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NEXUS

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OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2004

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**The hidden agenda
to weaponise space**

**Medical Mistakes:
our biggest killers**

**People Power: the
new global activism**

**Invented diseases and
the modern inquisition**

Crop Circles of 2004

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• Magnetic Motors • Experts vs Fluoridation •

NEXUS

NEW TIMES MAGAZINE

Volume 11, Number 6

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2004

UK/Europe edition

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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Editorial

Greetings once again, and welcome to our latest information offerings. I feel a twinge of guilt with this issue, as many of the articles refer and relate to issues that, at first glance, appear to have an American perspective. Although many think Australia is already the 51st state of the Union, the main reason for this crop of US-centric articles is just random happenstance. To be clear, though, these articles pertain just as much to Australia, the UK, Canada, New Zealand, etc.—especially when it comes to how many people are killed by medical errors in hospitals, how insane it is to fluoridate water, and how dangerous it is to allow the military-industrial-intelligence complex to weaponise space in order to gain total planetary control.

Another phenomenon not confined to the USA is the rise of "invented" diseases like ADHD and MSBP (munchausen syndrome by proxy). It seems that the drug companies will do anything to sell pills, including creating out of thin air new pseudo-illnesses that "require" medication. In the case of MSBP, doctors are able to have children with "hard-to-diagnose" illnesses removed from dissenting or questioning mothers and their families—for their own good, of course.

Another thing to watch the medical mafia on is the issue of treating crime as a "health" issue. It is certainly true that many "criminal" tendencies have been cured or removed with the introduction of a proper diet. Criminality, violence and attention disorders have been repeatedly reduced or cleared in trials and experiments involving nutrition and detoxification. But consider the other edge of this "sword". If it becomes dogma that crime, violence, antisocial behaviour, etc. can be medically treated, how long will it take drug companies working with anti-terror legislation and maniacs like George W. Bush to be allowed to medicate us forcibly? How long before anyone with dissident tendencies is required under the Patriot Act to be medicated into "normality"? It is being planned right now, so stay vigilant.

Once again, we publish information about the covert agenda to weaponise space. When will people realise that this is one of the most important things that we need to stop? This time, we have an interview with Carol Rosin, who's carrying on famed rocket scientist Dr Wernher von Braun's work in this area. Even von Braun considered the agenda to weaponise space in order to achieve total control of the planet just too monstrous for words. What is most chilling of all is that we are right in the middle of the agenda that was laid out decades ago. Yet so few are aware of it, and even fewer seem to appreciate the enormity of the issue. Got it yet?

This time of the year is when we publish our favourite crop circle formations of the season. Note that even though I've chosen UK formations (again), there were many unexplained formations in other northern hemisphere countries this summer.

Science News contains a couple of items on permanent-magnet motors and pulsed electric motor generators. I was moved to run an update on the Adams motor—along with an important tidbit which shows that sacred geometry, incorporated into the design and sizes (ratios) in a device, is a most important factor in achieving "over-unity" success.

Twilight Zone includes a little beauty of a news item which shows that US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was in the loop on the subject of UFOs decades ago. One could draw many conclusions from this—and none of them is good, in my opinion!

As we go to print with this issue, we are waiting for the outcome of several events. Our NEXUS Conference is shaping up to be a success; asteroid *Toutatis* is due to fly by with an entourage of dangerous debris that's expected to take a week to pass; Bush is about to find some way/reason to win the election; and in Australia we are about to have an election to choose between tweedledumb and tweedleweed. Honestly folks, does anyone really think there is *any* difference between the two major parties? And again, notice how this question has a similar meaning in Australia, the USA, UK, Canada and New Zealand?

But this can't be conspiracy; it has to be coincidence...not! Keep alert and well,
Duncan

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Letters to the Editor ...

Deadly Diabetes Deception

Dear Mr Roads: I am writing to say a big thank you for publishing the article by Thomas Smith, "Our Deadly Diabetes Deception" [NEXUS 11/04]. I cannot stress strongly enough how helpful the information in your publication has been to me, and I have sent a big thanks to Mr Smith as well.

Please consider a follow-up to the article, as its content is vital to the many thousands of people in various stages of the disorder and to forewarn those who put their trust in the processed food industry.

Thank you, and best wishes,
Mike Wadham, UK

Treating Diabetes with Diet

Dear Editor: I read with interest the article on "Our Deadly Diabetes Deception" (vol. 11, no. 4). I have long known about a doctor in particular who wrote two books on dietary changes and regimens that reverse the diabetes and many other health ailments.

Dr Fuhrman is quite detailed about the nature of diabetes and its connection to the poor diet regimens as well as certain food (natural and processed). I understood at last why some people develop diabetes whilst others do not, along with why some diabetes progress to the worst.

Unlike Dr Atkins and his pseudoscience dietary regimen, Dr Fuhrman did not write the books to profit or to support his *status quo*. Instead, he researched many studies very intensely and treated 30,000 to 40,000 patients in his own practice with immense success. *Fasting and Eating for Health* is a pioneering book and the culmination of his research.

His recent book, *Eat to Live*, focuses on careful selection of vegetables and cooking techniques to maximise the nutrients and energy and to eliminate the damaging effect from animal and dairy products. The beauty is that you need not measure small portions or subject yourself to a dangerous fad diet. You are permitted to eat as much as you like

during each meal, but nothing in between.

A word of advice: Dr Fuhrman is quite adamant on medical supervision, since each and every person has a different length of time before their body depletes their reserve of nutrients.

Naturopathic doctors are more likely to accept and supervise the fasting than the allopathic doctors. Do give the naturopathic doctors a try when soliciting for medical supervision during the fasting.

Dr Fuhrman's website is <http://www.drfuhrman.com>.

Continue with splendid work of reporting the news that the mainstream media don't...

Regards,
Oliver M.

Harold Foster's AIDS Regimen

Dear Duncan: Just wanted to thank you for your coverage of Harold Foster and his book, *What Really Causes AIDS* [see review in 10/05 and article in 11/01-02].

I've been on Dr Foster's recommended regimen for about four months and can state confidently that he's onto something.

My condition was immediately improved and I feel better than I ever have in my whole life. I'll be getting more blood tests done in about six weeks; this should be the proof that Foster is right on.

This is a simple, readily available treatment for the scourge of this century. I hope more people get the word.

Thanks for your coverage.

Patrick Kluesner, Anderson, Indiana, USA

Beware of Processed Salt

I have been looking at the salt/potassium ratio which the body needs. I read about a test that you can do to convince yourself of the difference between "sea salt" and ordinary every day "table salt", so I thought I would try it.

I got two empty herb jars and filled them up to the neck with ordinary water (rainwater). I then added a measured teaspoonful of table salt (Saxa brand) to

one jar and the same measure of sea salt (we use the cheapest we can find) to the other. I gave each bottle a shake and then left them sitting on the window sill for 24 hours.

The sea salt in the jar completely dissolved in the water, while the table salt just stayed in the bottom of the jar.

This is what has been happening since the introduction of processed salt. Table salt does not dissolve in the body, and over time begins to block arteries, etc., causing serious harm to our bodies. The sea salt flows through the body and does more *good* than harm. We all need salt!

Table salt obviously has had all the goodness extracted during refining, so you get a nice shiny white substance that looks and tastes salty but is of no use to your body.

Norm Coates, Australia

Port Chicago Radiation Swath

This was posted yesterday, Friday (July 16), with a few follow-ups, at the website <http://www.sciscoop.com/story/2004/7/16/94228/2111>.

"A year and a half ago when the Port Chicago debate erupted on SciScoop and Slashdot, the question came up, 'Where's the radiation?' Trying to settle the urban legend one way or the other before the 60th anniversary of the accident (July 17), a friend and I drove there with an electronic Geiger counter mounted outside my truck and my Linux laptop inside, logging the data. What we found was startling.

"There is a two-mile-wide swath of higher-than-background (13-17 μ R/hr measured from the road) radiation directly across the bay from Port Chicago on Grizzly Island. It gets less noticeable further inland, even with sensitive instruments. It's a wildlife area, so maybe that's why no one noticed. But the unexplained radiation is definitely there. And the shape is facing Port Chicago from across the bay.

"I posted my findings including instructions and source code

so you can duplicate my experiment. Time to get the media to exercise their FOIA expertise and pester members of Congress for info."

Details of the findings are posted at <http://www.kluft.com/~ikluft/pc44/>.

Peter Vogel, Vermont, USA,
pvogel@together.net

Missing Tesla Patents

Dear Duncan: A friend of mine just asked me to check some US patents filed by Nikola Tesla so he could find more sources in constructing a rotary turbine engine. He thought there was something wrong with his computer—but it turns out that while similar machinery built since is still there, every single patent filed by Tesla has been removed totally.

The ones I looked for were: 1061206, 1655113, 1329559, 1962565, 2351055, 1540998, 685957, 787412 [see website <http://patft.uspto.gov/>].

These were all Tesla's original cylindrical engine patents, and we are trying to work out a sensible reason why they've all been removed but can't think of one. What theories do you all have?

Yours sincerely,

David Howard,
david.howard13@ntlworld.com

Saudi Arabian Oil Reserves

Sir: When I was working in Saudi Arabia (1989-1992), the *Arab News* contained a story regarding a huge oil find near Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. They said they were surprised because they thought that all the oil was located on the east coast and that none would be found near the centre of the country. The report said this discovery was so huge that it would represent 300 years of supply at today's (then 1989-1992) usage.

Therefore, I believe that greed has either stepped into the equation big time, or someone was telling big porkies when writing up this story. That really does not gel, because Arabs are not prone to "making the news" like we do in the West but report

... more Letters to the Editor

NB: Please keep letters to approx. 150 to 250 words in length. Ed.

what is known.

Methinks that the oil companies and the "money men" are out to skin us alive.

Many regards,
Leonce Kealy, Honourable
Member of the Electors'
Parliaments of Australia

Aspartame Dangers

The sad saga of aspartame goes on. An article in the *Observer* of Sunday 15 August about a 300% increase in brain diseases, Alzheimer's, dementia and brain tumours in Westernised countries since 1981, but not in Japan, caught my attention. No guilty environmental pollutants could be found.

Having suspicions after having read NEXUS articles on aspartame, I put in a Google search for "aspartame use Japan" and found that Japan has not licensed aspartame and uses the herbal extract of stevia for sugar substitutes. The timing comparison for 1979–81 to 1995–97, the aspartame-licensed 1981–82 geographical and crossover populations comparisons and known side effects all point to aspartame as the culprit.

I put together an A4-page-sized email warning to all my family and friends, giving some facts and relevant websites, books and networks about the dangers of artificial sweeteners. If anyone would like one to pass on to their loved ones, email a request to me at j_braggins@austarnet.com.au.

J. Braggins, Australia

Commercial Pet Food Perils

Dear Sirs or Madams: I was recently given a copy of an article out of your magazine called "The Pet Food Industry and Its Questionable Practices", by Ann N. Martin [NEXUS 10/05]. I was, to say the least, *shocked!*

I have a two-year-old Am Staff [American Staffordshire terrier] that is my pride and joy. He is a superbly healthy and happy dog. I've raised him on Old Roy dog food from the chain Wal-Mart.

Several months ago, I started feeding him raw, warmed chicken

as well as rice and veggies. His weight in several weeks went from the 70 lb range to almost 100 lb. I run him in the desert every day and he is solid muscle mass; no body fat at all.

Then about two months ago, I got lazy and put him back on the Old Roy Kibble food again. Almost immediately, he lost over 10% of his body weight and became tired and listless; his coat started to look really bad, with hair falling out. He started to smell bad, even though he swims almost every day and is always meticulously clean for a dog.

Reading the article from your magazine, I was horrified at the disgusting things that are going into our pets' food.

Well, I immediately put my dog back on the raw chicken diet with the other supplements and within weeks he put on all the weight again: 100% muscle, and he's back up to almost 100 lb as well as happy and healthier.

Thank you so much for publishing this article! You saved my dog's life.

My father's dog, only seven years old, just died from a horrible kind of cancer and was eating Old Roy dog food all his life. After reading your article, I wondered if it was the food that killed him.

Sincerely,
Donald Ballard, Jr

9/11 Plot Coincidence?

Greetings from Planet Weirdo! Having been a reader of the mag over the years, I'm curious to know if there is a minority opinion over the perpetrators of 9/11 having come from within the US itself to speed along the so-called search-and-destroy "New World Order".

I have never swallowed any of the propaganda fed to me from the outset of these events (within hours of planes striking buildings). This is probably due to the bizarre coincidence that two weeks prior to 9/11, in late August, there was the pilot episode of the *X-Files* spin-off series, *The Lone Gunman*. The story featured the amazing plot of

an order within the government to crash a remotely controlled airliner into one of the Twin Towers in order to blame Iraq for terrorism and to proffer an excuse to start WWII—as a way of testing all their new war machinery post-1993 and to bring in the new "security/surveillance" regime over the States and her "allies"—plus every other agenda... Prophetic or informed? Curious.

Anyway, enjoying your mag.
Andrew T.,
Brisbane, Australia

The Golden Section in Nature

Dear Duncan: I am a long-time subscriber in Chicago.

With regard to Dr Hartmut Müller's article, "An Introduction to Global Scaling Theory" [11/05], I was immediately reminded of the work of R. A. Schwaller de Lubicz, the world's foremost interpreter of Egyptian religion/science.

De Lubicz popularised the notion of the Golden Section, the value of which constant is 1.618. (See his book, *The Temple in Man*.) This constant determines the proportionality of all physical and living matter in terms of the relationship of the parts to the whole, whether the object is a crystal, a fish or a human being. Michelangelo's famous depiction of a human being within a five-pointed star is a depiction of this proportionality constant.

Georgy Doczi, in his book, *The Power of Limits*, gives numerous examples of the Golden Section from all realms of nature, including folk art. Interestingly, the only thing in nature that does not fit the Golden Section blueprint is so-called "modern art". It shows no proportionality, and that is why very few consider it to be "beautiful"—except for the newspaper "critics" who write for the "art audience".

To me, the Golden Section represents the Divine Intelligence of nature, the blueprint by which God creates reality. So it was no surprise to me when one of the logarithmic formulas in the final

box is equal to 1.618.

What surprises me is the fact that institutionalised science, with a few notable exceptions, has ignored the relevance of the Golden Section in nature.

It appears to me that the Establishment (which controls both Left and Right thought processes) does not want us to know about the Golden Mean, just as it does not want us to know about Nikola Tesla's amazing discoveries.

JoNo, Chicago, Illinois, USA

Dr Holt's Cancer Treatment

Dear Duncan: I would like to bring to your attention the work of Dr John Holt. This well-qualified doctor from Australia has been able to cure certain types of cancer without *any* side effects.

Not everyone can be cured and some cancers respond better than others, but he has been able to achieve something like a 25% cure rate for several types of cancer and a considerable improvement for most of the other people.

Even if 1% of the patients are cured, the medical authorities should be welcoming this with open arms. But instead, Dr Holt has been vilified by a medical establishment that is too arrogant and closed-minded to take up anything that does not fit with conventional views. In the meantime, people are needlessly suffering and dying.

We have heard testimonies (he was featured on Channel 9's *A Current Affair* program recently) of many of his patients who were told they had months to live, but thanks to Dr Holt's treatment are alive and well 10 or 20 years later, many with no recurrence or sign of cancer.

I would urge you to do an article on this wonderful work for the sake of the many cancer sufferers out there.

Contact: Dr John Holt, tel +61 (0)8 9322 3544.

Great magazine!

Regards,

Guido Grzinic, <http://www.esotericscience.com>

PROJECT CENSORED 2005: THE 25 BIG STORIES IGNORED BY THE US NEWS MEDIA

Every year, researchers at Project Censored pick through volumes of print and broadcast news to see which of the past year's most important stories aren't receiving the kind of attention they deserve.

Every one of this year's picks merited prominent placement on the evening news and the dailies' front pages. Instead, they went virtually ignored.

1. Wealth inequality in 21st century threatens economy and democracy

Despite the official line about the USA's supposed economic recovery, wealth inequality in the United States has almost doubled over the past 30 years. In 1998, the richest 1% of households owned 38% of the nation's wealth. The top 5% owned almost 60% of the wealth.

Today, almost one-sixth of the world's population—940 million people—"already live in squalid, unhealthy areas, mostly without water, sanitation, public services, or legal security," John Vidal wrote in the UK *Guardian*.

2. Ashcroft vs the human rights law that holds corporations accountable

For decades the United States has trained right-wing insurgents and



torturers, toppled democratically elected governments and propped up brutal dictatorships abroad—all in the interest of corporate profits. But rarely are the agents of repression ever held accountable for the tens of thousands of deaths and the brutal cycles of poverty, subjugation, environmental destruction and violence they leave in their wake.

But recently, lawyers have found a way to seek at least a modicum of justice for victims. The Alien Tort Claims Act (ATCA), a 215-year-old law originally passed to prosecute pirates for crimes committed on the high seas, allows non-citizens to sue any individual or corporation present on US soil.

Human rights lawyers have pursued 100 cases under the ATCA since 1980. Ten years ago, victims began using the act to go after corporate profiteers, too.

But Attorney-General John Ashcroft's Justice Department has set its sights on the Act, claiming in a brief last year [2002] that the law threatens "important foreign policy interests" associated with the War on Terrorism.

3. Bush administration manipulates science and censors scientists

Government interference in scientific research has become so bad that 60 of the country's top scientists, including 20 Nobel laureates, issued a statement in February citing the ways the Bush administration has distorted scientific data "for partisan political ends" and calling for regulatory action.

4. High uranium levels found in troops and civilians

Almost 10,000 US troops died within 10 years of serving in the first Gulf War, researchers have found. And more than a third of those still alive have filed Gulf War syndrome-related claims.

More recently, the Uranium Medical Research Center, an independent group of US and Canadian scientists that has conducted studies of Afghan civilians, found overwhelming evidence that the United States is also using *non*-depleted uranium in its weapons, which is far more radioactive than depleted uranium.

5. Wholesale giveaway of US natural resources

The US administration has launched the greatest giveaway of public natural resources in more than a century. Yet few in the mainstream media have bothered to analyse these plans and uncover the lies behind the administration's rhetorical manipulations.

Vice-President Dick Cheney's infamous, secretive, industry-laden energy task force produced what can be boiled down to two main recommendations: "lower the environmental bar and pay corporations to jump over it", writes Adam Werbach, executive director of the Common Assets Defense Fund and former Sierra Club president.



"...and that one's for surviving a four-month media attack at Abu Ghraib prison."

... GLOBAL NEWS ...

6. Sale of electoral politics

A switch to electronic voting may seem innocent enough—until you look at who's implementing it, and how. Indeed, the transfer represents the privatisation of the voting process in the hands of a select few fervent GOP supporters who've insisted on keeping their operating systems and codes a trade secret—meaning they enjoy absolute control over the entire voting process, including ballot counting and oversight. There's no paper trail.

7. Conservative organisation drives judicial appointments

Ever since the Reagan administration, the neoconservatives have pursued an aggressive campaign to stack the federal courts with right-wing judges. Their main vehicle: the Federalist Society of Law and Public Policy, founded in 1982 by a small group of radically conservative law students at the University of Chicago.

8. Secrets of Cheney's energy task force come to light

As the Bush administration continues to protect the iron wall of secrecy it's erected around Cheney's energy task force, at least two documents confirm longstanding suspicions that the administration's foreign policy is being driven by the dictates of the energy industry.

9. Widow brings RICO case against US government for 9/11

As the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States, also known as the 9/11 Commission, completed its first year, Ellen Mariani and her attorney held a press conference on the steps of the US District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to announce her own startling conclusions.

Mariani, wife of Louis Neil Mariani, who died when terrorists flew United Airlines Flight 175 into the World Trade Center's south tower, has come to believe top American officials—including Bush, Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and others—had foreknowledge of the attacks yet failed to prevent them and have since been covering up the truth.

10. New nuke plants: taxpayers' support, industry profits

If you thought nuclear energy was dead, think again: the Bush administration's energy bill—yet another product of

Cheney's industry-stacked energy task force—provides taxpayer cash for companies that build new nukes.

11. The media can legally lie

In 2003, a Florida Court of Appeal ruled that there are no written rules against distorting news in the media. It agreed with an argument by Fox TV that, under the First Amendment, broadcasters have the right to lie or deliberately distort news reports on public airwaves. Under the current ruling, it is up to the public to discover whether or not they're being lied to.

12. The destabilisation of Haiti

On 29 February 2004, Haiti's President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was forced into exile by the American military. While US officials were eventually forced to acknowledge the kidnapping allegations, they were quick to discredit them and deny responsibility. Meanwhile, the circumstances that led to the current situation in Haiti, as well as the history of US involvement, are being ignored by US officials and the mainstream media.

13. Schwarzenegger met with Enron's Ken Lay before Recall

In 2002, while the California Governor and his deputy were attempting to reregulate the energy industry (and get back the \$9 billion defrauded from Californian taxpayers by Enron and other energy companies), Arnold Schwarzenegger was being groomed to overthrow Governor Davis in a

Recall—and to cancel plans to reregulate or recoup the \$9 billion. Back in May 2001, in the midst of California's energy crisis, Schwarzenegger met with Enron's Ken Lay to discuss "fixing" California's energy crisis.

14. New bill threatens intellectual freedom

The International Studies in Higher Education Act of 2003 threatens academic freedom and the curriculum. Under this act, professors whose ideological principles do not support US practices abroad can have their appointments terminated, any course curriculum containing criticism of US foreign policy can be censored, and any course deemed anti-American can be barred from the classroom.

15. US develops lethal new bioweapons

Scientists funded by the US government have developed a way to make pox viruses incredibly deadly. The stated goal of this research is to fight possible bioterror attacks. The new virus kills all mice, even if they have been given antiviral drugs along with a vaccine that would normally protect them from death.

16. Law enforcement agencies spy on innocent citizens

With little media comment, federal, state and local agencies have begun working as partners in the collection, analysis and dissemination of intelligence



... GLOBAL NEWS ...

information. Under the Global Intelligence Working Group that oversees the new network, police departments receive increased funding for surveillance activity. This has resulted in the recent COINTELPRO-style instances of police infiltration of groups critical of government policies.

17. US government represses Iraqi labour unions in privatisation quest

The US is calling for the privatisation of state-owned Iraqi industries such as oil and water, but has chosen not to overturn Saddam-era edicts that outlaw unions. The economic policies of occupying authorities are transforming Iraq's working people into a pool of low-waged, semi-employed labour, desperate for jobs at any price.

18. Media and government ignore dwindling oil supplies

Even industry executives affirm that oil is close to reaching, or may have already reached, its highest levels of production potential. Once the peak is reached, oil prices will start to rise. As oil decline accelerates, prices will rise even faster, with devastating effects to the US economy. Over the years, US leaders, bowing to oil industry pressure, have not worked to develop viable alternatives.

19. Global food cartel is fast becoming the world's supermarket

Agribusiness and supermarket alliances are transforming the agri-food system into a powerful network of transnational corporations. They now have the power to control the world's food supply at every

stage of food production. As fewer corporations control food production, traditional farming is becoming a high-tech form of serfdom. Lack of competition is leading to higher prices, lower choice and quality, and also employee abuse.

20. Extreme weather prompts new warning from UN

In 2003, the UN's World Meteorological Organization reported unprecedented levels of extreme weather and climate occurrences all over the world.

21. US forces GMOs on the world

The Bush administration is trying to force Europe to drop trade barriers against genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Meanwhile, the agricultural biotechnology industry is focusing even more intently on developing countries, where regulations governing GMO use are generally more lax. At the same time, biotech promoters continue to suppress studies that show GMOs may have adverse effects on health and the environment.

22. Exporting censorship to Iraq

After the fall of Saddam Hussein, instead of hiring a media outlet to run the Iraqi media or simply allowing the news groups already there to continue reporting, the Pentagon chose a defence contractor to define the news.

23. Brazil opposes US-style FTAA, but provides little comfort for poor

The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) could become the biggest trading bloc in history, expanding NAFTA to

34 countries from Canada to the bottom of South America. This deal is unlikely to meet its January 2005 deadline, now that the second-largest player in the negotiations, Brazil, is holding back. However, Brazilian President Lula has begun, of his own volition, to institute his own brand of FTAA austerity policies that are sure to drive the region's poor deeper into poverty.

24. Reinstating the draft in the USA

The Selective Service System (SSS), the Bush administration and the Pentagon have been quietly moving to fill draft board vacancies nationwide in order to prepare for a military draft that could start as early as 15 June 2005. Several million dollars have been added to the 2004 SSS budget. Meanwhile, through an ongoing militarisation of public school systems, the Pentagon has begun efforts to double the number of Latinos in the US military by 2006.

25. Wal-Mart brings inequity and low prices to the world

The vision of the international division of Wal-Mart is one where Wal-Mart becomes a global brand, just like McDonald's or Coca-Cola, monopolising the global retail market. The next five or six years could see about 5,000 to 6,000 Wal-Mart stores established outside the United States. Wal-Mart is Americanising retailing around the world and exercising an inordinate amount of economic power.

(Source: *Project Censored*, Sonoma State University, California, USA, 4 September 2004, <http://www.projectcensored.org>. Note that all references relating to these items are available at the *Project Censored* website.)



"My fellow Americans: Due to a hectic week here at the White House, someone lost the key to the big warehouse that stores all the voting machines. Therefore, in the interests of responsible government, I am postponing the election until further notice. God bless."

STUDIES PROVE WATER FLUORIDATION HAS NO BENEFIT

Dental examinations of 4,800 South Australian ten- to fifteen-year-olds' permanent teeth have revealed unexpected results—similar cavity rates whether the children drank fluoridated water or not—report Armfield and Spencer in the August 2004 issue of *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology*. The children sampled lived in fluoridated and non-fluoridated metropolitan and rural areas of South Australia.

Meanwhile, in the USA, a study has shown that pre-school children's tooth decay rates doubled after fluoridation became law in the state of Kentucky. In

1987, 28% of Kentucky pre-schoolers developed cavities. That number increased to 47% in 2001, according to the July/August 2003 issue of *Pediatric Dentistry*.

(Source: *New York State Coalition Opposed to Fluoridation*, 16 August 2004, via <http://www.enn.com>. Also see article, "The Absurdities of Water Fluoridation", and review of Christopher Bryson's book, *The Fluoride Deception*, in this issue. Ed.)

WERE 9/11 HIJACKERS HELPED BY DICK CHENEY?

At the time of the hijackings of September 11, 2001, there were as many as 22 hijacked aircraft on NORAD's radar screen.

As Mike Ruppert delineates in his upcoming book, *Crossing the Rubicon*, there were a number of "Field Training Exercises" in progress on the morning of 9/11. Each and every one (and perhaps many others we may not yet know of) was under the control of US Vice President Dick Cheney.

The following are some of the military/wargame exercises:

- **Northern Vigilance:** This transferred most of the combat-ready interceptors and possibly many AWACS from the northeast into northern Canada and Alaska. This explains, in part, why there were only eight combat interceptors in the NE on 9/11.

- **Vigilant Guardian:** This exercise simulated hijacked planes in the northeast sector. The 9/11 Commission made mention of only this single exercise and lied about its purpose, i.e., an exercise to intercept Russian bombers.

- **Vigilant Warrior and Northern Guardian:** These exercises also simulated hijacked planes in the northeast sector.

Some of these exercises were "live fly" drills where actual aircraft, likely flown by remote control, were simulating hijacked aircraft. Some of the drills electronically added the hijacked aircraft into the system. And all this as the *real* hijackings began.

NORAD could not tell the difference between the 17 bogus blips and the five actual hijacked aircraft blips, but Dick Cheney supposedly could.

(Source: Via cia-drugs@yahoogroups.com, 7 September 2004. For more information on Mike Ruppert's book, *Crossing the Rubicon: The Decline of the American Empire at the End of the Age of Oil*, see website <http://www.copvcia.com> or <http://www.fromthewilderness.com>.)

THE NEW WORLD DOMINION

by General Leonid Ivashov

I've spoken many times of the emergence of a new geopolitical subject of supranational character onto the world arena. This is the world financial elite and transnational corporations, consolidated in the name of world dominion, control over all countries and all coalitions of countries. This new geopolitical phenomenon is interesting in that it unites the richest people on the planet and a developed network of financial institutions—more than 500 of the mightiest TNCs, possessing capital in excess of 16 trillion dollars and accounting for more than 25% of the world's industrial production.

Without question the leading role is played here by the 358 richest people on Earth, possessing as much wealth as 2.5 billion inhabitants of the Third World. Their ranks are being swelled by the Russian "elite" and the wealthiest people of Second World countries. The peculiar civilisational feature of these "elites" is the abandonment of their respective countries' interests and the acceptance of the single world oligarchy's system of values. For them, the state is merely a means of further enrichment, an instrument to crush any resistance and maintain control over the world.

The toolchest of world dominion and control includes financial instruments (especially the virtual financial pyramid), the network of international financial institutions, commissions, committees, clubs and governments of many countries. The ideology of this geopolitical subject consists of a combination of double standards in international relations, radical liberalism, borders open for expansion, and standardised "democratic" regimes obedient to the will of the oligarchs. The mass media, that arch-important tool, cardinally alter the worldview and psychology of the public, imposing on society, the state and the individual an "all-permissive" behaviour pattern.

After the end of the "Cold War" and the breakup of the USSR, the last remaining arguments in the battle for control over territory and resources have become military force, intelligence agencies and the network of international terrorism.

The world financial empire spares no expense to create a mighty military battering-ram in the form of the American armed forces and NATO to expand its system of global surveillance and control over every square metre of land and sea—including the annihilation of planes at take-off and missiles at launch, and strikes at any spot on the planet at any moment. Intimidating the whole world and breaking its will to resist will guarantee full dominion for the world oligarchy and mega-profits for the financial elite.

How can you tell the truth (be you the President of the USA or any other country) if you serve a cruel and all-powerful master—the international financial mafia—who will accept you into the world elite only in exchange for unquestioning submission? And if you refuse? Then you'll share the fate of John F. Kennedy, Olaf Palme, Slobodan Milosevic, Saddam Hussein and the leaders of many other countries. For loyal service, on the other hand, you'll be well off for life, like Shevardnadze, or maybe even get a Nobel Prize, like Gorbachev.

As for NATO, though one gets the impression that the US reigns supreme there, this is not exactly the case. American military men, diplomats and politicians simply continue to earn their daily bread, often in ignorance of the true hierarchy of power.

From my former position I know of certain things which happened during work on the Russia–NATO Founding Act, prevention of the anti-Yugoslav aggression, the new NATO Strategic Conception, etc., when leading NATO country heads-of-state understood the danger of the decisions they were making but were powerless to do anything about them. Some invisible force pushed them to commit actions destructive of international peace. Clinton's wavering over the question of going to war against Yugoslavia cost him the Monica Lewinsky scandal. The threat of impeachment was lifted only after his decision to commit to war.

That's why the hopes of Russian generals, diplomats and politicians to appease NATO's appetites are in vain, inasmuch as those appetites are limitless: the goal of the alliance's true masters is lordship over Planet Earth. Our appeasers would do well to read more carefully the works of such mouthpieces of the new world elite as Z. Brzezinski and specialists from the RAND Corporation and other research institutes. Their works are regarded as plans of action by the Pentagon and NATO. Brzezinski, for example, in his 1993 book, *Out of Control*, openly declared that "if America wishes to control the world, and it does", then it must establish supremacy over Eurasia, especially its "'Western periphery' (the European Union) and its heart (Russia), the Middle East, Central Asia and the oil reserves located there".

(Source: General Leonid Ivashov, "Who's Noticing the NATO Danger?" (trans. from Russian), in *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, 8 April 2004, http://oag.ru/views/ivashov_who.html)

THE RISE OF THE NEW GLOBAL ACTIVISM

In the wake of 9/11, governments have been cracking down on the freedoms of individuals, but new activist movements are growing around the world and people are making determined stands for human rights and justice.

by Eve Hillary © 2004

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MEET THE GLOBAL CORPORATE POLICE STATE

Only a totalitarian society would even claim absolute safety as a worthy ideal, because it would require total state control over its citizens' lives. Freedom is not defined by safety. Freedom is defined by the ability of citizens to live without government interference.

— US Congressman Ron Paul, in his "Texas Straight Talk" column, August 2004

Society Unravelling

It's a short visit to the USA, but already I'm getting used to standing in endlessly long airline boarding lines. I'm a white middle-aged woman in amongst people of all colours, waved into a line destined for special attention because of my "foreign" ID. Once American, I long ago adopted and was adopted by Australia, "the Lucky Country".

We wait, all of us stockinged or barefoot, looking pained and embarrassed, surrounded by black-suited, unfriendly, paramilitary-looking men and officials wearing rubber gloves. Up ahead an Hispanic child of barely three is being searched, her teddy bear falling to the ground. Rough hands retrieve it and probe the bear deeply for contraband. None is found. The child cries. The line is painfully slow. The linoleum chills my feet. My facial expression must be betraying my distaste. People talk in whispers. People glance around to spot the camera, careful to hide their mouth from the prying lens. A black man helps me to understand. "Nine-eleven," he whispers barely audibly. Others join in.

Stories cautiously seep out whenever I stand in line with others. We begin an impromptu Sociology 101 lesson. Somebody's friend with an Arabic name was arrested and disappeared for weeks, but was never charged. Somebody else knows of a teacher who taught the Constitution in her classroom and was censured. A student shared his political views in a classroom and was visited by the FBI. A person was detained for reading an airport novel that featured a gun on its cover. While somebody's sister was in jail for a minor offence, her child was put into a foster home by the authorities. "Surely that can't be right," I say from my white middle-aged Australian perspective. Laughs all round. "You got no money, you go to jail, man. It's da rules," explains a brown man with dreadlocks.

I later discover that of the 80,000 women now in US jails, about 70% are nonviolent offenders and 75% of them have children. Entire archipelagos of prisons all over the world are owned by private corporations. Business is booming. Share prices are going through the roof—a good investment for the rich. Multinational prison corporations have built and operate Australian detention centres where we, in the once Lucky Country, incarcerate refugees from the Third World. There are two million people in US prisons, the highest prison population in the world—more than in Russia.¹ Of those, 70% are illiterate, 50% are African Americans, and 80% are drug users and alcoholics mixed in with the homeless, the mentally ill and nonviolent offenders. The prison corporations offer no treatment for the sick or help for the homeless. On the contrary, the sick and poor are mixed in with a general assortment of sociopaths.

My boarding call is announced. I'm relieved when the line shortens. It's my turn. I am waved up to a table by two rubber-gloved uniformed persons. I notice that rubber gloves are very popular these days. I am motioned to stand with my legs wide apart, my arms extended. The large male spills my bag's contents onto a nearby table. My money purse bursts open and coins spill out. A dime rolls and stops at my bare feet. On it I see the

word "Liberty". I reflexively reach out to prevent the contents of my bag from scattering on the floor. The large male shoots out his hand, motioning me to stop. His other hand dives toward his belt, which bristles with some kind of paraphernalia. I stand to attention again. The trigger-happy moment is over.

The female begins her search. She pats me down thoroughly, pausing at my crotch to ensure I haven't stashed a weapon of mass destruction there. After she is satisfied, she produces a cotton swab, the kind used to remove makeup. She swabs carefully around the perimeter edges of my rucksack and places the swab into a machine nearby. I am told to stand there. No one explains what is happening. I wonder what they're looking for. I make a brief inventory. Have I visited a botanic garden recently? Could I have traces of fertiliser on my bag? Has my bag been contaminated by someone else's? And what happens to the millions of passengers who are now driving instead of flying? Have road blocks and barricades been erected? Are grandmothers and little girls being frisked at the roadside?

Still standing to attention, I wonder what has happened to the America of my childhood and teenage years; family picnics in the park. There was terrorism in the world then, but Kennedy presided over a White House without barricades. Now, 9/11 is the answer to all questions. But no one yet has satisfactorily answered the question about who really caused it. One thing is for sure: it has unleashed a global siege.

Powers of the Patriot Act

*The more laws that are written,
the more criminals that are
produced.'*

— Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*

I ponder on my rights and wonder by whose authority I am required to stand here in a hostage position when I have done nothing wrong. I'd boarded scores of flights before 2001, but suddenly everything has changed. Now I'm being treated like a suspect, and so is the little three-year-old girl with her teddy bear ahead of me.

Then I remember that within barely 45 days of 9/11, the 350-page Patriot Act was written and passed by Congress without anyone but Ron Paul and a few African American congressional representatives reading it. Politicians may be exempt from reading laws, but citizens are required to memorise the 100,000 new laws passed each year in the United States because "ignorance of the law is no defense". The long arms of the Patriot Act claim to have powers over not just Americans but over all people in all countries of the world. The people of the world need to start reading. Now seems like a good opportunity for me to recap the legislation.

I remember that the Patriot Act requires me to refrain from attacking, setting fire to or disabling mass transportation systems, and spreading toxins or biological or radioactive weapons of mass destruction. The Act states that I must also refrain from attacking nuclear facilities and from carrying a weapon, including a nail clipper, onto an airplane. So far that isn't going to be difficult for me.

The Patriot Act II, however, exempts corporations from the penalties of those very acts. And they are not required to disclose information about toxins or biological or radioactive substances. Furthermore, any person found interfering, even unintentionally,

with any supply, computer or pipeline to US facilities in or around any of the thousands of US bases (or US corporations) stationed around the world on the sovereign soil of other countries is classed as an "enemy combatant" and deemed guilty of terrorism. They may be indefinitely detained, without charge, trial or reasonable cause. This also includes people who happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, such as the under-sixteen-year-old children who find themselves indefinitely captive in Guantánamo Bay.² It is dawning on me that the networks of prisons around the globe for "enemy combatants", just like Guantánamo, are courtesy of the Patriot Act. It seems there are no more prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention. And torture is now allowed.

The Patriot Act also requires me to report anyone I know who may be intending to do anything "intimidating" to the US Government, or even *thinking* about it. This requires special clairvoyant skills, but the penalty for not knowing what others are thinking is a stiff 10 years in a US federal penitentiary. In addition, if anyone in any other country in the world thinks about those things, I am required to report them to the US authorities. They can then be spied on in their own country with the aid of local-version anti-terrorist legislation which many countries have now passed through their Parliaments. It is designed to dovetail perfectly with the Patriot Act, empowering it over the peoples of other countries without anyone having discussed it, voted for it or consented to its powers. It seems that the sovereign nations of the

world are deemed to be ruled under a foreign power. Perhaps it's time for a referendum to find out what the people say—while it's still legal to vote.

Suspects under the Act can be removed from their own country to the United States or to any unknown whereabouts and have their assets seized. (Echoes of Guantánamo again: creating a prison planet for thought crimes, as foretold by Orwell.) If I should reveal the location where persons are secretly held without a trial, I could also be deemed a terrorist and the penalty

can be death. If I fail to report anyone thinking or talking about "intimidating" the US, I can have my own assets seized under section 806 of the Patriot Act, no matter where I live in the world.

Suddenly I realise we have all been recruited as part of the global police. I'm supposed to look out for any action that "*could* result in a foreseeable risk", any time before the Act became law (my emphasis). I'm beginning to realise, as I stand barefoot in the airport, how high-maintenance this law really is. I'd have to think back 40 years or so; it would take some time. Oh, but wait; there's more. The Act requires a DNA sample from anyone *thinking* about conspiring. That means a person is guilty of a crime by the mere thought of it. That's a lot of samples.

Then there's the ban on "domestic terrorism". That is any act that "*appears intended* to intimidate or coerce a civilian population" (my emphasis). (I wonder whether that search of my groin could be classed as "intimidating".) The Act also prohibits influencing government policy by "intimidation". Theoretically, that includes the activities of Greenpeace. However, it is still legal for corporate lobby groups to "influence government policy" by buying politicians.

"Domestic terrorism" is also defined as "affecting government conduct by mass destruction, assassination or kidnapping". I

**"Police state: A nation whose
rulers maintain order and
obedience by the threat of police
or military force; one with a
brutal, arbitrary government."**

— *Dictionary of Cultural Literacy*, 3rd Edition

wonder whether the invasion of Iraq was in breach of the Patriot Act. Patriot II, the horror sequel to Patriot I, in section 403 expands the definition of "weapons of mass destruction" to include any activity that affects US interstate commerce or US exports. Looks like corporations moved into the seat of government when nobody was looking.

The machine gives my swab a green light and I am free to gather the dishevelled contents of my rucksack and board the aircraft. Thanks to the Patriot Act, my fellow travellers and all Americans can feel so much safer now that my groin has been searched.

You know, a long time ago being crazy meant something. Nowadays, everybody's crazy.

— Charles Manson, serial killer and one-time cult leader

IF PAIN PERSISTS, SEE YOUR SPIN DOCTOR

We live in a dirty and dangerous world. There are some things the general public does not need to know, and shouldn't. I believe democracy flourishes when the government can take legitimate steps to keep its secrets and when the press can decide whether to print what it knows.

— The late Katharine Graham, owner of the *Washington Post*

Meeting Dr Spook

The commercial flight was full and heavy, but the pilot executed a perfect takeoff. I was seated next to a terse-looking man in his early 40s with a slightly grown-out US military buzz-cut. We were in it for the long haul.

Before too long, I realised he knew more about flying's effects on the human body than even a commercial pilot. The hours ticked by. He consumed a bottle of Aussie red. He seemed familiar with Australia; not Sydney or Melbourne, but the remote terrain of central Australia, near the bases. We talked about the Iraq invasion.

"The liberation? It's good for the Aussies...we don't buy French wines anymore."

It was the first time he'd laughed.

"But polls show that the Australian public doesn't want the war," I argued.

But I knew by now that we spoke a different language. He gave another brittle laugh as though I'd just made a joke. It was clear he considered the concept of electors as ludicrous and irrelevant. In his view, there was no connection between what the voters want and what the government does.

"What's the problem?" he asked. "We [the US] paid for the Aussie planes anyway, and they [the Aussies] get the reconstruction contracts."

Silence. We retreated into our corners for a while, pretending to sleep. Both of us had already quite accurately sized up the other.

He asked me where my ultimate destination was. I lied. And he knew it. I told him I'd been invited to give a talk.

That part was true. He asked me about my work.

I told him, "I'm a writer on the politics of the health care industry, among other things; exploding the myths."

"What do you mean?" His interest was sparked.

Briefly overcome by the pointlessness of sharing my views with him, I continued anyway.

"How strange is it that 'they' tell us the world population is still growing out of control, when the West has had close to zero population growth for many years now and up to 80% of the African population is infected with HIV and dying of AIDS, famine and war."

He pretended disinterest, but cocked his head toward me.

I continued. "How strange is it that 'they' tell us that our life expectancy is increasing because of good health care, when cancer is raging in epidemic proportions, nearly 42% of Americans will die of heart disease, and Western medical care has moved up to being the number-one killer in the West.^{3,4,5} Asthma, allergies, autoimmune disorders have risen by 40%; AIDS and other epidemics old and new rage out of control.

Obesity, mental illness, Alzheimer's, addictions and suicides are epidemic, and a quarter of children in the West and most in the Third World now live in poverty without basic necessities and medical care. Doesn't anyone die from these? In addition, 86% of US children cannot pass a standard fitness test. Isn't it manifestly obvious that life expectancy is increasing neither in the US nor the world?"

He had developed a slight facial twitch. "You're wrong," he said. "Dead wrong."

"I'm right," I said stubbornly.

"No you're not," he said. "I was an analyst for the Pentagon. I *analyse information*."

There, he actually said it. I stopped awhile to take it in.

"What do you do to the information?" I asked, not expecting a reply.

"Where did *you* get your information from?" he asked, ignoring my question.

"It's out there in the public domain." I quoted a few studies. "Since Big Pharma and corporations took over health care, it's been killing people. Millions," I said defiantly.

"Are you out there saying that in

public?" he demanded.

"Sure," I said.

"You can't go out there and say that," he repeated.

"But it's true," I insisted.

"You've got no proof," he challenged.

"Consider some proven facts about US health care and join the dots," I said. I quoted sources showing that the US, whose health care system is monopolised by corporations, has the worst infant mortality rate compared to 23 other wealthy countries whose health care system is still partly in public hands. "US health care corporations are powerful lobbyists and generous financial benefactors to politicians on Capitol Hill. The US has 5% of the world's population and it spends 45% of the world's health dollars. Despite this, Americans' life expectancies are the lowest of 23 other wealthy nations' and lower than some Third World countries like Costa Rica."^{6,7,8,9} "But not for long," I speculated.

"The Terrorism Information and Prevention System, or TIPS, means the US will have a higher percentage of citizen informants than the former East Germany through the infamous STASI secret police. The program would use a minimum of 4% of Americans to report 'suspicious' activity."

— *The Sydney Morning Herald*,
14 July 2002

"Globalisation is exporting this model to the rest of the world." He seemed agitated, but I had to finish. "This can only mean that corporate health care creates sickness, disability and death, and profits from it," I said.

"You can't say that," he hissed.

"Yes I can," I answered.

"No you can't," he repeated more grimly.

"Why not?"

"Because..." He hesitated, searching for the right words. "It's classified."

A long silence came between us. He sipped the last drop of red from his plastic airline cup. I sat back in my seat, trying to look relaxed. Perhaps it was foolish of me, I thought. But at least I found out who "they" are.

But that's the whole point of corporatisation: to try to remove the public from making decisions over their own fate, to limit the public arena, to control opinion, to make sure that the fundamental decisions that determine how the world is going to be run—which include production, commerce, distribution, thought, social policy, foreign policy, everything—are not in the hands of the public, but rather in the hands of highly concentrated private power. In effect, tyranny unaccountable to the public.

— Professor Noam Chomsky,
interviewed in *Corporate Watch*

NEW SOLUTIONS FOR A SICK SOCIETY

Taking on Social Justice Issues

Each day the silent, global epidemic of official crimes of brutality escalates. Such crimes are seldom reported, but citizens' groups now track their numbers.

On my return from overseas, I was determined to track the people's response to the emerging global police state and its volumes of oppressive statute legislation. I soon discovered a rising tide of activism that already far exceeds the 1960s decade: citizens' grassroots activism, social justice and human rights activism, student activism, scientist activism, consumer activism, democracy in action, truth in media, truth in medicine, corporation watch, even Islamic activism. The global trend is steeply on the rise. And it is changing to suit the times.

There has been an increasing shift to personal empowerment, whereby ordinary persons create the changes they would like to see in the world. Surprising numbers are emboldened because the level of systemic corruption has become blindingly obvious and almost all voters now know that politicians undemocratically pass laws without their consent. Increasing numbers of people are finding it impossible to acquiesce to repugnant laws that deny human rights. Social justice groups are rediscovering the principles of *natural law* and the community traditions of *common law* (defined by the *Oxford Dictionary* as "that which derives its force and authority from the universal consent and immemorial practice of the community"). Common law

movements are gathering around the world, addressing social, political and judicial injustice.

One such movement was started in Australia by Malcolm McClure, who has frequently challenged statute laws successfully. He now conducts seminars and classes around the country which assist and support persons who stand up for their primary human rights. Malcolm McClure refers to his common-law movement as UPMART, a fellowship of "like-minded electors, united in common causes, who uphold, protect and live their inalienable human rights". He emphatically states that under common law, natural law, constitutional law and the tenets of basic human rights, "No statute law can come between you and your primary rights". The movement has found kindred spirits in the thousands who have subsequently been emboldened to stand up for their rights in diverse areas.

Exposing Violations in the Mental Health System

Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhumane.

— Martin Luther King, Junior

The repressive mental health laws being put in place around the world reduce accountability and transparency, seemingly empowering the corporate state to incarcerate individuals indefinitely in order to force drugs and treatments upon them that can cause permanent brain damage.¹⁰

Mandatory mental health screening has recently been introduced in some US states, and activists fear it will also lead to more involuntary drug treatments.^{11, 12} Increasingly, where statute laws abound, more health conditions are being included under the "mental health" umbrella. The result has been a shocking betrayal of trust. Increasingly, children and teenagers who once needed treatment merely for a drug or alcohol problem are being funnelled into the mental health system and often end up on psychiatric drugs for the long term. The Citizens

Commission on Human Rights¹³ and other watchdogs investigate and expose psychiatric violations of human rights. All report a significant increase in complaints of psychiatric abuse.

A seventeen-year-old Australian boy¹⁴ had been smoking marijuana on a regular basis during his final year of school. He was a well-liked, straight-A student. The boy and his mother sought help from staff at a nearby drug and alcohol treatment centre, but they said that pot "won't hurt him". Still concerned, the mother took her son to the local doctor. The GP referred him to a visiting psychiatrist, who then began to prescribe psychiatric drugs to the boy. Within weeks, the psychiatrist placed the boy into the mental health system. Once there, he was heavily drugged. Within two years, the boy was permanently institutionalised and given dozens of shock treatments without his mother's consent. Later he was found to have paddle-shaped electrical burns on his upper abdomen from the shock treatment.

For the past seven years he has been institutionalised and drugged into a stupor with strong psychiatric drugs. Now a man

"Whenever the legislators endeavour to take away and destroy the property of the people, or to reduce them to slavery under arbitrary power, they put themselves into a state of war with the people, who are thereupon absolved from any further obedience."

— John Locke

of twenty-four, he remains imprisoned in the mental health system and his general health has deteriorated appallingly. Mostly heavily drugged and in effect unable to communicate, he shakes and trembles between rigid spasms and shuffles unsteadily when on his feet. The remaining time he sleeps stuporously for hours on end. The psychiatric facility has refused to allow outside medical treatment for him. In his GP's opinion, the young man may now be irreparably brain damaged. His mother has now taken common law steps to address her son's psychiatric abuse and to provide the necessary medical measures required to treat the damage done to her son.

Reclaiming Parental Rights

Stories abound of children dying in the care of abusive parents after child welfare authorities had been notified and failed to take action. However, the darker side of government child welfare authorities is rarely publicised.

authorities made an eleven-year-old-girl¹⁵ a ward of the court after an oncologist called in the authorities when the family was still deciding whether to consent to chemotherapy. The child had chemo forcibly administered while being confined and guarded in a hospital for two months. A Supreme Court judge ordered this forced treatment on the strength of the oncologist's opinion. However, the doctor could not show any evidence supporting the validity of his treatment. The family made several efforts to stop the forced treatment, which they considered to be medical abuse, but they were unsuccessful in this—despite having spent their savings on legal fees. The child's father joined a common law movement and represented the child's interests in Court himself, where he reinstated his and his wife's parental rights.

Standing Up for Our Health Freedom

The Big Pharma lobby has increasingly infiltrated government policy.¹⁶ Consequently, there have been unprecedented attacks on the use of natural, non-drug-based therapies as well as on their providers. New health care laws give powers of search and seizure to medical boards and health care watchdogs. This might be understandable if the police-state powers were being used to ferret out sleazy or quack doctors and incompetent practitioners. Perhaps not surprisingly, however, the power of these laws is now arbitrarily used to harass and abuse qualified doctors and other health professionals who practise natural, alternative or integrative health care.¹⁷

Last year an Australian naturopath was allegedly raided by a government team who searched the practitioner's private belongings. The quiet, elderly, health professional was overwhelmed and devastated by the raid, allegedly conducted by 18 uniformed goons.¹⁸

More recently, another notable Australian physician who has achieved excellent clinical results treating patients with nutrient supplements and dietary measures was targeted by

the medical regulators in his state. He had been officially harassed for several years. But when confronted by the Board's police-type powers, he "voluntarily" consented to his retirement instead of mounting what he anticipated would be a costly and stressful legal action.¹⁹

The Internet abounds with health freedom activists who are now tracking this official abuse of practitioners. However, Tim Bolen, one such advocate, publicises the increasing numbers of practitioners who successfully stand up to authorities.²⁰ Though abuses still abound, some success stories are emerging.

One Australian doctor, who successfully incorporates natural medicine into his busy practice, was targeted by his state's medical board on the basis of issues such as a complaint made by an habitual complainant who has been mentioned in Parliament as a person who systematically makes complaints specifically against alternative practitioners. The medical board took up this bogus complaint in an attempt to use its police-type powers to gain entry to the doctor's premises. The board's representatives were stopped on the day because the doctor insisted the board demonstrate a reasonable cause and a proper reason as to its authority to enter his premises. The board was unable to do this. The doctor remains an ardent constitutional law and social justice advocate.²¹

"...it is a government by the corporations, for the corporations."

— Rutherford B. Hayes,
19th President of the USA

Applying the Common Law for Our Civil Liberties

Since 9/11, law enforcement has acquired the militaristic image of an occupying army with its use of non-lethal weapons and riot paraphernalia. Even in developed countries the police, once employed to uphold community rights and safety, now attempt to use brutality to suppress lawful activities such as the right to dissent. However, as the lyrics go, it appears that growing numbers of ordinary folk are "mad as hell and not gonna take it anymore".

The principles of common law are being applied in many settings. In July 2004, police attempted to herd demonstrators protesting against repression of civil liberties at the Democratic



"The boys in PR have come up with an answer to public litigation. We have the legal definition of 'side effects' changed to include death."

National Convention in Boston into an area enclosed by netting, chain link fence and barbed wire. Many demonstrators said the area looked like a concentration camp. There were 5,000 police, army reservists and feds prowling the vicinity and helicopters circling overhead. By all accounts, the city of Boston was making its debut as a police state. Many demonstrators acquiesced to being herded into the barbed wire enclosure and vocally complained about it afterwards. However, a large number of demonstrators refused to enter the area which the authorities had ironically called the "free speech zone".²² They powerfully exercised their simple common law right to withhold consent to an injustice. The importance of that event eclipsed the other events of the day.

Routine law enforcement has also taken a more sinister turn. A middle-aged Fijian couple²³ from Sydney's inner west were driving their van to a business meeting early in 2004. The police stopped the van and issued a minor traffic infringement to the husband, who was driving. Moments after the woman took the wheel, the police stopped them again for the same infringement.

The woman explained that the infringement had already been issued once and that, in any case, they intended to go to court to argue the matter. (This kind of police harassment where persons are stopped repeatedly for the same matter is known as "hunting".) A short but polite discussion ensued, during which time police called for back-up. Within minutes, seven police cars had surrounded the couple's van, with 15 officers attending for a minor offence. A few minutes later, an officer smashed the van's semi-open window and two police officers pulled the woman from the van. The beefy young officers descended on her until she fell to the ground. She was left on the roadside with a fractured shoulder and bleeding from glass cuts. Two eyewitnesses corroborated the event. The husband and wife are now taking the first steps toward legal action against the police involved.

A feisty, middle-aged Melbourne woman²⁴ was stopped in 2003 by a police officer and booked for an alleged minor traffic violation. She told him she was quite prepared to argue the matter of the infringement in court, but took exception to what she regarded as the officer's acting beyond the powers of his jurisdiction. The officer seemed incensed that she had not been intimidated by his display of power. This led to a hunting campaign against the woman, involving at least 17 separate occasions when police stopped her. One officer waylaid her vehicle five times and another one on four occasions. On most occasions, officers reached into her car in an attempt to detain her further, after she had given them the necessary details and was ready to drive away.

Since then, the woman has represented herself at least nine times in court on the matter. Three occasions were in the Supreme Court. The woman had no prior legal training, but used the basic principles of common law that she learned at the UPMART workshops she attended. She brought charges against the police whom she believes harassed her. Her cross-examination of a police officer on the witness stand turned out to

be a harrowing experience for him. She maintains an articulate legal argument based on her deeply held belief that she is entitled to exercise her primary rights and is unwilling to acquiesce to injustice.

An inalienable human right is a right that is with you at all times; it is a part of you and cannot be separated from you. It is a right that cannot be granted to you by man or governments. Inalienable rights are intrinsic to our existence. Inalienable rights are bestowed by the creator of creation, and cannot be granted by an earthly authority. They who seek permission from a court to live an inalienable human right are seeking permission from persons who are pretending to have the authority over that right.

— Malcolm McClure

"There is rising a new movement in the world. It is bigger than the movement of the 1960s. Yet it is barely seen by the experts and analysts. They look only at the behavior of institutions and politicians, not at the underlying forces that eventually burst into visibility."

— Tom Hayden, "Evidence of Things Unseen: The Rise of a New Movement", ZNet, October 23, 2003

Creating Free People Zones

By all accounts, there is a staggering growth in social justice movements which are starting to change the current trend of corporatisation, political oppression and corruption. Increasingly, institutions and corporations are being held to account.

Malcolm McClure's UPMART movement is currently assisting health care consumers to require doctors to provide accurate information about vaccination and other procedures or be liable for damages.

Increasingly, class actions are gathering—on behalf of vaccine-damaged children, children unlawfully taken from their parents, consumers who demand their right to natural treatments, and practitioners who have been harassed by the health authorities.

One UPMART class action, UCAR, sets out to ensure the rights of persons to be represented by the person of their choice—a move intended to make legal representation fair and affordable.²⁵ Meanwhile, alternative co-operatives are emerging, as well as alternative motor vehicle registration, banking and insurance facilities. There has been an

increase in the number of self-sufficient communities that rely on their own resources and legal instruments. It appears that these are ideas whose time has come. Malcolm McClure has been asked to bring his common law tools to other countries including the USA, New Zealand and Thailand.

With the help of a compliant mainstream media, governments continue to create reams of laws that seek to enslave humanity in "Free Trade" Zones". Yet a global network of "Free People Zones" is coming into being, where millions of people are joined by the spirit of their collective values. They create their own media, literature, food, conservation projects, healing centres, technology and politics. In the US, over 300 cities and four states have passed resolutions to have the Patriot Act repealed.

Around the world, individuals, fellowships, entire communities and emerging movements have put governments on notice that constitutional laws and human rights will not be violated in their area.

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Continued on page 74

PREVENTING THE WEAPONISATION OF SPACE

**Carol Rosin,
colleague of the
famous German
rocket scientist
Dr Wernher von
Braun, continues his
work to have
weapons banned
from space.**

**Interview with Carol Rosin
by Linda Moulton Howe**

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Webpage:

[http://www.earthfiles.com/news/
news.cfm?ID=734&category=Science](http://www.earthfiles.com/news/news.cfm?ID=734&category=Science)

German Scientist Wernher von Braun Anticipated Terrorists, Asteroids and ETs on America's "Enemies List", says Carol Rosin

June 18, 2004, Ventura, California — One of the most famous names from the beginning of the American rocket and missile programs after World War II is Dr Wernher von Braun. With the defeat of Germany and Japan in 1945 after the United States dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Dr von Braun and 126 other German rocket scientists were brought to the United States under a government project called *Paperclip*. They were based at Fort Bliss, Texas, and their work was focused at the White Sands Missile Range north of Fort Bliss in southern New Mexico.

Dr von Braun became famous for his expertise and his visionary goal to expand man's knowledge through the exploration of space. His pioneering work led to the development of the *Explorer* satellites, the *Jupiter* and *Jupiter-C* rockets, *Pershing*, the *Redstone* rocket, the *Saturn* rockets and *Skylab*, the world's first space station. Additionally, his determination to "go where no man has gone before" led to America's first landing on the Moon in 1969 during the Nixon administration.

In 1970, NASA asked Dr von Braun to move to Washington, DC, to head up the strategic planning effort for the government space agency. But in less than two years he decided to retire from NASA and went to work for Fairchild Industries of Germantown, Maryland, where he met a sixth-grade school teacher named Carol Rosin. She was famous for producing a "Students Studying on Spaceship Earth" project for her school classes. Dr von Braun asked Carol to join him at Fairchild Industries to help him create a ban of weapons in space. As President Eisenhower had warned about the threat of the "military-industrial complex" to America's future, likewise Dr von Braun warned that space should be kept free from intrusion by that same military-industrial power. Carol left her teaching job and went to work for Dr von Braun in 1974. He was her mentor until he died in Alexandria, Virginia, on June 16, 1977.

For nearly 30 years since then, Carol Rosin has persisted in trying to carry out Dr von Braun's request to get weapons banned from space. She is now President of the Institute for Cooperation in Space and of the Space Preservation Trust Foundation. Last year on December 8, 2003, her US Space Preservation Act was placed by Representative Dennis Kucinich as House Bill 3657 in the 108th Congress. Its statement of purpose: "To preserve the cooperative, peaceful uses of space for the benefit of all humankind by prohibiting the basing of weapons in space and the use of weapons to destroy or damage objects in space that are in orbit, and for other purposes". Further, she has written a Space Preservation Treaty to be introduced to nations of the world for signing through the United Nations to ban permanently the basing of weapons in space.

In the past 30 years, as Carol has worked hard to carry out Dr von Braun's challenge to her, she has often thought of his warnings about the misuse of space and an "Enemies List" that he said the American government was using to keep the media and public in support of Pentagon budgets.

Following is the interview I conducted with Carol Rosin.

— Linda Moulton Howe

Carol Rosin (CR): The message that he [Wernher von Braun] was giving me continually was that we must prevent the weaponisation of space from happening because otherwise the truth would never be officially acknowledged about who we were, who we are, as a human species in the universes.

Part B to that was that the way to achieve peace on this planet is to preserve the peace that there must be in space in order for there to be peace on Earth.

Linda Moulton Howe (LMH): You said "universes", plural?

CR: "Universes" is the way he put it to me. I had never heard that term before. I thought we lived in [the only] galaxy/solar system/universe. But he always used the word "universes".

LMH: As if he had knowledge of other universes?

CR: Exactly.

LMH: Did he talk with you specifically about knowledge of extraterrestrial biological entities?

CR: Dr von Braun would have tears in his eyes every time, and he repeated this continuously to me when he talked about us in the galaxy. He would say, "With a hundred billion stars in our galaxy alone, what would make us think that we are the only life-form?" That was a very typical, repeated quote.

The other one that he would say is that he knew we must have peace in space in order to bring the truth in. The only time he used the words "extraterrestrial" and "alien"—and he did this repeatedly as well—was when he spoke to me about the formula for war. That included the fact that when I entered the industry, we were in a supposed Cold War with Russia. He would say, "Let's start here where you are". There are continuous wars and enemies identified in order to perpetuate these wars, always with the ultimate goal of seizing the high ground of outer space to dominate and control the minds of people on Earth so they would not be given the truth—truthful information about who we really are in the universes.

LMH: What was his definition of what we really are in the universes?

CR: Well, this is what he did not describe. I believe what was happening is that he was under threat.

LMH: That is why he gave you an "Enemies List"* that would be perpetuated?

*** America's "Enemies List" to Sustain War Mode and Pentagon Budgets:**

- 1 – Soviet Union
- 2 – Terrorists
- 3 – Asteroids
- 4 – Extraterrestrials

CR: That's right. He repeated this continuously. He would say that, starting where I entered the industry with the supposed Russian threat (but [that] never actually existed), the Russians were made to be the enemy. Then there would be terrorists, Third World country threats. There would be an asteroid threat. They might even say to us, to try to influence the public into believing [it], that there are many reasons for why we should put weapons

in space. There might be a reason to protect our assets in space. But the real one that he was always holding off on and would say repeatedly, again with tears filling his eyes every time he said this to me, is that the last card they are holding is the "alien" card, the extraterrestrial card, and none of them are [sic] hostile. In any way he could say those words, the intonation was always on "None of them are [sic] hostile; it's all a lie". So, in other words, all the enemies that have been presented to us along the way—it's a lie, with always the intention of seizing the high ground to keep the truth from us.

LMH: Meaning the implication is that the United States government, perhaps even in cooperation with authorities in Russia, has played a game of perpetuating enemies in order to keep the money flowing into the war machines...

CR: Actually, he [von Braun] never implied that the Russians were part of this. He implied to me that the kernel of it was in the United States and that this had to be stopped—and he thought that I, as a woman with curly hair and short skirts in those days, could get into any meeting where a man could probably never say the things that I could. At that time, he gave me the assignment of preventing the weaponisation of space.

He also mentioned that when he and the other scientists came here, so many rumours were spread about them—that they were Nazis and were horrible people—and that was all lies.

LMH: That was Germany and Project Paperclip.

CR: Yes, of course. I notice that even some people in the peace movement refer to von Braun and the scientists as people who started the "Star Wars" program [under Reagan]. That's just not true. It's a lie. They were purely scientists who came here to be space and rocket scientists, but

they were always sucked up into this system that has been existing in the old, obsolete, earthbound paradigm. At least that's as much intelligence as the population is given to keep us in the earthbound paradigm. But these men were far ahead. These were space-age people.

LMH: Did he give you any specifics about who in the United States would stand to gain the most from perpetuating a game of war for money and power?

CR: Yes; he described it not as a blame on just a certain group. He described it as the inexorably linked military-industrial-lab-university-NASA and other space agencies-intelligence community-government complex, that it was intertwined, but there was a group that knew all of it. He did not act as if he knew who it was.

ET Threat to Perpetuate Military-Industrial-Corporate-Academic Complex

LMH: From your perspective, the greatest secret that Wernher von Braun would have been hiding would be the fact that the



Dr Wernher von Braun, German rocket scientist brought to the United States after World War II to head Project Paperclip at White Sands Missile Range. Project Paperclip was the US government's assembly of dozens of German physicists to create an American space rocket program, as the German scientists had been producing in Peenemünde, Germany, during the reign of Adolf Hitler. (Photograph date and source unknown.)

extraterrestrial biological entity is a reality—but his concern was that the US, instead of being honest about its motivation, would ultimately use ETs as another threat in order to perpetuate budgets for the Pentagon?

CR: Not just for the Pentagon, but aerospace industries, labs, universities and anyone else who has a job and makes a profit from keeping this a secret—although most of the people in the industry don't even know there is this big secret of all time, and, yes, you have articulated this very beautifully. You are not at all putting words in my mouth; that's exactly what I'm saying—except that it's not the influence of just people in the Pentagon. This is somehow, as he would put it, inexorably linked to all the facets of profit-making, of so-called security and defence mechanisms, of people who just need a job to survive and pay for their kids' college education, and also to keep the public stupid.

I have felt since this happened, since I learned from the heart of von Braun that this huge secret is being kept, that it has to have something to do with the "off-planet culture" that I call "OPC phenomenon", that in fact it is so real that this man could hardly talk about this big secret—and did not because of the threats to his life and probably to the lives of others who worked with him, who might or might not have known. But he certainly did.

Why Doesn't China Speak Out About ETs?

CR: I did not put all this together for many years. I was one of the people in a state of denial myself. I was a high-paid woman executive in an aerospace company who had been given an assignment from Wernher von Braun (but always thought of myself as just an educator, a school teacher) to keep weapons out of space so that, as he would repeat continuously, "The truth would not only be revealed, disclosed..." That official acknowledgement has happened in different parts of the world, but not in the United States.

I'm an official adviser to China. I've talked with a lot of people over there and I feel they know the secret; but being what they consider to be the Middle Kingdom, they wait for other countries including the United States to come forward. They are not what I would call initiators of something so powerful. But they are very much seekers of the truth and working on these issues.

LMH: Meaning they are waiting for the United States to hold that global press conference of all centuries to say we're not alone in the universe, and now we are going to introduce you to extraterrestrial biological entities?

CR: I actually had, years ago, one of the [Chinese] scientists at a university

tell me that is what they are waiting for. And I said, "Well, if you know the truth, why don't you go public with it?" They said, "Well, we wait because we consider ourselves to be of the Middle Kingdom and we don't want to be aggressive in any way, even though [China] has been identified as one of the potential enemies against the United States." But they are not. And neither are the Russians or any other country that I know of, except for the individuals or parts of cultures that we have antagonised so much that they are so angry with us at this time.

So, I think Wernher von Braun saw this back in the 1970s. He died in 1977. Back into the 1940s and 1950s was when he started to become aware of what the potential benefits of outer space were to humanity.

"...the implication is that the United States government...has played a game of perpetuating enemies in order to keep the money flowing into the war machines..."

Why We Must Prevent The Weaponisation of Space

CR: But what he always added on to his talks with me, that for years I did not say because of the ridicule factor, was this message that we must prevent the weaponisation of space from happening and that the big lie is that none of them are [sic] hostile—talking about this list of potential enemies whom we have been taught to fear and even hate. "We are all essence" and "None of them are hostile" haunted me for years until in the early 2000s I started to learn

about high-level military intelligence and corporate people who had already gone public by saying things like that but also by emphasising the fact that we must keep weapons out of space and that there is other life in the universe.

I'm just tuning into it myself, and it has caused me to work with people around the world who want to get a Space Preservation Treaty signed. And we do have a companion bill in the Congress that was introduced, even before the treaty came forward, by Congressman Dennis Kucinich [Dem-10th Congressional District, Ohio] and others who co-sponsored it, to call for a ban on *all* space-based weapons. We don't have to study which ones. It would also prevent the destruction or damage of anything in space that is in orbit—in other words, our satellites that we need to verify what is in space, coming in [toward Earth] and what is on Earth, so we can see the Earth to reduce and eliminate missiles and nuclear weapons and other dangerous, polluting technologies on the planet. This must be done; we must protect those satellites—and they should *not* be used as "force multipliers" in war games, which is the old scenario. But that is happening.



The original Project *Paperclip* team at Fort Bliss in White Sands, New Mexico, in the 1940s. Dr Wernher von Braun is sixth from right in front row. (Photo from Smithsonian Museum)

LMH: Why do you think advanced intelligence—one or more of them—would even allow the United States or any country on this planet to develop weapons in space? Why wouldn't they interfere, because it is too dangerous?

CR: From my information, they do not interfere. They will not, however, allow us to take our weapons and toxins into space. They will, however, let the human species do whatever it does to itself. That's the information I've been given and that's what I see happening. I have no evidence myself for this, but I've read that OPCs [off-planet cultures] have shut down the attempt to put operational weapons in space. I have also been given information that they will not interfere with what we do. However, there is a possibility that they would leave if we set off nuclear bombs, nuclear technology, and/or continue with the space-based weapons program.

I am moving to Ecuador now, but we have an office still in Vancouver, BC, Canada, and people I'm working with here will continue in the United States. I'll be doing it from Ecuador. But I'm 60 years old now and I've gone through this issue for 30 years now, day and night, holding as von Braun did this piece of information about this big lie that's being told, this canopy of lies that especially in the US—and because we keep it such a big secret here—has been kept over our heads. It's like we live behind this veil of secrecy and so many of us who know pieces of it, whether it's intuitively or by experience or by a learning process, keep way under the radar. We talk about it at dinner from a non-believing state to a giggle to an "Oh my God! This is real!"

LMH: But Carol, if the United States of America has already militarised space of this planet, how could we possibly achieve a treaty now to eliminate space-based weapons?

CR: Because we have not weaponised space. There are not operational weapons in space, patrolling us at this time. We have just enough time to get a Space Preservation Treaty signed into law. You can see this treaty draft at <http://www.peaceinspace.com>.

You can also see the companion Space Preservation Act [bill] now—the number is HR 3657—that's been introduced into the Congress [by Congressman Dennis Kucinich].

Congress in the US and this administration are not going to produce a ban on space-based weapons—in fact, the next administration might not, either—*unless* we get world leaders to sign the Space Preservation Treaty.

That treaty getting signed would put the necessary pressure that we need on the US Congress and administration. So, the answer is

now available to us: we have the bill in Congress and a real treaty to be signed.

LMH: And if this does not happen, Carol, what is the worst-case scenario in your mind?

CR: In my mind, it's inevitable obliteration of the human species. I believe that is a very possible reality. I think we are very close to it; we are in grave danger from any one of a number of man-made or natural disasters that could occur.

LMH: But China, for example, is going to be going to the Moon shortly and the US is concerned about China as a political force on the Earth. I can't help but wonder if we are already headed toward territorial conflicts in the next five or six years about who is on the Moon.

CR: We are headed toward territorial conflicts in space and on the Moon. That's the whole point of this in the Earthbound context and paradigm. But China does not want weapons in space; [its] leaders have said that for many decades. So has Russia said that. These are the two main space superpowers with the United States.

LMH: That's why the Wernher von Braun statement that the United States would use extraterrestrials on an Enemies List is significant here, because we would then justify space-based weaponry against extraterrestrials?

CR: That we would justify space-based weapons against *any* country that the US population and government leaders will buy into as long as that scenario holds.

By the way, everything that I've just said to you has already been proven to come true [sic]. In 1977 I was talking about the fact that there was going to be a Gulf War, because I was in a meeting when it was being planned—in 1977! It's one of the reasons I woke up and resigned from my cushy position in the industry. I couldn't believe there was a chart on the wall of potential enemies against which we were going to build space-based weapons that I and most people in the room had never even heard of. This is how these wars are planned, and I went forward with that story for years.

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U.S. Space Preservation Act

HR 3657 IH

108th CONGRESS
1st Session
H. R. 3657

To preserve the cooperative, peaceful uses of space for the benefit of all humankind by prohibiting the basing of weapons in space and the use of weapons to destroy or damage objects in space that are in orbit, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 8, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH (for himself, Mr. HOFFEL, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. HINCHEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services and International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) introduced Carol Rosin's US Space Preservation Act as House Bill 3657 on December 8, 2003.

THE ABSURDITIES OF WATER FLUORIDATION

Fluoridation of the water supply is an unethical, unnecessary, ineffective, unsafe and inequitable practice, and its supporters include powerful vested interests in industry, government and the medical/dental profession.

by Paul Connett, PhD

© November 2002

From the websites:
[http://www.redflagsweekly.com/
connett/2002_nov28.html](http://www.redflagsweekly.com/connett/2002_nov28.html)
and
[http://www.fluoridealert.org/
absurdity.htm](http://www.fluoridealert.org/absurdity.htm)

Water fluoridation is a peculiarly American phenomenon [although it has also been adopted in many other countries – Ed.]. It started at a time when asbestos lined our pipes, lead was added to gasoline, PCBs filled our transformers and DDT was deemed so "safe and effective" that officials felt no qualms about spraying kids in school classrooms and seated at picnic tables. One by one, all these chemicals have been banned, but fluoridation remains untouched.

For over 50 years, US government officials have confidently and enthusiastically claimed that fluoridation is "safe and effective". However, they are seldom prepared to defend the practice in open public debate. Actually, there are so many arguments against fluoridation that it can get overwhelming. To simplify things, it helps to separate the ethical from the scientific arguments.

For those for which ethical concerns are paramount, the issue of fluoridation is very simple to resolve. It is *not* ethical; we simply shouldn't be forcing medication on people without their "informed consent". The bad news is that ethical arguments are not very influential in Washington, DC, unless politicians are very conscious of millions of people watching them. The good news is that the ethical arguments are buttressed by solid, common-sense arguments and scientific studies which convincingly show that fluoridation is neither "safe and effective" nor necessary. I have summarised the arguments in several categories:

Fluoridation is UNETHICAL because:

- 1) It violates the individual's right to informed consent to medication.
- 2) The municipality cannot control the dose of the patient.
- 3) The municipality cannot track each individual's response.
- 4) It ignores the fact that some people are more vulnerable to fluoride's toxic effects than others; some people will suffer, while others may benefit.
- 5) It violates the Nuremberg code on human experimentation.

Dr Arvid Carlsson, recipient of the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 2000, stated: "I am quite convinced that water fluoridation, in a not-too-distant future, will be consigned to medical history... Water fluoridation goes against leading principles of pharmacotherapy, which is progressing from a stereotyped medication—of the type 'take 1 tablet 3 times a day'—to a much more individualised therapy as regards both dosage and selection of drugs. The addition of drugs to the drinking water means exactly the opposite of an individualised therapy."

Dr Peter Mansfield, a physician from the UK and advisory board member of the recent government review of fluoridation (McDonagh et al., 2000), stated: "No physician in his right senses would prescribe for a person he has never met, whose medical history he does not know, a substance which is intended to create bodily change, with the advice: 'Take as much as you like, but you will take it for the rest of your life because some children suffer from tooth decay.' It is a preposterous notion."

Fluoridation is UNNECESSARY because:

- 1) Children can have perfectly good teeth without being exposed to fluoride.
- 2) The promoters (CDC, 1999, 2001) admit that the benefits are topical, not systemic, so fluoridated toothpaste, which is universally available, is a more rational approach to delivering fluoride to the target organ (teeth) while minimising exposure to the rest of the body.

3) The vast majority of Western Europe has rejected water fluoridation, but has been equally as successful as the US, if not more so, in tackling tooth decay.

4) If fluoride were necessary for strong teeth, one would expect to find it in breast milk—but the level there is 0.01 ppm, which is 100 times less than in fluoridated tap water (IOM, 1997).

5) Children in non-fluoridated communities are already getting the so-called "optimal" doses from other sources (Heller et al., 1997). In fact, many are already being overexposed to fluoride.

Fluoridation is INEFFECTIVE because:

1) Major dental researchers concede that fluoride's benefits are topical, not systemic (Fejerskov, 1981; Carlos, 1983; CDC, 1999, 2001; Limeback, 1999; Locker, 1999; Featherstone, 2000).

2) Major dental researchers also concede that fluoride is ineffective at preventing pit and fissure tooth decay, which is 85% of the tooth decay experienced by children (JADA, 1984; Gray, 1987; White, 1993; Pinkham, 1999).

3) Several studies indicate that dental decay is coming down just as fast, if not faster, in non-fluoridated industrialised countries as fluoridated ones (Diesendorf, 1986; Colquhoun, 1994; World Health Organization, Online).

4) The largest survey conducted in the US showed only a minute difference in tooth decay between children who had lived all their lives in fluoridated compared to non-fluoridated communities. The difference was not clinically significant nor shown to be statistically significant (Brunelle and Carlos, 1990).

5) The worst tooth decay in the United States occurs in the poor neighbourhoods of the largest cities, the vast majority of which have been fluoridated for decades.

6) When fluoridation was halted in communities in Finland, the former East Germany, Cuba and Canada, tooth decay did not go up but continued to go down (Maupome et al., 2001; Kunzel and Fischer, 1997, 2000; Kunzel et al., 2000; Seppa et al., 2000).

Fluoridation is UNSAFE because:

1) Fluoride accumulates in our bones and makes them more brittle and prone to fracture. The weight of evidence from animal studies, clinical studies and epidemiological studies on this is overwhelming. Lifetime exposure to fluoride will contribute to higher rates of hip fracture in the elderly. (See Studies.)

2) Fluoride accumulates in our pineal gland, possibly lowering the production of melatonin—a very important regulatory hormone (Luke, 1997, 2001).

3) Fluoride damages the enamel (dental fluorosis) of a high percentage of children. Between 30% and 50% of children have dental fluorosis on at least two teeth in optimally fluoridated communities (Heller et al., 1997; McDonagh et al., 2000).

4) There are serious, but yet unproven, concerns about a connection between fluoridation and osteosarcoma in young men (Cohn, 1992), as well as between fluoridation and the current epidemics of both arthritis and hypothyroidism.

5) In animal studies, fluoride at 1 ppm in drinking water increases the uptake of aluminium into the brain (Varner et al., 1998).

6) Counties with 3 ppm or more of fluoride in their water have lower fertility rates (Freni, 1994).

7) In human studies, the fluoridating agents most commonly used in the US not only increase the uptake of lead into children's blood (Masters and Coplan, 1999, 2000) but are also associated with an increase in violent behaviour.

8) The margin of safety between the so-called therapeutic benefit of reducing dental decay and many of these end points is either nonexistent or precariously low.

Fluoridation is INEQUITABLE because:

1) Fluoridated water goes to all households and the poor cannot afford to avoid it if they want to, because they're unable to purchase bottled water or expensive fluoride removal equipment.

2) The poor are more likely to suffer from poor nutrition, which is known to make children more vulnerable to fluoride's toxic effects (Massler and Schour, 1952; Marier and Rose, 1977; ATSDR, 1993; Teotia et al., 1998).

3) Very rarely, if ever, do governments offer to pay the costs of those who are unfortunate enough to get dental fluorosis severe enough to require expensive treatment.

Fluoridation is INEFFICIENT and NOT COST-EFFECTIVE because:

1) Only a small fraction of the fluoridated water actually reaches the target. Most of it ends up being used to wash the dishes, flush the toilet or water lawns and gardens.

2) It would be totally cost-prohibitive to use pharmaceutical-grade sodium fluoride (the substance which has been tested) as a fluoridating agent for the public water supply. Water fluoridation is artificially cheap because—unknown to most people—the fluoridating agent is an unpurified hazardous waste product of the phosphate fertiliser industry.

3) If it were deemed appropriate to swallow fluoride (even though its major benefits are topical, not systemic) a safer and more cost-effective approach would be to provide fluoridated bottled water in supermarkets free of charge. This approach would allow both the quality and the dose to be controlled. Moreover, it would not force it on people who don't want it.

Fluoridation is UNSCIENTIFICALLY PROMOTED

1) In 1950, the US Public Health Service enthusiastically endorsed fluoridation before one single trial had been completed.

2) Even though we are getting many more sources of fluoride today than we were in 1945, the so-called "optimal concentration" of 1 ppm has remained unchanged.

3) The US Public Health Service has never felt obliged to monitor the fluoride levels in our bones, even though it has known for years that 50% of the fluoride we swallow each day accumulates there.

4) Officials that promote fluoridation never check to see what the levels of dental fluorosis are in the communities before they fluoridate, even though they know that this level indicates whether children are being overdosed or not.

5) No US agency has yet to respond to Luke's finding that fluoride accumulates in the pineal gland, even though her findings were published in 1994 (abstract), 1997 (PhD thesis), 1998 (paper presented at conference of the International Society for Fluoride Research), and 2001 (published in *Caries Research*).

Fluoride accumulates in our bones and makes them more brittle and prone to fracture.

6) The CDC's 1999 and 2001 reports advocating fluoridation were both six years out of date in the research they cited on health concerns.

Fluoridation is UNDEFENDABLE IN OPEN PUBLIC DEBATE

The proponents of water fluoridation refuse to defend this practice in open debate because they know that they would lose that debate. The vast majority of health officials around the US and in other countries who promote water fluoridation do so based upon someone else's advice and not based upon first-hand familiarity with the scientific literature. This second-hand information produces second-rate confidence when these officials are challenged to defend their position, which has more to do with faith than with reason.

Those who pull the strings of these public health "puppets" do know the issues and are cynically playing for time and hoping that they can continue to fool people with the recitation of a long list of "authorities" which support fluoridation, instead of engaging in the key issues. As Brian Martin made clear in his book, *Scientific Knowledge in Controversy: The Social Dynamics of the Fluoridation Debate* (1991), the promotion of fluoridation is based upon the exercise of political power, not on rational analysis. The question to answer, therefore, is: "Why is the US Public Health Service choosing to exercise its power in this way?"

Motivations, especially those which have operated over several generations of decision-makers, are always difficult to ascertain. However, whether intended or not, fluoridation has served to distract us from several key issues:

a) The failure of one of the richest countries in the world to provide decent dental care for poor people.

b) The failure of 80% of American dentists to treat children on Medicaid.

c) The failure of the public health community to fight the huge overconsumption of sugary foods by the nation's children, even to the point of turning a blind eye to the wholesale introduction of soft-drink machines into schools. Their attitude seems to be, "If fluoride can stop dental decay, why bother controlling sugar intake?"

d) The failure to address adequately the health and ecological effects of fluoride pollution from large industry. Despite the damage which fluoride pollution has caused and is still causing, few environmentalists have ever conceived of fluoride as a "pollutant".

e) The failure of the US EPA to develop a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for fluoride in water which can be scientifically defended.

f) The fact that more and more organofluorine compounds are being introduced into commerce in the form of plastics, pharmaceuticals and pesticides. Despite the fact that some of these compounds pose just as much a threat to our health and environment as their chlorinated and brominated counterparts (i.e., they are highly persistent and fat soluble, and many accumulate in the food chains and our body fat), those organisations and agencies which have acted to limit the wide-scale dissemination of these other halogenated products seem to have a blind spot for the dangers posed by organofluorine compounds.

So while fluoridation is neither effective nor safe, it continues to provide a convenient cover for many of the interests which

stand to profit from the public's being misinformed about fluoride.

Unfortunately, because government officials have put so much of their credibility on the line defending fluoridation, it will be very difficult for them to speak honestly and openly about the issue. As with the case of mercury amalgam, it is difficult for institutions such as the American Dental Association to concede to the health risks because of the liabilities waiting in the wings if they were to do so.

However, difficult as it may be, in order to protect millions of people from unnecessary harm it is nonetheless essential that the US government begin to move away from its anachronistic, increasingly absurd *status quo* on this issue. There are precedents; they were able to do this with hormone replacement therapy.

But getting any honest action out of the US government on this is going to be difficult. Effecting change is like driving a nail through wood: science can sharpen the nail, but we need the weight of public opinion to drive it home. Thus, it is going to require a sustained effort to educate the American people and then recruit their help to put sustained pressure on our political representatives. At the very least, we need a moratorium on fluoridation (which simply means turning off the tap for a few months) until there has been a full congressional hearing on the key issues with testimony offered by scientists on both sides.

With the issue of education, we are in better shape than ever before. Most of the key studies are available on the Internet (see

<http://www.slweb.org/bibliography.html>), and there are videotaped interviews with many of the scientists and protagonists whose work has been so important to a modern re-evaluation of this issue (see videos at <http://www.fluoridealert.org>).

With this new information, more and more communities are rejecting new fluoridation proposals at the local level. On the national level, there have been some hopeful developments as well, such as the EPA Headquarters Union coming out against fluoridation and the Sierra Club seeking to have the issue

re-examined. However, there is still a huge need for other national groups to get involved in order to make this the national issue it desperately needs to be in the United States.

I hope that if there are *RFW* [Red Flags Weekly] readers who disagree with me on this, they will rebut these arguments. If they can't, then I hope they will get off the fence and help end one of the silliest policies ever inflicted on the citizens of the United States. It is time to end this folly of water fluoridation without further delay. It is not going to be easy. Fluoridation represents a very powerful "belief system" backed up by special interests and by entrenched governmental power and influence. ∞

Editor's Note:

All references cited in this article can be found at the web pages <http://www.fluoridealert.org/reference.htm> and <http://www.slweb.org/bibliography.html>.

About the Author:

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**The vast majority
of Western Europe
has rejected water
fluoridation.**

Copy this page and send it to your nearest politicians – and dentists!

OPEN LETTER [released 31 August 2004] to:

**The Premier of Queensland
Queensland Minister for Health
Lord Mayor of Brisbane
Deputy Lord Mayor of Brisbane
Councillors, all Cities and Shires of Queensland**

We wish to express our grave concerns regarding renewed proposals to fluoridate Queensland's water supplies. Fluoridation began at a time when asbestos lined our pipes, when lead was added to petrol, and DDT was regarded as safe and effective. These chemicals have now been banned, but fluoridation remains untouched (www.fluoridealert.org/absurdity.htm).

Research is now raising doubts about fluoridation's effectiveness. Data compiled by the World Health Organization shows tooth decay has declined at a similar rate in all Western countries, irrespective of each country's water or salt fluoridation status (www.fluoridealert.org/WHO-DMFT.htm).

New evidence for potential, serious harm from long-term fluoride ingestion is also emerging. This evidence is summarised on the following websites: www.fluoridealert.org/limeback.htm and www.fluoridealert.org/50-reasons.htm.

It is extraordinary that the same people who reject abundant global evidence about the association between fluoride ingestion and organ damage (e.g., to bones, teeth, glands or immune system) embrace the questionable science used to support its benefits. They ignore the many confounding possible influences in this research. This includes sugar consumption (averaging 1 kg per week per person in Australia, much of which is hidden), other nutritional influences, general dental hygiene, use of floss and movements in population.

Recent studies by several eminent researchers strongly suggest that fluoride works primarily by topical means through direct action on the surface of the teeth via toothpaste or gels used in dental treatments (www.slweb.org/bibliography.html; see XIII, "topical versus systemic effects") (Centers for Disease Control [CDC], 1999 and 2001). Ingestion of fluoride through drinking fluoridated water is not essential nor effective for caries reduction.

Hardy Limeback, PhD, DDS, BSc, (Associate Professor and Head, Preventive Dentistry, University of Toronto, and Past President of the Canadian Association for Dental Research) apologised in 1999 for inadvertently misleading both his colleagues and dental students in his support for fluoridation. Addressing them, he concluded: "For the past 15 years, I had refused to study the toxicology information that is readily available to anyone. Poisoning our children was the furthest thing from my mind" (www.fluoridealert.org/news/1537.html).

The fluoridating agent most commonly used is a hazardous contaminated industrial-grade product from the phosphate fertiliser industry (www.fluoridealert.org/phosphate/overview.htm). We strongly reject the notion that placing a chronic poison in our water supplies is clever preventive medicine. We represent 1,500 doctors, dentists, scientists and others working in the interests of public health who are primarily interested in prevention and early intervention in disease processes.

The question of fluoridation was considered with care, openness and good representation by the Lord Mayor's Task Force in 1997, which came down clearly against fluoridating Brisbane's water supply (www.fluoride-journal.com/98-31-4/314-232.htm). It is astounding that this issue could again be raised in Queensland in an apparently co-ordinated national campaign. No new evidence has been put forward to our knowledge that would warrant a revision of the 1997 decision.

We will urge Queenslanders to study the evidence showing potential serious harm from long-term fluoride ingestion and to inform their councillors and state members how they feel about this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Doug Everingham MBBS, 1972–75 Australian Minister for Health; **Dr Eric Davis** BDS Sc Dip Clin Nutr FACNEM ASOMAT; **Dr Gary Deed** MBBS (Qld) FACNEM ACNEM AIMA, Diabetes Australia (Qld); **Dr Barry Ryan** MBBS (Qld) FACNEM, Member, Brisbane Lord Mayor's Taskforce on Fluoride, 1997; **Dr Philip Stowell** MBBS (London) FACNEM; **Dr John Ryan** MBBS (Qld) FRACGP DCH (Irel) MSc Nutrition FACNEM FAMAC MRCGP (UK), CMEC Member, Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), Australia; **Dr Kris Mylonas** MBBS (Qld) FACNEM Postgrad Dip Acup BCTANT; **Shirley Strachan** ND BHSc (CompMed) MA (Hons) History GradDip (MarArch); **Mark Diesendorf** BSc PhD, Adjunct Professor, Murdoch University; **Dr Robyn Cosford** ACNEM AIMA, Holistic Dental Association; **Cr Lisa C Intemann** BA (Hons) BAppSc DipSocSc, Wauchope, NSW; **Professor Ian Brighthope** MBBS (Melb) BAg FACNEM, Founding Director, President, ACNEM; **Professor Noel Campbell** FACNEM FASID BDS Sc LDS, Melbourne, Vic; **Philip Robertson** BHSc ND, Dept Health Science, Victoria University, Melbourne, Vic; **Dr Vicki Kotsirilos** MBBS (Monash) FACNEM DipHerbMed CertAcup DipHyp; **Dr Bogdan Sikorski**, Senior Toxicologist, Office of Complementary Medicines, Canberra, ACT; **Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith** PhD (Law), Coordinator, National Toxics Network Inc; **Dr Hardy Limeback** BSc PhD DDS, Associate Professor and Head, Preventive Dentistry, University of Toronto, Canada; **Dr Rosalie Bertell** PhD GNSH, Founder, Int Inst of Concern for Public Health, Canada; **Prof Dr Leo Rebello** ND PhD DSc FFHom, Fellow, European Medical Association, President, AIDS Alternativa International, World Peace Envoy, Bombay, India; **Dr Philip Michael** MB BCh BAO MICGP, Irish Doctors' Environmental Association; **Dr Elizabeth Cullen** MB BCh BAO MSc; **Irish Dentists Opposed to Fluoridation** (61 members); **Dr Andrew Rynne** Founder, Clane General Hospital, Co. Kildare, Ireland; **Loty Zilberman** MSc, Chemical Engineer, Israel; **Bruce Spittle** MB ChB DPM FRANZCP, Dunedin, New Zealand; **Dr Michael E Godfrey** MBBS (London) FACAM FACNEM, Tauranga, New Zealand; **Tohru Murakami** DDS PhD, Japanese Society for Fluoride Research; **Mageswari Sangaralingam**, Consumers' Association of Penang, Malaysia; **Dr C Vyvyan Howard** MB ChB PhD FRCPath, Developmental Toxicology Pathology Group, University of Liverpool, UK; **Paul Connett** PhD, Professor of Chemistry, St Lawrence University, New York; **Roger D Masters** PhD, Research Professor and Nelson A. Rockefeller Professor of Government Department of Government HB, Dartmouth College, NH, USA; **Robert J Carton** PhD (Environmental Science), Former Chief, Environmental Compliance, US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, Fort Detrick, USA; **Russell L Blaylock** MD, Neurosurgeon and Neuroscientist, Past Clinical Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Visiting Professor of Biology, Belhaven College, Jackson, Mississippi, USA; **Samuel E Epstein** MD, Professor Emeritus Environmental and Occupational Medicine, Chairman, Cancer Prevention Coalition, University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health, Chicago, Illinois, USA; **Christopher Bryson**, Investigative Journalist, Author of *The Fluoride Deception*, New York, USA; **Michael F Dolan** PhD, Research Professor, Department of Geosciences, UMass, USA; **Albert W Burgstahler** PhD, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, University of Kansas, USA...

DEATH BY MEDICINE

***Alarming statistics
on unnecessary
medications,
surgical procedures,
X-ray scans and
hospitalisations
confirm that our
modern health care
system is in deep
crisis.***

Part 2 of 3

**by Carolyn Dean, MD, ND
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DRUG IATROGENESIS: How Do We Know Drugs Are Safe?

Another aspect of scientific medicine that the public takes for granted is the testing of new drugs. In general, drugs are tested on individuals who are fairly healthy and are not taking other medications that can interfere with findings (unlike the class of people who take drugs because they are ill and need medication). But when these new drugs are declared "safe" and enter the drug prescription books, they are naturally going to be used by people who are on a variety of other medications and who also have a lot of other health problems. Then, a new phase of drug testing called "post-approval" comes into play, which is the documentation of side effects once drugs hit the market.

In one very telling report, the US General Accounting Office "found that of the 198 drugs approved by the FDA between 1976 and 1985,... 102 (or 51.5%) had serious post-approval risks... [that included] heart failure, myocardial infarction, anaphylaxis, respiratory depression and arrest, seizures, kidney and liver failure, severe blood disorders, birth defects and fetal toxicity, and blindness".⁴⁷

The NBC's investigative show *Dateline* [July 11, 2003] wondered if your doctor is moonlighting as a drug rep. After a year-long investigation, the program reported that because doctors can legally prescribe any drug to any patient for any condition, drug companies heavily promote "off-label" and frequently inappropriate and non-tested uses of these medications—in spite of the fact that these drugs are only approved for specific indications for which they have been tested.⁴⁸

The leading causes of adverse drug reactions are antibiotics (17%), cardiovascular drugs (17%), chemotherapy drugs (15%), and analgesics and anti-inflammatory agents (15%).⁴⁹

Specific Drug Iatrogenesis: Antibiotics

Dr Egger, in a recent editorial [*Wisconsin Medical Journal*, August 2002], wrote that after 50 years of increasing use of antibiotics, 30 million pounds of antibiotics are used in America per year.⁵⁰ Twenty-five million pounds of this total are used in animal husbandry. The vast majority of this amount, 23 million pounds, is used to try to prevent disease and the stress of shipping and to promote growth. Only two million pounds of these antibiotics are given for specific animal infections. Dr Egger reminds us that low concentrations of antibiotics are measurable in many of our foods, rivers and streams around the world. Much of this is seeping into bodies of water from animal farms.

Dr Egger said that overuse of antibiotics results in food-borne infections resistant to antibiotics. *Salmonella* is found in 20% of ground meat, but constant exposure of cattle to antibiotics has made 84% of salmonella resistant to at least one anti-salmonella antibiotic. Diseased animal food accounts for 80% of salmonellosis in humans, or 1.4 million cases per year. The conventional approach to dealing with this epidemic is to irradiate food to try to kill all organisms, but keep using the antibiotics that cause the original problem. Approximately 20% of chickens are contaminated with *Campylobacter jejuni*, which causes 2.4 million human cases of illness annually. Fifty-four per cent of these organisms are resistant to at least one anti-campylobacter antimicrobial.

A ban on growth-promoting antibiotics in Denmark began in 1999, which led to a decrease in use from 453,200 pounds to 195,800 pounds within a year. Another report from Scandinavia found that taking away antibiotic growth-promoters had no or minimal effect on food production costs.

Egger further warned that, in America, the current crowded and unsanitary methods of animal farming support constant stress and infection and are geared toward high antibiotic use. He said that these conditions would have to be changed, and antibiotic use would have to be cut back.

In America, over three million pounds of antibiotics are used every year on humans. With a population of 284 million Americans, this amount is enough to give every man, woman and child 10 teaspoons of pure antibiotics per year.

Egger says that exposure to a steady stream of antibiotics has altered pathogens such as *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Enterococcus*, to name a few.

Almost half the patients with upper respiratory tract infections in the USA still receive antibiotics from their doctor.⁵¹ According to the CDC, 90% of upper respiratory infections are *viral* and should *not* be treated with antibiotics.

In Germany, the prevalence for systemic antibiotic use in children aged 0–6 years is 42.9%.⁵²

Data taken from nine US health plans between 1996 and 2000 on antibiotics use in 25,000 children found that rates of antibiotics use have decreased. Antibiotics use in children aged three months to under three years decreased by 24% from 2.46 to 1.89 antibiotic prescriptions per patient per year. For children aged three years to under six years, there was a 25% reduction from 1.47 to 1.09 antibiotic prescriptions per patient per year. And for children aged six to under 18 years, there was a 16% reduction from 0.85 to 0.69 antibiotic prescriptions per patient per year [*Pediatrics*, September 2003].⁵³ Although there was a reduction in antibiotics use, the data indicate that, on average, every child in America receives 1.22 antibiotic prescriptions annually.

Group A beta-haemolytic *Streptococcus* is the only common cause of sore throat that requires antibiotics; penicillin and erythromycin being the only recommended treatments. However, 90% of sore throats are *viral*.

The authors of this study [*JAMA*, September 12, 2001] estimated there were 6.7 million adult annual visits for sore throat between 1989 and 1999 in the US; antibiotics were prescribed in 73% of visits. Furthermore, patients treated with antibiotics were given non-recommended broad-spectrum antibiotics in 68% of visits. The authors noted that from 1989 to 1999 there was a significant increase in the newer and more expensive broad-spectrum antibiotics and a decrease in use of penicillin and erythromycin.⁵⁴ If antibiotics were given in 73% of visits and should only have been given in 10%, this represents 63% or a total of 4.2 million visits for sore throat that ended in unnecessary antibiotics prescriptions between 1989 and 1999.

In 1995, Dr Richard Besser of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) said that the number of unnecessary antibiotics prescribed annually for viral infections was 20 million. In 2003, he referred to tens of millions of unnecessary prescriptions for antibiotics.^{2, 2a} Neither of these figures takes into account the number of

unnecessary antibiotics used for non-fatal conditions such as acne, intestinal infection, skin infections, ear infections, and so on.

The Problem with Antibiotics: They Are Anti-Life

On September 17, 2003, the CDC relaunched a program, started in 1995, called "Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work".⁵⁵ This is a US\$1.6 million campaign to educate patients about the overuse and inappropriate use of antibiotics. Most people involved with alternative medicine have known about the dangers of overuse of antibiotics for decades. Finally the government is focusing on the problem, yet is only putting a minuscule amount of money into an iatrogenic epidemic that is costing billions of dollars and many thousands of lives.

The CDC warns that 90% of upper respiratory infections, including children's ear infections, are *viral*—and antibiotics don't treat viral infection. More than 40% of about 50 million prescriptions written for antibiotics each year in physicians' offices were inappropriate.² And using antibiotics when not needed can lead to the development of deadly strains of bacteria that are resistant to drugs and cause more than 88,000 deaths due to hospital-acquired infections.⁹

However, the CDC seems to be blaming patients for misusing antibiotics, even though these drugs are only available on prescription from a doctor who should know how to prescribe properly. Dr Richard Besser, head of the Get Smart program, says: "Programs that have just targeted physicians have not worked. Direct-to-consumer advertising of drugs is to blame in some cases." He says the Get Smart program "...teaches patients and the general public that antibiotics are precious resources that must be used correctly if we want to have them around when we need them. Hopefully, as a result of this campaign, patients will feel more comfortable asking their doctors for the best care for their illnesses, rather

More than 40% of about 50 million prescriptions written for antibiotics each year in physicians' offices were inappropriate.

than asking for antibiotics."⁵⁶

And what does "the best care" constitute? The CDC does not elaborate and patently avoids the latest research on the dozens of nutraceuticals scientifically proven to treat viral infections and boost the immune system. Will its doctors recommend vitamin C, echinacea, elderberry, vitamin A, zinc or homoeopathic *oscillocoquinum*? No, they won't. The archaic solutions offered by the CDC include a radio advertisement, "Just Say No – Snort, sniffle, sneeze – No antibiotics, please". Its commonsense recommendations, which most people do anyway, include resting, drinking plenty of fluids and using a humidifier.

The pharmaceuticals industry claims it is all for limiting the use of antibiotics. In order to make sure that happens, the drug company Bayer is sponsoring a program called "Operation Clean Hands" through an organisation called LIBRA.⁵⁷

And while the CDC is involved with trying to minimise antibiotic resistance, nowhere in its publications is there any reference to the role of nutraceuticals in boosting the immune system nor to the thousands of journal articles that support this approach. This

recalcitrant tunnel-vision and refusal to use available non-drug alternatives is absolutely inappropriate when the CDC is desperately trying to curb the nightmare of overuse of antibiotics. The CDC should also be called to task because it is only focusing on the overuse of antibiotics. There are similar nightmares for every class of drug being prescribed today.

Drugs Pollute Our Water Supply

We have reached the point of saturation with prescription drugs. We have arrived at the point where every body of water tested contains measurable drug residues. We are inundated with drugs. The tons of antibiotics used in animal farming, which run off into the water table and surrounding bodies of water, are conferring antibiotic resistance to germs in sewage, and these germs are also found in our water supply. Flushed down our toilets are tons of drugs and drug metabolites that also find their way into our water supply. We have no idea what the long-term consequences of ingesting a mixture of drugs and drug-breakdown products will do to our health. It's another level of iatrogenic disease that we are unable to measure completely.⁵⁸⁻⁶⁷

Specific Drug Iatrogenesis: NSAIDs

It's not just America that is plagued with iatrogenesis. A survey of 1,072 French general practitioners (GPs) tested their basic pharmacological knowledge and practice in prescribing non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). NSAIDs rank first among commonly prescribed drugs for serious adverse reactions. The results of the study suggested that GPs don't have adequate knowledge of these drugs and are unable to manage adverse reactions effectively.⁶⁸

A cross-sectional survey of 125 patients attending speciality pain clinics in South London found that possible iatrogenic factors such as "over-investigation, inappropriate information and advice given to patients as well as misdiagnosis, over-treatment and inappropriate prescription of medication were common".⁶⁹

Specific Drug Iatrogenesis: Cancer Chemotherapy

In 1989 a German biostatistician, Ulrich Abel, PhD, after publishing dozens of papers on cancer chemotherapy, wrote a monograph entitled "Chemotherapy of Advanced Epithelial Cancer". It was later published in a shorter form in a peer-reviewed medical journal [*Biomed. Pharmacother.* 46(10), 1992].⁷⁰

Dr Abel presented a comprehensive analysis of clinical trials and publications representing over 3,000 articles examining the value of cytotoxic chemotherapy on advanced epithelial cancer. Epithelial cancer is the type of cancer we are most familiar with; it arises from epithelium found in the lining of body organs such as breast, prostate, lung, stomach or bowel. From these sites, cancer usually infiltrates into adjacent tissue and spreads to bone, liver, lung or the brain.

From his exhaustive review, Dr Abel concluded there is no direct evidence that chemotherapy prolongs survival in patients with advanced carcinoma. He said that in small-cell lung cancer and perhaps ovarian cancer, the therapeutic benefit is only slight. Dr Abel went on to say: "Many oncologists take it for granted

that response to therapy prolongs survival, an opinion which is based on a fallacy and which is not supported by clinical studies."

Over a decade after Dr Abel's exhaustive review of chemotherapy, there seems to be no decrease in its use for advanced carcinoma. For example, when conventional chemotherapy and radiation have not worked to prevent metastases in breast cancer, high-dose chemotherapy (HDC) along with stem cell transplant (SCT) is the treatment of choice.

However, in March 2000, results from the largest multi-centre randomised controlled trial conducted thus far showed that, compared to a prolonged course of monthly conventional-dose chemotherapy, HDC and SCT were of no benefit.⁷¹

There was even a slightly lower survival rate for the HDC/SCT group. And the authors noted that serious adverse effects occurred more often in the HDC group than in the standard-dose group. There was one treatment-related death (within 100 days of therapy) in the HDC group, but none in the conventional chemotherapy group. The women in this trial were highly selected as having the best chance to respond.

There is also no all-encompassing follow-up study like Dr Abel's that tells us if there is any improvement in cancer survival statistics since 1989.

In fact, we need to research whether chemotherapy itself, instead of progression of the original disease, is responsible for secondary cancers.

We continue to question why well-researched alternative cancer treatments aren't used.

Drug Companies Fined

Periodically, a drug manufacturer is fined by the FDA when the abuses are too glaring and impossible to cover up. The *Washington Post* [May 18, 2002] reported that the maker of Claritin, Schering-Plough Corporation, was to pay a US\$500

million fine to the FDA for quality-control problems at four of its factories.⁷²

The FDA tabulated infractions that included 90% or 125 of the drugs the pharma had made since 1998. Besides having to pay the fine, the company had to stop manufacturing 73 drugs or suffer another \$175 million fine. The company's PR statements told another story, assuring consumers that they should still feel confident in its products.

The indictment came after the Public Citizen Health Research Group, led by Dr Sidney Wolfe, called for a criminal investigation of Schering-Plough, charging that the company distributed albuterol asthma inhalers even though it knew the units were missing the active ingredient.

Such a large settlement against Schering-Plough serves as a warning to the drug industry to maintain strict manufacturing practices, and it has given the FDA more clout in dealing with drug company compliance.

According to the *Washington Post* article, a Federal Appeals Court ruled in 1999 that the FDA could seize the profits of companies that violate "good manufacturing practices".

Since that time, Abbott Laboratories, Inc. has paid \$100 million for failing to meet quality standards in the production of medical test kits. In 2000, Wyeth Laboratories, Inc. paid \$30 million to settle accusations of poor manufacturing practices.

**It's not just America
that is plagued
with iatrogenesis.**

UNNECESSARY SURGICAL PROCEDURES

Summary:

- In 1974, 2.4 million unnecessary surgeries were performed annually, resulting in 11,900 deaths at an annual cost of \$3.9 billion.^{73, 74}
- In 2001, there were 7.5 million unnecessary surgical procedures, resulting in 37,136 deaths at a cost of \$122 billion (using 1974 US dollars).³

It's very difficult to obtain accurate statistics when studying unnecessary surgery. Dr Leape, in 1989, wrote that perhaps 30% of controversial surgeries are unnecessary. Controversial surgeries include Caesarean section, tonsillectomy, appendectomy, hysterectomy, gastrectomy for obesity, breast implants and elective breast implants.⁷⁴

Thirty years ago, in 1974, the Congressional Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce held hearings on unnecessary surgery. It found that 17.6% of recommendations for surgery were not confirmed by a second opinion. The House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations extrapolated these figures and estimated that, on a nationwide basis, there were 2.4 million unnecessary surgeries performed annually, resulting in 11,900 deaths at an annual cost of \$3.9 billion.⁷³

In 2001, the top 50 medical and surgical procedures totalled approximately 41.8 million. These figures were taken from the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project within the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.¹³ Using 17.6% from the 1974 US Congressional House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations as the percentage of unnecessary surgical procedures, and extrapolating from the death rate in 1974, we come up with an unnecessary procedure number of 7.5 million (7,489,718) and a death rate of 37,136 at a cost of \$122 billion (using 1974 dollars).

Researchers performed a very similar analysis, using the 1974 "unnecessary surgery percentage" of 17.6, on back surgery. In 1995, researchers testifying before the Department of Veterans Affairs estimated that of 250,000 back surgeries in the US at a hospital cost of \$11,000 per patient, the total number of unnecessary back surgeries each year in the US could approach 44,000 and cost as much as \$484 million.⁷⁵

The unnecessary surgery figures are escalating, just as are those for prescription drugs driven by television advertising. Media-driven surgery, such as gastric bypass for obesity "modelled" by Hollywood personalities, seduces obese people into thinking this route is safe and sexy. There is even a problem of surgery being advertised on the Internet.⁷⁶

A study in Spain declared that between 20% and 25% of total surgical practice represents unnecessary operations.⁷⁷

According to data from the US National Center for Health Statistics from 1979 to 1984, there was a 9% increase in the total number of surgical procedures and the number of surgeons grew by 20%. The author noted that there has not been a parallel increase in the number of surgeries, despite a recent large increase in the number of surgeons.

There was concern that there would be too many surgeons to share a small surgical caseload.⁷⁸

The previous author spoke too soon: there was no cause to worry about a small surgical caseload. By 1994, there was an increase of 38% for a total of 7,929,000 cases for the top 10 surgical procedures. In 1983, surgical cases totalled 5,731,000. In 1994, cataract surgery was number one with over two million operations, and second was Caesarean section (858,000 procedures). Inguinal hernia operations were third (689,000 procedures), and knee arthroscopy, in seventh place, grew 153% (632,000 procedures) while prostate surgery declined 29% (229,000 procedures).⁷⁹

The list of iatrogenic diseases from surgery is as long as the list of procedures themselves. In one study, epidural catheters were inserted to deliver anaesthetic into the epidural space around the spinal nerves to block them for lower Caesarean section, abdominal surgery or prostate surgery. In some cases, non-sterile techniques during catheter insertion resulted in serious infections, even leading to limb paralysis.⁸⁰

In one review of the literature, the authors demonstrated that there was "a significant rate of overutilization of coronary angiography, coronary artery surgery, cardiac pacemaker insertion, upper gastrointestinal endoscopies, carotid endarterectomies, back surgery, and pain-relieving procedures".⁸¹

A study published in *JAMA* [November 13, 1987] found the following significant levels of inappropriate surgery: 17% of cases for coronary angiography; 32% for carotid endarterectomy; and 17% for upper gastrointestinal tract endoscopy.⁸²

Using the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) statistics provided by the US government for 2001, the number of people getting upper gastrointestinal endoscopy, which usually entails biopsy, was 697,675, the number having endarterectomy was 142,401, and the number having coronary angiography was 719,949.¹³ Therefore, according to the *JAMA* study, 17%, or 118,604 people, had an unnecessary endoscopy procedure. Endarterectomy occurred in 142,401

patients; potentially 32%, or 45,568, did not need this procedure. And 17% of 719,949, or 122,391 people receiving coronary angiography, were unnecessarily subjected to this highly invasive procedure. These are all forms of medical iatrogenesis.

Mortality Rate for Medical and Surgical Procedures

It is instructive to know the mortality rate associated with different medical and surgical procedures. Even though we must sign release forms when we undergo any procedure, many of us are in denial about the true risks involved. We seem to hold a collective impression that since medical and surgical procedures are so commonplace, they are both necessary and safe. Unfortunately, partaking in allopathic medicine itself is one of the highest causes of death as well as the most expensive way to die.

Shouldn't the daily death rate of iatrogenesis in hospitals, out of hospitals, in nursing homes and in psychiatric residences be reported like the pollen count or the smog index?

**Allopathic medicine
is not a purveyor
of health care but
of disease care.**

Let's stop hiding the truth from ourselves. It's only when we focus on the problems and ask the right questions that can we hope to find solutions.

Perhaps the term "health care" gives us the illusion that medicine is about health. Allopathic medicine is not a purveyor of health care but of *disease care*. Studying the mortality figures in the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) within the US government's Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), we found many points of interest.¹³ The HCUP computer program that calculates the annual mortality statistics for all US hospital discharges is only as good as the codes that are put into the system.

In an email correspondence with HCUP, we were told that the mortality rates that were indicated in tables and charts for each procedure were not necessarily due to the procedure but only indicated that someone who received that procedure died either from their original disease or from the procedure. Therefore, there is no way of knowing exactly how many people died from a particular procedure.

There are also no codes for adverse drug side-effects, none for surgical mishap and none for medical error. Until there are codes for medical error, statistics on those people who are dying from various types of medical error will be buried in the general statistics. There is a code for "poisoning & toxic effects of drugs" and a code for "complications of treatment". However, the mortality figures registered in these categories are very low and don't compare with what we know from studies such as the *JAMA* 1998 study¹ that said there were an average of 106,000 prescription medication deaths per year.

Why Aren't Medical and Surgical Procedures Studied?

In 1978, the US Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) reported that "Only 10%–20% of all procedures currently used in medical practice have been shown to be efficacious by controlled trial".⁸³ In 1995, the OTA compared medical technology in eight countries (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United States) and again noted that few medical procedures in the US had been subjected to clinical trial. It also reported that infant mortality was high and life expectancy was low compared to other developed countries.⁸⁴

Although this report is almost 10 years old, much of it holds true today. The report laid the blame for the high cost of medicine squarely at the feet of the medical free-enterprise system and the fact that there is no national health care policy. It described the failure of government attempts to control health care costs due to market incentive and profit motive in the financing and organisation of health care including private insurance, the hospital system, physician services, and drug and medical device industries. Whereas we may want to expand health care, expansion of disease care is the goal of free enterprise.

"Health Care Technology and Its Assessment in Eight Countries" is the last report prepared by the OTA, which was shut down in 1995. It's also perhaps the last honest, in-depth look at modern medicine. Because of the importance of this 60-page report, we enclose a summary in the Appendix [see the NIA's website, <http://www.nutritioninstituteofamerica.org>].

Surgical Errors Finally Reported

Just hours before completion of this paper, statistics on surgery-related deaths became available. A study in *JAMA* [October 8, 2003], from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, documented 32,000 mostly surgery-related deaths costing \$9 billion and accounting for 2.4 million extra days in the hospital in 2000.⁸⁵ In a press release accompanying the *JAMA* study, the AHRQ director, Carolyn M. Clancy, MD, admitted: "This study gives us the first direct evidence that medical injuries pose a real threat to the American public and increase the costs of health care."⁸⁶

Hospital administrative data from 20% of the nation's hospitals were analysed for 18 different surgical complications including post-operative infections, foreign objects left in wounds, surgical wounds reopening and post-operative bleeding. In the same press release, the study's authors said: "The findings greatly underestimate the problem, since many other complications happen that are not listed in hospital administrative data." They also stated: "The message here is that medical injuries can have a devastating impact on the health care system. We need more research to identify why these injuries occur and find ways to prevent them from happening."

One of the authors, Dr Zhan, said that improved medical practices, including an emphasis on better hand-washing, might help reduce the morbidity and mortality rates.

An accompanying *JAMA* editorial, by health-risk researcher Dr Saul Weingart of Harvard's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, said: "Given their staggering magnitude, these estimates are clearly sobering."⁸⁷

Unfortunately, partaking in allopathic medicine itself is one of the highest causes of death as well as the most expensive way to die.

UNNECESSARY X-RAYS

When X-rays were discovered, no one knew the long-term effects of ionising radiation. In the 1950s, monthly fluoroscopic exams at the doctor's office were routine. You could even walk into most shoe stores and see your foot bones—looking at bones was an amusing novelty. We still don't know the ultimate outcome of our initial escapade with X-rays.

It was common practice to use X-rays in pregnant women to measure the size of the pelvis and make a diagnosis of twins. Finally, a study of 700,000 children born between 1947 and 1964 was conducted in 37 major maternity hospitals. The children of mothers who had received pelvic X-rays during pregnancy were compared with the children of mothers who had not been X-rayed. Cancer mortality was 40% higher among the children with X-rayed mothers.⁸⁸

In present-day medicine, coronary angiography combines an invasive surgical procedure of snaking a tube through a blood vessel in the groin up to the heart. To get any useful information during the angiography procedure, X-rays are taken almost continuously, with minimum dosage ranges between 460 and 1,580 mrem. The minimum radiation from a routine chest X-ray is 2 mrem. X-ray radiation accumulates in the body, and it is well-known that ionising radiation used in X-ray procedures causes gene mutation. We can only obtain guesstimates as to the impact on health from this high level of radiation. Experts manage to obscure the real effects in statistical jargon, such as "The risk for lifetime fatal cancer due to radiation exposure is estimated to be 4 in one million per 1,000 mrem".⁸⁹

However, Dr John Gofman, who has been studying the effects of radiation on human health for 45 years, is prepared to tell us exactly what diagnostic X-rays are doing to our health. Dr Gofman has a PhD in nuclear and physical chemistry and is a medical doctor. He worked on the Manhattan nuclear project, discovered uranium-233, was the first person to isolate plutonium, and since 1960 he's been studying the effects of radiation on human health. With five scientifically documented books totalling over 2,800 pages, Dr Gofman provides strong evidence that medical technology—specifically X-rays, CT scans, mammography and fluoroscopy—is a contributing factor in 75% of new cancers. His 699-page report, "Radiation from Medical Procedures in the Pathogenesis of Cancer and Ischemic Heart Disease: Dose-Response Studies with Physicians per 100,000 Population" (updated in 2000),⁹⁰ shows that as the number of physicians increases in a geographical area, with an increase in the number of X-ray diagnostic tests there is an associated increase in the rate of cancer and ischemic heart disease. Dr Gofman elaborates that it's not X-rays alone that cause the damage, but a combination of health risk factors including poor diet, smoking, abortion and the use of birth control pills. Dr Gofman predicts that 100 million premature deaths over the next decade will be the result of ionising radiation.

In his book, *Preventing Breast Cancer*, Dr Gofman says that breast cancer is the leading cause of death among American women between the ages of forty-four and fifty-five. Because breast tissue is highly radiation sensitive, mammograms can cause cancer. The danger can be heightened by a woman's genetic makeup, pre-existing benign breast disease, artificial menopause, obesity and hormonal imbalance.⁹¹

Even X-rays for back pain can lead someone into crippling surgery. Dr Sarno, a well-known New York orthopaedic surgeon, found that X-rays don't always tell the truth. In his books he cites studies on normal people without a trace of back pain who have spinal abnormalities on X-ray. Other studies have shown that some people with back pain have normal spines on X-ray. So, Dr Sarno says there is not necessarily any association between back pain and spinal X-ray abnormality.⁹² However, if a person happens to have back pain and an incidental abnormality on X-ray, they may be treated surgically, sometimes with no change in back pain or worsening of back pain or even permanent disability.

In addition, doctors often order X-rays as protection against malpractice claims to give the impression that they are leaving no stone unturned. It appears that doctors are putting their own fears before the interests of their patients.

UNNECESSARY HOSPITALISATIONS

Summary:

In 2004, 8.9 million (8,925,033) people were hospitalised unnecessarily.⁴

In a 1986 study of inappropriate hospitalisations, 1,132 medical records were reviewed by two doctors. Their finding was that 23% of all admissions were inappropriate and an additional 17% could have been handled in ambulatory out-patient clinics. Also, 34% of all hospital days were inappropriate and could have been avoided.⁹³ The rate of inappropriate admissions in 1990 was 23.5%.⁹⁴ In 1999, another study confirmed the figure of 24%

inappropriate admissions, indicating a consistent pattern from 1986 to 1999,⁹⁵ showing steady reporting of approximately 24% inappropriate admissions each year. Putting these figures into present-day terms using the HCUP database, the total number of patient discharges from hospitals in the US in 2001 was 37,187,641.¹³ The above data indicate that 24% of those hospitalisations need never have occurred. It further means that 8,925,033 people were exposed to unnecessary medical intervention in hospitals, therefore representing almost nine million potential iatrogenic episodes.⁴

Continued next issue ...

Editor's Note:

Due to space constraints, we are unable to publish the endnotes accompanying this article (apart from including some brief details within the text in square brackets); instead, we have posted them with the article on our website, <http://www.nexusmagazine.com>. Readers without Internet access can request a copy of the endnotes from their nearest NEXUS Office.

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- **Debora Rasio**, MD, is a physician practising alternative medicine in Rome, Italy. She is also an oncologist who has written extensively on cancer. Dr Rasio provided some of the initial research for this paper.

Dr Gofman predicts that 100 million premature deaths over the next decade will be the result of ionising radiation [X-rays].

JUSTICE OUT OF BALANCE

The theory of munchausen syndrome by proxy, used to blame mothers for hard-to-diagnose illnesses in their children, has been strongly discredited in the UK and Queensland but is mistakenly still regarded as a valid "label" in prosecuting many child protection cases.

by Michael Nott © 2004

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Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.

— Exodus 22.18

During the reigns of Queen Elizabeth I and King James I in England in the 16th and 17th centuries, laws were passed against witchcraft. Under the provisions of these laws, some 70,000 witches were put to death. Alleged witches were searched out, then tortured so that they confessed. They were condemned to death after a superficial trial using hearsay and speculative evidence. There were mass witch burnings. Alice Molland is said to be the last witch executed, in 1685.

What kind of insanity was this? Were the authorities ignorant and overzealous? Is history now repeating itself?

The injustices of MSBP profiling

Consider this. If you are a mother with a young child who has a very difficult-to-diagnose illness, you may find yourself looking down the aggressive barrel of a child protection agency that will take your child into foster care. The courts state that you will only have very limited supervised contact with your child again, if at all. There is no evidence that you caused the child's illness—just speculation and supposition. (Often these very sick children are prematurely born, may have congenital or genetic problems or may have suffered an adverse reaction to drugs; or the parent may have challenged a doctor's medical treatment.)

Such a scene is happening in many countries—Australia, Germany, New Zealand, UK, USA and elsewhere. It is happening without evidence; it is speculative, circumstantial and prejudicial, operating in the same manner as the witch-hunts of old. It is happening as a consequence of the theories of influential British paediatrician Professor Sir Roy Meadow, who introduced the medical child abuse theory known as Munchausen Syndrome By Proxy (MSBP) in the *Lancet* in 1977.¹ It now has currency by other names, including "factitious illness", "paediatric falsification disorder" and the like. No matter what it is called, these nomenclatures link back to Meadow's MSBP theory.

While munchausen syndrome (named after the 18th-century German figure Baron von Münchhausen, famous for his "tall stories") is where one is alleged to be causing problems in oneself, e.g., self harm, or to present oneself at hospital too many times, munchausen syndrome by proxy is where one is alleged to be causing problems in another person, usually one's child. In most cases, it is the mother who is alleged to be causing medical problems in her child or requiring what is said to be unnecessary medical treatment for the child. Doctors often don't know what is causing the child's medical problems, so they blame the mother. Generally, in 95% of cases, it is the mother—not the father—who is accused because she tends to be the principal care-giver and therefore has greater access to the child.

The MSBP theory has favour in powerful sections of the medical profession, child protection, academia, law enforcement and the judiciary. However, according to medical sociologist Dr Helen Hayward-Brown, it is a nightmare waiting on the doorstep of every family with a sick child.² Hayward-Brown was awarded her doctorate for investigating false allegations of munchausen syndrome by proxy, with many of her case studies based in Australia. "Ordinary mothers and fathers are being accused of child abuse because their children have an illness that some paediatricians cannot diagnose, or the parents strongly question the doctor over the child's treatment. The parents are refused the

opportunity to obtain a second medical opinion as this is labelled 'doctor shopping', part of the MSBP child abuse profile—even though doctors are ethically obliged to allow it and it is a patient's right to obtain a second medical opinion."

According to Hayward-Brown, good mothers are accused of child abuse, as this fits the so-called munchausen syndrome "profile" of a child abuser. These mothers are seen as "perpetrators", pretending to be good, caring mothers. "A mother could be doing nothing wrong, other than showing anxiety and care for her child and questioning doctors on the care of her very sick child. Before long, she could be accused of child abuse and face criminal charges. It is just like the witch-hunts of centuries ago that were based on guesswork."

Munchausen syndrome by proxy is based on a "profile" or "label" that allegedly indicates the mother's behaviour. The "profile" includes the mother who shows too much interest in medical procedures, paradoxically taking no interest in the child's medical care, and the mother who passively accepts everything but also seeks attention by going to the media. The "profile" has also been extended to include the "anxiety" a carer may show concerning the child's illness. If the mother protests her innocence, then that is seen as "denial" in psychological terms, but if she "confesses", as in a response to blackmail, that is seen as confirmation of the physician's conclusions, albeit entirely without corroborative evidence. Dr Terry Donald from the Adelaide Children's Hospital, South Australia, is concerned if a mother calls him by his first name at their first meeting.³ Hayward-Brown said that generally a mother will be told that she has little hope of her children being returned unless she confesses to MSBP.

Charles Pragnell, an expert British defence witness in child protection, now based in Melbourne, Australia, said that the labelling of a carer, usually the mother, with child abuse prevents proper investigation of the child's medical condition or legal action by the carer, as the carer is labelled a liar and fabricator. He said bringing legal action or making a complaint against a doctor is therefore very effectively stopped. Pragnell said a high proportion of allegations of munchausen syndrome by proxy followed a threat by the parent to report the physician for malpractice, errors of diagnosis or treatment, doctor negligence or incompetence. "MSBP allegations have also been made with no attempt having been made to thoroughly investigate possible causes of the child's illness from genetic disorders, vaccine damage, effects of prescribed medications, exposure to toxic substances, or severe allergic reactions."

Associate Professor Dr David Coats, an American ophthalmologist, said that child abuse should be considered when the pieces of the medical puzzle don't fit, e.g., when the child has unusual ocular abnormalities or other medical conditions that cannot be explained through medical evaluation.⁴

In this way, Hayward-Brown said, if a doctor cannot determine the cause of a child's illness then the parent, usually the mother, is alleged to have caused the medical problem in the child. "The mother is guilty without appropriate medical or police investigation and it is usually impossible for a mother to prove her

innocence. The MSBP profiling is extremely prejudicial, inaccurate, paradoxical and often nonsensical, leading to grave injustices." She also noted: "The MSBP profile used by doctors contains paradoxes that make it very difficult, almost impossible, for mothers to prove their innocence. For example, being an over-protective parent is part of the MSBP profile, but so is being a negligent parent."

Major public hospitals with child protection units as well as child protection agencies in New South Wales, in other Australian states, in the USA, the UK and other countries share the view that a mother must be guilty, but they fail to undertake appropriate investigations.

Some doctors, according to Hayward-Brown, are predisposed to making child abuse allegations in the medical context. While acknowledging that parents may occasionally harm their children, she said MSBP allegations are prejudicial. Professionals suffer

from confirmatory bias where they maintain their beliefs, even in the face of counter-evidence. "It does not matter if it is called a disorder, behaviour or syndrome. It does not matter if it is seen to be psychiatric or paediatric. The outcome is the same."

Meadow's questionable MSBP research

However, the legitimacy of the munchausen syndrome by proxy theory is now undergoing intense scrutiny worldwide for its lack of scientific integrity, the highly questionable support literature in medical journals and its continuing use by a minority of influential members of the medical profession.

Meadow is facing serious professional misconduct charges by the British General Medical Council, which registers doctors in the UK, and his hearing is scheduled for 2005.⁵ He has been accused of giving misleading and contradictory evidence in courts. The Royal Statistical Society on 23 October 2001⁶ publicly condemned his statistical methodology, with emphasis on his evidence in the Sally Clark case. One of his strongest supporters, Professor David Southall, was found guilty of seri-

ous professional misconduct by abusing his position in a munchausen syndrome by proxy case. Southall also failed to disclose that he consulted with Meadow on the case. He was banned from child protection work for three years. Southall is facing another seven official complaints. Hayward-Brown is also concerned about the use of US MSBP proponents such as Dr Herbert Schreier in Australian cases.

In the UK, Meadow's theories are under sustained attack in government, legal, medical and community circles and the whole legitimacy of MSBP is being strongly questioned. In the House of Commons on 17 June 2004, Children's Minister Margaret Hodge ordered reviews involving 30,000 care orders.

The government is also investigating the manner in which expert medical evidence is used in child protection courts. The Solicitor-General, Harriet Harman, alerted prosecutors that Meadow was criticised by the UK Court of Appeal.

Pragnell said it was because of concerns about the validity and integrity of Meadow's evidence that the prosecutors, under pressure from the UK government, would no longer use Meadow as an expert witness. "Cases where Meadow was involved were

Munchausen syndrome by proxy (MSBP) is based on a "profile" or "label" that allegedly indicates the mother's behaviour.

The "profile" includes the mother who shows too much interest in medical procedures...

being carefully scrutinised and reviewed by child care agencies."

The Opposition spokesperson on children and health in the House of Lords, Earl Howe, called for a public inquiry into the use of MSBP in prosecutions. Labour MP Vera Baird on 21 June 2004 asked questions in the Commons on munchausen syndrome by proxy and on what role disgraced doctors Meadow and Southall have played in the child protection cases.

Howard Fishman, a former education director at the Harvard Medical School's psychiatry department, said that some so-called eminent paediatricians and self-proclaimed child abuse experts are in the business of manufacturing victims while destroying countless innocent families. "The child abuse industry has devoted itself to the removal of children from their homes based on spectral evidence, phantom disorders and fanciful modes of purported abuse that should be assigned to the trash bin of junk science."

Hayward-Brown said the doctors could not acknowledge that some illnesses are very hard to diagnose and treat and that they *do* make mistakes. The *British Medical Journal* (9 August 2003) cited the UK Court of Appeal which noted the case of a six-year-old boy who was said by Southall to be a victim of fabricated illness.⁷ The *BMJ* reported that the boy was removed from the at-risk register after three months when he was diagnosed with severe allergies. Southall has also been involved in Australian MSBP cases.

US lawyer Tracy Emblem said that a problem in her country is the "multi-disciplinary" approach to evaluating cases, as "group think" contributes to erroneous accusations. She wonders how one justifies the reckless abandonment of science and the truth. One of her clients has been in prison for 21 years because of false medical testimony, but it has finally been admitted that the charge was based on insufficient evidence and a new trial has now been ordered.

Meadow has been instrumental in many child protection cases and has provided significant evidence for various authorities across the world that has often resulted in children being taken away from their mothers and placed into care. Pragnell said the so-called MSBP "research" conducted by Meadow was not scientifically based and was merely his own conjecture, speculation and assertions that had questionable origins. "It has never been peer reviewed, although a great deal has been written on the subject. Much of this is people writing on the views of others."

Little information has been made available on the way Meadow prepared his reports and the investigations he undertook, as they are generally confidential as a result of the secrecy of children's courts and closed civil courts. But in one report on an Australian mother, he alleged after he had read medical and other reports sent to him in England that the mother had harmed her children. He had never met the mother or personally discussed the children's medical problems with the mother or any of the doctors involved in the case. Meadow acknowledged that he did not see or he dismissed reports of doctors and specialists who suggested a natural cause for the children's illnesses. One of these doctors was the children's treating paediatrician. In opposition to this paediatrician, Meadow concluded—and without attributing any robust evidence—that the mother had harmed her children. Nowhere in the report does Meadow declare his interest in munchausen syndrome by proxy or that he coined the term in his 1977 *Lancet* article.

When writing on MSBP, Meadow offers no scientific evidence that MSBP exists, and his references generally only include articles written or co-written by him. A great deal of his references includes material he wrote for the journal he edited, the *Archives of Disease in Childhood*. The list of reference material does not include any scientific or evidence-based studies on MSBP that were peer reviewed by independent medical specialists.

Court judgements on MSBP

Evidence involving the label or profile of munchausen syndrome by proxy is also being rejected by courts, e.g., the Queensland Court of Appeal (*R v LM* [2004] QCA 192), as prejudicial and inadmissible. The South Australian Supreme Court (S4118, 1993) ruled that Professor David Southall's MSBP testimony could only be regarded as a layperson's opinion, albeit a well-informed one as he is a paediatrician.

Meadow's cot death theory—that one child death in the same family is a tragedy, two suspicious and three murder—has been rejected by the UK Court of Appeal (*R v Angela Cannings* [2004] EWCA Crim. 01) and in Tennessee, USA (2003, no. 99-D-2836). In the Cannings judgement, the Court said the cot death theory

"had to stop". Judicial comments in the UK Clark case (*R v Sally Clark* [2003] 200203824 Y3) were that Meadow's medical and statistical evidence in the case is "wrong" and "grossly overstated" and that such evidence "should not have been put before a jury". The flawed evidence Meadow gave at Clark's trial was said to serve "to undermine his high reputation and authority as a witness in the forensic process". Meadow also gave expert evidence against British woman Julie Ferris, who was held in a psychiatric hospital. Ferris was later released on

bail, and in August 2004 it was reported that she will not face a retrial.⁸

In Queensland, Australia, the Court of Appeal (*R v LM* [2004] QCA 192) in a unanimous judgement said MSBP (or factitious disorder by proxy) is not a recognised psychiatric disorder or mental illness in the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM IV)*. The judges went on to say that MSBP has no agreed sets of symptoms or signs that allow it to be classified into a recognised psychiatric diagnostic system. The Court also found that MSBP is not a recognised medical condition, disorder or syndrome. By finding that MSBP does not relate to an organised or recognised reliable body of knowledge or experience, the Court ruled that evidence from a psychiatrist was "extremely prejudicial" and thus excluded it. Justice Holmes noted that the MSBP argument is inherently circular and does nothing to prove criminal conduct. While the Court agreed it may be a behaviour, it was like "laughing, malingering or engaging in criminal conduct". In other words, a behaviour may exist, but the description of this behaviour is not helpful in determining the guilt of a particular individual in a particular context; facts are required.

Legal opinion is that this Queensland Court of Appeal judgement is very traditional law, where facts—not ambiguous labels—are required to justify a case for guilt. The Australian Capital Territory's Director of Public Prosecutions, Richard Refshauge, said the QCA decision on MSBP is conservative and a down-the-line law judgement. "It makes clear that if a woman is

The MSBP profiling is extremely prejudicial, inaccurate, paradoxical and often nonsensical, leading to grave injustices.

to be prosecuted for harming her children, it is not enough to put a label on it; facts are required to justify the case." This, according to Refshauge, is the normal situation in law. "By labelling the woman in this way with munchausen syndrome by proxy or factitious illness by proxy you are saying the woman is guilty, as the label creates the guilt. The problem is that labelling is not a process for determining guilt; it is done in a very different way, with doctors, psychiatrists and social workers guessing. People are not convicted for having a syndrome or a particular behaviour; they are convicted for the illegal acts that they do."

Vicki Waye, senior law lecturer at Australia's Adelaide University and author of *Evidence Handbook*, also said the Brisbane decision is traditional law where evidence has to adhere to the facts of a case. "The evidence of witnesses had to be what they observed and what was said. They could not call it a syndrome or label it." Waye believes the decision will be highly persuasive in other courts, but not binding.

Dr Gary Edmond, senior law lecturer at the University of New South Wales, Australia, said it is dangerous to say that just because other people do something—in this case, harm their children—then "this mother" also did it. "The Appeal Court is explaining that the prosecution must use facts rather than a vague label like MSBP to prove its case. The Court seems to be saying that the term 'MSBP' adds very little, is potentially prejudicial and should be avoided." He said the risk will not be eliminated by the use of other similarly vague terms.

UK child care lawyer Sarah Harman thinks UK courts are making "political judgements" by not challenging MSBP. "UK courts are not dealing with MSBP or factitious illness by proxy as the Queensland Appeal Court did. Our courts are still finding against mothers, even when the medical evidence is unsafe."

Earl Howe said MSBP underpinned the Clark and Cannings cases as it was not possible to separate Meadow's expert testimony, given that he was an acknowledged leading expert on MSBP. Further, Earl Howe noted that MSBP was a major plank of the prosecution's Clark case, while in the Cannings case MSBP or a personality disorder led to her arrest. He said that statistics and inferences have often been used with the "MSBP profile" to "damn individuals" in the family courts over the past few years.

"Meadow and his theories are now in complete disrepute, and he has been publicly discredited," said Pragnell.

The QCA decision was made in a criminal court, where guilt must be established beyond reasonable doubt, but munchausen syndrome by proxy is frequently used in care proceedings in the Children's Court where a decision rests on the degree of probability and does not necessarily abide by the rules of evidence.

This is the heart of the problem, according to Pragnell. In NSW, in Children's Court care proceedings that involve MSBP, it is up to the discretion of an individual magistrate to determine to what extent the rules of evidence should apply. Pragnell said that in care proceedings, "hearsay" evidence is admissible, while such evidence would be inadmissible in criminal matters. Therefore, in care cases, the cards are heavily stacked against mothers when added to the balance-of-probability decision that these courts make. Pragnell considers that care proceedings should not be an adversarial contest, as the best interests of the child could be lost

under a welter of legal arguments and posturing. Care courts, he suggested, should be inquisitorial, aimed at establishing what has happened and what the outcome should be.

Pragnell said the Crown already has the sympathy of the Court and that magistrates won't risk a child's safety. "In this way the Crown has the case almost won, even before entering the court. Even if the court rules that a child can go home, even for a short period, this is often ignored by child protection social workers." He noted that child protection is not a level playing field and is far from being just and fair. "This is why Meadow and Southall were able to get away with many travesties of the truth for so many years and to completely manipulate the system."

Additionally, as Hayward-Brown stated, parents have limited finances and are often denied government legal aid and support—as opposed to the authorities, which appear to have unlimited funds to pursue these cases. It is unfortunate, she said, that many mothers have been falsely pursued by the authorities, when time and finances could have been more productively used in protecting children who really are at risk of harm.

Child protection agencies' disregard for the law

In New South Wales, the child protection agency DOCS (Department of Community Services) has confirmed it is "precluded" by law from using allegations of munchausen syndrome by proxy as the basis for removal of a child. Yet it has been using MSBP allegations for many years as the central allegation in child protection proceedings.

Written statements to this author from DOCS, dated 10 and 24 September 2003, suggest that DOCS is in breach of its own legislation when it states that the "*Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* (Section 71, Subsection 2) precludes DOCS from taking any medical

condition of a parent or carer into account when making a child protection decision". The Director-General of DOCS, Dr Neil Shepherd, declined to be interviewed for this article.

In medical child abuse cases, DOCS uses MSBP as the central allegation against a mother to remove a child from its family and place the child into care. DOCS makes no other substantive allegations against the mother. MSBP allegations are made by DOCS in removal warrants and affidavits to police and the Children's Court, and are the principal element of DOCS cases—despite the aforementioned DOCS statements. DOCS generally only obtains "expert advice" from one or two doctors with "expertise" in the area of MSBP and fails to conduct its own investigations.

According to Pragnell, agencies such as DOCS and some doctors from child protection units at major public hospitals are showing scant regard for legal requirements. "This is causing immense harm to the status of the medical profession and public trust in physicians, as relatives and friends of affected families are alarmed and angered by the needless and unwarranted removal of children and, in some cases, the imprisonment of innocent mothers."

Earl Howe said he feels there is a sinister development occurring in the UK, with MSBP being confined to the "dustbin" and doctors replacing it with the term "personality disorder". "This has the same result as MSBP; it is a catch-all term to accuse mothers." Sarah Harman agrees with Earl Howe that MSBP or

MSBP is frequently used in care proceedings in the Children's Court where a decision rests on the degree of probability and not necessarily by the rules of evidence.

factitious illness by proxy will be used under another name. Earl Howe said it would be a development he'd "watch closely".

Hayward-Brown said that doctors are also moving towards "somatisation", where they allege that a young child has a psychiatric illness where the child makes him/herself sick or believes he/she is ill. "This is often combined with MSBP. It is already known that usage of 'somatisation' has led to the death of one child who did not receive correct medical treatment."

As a result of the Cannings judgement—where the Court of Appeal stated that if the outcome of the trial depends "exclusively on the serious disagreement between...reputable experts, it will be unwise and therefore unsafe to proceed"—the UK Government ordered official reviews of both criminal and civil cases involving Meadow's MSBP and cot death theories. The UK Attorney-General, Lord Goldsmith, reported to the Commons on 22 July 2004 that, in checks to date, about one case in eight is potentially unsafe.

The UK Children's Minister Margaret Hodge also ordered child protection agencies to review care cases and determine if there are "doubts about expert evidence". Solicitor-General Harriet Harman told Parliament on 20 January 2004 that mothers who have had children removed would have their cases reviewed.

However, Earl Howe said the government is just looking at a restricted group of court cases where the verdict may have gone the wrong way. "It is disappointing that the government is not addressing the MSBP or factitious illness by proxy diagnosis that is the core of the problem. They are not looking at MSBP as a condition. They have refused to review policies on MSBP. These policies decline to state that MSBP is subject to high error rate, and the consequence of getting it wrong can be devastating."

Sarah Harman is disappointed that the UK Government is watering down its review of MSBP cases. Commons Shadow Children's Minister Tim Loughton attacked the decision to allow child protection agencies to review their own cases, as it would not inspire confidence that justice was being done where questionable evidence was used. Other MSBP opponents have said the review of cases is not independent, as so-called experts are known or professionally related to each other.

London's *Guardian* newspaper of 14 July 2004 reported that Scotland Yard is transforming the way suspicious baby deaths are investigated; this is in response to miscarriages of justice involving mothers wrongly accused of killing their children. Senior detectives said they are responding to criticism of failings in infant death investigations after the cases of the wrongly accused mothers Angela Cannings, Sally Clark and Trupti Patel.⁹

BBC News on 17 June 2004 reported that the UK Government is undertaking a review of the way expert witnesses have been used in child abuse cases. Children's Minister Margaret Hodge told the BBC that this action is in response to widespread concern about the quality and validity of evidence given by medical expert witnesses.¹⁰

Pragnell suggested that the Cannings judgement on expert evidence should be used in all MSBP cases, as these have been the subject of serious disagreement in the medical profession and in social work for many years. Any case involving MSBP will be the subject of disputes between experts, even before court

proceedings. In this regard, Pragnell argues that munchausen syndrome by proxy or factitious illness theory should not be used. He agrees that this is a wider interpretation than the Cannings decision, but is a position that should be used; it would prevent the use of any child abuse theory while it was the subject of considerable professional dispute.

Professional denial of problems with MSBP charges

There is a high degree of opposition to anti-MSBP forces as influential doctors champion a colleague who has made false MSBP allegations. Other doctors, academics and those who speak out against the use of the munchausen syndrome by proxy theory are discovering a "corrupt" system that is rejecting any change.

In 2001, the UK Department of Health issued new guidelines in an attempt to give a form of validity and authenticity to MSBP, and introduced a new title of "fabricated and induced illness in children". But Pragnell claims these guidelines were produced without any independent and scientifically based research or inquiry into the existence of munchausen syndrome by proxy/FII (fabricated and induced illness). The department merely regurgitated the unsubstantiated opinions of MSBP/FII proponents, in complete disregard for conflicting opinions.

At Professor David Southall's professional misconduct hearings before the British General Medical Council (GMC) on 6 August 2004,¹¹ Professor Sir Alan Craft, President of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, supported Southall. The GMC noted that Craft praised Southall as an "academic leader" who undertook important ground-breaking research that "has greatly influenced the way that babies and children have been managed all over the world". The GMC said of other submissions that they all "testify to Southall's clinical

Doctors, academics and those who speak out against the use of the munchausen syndrome by proxy theory are discovering a "corrupt" system that is rejecting any change.

skills and unparalleled commitment to the welfare of children all over the world".

Liverpool University academic Dr Lynne Wrennell, who attended the Southall hearings, said the case hinged on what was accepted practice in child protection cases. "Southall's support was cautious and carefully worded," Wrennell noted.

In Australian states such as New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, MSBP allegations are still being made against mothers. In Queensland, according to Edmond, the Appeal Court judgement is binding on lower courts, but the Children's Minister Mike Reynolds does not acknowledge that there have been legal and civil problems with MSBP's continued usage. In NSW, Meadow's evidence is still being used in a court case, despite the Director of Public Prosecutions Nicholas Cowdrey's being aware of the UK situation and the professional misconduct charges Meadow is facing. The NSW Department of Community Services continues action against mothers, despite clear knowledge of the problems that the MSBP charge has caused in the UK. The NSW Attorney-General's office will take no action in the matter. According to Hayward-Brown, there is no indication of any body in NSW or Australia showing concern about the need for review of current and previous cases involving Meadow's evidence, diagnoses and theories.

Australia's federal government, through its Institute of Family Studies and its Child Protection Clearing House, promotes MSBP

as a valid "diagnosis", despite knowledge of the discrediting of Meadow and court decisions against his theories. Similarly, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians makes use of Meadow's theories on its website.¹² At the ISPCAN 15th International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect (Brisbane, September 2004), many papers presented attest to the existence of MSBP, including many from MSBP proponents in the UK.¹³

Hayward-Brown stated that medical professionals are afraid to speak out publicly against their colleagues for fear of marginalisation and persecution. While senior professionals have voiced their concerns, this has generally only occurred in private. It is particularly a problem in Australia, as the medical community is small and cohesive, leaving less room for outspoken critics.

Professionals supporting mothers fear that so-called "evidence" is being fabricated to ensure MSBP convictions. Fishman said that in the USA the credibility of the legal system is very much strained when it comes to the way MSBP child abuse cases are typically investigated and prosecuted. He believes perjury is rampant in child abuse cases. Fishman has accused mental health and medical professionals of perjury and the justice system of failure to hold them accountable. Hayward-Brown said she has seen a good deal of evidence of fabrication, inaccuracy, bullying, deception, cover-up and tampering of files in these cases.

In the UK, doctors are complaining that paediatricians are refusing to carry out child protection work due to the possibility of official complaints. However, Hayward-Brown said such widespread community concerns about discourse and practice have only occurred in this particular area of medicine. There is a reason for this, she claimed: a society will accept many deficiencies, but it will not accept the repeated harm by professionals of innocent families. "This problem is not going to go away. It is pointless for authorities to argue that the problem is 'small' and should therefore be ignored."

Hayward-Brown said that legal firms and lawyers have refused to take on MSBP cases as these are too controversial. "Legal aid has been refused to MSBP cases by legal-aid bodies in both NSW and Victoria on the grounds that they will not succeed." This has also occurred in the UK. Additionally, since these cases are often long and complex, they involve the need for expensive medical witnesses. This denial of legal representation has been found by the European Court of Human Rights to be a breach of human rights in an MSBP case (*P, C & S v the UK*; no. 56547/00; 2002) where the UK government was found guilty and fined. This same court found that it is a breach of human rights to remove a child at birth due to a previous allegation of MSBP. Such breaches are occurring in New South Wales.

"No one seems to want to take responsibility over MSBP allegations: the doctors and hospitals, DOCS and the Health Department keep blaming each other. The office of the DOCS Minister does not want to know about the issues, and in NSW the Health Minister's office and Opposition Health spokesman are quiet on the allegations," said Hayward-Brown.

The need for urgent reform

It should be noted that there are no official statistics kept on Australian MSBP allegations, and for authorities such as the NSW

Children's Commission to say the problem is small ignores the harm caused to parents who are either suspected or accused of MSBP. There are many parents who have been affected by false allegations. These allegations are not benign: they have serious implications for the health and well-being of the child.

However, some statistics are kept on child abuse notifications. In Australia in the year 2002–03, there were 198,355 notifications according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), but only 40,416, or roughly 20%, were "substantiated".¹⁴ This suggests that in the other 80% of reports there was no child abuse. The cases that were "not substantiated" showed, in the words of the AIHW, that "there was no reasonable cause to suspect prior, current or future abuse, neglect or harm to the child".

This is consistent with similar figures in the USA, where Fishman said over 70% of child abuse reports were not deemed worthy of investigation or were determined to be "unfounded" or "unsubstantiated". In pragmatic terms, he said, what this means is that two million innocent families were falsely accused of child abuse in the USA during 2002.

Pragnell said that of most concern are the AIHW figures from New South Wales that showed 109,498 child abuse reports, with only 16,765 of these "substantiated".

This means that over 90,000 children were unnecessarily brought into child protection procedures—and it has long been known that such procedures can cause severe, long-lasting harm to children. "Some other states have a screening process and therefore they could eliminate false accusations and unnecessary investigations," he noted, adding that there is no national definition of "child abuse" and Australian states could make their own determination of what constitutes child abuse.

The NSW Commission for Children and Young People's office, when asked if it would use its powers to review or investigate MSBP, said the matter should be "put in perspective". This implies that the Commission is not concerned about the families who are suffering under these accusations. Irrespective of numbers and even if one family is being seriously damaged, it is a matter of concern. In a statement to this author dated 26 July 2004, Commissioner Gillian Calvert (who is also co-chair of the ISPCAN Congress on Child Abuse) said there is no consensus among the professionals on MSBP. Calvert said MSBP is "a complicated and difficult diagnosis with significant differences of opinion among medical and legal professionals: there are some medical experts who support and diagnose the syndrome and those who dispute its existence". Despite admitting a problem, the Commission has decided not to take any firm action or use its legislative power to order an inquiry. The Commission has also declined to answer questions on whether it is "irresponsible and careless" to allow the current situation to continue. The Commission's Parliamentary Committee head, Barbara Perry, declined to be interviewed for this article.

NSW Police has declined to release information on its use of Meadow, Southall and USA MSBP proponent Dr Herbert Schreier of the Children's Hospital at Oakland in California—although I have seen official NSW Police letters to Meadow and the reports written by Meadow. The NSW Solicitor-General's office denies it has written to Meadow requesting reports.

"This problem is not going to go away. It is pointless for authorities to argue that the problem is 'small' and should therefore be ignored."

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LETTERS FROM THE UNDERGROUND

Many military insiders and contractors claim the USA and other countries have built secret underground and underwater bases, perhaps for survival in the event of a cataclysm or for more sinister purposes.

by Richard Sauder, PhD

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Early on in my research on underground bases and tunnels, I began to receive occasional postal letters, emails and first-hand personal anecdotes from my readers and public lecture audience members. As the years have gone by, the letters, emails and personal anecdotes continue to trickle in. As you might surmise, some of the mail and stories have been most interesting. They have been so interesting, in fact, that I want to present some of this information for your consideration here. I'm sure it will interest you just as much as it has interested me.

I want to say that I believe there is a substantial kernel of truth in the accounts you are about to read. I also want to say that, although I absolutely lack the time and money to travel around the country and world checking out the particulars of every last sensational story that crosses my path, I have nevertheless strongly relied on my research experience and knowledge of the subject matter to sift out obvious tall tales and wild stories. What remains for you to read is the credible remnant that I judge to have the ring and feel of truth.

Often I have been struck by the carefully staged and maintained illusions that we accept as the consensual reality of everyday life. The propagandistic news on television and radio and in the newspapers and news magazines, the many false pronouncements by government, the deeply entrenched journalistic and scientific censorship and other sources of falsehood and deceit flowing from educational and religious institutions all serve to foster the mass delusion that everything is, in reality, as it appears to be. Nothing could be further from the truth—especially in the nether realms of underground and underwater bases and tunnels, where the operative rule is "Out of sight, out of mind!"

So without further ado, on to the underground mailbag!

Subterranean Labyrinth Beneath the NSA at Fort Meade, Maryland

Deep beneath the NSA (National Security Agency) headquarters at Fort Meade, Maryland, midway between Washington, DC, and Baltimore, Maryland, lies a top-secret subterranean complex. In his masterful exposé of the NSA, *The Puzzle Palace*, James Bamford alludes to the mammoth computing centre that lies beneath the NSA HQ:¹

"...the NSA's enormous basement, which stretches for city blocks beneath the Headquarters Operations Building, undoubtedly holds the largest and most advanced computer operation in the world."

This is the electronic machinery the NSA uses to eavesdrop on electronic communications the world over, including in the United States. James Bamford says that this "basement" full of supercomputers extends for "city blocks". I am sure you will agree that that is impressively huge.

One of my sources, who had been briefly stationed at Fort Meade during the 1970s, accidentally stumbled into this mammoth "basement" one day and fully corroborates Bamford's account. Here is his story:

"I...was transferred to the NSA on a special assignment for a few weeks. One day, while working in the 'building', I noticed a door next to the stairs by the east entrance where I came in at. There were no markings on it, so I felt I could enter and not get in trouble.

"I opened the door and it was a stairwell leading down. I went over to the edge and

looked down between the railings. I didn't count the number of floors down, but I had the feeling it was about 15–20 floors. It was a long way to the bottom.

"I walked down one flight and there was a door on the opposite side which would be under the ground level on the east side of the building. I opened the door and stuck my head thru [sic] and looked left and right and saw a tunnel which ran clear out of sight in both directions. It was definitely much further than the area covered by the building and parking lot at ground level. There were doors along the opposite walls spaced about 30–40 feet apart. The tunnel had concrete walls and floor with colored markings.

"I looked around to see if there were any cameras and saw none, but I was not entirely comfortable being there. But I decided to check out a couple of more floors so I walked down another level and there was another door. I opened it and looked in and saw the same layout—doors and the tunnel going as far as I could see in both directions. I went down one more floor and looked in and saw the same as the first 2 floors. In this one I saw a golf cart with 2 people on it in the distance heading my way, so I left.

"Even these 3 tunnels were extensive. If the other levels below had tunnels also, there is a massive tunnel complex under Ft Meade."

Now remember that this account is from the late 1970s. It would not surprise me if the complex beneath the NSA has grown even larger, deeper and more elaborate in the intervening years.

Indeed, I surmise that many important government agencies and military bases are likely to have comparable huge underground facilities beneath them.

Underground Base at China Lake, California

For years, the United States Navy has had a huge base at China Lake, California. In my first book, *Underground Bases and Tunnels*,² I presented military documentation from 1964 that indicated that the United States Army Corps of Engineers was considering constructing a huge underground cavity 4,000 feet deep beneath the sprawling China Lake facility.

As it happens, after giving a public talk a couple of years ago I was approached by a man who told me he had been a uniformed member of the United States Navy. We chatted for a while and when he mentioned that he had spent some time at China Lake, I pricked up my ears.

I asked him if there was an underground facility at China Lake. He said that, indeed, there is, and that it is impressively large and deep. I asked him if he had ever been in it and he said that he had, though not to the deepest levels.

I asked him how deep the deepest part extended.

He looked at me soberly and said very quietly, "It goes one mile deep."

I then asked him what the underground base contains.

He replied, "Weapons."

I responded, "What sort of weaponry?"

And he answered without pausing, "Weapons more powerful than nuclear weapons."

Upon hearing his answer, I was greatly taken aback. The

implications of a new generation of secret, highly secure weaponry that exceeds the destructive power of atomic and hydrogen bombs is sobering stuff, to be sure. The conversation ended soon after, as he seemed to be averse to elaborating on what he had told me.

I am inclined to believe what this ex-Navy man told me. China Lake has long been a major weapons research and development centre for the US Navy. His account is perfectly consonant with the other information that my research has uncovered.

Deep Beneath White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico

The United States Army's enormous missile test-firing range sprawls for many miles across the desolate deserts, hills and craggy mountain ranges of southern New Mexico. Over the years, I have heard bits and pieces of fragmentary information concerning underground facilities and work beneath White Sands Missile Range.

The following account that I received in an email from a distinctly different ex-Navy man is a fine example of the sort of thing I have in mind. He related to me a second-hand account

he'd received from a water-well contractor in southern New Mexico, who had been hired to do some work at the missile range.

"...he was talking about work he had done at WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE.

"He was hired to drill 10 or 12 inch diam [sic] holes, I think down to 800 to 1,000 feet. He thought nothing of it.

"Well, while drilling, his bit broke thru [sic] many times. Cold air was rushing up the hole.

If I recall correctly, he was told not to worry about it.

"He later thought to himself, maybe he was drilling air shafts."

I think it is entirely possible that the well-driller was brought on the base to drill air shafts for deep underground tunnels and structures.

My research suggests that New Mexico is prime real estate for clandestine underground facilities—and White Sands Missile Range is right at the top of the shortlist of candidate sites.

Underground Mag-Lev Shuttles?

This is the story that just will not go away. The rumours about super-secret, high-speed, deeply buried mag-lev trains³ hurtling back and forth, deep beneath the North American continent, turn up again and again.

Fellow researcher Bill Hamilton relayed the following second-hand account to me of an exchange between a friend and his friend.

Friend: "So tell me, what's it like to ride in one of those underground shuttles...?"

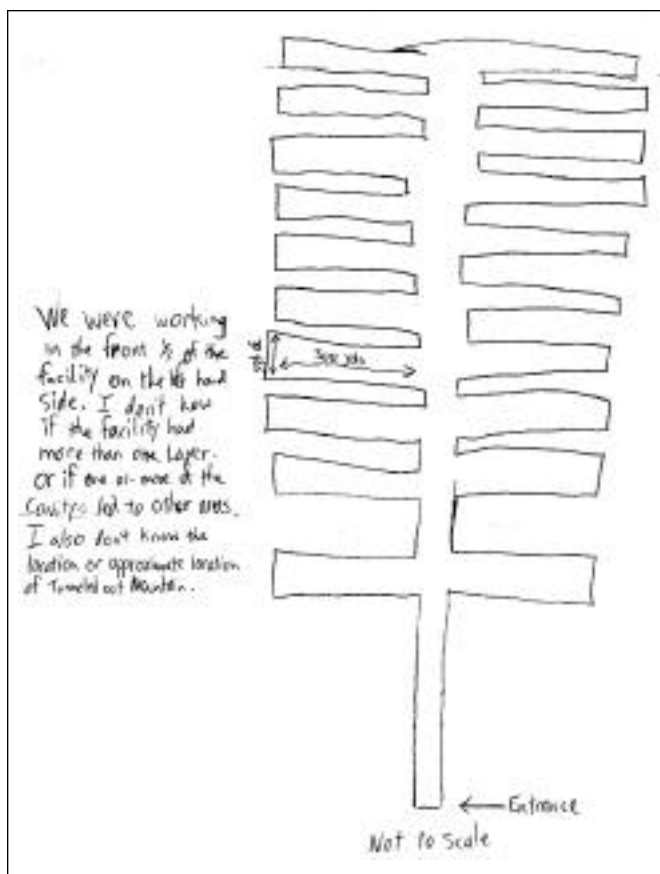
Friend's friend: "VERY DAMN FAST!!! Less than one hour from Cheyenne [sic] Mountain entrance to the pentagon [sic]. My calculator would tell me that was over 2,000 miles an hour. Odd, though; you don't feel the speed, being totally enclosed with no windows. Anyway, there's stuff that's much faster, but not underground."

The implications of a new generation of secret, highly secure weaponry that exceeds the destructive power of atomic and hydrogen bombs is sobering stuff, to be sure.

Friend: "Wow, 2,000 mph? Sheesh, what a ride. Do you go through some gravitational pull when you take off? Have to wear seatbelts?"

Friend's friend: "There is no more gravitational pull then [sic] when you take off in a bus or train. It doesn't suddenly go 2,000 miles an hour. But it does build up faster than you'd think. You don't have to wear seatbelts, but there are warning lights to let you know that you will be leaving, and at the other end when you are arriving at a slowdown period. They also have overhead speakers that are used for info. You really don't feel much. If you are in a plane, going 600 miles an hour, you get up and walk up and down aisles as if nothing was happening, right? Same on the these mag-lev trains."

Can these sorts of stories be true? More to the point, is this specific story true? My research indicates that it is just possible that it is. In my previous book, *Underwater and Underground Bases*,⁴ I devoted an entire chapter to documentation from the United States government concerning planned development of a mag-lev train system. After examining the evidence, I determined that indeed it is possible and feasible to build a mag-lev train system underground. Can I prove that it has been done? No, at present I cannot. But what I can do, and have done, is demonstrate United States government interest in designing and building a mag-lev train system.



Sketch of the secret underground base in Norway. Note the huge dimensions—more than 600 yards on the lateral dimension alone. The size of the individual bays is gargantuan. Also, notice that there may possibly be more than one level to this facility. It is impressively large as it is; if there are additional levels or sections, then its size is more impressive still. (Source: Personal letter to author from member of US military)

I have also documented extensive underground tunnelling activity by a wide variety of government and non-government agencies in recent decades and years. In my previous books, I have also provided firm documentation for a covert-operations budget that runs well into the tens of billions of dollars on an annual basis.

So, considering the entire body of available evidence, which includes demonstrable government proclivities for designing and building a mag-lev train system, using the government's own documentation, as well as massive sums of untraceable black-budget funding and the underground excavation and tunnelling capabilities and technology of American industry—coupled with the persistent stories of ultra-secret, high-speed shuttle trains deep underground—I have reached the point where I believe there just might be high-speed, very secret, deep-underground shuttle trains operating beneath North America that the American people know very little or nothing about.

Nuclear Genie Beneath Burlington, Massachusetts

Some years ago, I happened to speak with a man who had a most unusual experience to recount from his youth. Many years before, upon graduating from college, he'd taken a job with a United States federal agency which he declined to name. His work routine was most peculiar. He would enter a perfectly ordinary-looking building in the Burlington, Massachusetts, area (not far north of Boston) and take a long elevator ride straight down, deep down to a secret underground laboratory. As he described it to me, the laboratory's work entailed testing radioactive materials and their effects on other materials.

His story has many interesting features: the secretive nature of an underground laboratory in a major metropolitan area; the long elevator ride to the underground work area; the secret underground elevator shaft in a normal-looking building. But perhaps most interesting of all is his description of some of the more senior engineers, technicians and scientists who worked underground. Bizarrely, some of them were missing minor body parts: one man was missing a nose, another a part of a hand, and so forth. So dedicated were they to the nuclear genie which they served that they had sacrificed parts of their bodies, due to radiation burns, in order to advance the nuclear research of the Cold War's military-industrial complex.

This story is as impossible to prove or disprove conclusively as all the other stories that my sources have recounted to me. I simply do not have the means to go crawling around, hundreds or thousands of feet underground, whether in Massachusetts, New Mexico or California, to verify the salient details of everything I have been told. It's just not possible—for me or for anyone else.

Nevertheless, the details of the story are close enough to other little bits and pieces I have gleaned here and there from a hundred different conversations and myriad pieces of documentation.

Hollowed-out Mountains in Norway

The bulk of my research on underground and underwater bases and tunnels has concentrated on American plans, capabilities, projects and facilities. The reasons for this focus are twofold: in the first place, I'm a native born and reared American; and, by dint of my long residence in the mainland United States, it is more convenient for me to research American plans and activities.

That said, it has nevertheless come to my attention during the course of my research that the Scandinavians are some of the very best underground excavators and engineers in the world. The quality and sophistication of their work is really very high.

So, it was no great surprise to me to receive a letter from a man who has been inside a vast, secret underground base built inside a hollow mountain in Norway. Though the letter is written on United States military stationery, I have taken the liberty of not reproducing it as an illustration, out of respect for the writer's anonymity. However, I have seen fit to include a cropped copy of a diagram of the interior of the base, as drawn by the writer and included in his letter [see illustration, previous page]. I have very slightly edited the portion of the letter quoted below to obscure this soldier's identity, rank and military branch.

"My reserve unit was activated just prior to Operation *Desert Storm*. We are a Cold Weather Unit and as such we were sent to Norway to take part in a NATO War Game, Operation *Battle Griffin*. It was on this operation that I was sent to do some work inside one of several "Hollowed Out" mountains. At the time, I was a [here he names his rank; author's note] and was picked for a work detail along with [here he identifies the other men] to go to the Mountain. I was rather excited to go on this work detail [excised sentence fragment; author's note]."

"Before leaving to go to the mountain we were briefed and inspected, which is unusual for a working detail. We were told not to try to see where we were going or which roads we would take. Absolutely no cameras could be taken and nothing considered confidential could leave the mountain. We then left with Norwegian Escorts, as they are the only ones who know which roads to take. (According to the briefing, the roads crisscrossed in a maze pattern to confuse enemy tank drivers; the Norwegians knew which roads would get us there. We were put in the back of a truck in complete darkness. It was daytime but the truck was covered completely.)

"After driving for a while we came to a stop, then heard the sound of Doors opening. We drove into the Mountain and after about a minute or so we stopped. (We were driving at a slow speed at this time.) We got out and looked around. The place was absolutely huge! The smallest area was the entrance which a main battle Tank could easily drive through. The area we were working in was about 300 yards long and maybe 30 yards or so wide; the height was about 40 feet or more. It was so big that no one felt cramped or claustrophobic [sic]. We were in only one section. I have drawn a diagram of what I saw for you on the back of this letter.

"The whole cavity was lined in white plastic-type material. This material had various-sized zippered doorways. Being curious we opened several of the zippered sections, but all we found was the solid rock of the mountain. [Sentence deleted here; author's note.]

We were inside for several hours stacking gear my unit had used in the operation, then left with the same formality we had come."

And here is where my source ends his letter. Brief though his account may be, it nevertheless suffices to convey something of the monstrous size of the facility that he entered. It is quite possible that the enormous facility that he saw was just one portion of a much larger underground base. He additionally alludes to the existence of multiple hollowed-out mountains; the underground base he worked in is evidently only one of several.

Somewhere Deep Beneath the US East Coast

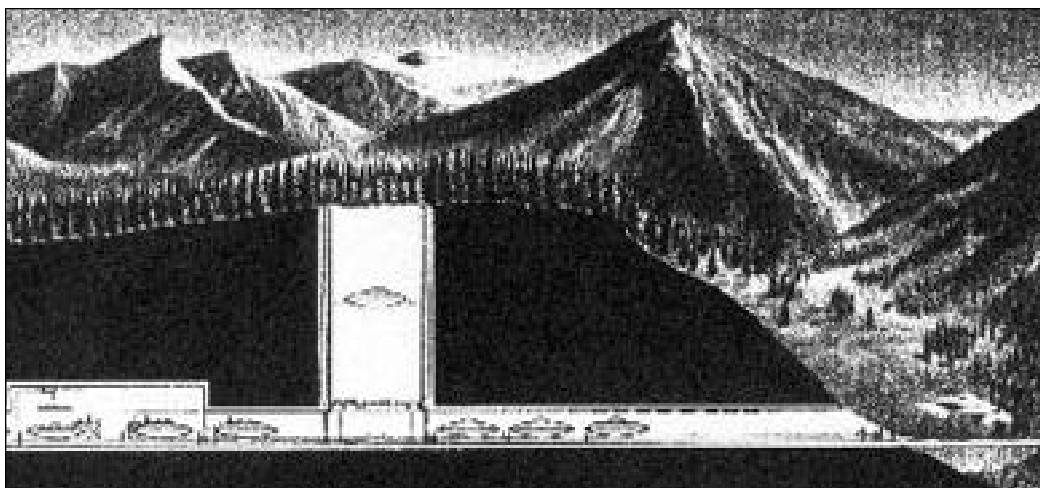
The following was recounted to me by a man who had worked for the Army Corps of Engineers during the Vietnam War era. As part of his training on American soil prior to his departure to South East Asia, he was briefly sent to tour a couple of underground bases somewhere on the East Coast of the United States.

I asked him where the bases were located. He said, "I don't remember." Of course, this evasive answer is likely to be a lie, presumably due to his security clearances. As you will read, his description of the facilities is sufficiently interesting that it is highly unlikely that anyone, least of all a military man, would forget their locations.

I asked him to tell me a little about the bases and he said that when they had to seal up from the outside world, they could do so quite rapidly—within tenths of a second. Massive, multi-ton reinforced doors like those on bank vaults would slam shut virtually instantaneously! Anyone who had the misfortune to be standing there would be instantly squashed like a tomato! It would all happen much too fast for anyone to react in time to escape instant death.

I asked him about the food supply and he said that he saw hydroponic gardens in the underground bases, for growing food in the event of prolonged periods of isolation from the topside world.

And that was where our conversation ended. He clammed up and would say little more about the subterranean facilities he had visited. But what little he did divulge is very revealing. By implication, there are contingency plans for surviving underground for the long term, sealed off from the outside world. And these plans evidently go back at least to the late 1960s to early 1970s.



A *LOOK* magazine article (14 June 1955) supplied the following caption for this illustration: "Future airports built for vertically rising saucers would have no need of the long, vulnerable runways today's fighters require. The complete operation could go underground. Tunnels with take-off shafts set into the ground, complete with maintenance bays, fuel and crew quarters, would be bombproof shelters for a saucer squadron. The shafts would be sealed after take-off for camouflage and protection."

Secret Bases in the National Forests in California?

I heard something along a similar line in 1995, just after I'd published my first book, *Underground Bases and Tunnels*. I was discussing my research with a middle-aged woman who had known a young Native American man in Denver, Colorado. She told me that this young man had been quietly approached during the 1980s by officials from the Reagan administration. The officials were inquiring about obtaining non-hybrid, fertile seeds from Native American varieties of food crops indigenous to the western states. They wanted these seeds to be taken into and stored in an underground facility then under construction in one of the National Forests in California.

Their reasoning appeared to be that the original Native American food crop varieties have more vigour and produce better crops under adverse climate conditions than do the less vigorous, more inbred varieties of seed available on the commercial agricultural market. In the event of a catastrophe that disrupted growing conditions (such as nuclear war, geological upheaval, solar storms, comet and/or asteroid impacts), they evidently wanted seed varieties that would dependably produce at least some food so that agriculture could be re-established and people could leave the underground base.

Underwater Bases in the Gulf of Mexico?

About a half-year after the publication of *Underwater and Underground Bases*, I was contacted by a man who said he had knowledge of an unusual underwater project in the Atlantic Ocean. In response to my questioning, he elaborated a little on what he meant by Atlantic Ocean. It turned out that when he said the project was in the Atlantic Ocean he meant that it was located somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean Basin. This obviously potentially includes all the bays, gulfs, straits, channels and seas that comprise the greater Atlantic Basin, as well as the Atlantic Ocean proper.

Upon further questioning, he specified that the project was under the seabed of the Gulf of Mexico and that Parsons was the contractor. He went on to say that Parsons had purchased some speciality equipment intended for operation 2,800 feet beneath the sea-floor. This was in about 1997 or so. He thought that the work was somewhere in the eastern part of the Gulf, though he could not be certain.

My source works for a company that manufactures equipment which is routinely used in the underground mining and excavation industries. He was handling an order from Parsons for an underground project that aroused his curiosity enough for him to ask a few questions. He was told that the equipment was intended for a deep project beneath the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico. He did not know the project's ultimate purpose. He mentioned, too, that other companies had also purchased the same equipment from his company for use underwater. The equipment is distinctive enough that it clearly presupposes the presence of live human beings in the places where it is installed.

Now I cannot definitively prove or disprove the presence of a deep facility built by Parsons under the sea-floor of the Gulf of Mexico in the closing years of the 20th century. However, a story like this surely does raise a host of interesting questions. My research has clearly demonstrated that Parsons is the premier underground construction firm in the United States, and that it

does underground construction and tunnelling for a broad range of major corporations and government agencies, including military agencies. Moreover, my research unambiguously shows that the Gulf of Mexico has been the focus of a considerable amount of deep-sea drilling by the petroleum industry as well as by academic and government oceanographers and geologists. Furthermore, there has even been discussion in the open literature of excavating huge caverns beneath the floor of the Gulf of Mexico to store petroleum.

It is incontrovertible fact that the seabed of the Gulf of Mexico is covered with scores of salt domes that would be perfectly suitable for sub-sea excavation and construction of deeply buried, manned, sub-sea-floor bases. So I do not find it hard to believe that Parsons may simply have gone ahead and quietly done what others have merely talked about. Such a project would be well within the capabilities of a wealthy, powerful, technologically advanced company such as Parsons.

Indeed, my findings suggest it would not be overly problematic to excavate caverns beneath the Gulf of Mexico and put something else in them besides petroleum. That something else could conceivably be almost anything: a secret genetic engineering laboratory; a clandestine prison; a highly secure CIA warehouse for illegal narcotics in transit between Latin America and the multibillion-dollar North American market; a clandestine nuclear weapons storehouse; a joint alien/US military base; a super-secure presidential command centre; a super-secure bunker for Parsons corporate executives and board directors; an ark populated with a select human population destined to survive possible apocalypse. Let your imagination run with your own possibilities...

I have heard two other second-hand anecdotal accounts of secret bases beneath the Gulf of Mexico: one purportedly in the eastern Gulf, near Florida; the other in the western Gulf, near Texas. And there is also anecdotal evidence from Puerto Rican coastal waters, in the nearby Caribbean Sea, of US Navy activities that are consistent with the possible construction of one or more sub-sea-floor bases there, using the Rock-Site methods that I outlined in *Underwater and Underground Bases*.

I am inclined toward the belief that the story my corporate source told me contains a solid core of fact: that there is a clandestine undersea base beneath the Gulf of Mexico and that Parsons was involved in its construction. Indeed, I am beginning to suspect that there are multiple clandestine, manned, high-tech facilities buried deep beneath the floor of the Gulf of Mexico. If I had to guess, I would say that clandestine US military units are involved there, one or more of the major petroleum companies, and other agencies as well—perhaps including elements from the shadowy world of organised crime and neo-Nazi groups, which have been at the core of the American military-industrial-espionage apparatus beginning with Operation *Paperclip* in the 1940s and continuing right down to the present day.

Thousands of "ex"-Nazis were brought to the United States after World War II and inserted into positions of influence at the Pentagon, at NASA and in so-called "private" industry. They burrowed away and went to work, networking with each other as they infiltrated the innards of the US military-industrial-espionage complex from the inside out. Over the years, as I have pursued my research, I have run across their trail time and again in

...he saw hydroponic gardens in the underground bases, for growing food in the event of prolonged periods of isolation from the topside world.

conversation, on the rare occasion in person, and in documents in dusty archives. The Nazi imprint on the world did not die with the cessation of open armed conflict between the Axis and Allied powers in 1945. Oh, no. The Nazi movement just morphed a little bit and slithered off into another lair across the ocean, there to insinuate itself into the darkest recesses of compartmentalised secrecy, there to lick its wounds and lie in wait for another, better day—its dreams of world conquest held in abeyance for yet a little longer. That is what I believe, and there is a lot of supportive circumstantial historical evidence for that view.

An Approaching Cataclysm?

So why all the secrecy and clandestine underground and underwater activity? Is Armageddon coming? Is the Apocalypse right around the corner? Do the clandestine movers and shakers inside the military-industrial-espionage complex know something that the rest of us don't? Are we like lemmings, unwittingly flocking toward a sheer precipice whose existence we do not even dimly suspect? At times I wonder. Maybe this is one of the reasons for massive underground bases and secret tunnels. Maybe something BIG is coming up fast?

I actually posed this question to one of my sources and got a wonderfully evasive, sphinx-like answer that frankly raised more questions in my mind than it answered.

As best as I can parse the response, it seems that at least some and perhaps many underground/underwater bases and tunnels are preparations for the following possibilities in the relatively near term (say, within the time-frame of the next several years to next few decades):

- potential nuclear war;
- tumbling of planet Earth on its axis (change in physics of rotation);
- reversal of Earth's magnetic field;
- entering a galactic dust cloud;
- asteroid and/or comet strikes;
- massive, sudden, climate change;
- social, political and economic chaos resulting from any of the preceding;
- a combination of any one or more of the above.

In other words, very dramatic events may be just around the corner. Or maybe not. I do not claim to know one way or the other. But it does seem as if those in the know are making massive, extremely expensive, preparations for *something*.

Conclusion: Import of the Anecdotal Stories

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the preceding accounts is that most of them were recounted directly to me by people who have worked for the military-industrial complex, in some cases in the uniformed military services themselves.

This is a recurring theme in my research. Time and again I have been approached by ex-military personnel, and even active-duty military personnel in some cases. Why should this be the case? I believe it is because some people who are involved in the activities of the United States military see things that bother them, or perhaps are asked to carry out duties that trouble them, and so they leak information to a researcher such as myself, in hopes that some of what they have seen or have been asked to do will trickle out into the public domain for the greater edification of the general population.

I can only speculate as to their personal motivations, but I think their concerns must be personal ethical misgivings in some cases, and deep political unease at the machinations of secret, unconstitutional government and even profound strategic military misgivings in other cases. For example, it may be technologically possible to design, build and deploy continent-busting weaponry that far exceeds the destructive power of nuclear weaponry, but is it morally advisable to do so? Is it militarily advisable to do so? Under what conceivable set of circumstances would a military command structure literally unleash hell on Earth, such that entire continents or regions of continents were laid waste? What sane person would set in motion such a series of events? What sane person would care to inhabit a planet that had been reduced to a smouldering, radioactive cinder? Under what fiendish mindset could such an outcome be considered a "victory"?

Or again, if the underground and underwater infrastructure of secret bases and tunnels has possibly grown so extensive, so sophisticated and so out of the oversight of the constitutionally mandated political checks and balances prescribed by open civil government, then it may be that the well-being of the American people, and perhaps many others as well, is profoundly threatened—threatened by a stealthy, massively funded, high-tech

underground and/or undersea power about which they remain blissfully unaware, the nefarious intentions and plans of which run directly counter to their best interests.

Indeed, if I had to guess, I would surmise that more than a few of my sphinx-like sources have concerns that run very much along these lines. They see things they do not approve of, but they are severely hemmed in and constrained by rigorous security clearances that carry severe penalties for violations. What would you do in their place if you saw something that you profoundly disagreed with, but could

not speak out about openly for fear of being sentenced to many years in prison and/or being very heavily fined? Or perhaps even targeted for personal liquidation, i.e., assassination, for speaking publicly? You just might very quietly and anonymously leak a bit of information to an investigative author at a small alternative press, in hopes that it would find its way into their next book, magazine article or radio interview and thereby find its way out into the world and the light of day, where thousands, eventually millions, of other people could read it or hear it and ponder its significance. ∞

About the Author:

Richard Sauder, PhD, is an independent author/researcher based in the USA. His books include *Underground Bases and Tunnels: What is the Government Trying to Hide?* (reviewed in 2/26), *Kundalini Tales* (6/02) and *Underwater and Underground Bases* (8/04). His article, "The Evidence for Secret Underwater Bases", appeared in NEXUS 8/05. Visit his website at <http://www.sauderzone.com>.

Endnotes

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THE GEMINI ELECTRIC MOTOR TECHNOLOGY

by John Patrick Ettridge with
Tim Harwood, MA © 2004

Electric motor technology has remained surprisingly static over the last 50 years. While there are a number of good reasons for conservatism in any design process, perhaps the most significant point is that it is only relatively recently that permanent magnets have become cheap enough, and rugged enough, to be appropriate for motor design.

Up until the 1940s it was still customary to use electromagnets, as permanent magnets were not considered suitable for the demands of commercial applications. And it took even longer for magnets to be made available for low-cost private experimentation. The result was an industry that became surprisingly fixed in its ways: innovation could only come from the outside.

While switched reluctance motors have found increasing popularity in recent years as the advantage of high efficiency becomes more widely appreciated, the traditional prejudice of motor designers

against permanent magnets means this area of switched reluctance research is still relatively unexplored.

John Ettridge is an inventor who has invested the time required to pursue permanent-magnet-based switched reluctance designs. His research began out of frustration with conventional designs—which it seemed to him were grossly inefficient, difficult to repair and unimaginative.

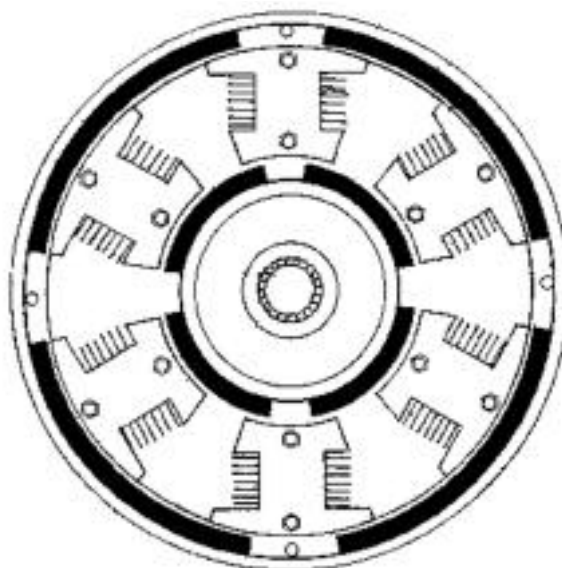
Design of the Gemini Motor

Figure 1 is taken directly from the Ettridge patent and illustrates the layout pursued in the early stages of research. Subsequently a variety of alternative geometrical layouts were developed, optimised for specific applications and load scenarios.

When the six coils are aligned with the permanent magnets, an input pulse is provided to the apparatus that manifests a repulsion effect, pushing the stators away from the permanent magnets. The input voltage will determine the characteristics of the recession. The higher the input voltage, the greater the resultant mechanical force manifested.

While the use of permanent magnets in such a manner is innovative, the Ettridge technology features further levels of design optimisation. Figure 2 illustrates how the

Figure 2



conventional T-shaped stator can be replaced with an H-shaped stator. This enables both ends of an energised coil to be used to impart motion to the rotor section.

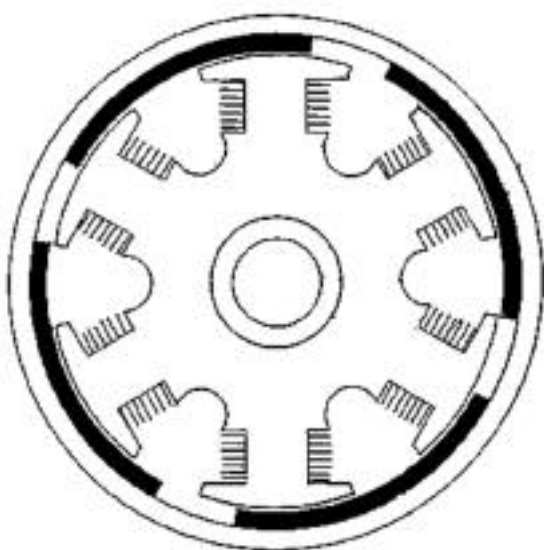
Figure 3 places the two stator designs side by side to highlight the novelty in design. The resultant increase in efficiency and improvement in power-to-weight ratio means that the overall effectiveness of the technology is greatly enhanced without incurring a significant increase in manufacturing costs.

Independent support for this view was sought from Paul Chandler, Research Engineer of the Northern Territory Centre for Energy Research, then part of the Northern Territory University [now Charles Darwin University]. He stated the following on 18 July 2000:

"The general theory is that permanent magnet (PM) machines are capable of producing higher efficiencies over others such as induction motors and reluctance motors. They can be very robust and produce a large torque for their physical size.

"The revolutionary feature of the Gemini motor is that it has the capability of producing more power for the same volume.

Figure 1



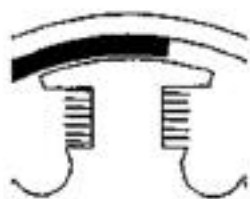
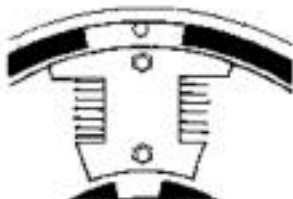


Figure 3 (a) Classic



(b) Gemini

Theoretically, it is capable of handling twice the power of a same-size conventional motor and, while doing so, remain[ing] at the high efficiencies that PM motors are capable of.

"A reduction in size comes with the obvious benefit of material reduction, hence savings in weight and cost. A less obvious advantage is that a reduction in size opens up markets where space limitations have previously led to the use of costly and inefficient transmission systems.

"The manufacturing principles of the Gemini motor are conventional in fashion and would require a minimal retooling cost as compared with other novel motors emerging from the field of research."

Flux Paths

Permanent magnets require a complete flux path between the poles; and unless the motor provides a path for these vectors, the flux lines are completed through air. If lines of force permeate the apparatus in such a fashion, the result may be to cause drag upon the rotor and reduce the efficiency of the device.

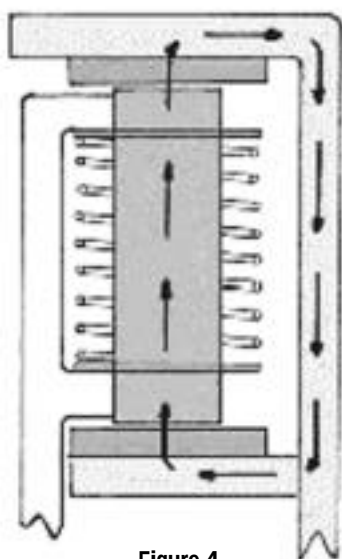


Figure 4

In a device such as an electric motor where fields are in a constant state of change, the net loss in performance from undirected lines of magnetic force can be significant. This is perhaps another

reason why electrical engineers have avoided permanent magnets in motor design, as they introduce not only expense but also additional design challenges.

The Ettridge solution to this issue, illustrated in figure 4, is to provide the motor with a magnetically permeable back plate which acts to contain the magnetic lines of force of the permanent magnets. This ensures that the magnetic signature of the technology is relatively clean and the rotor action can function without excessive magnetic drag. It also means that the magnetic fields have to cross only two air gaps as opposed to a more conventional four. Therefore, another principle of the Ettridge motor technology is the creation of a magnetic flux circuit.

Energy Recovery

A further development of the Ettridge technology was the integration of a regenerative capability.

Apparatus was developed that enabled current to be extracted from the motor while in operation, without placing a load upon the motor. While many motors feature an ability to draw energy from the motor while braking or in other low-load scenarios, the Gemini motor can produce a real output at all times, even while under heavy load. This output can be fed back into the motor or used to recharge the source, and augments the efficiency gains already apparent in the design. A number of different implementations exist for this method, and one is illustrated in figure 5, taken from the patent.

Summary

The patented Ettridge Gemini electric motor technology features a number of innovative design characteristics that are likely to become increasingly common in the next generation of electric motors. Not only can significant efficiency gains be realised but more importantly, for many applications, power-to-weight ratios can also be improved. With this in mind, it is

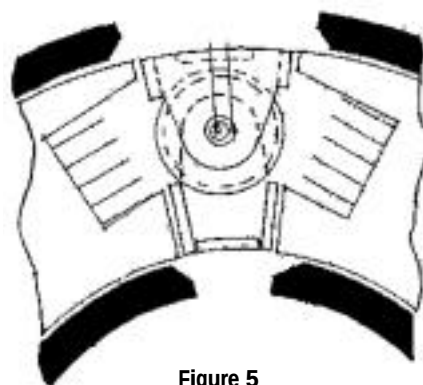


Figure 5

likely that the commercial popularity of electric motor technology will only increase in the years ahead.

Postscript

Gold medals were awarded for the Ettridge Commutator at the International Invention and New Products Exhibition held at Geneva, Switzerland, in May 2004, and for the Gemini Electric Motor at INPEX 2004, the inventions show held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, in May. For more information on the Gemini patent, refer to International Patent Application number PCT/AU01/00707 dated 13 June 2001. ∞

About the Inventor:

John Patrick Ettridge is a 59-year-old Australian who has been inventing devices for much of his life, most seriously since 1969 when he invented his orbital engine. Information on a number of his inventions can be seen at his home webpage, <http://www.picknowl.com.au/homepages/jpettridge>.

For more details on the Gemini motor, contact John Ettridge at md@geminielectricmotor.com or jpettridge@picknowl.com.au, or visit the Gemini motor website at <http://www.geminielectricmotor.com>.

About the Author:

Tim Harwood, MA, has followed the "free energy" scene since the early days of the cold fusion movement. With genuine postgraduate research qualifications, he seeks to bring academic rigour, combined with eloquence of expression, to free energy research. He is probably best known for the CD motor project, which helped popularise Adams motor technology, and the POD project, as well as for running the old Parallel Path and Adams motor egroups (see <http://www.geocities.com/theadamsmotor/index.html>). His article on Joe Flynn's Parallel Path Magnetic Technology was published in NEXUS 11/01. Tim can be reached by email at timharwood@usa.net.

Editor's Note: Some aspects of the Gemini motor remind me of the Adams Pulsed Electric Motor Generator, so I decided it was time for another mention, including on the sacred geometry encoded in the design of the motor. The following items are extracted from inventor Dr Robert Adams's website at <http://www.aethmogen.com>.

THE SECRET OF THE ADAMS MOTOR

© by Dr Harold Aspden

Now we come to the secret of the Adams motor. A rotor magnet acts across an air gap between it and a soft iron stator pole. It is attracted by the action in the magnet sustaining that Bohr magneton polarisation, that which gives it its magnetic properties.

As the poles of the magnet and the stator come together to deliver mechanical work to the motor shaft, the magnetic flux in the magnet gets stronger and stronger as the reluctance of the air gap reduces with its closure. This involves deflection of the microscopic magnetic regions in the crystals of the magnet—which means that they, as microscopic solenoidal current sources, turn into one another to contribute mutual inductance energy, feeding the input power to the gap by drawing on the Universal Energy Bank. In short, we make a withdrawal of energy as the poles close to their in-register position.

Now, the "bank" wants the money back as we now allow the magnet to turn away from the soft iron stator pole, but we preempt this by "closing the account". We neutralise the magnetic polarisation of the stator pole by a rather clever stratagem. It

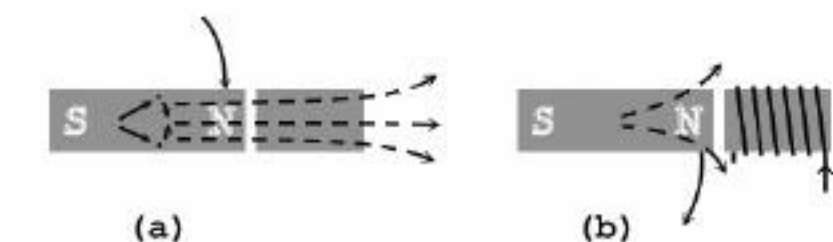


Figure 1 (a) and (b): Adams Motor Gap Flux Control

is a design trick. The account was designed with a bias that assisted withdrawal of funds. In technical terms, the stator pole was left open-ended, meaning that at its extremity, removed from the pole gap, it developed poles, endowing it with a self-demagnetising field—see figure 1 (a).

So, when we decide to neutralise the magnetism in the stator pole, all we have to do is to apply a small current in a stator winding—see figure 1 (b)—to produce a field acting against the magnet as soon as the gap is closed. This plus the magnet's own demagnetising field will then drive the magnet poles back into the rotor.

It is a case of "heads, we win some energy" and "tails, the aether loses some energy", because that magnet, if made shorter by neutralising the soft iron end pieces, has such a powerful coupling with the Planck action quanta in space that it can draw extra energy from the vacuum medium when we chop off its ends.

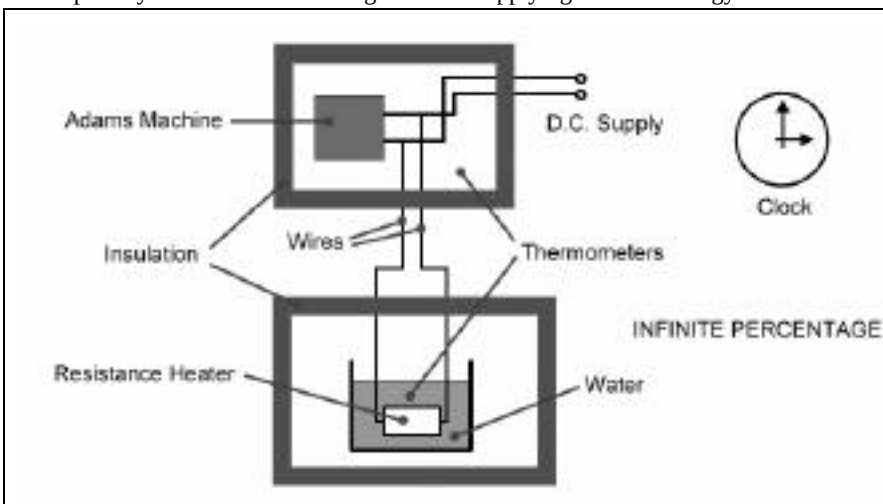
Those who design conventional electric motors are so intent on avoiding open-ended magnetic circuits to reduce magnetising current and keep copper losses in check that they have missed seeing how, by planning to accept a little extra copper loss, the magnetism can work for them by supplying far more energy "for free"!

The "New Energy Age" that lies ahead should allow us to warm to the idea of rewriting the history of Creation as the product of a concerted motion of background electrical charge in space. It is that which accounts for gravitation and ferromagnetism. Just as the concerted synchronous collective motion of charge in orbital motion in a magnet causes the elements of the magnet to be mutually attracted, so that same action in the vacuum jitter, in being dynamically mass-balanced in matter, generates a force of gravitational attraction between elements of matter.

This is the subject of my book, *Modern Aether Science* (Aspden, 1972), but it has taken the advent of the Adams motor to show us the way forward in exploiting the technology of the aether.

The Aether and Free Energy

It is important to stress that there are essentially three ways in which the aether will yield "free energy". One involves using a radial electric field to lock a spin coupling onto the synchronous orbital jitter of the vacuum medium. Another involves the direct atomic-electron one-to-one quantum coupling with the orbital jitter, developed by overexciting a ferromagnet. These have been discussed above, the latter only in connection with the Adams motor, but



CALORIMETER TEST

In practice, I engage the following set-up [depicted at left] for measuring power to determine efficiency, which does not require or involve the measurement of electrical parameters. The only parameters required to be measured are:

1. Thermal capacity of water, cylinder, heater and container; thermal capacity of the Adams machine and container;
2. Temperature;
3. Time.

These three measurements are basic physical quantities that can be measured accurately and are independent of any time-varying pulses. Calculation from these measurements alone will give the *total energy released per second* by the machine from the "aether".
— Robert Adams

there are solid-state implementations linked with, for example, the names Hans Coler and Floyd Sweet. The third route to "free energy" involves the electrodynamic interaction between aether and an electrical plasma discharge comprising heavy ions, the so-called "cold cathode discharge".

An electrodynamic process will not communicate a spin action, meaning no turning couple, but it can impart linear momentum in conserving energy between the aether and a material system, meaning that the aether can be caused to do work by applying an EMF to that discharge.

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MAGNETISM AS IT RELATES TO THE ADAMS AETHER ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

by Dr Robert Adams
© 2002, 2003, 2004

Below are four of the laws of magnetism:

- Law One:** Opposite poles attract;
- Law Two:** Like poles repel;
- Law Three:** A depolarised magnet neither attracts nor repels;
- Law Four:** The third law cancels out the first and second.

The third law, in effect, is what manifests the gating of energy from the aether at the instant in time that the magnet and stator are neutral in relation to the air gap and time. This results in the machine, at this point of time, entering into a state of *unity*, i.e., negative time, zero point, infinity—you name it.

This phenomenon takes place at the exact centre of the air gap between the magnet and the stator at time X^0 , and this is the vital unlocking mechanism of tapping the awesome, infinite, aether power of space!

Thus now, in view of the aforementioned findings, it has to be acceded that there are

simply "no lines of force" present at X^0 . This is a very important scientific discovery and is of historical significance.

The central point described between the stator and the magnet at "zero neutral time" is the point at which all three forces of energy, i.e., torque, heat and electricity, manifest and are *simultaneously* "gated" from the aether by the neutralisation of both the magnet and the stator at "zero neutral time".

Although it would appear to defy belief, the magnet does not do any work *per se*; it attains momentary neutrality and remains cool in spite of the machine generating awesome heat, which together with torque and electric power all simultaneously continue to rise additively and accumulatively, as is graphically depicted in the Calorimeter Test Temperature Graph [see previous page].

(Source: <http://www.aethmogen.com/wri/radams/magnetis/magnet1.shtml>)

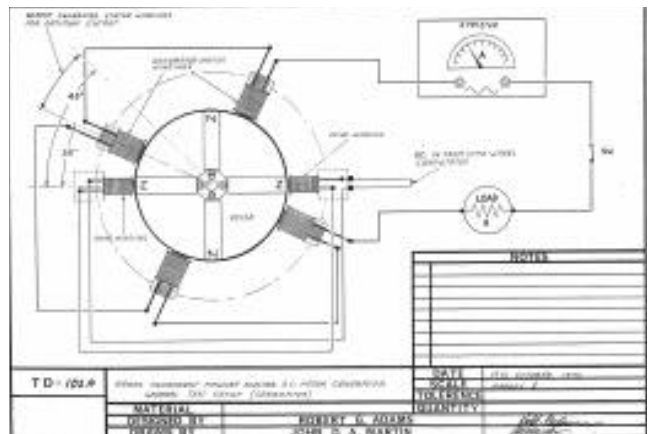
THE GOLDEN RATIO MOTOR GENERATOR

by Dr Robert Adams, 19 October 2001

A young enthusiastic colleague of mine, by the name of Andrew, currently resident in Auckland, New Zealand, phoned me to advise that David Saltresse of Wales, Great Britain, had contacted him via email to reveal he had worked out the geometric placement of all four of the output AC generator windings of one of my motor generators which was originally invented in the early 1970s.

He advised Andrew that the geometric placement of the output generator stator windings was measured with the aid of incorporating the "golden ratio". "All four," David said, "are found to confirm they correspond directly with the golden ratio geometrics."

There was always the remote possibility that out of the many hundreds of people worldwide who have attempted to replicate my original machines, only a few would have taken the advantage of probing deep into the detailed schematic diagram of this particular motor generator (which I included in my original motor manual,



published by NEXUS Magazine)—possibly because that schematic diagram appears at first glance unorthodox or a difficult exercise to achieve! As David Saltresse discovered, this is not so—if you look at this schematic diagram with eyes to see.

Now, further secrets are revealed in that I can advise readers that I apply the so-named sacred geometry of the golden ratio in conjunction with a very important naturally occurring constant of nature. I also apply this same equation to resistance measurements, load resistances, voltage, geometrics of magnets, rotor and stator dimensions. This equation also applies to the mass and placement of the addition of a certain unusual material used in the construction of this awesome heat-generating rotor system.

This is a unique system in that it is an implosive and totally reverse-engineered machine which operates in the real realm of *unity*. The power manifested over time is "infinite" and therefore immeasurable.

A reminder here to those unaccustomed to the understanding of the condition known as "infinite energy". Irrespective of any measurement of input energy losses and input power, there is no known value/measurement of infinite energy output power. Because of its infinity, it simply cannot be measured! ∞

(Source: <http://www.aethmogen.com/wri/radams/200111goldenratio.shtml>)

Editor's Note:

For more information on the remarkable Adams Pulsed Electric Motor Generator (APEMG), visit the website <http://www.aethmogen.com>. NEXUS Magazine also sells the APEMG Manual and the Addendum to the Manual; see our website at <http://www.nexusmagazine.com> or our product pages at the back of this magazine, or contact your nearest NEXUS office.

GEOMETRY IN THE GRAIN

CROP CIRCLES OF 2004

Dramatic and complex new designs emerged in the English fields during the 2004 crop circle summer, defying the plunkers and debunkers and standing out for their beauty and strangeness.

by Andy Thomas © 2004

Swirled News
Southern Circular Research
3 Old House Courtyard
Southover High Street
Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1HT, UK

Websites:
<http://www.swirlednews.com>
<http://www.vitalsignspublishing.co.uk>

After an abruptly premature end to last year's crop circle season in early August, there was a faltering start to the 2004 crop formations—at least in England, the traditional heartland of the mystery. By the middle of June there were far fewer numbers than expected for that time of year, and there was a general feeling amongst the research community that the phenomenon, whatever its source or intent—still absolutely unknown—was on a go-slow.

Statistics from other countries also seemed depressed compared with showings in recent years. Germany, which in 2003 almost rivalled the UK in terms of circle numbers, only produced around 20 formations in 2004, while countries such as the USA, Canada, the Netherlands and Italy, which had all been blossoming areas in recent years, only managed about 10 formations each throughout the whole year.

As far as the UK was concerned, a revival in impetus finally arrived in mid-June with the appearance of several intriguing and complex designs to match many of those seen in previous years. By the end of August, around 60 formations had been recorded.

The first significantly dramatic design of the season came in the form of a large double spiral at Fort Nelson, Portchester, Hampshire, on 11 June (figure 1). The two thin, perfect spirals reminded some of the infamous "ET and disc" formation of 2002, which included a binary message notched into a similar spiral. The decoded message was a warning, beginning with: "Beware the bearers of false gifts and their broken promises..." The resemblance between this and the two new spirals suggested to some that we were being invited to carve our own binary reply into them! In the event, this didn't happen; though the thought did spark some communication experiments later in the season—led by Jack Sullivan and Martin Noakes, who flashed binary messages into the sky with some interesting results (see article at <http://www.swirlednews.com>).

The traditional centre of the phenomenon, Alton Barnes in Wiltshire, then produced its latest masterpiece on 20 June in the form of a bizarre but beautiful glyph, resembling perhaps some kind of strange musical instrument (figure 2). Its oddness put some people off, but the fluidity of the lay inside and the complete lack of damage to the stems (in a year in which white creases on stems were widely decreed to be a sure sign of human circle-making) revealed it as a highlight of the year.

Six days later, another extraordinary design of similar quality arrived at nearby Milk Hill, this time resembling what was rather crudely termed a "bee" by some—a winged emblem atop an apparently insectoid body (figure 3). Others pointed out its closer resemblance to the ancient "winged caduceus" symbol. Its geometric properties were incredibly complex, as uncovered by geometer Allan Brown.

As the list of bold patterns in the crops began to lengthen, some formations in particular stood out. One of the longest, a vast string of circles and crescents which arrived at Windmill Hill, Avebury, Wiltshire, on 17 July, measured over 800 feet in length (figure 4). Meanwhile, a square within a circle, resembling Islamic geometric art, appeared at Savernake Forest, Marlborough, Wiltshire, on 28 July and impressed many with its optical illusion qualities (figure 5).

At West Kennett Longbarrow on 30 July, a quadranted labyrinth within an eight-pointed star began a new style for the crop circles (figure 6), while another square design of smaller squares and dots at Lewisham Castle, Aldbourne, Wiltshire, on 6 August turned out to signify "a rendition of the Magic Square representing the Moon's movements, a 9 x 9 square in which the sums of the diagonals, the rows and the columns each add to 369", according to Geoff Stray, editor of the influential website <http://www.diagnosis2012> (figure 7).

With the year 2012 in mind, the crop formation that most caught the public attention in 2004 was undoubtedly the so-called "Mayan" design which appeared over two consecutive

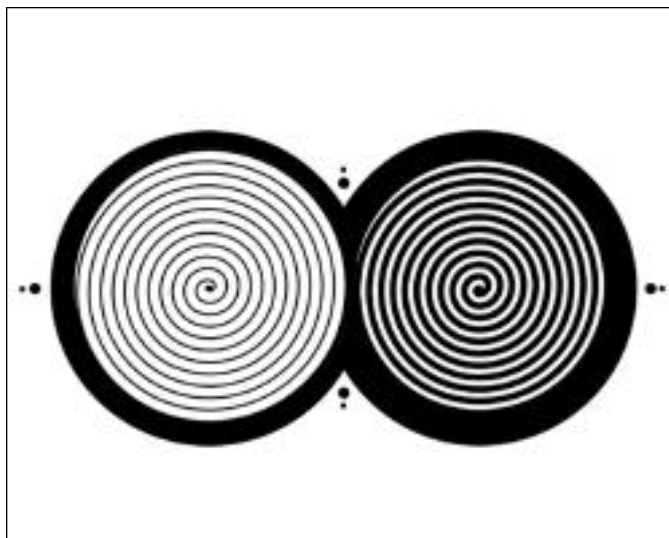


Figure 1: Fort Nelson, near Portchester, Hampshire.
Reported 11th June. Diagram: Allan Brown © 2004

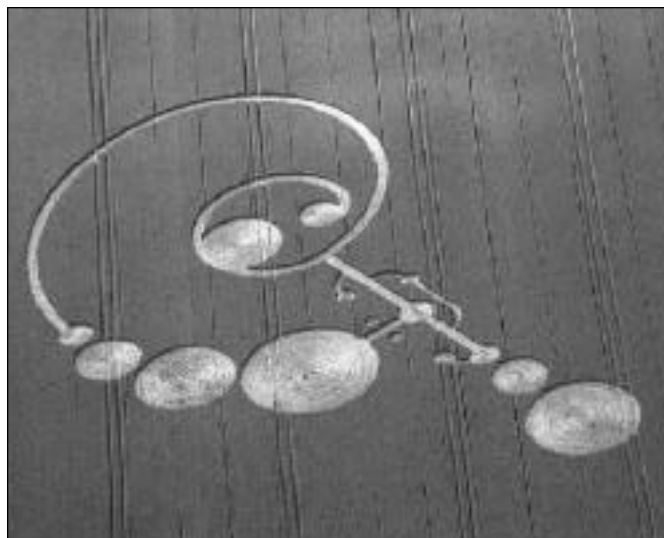


Figure 2: East Field, near Alton Barnes, Wiltshire.
Reported 20th June. Photograph: Busty Taylor © 2004

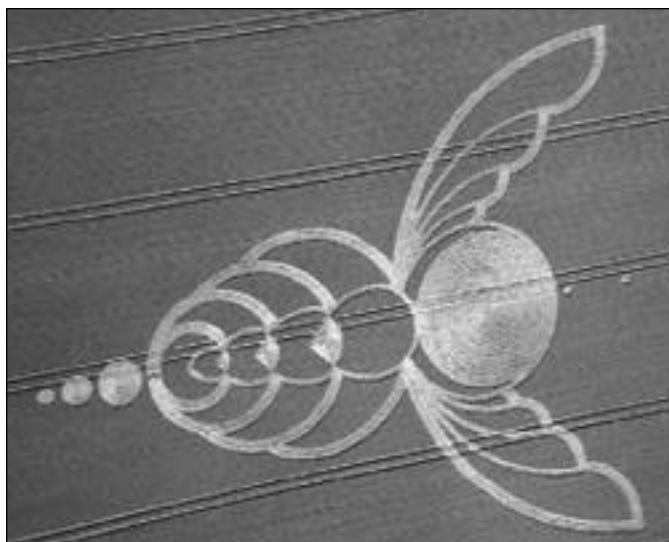


Figure 3: Milk Hill, near Alton Barnes, Wiltshire
Reported 26th June. Photograph: Busty Taylor © 2004



Figure 4: Windmill Hill, near Avebury Trusloe, Wiltshire.
Reported 17th July. Photograph: Verity Bullock © 2004

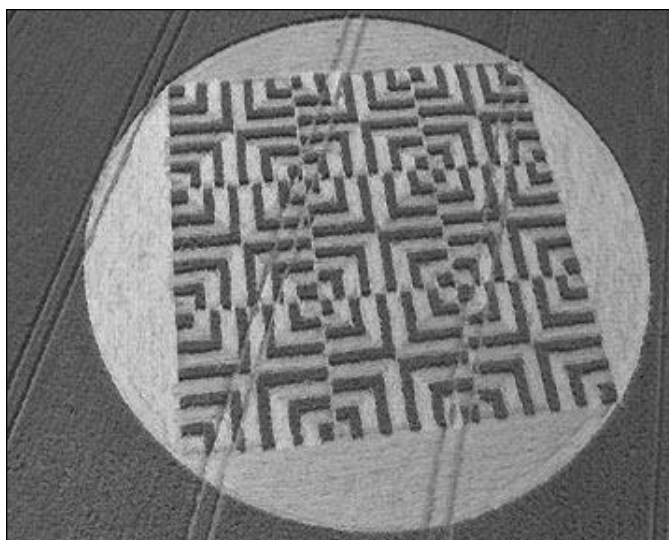


Figure 5: Savernake Forest, near Marlborough, Wiltshire.
Reported 28th July. Photograph: Steve Alexander © 2004



Figure 6: West Kennett (2), near Silbury Hill, Wiltshire.
Reported 30th July. Photograph: Nick Nicholson © 2004

nights at Silbury Hill, Wiltshire, on 2–3 August (figure 8). (A number of formations "grew" this year, making some people suspicious.) It was a vast wheel of ancient Mayan glyphs, including "the double square spiral—the Mayan symbol for jaguar snouts, which indicates an entrance to the underworld", as described by Geoff Stray. The now widely held belief that the Mayan calendar indicates an end-of-time point in 2012 gave the UK newspapers something to get their teeth into. The *Daily Mail* dubiously proclaimed it "The Doomsday Crop Circle". Much of the speculation about this formation's 2012 connections was highly questionable, but it made good headlines—not that the press needed a genuine phenomenon to fill columns. Indeed, the *Sunday Express* went out of its way to debunk the Mayan glyph, devoting two pages to this—perhaps in an effort to "get one over" on its rival paper.

This year there was a large blast of disproportionate press publicity for human circle-makers. Several major newspapers ran large features on "plankers" (as the research community increasingly calls them), boasting of their skills in creating crop circles. As ever, what all these pieces had in common was the inevitable lack of any substance: nearly all of them involved lazy insinuation and nothing more. More seriously, there was an almost complete absence of any balancing information in these pieces beyond the odd glib quote from researchers. By and large, the plankers were presented as *the* answer to the entire crop circle mystery, with not a dissenting view on show nor any serious discussion as to the mass of contrary evidence which shows that not all glyphs can be so easily explained. Those who hold that there is a co-ordinated campaign to discredit the crop circles believe their views have been vindicated by such unbalanced publicity.

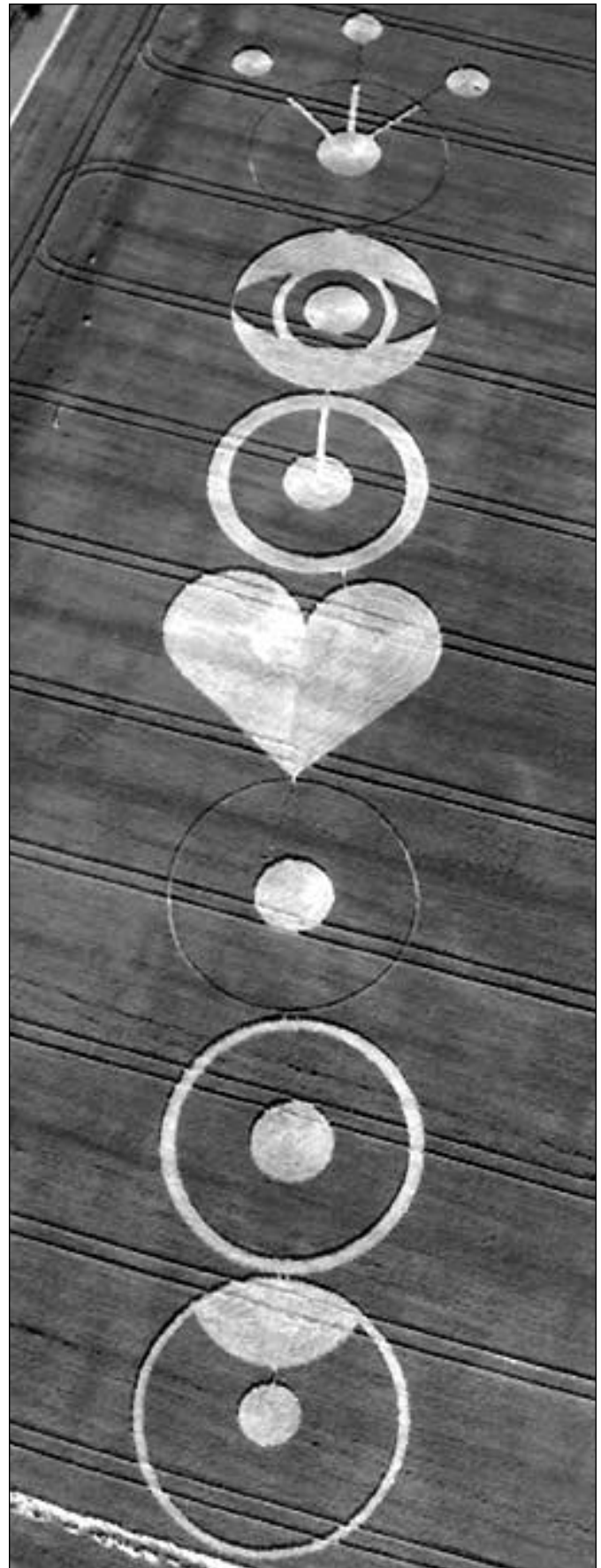
One high-profile Italian sceptic, who's been giving his country's circle researchers a hard time recently, was even spotted cavorting with known plankers in the UK this summer. It made some people wonder how wide the debunking agendas might be and who could be behind them. (However, in-fighting appeared to be breaking out amongst the ranks of the plankers themselves, with angry email tirades being openly fired off from one faction to another!)

Unfortunately, the overriding negativity which spilled over from such heightened profiles of the plankers—and not helped by the National Farmers Union, which launched a campaign this summer to discourage people from visiting crop formations—affected the mood in the croppie world, resulting in much fear and suspicion down in the fields of Wiltshire, especially with traits of human circle-making seemingly being more obvious in some formations this year. Some suggested the real phenomenon had even backed off slightly to allow the limitations of the imitators to be clearly revealed. As has been noted before, this is an interactive phenomenon, after all.

However, others considered much of this so-called negativity to be paranoia and nothing more, believing that succumbing to it only played into the hands of the debunkers. Looked at simply, within the context of other years and with the benefit of even just a few weeks of hindsight, in truth what we had was another season of some extraordinary designs, with all the accompanying wonder, beauty, confusion, trouble and strife one might expect from anything so consistently challenging and stubborn in its refusal to go away, whatever its origins. ∞

About the Author:

Andy Thomas is a leading crop circles researcher and the world's most prolific writer on the subject. He is best known for *Vital Signs: A Complete Guide to the Crop Circle Mystery*. His most recent books are *Swirled Harvest: Views from the Crop Circle Frontline*, a collection of pieces on crop circles and related matters, and *A Oneness of Mind: The Power of Collective Thought and Signs of Our Times*, which transcribes some of Andy's extraordinary live presentations on other far-reaching matters. Information and online ordering details for all these books can be found at <http://www.vitalsignspublishing.co.uk>.



Pewsey White Horse (3), near Pewsey, Wiltshire.
Reported 22nd July. Photograph: Francine Blake © 2004

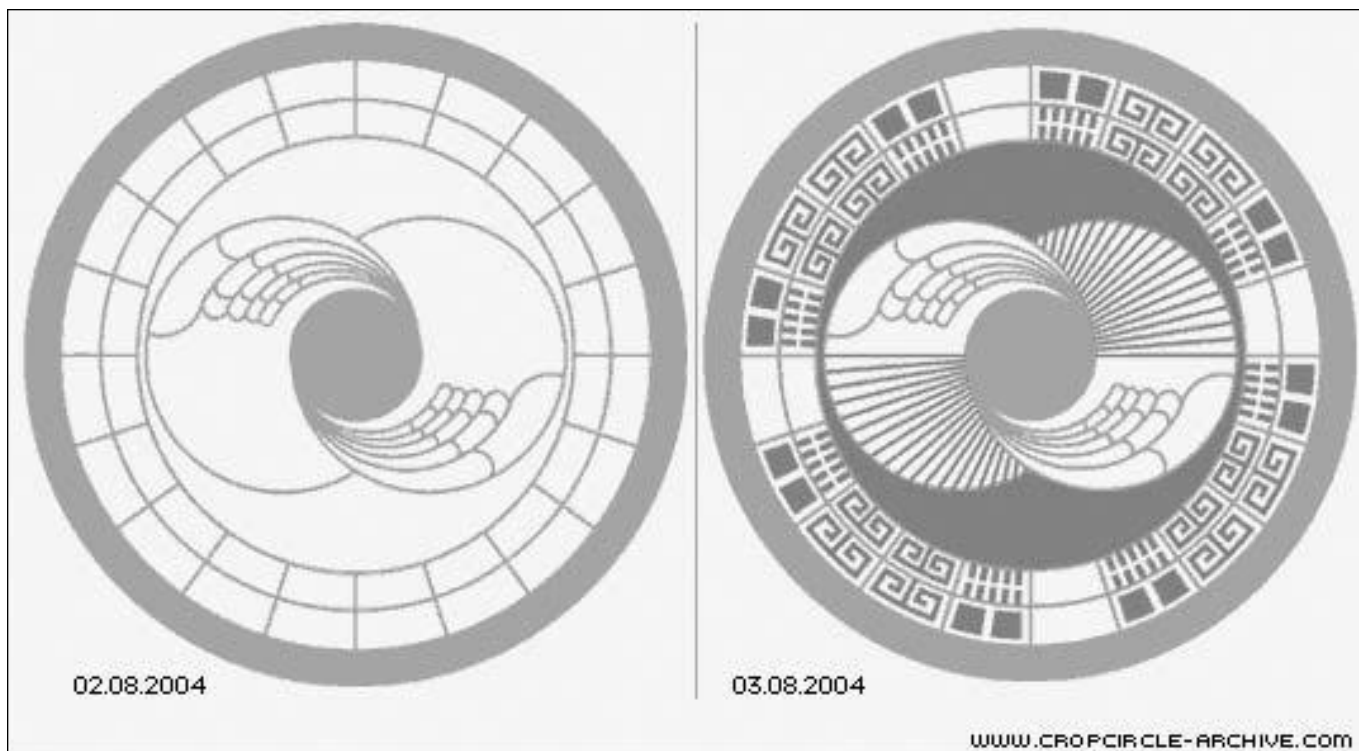


Figure 8: Silbury Hill (2), near Beckhampton, Wiltshire. Reported 2nd and 3rd August.
Diagrams above: Berthold Zugelder © 2004. Photograph below: Steve Alexander © 2004



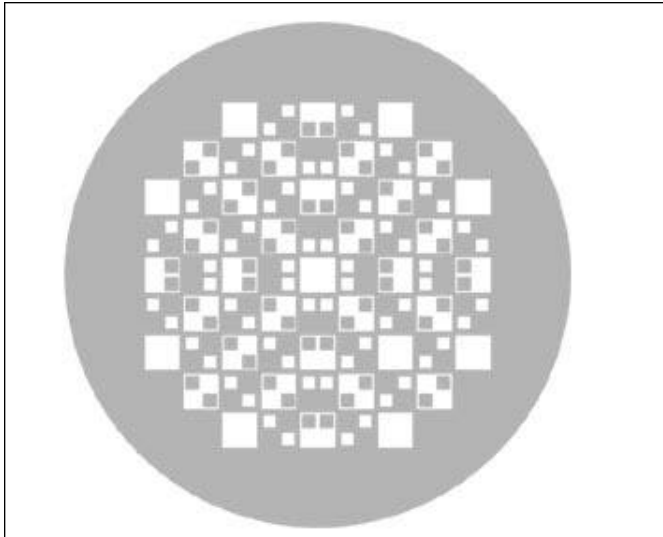
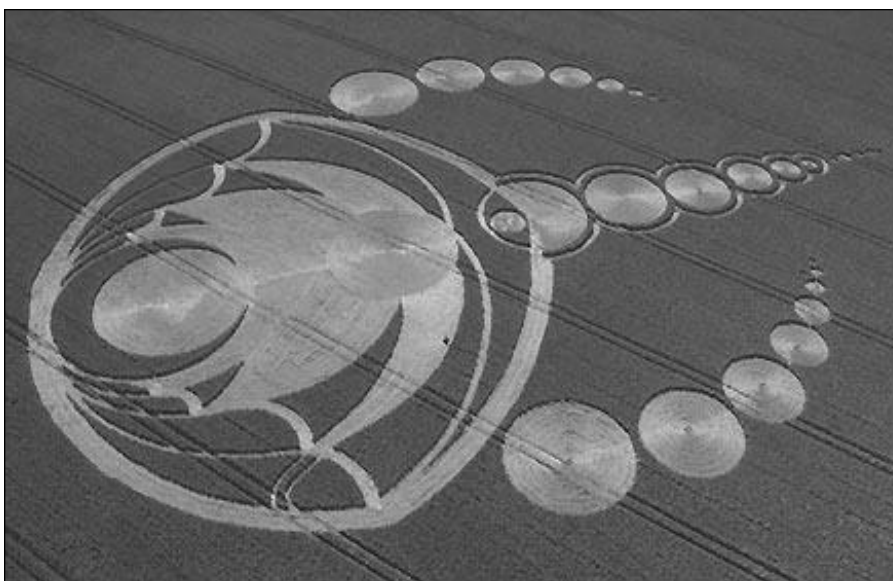
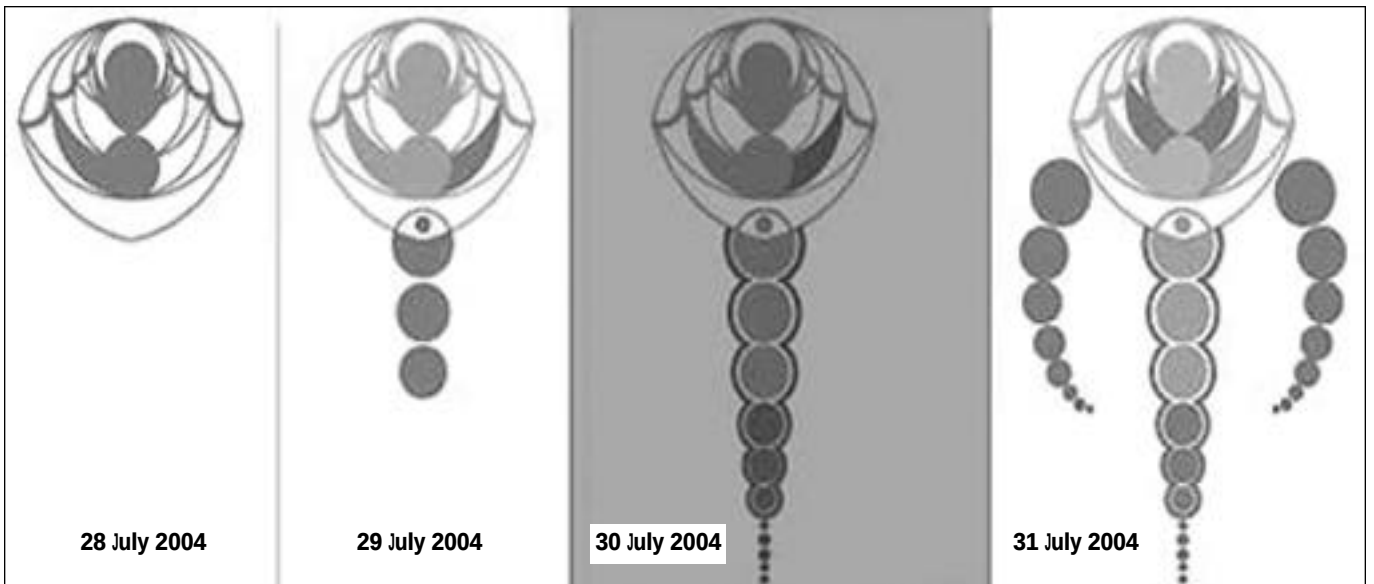


Figure 7: Lewisham Castle, Aldbourne, Wiltshire.
Reported 6th August. Diagram: Berthold Zugelder © 2004



Beacon Hill, near Burghclere, Newbury, Berkshire.
Reported 28th July. Photograph: Steve Alexander © 2004



Tan Hill (left and above), near Stanton St Bernard, Wiltshire. Reported 28th July.

This formation was created in four steps over a period of four nights (see above).

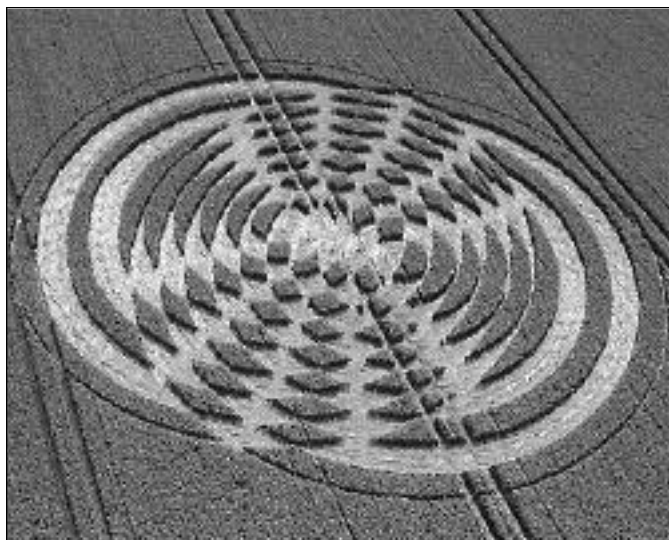
Diagrams: Berthold Zugelder © 2004
Photograph (left): Steve Alexander © 2004

Resources:

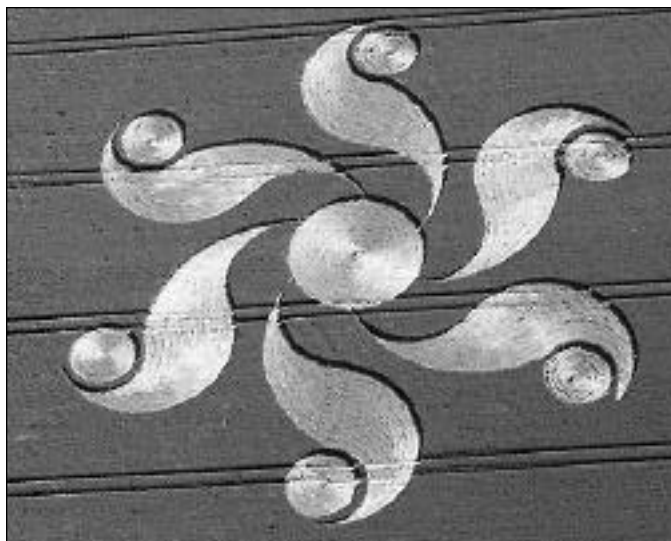
- To view all the formations for 2004, visit the website <http://www.cropcircleconnector.com>.
- More information is available from Swirled News, Southern Circular Research, 3 Old House Courtyard, Southover High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1HT, UK, websites <http://www.swirlednews.com>, <http://www.vitalsignspublishing.co.uk>.



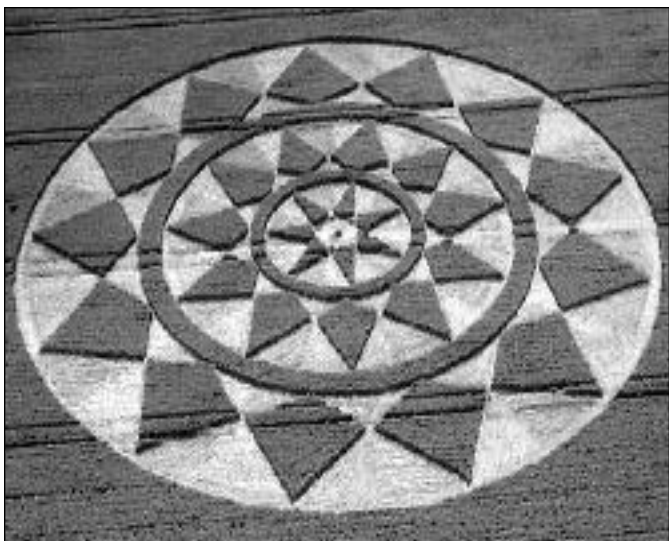
Coombe Abbey, near Coventry, Warwickshire. Reported 4th July.
Photograph: Steve Alexander © 2004



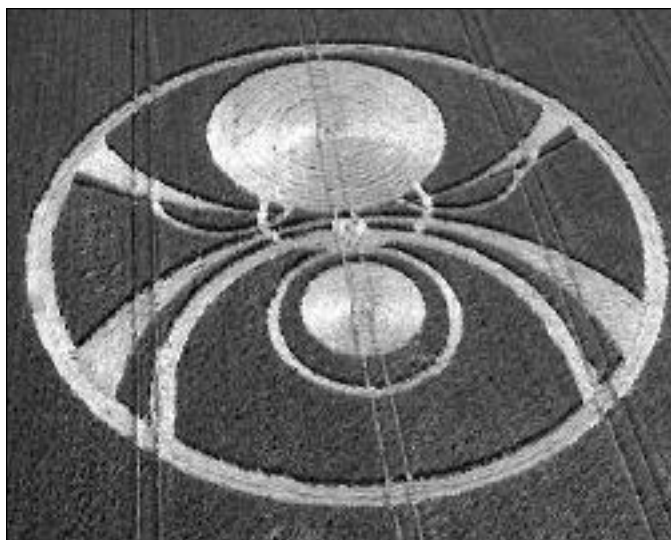
Shalbourne, near Hungerford, Wiltshire.
Reported 8th August. Photograph: Steve Alexander © 2004



Honey Street, near Alton Barnes, Wiltshire.
Reported 16th June. Photograph: John Dove © 2004



Etchilhampton Hill, near Devizes, Wiltshire.
Reported 25th July. Photograph: Steve Alexander © 2004



Etchilhampton Hill (2), near Devizes, Wiltshire.
Reported 3rd August. Photograph: Steve Alexander © 2004



Blacklands Golf Course, near Calne, Wiltshire.
Reported 3rd August. Photograph: Steve Alexander © 2004



DONALD RUMSFELD'S SURPRISING UFO CONNECTION

from Sher, via Rense.com

I have a small collection of vintage books on the UFO phenomenon—including *Aliens in the Skies: The New UFO Battle of the Scientists*, by John G. Fuller. Published in 1969, it discusses the House Committee on Science and Astronautics which invited six prominent scientists (including Hynek and Sagan) to testify before a special UFO hearing on July 29, 1968. Anyway, I haven't read it through, but I was looking at it when the name "Rumsfeld" popped out at me...

I tried to find out if it could be the Donald Rumsfeld who participated in those hearings (only referenced as Mr Rumsfeld). If so, who ever thought he was involved in this historic and very, very detailed hearing into the reality of UFOs?

So, I did a search of his bio but found nothing in his official bio that showed he had served on the Committee. But he was in DC during that time—as a Congressman from Illinois. I then searched for the UFO Committee report and I found the amazing quote posted at the end of this email.

By Jove, Donald Rumsfeld was on that UFO hearing committee and even introduced Hynek. Who knew?

Just a curious fact I thought you might be interested in. Curiouser and curiouser...

Best, Sher

The quote (from <http://ncas.sawco.com/ufo/symposium/intro.html>):

Chairman [George] Miller: I want to join in welcoming you here. I want to point out that your presence here is not a challenge to the work that is being done by the Air Force, a particular agency that has to deal with this subject.

Unfortunately, there are those who are highly critical of the Air Force, saying that the Air Force has not approached this problem properly. I want you to know that we are in no way trying to go into the field that is theirs by law, and thus we are not critical of what the Air Force is doing. We should look at the problem from every angle, and we are here in that respect. I just want to point out we are not here to criticize the actions of the Air Force. Thank you.

Mr [J. Edward] Roush: I think it is only appropriate that Dr Hynek be introduced by our colleague, Mr Rumsfeld.

Mr [Donald] Rumsfeld: Thank you, Mr Chairman. It is

a pleasure to welcome all the members of this distinguished panel, and particularly to welcome Dr Allen Hynek, who is a son of Illinois and presently serves in the Department of Astronomy and [as] Director of the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center.

Dr Hynek is a member of a number of scientific societies, and has served in the Government service as well as in the academic community. As his Congressman I am delighted he has been invited to appear on this panel, and we certainly look forward to his comments.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

(Source: Rense.com, 10 May 2004, <http://www.rense.com/general52/rum.htm>)



"Tell the boss there's been a mix-up with the special delivery from Area 51. Osama's still back there..."

MYSTERIOUS TOWERS IN CHINA AND TIBET

Martine Darragon fell under the spell of an elusive phenomenon scattered across the foothills of the Himalayas. Old stone towers, some vaguely star-shaped and some more than 100 feet tall, became a near obsession for Darragon as she found their origin to be a mystery.

Darragon told *Smithsonian Magazine's* Richard Stone that when she asked local residents about the towers—Who built them? When? Why?—nobody seemed to have a clue. What she had stumbled on was rare indeed: a riddle in plain sight.

Over five years, she journeyed nine times to western China, where she saw nearly 200 of the towers in Sichuan Province and Tibet. She photographed and measured them, climbed into them when possible and carved off bits of wooden beams for analysis. Local monks told her they'd found no mention of the structures in centuries-old monastery documents. Still, she did find a few references to the towers in some Chinese annals and in the diaries of 19th-century Western travellers to the region.

From 2000 to 2003, Darragon shipped pieces of wood from 32 towers to a laboratory in Miami for radiocarbon dating. Most of the wood samples she had tested are several hundred years old, and the towers from which they came are presumably the same age. But one structure in Kongpo, Tibet, proved much older. It was likely built 1,000 to 1,200 years ago. The dating method isn't definitive and it's possible that the wood used by some tower builders was already very old, in which case the structures may be younger.

Local ignorance of the towers' original purpose may be traced to the area's history and geography. A millennium ago, the place was dominated by mountain tribes that over the centuries have maintained isolation. "People in one valley usually cannot understand what is said in the next valley," Darragon told Stone. She wonders if knowledge of the towers that was once passed down orally may have been lost as dialects evolved or disappeared.

Darragon is especially intrigued by the more than 40 roughly star-shaped towers she encountered. Some have eight points, others 12, but both configurations are rare. Darragon speculates that the star shape

makes the Chinese structures less susceptible to tremors. "All the people I asked in the villages said the towers resist earthquakes," Darragon said.

The question remains: Why were they built? One idea is that they served a religious function, perhaps representing the *dmu* cord that, according to Tibetan legend, is said to connect Heaven and Earth.

Alternatively, some scholars suggest the structures were watchtowers or forts. "The towers were built for defence," said Marielle Prins, a linguist with the Southwest Institute for Nationalities in Chengdu, China. "Most of them are from the Jinchuan Wars."

Eric Mortensen, a Tibet scholar at National Taiwan University, said the structures were "likely used as signal towers". He bases that conclusion on their locations, which generally provide a line of sight from one to another.

...when she asked local residents about the towers—Who built them? When? Why?—nobody seemed to have a clue.

But some scholars suggest that the towers are not so mysterious after all. "If there's any mystery surrounding them, it's no doubt partly a product of Western mythology around anything Tibetan and the fact that until recently the Chinese forbade access to the region," said Alex Gardner, a Buddhism specialist at the University of Michigan. "I don't see how they could be called 'unknown' when they are visible for miles, and the region is crisscrossed with trading routes and now automobile roads."

Meanwhile, the mysteries of the towers continue to rattle Darragon's mind, and her sleuthing will continue. The self-described free spirit has purchased a home in a valley in the Kham region of China, settling down next door to a tower.

(Source: *Concord Monitor Online*, 22 March 2004, <http://www.concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20040322/REPOSITORY/403220376/1013/NEWS03>)

ANCIENT ELECTRICAL DEVICE UNEARTHED IN BULGARIA

by Stiliyan Yanchev © 2004

In the summer of 2003, during archaeological excavations of a proto-Neolithic settlement situated in the northwest Black Sea littoral area on Bulgarian territory, I spotted a very interesting and puzzling find.

While clearing out the destroyed remains of a burnt-down dwelling place of that epoch, under my brush appeared a small cylindrical object.

At the first moment I was neither disturbed nor puzzled. I got my camera and took the necessary pictures *in situ*.

The next moment... Oh my God! My breath stopped at the sight of the find that I was holding in my hands. It was almost absurd, incredible, perplexing!

A 7,000-year-old graphite cylinder

It was in a cultural layer dated 4800–4600 BC (calibrated dates), at a depth of 0.68 metres below the contemporary ground level near a stone wall of a dwelling place, that I found this object—a graphite cylinder with a round opening in the middle which passes through the whole length.

The perfectly worked cylinder is 4.3 centimetres long, 1.7 cm in diameter and 0.6 cm in diameter at the opening.

But the most impressive discovery was that on the cylinder's surface, along all its length, there can clearly be seen traces of laps: about 24 to 26 coils with a 1-millimetre width of the trace.

At both ends of the solid, the traces of the coiled wire are most distinct and give the impression that they have been slightly smelted by some sort of energy having passed through.

I was speechless, astonished and inwardly happy. I was holding in my hands something very interesting, exciting, somewhat disturbing, but unique! What is it? Who made it?

From my long working experience, I knew that graphite was used in some cases for the decoration of pottery, as a background or ornamentation, and its properties were known as early as the fifth millennium BC.

The use of graphite with its spectacular, metallic glimmer, combined with the ornamentation of the pottery, probably represented some charged meaning

THE TWILIGHT ZONE

concerning the relationship between man and Heaven.

But why should an ancient master-potter make a perfect cylinder with a round opening in the middle for the available graphite material, if he needed this graphite in the form of dust to brush onto pot surfaces as beautiful geometric figures so as to obtain the contrast between the red background of the pottery and the metallic reflections of the graphite?

Results of laboratory tests

For hours on end, I carefully considered and studied the find. I did not believe my eyes, but the material presence of the graphite cylinder sobered me. What is it? An element of an ancient battery? An accumulator? An electrode? Or something more terrifying, which I dared not think about?



Is it possible that man knew about electricity 7,000 years ago? And if he knew it, how did he obtain that knowledge? Who taught him? I asked myriad questions and they remained hanging in the air, without a reply.

I conducted laboratory studies and found that the cylinder's surface resistance was 300 ohms, while inside the opening it was 3–5 ohms. That meant that the graphite surface was mixed with some insulator. Therefore we can suppose that the graphite cylinder was an element of some device or an appliance for the production of electricity or some other sort of more powerful energy.

Speculation on the findings

Is all this possible? Is it true? How did "my people" (as I call the ancient inhabitants of the dwelling place I've been studying for years), whose tools were made of flint, stone and bone, obtain knowledge of electricity? And what was that appliance? What did it look like? What was its real purpose?

It is probable that

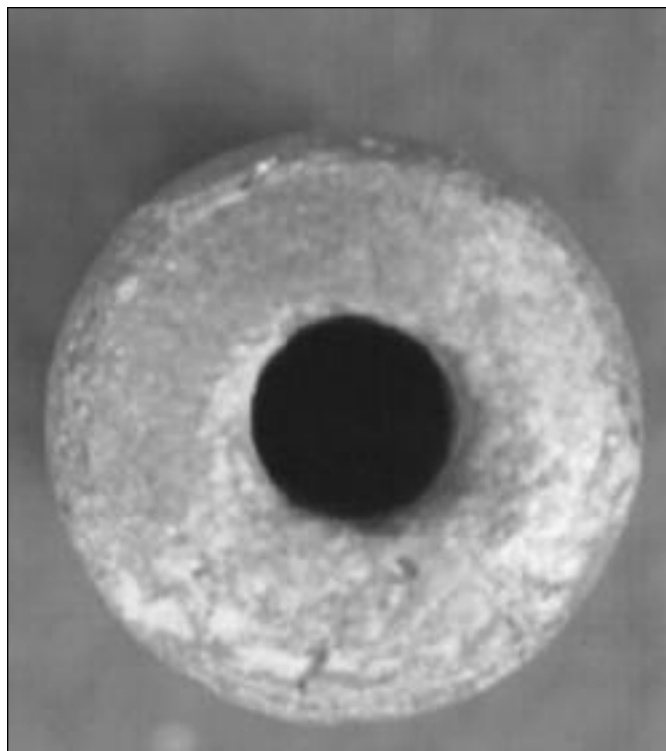
on a gold axis 6 mm in diameter, several elements of this kind were strung in such a way as to obtain greater power from the energy. On the surface of each cylinder was coiled a gold thread of 1 mm in diameter and an approximate length of 1.30 m for each row of coils on a cylinder. I assume that several elements were arranged one over another, because the traces of the coils at both ends of the cylinder are somewhat slanted with reference to the axes, and this suggests a transition to an adjacent cylinder.

So how many were there? What was the energy's force and power in order to leave traces? In how many lines were the laps arranged in order to render the appliance efficient? These are important questions.

Continuing this train of thought, I cannot help ask by what knowledge, engineering and technology had ancient man, with his primitive tools, achieved such perfection and precision in processing gold. Such skills and possibilities are challenges even today, despite the 7,000 years of evolution!

The next studies and analyses I hope will give a clearer reply to the questions posed.

(Source: Email from Stiliyan Yanchev, 30 July 2004, stilcoliny@yahoo.com)





REVIEWS

BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

SLEEPING WITH THE DEVIL: How Washington Sold Our Soul For Saudi Crude

by Robert Baer

Three Rivers Press, USA, 2003, 2004
ISBN 1-4000-5268-8 (238pp tpb)
Availability: Three Rivers Press,
<http://www.crownpublishing.com>

Former CIA operative Robert Baer (of bestseller *See No Evil* fame) presents a disturbing portrait of the ruling Al-Sa'ud family of Saudi Arabia and its long-time cosy relationship with prominent US political figures and corporations. Starting with a scenario prepared by US engineers on President Reagan's orders on how terrorists could easily blow up the Saudi oil fields and infrastructure, Baer suggests such a doomsday script is possible today—and if it happened, it would cause the world's economies to collapse (the future Saudi peak oil disaster is really not part of his analysis). And with the House of Sa'ud becoming increasingly unpopular in Saudi Arabia for its greed and corruption, it's no wonder that fundamentalist Islamic groups are lighting the fuse of a powder keg that's ready to explode.

In his field research for *Sleeping with the Devil*, Baer found that his agency background could still open doors to key contacts (the CIA, though, has redacted some paragraphs, words and dates, as indicated by the black bars). His new afterword, written after the US invasion of Iraq, includes interviews with Islamic militants in Iraq and several neighbouring Arab nations on the

geopolitical future of their region.

The main focus of this book, though, is on America's oil-centric dependence on Saudi Arabia and the lengths to which the rich and powerful on both sides will go to stay rich and powerful. Another focus is connecting the dots of Saudi-sourced funding of terrorism in places like Afghanistan and Central Asia, including Chechnya, and the various US-based Saudi charities that knowingly or not inevitably pipe funds to terrorist groups.

Baer's book is full of jaw-dropping intrigue, and time will tell how long the corrupt US-Saudi partnership will last.

INDONESIA'S SECRET WAR IN ACEH by John Martinkus

Random House Australia P/L, 2004
ISBN 1-74051-209-X (340pp tpb)
Availability: Random House,
<http://www.randomhouse.com.au>

Through his book, *A Dirty Little War*, Australian journalist John Martinkus did much to get the story out on the plight of the East Timorese under Indonesian rule prior to their gaining independence. Since then, he's turned his attention to the terrible price the Acehnese people are paying at the hands of the Indonesian military and various separatist militia, including Islamic.

Three years in the preparation, *Indonesia's Secret War in Aceh* is an eye-opening journey through Aceh province in the northernmost part of the island of Sumatra. It's clear from the evidence that the military, presumably acting for powerful vested interests, is resisting the move for an independent Aceh at all costs, using tactics from inciting fear and hatred to arresting, torturing, raping and murdering. To the military, it matters not whether it conducts its dirty campaigns dur-

ing humanitarian cease-fires or after the signing of peace agreements; it even uses the protection of corporations like ExxonMobil against the populace.

Things haven't improved since 9/11, the "war on terrorism" now another excuse for the military and its government sponsors to justify more killing. Often the military puts the blame on GAM, the Free Aceh Movement, which is conducting a guerrilla war, and the people end up living in yet more fear. While Aceh has a rich history of fighting for independence that goes back to the 1870s and the beginning of the uprising against the Dutch colonists, what's happening in Aceh now is out of control. It's not an easy ride for journalists, either, and our intrepid author is lucky to have survived.

Martinkus's main fear is that the world community is blind to the reality of what's going on in Aceh—and also to the plight of the peoples of West Papua and Ambon in the Moluccas who are also subjected to Indonesian military might, as reported in the final chapter. A huge wake-up call.



REVIEWS



DRUG WAR CRIMES: The Consequences of Prohibition by Jeffrey A. Miron

The Independent Institute, USA, 2004
ISBN 0-945999-90-9 (107pp tpb)
Availability: The Independent Institute,
<http://www.independent.org>

In this balanced analysis of the pros and cons of drug prohibition, author Jeffrey Miron, Professor of Economics at Boston University, concludes that legalisation of drugs comes out ahead of prohibition.

First looking at the economics of prohibition, Miron discovers that it reduces drug consumption only moderately but results in a significant increase in violence and corruption. Drug prohibition is also expensive: the US government spent more than \$33 billion on it in recent years, and every year it arrests 1.5 million citizens on drug-related charges. These issues are important in evaluating the costs/benefits of prohibition.

Following on, Miron comes up with figures from the alcohol prohibition era in the early 20th century that are instructive in determining the effect of prohibition on drug consumption. Though this area of study is problematic, he says existing evidence is scant that marijuana decriminalisation is accompanied by increased marijuana use. Next, Miron devotes a chapter to the issue of violence, concluding that high rates of prohibition enforcement are associated with high rates of violence—in stark contrast to the usual defence of prohibition that enforcement *reduces* violence.

So, is prohibition good policy if at least it can reduce drug consumption, assuming this is a good thing for health? And if it can't, which he says it doesn't, what's the point if it causes more violence? Miron examines the

normative argument, finding that prohibition is almost certainly the wrong approach. Considering alternatives to prohibition and other policies on drugs, including subsidised treatment centres and needle exchanges, Miron says the evidence favours legalisation for the sake of liberty and utility.

INSIDE JOB: Unmasking the 9/11 Conspiracies by Jim Marrs

Origin Press, USA, 2004
ISBN 1-57983-013-7 (216pp tpb)
Availability: Origin Press,
<http://www.insidejob-911.com>

With so much of our energy these days focused on America's botched-up war in Iraq, let's not forget the "trigger" for this mess: the events of September 11, 2001. In *Inside Job*, veteran investigative journalist/author Jim Marrs (*Crossfire: The Plot That Killed Kennedy*; *Rule by Secrecy*, reviewed in 8/01) analyses the events of 9/11 in terms of the anomalies that many of us noted at the time but which the US government and mainstream media have conveniently glossed over or ignored.

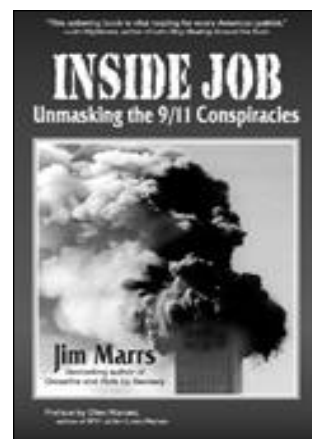
Marrs has dedicated his book to those who suffered the loss of loved ones during the horrors of 9/11, for they deserve to know the truth about what *really* happened that fateful day. The preface, by Ellen Mariani (whose husband, a passenger on United Airlines Flight 175, was killed in the attacks), is a determined call for answers from the US government; in fact, she's suing it under the RICO (Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) Act, alleging that the attacks were no surprise.

Anyone who's searched the Net these last few years for clues as to "who dunnit" will

find some concurrence with what Marrs has deduced: that the 9/11 attacks smack of being an "inside job", or at least of being carried out with high-level (read shadow government) complicity.

It was all too convenient, in retrospect, for both the NRO and NORAD to be conducting "exercises" on the morning of September 11 involving hijacked planes being crashed into significant buildings—which would have added to the confusion in military circles that day. Scenarios involving remotely controlled aircraft, unexplained explosions during what looked like controlled demolitions of the World Trade Center Twin Towers, and the possibility that a disguised cruise missile—not a 757 passenger jet—hit the Pentagon make for passionate questioning and, hopefully, debate.

Marrs touches on a web of secret agendas in his alarming 9/11 analysis. He may not provide the answers, but he certainly challenges the official story and makes us reassess the propaganda we've been fed.





REVIEWS

CIVILIZATION ONE: The World Is Not As You Thought It Was by Christopher Knight and Alan Butler

Watkins Publishing, UK, 2004
ISBN 1-84293-095-8 (258pp hc)
Availability: Watkins Publishing,
<http://www.watkinspublishing.com>;
<http://www.civilizationone.com>

In *Civilization One*, Christopher Knight and Alan Butler expand on the work done over five decades in the mid-20th century by Prof. Alexander Thom, who rediscovered the linear measure known as the "megalithic yard"—a length of 82.966 centimetres in the metric system—and found that most of the megalithic structures of Britain and France were built using this measurement.

In their research, Knight and Butler discovered that half a megalithic yard could be replicated by using a weighted pendulum while observing the path of the planet Venus between two points and counting out 366 swings. If there were too many or too few swings, the length of the pendulum's string would be adjusted to get the right count—and *voilà*, a calibrated megalithic half-yard.

It meant, too, that the megalithic yard was derived from the polar circumference of the Earth and that a second of arc of the polar equator was equivalent to 366 megalithic yards. The authors were amazed to learn that this measurement with its derivations for volume and weight has correlations with those systems that emerged after Neolithic times, such as the Sumerian, Egyptian, Minoan and Greek, but also with French 12th-century Avoirdupois measures and the metric system developed in the late 18th century. Noting that the arc measurement is also a measure of time, based as it is on the rotation of the Earth and its relationship with

the Moon and Sun, Knight and Butler began looking at the concept of the megalithic second and relating it to the frequencies of sound, light and colour. Incredibly, they learned that the megalithic second, which they identified as 366 Thoms (Th), equivalent to 560 Hz or just above C-sharp, is supposedly regarded by the Australian Aborigines as *the* sacred sound of the Earth. They also discovered coded into the megalithic numbers the ratios of *pi* and *phi*, thus proving that the ancients were tapped into the harmony of the spheres.

These revelations leave no doubt that our prehistoric forebears had a sophisticated knowledge of Earth and the solar system and of measure, music, number and time.

GODS, GENES AND CONSCIOUSNESS: Nonhuman intervention in human history by Paul Von Ward

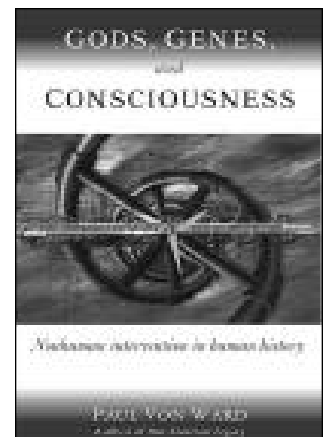
Hampton Roads, USA, 2004
ISBN 1-57174-379-0 (320pp tpb)
Availability: Hampton Roads Publishing Company, <http://www.hrpublish.com>

There's a so-called "disconnect" between what institutionalised scientists, politicians and religious leaders say about non-human consciousness and what millions of people around the world, and throughout history, have been saying about interactions with advanced beings. However, in *Gods, Genes and Consciousness*, author and Harvard-trained scholar Paul Von Ward says the time is right at the beginning of the 21st century for a reassessment of the human response to advanced beings (ABs, as he calls them), whether they be aliens, angels, gods, guardians, ascended masters, extradi-dimensional spirits or interplanetary beings.

Part of this reassessment involves working out why such experiences with ABs have been so ignored or suppressed through the ages; another is working out how to resolve the ideological and religious differences that so plague our modern world. Yet, according to Von Ward's findings from studying sacred texts, myths and legends, all these entities are part and parcel of our natural universe and there's no denying their existence: for not only may some of them have given us the gifts of language, writing, mathematics and science but the gift of advanced genes.

Whatever their description, they've been playing a role in the evolution of humanity and the rise of civilisations since prehistoric times up to the present day. It's hard not to conclude that by suppressing the influence of ABs, terrestrial powers are serving to control the masses of humankind.

Von Ward urges that it's time for a Public AB Discussion Project to be set up so we can get this out into the open and understand it as part of the grand cosmic tapestry.



REVIEWS



GUARDIANS OF THE HOLY GRAIL: The Knights Templar, John the Baptist and the Water of Life

by Mark Amaru Pinkham

Adventures Unlimited Press, USA, 2004

ISBN 1-931882-28-2 (340pp tpb)

Availability: Adventures Unlimited Press,
<http://www.adventuresunlimitedpress.com>;
NEXUS offices

Esoteric researcher Mark Amaru Pinkham comes up with new angles on undercurrents of history in *Guardians of the Holy Grail*. Not an exclusively Western mystery tradition, the Grail legacy he says can be traced to the first Fisher King and to the East and the Garden of Eden—which, as some legends have it, was in Sri Lanka.

Pinkham explains how the Grail legend originated and evolved into European lore, the embodiment seen in the Green Man image that decorates the Templar/Sinclair-built Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland and many monuments throughout Britain.

The Green Man, symbolising the Lord of the World, is associated with the god Enki of Sumerian tradition and with John the Baptist. According to the Mandaean belief system, John the Baptist was a reincarnation of the Enki spirit, and Pinkham suggests that this belief found its way from the East to the Essene sect, which regarded John the Baptist as the promised messiah.

The distinction Pinkham makes is that the Grail, with its Cup imagery, was a vessel for the "human Holy Grail"—the life force that adepts could collect and channel. That force is also known as *kundalini*—the serpent wisdom. It's at the root of most esoteric sects throughout history, including the Knights Templar who were charged with keeping the alchemical and tantric secrets.

With cooperation from the Sinclair family, Pinkham has been involved in forming a new International Order of Gnostic Templars to help solve more mysteries and preserve the original Gnosticism. A daunting task, if his far-ranging book is a guide.

AXIS OF DECEIT by Andrew Wilkie

Black Inc. Agenda, Australia, 2004

ISBN 0-9750769-2-2 (200pp tpb)

Availability: Black Inc. Agenda,
<http://www.blackincbooks.com>

In March 2003, just before the US invaded Iraq, Australian intelligence analyst Andrew Wilkie turned whistleblower on the Howard government, creating a huge furor.

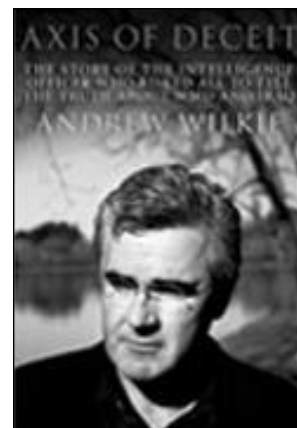
A former army lieutenant-colonel, Wilkie was a senior transnational issues analyst with the Office of National Assessments (ONA) at the time, and had been brewing over his decision since late 2002 when he prepared a report for his superiors to present to the Australian government on the anticipated dire humanitarian consequences of a war in Iraq. Unfortunately the Howard government continued with its "all the way with the USA" approach and committed troops to the so-called Coalition of the Willing. But Wilkie makes it clear that the military had its orders by mid-2002, contrary to Prime Minister John Howard's statements.

Even Wilkie admits he thought some evidence of WMDs might be found in Iraq, but agrees there was scant evidence to justify an invasion in violation of international law. When he could see that the government was ignoring reliable intelligence, including dispatches from diplomats and agents on the ground in the US itself, he was certain of the political agenda behind Howard's support

for the Bush administration's goals.

Axis of Deceit is a blow-by-blow account of what happened behind the scenes in intelligence circles that led Wilkie to his fateful decision to put his career on the line. As well as explaining the intricacies of intelligence workings both within Australia and in relationship with the USA and UK, and to a lesser extent with New Zealand and Canada (UKUSA Pact primary and secondary players), Wilkie gives a perceptive view of recent political machinations. He manages to do this without revealing any state secrets but drawing instead on public information.

Having raised his profile giving evidence in UK hearings over the death of weapons inspector David Kelly as well as at Australian inquiries, Wilkie has now turned to politics and as a Greens candidate is causing a stir by contesting PM Howard's seat in the October 2004 federal election. With "truth in government" being a key issue in the lead-up, this catch-phrase has already become the source of much irony.





REVIEWS

SKEWED: Psychiatric Hegemony and the Manufacture of Mental Illness...

by Martin J. Walker

Slingshot Publications Ltd, UK, 2003

ISBN 0-9519646-4X (284pp tpb)

Price: £12 + £2.50 p&h (cheque payment)

Availability: Slingshot Publications Ltd, BM Box 8314, London WC1N 3XX, UK, email fraka@arrakis.es

Two diametrically opposed schools of thought concerning illnesses that orthodox medicine is unable to explain rest on psychiatric and organic causes. For now, the psychiatric argument—that these unexplained illnesses are "all in the mind"—is winning because the organic/physical causes require health authorities and the medical profession to acknowledge unpleasant facts about the adverse effects of chemicals, vaccines, EMR, pharmaceutical drugs, food additives and so on. There's no coincidence that the rise in "unexplained illnesses" has gone hand in hand with the increasing proliferation of environmental toxins.

In *Skewed*, Martin Walker (author of the groundbreaking 1993 book *Dirty Medicine*; see 2/19) acknowledges that his intention is not to provide readers with solutions to their health problems but to educate them about the conflicts of power that are intricately bound up with their plight and may explain why some doctors seem to be at war with their patients. Another of his aims is to publicise the enormous social costs of this denial on individuals and families; in cases of "munchausen syndrome by proxy", for instance, children are being separated from their parents on totally irrational grounds (see "Justice out of Balance", this issue).

His forthright argument and often heart-breaking evidence relates to experiences

with multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS), allergies, Gulf War syndrome (GWS), organophosphate (OP) poisoning, myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) and more. It's an insult to these sufferers that their very real symptoms can be so easily dismissed as a mental fabrication—particularly when there's abundant evidence of chemical industry funding of medical and psychiatric research.

Walker's findings put the new American proposal to screen all schoolchildren for "mental illness" into an even more scary light. It's imperative that concerned people everywhere take this information on board and lobby their governments and medical authorities to wake up to reality and redress this dire situation before it's all too late.

TALISMAN:

Sacred Cities, Secret Faith

by Graham Hancock & Robert Bauval

Michael Joseph/Penguin, UK, 2004

ISBN 0-718-14315-9 (562pp hc)

Availability: Penguin Books,

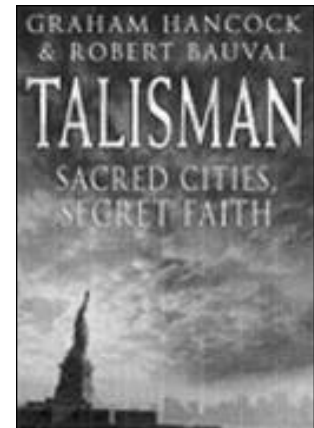
<http://www.penguin.com>

Twelve years in preparation, this collaboration between Graham Hancock and Robert Bauval (co-authors of *Keepers of Genesis*; see 3/06) is a re-evaluation of key events and movements in history in terms of the powerful influence of a secret religion.

This religion owes much to ancient Egypt and the Hermetic philosophy as well as to subsequent mystery traditions such as Gnosticism, Kabbalism and Freemasonry. Its influence can be seen coded into architecture and monuments in various parts of the world. In Paris, London, Rome and Washington, for instance, there are obelisks, cathedrals, statues, avenues and even mod-

ern office blocks sited and designed according to sacred geometry principles or to capture the rising or setting of the Sun or even Sirius. Hancock and Bauval draw parallels between the historical axis of Paris—from the Louvre to the Grande Arche—and ancient Luxor in Egypt. To illustrate the strength of this occult connection, they remind us that in France in 1793, during the "de-Christianisation" process, revolutionaries installed a large statue/fountain of the Egyptian Goddess Isis—the new Goddess of Reason—where the Bastille had stood. And following the reinstatement of the French throne, Freemason Charles X in 1827 commissioned Egyptologist Jean-François Champollion to remove a 3,500-year-old obelisk, one of a pair, from Alexandria in Egypt and transport it to Paris.

There was much more than just an obsession with things Egyptian behind such moves, and the authors provide a rollicking ride through the centuries that helps explain the hidden meanings behind the dramas.



REVIEWS



THE FLUORIDE DECEPTION

by Christopher Bryson

Seven Stories Press, USA, 2004

ISBN 1-58322-526-9 (374pp hc)

Availability: **Australia**—Palgrave

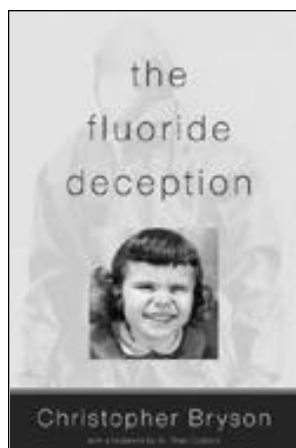
Macmillan; **UK**—Turnaround,

<http://www.turnaround-uk.com>; **USA**—

<http://www.sevenstories.com>

Since as far back as the 1930s, scientists have been speaking out about the health and environmental dangers of fluoride, but the truth is still being brushed aside by vested interests including dental associations that continue to lobby for water fluoridation in areas that don't have it. This very thing is happening today under a new City Council in Brisbane, despite the previous Lord Mayor's committee's adamant stance against it (see article and open letter this issue).

If you were ever in doubt about the safety of fluoridated water, you only have to read Christopher Bryson's chilling book, *The Fluoride Deception*. Bryson is co-author with Joel Griffiths of an article we ran in



5/03 that linked the Manhattan atomic bomb project with mass water fluoridation. As Griffiths discovered in the mid-1990s, fluoride compounds were essential in the uranium enrichment process. This angle is covered along with many more, including the history of shocking deaths due to fluorine pollution and the machinations of an industrial cabal that profits from recycling toxic waste. There's also the story of toxicologist Phillis Mullenix who, in the late 1980s, confirmed via a new high-tech computer analysis that fluorine is a dangerous neurotoxin.

A growing number of scientists and health professionals are coming around to seeing that mass water fluoridation is a bad and ineffective way to protect teeth. Apart from killing enzymes essential for health, fluoride is implicated in a host of modern illnesses including arthritis, bone cancer, osteoporosis, central nervous system disorders, Alzheimer's disease and ADHD. Yet, all too

many health authorities stay blind to the facts and continue to spit out propaganda about gleaming white teeth. Even the FDA has no problem with approving dangerous fluorine-based pharmaceuticals.

Bryson, an award-winning reporter, has produced a masterpiece of investigative journalism that will arm concerned readers in their fight to assert their health rights.

ENERGY SECRETS OF GLASTONBURY TOR

by Nicholas R. Mann

Green Magic, UK, 2004

ISBN 0-9542-9635-4 (130pp tpb)

Availability: Green Magic,

<http://www.greenmagicpublishing.com>

According to legend, Glastonbury Tor, the terraced landform rising out of the Somerset Levels in western England, has been a place of pilgrimage for 10,000 years since visitors fled there after the sinking of Atlantis. The Tor was acknowledged as a natural temple and could perform the sort of work done by the Atlanteans' destroyed temple pyramids. Says author Nicholas Mann, the Tor was the beacon on the Isle of Glass (or Isle of Avalon) which was once surrounded by an inland sea of waterways and marshlands. To seekers after truth and enlightenment, it was the *axis mundi*, the world centre, and it served as a portal between the worlds. It still holds a powerful attraction for those who live in its vicinity or visit on modern-day pilgrimages.

Intriguingly, Glastonbury Tor contains a huge underground chamber that is an aquifer of calcium- and iron-bearing layers and holds the secret to the Tor's powers. Depending on the time of year and rainfall, the Tor can be more or less energetically charged. Two main control devices for the Tor's vortex energies are the nearby Red (iron-rich) and White (calcium-rich) Springs: like negative and positive terminals on a battery, they influence the operating frequencies and affect the function of the entire Tor system. The ancients were aware of the power that could be tapped at this centre, and so thousands of years ago they moulded the Tor's terraces to take maximum advantage of these energetic frequencies.

In *Energy Secrets of Glastonbury Tor*, Mann opens up new territory by analysing the geology and energy dynamics and relating them to ancient myths, artefacts and architecture. He then takes it all a step further by describing how access can be gained to the Avalonian Soul Portal; it's a journey of initiation for those serious about connecting with the *axis mundi*. With photos, illustrations and side boxes that highlight certain esoteric points, Mann's book contains profound revelations for our times.



REVIEWS

MORE THAN MONEY, TRUE PROSPERITY: A Wholistic Guide...To Having It All

by Michael J. Roads

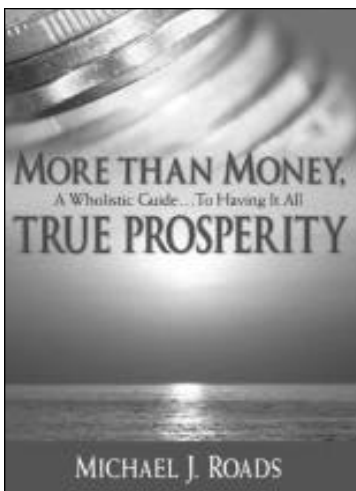
SilverRoads Publishing, USA, 2003

ISBN 1-57983-013-7 (216pp tpb)

Availability: SilverRoads Publishing,

<http://www.silverroads.com>

True prosperity is not about having material wealth but about appreciating the abundance of life, says international author, speaker and teacher Michael Roads (*The Magic of Mulch; Into a Timeless Realm*, 3/03). Developing this appreciation is the secret to living life fruitfully and is all that matters in the long run. One of the keys to this is trust—and the world is your oyster when you can trust yourself, for you cannot be trusting and anxious at the same time. When you realise that life supports you, that life has an intelligent design, then self-trust is an expression of that same intelligence.



Michael and his wife Treenie (parents of our illustrious editor, Duncan) established Australia's answer to Findhorn at the Homeland Community in northern New South Wales, having already been intrinsic to the rise of the organic growing movement in Tasmania. But preoccupation with the famed "big veggies" is a distraction, and one of Roads's messages is that quantity does not necessarily equal quality!

Having heaps of assets is also no guarantee of a healthy life. Embracing a wholistic lifestyle is ultimately more enriching and rewarding. Taking personal responsibility, honouring oneself and having an "attitude of gratitude" are important pointers on the road to abundance and prosperity. However, Michael Roads warns that we may have to be prepared to analyse our dark side and deal with it to get to our core truth.

With its many positive messages, this is a life-affirming book that gets down to basics.

HIGH PRIESTS, QUANTUM GENES: Science, Religion and the Theory of Everything

by Michael Hayes

Black Spring Press Ltd, UK, 2004

ISBN 1-948238-29-1 (256pp tpb)

Availability: Black Spring Press,

<http://www.blackspringpress.co.uk>

In ancient times, sages, philosophers, priest-kings and architects understood the unifying principles that explain life, the universe and everything. Modern-day seeker Mike Hayes (*The Infinite Harmony*) believes the fundamental ordering principle to be the so-called Hermetic Code, and he's found its resonance going all the way back to ancient Egypt (although evidence suggests knowledge of the code is way, way older).

In *High Priests, Quantum Genes* (with introduction by acclaimed author Colin Wilson), Hayes defines this "as above, so below" code as based on sound, music and number—the same numbers found in the Chinese *I Ching* and in our genes, he was amazed to discover. These numbers represent the law of three, involving active, passive and neutral forces, and the law of octaves, which holds that vibrations ascend or descend in proportional steps of seven or eight, representing erratic evolutionary as well as musical scales.

Hayes realised that two other key numbers, 22 and 64, are hidden in the DNA: four kinds of chemical bases, three of which make a triplet codon or amino-acid template, of which there are 64 variations, with each of those codons corresponding to one of 22 more complex components, i.e., the 20 amino acids and two coded instructions for starting and stopping the process of synthesis. He had to wonder about the coincidence with the *I Ching*, as the 64 hexagrams are constructed from four basic two-line symbols of broken or unbroken, yin or yang, lines. Then there's the 22/7 number, equivalent to π , which the ancients were quite familiar with if their megalithic structures and pyramids are any guide.

There's no limit to the possibilities, for Hayes has identified a system that applies from the microscopic to the cosmic scale. In the process of arriving at these revelations, he was inspired by the works of Gurdjieff and Ouspensky and also by exploratory LSD trips wherein he perceived the very vibratory "dancing sparks" nature of the universe that the sages and shamans have been describing for aeons and is behind all the great religious experiences. His apparent discovery of the unifying keys of the code of life may help us take our next evolutionary step.

At the very least, Hayes offers us a different, harmonised way of seeing and hearing our multidimensional world.

REVIEWS



VIDEOS, DVDs

Reviewed by Duncan Roads

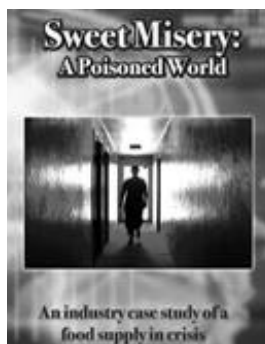
SWEET MISERY: A Poisoned World – An industry case study of a food supply in crisis

Narrated by Cori Brackett

Produced by Sound and Fury Productions, Inc., USA, 2004 (video)

Availability: **USA**—Sound and Fury Productions, Inc., 2301 East Broadway Blvd #111, Tucson, AZ 85719, USA, tel +1 (520) 624 9710, fax (520) 624 3143, website <http://www.soundandfury.tv>;

UK—Namaste Publishing, PO Box 127, Shrewsbury SY3 7WS, website <http://www.namastepublishing.co.uk>



Aspartame is used in many sugar substitutes worldwide. Often branded as NutraSweet or Equal, it's found in diet drinks and other products too numerous to mention. It is one of the most tested substances in food, yet it's still killing people. Worse, it is not being recognised officially as a poison because of corruption in high places. If you or your loved ones regularly consume aspartame, watch this video. If you or any loved ones suffer from MS, lupus, fibromyalgia, diabetes or brain tumour, you *must* watch this video. It is the journey of one person diagnosed with MS, who discovered much more than she'd bargained for. It is the best collection of scientific and medical data, interviews with victims and medical specialists on the subject of aspartame I have ever seen.

Six months after the introduction of aspartame in the USA in 1983, the brain tumour rate jumped 10%, the diabetes rate jumped 30%, and the lymphoma rate jumped 60%. Nobody has any idea of the number of deaths caused by aspartame poisoning because the medical establishment refuses to acknowledge the connection.

And if your loved one dies directly from aspartame's poisonous by-products, you can end up jailed for murder—as you will see on this film. It is time for the aspartame deaths and suffering to stop.

OUT IN THE FIELDS 2003

Presented and written by Stuart Dike

Produced by Crop Circle Connector, UK, 2003 (DVD, 48mins + 28mins bonus)

Availability: Crop Circle Connector, website www.cropcircleconnector.com

I love watching excellent video footage of crop circles (especially from the air). Combine the exquisite shapes and patterns of the formations with the rippling effects of the wind upon the crops, add some really nice music to suit and throw in lots of valuable local and historical information and—presto!—before you know it, you have another great DVD on the subject. This one comes with a cute map of what was where in 2003, and I was pleased to find the film footage of 2002 crop circle formations also on the DVD. Great job, Stuart; I hope you make this an annual product!



9/11: THE GREAT ILLUSION End Game of the Illuminati – Our Choice: Fear or Love?

Written/produced by George Humphrey

Common Sense, 2004 (DVD, 115mins)

Availability: George Humphrey, Common Sense, PO Box 5772, Austin, TX 78763, USA, website <http://www.fearorlove.com>

Given the impact of 9/11 upon the lives of Americans, one would have expected many more documentaries on the subject than have appeared to date. Maybe the lack of investigation is purposeful? Anyway, George Humphrey has done a masterful job in rounding up *all* the information and discrepancies of 9/11, covering: the alleged hijackers, their connections and behaviours; the flights, crashes and lack of intercepts; the construction and collapse of the WTC buildings; the still controversial attack on the Pentagon; the foreknowledge, cover-ups and non-investigations; and the cosy financial relationships between the Bush administration, oil companies and arms manufacturers. This 115-minute documentary has excellent archival video footage, is full of hard facts and is low on speculation. Everyone should see this film!



REVIEWS

MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

TRAVEL THE WORLD WITH PUTUMAYO

by various artists

Putumayo, USA, 2004 (DVD, 65mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA Entertainment, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—Pinnacle Imports, tel 01689 870622; **USA**—Putumayo, tel 1888 7888 8629, website <http://www.putumayo.com>

Putumayo has been releasing world music for 11 years, and its first entry into the DVD field brings together some of the label's memorable artists onto one video concert album. It's a real treat. You can watch Oliver Mtukudzi (Zimbabwe), Touré Kunda (Senegal), Chico César (Brazil), Ricardo Lemvo (Congo), Kotoja (Nigeria), Hisham Abbas and Jayashree (Egypt, India), Habib Koité (Mali) and many more artists. There's also a cute Bollywood clip. My favourite track features Chico César dancing down the street with dozens of children surrounding him. A great celebratory video.

FLOATING WORLD

by Riley Lee & Marshall McGuire

New World Music, Aust, 2004 (65mins)
Distributors: **Australia**—New World Music, tel (02) 9565 4522; **UK**—New World Music, tel (0)1986 781682; **USA**—New World Music, tel (303) 415 1040, <http://www.newworldmusic.com>

The grand master of the *shakuhachi*, Riley Lee, is here again with classical harp player Marshall McGuire and an exquisite collection of pieces for shakuhachi (Japanese flute) and concert harp (see NEXUS 7/05). *Floating World* mixes classical Japanese and European compositions in a beautiful sound performance which touches the soul. There are compositions from Ravel and Erik Satie, plus a stand-out piece, "A Feather on the Breath of God", by Australian composer Anne Boyd. A pure sound album, connecting you with ancient Eastern and Western classical traditions.

MAMA AFRICA

by Suzzana Owiyo

Arc Music Prodns, UK, 2004 (61mins)
Distributor: **UK**—Arc Music, tel +44 (0)1342 328 567, website <http://www.arcmusic.co.uk>

Suzzana Owiyo is from Kenya, where she has been involved with music since high school. Her calling was the *nyatiti* (Kenyan lyre), and later she took up the box guitar. By 1997, she was a vocalist with the Extra Kimwa Band which helped make her a

name. In 2003, she won the Kisima Music Award for the most promising female artist and is today considered Kenya's most popular female singer. *Mama Africa* brings her powerful style to the front, exhibiting her strong voice and socially aware lyrics.

FLOR DE AMOR

by Omara Portuondo

World Circuit Ltd, UK, 2004 (49mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA Entertainment, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—World Circuit Ltd, tel (0)1689 870622, website <http://www.worldcircuit.co.uk>

The men and women from the acclaimed Buena Vista Social Club (NEXUS 5/02) are still releasing new material. Omara Portuondo is one of the originals, and her warm, quietly passionate Cuban vocal style works well combined with laid-back piano, guitar, flute, clarinet, bass and congas. The album also features Cuba's legendary Manuel Galbán on electric guitar. This is calm and affectionate music to relax with on warm, dreamy evenings with your friends.

SPEAKING THE MAMMA TONGUE

by John McDowell

Raven Recordings, USA, 2004 (51mins)
Distributor: **USA**—Raven Recordings, <http://www.ravenrecording.com>; **Eur**—Aquarius!, tel +49 81 4134 8545

Raven Records has a wonderful track record of bringing contemporary quiet trance music to the world with artists such as Robert Ansell and Gabrielle Roth & The Mirrors (NEXUS 2/21, 3/03). Combining soul percussion with rhythmic drums and bass backed vocals, their CDs always manage to get you moving. "Maybe we should stand back and look with something other than our eyes," says McDowell in the opening song. *Speaking the Mamma Tongue* features musicians and singers from Tibetan, Israeli, African and Native American traditions. Global music with a clear message to unite body and soul. Highly recommended.



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About the Author:

Eve Hillary, based in Sydney, Australia, has spent 25 years in health care where she has observed the medical industry at first hand from the inside. She is a medical analyst, writer and speaker on issues pertaining to the health care industry, environmental health, the impacts of globalisation and a range of social justice issues.

Eve is the author of *Children of a Toxic Harvest: An Environmental Autobiography* (1997; reviewed in NEXUS 4/04), *Health Betrayal: Staying Away from the Sickness Industry* (2003; reviewed in 10/04) and numerous articles relating to health issues. Her article, "Common Law versus the Globalist Agenda", was published in NEXUS 11/04.

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Endnotes

1. See http://www.charleston.net/stories/060103/wor_01jailbirds.shtml.
2. "Terror suspects under age 16 are being held at the US detention camp in Guantanamo Bay", AP, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
3. See <http://www.healingwithnutrition.com>.
4. See Dean, Carolyn, MD, ND, Gary Null, PhD, et al., "Death By Medicine", at <http://nutritioninstituteofamerica.org>.
5. See <http://chanco.com/myth.html>.
6. See <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A25983-2004Jul29.html>.
7. See http://www.eriposte.com/health/otherhealthcare_US.htm#IVB.
8. See <http://www.healthpromoting.com/Articles/articles/expect.htm>.
9. See <http://www.holistichealthtopics.com/HMG/trends.html>.
10. Confidential interviews with two parents of children who have suffered permanent damage from psychiatric treatments forced on them by the mental health system.
11. See <http://www.newswithviews.com/NWVexclusive/exclusive32.htm>.
12. "New UK Mental Health Act – direct from hell", <http://www.ctono.freeseerve.co.uk/id28.htm>.
13. See <http://www.cchr.org>.
14. Source wishes not to be identified.
15. Hillary, Eve, "DOCS – Stealing our Children for Medicine", *Living Now* newspaper, December 2003.
16. "The Other Drug War: Big Pharma's 625 Washington Lobbyists", at <http://www.citizen.org/publications/release.cfm?ID=7077&secID=1078&catID=126>.
17. Conclusions from analysis of NSW medico-legal data, court transcripts and record.
18. Source wishes not to be identified.
19. Source wishes not to be identified.
20. See <http://www.bolenreport.com>.
21. Legal documents from medical practitioner who wishes to remain unidentified.
22. See <http://www.saveourcivilliberties.org/en/2004/07/474.shtml>.
23. Information derived from legal documents, medical reports and witnesses. Sources wish to remain unidentified at this time.
24. See <http://www.upmart.org/>.
25. See http://www.upmart.org/pages/UCA_class_actions.html.

Additional Website Resources

- <http://www.upmart.org/>
- http://www.ipetitions.com/campaigns/MoveOn_StrategyChange/
- <http://www.aclu.org/SafeandFree/SafeandFree.cfm?ID=14000&c=206>
- <http://www.wotusa.org>
- <http://www.newswithviews.com>
- <http://www.alternet.org/story/9862/>
- <http://www.mega.nu:8080/ampp/>

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And then three months before the first Gulf War started—my husband, as my witness, will tell you—I sat down watching TV, waiting for the war, with even my husband saying: "Carol, you've flipped out! You've gone over the top. No one is talking about a war in the Gulf."

There was a certain amount of money in the space-based weapons program that I was told would be in it when they were ready to be pulling space-based weapons, to test the next phase of weapons.

By the way, part of the formula that I didn't mention earlier, that is part of creating the scenario of enemies and wars leading to the potential extraterrestrial threat, is that they have to have these wars in order to dump the old weapons, test the new weapons and rationalise the budgets for the next set of weapons. This is what they educate the public and the leaders about in order to get their next enormous budgets.

Notice how in each war, if you track the weapons systems that have been used, they are aiming toward the most advanced weaponry, the most horrific weaponry that the human species has mostly yet to

imagine. But that's what is being tested in each war, aiming at always seizing the high ground and putting these weapons up in space. Because if you put these weapons up in geosynchronous orbit, just 22,300 miles above the Earth in just three spots in geosynchronous orbit, you hit the whole footprint of the entire Earth. You can control the Earth from that location in just three spots. Imagine what they could do with the highest forms of weapons technology.

2012 Endtime?

LMH: Did Dr von Braun ever say anything to you about the year 2012 as being some kind of "end year", that there would be danger if something was not accomplished by that year?

CR: No, he did not ever mention that to me, but what he did say about the timing is that the timing is critical to keep weapons out of space. His timing was with a sense of urgency that "Before the momentum of funding vested interests and technology is put into place that is as dangerous as is the deployment of operational weapons themselves, we must achieve a ban on all space-based weapons on this planet". ∞

About the Interviewee:

Carol Rosin is Founder and President of the Institute for Cooperation in Space (ICIS) and the Space Preservation Trust Foundation.

For more information, visit the ICIS website, <http://www.peaceinspace.com>.

About the Interviewer:

Linda Moulton Howe is a graduate of Stanford University, USA, and has a Masters Degree in Communication. She has worked as a science and environment reporter for radio and television, and edits the Earthfiles.com website.

Her film documentaries, *A Strange Harvest* and *Strange Harvests 1993*, explored the worldwide animal mutilations phenomenon. Her books include *An Alien Harvest*, *Glimpses of Other Realities – Vol. I: Facts & Eyewitnesses*, *Glimpses of Other Realities – Vol. II: High Strangeness* (reviewed in NEXUS 5/05) and *Mysterious Lights and Crop Circles* (Paper Chase Press, USA, 2000–01, reviewed in 8/05).

Over the years, Linda has contributed many articles to NEXUS, most recently in 11/05, 11/01 and 8/05. See Linda's website, <http://www.earthfiles.com>, for more information, interviews and articles.

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However, I have seen the office's letters to Meadow and the information it required.

Hayward-Brown voiced her concerns about the fact that the "diagnosis" of MSBP is not being properly addressed in Australia. "No one wants to change the *status quo* and upset the careers of many doctors and social workers. It should be noted that there is a great deal of status and prestige for doctors and psychologists who specialise in this area. It is a thriving industry, providing work for many individuals who would be better employed in other areas."

Fishman went further by claiming that the concocted "diagnosis" of MSBP has become a vehicle for prestige and recognition.

Hayward-Brown suggested there's been a reluctance by authorities to review cases, as this would provide a pathway for negligence claims.

It is difficult to see how governments worldwide, which have followed the fabricated-illness child protection policies in line with British practice, can fail to conduct an official review such as the UK is undertaking—even in its limited sense.

The evidence is that munchausen syndrome by proxy or fabricated illness "diagnosis" should be abandoned. The label is unhelpful. It is necessary to look at the *facts* of a case, rather than use a prejudicial label that presumes guilt. Governments, child protection doctors, social workers and police seem intent and content to ignore the issue.

Hayward-Brown said that there are major and disturbing problems in the procedures and attitudes of the medical and social service professions in relation to MSBP, and that she wonders how the medical profession can prove that an MSBP diagnosis is indeed positive. "These cases rarely rely on robust evidence and seldom consider alternatives for a child's illness. Additionally, there is a reluctance to accept that we may not know what is wrong with a child. Ambiguity, throughout history and across cultures, has been shown to be poorly tolerated and often regarded as 'polluted'. A child with an ambiguous illness and his/her family are therefore seen as polluted, sinful and morally inadequate. This forms an excellent pathway for the MSBP trajectory."

Politicians, according to Fishman, have

little political will to reform what he calls a "dysfunctional" and "destructive" child protection system. "Politicians and the medical and mental health professions have avoided any change, despite the evidence that the child protection system is unjust, ineffective and incompetent." Fishman agrees there's a legitimate need for child protection programs, but he said the current US system is ineffective and dysfunctional. He believes that unless and until there is a groundswell of public outrage, we'll continue to see that "figures lie and liars figure".

Pragnell holds that child protection systems are deeply flawed, erratic and dysfunctional, and that total reform with safeguards to minimise the incidence of false accusations is required. "There is now a worldwide storm brewing regarding child protection injustices," he said, "and governments across the globe should take notice as the current situation will no longer be tolerated."

There is a punitive approach by authorities in munchausen syndrome by proxy cases towards parents and their children, who need support rather than punishment and suspicion. Compassion is

sadly lacking for some sick children and their mothers.

If governments and society want to encourage women to have children, they will need to change. We are facing many new illnesses in the 21st century, many of which are related to environmental toxins and drugs. These need to be addressed in a humane and just manner. In many respects, it is not happening now.

We need to reverse the "witch-hunt" trend and stop persecuting anxious mothers and children on the "religious heresy" of some authority figures driven by bigotry who are persecuting and punishing women for challenging their professional powers.

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Author's Note:

Quotes and responses from individuals, departments and agencies named in this article are sourced from telephone conversations and email discussions conducted by this author primarily between July and August 2004. Interviews and comments were requested with the following people, but they declined to respond: Australian Federal Families Minister, Senator Kay Patterson; Australian Federal Children's Minister, Larry Anthony; Queensland Acting Commissioner

for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, Barry Salmon; NSW Minister for Community Services (Child Protection), Carmel Tebbutt.

About the Author:

Michael Nott is a former radio and TV journalist and a senior media/communications officer for Australian federal and state (NSW and Queensland) government departments and agencies including NSW Police. He is an advocate for mothers accused of munchausen syndrome by proxy. While actual case studies of mothers and children have not been presented, the issues and circumstances faced by them are drawn from the many conversations he has had with mothers accused of munchausen syndrome by proxy as well as with their families. He can be contacted by email at nott_michael@yahoo.com.au.

Endnotes

1. Meadow, R., "Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy, The Hinterland of Child Abuse", *The Lancet* (1977) 310(8033):343.
2. For more information, visit Dr Helen Hayward-Brown's website at <http://www.pnc.com.au/~heleneli/>.
3. Dr Terry Donald's presentation, "Fabricated and induced illness by carers", is at http://www.racp.edu.au/asm/asm2004/program_paed.htm.

4. See <http://www.aao.org/aao/news/release/20030807.cfm>.

5. For more on the British GMC Meadow hearing of 18 December 2003, see <http://www.gmc-uk.org/news/current/Meadows%20Statement.htm>. In a telephone conversation, the BGMC confirmed that the hearing will now be in 2005.

6. Royal Statistical Society (RSS), 23 October 2001, at <http://www.rss.org.uk/archive/evidence/index.html>; also see Letter from the President of the RSS to the Lord Chancellor regarding the use of statistical evidence in court cases, 23 January 2002, at http://www.rss.org.uk/archive/evidence/sc_letter.html.

7. *British Medical Journal* 327:305, 9 August 2003.

8. *The Times*, London, 9 August 2004.

9. *The Guardian*, 14 July 2004, at http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,1260765,00.html.

10. BBC News, 17 June 2004, at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/3814813.stm>.

11. The British GMC's Southall determination of 6 August 2004 is at http://www.gmc-uk.org/probdocs/decisions/pcc/2004/SOUTHALL_20040806.htm.

12. RACP website, <http://www.racp.edu.au>.

13. International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) website, <http://www.ispcan.org>.

14. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) website, <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/cws/cpa02-03/index.html>.