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NEXUS

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OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2007

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**Wikipedia: creating
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**Junk pet food: recipe
for cruelty and disease**

The "Wow!" signal mystery

Crop circles of 2007

Hitler's death debunked

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NEXUS

NEW TIMES MAGAZINE

Volume 14, Number 6

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2007

UK/Europe edition

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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Editorial

It hardly seems like I have just finished writing one editorial before it is time to start the next. I think my body has developed its own circadian rhythm based on a two-monthly cycle. I calculated the other day that I have been working to bimonthly magazine deadlines since 1980—that's 27 years of selecting articles, chasing advertisers and massaging the final production to the printer after all-night work binges. Of course, it is much easier these days: the sheer absence of the smell of solvents from white-out fluid, glues and marker pens from hell reduces hallucinations and voices in the head somewhat. Long live computerisation, I say! Gone are the days when three typewriter "golfballs" determined the range of fonts I could use; and as for right-hand justification of paragraphs—hah!

My two-month bio-cycle that has evolved from years of deadline stress brings with it the predictable PMT or PMS (Pre Magazine Tension, or Pre Magazine Stress). On the few days leading up to the actual deadline, I find myself getting irritable and cranky and I am usually made to take vitamin B complex tablets. B vitamins reduce irritability. Read more on this, including on vitamin B12, which is being used in treating mental diseases including Alzheimer's, in Joseph Hattersley's article in this edition.

More and more writers these days are helping themselves to the cyber font of all knowledge: Wikipedia. Almost anyone can insert or edit the information in this super "encyberpedia"—rendering it vulnerable to manipulation for propaganda and misinformation. Recently, a breakthrough piece of software, WikiScanner, has allowed us to identify who is changing what. Philip Coppens's article reveals the usual suspects, i.e., government departments, big business and organised religion.

In the course of publishing NEXUS, and other magazines prior to this, I have read more than my fair share of article submissions. Many of these articles are often based on the life story of someone or another, and are usually fascinating. Not a lot get published in NEXUS, though, unless they offer something that can benefit our readers. Such is the case with Alfons Ven's story—which various authorities are trying to make sure you don't read.

If you have a pet, and if you are feeding your pet with processed tinned or dried food, then you need to be told that you are being cruel to your animal. That is one of the messages in the article by vet Tom Lonsdale in this edition. Junk food is causing your loved animal much pain and suffering, and is reducing its lifespan and will cost you lots of extra money in health management fees. So how much do you love your pet?

This issue sees the start of a multi-part series of articles examining whether or not Hitler died as the history books describe. New information and new forensic techniques are yielding more questions than answers.

NEXUS has recently published several articles showing that religion is nothing more than a corrupt manipulation of history and beliefs designed by the elite to rule the masses. But we have often turned our attention to "modern science" which, at its worst, is nothing more than a corrupt manipulation of history and beliefs designed by the elite to rule the masses. This issue completes the two-part series questioning the validity of Einstein's theories and the motives of those who supported them and put the scientist on a pedestal.

In July this year, I had the good fortune to visit England with my family. While visiting my uncle in Cambridgeshire, I found his collection of the *Illustrated London News* dating to around the mid-19th century. They make for compelling reading, and contrast enormously in terms of grammar, coverage and information with what we call modern newspapers. It becomes apparent just how "dumbed down" our current newspapers can be compared with those of 150 years ago.

Buried inside one newspaper I found a curious item about the Jugglers of Bengal. I decided to revive this long-lost piece of information and have put it into the Twilight Zone section of this issue. Read it, and I'm sure you'll be as amazed as I was.

Also while in the UK, we visited Avebury and, of course, any crop circles that could be found in that area. While viewing the controversial crop circle at East Fields, near Alton Barnes, we noticed two military helicopters hovering over the formation and nearby car parks. This edition sees our annual round-up photos as well as news and views compiled by Andy Thomas on this still unexplained phenomenon.

And finally, a reminder to those reading this editorial in early October that we still have tickets left for the NEXUS Conference on 20–21–22 October. Hope to see you there!

Duncan

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Letters to the Editor ...

The Trouble with Vaccinations

Dear Duncan: I know you've run many articles on the dangers of vaccinations, but I thought this might interest you (<http://rense.com/general77/vaccs.htm>). It doesn't touch on one aspect that has me wondering still: the possible links between vaccinations and increased allergic reactions such as asthma and peanut allergy—almost unheard of when I was a child 60 years ago, but now there's barely a family that doesn't have someone affected.

Keep up your good work—it becomes increasingly harder in this brainwashed world to maintain the facility of thinking independently.

Phil C., Australia

Risks of EFTPOS Machines

Dear Editor: Are you aware, ladies and gents, that if you use a debit or credit card to purchase petrol at a service station with an EFTPOS facility, you run a very real risk of being charged by the police for theft?

If you ask at most petrol stations, you will be told that if you pay for your fuel with a plastic card and your transaction is declined, then you may not leave unless you call someone to come there and settle the bill for you or the police will be called. Often you will be given no other option to pay if you have no cash on you. Also, the display of warning signs of this fact is rare or non-existent in a lot of petrol stations, and there are usually no warnings at the bowser before you fill your car.

This means that if you have a fault with your card's magnetic strip, if your card won't read in their machine, if your bank suffers a computer fault or if you have insufficient funds, then you will be liable for a *criminal* charge. If the servo won't accept cheques, then you are up the proverbial creek without a paddle.

I recently found this out through no fault of my own, and only good fortune got the situation settled without the police. I was

also a longstanding regular customer, and the people who run the servo know my partner socially by first name. I was offered no alternative to arrange payment. This is *standard* procedure in a lot of servos.

I know that most people would not have the time or money for legal fees to fight the charges in court. This turns law-abiding citizens into criminals in one swipe of plastic.

I will be using *only* cash from now on in servos. I am appalled at the number of people who not only use EFTPOS to pay, but are unaware of this issue. This is Big Brother gone psycho, in my humble opinion. So much for the so-called "cashless society"!

Elizabeth S., Australia

Aether, Consciousness and Spin

Dear Duncan: I was very pleased and inspired by the article written by David Wilcock ("The Aether Science of Dr N. A. Kozyrev", 14/03), whose work I have studied to some extent.

Since I read this article, I can understand Einstein's "fabric" of space and time as being a "flowing", rather than a static, material. The aetheric substrate that general systems theorist Paul A. LaViolette models in *Genesis of the Cosmos* fits very well with Wilcock's model, and gives an in-depth picture from a physicist who studies creation myths as inspiration for new scientific models of consciousness and the cosmos. I'm especially interested in the consciousness components of the aether. I really enjoy the sponge analogy to help visualise the relationship physical objects have with the aether; having read many of David's website writings, that image made everything much clearer.

To elucidate Wilcock's sponge analogy as I imagined it relating to consciousness, I'll give the following (directly correlated to his description of increasing the volume of water that the sponge contains). If more of an aetheric substance, e.g., information carried as electromagnetic light energy (the water), is pumped

(heated or vibrated) into the "resting state" of my consciousness (for the moment taking the role of a physical object), parts of my consciousness will expand with more information (water) than it can comfortably hold.

If there is then a sudden change in my consciousness, say to relieve the pressure or stress (either intentionally or not), a "time flow" of torsion waves will result which could then affect other forms of consciousness outside of mine. This sudden change in consciousness (especially if infused with strong emotion, as he says in his book *The Reincarnation of Edgar Cayce*?) could thus cause a cooling effect, and some of the aetheric information (water) in my consciousness (sponge) will be released into its surroundings, and my consciousness can once again return to its resting state.

The idea of right- or left-handed torsion spin left me wondering: where does spin originate? Since the energy river of aether "exists at an extremely high pressure, much more than that of the surface air pressure on Earth" (from *Shift of the Ages*, found on David Wilcock's Divine Cosmos website), I propose that spin is caused by the flow of aether around an object, either matter or an energy field. The movement of the aether is deflected by the denser, resting particle or energy field. That deflection causes a corresponding movement which would result in spin, given the great pressure of aetheric flow.

I believe that the focus of consciousness can create an energy field; since consciousness is everywhere, then spin can manifest anywhere that consciousness (or any other fundamental energy) can focus. I wonder what David would say about this speculation.

Another book that both scientifically and metaphysically elucidates the connections between torsion waves (or scalar waves) and consciousness is *Elegant Empowerment*, by Peggy Phoenix Dubro and David P.

Lapierre. Thanks go to David Wilcock for the magnificent work he's done to advance the common person's understanding of the universe. Let's hear more from him in NEXUS!

David P., Hawaii, USA

Empowered by Anastasia Books

Hi Duncan: Just wanted to thank you for recommending the book *Anastasia* in the advert in NEXUS. It was what persuaded me to stop "umming and aahing" and buy the set of six books [The Ringing Cedars series].

I can't put them down. The info is just what I needed to hear. So many questions I couldn't find answers to, or couldn't trust my intuition/known about, are being resolved in a beautiful and empowering way.

Having read NEXUS for many years, I trusted your feedback. There is so much out there; I can't afford it all, so I have to be selective. This is the best money I've spent, so I just wanted to acknowledge and thank you for that.

Regards,

Jude E., NSW, Australia

TV Black Box Signal Concerns

I have just found out that by 2009 all TVs in the USA will be required to have additional black boxes in their homes to receive *any* signal, even if you choose not to have HDTV capability on your set. I know that you have writers who have studied the use of the HAARP antenna, and I was wondering if any one of them has thought about an added signal in the subliminal range with the addition of this new high-definition (HD) technology. It just seems so un-American (a quaint thought to those from other countries, I realise) to require all TVs to conform to this type of technology with no alternative.

I know from watching current events that we are becoming more and more restricted, but the thought of brainwashing as in the sci-fi book *1984* is always pervading my thoughts with this current regime. Could you pass

... more Letters to the Editor

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

this onto one of your experts on HAARP? I would like to hear what others *outside* of the US think about this HD business.

Thanks,

Sue V., New Mexico, USA

PS: I love your magazine. I have learned so much that is just not available in our media.

Low-Carb Diet Treats Diabetes

Hello NEXUS: I'm an Italian reader living in Ireland... I must be just another one of the many people who have written to you about this matter. My story is very similar to the one you recently published (Letters, NEXUS 14/05) by Beth B. from Scotland, yet I think this information is of such vital importance that it is great that you keep publishing this kind of letter. Your magazine saves lives.

A while ago, about November or December 2006, I purchased your magazine, only to find a letter by Tony Hall from Australia, explaining in a few words what kind of diet/exercise plan he followed in order to recover from diabetes type 2 and why it worked (NEXUS 14/01). He inspired me to go on the same low-carb diet, and of course I was successful, too. The diet we are talking about requires little effort, and just thinking about what awful consequences diabetes can have should motivate us enough.

So with this letter, I just want to encourage you to keep on publishing our letters every now and then, or even every edition. Everyone must know!

People who want to get in touch with me can do so (email cupevampe@gmail.com; blogsite, <http://reversingdiabetes.wordpress.com/>). A good website about the diabetes deception: <http://www.healingmatters.com>

Love,

Alex, Ireland

PS: Again, thank you, NEXUS people. Why don't you translate these letters for the other international editions?

[Dear Alex: Many of these letters are being translated for our overseas editions. Ed.]

Suppressed Diabetes Diet Cure

Dear Duncan: With great interest I have read the two letters to you in NEXUS (vol. 14, nos 4 and 5) on "curing" diabetes. I do not agree with Beth B. that the medication should be thrown down the loo—bad for the environment! Anyhow, I agree with both writers and author Thomas Smith that there are better ways to deal with diabetes.

In 2005 I studied for my graduate certificate as a diabetes educator, because as a nurse I felt compelled to learn more about the growing "epidemic". I was not happy with the results modern medicine was achieving, and I knew that Max Gerson had "cured" his friend Albert Schweitzer from diabetes, as described on the Gerson Institute website (<http://www.gerson.org>).

So I searched the Internet for other success stories in treating diabetes by alternative means, and I found out about the great work of Dr Robert O. Young, a microbiologist in the US, who has helped hundreds of diabetic clients of types 1 and 2 to reduce or eliminate their medication and thus "cure" their diabetes. Full of enthusiasm, I wrote a review of Young's book *The pH Miracle for Diabetes: The Revolutionary Diet Plan for Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetics* (Warner Books, 2004; co-author, Shelley R. Young) as my final assignment, and I also forwarded it to the Australian Diabetes Educators Association for it to be published in their magazine. Guess what? The editor wouldn't publish it, as it wasn't "professional enough"—just like Thomas Smith stated in his article (NEXUS 11/04): "...no diabetes editor is going to allow the truth to be printed in his magazine".

Thank you for your great publication.

Vibka W., Myrtleford, Victoria, Australia

Challenge to Bushby's Claims

Dear Editors: I'm guessing you've received a fair amount of rebuttal to Tony Bushby's piece on the New Testament [14/04].

I've read the article myself, and would be concerned should you allow such broad and unqualified statements to go without a response and without a lengthy treatment to address several of Mr Bushby's claims.

It isn't possible to absolutely know whether or not orthodox Christianity's claims are true, at least through rhetorical means or even measured and honest scholarly analysis. Most good Bible scholars, while having their own personal beliefs, as we all do, will allow for a great deal of uncertainty. But Mr Bushby makes statements that simply are factually in error.

I would be willing to address these matters and refer to sources that highlight those errors. I'm no Bible scholar, but Mr Bushby's writing is full of such factual misconstructions that a deeply analytic response isn't needed. It seems to me that if your magazine has a concern for fair treatment of issues, such a dialogue would be desired.

Nick M., USA

[Dear Nick: Thanks for your letter; it echoes the sentiments of several other readers. Tony Bushby has spent two decades going and actually looking at old records and documents, all over the world. He is not an armchair researcher. We pass on correspondence to Tony via his publisher, and leave it for him to handle. I imagine he is getting a lot of mail at the moment. Ed.]

Benefits of Chelation Therapy

Dear Editor: I note the advertisement retractions in the current issue (vol. 14, no. 5) and, more specifically, the retraction on the therapy of EDTA chelation, which I take on a daily maintenance basis. I also note that that same therapy is often promoted on the US-based Drudge Report website, which to my knowledge has not been restricted from doing so by the US regulator.

As one who had accepted the therapies of the medical profession for 25 years for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis

(which I still have but is now subdued) and nearly died as a consequence of the treatment (a near-fatal haemorrhage) despite absolute observance of the treatment protocols, I am just a little suspicious of the purpose of the intervention by the TGA.

In 2002, after my near-fatal incident, I was prescribed Vioxx®, which is now subject to litigation for very adverse health outcomes, some of which were fatal. Fortunately, serendipity intervened and I never utilised that prescription. Then I was informed that I would also require a cardiac bypass as I had had two angina episodes.

This near-fatal wake-up call provoked me into seeking alternative remedies which I had read about in NEXUS over many years. Starting with Dr Joel Wallach's information, and coupled with the knowledge gained from Ed McCabe's *Flood Your Body with Oxygen* et al., my life has been transformed.

I have been totally drug free now for four years, including from the cardiac drugs, i.e., Lipitor®, Tritace®, Losec®, etc., never mind all the anti-inflammatory drugs that I had had for 25 years. My drug expenditure in 2002 was approximately \$150 per month and, more concerning, my health was still deteriorating.

I am now 61 years of age and regularly power walk 10–20-km distances without effort, whereas previously I could manage 500 metres maximum due to arthritic pain in my legs and no stamina.

Recent blood tests and cardiovascular assessments confirm a very healthy cardiovascular system. I have informed others of my recovery and some have been smart enough to do the same research with similar outcomes. Am I (and others like me) bad news for the "Big Pharma"? You bet I am, but at least I can now enjoy my family as I am alive, healthy, richer and not a statistic.

Keep up the good work, if you can.

Kind regards,

Michael C., Merrimac, Queensland, Australia

NO REINCARNATION WITHOUT PERMISSION

In a move that would be comical if it were not so serious, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is bringing in new rules from 1 September, apparently to "completely control" Buddhism in Tibet. The new rules state that "Lamas are no longer allowed to reincarnate without first obtaining permission from the communist authorities".

Such permission might be hard to obtain from an official in advance, and no doubt what the rules really mean is that all state recognition of a particular incarnation can only be obtained from the Communist Party.

Obviously the CCP wishes to appoint its own to every position of authority within Tibetan Buddhism, as it has tried to do in the case of the current Panchen Lama, who was abducted 12 years ago at the age of six and has not been heard from since.

The Communist Party has already announced that it will select the new Dalai Lama from inside Tibet. However, His Holiness has stated on many occasions that in his next incarnation he will be born outside Tibet, in a free country—unless an acceptable resolution to the Tibet issue has been agreed.

(Source: *Tibet Custom*, 3 August 2007, <http://www.tibetcustom.com/article.php/20070803133532961>)



KEY LOCKERBIE EVIDENCE WAS "TAMPERED WITH"

The key piece of material evidence used by prosecutors to implicate Libya in the Lockerbie bombing has emerged as a probable fake.

Nearly two decades after Pan Am flight 103 exploded over Scotland on 21 December 1988, allegations of international political intrigue and shoddy investigative work are being levelled at the British government, the American FBI and the Scottish police as one of the crucial witnesses, Swiss engineer Ulrich Lumpert, apparently confessed at the end of August that he had lied about the origins of a

crucial "timer"—evidence that helped tie the man convicted of the bombing to the crime.

Former Libyan agent Abdulbaset al-Megrahi is currently serving his sentence in Greenock prison, but later this month [September] the Scottish Court of Appeal is expected to hear Megrahi's case, after the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission ruled in June that there was enough evidence to suggest a miscarriage of justice.

The Zurich-based Swiss businessman Edwin Bollier, who has spent nearly two decades trying to clear his company's name, is as eager for the appeal as is Megrahi. Bollier's now bankrupt company, Mebo, manufactured the timer switch

that prosecutors used to implicate Libya after they said that fragments of it had been found on a Scottish hillside.

Bollier, now 70, admits having done business with Libya. "Two years before Lockerbie, we sold 20 MST-13 timers to the Libyan military. FBI agents and the Scottish investigators said one of those timers had been used to detonate the bomb. We were shown a fuzzy photograph and I confirmed the fragments looked as though they came from one of our timers."

However, Bollier was uneasy with the photograph he had been shown and asked to see the fragments. He was finally given permission in 1998 and travelled to Dumfries to see the evidence.

"I was shown fragments of a brown circuit board which matched our prototype. But when the MST-13 went into production, the timers contained green boards. I knew that the timers sold to Libya had green boards. I told the investigators this."

In 2001, Bollier spent five days in the witness box at the Lockerbie trial at Camp Zeist in the Netherlands. "I was a defence witness, but the trial was so skewed to prove Libyan involvement that the details of what I had to say [were] ignored. A photograph of the fragments was produced in court and I asked to see the pieces again. When they were brought to me, they were practically carbonised. They had been tampered with since I had seen them in Dumfries."

(Source: *The Observer*, UK, 2 September 2007, <http://tinyurl.com/3ds38n>)



MICROCHIP IMPLANTS CAUSE CANCER IN LAB ANIMALS

Associated Press will issue a story this weekend [8–9 September] revealing that microchip implants have induced cancer in laboratory animals and dogs, says privacy expert and long-time VeriChip opponent Dr Katherine Albrecht.

According to findings from a series of research articles spanning more than a decade, mice and rats injected with glass-encapsulated RFID transponders developed malignant, fast-growing, lethal cancers in up to 10 per cent of cases. The tumours originated in the tissue surrounding the microchips and often grew to surround the devices completely, the researchers said.

Albrecht first became aware of the microchip–cancer link when she and her *SpyChips* co-author, Liz McIntyre, were contacted by a pet owner whose dog had died from a chip-induced tumour. Albrecht then found medical studies showing a causal link between microchip implants and cancer in other animals. Before she brought the research to the AP's attention, the studies had somehow escaped public notice.

A four-month AP investigation turned up additional documents, several of which had been published before VeriChip's parent company, Applied Digital Solutions, sought FDA approval to market the implant for humans. The VeriChip received FDA approval in 2004 under the watch of then Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, who later joined the company's board.

Under FDA policy, it would have been VeriChip's responsibility to bring the adverse studies to the FDA's attention, but VeriChip CEO Scott Silverman claims the company was unaware of the research.

Albrecht expressed scepticism that a company like VeriChip, whose primary business is microchip implants, would be unaware of relevant studies in the published literature.

"For Mr Silverman not to know about this research would be negligent. If he did know about these studies, he certainly had an incentive to keep them quiet," said Albrecht. "Had the FDA known about the cancer link, they might never have approved his company's product."

Since gaining FDA approval, VeriChip has aggressively targeted diabetes and dementia patients, and recently announced that it had chipped 90 Alzheimer's patients

and their caregivers in Florida. Employees in the Mexican Attorney General's Office, workers in a US security firm and club-goers in Europe have also been implanted.

Albrecht expressed concern for those who have received a chip implant, urging them to get the devices removed as soon as possible. "These new revelations change everything," she said. "Why would anyone take the risk of having a cancer chip in their arm?"

(Source: Katherine Albrecht, *SpyChips.com*, 7 September 2007; see also Miami Herald, 8 Sept 2007, <http://www.miamiherald.com/775/story/230244.html>)

DOCTORS DISMISS PATIENTS' DRUG SIDE EFFECTS

A new study has revealed that when patients feel they might be having an adverse effect from a prescribed drug, doctors will very often dismiss their concerns. Dr Beatrice A. Golomb of the University of California at San Diego and her colleagues found in their survey of 650 patients taking cholesterol-lowering statin drugs, who reported having adverse drug reactions, that many said their physicians denied that the drugs could be connected to their symptoms.

"Physicians seem to commonly dismiss the possibility of a connection," Golomb told Reuters Health. "This seems to occur even for the best-supported adverse effects of the most widely prescribed class of drugs... Clearly there is a need for better physician education about adverse effects, and there is a strong need for patient involvement in adverse event reporting."

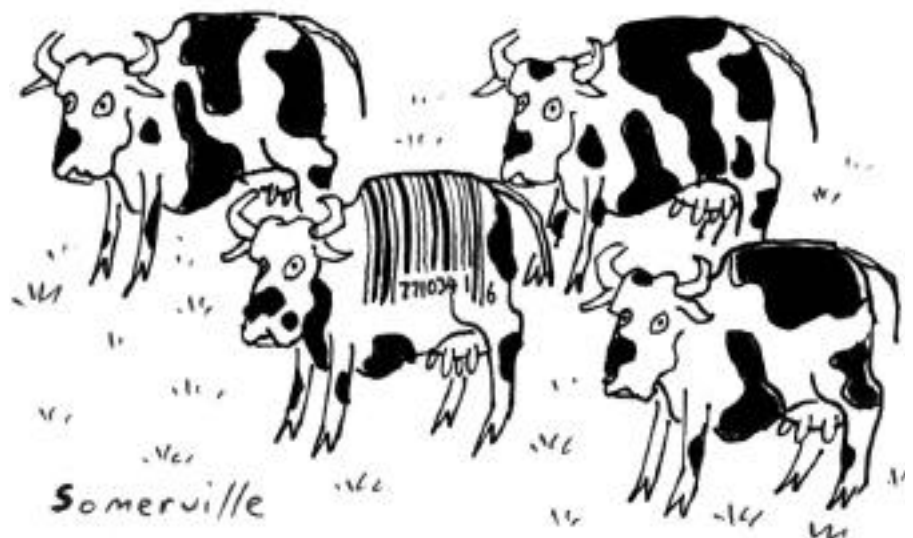
The best-known side effects of statins, which include widely prescribed drugs such as Lipitor® and Zocor®, are liver damage and muscle problems, although statins have also been tied to changes in memory, concentration and mood, among other problems. Physician reaction to a potential side effect is crucial because the muscle problems can progress to a rare but potentially fatal condition called rhabdomyolysis if the drug isn't discontinued.

The researchers investigated the responses of doctors to statin-prescribed patients who believed they were having adverse drug reactions. In the great majority of cases, the patient, not the doctor, initiated the discussion.

The investigators were "surprised" at how frequently patients reported that their doctors dismissed their concerns, Golomb said. While her study wasn't designed to find out why, the researcher notes that while the pharmaceutical industry is sure to get the word out about a drug's benefits there is "really no corresponding interest group to make sure that physicians learn about adverse effects".

Patients should be aware of the potential adverse effects of any medication they're taking, she said. And those who find their doctors dismiss their concerns should probably look elsewhere for medical care, she added. "In general, patients should always have physicians that they feel are hearing them."

(Source: Reuters, 28 August 2007, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20479490/>)



... GLOBAL NEWS ...

THE RHYTHM OF THE SUN

Scientists from the *Ulysses* mission have proven that sounds generated deep inside the Sun cause the Earth to shake and vibrate in sympathy. They have found that Earth's magnetic field, atmosphere and terrestrial systems all take part in this cosmic sing-along.

David Thomson and Louis Lanzerotti, team members of the HISCALE experiment on board *Ulysses*, together with colleagues Frank Vernon, Marc Lessard and Lindsay Smith, present evidence that proves that the Earth moves to the rhythm of the Sun. They show that distinct, isolated tones, predicted to be generated by pressure and gravity waves in the Sun, are present in a wide variety of terrestrial systems.

Using highly sophisticated statistical techniques, Thomson and colleagues have discovered these same distinct tones emitted by the Sun in seismic data here on Earth. They have also found that Earth's magnetic field and atmosphere, and even voltages induced on ocean cables, are all participating in this cosmic sing-song.

Although these tones are all around us, it would not be possible for us to hear them, even if we listened very closely. Their pitch is too low for the human ear, typically 100–5,000 microhertz (one microhertz corresponds to one vibration every 278 hours). This is more than 12 octaves below the lowest note audible to humans. For comparison, the note to which orchestras tune their instruments (A above middle C on a piano) corresponds to 440 hertz.

(Source: European Space Agency, 17 August 2007, <http://tinyurl.com/2cyu8y>)

PLANT GENES SWITCHED ON BY SOUND WAVES

Mi-Jeong Jeong of the National Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology in Suwon, South Korea, and colleagues claim to have identified two genes in rice that respond to sound waves. They also say that the promoter of one of the sound-sensitive genes could be attached to other genes to make them respond to sound, too.

The findings follow a host of similar, but unsubstantiated, claims that plants respond to sound. If the researchers are correct, they say their discovery could enable farmers to switch specific crop genes on and off, such as ones for flowering, by blasting sound into the fields. That might be cheaper and more environmentally friendly than proposed techniques such as activating genes with chemicals.

The researchers discovered the sound-responsive genes by exposing rice plants to noise while monitoring levels of gene activity. They only found differences, however, when they played the plants sounds at specific frequencies.

The genes *rbcs* and *ALD* became more active at 125 and 250 hertz and less active at 50 hertz. As both genes are known to respond to light, the researchers repeated the tests in the dark and found that the two genes still responded to sound.

"These results suggest that sound could be an alternative to light as a gene regulator," the researchers report in the journal *Molecular Breeding* (DOI: 10.1007/s11032-007-9122-x).

(Source: New Scientist, 30 August 2007, <http://www.newscientist.com>)

\$30 BILLION SPENT ON DRUG ADS IN USA

Drug ads are increasingly taking up a bigger portion of drug companies' advertising budgets, according to a study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The researchers compared US drug companies' 1996 and 2005 spending for direct-to-consumer drug ads shown on TV and websites, played on radio stations and placed in magazines and newspapers.

The study shows that in 2005, drug companies spent 330 per cent more on direct-to-consumer drug ads than in 1996. Even so, they still spend more promoting drugs directly to health care professionals, according to the study. Overall, drug companies spent US\$29.9 billion in 2005 to promote their drug products, compared to \$11.4 billion in 1996.

"Although during that time spending on direct-to-consumer advertising increased by 330%, it made up only 14% of total promotional expenditures in 2005," writes Dr Julie Donohue, from the University of Pittsburgh, and her team.

(Source: New England Journal of Medicine, vol. 357, pp. 673-681, 16 August 2007; via WebMD Medical News, 23 August 2007)

VAST ANCIENT SETTLEMENT UNEARTHED IN CAMBODIA

It is the sort of archaeological bonanza that comes along once in a lifetime. A new map, based on aerial photographs and radar data of some 3,000 square kilometres around the Angkor Wat temple complex in Cambodia, has revealed 168 newly identified temple sites, 94 of which have now been confirmed in the field. Ponds, roads and canals also show up in unprecedented detail.

Damian Evans of the Greater Angkor Project at the University of Sydney, Australia, and colleagues in Australia, Cambodia and France, mapped the entire catchment area of the Angkor region's rivers. They found that about two-thirds of this now densely vegetated region was once occupied, making it by far the biggest pre-industrial settlement ever documented.

Angkor's main period of occupation was from the ninth to the 16th century, when the settlement collapsed and the jungle took over. The main theory for the collapse is the failure of an extensive water management system. Environmental damage caused by the system may have made it unsustainable, leading to food shortages. The map includes detail of



apparent failures of the canal system, with multiple barrages and dykes at some sites.

"There is massive redundancy in the canal network," says Evans.

(Source: New Scientist, 18 August 2007)

CYBERWARFARE HITS UK, USA

Chinese hackers, some believed to be from the People's Liberation Army, have been attacking the computer networks of UK government departments.

The attackers have hit the network at the Foreign Office as well as those in other key departments, according to Whitehall officials. An incident last year that shut down part of the House of Commons computer system, initially believed to be caused by an individual, was discovered to be the work of an organised Chinese hacking group, officials said.

Security and defence officials are coy about what they know of specific attacks. However, they say several Whitehall departments have fallen victim to China's cyberwarriors. One expert described it as a "constant ongoing problem".

The disclosures came after reports that the Chinese military had hacked into a Pentagon military computer network in June. The *Financial Times* said American officials called it the most successful cyberattack on the US defence department.

Defence department officials confirmed that there had been a "detected penetration" of elements of the email system used by the network serving the office of Robert Gates, the US defence secretary. US officials were reported to have said that an investigation had discovered that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) was responsible.

The US gave the codename *Titan Rain* to the growing number of Chinese attacks, notably directed at the Pentagon but also hitting other US government departments, over the past few years.

Angela Merkel, Germany's chancellor, is reported to have raised the issue of Chinese attacks on her government's computers during a visit to Beijing. Officials here declined to say whether the British government had raised the issue with the Chinese authorities.

Alex Neill, China expert and head of the Asia Security Programme at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), said cyberattacks by the Chinese had been going on for at least four years. He described the reported attack on the Pentagon as the "most flagrant and brazen to date".

(Source: The Guardian, 5 September 2007)

MILITARISATION OF MEDICINE: DANGEROUS PRESCRIPTIONS

The British Medical Association (BMA) recently issued a new report on tactical pharmacology, "The Use of Drugs as Weapons", the third of its publications warning about the militarisation of medicine and its potential for new forms of warfare.

This has been an issue for at least 40 years, but the research has accelerated since 9/11, which increased the resources available to study technologies needed to fight "asymmetrical" conflicts in which friend and foe might be intermingled or indistinguishable.

At the same time, the continuing revolution in neuroscience is opening new perspectives. Molecules can now be re-engineered to target bioregulation processes, including neurological functions and cardiovascular processes. In the past, this was a laborious experimental process; now it can be computerised so that the most promising bioactive agents and their properties can be identified quickly.

No one would deny these facilities to the pharmaceutical and medical industries, but this raises the threat of biomechanisms that can be used for repression, torture and terror.

We could also see troops going into action with chemically heightened aggression as well as resistance to fear, pain and fatigue. It is not science fiction to suggest that we might see military pharmacology that can remove feelings of guilt or post-traumatic stress. The economic temptation is strong: five times more soldiers suffer mental than physical wounds in war.

The British Medical Association's report notes these prospects and warns that despite the prohibitions on biological and chemical weapons, governments are "demonstrating considerable interest in the possibility of using drugs as weapons". Part of the push has come from the desire for non-lethal weapons.

In 1999, a European Parliament committee called for a global ban on all research and development "which seeks to apply knowledge of the chemical, electrical, sound vibration or other functioning of the human brain to the development of weapons which might enable any form of manipulation of human beings". But since 9/11, there has been less political pressure for accountability from the state security agencies.

For the medical association, the military use of drugs raises major ethical issues because "the agent whereby people could be incapacitated without risk of death in a tactical situation does not exist and is unlikely to in the foreseeable future".

The association's report also warns that military research could lower medical standards for testing drugs on humans.

What would happen if some country decided that pharmaceutical weapons do not require clinical trials? Or could a medical ethics committee agree to tests on the old, sick or young? Or could this kind of research be outsourced to a country where money and political capital are more important than ethics?

If hazardous biochemical weapons for counterterrorist or counterinsurgency operations came to be routinely used, we could anticipate a rapid evolution of variants with immobilising and pain-inducing effects.

Weapons are also being designed to carry drugs to targets: flight-stabilised syringes, mortar bombs for dispersing chemical agents, modified paint-ball guns, micro-encapsulated pellets which release an agent when stepped on, and unmanned vehicles.

The BMA rightly emphasises legal concerns because they undermine the international legal norms that protect humanity from poison and the deliberate spread of disease—norms which have been put in place by decades of negotiation.

Using existing drugs as weapons means moving towards a slippery slope, at the bottom of which is militarised biology. This could include intentional manipulation of emotions, memories, immune response or even fertility.

The common view is that all chemical and biological weapons are banned by international conventions. Unfortunately the Chemical Weapons Convention allows an exemption for domestic law enforcement, including riot control. The convention does not permit the use of riot agents for waging war. However, law enforcement has not been defined, and the role of incapacitating agents as anti-terror weapons has opened a significant loophole. Arms controllers meeting in the Hague next year to review the convention would do well to heed the BMA's warnings.

(Source: by Steve Wright, International Herald Tribune, 29 August 2007, <http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/08/29/opinion/edwright.php>. Steve Wright is professor at the School of Applied Global Ethics, Leeds Metropolitan University, UK.)

THE TRUTHS AND LIES OF WIKIWORLD

***The free online
encyclopaedia
Wikipedia is a
democratically
decided database
that has been open
to abuse, but the
advent of
WikiScanner has
uncovered a web of
deceit and
disinformation.***

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Since its creation in 2001, Wikipedia has grown as the online phenomenon that apparently allows the truth to be managed democratically; but over the past year it has also been exposed as a real-life "Ministry of Truth". Worse: people have been arrested and terrorised due to incorrect information being posted on this free Internet encyclopaedia.

Wikipedia watching

On 15 December 2005, various media sources reported that the open-access encyclopaedia Wikipedia was about as accurate as the online *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, at least for science-based articles. This was the result of a study by the journal *Nature*, which chose scientific articles from both encyclopaedias across a wide range of topics and sent them for peer review. The reviewers found just eight serious errors. Of those, four came from each site. They also found a series of factual errors, omissions or misleading statements. All told, there were 123 such problems with *Britannica* and 162 with Wikipedia. That in itself is a staggering conclusion, which translates as averaging out to 2.92 mistakes per article for *Britannica* and 3.86 for Wikipedia, or three versus four mistakes. That, of course, is not "as accurate" as the newspapers reported—thus showing misleading statements in the newspapers' headlines.

Still, is Wikipedia's score proof positive that the Internet is indeed more than just a bundle of conspiracy theory and pornography sites, and that the combined efforts of Internet users actually work to create a knowledge base? Perhaps. Wikipedia allows anyone—*anyone*—to go in and add, change or delete anything in the encyclopaedia. Wikipedia is therefore an exercise in trust: it hopes that its users come there with the best of intentions.

The site is funded through the non-profit Wikimedia Foundation and in 2006 had an estimated budget of "about a million dollars". It was founded by Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger, the latter who left his co-creation behind in 2002 and stated in October 2006 that he was going to start a competitor that would allow for more peer-reviewed entries.

Trust cannot be guaranteed and hence, at best, Wikipedia comes with a few blemishes. George W. Bush's biography was so frequently changed—often to include name calling and "personalised opinions" on his policies—that his and a small number of other entries had to be locked and thus only authorised users were allowed to edit them. Innocent enough; perhaps even funny.

But a more suspicious case occurred in late 2005 when, for four months, Wikipedia included an anonymously written article linking former journalist John Seigenthaler to the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy. His Wikipedia entry stated: "For a brief time, he was thought to have been directly involved in the Kennedy assassinations of both John and his brother Bobby. Nothing was ever proven." And: "John Seigenthaler moved to the Soviet Union in 1971, and returned to the United States in 1984. He started one of the country's largest public relations firms shortly thereafter." None of this was true, or even alleged, outside of WikiWorld. Seigenthaler thought that at the age of 78 he was beyond surprise or hurt, but he had obviously not counted on Wikipedia.

Worse, his case exposed a further flaw, as Wikipedia's information feeds automatically into Reference.com and Answers.com, whose computers are programmed to copy data verbatim from Wikipedia without any checks, thus spreading the lies further onto other sites. In this instance, "trust" failed and perhaps we should not blame Wikipedia directly.

But the ominous sign here was that Wikipedia was slow to react. Seigenthaler noticed that his "biography" was altered on 26 May 2005. On 29 May, one of the site's moderators edited it only by correcting the misspelling of the word "early" but did not check the other, much more serious, alterations. For four months, Wikipedia depicted him as a suspected assassin before this mention was erased from the website's history on 5 October—but it remained on Answers.com and Reference.com for three more weeks.

Daniel Brandt, a San Antonio-based activist who started the anti-Wikipedia site Wikipedia Watch (<http://www.wikipedia-watch.org>) in response to problems he had with his eponymous article, looked up the IP address in Seigenthaler's article and found that it related to Rush Delivery, a company in Nashville. On 9 December 2005, its employee Brian Chase admitted that he had placed the false information in Seigenthaler's Wikipedia biography.

End of story, it seemed, with the lesson learned that Wikipedia could be an excellent tool to spread disinformation—a lesson few people realised at the time. And though Wikipedia should have reacted, it didn't.

Though Seigenthaler's case received much notoriety, his was definitely not the only case. By December 2006, Brandt had listed several instances of erroneous entries as well as massive amounts of entries literally copied from copyright-protected material.

Faking it

It was in early 2007 that the WikiWorld was rocked when one of its most prolific contributors and editors, "believed" by the site to be a professor of religion with advanced degrees in theology and canon law, was exposed as being nothing more than a community college drop-out.

The person at the centre of this controversy was "Essay"—which begged the question as to why anyone in a position of authority should want or need to hide behind a pseudonym. In truth, Essay was Ryan Jordan, a 24-year-old from Kentucky with no advanced degrees, who used texts such as *Catholicism for Dummies* to help him correct articles on the penitential rite and transubstantiation.

Indeed, the problem began at the very beginning of Essay's career, when no one vetted his credentials and when his claim to be a tenured professor of religion at a private university was accepted. He contributed to an estimated 20,000 Wikipedia entries, making up one per cent of the 1,675,000 articles that Wikipedia listed as being online.

Worse, however, was that Wikipedia staff recruited Essay to work on the site's Arbitration Committee, which he chaired for two terms, thus granting him almost divine powers without anyone asking him any questions. Fortunately Essay was only a pretender, not a person intent on spreading disinformation...but he could have accomplished this easily. He was an important player in WikiWorld. *The New Yorker*, in its 31 July 2006 edition, ran an article on Essay and his activities, which were then believed to be genuine.

By mid-January 2007, Essay had posted his real name and

employment history on the related Wikia website. However, it was Daniel Brandt who noticed this and made further enquiries. He eventually contacted *The New Yorker* to say that Essay's original biographical information was fake.

On 26 February, *The New Yorker* made an online correction, stating that Essay "holds no advanced degrees" and "has never taught". But worst of all was probably this comment: "At the time of publication, neither we nor Wikipedia knew Essay's real name."

Following the revelation, Wikipedia's co-founder Jimmy Wales asked Essay to resign (in any business environment he would have been fired), stating that "Wikipedia is built on (among other things) twin pillars of trust and tolerance". It was clear that one pillar had now totally collapsed. But bizarrely, Wales further commented: "It is not good, obviously, but the interesting thing is that Mr Jordan was an excellent editor, credentials or not. His work was extremely positive for Wikipedia."

We wonder how...

The Wikipedia entry on the debacle at the time read: "As a result of the controversy, Wikipedia users began a review of Essay's previous edits and discovered evidence he had relied upon his fictional professorship to influence editorial consideration of edits he made. 'People have gone through his edits and found places where he was basically cashing in on his fake credentials to bolster his arguments,' said Michael Snow, a

Wikipedia administrator and founder of the Wikipedia community newspaper, *The Wikipedia Signpost*. 'Those will get looked at again.'"

The site continued: "In reaction to the incident, Wales was reportedly considering a vetting process for all persons who adjudicate on factual disputes. Additionally, Wales said the site would soon develop a way to check credentials of Wikipedia editors who claim to possess them. 'I don't think this incident exposes any inherent weakness in Wikipedia, but it does expose a weakness that we will be

working to address,' Wales added."

Wales may of course change his opinion, but originally he said he was not concerned with Essay's invented persona: "I regard it as a pseudonym and I don't really have a problem with it." After an outcry from Wikipedia users, Wales changed his view.

Larry Sanger, in his *Citizendium* Blog of 1 March, responded to Wales's initial statement, stating: "There's something utterly breathtaking, and ultimately tragic, about Jimmy telling *The New Yorker* that he *doesn't have a problem* with Essay's lies, and by essentially *honoring* Essay after his lies were exposed... Doesn't Jimmy know that this has the potential to be even more damaging to Wikipedia than the Seigenthaler situation, since it reflects *directly* on the judgment and values of the *management* of Wikipedia?"

Wales meanwhile maintained that the service and its community are built around a self-policing and "self-cleaning" nature that is supposed to ensure its articles are accurate: the "Wikipedia Police". But are they the "Thought Police" or people who verify facts? Seigenthaler's entry suggests they are definitely not the latter.

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"Wikipedia Police"

Disgruntled people at odds with Wikipedia are numerous. The "pseudophysicist" (to quote Wikipedia) Jack Sarfatti considers himself to be a victim of the service and even considered litigation at one point. He found that certain libellous information had been posted about him. Of course, he, like anyone else, can go in and alter that information, which is what he tried to do. He tried posting at various times of the day, but each time, within minutes, the changes were undone—suggesting that the Wikipedia moderators were constantly monitoring certain pages. When he dug further, he came to the conclusion that Wikipedia seemed to be in the hands of a group of sceptical minds, intent on making sure there were no mysteries and no conspiracies.

Indeed, when you consult a variety of subjects on Wikipedia, you will notice a certain "mindset" that excludes certain opinions. Just two examples...

Paul Smith is an ardent sceptic of the Rennes-le-Château and Priory of Sion mysteries (which are at the core of Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*) and is responsible for most of the Wikipedia entries on the subject. Some of these entries are blatantly biased and others contain serious factual errors. In both instances, I adjusted the wording and removed the errors. At no point did this mean that the Priory was depicted as genuine—far from it. In fact, I felt that an error-free posting would actually bring enhanced value to the entry. In this case, the entries remained up for a number of months, but then were returned to their negative, erroneous entries. The "Wikipedia Police" should have seen that the new entry was less neutral and more biased than what was on there, but they did not revert to the previous version. The question is: why prefer erroneous information over more neutral wordings? No wonder that experts find numerous errors in every article on Wikipedia...when Wikipedia seems to prefer to promote errors over factual statements.

I also tried to add further information about dissenting theories on the *Corpus Hermeticum*, specifically the work of Leiden University professor Bruno Stricker, giving due reference to his name and publications (including his PhD thesis). In this instance, Wikipedia moderators removed the section themselves, stating that I needed to give "more sources"—though I had actually given more sources than most of the other statements that maintain the status quo in this entry, namely that the *Corpus* is a second- or third-century AD creation rather than a third-century BC codification, as Stricker (and others) argue.

Examples of such unprofessional editing, with a bias towards maintaining the status quo and specifically downplaying if not removing controversial information, run into the hundreds if not thousands. Paul Joseph Watson of Prison Planet (<http://www.prisonplanet.com>) has noted there is a concerted campaign to erase the 9/11 Truth Movement. Furthermore, pages which they and like-minded individuals created, such as "List of Republican sex scandals", "People questioning the 9/11 Commission Report" and "Movement to impeach

George W. Bush" were all deleted. The first-mentioned page might indeed not be seen as important in an encyclopaedic environment, but the "wiki" (a page in the encyclopaedia) for Dylan Avery, the producer of the most-watched documentary film in Internet history, clearly merits a biographical page on an online encyclopaedia. Wikipedia, however, thought otherwise.

These are just some of the examples that people have experienced with the "service". At best, it is clear that the moderators have never been trained or validated for their

credentials. But Sarfatti has also drawn attention to the so-called "Wikipedia arbitration", which Wales has seen as the "self-cleaning" and the *deus ex machina* designed to re-establish Wikipedia's credibility—even though he elected a college drop-out to preside over it.

Upset about his own case and unable to rectify the situation, Sarfatti commented on a private email list: "They have set up a Virtual Shadow Government in which they now have their own courts to adjudicate 'litigation'." He made the point that the theory is that

whoever controls the Web controls the Earth—and there is indeed that potential. Perform a Google websearch and if Wikipedia has a result on what you search for, the Wikipedia entry will come up on top. So whatever you want to know, you will probably Google it and find it in Wikipedia. "Googlepedia" thus has a virtual monopoly on information and does indeed, as Sarfatti said, control the Web—and knowledge.

Googlepedia offers a one-stop shop for teachers and anyone else who wants to find information. Teachers have stated that this is exactly the case. What is in Wikipedia—and the opinions expressed therein—is almost directly passed on to students. It begs the question as to why there is still a need for teachers, as students are equally able to do a websearch...

...he came to the conclusion that Wikipedia seemed to be in the hands of a group of sceptical minds, intent on making sure there were no mysteries and no conspiracies.



"Just conducting a routine Random Carbon-Footprint Test. Could I see your last 12 months' utility bills, please?"

And students are more likely to check other hits, perhaps being more realistic about the expectations of Wikipedia—which for many teachers seems to have become gospel.

When lies cause detention

So far, only a few egos seem to have been bruised. But Robert Fisk, in the British newspaper *The Independent*, reported on 21 April 2007 on the experience of Taner Akçam, a Turkish historian and writer. Akçam faces prosecution in Turkey for writing about the Armenian genocide. However, due to the vandalising of Akçam's Wikipedia entry, which accused him of being a member of a terrorist group, he was detained by Canadian border police on 17 February 2007. This is acknowledged in the Wikipedia entry, which can now only be edited by registered users—though anyone can still register for free, and registration only leaves some trace of who made the entry, nothing more.

Taner Akçam wrote to Fisk, stating: "Additional to the criminal investigation (law 301) in Turkey, there is a hate campaign going on here in the USA, as a result of which I cannot travel internationally any more... My recent detention at the Montreal airport—apparently on the basis of anonymous insertions in my Wikipedia biography—signals a disturbing new phase in a Turkish campaign of intimidation that has intensified since the November 2006 publication of my book."

Fisk continued: "Akçam was released, but his reflections on this very disturbing incident are worth recording. 'It was unlikely, to say the least, that a Canadian immigration officer found out that I was coming to Montreal, took the sole initiative to research my identity on the internet, discovered the archived version of my Wikipedia biography, printed it out on 16 February, and showed it to me—*voilà!*—as a result.'

"But this was not the end. Prior to his Canadian visit, two Turkish-American websites had been hinting that Akçam's 'terrorist activities' should be of interest to American immigration authorities.

And sure enough, Akçam was detained yet again—for another hour—by US Homeland Security officers at Montreal airport before boarding his flight at Montreal for Minnesota two days later.

"On this occasion, he says that the American officer—US Homeland Security operates at the Canadian airport—gave him a warning: 'Mr Akçam, if you don't retain an attorney and correct this issue, every entry and exit from the country is going to be problematic. We recommend that you do not travel in the meantime and that you try to get this information removed from your customs dossier.'

"So let's get this clear," Fisk continued. "US and Canadian officials now appear to be detaining the innocent on the grounds of hate postings on the internet. And it is the innocent—guilty until proved otherwise, I suppose—who must now pay lawyers to protect them from Homeland Security and the internet. But as Akçam says, there is nothing he can do," he concluded.

As the platform on which this false propaganda was offered, Wikipedia should accept part of the blame.

WikiScanning revelations

This has underlined some serious problems with the second pillar of WikiWorld: tolerance. But what about Sarfatti's Orwellian claims that Wikipedia is the Ministry of Truth—i.e., Lies? On 14 August 2007, *Wired* reported that CalTech computation and neural-systems graduate student Virgil Griffith had created the "Wikipedia Scanner", which "offers users a searchable database that ties millions of anonymous Wikipedia edits to organizations where those edits apparently originated, by cross-referencing the edits with data on who owns the associated block of Internet IP addresses".

"I came up with the idea when I heard about Congressmen getting caught for white-washing their Wikipedia pages," he says on his website (<http://virgil.gr/31.html>). Griffith became very intrigued when, on 17 November 2005, an anonymous Wikipedia user deleted 15 paragraphs from an article on e-voting machine vendor Diebold, excising an entire section critical of the company's machines. Griffith traced those changes to an IP address reserved for the corporate offices of Diebold itself.

Wired concluded that when the new data-mining service was launched, it traced millions of Wikipedia entries to their sources, and for the first time put "comprehensive data behind longstanding suspicions of manipulation, which until now have surfaced only piecemeal in investigations of specific allegations". In short, Griffith proved Sarfatti and others' conspiracy theory.

Griffith has compiled lists of different corporations and government branches that have abused the "trust" of Wikipedia essentially to edit the truth out of existence, replacing it with a PR-friendly façade favourable not to the facts or any sense of neutrality but only to the interests of the parties concerned. The WikiScanner page (see <http://wikiscanner.virgil.gr>) lists a few "favourites" which include the CIA, the Vatican and the Church of Scientology.

You might expect that the CIA would make the biggest use of this tool, to spread propaganda, but such thinking

would be too primitive: a multibillion-dollar agency that has existed for 60 years has better and less traceable methodologies at its disposal. Still, rather interesting and somewhat humorous is that, on the profile of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a worker on the CIA network added the exclamation "Wahhhhhh!" before a section on the leader's plans for his presidency. A warning on the profile of the anonymous editor read: "You have recently vandalised a Wikipedia article, and you are now being asked to stop this type of behaviour." It seems that one CIA worker also tweaked the profile of Oprah Winfrey—an edit which hopefully occurred during a lunch break.

More interestingly, WikiScanner uncovered that the Vatican edited entries about Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams. The edit removed links to newspaper stories written in 2006 that alleged that Mr Adams's fingerprints and handprints had been found on a car used in 1971 in connection with a double murder. The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit father Federico Lombardi, clarified on Vatican Radio on 17 August 2007 that accusations saying that the

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Holy See manipulated the encyclopaedia intentionally "...lack all seriousness and logic. It is absurd even to think that such an initiative could have even been considered." Forced to explain how it could have happened, he said that there are many computers in the Vatican and that anyone could have access to Wikipedia on any one of them.

Equally interesting is that a computer traced to American Airlines (AA) was used to make a significant change about 9/11. The original entry read: "Two American Airlines aircraft were hijacked and crashed during the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attack: American Airlines Flight 77 (a Boeing 757) and American Airlines Flight 11 (a Boeing 767)"—to which an AA employee added (somewhat ungrammatically): "Although these flights were daily departures before and a month after September 11, 2001. Neither flight 11 nor 77 were scheduled on September 11, 2001. The records kept by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (<http://www.bts.gov/gis/>) do not list either flight that day." (See http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/august2007/260807_b_airlines.htm.) What are we to make of this?

But WikiScanner especially revealed that most abuse originates from corporate clients—and politicians. According to the UK *Independent* of 18 August 2007, Wal-Mart cleaned some statements about its employment procedures, and again, in October 2005, a person using a Diebold computer removed paragraphs about Walden O'Dell, chief executive of the company, which revealed that he had been "a top fund-raiser" for George W. Bush. Such cleaning should be seen as rewriting history. Even if the edits are not correct, Wikipedia's policy should be to insert "it is alleged" or statements to that effect.

The *Independent*, along with many media sources, mentioned other abuses. Griffith's tool also discovered that a computer owned by the US Democratic Party was used to make changes to the site of right-wing talk-show host Rush Limbaugh. The changes brand Mr Limbaugh as "idiotic", a "racist" and a "bigot". An entry about his audience read: "Most of them are legally retarded."

An IP address that belongs to the oil giant ExxonMobil was linked to sweeping changes to an entry on the disastrous 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. An allegation that the company "has not yet paid the US\$5 billion in spill damages it owes to the 32,000 Alaskan fishermen" was replaced with references to the funds that the company has paid out.

The Republican Party edited Saddam Hussein's Ba'ath Party entry so it made it clear that the US-led invasion was not a "US-led occupation" but a "US-led liberation"—the clearest example of Ministry of Truth's approved Newspeak if ever there was one.

Also uncovered by WikiScanner was that a computer registered to the Dow Chemical Company deleted a section on the 1984 Bhopal chemical disaster (which ultimately killed up to 22,000 people) which occurred at a plant operated by Union Carbide, now a wholly owned subsidiary of Dow.

It was also reported that Barbara Alton, assistant to Episcopal bishop Charles Bennison, deleted information on a cover-up of child sexual abuse, allegations that the bishop misappropriated US\$11.6 million in trust funds, and evidence of other scandals. When challenged, Alton claimed that she had been ordered to delete the information by Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori.

WikiScanner also uncovered that staff in Australia's Department

of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC) had edited entries on topics such as the "children overboard" affair, as reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 24 August. PM John Howard stated that he had not asked any of his staff to edit those entries. WikiScanner revealed, too, that Department of Defence staff had made more than 5,000 changes to the encyclopaedia, but the *Herald* reported that they were now blocked from editing entries (note that a general IP number can be used by several departments). Commenting on ABC News, the chair of Electronic Frontiers Australia, Dale Clapperton, said: "You also have to ask yourself whether it's a responsible and reasonable use of taxpayer dollars to have public servants trying to sanitise entries on Wikipedia using taxpayer-paid resources to make their point of view more acceptable to the current government." In a follow-up *Herald* report of 30 August, the PMC secretary claimed that the IP number did not belong to the department but instead to Macquarie Telecom—a claim that experts and the *Herald* dispute as highly unlikely, stating they have more evidence than merely an IP address to identify the government department as the source.

WikiScanner especially revealed that most abuse originates from corporate clients—and politicians.

Disinformation weapon

Just before WikiScanner grabbed the headlines in mid-August 2007, there was one Wikipedia incident which received far less attention than it deserved: it revealed that the intelligence agencies had been using Wikipedia for disinformation purposes, thus proving Sarfatti's Orwellian allegation.

Daniel Brandt posted a summary on The Wikipedia Review website on 1 August. The incident involved Pierre Salinger. He was a White House press secretary to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, served as a US senator from California in 1964 and was campaign manager for Robert Kennedy. Salinger was also a famous investigative journalist who broke many important news stories. When he was based in London, he investigated the December 1988 bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people. He and his collaborator, John K. Cooley, hired Linda Mack, a young graduate, to help in their research, which resulted in Salinger testifying at the Camp Zeist trial in November 2000:

"I know that these two Libyans had nothing to do with it. I know who did it and I know exactly why it was done," he said. Thinking the judge would allow him to present this evidence, Salinger queried: "That's all? You're not letting me tell the truth. Wait a minute; I know exactly who did it. I know how it was done," Salinger replied to the trial judge, Lord Sutherland, who simply asked him to leave the witness box. "If you wish to make a point you may do so elsewhere, but I'm afraid you may not do so in this court," Lord Sutherland interrupted.

So what does this have to do with Wikipedia? "SlimVirgin" had been voted the most abusive administrator of Wikipedia. She had upset so many editors that some of them decided to team up to research her real-life identity. Attempts to track her through Internet technology failed. This was suspicious in itself, as WikiScanner has revealed. According to a team member, SlimVirgin "knows her way around the Internet and covered her tracks with care". The question, therefore, was: why?

Continued on page 77

THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF HEALER ALFONS VEN

***Belgian engineer
turned homoeopath
and alchemist
Alfons Ven
describes the
journey that led him
to discover that the
invisible spirit
world controls the
visible physical
world.***

Part 1 of 2

Interview with
Alfons Ven

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The most incredible thing you could ever hear on radio is somebody claiming that you, the host, are not some extraneous being who is only there to turn your interviewee inside out. Most journalists are supposedly neutral. Yet they approach their subjects critically, trying to pin them down and exposing them to their lies or conspiracies. That is considered the task of a journalist. He cannot get involved personally. It is too dangerous.

So here I was interviewing an engineer from Belgium who specialised in control techniques. And he baffled me, telling me about the kind of knowledge he had developed. My body has a kind of steering system, he said—a system ensuring that I function perfectly; a system making sure that I am not some plant or animal but Willem de Ridder. It is a kind of computer or an instruction system. I did not understand a thing of it, and I said, "That is great! So you claim actually that you can give new instructions to this steering system and then my whole character will change—or at least have it remember its original state, before my parents began tinkering with it." He said, "Guaranteed. You know, when your character changes, your whole system alarms you through symptoms we call diseases. And as your character returns to its original state, the diseases disappear, too." It made me smile. I did not believe it. And I thought, "I'll get you."

I had asthma since I was two years old. Asthma is pretty hefty stuff. If you get an attack, you breathe like a man hanging from the gallows. You can barely catch air. You cannot lie down. You cannot move. You sit, needing all your attention for breathing. It makes you extremely tired. You cannot think. There is only one thing on your mind: surviving. That's all. And though no doctor says he can do anything about it, this man claims he can make it disappear, just like that. He says, "Yes. Guaranteed." I say, "Okay. Let's try it. We are doing this radio program, and a lot of people are listening. Why don't you try me out? If I get cured, everybody will know and you'll get a lot of people interested."

It was the first time he'd ever talked about these things on radio, he said. And lo and behold, I got some little white pills. I took them, one a day, for 28 days. It is two years ago now, and I have not had a single attack. In fact, I run up the stairs and am faster on my bicycle than anybody else. And indeed, I must agree, my character has changed, too.

Two years later, of course, his telephone is ringing off the hook. And now I am curious to know how he developed this remarkable knowledge, because the man is not a doctor. His name is Alfons Ven. He lives somewhere in the Belgian Ardennes, away from everybody, but right now he sits next to me.

– Willem de Ridder, 1996, <http://www.willemderritter.com>

Willem de Ridder: Alfons, welcome.

Alfons Ven: Good to be with you, Willem.

Willem: Since I told you about this incredible miracle, I discovered that many people have contacted you. All they really do is call you. You listen to them, you do not even have to look at them, and you send them these little white pills. That's all. Then things start to happen. How did you get involved in this, because originally you were an engineer?

Alfons: Yes. A control engineer. I was automating processes at refineries and all kinds of factories. I engineered control systems and I started them up. And one day, as I started one up, I was electrocuted.

Willem: Electrocuted?

Alfons: Electrocuted. Right. And it changed my life. I did not feel too much at all, so I thought it was not too bad. But 380 volts had crossed my heart and my brain. The following day, I began feeling kind of strange. I could not say exactly what I was feeling, but I felt strange. And the more this feeling progressed, the more I became estranged from myself. I became a stranger to myself. Engineers don't know anything about psychology or whatever, so I didn't know what was happening. I only knew that I was not functioning as I had. To start up factories you must be in excellent condition. It is a heavy job. It is climbing towers, engineering, planning, ordering materials, installing, etc., etc. I began functioning worse and worse until I thought, "This has to stop." I didn't dare to climb any more, I didn't dare to drive a car any more. And I said, "This has to stop." I turned to a psychologist and then to a psychiatrist, and before I knew it I was in the hospital, where they gave me shots and I passed out.

Willem: So you worked in a factory. Someone turned on the main switch and you were electrocuted. You didn't die, you didn't have burns or...

Alfons: No, that was just it. As an electrical engineer I knew exactly what was going on. I had no burns so I said, "It's rather okay". But I started to feel strange.

Willem: Immediately?

Alfons: Yes. Pretty much so. Right after the incident I was dazzled. Then, in the first days, I took some aspirin and thought it would pass. Yet I felt worse and worse. I took some tranquillisers and hoped it would pass. Then I started taking drugs, and finally I found myself in the hands of a psychiatrist.

Willem: So you went to the psychiatrist and he gave you a shot.

Alfons: Yes, it was thirty years ago. And in Belgium, psychiatrists were, let us say, neurologists. They were just treating clinically. Without further notice, I got injections and faded out. I fell asleep. But the man did not examine me. I had problems with my heartbeat. I did not know that, either. But while I was asleep, those things became aggravated. And the doctor did not come to see me or ask, "How are you doing?" The minute I woke up a little bit, I got another injection. So I could not defend myself. I could not tell them, "I feel terrible and I'm going to die." I could not react. I was powerless. And the doctor did not come to my bed in eight days. So at the end of the week, I was really ready to die. And then, between shots, I gave my wife a sign to get me out of there. She was at my bedside and I said this was going completely wrong and she had to take me home. The doctor told her I couldn't be transported for even a mile.

Willem: You would die.

Alfons: Yes. So I kept making it clear to my wife to get me out of there because if I was going to die I wanted to die at home, not in the hospital which was such a terrible experience. The doctor kept saying, "No, he will die," and I kept insisting on being taken home. Finally I did get out, and the doctor said, "He's going to die in the car on the way home." We didn't live far from the hospital but he insisted that I would not make it. Anyway, we made it home.

I'd had experiences like getting out of my body. I saw myself lying down there. I saw the personnel of the clinic and I went into a light tunnel and had what they now call a "near death

experience". Of course, thirty years ago nobody talked about that. So I thought I was the only person with such an experience. We hadn't taken any pills with us. So when I was home we just said, "Okay, from now on it is going to be like this." I had all kinds of hallucinations, delusions and such things. I found myself in the war, I found myself travelling in space.

Willem: So you practically found yourself dying in the universe.

Alfons: It was terrible. I thought, "Let me go; it is better to die than to be alive, because this is no way of living."

Willem: You gave up.

Alfons: I gave up. I wanted to go. But then, of course, the memories came. I saw my wife and children, and I knew I wanted to live for them. It was a struggle for life, and I was on the edge. I was going to make it or not. But the light game, as I called it, seeing things, rekindled my desire for life. I said, "I want to get well to take care of my wife and children." So I survived.

Willem: You did not take any medication, either?

Alfons: At first not. But then I said, "If I take nothing, I will certainly die, then it will be over and done with." And later, when life came back bit by bit, I had to take medication because of the delusions and hallucinations. I had to come down to earth again. Our family doctor, who was also a close friend, began treating me very gently with great doses of medicines and he made me survive. Years later he told me that, as he began working on me, he was sure I was going to die. So, professionally, he was doing the best he could. But anyway, we made it. We survived. Of course, this

changed my whole life. I found myself without a job. I couldn't work. I didn't know much of my existence. The estrangement came straight from myself. I felt strange to myself. I had an almost complete loss of identity.

Willem: You felt like a kind of vegetable.

Alfons: Almost; close; not complete, but almost. And of course, all the drugs they were pumping into me made me a kind of zombie.

Willem: You existed, yet you didn't exist.

Alfons: Right. This went on and on for many, many years; injections, living and not living, fears coming up, images coming up, and so on.

Journey into Homoeopathy

Alfons: Then, one day, a lady told me about a good homoeopath she knew. That was new, thirty years ago. Nobody talked about homoeopathy; at least, very few did. I lived in Antwerp and there was a homoeopath. The man had long waiting lists. But the homoeopath this lady knew was the president of the Homoeopathic Society and very good. "The man is retired," she said, "but he can probably help you a little bit." So I tried to contact him, but since he was retired there was no chance for me to reach him. His nurse kept telling me, "No appointment, no appointment." But I kept calling. And one day, when the nurse had the day off, his wife picked up the phone and she gave me an appointment right away—"...because," she said, "this is a sad story and, though my husband is retired, I want to give you a chance. So much misery."

Willem: And no one else could help you.

Alfons: No. And I tried everything. As an engineer and scientist, I believed in science and regular medicine—those men

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I turned to a psychologist
and then to a psychiatrist, and
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are the best; they know what they are doing. So I went to see the homoeopath with little faith. I knew this wouldn't work. Homeopathic medicine is diluted. There is nothing in it. I knew all that. Yet I went and the man was very honest. He checked me thoroughly and said, "I cannot help you." He said, "Your problem is beyond my competence. All I can probably do with my homoeopathic medicine is make you feel a bit better." And that's what he did. He gave me preparations and I got a bit, a tiny bit better. If you are real down, a little bit means a lot.

Willem: Yes, that's true.

Alfons: That's true, right. So I felt a bit better but he told me, "It is not going to cure you; it is not really going to help you; it is just a little help." I was grateful for the help. Then he told me, "You are a very intelligent man and still alive. Maybe something else can help you, something like psychiatric homoeopathy, but nobody knows much about it." This was completely new, certainly thirty years ago. There had been two French doctors in Lyons, France, and they had been experimenting with this psychiatric homoeopathy. Father and son. They had had a small clinic where they treated these kinds of cases, and also drug addicts. They had had some kind of success. But all they had left was a manuscript. He said, "If you need that kind of homoeopathy, try to find this manuscript and use it yourself. It is probably something." But I was not in the condition to travel. Everything was too much. I had phobias and fears of travelling. I had no business travelling. But I kept pushing friends to help me, and finally I got the manuscript. I read it, tried things out and, again, made a little progress.

Willem: So, you started using it.

Alfons: I began using it according to their prescriptions. I couldn't go to the pharmacy myself, so I had people go and have this and that preparation made for me. Again, I made a little progress and I was very grateful. I said, "It is not what I expected from it, but it is better than nothing." I still rejected the homoeopathic stuff. You see, as a scientist, I had to believe in it. Though I was not convinced, I saw results. So when my children got ill, I gave them homoeopathic remedies and they were cured. And before I knew it, people began consulting me because they had heard about me. They saw me making progress bit by bit, and they heard about all the things I was using. They thought, "If it is doing something for him, it might do something for me." And soon I had in Antwerp the first therapeutic centre, which we called a kind of a biological centre, where we used applied homoeopathy administered by a regular doctor.

Willem: Because, of course, you weren't a doctor yourself.

Alfons: Right. He did the clinical side. He examined people. I had learned, if you do not examine people, if you do not approach them in a really professional way, sooner or later you are going to go wrong. With him being responsible for the clinical side, I had always a correct diagnosis, and I did the homoeopathic prescriptions myself. It was a fine combination. We had real success, yet Alfons himself was not much better. My quality of life had improved a bit because of the recognition I felt

from the people I helped, but I was not really feeling good.

Willem: You were sick yourself, but you were helping other people.

Alfons: I was helping more and more people.

Willem: With some incredible results.

Alfons: Yes, the results were rather nice, remarkable even. We treated psychological problems and such things. At the time, I was also reading a lot of books and what I myself practised was a technique called "direct counselling".

Willem: Direct counselling?

Alfons: Right. It means that within a few minutes of talking, the patient enters a kind of pipeline leading straight to the root of the problem. You do not beat around the bush but you say, "Here is your problem." And then there is no way back. That is direct counselling. Then you have two possibilities: either they know who they are, or they get cured—almost instantaneously. Direct counselling achieves healing results no psychiatrist will in thirty years. You come to the point and do not turn around. You nail the problem, and...

Willem: And once they recognise it...

Alfons: Recognising the problem is 80 per cent of the cure. Because, once they know, they say, "Aha! Okay!"

Willem: If they do not recognise it, it gets worse.

Alfons: Normally they recognise the problem, but it depends on the person who does the counselling. Someone who cannot get to the heart of the matter probably has to come back. If he cannot get to it after two or three visits, he doesn't have to come back because either I cannot help him or he isn't willing to open himself up. But it worked really well. And I got assistance also from doctors and other people willing to help me.

Willem: So you were a sick doctor helping people.

Alfons: Yes. A sick man curing other people. And I could not help myself. I only got myself a little better under control. You see, at the time I had the centre I was not on normal drugs. I helped myself with homoeopathy which, of course, was much gentler and with fewer side

effects. So there was progress on that part, but not too much on the level of identity and quality of life. I could not reach the deeper levels of my problem, the core where it all began.

Willem: Your character was out of whack, you might say.

Alfons: Yes.

Willem: You had lost your identity.

Alfons: Almost. I was estranged from my identity. I was like a stranger to myself.

Willem: A condition in which you cannot imagine your identity?

Alfons: Right. It is terrible. If at the time somebody had said, "I'll break your arms and legs, and you will be well within eight weeks and you won't have any more problems," I'd have said, "Break them right away." Without any hesitation I would have said, "Break them." Because I would have known that within eight weeks it would be gone. Whereas my prospect was: this lasts forever; it will never go away.

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Exorcising "Demons"

Alfons: So as we were working on all these things, one day a couple stepped into my office and said, "We are here for our son." The son was six years old, and two psychiatrists had declared he was "possessed".

Willem: Two psychiatrists saying the boy was possessed. By what? By the devil?

Alfons: "Possessed" implies "by the devil".

Willem: Psychiatrists?

Alfons: Yes. And I had it checked. I told my doctor in charge of the clinical side, "Check this story. I don't believe it. In this time and age, I don't believe a story like this. What's going on here?" He called the two psychiatrists and they confirmed, "Yes. We are doctors at the Catholic University and we have been taught that man exists of spirit, soul and body. The soul is our domain, but the spirit—as in this case—is for a minister or a priest. And we both aim for a priest. The boy is possessed."

I told the parents to bring in the boy. They came and, indeed, the boy climbed the curtains, tore everything down, smashed everything. At one moment he stood before me with wide-open eyes. His pupils did not react at all. I took a light from my drawer, shone it into his eyes and the pupils didn't even move. They stayed wide open. Light had no effect whatsoever.

Willem: Scary.

Alfons: I could have thought the devil was looking me straight in the eyes. It got me all chilly. It was terrifying. I told the parents, "Take your son home and I will think about it. This is new to me." I had never dealt with such a thing. I knew a priest who was officially ordained as an exorcist for the Catholic Church.

Willem: The Catholic Church has official exorcists?

Alfons: Yes. In fact, every priest is ordained to perform exorcism. They do not do it because it is so special. They leave that to the specialists. And the real men are instated by Rome.

Willem: So every Catholic country has its official exorcists?

Alfons: Two or three. Not many. They not only have a degree in divinity but also in psychology. They are the top of the bill. I do know that now, but at the time I knew nothing. They are experts in esoteric matters. In Rome there are fantastic libraries where you can read everything about every spiritual and esoteric subject. They are really well-trained people.

Anyway, I went to see him and I told him about the boy. And he asked me, "What are you going to do?" I told him about doing a kind of homoeopathic psychiatry at my centre. And he said, "Oh, interesting, interesting." He kept listening and listening, but he himself did not say a word about the topic. And I said, "We have now been talking for hours. You know all about me, and I know nothing about the way you look at possession or such things." He said, "It is none of your business. We do not talk about it. It is taboo. Taboo. Do not talk about it." I said, "Why did you have me come and talk to you?" "Because I wanted to draw on you." "Nice," I said, "nice. It was a long journey. Okay.

I am going back to my office." But he said, "No, let us make a deal. If you cannot calm down or heal the boy with your method... How long will it take you?" "Fourteen days—it works or it doesn't," I said. "Okay," he said, "call me in fourteen days. If it didn't work, I will come and deliver the boy my way." "Okay," I said, "that's a deal."

So I went back to the centre, told the parents that I had made some inquiries and that we had two possibilities. They were Catholics, and I said, "I have found this exorcist and he can do it. But I would rather do it myself. It is up to you." They said, "You do it." I gave the boy some homoeopathic preparations, sent them home and told them to come back next week. They did. You should know that the boy acted strange not only in my office. At home, he couldn't be left alone for one second—not on the toilet, not in bed. And when they left him alone for one second, he turned diabolic. He smashed and crashed everything. Terrible

things. At night he did not sleep, except in the car, in the back seat of the car. The father and mother had to take turns driving all night to give the boy eight hours of sleep.

Willem: They had to drive the boy in the car, otherwise he wouldn't sleep?

Alfons: Right. It was the only way to give him some rest. And they had to avoid traffic lights, because when they stopped for a traffic light...

Willem: He woke up...

Alfons: ...he tore everything apart. So you understand the terror these people were living under—around-the-clock terror. Terror! Of course, he wouldn't be left alone

with me, either. But after one week, he said, "I want to be alone with Mr Ven." So that was a change.

Willem: A big change indeed.

Alfons: I asked the parents to leave my office. Then the boy stood in front of me, cried and said, "I have to tell you something. It is about this big, huge monster." "What kind of a monster?" "Well, it is on the cover of a book." "Where is the book?"

Willem: So he saw a big monster.

Alfons: He saw a big monster, a terrible monster trying to eat him up and devour him and doing bad things

to him. He said, "That's what I see and what I am so afraid of." He had been unable to confess this to psychiatrists or psychologists. He had kept it to himself. And now he confessed, and that in itself was his delivering. "When did you first see the monster?" "In the shopping mall. I was shopping with my mother, and I was a little boy of two or three." His mother had parked him in his little trolley in front of a bookstand. And at the bookstand he had seen this monster on a cover. And there he had this terrible fear programmed into him, which he could not overcome. So I said to the mother, "To clear your son's fears completely, go back to the same mall, go back to the same bookstand and give him a nice, nice book. Make sure it is a very nice book with a nice, lovely cover." So she did, and one week later the boy went back to school.

But it is not the end of the story. I had forgotten all about the priest, this high-ranking clergyman. I did not call him. It was very busy at the centre and I forgot. The boy was fine. For me,

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that meant the end of the story. So the exorcist called and asked, "How is the boy?" I said, "Fine. He is back in school." He said, "Impossible." I said, "Why impossible?" He said, "With everything you explained to me, it is not possible. I got a clear picture that the boy probably was possessed. How can you have him back in school with these little preparations? Can I come to see you this time and talk about it?" I said, "Okay." He came, and again we talked about my method of work—not his.

Willem: He didn't tell you anything.

Alfons: Nothing. But finally he said, "I think you add something to your treatment. Without knowing it, you are performing a kind of ministry on the spiritual level, of which you are not aware." I said, "Okay, let us put it to the test." He said, "I'll bring somebody for you to heal or to deliver." I said, "Fine; the centre is open to everybody." He brought in a lady. And once more, I did my job. This lady, who for decades had been under the spell of some entity, was healed. And then he brought two persons, and four, and ten. It did not end. Then he said, "Alfons, I want to induct you into the spiritual world."

Willem: A Catholic priest said that?

Alfons: Yes. I said, "Why me, because I'm not all that Catholic. I think very liberally about life. Why me?" He said, "You may not know it, but you are very gifted, naturally gifted. And I want to teach you everything I know." I considered it and did not say no. So he said, "Go home and close up your centre." He was asking a lot.

Willem: Why did you have to close your centre?

Alfons: He said, "You have gifts. Gifts which you received gratis, you share gratis. I'll send people to you and you will have a ministry." That's what happened. Of course, the people with whom I worked in the centre, the doctors, weren't happy. They said, "Alfons, it is going great and now you are going off to do something else." I said, "If it is true what the priest says, that I can achieve on a spiritual level something that nobody else can, or at least he can't, why shouldn't I do it? After all, better is better." And I thought, "Probably my own problems are on a spiritual level. Who knows? So by learning a lot about these things, I can help myself a step further. Or I can say, 'It didn't help me at all.'" And indeed, being aware of the spiritual world and all those things did not help me a bit.

Willem: What did you do? You travelled around with him?

Alfons: First he came with all these people to my centre when it was closed. Then he sent me people at home. And we travelled through Flanders and encountered all kinds of situations: poltergeist manifestations, various forms of possession, obsession and torment. We encountered all sorts of things, but always dramatic; nothing simple, everything extreme. And again and again, I took things he could not solve, and they got solved almost automatically.

Willem: But was he not able to help people, too?

Alfons: Sure. I saw him doing things such as praying over people. He laid hands on people, he delivered people who believed in his religion. I saw them changing. But after time, it all came back.

Willem: It was not permanent.

Alfons: Most of the time it was not permanent at all. For instance, the priest got people off drugs, but when he came back

three months later they were back on drugs. Or people saying they had some entity in their house. He expelled them with his rituals and they were gone. But after a while it was worse. And he said, "With you it is different. They leave without rituals and do not return." He knew right away this was something special, something new for him. But as we say in Flemish, you do not walk in a sack. Our activities had not gone unnoticed. The priest was notified by the cardinal, the highest Church authority in the country, not to deal with me any more because I did not profile myself as a Catholic. I was a kind of heretic. I think they were afraid of me; they obstructed because I did things they could not do. And that was not good for their business.

Willem: Right. So you were banned from the Church.

Alfons: Yes. The cardinal wrote a letter to the bishops, saying, "This is a heretic; do not deal with him or ask for his assistance." I was not supposed to know that I had secretly been excommunicated. They wanted to get rid of me. I was a nuisance because I did not turn people to Christianity or Catholicism.

Willem: You just cured them.

Alfons: Yes. I cured them, delivered them, helped them. Just like that, almost automatically. I could understand that I undermined the clergy's authority, at least that they felt that it was coming to that. The priest received strict orders to cut all ties with me. And so our ways parted.

Willem: And you had no more centre...

Alfons: No more centre; still not feeling good... Right. I was the great homoeopath of Antwerp. Everybody knew me. I cured people. I was the exorcist. I was everything. But I myself felt no improvement. I did not feel good. It is satisfying to help people, but I had asthma, I had allergies, I had heart problems. I had all kinds of problems. I had a lack of identity. Of course, being busy with matters spiritual and homeopathic, I became more and more aware how things are interconnected, how they coincide, how *all* coincides.

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Alchemical Homoeopathy

Alfons: And while I was practising all of this, a man came to me. He, too, had heard about me. His name was Jan. And Jan came to me with a spiritual problem. Jan was a member of the Rosicrucians. "Alfons," he said, "I am highly initiated. But it is not a blessing. It is killing me. It drove my wife away and my children. It only brings misery and I want to get out from under it." I said, "I know of other people who are Rosicrucians and do not have these problems." "It is all a matter of initiation," he said. "Can you help me?" I said, "Let me try."

Two, three months later he was "re-programmed" from his false beliefs and living a normal life again. I had never asked what his profession was. All I knew was his first name, Jan; John in English. And Jan asked me, "Can I do something in return?" I am a pragmatic mind, I am an engineer, so I said, "What are you? What can you do?" He said, "What do you want from me?" I said, "Well, I have this homoeopathic talent and this spiritual ministry. But the problem is that I am not getting better myself."

And then something struck me: the idea that if I could control myself, things would go better. Because, in fact, saying I am not completely myself is like saying I am not in control. So I told him, "I have always been controlling things, factories, automation,

everything. Control is my speciality. If I can control myself, I think I will make real progress and find myself again." And he said, "This is complicated stuff."

We talked for a long time. And it turned out that he, too, was a fully qualified homoeopath. And not only that: he was also an alchemist. He told me, "Those things you are talking about can never be achieved by homoeopathy." He was also a PhD in chemistry—and a very brilliant one, for that matter. He had been a director of nuclear plants. A very keen man. And he said, "As far as my knowledge of chemistry goes, it is not sufficient. I think alchemy can help you. That's what you need."

Willem: Alchemy. He knew about that, too.

Alfons: I said, "You know about that?" I thought my life had changed by hitting on the knowledge about possession. And here was someone with mediaeval talk about alchemy. But I listened intently. He said, "Yes, I'm a doctor of chemistry and an alchemist, too. I have practised it for many years and I have seen many nice things happen."

Willem: And as director of a nuclear plant, he could not be a nitwit.

Alfons: No. Later I learned that alchemists from all over the world meet once in a while. There were ten or twelve, all PhDs. They were doctors in physics or something else. Some had two or three doctorates. They weren't just anybody.

Willem: And practising alchemy on the side.

Alfons: Yes. On the side. Jan had stopped his involvement in alchemy because of its esoteric side. He said, "Let us talk about it." And it was not just "let us talk about it". He stayed with me for almost five years. It was a long talk. Sometimes it was three or four in the morning when we stopped talking.

Willem: He lived in your house?

Alfons: Well, we had a little shack in the garden and that's where he lived and had his laboratory. So we lived separately on the same property. He told me a lot about the philosophy behind alchemy, particularly something fundamental to my present work with the VEN28 preparations. He said, "In all material matters we deal with spirit, soul and body. Let me give you an example: a glass of wine. We only see the liquid, the wine. It is the body which only came into being through fermentation of the grapes. Yet in the wine there are two subtle bodies which we do not see at all: spirit and soul. Everybody who can distill can get the spirit out. If you distill the alcohol out of the wine, you separate the spirit from the body."

Willem: That's why we call alcohol "spirits".

Alfons: In German it is *Weingeist*, spirit of the wine. In Dutch, "alchemy" is *alscheikunde*, Jan told me, which means "the art of separating all things". The first thing you do in alchemy is separate all things: spirit, soul and body. The body you can see readily, but you do not see the invisible things which determine the quality. You do not see the alcohol in the wine, which is the spirit. Neither do you see the soul which, too, contributes to the wine's quality.

Willem: So if the alcohol is the spirit, what is the soul?

Alfons: He gave an example. He showed that you may begin working on it only after the alcohol is separated from the liquid. The soul still is in the body. How do you get the soul out? It's a very complicated, refined procedure. You heat the wine very

slowly, and you start working it with the four elements—earth, fire, air and water. This alchemic process takes a long time and it results in crystals which are so pure and white that the effect is dazzling. Really special. And that is the soul of the wine. So there they are: the invisible spirit and soul. And actually, it is these invisible things which control the visible.

This sounded very familiar to me. It seemed obvious. The invisible controls the visible. That is what happened when, as an engineer, I automated processes. In the early days, these processes used pneumatic technology, compressed air. You do not see the air, though it is pushing and moving things and opening valves—the invisible controlling the visible. Later, we got the now widely used electronic systems. Again, you do not see the electrons; you see the workings...

Willem: You perceive it is there, but you do not see it.

Alfons: If you put the plug in the socket, you do not see the power. Try to convince a child that there's something there. You

may try as long as you can, but it sees nothing. It has to put something in the outlet to get a little shock. And not readily seeing the invisible doesn't mean the control is not there. At the time I told myself, "Now I have something to go by. This is my profession. Controlling things, pneumatically, electronically; telemetering used to be my job." And I felt good about it. If I could get this invisible thing into me to control the visible, the physical, let us say, then I could do nice things. I could find myself again, get control again, get

hold of my life, restart. And as an engineer I knew the formulas, the cybernetic correlations, the correlation techniques. In 1973, our family business was already building process computers. We used our own computers, so I was pretty good at things on that level. Now I thought if I could put control into myself, that would be a different story.

Willem: That would be different indeed.

Alfons: I knew I would be able to get back to myself and start functioning more and more optimally. We talked a lot about alchemy, Jan and I. He made preparations, I tried them on myself and did not really get any better. I'm not saying that alchemy is not effective. For some it does well, for others not. So it lacks systematic results.

Willem: You can't really rely on it.

Alfons: No, you can not trust it. And when you try to talk about it, you meet with resistance, people thinking, "Those alchemists are magic sorcerers." Anyway, it brought me to the crucial understanding that the invisible controls the visible—something I knew from my profession. The question was, "How can I transpose and take this invisible information into me so that it might control me?" To make a long story short, I found the answer after many trials and errors. Trying this, trying that, I discovered how it works. And when I say "I discovered", I mean it is not new, it is not an invention, not even a finding. It is right there. It is a matter of picking it up. In order to pick something up, you have to be ready to pick it up. You must be prepared and think about it, assimilate it, boost yourself up to the level of "I want to find it, I have to find it".

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**In Dutch, "alchemy" is
alscheikunde, Jan told me,
which means "the art of
separating all things".**

HIGH-DOSE VITAMIN B12 IN THE TREATMENT OF DEMENTIA

Few medical practitioners know that high doses of vitamin B12 can prevent and even reverse the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and other mental illnesses, but new Codex regulations will restrict access to such high-dosage vitamin therapy.

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AT-HOME PREVENTION AND REVERSAL OF ALZHEIMER'S DEMENTIA AND SIX OTHER MENTAL ILLNESSES

Introduction

It is interesting to consider what proportion of Alzheimer's dementia (AD) may result from under-nutrition,¹ especially when it seems that an easy, low-cost, perfectly safe nutritional way exists that may allow people to avoid that misery of miseries which many consider worse than death. Some people might say, "That's too good to be true!" However, an at-home nutritional program using a high dosage of vitamin B12 may prevent and virtually eliminate AD. An early launch of the treatment soon after first warning symptoms start could even turn off the process.

Confusion, difficulty concentrating, loss of memory, marked changes in personality that can lead to outbursts of violence, hallucinations, wandering away and early death all characterise Alzheimer's dementia.

An estimated 2.3 million Americans now have AD. Prevalence doubles every five years after the age of 60, increasing from one per cent among those 60 to 64 years old up to 40 per cent of those aged 85 years and older.

Nursing home care costs about US\$47,000 per AD patient annually and this figure is rising steadily, putting a huge burden on the health care system. The disease is also terrible for the patients' caregivers. In what experts are calling "a looming public health disaster", statistics suggest there will be between five and seven million Alzheimer's patients in the USA over the next 10 years.²

Let's start with a little background. Mammals, including humans, are born with serum levels of vitamin B12 at about 2,000 pg/mL (picograms, i.e., trillionths of a gram, per millilitre). The level declines throughout human life owing to practices common in Western societies.⁴ Below 550 to 600 pg/mL, deficiencies start to appear in the cerebrospinal fluid.^{5,6} US clinical laboratories regard 200 pg/mL as the lower range of normal. That low limit was set with haematologic criteria. But neuropsychiatric criteria, which are much higher, have become more critical.

"Most cases of Alzheimer's dementia are actually missed B12 deficiency cases, because of the too-low normal range for B12," wrote John V. Domisse, MD, in 1991 in *Medical Hypotheses*.³ Domisse, who practises medicine in Tucson, Arizona, has confirmed that Alzheimer's disease appears to result from too-low serum vitamin B12, and repletion of the vitamin succeeds despite other risk factors.^{7,8,9} Replenishing B12, according to Domisse, can reverse 75 per cent of B12 deficiency dementias when discovered early enough.¹⁰

As mentioned above, B12 therapy is perfectly safe; in other words, the risk of overdose is virtually nil. Here's the proof... Patients of Dr H. L. Newbold in New York City injected themselves three times daily with triple-strength doses of B12 (9,000 micrograms/day as hydroxycobalamin, the natural form) indefinitely. Their serum B12 levels reached 200,000 pg/mL (100 times the normal level found in newborn babies and higher). But none had any significant side effects.³

Other aspects of the therapy should be noted: The neurological and cerebral manifestations of B12 deficiency require dosages larger,¹¹ and extending over a longer time,¹² than those needed to reverse haematologic effects;¹³ and there is no reason to run the risk of not catching deficiency in time or to go to any unnecessary expense and inconvenience. To put it bluntly: try the harmless therapy and see if you, the patient, benefit(s).

Other Conditions Benefit From B12 Replenishment

Besides Alzheimer's disease, B12 ("cobalamin"*) deficiency can also cause the following conditions. And when started early, replenishing B12 (i.e., restoring it to or near to levels found at birth) may often significantly improve these afflictions as well:

- **Depression.** Often in mild form, depression can be one of the first clues foretelling dementia.¹⁴⁻¹⁹ Chris Reading, BSc, DipAgSc, MBBS, of Australia concurs: "...in most cases of [not only mild but also] 'intractable depression', a subtle B12, or other nutrient, or thyroid hormone, deficiency has been missed."^{20, 21} Psychotic depression has been particularly associated with B12 deficiency.²²

As I'll discuss later, success of B12 therapy against depression in its various forms is "probable".

- **Paranoid psychosis.** This nutritional deficit has also been linked to paranoid psychosis, characterised by over-suspiciousness and delusions of grandeur or persecution.²³

- **Bipolar-1 disorder** (manic depression), marked by alternating periods of elation and depression; and more commonly **bipolar-2 disorder** (cyclothymic personality), marked by swings of mood but within normal limits.^{24, 25, 26}

- **Chronic fatigue syndrome.**^{27, 28, 29}

- **Weakened immunity.** Weakened immunity can lead to susceptibility to recurrent infections and cancer, as well as increasing the risk of cardiovascular disease, cancer³⁰ and much more by a second pathway: hindering remethylation of the toxic sulphur amino acid homocysteine back into the nontoxic essential amino acid methionine.³¹

- **Asthma.** Incomplete digestion of foods due to hypochlorhydria and low pepsin production (see below) can be involved in a subsequent allergic response in asthma.³²

- **Disrupted sleeping/waking rhythms.**^{33, 34}

- **Environmental illness.**³⁵

- **Low stress tolerance.**³⁶

- **Osteoporosis.**³⁷

- **AIDS** (acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome).³⁸

- **Premature ageing.**³⁹

- **Multiple sclerosis.**^{40, 41} Symptoms of MS have been noted in persons with a vitamin B12 deficiency prior to evidence of megaloblastic anaemia. *There is a remarkable epidemiologic similarity between MS and pernicious anaemia*, and similar HLA (human lymphocyte antigens) are suggested for the association of the two conditions.

- **Alzheimer's mimicking and non-Alzheimer's dementia.**⁴²

Intramuscular injection of B12 also has yielded seeming miracle cures in still other desperate illnesses. Further, in numerous cases of patients with violent behaviour, when B12 was replenished (with or without other changes in life), violent behaviour disappeared.⁴⁵⁻⁴⁹

"The only question now," writes Dommissie, "is, what proportion of cases of mood-disorder is caused by B12-deficiency

and what percentage is idiopathic." Almost all of his uni- and bipolar patients have had B12 levels in the lowest one-third of the so-called normal (to prevent pernicious anaemia) range—levels that he now regards as deficient for adequate affective, cognitive and other mental functions. When their levels have been raised to the highest one-third of that "normal" range, every one of those patients felt better. For some patients who came out of their depression or mood-swing disorder, this was the only new or different treatment they received. In subsequent instances when their affective disorder worsened, B12 levels had again dropped.

So, would restoring ample serum B12 levels prevent many or most of those adverse conditions? Evidence shown below, Dr Dommissie cautiously suggests, means, "Yes, at least in the case of depression".

Having a quality laboratory measure serum B12 is an essential part of the replenishment process. Simply supplementing B12 "in the dark" could miss the mark badly.

There is no maximum allowable age to begin B12 therapy. Everyone loves an anecdote. A friend told me her 90-year-old live-in mother was beginning to think less clearly than in the past and to feel a bit depressed. I suggested: "If your dear mother would like to stop her incipient downward slide, let her start the therapy." God never wrote on tablets of stone that 90 years of age is too old to turn one's health around and begin to make life fun again. After a few weeks on high-dose B12 she was out in the woods with her daughter gathering items of interest. But three years later she "felt terrible" for want of enough water (F. Batmanghelidj, MD's authoritative study, *Your Body's Many Cries for Water*, states that *chronic dehydration* is the cause of AD).

Having a quality laboratory measure serum B12 is an essential part of the replenishment process. Simply supplementing B12 "in the dark" could miss the mark badly. And to really know the patient's whole picture, Sherry A. Rogers, MD, suggests the ION (Individualised Optimum Nutrition) Panel is well worth its cost (currently, about US\$600; in the USA,

contact NEEDS on 1800 634 1380).⁵⁰

The normal range for serum B12, states Dr Dommissie, should be defined as 600 to 2,000 pg/mL. Japan's "normal" range is 500–1,300.⁵¹ According to Dommissie, this may explain why Japan has such a low rate of Alzheimer's dementia⁵² compared to the USA.⁵³ By some estimates, as many as 80 per cent of elderly American patients may share hidden B12 insufficiency.^{54, 55, 56}

Also, B12 deficiency is common with folate deficiency in dementia^{57, 58, 59} and worsens over time as the deficiency increases.⁶⁰ The impact was seen first on neuropsychiatric measures; augmentation of B12 and folate materially improved scores on cognitive performance tests.^{61, 62}

(* The name "cobalamin" has been advocated because the large B12 molecule includes a cobalt molecule; see W. S. Beck, "Cobalamin and the nervous system" [editorial], *New Eng J Med* 1988; 318:1752-54. However, about one-third of this vitamin's molecule is not cobalamin, but metabolically inactive crinoids which may be effective for bacteria but do not serve as haemopoietic agents; see J. S. Bland, *Preventive Medicine Update*, October 1994. See also Addendum.)

Methods of Treatment

The most direct method for adding these megadoses of B12 is through intramuscular (IM) injection, which requires a doctor's prescription and a doctor's or nurse's instruction. It is about as difficult technically as pushing a pin into a ripe orange⁶³ and can be economical if a patient can self-administer or a companion can administer.

Another feasible approach uses inexpensive sublingual B12 at 2,500–5,000 mcg (2.5 to 5 mg), which anyone can buy at a quality health food store. Taken in that way, evidence indicates that most of the vitamin goes via the lymphatic system (see Sherry A. Rogers, MD, *Detoxify or Die*, 2005 ed., p. 270). Therefore, this treatment mode may yield more benefit by avoiding the digestive system.⁶⁵

Causes of B12 Insufficiency

Several common features of modern life accelerate the decline of vitamin B12 in serum through life, including the following:

- **Microwave ovens.** In one test, microwaving milk degenerated 30–40 per cent of its vitamin B12 content in six minutes; with conventional heating, 25 minutes of boiling was needed to depress B12 that much.⁶⁷ More importantly, the heat of microwaving destroys all the enzymes in ingested food, which are required to enable absorption and utilisation of food. And so by eating microwaved food, both at home and in restaurant and take-out meals, tens of millions of Americans are making themselves increasingly vulnerable to AD as well as to cancer. One further note: microwaving, invented by the Nazis, is wisely forbidden in Russia.⁶⁷

- **The Western diet.** B12 ingestion and stores tend to be insufficient among millions who have for decades eaten RDA-fortified, yet vitamin- and mineral-depleted, processed Western diets, which are also big sources of disease-creating free radicals.⁶⁹ Too low levels of omega-3 essential fatty acids in Western diets, harmful on their own in many ways, must also contribute to insufficient B12 levels.⁷⁰ Omega-3 supplementation may yield its benefits largely through augmenting vitamin B12. Too-low levels of acetyl-carnitine and folic acid also appear to worsen the risk of the condition.^{71, 72}

It's worth noting that in an Alzheimer's disease mouse model, a diet rich in omega-3 essential fatty acids, specifically DHA (docosahexaenoic acid), has been shown potentially to slow or even to prevent Alzheimer's disease.⁷³ At modest cost, we can easily ingest DHA and EPA (eicosapentaenoic acid) in fish oil or cod liver oil (I find the Carlson brand to be the best). And how about trans-fatty acids found in products labelled "zero trans-fats" with EPA approval? In a study of over 800 seniors, those with high TFA intake were twice as likely to suffer with Alzheimer's disease as those with the lowest intake (hsiresearch@healthiernews.com, 17 February 2006).

- **Hypochlorhydria.** Most commonly, B12 insufficiency results directly from hypochlorhydria (insufficient hydrochloric acid [HCl] in the stomach) or by achlorhydria (no HCl at all). The acid should be concentrated enough, in middle age, to dissolve a nail in an hour.⁷⁷ Hypochlorhydria is likely caused by zinc or vitamin B6 deficiency⁷⁸ and a shortage of ionised calcium.^{79, 80} (Both deficiencies are typically present in older people.) Lack of enough pepsin or HCl in the stomach to

generate the bond between B12 and its carrier protein typically shows with atrophic gastritis.^{81, 82} Both are also risk factors for gastric cancer.⁸³ Incomplete digestion of foods due to hypochlorhydria and low pepsin production also can be involved in subsequent allergic response in asthma.⁸⁴

- **Intrinsic Factor, Bacteria, Cobalamid, Failure of Absorption.** B12 deficiency can also result from inadequate stomach secretion of the tiny open-ended protein capsule known as "intrinsic factor"; from presence in the gut of bacterial overgrowth;⁸⁵ from ingestion of cobalamid, a B12 antagonist;⁸⁶ or failure of absorption for other reasons.⁸⁷

- **Antacids and Antibiotics.** Chronic overuse of antacids, both prescribed and over the counter (OTC), by tens of millions of elderly people may also be responsible. When all the acid is mopped up daily by antacids, the B vitamins never even get to first base.⁸⁸ For example, B12 absorption is dramatically reduced when the drug Prilosec (omeprazole), which has recently been made available OTC in the USA, is used.^{89, 90} "A significant percentage of patients taking omeprazole are also being treated for or are at high risk of heart disease, and therefore almost all are instructed to eat

a diet low in red meat (or devoid of it completely) and of animal products, which are the best source of vitamin B-12".⁹¹ Also, omeprazole reduces gastric (stomach) levels of multi-protective ascorbic acid (vitamin C),⁹² still another route to cancer (see J. G. Hattersley, "Alzheimer's dementia, vitamins B12 and B6, lithium, ginkgo biloba, dental mercury, genetic risk, and drinking water fluoridation", *J Appl Nutr* 2005).

This is an egregious example of iatrogenic disease, created by tunnel-visioned one-organ specialists (who seldom if ever communicate with each other) using a "band-aid" approach to treatment of a symptom or test reading, oblivious to the possibly

The most direct method for adding these megadoses of B12 is through intramuscular (IM) injection, which requires a doctor's prescription and a doctor's or nurse's instruction.



disastrous long-term effect on the patient. Other causes of B12 deficiency include excessive long-term use of antibiotics and other drugs to mask symptoms without learning and correcting their cause; oral antibiotics destroy the trillions of "good" bugs in the gut as well as the bad, thus ruining absorption.⁹³

• **Vegan Diets.** Many vegan (total) vegetarians have for decades consumed few, if any, foods containing B12. As a result, their body stores of the vitamin have gradually diminished. Forty-seven of 78 adult vegans had levels below 200 pg/mL; when they chewed a 100-microgram B12 tablet once a week, their levels promptly rose to normal.⁹⁴ Some vegans depend on sea vegetables such as arame, wakame and some varieties of kombu, or on algae.⁹⁵ The B12 in these, although absorbed, may not be fully bio-available.⁹⁶ A study published in the May 2003 *Townsend Letter for Doctors and Patients* (TLfDP) provided strong evidence that a commonly consumed seaweed known as nori does, in fact, contain bio-available forms of B12.⁹⁷ But whether that substance is available to large numbers of vegans and whether its use would lift serum B12 levels enough is not known. And in a recent study from India published in *Neurology India*,¹ most of the B12-deficient people studied were "vegetarian".

Vitamin B12 Repletion Succeeds Despite Risk Factors

In his study, Dr Dommissie does not reveal, or need to know, the proportion of his patients who experience other AD risks: for example, how many are thyroid deficient, drink fluoridated water, have extensive dental amalgams, take Ibuprofen⁹⁸ (some non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, along with their famous multitude of adverse effects, may lower AD risk by about 50 per cent⁹⁹), etc. He doesn't consider the number of patients who have been exposed occupationally to electromagnetic fields, which promote the formation of beta amyloid, a protein common in the brains of Alzheimer's patients.^{100, 101} Nor does he present any numbers showing high content of aluminium in AD patients' brains¹⁰² from consumption of aluminium-treated drinking water^{103, 104} and/or from consuming a variety of everyday sources (refer also to the combination of aluminium-containing alum with fluoridated water in J. G. Hattersley, *J Appl Nutr* 2005). Dommissie's study also doesn't consider the extent of use of melatonin as a brain antioxidant to counteract accumulation of free-radical-creating iron,¹⁰⁵ nor does it look at potentially brain-damaging homocysteine in patients' serum.^{106, 107}

[As a side note, possible mechanisms for spinal cord and peripheral nerve effects of vitamin B12 deficiency include axonal degeneration and demyelination of insulating nerve sheaths.¹⁰⁸ Deana et al. found low levels of neurotransmitters in the brains of B12-deficient rats.¹⁰⁹ A University of Kentucky study found impaired G-protein signalling and proposed a feed-forward cycle of progressive neuronal dysfunction, related to phosphoinositide signalling.¹¹⁰ Spector et al. have hypothesised that idiopathic (Alzheimer's) dementia is a brain-vitamin-deficiency state due to inadequate transport of vitamins from the blood across the choroid plexus (the "blood brain barrier") and into the cerebrospinal

fluid—the only source of these nutrients for the brain.¹¹¹]

Dr Dommissie prefers vitamin B12 as hydroxycobalamin. A person taking cyanocobalamin from a pharmacy might over a long period of years accumulate a toxic amount of cyanide and possibly damage vision.¹¹² (Many patients in Britain using cyanocobalamin from a pharmacy did go blind due to damage to the optic nerve, and few physicians knew of it [letter 9/3/05 from Wayne Martin, *TLfDP* contributing writer, Fairhope, Alabama]).

Also, methylcobalamin, widely used in Japan, is increasingly popular in the USA, in part because it is reputed to be better absorbed. Certain OTC sublingual preparations provide methylcobalamin, which in the absence of alcoholic and other liver damage is the only version of B12 that penetrates the blood-brain barrier (the choroid plexus) and reaches the brain and spinal cord (Sherry A. Rogers, MD, *Detoxify or Die*, p. 270).

In *Preventive Medicine Update* (May 1995), Jeffrey Bland, PhD, reported: "Five clinician/subscribers have sent clinical case

histories. On high-dose folate/B12/B6, homocysteine levels dropped... Also, a number of reports have come...about patients suffering with presenile dementia or Alzheimer-like symptoms. On IM B12, their MMA (methyl malonic acid levels, an indication of deficient B12 status) came down to normal range, and their walking, balance, gait, and perception improved. I've had reports of individuals who had not been able to read, start to read, people who had not been able to look at video screens now comfortable looking at them, and two reports of people

who had movement dystonia, who after vitamin B12 therapy were able to get in the car and be transported without fear of being unable to accommodate passing scenery. So there is a wide range of very important clinical outcomes from improving folate/B12/B6 status, cutting across neurological and arterial functional status."¹¹³

Because the typical environmentally ill (EI) patient often has low zinc, B6 and thyroid hormone levels, low chromium glucose tolerance factor (GTF) and high candida/low bifidus as well as low B12,

to suggest B12 alone as the sole treatment would not be consistent with holistic thinking, suggested Dr Earl Conroy.¹¹⁴ So, if high-dose B12 doesn't do the trick pretty fast, consider additional measures, guided by the results of the ION Panel test, if given.¹¹⁵

Little research has been published about B12 therapy for AD and other neurological diseases, Dommissie writes, because of the "...heavy pharmaceutical industry sponsorship of research and teaching in medical schools. Career-track academicians have realised that, if they want to fulfill their ambitions, they have to eschew nutritional research for that of drugs."³ The volume of published research on drugs to fight Alzheimer's disease is overwhelming. To continue their careers, the authors of these studies have a powerful financial incentive to report positive results, whether truthful or not. Yet, the best that Alzheimer's drugs can do is to conceal the symptoms for a while. The underlying cause—notably, deficiency of vitamin B12—continues to worsen unabated.

Spector has hypothesised that Alzheimer's is a brain-vitamin-deficiency state due to inadequate transport of vitamins from the blood across the "blood brain barrier" and into the cerebrospinal fluid—the only source of these nutrients for the brain.

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JUNK PET FOOD AND THE DAMAGE DONE

Dogs, cats and ferrets fed a regular diet of processed food suffer from a range of cruel and debilitating diseases.

Pet owners can improve their pets' health by feeding them a natural, chewy diet primarily of whole raw carcasses or at least raw meaty bones.

by Dr Tom Lonsdale,
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Imagine if all the Big Macs, Happy Meals and Coca-Colas consumed by Morgan Spurlock during his month-long binge for the film documentary *Super Size Me*¹ were instead tipped into a vat, ground to a pulp and cooked under pressure. Let us imagine that half the resultant glop was sealed in cans and the other half dehydrated, extruded into kibble and packed in bags—with brightly coloured labels asserting the health benefits.

Suppose, then, that Spurlock either slurped through the contents of the McCans or crunched his way through the McKibble. And now—this is an important aspect—imagine that Spurlock had neither a toothbrush nor the ability to ask for one, so consequently didn't clean his teeth for the month-long experiment. Now I ask: what would Spurlock's physical, dental and mental health be like after such a crazy experiment? Would doctors, dentists and health regulators provide official endorsement for the canned and kibbled diet? Indeed, would it be likely that Spurlock picked up his McCans and McKibble at his local medical or dental practice?

For the vast majority of pet dogs (modified wolves), cats (modified desert predators) and ferrets (modified polecats), a diet of McCans or McKibble is their everyday reality. Spurlock's doctor told him he had to stop his unnatural experiment inside 30 days because he was killing himself. By contrast, the world's pet doctors (vets) encourage pet owners to feed McCans and McKibble *every day* of their pets' lives. I know; I was one such vet.

Poisoned five ways

For the first 15 years of my working life as a graduate of the Royal Veterinary College, University of London, I went along with conventional veterinary wisdom. I counselled my clients against the feeding of home-prepared meals because they were unlikely to get the "balance" of nutrients right, I suggested. Raw meat posed a risk due to bacteria and lack of calcium, so I said. As for bones, everyone knew that bones posed a hazard for breaking teeth and causing obstruction. And whoever heard of feeding bones to cats? The manufacturers have removed the guesswork, I assured my clients. "Giant companies understand the science and have the resources to ensure the best possible fare for your pet. It's convenient, too!"

With the matter of diet for my patients glossed over, I could return to the more pressing problems associated with diagnosis and treatment. After all, that's what I was trained to do and that's what my clients expected of me—and the stream of sick pets with skin disease, heart, liver, bowel and dental disease, cancer and other maladies was never ending.

Oh, how I cringe! How culpably, horribly wrong I had been! As varied as my patients were in size, species, age, sex and breed, the one common uniting feature was their junk food diet. They were all fed McCans and McKibble, and almost without exception this was the reason why the animals needed my services. Yes, it's as simple and dramatic as that, and for the following reasons:

1. Canned soft foods and grain-based kibble do not clean teeth. In fact, food sludge sticks to teeth and feeds the bacteria in dental plaque. The body's second line of defence, the immune system, mobilises against the bacterial invaders. The result: inflamed gums, bad breath, circulating bacteria and bacterial poisons that affect the rest of the body.^{2,3}

2. Dogs, cats and ferrets don't have the digestive enzymes in the right quality or quantity to deal with the nutrients in grains and other plant material, whether those nutrients are raw or cooked. When grains are cooked at high temperatures at the pet food

factory, the starches, proteins and fats become denatured or toxic to varying degrees.⁴ Junk food is laden with colorants, preservatives, humectants and a raft of other strange chemical additives—none with any nutritive value and all toxic to varying degrees.⁵ Once in the bowel of a carnivore, toxic nutrients are absorbed into the circulation and affect various body systems.

3. Poorly digested grain-based junk food supports a large population of toxin-producing bacteria in the lower bowel. The bowel lining, in constant contact with poisons, may be adversely affected. Some poisons pass through the bowel wall into the blood circulation, are carried to other organs and create further problems.⁶

4. Like Morgan Spurlock, some pets show signs of ill health after a short time consuming junk food. For instance, puppies frequently suffer from bad skin and diarrhoea. Long-term exposure to the diet-related toxins listed in categories 1, 2 and 3 leads to diseases of body organs. Diseased organs produce more toxins, which enter the bloodstream and add to the spiral of worsening disease.⁷

5. Mostly pets suffer in silence; they can't speak in words. But when animals are affected by the above four categories of poison, their body language tells observant owners to seek help from the vet. Some vets say: "Stop! Stop feeding junk food." Sadly, though, most vets ignore categories 1, 2 and 3, and instead they diagnose diseased organs as mentioned in 4 (above). Treatment usually involves strong pharmaceuticals, which then contribute another level of toxic insult.⁸

You may ask: what about the genetic diseases, infectious diseases, parasitic diseases, the broken legs, other traumatic diseases and the diseases of old age? For sure, these are all important factors governing the well-being of our pet carnivores. But clearly, undeniably, pets worn down by the toxic effects of a junk food diet are at greater risk of succumbing to other diseases, and the recovery phase is likely to be longer, too.⁹

Stop!

Stop feeding junk pet food is the first and best bit of advice I can give you—for the benefit of your pet(s), the human economy and the natural environment. By stopping doing harm, we take the first step on the road to doing good. It gains us some breathing space, allowing us to survey the scene, investigate further and harness the benefits of our newfound wisdom.

Actually, it's not so new. Hippocrates, the famous Greek physician of the fifth century BC, said: "Leave your drugs in the chemist's pot if you can heal your patients with food."¹⁰

So why did we lose sight of the ancient wisdom? Why did we ignore the teachings of nature? And of utmost importance, why is it so difficult to discuss, let alone reverse, the current orthodoxy? By way of explanation, let me tell you a story that, when taken to a conclusion, should provide medical, scientific, social and environmental benefits worth billions of dollars. Since 1955, when Juliette de Bairacli Levy published her *Complete Herbal Book for the Dog*, there have been mutterings about the inadequacy of processed-food diets for pet dogs and cats.¹¹ By the late 1980s Australian vets were passing comment, and by the

early 1990s they were registering open dissent. Dr Breck Muir often remarked about the foul odours given off from both ends of dogs fed canned food. In the December 1991 issue of the *Australian Veterinary Association News*, he wrote:¹²

Canned pet food not the healthiest

The pet food situation has concerned me for some years, my feelings brought to this by the current competitive marketing of various dental work stations for veterinary use.

The scene as I see it goes like this: "Here is the best food ever made for your dog, Mrs Jones," handing her a can of commercial dog food or dry food, "but he may develop problems with his teeth, so here is a special toothbrush and paste for you to use to clean his teeth regularly, and then if that doesn't keep the periodontal

disease at bay we...have the very latest in dental equipment just like your own dentist has, and we can give Fido that perfectly enamelled ivory grin"—that he would have had had you not fed him the commercial food in the first place.

Here we have the perfectly engineered commercial circle—a problem doesn't exist, so we create one, and then come up with all the remedial treatments.

Also in December 1991, my article "Oral Disease in Cats and Dogs" appeared in the newsletter of the Sydney University Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science.¹³

The stench of stale blood, dung and pus emanating from the mouths of so many of my patients has finally provoked this eruption of dissent.

The sheer numbers passing through the practice, when extrapolated to the world situation, tell me that oral disease is the source of the greatest intractable pain and discomfort

experienced by our companion animals.

This is a great and mindless cruelty we visit upon our animals from the whelping box to the grave. Just imagine having a mouth ulcer or toothache for a lifetime.

Whilst the chemical contents (masquerading as nutrients) of junk pet foods are a major cause of concern, the new emphasis on oral hygiene opened an important chapter focusing on the *physical form* of the food. Indisputably, lions, tigers, wolves and all other wild predators don't have access to toothbrushes, dental floss or annual check-ups at the dentist. Nature equipped carnivores with the tools of trade to complete a very necessary evolutionary function: eating and thus regulating herbivore populations on planet Earth. Strong, precision tools need to be kept sharp and clean, and it's by the very act of a carnivore's gnawing and ripping its way through tough hide, muscle, sinew and bone that its teeth and gums get scrubbed, scraped and polished.

For dogs, cats and ferrets, the biological principles are exactly the same as for their wild cousins. Nutrients need to be raw and

Clearly and undeniably, pets worn down by the toxic effects of a junk food diet are at greater risk of succumbing to other diseases, and the recovery phase is likely to be longer, too.

easily digested; physically, the food should be raw, tough and chewy.¹⁴ In practical terms, that's a diet of whole chickens, rabbits, fish or similar. A raw meaty bones-based diet provides a good second-best option.

Blowing the whistle, catching attention

If unnatural pet food injures the health of pets, then the cosy relationship between the pet food manufacturers and the veterinary profession injures pets, pet owners and the veterinary profession, too. Breck Muir complained:¹⁵

The infiltration of the commercial pet foods into our lives is one of the great success stories of the business world. Gross sales figures for a single product type is probably only bettered by petroleum products worldwide.

We as a profession have been led by the nose by vested interests into a current situation where most younger vets actually recommend commercial pet foods as the best available way of feeding domestic pets—because they have never known of any other way. Before they had their first pet they were bombarded with constant mass media advertising instilling into them that various commercial foods are the only way to go, and when they graduated and went to postgraduate nutrition courses again they had this idea reinforced by visiting lecturers who actually mentioned brand names in their notes.

Breck and I thought that blowing the whistle on the processed pet-food issue might trigger debate. We also hoped it might lead to reappraisal and resolution of a gathering crisis. However, we were about to be taught the first of several lessons: that the pet food industry/veterinary profession alliance is extensive, strong and hostile to criticism.

Upper echelons of the veterinary profession (veterinary associations, veterinary schools, research institutes) and junk food makers do deals behind the scenes. The Australian Veterinary Association sent Breck's letter to John Wingate, the then president of the Pet Food Manufacturers Association Inc. (now the Pet Food Industry Association of Australia Inc.). Wingate, in his self-serving response published alongside Breck's letter, told vets:¹⁶

The best way to feed a pet animal is with reputable brands of pet food... Analytically speaking, the...contents of these products are known and designed to satisfy the requirements of the animal as defined by the National Research Council of the US Academy of Sciences, which is the accumulation of the most up-to-date world-wide knowledge on the subject.

Yes, that's right: the junk pet food culture extends all the way up to the US Academy of Sciences—and along the way, animal welfare organisations, dog and cat breed societies, pet magazines, books, print and electronic media all sing from the junk pet food makers' song sheet.

But as practising vets ministering to the needs of a steady stream of sick pets, we found that our senses and our daily experience told us that the weight of so-called veterinary evidence was wrong. We delved deeper, looking in textbooks and research papers. And everywhere we stumbled, tripped and fell, we found

new evidence of the harmful effects of junk food.

Most pets are fed junk food and never clean their teeth. By simply cleaning diseased teeth and gums and changing pets over to a more natural diet, otherwise intractable diseases disappear—never to recur. Penicillin, hailed as a wonder drug, is used to treat some bacterial diseases but has no long-term disease prevention benefits. Using dentistry and diet, we could cure many and prevent most of the diseases afflicting pets.

Tentacles of the monster

Communicating the good health, good news message to other vets became paramount, and so began a cat-and-mouse game with the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA). As fully-paid-up members of the association, we could submit letters to the letters page of the *AVA News*. The AVA and pet-food company sponsors were not so keen. Nevertheless, between December 1991 and March 1993, a small band of raw meaty bones enthusiasts managed to get 10 letters published—until *AVA News* announced it would run no further correspondence.¹⁷

At a stroke, AVA members were forbidden to discuss fundamental health issues. In response, and with the annual general meeting fast approaching, we drafted a motion calling on the AVA to lift the correspondence ban and to conduct a full investigation of the diet and disease issue. After "lively" debate, both parts of the motion were approved.¹⁸

The AVA report on the diet and disease link was released in February 1994, nine months after the 1993 AGM. Although "assisted" by pet food company vet Dr Barbara Fougere and other pet food company sympathisers,

the committee nevertheless reported that, instead of investigating the full impact of diet and disease, it had limited its enquiries:¹⁹

- The committee believed the concerns raised required urgent attention and comment. It was considered that within the time frame set by the AVA it was not possible to explore every aspect of dietary interaction with disease.
- Information which could be gathered on the broader issues would be unlikely to add more than is already well known.
- Concentration should be placed on periodontal disease and diet because this was the principal area of current concern to the Australian veterinary profession.
- It was felt that if periodontal disease could be prevented then any secondary complications from this problem would be reduced.

There is *prima facie* evidence to justify concern by veterinarians. Pet owners should consider the need to provide some "chewy" material as well as the basic nutrient intake of their dog or cat.

Periodontal disease may be associated with the occurrence of other diseases but the available evidence is inconclusive. Periodontal disease is arguably the most common disease condition seen in small animal practice and its effects on the gums and teeth can significantly affect the health and well-being of affected animals. This is sufficient in itself to give reason for concern. Proof of additional systemic effects is not necessary to justify further action.

If unnatural pet food injures the health of pets, then the cosy relationship between the pet food manufacturers and the veterinary profession injures pets, pet owners and the veterinary profession, too.

Further research is required to better define the relationship between particular diet types and oral health in dogs and cats. Those investigating small animal health problems should also take diet and diet consistency into account when researching systemic diseases—possible confounding effects of diet and poor oral health must be considered in such studies.

Prophetic last words, indeed. Hands-on research in my practice has confirmed that diet and diet consistency are *the prime determining factors* in most diseases treated at suburban veterinary clinics. A range of previously hard-to-treat conditions disappeared as if by magic when dental care coupled with diet change became our top priority. Investigation of pets suffering an acquired immune deficiency revealed a startling restoration of immune function and return to health when the animals' foul mouths were treated and their diet changed to raw meaty bones. The implications are immense, and not just for AIDS sufferers.²⁰ It's relevant for all of us with an immune system and, as I postulated in a paper published in the *Journal of Veterinary Dentistry*, is likely significant to our understanding of the ecology of health and disease on planet Earth.²¹

The pet food industry/veterinary profession alliance, with a multibillion-dollar fighting fund, was in no mood to listen, except insofar as its members wished to consolidate their position. With so many problems associated with the feeding of junk food, they are adept at turning adversity to advantage. Their tentacles wrap around a problem; they pour money into research and present themselves as public benefactors. So it was with periodontal disease, which became the new hot topic in pet food company research labs and universities the world over. Their solution: a plethora of artificial dental products carrying inflated health claims—often endorsed by the Veterinary Oral Health Council.²²

Getting the products to the end user depends on a willing sales force free from independent thought. Veterinarians enjoy status and respect; once indoctrinated, they are the ideal sales and marketing force. Accordingly, veterinarians are tutored in the mail, in advertisements and in visits from pet food company representatives. With minds filled with pet food company "facts", vets are then encouraged to support Dental Health Month, Pet Smile Month or similar. It's the month when pet owners are bombarded with advertisements and publicity stunts, urging them to visit their vet for a "free" dental check for their pets and receive a goody-bag full of samples and copies of those same company-

selected "facts".²³ Augmenting the propaganda push, there's a campaign to denigrate home-prepared and raw food through articles strategically placed in so-called professional journals.²⁴

I, myself, have been targeted in a series of bogus disciplinary actions before the Veterinary Surgeons Board of NSW—a government regulatory body made up of AVA members. Threatened with deregistration, a year in prison or a fine of \$2,000, legal defence strategies became top priority. Documents on file weigh a combined 12 kilograms (26 pounds) and represent years of hard work and countless hours spent in lawyers' offices. Fortunately, the lawyers and I managed to withstand the harassment and I'm still registered as a vet.

The price we pay

The following points provide a summary of the price we pay:

1. Junk food—induced cruelty, ill health and suffering affects the majority of the world's pets. Plentiful scientific evidence, experience and common sense confirm this fact.

2. Misuse of existing scientific paradigms and bogus administrative techniques produces a body of counterfeit science in the service of the junk pet food industry. The current mass-poisoning of pets starts with the first lie: that processed pet food is as good as or better than the natural alternative. So-called researchers swallow the lie and then misuse existing scientific methods and compliant professional journals to perpetuate and bolster the lie.

3. Broadly, three methodologies combine to form the scientific paradigm that underpins the junk pet food enterprise: i) an emphasis on treatment, not prevention, of ill health and disease; ii) dependence on the germ theory of disease as a fundamental axiom when in fact Pasteur, one of the originators of the germ theory, acknowledged that germs are secondary to other predisposing factors; and iii) dependence on reductionist research methods when in fact an holistic approach, taking account of all interactive forces, provides much more satisfactory evidence.

Consider that a natural, raw meaty bones-based diet acts as food and medicine for carnivores. If we apply the lessons to be learned from a study of the health and disease of carnivores resident at the extreme end of the nutritional spectrum, we can derive information of immense medical, scientific, economic and environmental value to us all. New attitudes and new paradigms are needed, but are blocked by the combined might of vested interests.

4. Economic consequences measure in the billions of dollars. Back in the 1860s, Jack Spratt, assisted by Charles Cruft, opened

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the first processed dog-food business in London and started dog shows as a marketing tool.²⁵ Now, in 2007, *Business Week* estimates that "Americans spend an astonishing \$41 billion a year on their furry friends".²⁶ Fuelled by massive profits, the pet food marketing machine encourages us to acquire "furry friends", junk pet food and vet services.²⁷

From dog droppings on the sole of your shoe through to the ecological footprint of giant pet-food factories, there are immense environmental costs that don't appear in the figures. Neither do the figures reveal the cost of the municipal pounds and welfare shelters needed for the millions of discarded pets. Dogs fed junk food are harder to train and more likely to bite their owners, leading to increased training and medical costs.²⁸ What price the scars on a child's face?

5. Failure of democratic, administrative and legal systems—whether due to oversight, incompetence or corruption—facilitates the junk pet food scam. Despite the moral and ethical problems associated with duping people into slowly poisoning their animals and the clear illegality of such cruel treatment, our politicians and lawyers have done little or nothing. Some animal welfare groups, purporting to care for the plight of pets, consort with the junk pet food companies and are more a part of the problem than the solution.²⁹

The media, our watchdogs, mostly remain in their kennel, too scared to comment. Journalists working for the *Australian* newspaper, the Sydney *Sun-Herald* and the UK *Sunday Independent* researched and wrote extensive articles that were never published.³⁰ Other media outlets engage in self-censorship and publish tepid accounts or no accounts at all.

Pet food recall

Whilst we discuss the pet food scam, we should keep in mind that two giant chocolate manufacturers, Mars and Nestlé, jostle for supremacy of the pet food industry. They span the globe and have plans for vast expansions into India and China.^{31,32} In the second tier, other large conglomerates—Colgate-Palmolive, Procter & Gamble, Heinz and Del Monte—compete for consumer loyalty. The companies may seek to differentiate themselves and their products but, in fact, we know there's a sameness about them all—as was amply demonstrated in the March 2007 Menu Foods recall. Dogs and cats in North America were ill and dying of acute renal failure, traced to the output of one contract pet food manufacturer, Menu Foods.³³ At first it was thought that rat poison had contaminated batches of "food", but as the story

unfolded it turned out that melamine, a chemical used for manufacturing plastic counter-tops, glue and fertiliser, had been added into Chinese shipments of wheat gluten affecting almost 100 different brands.³⁴

Acute renal failure may be uncommon, but *chronic* renal failure is not. Research carried out by Nestlé revealed that the mean life-span of cats fed exclusively commercial cat food and receiving regular veterinary attention was less than 12 years of age, with death largely attributable to renal failure or cancer.³⁵ The Mars corporation, advertising its Pedigree *bone-shaped* chews, told vets that "80% of dogs over the age of three have gum disease" and that "dental problems are known to increase with age and are increasingly being linked to vital organ disease—most notably kidneys and liver".³⁶ "Chronic renal disease is a leading cause of death in dogs and cats"—says manufacturer Royal Canin.³⁷

Future prospects

What does the future hold? Who can tell? Peering through my crystal ball, I see a future of constant change. In a complex world of competing interests, some change will be for the good and some for the bad. Let's be under no illusions: big, bad forces seek to stifle dissent, and we are merely individuals of good will. Echoing Edmund Burke: "All that is needed for evil to prosper is for people of good will to do nothing."³⁸ Let's do something—*anything*—that helps the animals. Let's start today. ∞

Editor's Note:

Due to space constraints, we are unable to publish the complete text of Dr Lonsdale's article. To view this, visit <http://www.rawmeatybones.com/articles/nexus.pdf>.

About the Author:

Veterinarian and author Dr Tom Lonsdale, BVetMed, MRCVS, graduated from the Royal Veterinary College, University of London, in 1972. In the 1980s he became aware of the dietary disease epidemics affecting the animals under his care. Since 1991, Dr Lonsdale has campaigned to bring the information to public attention. In 2001, his landmark book *Raw Meaty Bones: Promote Health* was published (reviewed in NEXUS 12/03), followed in 2005 by *Work Wonders: Feed Your Dog Raw Meaty Bones* (reviewed in 13/04). Dr Lonsdale can be contacted by email at tom@rawmeatybones.com. For more information, visit his website, <http://www.rawmeatybones.com>.

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FABRICATING THE DEATH OF ADOLF HITLER

***The little that most
of us think we know
about the
circumstances of
Hitler's demise
comes to us
courtesy of British
MI6 agent Hugh
Trevor-Roper, and
there are many
reasons why we
shouldn't believe
the "bunker bunk".***

Part 1 of 3

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Introduction: Debunking the bunker legend

Many people are broadly familiar with the official narrative of Adolf Hitler's "last days", which was revisited on our cinema screens only recently in the form of the German film *Downfall* (*Der Untergang*, 2004). What they do not know is that the official narrative is a political fiction—and that the revulsion it inspires is the result of deliberate planning.

As the war reached its dreadful conclusion, Churchill and the British government set out to ensure that history never repeated itself—that there would be no resurgence of German nationalism—by dictating how history would view the ultra-nationalistic Third Reich down to the very last detail. The narrative was to be so unedifying as to permanently tarnish the regime's prestige in the eyes of even its most ardent supporters. *At no stage was historical truth a consideration.* Neither the British nor the Americans showed genuine interest in Hitler's fate. Their *only* interest lay in assigning to the movement's leader the most ignoble exit from the historical stage as possible. In this sense, the consignment of Hitler's charred corpse to a rubbish-strewn bomb crater functioned as a metaphor for the consignment of the Hitler regime itself to the dustbin of history.

In the foreword to *Hitler's Death* (2005), an anthology of documents from the Russian state archives designed to buttress the official narrative of the German leader's fate, historian Andrew Roberts avers: "Part of the reason why Germany has been such a successful, pacific, liberal democracy for the past sixty years is precisely because of the way that Hitler met his end in the manner described in mesmerising detail in this book. Germany needed Year Zero in order to be reborn." Few people stop to consider the sheer unlikelihood of the Germans making the Allies such a fine farewell present as a narrative of Hitler's demise that would serve the Allies' postwar agenda perfectly.

In fact, *Hitler's Death* offers a considerable amount of evidence inviting the *opposite* conclusion to that peddled by Roberts. When the documents presented in this volume are examined in chronological order and correlated with other contemporary sources such as news reports, they show that the Soviet investigation of Hitler's death encountered major obstacles virtually as soon as it began.

In this article series, I tell the story of the abortive Soviet investigation and show how Stalin's failure to be taken in by planted evidence and bogus witnesses forced the British to take the initiative. Working in tandem with the Americans, the British built a veritable house of cards on the testimony of Hitler's chauffeur, Erich Kempka, despite the fact that he was almost certainly not even in Berlin during the closing days of the Third Reich.

As I tell the story, I disclose a considerable amount of evidence—most of it almost entirely overlooked—that supports the theory first outlined in Hugh Thomas's pathbreaking 1996 book *The Murder of Adolf Hitler*,² to the effect that the Germans concealed Hitler's exit from history in a well-thought-out forensic fraud. Thomas may not be right about *how* the Germans pulled it off, but there can be no doubt the German regime succeeded in both obfuscating the true circumstances of Hitler's demise and ensuring that Hitler's corpse never fell into the hands of his enemies.

The paucity of evidence

Without bodily remains, it is impossible to affirm that a person is dead, let alone determine the manner in which he or she died. At least officially, there is no Hitler corpse because in 1970, so the Soviets/Russians maintain, the presumptive Hitler remains were macerated and intermixed with the remains of 10 other persons—allegedly Hitler's wife

Eva, Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels, his wife Magda, the Goebbels's six children and General Hans Krebs—and buried in the grounds of a KGB installation in Magdeburg, East Germany. This was done ostensibly to preclude the possibility of a burial site developing into a Nazi pilgrimage centre.

This story is an obvious deception, however. The Soviets hardly lacked the space to store the remains in the USSR, where there was no danger of a Hitler cult emerging. Its function can only have been to relieve them of the obligation to ever make the alleged Hitler corpse available for scientific testing. Today, all the Russians admit to possessing are fragments of what they claim to be Hitler's jawbone and two small pieces of skull.

The skull fragments, one of which is distinguished by a large bullet hole, are sometimes stated to have been found in the bomb crater together with the other remains initially assumed to be those of Adolf Hitler; however, it is more usually maintained that they had been found in Hitler's study inside the Reich Chancellery building (*Reichskanzlei*). Unfortunately, there is no proof that the fragments were found in the Chancellery, let alone that they came from Hitler. No photographs were taken of the fragments *in situ*, while none of the documents included in *Hitler's Death* sheds any light on their discovery.

In matters concerning the authentication of the alleged Hitler remains, the Russians have behaved as inscrutably as their Soviet predecessors. In 1999, a foreign researcher, Michel Perrier of the Institute of Forensic Science at Lausanne University, was denied permission to inspect the remains.³ It is hard to see a plausible reason why the Russians would do this unless there were a chance of a negative identification. This opens up the possibility that the skull fragments are fake. We may be looking at a hoax similar to that of the Piltdown man—a notorious case in which a jawbone discovered in 1912 was subjected to rigorous testing 40 years later by a research team at the British Museum. The researchers found that the jawbone was that of a modern ape and had been artificially stained with potassium dichromate to make it appear ancient.⁴

More than 60 years after Hitler disappeared from history, therefore, the Russians are obstructing research that would provide a definitive answer to the question of whether the fragments belonged to the *Fuehrer*. As D. Marchetti et al. wrote in 2005: "The available literature concerning Hitler's cause of death is incomplete...because the skull bone fragment with a gunshot wound possibly from Hitler's corpse has not been properly examined."⁵ Since the Russians clearly do not regard Hitler's skull fragments with religious reverence—we are not talking about the Shroud of Turin here—no other conclusion can be drawn than that the Russians are afraid of what will be found once the fragments are subjected to scientific testing.

The best explanation for such fears is that the Russians already know that the fragments did not come from Hitler. So far they have made no effort to have mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) extracted from the skull fragments for comparison with mtDNA extracted from the corpse of either Hitler's half-sister Paula or his mother Klara or from any of their living relatives—the process suggested

by Marchetti et al. as the only way out of the present impasse. The Russians' unwillingness to subject the fragments to mtDNA testing implies that they already know that the result will only be negative.⁶

The next most reliable kind of evidence—documentary evidence—also sheds no light on Hitler's fate. Strikingly, no films or photographs exist that would corroborate any aspect of the official narrative of the Third Reich's last days, least of all the claim that Hitler committed suicide. Given his towering importance in the Third Reich, it is hard to believe that, if Hitler had remained in Berlin until the regime fell, a comprehensive photographic record would not have been made of his final stand. Yet there are no known photos or films of Hitler that can securely be dated to April 1945.

As for written sources, all we have is an obscure entry dated 30 April 1945 in a document that is purported to be a diary kept by *Reichsleiter* Martin Bormann from 1 January to 1 May 1945:

30.4.45

Adolf Hitler D.

Eva H. (Hitler) ^

Not only is it hard to believe that even in the most cursory entry Bormann would not at least have recorded the precise time of the *Fuehrer's* demise, but we possess unique testimony that proves the diary to be a fake. Shortly after the war, pilot Hanna Reitsch, who was in the *Fuehrerbunker* for three days (26–29 April), told American interrogator

Robert E. Work that during this period Bormann had been writing an extremely detailed document which he intended to preserve for posterity. Work recorded: "Bormann rarely moved from his writing-desk. He was 'putting down events for future generations'. Every word, every action was recorded on paper. Often, he would approach someone and gloomily ask about the exact contents of the *Fuehrer's* conversation with a person to whom he had just given an audience. He also meticulously wrote down everything

that took place with the others in the bunker. This document was supposed to be removed from the bunker at the last moment so that, according to the modest Bormann, it could 'take its place among the greatest chapters of German history'.⁷

However, the Bormann diary which the Russians subsequently presented to the world is a paltry affair containing entries that are typically only between one and three short lines long. The most substantial entry, that for 27 April, runs to a mere eight lines. Clearly, the diary does not provide a complete narrative of the death throes of the Third Reich. Although most historians (including David Irving, the self-described apostle of "real history") accept its authenticity without demur, it can only be a fake. In sum, there is no physical evidence nor evidence of a visual or written kind that would shed any light whatsoever on Hitler's fate.

Eyewitness testimony

The case for the conventional view that Hitler committed suicide and was cremated on the afternoon of 30 April 1945 therefore depends entirely upon the verbal and written statements furnished immediately after the war by a small group of captured Nazis, most of whom were members of the *Schutzstaffel* (SS), who claimed to have observed these important historical events with their own

Strikingly, no films or photographs exist that would corroborate any aspect of the official narrative of the Third Reich's last days, least of all the claim that Hitler committed suicide.

eyes. The six most important accounts are those of SS-*Obersturmbannfuhrer* Harry Mengershausen, SS-*Sturmabfuhrer* Otto Guensche, SS-*Obergruppenfuhrer* Johannes ("Hans") Rattenhuber, SS-*Obersturmbannfuhrer* Erich Kempka, SS-*Unterfuhrer* Hermann Karnau and SS-*Hauptscharfuhrer* Erich Mansfeld.

The first three eyewitnesses, Mengershausen, Guensche and Rattenhuber, all fell into Soviet hands after Berlin was captured on 2 May 1945. They recounted their respective versions of Hitler's fate to Soviet authorities between 13 and 20 May 1945. The three men's accounts were not available to the public until the 2005 publication of the anthology *Hitler's Death*. Although Hitler's valet, SS-*Sturmabfuhrer* Heinz Linge, was captured at the same time, his interrogation statements are not included in *Hitler's Death* and, so far as I know, have never been made public. Given that Linge subsequently emerged as one of the central protagonists in the official story of Hitler's demise, this fact obviously raises questions about the pretensions of *Hitler's Death* to constitute virtually the last word on the subject.

The three accounts can be supplemented by various other accounts given by German prisoners to the Soviets in May 1945, in particular that given on 7 May by SS-*Sturmabfuhrer* Dr Helmut Kunz. Although Dr Kunz did not profess to know anything pertaining directly to the deaths of Adolf and Eva Hitler, his statement contains a highly significant account of Eva's last known conversation.

The other three eyewitnesses, Kempka, Karnau and Mansfeld, were interrogated by the Americans and the British. Until Hugh Trevor-Roper's *The Last Days of Hitler* was published in 1947,⁸ the accounts of Kempka and Karnau were the only ones available to the general public. The other four accounts have subsequently become available, three as recently as 2005. This means that it is possible *only now* to consider the six earliest eyewitness statements together as an independent body of evidence. *Only now* is it possible, in effect, to leave *The Last Days of Hitler* behind and concern ourselves with the best available original source material.

Strikingly, the information derived from these six individuals represents *the bulk of the firsthand evidence that would ever become available*. Only two of the persons specifically named by others as having been involved in the final days—Heinz Linge and *Reichsjugendleiter* Artur Axmann—survived the war and were able to give their own accounts later. However, in both cases, the eyewitnesses appear to have been pressured to conform their testimony to the Trevor-Roper account, which was treated by the Anglo-American establishment from the very beginning as definitive. None of the other individuals identified in the six earliest accounts as having been involved—Jansen, Kruege, Lindloff, Medle, Schaedle, Burgdorf, Krebs, Bormann, Goebbels—survived the war (so far as we know). We therefore find ourselves saddled with the task of trying to make sense of one of modern history's most important events on the basis of a remarkably thin body of evidence.

The six accounts describe *similar* events. If we compare them, we find that there is general agreement on the following five points: (1) a male body was carried from a room in the bunker to a location just outside

the exit door from the bunker; (2) the male body was wearing black trousers, shoes and socks like those Hitler usually wore; (3) at the same time, a female body was carried out of the bunker whose face was uncovered and was readily identifiable as Eva Hitler; (4) Heinz Linge carried the body of the male; and (5) the two bodies were laid down on the ground beside each other, doused with petrol, cremated and buried together in a bomb crater or ditch situated a very short distance from the bunker exit door. As soon as we look at elements of the story other than those listed above, discrepancies prove to be the rule. If they had been referring to the same event, *authentic* accounts ought to have agreed on most details as fully as they agreed on the aforementioned five points.

It is impossible to distinguish between eyewitnesses who were "telling the truth" and eyewitnesses who were lying. In the absence of material or documentary evidence that would serve as a control, any such distinction is untenable. Indeed, each eyewitness account is as credible as any of the others.

The approach that has most widely been followed, therefore, is that taken by Trevor-Roper, which simply involved assimilating all the available accounts into a narrative of a single event and ignoring or explaining away the details that did not fit with it. By this means, to give just one example, Trevor-Roper accepted an account of events which the eyewitness Erich Mansfeld stated had taken place "not later than the 27th of April" but treated it as if it were a description of an event that a different eyewitness, Erich Kempka, claimed to have observed on 30 April 1945.⁹

The shortcomings of Trevor-Roper's homogenisation technique are rather obvious, however. If one accepts the overall reliability of Mansfeld's account to the extent that one is willing to make use of the information it contains, by what right does one ignore Mansfeld's statement that he is "positive" that the events he was describing had taken place "not later than" 27 April?

Trevor-Roper did the same with the eyewitness testimony of Hermann Karnau, who stated that the events he had observed had taken place on 1 May. Clearly, one cannot simply cherry-pick the evidence in this way. Yet it is by this very method that Trevor-Roper assembled the grand narrative of the fall of the Third Reich which is accepted by most people, including most historians, as essentially correct!



Photo taken in 1946, showing the exit from the *Fuehrerbunker*. The wooden guard tower was added by the Soviets in early July 1945.

In the following sections, I review the six earliest known accounts while resisting the obvious temptations to dismiss certain accounts as wholesale fabrications or resort to the Trevor-Roper "cherry-picking" strategy. As we shall soon learn, the only way to make sense of the six accounts is to treat them as authentic accounts of *different* events. That said, it is not the case that each account represents a *pure* or *unadulterated* version of a particular cremation. The accounts of persons who had apparently observed *two or more* cremations—above all, Guensche—appear to represent a *conflation* of events remembered from *different* cremations.

Testimony from Soviet-held eyewitnesses

The first eyewitness to give an account of the events that occupy our attention was Harry Mengershausen, who was a member of Hitler's personal bodyguard, the RSD. Mengershausen was interrogated by a team of Soviet operatives headed by Lt-Colonel Ivan Klimenko on 13 May 1945, and by a different team headed by Lt-General Alexandr Vadis six days later. The second version came from Hitler's aide-de-camp, Otto Guensche, who furnished a long written statement on 17 May. The third version came from RSD chief Hans Rattenhuber, who gave his account in Moscow on 20 May. Although all three accounts referred to a cremation which had taken place on 30 April, Mengershausen claimed to have witnessed the cremation around noon while Guensche and Rattenhuber both stated that the cremation had taken place around 3.00 or 4.00 pm.

There are no reasons to think that Mengershausen was mistaken and that in fact he witnessed the 3.00/4.00 pm cremation. Mengershausen mentioned important details which were not mentioned by either Guensche or Rattenhuber, the most problematic of which is that the male's face had been visible. While Guensche and Rattenhuber both stated that the male's upper torso was covered with a blanket—so that nothing could be seen of him other than black trousers, socks and shoes—Mengershausen made no mention of a blanket, stating instead: "When Hitler was being carried out I clearly saw his profile—his nose, hair and moustache."¹⁰ Mengershausen also gave a full description of the clothes in which Hitler had been dressed. Hitler "...had black trousers worn over high boots and gray-green uniform jacket. Under the uniform jacket, I could see a white shirtfront and a necktie." He also described Eva's clothing as "a black dress with several pink flowers made from cloth on the breast".¹¹ Guensche and Rattenhuber were unlikely to have overlooked such a touching detail as a corsage of pink flowers; they therefore cannot have witnessed the same cremation that Mengershausen described. Last, Mengershausen stated that only four people were involved: "Except for Guensche and Linge, no one was present during burning of the corpses of Hitler and his wife, and the burial was performed by two men of Hitler's guard."¹² In contrast, the three available accounts of the 3.00/4.00 pm cremation mentioned a larger cast of participants including Bormann and Goebbels—important personages whom Mengershausen could not possibly have failed to notice, if they had been present.

Although all three accounts referred to a cremation which had taken place on 30 April, Mengershausen claimed to have witnessed the cremation around noon while Guensche and Rattenhuber both stated that the cremation had taken place around 3.00 or 4.00 pm.

It would be easy, but unfair, to suggest that Mengershausen had fabricated his story. Rattenhuber himself affirmed that Mengershausen had been present at the scene.¹³ It can therefore be accepted that both Mengershausen and Rattenhuber were present at a cremation on 30 April. The conclusion that makes most sense is that this was a cremation that took place at around midday, just as Mengershausen said. This cremation is not to be confused with a subsequent cremation that took place nearby, sometime between 3.00 and 4.00 pm that same afternoon.

A helpful piece of information here is that while Guensche and Rattenhuber recalled the presence of Hitler's chauffeur, Erich Kempka—who also acknowledged his own presence on this occasion—Mengershausen did not notice Kempka. On the other hand, of all the eyewitnesses who observed the latter cremation, Rattenhuber is the only one who mentioned seeing Mengershausen. But this does not mean that Mengershausen was present at the 3.00/4.00 pm cremation. The appropriate conclusion to draw, I suggest, is that Rattenhuber observed *both* cremations that day, and the account that he subsequently gave the Soviets represented a *conflation* of remembered elements from the two cremations he had witnessed.

Statements from prisoners of the British and Americans

The next two accounts that were to be given came from Erich Kempka and another member of the RSD, Hermann Karnau. Both were reported by the press on the very same day, 20 June 1945. I have long pondered the significance of the fact that both the British and Americans went public with their alleged eyewitnesses on the exact same day. Indeed, Kempka's statement was dated 20 June 1945, suggesting that only a very short time passed between the drafting of Kempka's statement and

his presentation to the press.

The most probable catalyst for such haste—and co-ordination—between the two Western Allies was the publication in Stockholm of Count Folke Bernadotte's book *The End: My Humanitarian Negotiations in Germany in 1945 and Their Political Consequences*.¹⁴ Published on 15 June 1945, only five weeks after the end of the war in Europe, this short book commands the distinction of being the first insider account of the closing phase of the Third Reich. It contains an appendix in which Bernadotte recounted the story of Hitler's fate as it had been related to him by SS-*Reichsfuehrer* Heinrich Himmler's intelligence chief, SS-*Brigadefuehrer* Walter Schellenberg, in Stockholm shortly after the war. No more authoritative version of Hitler's demise can exist than such an account given freely, within a few weeks of the events themselves, and by one of the best-informed men in the Reich. While it is true that Bernadotte shared the Allies' goal of preventing the growth of a "Hitler legend", there is no reason to believe that he misrepresented Schellenberg in order to do so. There has never been, and probably never will be, a more reliable "inside" account of Hitler's fate than that furnished by Schellenberg.

For the Western intelligence agencies, the problem was that Schellenberg told Bernadotte that Hitler had been murdered.

According to Schellenberg, the state of Hitler's health had become a subject of discussion between Himmler, Bormann and himself in early April after Schellenberg had established that Hitler was suffering from Parkinson's disease. Schellenberg believed that Himmler had slowly and only very reluctantly awakened to the necessity of having to do away with Hitler, whose increasingly erratic behaviour was endangering the war effort. Schellenberg told Bernadotte that he believed that Hitler had been given a lethal injection, probably on 27 April. He told Bernadotte that he had determined the date on the basis of certain "calculations", implying that he had possessed pieces of information which, while he did not share them directly with Bernadotte, enabled him to deduce the most probable date. It was almost certainly the publication of Bernadotte's book, whose content was being summarised in the US and Canadian press as early as 16 June, which forced the Western Allies to go public, prematurely as we shall see, with stories of captives claiming to have been actual eyewitnesses to the events which Schellenberg did not pretend to have seen himself.¹⁵

Evidence of the Western Allies' haste to respond to the claim that Hitler had been murdered is their failure to reconcile the discrepancies between the two alleged eyewitnesses' accounts before presenting them to the press. While Kempka's statement confirmed that a cremation had taken place at around 3.00 pm on 30 April, Karnau's statement referred to a cremation on 1 May.

In Berchtesgaden on 20 June 1945, Erich Kempka made a statement for American interrogator George R. Allen, the counterintelligence agent of the 101st Airborne Division.¹⁶ In it, Kempka gave the Americans their first eyewitness account of any of the events connected with the death of the *Fuehrer*. He declared that on 30 April—although he felt unable to say that this was the date "with complete sureness"—at precisely 2.30 pm, SS-*Sturmbannfuhrer* Guensche called him at the Reich Chancellery garage, asking him to bring five cans of petrol over to the bunker. There Guensche told him that the *Fuehrer* was dead and that he had been ordered to burn his corpse "so that he would not be exhibited at a Russian freak-show". Kempka said he then helped carry the corpses. While Linge and an orderly whom he did not remember were carrying the corpse of Adolf Hitler, he carried the corpse of Eva Hitler. Kempka simply assumed that the corpse he had seen Linge carrying was Hitler's, for he noticed "the long black trousers and the black shoes which the *Fuehrer* usually wore with his field-gray uniform jacket". The corpses were taken from the bunker to a spot in the Chancellery garden, "about 4 to 5 m distant from the bunker exit". At this location, both bodies were cremated: "...SS-*Sturmbannfuhrer* Guensche poured the complete contents of the five cans over the two corpses and ignited the fuel. *Reichsleiter* Martin Bormann, *Reichsminister* Dr Goebbels, SS-*Sturmbannfuhrer* Guensche, SS-*Sturmbannfuhrer* Linge, the orderly and I stood in the bunker entrance, looked towards the fire and all saluted with raised hands."¹⁷

The evidence of the fifth eyewitness, Hermann Karnau, is interesting because he is the only eyewitness to the alleged cremation of Adolf and Eva Hitler who fell into the hands of the British whose story has ever reached the public. Like Kempka, Karnau escaped from Berlin, but by mid-May he had made his way to his British-occupied hometown, Wilhelmshaven, where he

surrendered to Canadian troops. After being interrogated by British intelligence officer Captain K. W. E. Leslie, Karnau related his version of the events he had witnessed to an audience of reporters which included Walter Kerr from Reuters and Daniel De Luce of the Associated Press. Leslie told the reporters: "I am sure that Karnau's report about Hitler's death is authentic. I have interrogated many German prisoners of war and I would call this man a reliable witness."¹⁸

Unfortunately, Karnau's statement clashed with Kempka's in two important respects. First, Karnau claimed to have been certain that one of the bodies was that of Hitler. He told the reporters that he had been able to recognise Hitler "by his brown uniform and his face"¹⁹ and, in particular, by his distinctive moustache.²⁰ Second, Karnau claimed that the cremation had taken place at 6.30 pm on 1 May. Karnau's account of the events of 1 May is sufficiently detailed that it cannot be said that he was mistaken about either the date or the time at which the cremation occurred. Karnau had seen Adolf Hitler alive and sitting in his favourite wicker chair when he went for breakfast on the morning of 1 May. During that morning, he recalled, four men arrived carrying gasoline cans "for the air-conditioning system". Karnau said that as he knew the bunker's air conditioning system used Diesel oil, he denied them entrance. He only allowed them in after Linge intervened.²¹ Karnau, who last saw Hitler alive at around 4.00 pm, believed that Hitler was

subsequently poisoned by one of his personal physicians, Dr Ludwig Stumpfegger, and cremated at around 6.30 pm that same day.

It should not be concluded that Karnau was wrong about a cremation having taken place on 1 May. On 7 May, Dr Helmut Kunz, who had worked in the Reich Chancellery dental surgery from 23 April 1945 onwards, was interrogated by the Soviets. The evidence he gave on this occasion cannot be lightly dismissed because it was the *first* account ever given by a bunker survivor—meaning

that it is the least influenced by accounts given by others. It is also the most reliable, in the sense that the events it discusses had taken place only a week before.

Dr Kunz explicitly affirmed seeing Eva Hitler alive on at least two occasions on the evening of 30 April. Dr Kunz told his Russian interrogators that he had seen Eva playing with the Goebbels children on that evening and that a little later, between 10.00 and 11.00 pm, he, Professor Werner Haase and two of Hitler's secretaries had joined her for coffee. On the latter occasion, Eva told Dr Kunz that Hitler was not yet dead but he "would die when he received confirmation that [his] will had reached the person it had been sent to".²² It is very hard to imagine that Dr Kunz could have been confused about the date, that in such circumstances he could have mistaken Eva Hitler for someone else or that Eva did not actually know whether Hitler was yet dead or not. Moreover, since Hitler's will *never* reached its intended recipient(s), it is entirely plausible that Hitler would not have decided to die until the last possible moment, which is consistent with a time of 6.30 pm on 1 May.

The odd thing is the response that Karnau's story evoked from Kempka. On 4 July, Kempka made a second statement²³ in which he insisted that Karnau couldn't have seen Hitler's moustache because "[t]he upper part of Hitler's body was fully covered by a blanket". Karnau must therefore have seen "other cremations", the

Evidence of the Western Allies' haste to respond to the claim that Hitler had been murdered is their failure to reconcile the discrepancies between the two alleged eyewitnesses' accounts before presenting them to the press.

implication obviously being that Karnau had mistaken someone else's cremation for that of Adolf Hitler and Eva Hitler. However, the fact that Karnau had seen Hitler's face while Kempka had not suggests that it was Kempka, not Karnau, who must have been referring to "other cremations".

Kempka also stated that he was now certain that Hitler had been cremated on 30 April 1945, and added the claim that the wind had blown Eva's dress, exposing her garters. However, in this respect, Dr Kunz's evidence seems decisive. Eva Hitler could not possibly have been cremated on 30 April because Dr Kunz spoke with her on the same night. What's more, on this occasion Eva told Dr Kunz that Adolf Hitler was still alive. Therefore, if Kempka saw any cremation at all on 30 April, the bodies he witnessed being burned were not those of Adolf and Eva Hitler.

No serious attempt seems ever to have been made to reconcile the discrepancies between Kempka's and Karnau's accounts, e.g., by confronting the pair with one another. The 1947 book *Who Killed Hitler?*, by Herbert Moore and James W. Barrett,²⁴ criticised Trevor-Roper's *The Last Days of Hitler* for "belittling" Karnau's testimony and relying instead on Kempka's. In her review of *Who Killed Hitler?* in the *Oakland Tribune*, Nancy Barr Mavity retorted that Kempka's and Karnau's accounts "differ in detail, as eyewitness accounts of a complex occurrence notoriously do".²⁵ How a single episode—the burning of two bodies—can be represented as a "complex occurrence" I have no idea, but her statement does show that the only option available to those who wish to believe Kempka involves explaining away or simply ignoring discrepancies between his account and those of the other eyewitnesses.

The third account, given to US interrogators by RSD member Erich Mansfeld on 30 July 1945, which referred to a cremation on either 26 or 27 April, establishes beyond reasonable doubt that there were numerous cremations and that at least some of the eyewitnesses were mistaken when they asserted that they had witnessed *Hitler's* cremation. In fact, the first such cremation was observed by Mansfeld while he was on guard duty on the afternoon of 27 April. After recounting what Mansfeld claimed he had seen, the statement concludes: "Subject claims there is a possibility these events took place on the 26th instead of the 27th, *but is positive it was not later than the 27th of April 1945* [my italics]."²⁶

The earliest six eyewitness accounts—effectively, the only reliable accounts we have—establish that at least four cremations of corpses, which were assumed by observers to be those of Adolf Hitler and Eva Hitler, took place in the Reich Chancellery garden between 26 or 27 April and 1 May. In each case, the male body wore a pair of Hitler's trousers.

In each case, also, the male body was accompanied by a female who bore a convincing resemblance to Eva Hitler. It is obvious, therefore, that many bunker veterans who thought they had witnessed the cremation of Adolf and Eva Hitler had only witnessed the burning of other corpses—that is to say, corpses they were meant to mistake for those of Adolf and Eva Hitler. No one was therefore in a position to say whether they had witnessed the cremation of the *real* Adolf Hitler or of a substitute. However, one of the two "Hitlers" whose face had been visible appears to have been Hitler's double, whose corpse was found by the Soviets on 4 May.²⁷

"We know nothing"

Clearly, there are no grounds to assume that accounts of cremations which took place on different dates can simply be conflated as if they were all accounts of the same event. This raises the question of whether on *any* of these occasions the real Adolf and Eva Hitler were cremated. This is a question that can be answered in the negative.

While he was interned for several years in two Soviet POW camps in Strausberg and Posen, the *Wehrmacht* surgeon-general, Major-General Walter Schreiber, had the opportunity to speak with four persons, each of whom had been present in the bunker until Berlin fell to the Soviets. While he was unable to draw any information on the subject of Hitler's fate out of the "arrogant" Wilhelm Mohnke,²⁸ Hitler's pilot Hans Baur told him only that he had never seen Hitler dead. Heinz Linge and Otto Guensche were more forthcoming. Linge told him that he "did not see Hitler, but toward the end noticed two bodies wrapped in carpet being carried out of the bunker". Linge told Schreiber that while at the time he had assumed the bodies to be those of the Hitler couple, only later had he been told that this was the case. This admission is astounding, because Linge is the one person mentioned by all eyewitnesses as having carried Hitler's body up the stairs and into the Chancellery garden. Guensche, with whom Schreiber spoke only a short time after the regime fell, proved even more

informative. Like Linge, Guensche admitted that he had never seen Hitler's dead body. He added the enigmatic comment: "Those things were all done without us."²⁹

Such evidence is corroborated by General Helmuth Weidling, who told the Soviets on 4 January 1946: "After I was taken prisoner, I spoke to SS-Gruppenfuehrer Rattenhuber and SS-Sturmbannfuehrer Guensche, and both said they knew nothing about the details of Hitler's death."³⁰

On the basis of Schreiber's and Weidling's revelations, it can be regarded

as certain that neither Guensche nor Linge, the two mainstays of the Hitler suicide legend, nor Mohnke nor Rattenhuber, had anything to do with Hitler's death or knew anything about it. It would seem appropriate to conclude that no one who knew anything for *certain* about what happened to Hitler has ever spoken about it publicly. Hitler's inner circle in Berlin knew nothing about what had happened to him, and the stories they told publicly after 1945 (in the cases of Kempka and Karnau) and since 1955 (in the cases of Linge and Guensche) have been lies. They were either writing themselves into history or, as seems more likely, under pressure from their captors to make statements to help buttress the Hitler suicide narrative. Indeed, it may well have been a condition of Linge's and Guensche's release from Soviet captivity in 1955 that they agreed to furnish such statements.

Continued in the next edition of NEXUS...

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PIONEERS IN AURA RESEARCH

by Karen Mutton © 2007

Paracelsus (1493–1541)

Philippus Aureolus Theophrastus Bombastus von Hohenheim was a 16th-century alchemist and physician. He later titled himself as Paracelsus ("greater than Celsus" of Rome). To esoteric scholar Manly Hall, Paracelsus was an Hermetic philosopher who was acknowledged by occultists as the greatest physician of all time.

At the age of sixteen, Paracelsus entered the University of Basle where he studied alchemy, surgery and medicine. He travelled extensively throughout Europe and is said to have visited India, where he discovered the pain-killing properties of opium. Later he returned to the University of Basle as a professor of medicine and surgery. Paracelsus followed no particular religion but was impressed by Martin Luther, who started the Reformation. He was widely acknowledged as the Father of Pharmacology, having introduced opium, mercury and various minerals into medicine as well as having discovered the element hydrogen. His radical medical theories and practices aroused the ire of the more conservative physicians who still followed the medical tenets of Galen.

Attacked as an eccentric—or worse, a lunatic—Paracelsus believed that humans exude a "vital force" which surrounds the body like a "luminous sphere". He was a harsh critic of contemporary medicine, and his comments alienated him from his fellow physicians: "You poison the people and ruin their

health, you are sworn to use diligence in your art...but all your boasted science is nothing but an invention to cheat and deceive." (Regush, p. 3)

He also believed that human beings are composed of seven distinct principles, with the elementary (physical body) being the first, the sidereal (or astral body) the second, and others including intelligent, rational and spiritual bodies.

According to Paracelsus, all organic functions are caused by the activity of one

man, "the invisible nutriment from which the visible body draws its strength". (Regush, p. 9). The vehicle for the *archaeus* is the *mumia*, and the most universal form of the *mumia* is the *aether*, although plants, animals and other substances can also act as conveyors of the life force.

"The *archaeus* is of a magnetic nature, and attracts or repulses other sympathetic or antipathetic forces belonging to the same plane. The less power of resistance for astral influences a person possesses, the more will he be subject to such influences. The vital force is not enclosed in man, but radiates (within and) around him like a luminous sphere (aura) and it may be made to act at a distance... It may poison the essence of life (blood) and cause diseases, or may purify it after it has been made impure and restore the health." (Paracelsus, *Paragranum*; translated by Franz Hartmann)

The *archaeus* is an essence that is contained in the nature and character of all beings and is equally distributed throughout the human body. It contains the elements of all cosmic influences (stars, planets, Sun, Moon, etc.) and therefore enables these cosmic forces to influence the invisible body of man.

"All diseases, except such as come from mechanical causes, have an invisible origin, and of such sources popular medicine knows very little... Some (physicians) poison their patients with mercury;

others purge them or bleed them to death. There are some who have learned so much that their learning has driven out all their common sense, and others who care a great deal more for their own profit than the health of their patients." (Regush, p. 10)



Philippus Aureolus Theophrastus Bombastus von Hohenheim
("Paracelsus"), 1490–1541

universal principle of life called *archaeus*. This is a spiritual essence, ever present and invisible, which may cause or cure a disease according to the body's condition. The *archaeus*, or *liquor vitae* ("life fluid"), constitutes the invisible

According to Paracelsus, control of the mumia of an animal or plant enables a person to divert the flow of *archaeus* to its own uses. These "lower life-forms" often assimilate the disease of humans, thus relieving the patient. When the lower life had either assimilated the foreign mumia from the patient, or itself died from this mumia, complete recovery resulted. Many years of investigation were needed to determine which herb or animal most readily accepted the mumia of each disease.

Paracelsus also discovered the occult properties of the magnet and founded the School of Animal Magnetism. These ideas would come into fruition centuries later with the theories of Dr Mesmer.

In the 19th century, Paracelsus's theories on the seven bodies of man and the *liquor vitae* were embraced by the Theosophists, who called this subtle force *prana* and the "sidereal body" the "astral body".

Paracelsus was possibly one of the most underrated minds of the Renaissance.

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Baron Karl von Reichenbach (1788–1869)

Karl von Reichenbach, born in Stuttgart, Germany, was a scholar of high merit with doctorates in natural sciences and theology. He also made contributions in the chemical, geological, metallurgical and meteorological sciences. The baron established ironworks in Baden, charcoal furnaces in Hausach and Baden, chemical works in Blansko, Moravia, steelworks in Tünnitz, Austria, and blast furnaces in Gaya, Moravia. He also discovered paraffin, kerosene, phenol, creosote, picamar and

many other substances which were eagerly embraced by the chemical, industrial, food and medical industries, making him a very wealthy man.

Reichenbach became interested in studying the powers of people he referred to as "sensitives". Around 1850 he published his *Researches on Magnetism, Electricity, Heat, Light, Crystallisation and Chemical Attraction in their Relation to the Vital Force*, based upon these studies. The baron was also fascinated with people who were sleepwalkers or suffered from "night cramps" which had no apparent cause. He studied the theories of Dr Mesmer and determined that these maladies were of a physical, not emotional, nature and could not be cured by hypnosis. Mesmerism did not

light emanating from crystals when enclosed in complete darkness. The one common factor seemed to be a reaction to moonlight, so Reichenbach set up an impressive laboratory in Castle Reisenberg in which he could study dozens of sensitives.

He discovered that many of these sensitives had an allergic reaction to moonlight, especially in the red and green spectra. They were also able to feel the effects of moonlight from the castle's interior, leading Reichenbach to hypothesise that moonbeams carry an energy which is independent from light energy. Only the protective layers of woollen clothing, leather and piles of paper were able to block out the effects of the moonlight upon these sensitives.

Moonlight, especially in the red range, caused somnambulism and other maladies like cramps in some sensitives. They required the cooling rays of violet sunshine to counteract these unpleasant sensations. Sleepwalkers, on the other hand, were craving moonlight, which forced them into their nocturnal wanderings. Reichenbach was able to expose his subjects to the rays in which they were deficient—either positive moonlight or negative sunlight—in order to treat their maladies. He also discovered that humans have positive and negative polarity within their bodies.

Reichenbach postulated an energy which contains the properties of light, gas and even fluid so it can penetrate far beyond the reaches of each property. He called it *Od* energy, and believed that the odic force permeates the universe: "Od is a cosmic force that radiates from star to star, and has the whole universe for its field, just like light and heat." (Regush, p. 30)

The odic field can be conducted through wire at 13 feet per second, depending on the wire density rather than conductivity. Some odic fields are focused as light through a lens, while another part of the odic field can flow around.



Baron Karl von Reichenbach, 1788–1869

involve hypnotic suggestion at all, but channelled a mysterious energy which passed between the practitioner and patient, he determined.

Reichenbach tried to formulate a theory for these maladies, including electric, magnetic and allergic, but they all fell short. He was intrigued that many of these people were also able to perceive

Reichenbach summarised these properties of Od:

1. Sensitives feel effects of it in moonlight.
2. This conducted energy is not light itself but can be carried by light beams.
3. This can produce physical sensations in sensitives, such as cramps and sleepwalking.
4. It can be absorbed and conducted along metal wires.
5. It is neither electrical nor magnetic energy.
6. It becomes radiant when discharged from points across space.
7. Matter could store this energy for prolonged periods.
8. Mirrors could reflect currents.
9. All sensitives give similar, independent reports.

In his special darkroom in his laboratory, the baron studied the various qualities of Od energy from the Sun and the Moon. Pure sunlight produced the strongest odic emanations, while refracted sunlight was weaker. Sunlight contained a negative polarity and moonlight a surplus of positive energy. Glass-refracted sunlight was coolest at the violet end of the spectrum and irritating at the red band. Depending on their personal energetic deficiencies, different people desired specific colourations.

These celestial odic forces also inhabit the sky, planets and stars, he discovered. Sensitives were able to feel soothing, cool sensations from the Milky Way and unpleasant warmth from the planets. Jupiter became unbearable for some sensitives, leading Reichenbach to speculate that the stars have a cool polarity and the planets a warm polarity.

Reichenbach studied the various manifestations of this vital force in its relationship to electricity, magnetism, light, crystals, metals, water and chemistry. Metals and minerals emanated their own colours and were affected differently in solar and lunar light. Water absorbed odic forces in sunlight and moonlight, manifesting different tastes from "cool" to "nauseous". He showed the Od's connection to the phenomenon of water-witching or dowsing, Mesmerism and similar psychic subjects.

Crystals created the strongest odic emanations in the mineral world. The sensitives were not only able to see colours, but also had physical reactions such as muscle cramping, tetany,

wakefulness or deep sleep. Metals conducted with crystalline Od produced powerful shocks to the sensitives.

Reichenbach's English translator, Dr Ashburner, produced several remarkable crystalline Od detectors, with eight or nine large mountain crystals of quartz wrapped in great silk-insulated coils. When enclosed with a platinum "keeper", they produced an odic charge of shocking power. The baron speculated that

**Reichenbach
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crystalline Od provides crystals with a vital, living force.

In Reichenbach's experiments, the vegetable kingdom was shown to give off powerful Od. Copper wires were wrapped around different plants, producing various odic reactions of cold and hot. Most of the blooms were warm in the stem and cold in the flowers, leaving Reichenbach to hypothesise that the warm sections were displaying accelerated growth rates. Vegetative odic force determined the medicinal efficacy of a plant, as every plant had its own vibration.

Reichenbach's sensitives were always able to see auras around magnets and often around people. When the baron created a rooftop laboratory of large metal plates, wire braids and solid wires conducting down into the experimental chamber, he was astonished to find that he was also able

to view the odic force as a natural phosphorescence which connects all things together. This force, a "self-luminant", was seen as not an inert force but a personal force which could influence observers.

The baron studied the aura and spoke of its "radiant light which, undetected, sweeps into space". He noted the differences between male and female auras, as well as those from people of different ages and temperaments. Sensitives were able to diagnose illness in the auras of others and could even look into the auric bodies and anatomical chambers of others, observing illness and even detecting "lesions" and "dark markings".

In 1861, Reichenbach discovered that lens-focused Od light could produce images on daguerreotype plates. These odographs were made by the Od light projected from crystal points, fingertips, magnets, metals and chemicals, sometimes showing the transfer of Od light from one material to another. Lenses were used to intensify these effects in certain plates—a method used later by Dr Kilner and Semyon Kirlian.

Baron Karl von Reichenbach's forgotten research laid the foundations of later disciplines such as psychology, radionics, aura photography, energy medicine and new-age modalities such as crystal and colour therapy. He was one of the 19th century's most brilliant, but forgotten, geniuses. ∞

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EINSTEIN'S RELATIVITY

WARPED MINDS, BENT TRUTHS

In his relativity theories, Einstein attempted to express the forces of nature as geometrical equations, but failed to explain the physical universe in ways that Newtonian, non-relativistic calculations can.

Part 2 of 2

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PART II: GRAVITY TAKEN LIGHTLY

How Gravitation Taught Scientists to Bend the Truth

Having succeeded in killing the aether by creating the science of subjective physical measurements, known as the Special Theory of Relativity (STR), Einstein set out to explain everything beyond the atomic scale. Once more he wanted to build theory on postulates and geometry, but instead of creating clarity he paved the way for scientific mysticism. Now, many regard the General Theory of Relativity (GTR) as more relevant for creating *Star Trek* graphics than explaining mundane phenomena such as how to reach Mars by spaceship.

Falling from Rooftops

Feeling safe that the STR and Minkowski-space were the key to higher truths, Einstein set out to explain accelerated movements—the behaviour of bodies changing their speed as time passes. According to Einsteinian mythology, Einstein one day read in the local newspaper the story of a man who had fallen from a rooftop and after painfully reaching the ground declared he had experienced a wonderful feeling of weightlessness. Einstein took it as a revelation. If accelerating with the same change of speed caused by gravitation cancels out gravitation, thus achieving weightlessness, could it be that accelerating upwards will cause a feeling of weight indistinguishable from gravitation? In a so-called *Gedankenexperiment* (thought experiment) Einstein pictured a man, enclosed in an elevator, with no previous knowledge of this world. When the lift starts to accelerate, the man feels an extra force on his body; but not knowing it is acceleration, he believes his increased weight must be due to a gravitational field.²⁸

This gave birth to the postulates of the new General Theory. Gravitation is indistinguishable from any accelerating mechanical force in nature. Gravitation works on bodies due to their mass, not due to their nature. Everything not gravitational will obey the Special Theory of Relativity.²⁹ However, there are flaws in the argument that are obvious even to a high-school student. Mechanically accelerated movements demand some source of energy. No source of energy is infinite. Thus, all mechanical forces will eventually be used up and acceleration will come to an end. Gravitational pull, on the contrary, never comes to an end. If we give our man in the elevator a clock and ask him to observe his forces as a product of time, their dwindling off will make him realise the fallacy of the first postulate.³⁰

Even the second postulate could have been somewhat premature. In his lifetime, Einstein had every possibility of correcting his mistakes, but it was American inventor T. Townsend Brown who proved in 1929 that electrically charged objects become lighter in a gravitational field free from other electrostatic forces.³¹

Later, after Einstein's death in 1955, other experimenters achieved even better results—such as Evgeny Podkletnov, who achieved a two per cent reduction of gravitation by using a spinning, circular, magnetically charged disc lifting inert, non-magnetic objects.³²

Thus, the nature of an object in a gravitational field is not altogether unimportant. For latter-day UFO believers, these phenomena are common knowledge: alien spacecraft counteract gravitational force by means of highly intense, pulsating and rotating electromagnetic fields. Even governmental agencies and scientists working with the UFO problem now take this for granted.³³

When it comes to the STR, we have already seen it shattered by experiments known to Einstein when he was working on the GTR—experiments which showed that not all

movements are relative. There are indeed simple means to determine whether you are moving or at rest. There are absolute frames of reference, as proved by Georges Sagnac in 1913 and by later researchers using spinning ring interferometers.

Thus, Einstein set out to build a new theory on unsecured ground, with postulates that were either disproved or not yet proved at all. And even stranger, the postulates in the GTR and the STR have no inherent logic or connection: the two theories are simply two altogether different theories—not two versions of one theory, as claimed!

Curving Paper

Perhaps unaware of these objections, Einstein set out to create a geometrical theory of gravitation, claiming he was extending his STR to a new domain. The grand idea was based on Professor Hermann Minkowski's observation that four-dimensional space-time is a mathematical manifold, where accelerated movements will follow a curved path in the four-dimensional paper-world. But instead of making curved paths on paper, why not curve the paper instead and let accelerated objects follow the shortest path between two points (geodesic) in the curved world?

The reason for this seemingly advanced mathematical trick was not to gain better knowledge of the forces involved; it was the desire to pursue an old German dream to express the forces of nature as geometrical equations.

Contrary to popular belief, this idea did not stem from Einstein: two German mathematicians presented it more than 70 years earlier. One was Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777–1855), who introduced the idea of multi-dimensional "spaces"; the other was one of the really great mathematical geniuses of all ages, Hermann Riemann (1826–66), who developed the complete mathematical tools and concepts for curved multi-dimensional "spaces". In 1854

Riemann put forth a complete draft for a theory of gravitation, transforming Newton's laws of forces into a geometrical description of geodesic movements in curved spaces.^{34,35} But even in doing so, Riemann never meant to counteract Newton's discoveries; he only wanted to create some geometrical beauty.

According to his biographers, Einstein knew nothing of Gauss's and Riemann's works. It was assumed that his ideas only came from Minkowski, who for sure knew of them. Unfortunately for Einstein, Minkowski died of peritonitis in 1909, just a few months after having given Einstein these new ideas, so Einstein had to ask his friend Michael Grossmann what they were all about.³⁶ Later, British mathematician Ebenezer Cunningham (1881–1977) wrote an article on the subject, published in *Nature* in February 1921, stating that "no one knows if he [Einstein] would ever have reached so far without the genius of Minkowski".

Today, Grossman's work is seen to have provided the mathematical formalism of the GTR. But it may be worth remembering that the formalism was not all due to the Minkowski–Grossmann–Einstein "team", as we would say today. Another well-known contender had entered the scene with the same theory: mathematician David Hilbert (1862–1943). On 20 November 1915, he presented the full concept in Göttingen; five days later, Einstein presented his paper at the Prussian Academy.³⁷ Later, Einstein accused Hilbert of having stolen his ideas when he

had visited him—but had he really? Had they not all "stolen" a little from previous geniuses and thrown in some of their own work? Isn't this what all theoretical speculations are about, when you are not in a secluded laboratory making your own discoveries? As is soon to be proved, professional peeking and borrowing were not such uncommon deeds after all. And who then deserves the glory—one or many?

Mercurial Feats

From Einstein's 64-page paper on the mathematical formalism for gravity in four-dimensional "space-time", published in *Annalen der Physik* in 1916,³⁸ three consequences could be deduced: (a) the orbit of a small planet close to a central, perfectly spherical Sun; the orbits of larger planets far from the Sun seemed mathematically impossible to solve; (b) the bending of light as it passed a very heavy object (e.g., the Sun); and (c) the red shift of light in a strong gravitational field (reduction of the frequency of light). These were the so-called "classical tests".

Einstein claimed innocently that he had no knowledge of or intention to solve such problems; they magically "popped out of his formalism" as a gift to science, in keeping with his message of a lofty science remote from mundane life that once in a while blesses practical life with unforeseen gifts.

But all these "classical tests" had some strange *déjà vu* to them, as the informed were soon to discover. The first of the tests concerned the most ready candidate because of its strange orbit: Mercury, the closest planet to our assumedly spherical Sun. This orbit shifts its perihelion (closest approach to the Sun) by approximately 574 arc-seconds per 100 years. Freundlich gave Einstein the number for the Mercury perihelion shift as 45 arc-seconds per year, and Einstein adjusted his GRT so that it matched the perihelion number.³⁹

Einstein used a method called "classical approximation", and he assumed that the GTR must produce classical equations if gravitational fields are "weak" and that some new equations applied when gravitation is "strong". But when it came to the equations expressing Mercury's orbit, there was something strange. They not only popped out of the GTR formalism, they resembled perfectly, to the most minute detail, the equations of another German: schoolteacher Paul Gerber, who had published them 18 years earlier in 1898.⁴⁰ His equations were based on the assumption that the gravitational forces spread with a finite speed, *c*, and that their interaction with bodies depended on their speed.⁴¹

Physicist Ernst Gehrcke (1878–1960), who had previously criticised Einstein in 1911, brought the whole affair into public view as soon as he had read the GTR paper. He not only said that Einstein had been inspired by Gerber's non-relativistic equations, but accused him of outright forgery. Once more, the same strange situation repeated itself as had happened on previous occasions when someone criticised Einstein: he ran out of arguments. Not until four years later did Einstein comment upon the accusations, stating: "The experts are not only in agreement that Gerber's derivations are wrong through and through, but the formula cannot be obtained as a consequence of the main assumptions made by Gerber. Mr Gerber's work is therefore completely useless, an unsuccessful and erroneous theoretical attempt."⁴²

He not only said that Einstein had been inspired by Gerber's non-relativistic equations, but accused him of outright forgery.

As one digs into the matter, one is compelled to ask: how can a set of equations that successfully describe the perihelion of Mercury be useless, erroneous and unsuccessful? And how can the same equations, when they appear in the GTR, suddenly become a stroke of genius? Furthermore, if Einstein was such a genius, why did he not explain what was wrong with Gerber's line of thinking? Why did he have to wait for four years and then let others defend him? And why didn't the defenders explain what was wrong, other than to make accusations like "He copied things which had long been known to every worker in the field..."?⁴³

Starry-Eyed Professors

The second "classical test" was the bending of light from distant stars as they pass a massive object like the Sun. The argument depended on light having some "mass" that makes gravitational attraction possible between photons and a massive object like our Sun. As one may remember, photons have a mass defined by $m = E/c$. When this is put into the Newtonian equations, deviation from the straight line can be calculated.

This was done, even before there was any $E = mc^2$, by German astronomer Johann Georg von Soldner (1776–1833) as early as 1801. According to these calculations based on the photon theory, there should be a deflection of 0.84 arc-seconds for light beams passing very close to the Sun. This number was later heavily attacked by Einstein and his friends. But then again, von Soldner did not know of the $E = mc^2$ formula because Maxwell had not even been born—and nobody at that time had any remote idea of the mass of the Sun. It was more an idea, rather than physical reality.

Those who liked to attack Gerber later used his formulas to calculate that light should be bent by approximately 2.5 seconds of arc, while according to Einstein's GTR the formula could lead to 1.75 seconds of deflection, depending on some factors of a variable nature. The difference between Einstein's and the older theories was that Einstein's GTR explained bending as a "curved space-time effect".⁴⁴

Not too many took this calculation too seriously, but at least one man did: Oxford Professor Arthur Eddington (1882–1944), who according to Professor Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar "was so confident of the correctness of the theory that, if left to himself, he would not even have planned to go on the eclipse expedition" to measure the deflection of the light of stars as they passed the darkened Sun.⁴⁵ Considering this *a priori* certainty as a case of biased judgement, could one expect the results to be impartial?

In 1919, Oxford University sent out two expeditions to photograph the eclipse of 29 May. One went to Sobral in Brazil, and another one, led by Professor Eddington, went to the island of Principe in the Gulf of Guinea, West Africa. Both expeditions carried identical equipment: a telescope of 343-cm focal length, photographic equipment and mirrors for making indirect photographs of the Sun.⁴⁶ This information is of vital importance, since the resolution of the equipment was in the order of two to three seconds of arc.

On the day of the eclipse, Sobral had excellent weather but Principe did not. At Principe it was cloudy, and the moist ocean air made the stars quiver, jump and shift place—almost like watching them through turbulent water. At Sobral, the heat of the day caused some optical distortions.

So what were the results? Today it is a sad historical fact that a few usable but badly distorted photographic images obtained at Principe were used as "the evidence". As Eddington himself complained, only two photographic plates were found to be useful—but the stars were poorly distributed and scattered at various distances from the Sun and not close to it, as the theory demanded. Despite these problems, Eddington was able—beyond belief—to measure less than 0.01-mm differences between

photographs taken during the eclipse and plates taken later back in Oxford for comparison. This was assumed to be equivalent to a 1.63-arc-second deflection of starlight, according to Eddington. The GTR was finally verified and the press was jubilant: a new era was born. According to the headlines of the *New York Times* of 19 November 1919: "The Eclipse showed gravity variation—Diversion of light ray accepted as affecting Newton's principle, hailed as epoch making! Scientists call the discovery one of the greatest human achievements". One of the scientists referred to was none other than Arthur Eddington, who in 1930 was knighted for his contributions to science.

But was it really "one of the greatest human achievements"? How could one be so sure when accuracy of the photographic equipment was less than that needed for making the calculations? And worse for the truth, if it exists: according to the far better results obtained at Sobral, where humidity and clouds were not the problem, results were in favour of Newton's calculations! Eddington solved this embarrassing problem by

referring to these photographs as merely being used for checking the Principe results. Einstein was later to call this event one of his finest hours!

Many astronomers, believing the message from Principe, wanted to partake of the glory and tried to repeat the success during subsequent eclipses. Strangely, stars did not appear where they should have and as late as 1931, when Einstein's success was established abroad, Professor Erwin Freundlich reported to the Physics Association of Berlin, loudly lamenting that "they had left out of consideration observations that did not fit in with the results that they wanted to obtain".⁴⁷

Einstein, now being a target of anti-Semitism in Germany, felt the sting of swastika-infected attacks but seemed strangely immune to criticism—or were such allegations just anti-Jewish criticism? Probably not. Even the so-called "red shift" in light-rays passing a strong gravitational field like the Sun's could not be confirmed, although the predicted value exceeded 100 times the accuracy of present-day interferometers. According to Sir Joseph Thomson, President of the Royal Society, writing in 1919: "If the [red] shift remains unproven as at present the whole theory collapses, and the phenomenon just observed by astronomers [at

Today it is a sad historical fact that a few usable but badly distorted photographic images obtained at Principe were used as "the evidence".

Principe] remains a fact awaiting to be accounted for in a different way." By the late 1990s, scientists agreed that any red shift observed is not explained by the GTR, but believers firmly claim the theory to be valid for light-bending.^{48, 49} Or was something else other than light being bent back then—perhaps the truth?

Despite such minor troubles, on 19 November 1919 Einstein was virtually canonised by the Royal Astronomical Society in London. The devil's advocate at the occasion, Professor Ludwik Silberstein, was not allowed to raise any relevant criticism until after the ceremony was over, when criticism was no longer of interest to the jubilant congregation.⁵⁰ Just as the GTR's success was based on *a priori* assumptions, so was glorification of the same theory, according to those present. But they could see nothing wrong with the procedure.

Part III: MYSTICAL AFTERMATH **How Einstein's theories gave birth to a new wave of mysticism**

Einstein succeeded in influencing some of the most brilliant minds of his time, but his fame started to snowball and the theories of relativity were applied to all sorts of phenomena, even ones that Einstein himself had not meant them to explain. Instead of making this world appear more logical and sane, highly advanced mathematical arguments created an unintelligible universe that seemed only to be understood by a small elite who contributed little to the sanity of science. Science turned from useful work to the birth of modern-day alchemy.

Embarrassing Ghosts of the Aether

By the beginning of the 1920s, Einstein's fame was established, but in Germany the swastika had raised its ugly head and rallies were raised against Jewish science in an effort to establish a pure arena of thinking. Einstein's lectures were disrupted by demonstrators. Einstein complained that he would not have been criticised if he had been "a German nationalist with or without a swastika, instead of a Jew with liberal international convictions".⁵¹

In 1921 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics—not for the theories of relativity, but for the more simple theory of the photo-electric effect. Einstein waited until 1922 to fetch the prize, being more occupied with a world tour, lecturing on his ideas to laymen and scientists, much in the style of present-day media stars.

Meanwhile, just as everybody was convinced that the aether was dead and buried, a professor named Dayton Miller (1866–1941) at Case University—in which basement Albert Michelson set up his interferometer in 1887—decided to put the aether to a final test. He had built an enormous interferometer where light was made to go 210 feet [~64 metres] before reaching the optical measuring instruments. This new apparatus was three times as sensitive as Michelson's famous "zero-effect" instrument.

Miller was convinced that the "nearly-zero-effect measurements" of Michelson and Morley were due to the interferometer's placement in the basement. He assumed that if there was indeed an aether, it could not penetrate heavy objects

and it would be better felt in free space and at higher altitudes—an idea also shared by the ageing Michelson.⁵² So, to test his hypothesis, he put the instrument to work at sea level and later on Mount Wilson, California, covered only by a light canvas that should be easily penetrable by the devious aetheric winds. To ward off critics, Miller conducted various control experiments by exposing the instrument to unnatural heat so he could observe how various temperatures would influence the readings.

His experiments, conducted over a period of seven years (1920–26), were not confined to a mere 36 rotations as Michelson and Morley had done. Miller made a staggering 200,000 measurements covering various altitudes, various dates of the year, various hours of the day and various astronomical directions

relative to the Earth's movement in its orbit. And he found statistically important results! Miller noted that when his measurements were plotted on sidereal time, they produced "...a very striking consistency of their principal characteristics...for azimuth and magnitude...as though they were related to a common cause... The observed effect is dependent upon sidereal time and is independent of diurnal and seasonal changes of temperature and other terrestrial causes, and...is a cosmical phenomenon."⁵³

The conclusion after 200,000 precise observations was that the Earth is moving at a speed of 208 km/second towards the apex in the southern celestial hemisphere, towards Dorado, the Swordfish constellation. This was based on the assumption that the Earth pushes through a stationary aether in that direction. Another and also plausible conclusion would be that the solar system is being met by a moving aether in the opposite direction, like a huge, cosmic jet-stream rushing towards the stationary solar system (remember, some movements are indeed relative, so these conclusions are equivalent).⁵⁴

What did Einstein have to say about these experiments, since he himself had

never touched an interferometer? He only accused Miller of being the victim of "effects of effects", without going into any explanation of why this should be so and not wanting to give Miller any credit for having produced 199,964 more readings than Michelson and Morley—readings which he believed without any objections.

Miller naturally was hurt, and responded in January 1926: "The trouble with Prof. Einstein is that he knows nothing about my results... He ought to give me credit for knowing that temperature differences would affect results. He wrote to me in November suggesting this. I am not so simple as to make no allowance for temperature."⁵⁵

And later, when the debate did not die out and Einstein could not defeat Miller's arguments, Einstein did the same as he had done to Gerber: he let others speak for him. This time he was defended by scientist Robert S. Shankland (1908–1982) and his associates who, after several consultations with Einstein, set out on what can best be called a defamation of Miller. In their analysis of the data, they picked those that showed no variation; and of those data where there *were* variations, they picked only

Instead of making this world appear more logical and sane, highly advanced mathematical arguments created an unintelligible universe that seemed only to be understood by a small elite who contributed little to the sanity of science.

the temperature control data. Thus the so-called "Shankland paper", published in April 1955, concluded that any deviation Miller had found was due to temperature differences.⁵⁶

Thus Shankland was allowed to make his "speech" to the jury when the accused was no longer present. Unluckily for the historical record, the accused's attorney arrived too late to make any impression on "the educated public", only the "underground" was impressed and with little possibility of reopening the case.⁵⁷

Superman in Hyperspace

Encouraged by the enthusiastic and even religious reception of the strange and utterly incomprehensible GTR, Einstein now emerged as a sort of scientific messiah for the post-World War I period. As dark clouds gathered over Europe and German Nazism started to evoke sinister images, Einsteinian wisdom came as a ray of light to a dark world.

Years later, in 1960, Louis Pauwels and Jacques Bergier published a trendsetting book, *The Dawn of Magic*,⁵⁸ wherein the pre-World War II era is characterised by a frenetic search for secret knowledge and supermen. There were the Rosicrucians, the sinister secret semi-religious Nazi lodges, Freemasonry and alchemy, and then there was Einstein! He is pictured in the book as the well-known mystical scientist, dressed in shabby clothes, his white hair creating an aura around his head, smiling as he sits in front of a blackboard filled with advanced mathematics. The book asks us to believe that this man is one of a selected group of supermen who can see into different realities. He typifies the scientist in the ivory tower.

And who was more eager than Einstein to promote the myth in his own time? According to *Time* magazine: "...Einstein himself had warned his publishers there were not more than twelve people in the whole world who could understand his theory". Swedish plasma physicist Professor Hannes Alfvén (1908–1995) later complained: "The people were told that only Einstein and a few geniuses that were able to think in four dimensions could understand the true nature of the physical world. Science was something to believe in, not something that should be understood. Soon the bestsellers among popular science books became those that presented scientific results as an insult to common sense."⁵⁹

In Michio Kaku's book *Hyperspace*,⁶⁰ illustrations show Einstein doing exactly what Professor Alfvén complained about: looking into multidimensional spaces and explaining to the uninitiated the complicated nature of hyperspace—the moniker for "spaces" with more than three "dimensions". But even believers had to admit there was a problem. How do we see the fourth dimension? The problem is, we can't. Higher dimensions are impossible to visualise, so it is futile even to try. Even experienced mathematicians and theoretical physicists who have worked with higher dimensional spaces for years admit that they cannot visualise them! Instead, they retreat into the world of mathematical equations. Except for Einstein himself, of course.

So for the time being, they had superman and the scientist in one and the same person and a myth was created. Anomalous phenomena researcher/writer and satirist Charles Fort (1874–1932) chided in *Wild Talents*: "Einstein was said to be

useful, and in California, school children, dressed in white, sang unto him kindred unintelligibilities. In New York, mounted policemen roughly held back crowds from him, just as he, to make a system of thoughts, had clubbed many astronomical data into insensibility. He had taken into his system of thoughts irregularities of the planet Mercury, but had left out the irregularities of the planet Venus. Crowds took him into their holiday-making, but omitted asking what it was all about."⁶¹

And Superman himself admitted: "Since the mathematicians have invaded the theory of relativity, I do not understand it myself anymore."⁶² Had he become the unwilling front figure of a movement whose message he could no longer grasp? If so, why did he not abandon it?

Shrinking the Universe

Despite problems like the GTR getting out of hand even for its creator, from the mid-1920s Einstein set out on his next project worthy of a Titan. He wanted to use relativity to create a new theory not only for Mercury's orbit and bent light but for encompassing the whole universe.⁶³ But there were some minor problems. No one knew the size of the universe. No one knew

the total mass of all stars in the universe. No one knew how matter was distributed. No one knew of magnetic forces, of dust, of intergalactic ice, of the number of solar systems, of ages of stars—of anything but the fact that the number of stars seemed rather "infinite".

But for Einstein and latter-day theoretical scientists, such problems were minor obstacles. So Einstein assumed that all matter is distributed evenly in the universe and that there are no rotations in space, that everything is either still or moving in nice, linear paths. By assuming such

unproven facts, Einstein was soon to proclaim that his calculations had shown that the universe is a closed space-time world of finite size. He estimated its age to be a few hundred million years, forgetting that the solar system is estimated to be some *billions* of years old.⁶⁴ By a stroke of magic, Einstein had shrunk the universe!

If all matter is evenly distributed and gravitation is working between stars, planets and galaxies, why hasn't this orderly blob of creation collapsed?

For reasons of principle, Einstein firmly rejected the idea of a rotating universe where centrifugal forces will drive stars and galaxies apart, although it was known by 1919 that the universe is not homogeneous and, indeed, that parts of it seem to rotate. His reasoning was based on the first postulate of the STR, which states that all movements are relative. According to Einstein, believing in rotating galaxies is to give rotation an absolute status—just as Sagnac showed in 1913. The case went so far that, in the mid-1920s, relativists asked Michelson to perform the Sagnac experiments all over again, using the spinning Earth as the rotating laboratory. Michelson complained that all they would achieve would be to prove that the Earth is spinning, nothing more.⁶⁵ And so they did, and yet Einstein refused to accept rotation!

According to plasma physicist Eric J. Lerner, Einstein's stubborn rejection of facts had a profound impact on cosmology at that time and is still haunting astrophysics today. "First, it

By assuming such unproven facts, Einstein was soon to proclaim that his calculations had shown that the universe is a closed space-time world of finite size.

introduced the idea of a finite universe, which resulted in a medieval cosmos, previously considered obsolete and antithetical to science itself. Second, the aesthetic simplicity of the assumption of homogeneity, combined with Einstein's prestige, embedded the assumption in all future relativistic cosmology. Third, perhaps most significant, it set a precedent by allowing the introduction of assumptions contrary to observations, in the hope that further observations will justify the assumptions. In the case of Einstein's cosmology it was hoped that, on scales larger than clusters and superclusters of galaxies, the universe would become smooth."⁶⁶

Shift Happens

By the beginning of the 1930s, Einstein had become an international celebrity, but he was despised in Germany for his Jewish descent and criticised by Nazi scientists like Paul Weyland (1888–1972), who for years attacked his theories on a purely racial basis. Due to this ever worsening situation in his homeland, in December 1932 Einstein emigrated to the USA with his wife Elsa. In 1935 he accepted a teaching position at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University, probably the most famous professor ever to hold a position there.

At Princeton, Einstein felt alienated because at heart he was a German, although he claimed to be an internationalist and openly supported the Jewish movement. To anyone reading his works and looking at pictures of the older professor, he seemed sad and frustrated. There were reasons for this: imminent war, the persecution of the Jews, his wife's bad health (she died in 1936) and his own failures to succeed in his work. His dream of the "theory of everything" had failed utterly: "...I locked myself into quite hopeless scientific problems—the more so since, as an elderly man, I have remained estranged from society here..."⁶⁷

We do not need any more mathematics to explain the phenomenon; we need psychology—the psychology of science! How else could we explain how a world-celebrated genius increasingly refused to acknowledge facts? It seemed that by refusing to acknowledge spinning galaxies, inventing an

homogeneous universe whose age he estimated to be less than the age of the Earth, fighting quantum physics, calling nature "ugly trees" and seeking to enter a world of "pure marble" ruled only by pure thought, he was on a flight from something into something else: not hyperspace, not science, but mysticism. It was in this period that Einstein exclaimed that the deepest emotion we are capable of is "the experience of the mystical". So true. But what is it that one is experiencing?

Then, there was Einstein the pacifist, internationalist, philosopher and humanist who signed a petition in favour of building the atomic bomb, only to excuse himself later by saying: "I do not regard myself as the father of the liberation of the nuclear energy. I only played an indirect role." Then he added: "I only served as a mailbox. They handed over to me a ready-to-sign letter; I had to sign!"⁶⁸ But did he really? Was the man in the ivory tower so alienated from the world that he was losing his grip on it?

It was in this period that things other than bombs exploded. The combined efforts of Carl Wirtz (1876–1939) and Edwin Hubble (1889–1953) showed that light from faraway stars seems redder the farther away they are—a phenomenon called "red shift". This could be explained if the Earth was embedded in a wall of gravitation or if the universe was expanding, as after an immense explosion. The nuclear bomb provided a sort of explanation, as one of the leading nuclear scientists, George Gamow (1904–68), suggested to Einstein that the reason why, in his model, the universe did not collapse was the fact that it may be inflating at a tremendous speed due to some primordial explosion, nuclear style.⁶⁹

Today, scientists believing the Big Bang theory have retro-calculated the whole scenario down to the first billionth of a billionth of a second of creation. But if Walter Ritz was right, backtracking by studying the information we have today is more than difficult: it is impossible. But the Big Bangers did not care because it added importance to the finalistic picture Einstein endorsed: a small, finite universe with a finite beginning and possibly a finite ending. One way or the other, the Bomb seemed to have done something good for a tearful Einstein.

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Non-Relativity Rules

On 18 April 1955, Einstein died of a ruptured aortic aneurysm, a condition usually caused by copper deficiency. His death came a few weeks after publication of the Shankland paper that defamed Dayton Miller with Einsteinian blessing. Einstein's brain was preserved and sectioned for further research to enable scientists to poke into the material basis for mystical genius. Subsequent studies showed that the brain was nothing but a quite ordinary brain in size but with part of the frontal lobe missing and a higher than normal number of associative nerve cells. Could this explain Einstein's way of thinking? Was a secret formula discovered, linking neurons with visions?

The Special Theory of Relativity lingered on as a basic tool for particle science, and it proved useful in a number of cases but not in others. Atomic clocks were created that were accurate to the nanosecond, and when synchronised by radio signals they had to be corrected according to non-relativistic Sagnac formulas. The same holds true for satellites orbiting the Earth: they all rely on non-relativistic time-keeping. The laser ring gyro was invented, which keeps track of relative rotation between Earth and aeroplanes according to non-relativistic principles.⁷⁰

The red shift in gravitational fields has been observed, but is not a confirmation of anything Einsteinian. The strange perihelion of Mercury, whose calculation was once hailed as one of Einstein's finest hours, can be calculated according to Newtonian mathematics based on new knowledge of the irregular shape or "oblateness" of the Sun, or even Gerber's way.⁷¹ Only the deviation of electromagnetic signals passing the Sun remains. But does it really? Nowadays, the Einsteinian formula is tested with radio signals from radio sources in the universe as they pass the Sun. But these signals have greater wavelengths than light, so a phenomenon called "aberration" appears, whereby signals bend naturally without the need for gravitation to explain it.⁷² And by the way, whoever would claim that the Sun does not have a magnetic field that could deflect electromagnetic signals?

Gravitational waves predicted by Einstein as waves in four dimensions, so-called quadrupole waves, have long since been

detected and have been proven to be simple dipole radio waves. This became evident in 1956, when inventor Thomas T. Brown, working with the US Navy, was issued his patent on a gravitational wave detector using simple dielectrical materials from nature—not high-technology science at all.⁷³ And probably worst of all: Brown's experiments may have been known to Einstein as early as the 1930s.

And there ends our story. Readers are free to believe what they want. Einstein was in many respects a great theoretical thinker and had a productive mind, but, unfortunately for him, his theories of relativity show us one thing: when a great mind errs, the error becomes great. Instead of admitting and correcting the shortcomings of his theories, he instead added to misunderstandings and unnecessary disputes. ∞

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Born in Norway in 1947, Bjørn Johan Øverbye, MD, PhD, is a practising medical doctor, writer, researcher and lecturer. He studied physics at the University of Oslo from 1966 to 1969 and finished his MD degree at the same university in 1976, receiving his licence to practise in 1978. In 1984 he was awarded a PhD in Complementary Medicine from the International Open University, Sri Lanka. He is the author of several books on alternative medicine plus a scientific report on cellphone hazards ("The Biophone Project", 2003). He has conducted research into bioresonance and developed biophysical theories and diagnostic methods for treating diseases using biophoton equipment, electromagnetism and bioresonance. Dr Øverbye supports the notion that the aether is a key concept in both physics and energy medicine. This interest led him to investigate how Einstein prematurely killed a useful concept and might have contributed to more problems than solutions.

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SPECTACULAR SYMBOLS

CROP CIRCLES OF 2007

This year's season featured an array of ingenious and original patterns, some exhibiting unusual design perspectives, as well as interesting surveillance stories and more speculation about the purpose of this enduring phenomenon.

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Last year's UK crop circle season was perceived by some as disappointing. Despite several impressive glyphs, it was very late to start and there was a notable reduction in numbers compared with previous years. England remains the hub of global circular activity and mostly encapsulates the overall scene. As such, even other previously circle-blossoming countries seemed to be on a go-slow in 2006. The British media gleefully printed prematurely dark obituaries for the phenomenon.

With this in mind, 2007 was approached by some with trepidation that a downward slide would continue. They needn't have worried. This year the first formation arrived earlier than in many seasons before it, and as the months went by this enduring mystery produced many ambitious designs to match their forebears. Some hailed it as a renaissance year for the crop circles, the general perception of enthusiasts being that the phenomenon had undergone a major revival.

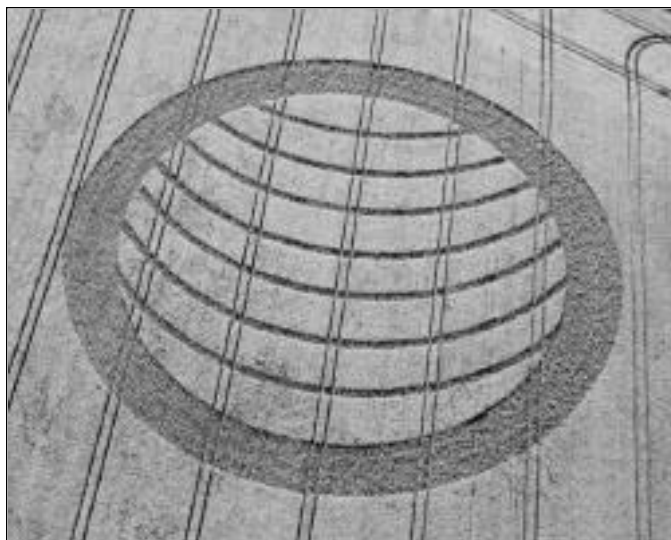
Interestingly, in truth, what we experienced in 2007 was a holding operation: there were almost exactly the same number of UK crop formations as in the previous year, with around 50 reported. The early start and a renewed concentration of activity in the Wiltshire heartlands (at the mysterious expense of suddenly circle-bereft counties like Sussex and Norfolk) perhaps gave a misleading impression of abundance. But neither was there a further reduction in overall numbers, and the ingenuity of some of the crop glyphs was undeniably dazzling. All this helped create a better feeling amongst circle-watchers than had been experienced for some time. Indeed, driving around the Avebury area of Wiltshire, seeing crop formations on virtually every horizon, felt like a throwback to so-called circular "golden ages" of yore.

It was certainly a surprise to receive the first event of the year as early as 15th April, near the Iron Age hill fort of Oliver's Castle, Wiltshire. A huge ring containing seven arches, it was not only one of the more complex openings to a season for some time, but also the largest circular design ever discovered in oilseed rape (canola)—an impressive and mystically teasing 333 feet in diameter (curiously, the width of the outer ring was 33 feet).

A healthy smattering of intricate and beautiful formations then peppered Wiltshire in April and May—remembering that 2006 didn't see the first "proper" design appear until June. This time, by early June, most of the traditional regions had already been targeted with advanced creations such as the bizarre pyramidal complex of shapes which appeared on 7th June below the white horse carving overlooking the famous Alton Barnes area.

The first Wiltshire formation to make national newsprint was the very unusual pictorial emblem found next to the ancient West Kennett long barrow on 28th June. Etched within a square of standing crop was a clear representation of a chequer-floored corridor with doors opening from it, designed with clever (if not entirely accurate) perspective. Described by some hopeful Egyptology buffs as a representation of an ancient temple or the alleged lost "Hall of Records" below the Giza plateau, and by others as having connections to da Vinci's *Last Supper* fresco, more bookish observers pointed out its similarity to an illustration from a modern edition of *Alice in Wonderland*. One way or another, it seemed we were being led "down the rabbit-hole".

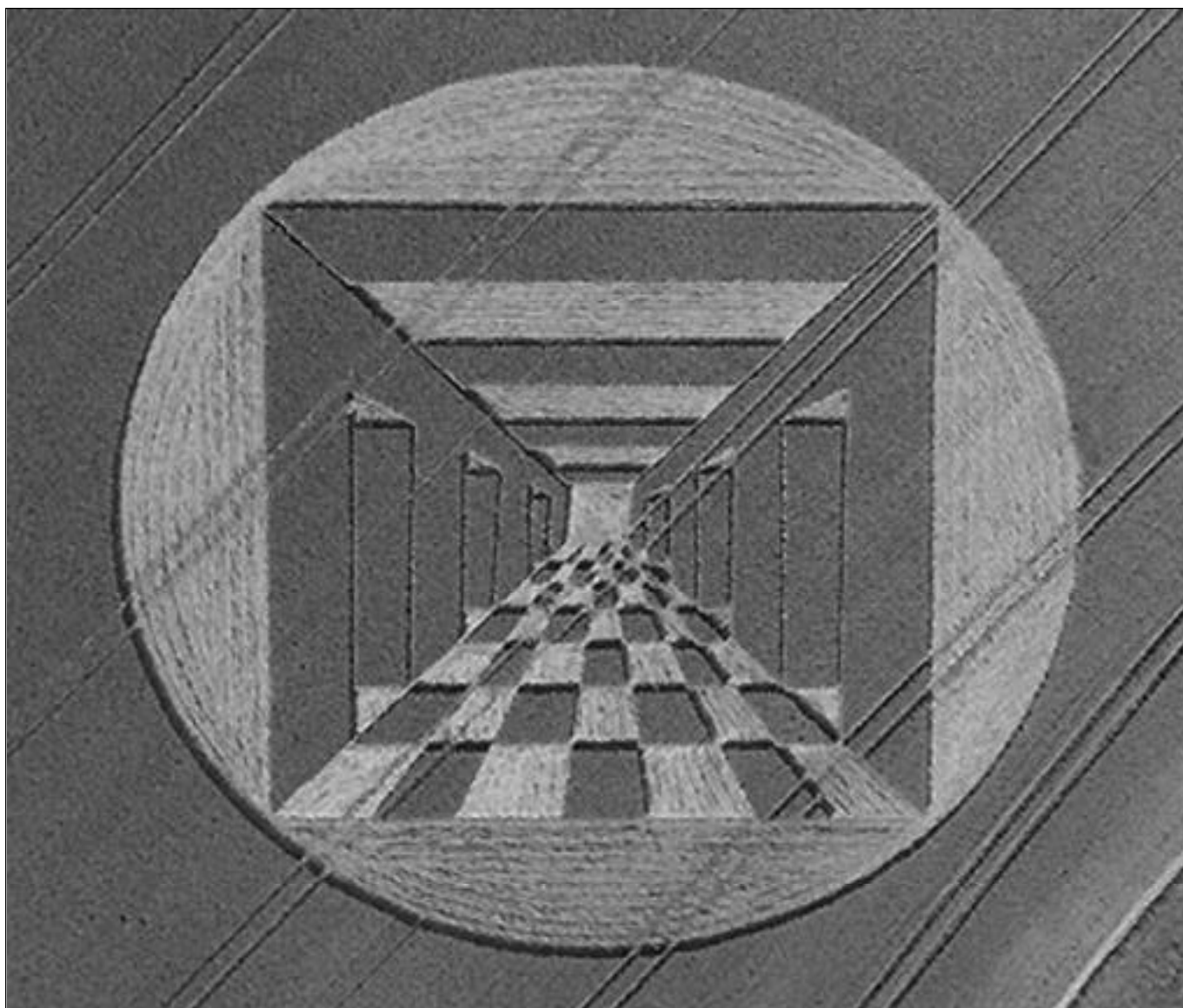
The most controversial event of the year occurred at Alton Barnes in the early hours of 7th July with the arrival of a huge array of expanding and diminishing circles forming arches across the acres known as East Field, a major circle-site of old. Not necessarily pleasing as a piece of design (though some speculated it might represent the holy *Aum* symbol), its scale, at 1,033 feet in total length, was more impressive. It was impossible to grasp its overall layout when standing within it. What distinguished this formation to make



Oliver's Castle, Wiltshire. Reported 15th April.
Image: Lucy Pringle © 2007, www.lucypringle.co.uk



White Horse Milk Hill, near Alton Barnes, Wiltshire. Reported 7th June. Image: Lucy Pringle © 2007, www.lucypringle.co.uk



West Kennett long barrow, near Avebury, Wiltshire. Reported 28th June.
Image: Steve Alexander © 2007, www.temporarytemples.co.uk

it one of the most discussed of 2007 was the presence of Gary King, Paula Presdee-Jones and UFO researcher Winston Keech, who claim to have been watching the field from nearby Knap Hill on the night of its arrival. All reported seeing a bright flash over the field at about 3.00 am. A video camera was running at this time, and on the tape the flash appears to show as a flicker of electronic interference.

Initial enhancement of footage taken that night appeared to show a blank field at 1.35 am, but by 3.20 am the glyph was visible. Given that some man-made crop formations have taken many hours to construct, if the times are accurate—though sceptics are trying to cast doubt on this—this leaves only a very brief time window in which such a design could have been manually constructed. Put together with the claim that nothing suggesting human activity was seen or heard by the observers that night, much was made of this evidence in the "croppie" world, with a local press conference being held and a DVD being rushed into circulation. However, in true crop circle confusion style, this did not stop assertions from supposed human circle-makers that *they* in fact had made the formation. Claims and counter-claims of intrigue and dark deeds continue to circulate, without resolution, at the time of writing. Cerealogical business as usual, then.

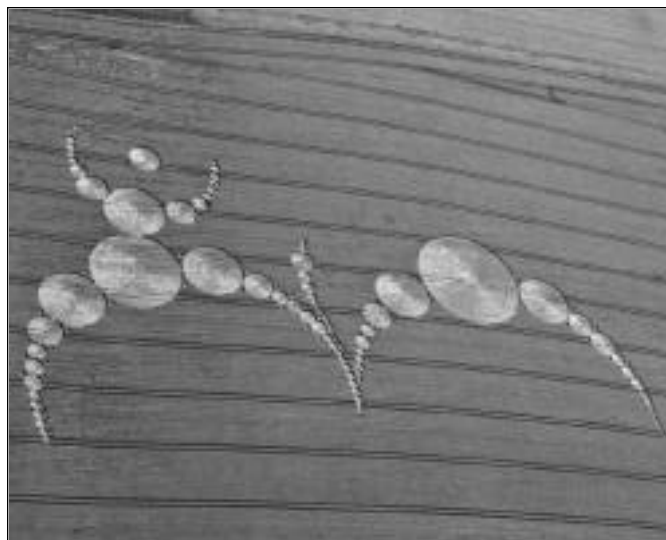
This same formation also seemed to attract several tales of military helicopters performing mysteriously low manoeuvres over the fields in the days after, and of strange men in white vans prowling around, but the more extreme stories remain largely unsubstantiated and low helicopters do not, in themselves, prove dubious purpose. Given that the Vale of Pewsey is a known military training area, such things are not entirely unusual, but others argue that this year's aerial activity was particularly—and oddly—intrusive.

As the summer progressed, some truly remarkable creations graced the fields: a very accurate *Yin-Yang* symbol at Marksbury in Somerset on 7th July (the same night as the East Field controversy) was one of the few complex formations outside of Wiltshire and Oxfordshire this year, while the latter county produced the most unusual emblem of the season in the shape of an ingenious, fragmented butterfly design at Ashbury on 16th July.

Of several ambitious and successful designs which appeared in the later part of the summer, two stand out in particular and seem linked in their themes. On 19th July, an extraordinary floral wheel was discovered at Martinsell Hill in Wiltshire, comprising four layers, each with 18 petals, the petals gradually widening from the centre with each layer. Its precision was stunning. On 1st August, a not-dissimilar but even more astounding wheel was found at Sugar Hill, near Aldbourne in Wiltshire. This time, four circular layers, with 36 perfect triangles each, surrounded 18 three-dimensional-looking cubes. This was considered by many to be the finest formation of the year, and a simple glance at images of it reminds us that whatever the origins of this amazingly persistent mystery—still argued over, after all these years—it should command our deepest respect.

Excited speculation on the Internet, courtesy of astronomical interpretations of this year's glyphs circulated in July and early August by a mysterious individual known as "Red Collie" (in fact, an Australian scientist who made several appearances at UK circle gatherings this summer), had suggested 18th August as a time when something spectacular might occur. However, after a few more complex designs in the first half of August, the 18th was apparently ignored and things soon went quiet, with one last formation to date (at the time of writing) tucking in at Hackpen Hill, Wiltshire, on 30th August in the shape of a Celtic cross design.

With researchers in a buoyant mood this summer (spoilt only by a



East Field, near Alton Barnes, Wiltshire. Reported 7th July.
Image: Lucy Pringle © 2007, www.lucypringle.co.uk



Marksbury, Somerset. Reported 7th July.
Image: Steve Alexander © 2007, www.temporarytemples.co.uk



Hailey Wood, near Ashbury, Oxfordshire. Reported 16th July.
Image: Lucy Pringle © 2007, www.lucypringle.co.uk

number of militant farmers who insisted on cutting out formations within just a day or two of their arrival—an increasing problem), the impression was left that it had been a vintage year ambience-wise, if not statistically. Even the usually voracious British press, despite publishing one or two sniffy articles, seemed to go generally easy on the phenomenon this year, leaving those who retain their enthusiasm for the subject to go about their circular business relatively unflustered.

Overseas themes

Meanwhile, there was an upward revival in the fortunes of crop circles elsewhere in the world. Germany, which also had a quiet year in 2006, came back to life in 2007 to produce 18 formations, several of which pursued impressively complex floral themes. Others struck up links with their English counterparts, such as the formation at Meensen in Lower Saxony on 23rd April, which seemed to be a reply to the 15th April opener at Oliver's Castle, Wiltshire, with another play on seven arcs within a ring in oilseed rape.

Italy continued its ascendancy into being England's closest rival in terms of numbers, with a substantial 22 formations, some of

which would not be out of place in the English fields. The best example was the beautiful "Queen of Diamonds" formation which appeared on 10th June at Monteu da Po, Piemonte.

The Netherlands claimed fourth place in the number stakes with 13 events, and Belgium—an upcoming place for crop circles, it seems—came an unexpected fifth with 11 glyphs.

Other countries to report formations in 2007 included Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland.

Speculations on the mystery

The question remains, of course, that if the 2007 season was indeed a "holding operation" for the crop circles, for what was it holding, and for whom? If the over-arching purpose of the phenomenon is to bring people together, to "raise consciousness" for some world-changing event just around the corner, as many believe (perhaps related to the much-discussed prophecies for the year 2012), could it be that it knows it has now reached the masses as much as it ever will do? After all, a quick viewing of circle website hit-rates reveals that with a whole planet of Net surfers, perhaps surprisingly only a very few thousand ever bother to check in to see the new wonders in the fields. Croppies often have an over-expanded view of their own world, which, in actuality, remains a small one. But small worlds often give birth to big things...

While significant mass-media coverage of curiosities like crop circles has largely moved on, replaced by a kind of background-level scepticism which makes media heroes of atheistic intellectuals like Richard Dawkins while reserving the "paranormal" for cheap entertainment, something about this strange phenomenon still refuses to die. The popular perception seems to be that the crop glyphs are simply the dying remains of an art terrorism fad that enjoys a little encore here and there—but some look at the evidence and refuse to believe that such an answer can explain all the wonders that still insist on occurring.

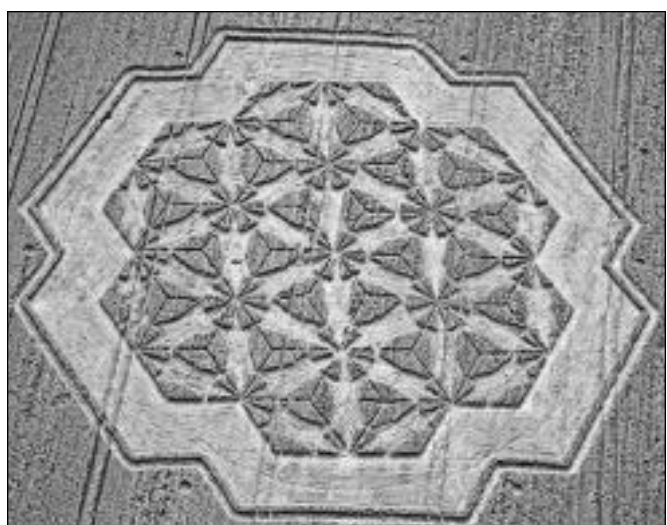
Does the ever-elusive source behind the crop circle mystery keep a few new shapes going down here and there just to keep the ball rolling for those latecomers who might yet get sucked in, hoovered up, as it were, to join the small but significant minority of people who seem to be preparing for some kind of global change? Or are the shapes nothing more than some telepathically projected manifestation of our own consciousness, as some have speculated, which will peter out at the start of our next big psychic development, whatever that may be? Or is something *really* huge just around the corner in our fields which will bring crop circles back to big public awareness...?

On, then, to 2008, and probably more of the same for now...but if all the phenomenon does is "hold", for many that will be enough.

∞



Martinsell Hill, Wiltshire. Reported 19th July.
Image: Lucy Pringle © 2007, www.lucypringle.co.uk



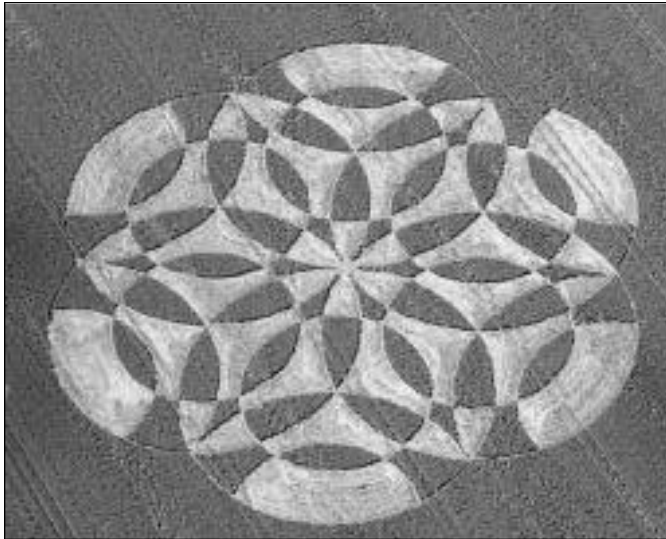
West Overton, near East Kennett, Wiltshire. Reported 17th August.
Image: Lucy Pringle © 2007, www.lucypringle.co.uk

About the Author:

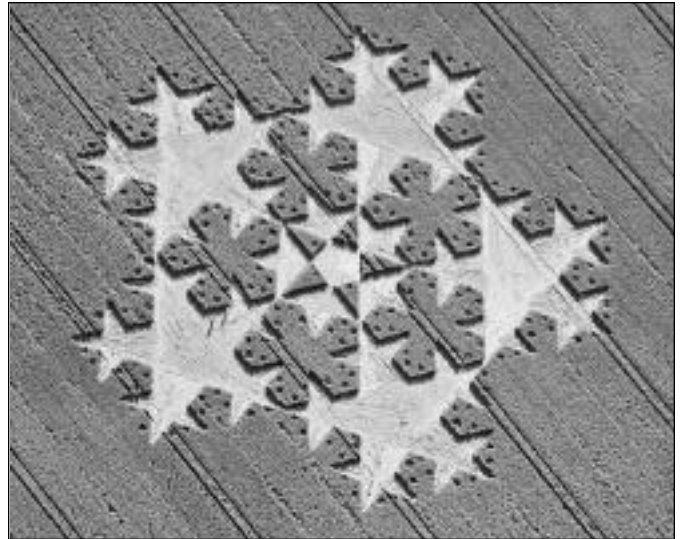
Andy Thomas is one the world's leading crop circle researchers and is the author of five books on the phenomenon including *Vital Signs*, considered by many to be the definitive guide (see <http://www.vitalsignspublishing.co.uk>). He can be contacted by email at info@swirlednews.com.

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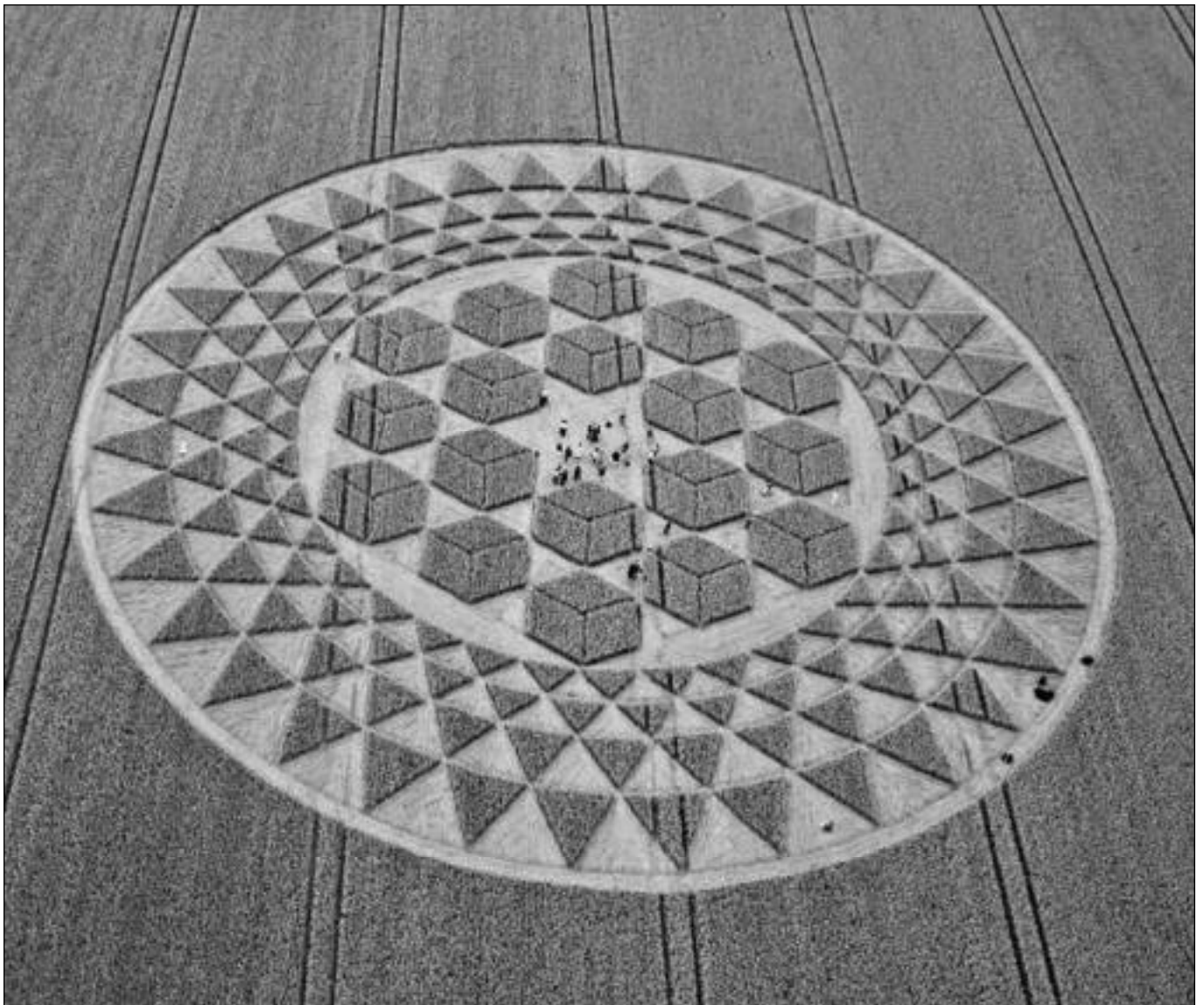
- Steve Alexander: <http://www.temporarytemples.co.uk/>
- Crop Circle Connector:
<http://www.cropcircleconnector.com>
- John Montgomery (courtesy Crop Circle Connector website)
- Lucy Pringle: <http://www.lucypringle.co.uk/>



Clifford's Hill, near All Cannings, Wiltshire. Reported 19th July.
Image: John Montgomery © 2007



Chute Causeway, near Mount Cowdown, Wiltshire. Reported 26th July. Image: Lucy Pringle © 2007, www.lucypringle.co.uk



Sugar Hill, near Aldbourne, Wiltshire. Reported 1st August. Image: Lucy Pringle © 2007, www.lucypringle.co.uk



ANCIENT INDIAN JUGGLERS

This article is reprinted verbatim from the Illustrated London News newspaper of 27 April 1861, "Relics of the Past" column.

— Editor

The amazing performances of the Eastern Magi, of which we have authentic details in the Old Testament, have been the subject of speculation rather than inquiry as interesting as it is puzzling. An attempt to investigate by what agency they were effected would be trenching upon delicate ground, ground already occupied by the controversy between the authors of the "Essays and Reviews" and their opponents.

We restrict ourselves to the speculation, and even this only by way of suggesting, whether the jugglers of India, whose performances so far outstrip any by their European counterparts, may not trace their origin to those wise men of the East from whom they derive their lore in spells and charms, if not their feats of muscular agility. There seems, at least, much probability that the performers who frequent the public wells and halting-places in the East exhibiting feats of legerdemain for the amusement of the travelling merchants are of the same family not only of the snake-charmers, but of the Garodi (juggler) tribe, who are known also by the

name of the Shudgarshid (from *Shudgar*, burial-ground; and *shid*, proficient), and whose detestable trade it is to prowl about burning and burialgrounds to collect certain pieces of human bone, with which they are supposed to work their sorceries.

The race commonly understood by the appellation of Indian jugglers have, however, no such repulsive characteristics, though they pretend to magical powers, and many of their performances, whether in the way of ingenuity or physical activity, are absolutely marvellous, and have been handed down from the most remote periods.

In a Persian manuscript of great antiquity, containing the memoirs of the Emperor Jahangir, written by himself, there is a remarkable description of the operations of certain Bengal jugglers, who were called upon to perform for the entertainment of the court.*

The account is given by the Emperor, who was so struck with astonishment at the wonders which these men wrought that he ascribes them to supernatural power. The performers were first desired to produce upon the spot, from the seed, ten mulberry trees. They immediately sowed, in separate places, seed in the ground, and in a few minutes after a mulberry plant was seen springing from each of the seeds, every plant as it rose in the air shooting forth leaves and branches, and yielding excellent fruit. In the same manner, and by a similar occult process, apple-trees, mangoes, fig-trees, almond, and walnut trees, were



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created, all producing fruit, which Jahangueir declares was exquisite to the taste. Nor was this all:—

Before the trees were removed there appeared among the foliage birds of such surprising beauty in colour, and shape, and melody of song, as the world never saw before. At the close of the operation, the foliage, as in autumn, was seen to put on its variegated tints, and the trees gradually disappeared into the earth from which they had been made to spring.

Incredible as this relation appears, we have the assurance of Major Price, the distinguished Orientalist, by whom Jahangueir's memoirs were translated, that he has himself witnessed kindred operations on the western side of India, but that a sheet was employed to cover the process. "I have, however," he adds, "no conception of the means by which they were accomplished, unless the jugglers had the trees about them, in every stage, from the seedling to the fruit."

From another of the "specious miracles" narrated by the Emperor we might suspect that these famous conjurers had anticipated the modern discovery of the lime or electric light:—

One night, in the very middle of the night, when half this globe was wrapped in darkness, one of these seven men stripped himself almost naked, and, having spun himself swiftly round several times, he took a sheet with which he covered himself, and from beneath the sheet drew out a

resplendent mirror, by the radiance of which a light so powerful was produced as to have illuminated the hemisphere to an incredible distance round; to such a distance, indeed, that we have the attestation of travellers to the fact, who declared that, on a particular night, the same night on which the exhibition took place, and at the distance of ten days' journey, they saw the atmosphere so powerfully illuminated as to exceed the brightness of the brightest day they had ever seen.

Another of their feats is curious:—

They placed in my presence a large seething-pot, or cauldron, and, filling it partly with water, they threw into it eight of the smaller mauns of Irâk of rice, when, without the application of the smallest spark of fire, the cauldron forthwith began to boil. In a little time they took off the lid, and drew from it nearly a hundred platters full, each with a stewed fowl at top!

The following is more extraordinary still:—

They produced a man whom they divided limb from limb, actually severing his head from the body. They scattered these mutilated members along the ground, and in this state they lay for some time. They then extended a sheet or curtain over the spot, and one of the men, putting himself under the sheet, in a few minutes came from below followed by the individual supposed to have been cut into joints, in perfect health and condition, and one might have safely sworn that he

had never received wound or injury whatever.

But even this process, astounding as it seems, is outdone by what are next described, which must have been optical deceptions:—

They caused two tents to be set up, the one at

the distance of a bow-shot from the other, the doors or entrances being placed exactly opposite; they raised the tent-walls all around, and desired that it might be particularly observed that they were entirely empty. Then fixing the tent-walls to the ground, two of the seven men entered, one into each tent, none of the other men entering either of the tents. Thus prepared, they said they would undertake to bring out of the tents any animal we chose to mention, whether bird or beast, and set them in conflict with each other. Khaun-e-Jahaun, with a smile of incredulity, required them to show us a battle between two ostriches. In a few minutes two ostriches of the largest size issued, one from either tent, and attacked each other with such fury that the blood was seen streaming from their heads. They were, at the same time, so equally matched that neither could get the better of the other, and they were therefore separated by the men and conveyed within the tents. In short, they continued to produce from either tent whatever animal we chose to name, and before our eyes set them to fight in the manner I have attempted to describe.

He then goes on to tell that the performers were furnished with a bow and about fifty steel-pointed arrows:—

One of the seven men took the bow in hand, and shooting an arrow into the air, the shaft stood fixed at a considerable height; he shot a second arrow, which flew straight to the first, to which it became attached; and so with every one of the remaining arrows to the last of all, which, striking the sheaf suspended in the air, the whole immediately broke asunder and came at once to the earth.

In flexibility and physical vigour the jugglers of India are to this day unrivalled. Mr. Fane assures us that at Delhi he saw several fellows jump down into a well ninety feet deep in pursuit of a rupee thrown in to tempt them. There was a slanting passage on the opposite side, by which they got out; but the perpendicular plunge was performed again and again with the utmost eagerness both by men and boys.



Men of this class in Madras are notable for their lithe and supple bodies. One of them will place a tall ladder upright on the ground and wind himself in and out through the rings [sic] until he reaches the top, descending in the same manner, keeping the ladder, which has no other support whatever, in a perpendicular position.

Their exhibitions with edged and pointed weapons are no less surprising, though not so pleasing, swallowing the sword being an operation so common as to be left only to the inferior performers. A woman (for there are female jugglers quite as expert as the men) will dip the point of a sword in black pigment, fix the hilt firmly in the ground, and then, after a few rapid whirlings in the air, will take off a portion of the pigment with her *eyelid*.

There is another of these perilous feats of which they make nothing. A sword and four daggers are placed in the earth, with their points upwards, at such a distance from each other as barely to admit of a man's head between them; the operator plants a scimitar firmly in the ground, sits down behind it, and suddenly at one bound throws himself over the scimitar, pitching his head exactly in the centre of the space encircled by the daggers, and then, by a reverse spring, turns over and resumes his place on the other side of the sword. It is an act of very ordinary merit for them to walk upon the edges of sabres, and to stick a sword in the ground and step upon the point in crossing over it. Sometimes a piece of thin linen is stretched out slightly in the hands of four persons, and the performer will walk across it without forcing it from the grasp of the holders, or even perceptibly ruffling it.

* This Prince was the great grandson of Baber, the restorer of the dynasty of Timur, and the son of the renowned Akbar, by whose chivalrous valour in the field the twenty-two provinces, then composing the empire India, were firmly subdued and tranquillised. Jahangueir succeeded to the empire in the year 1605, at a period when the ordinary annual revenue is estimated to have been fifty-two millions of our money, and when the standing army of the Monarch consisted of three hundred thousand horse, and as many foot. ∞

(Source: The Illustrated London News, "Relics of the Past" column, 27 April 1861)

THE "WOW!" MYSTERY TURNS 30!

Thirty years ago on 15 August 1977, astronomer Dr Jerry R. Ehman was looking over a printout of radio data from Ohio State University's Big Ear Radio Observatory when he saw a string of code so remarkable that he had to circle it and then scribbled "Wow!" in the margin. This comment has since become the name of the signal.

Was it a burst of human-made interference, or an alien broadcast from the stars? No one knows. The source of the "Wow!" signal has never been heard from again—even though astronomers have looked for it dozens of times.

Now the SETI Institute is gearing up to look for it one more time, using the latest tool for seeking signals from extraterrestrial civilisations: the Allen Telescope Array in California. The array combines observations from dozens of separate six-metre-wide (20-foot-wide) radio dishes to produce an instrument that will eventually become more sensitive than the world's largest single-dish telescope, the Arecibo Observatory.

"Once the Allen Telescope Array is up and running, and that should be later this year, there's going to be a small project in which we'll look at the same section where the 'Wow!' signal was detected, and of course the same spot on the radio dial," said Seth Shostak, senior astronomer at the SETI Institute. Although that area of the sky has been searched dozens of times before, the Allen Telescope Array will

bring more sensitivity and wider spectral coverage to the quest, Shostak said.

After the single radio burst was detected, astronomers tried to track down a terrestrial cause. But they could find no glitch in the system, and no source that could have explained the strength and the frequency of the seconds-long signal. Since then, the "Wow!" signal has stood as one of the central enigmas for alien-hunters, even inspiring a scene in *The X-Files*.

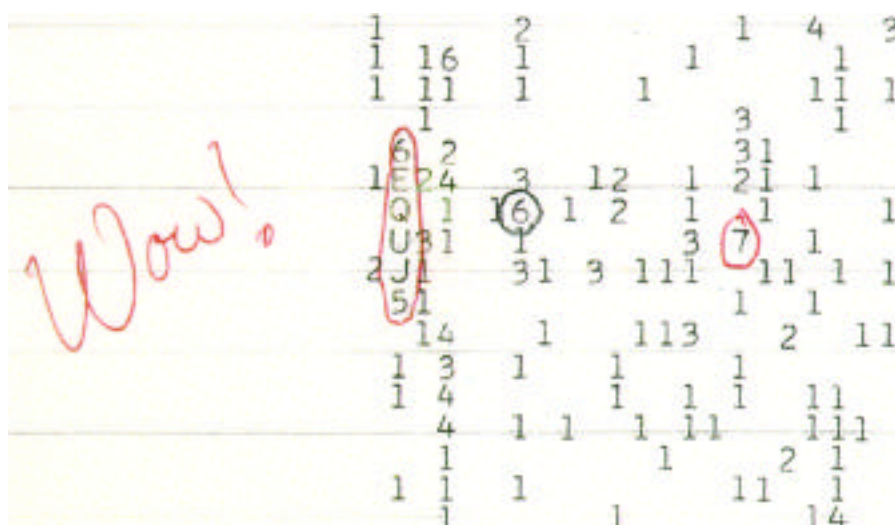
Ehman said aliens weren't the first thing that came to his mind when he saw the Big Ear data and wrote his famous word.

"The 'Wow!' was just an instantaneous response in writing," he said. "I had no expectations, other than: 'Here's something extremely interesting—and gee, let's try to find out what it is, or what it isn't.'"

Ehman recently updated his own report on the "Wow!" signal for the 30th anniversary, but the report's conclusion hasn't changed over all this time.

"It's still an open question what the source of the signal was," he told me. "We just don't have enough information to determine that... We just can't draw any conclusion other than it still allows for the possibility that it was a signal from an extraterrestrial civilization."

(Source: by Alan Boyle, 15 August 2007, <http://cosmiclog.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2007/08/15/319127.aspx>. "The Big Ear Wow! Signal (30th Anniversary Report)" by Jerry R. Ehman, PhD, dated 2 August 2007, is at <http://www.bigear.org/Wow30th/wow30th.htm>.)



This image is from a scan of a colour copy of the original computer printout taken several years after the 1977 arrival of the "Wow!" signal and after the printout had faded noticeably.

(Source: <http://www.bigear.org/Wow30th/wow30th.htm>)

THE TWILIGHT ZONE

30th ANNIVERSARY OF TV HIJACK BY EXTRATERRESTRIALS November 1977

In southern England on Saturday evening 26th November 1977—nearly 30 years ago—an unidentified voice broke into a broadcast by Independent Television News and delivered a 600-word statement, live, in English, to the viewers. The statement lasted three minutes and 47 seconds, and the sound file is now accessible on YouTube (<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=thfL9hZW3uM>).

The total sound-hack lasted for about six minutes, starting at 5.10 pm. A UK Government agency tried to block the signal, but failed. Thousands of people telephoned the TV station and the police. The broadcasting authorities themselves issued three apologies on air. The full texts of those apologies are below. The authorities called it a "rogue transmission" and a "hoax". The source of the "hoax" was never identified. The full text of the ET Vrillon's November 1977 message is as follows:

"This is the voice of Vrillon, a representative of the Ashtar Galactic Command, speaking to you. For many years you have seen us as lights in the skies. We speak to you now in peace and wisdom as we have done to your brothers and sisters all over this, your planet Earth.

"We come to warn you of the destiny of your race and your world, so that you may communicate to your fellow beings the course you must take to avoid the disasters which threaten your world, and the beings on other worlds around you. This is in order that you may share in the great awakening, as the planet passes into the New Age of Aquarius. The New Age can be a time of great peace and evolution for your race, but only if your rulers are made aware of the evil forces that can overshadow their judgements."

"Be still now and listen, for your chance may not come again. All your weapons of evil must be removed. The time for conflict is now past, and the race of which you are a part may proceed to the higher stages of its evolution if you show yourselves worthy to do this. You have but a short time to learn to live together in peace and goodwill.

"Small groups all over the planet are learning this, and exist to pass on the light of the dawning New Age to you all. You

are free to accept or reject their teachings, but only those who learn to live in peace will pass to the higher realms of spiritual evolution.

"Hear now the voice of Vrillon, a representative of the Ashtar Galactic Command, speaking to you. Be aware also that there are many false prophets and guides operating in your world. They will suck your energy from you—the energy you call money—and will put it to evil ends and give you worthless dross in return.

"Your inner divine self will protect you from this. You must learn to be sensitive to the voice within that can tell you what is truth and what is confusion, chaos and untruth. Learn to listen to the voice of truth which is within you...and lead yourselves onto the path of evolution. This is our message to our dear friends. We have watched you growing for many years as you,

**"Learn to listen to the voice
of truth which is within
you...and lead yourselves
onto the path of evolution.
This is our message to
our dear friends."**

— Vrillon, Ashtar Galactic Command
26 November 1977

too, have watched our lights in your skies... There are more beings on and around your world than your scientists admit.

"We are deeply concerned about you and your path towards the light and will do all we can to help you. Have no fears, seek only to know yourselves, and live in harmony with the ways of your planet Earth. We here at the Ashtar Galactic Command thank you for your attention. We are now leaving the planes of your existence. May you be blessed by the supreme love and truth of the cosmos."

The full texts of the broadcasting authorities' three apologies for the ET's "rogue transmission" are as follows. The first two were parts of ITN TV news bulletins later in the same evening and the third was broadcast on Independent Radio that night.

(1) "We understand that viewers in some parts of the region are receiving a break-

through in sound. We're sorry about this, and we're doing our best to rectify the fault."

(2) "Finally, back home, engineers are trying to trace the source of what they call a 'rogue transmission' which lasted about six minutes during ITN's early evening news bulletin. It affected viewers in the Berkshire and Hampshire areas served by the Hannington transmitter. They heard a voice which cut across what I was reading. The voice said: 'Earthlings, lay down your arms. This is a message from outer space.' Well, thousands of viewers later phoned Southern Television, the police and ITN here. A spokesman for the Independent Broadcasting Authority said: 'This is the first incident of its kind in Britain.' Winchester police said some people were frightened by the hoax message. They said they sent an officer to calm down one woman. Well, I hope nothing's interrupted this bulletin wherever you are this evening. From all of us here, goodnight."

(3) "The Independent Broadcasting Authority is at a loss to explain the mysterious message that broke into a Southern Television news broadcast. The slow, deep voice proclaimed, in part: 'All your weapons of evil must be destroyed. You only have a short time to learn to live in peace.' The station was immediately besieged by worried telephone callers demanding an explanation. But as the information officer for the Broadcasting Authority, John Ginnery, says, there could be several different causes of the message: 'Well, we don't know for sure that it was a pirate call. We know that there were some voices-over saying certain things of which we haven't got an exact record. We've had a lot of accounts, obviously, a lot of people have been phoning us and other people about it. We simply don't know what it was. Broadcasts, of course, are monitored at an operations centre, but there, there was simply a mumble and there was some picture distortion. We had a lot of reports in, but, as I say, we simply don't know what it was.' Independent Radio News, it's three minutes past twelve."

Sources: *Alcuin Bramerton's blog*, 17 August 2007, <http://alcuinbramerton.blogspot.com/2007/08/extraterrestrial-television-hijack.html>; YouTube posting, 27 July 2007, <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=thfL9hZW3uM>



REVIEWS

BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

THE SPIRIT OF WATER

by Lawrence Ellyard

O Books, UK, USA, 2007

ISBN 1-84694-071-2 (160pp tpb)

Available: see <http://www.o-books.net>

Western Australian Reiki practitioner and author Lawrence Ellyard is a student of pioneering Japanese water crystal researcher Masaru Emoto, whose books *Message from Water* and *The Hidden Message in Water* with their amazing photos of water crystals have inspired millions to appreciate water in a new light. Dr Emoto has written the foreword to Ellyard's book *The Spirit of Water*, which continues the exploration of *hado*—a word Emoto uses to describe the universe's subtle, vibrational energy. It was Dr Emoto who suggested that Ellyard write the first definitive *hado* book from a Westerner's perspective.

The fundamental message is that water is a medium that receives, stores and transmits information, manifesting consciousness in physical form. Imbuing water with positive or negative thoughts and then freezing it results in a picture of captured beauty or chaos. Water from polluted sources looks ugly and distorted in crystallised form, whereas water from clean and positive sources has elegant symmetries. Knowing this, and the fact that the body contains around 70% water, means that what we think, say and do affects the water content in the body and hence our health.

Ellyard, who qualified as a *hado* practitioner two years ago, takes the reader on a magical and sometimes confronting tour that

shows just what these extraordinary water crystal images can teach us about ourselves and the world around us. He covers the science of crystal formation, the hexagonal structure of water molecules (akin to that of snowflakes), sacred geometry and symbolism, sympathetic resonance, and the *hado* of health and happiness, among many aspects.

There's also a powerful environmental message in this life-affirming book.

THE WISDOM OF WATER

by Alanna Moore

Python Press, Australia, 2007

ISBN 978-0-9757782-1-0 (250pp tpb)

Available: PO Box 929, Castlemaine Vic 3450, email info@geomantica.com

In her new book, Australian geomancer Alanna Moore devotes her energies to the subject of water, exploring its manifestations, spiritual aspects and indigenous traditions as well as issues of supply, safety and conservation. (She is the author of *Stone Age Farming* and *Divining Earth Spirit*, reviewed in NEXUS 8/04 and 12/03.)

In part one, on waters of the Earth, Moore considers the rise and fall of civilisations due to plentiful waters becoming degraded. She discusses ancient Aboriginal water harvesting and aquaculture practices, the future of groundwater sources including Australia's Great Artesian Basin and the threat from radioactivity, and using dowsing to find underground water and determine its quality.

Next, Moore looks at the power, wisdom and mystery of water with its special crystalline, energetic and healing properties. In many spiritual traditions, water occupies a central position and is often the object of worship, personified in water goddess traditions all around the world.

In part three, waters of the sky occupy her attention, whether from the perspective of drought and climate change to rain-making traditions and water-harvesting techniques such as air wells, dew ponds and fog fences.

In the final part, Moore emphasises restoring the waters, with information on saving Australian landscapes from soil salinity, recreating chains of ponds and trapping stormwater in cities. She shows ways we can conserve water at the household level, act to improve water collection, transportation and storage systems, and be creative with flowforms and crystals to recharge our supplies. Moore encourages us to develop a spiritual relationship with water which takes us way beyond the typical response of taking this precious resource for granted.

From the geomantic perspective, says Moore, water is "a conveyor of the intelligence and vitality of the planet, a supreme repository of creative love-wisdom". By honouring the water of nature, we honour our environment and learn to heal ourselves.



REVIEWS



THE NEW PYRAMID AGE

by Philip Coppens

O Books, UK, USA, 2007

ISBN 1-84694-046-X (287pp tpb)

Available: See <http://www.o-books.net>

When pyramids are mentioned, most often we think of the Great Pyramids of Egypt or perhaps the stepped pyramids of the Maya of Mexico or the ziggurats of the ancient Sumerians. But the territory of the pyramid-builders was much more extensive says UK-based Belgian investigator Philip Coppens, who has finally put together over a decade's research into one volume (and will surely be featuring this subject when he speaks at our conference in October).

Long-time NEXUS readers will have some familiarity with the territory covered, as our pages have included articles from Coppens and other authors on pyramids as far afield as Caral in the Supe Valley in Peru (identified in 1948 and rediscovered in 1994), in Shanxi Province in China (first described in the early 20th century but not confirmed till 1994), as well as in Italy and Bosnia (first explored by archaeologists in 2005).

In *The New Pyramid Age*, Coppens describes all these pyramids and more (even on Mars) in terms of what is known of their history, archaeological excavations and an array of theories proposed as to their age, siting, purposes and the belief systems behind them. Ultimately he argues for a largely contemporaneous pyramid-building explosion in the Old and New Worlds in around 3000 BC, the purpose being to express the Creation myth, perhaps as a cosmic imperative, but not to serve as tombs for departed royalty. Could it be that these structures were inspired by naturally occurring "creation mounds" or pyramid-shaped

mountains which are in evidence, for instance, along the Nile and Supe valleys?

Coppens suggests that different designs were employed that conformed to a "point of creation template" or a "pyramid template" that was adapted to suit local circumstances and cultures. Built by ancestors who saw history as cyclical, the pyramids would have been seen as signs of creation—places that were outside time, and time unaffected by space. He presents a highly readable overview of the subject, with lots of black-and-white photos throughout.

THE MYSTERY OF THE OLMECS

by David Hatcher Childress

Adventures Unlimited Press, Kempton, Illinois, USA, 2007

ISBN 1-931882-77-0 (261pp tpb)

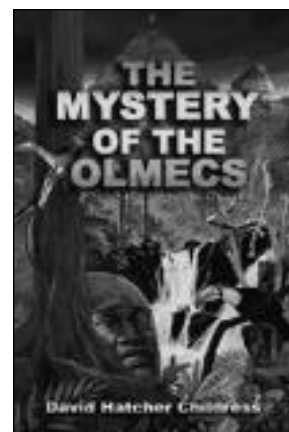
Available: adventuresunlimitedpress.com

Traces of the Olmecs were first described by archaeologists in the late 1860s, but it wasn't until 1942 that they were acknowledged as a civilisation in their own right. As you'll read in David Hatcher Childress's latest tome, the Olmecs were arguably the mother civilisation of the Mesoamerican region, although there were precursor cultures about which even less is known.

The most striking artefacts passed down by the Olmecs are the colossal carved stone heads, often with distinctly African features and headdresses (like African Rugby players!), unearthed in increasing numbers with expeditions from the 1920s. Even today, there are new discoveries being made that are shedding light on this enduringly mysterious people. Here, Childress includes historical sources in his narrative that covers the origin, rise and fall of the Olmecs, and speculates on the influence of transoceanic

travel and trade that may have brought African, Asian and European peoples, along with their knowledge and customs, to the region. Their predilection for cranial elongation is a signature look that is also seen in the ancient Egyptian culture, and the Olmecs had a distinctive hieroglyphic script. Their sculptural forms featuring the *quizuo* hands-on-knees meditative postures have similarities in many Old World cultures.

The heyday of the Olmecs seems to have been from at least 1500 to 400 BC, and it may have been natural disaster that caused their demise. It's evident, says Childress, that they preceded the Maya—an inconvenient truth for many archaeologists—but they also heavily influenced this and other Central American civilisations such as the Toltecs and Aztecs. If only we had the keys to unlock this mystery, we'd solve many unknowns of the ancient world. Childress includes many colour and b&w photos, diagrams and maps to illustrate his archaeological and anthropological travelogue.





REVIEWS

TALMUD JMMANUEL

by Judas Ischarioth

Steelmark LLC, Tulsa, OK, USA, 2007
(fourth edition; edited by Eduard A. Meier)
ISBN 0-9711523-3-0 (278pp tpb)
Available: www.steelmarkonline.com

According to his testimony, in 1963 a Swiss-born prophet and Plejarian contactee Eduard ("Billy") Meier uncovered a set of Aramaic scrolls from a cave in Jerusalem. He was in the company of a Greek Orthodox priest, Isa Rashid, who had discovered the cave, believed to be the burial place of Jmmanuel before he "rose from the dead" to continue his mission of teaching unconditional love and wisdom.

Rashid translated 36 chapters (about a quarter) of the so-called *Talmud Jmmanuel* into German before the scrolls were apparently destroyed in 1974 during an Israeli attack on a refugee camp in Lebanon where Rashid was hiding with his family. With both Christians and Jews in pursuit of him due to the scrolls' content, which was critical of both religions, he eventually paid with his life. Unfortunately, no pictorial evidence of the scrolls is presented here, although photos of two artefacts, including an Indian-style figurine, are. The story goes that Jmmanuel travelled out of Palestine and eventually into Kashmir; his disciple Judas Ischarioth (not Juda Ihariot, the betrayer) eventually returned to Jerusalem to secrete his writings and the artefacts for safekeeping.

There are obvious similarities with Gospel stories (whose veracity is subject to dispute), but the big difference is that Jmmanuel (known to us by the name of Jesus) claimed to have an extraterrestrial origin and was in contact with his ET guardians. In his teachings on the laws of Creation, he railed

against the dangers of gods and religious cults, including the Essenes whom he saw as twisting his true message. And yet women are not considered equal, if the chapter on marriage and cohabitation is any guide.

Rashid's text was edited by Meier and first released in 1974; this is the fourth edition, and includes German and English translations plus predictions of prophets Jeremiah and Elia, transmitted to Meier in 1989 by the entity Quetzal, which warn of increasingly troubled times until we wake up to the truth. Readers should make up their own minds...

BLUE MOUNTAINS TRIANGLE

by Rex and Heather Gilroy

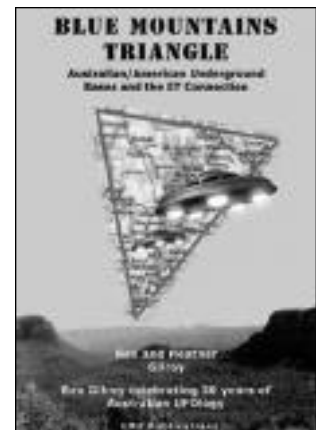
URU Publications, Australia, 2006
ISBN 0-9578716-6-3 (217pp tpb)
Available: URU Publications, PO Box 202, Katoomba NSW 2780, Australia, tel +61 (0)2 4782 3441, www.rexgilroy.com

Unidentified flying objects of an array of shapes have been seen around the vast wilderness region of the Blue Mountains west of Sydney, Australia, since 1875 when colonial settlers in the Kurrajong area reported "a gigantic, squarish flying craft".

Rex Gilroy, an investigator of UFO, cryptozoology and phenomenal mysteries for 50 years (see *Mysterious Australia*, 3/01), has written this book with his wife Heather, who herself has a 40-year pedigree in the field. *Blue Mountains Triangle* is a collection of information and eyewitness accounts about strange goings-on above and below the remote, densely wooded valleys of this majestic landscape (the Gilroys' maps stake out the territory). As well as UFO sightings there have been reports of alien abductions, underground space bases (rumblings of heavy machinery underfoot have been

reported by many bushwalkers), missing time experiences, secret roads with unwelcoming signs and intimidating fencing (hikers in the Burragorang Valley in 1970 came upon a US military policeman), energy vortexes transporting aircraft hundreds of miles away in an instant, and the presence of local and foreign intelligence operatives including ASIO and CIA agents. The Gilroys are certain that there's a hive of subterranean bases in the "triangle" which are interconnected by road and rail tunnels and are linked to a series of submarine ports just beyond the east coast—which, they say, goes some way to explaining coastal dwellers' sightings of UFOs emerging from the sea.

Apart from illustrations from eyewitnesses and plenty of photographs showing the stark, eerie beauty of the region, there are diagrams of underground space technology research bases apparently drawn by a former government employee. A spooky journey, but one which we hope will be supported by more hard evidence before too long.



REVIEWS



THE WISDOM OF THE SOUL

by Ian Lawton

with research by Andy Tomlinson

Rational Spirituality Press, UK, 2007

ISBN 0-9549176-1-8 (170pp tpb)

Available: <http://www.rspress.org>

In this sequel to *The Book of the Soul* (see 13/02), Ian Lawton continues his "rational spirituality" theme in collaboration with Andy Tomlinson, a British psychotherapist, specialist in past life and interlife regression and author of *Exploring the Eternal Soul*. To start, Lawton recaps on the history and reliability of interlife research and explains the methodology used in experiments with 10 of Tomlinson's clients, most of whom had done personal interlife sessions before.

Lawton and Tomlinson decided to focus on the universal, not on the personal, to see if their clients could access information from the "elders" or "spirits of the light" that would benefit the human collective. The "unusual soul behaviour" question covered trapped souls, multiple incarnations, walk-ins, demonic entities and more. The responses affirmed that we *do* have free will, so the future is not set in stone. The "soul development" question looked at the purpose of reincarnation and how souls use their time in the interlife. We're told that "the Source is All", as the great sages said, and that soul consciousness is holographic.

Another question touched on humanity's origins, the fate of lost civilisations and what the future might hold for us. Feedback suggested we're more likely 100,000 years old, but the elders hinted that we were preceded by other "models" that we know of as Lemurians and Atlanteans who were more evolved spiritually yet still managed to destroy their civilisations by their greed and

lust for power. In his commentary, Lawton seems to dismiss hard evidence from artefacts found in strata millions of years old.

The last question dealt with reality and time, and the message is that we need linear time to get by on the physical plane. There is a bigger picture of human destiny, but we need to learn to live in the *now* because this affects our Earthly linear future.

Lawton concludes that one of the keys is to find a balance between the spiritual and the physical on our soul's mission.

CORNOGRAPHY: The New Swirled Order

by Michael Glickman

The Squeeze Press, Glastonbury, 2007

ISBN 1-906069-04-2 (231pp tpb)

Available: <http://www.squeezeexpress.com>

Architect Michael Glickman has been visiting crop circles and studying the phenomenon for 17 years, and as a lecturer and an author on the subject has caused and been subjected to his fair share of controversy. For this book, he's assembled despatches from the frontlines of cerealogy covering 1991–2005, first published in his columns for John Michell's *Cerealogy* magazine, Andy Thomas's *Sussex Circular* and *SC* magazines and the Swirled News website, and also from his own "Wheat from the Chaff" blog. While not intended to be a definitive record of the enigmatic crop glyphs, *Cornography* serves as a sociological review of these interesting times.

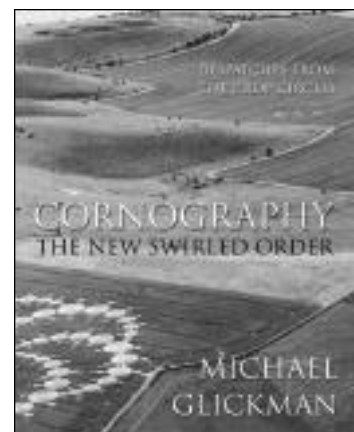
Glickman dishes out his disdain to hoaxers and the people who believe them based on no evidence at all. He really lashes out at researcher Colin Andrews and his unfounded belief that 80% of the field formations are man-made. While he cringes at the sound of

military helicopters and heavy artillery fire from the Salisbury military base not far from his summertime home in Wiltshire, he derides the theory (as well as its exponents) that the military is using microwaves to create the circles. Critics, New Agers, middle-aged female American tourists and fellow dedicated researchers are all in his sights.

Glickman is on the side of appreciating the mystery for its majesty. In his writings, he tracks the geometric progressions expressed in the English fields each year, often being proved correct in his predictions of five-, seven-, and 11-fold geometries.

Because Glickman's book is text based, with light-grey-scaled pictographics throughout, readers will need to refer to other photographic sources to compare specific formations that are discussed. It's an entertaining read, spiced up with made-up stories just to test if we're alert.

(See our coverage of the 2007 crop circle season highlights, with introduction by Andy Thomas, in this edition.)





REVIEWS

CANCER IS A FUNGUS

by Tullio Simoncini

Edizioni Lampis, Rome, Italy, 2007

ISBN 88-87241-08-2 (244pp tpb)

Available: <http://www.cancerfungus.com>

Italian oncologist Dr Tullio Simoncini's 2005 book, now available in English, is an attack on flawed, futile conventional cancer thinking/treatments and a call for a radical reassessment of the disease based on the model that cancer is a fungus—specifically, *Candida albicans*—and thus can be treated with antifungal medicine. The most powerful antifungal, as Dr Simoncini has discovered, is both inexpensive and unpatentable: sodium bicarbonate!

Last edition we ran the doctor's article on his fungus theory/therapy, and now readers can study his ideas, therapy and treatment



results in more detail. Dr Simoncini gets to the core of cancer's pathological anatomy, considering also the mind-body-spirit connection, and rules out the "bluff" of genetics, multiple factors and cancer statistics in understanding the true nature of the disease. When orthodox treatments like chemotherapy give patients at best a seven per cent chance of survival, there has to be better way. And a better way there is when the origin and genesis of tumours is understood in terms of pathogenic fungi.

The *Candida* fungus is explained in terms of its opportunistic behaviour, its similar genetic structure to cancer, its constant presence in cancer tumours and the phenomenon of metastasis. Dr Simoncini outlines his many years of oncological research and his therapy using sodium bicarbonate as a logical solution to the cancer problem. He gives examples of specific bicarb soda therapies to treat cancers of the pharynx, stomach, liver, abdomen, intestines, spleen, pancreas, bladder, prostate, brain, lung, breast, skin and more. Plus, he addresses the arguably more intractable problems of dealing with conformist medical practices, politics and

economics that prevent a simple, cheap therapy from reaching the masses.

Dr Simoncini sounds a passionate rallying cry for an effort of association, cooperation and even "spiritual complicity" to dismantle the mistakes and lies of orthodox cancer thinking and treatment and to shed light on appropriate structures and equipment that can restore hope to millions around the world. The clinical case studies bear witness in this most promising, accessible answer to cancer.

AETHER: The Transcript

by various contributors

Pathway (Initiatives) Ltd, Tring, UK, 2006

ISBN 0-900034-10-7 (222pp tpb)

Available: <http://www.aetheraware.org>

Einstein may have put the dampener on the aether, but over a century later thinkers from all walks of life are part of a new awareness of the aether—a concept that goes back at least to the ancient Greeks.

This compilation, a transcript of eight hours of interviews (also available on CD-ROM), brings together engineers, scientists, ecologists, healing practitioners and artists with their views on this concept which, to some, is so tangible that it constitutes the substrate, the matrix, of our physical reality and to others is the stuff of aetheric realms. It's safe to say that the aether is understood in many cultures by different names, and there are diverse ideas held about it.

The brains and narrator behind this UK-based project, with interviews recorded in 2004–06, is producer Michael Finesilver, and the commentators include electrical engineer/scientist Nick Thomas, biologist/ecologist Margaret Colquhoun, physicist Ian Thompson, biologist Brian Goodwin, actor/esotericist Patrick Dixon, *Scientific and Medical Network* program director David Lorimer, healer/clairvoyant Yiannis Pittis, sculptor/Flowforms inventor John Wilkes and more. A substantial section comprises "The Engineer's Report", where Thomas engages with contributors on the deeply relevant question, "What's Missing that Makes Science Such a Turn-off?" Turning the tables on scientific basics, these specialists discuss polarity, consciousness, light/dark, levity/gravity, chaos/cosmos against the backdrop of the aether.

In the "bigger picture" discussion, this ancient idea is interpreted in terms of modern struggles. The central tenets are to see the aether as a pre-physical matrix for new forms, and regard knowledge as power—for if ideas and thoughts are real, then the aether is real. There are many gems for the serious, the practical and the imaginative alike.

REVIEWS

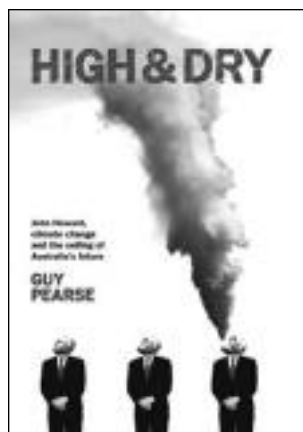


HIGH & DRY

by Guy Pearse

Viking/Penguin Books, Australia, 2007
ISBN 978-0-670-07063-3 (480pp tpb)
Available: <http://www.penguin.com.au>;
also see <http://www.highanddry.com.au>

It's unusual for a card-carrying Liberal Party member, government adviser and lobbyist to turn whistleblower, but that's exactly what Guy Pearse did when he went public on 13 February 2006 on ABC TV's *Four Corners* current affairs program. He declared that behind Australian Prime Minister John Howard's intransigence in not ratifying the Kyoto Protocol and in refusing to insist on tighter carbon emission controls was the industry collective he calls "the greenhouse mafia". In league with these "quarry visionaries" are former public servants and ministerial staffers, neoliberal think-tankers and conservative media commentators, economists and lobbyists. Now, Pearse has written *High & Dry*, which grew



out of his PhD thesis preparation in 2001–05 and a series of interviews he conducted.

Environmental science and policy were Pearse's specialities ahead of his appointment as an adviser in 1997–98 to the then environment minister, Robert Hill. He was soon to learn that the government had no intention of agreeing to reduced carbon emissions and that the situation would only get worse. Indeed, by May 2006, Howard was on the nuclear bandwagon and had further aligned his greenhouse policies with those of the US Bush administration and against Australia's national interest.

Pearse laments that Howard's greenhouse policy is protecting those who are *causing* the pollution—a corporate cabal with interests in coal, uranium, aluminium, oil, liquefied natural gas and steel—and that renewable energy technologies/programs are being deliberately undermined and underfunded.

In the final part, Pearse analyses the 2007 "election year equation" in terms of a win by

the coalition government or the Labor Party and looks to community leadership and individual action in creating a better future.

MARALINGA: Australia's Nuclear Waste Cover-up

by Alan Parkinson

ABC Books, Sydney, Australia, 2007
ISBN 978-0-7333-2108-5 (231pp tpb)
Available: <http://shop.abc.net.au>

The Australian government may have announced in 2000 that the clean-up of the former British nuclear test site at Maralinga in South Australia was a success, a "world first" and "world's best practice", but the site is still riddled with plutonium and other deadly radioactive materials. Contaminated soil and debris were buried at shallow depth (2–3 metres) in unlined trenches, and radioactive dust is scattered across thousands of hectares of landscape. It's certainly not safe for the Tjarutja people to return to and reclaim their tribal lands.

English-born mechanical/nuclear engineer Alan Parkinson worked from 1989 in developing options for the site clean-up and was appointed by the federal Department of Primary Industries and Energy in 1993 to oversee operations. He was a member of MARTAC, the Minister's advisory committee, but was removed from the project and committee by the beginning of 1998 after he objected to the project management tender for *in situ* vitrification (ISV) being awarded to a company with no experience in the field. Nor did senior public servants know anything of the technology or requirements. Parkinson holds that the government was only ever interested in the cheapest option of shallow burial, and a debris pit explosion at the start of the ISV phase sounded the death knell for this safer, longer-term option.

Maralinga is Parkinson's hard-hitting account of his work (which was held in high regard by his colleagues), the realities of the project, the gross understatement by the British as to what they'd left behind after their 1956–63 tests, the bungling of bureaucrats, the blinkered attitude of politicians (except for federal Democrats senator Lyn Allison), the betrayal of the traditional owners (whom he represented in 1998–2000) and the creation of a disastrous radioactive legacy for the future.

Parkinson blew the whistle on ABC Radio National's *Background Briefing* on 16 April 2000, which then spawned more media coverage, public outrage and the expected official denials. At a time when the Howard government (under which the project came unstuck) is going gangbusters on nuclear power and is hell-bent on establishing nuclear waste dumps in remote desert areas, Parkinson's book is an important exposé.



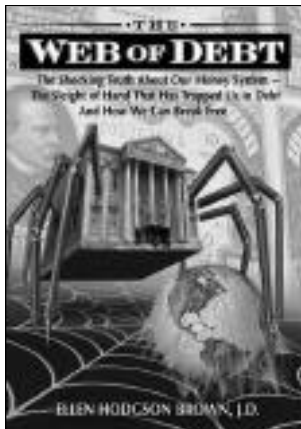
REVIEWS

THE WEB OF DEBT: The Shocking Truth About Our Money System **by Ellen Hodgson Brown, JD**

Third Millennium Press, USA, 2007
ISBN 0-9795608-0-4 (510pp tpb)
Available: <http://www.webofdebt.com>;
www.amazon.com, www.amazon.co.uk

Los Angeles-based attorney specialising in civil litigation, Ellen Brown, JD, is the author/co-author of 11 books, most of which deal with health issues. Now, in *Web of Debt*, she diagnoses the problems with the monetary system and prescribes a solution for the people to take back their power.

Long-time NEXUS readers are familiar with the diagnosis: that money (apart from coins) and credit creation are in the hands of a private money cartel, which in the US is headed by the Federal Reserve—a private corporation, not a government institution. The people have become trapped by "the debt spider" (depicted so aptly by David Dees in his cover design). The banks must



continually seek out new loans to service the interest on existing loans; thus they expand the money supply, which in turn inflates prices and robs us of value for our money. When banks and sub-prime lenders lend money to people who can't afford to repay it, as is happening now, it can't be too long before the US economy crashes—and other economies along with it. Control of the money supply wasn't always like this, and Brown points to historical examples showing that provincial governments once issued and lent paper money, where the proceeds were used for the benefit of colonists.

Brown's purview is not purely US-centric, for this is a global problem. She has lived in several countries over the years and now analyses the spread of the bankers' web in nations such as Mexico, Germany (the case of hyperinflation in the Weimar Republic), Russia, Yugoslavia, Argentina, Zimbabwe, Malaysia, China, India and more. Many of these nations have been caught in the so-

called "tequila trap": wooed by foreign loans and investment, they then open up their currencies to speculative manipulation.

We need to "beat the robber barons at their own game", says Brown, by replacing their banking monopoly with a freely flowing public money supply to restore national sovereignty. Her prescription can be written internationally to liquidate unfair and repressive Third World debt with "the click of a mouse". The need is urgent, and Brown has a vision of government without taxes or debt. This is well-researched book offers a way to navigate these troubled times.

PSI SPIES: The True Story of America's Psychic Warfare Program **by Jim Marrs**

New Page Books, NJ, USA, 2007
ISBN 1-56414-960-9 (318pp tpb)
Available: www.newpagebooks.com

Distinguished investigative journalist Jim Marrs sets his sights in *PSI Spies* on top-secret military/intelligence remote viewing (RV) programs and their spin-offs—which were taken very seriously behind the scenes despite the highly publicised mid-1990s US official denials. Marrs started out on this unexpected quest in the early 1990s and had his book ready in 1995, but his publisher suddenly cancelled the deal. It's a long story! Finally, he had a limited edition of this book published in 2000, and this new version is expanded and updated.

Marrs's previous historical forays include works on the JFK assassination (*Crossfire*), global conspiracies (*Rule by Secrecy*; see 8/01), the UFO phenomenon (*Alien Agenda*) and 9/11 (*Inside Job*, 11/06; *The Terror Conspiracy*, 14/01). His personal "need to know" has seen him rubbing shoulders with Ingo Swann (the brains behind the original remote viewing protocols) and a host of RV experts who've since gone on to start up and/or leave their own companies. Some of these RV military/intelligence names would be known to our long-time readers: Major-General Albert Stubblebine, Col. John Alexander, David Morehouse, Ed Dames, Lyn Buchanan, Mel Riley, Joe McMoneagle, Skip Atwater and more.

The projects that these military RV-ers were assigned covered UFOs, crop circles, Middle Eastern war efforts, goings-on in/on/around Mars, and much more. Jim Marrs considers the testimony dispassionately and without putting down his subjects; he's a true truth-seeker. His epilogue includes an RV exercise with viewer John Kovacs who agreed to investigate Marrs's passion for American Civil War re-enactments. The result is a fascinating take on the sound of the "Rebel yell"—a feature of the 1863 battle of Gettysburg. Captivating stuff!

REVIEWS



DVDs

Reviewed by Duncan Roads

AMERICA – FROM FREEDOM TO FASCISM

Produced/written/directed by Aaron Russo
© All Your Freedoms Inc., PO Box 1213,
264 South La Cienega Blvd, Beverly Hills,
CA 90211, USA, website
<http://www.freedomtofascism.com/>

Determined to find the law that requires American citizens to pay federal income taxes, film producer Aaron Russo (*The Rose, Trading Places*) set out on a journey. His film *America: From Freedom to Fascism* is a compelling and troubling account of how the wealth of the United States was silently passed from its citizens to a handful of powerful bankers in 1913—the year that the Federal Reserve Act became law.

Neither left- nor right-wing in perspective, this startling examination of government exposes the systematic erosion of civil liberties in America.

Through interviews with US Congressmen, a former IRS Commissioner, former IRS and FBI agents, tax attorneys and authors, Russo connects the dots between money creation, one world government and immigration, computerised voting, federal income taxes and the national identity card using radio frequency identification (RFID) technology which becomes law in May 2008.

Sadly, Russo died on 24 August 2007.



ALIEN INVASION – SECRET SPACE II

by Chris Everard, Enigma Motion Pictures
© 2007

Available: www.secretspacedvd.com/

This documentary seeks to expose a cosmic conspiracy against mankind. It purports that thousands of years ago, alien beings invaded Earth, interbred with humans and became mythologised into religious teachings; their genes seeded the bloodlines of today's royal and political elites.

It is suggested that some aliens return to Earth on a regular or cyclic basis to collect resources, such as human and animal DNA.



Subjects include: lunar UFO photos; giant structures on the Moon; alien technology in ancient Egypt; Wandjina aliens in Australia; photo fakery of Moon landings; lakes and forests on Mars; UFOs in the Bible; Anunnaki reptilian humanoids; and how the war in Iraq is also a cover for the elite to hunt down and kill people of certain (Sumerian) bloodlines.

This is pure David Icke, Zecharia Sitchin and Erich von Däniken material—all rolled into four hours of DVD documentary.

THE NAKED QUEEN

by Rising Dawn Pictures © 2007

Available: Rising Dawn Pictures, PO Box 363, Nelson, BC, Canada V1L 5R2, website <http://www.thenakedqueen.com>

The film *The Naked Queen* is a cultural critique of the mythic foundations of the war on drugs which has, in essence, become a war on cannabis. Starting with the ancient history of cannabis and leading to the extremism of US federal policy with regard to this enigmatic plant, this feature documentary strips away the propagandist illusions about cannabis with its roots in hell, unveiling the hypocrisy of this entrenched policy.

The Naked Queen explores cannabis from a cultural, rural, Canadian perspective. It finds the common sensibilities around the issues of growing and using cannabis. Why is the use (and abuse) of alcohol and pharmaceutical drugs so acceptable but marijuana use plagued with stigma?

The Naked Queen looks at the facts around the demonisation, and the rising number of arrests for cannabis, and asks: What are the effects of prohibition and who is benefiting?

The Naked Queen is not about glorifying cannabis. It is about respecting it as a medicine and looking at this issue with openness and honesty.

This uniquely Canadian film has a timely relevance for those seeking to understand the plant called cannabis and the culture surrounding it.





REVIEWS

MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

LIQUID GEOMETRY

by John Consemluder

Sounds True, USA, 2007 (76mins)
Distributors: **Australia**—Brumby Books and Music, tel (03) 9761 5535; **USA**—Sounds True, tel 1800 333 9185, website <http://www.soundstrue.com>

In the beginning, the word was sound—and the world is sound. So says John Consemluder in his notes for this CD. John was trained as a neuropsychologist and taught that consciousness resides in the brain. However, he found his training and knowledge to be inadequate and that frequency, resonance, energy waves, sound, geometry and light all had lessons to teach him. The *Liquid Geometry* album is his manifestation of the healing energy of sound. The music carries conscious, caring intention composed from pure frequencies. He's joined by the supernatural voice of Renske Skills on three tracks. Definitely an experiential electronic chill album.

LA MANDINGUE

by Empire de la Musique

Marabi Prodns, France, 2007 (78mins)
Distributors: **Australia**—Select Audio, tel (02) 8966 3307; **France**—Marabi Productions, tel (05) 45 37 30 22, <http://www.marabi.net>; **Germany**—Harmonia Mundi, tel (0)711 256 7671

We're back in the world of musical forms from the ancient Mandingo Empire, especially from Guinea and Mali, home of the *griot* cultural tradition. Artists include a glorious line-up of talent: Ali Farka Touré, Oumou Sangaré, Ba Cissoko, Super Rail Band, Toumani Diabaté, Habib Koité, Boubacar Traoré, Ballaké Sissoko, Mory Kanté, and heaps more wondrous singers and players. The traditional instruments of kora, violin, balafon and ngoni are blended into this essential collection CD.

eMOTIVE

featuring Non Profit Music artists

Non Profit Music, Spain, 2007 (59mins)
Distributor: **USA**—Only New Age Music, tel +1 (323) 851 3355, <http://www.NonProfitMusic.org>

The Spanish Non Profit Music (NPM) label was born in 2002 with the goal of helping people via humanitarian programs. Its roots go back to 1995 when musician Jorge Grundman, the driving force behind NPM, donated profits from MP3 downloads of his music to Doctors Without Borders (Médicos Sin Fronteras, MSF). In 2005,

NPM signed a collaborative agreement with MSF. From the outset, NPM has supported projects through concerts, audio books, downloads and CDs. *eMotive* brings four of the group together with selections from albums and projects of the last four years. Very creative world/Spanish-influenced music. All profits from sales go to MSF.

INNER ALCHEMY

by Mary Rodwell, RN

Newmind Records, Australia, 2007 (10 CDs, 50–60 mins each)

Distributor: **Australia**—Newmind Records, tel 0404 840 470, website <http://www.newmindrecords.com>

These guided meditation CDs work with the deepest levels of your brain and soul, using a process that involves binaural beats, guided voice, beautiful music, subliminal messages, trance-inducing frequencies and creative visualisations. Mary Rodwell, a Western Australian counsellor, nurse and guide, uses various hypnotic and trance techniques to allow you to access your inner alchemical processes. The choice of CDs includes *Inner Healer*, *Meet Your Spirit Guides*, *Explore Past Lives*, *Detox*, *Inner Peace*, *Creating Abundance*, *Create Your Own Destiny* and more.

LATIN JAZZ

by various artists

Putumayo, USA, 2007 (57mins)
Distributors: **Australia**—MRA, tel (07) 3457 5000; **UK**—Putumayo Music, tel 07759 600495; **USA**—tel 800 955 9588 (toll free), <http://www.putumayo.com>

Putumayo moves into music with an Afro-Cuban and Latin jazz style you can get up and click your fingers to—in that closed-eyed jazzy haze that affects all jazz fans. Bands on this CD include The Brian Lynch/Eddie Palmieri Project, Ray Barretto, Hilton Ruiz, Chocolate Armenteros, Tito Puente, Poncho Sanchez and lots more. Horns, flutes and laid-back beats from the best.



Continued from page 15

Daniel Brandt patiently assembled tiny clues about SlimVirgin and posted them on his website. Eventually, two readers identified her as none other than Linda Mack, the young graduate whom Salinger had hired. To see her name appear in such a context was of course of great interest. But that was not all.

Cooley, Salinger's collaborator in the Lockerbie investigation, sent a letter to Brandt which was posted on The Wikipedia Review on 4 October 2006. He wrote how Mack "...claimed to have lost a friend/lover on Pan103 and so was anxious to clear up the mystery. ABC News paid for her travel and expenses as well as a salary... Once the two Libyan suspects were indicted, she seemed to try to point the investigation in the direction of [Libyan President Colonel Muammar al-] Qaddafi, although there was plenty of evidence, both before and after the trials of Megrahi and Fhimah in the Netherlands, that others were involved, probably with Iran the commissioning power... Salinger came to believe that Linda was working for MI5 and had been from the beginning; assigned

genuinely to investigate the bombing of Pan Am 103, but also to infiltrate and monitor us..."

Soon after John Cooley contacted Brandt, Linda Mack contacted Cooley and asked him not to help Brandt in his efforts to expose her. Though all doubts about SlimVirgin's true identity then vanished, as for her motives...

Inconvenient truths

So, welcome to WikiWorld, a realm where inconvenient truths can easily be removed, while erroneous information—convenient lies and diinformation—can be entered in the encyclopaedia with emotionally upsetting and even worse consequences for the people involved.

This is the modern Ministry of Truth which, together with the liars and no doubt some mentally unstable people, has been put in charge of rewriting history. It labels itself as the "Free Encyclopaedia", but perhaps the world should be freed from this encyclopaedia before the old proverb is converted thus: "There are lies, damned lies, statistics, and then there's Wikipedia."

The problem with Wikipedia is not that it exists, but that it has become the cornerstone

for researchers scanning the Internet for information and blindly copying from Wikipedia entries, wrongfully assuming that they are neutral and correct. It has become the "Ministry of Information", the "one-stop information shop" of the Internet, but no one should fall for the "Newspeak" of a title. Wikipedia has made the task for those seeding disinformation and removing dissenting views easier, more direct and even more anonymous. Lies and Wikipedia, indeed... ∞

About the Author:

Philip Coppens is editor-in-chief of the online website *Conspiracy Times* (<http://www.conspiracy-times.com>). He has previously contributed nine articles to NEXUS, the most recent being "Archaeological Trench Warfare at Glozel" (see 14/05). His new book, *The New Pyramid Age*, is reviewed in this edition. He is scheduled to speak at the 2007 NEXUS Conference in Queensland, Australia, on 20–22 October. Philip Coppens's website is at <http://www.philipcoppens.com>, and he can be emailed at info@philipcoppens.com. His own Wikipedia entry, at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Coppens, was accurate at the time of our going to press...but perhaps won't be for much longer.

The Extraordinary Story of Healer Alfons Ven

Continued from page 22

About the Interviewee:

Alfons Ven was born in 1939 in Belgium. He is president of the non-profit Evolution Vision Foundation in The Netherlands which he founded in 1996. He maintains that everything that emanates from the invisible is controlled according to "the 12 aspects": sound, space, fire, light, elements, matter, organisms, plants, animals, men, communication, order.

He has developed his insights into a "cybernetic" health and lifestyle system, incorporating his 28-day "Ven-Cure" program.

Mr Ven can be contacted by phone at +31 30 233 3188, by email at info@alfonsven.com or via his website, <http://www.alfonsven.com>.

About the Interviewer:

Willem de Ridder is a renowned Dutch multimedia artist, storyteller and radio broadcaster. He recorded this interview with Alfons Ven in 1996.

For more information, visit his website at <http://www.willemderridder.com>.

Editor's Note:

As president of a legal Dutch foundation, Evolution Vision, Alfons Ven works *pro bono*. He advises that the payment of 64 euros for a 28-day Ven-Cure covers the cost of subcontracting the practical work, and a small portion is invested in spreading the message. He conducts telephone and email consultations for free. A standard session by telephone takes 15 minutes.

Mr Ven states that most people require only one 28-day program to experience improvement. In the case of autoimmune disorders, he recommends two consecutive cures. He suggests that Ven-Cures be taken for the duration of any chemotherapy treatment. For constitutional disorders, he advises taking Ven-Cures twice a year. For terminal cases, Mr Ven provides special pellets for free, to help patients experience an optimum quality of life. He says that most mental problems are dramatically improved with one cure.

Every day, Mr Ven receives expressions of gratitude, but he is regarded by the Catholic Church as a

persona non grata, by the medical world as a quack, and by the media as a crook. He was recently gagged by the Dutch Ministry of Health, which publicly attacked him and forced him to downgrade his website and revamp his product information at considerable cost to the foundation.

In early 2007, a Dutch national TV station, in cahoots with the Ministry and the cancer establishment, he maintains, presented an interview with him as if he were a charlatan, but Mr Vens has received many positive reactions and heartfelt support from users of his products.

Alfons Ven's mission statement reads: "By means of the 28-day Ven-Cure, I want to give people a chance to evolve. To unlock their personality. Boost their awareness (identity-consciousness). Free their spirit. Restore their soul. Improve their health. The Ven-Cure offers possibilities on these five levels. It is not meant as a therapy *per se*, although the therapeutic effects are often amazing. Wonderful are the positive changes in life and the getting back on track."

Continued from page 28

In that vein, I offer a caution on cholesterol-lowering statin drugs. Ten years ago I exposed these high-margin products, along with others, as potential patient-killers.¹¹⁶ Big Pharma is waking up belatedly to that fact. Now pharmaceutical companies would like to promote statins as preventives for Alzheimer's dementia. Drug therapies reported up to September 2005 showed no success (*Acres USA*, September 2005).

A recent CBS Evening News report quoted a University of California medical professor who is conducting new government-funded (not drug-maker-funded) research on statin drugs' effect on Alzheimer's-susceptible patients: "We have people who have lost thinking ability so rapidly that within the course of a couple of months they went from being heads of major divisions of companies to not being able to balance a checkbook and being fired from their companies."^{117, 118}

Vitamin B12 therapy still faces a very real obstacle: Codex regulations, likely to go into effect in the near future, will prohibit any dose of any vitamin to be sold at much above the Recommended Dietary

Allowance (RDA). For B12, the adult RDA dosage is only 3.02 micrograms. Millions will suffer and die from this terrible B12-preventable disease if that Codex regulation is enforced. And a new bill in Congress, cited in *TLfDP* (November 2005) by David Musnick, MD, will reinforce Codex restrictions.

One final note. It is important to cultivate a positive, optimistic outlook to maximise the prospect for success against such mental diseases. One should avoid the scenario in which the attending physician tells the cancer patient, "You have x months to live". Classes and groups for Alzheimer's-fearing people often move in that direction. In fact, I have heard of no AD awareness classes that even mention vitamin B12 therapy in a positive way. Physicians, whose medical education omitted or put a negative spin on anything using nutrition, may be behind the structure of many such classes. What a different story it might be if instruction and awareness emphasised the usually successful measures brought out in this article. One has to ask: why don't doctors at least tell the public about this seemingly magical therapy, which is available to all at

trivial cost? Just think about that, and the answer becomes obvious. ∞

Editor's Note:

Due to the length of the endnotes accompanying this article, we are unable to publish them here; however, they can be accessed via our website, <http://www.nexusmagazine.com>.

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Endnotes

1. Andrew Roberts, Foreword to V. K. Vinogradov et al. (eds), *Hitler's Death: Russia's Last Great Secret from the Files of the KGB*, Chaucer Press, London, 2005, p. 11
2. Hugh Thomas, *The Murder of Adolf Hitler: The Truth about the Bodies in the Berlin Bunker*, St Martin's Press, New York, 1996
3. "Hitler's Final Enigma Solved", *The Sunday Times*, UK, 24 October 1999: "Although he was not granted access to the bones, Perrier analysed Russian archive documents and photographs that could help him identify the remains." <http://www.fpp.co.uk/Hitler/docs/death/CorpseID.html>
4. http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/Hoaxipedia/Piltdown_Man/
5. D. Marchetti et al., "The death of Adolf Hitler – forensic aspects", *Journal of Forensic Sciences* 2005 Sept; 50(5), Abstract, <http://journalsip.astm.org/JOURNALS/FORENSIC/PAGES/5060.htm>
6. Dr Mark Benecke, a forensic criminologist associated with the German police, claims to have unexpectedly been shown the skull fragments by a Russian state archivist in 2002. However, he did not take a sample for DNA testing. He says that this was only because he didn't happen to have a sterile drill with him at the time. This is probably one of the more ingenious cover-up stories of our time, for if Dr Benecke had been shown the skull fragments by prior arrangement, then he would have had no excuse for not taking a sample for DNA testing. http://www.benecke.com/images/hitler_express.jpg
7. *Hitler's Death*, pp. 210-11
8. Hugh R. Trevor-Roper, *The Last Days of Hitler*, Macmillan, New York, 1947
9. *The Last Days of Hitler*, p. 202. Mansfeld's interrogation report, which was made at the US interrogation centre in Bremen, is reproduced at: <http://www.tbmews.org/Archives/a039.htm>
10. *Hitler's Death*, p. 72
11. *Hitler's Death*, p. 72
12. *Hitler's Death*, p. 79
13. *Hitler's Death*, p. 196
14. Count Folke Bernadotte, *Slutet. Mina humanitära förhandlingar i Tyskland våren 1945 och deras politiska följder* ("The End. My Humanitarian Negotiations in Germany in 1945 and Their Political Consequences"), Norstedts, Stockholm, 1945
15. For example, *New Castle News*, 16 June 1945, and *Lethbridge Herald*, 16 June 1945
16. Horace R. Hansen, *Witness to Barbarism*, Thousand Pinetree Press, St Paul, MN, 2002, p. x, http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/edumat/witness/wtb_first.pdf
17. <http://www.nizkor.org/ftp.cgi/imt/nca/nca-06/nca-06-3735-ps> (translation of document 3735-PS)
18. TASS, "Report on the Evidence of Hitler's Death", 21 June 1945, in *Hitler's Death*, pp. 283-85
19. *Hitler's Death*, pp. 283-84
20. Daniel De Luce, "Saw Bodies of Hitler, Braun Bum, Says Guard", *Globe & Mail*, 21 June 1945, <http://collections.civilisations.ca/warclip/objects/common/webmedia.php?im=5091401>
21. Daniel De Luce, *ibid.*
22. *Hitler's Death*, pp. 61-62. Dr Haase's interrogation record, as well as those of several other bunker survivors, affirms that Dr Kunz was in the bunker in the period in which these events took place. Unfortunately, the record of Dr Haase's interrogation published in *Hitler's Death*, pp. 82-86, contains no information pertaining to either Adolf or Eva Hitler.
23. <http://www.nizkor.org/ftp.cgi/imt/nca/nca-06/nca-06-3735-ps>
24. Herbert Moore and James W. Barrett, *Who Killed Hitler? The Complete Story of How Death Came to Der Fuehrer and Eva Braun*, The Booktab Press, New York, 1947
25. *Oakland Tribune*, 7 September 1947, p. C-3
26. <http://www.tbmews.org/Archives/a039.htm>
27. *Hitler's Death*, p. 24
28. However, in a statement for Soviet authorities dated 18 May 1945, Mohnke wrote: "I personally did not see the Fuehrer's body and I don't know what was done to it." *Hitler's Death*, p. 178
29. "Persons Who Should Know Are Not Certain Hitler Died in Berlin Bunker", *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, California, 10 January 1949, p. B-12. I have interpreted the word "us" to refer to Hitler's personal staff.
30. *Hitler's Death*, p. 238

