said by intelligent people (I'm feeling generous), but the object of this discourse is so limited and idiotic that any possibility of sensual pleasure is unlikely, bound and repressed as it is in its elitist parameters.

But the fact that disaffected intellectuals are so willing to play any kind of game at all offers a little encouragement. This then is the practical achievement of the Art Strike; in its own pathetic little way, it has opened the door for adventure, albeit just a crack.

In the light of this crack, I would like to propose we throw this door wide open, throw it off its jams even. Revolutionary situations saturate the planet currently. Only a fob with his head in the 19th century is unable to see this. Indeed, "desperation" is everywhere, but so generalized and commodified is it, and so hopeless does it all seem, that many healthy imaginations become oblivious to it. We have learned to put up with it far too well.

It's now time for all you Art Strikers to expand your horizons. Creativity is not being controlled by serious culture. Creativity is being controlled by a global economic system based on property. "Serious culture" is but a smokescreen for this system's force-relations, just as underground culture is its loyal opposition.

So if we're going to play a new game, a much more interesting and much, much more sensual kind of game, without the kinds of limitations the Art Strike game inflicts, it becomes clear that a big feature of the game, at least at the beginning, is the project of abolishing property. This is where the PERMANENT UNIVERSAL RENT STRIKE comes in. Once that's in effect, we can begin creation of the PRICELESS ECONOMIC SYSTEM, in which the abolition of profit is effected. At that point we can enter into the NEW AMOROUS WORLD we have hitherto only secretly dreamed about during orgasm.

Now is the time to begin discussion and theorizing about this new activity, this game of pleasure. I propose as grounds for speculation that sensual pleasures and their enjoyment are the only basis around which to recreate life, and that the most obvious and universal pleasures are sex and food, in all their infinite varieties.

The PERMANENT UNIVERSAL RENT STRIKE (PURS) is the only real practical way to abolish property at this point in society. It cannot be abolished by some kind of "revolution", whether it's called communist or something else. It's quite simple. We all stop paying rent, mortgages, tithes and taxes... This in itself will have a dramatic effect on the structure of society, and will naturally lead into...

The PRICELESS ECONOMIC SYSTEM (PES), in which we all stop working for wages, and give our services and products away for free. In return, we'll get everything for free. The profit motive will cease to exist as a result, and being as 90-95% of the work done in the world today is done to create profits, most work will also disappear.

Once we have argued, discussed and theorized about these two projects to a sufficient extent, the obvious thing to do is to set a date and then begin them both. It seems fitting that the PURS begin on Columbus day, 1992, for many reasons. And what better way to wind up the Art Strike than beginning the PES on Jan. 1, 1993

And from the actualization of these two projects we can begin the creation of the New Amorous World, in which the accumulation of profit will be entirely overshadowed by the accumulation of sensual experience, which is after all much more enticing.

If this new game seems to be lacking in political and historical sense, that is because both politics and history have none. It is high time we do away with them altogether. What is the alternative after all? A world poised on the brink of annihilation? An inevitable and eternal civilization? There have been at least three other social arrangements prior to this current arrangement known as civilization. Why is it so difficult to conceive that there will be other kinds of arrangements after civilization? Certainly they don't necessarily have to be separated by a nuclear holocaust. The possibilities for more imaginative punctuation marks do exist.

But having a revolution is not one of them.

Because the revolutionaries only seek to control society. The point, however, is to do away with it altogether.

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That's the key to change, the key to knowledge and the key to development on all levels really. It's a mistake to believe in *any* dogmatic politics. Politics is just a facade. It happens to suit the vested interests of a lot of different groups in society to encourage a belief that politics runs countries and decides their destinies when, in fact, it doesn't at all. Certainly not in the way people are led to believe. Politics is just a convenient charade to allow people to feel secure. It makes them believe society is in their own control. They vote for their leaders, therefore they *must* choose them. Politics is just a convenient charade to make people feel secure. To feel that it's all run consciously, democratically, that they understand what is happening. That there are different politicians, who have different dogmas and they argue over these in public and then the public choose who seems most sensible and capable to take office at any given time. Don't believe that at all.

We believe that there has been an endless process since very early tribal times, through settlements and towns and industrialisation to contemporary times. This we call the *control process* and it exists independently of any individuals. This *control process* can be operated by almost any vested interest group at any given time in history. This process does not take sides, has no morality, no obligations, no character, no sense of urgency. The *control process* is always present. '*Control needs time like a junky needs junk.*' (William S. Burroughs) We disagree on that control transcends time and space.

Control eats people, eats history, eats ideals, eats hope. It goes on right throughout time whatever disguise it might have. We are very antagonistic to the whole concept/situation of ultimately being controlled by a process which nobody wants (given a degree of individual sanity). We don't like that idea at all. If we have any enemy at all then the *Control Process* is that enemy. It is vital to short-circuit that *control process*. It is a very invisible, subtle process. In a sense it has become a part of each human being's metabolism. The only real way this *control process* can be broken is simply through people beginning to mature.

As the level of maturity of individuals increases so does their ability to think for themselves, to accept responsibilities, to make decisions. In a sense to develop an atmosphere of reasonableness and logic. Most people don't want to develop this for quite fair reasons, they don't want to get involved. It's a hell of a big battle and you can't even be sure who is in charge. For all they know they might be doing exactly what they are already programmed to do, because any *control process* needs antagonism, it needs people fighting against it. Its biggest strength is it controls information. Basically the power in this world rests with the people who have access to the most information and also control that information. Most of the paranoia concerned with politics is about what is *really* going on, what is secret, what we are not being told about. Diplomacy is about that *really*.

So, the enemy is the *control process* and the power of the *control process* isn't actually armies and police, it isn't power through force. That is a second-

TOTAL WAR

ary tactic, not the crucial thing. The real power is whose got the information. The weakness of whoever controls that information bank at any given time is that to store and use that information, systems have to be developed for storing it and reproducing it. These systems are very expensive and cumbersome, requiring capital equipment which can't be utilized the whole time. So to cover costs and keep equipment running these systems have to be made available to the rest of us to keep them financially viable. That's why you can get access to cable TV, to computer time, to xerox, instant printing and cassette recorders, even the mail, polaroids too, and video. These are all spin-offs from business, conglomerates and people at the top who deal directly in control. They develop these systems for their own reasons, but they are so expensive they have to mass produce them to finance them. So we all get easier and easier ways to multiply our ideas and information, it's a parallel progression.

Also, another of their weaknesses, those who control control, is that they have a very one directional view whereas we, the outsiders, the *genetic terroristes*, or control agents as we in T.G. call them (Meaning *not* that we're into control but dealing with it), we have the mutant ability to make conceptual leaps. Which is really what is said about creative people, or artists, or talented criminals, that they can perceive things in a wide spectrum, from outside they can analyse structures, play games with that knowledge and manipulate it, throw it back. So we get tools to increase the efficiency of our mischief as a spin-off from the controllers. In return they get something from us. We are always de-

veloping ideas which are non-linear and therefore outside their scope but which they can adopt and adapt. In a crisis it is often an outsider who sees a solution, invents a new gadget, effects a compromise. So it's a two way thing. Each side giving things to the other as a direct result of their intrinsic conflict. Ultimate irony and also organically cyclical and sensible. Parasite feeding off host, host kept alive by immunity afforded it by parasite. The *control process* develops machinery, equipment and techniques which we can play with for our own ends. But by us playing with them, inevitably, there is a spin-off philosophical and creative progression, an analysis of experience which can then be taken back by the *control process* for its own ends. We need this system as a target, a stimulus outside ourselves to fight against, and the system needs a rebellious questioning minority to develop new possibilities from a flexibility of view it can never possess by its very rigid nature.

It seems likely however, that very, very slowly this minority is growing. More people are breaking taboos, they have realised through people telling them, in leaflets, on TV, etc, in other words through information being made available, that they have certain rights, that they can question things, they can organise, they can set up their own structures. That is not to say necessarily that all those things are per se right but it does seem symptomatic of a larger breakdown of this *control process* than many people might suspect. And it probably explains the swing towards repressive ideas in politics to cover a growing fear of usurpation by those presently in charge of the process and its information bank.



FIGHTING WORDS

Dharma Combat,
I must tell you that DC #10 was fantastic! I am really impressed by the new format, and rarely have I seen so much good content in one magazine. The premier piece for me was "The Secret Government" by John Judge. He has an amazing perspective on the world political situation, and seems to possess the ability to locate where the possibilities for change lie. I hope to see more of his stuff in the future. I find his analysis very believable -- it makes sense in light of the current world political events. Jeff Lewis' writings were good as always. His analysis of horror movies is fascinating, especially since I was once a horror/gore movie buff. Scary stuff. I liked Hakim Bey's "Evil Eye" -- his connection of the Eye to so-called modern phenomena (i.e. a vast range of dynamics between self and world that is almost entirely unknown to us) is great. I would add some comments, however. Another reason why the Eye has been associated with wimmin is political in nature. Wimmin have been banned from the realm of physical process by patriarchal culture, and thus may have used such means as a form of defense (or offense) available to them. There are also political ramifications to the image of the old hag or



"hairy-faced old woman". In a kulture that values wimmin primarily for their sexual attractiveness to men (who, consequently, define the standards of "beauty") and their ability to bear (male) children, the old womyn has no usefulness. She is cast aside and made suspect when her sexuality no longer upholds its social purpose. And indeed, many wimmin, following this kultural impetus, may have fallen into this role. I am also quite leery of the yin/yang concept when applied to gender. That men are "naturally" aggressive and wimmin are "naturally" passive seems bullshit to me. How do we know what is "natural" anymore? A life of television, watching the ultimate Evil Eye, is enough to program a person to the point of sheer inner confusion. Therefore, I think kultural biases, such as gender roles, must be wrestled with for years to be overcome.

Wayne Henderson's article on the Sefiroth was great! I like reading something that asks a lot of questions and opens possibilities rather than saying "here are the answers". That the individual must find her own path seems essential to me. A variety of serious enquiries along the way (such as Henderson's) could perhaps provide clues for some of us. I should also put in a good word for the "Buddhist Saint" story. And lastly, your reviews are great -- I really like the style in which you write them. Oh yeah, please clue me in to the format of "Hatter" -- I had a difficult time following it.

DEE RAIL

4823 Baltimore Ave.

Philadelphia, PA 19143

((Hatter's contribution was in an apa (amateur press alliance) "mailing comments" style: comments addressed to individual contributors to the previous issue. DC started out as an apa and got too huge to be functional along that line, so we went straight... into this hell of normalcy -- Keith))

Dharma Combat:

Bob Black and the great Bobbie hordes cannot peacefully co-exist any longer and blinding him with a bright flash of truthful revelation did not seem to work. Therefore, as a public service on my part, with no remuneration expected, I volunteer for a grudge match showdown. Yes, I will stand up for BoB as the smiter of Bob Black. My challenge is as follows:

1: The match will be sanctioned by the World Wrestling Federation.

2: It will be televised nationally as a part of NBC's Saturday Night Main Event. Failing that perhaps it could be part of USA network's weekly wrestling coverage, but at the very least it should be carried live on some local access cable channel.

3. The match will be under Arkansas Anal Rape Armageddon Steel Cage rules. That is: the combatants (myself and Bob) will be locked in a steel cage and will not be let out until one person admits defeat. The winner will

then sodomize the loser without the benefit of artificial lubricant. As Clint Eastwood said: "Go ahead, make me gay."

4: The loser will also agree not to write any more stupid opinions about anything that may offend the winner (in at least one case this will not be any great loss to the reading public).

How about it, Bob?

Scott C. Harbaugh
POB 779-153
Barefoot Bay, FL 32976

Dear Keith,

Sorry I didn't write sooner. My neck went out severely, leaving me bedridden for a week; 'twixt that and other things piling up, wasn't able to get a note to DC in March. No likelihood of a more formal presentation this

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time, but in case DC is late I'll natter on a bit.

Much on my mind of late is the increasing lurch to the right our country is taking. I found the throngs of Nazi flagwavers, uh, patriots who unquestioningly supported our invasion of Kuwait disturbing. There's considerable evidence that Bush set Iraq up to invade Kuwait in the first place -- witness the calendar of events copied from the PWW -- and we certainly weren't defending democracy over there. Couple that with wage and benefit takebacks and union-busting, shake well, and add the recent Supreme Court decision that it's cool for police to use torture, I mean force to extract (conjures up images) confessions from any hardened criminals who fall into their grasp. Of course, they'll only do this to hardened criminals, in which case it's warranted, you unnnastan... We have to destroy democracy in order to preserve it.

With stuff like this going on, I'm dismayed by the infighting and threats between people in these pages. I thought the System was the real enemy.

'Asta lumbago,

Hatter

Keith,

Thanks so much for sending the very excellent DC 10. It's an astonishing piece of work. I'm still reeling from it. All this free, strange thought climbing out of my mailbox at me, well it's just beautifully horrifying, exquisite agony, aching bliss. Wayne Henderson's new take on the sefiroth is certainly a compelling proposal, and I think a valid one, but I suspect the connexions are more likely biological rather than an exchange of information (though the latter is possible, the former seems more likely because whenever the early Jews borrowed a concept they didn't go to that much trouble to cloak it -- the things they picked up from the Egyptians and the Babylonians for example). There is certainly biology at work in the chakra system, and in a way I think we draw our mythologies from the inner workings of our bodies -- and with the human body being more or less the same worldwide, similarities arise in concepts. I'm not denying transcendence, but I think the material form plays a greater part than we imagine, and conversely, the material form is not what it appears to be. Truth seems to rise from the crucible of paradox. But then, there are no real authorities on this, except maybe in those "secret societies" that pop up in all places and times, whatever they may be. Note: any time I've got close enough to one of the modern, popular secret societies, they've been swimming so deep in their own bullshit they seemed useless to themselves or anyone else. I know, I know -- that's the idea, you never know about the real ones -- well okay, show me. As I think about it I do know of one secret society that's for real and holds all the secrets, but the secret is not a secret, dig? (Am I giving too much away? I hear sinister laughter in the backroom.)

The articles I think I enjoyed the most were the UFO texts because the idea of our "alien" invaders being atmosphere indigenous gargantuan plasma whales is so entertaining. If we only had some way of detecting them (shouldn't we be able

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to with infrared photography heat sensing equipment?) perhaps we could become friendly with them. And if they exist as such perhaps there's an entire ecosystem on that level as yet undiscovered. The possibilities are endless, it's a great theory to toy with and it's a nice bit of editorial work too, placing these articles at this point in the mag, it sets the tone for everything that follows. Rip away the inhibitive doors, blind in the light, where is reality -- well, the big questions begin to drop like the feces of flying mammoths, and the joke, obviously, is the worm turning to laugh at us, he has fangs and a crown of skulls and he keeps shifting the constellations around, but he turns out to be a good guy in the end because he grows from our collective navel and feeds on our brains and it's the only thing that gives us true pleasure. And that's where DC is -- on that level, the inverse of consumption, or maybe consumption sideways -- it's in there but it's (it: consumption, consumerism) only a relic of spacetime, another load of garbage into the Noosphere, maybe DC is recruiting a cleanup crew. It's what Crowbar called co-conspirators in the annals of PopRealism and what some cultures have called saints, re: The Story of a Buddhist Saint, and Han-Shan, etc. -- though the word saints has that horrible sacrosanct implication that fucks all religion.

jerod o'danu makes good on pointing out the hypocrisies of our idea of rights and justice. I don't know about the exchange of "rights" and "privilege" though. Maybe I'm just not as realistic as he is. I like his conclusion, "You don't have ANY God Given Rights, but you do have political clout. Use it, or bitch about somebody else using theirs." Freedom is an exercise, an action -- it has nothing to do with laws or lack of them. People are conned into believing they have to obey the rules until enough of them do and the rules replace reality. In all probability, living out your fantasies are probably more realistic than what passes for reality. Which leads to spiritual anarchy, the chaos of the following article -- our only hope is a working insanity. Rimbaud would be proud.

Randy Heresy, yeah, it's all coming together over our heads, behind our backs, only I think most people know it and are so frightened they choose to ignore it. The only solution is probably to dwell on a plane they can't, or don't want to exploit. They being politicians and the media. But it can't be a static plane, it must be constantly shifting so that by the time they catch on to the present game we're a couple light years or so into the future (or nontime). It's a decent adventure, even if I'm dreaming the whole thing up out of paranoia. But I'm not. (I hope they don't know it though).

At first I thought Jeffery Lewis' Ghostbusters II article would be total bullshit, by this point you'd think I would've known better. At points I was astonished that such a contrivance of evil actually happened. Maybe I'm missing something (like my frontal lobe). Is this real? Can he send me some newspaper clippings or something? Jeeze, I thought this place had it bad. I loved the dream, it really makes everything clear in this context. The dream and the child killing his folk is a damn sight better than the movie.

Hakim Bey is illuminating as always. I suspect that the

best antidote for the mal occhio is something along the lines of Ho-Tei's general behavior. Through chaos I think we can live outside the circle of envy. Of course, being in this culture we're bound to fall into a trap from time to time. but Hakim provides us with the wings to fly above it - just living, fucking, being present and unclouded by some moral vagary abstracted from at least 3,000 years of bullshit.

I really enjoyed Greg Krupcy's ranting, learning from it and generally enjoying the dialogue. I do think however that time is cyclical, with the drama of world events leading up to climaxes, etc., that could be called the end of the world, and that the Revelation is one perspective on this cycle despite the fact that christian theology projects a beginning and an end of time. The Revelation so-called would work in any system by just changing a few of the characters. There's also an excellent book on Revelation as a personal psychological cycle called AFTER THE END OF TIME, Revelation and the Growth of Consciousness by Robin Robertson published by Inner Vision earlier this year -- has a killer last chapter, too, about the universe, morphogenetic fields, holograms.

John Judge's The Secret Government fills in a lot of spaces for me, but I'd like to know a little more about his sources. Not so much that I doubt him but when I start passing this information on I'd like to be able to refer people to the various sources so that they could check them out for themselves. I find the bit about TVA personally compelling because it plays such an obviously dominant role in this area. I have suspected a larger spectrum of control here because certain actions by the police and municipal authorities just don't add up (of course that's true everywhere -- such is malevolent power). There's no reason for this area to be so small and limited other than someone in power wants it that way. I'd like to know the specifics of all this, if for no other reason than my own peace of mind, knowing my suspicions were right all along. Well, that's as far as I've read thus far and I've left alot out -- all of it excellent thought stuff. I also like the bigger size, gives DC a presence all its own, beautiful cover, too. Thanks again for dropping is in my box, this keeps me going to lunatic another day.

bliss among feces,

Jake Berry
POB 3112
Florence, AL 35630

Keith --

DC #10 was fabulous. I really enjoyed the openness of debate -- very refreshing.

Len Bracken
5714 N. 11th Street, 1A
Arlington, VA 22205

Hey bro,

Personal reality is one of choice. It is just a matter of genetics, "into whose family we are born", then finally a very personal one. When we die our personal reality ends.

If we allow it, money/or lack of it can influence our reality as we see it. Here we enter into mundane reality. Also described as the headgame called "The have/have not society".

Material possessions have a very direct influence on us because of our capitalistic culture. When our reality/self image is such as when material and mundane pleasures are how we measure our personal reality, then we surrender our personal reality to society. And then we are dependant on the very material goods we seek for attachment & security in our capitalistic culture, and then our reality becomes a means to an end.

The need for security & attachment to material wealth is caused by peer acceptance in our have/have not society. To conform or not to conform is the main game of the same society that measures itself by the same goal created by material desires (path of) which is a capitalist by-product. This is the making of the breed, "Conformist sheep", with which we must be aware of, they are dangerous to themselves & free thinkers as well.

There are few requirements for becoming one of the aforementioned breed.

1. The first is an ability to read labels. It is a must to be able to in order to buy clothes.
2. In order to buy clothes one must obtain money. It doesn't matter how.
3. Now one must obtain material wealth; of only the latest fad, of course.
4. Now the conformist sheep is all set to play the game. It is called, "How to conform by way of peer acceptance." To do this, an enjoyment of ass kissing is required. Society is based on this acquired habit.
5. Let's keep this basic -- all that is now required is the inability to think, most conformist sheep have learned this early in life from role models.
6. Little else.

Today's type of society is a very scary one. I have watched it changed since the early sixties. Children are no longer allowed to grow up. I live in Maine where it is not so bad. But some children are not that lucky. Many are not able to gain experience with a softer and gentler type of childhood. I hope both your children & mine are spared what I see that could happen as a result of the Iraq crisis.

I myself grew up quick enough so that I want a better one for my kids.

Also, dig this as a concept. The future is not a result of the repetitious past, but of the actions & words in the everpresent now. The only proof of the past is in our memories, therefore it is all in our minds. The moment of awareness is in the everpresent now, not the past or future. Thus reality, in the personal sense, is subject to the state of mind created by the concept of time. It can bind and stricture us and cause imbalance by its effect on our state of mind (boredom is an excellent example. It can

also become our keeper and our measure -- the time clock -- & the mere knowledge of its existence.

Asta La Hueva, Mate!!

Larry Loifon
POB 241
Norridgevock
Maine, 04957

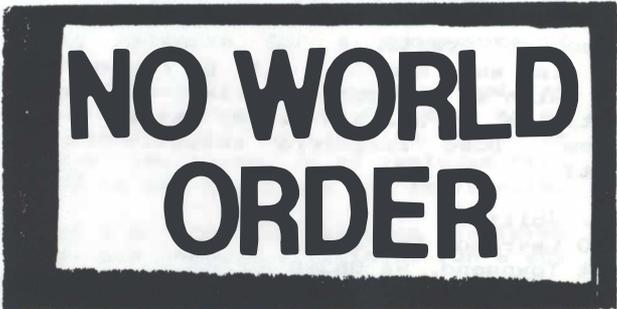
Hi Keith & Jim. (I liked seeing the letters to Jim & Keith in DC... uh... there is only one of you, isn't there?).
(No -- Keith)

Anyway, very excited to see the latest DC. Especially thought 'Autonomystics' was very important. I liked John Judge's piece a whole lot too, but I think he gets just a bit carried away in some areas where he has to guess too much at conspiratorial connections. Mainly, I think he supposes that there was more Cointelpro-type activity against 60's activism, (not to say there wasn't a lot more than people think), when in fact much of the failure of radicals was their own fucked-up-ness. The SLA was not a gov't front group. The spread of pot & acid in the counter-culture, if it was a gov't plot, got completely out of hand and did not serve the gov't's purposes. 'Tho Jonestown prob'ly got various sorta attention/support from gov't or CIA sources, I don't think it was a CIA experiment, per se. At any rate, in spite of some disagreements, I think Judge's research is invaluable in putting together the pieces of our current reality.

'Whither Goest DC?' Your most important input'll come from varied & surprising & unblable sources. No narrow marginals special interest will offer much, individually. I would think various surprise folk're keeping an eye on DC & offering materials of some sort. All you have to do is pick it out. I often think, when going thru DC, "Who sent this person to DC? And from where?" I do think some folk're connecting with DC 'cause they're s'posed to -- not because it's groovy short-term entertainment. At any rate, for now at least, keep DC going.

Best,

David Crowbar
Popular Reality
POB 571
Greenwood Lake
New York 10925



**NO WORLD
ORDER**

Beloved Dharma Combatants!

Thank you very much for your attention and sending me one of the copies (n 9) of your magazine. I've just only started to be interested in spirituality and metaphysics, so I'm not ready to give you my opinion to your materials. I'd love to inform you that every page gave me new interesting information and the whole issue is very interesting and unusual. Because as far as I know we haven't in this country a magazine of such sort. So thank you very much! I wish you all the best and great success,

Sincerely,

Irina Migunova
Prospect Pobledy
51-41
Sevastopol
335046 USSR

Dear Keith,

I would like to comment on the letter from Thomas Izaguirre which was published in Dharma Combat No. 10.

After alluding to the fact that Loompanics published an interview with Bradley R. Smith in its 1990 Main Catalog, as well as carrying Smith's book Confessions of a Holocaust Revisionist, Part I, in its catalog, Izaguirre wrote, "Not that they approve of his views. But in the interests of the First Amendment, vampires like him have to be exposed to the sun of free access to wither. Someone has to take on Smith's cocksure hubris, no different from that of the most ardent creationist or Christian Fundamentalist."

I would like to very tactfully and diplomatically point out that Izaguirre is full of shit. Or, in other words, the cocksure cocksucker doesn't know what the fuck he's talking about.

Loompanics did not publish an interview with Bradley Smith in order to "expose" him. Contrary to Izaguirre's uninformed assertion, Loompanics do approve of Smith's views, at least generally, if not in every specific detail. Since I work for Loompanics (as an editor and proofreader), I know the proprietor of Loompanics, Mike Hoy, personally, and I know that he is, at the very least, quite skeptical about "the Holocaust", as I am.

If Izaguirre is full of shit about this particular point, what else is he full of shit about? Perhaps "the Holocaust" itself.

In any case, I will be curious to see Izaguirre "take on Smith's cocksure hubris" by engaging in some rational criticism of Smith's views, rather than merely calling Smith names. Does Izaguirre actually have what it takes to do that?

L. A. Rollins
1930 Lawrence St. #21
Port Townsend, WA 98368



The Customer Is Always Right!

I work for what something like Business Week would probably call a "major national retail chain." I won't identify it, just let me say that were it some more "legitimate" form of business --like a warehouse--it would run red light specials instead of blue ones...

In this sort of work, the actual market-place so beloved of laissez-faire theorists and others who don't have to work there, you can clearly see the vicious circle that is the work-consume treadmill spinning right before your very eyes...and right over you! Here you will receive a better education in the theory and practice of capitalism than any college course in economics could ever offer. And you receive it in gut-level lessons that even a Marxist couldn't fail to comprehend.

This is the Marketplace: an arena of clashing illusions, of media created anxieties and desires; where people go to exchange hard-won pieces of green paper for cheaply-produced, extravagantly marked-up things that they imagine will somehow make their lives better, or at least more bearable. Here they believe that desires can be fleshed out, but when they get back home they realize that they've just been suckered again, and are probably deeper in debt. Working here, any glamour that

might have surrounded consumer goods soon fades. Familiarity does breed contempt. You come to despise the apparently bewitched and befuddled fools who attach so much importance to these meaningless baubles. That you yourself are no less guilty only drives the point home more brutally. Here the schizo nature of the average person--both a worker and a consumer--doubly exploited and yet also an exploiter--of self and others--becomes painfully obvious.



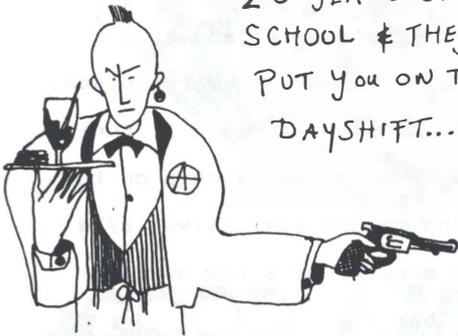
And when is the exploited also the exploiter? When playing that ultimate consumer role, the Customer. Every worker in the "public service sector" knows that s/he has not just one Boss, but two: the employer and the customer. And, as the old cliché says, the Customer is always right! Despite the prevalence of self-serve everything today, that is still the cardinal rule of public service businesses. And to break it is still the cardinal sin.

A "rude" or gruff employee is a heretic in the eyes of the American business creed. And the definition of "rude" can cover everything to neglecting to smile as if the Customer were a long lost friend to the blunt-speaking employee who is lacking in the proper manners of obsequiousness. Such workers are fellow travellers to the actually rude. They bear watching, from the time of the first few complaints from offended customers who resent being treated in the same manner in which they treat the employees that they deal with.

I spoke of there being two bosses, the Employer and the

Customer. But if there is often only one Employer, there is not just one or one type of Customer. There are many of them. On the average, a worker in a store, restaraunt, gas station, or [in-] convenience store encounters hundreds of people of varying temperaments, sensitivity, and reasonableness during an average week [and aren't they all dreadfully average!], multiply that by several years [for those of us true unfortunates], and pepper it with a least a dozen outrageous incidents of some crazed Customer causing a major scene over nothing, and can you who have never worked one day with the public fail to understand why

20 YEARS OF
SCHOOL & THEY
PUT YOU ON THE
DAYSHIFT...



the average clerk or cashier regards you with weary, if not wary, eyes? As something alien and a potential problem?

For sooner or later, every worker in the "public service field" becomes paranoid. Sooner or later s/he finds it harder

to conceal his/her irritation with and distaste for the marauding army of consumers. Sooner or later, s/he comes to regard the Customer not as a fellow, not as another of the exploited, but as another exploiter, another petty tyrant--General Public--every bit as much the Enemy as the Boss-man himself, if not a co-conspirator with the Boss-man.

Some workers come to this conclusion consciously and pursue its implications to its logical political conclusion. Others never do get to that point, being too saturated with consumer values themselves. But even these workers know it, if only on a



gut level. Anyway, the rude employee, the curt clerk, the smart-ass waitress, the taciturn teller, the gruff gas-pump jockey, the surly stockboy and others are all acting in common: refusing to be relegated to an inferior,

vassal-like status and reasserting their equality in an artificially unequal situation. To be "rude" to the Customer is a means of refusal: the refusal of a servile role. This is it: the open secret as to why you just can't get good help anymore.

For something odd overcomes the average person [and aren't they all so dreadfully average!] when s/he enters the Marketplace. After butt-kissing and getting butt-kicked all week long at their own job, s/he enters the Marketplace with an enormous chip on the shoulder and an overinflated ego. Defensive and aggressive, s/he is the Customer, and if only for a few minutes or a few hours, the peasant can be a prince and make other peasants grovel and cater to his/her every whim. It is to know, briefly, the Power and respect denied her/him by every other facet of the Marketplace culture.

Most Customers come to the Marketplace seeking and expecting to find subservient submissives, and they are outraged when they are denied it by some insubordinate employee. If there is one place where they can regain their lost sense of self-respect, it is here.



...Just Desserts!

That it often entails denying someone else their self-respect is not immaterial. It is precisely the point. The Customer needs and wants a scapegoat to assuage his/her own humiliations and swallowed pride. Here is where s/he can fume, rant, rave over nothing particularly important if s/he is so inclined. Here s/he can make a complete asshole of him/herself and be all the more indulged for it. Only in the Marketplace can an adult



throw a temper tantrum and not be penalized for it in anyway.

This is the real reason why most people despise self-serve gas pumps, automatic bank tellers, and the like. It's useless to take out your anger and frustration out on a machine: you can't hurt a robot's feelings

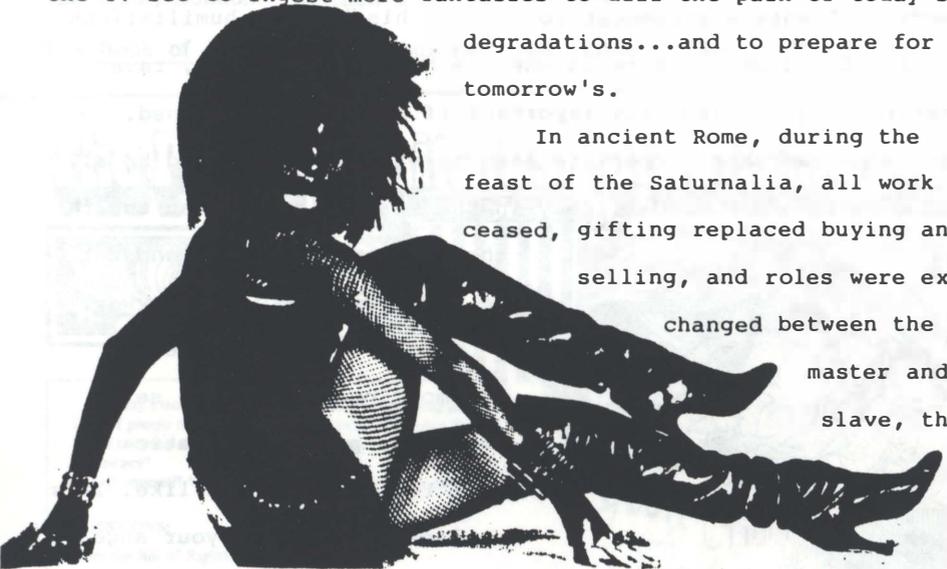
and it won't kiss your ass. You can't make a machine into a chump [it's always the machine that makes a chump out of a human being]. No, abuse requires living, breathing flesh; a human being who may not be a machine, but is required and expected to act like one.

The Customer-clerk relationship is second only to the Boss-employee relationship as a form of emotional/psychological S&M [although it can exceed the latter]. Straight-laced Christian puritans and liberal do-gooders alike who would never dream [or only dream] of wielding a whip or binding some body with studded leather thongs for sensual gratification can still enact the classic fantasies of indulgence and suppression, of frustration and release, dominance and repression in a completely sublimated and socially sanitized manner that doesn't recall deSade or von

Sacher-Masoch. Sated, they may then return to the cosy bosom of the TV set to ingest more fantasies to dull the pain of today's degradations...and to prepare for tomorrow's.

In ancient Rome, during the feast of the Saturnalia, all work ceased, gifting replaced buying and selling, and roles were exchanged between the master and slave, the

dominator and the dominated. A mere token, a safety-valve, without a doubt. But today, in our allegedly more enlightened era and freer country, we do not get even such a token. Our closest comparison, Christmas--which descends from the Saturnalia-- is just another day off work [for some] and comes, so to speak, as the [anti-] climax to the longest consumer orgy of the year. Even a week's paid vacation only briefly frees one individual from the dominance/submission grind while s/he is surrounded by those still caught up in it. Take a cruise to the tropics and you're still playing Queen for a day. In our democratic society, we have 365 days a year in which to treat each other like slaves and try to be master. Those who are really good at it get to be Bossman [no matter what the gender] all year long. The rest of us have to keep playing King of the Hill until we either give up or die. In the



meantime [and mean time it truly is!], we have the small consolation prize of refusing--to the greatest extent that we can get away with it--the servile roles [and vile roles they are!] demanded of us by both our masters and our fellow slaves. No one should be allowed to forget the demeaning postures that are required to maintain this humiliating, idiotic game. At least those who voluntarily pursue sado-masochistic situations derive real pleasure from it. But when it's a game imposed upon you without any alternative--no worker in this field is a "consenting partner"--and a fixed game as well, then it's nothing short of a case of rape. Contrary to the free enterprise myth, you can't always pick your means of employment. It often seems that the less you are inclined to play the game, the more likely it is that you won't be able to escape it: "Overworked and underpaid, always fucked but never laid."

Perhaps we would be better off if we did stalk the Marketplace in studded leather or rubber bondage gear, attempting to dominate everyone we meet or, failing that, be dominated in turn. It would certainly dissolve the sugar-coated facade that cloaks the capitalist system. Everybody would know the score. It might even spur some of us, finally, into action against it.

Uriah Heep



QUESTIONING ECOLOGY

Anyone who attempts to criticize progress, or to denounce the misdeeds of modernism, quickly finds him or herself accused of wanting to return to the Stone Age. For progressives of every variety it is a question of inducing the belief that nature is the capital of a collective capitalist -- human beings -- and that it should be used and moulded in the image and likeness of the human "collectivity". Today's productive development is only possible to the extent that people adopt this conviction and that it inspires their desires. The "ever higher, ever further" carrot of consumption, survival on credit, and lightning-the-chains-of-work-through-automation can then be dangled by the capitalists before their astonished eyes.

The entire discourse which presents technological and industrial development as a constantly renewed combat to domesticate hostile nature is one that conceals that above all this activity is all that is necessary to develop a system of domination. What is produced by human beings and the means they use to achieve it are determined by the relationships between them and with nature as a whole. Today's "riches", therefore, are not human riches; they are riches for capitalism which correspond to a need to sell and stupefy. The products we manufacture, distribute, and administer are the material expressions of our alienation.

A social system in which market relations have become generalized implies that attempts to assign meaning to money will use anything which can assist them, be it animate or inanimate, material or nonmaterial. The means are irrelevant -- what is necessary is to reduce everything to the level of an object, thing or product. Money must be generated at any price, whatever its negative effect on people, their health, or the environment; natural products (food among others) must be transformed into manufactured products (which are above all modern and well marketed) that can help us through the contingencies of a time-is-money workaday life. Every means of allowing people to save time, to reduce the margin of the unforeseen in manufacturing a product to assure its interchangeability is sought in order to guarantee an ongoing process of commodity production. Everything must submit to the needs of the "product". This mad quest implies constant attempts to invent new "needs", to make people endure new "scarcities" and new "emptinesses" which humans need to fill by accepting to sell themselves to get the money which allows them to buy. The only thing that is real about this process is that it has always tended to reduce people's capacity to take the initiative, mutilating their intellectual and physical faculties, while at the same time proclaiming the contrary.

From factory production to industrial mechanicalness, from automation to word processing and robots, a cycle which has rendered humans inessential has come into being. People have been reduced to a set of predetermined gestures over which they have no control by a process that has managed to render even simple relations between them superfluous because all their time is spent monitoring and controlling processes which totally escape them.

The development of the productive forces is simply an expression of the domination of commodities through a process of reducing human activity to a pure expenditure of energy and human beings to contemplating its results. Neither happiness, community, nor an end to domination is produced, only commodities and our increased submission to values which are abstract ... but quantifiable.

ON ECOLOGY

If the protests of groups and individuals calling themselves "ecological" are no less partial than those calling themselves "proletarian", this does not imply that the damage done by pollution should be accepted as a fatality. Capital is a system of production and reproduction which has been caused by human beings, not an abstract notion which might give the impression that we have no choice in the matter. But will adding a filter to the factory smokestack be sufficient to put an end to the oppression which work exerts on wage slaves who are obliged to waste their lives in order to earn a living? Obliging petrochemical industries to stop dumping wastes in the river will not stop the numerous people who take tranquilizers (which even today are known as "urbanizers") on a daily basis from being poisoned, or from being poisoned by the antibiotics produced by the same industries, which people need today to handle modern life and its accompanying psychological and physical damage. Will getting rid of leaded gasoline be enough to give us back the pleasures of walking, of taking our time, of being ...

The minor improvements which the ecologists have obtained here and there can bring about immediate positive effects. We are not indifferent to anything which is capable of slowing down the accumulation of industrial wastes, the disappearance of animal and plant species or of diminishing the nuclear menace ... But these improvements are only permitted because they are ultimately useful to capitalism in that they allow the state a breathing space; the accompanying social peace guarantees that consumer goods are produced, that the machine keeps running without jamming and that money -- the only valuable of any importance in a world defined

by capital -- is generated in a logical manner. Ecology's narrow outlook, with its goal of lowering the level of pollution through laws and minor reforms without questioning the world in which we are mired in an all-encompassing way, consists of according the state the benefit of a state of Innocence concerning industrial development's relationship to the process of environmental degradation. That the state has a moral role to play is accepted, paving the way for a reassuring belief that a separation within capitalist management exists, that it is the state's duty to modify the course of events and that this is within its power. Those who accept this approach refuse to acknowledge that the state, whatever its political shade, represents an expression of the development of capitalism, with the social relations and the practical and moral consequences which this implies. It also conceals that every law which is implemented by the state assures its future ... and our impotence.

Therefore, those who dream of an ecological state, consciously or not, are elaborating a project whose goal (again!) is to prevent the major catastrophes while prolonging the lesser ones eternally. This is why discussing ecology is often limited to evoking nuclearism, concealing other dangers which are less media-oriented but just as ominous. Nuclearism has the power to create shock value and to incarnate a real threat of irremediable destruction on a vast scale. It is also a reflection of a choice which has been made by society, that of a world in which anything at all must be sold and people must be made to buy. Nuclear energy, we are told, will free us from the hazards of the petroleum market and spare us the humiliation of candles. Long live the electric fairy, who keeps the wheels of industry rolling, mass-producing the gadgets which are supposed to mitigate the emptiness of our lives. Caught in this trap of progress, we have been robbed of our very lives; the role of the products of every sort which surround us is to distract us from this dispossession. And to give a new shine to Progress and dispossession, why not an ecological state!

Life would continue to be a rat race. But if relations were a bit chilly, as compensation we could rest our work-exhausted eyes by contemplating a nature park on a video screen. But why all this work? Because, like today's concrete/steel/atomic state, an ecological state would be a life-killing machine. It would remain a nation-state; a kind of national ecotopia.

Readers might feel that we are going too far by bringing together the words ecology and state in this manner. But let there be no confusion: certain greens are already quivering with joy at the thought of such a state and are psyching themselves up by filling in those presently in power about how they intend to manage the national burden. Thus, concerning the Iran-Iraq conflict,

Michel Delore, the European spokesman for the greens, proposes measures which would allow France to extricate itself from "The Napoleonic dream of spheres of influence ... which is contrary to its true interests" in order to "offer a positive contribution to a lasting solution to fundamental Mediterranean problems and thus avoid a variety of inconveniences" (quoted in Vert-Contact no. 40, July 18 - August 14, 1987).

Green Politics

Ultimately ecology's political fringe is in bed with everyone who aims to run a state, and contemplates the economy and politics with the same adoration.

The "greens" support an ecological economy which would function according to "economic laws", and wish to "liberate the country from the agony of unemployment" ... but what is the economy? It seems to be a question of a neutral idea. Since it is everywhere, the economy has become indivisible and uncriticizable. It has penetrated the remotest corners of our daily lives. It is the monster holding us in its claws. Killing the economy would be like an act of parricide, like attacking the last god that everyone still respects.

The economy is synonymous with isolation. Life is divided into different sectors (home, work, education, consumption) and these fragments of existence are administered by specialized (business, administrative, industrial, and recreational) apparatus. Economic laws imply that the ways in which human relationships are expressed are based on inequality, competition, and the domination



of certain people -- inequality, competition, and domination which themselves justify the laws in question by presenting them as inevitable and as having always existed. From an economic viewpoint, other people appear matter-of-fact or are usually only of interest because of their productivity, power, or money. The economy reduces us to possessors of labour power or capital or to representatives of pressure groups. If we can't stand it, we are labelled weak or unfit. As communication between people becomes more and more difficult, every exchange must be controlled by money or the media ... when it is not simply a question of confrontations between gangs.

Without a doubt, there is no question of getting involved in the political game that has been accepted by the greens if one wishes to question society's anti-ecological logic. Having proclaimed a desire to reconquer life, they have simply ended up congratulating themselves for passing laws and have accepted parliamentary logic in its entirety. This is self-reassuring and gives one a clear conscience ... without changing anything at all. Parliament may very well accept the recycling of glass and aluminum while at the same time people continue to waste eight hours a day in the factories. The state's mega-computers may quite conceivably be used to plan a more rational use of natural resources, while at the same time erasing any trace of suspicion about the computers themselves. And when will the armed forces bring back the so-close-to-nature and minimally polluting cavalry! Translated into political terms, our dreams become bills and our hopes become economic measures. The political involvement of different ecologists and environmentalists is a reflection of their superficial critique of the relations upon which industrial civilization is based. If ecology criticizes the excesses of civilization and its "abusive" commercialization of nature, it questions neither the validity of market relations nor the states which implement them. As long as they continue to ask states and international institutions to propose "solutions" to the present predicament, the ecologists' "antcentralism" will only favour the despotic state. And as long as they continue to propose civil defence (of what and against whom?), they will constitute an impediment to the questioning of militarism and nationalism as such.

Ecology, Environmentalism ... and Reformism

What is seductive about ecology is that it was supposed to finally unmask civilization ...! Faced with a monster that is devouring us a little more each day, the desire to survive appears elementary ... and therefore indispensable. No need to wonder whether all of this garbage of progress can be legitimately questioned! It is of greater interest to wonder whether what alienates us does not remain

entirely intact behind our rejection, carefully concealed behind a "realistic" sense of resignation.

The destruction of our environment will be halted! Natural reserves will be created! The specialists will find solutions ... besides, the Green parties are already working toward them! We can finally heave a big sigh of relief!

Everything needed to avoid the real problems, to flee any kind of all-encompassing questioning is already in place, particularly the question of how the battle against the forces which have destroyed and domesticated numerous animal species and an increasing number of human beings -- and which are even in the process of challenging the foundations of human life -- could be fought from a perspective which is different from the one animating these forces.

For those who wish to reconcile the natural world and democratic society, the human species (and its "environment") is simply a juxtaposition of atomized groups and individuals whose relationships have been reduced to legal and economic formalisms -- as if anything within nature (including, as far as we are able to ascertain, traditional primitive societies) has ever been based on abstract, legal rights of this type as opposed to harmony and complementarity -- a complementarity which includes predatory relationships toward other species in order to fulfill needs! No tears for a world in which people in a state of perpetual competition would be able ... as a spiritual supplement, to earn the right to ecstatically contemplate nature! Basta! And for those who are too squeamish to take their reasoning to its logical conclusion, here's a definition of an ecological preserve which ought to please them. This will give them lines to say in the society they desire ...!

"Satisfaction of any kind can be drawn only on the condition that nature has previously been marketed, transformed into a national park, into an ecological preserve, a biological window, or a museum of the future. Actually, if nature was left to its own devices, it would not be of particular interest; nor, in any case, could it constitute a determining factor in a process of individual enrichment. On the contrary, meaning must first be given back to nature, which can then be offered as something to be enjoyed. It is only under these conditions that it inevitably becomes satisfying. This will entail an immense reconversion of nature similar to the reconversion of any industrial complex. What will the social cost be of such an operation? Not much, really. And what costs there are will only result from preventive measures and ecological propaganda. It will only be necessary to create a buffer zone, or better yet, a screen between people and nature which would prevent it from being damaged." -- Enrico

Berlinger (Pier Franco Ghisleni). Lettres
aux hérétiques -- Editions du
Rhododendron.

Provided that the principle of the pursuit
of growth (industrial, demographic, or of the
media ...) is in no way questioned, a passing
remark about widespread environmental
destruction can be permitted! Everything
remains very polite and the byword is "not
getting bogged down in utopian thinking."

What is the difference between those who
are implementing growth which is fatal to
the health of humanity and those who have
nothing to offer (and generally to sell!)
beyond expert advice or therapy? The same
shopkeeper's mentality reigns, the same
greed concerning possibilities of opening up
new markets, including the proposed thera-
peutic solutions to the conditions which
oblige people to live in an artificial manner.
And with people's resignation lending a
hand, nature itself is comfortingly presented
as the universal therapist! Therefore it is
not simply a question of opening up a new
market, but of the possibility of convincing
people that what is causing the damage is
external to themselves; that their illness is
not produced by human activity -- including
their own -- but by minor managerial mis-
takes, or for the "radical environmentalists",
by certain deteriorating productive apparat,
excrescences that it would be sufficient to
cut out in order to allow a healthy organism
to survive! All this thanks to the belief that
the sickness is not to be found in this soci-
ety as a whole (including the projects which
intend to breathe new life into it), but only
because nature is being polluted, the wrong
political choices are being made, etc.... Now
that civilization's democratic domination has
led people to cut themselves off from every-
thing that surrounds them, including other
human beings, the only remaining choices are
either totally refusing this domination or
identifying with it. And tomorrow what
remains of what we still call nature will be
its representation as commodities and recrea-
tion industries!

Green politics is ultimately a guarantee of
a moratorium on social change. We desire
neither a green army nor a green state nor
green money. An ecological perspective which
could contribute to changing this world by
allowing the interaction of all forms of life
will have to go beyond green politics of this
type.

Interrogations
C/o I.S., B.P. 243
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-- translated by Michael William



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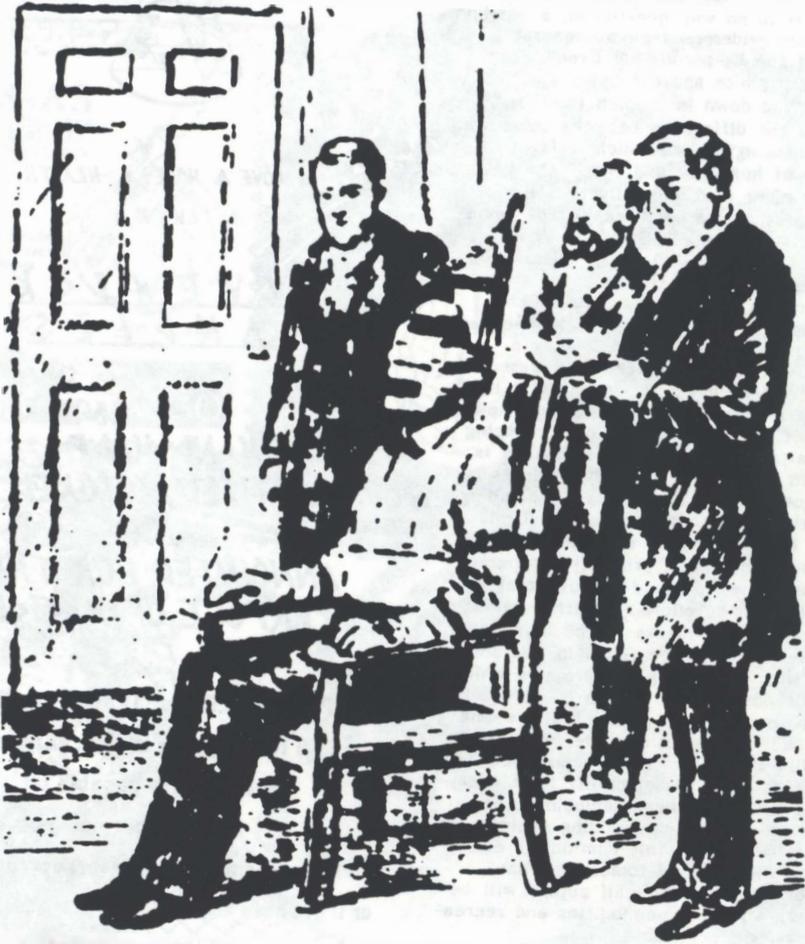
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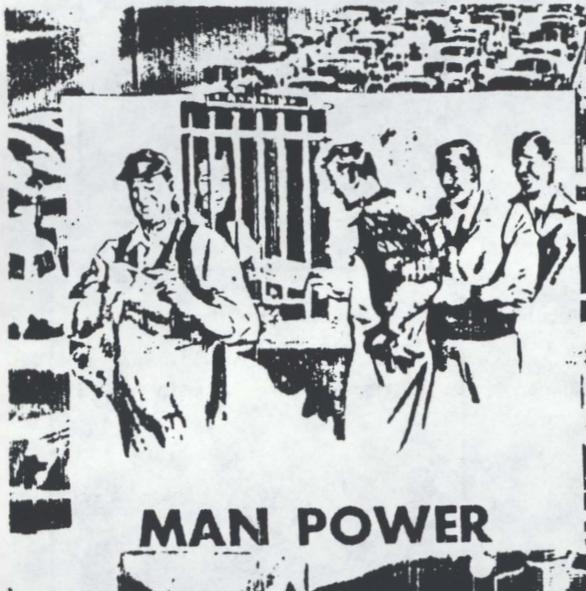
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Perhaps not. Frankly, it puzzles us. We can only conclude that, sadly, some people think that Utopia will be handed to them on a silver platter: that some people actually expect something for nothing: that some people just aren't wiling to work hard and pay the price----our price----for a New Liberty.



\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

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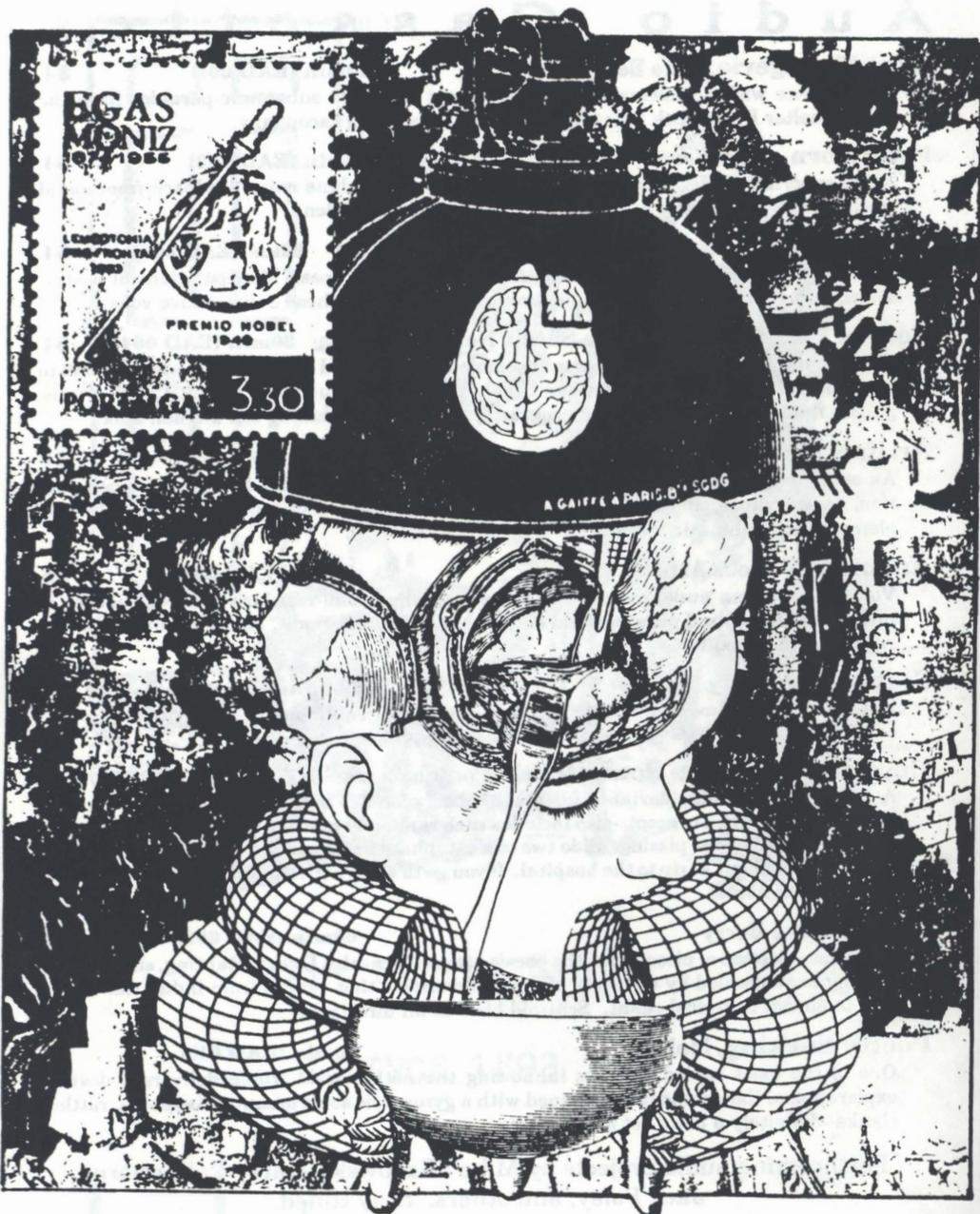
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Quit While You're Ahead



Raoul Vaneigem

Contributions to the Revolutionary Struggle...

The Book of Pleasures

Reviewer: Bob Black

Part I: Catechism of a Revolutionary

1) Have you ever suspected that the project of joining proletarian revolution with cultural radicalism has never really gotten off the ground?

In that case, you have realised that:

- (a) Notwithstanding some overlap, there's a difference between talk and action.
- (b) The social division of labor is its own best defense.
- (c) Between the vanguard and the *avant garde* there obtains a fatal affinity.

The Old Left's *kitsch*-populist aesthetic was no accident but it was a mistake, as its art-modernist loyal oppositions from the Surrealists on down have insisted. In truth the proletariat is equally indifferent to Socialist Realism and Trotskyist Surrealism, among other specialties extraneous to its experience, and always was. Art is something done to workers, not by them—and never more so than when it's done for them. The Stalinists belatedly bestowed on the cultural radicals an apparent but unmerited legitimacy by repudiating them for a decade they only aspired to. Stalinism secured (and, in the Third World where it's still a forward-moving force, still secures) the foundations of capitalist class society—the state, the division of labor, work, moralism, hierarchy, the family—but mistook some additional authoritarian incidentals for essentials and so secured them at gunpoint or otherwise as well. Pronatalism, nationalism, and schmaltz are always bourgeois, but it doesn't follow that their opposites are not.

So you see, already your instincts alert you against the intelligentsia's will-to-power (over you), whether the pointy-heads in question are Atari Democrats with "new ideas," or After-Ford behaviorists with old ones, or well-heeled "anti-authoritarian" technocrats a la Processed World with their computer-communist software.

2) Do you wonder why revolutionaries who have rightly rejected almost every other aspect of Marxism as the bourgeois blather it is, nonetheless cling to the comforting tenet of imminent revolution?

In that case, you have caught on that:

- (a) Marx was the dutiful child of an age of evolutionary progress. A Marxist is merely an impatient Social Darwinist. Without (of course) giving credit where credit is due, the modern (*i.e.*, backward) left, recuperating Kropotkin's detournement of evolutionism in Mutual Aid, strives to socialize the struggle for existence and reduce revolution to accelerated evolution. It substitutes aggregates for individuals and agitates for Stakhanovist speed-up of the work of the dialectic, but otherwise all is as before. Bentham, Comte and Spencer took the lead, Marx and the other positivists trailed along behind.
- (b) Ideology aside, it is within the power of a small group of individuals all of whose names are well known to preci-

wallow in it...



Ignorance & Apathy

pitate a holocaust which will, to put a fatuously favorable face on things, defer the realization of the socialist Shangri-La to the remote future and, it may be, another species. For those who take their internationalism seriously and off the charts this is not a worst-case scenario, but it's bad enough to discourage all but the hardy handful of crypto-Christian universalists eager to embrace oblivion on behalf of some idea.

- (c) Almost the only genuinely modern modality of the modernists is their infantile insistence on (almost) immediate gratification. These patients exhibit impatience which at first glance traverses sacrificialist moralisms—but a closer look discloses they don't want something new, they just want the same old thing sooner.

- (d) There is no God; not even History.

So you see, there is no excuse for millenarian faith or acquiescent fatalism. Our finitude is a fact but no one can bound the possibilities. So far as we know, our chances (not only socially but biologically) are poor but the vistas which stretch out beyond survival are inviting. You can Let George Do It but he probably won't. On the other hand, having shed some shibboleths

there is reason to believe it can be done. Mere motile meat is nothing to prolong planetary agony over, but the long shot bet we can leap over exigency to ecstasy is the only one it makes sense to place.

3) Are you skeptical whether an ultra-leftist workerist espousal of the exclusive power of the workers' councils is consistent with calling for the abolition of work?

In that case you already know that:

- (a) You weren't born yesterday.
- (b) Workers' control means (at best) their control of work, but "work" (as Edward G. Robinson opined in one of his gangster movies) "is for saps."
- (c) In the new order, as in the old, the unemployable are outcasts. Those unable or unwilling to work are at the mercy of those who do.
- (d) Representative democracy, an obvious abysmal failure on its own original political terrain, is even more illusory and obnoxious in the workplace. Council communism and anarcho-syndicalism are nothing but miserable mistranslations of liberalism into industrial organisation.

So you see, railing against roles is a pointless parlor-game unless it extends to the impeachment of such roles as "representative" and "worker." So long as there are representatives they must be the master of those they represent. So long as there are workers there must be work, which is the core coercion and prime mover of class society.

Part II: All You Need Is Love

Having by now belonged to history for a decent interval, the Situationists are enjoying a renaissance of interest in the English-speaking world, precipitated perhaps by Ken Knabb's indispensable Situationist International Anthology. Of the two S.L. "classics," Guy Debord's Society of the Spectacle has been reprinted by Black & Red in Detroit while Raoul Vaneigem's Revolution of Everyday Life appeared last year in an "authorized" translation under the appropriately international joint auspices of Seattle's Left Bank Books and London's Rebel Press. Newsweek has not yet profiled any S.L. alumni in its "Where Are They Now?" column, but now that Jefferson Starship has done the Lake Tahoe nightclub circuit (did they open for Wayne Newton or did he open for them?) it is well to be prepared.

The flush times for the Situationist International were the early and middle 1960's when, having shed most of its original dadaism-begat-surrealism-begat-lettrism aesthetic integument, it turned its mercilessly lucid scorn on global spectacular society at its zenith, before economic decline, military disaster and frustrated expectations revived the more archaic leftist versions of ostensible opposition. The most radical critique takes a form of society at its best, in its purest form, than which it will never be better, the better to identify and excoriate its essential feature undistracted by correctible contingent shortcomings. There'll always be additional aggravating particulars, some of them serious (Hitler, Stalin, Reagan if you like) but if

you lay hold of what Vaneigem called (in an article title) "Basic Banalities" you'll won't work the crowds at the Rock Against Tweedledee concert registering voters for the Tweedledum for President campaign.

Now it was the partial success of the S.I. which, as it often will, proved their undoing—they themselves quoted Saint-Just (a salutary example, by the way): "Those who make half a revolution dig their own graves." The S.I.'s half-revolution occurred (much to their surprise, despite their subsequent boasting) in May-June 1968, when—sans war, economic crisis, or even any very exciting political turbulence—ten million of the French walked away from work just because they were bored of it and resentful of being bossed. They weren't sure what they wanted and all manner of leaders stepped forward to explain. The Old(est) Left, the Communist Party, of course played the crucial role in restoring the status quo, but much of the Newish Left likewise played false or equivocal parts, from the official anarcho-syndicalists who sat stupefied on their hands to the vogueish post- or crypto-Catholic trade unionists (precursors to the sacrificial pests who run our anti-nuclear movement today) with their cautious call for a qualified "workers' self-management" further diluted by watery humanist sermonizing. To make a not very long story short, the bad old days came back, even DeGaulle enjoyed an Indian summer, and the Sits never could decide who they could trust or what to do next. Vaneigem, stung by accusations of indolence, quit in 1970, invoking a "taste for pleasure" he's recently gone to great lengths—book length, anyway—to justify. When the two-member "American Section" staged its "scission" in 1971, Debord awoke to the awareness of his similitude to the quixotic conquistador on the raft in the last scene of Aguirre, the Wrath of God and wrote finis to the S.I. He knew when to quit.

But there was always tension between Debord's and Vaneigem's visions, even if there was an uneasy accord between their analyses: "Debord wrote the classicist Situationist analysis, Vaneigem wrote the romanticist one, a lush, sensuous, wide-ranging treatise on how to live" (this from the postscript to the Loompanics edition of The Right to Be Greedy, by the "Vaneigemist" group For Ourselves). Knabb's selection of S.I. writings emphasizes Debord and the Hegelian-cerebral texts revealing his influence. Not that the Vaneigem of the early 60's was a hippie-dippy, a patronized primitive a la Henry Rousseau amidst the Montmartre smart set. Although, had it known him and assuming it could have understood him, Vaneigem could have been the infusion of lucidity that the politicized counterculture of the 60's needed to make sense of its new sensibility and deepen its differences with the dominant death-culture. The job was too big for Herbert Marcuse, Che Guevara, Paul Goodman, Norman O. Brown and all the other gurus tried and found wanting.

But that was then and now, its today. Vaneigem's Book of Pleasures, recently Englished, is five years old but that is the least of its problems. Half or less as long as Vaneigem's fabulous first book, this one takes twice as long to read. The fact that diverse in-the-know mandarins denigrate Vaneigem's latest actually predisposed me to read it sympathetically: It is all too convenient for many paid-by-the-word radicals to disparage declension from a standard they themselves never attained. But it turns out they're as right about him as I am about them.

Vaneigem, who used to be a Situationist, is now a pro-Situ. He's watering down the epigones who watered down what he, in his prime, used to be. His book takes its doubtful place amongst the many monuments to forced nostalgia which so many find so soothing. All the formulations which he urgently explicated with a furious intelligence which still leaves me gasping

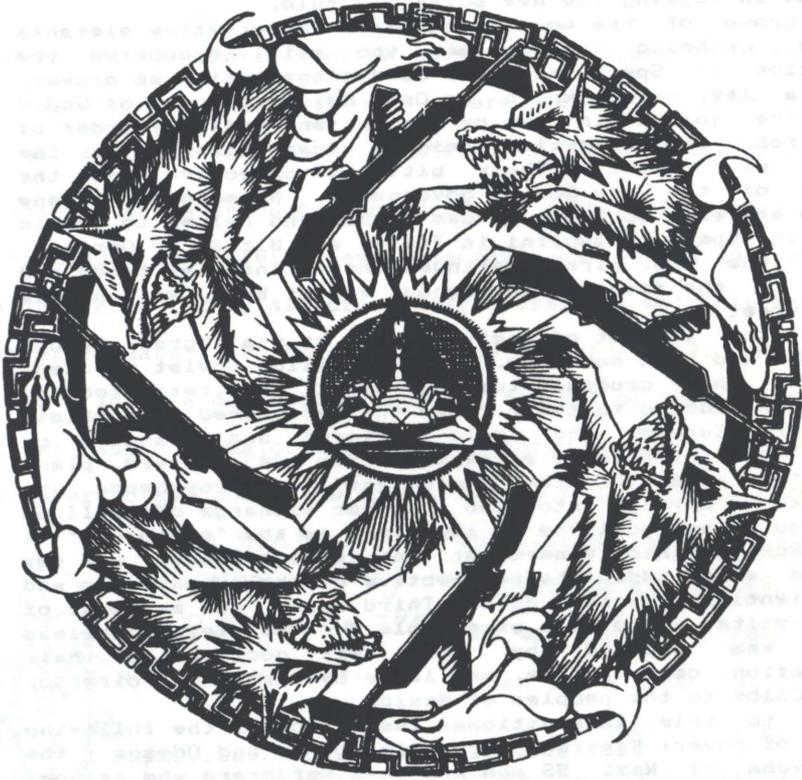
recur as clumsy self-simulations. Vaneigem is today cannibalizing his own creativity. All his old superstars put in an appearance: "survival sickness," "reversal of perspective," the familiar antitheses of gift-and-exchange, life-and-survival. But they shuffle on-stage stiffly, slowly, self-consciously, like one of these currently popular one-time rock-group reunions of individuals who no longer have anything in common to share if indeed they have anything left at all.

The S.I., and Vaneigem first and foremost, recovered for radical critique the achievements of Wilhelm Reich at a time he was known for the Orgone-dementia of his last days if he was remembered at all. (No disrespect for Reich intended: Anybody persecuted by the coordinate coercions of Freudians, Stalinists and liberal regulators can't be all bad.) Vaneigem appropriated Reich's concept of "character," that protective-restrictive standardization of the self which discloses the normal-normative nature of neurosis. The medical model realizes and exhausts itself when it concludes that society is sick. Vaneigem went on (as Reich never did) to link character, brilliantly, with the playing of roles, hence with the division of labor, and thus with the totality of exchange-based sociality itself.

Twenty years later, Vaneigem—far from further distancing the mechanistic, positivist, scientific input-output sex-economy reduced to completion by the sexology of Masters and Johnson—lapses into a vulgarized reductionist Reichianism cruder than anything Reich or his most heteronymous acolytes ever advanced. There are two organizing ideas to Vaneigem's latest book, reflecting a Manichean dualism worthy of Christians or right-wing "libertarians" but not of any free man or woman unsubjected by system. Trade is bad, sex is good (four legs good, two legs bad!). In the Revolution, Vaneigem elaborated a subtle and far-reaching critique of exchange and its ultimate apotheosis, bourgeois society. So far, so good. There he plausibly discerned the exchange-idea in various non-obvious settings, such as religious sacrifice, which he viewed as a sort of exchange sans adequate bookkeeping (e.g., Christ). But the Book bookishly rails against anything which smacks of exchange; even the gift is now suspect as a crypto-claim on some future return. Vaneigem has here traversed not only capitalism and its predecessor class societies but even most of the stateless and classless societies which presently (under pressure) still exist, and which we presume are not atypical of small-scale societies which presumably predominated prior to the rise of the (first) state. If Marshall Sahlins' Stone Age Economics is at all creditable (and he seems to be on our side) then "gift" and "exchange" tend to run into one another; but Vaneigem, who once acknowledged the play-element in the potlatch, is now absolutely committed to an anti-economic moralism. "It is impossible to enjoy anything made by work and constraint," even if you steal it. What a cross to bear!

But if trade is sickening, the cure is (if need be, literally) at hand: sex. You can fuck your way to freedom, not only dissolving the callus of character but, somehow, overthrowing class society too. All you need is love—but take care it's not darkened by the shadow of reciprocity! A love so pure is not of this earth. Not even the Yippies in their early naivete were ever this silly.

The Book of Pleasures reads like Cliff Notes for The Revolution of Everyday Life compiled by an uncomprehending exegete. Ideas are nothing but what you do with them, and in this sense Vaneigem has almost run out of ideas, although he remembers their names. Vaneigem once cut deep with his critique of roles, but now he hates them too much to understand them.



GOOD AMERICANS

by John Judge

Almost since its inception, the successful revolution in the Soviet Union in 1917 came under attack.¹ The Romanov family was spirited out of the country, along with the royal treasury.² The monarchists, the White Russian counter-revolutionaries, and the colonial powers of France, Germany, England, and even the United States saw the great wealth of Russia as a prize worth regaining or winning.

From 1918 to 1932, that royal treasury, as well as funds from rich monarchist families, international investors, and U.S. investors led by President Herbert Hoover, poured into the secret plans for the military rearmament of Germany.³ Monarchists from around the world and White Russians began an international network of reaction

known as the Solidarists. Inside the Vatican, relying on an alleged apparition of the Virgin Mary at Fatima who warned the Pope about the fall of the Tsar, powerful forces worked to assist in topping the new Bolshevik rule.

A group of the most fanatically conservative elements of the Catholic Church, men who still supported the inquisition in Spain and who used flagellation as prayer, formed a lay order known as Opus Dei, the Works of God.4 These were joined in rank by the ancient military order of the church, the secretive Knights Hospitallers, or the Knights of Malta.5 Their ultimate objective was the downfall of the new Soviet government. No method or means was too extreme, so these forces backed and helped to create Franco in Spain, Mussolini in Italy, and Hitler in Germany. Some of the U.S. firms continued their financial trade and support of the fascists throughout all of WWII, with Russia as the target.6

But the fascist offensive failed at Stalingrad, though the cost had been enormous, with 22 million Soviet citizens dead. At this crucial turning point, they retreated and retrenched, adding to their ranks the embittered revanchists of Eastern Europe, the "cold-warriors" and Klansmen of America, and even worse elements. From 1943 forward, plans began to escalate the "cold war" of propaganda and paramilitary spying into the nuclear exchange of WWII.6a Still, no other goal was so important as the "recapture" of Mother Russia into monarchist and fascist hands. But now they had also added the perspective of the eugenicists and the "scientific" racists of the Third Reich, who saw most of the non-white world as expendable.7 The term "useless eaters" was applied by the Nazi doctors to their concentration camp victims, and later by former CIA director William Colby to the peoples of Mexico.

Add to this international fascist cabal the following sources of power: Kameradenwerk, Die Spinne and Odessa - the secret webs of Nazi SS men and mass murderers who escaped justice after the war and found a home in Europe, South America and the obliging United States.8

Project Paperclip - a successful American operation which brought to the U.S. literally hundreds of top aerospace and munitions experts from Nazi Germany to form the corporate leadership and the expertise behind the technological and military advances of a growing military-industrial complex.9

Belarus Brigade - the dreaded combined forces of Nazi and White Russian troops in Byelorussia during WWII, a counter-revolutionary stronghold since WWI and a Nazi-infested army against Russia. The top government officials, nearly 300 of them, were brought to the United States and given important government and intelligence jobs by our thankful CIA and OSS.10

Dictatorships - arisen in South America and throughout the world, whose fascist rhetoric and genocidal direction come directly from Nazi collusion and training, not historical chance.10a

The Gehlen Network - a black orchestra of spies whose infamous dealings during WWII had put the Nazi spies in bed with every major intelligence network in the world from British MI5 and MI6, to the American OSS and the heavily infiltrated KGB.11 Under the evil genius of Allen Dulles, whose espionage attacks on the Soviet Union date back to the 1920's, \$200 million in Rockefeller and Mellon funds was

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directed into the hands of Hitler's spymaster Reinhard Gehlen and his 350 Nazi spies, who formed and founded our Central Intelligence Agency in 1947.¹² Later, these same forces created post-war European intelligence, our Defense Intelligence Agency, our National Security Agency, and covert groupings here and abroad whose very initials are considered classified information.^{12a}

Assassins - an international fascist network of terror, concealed in the grey underworld of Mafia murders, drug trafficking, gun smuggling and political murders world wide.¹³ These mercenary armies still draw their ranks from the refugees encamped everywhere, still operate with names like Alpha 66 and Omega 7, 13a AAA or DINA, the Koumintang of Chiang Kai Shek, the Somosistas along the Honduran border now, the Hmong peoples of Laos and the reactionary ranks of the Vietnamese, the Phalangists in Lebanon, and even the Grey Wolves of Turkey whose members include Mehmet Ali Agca, the attempted assassin of the Pope now so falsely accused of working with the Soviet KGB.¹⁴

Interpol - an international police intelligence agency begun at the end of WWII in collaboration with Nazi war criminals and our own J. Edgar Hoover of FBI fame.¹⁵

These elements meet internationally under the aegis of organizations like the World Union of National Socialists, the Asian People's Anti-Communist League, and the World Anti-Communist League. Their cover is provided by "journalists" like Clair Sterling,¹⁶ and Marvin Kalb of Opus Dei.^{16a} Their legitimacy and recruiting is aided by evangelical fronts like "World Vision", which runs funds from the illegal and profitable world heroin trade,¹⁸ and their training from CIA experts like Mitch WerBell, Edwin Wilson, Frank Terpil and unreconstituted Nazi torturers who provide "techniques".^{18a} Their weapons come from an equally lucrative gun-smuggling trade, assisted by intelligence agencies.^{18b}

This is the real historical framework of current events, that follow from "cold war" to "COINTELPRO" and "CHAOS",¹⁹ from the framing of the Rosenbergs to "Operation Garden Plot",²⁰ from Alger Hiss to the "Houston Plan",²¹ from McCarthy to "MKULTRA",²² from the Third Reich to the Fourth. What the demon Dulles brothers engineered,²³ the massive cold-war lie^{23a} that justified any excess in the direction of fascism, is the root of Malcolm X's statement on Vietnam, that "the chickens are going to come home to roost". Under the current rubric of the World Anti-Communist League,²⁴ the Solidarists, the Nazis and other fascists, the reactionary forces in every part of the globe unite to bring us a legacy of deception and murder, of war profits and starvation, of open dictatorial rule. Their now 3/4 century-old goal of crushing the Soviet revolution has brought us to both financial and physical ruin, and to the brink of WWII.^{24a} To attain that goal, fascism has come home to roost.^{24b}

During WWII, the Nazis in France gained collaboration and capitulation by going first to the task of corrupting the courts, compromising the judges, and turning the slim hope of judicial justice into a political weapon.²⁵ In our own country, the most respected Justice of the Supreme Court was unable to solve the obvious case of conspiracy in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The primary role of the state police has become spying and suppression of legitimate attempts to challenge the undemocratic and

secret rule of the national security state.²⁶ The purpose of the law now is to put the protection of profits above people at all costs, even to the point of police destruction of the evidence necessary to reconstruct the crime.²⁷ Do you think we are in some better or more holy condition in our own courts today? What special sort of American chauvinism leads us to blindly assert "it can't happen here"? For it has.

In an editorial in the Boston Globe, dated February 12, 1983, we can see the delayed reaction of the established press shortly after the extradition of Klaus Barbie, the Nazi "Butcher of Lyons", from Bolivia to France:

"Barbie is only one of many notorious Nazi leaders who were welcomed like prodigal sons into service with Western intelligence agencies after the war. Their unspeakable crimes against humanity were implicitly forgiven and conveniently forgotten. They were paid and protected so that they could return to active duty in the anti-Communist crusade which their Fuehrer, Adolf Hitler, had temporarily discredited with his extremism.

"Their names compose a rogue's gallery of fascist thuggery. Hitler's master spy, Reinhardt Gehlen, was made chief of the West German intelligence agency (BND) and shared his Nazi intelligence data with his protectors in the CIA. Otto Skorzeny, a Nazi specialist at organizing terror networks in occupied countries, was employed in the U.S. Army's historical division, which served as a way-station for former Nazis who would go on to serve in the Gehlen-CIA intelligence network. Skorzeny used his tacit immunity to shepherd old Nazi comrades out of Europe, working through cover organizations known as Odessa, Kameradenverk, and Die Spinne.

"As the years went by, Gehlen, Skorzeny and their network of old-boy collaborators accumulated enormous influence both in Europe and Latin America. Skorzeny shuttled between Franco's Spain and Peron's Argentina, where he served the Argentine dictator as a gray eminence. His goal was to foster the growth of a fascist Fourth Reich centered in Latin America.

"He could count on such loyalist operatives as Josef Mengele in Paraguay; on Adolf Eichmann and Hans Ulrich Rudel in Argentina; on Walter Rauff in Chile; and on Klaus Barbie in Bolivia.

"Rauff, who is charged with sending 97,000 Jews to their death, has served as a revered advisor to the fascist dictatorship imposed on Chile by Augusto Pinochet after the overthrow of Salvador Allende, and was instrumental in setting up the infamous Chilean secret police agency known as DINA. Barbie, in Bolivia, organized paramilitary death squads and drug smuggling networks for a succession of military regimes.

"To grasp the full meaning of Barbie's belated appointment with justice, his career may be seen as an emblem of the unchecked metastasis of fascism. It is particularly mortifying for Americans to be reminded that our government put Barbie on its payroll a few years after he worked for Hitler."

Ehrhard Dabrinhaus of U.S. Army Intelligence sheltered this mass murderer, paid him \$1700 a month to run a spy network in France, and helped him escape to South America. "I am a good American of German extraction and I did my job," he said recently from his position as a German history

professor at Wayne State University.²⁹ These people, and those who aided them, have names, addresses, and connections to the top levels of the United States Government. They figure prominently in the hidden history of our police-intelligence state, and in the rash of political assassinations and other crimes that keep it in place. The names of the men most responsible for bringing them here read like a roll call of the world establishment, and those who collaborated with them fit together like pieces of a puzzle in decoding events since WWII.³⁰

Allen Dulles - who collaborated with Gehlen's spies, headed the CIA, and later sat on the Warren Commission investigation of J.F. Kennedy's death.³¹

John J. McCloy - a High Commissioner of Germany after the war who pardoned key Nazi criminals like Krupp, Abs, Dohnberger, Schacht, and others.³² His long career has made him a "Godfather of the American establishment". He sat atop the World Bank, directed construction of the Pentagon, worked with Earl Warren to set up the Japanese concentration camps in America, blocked any military attacks on the Nazi death camps as Assistant Secretary of War. He stopped the summary execution of Nazis in favor of the Nuremberg Trials which he later thwarted, and also sat as a member of the Warren Commission.³³

General Lucius Clay - the military commander of Germany at the end of the war, Clay helped undermine the prosecution of Otto Skorzeny, and later worked with Nazi generals at Oberammergau to train Eastern European revanchists, Nazis and American GIs into the 5,000-strong "Special Forces" against communism. This team later became our Green Berets.³⁴

Henry Kissinger - worked with General Lucius Clay at Oberammergau, and then with key stateside Army Intelligence and CIA units responsible for bringing in the Nazi spies.^{34a} Kissinger, who came from Germany to join U.S. Army Intelligence during WWII, had as his "mentor" the mysterious Fritz Kraemer.³⁵ Kraemer's 30-year silent career in the Pentagon plans division includes the prepping of Alexander Haig.^{35a} It may also conceal his real identity - prisoner #33 in the dockets at Dachau, the special Lieutenant of Hitler, Fritz Kraemer.³⁶ Mr. Kissinger still relies on his advice, and did so while Secretary of State.

C.D. Jackson - joined Nelson Rockefeller and Richard Nixon in the scheme to bring the Byelorussian government here. He worked for the Henry Luce publishing empire, and for Life magazine when they published the doctored photos of Lee Harvey Oswald holding a rifle. Both Time and Life were owned by Luce, and were responsible for much of the cold-war propaganda that allowed the national security state and the Pentagon to grow untouched.³⁷

Richard Milhous Nixon - former President whose work with Navy Intelligence at the end of WWII included the importation of Nazi criminals through the Gould family estate on Long Island. Among them was Nicolae Malaxa, whose collaboration with Hermann Goering was apparently no problem for Nixon, who defended Malaxa's U.S. citizenship.³⁸ In fact, a special bill was introduced in Congress to secure the citizenship by Senator Pat McCarren of Nevada. McCarren and Senator Joe McCarthy later introduced legislation to set up "detention and internment camps" in the U.S. in times of war or national emergency for "internal security".³⁹

Other figures involved in this dirty little secret

connect to the highest levels of our government and intelligence agencies. The solemn pledge to end the Nazi regime was completely betrayed.⁴⁰ Instead, the British and American spies saw a more important function, that of finding a new common enemy. The cohesiveness and control offered by this scenario seemed so urgent and so appealing that they even considered creating the illusion of an enemy from outer space.⁴¹ For the less inventive, the Communist revolution still served as sufficient scapegoat, and historical target.

Frank G. Wisner - an official of the OSS and a CIA veteran who brought the Byelorussian government here, the Latvian Thunder Cross, the Hungarian Arrow Cross, and the Roumanian Iron Guard among others. As many as 5,000 came to work at Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, the CIA, the Voice of America, the Defense Language Institute, "for the United States in defense of liberty".⁴² Allen Dulles said of Gehlen, "He's on our side now." Bobby Inman of the NSA and CIA networks today admitted recently that these fascists were "the bedrock" of covert operations in Europe in the 40's and 50's by the CIA, and molded the anti-Communist policy there.⁴³

J. Peter Grace - a scion of the Grace fortunes, he was head of Reagan's commission to study domestic economic cuts.^{43a} For thirty years his company employed Otto Ambrose, a Nazi war criminal from the German drug cartel I.G. Farben. Ambrose, a chemist, developed "Zyklon B", the actual gas used in the chambers to kill the Jews and others deemed "inferior".^{43b} The German steel group, Flick, which has extensive Nazi ties in the past and whose scandals are rocking German politics today, hold a controlling stock interest in the Grace company.⁴⁴ The Grace family is intimately involved with the formation of the anti-Communist American Institute for Free Labor Development.⁴⁵ AIFLD played a key role in the Kissinger plan to overthrow Allende in Chile, and insert the ruling fascist Pinochet.⁴⁶ After the coup, which involved American Green Berets,⁴⁷ Kissinger sent a Mr. Rauff from the State Department to advise the newly formed Chilean secret police (DINA). Rauff had been in charge of the "mobile ovens" used to kill Gypsies and Jews, homosexuals and political dissidents in Eastern Europe for the Nazis.⁴⁸ These same forces were later involved in the assassination of Chilean diplomat Orlando Letelier in Washington, DC.⁴⁹

Helene von Dam - personal White House appointment secretary, and long time personal secretary to Ronald Reagan, she stands to be appointed Ambassador to Vienna, and controls all cabinet level appointments in the Reagan administration.^{49a} She came to the United States in the 1950's in the company of Albrecht Otto von Bolshwing, and worked for him as a translator.⁵⁰ Von Bolshwing gave the direct orders to Adolph Eichmann in the dread Eisenstatz group, the SS killers.⁵¹ Helene's husband, Christian von Dam, ran the Bank of America in La Paz, Bolivia, which defaulted on a huge U.S. loan.⁵²

Errol Flynn - the famed actor, whose exploits included meetings with Nazi sympathizers and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor and Nazi spymasters during the late 30's. His roommate and constant companion at the time was Ronald Reagan.⁵³

Anna Chenuit - a Nixon confidant, and head of the old "China Lobby" that got us involved in both Korea and

Vietnam.54 Her husband, General Claire Chennault, formed the Flying Tigers in WWII, which later flew heroin for the CIA from Vietnam as "Air America".55 She sits on the board of 20th Century Fox with Henry Kissinger, William Rogers, Gerald Ford, and until recently Princess Grace Kelly of Monaco.56

Evita Peron - once a ruler in Argentina, Evita got her funds from the Nazi treasuries stolen by Martin Bormann at the end of the war, and put hundreds of millions in the "Evita Peron Foundation" and Swiss bank accounts. This money aided war criminals like Josef Mengele, Heinrich Dorge, Hjalmar Schacht (who had worked under Herman Abs at the Reichsbank), Rudolf Freude, Dr. Fritz Thyssen, Dr. Gustav Krupp, Otto Skorzeny, and others.57

Peter Drucker - well known industrialist who began the multinational corporation concept, he was responsible for bringing Nazi leader Fritz Kraemer from Frankfurt to the Pentagon.58

General George Patton - an American hero of WWII, whose credit for invading Sicily was later tarnished by the Kefauver commission study suggesting that he travelled into friendly Mafioso villages as part of a secret deal between Navy Intelligence and mobster "Lucky Luciano".59 In his assignment to assemble a history of the war, Patton assembled Nazi Army officers and had "admiration, affection and sympathy" for them. He picked the "best brains", Von Manteuffel, Brandenberger, Count von Schwerin and Fritz Kraemer.60 After the war, Patton worked closely with John J. McCloy. In relation to Russia he said, "Anyone who says there won't be a future war is a goddam fool."61

George Bush - former head of the CIA who employed, among others, U.S. Army officer, Captain William Rhine of the Bay of Pigs operation. Rhine is really top SS spy Helmut Streicher, who worked directly with Hitler, Gehlen, Otto Skorzeny, and then U.S. Army Intelligence from October, 1945 on.62

General MacArthur - another WWII hero, he helped to cover up Japanese war crimes involving chemical and biological experiments on American prisoners so that we could use the secret results.63 This operation and others directly involved MacArthur's chief of staff, Colonel Charles Willoughby, who is in reality a Nazi criminal, Kurt Weidenbach.64

J. Edgar Hoover - who formed the FBI, and without whose help the Nazi criminals could never have entered the U.S., worked in Interpol with founder Reinhard Heydrich, SS head of Nazi police from 1940 to 1942, and his successor, SS officer Ernst Kaltenbrunner, later hung at Nuremberg.65 Hoover's career involved extensive mob connections,66 and his death has yet to be fully investigated.67

Thomas Devey - the "gangbuster" New York prosecutor who put Luciano in jail, and then later petitioned for his release and deportation to Italy in honor of his "wartime services".68 In 1948, Devey ran for President in a close race with Harry Truman. Devey's Vice-Presidential candidate was Earl Warren, and his campaign manager was Allen Dulles.69

Historically interconnected with the Solidarists and the fascists, powerful elements in the Vatican continued their work through high church officials, Opus Dei, and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the Knights of Malta.69a

Monsignor Montini - an OSS operative in Southeast Asia at

the end of WWII, he was later appointed Pope Paul VI. He used Caritas Internationalis, a welfare organization, to provide refugee travel documents to such Nazis as euthanasia killer Hans Hefelman, and Hitler's secretary Martin Bormann, aiding in their escape to Argentina.70

Pope John Paul II - worked at Auschwitz in a rubber plant run by Nazi financier Hermann Abs for Solvay Drugs of I.G. Farben.71 Farben, which also employed Fritz Kraemer, has 750 subsidiaries worldwide, including U.S. firms.72 In the wake of the recent Vatican Bank scandals, Pope John Paul II appointed a four-man committee to study and run Vatican finances, which included Hitler's personal banker and the pontiff's old boss, Herman Abs.72a Nazi hunter Simon Weisenthal protested this recently.73 The Pope also elevated Opus Dei, with 72,000 members in 80 countries, to the status of a religious order.74

Cardinal Spellman - religious leader in New York, he was a protege of Cardinal Pacelli, Pope Pius XII, who is often accused of collaboration with the Nazis.75 Spellman is the U.S. spiritual leader of the Knights of Malta.76 He is responsible for introducing Ngo Dinh Diem to Allen Dulles, and then proposing his presidency of South Vietnam to President Kennedy.77 When Diem resisted the introduction of American troops into Vietnam, Dulles told General Westmoreland to go ahead anyway, and our CIA helped to kill Diem.78

Father E. Walsh - his Georgetown University Center for International Affairs and Strategic Studies became the first major CIA training center.79 This Jesuit priest was the motivating force behind Joe McCarthy's campaign against "communism" in the 50's, and he is a long time member of the Knights of Malta.80

Avery Dulles - son of John Foster Dulles, then Secretary of State, and a nephew to Allen Dulles, then CIA director. Avery worked with Martin Bormann to help his escape to Argentina, and is now working as an advisor at Georgetown University. He also is a member of the Knights of Malta.81

Roy Cohn - the key lawyer in the prosecution of the Rosenberg case, the alleged "Atom Spies" executed in the 1950's,82 he worked with Joe McCarthy and David Schine to spread the "Communist Menace" lies. He currently sits on the board of the anti-Communist Western Goals Foundation, and his law partner, Tom Bolan, is a member of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.83

Alexander Haig - a long time protege of the Pentagon "Iron Mentor" Fritz Kraemer,83a Haig extended favors and NATO links to the fascist cell in Italy known as P-2 or Propaganda Due, whose "puppetmaster" Licio Gelli worked with Franco and Mussolini and shares dual citizenship in Italy and Argentina.84 The involvement of high government officials in this secret order of Freemasons scandalized and rocked the whole Italian government, and opened the ensuing scandal of Banco Ambrosiano and the Vatican Bank's missing billions.85 Many of the key figures are either imprisoned (Licio Gelli, and Michele Sindona, former head of the Vatican Bank), or dead (Roberto Calvi, known as "God's Banker", found hanging beneath Blackfriar's Bridge in London).86 Haig had just been knighted into the secretive Knights of Malta, which includes his brother, and prestigious members like William Colby (CIA), William F. Buckley (CIA), J. Peter Grace, John McCone (CIA), General Vernon Walters (Reagan's "roving ambassador"), James

Angleton (CIA), and others.87

Charles G. Bludhorn - the founder and chairman of Gulf and Western conglomerate, he came from Vienna in 1942. He worked closely with Michele Sindona and his boss Licio Gelli, had secret dealings with Antonio Guzman of the Dominican Republic, and knew Vatican Bank scandal figure Archbishop Paul Marcinkus.88 Bludhorn bought Music Corporation of America (which gave Reagan his start), Madison Square Garden, and much more. His financial manager, Kirk Kerkorian began with a \$50,000,000 loan from West German banker Otto Schoeppler to buy MGM. Alexander Haig was soon on the board.89

Michael Ledeen - Reagan's appointed state department official is the unofficial source for the "Bulgarian Connection" lie about the KGB role in the shooting of the Pope. He is the major source on "Soviet terrorism" misinformation to Claire Sterling, who deftly covers up fascist terrorism and state terrorism alike.90 Ledeen has close ties to Alexander Haig, the Georgetown University groupie, Henry Kissinger, Licio Gelli, Opus Dei, and the P-2 Masonic Lodge scandal.90a He is also close to Francesco Pazienza, suspected to have set up "God's Banker" Roberto Calvi for murder.90b At the time of his death, Calvi was director of Banco Ambrosiano, and his family members openly claim he was killed by Opus Dei.91

Joseph Lehman - a brother to John Lehman, currently Secretary of the Navy. John Lehman is involved in a growing scandal involving contracts between the Pentagon and the Abingdon firm (a front for Lockheed and Boeing), which employs Joseph, Christopher and other Lehman family members.92 A cousin of the family, Princess Grace Kelly, was knighted into the Sovereign Military Order of Malta shortly before her death, and her home at Monaco was a center for fugitive Nazi activity for many years.92a The Lehmans have worked openly to curb the Catholic bishops who favor a nuclear freeze, scaring them with the "KGB shot the Pope" nonsense.93 In this effort, Christopher Lehman worked closely with Senator John Tower of Texas. Senator Tower's brother-in-law is Samuel Cimmings, a CIA gunrunner to international fascist terrorists, including "Carlos", Frank Terpil, Ed Wilson, Gregory Korkola, and others.94

Once the cast of characters is clear, the interconnections continue. One of the front companies used by Wilson and Terpil in California, TCI, was founded by Helene von Damm and Otto Albrecht von Bolschwing.95 The relative importance of von Bolschwing cannot be underestimated. He was placed in charge of the Gehlen-CIA network in the United States when Gehlen returned to Germany to set up their post-war intelligence agency.96 Many of the people mentioned already have direct or indirect links to the assassination of John F. Kennedy, later political murders, and their cover-ups.97 Others make the connections of the international fascist cabal very clear in the murder of Kennedy and many more progressive leaders.

Werner von Braun - whose infamous "Rocket Team" developed the first intercontinental missiles at Peenemunde, and were then brought here to develop NASA rocketry, and the growing aerospace industry.98 The NASA security teams are implicated in several sources in connection with the murder of John F. Kennedy.99 The actual physical capture of von Braun, who had used slave labor to build the rockets, was done by American troops in Switzerland led by Clay Shaw,

later charged by District Attorney Jim Garrison for his role in the Kennedy killing.100

General Walter Dohrnberger - a Nazi murderer convicted at Nuremberg for working with the "Butcher of Auschwitz" to kill 6,000 Jews, he was scheduled to be hung according to British prosecutor Shawcross.101 He had been a "mentor" and friend to von Braun throughout the war, getting materials and labor denied at times by Hitler for the rocket works. Von Braun refused to work on NASA rockets unless we intervened to save Dohrnberger. Of course we did, and a full pardon was arranged by John J. McCloy.102 General Dohrnberger came to the United States, worked at NASA briefly, and then became director of the Helicopter Division, Bell Aerospace in Dallas and Houston, Texas.103 He still trains pilots abroad, working with dictators like the Shah of Iran. Dohrnberger employed top-ranking military intelligence agent Michael Paine, who housed Marina Oswald in his home in Irving, Texas.104 Marina, who married Lee Harvey Oswald in Russia, lived in Minsk, Byelorussia, and was the niece of the top officer of the NKVD, the Soviet secret police.105 Her family was openly anti-communist.106 continuing murder of labor leaders, musicians, political dissidents, progressive thinkers, Black and Hispanic leaders, and others here in the United States parallels the hundreds of political murders in the late 20's and 30's in Weimar Germany that preceded Hitler's rise to power.113 When they came for the socialists and communists in the 1950's, the targets of the Smith Act and other repressive treatment, many of us did not act since we were not members of such organizations. Will we make the mistake twice?

Hanging solemnly over the mass murder at Jonestown, Guyana was the Georges Santana quote, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it."114 We are not far from the open collusion of the courts in all aspects of state repression. Recent events must be seen for what they are, an attack on us all, spearheaded by the very forces of reaction that threaten life and freedom worldwide, hiding beneath the cloak of anti-communism. To sit back now will put us in a category akin to Klaus Barbie's Army Intelligence contact, Ernst Dabringhaus. Will we be "Good Germans of American extraction" and "do our job", or will we rise?

John Judge

(Based on my own research, and that of Mae Brussell,115 and the few remaining real researchers looking into the truth of what became of democracy in America.)

FOOTNOTES

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FIGHT ★ BACK



WHILE YOU STILL CAN

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 "How the Vatican Bank Got Itself Implicated in the Ambrosiano Scandal", WSJ, 11/23/82
 "Italian Authorities Find Possible Link Between Secret Lodge & Banco Ambrosiano", WSJ, 9/15/82
 "Scandal Erupts Over Italian Masonic Lodge", NYT, 5/26/81
 "Fraud, Fascism & the Vatican Connection", Guardian, 1/19/83
 "P-2 Revelations are Startling", In These Times, August 12-15, 1982
- 86- "Milan Mystery...A Murky Maze", WSJ, 8/30/82
 "Convicted Italian Banker Found Hanged in London", Houston Post, 6/20/82

- 87- "Wotta Knight", NY Daily News, 1/19/83 (Alexander Haig & Rev. Francis Haig)
 (Note: Other Knights in key positions of power include the following:
 William Casey (CIA Director) Reinhard Gehlen (Nazi, CIA, since 1948)
 Franklyn Nofziger (White House aide) Nicholas Brady (Spellman, Pacelli, Grace)
 Richard V. Allen (Nat. Security Advisor) Robert Ablanalp (Nixon confidante)
 James G. Watt (Sec. of Interior) Joseph Bettinger (Bilderberger, Bernhard)
 D. Lowell Jensen (Asst. Sec. General) Wild Bill Donovan (OSS, Nazi's)
 Raymond J. Donovan (Sec. of Labor) Peter Flanigan (Nixon & Grace)
 James Buckley (Undersec. of Security) Barron Hilton (of the hotels)
 Fred Fielding (Nixon Watergate counsel) Lee Iacocca (Ford Motor Co.)
 E. Pendleton James (Watergate, Reagan) Joseph Kennedy (father JFK, RFK)
 John D.J. Moore (Amb. Ireland, Grace Co.) James Ling (Ling, Temco, Vogt)
 Felix Larkin (Pentagon counsel, Grace Co.) Michael Sindona (Vatican scandal, P-2)
 Robert Millikan (Citibank, Grace Co.) John Volpe (Amb. Italy, P-2)
 For more information, see article cited above, "Men Behind the Counterreformation"
- 88- "Bludhorn Dies, Head of G&W Empire", NYT, 2/21/83
 "Death of G&W Founder Stirs Wall Street Interest", Houston Post, 3/15/83
 "G&W and Dominican Republic", NYT, 8/21/79
 "Antonio Guzman, Dominican President Shot to Death", 7/5/82
 (Marcinkus, Sindona, Gelli connection source?)
- 89- Kirk Kerkorian: American Success Story, Dial Torgerson
Indecent Exposure, op.cit.
 (Music Corporation of America source?)
- 90- "The Ledeen Connection", In These Times, 9/8/82
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 "A World Without Grace: 7 Unanswered Questions", Philadelphia, June, 1983
 "The Fairytale Business", Forbes, 10/11/82
 "A New Role for Princess Grace", NY Post, 9/7/82 (Vatican link)
 (Monaco Nazi source?)
- 93- "NBC Says CIA Agents Under Investigation", SJ Mercury, 3/24/83
 "Documents Undercut Case Against Bulgarian Papal Plot", LA Times, 3/30/83
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- 94- "World's # 1 Dealer", LA Times, 12/9/81 (Cummings)
 "Arms & the Man", WP Magazine, 10/19/81
 "Frank Terpil", 60 Minutes, CBS, 11/15/81
 "Confessions of a Dangerous Man", PBS, op.cit.
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- 96- Ibid.
The Secret History of the SS, Glenn Infield
- 97- Nomenclature of an Assassination Cabal, William Torbitt (unpubl. ms.)
The Dallas Conspiracy, Peter Dale Scott (unpubl. ms.)
The Kennedy Conspiracy, Paris Flammonde

The Secret Team, Fletcher Prouty
They've Killed the President, Robert Sam Anson
Assassinations: Dallas & Beyond, Scott, et.al.
Coup D'Etat in America, Webberman & Canfield
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Eagle Times, June, 1982 (Vatican, Permindex links)

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The Rocket Team, Ordway, et.al.
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Project Paperclip, op.cit.
- 102-
- 103- Coup D'Etat in America, op.cit.
- 104- Ibid.
- 105- Marina & Lee, Priscilla Johnson McMillan
Coup D'Etat in America, op.cit.
- 106- Marina & Lee, op.cit.
- 107- The Kennedy Conspiracy, op.cit.
Coup D'Etat in America, op.cit.
Who Killed Kennedy?, Buchanan
- 108- (Warren Commission source?)
- 109-
- 110- The Killing of Corporal Kunze, Wilma Parnell
- 111- (Warren Commission source?)
- 112- Boston Globe, 2/14/83 (Editorial quoted in text)
- 112A (Note: The interconnections multiply, and the Joe McCarthy story is but one indication. Fr. Walsh, his "mentor", worked with the Papal Relief Mission in the 1920's, along with Herbert Hoover, as a cover to rearm the monarchists. McCarthy was supported directly by Nazi's here in the US, including Frank Seusenbrenner, then President of the Board of the University of Wisconsin, and Walter Harnishfeger. In turn, McCarthy took over the Senate hearings on the Massacre at Malmedy to cover the Nazi criminals. Other examples of interlinks abound:
Charles Willoughby, really Weidenbach, helped found Young Americans for Freedom in Dallas in 1963, which had a role in the JFK assassination. Also involved there was Robert Morris, a Navy intelligence psywar expert in WWII, who chaired the Committee to Restore Internal Security, assisted in the McCarthy purges, and linked to the Dallas YAF plot. Fr. Walsh himself had ties with a Nazi Major General Karl Houshofer.
Sven Kraemer, the son of the notorious Fritz Kraemer, links closely with Rev. Moon, the World Anti-Communist League, and the Pentagon.
Mike Burke of G&W's Madison Square Garden had CIA connections, worked in an early plot to overthrow Albania, and links to Sonny Werblin at the Garden, an early Hollywood publicity agent for Reagan. (NYT 4/17/82)
Banco Ambrosiano is now further scandalized by the recent discovery of guns and drugs at their Milan headquarters, part of an international

traffic that ties to Nazi smuggling operations and CIA plots. (LA Herald, 11/26/81)
Nugan Hard Bank, formed with the heroin profits of Southeast Asian CIA drug operations, and tied to various covert operations, ended in scandal and suicide. The story makes many more connections in this web. See "Australian Mystery", WSJ, 8/24-25-26, 1982.)

- 112B The Secret History of the SS, Infield
Friendly Fascism, Bertram Gross
"US Needs Military Coup", UPI 10/21/81 (Sen. John Schmitz, CA)
- 113- The Ominous Parallels; The End of Freedom in America, Peikoff
Four Years of War Murders, Gumbell
Forgive My Grief (Vol.1-4), Penn Jones, Jr. (JFK witness deaths)
"30 Key Watergate Witnesses Met Violent Deaths", Midnight Globe, 7/12/76 (Brussel)
"The Serpent's Egg", film by Bergman
- 114- "In the Spirit of Jimmy Jones", Akwasasne Notes, Winter, 1982 (photo of quote)
- 115- "World Watchers International", weekly cassettes, \$5.00, Mae Brussell, 25620 Via Crotalo, Carmel, CA 93921.
"Aries Research", PO Box 1107, Aptos, CA 95003, \$1.00 for book catalog, service carries many books cited here, and much more.
The Continuing Inquiry, Penn Jones, Jr., Rt 3, Box 356, Waxahachie, TX 76165, \$24/yr.
Parapolitics, Johnathan Marshall, 311 E. Reed St. #7, San Jose, CA 95112, \$25/yr.
Covert Action Information Bulletin, PO Box 50272, Washington, DC 20004, \$15/yr.
Counterspy, PO 647, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044, \$10/yr.
Grassy Knoll Gazette, PO 1465, Manchester, MA 01944, \$10/yr.
Organizing Notes, Campaign for Political Rights, 201 Mass. Ave. NE Washington, DC 20002, \$10/yr.
Overthrow, PO 392, Canal St. Station, NY, NY 10013, \$10/yr.
Suppressed Facts Quarterly, c/o FAIRCO, PO 448, Shreveport, LA 71161, \$12/yr.
Cassettes, Ted Gondolfo, 1214 First Ave., NY, NY 10021 (broadcasts, etc.)
Coverups, Gary Mack, 4620 Brandingshire Place, Ft. Worth, TX 76133, \$12/yr.
"CIA & the Nazi's", cassette of Charles Allen, Jr., Jeff McConnell, Dept. of Linguistics, MIT, Cambridge, MA 02139.
Hearings on Nazi War Criminals, Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees & International Law, 21-37 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515 (recent)
CONSPIRACY, John Judge, FC 42508, Philadelphia, PA 19101 distributes the following articles:
"Good Americans", John Judge, \$3.00
"The Jonestown Banks", John Judge, \$1.00
"In the Spirit of Jimmy Jones", Akwasasne Notes, \$1.00
"Hitler's Shrinks", Lenny Lapon, \$1.00
"Psychiatry, Tool of Fascism", \$2.00

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Jake Berry

AMERICAN PSYCHO

BY BRUCE EASTON ELLIS & REVIEW BY SPARTACUS

Before I begin my review, I feel that a few words of explanation are in order.

To start with, I don't normally review books: it is not what I am good at, to say the least. The three book reviews I've printed in TFYS (The Last Days of Christ the Vampire, We Should Have Killed The King, and This'll Kill Ya) have been, simply put, lame. Lame, and boring, and (though unintentionally) an insult to the writers of those books. "If that is the case" you may ask, "why are you, Spartacus, reviewing American Psycho?" Well, there are a number of reasons, the primary one being that American Psycho has gotten (and is still getting) a lot of "bad press", and I simply feel that it does not deserve it. By way of explanation, I read a lot, in case you are interested. However, I do not often read books which are considered "violent", "sick", or "sexist" literature. The last book that I read of such a nature was Captain Blood by Michael Blodgett (which was excellent, by the way). Before that, perhaps The Flesh Eaters by L. A. Morse (which was not excellent, by the way). Those who are familiar with the two books I just mentioned (and the publication dates of those books) will realize that I have read a "violent" book perhaps three times in the past twelve years. That should let you know that I am not a fan of the genre.

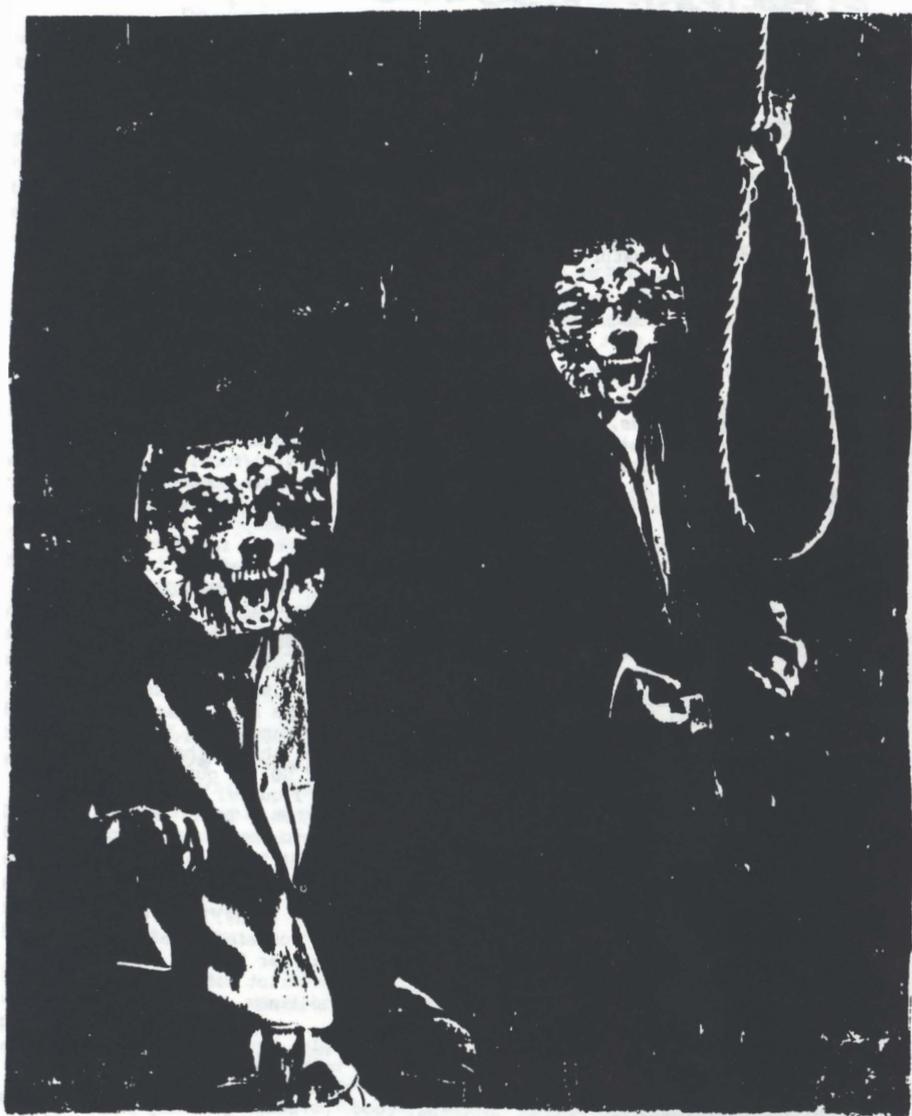
I have said that my main reason for reviewing American Psycho is to defend it. And that I will! American Psycho is a damn good book! It is a scathing, seething, positively nuclear damnation of Yuppies, fads, advertising, "keeping up with the Joneses", the "MTV generation", and (in general) our society as a whole. And (believe it or not) in the midst of all that relevant and timely social satire, the hero(?) / focal point of the book (Patrick Bateman) manages to maim a bum, kill a Sharpei (and his homosexual owner), almost strangle his lover's fiance, torture to death six (or is it eight?) prostitutes and one night stands, and then still has the energy to kill one saxophone player, one cab driver, one rat, one jellyfish, and one more dog. Yep, this book is just chock full o' carnage, boys and girls! It's not for the queasy or the weak of heart. It's got lots of "gratuitous violence", and I'm not condoning it. But I will say this: American Psycho is right up there with Jonathan Swift's short essay A Modest Proposal in the quality of it's social commentary and satire, and those who condemn American Psycho are just too damn stupid to realize that, by condemning the book, they are only making the joke all the more funny.

Being that American Psycho is the first book I've read by Mr. Ellis, I am unable to say it is his best, though I'd be willing to bet it is. In the book, Mr. Ellis has given us a true demon for the 1990's: not some burnt-faced claw-handed Bob Fosse, not some tired old leatherfaced or hockeymasked doofus, but the real thing; the ultimate villain. A guy that looks like he just walked off the cover of GQ. A guy that is fantastically wealthy and charming. A guy who is capable of (and I quote) "driving a lead pipe repeatedly into a girls vagina, but compassionately". Uh huh. Yeah. Right.

I read this book in three days. I could have read it in two, but I wanted to take my time enjoying all the little "hooks" and "grabbers". Such as: every club Bateman walks into is playing INXS's "New Sensation" (which always segues into "The Devil Inside"). Hey, I thought it was funny. Also, "Les Miz" is mentioned every twenty pages or so, as is Bateman's tan (which is complemented by friends and strangers both). And though I don't claim to be a connoisseur of haute cuisine, this book also contains some of the most bizarre (yuppier?) food combinations I've ever heard of (Red Snapper Pizza, Peanut Butter Soup, Grilled Salmon with Raspberry Vinegar and Guacamole, and Pilot Fish with Tulips and Ginger are only a few of them). But if they are real food items, then I guess the joke is on me.

One potentially annoying facet of the book for some people, one which regularly crops up in my conversations with people who have read about the book, but not the book itself, is the book's descriptive sections. To explain, the main character, Patrick Bateman, provides copiously detailed descriptions of clothing, food, personal grooming products, and home appliances: Now some of the people I've talked to have said that, by including such descriptions, Mr. Ellis is simply "showing off" his knowledge of nice clothes, food, furniture and etcetera (and filling page-space while doing so). Pardon my French, but that is bullshit, pure and simple. Yes, the whole goddamn book is a commercial, but that is not its weak point. In fact, it's one of its strongest points, in my opinion. Every character in the book is a font of information when it comes to list prices, makes, models, and performance records, but that's all they are. Walking commercials. Just like the majority of the cable hooked-up, USA Today-reading, oat bran and calcium-eating Americans that the book parodies. Needless to say, this book is not going to be a very big hit with the "trendy" or "politically correct", by any means.

Live for the moment
the moment you forget



Deeper and more relevant still is one very fundamental aspect of the book, an aspect which is open for individual interpretation. Which is this: Is Patrick Bateman really a killer, or does he merely have an "unusually rich fantasy life"? There are numerous instances of Bateman actually telling people that he is a killer, but no one hears him. Does he really tell them, or does he just imagine that he tells them? And more importantly, is he a psycho because of his thoughts, or because of his actions? That aspect is what brings American Psycho home to all of us: to every single one of us who have ever wanted to (but never really did) "get even" with an enemy. To every single one of us who have repeatedly watched movies like Friday the 13th or Nightmare On Elm Street or Child's Play. American Psycho makes us ask ourselves the question "Am I Patrick Bateman"? And the answer we get depends on how one interprets the book's true meaning.

Before I wind up this review, let me tell you my other reason for defending this book. My reason is twofold. 1) I have heard that American Psycho is to be discontinued by its publisher. To you, the potential reader, this means one thing: once the first printing sells out, that is it. There will be no more copies. The blame for this discontinuation lies with anti-AmPsycho lobbying by various and sundry special interest groups. You can't really call it censorship, but it is perhaps the next closest thing. That is the fact that pissed me off enough to make me wanna go out and buy this twelve dollar gem. And I'm glad I did! And 2) I'm defending American Psycho because it is offensive: offensive not to myself, but to people who righteously deserve to be offended. In particular, the very vocal and head-stuck-up-their-own-ass feminists. Not the cool feminists, don't get me wrong, but the feminists who (apparently) will not be happy until the penis is an endangered species. One example of my meaning should suffice:

Setting: a used book store.

Characters: myself, a friend of mine, and his feminist girlfriend.

The Time: two days ago.

Me (talking about American Psycho): "...I like it, so far. And I happen to feel that the book is getting some very unfair and undeserved bad press".

Max: "Hmmm. I don't know. Maybe I'll have to read it".

Jane (from twenty feet away, and who I wasn't even talking to): "So. You liked a book whose lead character tortures a woman to death by stuffing a live rat into her vagina? You thing that's good, huh?"

Me: "Hey- I haven't gotten to that part in the book yet, but yes, even though the part you just described disgusts and sickens me, yes, I like the book."

Jane: "It's attitudes like yours that are making violence towards women even more acceptable than it already is in America today!"

Me: "Hey Again- a bum gets his eyes gouged out early on in the book. A homosexual and his dog get gutted later on: I don't hear you griping about that! But I guess bums, gays and Sharpeis aren't on your list of non-killable beings, huh?"

Jane: "I'm not familiar with those scenes...."

Me: "Oh, I see. I was under the impression you had read the book. Obviously you've only heard about it. Well sister, I hate ta tell ya, but it's attitudes like yours that are making censorship even more acceptable than it already is in America today. What do you think about that?"

Jane: "What are you talking about? I'm not censoring your little book. No one is".

Me: "Uh huh. Right. I've been told that the book will not go into a second printing. It's been shit-canned by folks like you who condemn books without even reading 'em. Hell- Norman Mailer said American Psycho was a great book one minute, then damned it as trash just three weeks later, cow-towing to public opinion. Go figure that one out!"

Jane: "Well, Norman Mailer is a hell of a better writer than Bret Easton Ellis!"

Me: "Shit! What are you talking about? Defending Mailer over Bret Easton Ellis? Last time I checked, Mailer was still in hot water with the Feminists for writing Tough Guys Don't Dance. Since when is he your champion of femininity? Christ!"

Jane: "Well, just don't talk to me about American Psycho: I don't read books like that anyway. I mean, I read Silence Of The Lambs, which had violence towards women in it, but at least the FBI agent hero character was a woman!"

Me: "Like that makes the violence towards women acceptable, huh? Throwing in a female lead? Harris was just covering his ass from book burners like yourself. Besides, if you will recall, when I was discussing American Psycho earlier, I wasn't even talking to you!"

Jane: "Hmph!!!"

And so it goes. A "hmp"ing by a feminist gave rise to this questionably-motivated review. You be the judge of what censorship accomplishes.

For people who bother to study the subject of political conspiracy you begin to notice strange similarities, at least on the 'radical right'. It doesn't matter what the group thinks the world is, because each one seems to see it in the same way even if they all appear different. One group thinks that Catholicism is a Communist Plot. The next thinks that Catholicism and the pope are being plotted against by Communism. The next thinks the pope is a Jew and a Mason, corrupting the church. The next thinks Jews are out to destroy Christianity. And the next things that Judeo-Christianity is part of a worldwide Judeo-batanic-Communist plot. With such contrast you'd think that they would disagree sometimes on principle; they hardly ever do. The conspiracy they see lurking under the bed is always the exact same one: it never really varies, or changes very much. The conspiracy always involves bankers centered in New York or Boston, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Triateral Commission and the three commercial television networks, ABC, NBC and CBS.

The evidence for this point of view, however, does not match up. Most likely it is a trace element of anti-Semitism and anti-cosmopolitanism. The assertion that the East Coast bankers are smart enough to rule the world is patently absurd. David Rockefeller, alleged mastermind of world conquest through subversion, spent the 1970's loaning billions to Brazil, Turkey and Zaire. You'd think that would mean that Brazil, Turkey and Zaire would be prosperous countries: of course not. After they defaulted on their first loan, Rockefeller and his Chase Manhattan Bank lent his customers more money so they could pay off the old money. And then a new loan to handle that loan, and then again and again and again until Chase Manhattan had blown hundreds of millions on an absurdity that 98% of Dharma Combat readers would not fall for. You don't loan money to people who can't pay you back just so they can pretend to pay. Unless, of course, you are among the 2% of Dharma Combat's readers who work for the Chase Manhattan Bank. (1)

From this you'd think that at least the CIA was running things. Of course not. The CIA has done dozens of mind control experiments that were almost comedic in their amateurishness, from dropping LSD in people's drinks at random to 'psychic driving' (tape loop repeating the same words over and over again to drugged individuals with electric shocks to the legs as an added bonus). They were comedic failures, as was trying to poison Fidel Castro, dictator of Cuba, with poisoned cigars, and the attempt to blackmail Indonesian head of state Sukarno with a porno film when he was so sexually promiscuous blackmail was probably impossible (2). The piece de resistance came when the CIA came to the conclusion that the anti-Vietnamese War protesters were controlled by the KGB. What exactly was the President supposed to do if it found evidence that the KGB had that much influence on domestic politics? Tell the Russians 'We will negotiate in good faith only if you stop the campus riots?' Of course not. Without evidence the FBI launched its infamous COINTELPRO operation which assumed somehow that free political dissension was a 'Soviet intelligence' operation of some sort. Take the

whole squalid mess and dump failed attempts to create a radio-controlled cat -- you know, meow, meow -- on top, and you make a laughing stock out of the idea that spies could actually be running the country.

Anyone who goes down to the newsstands can tell you who rules the country. Let us examine the situation as it most-likely-as-not is.

The starting point for almost all modern conspiracy theories is, of course, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Currently the book "Mafia Kingfish", a biography of New Orleans Mafia boss Carlos Marcello, proposes the popular belief that the Mafia did JFK in. The book claims that New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison started dropping false clues that the CIA did JFK in when evidence started coming to light that Marcello was responsible. Garrison started implicating the CIA in the assassination, and held a near-comedic trial which fell apart. Later, Garrison wrote the book "On the Trail of the Assassins" implicating Kerry Wendall Thornley, KSC as part of the JFK hit squad.

Returning to Thornley later, the Grand Jury called a witness named Fred Crisman. In the 1940's Fred Crisman sent a letter to Amazing Stories, a pulp sci-fi magazine. Since March 1945 Amazing Stories had run articles which they claimed were based on the 'racial memories' of one Richard Shaver. Shaver had been welding one day when he began receiving telepathic messages from his welding equipment. The messages told of two races from within the hollow Earth, the Deros, or Detrimental Robots, and the Teros. It seemed that the Deros were shooting a terrible 'ray' at people, putting voices in their heads. When Amazing Stories, under the control of a man named Ray Palmer, began publishing these stories, an army of people began buying, many writing in to describe the same experiences with 'voices'. Sometime after the first issue, Fred Crisman wrote to Amazing Stories claiming to have been attacked by a Dero in a cave in Burma, describing burn marks very similar to those caused by laser beams. (3) In 1947 he wrote to Ray Palmer, claiming to have been a harbor patrol man with Harold Dahl off Murraray Island. He had been attacked by flying saucers which killed his dog by shooting molten rock at them. Shortly thereafter Palmer contacted Kenneth Arnold, the first man to sight a UFO in modern times, on June 24, 1947. After seeking publicity, he got more than he wanted when two Air Force men investigating the incident died in a plane crash. (4). Dahl and Crisman later admitted that this was just a hoax to try and sell the story to Amazing for publication.

In the 1960's Garrison implicated a New Orleans businessman named Clay L. Shaw in the JFK assassination. The Grand Jury talked to Fred Crisman, but decided not to call him as a witness. (4)/(5)

With Garrison covering for Marcello by relying on witnesses like Crisman, whose connection to Ray Palmer and the world of UFOs and flying saucers is so obvious, we see a clear Mafia-UFO connection. Or perhaps not. Since the leading promoters of UFOs in this country seem to be six supermarket tabloids playing to an audience of 'ray' victims, and the fact that the National Enquirer was started with a loan from the New York Mafia (3)/(6), a clear UFO-Mafia connection can be seen here. The view of

UFOs promoted by the tabloids is that of UFOs as spaceships from another planet, a belief started by Ray Palmer to sell Amazing Stories, from Shaver's stories.

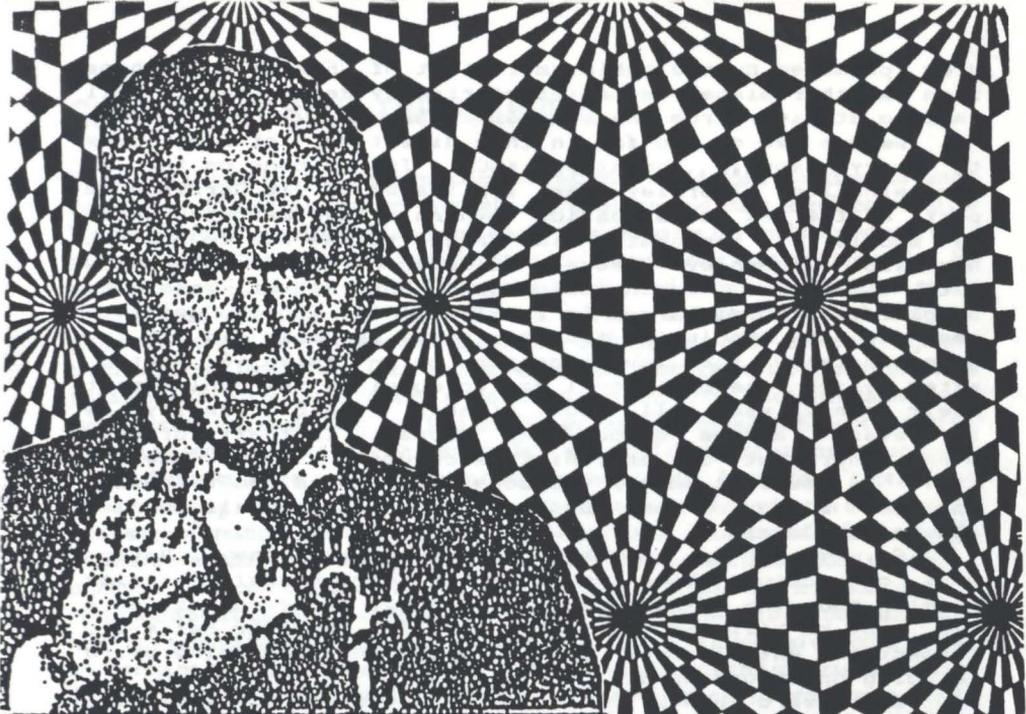
Before we go too far in this direction, let's get back to Kerry Wendall Thornley, KSC. In his book on the JFK assassination, Thornley was implicated by Jim Garrison as part of the JFK assassination. Thornley denies this, which he should if the Mafia is trying to use him to protect Marcello. Thornley, however, believes he discussed Kennedy with a man he now thinks of as E. Howard Hunt, Watergate burglar extraordinaire. In the 1970's the Church Committee came to the conclusion that the Mafia probably did JFK in. Unfortunately, the investigation only lasted 6 months, after which the basic goal was to convince the public that their money was well spent (their slogan 'reality is irrelevant' sounds almost like 'property is theft' or some other anarchist or anarchist/Discordian slogan, doesn't it?) To make it worse, the committee bumped two witnesses who saw E. Howard Hunt running around with, of all people, Lee Harvey Oswald.

So, with the Church Committee ignoring the E. Howard Hunt connection which could prove Kerry Wendall Thornley right, and the Mafia accusing Thornley of being part of a CIA plot to kill JFK to protect Marcello, and the Mafia-UFO connection established, it's obvious that something weird is going on around here.

E. Howard Hunt, of course, was part of the Watergate burglary team. The ineptness of the burglary has made some wonder if the CIA was trying to do Richard Nixon in. (2)/(8) At the time they were trying to find evidence to blackmail Laurence O'Brian, head of the group of men trained by John F. Kennedy, who helped him along with his political career. O'Brian had been hired by an insane codeine junkie named Howard Hughes in 1968, after Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated. Hughes paid O'Brian to try and get the political influence he wanted in Congress to stop the underground testing in Nevada. The testing, it was proven, would cause earthquakes and radioactive contamination. When the results came in President Lyndon B. Johnson classified the report and continued to test, risking the public's lives.

Hughes' right hand man was Robert A. Mahue. In 1961 Mahue had acted as a liason between the Mafia and the CIA in a plot to kill Fidel Castro. At the time, however, his man contact was Sam Giancana, a Chicago Mafioso who was convinced that his girlfriend Phyllis McGuire was two-timing him with comedian Dan Rowan, later of "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-in". So Mahue sent the CIA a request, and the CIA sent a wireman who was bugging Rowan's phone when the maid came in and called the police. So the CIA had to ask the FBI to let him go. J. Edgar Hoover was not amused, while Giancana was to the point where he almost choked on his cigar with laughter. (9)/(10) Later, Richard Nixon appeared on the television show "Laugh-in" and said, "Sock it to me?" He did not get any water dropped on his head, being the Republican Presidential candidate, and all that.

So, with mad billionaire Hughes' Mafia CIA connection firmly established, let us talk now about Hughes and Sammy Davis Jr. The late Mr. Davis was Hughes' secret protector against rioting black mobs. The situation in Las Vegas in 1969 was grim, and when a riot broke out, Hughes was



"We



not



erate Saddam

Hussein for his actions. We will

Mobilize to meet this threat to our

vital interests in the Persian



until an **AMOCO**le solution



is reached."

assured by Mahue that he had nothing to worry about; Sammy Davis Jr. would protect him. Understandably, Davis would; he was the only black man on Hughes' payroll, Hughes being an ardent racist who refused to hire them.

Davis, of course, had connections to the San Francisco Church of Satan run by Anton Szandor LaVey. Davis was briefly a member of the San Francisco Church of Satan, run by LaVey; Davis wore a Satanic Baphomet on stage a few times. Davis and Dean Martin, along with Frank Sinatra, made up the Rat Pack. With the Church of Satan-Rat Pack-Hughes-CIA-Mafia-UFO link firmly established, let's go back to LaVey and Marilyn Monroe.

LaVey claims to have had sexual relations with Monroe, although LaVey is an unabashed liar in many respects (11)/(12). Monroe appeared nude in the first issue of Playboy Magazine, suggesting a Hugh Hefner-Monroe-Church of Satan-Rat Pack-Hughes-CIA-Mafia-UFO linkage of some sort, although the connection is weak.

Of course, Kerry Wendall Thornley is also known as Ho Chi Zen -- from Robert Anton Wilson's infamous "Illuminatus" trilogy. Wilson once worked for Playboy. The Wilson-Hefner-Monroe-Church of Satan-Davis-Dean-Sinatra-Hughes-CIA-Mafia-UFO linkup is established. (13)

Having established the Mafia-UFO link, we do so from the fact that the National Enquirer also owns the infamous Weekly World News, which in fact perpetuates the belief that there is nothing to the whole UFO situation by printing the silliest nonsense they can make up out of thin air. Since the Mafia is connected to the Enquirer, and the Enquirer to a magazine actively trying to humiliate the idea that the UFO phenomenon could mean anything, we must assume that the Mafia, or at least the ruling classes, is promoting this idea. Not that this is the Mafia's main interest, of course.

The last piece of the puzzle is that radio comedian Jack Benny (14) once hired 'Wild Bill' Donovan, founder of the CIA. The connection between Benny and Donovan established, from there we have the cast of 'It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World', the 1963 movie about a cross country chase for stolen money. Benny appeared in a cameo, as did the Three Stooges (then consisting of Larry, Moe and Curly Joe, the last of the six men who made up the Three Stooges). Also appearing in the movie was Jim Backus, later Mister Hovell and before that the voice of Mr. Magoo. With the Gilligan's Island connection established the recent death of Alan Hale takes on a strange tinge of political mystery, although not a serious one. If we include Sid Caesar's role in the movie, we have a clear, although weak CIA-Benny-Sid Caesar-'Your Show of Shows' connection. One of the writers on the show was, of course, Mel Brooks, and another Woody Allen.

All of these last connections are weak. But then, that's the point all along. Any real attempt to find a conspiracy ruling the world from behind the scenes takes you straight to Hollywood, and back to the supermarket tabloids. Celebrities rule the world, because only they have enough imagination to do so. The idea that politicians who (like President Reagan) just act, run the world, is ridiculous. They (at least as far as the U.S. is concerned) don't have enough imagination to do so. The fact that most of the magazines on the stands focus

entirely on 'personalities' is no coincidence. In a world without imagination, where weapon systems that don't work dominate the economy of a country full of people sleeping in the streets, the only ones with imagination are the celebrities who fill the minds of the majority. And the ones with the most imagination ultimately win out. So, if you want to venture a plot to rule the world, it's got to be a plot by writers, celebrities and entertainers to keep us amused. Does anything else really make sense?

FOOTNOTES

- (1) Mother Jones Magazine; November 1980, 'The Petrodollars Trail' by L.J. Davis.
- (2) The Complete Spy; Robert McGarvey and Elise Caitlin. Copyright 1983.
- (3) Whole Earth Quarterly; Fall 1986, 'The Man Who Invented Flying Saucers' by John A. Keel.
- (4) The World of UFOs; Daniel Cohen.
- (5) Cohen.
- (6) Whole Earth Quarterly; Fall 1986, 'Do Tabloids Turn Housewives Into Zombies?'
- (7) Keel.
- (8) McGarvey and Caitlin.
- (9) Citizen Hughes; Michael Drosnin. Copyright 1985.
- (10) Drosnin.
- (11) Satan Wants You; Arthur Lyons. Copyright 1988.
- (12) Lyons.
- (13) Illuminatus by Robert Anton Wilson and Robert Shea.
- (14) Jack Benny; Irving A. Fein.

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Correction. January's *Watchtower* in reporting the grant to preserve the boyhood home of Lawrence Welk. Congress appropriated \$500,000.

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EARTH DAY GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE

We are consuming a mirage. Convicted conspirators of industrial terror would have us believe they are some ecologists. Bloodsuckers like General Motors, Dupont, and Union Carbide have leached onto Earth Day like crabs in search of public relations. Meanwhile, even the hippest happeners among us fail to call this bluff.

The executive directors of Earth Day must've scrapped the bottom of a toxic waste barrel to come up with sponsors like the Chemical Manufacturers Association. Humanity should be staggered by this artless fraud. Instead of forcing industrialists to return to their vomit, we cavort in their stale farts.

Make no mistake about it; the illusion called Earth Day serves to prepare the ground for a more savage rape of our mother. It matters little if every washtub weeping soap-operator uses phosphate free detergent. Producers haven't transcended greed, or renounced production of goods with no use value. A green-wash is just another way to make money.

One would have to be color blind not to see how dirty this snow job is. Yet when an avalanche of images comes along with a feel good event, we freeze in our tracks. Our suspicions should've been raised, along with the hair on the back of our necks, when a "Celebrate Earth Day" banner appeared on the Department of Commerce. We extend a great debt of hatred to the gadfly Commerce Secretary who's credo might as well be, "what's good for business, is bad for the Earth."

And we spit in passing at Tommy Top Gun Cruise for his pre-eco consciousness, as well as at the rest of the celebrity pack that flits from hunger, to human rights, to animal rights, to... for their complicity in this and other deceitful spectacles. Are they real, or are they Memorex?

The homeless are invited to an unparalleled night of debauch with the co-sponsors, those zealous mendicants of the National Wildlife Federation, to celebrate this PR coup at the Sheraton Carlton. Everyone should partake in the give away strike tomorrow afternoon of Seikos, Nikes and junk bonds at Woodward and Lothrop. Need we add that the only way to wear your Earth Day shirt is inside out.

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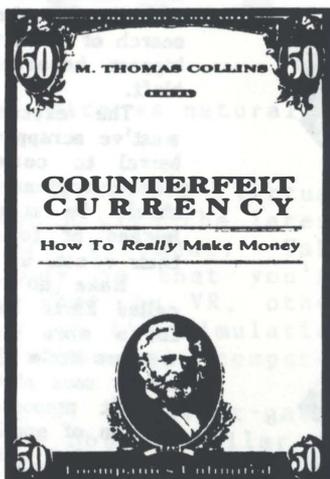


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