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EDITOR

Duncan M. Roads

CO-EDITOR

Catherine Simons

ASSISTANT EDITOR/SUB-EDITOR

Ruth Parnell

OFFICE ADMIN/EDITORS' ASSISTANTS

Jenny Hawke; Susie Foster

MAIL ORDER DEPARTMENT

Richard Giles; Susie Foster

CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE

Dr Peter Phillips and Project Censored;
Tanya Cariina Hsu; Walter Last;
Georgia Miller and Scott Kinnear; Kerry Cassidy
and Bill Ryan for Project Camelot;
Philip Coppens; Rex and Heather Gilroy

CARTOONS

Phil Somerville

COVER GRAPHIC

Jeff Edis, jeff_edis@hotmail.com

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Beaudesert Times, Queensland, Australia

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HEAD OFFICE – All Correspondence

PO Box 30, Mapleton, Qld 4560, Australia.

Tel: (07) 5442 9280; Fax: (07) 5442 9381

Email: editor@nexusmagazine.com

Website: <http://www.nexusmagazine.com>

NEW ZEALAND OFFICE:

RD 2, Kaeo, Northland.

Tel: +64 (0)9 405 1963; Email: nexusnz@xtra.co.nz

USA OFFICE:

PO Box 1248, Waltherboro, SC

29488. Email: nexususa@earthlink.net

UK OFFICE:

55 Queens Rd, East Grinstead,

West Sussex, RH19 1BG. Tel: +44 (0)1342 322854.

Email: nexus@ukoffice.u-net.com

EUROPE OFFICE:

Postbus 10681, 1001 ER

Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Email: nexus@fsf.nl

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

NEXUS recognises that humanity is undergoing a massive transformation. With this in mind, NEXUS seeks to provide 'hard-to-get' information so as to assist people through these changes. NEXUS is not linked to any religious, philosophical or political ideology or organisation.

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Editorial

Well, 2008 is all but over, and so is my workload for the year. The NEXUS Conference, held in early October on the Sunshine Coast in southeast Queensland, was our biggest one yet, with over 500 people happily networking and digesting new information. For those unable to attend this year's conference, DVDs of each presentation are now available from our website.

NEXUS also played host to Bill Homann and the Mitchell-Hedges crystal skull in what was to be a six-week tour of the east coast of Australia, beginning at the NEXUS Conference. Unfortunately, due to a serious family issue, Bill had to return to the USA with the skull only a couple of weeks into his tour, so we had to cancel lots of talks, travel and accommodation arrangements and many group and personal appointments. We are planning to get Bill and the skull back to Australia by mid-2009.

In early November NEXUS Magazine had a booth at the Sydney Mind Body Spirit Festival, which was very well attended this year. One of the big attractions at the festival is the section put aside for psychic readings. There is a huge surge of interest in psychic matters, due in part to the popular reality TV show called *The One*, but I'm sure that the uncertainty of the global economy is also causing many people to wonder what their future holds.

I am also receiving lots of emails and questions about what I think of Barack Obama and his US presidential election victory—so, clearly, people are wondering what is in store. Personally speaking, I was most happy to see the people of America motivated to vote for what they perceive as a change away from what they have been experiencing, i.e., wars, the dire state of the economy, loss of civil liberties and seeing George W. Bush repeatedly make a complete fool of himself on the international stage. But will Obama deliver on the expectations of the people who voted for him? Looking at many of the people behind Obama makes me think that nothing will really change. Obama will not challenge the privately owned Federal Reserve on currency issuance (as did JFK); he will not open the UFO debate and force disclosure on the advanced technology hidden away; he will not rein in the push by multinationals to control food and medicines. In fact, as I write this editorial, I'm wondering if his inauguration, scheduled for 20 January, will even take place at all.

One thing is for sure, though: we can expect much more turbulence in the financial sector during 2009. We have an excellent overview article on the topic in this edition, which I urge you to read.

Also on the subject of things likely to happen in our future, I'd like to draw your attention to research by Clif High and his team at Half Past Human. They operate on the concept that every human being is psychic and that we "leak" or "telegraph" our psychic impressions across time. They have come up with a remarkable technique that analyses our language and communication patterns over the Internet, enough to make "predictions" of "events" in the future. Their track record is good enough that their work warrants further investigation.

One of my favourite articles in this edition is the extended-length Twilight Zone extract about the many reports and sightings of what we would call *Tyrannosaurus rex* (up to nine metres tall) across the Gulf country in Australia's remote north. I was amazed to learn just how many sightings there have been, and how consistent the descriptions are with each other. Gotta love a mystery!

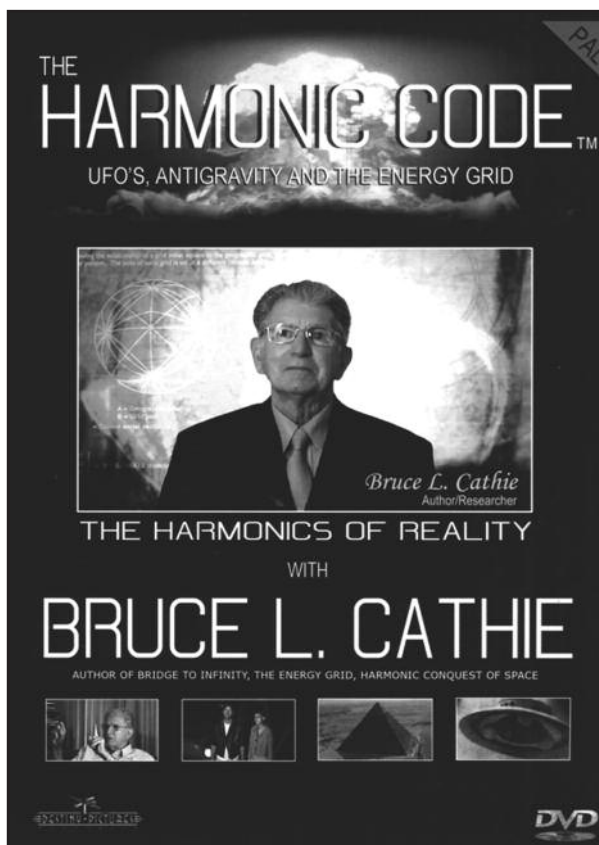
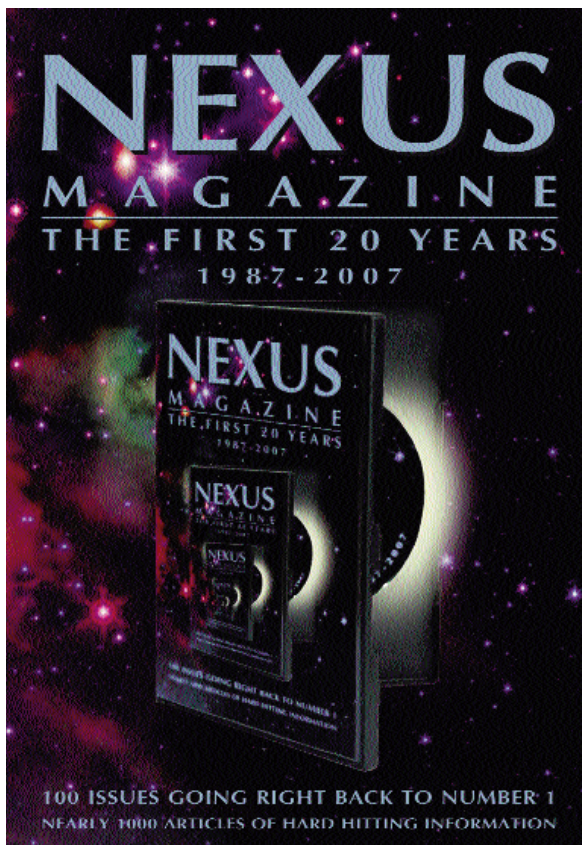
Best wishes for 2009 and beyond!

Duncan

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Letters to the Editor ...

Filtering out Fluoride

Hi Duncan: I go to Rita's discussion group in Brisbane a fair bit; she's a wealth of information on many topics. I went to see the Mitchell-Hedges crystal skull at the Jindalee Hotel; what an amazing artefact.

Anyway, I'm contacting you about the recycled water and unfortunately the fluoride going to be put into Brisbane's water supply. I have come to the conclusion that the only way to avoid these two things and drink pure water the way nature intended is to drink rain water. I realise rain water can be slightly acidic, but you can put minerals in it to alkalise it, so I don't think that's really a problem. There are filters you can use for rain water.

Apparently there are two ways to get rid of most of the fluoride in water: reverse osmosis and distillation. Reverse osmosis wastes a lot of water, so that's out; and according to Dr Mercola, drinking distilled water will lead to an early death, so that's out, too. So that only leaves rain water. I absolutely refuse to drink recycled water—there's no guarantee of long-term safety—and certainly not with an industrial toxic waste like fluoride added.

I want to ask you, Duncan, how can I have a fluoride-free shower? From what I can gather, there are no shower filters on the market that can remove fluoride, only chlorine.

What's your take on all this, Duncan? How do other people in other states and, indeed, other countries deal

with this problem? I'd be interested in what *you* are going to do when recycled water and fluoride are added to our water supplies.

There may be filters that get rid of fluoride in drinking water that I'm not aware of (but not for a shower, as far as I know). To me, using rain water seems to be the only way out of not drinking recycled and fluoridated water.

Looking forward to your response,

Andrew, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

[Dear Andrew: I tend to favour Viktor Schauberg's conclusions when it comes to understanding water. If I lived in a town with chlorinated and fluoridated water, I would have clean water delivered in bulk (15 litres) for drinking. As for a fluoride-free shower filter, there is no such thing. Ed.]

Plans for Troubled Times

Congratulations, NEXUS! You put some great and interesting material forward in the magazine which my friends and I find refreshing and truly thought-provoking. Please keep it up!

One thing, though: it's fine to keep us informed regarding "speculation" over the year 2012, global warming versus cooling, potential geopolitical and global upheavals, etc., but I note that there are no articles regarding possible strategies and measures that we as individuals or like-minded groups could or should be considering.

You may find that many readers like myself would appreciate intelligent guidance on considering and

weighing up the "What to do?" and the "How, when and where to do it?", should any or all these anticipated Earth and world changes come to pass. Being forewarned can only be of benefit if we are then able to plan effectively.

It would be a very sad thing on a very sad day that the *best* the forward thinkers (contributors and readers alike) could do is be reduced to saying "I told you so!" Many may disagree, but I think those of us blessed or cursed with knowledge of troubled times to come must be ready to guide and/or lead the less able or prepared, if and when such things come to pass.

Thanks again, and thanks to anyone at NEXUS who might read this email.

Kind regards,

Dean K., Concord, NSW, Australia

[Dear Dean: You raise a question asked by many in these uncertain times. On a practical level, I would advocate getting out of debt, living close to nature, learning how to grow and source clean food, water and energy, and be prepared for change. Also, there are many survivalist websites and books with detailed information on how to survive literally anything in your local area. In general, I would advise you to be prepared for all sorts of changes—and to face them without fear. Ed.]

Funding Sought for Motor

Hi Duncan: I am just wondering if you can help me. I have designed an electric motor that uses up to 50 per cent less power and is

also a generator. I'm not saying it's "over unity", because that needs to be tested, but I will say I feel it's better than what we have now. As you will understand, I can't go into detail at the moment.

The problem I have is that I can't take it much further at the moment because I don't have the funds. I can't build a prototype without the help of electrical experts, and that brings me to a "catch 22" because I can't bring an electrical expert in without protection, which I can't get because I don't have the funds. Is there any way you can help? I have no problem sharing with others or companies, but I just don't want to give it away at this stage.

Thanks for your help.

Graham

[Dear Graham: If anyone sends me correspondence regarding your letter, I'll forward it to you. Ed.]

Rh Factors and Abductions

Hello Duncan: I was very interested to read what you said about Rh-negative blood and alien abductions on a forum on AboveTopSecret.com on 16 May 2008 (see <http://www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread331248/pg19>).

I am originally from Sydney and have O-type, Rh-negative blood. I have experienced missing time and I found out about my abductions during hypnosis when I was trying to find what happened during my missing five hours.

In about 1989, I watched a movie called *Intruders* and started to realise that many things in that movie had also

... more Letters to the Editor

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

happened to me: the black dogs; an operation on my nose that wasn't done by any doctor; regular marks on my body; something on the inside of my right eye. The most obvious thing is a large scoop-mark on my right inner ankle which I have had since I was seventeen (in 1970), when living near Kempsey, NSW.

I have suspected for some time that my blood type has some link to the abductions. But I can't understand why my two sons would also have been abducted as they are O type, Rh positive.

My wife is Japanese and O type, Rh positive (there are not many Rh-negative people here in Japan).

My mother, father, sister and brothers are all O type, Rh negative, and we have all had strange experiences with ghosts in our houses and many UFO sightings and abductions. I think the abductions are still happening, but less frequently than when I was younger (I am now fifty-five). My brothers also think this to be true.

In your comment you said "nearly all of them indicated that their weird experiences did indeed run in their families, particularly through the female bloodlines; that is, mothers, grandmothers and daughters". Well, in my family, this is true, but the men also have had just as many strange things happen.

Recently I have been in email communication with Mr Bill Chalker, who studies UFO reports in Australia. This has been good for me, as it made me sit down and type out many

of the strange things that have happened in my family. But at the same time, it has created many new questions in my mind. Sometimes I start to doubt that these things have happened. But then my wife also remembers many of the things that happened, like the tumour that was growing on my foot and disappeared overnight (no scars—just gone) and the strange marks on my body (also on my boys). Anyway, it was good to know that it has some connection to Rh-negative blood.

Many thanks,
Glenn W., Japan

RadioNexus Sabotage

Hi Duncan: Following our recent phone conversation, I would like to confirm the problems we have been having with RadioNexus lately.

RadioNexus has been repeatedly and maliciously hacked in the last couple of months, causing all manner of problems to our on-air programs. False messages appear when listeners access the site, and we have been forced off air for long periods while problems are resolved.

My website experts have confirmed that hackers have deliberately set out to sabotage this program. I have not received any threats or demands and have no idea why we are being targeted or by whom.

As you know, the interviewees are all either contributors to NEXUS Magazine or members of the editorial staff of NEXUS and I have no idea why this is happening. Without

wishing to compound the problem, I'd like to apologise to RadioNexus listeners and ask them to hang in and send us positive vibes.

Best regards,

Barry Eaton, Sydney,
www.RadioNexus.com.au

Muscles and Magnesium

Congratulations on a great magazine. As an avid 10-year reader, my life has been changed by information provided by NEXUS. My family use colloidal silver as our front line to keeping healthy. Last year we purchased an ENAR machine for treating muscles and injuries.

Recently we began using Sandra Cabot's high-potency magnesium powder after reading about magnesium in the latest issue [vol 15, no. 6]. What a difference it makes: a clearer head, no more tired muscles or cramps, and the most vivid dreams I've had in years.

Your magazine is extremely important in bringing real information to real people. I have spread the word, so you can keep printing the words...

Anon.

Growing "Space Seeds"

Dear Duncan: Working on something new creates an equal interest in reading something extraordinary. In NEXUS vol. 15, no 6, Global News, reading about China's "space seeds" (SS) subjected to outer-space exposure and growing into pumpkins 10 times the normal size rings a bell of connections.

The all-level relativity base tables (see Letters in

NEXUS 15/03, 15/05) predict that for this in-space situation a bound-state electron (bse) radius elongation is approx. two times that of Earthbound atoms, under a postulated science called gravitational time mechanics (GTM).

By this science, the atoms of the SS bse vibration (frequency) should be 1/2-times slower than Earthbound atoms, the volume of mass should increase eightfold, the growth rate from seed to harvest should be approx. eight times faster and the produce should have eight times less shelf life (that is, in space). Science can test the frequency between Earthbound and space-exposed atoms. To expect a result seems ridiculous: "but no one knows why?"

To compare this to an accepted similar effect, I took a pair of scissors the other day and touched a magnet; the scissors then touched a nail and both finished up magnetic.

For an experiment, if adult rats were fed with SS food from before conception to birth, to maturity, to a second cycle, this should produce larger animals with a lesser life-span.

A question: how did the Lemurians grow so tall (NEXUS 15/03, Boriska interview)? Did they grow their food in an asteroid crater? I know I am getting carried away, but some of the silliest questions have yielded some remarkable answers. Love to read NEXUS. Thanks, Duncan.

Gunther K. H. Pfrengle, NSW, Australia, www.agspri.com

THE TRUTH ABOUT SOUTH OSSETIA

Two months after the brief but bloody war in the Caucasus, which was overwhelmingly blamed on Russia by western politicians and media at the time, a serious investigation by the BBC has uncovered a very different story.

The BBC report found strong evidence confirming western-backed Georgia as the aggressor on the night of 7 August 2008. It also assembles powerful testimony of wide-ranging war crimes carried out by the Georgian Army in its attack on the contested region of South Ossetia, which include the targeting of apartment block basements—where civilians were taking refuge—with tank shells and *Grad* rockets, the indiscriminate bombardment of residential districts and the deliberate killing of civilians, including those fleeing the South Ossetian capital of Tskhinvali.

The report, which also details evidence of ethnic cleansing by South Ossetian paramilitaries, cuts the ground from beneath later Georgian claims that its attack on South Ossetia



followed the start of a Russian invasion the previous night.

In the wake of the Georgian attack, Russian troops moved into Georgia proper, destroying Georgian military facilities used to mount the original assault and inflicting their own civilian casualties in the process, notably in Gori. Earlier this month [October], they pulled back from their Georgian buffer-zone into now nominally independent South Ossetia.

At the start of the conflict, western media reporting was relatively even-handed, but rapidly switched into full-

blown propaganda as Russia turned the tables on the USA's Georgian client regime and NATO expansion in the region. Clear initial evidence of who started the war and Georgian troops' killing spree in Tskhinvali was buried or even denied in a highly effective PR operation from Tbilisi.

(Source: *The Guardian*, UK, 31 October 2008)

THE MANCHURIAN MICROCHIP

The myth: Chinese intelligence services have concealed a microchip in every computer everywhere, programmed to "call home" if and when activated. The reality: it may actually be true.

All computers on the market today—be they Dell, Toshiba, Sony, Apple or especially IBM—are assembled with components manufactured inside the People's Republic of China. Each component produced by the Chinese, according to a reliable source within the intelligence community, is secretly equipped with a hidden microchip that can be activated any time by China's military-intelligence service.

"It is there, deep inside your computer, if they decide to call it up," the security chief of a multinational corporation told *The Investigator*.

"It is capable of providing Chinese intelligence with everything stored on your system—on everyone's system—from email to documents. I call it Call Home Technology.

It doesn't mean to say they're sucking data from everyone's computer today; it means the Chinese think ahead—and they now have the potential to do it when it suits their purposes."

(Source: Robert Eringer, "The Investigator", 18 October 2008, <http://cryptome.info/0001/manchu-chip.htm>)



"FLYING SYRINGE" MOSQUITOES

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation recently awarded US\$100,000 each to scientists in 22 countries, including funding for a Japanese proposal to turn mosquitoes into "flying syringes" delivering vaccines.

The charitable foundation created by the founder of software giant Microsoft said in a statement that the grants were designed to "explore bold and largely unproven ways to improve global health".

The grants were awarded for research into preventing or curing infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis and limiting the emergence of drug resistance.

Among the proposals receiving funding was one from Hiroyuki Matsuoka at Jichi Medical University in Japan.

"[Matsuoka] thinks it may be possible to turn mosquitoes that normally transmit disease into 'flying syringes', so that when they bite humans they deliver vaccines," the Gates Foundation said.

(Source: AFP, 22 October 2008, via <http://news.yahoo.com>)

SUN'S PROTECTIVE "BUBBLE" IS SHRINKING

The protective bubble around the Sun that helps to shield the Earth from harmful interstellar radiation is shrinking and getting weaker, NASA scientists have warned.

New data have revealed that the heliosphere, the protective shield of energy that surrounds our solar system, has weakened by 25 per cent over the past decade and is now at its lowest level since the space race began 50 years ago.

Scientists are baffled as to what could be

causing the barrier to shrink in this way, and are to launch the Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX) mission to study the heliosphere.

"Around 90 per cent of galactic cosmic radiation is deflected by our heliosphere, so the boundary protects us from this harsh galactic environment," said Dr Nathan Schwadron, co-investigator on the IBEX mission at Boston University.

The heliosphere is created by the solar wind, a combination of electrically charged particles and magnetic fields that emanate at more than a million miles an hour from the Sun, when it meets the intergalactic gas that fills the gaps in space between solar systems.

At the boundary where they meet, a shock wave is formed that deflects interstellar radiation around the solar system as it travels through the galaxy.

(Source: *The Telegraph*, UK, 19 October 2008)

SECRET REPORTS REVEALED ON DRUG SIDE-EFFECTS

Adverse reaction to medication is the fifth most common cause of death in hospitals, according to the European Commission, but European Union agencies and national governments until now have kept pharmaceutical companies' reports on side-effects secret.

The notes—known in the business as Periodic Safety Update Reports (PSURs)—are submitted regularly to national authorities and the European Medicines Agency in London.

PSURs detail, for example, how doctors in various countries suspect that teenagers grow suicidal when taking a certain medication against pimples, or that a diet product could lead to a stroke and what industry has to say about the medical fears.

The move by Dutch daily newspaper *Trouw* and Belgian magazine *Knack*, in cooperation with Danish magazine *Samvirke*, to put the documents on the Internet comes as the European Commission decided on Tuesday [22 October] to delay the publication of a new package of regulations for drugs producers.

The commission package is not expected to mandate publication of PSURs but is likely to allow pharmaceutical companies to contact patients directly—a practice that is currently illegal and was condemned by the European Parliament in 2002.

Reacting in a test case on PSUR publication in Denmark in 2007, lawyers for drug firm Roche threatened to sue the Danish state if disclosure harmed the company's commercial interests.

(Source: EUObserver.com, 22 October 2008, <http://euobserver.com/24/26973>)



CHILDHOOD USE OF MOBILE PHONES RAISES BRAIN TUMOUR RISK FIVEFOLD

An analysis of data, from one of the biggest studies carried out into the risk that radiation from mobile phones causes cancer, was presented by Professor Lennart Hardell of the Orebro University Hospital, Sweden, to a September 2008 conference held at the Royal Society.

The research revealed that "people who started mobile phone use before the age of 20 had a more than five-fold increase in glioma"—a cancer of the glial cells that support the central nervous system.

The extra risk to young people of contracting the disease from using the cordless phone found in many homes was almost as great, at more than four times higher.

Those who started using mobile phones young, the professor added, were five times more likely to get acoustic neuromas—benign but often disabling tumours of the auditory nerve, which usually cause deafness.

By contrast, people who were in their twenties before using the handsets were only 50 per cent more likely to contract gliomas and just twice as likely to get acoustic neuromas.

The study raises fears that today's

young people may suffer an "epidemic" of brain cancer in later life.

(Source: *The Independent on Sunday*, UK, 21 September 2008, via EMFacts, <http://www.emfacts.com>)

MAGNETIC PORTALS CONNECT SUN AND EARTH

During the time it takes you to read this article, something will happen high overhead that until recently many scientists didn't believe in. A magnetic portal will open, linking Earth to the Sun 93 million miles away. Tonnes of high-energy particles may flow through the opening before it closes again, around the time you reach the end of the page.

"It's called a 'flux transfer event' or FTE," says space physicist David Sibeck of the Goddard Space Flight Center. "Ten years ago I was pretty sure they didn't exist, but now the evidence is incontrovertible."

On the dayside of Earth (the side closer to the Sun), Earth's magnetic field presses against the Sun's magnetic field. Approximately every eight minutes, the two fields briefly merge or "reconnect", forming a portal through which particles can flow. The portal takes the form of a magnetic cylinder about as wide as Earth.

There are many unanswered questions. Why do the portals form every eight minutes? How do magnetic fields inside the cylinder twist and coil?

(Source: NASA, 30 October 2008, <http://tinyurl.com/67uvh2>)

DOES RAINFALL VARY WITH SUNSPOT ACTIVITY?

Though most scientists reject the assertion that the Sun's activity can explain global warming, many have wondered whether it can affect rainfall. No one has been able to test this, though, as it has proved difficult to collate rainfall measurements over long time-scales and areas large enough to rule out local variations.

Pablo Mauas of the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina and his colleagues decided to take a different tack by studying the 4,000-kilometre-long Paraná River in South America. It has the fourth-largest streamflow in the world and so acts as an indirect indicator of rainfall right across the continent.

The researchers found that over a time-scale of decades, the streamflow in the Paraná increased and decreased in accordance with the number of sunspots.

"There is less than a 0.01 per cent chance that this correlation is by chance," says Mauas (*Physical Review Letters*, vol. 101, 168501).

(Source: *New Scientist*, 8 November 2008)

GHOSTLY VISITORS APPEAR INSIDE PARTICLE COLLIDER

Unexplained "ghost particles" are mysteriously appearing inside a US-based high-energy physics experiment.

The finding is so controversial that about one-third of the 600 people who detected it are refusing to put their names to the 69-page paper purporting this discovery.

Whatever the spectres may be, their effect has been seen in roughly 100,000 events—enough to make it



more than just a statistical fluke.

Particle physics experimenters sometimes see odd signals in their data, but it is rare that an effect persists long enough to be published by the entire collaboration.

The ghostly visitors are appearing at the Collider Detector at Fermilab (CDF), one of two building-sized experiments at the Tevatron, a proton-antiproton collider located at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Illinois.

(Source: *Nature*, 3 November 2008)

WHO OWNS NATURE?

The ETC Group has released a 48-page report, "Who Owns Nature?", on corporate concentration in commercial food, farming and health and on the strategic push to commodify the planet's remaining natural resources.

An international advocacy organisation based in Canada, ETC Group has been monitoring corporate power in the industrial life-sciences for the past 30 years.

The group's report reveals that:

- from thousands of seed companies and public breeding institutions three decades ago, 10 companies now control more than two-thirds of global proprietary seed sales;
- from dozens of pesticide companies three decades ago, 10 now control almost 90 per cent of agrichemical sales worldwide;
- From almost 1,000 biotech start-ups 15 years ago, 10 companies now account for three-quarters of industry revenues;
- the top 10 pharmaceutical companies control 55 per cent of the global pharmaceutical market.

The report warns that, with engineering of living organisms at the nano-scale (i.e., synthetic biology), industry is setting the stage for a corporate grab that extends to all of nature.

(Source: ETC Group, 13 November 2008; to download the full report, go to <http://www.etcgroup.org>.)

MOVES TO ENFORCE INTERNET CENSORSHIP

The Australian government is set to impose Chinese-style Internet censorship by enforcing a universal national filter that will block websites deemed "controversial" as part of a wider agenda to regulate the Internet, according to free speech advocates.

A provision whereby Internet users could opt out of the filter by contacting their ISP has been stripped from the legislation, meaning the filter will be universal and mandatory. The System Administrators Guild of Australia and Electronic Frontiers Australia have attacked the proposal, saying it will restrict web access, raise prices and slow Internet traffic speeds. The plan was originally created as a way to combat child pornography and adult content, but could be extended to include almost any "controversial" websites.

The Australian government will no doubt insist that its filter is in the best interests and is only designed to block child pornography, snuff films and other horrors, yet the system is completely pointless because it will not affect file-sharing networks—the medium through which the vast majority of such material is distributed.

Moves to regulate the web have increased over the last two years.

- In a display of bipartisanship by US Democrats and Republicans alike, there have been calls for all-out mandatory ISP snooping on all US citizens.

- In December 2006, Republican Senator John McCain tabled a proposal to introduce legislation that would fine blogs up to \$300,000 for offensive statements, photos and videos posted by visitors on comment boards.

- The White House's own declassified strategy for "winning the war on terror" targets Internet conspiracy theory sites as a recruiting ground for terrorists and threatens to "diminish" their influence.

- The US Government wants to force bloggers and online grassroots activists to register and regularly report their activities to Congress. Criminal charges including a possible jail term of up to one year could be the punishment for non-compliance.

- A landmark November 2006 legal case on behalf of the Recording Industry Association of America and other global trade organisations sought to criminalise all Internet file sharing of any kind as copyright infringement, effectively shutting down the World Wide Web; its argument was supported by the US government.

- A landmark legal ruling in Sydney goes further than ever before in setting the trapdoor for the destruction of the Internet as we know it and the end of alternative news websites and blogs by creating the precedent that simply linking to other websites is breach of copyright and piracy.

- The European Union (EU) has also vowed to shut down "terrorists" who use the Internet to spread propaganda. The EU Data Retention Bill, passed after much controversy and implemented in 2007, obliges telephone operators and Internet service providers to store information on who called whom and who emailed whom for at least six months. Under this law, investigators in any EU country, and most bizarrely even in the USA, can access EU citizens' data on phone calls, SMSs, emails and instant messaging services. The EU also proposed legislation that would prevent users from uploading any form of video without a licence.

Internet censorship is perhaps the most pertinent issue that freedom advocates should rally to combat over the course of the next few years, lest we allow a cyber-gag to be placed over our mouths and say goodbye to our last medium of free and open communication.

(Source: Prison Planet, 29 October 2008, www.infowars.com:80/?p=5619)

PROJECT CENSORED'S TOP 25 NEWS STORIES

The Project Censored team draws attention to the many important national and global news stories that received little or no coverage by the US corporate media during 2007–08.

Compiled by
Project Censored © 2008

Directed by Dr Peter Phillips
Professor of Sociology
Sonoma State University
1801 East Cotati Avenue
Rohnert Park, CA 94928, USA
<http://www.projectcensored.org>

Each year, the Project Censored team from Sonoma State University, California, selects and evaluates thousands of published news stories by journalists working in the national and international mainstream as well as the alternative press. Students, faculty staff and community experts participate in this process, which ultimately decides on the top 25 stories that were the most underreported by the US corporate media. Following is an edited summary of the Project Censored 2009 selection, covering the March 2007–April 2008 period. To see the full report with sources and updates, visit <http://www.projectcensored.org/top-stories/category/y-2009/>. To order a copy of the *Censored 2009* yearbook, visit <http://www.projectcensored.org/store>. — Editor

1. Over One Million Iraqi Deaths Caused by US Occupation

As at the beginning of 2007, over one million Iraqis met violent deaths as a result of the 2003 invasion, according to a study conducted by the prestigious British polling group, Opinion Research Business (ORB). These numbers suggest that the invasion and occupation of Iraq rivals the mass killings of the last century. The human toll exceeds the 800,000 to 900,000 believed killed in the Rwandan genocide in 1994, and is approaching the number (1.7 million) who died in Cambodia's infamous "killing fields" during the Khmer Rouge era of the 1970s.

Authors Joshua Holland and Michael Schwartz point out that the dominant narrative on Iraq—that most of the violence against Iraqis is being perpetrated by Iraqis themselves and is not the responsibility of the US and its allies—is ill conceived. Interviewers from the *Lancet* report of October 2004 (Censored 2006, no. 2) asked Iraqi respondents how their loved ones died. Of deaths for which families were certain of the perpetrator, 56 per cent were attributable to US forces or their allies. Schwartz suggests that if a low pro-rata share of half the unattributed deaths were caused by US forces, a total of approximately 80 per cent of Iraqi deaths were directly US perpetrated.

Even with the lower confirmed figures, by the end of 2006 an average of 5,000 Iraqis had been killed every month by US forces since the beginning of the occupation. However, the rate of fatalities in 2006 was twice as high as the overall average, meaning that the American-perpetrated average in 2006 was well over 10,000 per month, or over 300 Iraqis every day. With the surge that began in 2007, the current figure is likely even higher.

Schwartz points out that the logic to this carnage lies in a statistic released by the US military and reported by the Brookings Institution: for the first four years of the occupation, the American military sent over 1,000 patrols each day into hostile neighbourhoods, looking to capture or kill "insurgents" and "terrorists". Since February 2007, the number has increased to nearly 5,000 patrols a day if we include the Iraqi troops participating in the American surge. Each patrol invades an average of 30 Iraqi homes a day, with the mission to interrogate, arrest or kill suspects. In this context, any fighting-age male is not just a suspect but a

potentially lethal adversary. US soldiers are told not to take any chances (see Story no. 9).

According to US military statistics, again reported by the Brookings Institution, these patrols currently result in just under 3,000 firefights every month, or just under an average of 100 per day (not counting the additional 25 or so involving Iraqi allies). Thousands of patrols result in thousands of innocent Iraqi deaths and unconscionably brutal detentions.

By early 2008, the best estimate, based on extrapolations and replications of the *Lancet* study, was that 1.2 million Iraqis had died as a consequence of the war. This figure has not been reported in any mass media outlet in the USA.

2. Security and Prosperity Partnership: Militarised NAFTA

Leaders of the USA, Canada and Mexico have been meeting secretly to expand the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with "deep integration" of a more militarised trilateral Homeland Security force. Taking shape under the radar of the respective governments and without public knowledge or consideration, the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP), headquartered in Washington, DC, aims to integrate the three nations into a single political, economic and security bloc.

The SPP was launched at a meeting of US President George W. Bush, Canada's Prime Minister Paul Martin and Mexico's President Vicente Fox in Waco, Texas, on March 23, 2005. The official US web page describes the SPP as "a White House-led initiative among the United States and Canada and Mexico to increase security and to enhance prosperity". The SPP is not a law or a treaty or even a signed agreement. All these would require public debate and participation of US Congress.

The SPP created the North American Competitiveness Council (NACC) that serves as an official trilateral SPP working group. The group is composed of representatives of 30 giant North American companies, including General Electric, Ford Motors, General Motors, Wal-Mart, Lockheed Martin, Merck and Chevron. NACC's recommendations centred on "private sector involvement" being "a key step to enhancing North America's competitive position in global markets and is the driving force behind innovation and growth". NACC stressed the importance of establishing policies for maximum profits.

A fourth SPP summit was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, from April 22 to 24, 2008. George Bush, Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexico's President Felipe Calderón attended. It reaffirmed SPP's intentions to create a borderless North America, dissolve national sovereignty and put corporate giants—especially big US companies—in

control. It's also designed to create fortress North America by militarising the continent under US command.

3. InfraGard: The FBI Deputises Business

More than 23,000 representatives of private industry are working quietly with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Department of Homeland Security to collect and provide information on fellow Americans. In return, members of this rapidly growing group, called InfraGard, receive secret warnings of terrorist threats before the public and, at times, before elected officials get them.

"There is evidence that InfraGard may be closer to a corporate Total Information Awareness program...turning private-sector corporations—some of which may be in a position to observe the activities of millions of individual customers—into surrogate eyes and ears for the FBI," according to an American Civil Liberties Union report titled "The Surveillance-Industrial Complex: How the American

Government is Enlisting Private Parties in the Construction of a Surveillance Society".

InfraGard, with members from 350 companies of the *Fortune* 500, started in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1996, when the private sector there co-operated with the FBI to investigate cyber-threats. "Then the FBI cloned it," said Dr Phyllis Schneck, chairman of the InfraGard National Members Alliance and the prime mover behind InfraGard's growth over

the last several years.

FBI Director Robert Mueller addressed an InfraGard convention on August 9, 2005. "To date, there are more than 11,000 members of InfraGard...from our perspective, that amounts to 11,000 contacts...and 11,000 partners in our mission to protect America," he said.

On May 9, 2007, President George W. Bush issued National Security Presidential Directive 51, entitled "National Continuity Policy". In it, he instructed the Secretary of Homeland Security to liaise with "private sector owners and operators of critical infrastructure, as appropriate, in order to provide for the delivery of essential services during an emergency".

4. ILEA: Is the US Restarting Dirty Wars in Latin America?

A resurgence of US-backed militarism threatens peace and democracy in Latin America. By 2005, US military aid to Latin America had increased by 34 times the amount spent in 2000. In a marked shift in US military strategy, secretive training—including in torture and execution techniques—of Latin American military and police personnel that used to take place just at the notorious School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia, is now decentralised.

The 2008 US federal budget includes US\$16.5 million to

It reaffirmed SPP's intentions to create a borderless North America, dissolve national sovereignty and put corporate giants—especially big US companies—in control.

fund an International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in El Salvador, with satellite operations in Peru. With provision of immunity from charges of crimes against humanity, each academy will train an average of 1,500 police officers, judges, prosecutors and other law enforcement officials throughout Latin America per year in "counterterrorism techniques".

The academy in El Salvador is part of a network of ILEAs created in 1995 under US President Bill Clinton, who touted the training facilities as a series of US schools "throughout the world to combat international drug trafficking, criminality, and terrorism through strengthened international cooperation". There are also ILEAs in: Budapest, Hungary; Bangkok, Thailand; Gaborone, Botswana; and Roswell, New Mexico, USA.

According to ILEA directors, the facility in El Salvador is designed to make Latin America "safe for foreign investment" by "providing regional security and economic stability and combating crime".

5. Seizing War Protesters' Assets

President George W. Bush has signed two executive orders that will allow the US Treasury to seize the property of any person perceived to pose a threat, directly or indirectly, to US operations in the Middle East.

The first of these executive orders, titled "Blocking Property of Certain Persons Who Threaten Stabilization Efforts in Iraq", signed by President Bush on July 17, 2007, authorises the Secretary of Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, to confiscate the assets of US citizens and organisations that "directly or indirectly" pose a risk to US operations in Iraq.

This executive order blocks the property of persons determined "(i) to have committed, or pose a significant risk of committing, an act or acts of violence that have the purpose or effect of: (A) threatening the peace or stability of Iraq or the Government of Iraq; or (B) undermining efforts to promote economic reconstruction and political reform in Iraq... or (ii) to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, logistical, or technical support for, or goods or services in support of, such an act or acts of violence or any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this order..."

Section five of this order announces that "...because of the ability to transfer funds or other assets instantaneously, prior notice to such persons of measures to be taken pursuant to this order would render these measures ineffectual. I therefore determine that...there need be no prior notice of a listing or determination [of seizure]..."

On August 1, 2007, Bush issued a similar executive order, titled "Blocking Property of Persons Undermining the Sovereignty of Lebanon or Its Democratic Processes and Institutions". While the text in this order is, for the most part, identical to the first, the order regarding Lebanon is more severe.

Bruce Fein, a constitutional lawyer and a former Department of Justice official in the Reagan administration, says of the order: "This is so sweeping it's staggering. I have never seen anything so broad. It expands beyond terrorism, beyond seeking to use violence or the threat of violence, to cower or intimidate a population."

6. The Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act

In an effort to prevent people from becoming "prone to" radicalisation, a pre-emptive measure of policing thought specifically identifies the Internet as a tool of radicalisation. "The Internet has aided in facilitating violent radicalization, ideologically based violence, and the homegrown terrorism process in the United States by providing access to broad and constant streams of terrorist-related propaganda to United States citizens," said Jane Harman (D-CA), chair of the House Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment.

While civil liberties and religious freedom groups credit independent journalists and grassroots activists with helping to stall the passage of the *Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007*, some members of Congress continue to push for Internet censorship and racial profiling as necessary to prevent "homegrown terrorism".

The House of Representatives approved the *Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism*

Prevention Act on 23 October 2007 by a 404–6 vote, but widespread opposition forced the Senate to shelve the bill. As of June 1, 2008, no vote was scheduled or expected during the current legislative year.

The original bill was intended to set up a government commission to investigate the supposed threat of domestically produced terrorists and the ideologies that underpin their radicalisation. It singled out the Internet as a vehicle for terrorists to spread their ideology with the intention of recruiting and training new terrorists.

7. Guest Workers: Fraud and Human Trafficking

While the guest worker program in the United States has been praised and recommended for expansion by President Bush and is likely to be considered by Congress as a

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template for future immigration reform, human rights advocates warn that the system seriously victimises immigrant workers. Workers, labour organisers, lawyers and policy makers say that the program, designed to open up the legal labour market and provide a piece of the American dream to immigrants, has instead locked thousands into a modern-day form of indentured servitude.

Labour recruiters usually charge fees—sometimes many thousands of dollars—to the worker to cover travel, visas and other costs, including profit for the recruiters. The workers, most of whom live in poverty, frequently obtain high-interest loans to come up with the money to pay the fees. Recruiters sometimes require them to leave collateral, such as the deed to their house or car, to ensure they fulfil the terms of their individual labour contract.

The entirely unregulated recruiting business is lucrative. With more than 121,000 workers recruited in 2005 alone, tens of millions of dollars in recruiting fees are at stake. This financial bonanza provides a powerful incentive for recruiters and agencies to import as many workers as possible, with little or no regard for the impact on workers and their families.

8. Executive Orders Can Be Changed Secretly

On December 7, 2007, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, as a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, disclosed on the floor of the US Senate that he had declassified three legal documents of the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) within the Department of Justice that state:

1. An executive order cannot limit a President. There is no constitutional requirement for a President to issue a new executive order whenever he wishes to depart from the terms of a previous executive order. Rather than violate an executive order, the President has instead modified or waived it.

2. The President, exercising his constitutional authority under Article II, can determine whether an action is a lawful exercise of the President's authority under Article II.

3. The Department of Justice is bound by the President's legal determinations.

Senator Whitehouse discovered the OLC's classified legal opinions while researching the Protect America Act legislation, passed in August 2007, which he warns will allow the administration to bypass Congress and the courts in order to facilitate unchecked spying on Americans. He noted that for years under the Bush administration, the OLC has been issuing highly classified, secret legal opinions related to surveillance.

The senator warned of the danger of the poorly written Protect America Act legislation, which provides no statutory restrictions on government wiretapping of Americans and

eliminates checks and balances from the legislative and judicial branches. The only restriction on government eavesdropping on Americans is an executive order that limits surveillance to those whom the Attorney-General determines to be agents of a foreign power.

However, in light of the first declassified OLC proclamation that the President can secretly change his signing statements at will, US citizens are left exposed to the whims of a secret, unchecked, executive agenda.

9. Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Testify

Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans are coming forward to recount the brutal impact of the ongoing occupations. Investigations by *The Nation* (July 2007) as well as the Winter Soldier hearings held in Silver Spring, Maryland, in March 2008—organised by Iraq Veterans Against the War and which brought together over 300 veterans—have made the veterans' experiences public.

Soldiers' harrowing testimony of atrocities they witnessed or directly participated in indicate a structural problem in the US military that has created an environment of lawlessness. Some international law experts say the soldiers' statements show the need for investigations into potential violations of international law by high-ranking officials in the Bush administration and the Pentagon.

Though the BBC predicted that the Winter Soldier event would

dominate headlines around the world that week, there was a near total blackout on this historic event by the US corporate media.

Dozens of veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan occupations publicly testified at the four-day Winter Soldier gathering about crimes they committed during the course of battle, many of which were prompted by the orders of or policies laid down by superior officers. Such crimes include targeting innocent, unarmed civilians for murder and detention, destroying property, desecrating corpses, severely abusing detainees (often torturing them to death) and using corpses for medical practice.

Winter Soldier 2008 was organised to demonstrate that well-publicised incidents of US brutality, including the Abu Ghraib prison scandal and the massacre of an entire family of Iraqis in the town of Haditha, were not isolated incidents perpetrated by "a few bad apples", as many politicians and military leaders have claimed. They are part of a pattern, the organisers said, of "an increasingly bloody occupation".

The veterans also stressed the similarities between the occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan: "...units that are getting the exact same training and the exact same orders are being sent to both Iraq and Afghanistan," explained a former US Army medic.

The senator warned of the danger of the poorly written Protect America Act legislation, which provides no statutory restrictions on government wiretapping of Americans and eliminates checks and balances...

10. APA Complicit in CIA-Approved Torture

When news reports in 2005 exposed the fact that psychologists were working with the US military and the CIA to develop brutal interrogation methods, American Psychological Association (APA) leaders assembled a task force to examine the issue. After just two days of deliberations, the 10-member task force concluded that psychologists were playing a "valuable and ethical role" in assisting the military. A high level of secrecy surrounding the task force prohibited disclosure of the proceedings and of members and attendees. It wasn't until a year later that the membership was finally published on Salon.com, revealing that six of nine voting members were from the military and intelligence agencies with direct connections to interrogations at Guantánamo and CIA black sites that operate outside of the Geneva Conventions.

The Psychological Ethics and National Security (PENS) task force was assembled in response to growing evidence that psychologists were not only taking part in procedures that have shocked humanity around the world, but were in charge of designing those brutal tactics and training interrogators in those techniques.

Two psychologists in particular played a central role: James Elmer Mitchell, who was contracted to the CIA, and his colleague Bruce Jessen. Both worked in the classified military training program Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE), which conditions soldiers to endure captivity in enemy hands. In a very quasi-scientific manner, Mitchell and Jessen reverse-engineered the tactics inflicted on SERE trainees for use on detainees in the "global war on terror".

Meanwhile, it is increasingly clear that the US has sacrificed its conscience and its global image for tactics that are at best ineffective.

11. El Salvador's Water Privatisation and the Global War on Terror

Salvadoran police violently captured community leaders and residents at a July 2007 demonstration against the privatisation of El Salvador's water supply and distribution systems. Close-range shooting of rubber bullets and tear gas was used against community members for protesting the rising cost and the diminishing access and quality of local water under privatisation. Fourteen were arrested and charged with terrorism—a charge that can hold a 60-year prison sentence under El Salvador's new "Anti-terrorism

Law", which is based on the USA Patriot Act.

While criminalisation of political expression and social protest signals an alarming danger to the peace and human rights secured by Salvadorans since the brutal 12-year civil war, the US government publicly supports the Salvadoran government and the passage of the draconian anti-terrorism law that took effect in October 2006. Salvadorans, however, maintain that fighting for water is a right, not a crime.

12. Bush Profiteers Collect Billions From "No Child Left Behind"

President Bush's first senior education adviser Sandy Kress, the architect of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), has turned the program, which has consistently proven disastrous in the realm of education, into a huge success in the realm of corporate profiteering. After ushering NCLB through the US House of Representatives in 2001 with no public hearings, Kress went from lawmaker, turning on spigots of federal funds, to lobbyist, tapping into those billions of dollars in federal funds for private investors well connected to the Bush administration.

A statute that once promised equal access to public education to millions of American children now instead promises billions of dollars in profits to corporate clients through dubious processes of testing and assessment and "supplemental educational services".

NCLB, the Business Roundtable's revision of Lyndon Johnson's *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA), created a "high-stakes testing" system through which the private sector could siphon federal education funds. The result has been windfall corporate profit. What was once a cottage industry has become a corporate giant. "Millions of dollars are being spent," says Jack Jennings, director of the Center on Education Policy, "and nobody knows what's happening."

13. Tracking Billions of Dollars Lost in Iraq

Beginning in April 2003, one month after the invasion of Iraq, and continuing for little more than a year, the US Federal Reserve shipped \$12 billion in US currency to Iraq. The US military delivered the bank notes to the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), to be dispensed for Iraqi reconstruction. At least \$9 billion is unaccounted for due to a complete lack of oversight.

The initial \$20 million came exclusively from Iraqi assets that had been frozen in US banks since the first Gulf War in 1990. Subsequent airlifts of cash included billions from Iraqi oil revenues formerly controlled by the United Nations.

...psychologists were not only taking part in procedures that have shocked humanity around the world, but were in charge of designing those brutal tactics and training interrogators in those techniques.

After the creation of the Development Fund for Iraq—a kind of holding pit of money to be spent for "purposes benefiting the people of Iraq"—the UN turned over control of Iraq's billions of dollars from oil revenue to the United States.

The CPA had been hastily created by the Pentagon to serve as the interim government in Iraq. On May 9, 2003, President Bush appointed L. Paul Bremer III as CPA administrator. Over the next year, a compliant US Congress gave \$1.6 billion to Bremer to administer the CPA. This was over and above the \$12 billion in cash that the CPA had been given to disburse from Iraqi oil revenues and unfrozen Iraqi assets.

Few in Congress had any idea about the true nature of the CPA as an institution. Lawmakers had never discussed the establishment of the CPA, much less authorised it—odd, given that the administration would be receiving taxpayer dollars. Confused members of Congress believed that the CPA was a US government agency, which it was not, or that at the very least it had been authorised by the United Nations, which it had not. Because the CPA was a rogue operation, no one was responsible for what happened to that money.

14. Mainstreaming Nuclear Waste

Radioactive materials from nuclear weapons production sites are being dumped into regular landfills and are available for recycling and resale. The Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) has tracked the Department of Energy's (DoE's) release of radioactive scrap, concrete, equipment, asphalt, chemicals, soil and more to unaware and unprepared recipients such as landfills, commercial businesses and recreation areas.

Under the current system, the DoE releases contaminated materials directly, sells them at auctions or through exchanges or sends the materials to processors who can release them from radioactive controls. The recycling of these materials—for re-use in the production of everyday household and personal items, such as zippers, toys, furniture and automobiles, or to build roads, schools and playgrounds—is increasingly common.

The NIRS report, "Out of Control – On Purpose: DoE's Dispersal of Radioactive Waste into Landfills and Consumer Products", tracks the laws, methods and justifications used by the DoE to expedite the mandatory clean-up of the environmental legacy being created by the nation's nuclear weapons program and government-sponsored nuclear energy research.

The effort, one of the largest and most technically complex environmental clean-up programs in the world, includes the clean-up of 114 sites in the US, due to be completed by the end of 2008.

15. Worldwide Slavery on the Rise

Twenty-seven million slaves exist in the world today, more than at any time in human history. Globalisation, poverty, violence and greed facilitate the growth of slavery, not only in the Third World but in the most developed countries as well. Behind the façade in any major town or city in the world today, one is likely to find a thriving commerce in human beings.

Each year, as many as 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders and up to 17,500 new victims are trafficked across US borders, according to the US Department of Justice (DoJ). More than 30,000 additional slaves are transported through the US on their way to international destinations. DoJ attorneys have prosecuted 91 slave trade cases in cities across the US and in nearly every state of the nation.

Commerce in human beings today rivals drug trafficking and the illegal arms trade for top criminal activity on the planet. The slave trade sits at number three on the list, but

Commerce in human beings today rivals drug trafficking and the illegal arms trade for top criminal activity on the planet. The slave trade sits at number three on the list, but the gap is closing.

the gap is closing. According to the US Department of State's 2004 "Trafficking in Persons Report", the FBI projected that the slave trade generates US\$9.5 billion in revenue each year. A report put out by the United Nations International Labour Organization in 2005, titled "A Global Alliance Against Forced Labour", estimated that figure to be closer to \$32 billion annually.

Though modern-day forms of slavery are emerging to suit global markets, bonded labour continues

to be the most common form of slavery in the world. In a typical scenario, an individual falls under the control of a wealthy patron after taking a small loan. Bondage, with no legal standing, is typically established through fraud and maintained through violence.

16. Survey on Violations of Trade Union Rights

The first "Annual Survey of Violations of Trade Union Rights", published by the year-old International Trade Union Confederation, documents enormous challenges to workers' rights around the world.

The 2007 edition of the survey, covering 138 countries, shows an alarming rise in the number of people killed as a result of their trade union activities, from 115 in 2005 to 144 in 2006. Many more trade unionists around the world were abducted or "disappeared". Thousands were arrested during the year for their parts in strike actions and protests, while thousands of others were fired in retaliation for organising. Growing numbers of trade union activists in Africa, the Americas, Europe, Asia and the Pacific are facing police brutality and murder as unions are viewed as opponents of corporatist governments.

17. UN's Empty Declaration on Indigenous Rights

In September 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The resolution calls for recognition of the world's 370 million indigenous peoples' rights to self-determination and control over their lands and resources. The adoption of this resolution comes after 22 years of diplomatic negotiations at the United Nations (UN), involving its member states, international civil society groups and representatives of the world's aboriginal communities.

The declaration emphasises the rights of indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen their institutions, cultures and traditions and to pursue their development in keeping with their own needs and aspirations. The declaration was passed by an overwhelming 143–4 majority vote. Only the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand voted against the resolution, expressing the view that strong emphasis on rights to indigenous self-determination and control over lands and resources would hinder economic development and undermine "established democratic norms".

Three months after the declaration's passage, however, a delegation of indigenous peoples was forcibly barred from entering the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bali in December 2007, despite the fact that the delegation was invited to attend. Indigenous peoples from around the world protested the exclusion from the climate negotiations.

The indigenous delegates went to Bali to denounce what they contend are false solutions to climate change, such as carbon trading, agrifuels and so-called "avoided deforestation", proposed by the UN.

The World Bank initiative, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), was launched in Bali as part of the discussions on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD), despite indigenous disapproval and the fact that 18–20 per cent of annual global carbon emissions are caused by deforestation. The initiative, which allows tropical forests to be included in carbon-offsetting schemes, fails to combat climate change, the indigenous groups say, because it allows industrialised countries and companies to buy their way out of emissions reductions. The World Bank, which has a vested interest in carbon trading, has a particularly appalling track record in relation to funding deforestation and carbon emissions control projects.

18. Cruelty, Death in Juvenile Detention Centres

In states across the country, child advocates have harshly condemned the conditions under which young offenders are housed—conditions that involve sexual abuse, physical abuse and even death.

The US Department of Justice (DoJ) has filed lawsuits against facilities in 11 states for supervision that is either abusive or harmfully negligent. While the DoJ lacks the power to shut down juvenile correction facilities, through litigation it can force a state to improve its detention centres and protect the civil rights of jailed youth.

Lack of oversight and nationally accepted standards of tracking abuse make it difficult to know exactly how many youngsters have been assaulted or neglected.

19. Indigenous Herders and Small Farmers Fight Livestock Extinctions

The industrial model of livestock production is causing the worldwide destruction of animal diversity. At least one indigenous livestock breed becomes extinct each month as a result of overreliance on selected breeds imported from the United States and Europe, according to a 2007 study, "The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture", conducted by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Since research for the report began in 1999, 2,000 local breeds have been identified as at risk.

The industrial livestock breeding and production system that is being imposed on the world requires high levels of investment in technology and receives subsidies and other resources that have distorted the market.

Consequences of the livestock industry's globalisation include threats to sustainable development and global food security, destruction of the livelihoods of over one billion

people worldwide, small-holder bankruptcies and suicides, and extinction of some of the world's hardiest breeds of animals.

20. Marijuana Arrests Set New Record

For the fourth year in a row, US marijuana arrests set an all-time record, according to the 2006 FBI Uniform Crime Report. Marijuana arrests in 2006 totalled 829,627, an increase from 786,545 in 2005. At current rates, a marijuana smoker is arrested every 38 seconds, with marijuana arrests comprising nearly 44 per cent of all drug arrests in the United States.

According to Allen St Pierre, executive director of the

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National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), over eight million Americans have been arrested on marijuana charges in the past decade, while arrests for cocaine and heroine have declined sharply.

The number of arrests in 2006 increased more than 5.5 per cent from 2005. Of the 829,627 arrests, 89 per cent were for possession, not sale or manufacture. Possession arrests exceeded arrests for all violent crimes combined, as they have for years. The remaining offenders, including those growing for personal or medical use, were charged with sale and/or manufacturing.

A study of New York City marijuana arrests, conducted by Queens College and released in April 2008, reports that between 1998 and 2007 the New York police arrested 374,900 people whose most serious crime was the lowest-level misdemeanour marijuana offence. That number is eight times higher than the number of arrests (45,300) from 1988 to 1997. Nearly 90 per cent arrested between 1998 and 2007 were male, despite the fact that national studies show marijuana use roughly equal between men and women. While national surveys show Whites are more likely to use marijuana than Blacks and Latinos, the New York study reports that 83 per cent of those arrested were Black or Latino. Blacks accounted for 52 per cent of arrests, Latinos and other people of colour accounted for 33 per cent, while Whites accounted for only 15 per cent.

"The steady escalation of marijuana arrests is happening in direct defiance of public opinion," according to Rob Kampia, executive director of the Marijuana Policy Project in Washington, DC. "Voters in communities all over the country...have passed measures saying they don't want marijuana arrests to be priority. Yet marijuana arrests have set an all-time record for four years running..."

Meanwhile, enforcing marijuana laws costs between US\$10 and \$12 billion a year.

However, the clearest signs of progress have come from efforts to permit medical use of marijuana. Twelve US states now have medical marijuana laws, and a medical marijuana initiative in Michigan's November 2008 ballot was ahead by nearly two to one in a public poll released earlier. Democratic presidential candidate Senator Barack Obama indicated he would end the federal war on these state medical marijuana laws, while Republican candidate Senator John McCain expressed support for current federal law.

21. NATO Considers "First Strike" Nuclear Option

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) officials are considering a first-strike nuclear option to be used anywhere in the world that a threat may arise. Former armed force chiefs from the USA, Britain, Germany, France and The Netherlands authored a 150-page blueprint calling for urgent

reform of NATO and a new pact drawing the USA, NATO and the European Union (EU) together in a "grand strategy" to tackle the challenges of an "increasingly brutal world".

The authors of the plan insist that "the first use of nuclear weapons must remain in the quiver of escalation as the ultimate instrument to prevent the use of weapons of mass destruction". The manifesto was presented to the Pentagon in Washington and to NATO's Secretary-General in mid-January 2008.

The authors—General John Shalikashvili (US Army, Ret.), former Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff and former NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Europe; General Klaus Naumann (Ret.), Germany's former top soldier and former Chairman, NATO Military Committee; General Henk van den Breemen (Ret.), a former Dutch Chief of Staff; Admiral Jacques Lanxade (Ret.), a former French armed Forces Chief of Staff; and Field Marshal The Right Hon. The Lord Inge (Ret.), former Chief of the

General Staff and the Defence Staff in the UK—paint an alarming picture of the threats and challenges confronting the West in the post-9/11 world and deliver a withering verdict on the ability to cope. The five commanders argue that the West's values and way of life are under threat, while the West is struggling to summon the will to defend them. They claim that the following are key threats:

- political fanaticism and religious fundamentalism;
- the "dark side" of globalisation, meaning international terrorism, organised crime and the spread of weapons of mass destruction;
- climate change and energy insecurity, entailing a contest for resources and potential "environmental" migration on a mass scale;
- the weakening of the nation-state as well as of organisations such as the UN, NATO and the EU.

They call for an overhaul of NATO decision-making methods, a new "directorate" of US, European and NATO leaders to respond rapidly to crises, and an end to EU "obstruction" of and rivalry with NATO.

22. CARE Rejects US Food Aid

In August 2007, one of the biggest and best-known American charity organisations, CARE, announced that it was turning down US\$45 million a year in food aid from the United States government. CARE claims that the way US aid is structured *causes* rather than reduces hunger in the countries where it is received. The US budgets \$2 billion a year for food aid, which buys US crops to feed populations facing starvation amidst crisis or enduring chronic hunger.

The organisation's announcement prompted argument about the forms and objectives of the aid given by the US and other big powers to Third World countries and the role

The authors of the plan insist that "the first use of nuclear weapons must remain in the quiver of escalation as the ultimate instrument to prevent the use of weapons of mass destruction".

that most charity organisations are playing. The reasoning behind CARE's decision is part of a years-long debate that has influenced everything from US trade and domestic legislation to the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization talks.

CARE USA's 2006 report, "White Paper on Food Aid Policy", points out that the current food aid program is motivated by profit rather than altruism. The policy, which dictates that donated money be used to purchase food in the home country, results in a program driven by "the export and surplus disposal objectives of the exporting country" and not the needs of people in hunger.

The US policy implements the practice of monetisation, a food aid policy in which the US government buys surplus food from American agribusinesses that have already been heavily subsidised and ships it via US shipping lines—generating transport costs that eat up much of the \$2 billion annual food aid provided by the US government—to aid organisations working around the world. The aid organisations then sell the US-grown crops to local populations at a dramatically reduced cost. The aid organisations use proceeds from these sales to fund their development and anti-poverty programs.

But several groups, with CARE at the forefront, have pointed out that this policy has the effect of undermining local farmers and destabilising the very food production systems that aid organisations are working to strengthen.

A policy that puts local farmers out of commission and undermines agriculture in developing countries becomes part of a process by which those countries lose the means to develop, and thus they grow more dependent on the stronger and more dominant nations. These countries become more vulnerable in every sphere, not only economically but politically. The result is likely to be more hunger and less sovereignty as countries are tied ever more tightly to the world market.

The European Union has also been critical of the US food aid program. European countries all but phased out the practice of monetisation in the 1990s. Only 10 per cent of their budgeted food aid is reserved for crops grown in Europe. Suspicions remain that the US uses monetised food aid programs to avoid limits on its universally contested farm subsidies.

The United Nations World Food Programme, the largest distributor of food aid in the world, has rejected the practice of monetisation and does not allow its grain to be sold by non-government organisations.

The past two US congressional farm bills presented proposals to shift portions of the food aid budget from grain to cash donations, to be made available for people in need to buy locally grown crops. Both attempts were voted down.

23. FDA Complicit in Pushing Pharma Drugs

While the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) turns a blind eye, drug companies are making false, unsubstantiated and misleading claims in their advertising, often withholding mandated disclosure of dangerous side effects. Though companies are required to submit their advertisements to the FDA, the agency does not review them before they are released to the public.

A Government Accountability Office report released in November 2006 found that the FDA reviews only a small portion of the advertisements it receives, and does not review them using consistent criteria.

In 2005, pharmaceutical companies spent about US\$4.2 billion in advertisements aimed at the public, known as "direct-to-consumer" ads, up from about \$2.5 billion in 2000 and \$1.1 billion in 1997. The promotion of drugs to physicians, with almost \$7.2 billion spent in 2005, dwarfs advertising to the public. At the same time, public spending on prescription drugs has steadily increased, reaching about \$140 billion in 2001, more than tripling since 1990.

24. Japan Questions 9/11 and the War on Terror

Testimony in the Japanese parliament, broadcast live on Japanese TV in January 2008, challenged the premise and validity of the global "war on terror". Democratic member of parliament Yukihiro Fujita insisted that an investigation be conducted into the war's origin: the events of 9/11.

In a parliamentary Defence and Foreign Affairs Committee session held to debate the ethics of renewing Japan's "anti-terror law", which commits Japan to providing logistical support for coalition forces operating in Afghanistan, Fujita opened the session by stating: "I would like to talk about the origin of this war on terrorism, which was the attacks of 9/11... When discussing these anti-terror laws, we should ask ourselves: what was 9/11? And what is terrorism?"

Fujita pointed out: "So far the only thing the government has said is that we think it was caused by al-Qaeda because President Bush told us so. We have not seen any real proof that it was al-Qaeda." He reminded parliament that 24 Japanese citizens were killed on 9/11, yet the mandate of a criminal investigation by the Japanese government never followed. "This is a crime, so surely an investigation needs

The US policy implements the practice of monetisation, a food aid policy in which the US government buys surplus food from American agribusinesses that have already been heavily subsidised...

to be carried out," said Fujita. (See Censored 2008, no. 16.)

Fujita went on extensively to ask about "the suspicious information being uncovered and the doubts people worldwide are having about the events of 9/11"...

Fujita then addressed then Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda: "I would like to know why the Prime Minister thinks it was the Taliban who was responsible for 9/11." He continued: "We need to go back to the beginning and not just simply and blindly trust the US government explanation and indirect information provided by them... We need to look at this evidence and ask ourselves what the war on terrorism really is... We need to ask who the real victims of this war on terrorism are. I think the citizens of the world are its victims..."

25. Bush's Real Problem with Eliot Spitzer

The exposure on March 10, 2008, of New York State Governor Eliot Spitzer's tryst with a luxury call-girl had little to do with the Bush administration's high moral standards for public servants. Author F. William Engdahl advised in his story for GlobalResearch.ca on March 18 that "in evaluating spectacular scandals around prominent public figures, it is important to ask...who might want to eliminate that person". According to Engdahl, timing suggests that "Spitzer was likely a target of a White House and Wall Street dirty tricks operation to silence one of its most dangerous and vocal critics of their handling [of] the current financial market crisis".

Spitzer had become increasingly public in blaming the Bush administration for the subprime crisis. On February 14, 2008, he testified before the US House of Representatives Financial Services Committee's Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises. Earlier that day, in a national CNBC interview, he laid blame squarely on the administration for creating an environment ripe for predatory lenders.

Also on February 14, the *Washington Post* published an editorial by Spitzer, titled "Predatory Lenders' Partner in Crime: How the Bush Administration Stopped the States from Stepping In to Help Consumers", in which he charged:

"Not only did the Bush administration do nothing to protect consumers, it embarked on an aggressive and unprecedented campaign to prevent states from protecting their residents from the very problems to which the federal government was turning a blind eye.

"...The administration accomplished this feat through an obscure federal agency called the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC). The OCC has been in existence since the Civil War. Its mission is to ensure the fiscal soundness of national banks. For 140 years, the OCC

examined the books of national banks to make sure they were balanced, an important but uncontroversial function. But a few years ago, for the first time in its history, the OCC was used as a tool against consumers.

"In 2003, during the height of the predatory lending crisis, the OCC invoked a clause from the 1863 National Bank Act to issue formal opinions preempting all state predatory lending laws, thereby rendering them inoperative. The OCC also promulgated new rules that prevented states from enforcing any of their own consumer protection laws against national banks. The federal government's actions were so egregious and so unprecedented that all 50 state attorneys general, and all 50 state banking superintendents, actively fought the new rules.

"But the unanimous opposition of the 50 states did not deter, or even slow, the Bush administration in its goal of protecting the banks. In fact, when my office opened an investigation of possible discrimination in mortgage lending by a number of banks, the OCC filed a federal lawsuit to stop the investigation."

"When history tells the story of the subprime lending crisis and recounts its devastating effects... the Bush administration...will be judged as a willing accomplice to the lenders who went to any lengths in their quest for profits."

The editorial appeared the day after Spitzer's ill-fated rendezvous with the prostitute at the Mayflower Hotel. With that article, some Washington insiders believe, Spitzer signed his own political death warrant.

On March 4, Spitzer furthermore proposed legislation that would have imposed penalties for mortgage fraud and predatory lending.

Curiously, Spitzer, who had been elected governor in 2006,

defeating a Republican by winning nearly 70 per cent of the vote, has been not charged with any crime. His case went into the hands of Washington and not those of the New York State authorities, underscoring the clear political nature of Spitzer's "offence". New York Assembly Republicans immediately announced plans to impeach Spitzer or put him on public trial if he were to refuse resignation. Although prostitution is illegal in most US states, clients of prostitutes are almost never charged, nor are their names typically released while a case is in process.

Spitzer's editorial concluded:

"When history tells the story of the subprime lending crisis and recounts its devastating effects on the lives of so many innocent homeowners, the Bush administration will not be judged favorably. The tale is still unfolding, but when the dust settles it will be judged as a willing accomplice to the lenders who went to any lengths in their quest for profits. So willing, in fact, that it used the power of the federal government in an unprecedented assault on state legislatures, as well as on state attorneys general and anyone else on the side of consumers."

Eliot Spitzer announced his resignation on March 12, effective on March 17, 2008. ∞

DEATH OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE AND ECONOMY

"Creative financing" with credit default swaps and derivatives trading has brought the United States, and much of the rest of the world, to the brink of economic disaster and demonstrated the failure of the capitalist system.

by Tanya Cariina Hsu © 2008

Posted on 23 October 2008
under the title
"Death of the American Empire"
on the Global Research website
<http://www.globalresearch.ca>

I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies.

— Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826), United States President

America is dying. It is self-destructing and bringing the rest of the world down with it. The sub-prime mortgage collapse, as it's often referred to, obfuscates the real reason. By associating tangible, useless, failed mortgages with it, at least something "real" can be blamed for the carnage. The problem is, this is myth. The magnitude of this fiscal collapse happened because it was all based on hot air.

The banking industry renamed insurance betting guarantees as "credit default swaps" and risky gambling wagers as "derivatives". Financial managers and banking executives were selling the ultimate con to the entire world, akin to the snake-oil salesmen of the 18th century. By October 2008, it was a quadrillion-dollar (that's US\$1,000 trillion) industry that few could understand.

Propped up by false hope, America is now falling like a house of cards.

How did it come to this?

It all began in the early part of the 20th century. In 1907, J. P. Morgan, a New York private banker, published a rumour that a competing, unnamed, large bank was about to fail. It was a false charge, but customers nonetheless raced to their banks to withdraw their money in case it was their bank. As they pulled out their funds, the banks lost their cash deposits and were forced to call in their loans. So people now had to pay back their mortgages to fill the banks with income, going bankrupt in the process. The 1907 panic resulted in a crash that prompted the creation of the Federal Reserve, a private banking cartel with the veneer of an independent government organisation. Effectively, it was a coup by elite bankers in order to control the industry.

When signed into law in 1913, the Federal Reserve was able to lend and supply the nation's money, but with interest. The more money it was able to print, the more "income" it generated for itself. By its very nature, the Federal Reserve would forever keep producing debt to stay alive. It was able to print America's monetary supply at will, regulating its value. To control valuation, however, inflation had to be kept in check.

The Federal Reserve then doubled America's money supply within five years. In 1920, it called in a mass percentage of loans. Over 5,000 banks collapsed overnight. One year later, the Federal Reserve increased the money supply by 62 per cent, but in 1929 it again called the loans back in, *en masse*. This time, the crash of 1929 caused over 16,000 banks to fail and an 89 per cent plunge on the stock market. The private and well-protected banks within the Federal Reserve System were able to snap up the failed banks at pennies in the dollar. The nation fell into the Great Depression.

In April 1933, President Roosevelt issued an executive order that confiscated

all gold bullion from the public. Those who refused to turn in their gold would be imprisoned for 10 years. By the end of the year, the gold standard was abolished. What had been redeemable for gold became paper "legal tender", and gold could no longer be exchanged for cash as it once had been.

Later, in 1971, President Nixon removed the dollar from the gold standard altogether, therefore no longer trading at the internationally fixed price of \$35. The US dollar was now worth whatever the US decided it was worth because it was "as good as gold". It had no standard of measure and became the universal currency. Treasury bills (short-term notes) and bonds (long-term notes) replaced gold as value, promissory notes of the US government paid for by the taxpayer. Additionally, because gold was exempt from currency reporting requirements, it could not be traced—unlike the fiduciary (i.e., based upon trust) monetary systems of the West. That was not in America's best interest.

After the Great Depression, private banks remained afraid to make home loans, so Roosevelt created Fannie Mae. A state-supported mortgage bank, it provided federal funding to finance home mortgages for affordable housing. In 1968, President Johnson privatised Fannie Mae. In 1970, Freddie Mac was created to compete with Fannie Mae. Both of them bought mortgages from banks and other lenders and sold them on to new investors.

The descent into debt

The post-World War II boom had created an America flush with cash and assets. Americans could afford all the modern conveniences and exported its manufactured goods all over the world.

As a military-industrial complex, the USA profited exponentially from war and, unlike any empire in history, it shot to superpower status. But it failed to remember that, historically, whenever empires rise they fall in direct proportion.

After the Vietnam War, the United States went into an economic decline. But people were loath to give up their elevated standard of living despite the loss of jobs, with production increasingly being sent overseas. A sense of delusion and entitlement kept Americans on the treadmill of consumer consumption.

In 1987, the US stock market plunged by 22 per cent in one day [19 October] because of high-risk futures trading, called "derivatives".

In 1989, the savings and loan (S&L) crisis resulted in President George H. W. Bush using \$142 billion in

taxpayer funds to rescue half of the S&Ls. To do so, Freddie Mac was given the task of giving sub-prime (below prime-rate) mortgages to low-income families.

In 2000, the "irrational exuberance" of the dot-com bubble burst, and 50 per cent of high-tech firms went bankrupt, wiping \$5 trillion from their over-inflated market values.

After this crisis, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan kept interest rates so low that they were less than the rate of inflation. Anyone saving his or her income actually lost money, and the savings rate soon fell into negative territory.

The financial industry also believed that housing prices would forever climb, but, should they ever fall, the central bank would cut interest rates so that prices would jump back up.

During the 1990s, however, advertisers went into overdrive, marketing an ever-more-luxurious lifestyle, all made available with cheap, easy credit. Second mortgages became commonplace and home equity loans were used to pay credit card bills. The more Americans bought, the more they fell into debt. But as long as they had a house, their false sense of security remained. Their home was their equity: it would always go up in value, and they could always remortgage at lower rates if needed. The financial industry also believed that housing prices would forever climb, but, should they ever fall, the central bank would cut interest rates so that prices would jump back up. It was, everyone believed, a win-win situation.

Greenspan's rock-bottom interest rates let anyone afford a home. Minimum-wage service workers with aspirations to buy a half-million-dollar house were able to secure 100-per-cent loans, the mortgage-lenders fully aware that

these workers would not be able to keep up the payments.

So many people received these sub-prime loans that the investment houses and lenders came up with a new scheme: bundle these virtually worthless home loans and sell them as solid US investments to unsuspecting countries that would not know the difference. American lives of excess and consumer spending never suffered, and were being propped up by foreign nations none the wiser.

Cashing in and crashing on derivatives

It has always been the case that a bank would lend out more than it actually had, because interest payments generated its income. The more the bank lent, the more interest it collected—even with no money in the vault. It was a lucrative industry of giving away money it never had in the first place. Mortgage banks and investment houses even borrowed money on international money markets to fund these 100-per-cent-plus sub-prime

mortgages and began lending more than 10 times their underlying assets.

After 9/11, George W. Bush told the nation to spend—and during a time of war, that's what the nation did. The US government borrowed at unprecedented levels so as not only to pay for its "war on terror" in the Middle East (calculated to cost \$4 trillion) but also to pay for tax cuts at the very time it should have increased taxes. Bush removed the reserve requirements in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac from 10 per cent to 2.5 per cent. Now they were free to lend even more at bargain-basement interest rates, but only needed a fraction of reserves. Soon, banks were lending 30 times the asset value.

It was, as one economist put it, an "orgy of excess". It was flagrant overspending during a time of war. At no time in history has a nation gone into conflict without sacrifice, cutbacks, tax increases and economic conservation.

And there was a growing chance that, just like in 1929, investors would rush to claim their money all at once. Therefore, to guarantee these high-risk mortgages, the same financial houses that sold them then created "insurance policies" against the sub-prime investments they were selling, marketed as Credit Default Swaps (CDS). But the government must regulate insurance policies, so by calling them CDS they remained totally unregulated.

Financial institutions were "hedging their bets" and selling premiums to protect the junk assets. In other words, the asset that should go up in value could also have a side-bet, just in case, that it might go down. By October 2008, CDS were trading at \$62 trillion, more than the value of the stock markets of the whole world combined. These bets had absolutely no value whatsoever and were not investments. They were just financial instruments called "derivatives"—high-stakes gambling, "nothing from nothing" or, as Warren Buffett referred to them, "weapons of financial mass destruction". The derivatives trade was "worth" *more than one quadrillion dollars*, or larger than the economy of the entire world. (In September 2008, the global gross domestic product was \$60 trillion.)

While in the 1990s the derivatives practice was challenged as being illegal, Greenspan legalised it. Soon, hedge funds became an entire industry, its managers betting on the derivatives market and gambling as much as they wanted. It was easy because it was money they did not have in the first place.

The industry had all the appearances of banks, but the hedge funds, equity funds and derivatives brokers had no access to government loans in the event of a default.

The industry had all the appearances of banks, but the hedge funds, equity funds and derivatives brokers had no access to government loans in the event of a default. If the owners defaulted, the hedge funds had no money to pay "from nothing". Those who had hedged on an asset going up or down would not be able to collect on the winnings or losses.

The market had become the largest industry in the world, and all the financial giants were cashing in: Bear Stearns, Lehman Brothers, Citigroup and AIG.

But home-owners, long maxed out on their credit, were now beginning to default on their mortgages. Not only were they paying for their house but also all the debt amassed over the years for cars, credit card and

student loans, medical payments and home equity loans. They had borrowed to pay for groceries and skyrocketing health insurance premiums to keep up with their bigger houses and cars. They refinanced the debt they had for lower rates that soon ballooned. The average American owed 25 per cent of their annual income to credit card debts alone.

In 2008, US housing prices began to slide precipitously downwards and mortgages were suddenly losing value. Manufacturing orders were down 4.5 per cent by September, inventories began to pile up, unemployment was soaring and average house foreclosures had increased by 121 per cent and up to 200 per cent in California.

The financial giants had to stop trading these mortgage-backed securities, as now their losses would have to be visibly accounted for.

Investors began withdrawing their funds. Bear Stearns,



heavily specialised in home loan portfolios, was the first to go in March. Just as it had done in the 20th century, J.P. Morgan swooped in and picked up Bear Stearns for a pittance. One year prior, Bear Stearns shares traded at \$159; but J.P. Morgan was able to buy in and take over at \$2 a share. In September, Washington Mutual collapsed—the largest bank failure in history. J.P. Morgan again came in, paying \$1.9 billion for assets valued at \$176 billion. It was a fire sale.

Mortgage bail-out fraud

Relatively quietly over the summer, Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, the publicly traded companies responsible for 80 per cent of home mortgage loans, lost almost 90 per cent of their value for the year. Together they were responsible for half the outstanding loan amounts but were now in debt by \$80 to every \$1 in capital reserves.

To guarantee that they would stay alive, the Federal Reserve stepped in and took over Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. On 7 September 2008, they were put into "conservatorship", known as "nationalisation" to the rest of the world—but Americans have difficulty with the idea of any government-run industry that requires taxpayer-funded increases.

What the government was really doing was handing out an unlimited line of credit. The deal, done by the Federal Reserve and not the US Treasury, was able to bypass congressional approval. The Treasury Department then auctioned off Treasury bills to raise money for the Federal Reserve's own use, but nonetheless taxpayers were funding the rescue. The bankers had bled tens of billions of dollars from the system by hedging and derivatives gambling, and triggered the portfolio interbank lending freeze which then seized up and crashed.

The takeover was presented as a government-funded bail-out of an arbitrary \$700 billion, but does nothing to solve the problem. No economists were asked to present their views to Congress. The loan only perpetuates the myth that the banking system is not really dead.

In reality, the damage will not be \$700 billion but closer to \$5 trillion, the value of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae's mortgages. It was nothing less than a bail-out of the quadrillion-dollar derivatives industry which otherwise faced payouts of over a trillion dollars on CDS mortgage-backed securities they had sold. It was necessary, said Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, to save the country from a "housing correction". But, he added, the \$700-billion taxpayer-funded takeover would not prevent other banks from collapsing, in turn causing a stock market crash.

In other words, Paulson was blackmailing Congress in

order to lead a coup by the banking elite under the false guise of necessary legislation to stop the dyke from flooding. It merely shifted wealth from one class to another, as it had done almost a century prior.

The global dominoes fall

No sooner were the words out of Paulson's mouth than other financial institutions began imploding, as did the global financial system—much modelled after the lauded American banking system.

In September, the Federal Reserve, its line of credit assured, then bought the world's largest insurance company, AIG, for \$85 billion for an 80-per-cent stake. AIG was the largest seller of CDS, but now that it was in the position of having to pay out, from collateral it did not have, it was teetering on the edge of bankruptcy.

In October, an entire country, Iceland, went bankrupt, having bought worthless American sub-prime mortgages as investments. European banks began exploding, all

wanting to cash in concurrently on their inflated US stocks to pay off low-interest-rate debts before rates climbed higher.

The year before, the signs had been evident when the largest US mortgage lender, Countrywide, fell. Soon after, the largest lender in the UK, Northern Rock, went under—London long having copied Wall Street's creative financing. Japan and Korea's auto manufacturing nosedived by 37

per cent as global economies were contracting.

Pakistan was on the edge of collapse, too, with real reserves at \$3 billion—enough to buy only a month's supply of food and oil—and was attempting to stall payments to Saudi Arabia for the 100,000 barrels of oil per day it provides to the country. Under President Musharraf, who left office in the nick of time, Pakistan's currency lost 25 per cent of its value, its inflation rate running at 25 per cent.

Meanwhile, energy costs had soared, with oil reaching a peak of almost \$150 per barrel in the [northern hemisphere] summer. The costs were immediately passed on to the already spent home-owner in rising heating, fuel, transport and manufacturing costs. Yet 30 per cent of the cost of a barrel of oil was based upon Wall Street speculation, and this climbed to 60 per cent due to the speculative fear factor during the summer months. As soon as the financial crisis hit, suddenly oil prices slid down, slicing oil costs to \$61 per barrel from a high of \$147 in June and proving that the 60-per-cent speculation factor was far more accurate.

This sudden decline also revealed OPEC's lack of

In other words, Paulson was blackmailing Congress in order to lead a coup by the banking elite under the false guise of necessary legislation to stop the dyke from flooding.

Continued on page 80

THE HOLISTIC SOLUTION TO OVERCOMING CANCER

The holistic approach to cancer combines antimicrobial and immunity-boosting therapies with methods to regenerate the oxidative energy metabolism, cleanse the body of toxins and heal the emotions.

by Walter Last © 2008

Website:
<http://www.health-science-spirit.com>

The cause and cure of cancer are basically unknown, not only in conventional medicine but also in natural medicine. For decades, while working as a natural therapist and health writer, I continually tried to improve my understanding of what was really going on, and I am confident that the relevant pieces of the puzzle have now fallen into place. Here I share my thoughts and findings in the hope that many therapists and individuals with cancer will want to try them out.

Blocked Energy Production

The conventional view is that cancer originates in the cell nucleus due to random mutations or damage to the genetic material from radiation or toxic chemicals. This orthodox model sees the development of a tumour as a purely localised event in an otherwise healthy body. Therefore, the aim is to catch it as early as possible, remove or destroy the tumour and all should be well.

But reality is different. Unbiased investigations show that there is no real difference in conventionally treated and untreated cases.¹ I suspect that honest statistics would even show chemotherapy to shorten lives. Why, then, do some patients survive conventional treatment?

The answer is that some tumours just have a tendency to spread, and others remain harmless whether treated or untreated. Presently the focus is on detecting very small tumours—many of which would never develop into cancer and form metastases, but in statistics they are counted as cured cancers. When cancer does spread, then there is generally no conventional treatment that really works. Recognising this, statistics are commonly expressed as five-year survival rates. All this shows that the medical model of cancer is either incomplete or wrong.

The German cancer researcher Dr Paul Gerhard Seeger² demonstrated in 1938 that in most cases cancer starts in the cytoplasm, the jelly-like outer part of the cell, and especially in the energy-producing mitochondria. Here, food fragments are oxidised in a series of enzymatic steps called the "respiratory chain". Seeger showed that in cancer cells this respiratory chain is more or less blocked by the destruction of important enzymes, especially one called cytochrome oxidase. Without it the cell can produce energy only anaerobically, like a fungal cell. This is very inefficient and the resulting overproduction of lactic acid makes the cell and the body overacidic.

Seeger and others found that cancer cells utilise only between five and 50 per cent of the oxygen of normal cells. Furthermore, the virulence of cancer cells is directly proportional to their loss of oxygen utilisation, and, with this, to the degree of blockage of the respiratory chain. In 1957, Seeger successfully transformed normal cells into cancer cells within a few days by introducing chemicals that block the respiratory chain.

Further experiments showed that cancer cells of low virulence can easily be overcome by the immune system, but those with high virulence prevail and continue to spread. Following this, Seeger made his most important discovery:

thousands of experiments revealed that certain nutrients, mainly from the vegetable kingdom, can restore cellular respiration in low-virulence cancer cells and, with this, transform them back into normal cells.

Seeger's finding that cancer originates in the cytoplasm and not in the nucleus was confirmed by other researchers. Between 1975 and 1977, they repeated an experiment 93 times in which they replaced the nucleus of a fertilised mouse egg with the nucleus of a cancer cell. In each case, the egg developed into a healthy, cancer-free mouse and even the offspring remained cancer-free. Similar results were achieved with frog eggs.

The Budwig Therapy

Dr Johanna Budwig,³ a German biochemist and fats researcher, confirmed the work of Seeger on a practical level. In the 1950s, she developed a simple paper chromatography test that shows the blocked respiratory chain of cancer patients as a slow-moving yellow-green spot. By using liberal amounts of high-quality linseed or flaxseed oil and the sulphur amino acids cysteine and methionine, the yellow-green spot disappeared, the respiratory chain was reactivated, tumours commonly disappeared and cancer patients recovered. The main food providing sulphur amino acids was low-fat quark, a traditional form of cottage cheese made from fermented raw milk, and all foods had to be "as natural as possible".

In the final stages of oxidative energy production, electrons derived from food are made to flow along a bridge consisting of an essential fatty acid (EFA) and a cysteine-containing molecule to form carbon dioxide and water. This bridge becomes blocked by metabolic and microbial wastes and toxins, and the cell reverts to a fungal type of energy production which is the precondition for the growth of a tumour. Replacing this blocked bridge with a clean cysteine-EFA combination allows the electrons to flow again and the cell to revert to normality.

The types of metabolic waste that Budwig found to block the respiratory chain were mainly non-biological fats containing *trans*-fatty acids, as from commercial polyunsaturated oils, chemically hardened fats such as margarine and mayonnaise, saturated fats from grain-fed animals and synthetic anti-oxidant preservatives added to processed food to prevent rancidity.

To replace these faulty parts efficiently, it is important to provide both ingredients—sulphur amino acids and EFAs—in relatively high amounts at the same meal without much interference from other fatty acids, but additional lecithin is

beneficial. Methionine, another sulphur amino acid, is also useful as it can be converted to cysteine inside the body.

Budwig wrote that beneficial results, such as increased energy, can often be observed within days or weeks, while tumours may start shrinking after several months. Moreover, worm-like microbes (Canceroben) that she observed in red blood cells and blood serum gradually disappeared.

But there are also problems with the Budwig therapy that caused me to hold back in the past. The Budwig diet is very high in milk products, which cause digestive problems or allergic reactions with many individuals. We also know now

that milk contains the growth factor IGF-1, which appears to promote tumour growth especially in hormone-sensitive cancers. Furthermore, like Budwig, I only regard raw or unheated milk products as healthy, and the sale of healthy milk products is illegal in many highly medicalised countries such as Australia and most of the USA.

Budwig supposedly had a 90 per cent success rate with her therapy, but that was with a high amount of fermented and raw organic products and generally with patients who traditionally had a diet high in milk products. I am not aware of the success rate when using commercial, non-organic and pasteurised cottage cheese, but I believe it would be much lower than that shown in Budwig's results.

The presence of IGF-1 apparently did not affect Budwig's results. This means that when the conditions for tumour growth are removed, then IGF-1 is no longer a problem. It also helps that IGF-1 and lactose remain mainly in the

whey and may be discarded.

Budwig did not seem to pay much attention to the fact that not only quark but also other recommended food items in her diet, such as buttermilk, fresh raw milk, fermented sauerkraut and soaked grains, provide plenty of beneficial bacteria to sanitise the intestines. I regard this as an essential part of her therapy.

While there are many glowing testimonials, one story in particular highlights a serious problem with the Budwig protocol. An American prostate cancer patient had a personal consultation in 2000 with Dr Budwig (she died in 2003, aged ninety-five). All was well until he had a heart attack six years later. This was not supposed to happen on the Budwig program, which this patient still tried to follow—although with American cottage cheese rather than German quark.⁴

I believe some flaws in the Budwig approach contributed to this. The Budwig diet is very high in calcium but low in

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magnesium, which is bad in general but especially for arteriosclerosis. Contributing to this may have been calcifying nanobacteria, because Budwig did not have an antimicrobial therapy available.⁵

Furthermore, Budwig discouraged the use of vitamin E to protect EFAs from oxidation. Therefore, individuals generally had a high level of unprotected EFAs in the blood. If they were exposed to oxidising influences, such as car exhaust fumes, active or passive smoke and especially chlorinated tap water, then these influences could cause much internal auto-oxidation. Chlorinated drinking water has been shown to be a strong promoter of atherosclerosis.⁶

To counter these effects, I would avoid using milk, buttermilk and whey in addition to quark, as all of these are high in calcium, but I would have additional magnesium instead. Furthermore, I would also squeeze natural vitamin E oil into newly opened bottles of flaxseed oil. Contrary to some expressed fears, natural vitamin E does not interfere with the respiratory chain.

Budwig also reported a rather unsettling feature of her therapy. She warned that even after tumours and metastases have disappeared, if someone starts again habitually eating processed meat or restaurant food, or other food with preservatives and synthetic antioxidants, there tends to be a sudden proliferation of the Canceroben (cancer microbes). At this stage, no amount of cysteine and flaxseed oil will help any more, and these patients may then die within weeks. After about five years, it is less dangerous to introduce less healthy foods gradually.

This brings us to the role of the cancer microbe, which I believe is one of the missing parts in the Budwig therapy. Dr Budwig did not regard the Canceroben as important in the cause and cure of cancer, but I do.

The Cancer Microbe

From time to time I have found references stating that cancerous tumours can be dissolved by infusion of blood from young and healthy individuals, but not with blood from older individuals or from anyone with cancer.⁷ This shows that cancer has much to do with vitality and the immune system.

Many independent researchers have reported the proliferation of certain pleomorphic (shape-changing) microbes in the blood and tumours of all cancer patients. One of the first to do so was the German professor of microbiology Guenther Enderlein, who in 1925 described the different stages of a microbe that is normally present as tiny colloidal protein units. In various degenerative diseases, especially cancer, these protein units grow into cocci and higher bacterial forms and finally into fungi. Before him, in the 19th century, the French professor Antoine Béchamp

described similar microbes and called them *microzymas*. In 1890, the Scottish pathologist William Russell also discovered the cancer microbe, and a form of it is still known as the "Russell body" in tumours.⁸

Independently, mostly without knowing of each other's work, several other researchers—Royal Raymond Rife, Wilhelm Reich, Virginia Livingston-Wheeler, Alan Cantwell and Gaston Naessens—described the same phenomenon.⁹

Several of these researchers found ways to destroy or control the cancer microbe, which often led to a cure or remission of the disease.

Orthodoxy, however, has a dogma that says microbes always have the same form and cannot change from viruses into bacteria and fungi. This is because orthodox microbiologists commonly observe dead, stained microbes in dead tissue, or live ones for short periods, instead of live

microbes in live tissue at high magnification over long periods.

Anyway, this microbe, generally called the cancer microbe, appears to do much of the damage attributed to malignant tumours. The cancer microbe badly damages the immune system and makes it incapable of fighting the cancer cells. Toxins released by advanced forms of this microbe cause the characteristic sickening odour, as in terminal cancer, and cause wasting in experimental

animals, just as in terminal cancer. If injected into animals, this microbe and its toxins cause cancer.¹⁰

The cancer microbe generally begins to proliferate with a decline in health and vitality. It appears to originate from the breakdown products of diseased body cells. The unhealthier the body becomes, the more the microbe develops from the mycoplasma stage into bacterial and fungal forms. By weakening the immune system and the metabolism, it prepares the way for the development of cancer. Toxins released by the cancer microbe may also interfere directly with the respiratory chain.

Two factors that greatly contribute to the rise of the cancer microbe are dead teeth and overgrowth of the intestines with harmful microbes. Dead teeth have become a major problem because of root-canal treatments. The dead roots and the surrounding jawbone commonly become concentrated breeding grounds for harmful anaerobic microbes, releasing a steady stream of toxins into the circulation.¹¹ Overgrowth of the gastro-intestinal tract with harmful microbes has the same effect on an even larger scale and is a main cause of immune system devastation, frequently resulting in auto-immune diseases and *Candida*-related problems.¹²

Therefore, in addition to regenerating the respiratory chain, we need to eliminate most of the microbes that poison the body and incapacitate the immune system. We start doing this by removing the main sources of microbial

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infestations, their home bases, by sanitising the gastro-intestinal tract and, after sufficient cleansing and while using strong antimicrobials, removing any dead teeth.

Sanitising the gastro-intestinal tract involves killing harmful bacteria and fungi with a dose of a suitable microbicide and, before ingesting any carbohydrates, using a high dose of probiotics, preferably a home-made ferment of lactobacteria.

The antimicrobial treatment requires strong remedies and needs to be done at least for several weeks. My favourites are high-dose iodine as Lugol's solution or Iodoral for about three weeks, followed by a further period on acidified sodium chlorite, known as MMS.¹³ Also suitable are very high doses of wormwood and extract of pau d'arco or of olive leaf—all strong fungicides. In addition, a so-called electronic zapper and magnetic pulser and a variety of other antimicrobial remedies may be used.

Furthermore, the immune system may need to be improved with specific nutrients, especially selenium, zinc, magnesium, iodine and vitamin D (from sunshine). Many other nutrients are helpful, especially berries yielding a purple juice.

While some cancer patients claim to have been cured by using antimicrobials as the main therapy, others have not been so lucky. This is what creates the confusion when looking for the cause and cure of cancer: almost every method can claim some successes and has some failures. Nevertheless, combining antimicrobial therapy with regeneration of the oxidative energy metabolism must rate very highly in overcoming the biochemical causes of cancer.

Cleansing and Natural Living

In addition to the problems caused by microbial toxins, there is the damage from exposure to toxic and non-biological chemicals in our food and environment. This damage greatly weakens the immune system, and Budwig as well as Seeger have shown that it is also a major cause of the blockage of the respiratory chain. Natural therapists are well aware of this aspect, and basically all natural cancer therapies stress cleansing and avoiding or minimising contaminated and processed food.

Most of the successful older methods of cancer treatment, such as the Gerson Therapy¹⁴ or the Grape Cure¹⁵, rely mainly on cleansing and clean living. The Grape Cure is only suitable in the early stages of cancer when individuals still have a fair amount of vitality, while the broader-based but much more difficult Gerson Therapy has a good track record especially with advanced conditions.

Such methods of clean and natural living place a high value on organic, unprocessed and raw foods high in vitality.

So far these have been ridiculed by conventional medicine, but a recent research paper revealed that eating three small servings per month of raw cruciferous vegetables, such as broccoli and cabbage, decreased the risk of developing bladder cancer by 40 per cent; but if these vegetables were cooked, then the anticancer effect was lost.¹⁶

Also, another cornerstone of cleansing was recently verified by medical research. It has been demonstrated that removing protein debris or damaged proteins from cells keeps ageing organs young and healthy.¹⁷ Of course, the search is now on for a patentable drug to do this.

What Causes Tumours?

There are still the unsolved questions of what actually causes tumour development and what is the underlying difference between benign and malignant tumours. All of the factors mentioned so far may be essential ingredients of

cancer, but they also apply to auto-immune diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis, and chronic fatigue syndrome. The cancer microbe is present in all of these, and Budwig expressly mentions diabetics and others as having the same blockage of oxidative cellular energy production as cancer patients, but they recover when this is rectified.

There must be an additional factor at work in cancer compared with auto-immune diseases—a

factor that focuses a destructive influence on a specific part of the body. Basically, all chronic degenerative diseases are associated with widespread chronic inflammation. This is an unsuccessful attempt by the immune system to eliminate the infective disease agent, the cancer microbe, or diseased body cells.

If a disease-causing agent manifests in a very limited part of the body, then there will be an inflammatory immune response only in this small area. This may happen if a group of cells becomes abnormal due to an accumulation of toxic chemicals, causing a localised blockage of the respiratory chain and possible infiltration by mycoplasma. If the immune system does not succeed in eliminating this threat, then chronic inflammation with destruction of body cells will result. This gradually leads to fibrosis, with a tough fibroid wall surrounding the battlefield, and we have a tumour.

If the immune system is strong and damage to the respiratory chain locally contained, and if there's no problem with the cancer microbe and the toxins are safely stored away, then the inflammation around the tumour will subside and we have a benign or dormant tumour.

However, if these factors are more severe, then tumour cells divide ever more abnormally and deteriorate into fungal-type forms. With a good blood supply, the tumour

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keeps growing. The cancer microbes inside the tumour become aggressive and, aided by chronic inflammation and high internal acidity, help the tumour to invade surrounding tissue.

If, in addition, the cancer microbes and other microbes are active throughout the body and there is widespread damage to cellular respiration, then cancer cells released from the tumour will find fertile ground to become attached and then grow in other parts of the body. We now have metastases. Finally, the fungal forms of the cancer microbes take over and poison the whole body. This is cachexia as the final stage of cancer.

Tumour Location

What causes a tumour to grow in a specific location—for instance, in the left breast rather than in the right? This is a confusing subject because there can be different factors leading to the same result. The basic cause of a tumour is local toxicity and damage to energy production, leading to loss of vitality and abnormal cell division.

Experimentally, tumours can be caused in a specific location by injecting a suitable toxin into tissue, such as a concentrated form of the cancer microbe or chemicals that block the respiratory chain. Tumours can also result from radiation frequently being beamed into the same location, such as from a mobile phone (cellphone), or from always sleeping in the same position over a beam of Earth radiation from an underground stream, or from radiation treatment of an existing tumour.

Natural therapists working with electro-acupuncture diagnosis have developed a chart that shows energetic connections between specific tooth locations and specific organs or body parts on the same side of the body.¹⁸ If a tooth is dead, as from root-canal treatment, then this energy connection becomes disharmonious and the organ is stressed. In combination with a general presence of the cancer microbe and damaged energy production, this organ may now develop a tumour.

Another cause may be deficiency of a nutrient that is needed in high amounts at a certain location, such as zinc for the prostate gland, iodine for the thyroid and manganese for the thymus. In combination with other aggravating factors, such deficiencies may lead to tumours in these glands.

It has been shown that habitually wearing a tight bra greatly increases the risk of breast cancer.¹⁹ This is understandable from the principle of debris accumulating where the river flow slows down. In a similar way, toxic

chemicals will be deposited in fatty breast tissue when the lymph circulation in this area is suppressed.

Another question is: why is one breast affected and not the other? The answer may be found at the emotional level.

Emotions and Cancer

Dr Budwig also addressed emotional issues with her patients. She wrote that she could not help anyone with persistent emotional problems. I am convinced that her success was also greatly enhanced by the positive expectations of patients when consulting such a famous therapist.

Another German, Dr Ryke Geerd Hamer, linked different forms of cancer and tumour locations to specific kinds of emotional shock.²⁰ Accordingly, a conflict shock concerning a child, home or mother will affect the left breast, while conflict shock relating to a partner or others will affect the right breast.

Dr Hamer believes that most metastases or secondary tumours are caused by the cancer-fear or death-fear resulting from the patient being given a cancer diagnosis or a negative prognosis. The solution is to search for any emotional shock that may have triggered the cancer and neutralise it with positive emotional changes.

The strong influence of fear can also be seen from an observation by the late medical clairvoyant and Theosophist Geoffrey Hodson. He described a woman who previously had a cancer operation on one breast but then became fearful of developing cancer in the other breast. This fear created a dense, grey area in the aura over this breast, with increasing pain and tumour growth to such an extent that surgery was recommended. By cleansing the aura and replacing fear with a positive emotion, the grey

area as well as the tumour and the pain disappeared. Hodson remarked that if surgery had been performed, the cancer would most likely have returned.²¹

Ductal carcinoma *in situ* (DCIS) is a generally harmless calcification in a breast that can occasionally develop into an invasive tumour. The preferred medical treatment has been mastectomy. Despite this, one per cent of women get local recurrence of a malignancy and another one per cent get distant metastases after mastectomy. A research report found that women with DCIS are much more fearful of a malignant recurrence than is warranted.²² It requires a high amount of fear to have a harmless calcification recur as cancer after mastectomy, but these women must have had a lot of fear put into them to agree to having a breast cut off.

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With this, we have a further important aspect of a comprehensive cancer therapy: reversing the lack of vitality in the affected organ due to fear.

This can be done by refreshing a memory of joy or love, or imagining a situation that will cause such a feeling and then transferring this feeling to the affected organ. This can be done daily as a guided imagery in a state of relaxation or meditation.

A Rational Cancer Program

A rational cancer program includes the following aspects:

- Using immunotherapy, i.e., vigorous antimicrobial therapy and immune system support;
- Restoring the oxidative energy metabolism according to the Budwig principle;
- Cleansing and using food and water as unpolluted and natural as possible;
- Using daily guided imagery to bathe the affected organ in positive feelings;
- Trying to find and neutralise any emotional shock;
- Correcting any other conditions that may have contributed to cancer development;
- Using supportive remedies and therapies.

Direct tumour destruction, as with Cansema/cancer salves²³ or sodium bicarbonate²⁴, is sometimes possible but should not be done in isolation but as part of an holistic program that includes immunotherapy, metabolic and emotional improvement as well as cleansing. For a program to implement these steps, see my website.²⁵ However, there are different ways of doing this, and in time we may come to a consensus on the best combination of remedies and treatments for different conditions. ∞

About the Author:

Walter Last is a retired biochemist, research chemist, nutritionist and natural therapist who has worked in Germany, USA, New Zealand and Australia, where he is now based. He has written numerous health-related journal articles as well as several books, including *The Natural Way to Heal* (Hampton Roads, 2004; see review in NEXUS 11/04) and the *Heal Yourself* series (see <http://www.the-heal-yourself-series.com>). He has contributed several articles to NEXUS, most recently "Are Most Diseases Caused by the Medical System?" (see 15/02) and "Magnesium Chloride for Health and Rejuvenation", co-authored with Barbara Bourke (see 15/06). For information on health questions and to contact Walter Last, visit <http://www.health-science-spirit.com>.

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NANOTECHNOLOGY

THE NEW THREAT TO FOOD

Hundreds of foods on the supermarket shelves may now contain untested and unlabelled nanotechnology ingredients, yet consumers are none the wiser.

**by Georgia Miller and
Scott Kinnear © 2007**

From the web page:
<http://nano.foe.org.au/node/198>

The new assault on holistic agriculture

Following on from genetic engineering, nanotechnology represents the latest high-technology attempt to infiltrate our food supply. Senior scientists have warned that nanotechnology—the manipulation of matter at the scale of atoms and molecules—introduces serious new risks to human and environmental health. Yet in the absence of public debate or oversight from regulators, unlabelled foods manufactured using nanotechnology have begun to appear on our supermarket shelves.

Around the world there is an increased interest in our food, health and environment. We want to know where, how, why and by whom products are produced, how far they have travelled and how long they have been stored. The organic and local food movements have emerged as an intuitive and practical response to the increasing use of chemicals in food production and to the growing alienation of industrial agribusiness from holistic agricultural systems. People have chosen to eat organic foods because they care about the health of their families and the health of the environment. Organic agriculture also enables people to support integrated, environmentally friendly agriculture and appropriate technology rather than chemical-intensive factory farming.

Support for organics has also grown as a direct response to biotechnology giants' efforts to genetically engineer our food crops. Farmers and food buyers around the world were, and continue to be, enraged by the introduction of genetically engineered food crops. For many, the inevitable conclusion was that whereas the biotechnology companies stood to benefit from the entry of genetically engineered foods into the food chain, consumers, farmers and the environment shouldered all the risks.

Now, nanotechnology introduces a new wave of assaults on our foods. Nanotechnology is the high-technology, atomically processed antithesis of organic agriculture, which values the natural, health-giving properties of fresh, unprocessed wholefoods. It further transforms the farm into an automated extension of the high-technology factory production line, using patented products that will inevitably concentrate corporate control. It also introduces serious new risks for human health and the environment.

Introduction to nanotechnology: what is it, and why is it different?

Nanotechnology is a powerful new technology for taking apart and reconstructing nature at the atomic and molecular levels. Nanotechnology embodies the dream that scientists can remake the world from the atom up, using atomic-level manipulation to transform and construct a wide range of new materials, devices, living organisms and technological systems.

Nanotechnology and nanoscience involve the study of phenomena and materials and the manipulation of structures, devices and systems that exist at the nanoscale, i.e., less than 100 nanometres (nm) in size. To put 100 nm in

context, a strand of DNA is 2.5 nm wide, a protein molecule 5 nm, a red blood cell 7,000 nm and a human hair 80,000 nm.

The properties of nano-particles are not governed by the same physical laws as larger particles but by quantum mechanics. The physical and chemical properties of nano-particles—for example, colour, solubility, strength, chemical reactivity and toxicity—can therefore be quite different from those of larger particles of the same substance.

The altered properties of nano-particles have created the possibility for many new and profitable products and applications. Engineered nano-particles are used in literally hundreds of products that are already available on supermarket shelves, including transparent sunscreens, light-diffracting cosmetics, penetration-enhanced moisturisers, stain- and odour-repellent fabrics, dirt-repellent coatings, long-lasting paints and furniture varnishes, and even some food products.

The APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Center for Technology Foresight has predicted that nanotechnology will revolutionise all aspects of our economy and society, with associated large-scale social upheaval.

How will nanotechnology be used for food production and processing?

Industry analysts and proponents predict that nanotechnology will be used to transform food from the atomic level up.

"Thanks to nanotechnology, tomorrow's food will be designed by shaping molecules and atoms. Food will be wrapped in 'smart' safety packaging that can detect spoilage or harmful contaminants. Future products will enhance and adjust their color, flavor or nutrient content to accommodate each consumer's taste or health needs. And in agriculture, nanotechnology promises to reduce pesticide use, improve plant and animal breeding, and create new nano-bioindustrial products"—or so states The Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies' 2006 report on the use of nanotechnology in food and agriculture (available at <http://www.nanotechproject.org>).

The food and agriculture industries have been investing billions of dollars into nanotechnology research, with an unknown number of unlabelled nano-food products already on the market. In the absence of mandatory product labelling anywhere in the world, it is impossible to tell how many commercial food products now contain nano-ingredients.

The Helmut Kaiser Consultancy Group, a pro-nanotechnology analyst, suggests that there are now over 300 nano-food products available on the market

worldwide (see <http://www.hkc22.com>). It estimates that the global nano-food market was worth US\$5.3 billion in 2005 and will rise to US\$20.4 billion by 2010. It predicts that nanotechnology will be used in 40 per cent of the food industries by 2015.

There are four key focus areas for nanotechnology food research:

- nano-modification of seed and fertilisers/pesticides;
- food "fortification" and modification;
- interactive "smart" food;
- "smart" packaging and food tracking.

Nanomodification of seeds and fertilisers/pesticides

Proponents say that nanotechnology will be used to further automate the modern agribusiness unit. All farm inputs—seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and labour—will become increasingly technologically modified.

Nanotechnology will take the genetic engineering of agriculture to the next level down: atomic engineering.

Atomic engineering could enable the DNA of seeds to be rearranged in order to obtain different plant properties including colour, growth season, yield, etc. Highly potent atomically engineered fertilisers and pesticides will be used to maintain plant growth. Nano-sensors will enable plant growth, pH levels and the presence of

nutrients, moisture, pests or disease to be monitored from far away, significantly reducing the need for on-farm labour input.

The concerned organisation, The Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC), warns in its seminal report "Down on the Farm" (available at <http://www.etcgroup.org>) that in a nanotechnology-shaped future "the farm will be a wide-area biofactory that can be monitored and managed from a laptop and food will be crafted from designer substances delivering nutrients efficiently to the body".

Food "fortification" and modification

Nanotech companies are working to fortify processed food with nano-encapsulated nutrients, its appearance and taste boosted by nano-developed colours, its fat and sugar content removed or disabled by nano-modification, and its "mouth feel" improved.

Food "fortification" will be used to increase the nutritional claims that can be made about a given processed food; for example, the inclusion of "medically beneficial" nano-capsules will soon enable chocolate chip cookies or hot chips to be marketed as health promoting or artery cleansing. Nanotechnology will also enable

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junk foods like ice cream and chocolate to be modified to reduce the amount of fats and sugars that the body can absorb. This could happen either by replacing some of the fats and sugars with other substances or by using nano-particles to prevent the body from digesting or absorbing these components of the food. In this way, the nano-industry could market vitamin- and fibre-fortified, fat- and sugar-blocked junk food as health promoting and weight reducing.

Interactive "smart" food

Companies such as Kraft and Nestlé are designing "smart" foods that will interact with consumers to "personalise" food, changing colour, flavour or nutrients on demand. Kraft is developing a clear, tasteless drink that contains hundreds of flavours in latent nano-capsules. A domestic microwave oven could be used to trigger release of the colour, flavour, concentration and texture of the individual's choice.

"Smart" foods could also sense when an individual is allergic to a food's ingredients and then block the offending ingredient. Alternatively, "smart" packaging could release a dose of additional nutrients to those whom it identifies as having special dietary needs; for example, calcium molecules to people suffering from osteoporosis.

"Smart" packaging and food tracking

Nanotechnology will dramatically extend food shelf life. Mars Inc. already has a patent on an invisible, edible, nano-wrapper which will envelop foods, preventing gas and moisture exchange.

"Smart" packaging, containing nano-sensors and antimicrobial activators, is being developed that will be capable of detecting food spoilage and releasing nano-antimicrobes to extend food shelf life, enabling supermarkets to keep food for even greater periods before its sale.

Nano-sensors, embedded into food products as tiny chips invisible to the human eye, would also act as electronic barcodes. They would emit a signal that would allow food, including fresh food, to be tracked from paddock to factory to supermarket and beyond.

What are the key concerns about nanotechnology in food and agriculture?

Concerns about the use of nanotechnology in agriculture and food production relate to the further

automation and alienation of food production, serious new toxicity risks for humans and the environment, and the further loss of privacy as nano-surveillance tracks each step in the food chain. The failure of governments to introduce laws to protect the public and the environment from nanotechnology's risks is a most serious concern.

Nanotechnology in agriculture is based on the premise that we can improve efficiency and productivity by rearranging atoms in seeds, by developing even more potent chemical inputs, by using high-technology surveillance to allow electronic rather than person-based surveillance of on-farm conditions and by further automating inputs to plant growth.

It is assumed that applications of nanotechnology in food processing can "improve" the taste, texture, appearance, nutritional content and longevity of food by manipulating it at the atomic level. It has even been argued that this will result in food that is "safer". These assumptions are based on the flawed belief that humans can remake the natural world from the atom up—and get a better result. It is assumed that we can predict the consequences of our actions, even when we are dealing with highly unpredictable processes and forces such as quantum mechanics.

Unfortunately, history tells us that we are simply not very good at predicting the outcomes of complex systems. Witness the disasters that resulted from the introduction of biological controls such as the cane toad or of rabbits and foxes for sport. History is similarly littered with examples of huge health and environmental problems that resulted from the failure to respond to early warning signs about previously perceived "wonder" materials such as CFCs,

DDT and asbestos. This suggests that we should take the early-warning signs associated with the toxicity of nano-particles very seriously.

There is a small but growing body of toxicological literature that suggests that nano-particles are more reactive, more mobile and more likely than larger particles to be toxic to humans and the environment. Preliminary scientific research has shown that many types of nano-particles can result in increased oxidative stress, which can cause the formation of free radicals that can lead to cancer, DNA mutation and even cell death. Fullerenes—carbon nano-particles—have been found to cause brain damage in largemouth bass, a species accepted by regulatory agencies as a model for defining

It is assumed that applications of nanotechnology in food processing can improve the taste, texture, appearance, nutritional content and longevity of food by manipulating it at the atomic level.

ecotoxicological effects.

In its 2004 report, the United Kingdom's Royal Society recognised the serious risks of nanotoxicity and recommended that "ingredients in the form of nano-particles should undergo a full safety assessment by the relevant scientific advisory body before they are permitted for use in products" (see <http://www.nanotec.org.uk/finalReport.htm>). Despite this warning, there are still no laws governing the use of nanomaterials in consumer products to ensure that they do not cause harm to the public using them, the workers producing them or the environmental systems in which waste nano-products are released.

The use of nano-surveillance in food packaging will also introduce new privacy concerns. As the food industry's use of nano-tracking increases, it will gain the capacity to track the movement of food from the paddock to the factory to the supermarket and to your dinner plate. This will raise serious new privacy issues for which we are poorly prepared.

Alarming, despite the release of nanotech food and agriculture products into supermarkets and into the environment, governments worldwide have yet to introduce any regulation to manage nanotechnology's risks.

The struggle for a healthy food future: the alternatives to nanotechnology

What will our food and technological future look like? We are in an epic battle for control of our food supply. Corporate or community ownership, global or local, small versus massive, processed versus wholesome—these are the paradigms that we need to choose between. A key way to promote healthy, holistic agriculture is to support it with our purchasing choices. Certified organic foods offer you better health, a better environment and a way for you to support a nano-free food future. With personal care products, buy organic or from a company that states it does not use nanotechnology.

There are many ways to help create a healthy food future. Shop at a farmers' market or buy from a box scheme direct from a farmer. Buy from an organic store or from the organic section in a supermarket. Consider joining a community garden or starting a garden of your own. Start an organic kitchen garden at your local pre-school or school. Read product labels. Get involved and interested. Talk to your friends and family about the food issues that matter most to you. Let companies know through their 1-800 feedback lines that you are concerned about the use of nanotechnology in their products. Tell your local member of parliament that you want to see

products that contain engineered nano-ingredients labelled to allow you to make an informed purchasing choice.

It is exciting to see food politics debated by our mainstream media and our research and education institutions. However, while there are already unlabelled food products that contain engineered nano-ingredients available in our supermarkets, nanotechnology is only just starting to gain some attention. There are no regulations in place to protect public and environmental health, and almost no corporate or public monies being spent looking at the long-term consequences of manipulating our food at the atomic level. The similarity to the introduction of genetic engineering, with the added risk that there is no regulatory oversight, is chilling.

We must all get politically active on nanotechnology, just as we've done with genetic engineering. It is essential that we get moratoria enacted on the use of

nanotechnology until we have regulatory systems in place to protect human and environmental health and until we have genuine public involvement in decision-making regarding nanotechnology's introduction. We must also ensure that our governments put our hard-earned taxpayer dollars into support for the organic sector.

Together we can create a healthy food future that delivers to our community, not to corporate profits. ∞

A key way to promote healthy, holistic agriculture is to support it with our purchasing choices. Certified organic foods offer you better health, a better environment and a way for you to support a nano-free food future.

About the Authors:

Georgia Miller is coordinator of the Friends of the Earth Nanotechnology Project, Australia. Scott Kinnear is a board member of Biological Farmers of Australia and the owner of Organic Wholefoods, based in Melbourne, Australia.

Editor's Note:

This paper was originally published in *Clean Food Organic*, vol. 4, May 2007, and is available at <http://nano.foe.org.au/node/198>. A 73-page report, "Out of the Laboratory and on to our Plates: Nanotechnology in Food and Agriculture", written in March 2008 by Georgia Miller and Dr Rye Senjen of the Friends of the Earth Australia Nanotechnology Project, is available as a PDF from web page <http://nano.foe.org.au/node/226>. A 12-page summary of this report is available at web page <http://nano.foe.org.au/node/233>. For more information on nanotechnology and the Friends of the Earth Australia Nanotechnology Project, visit the website <http://nano.foe.org.au/>.

See NEXUS 12/04–05 for our coverage of the ETC Group's report "Down on the Farm: The Impact of

THE INVENTION OF HANS COLER RELATING TO AN ALLEGED NEW SOURCE OF POWER

Reported by R. Hurst, Ministry of Supply, for the British Intelligence Objectives Sub-Committee, BIOS Final Report No. 1043 (undated; transcribed verbatim)

I. OBJECT OF VISIT AND SUMMARY

Coler is the inventor of two devices by which it is alleged electrical energy may be derived without a chemical or mechanical source of power. Since an official interest was taken in his inventions by the German Admiralty it was felt that investigation was warranted, although normally it would be considered that such a claim could only be fraudulent.

Accordingly Coler was visited and interrogated. He proved to be co-operative and willing to disclose all details of his devices, and consented to build up and put into operation a small model of the so-called "Magnetstromapparat" using material supplied to him by us, and working only in our presence. With this device, consisting only of permanent magnets, copper coils, and condensers in a static arrangement, he showed that he could obtain a tension of 450 millivolts for a period of some hours; and in a repetition of the experiment the next day 60 millivolts was recorded for a short period. The apparatus has been brought back and is now being further investigated.

Coler also discussed another device called the "Stromerzeuger", from which he claimed that with an input of a few watts from a dry battery an

output of 6 kilowatts could be obtained indefinitely. No example of this apparatus exists today, but Coler expressed his willingness to construct it, given the materials, the time required being about three weeks.

Opportunity was taken to interrogate Dr. F. Modersohn who had been associated with Coler for ten years and had provided financial backing. He corroborated Coler's story in every detail.

Neither Coler nor Modersohn [was] able to give any theory to account for the working of these devices, using acceptable scientific notions.

II. HISTORICAL NOTES

1. The "Magnetstromapparat"

This device consists of six permanent magnets wound in a special way so that the circuit includes the magnet itself as well as the winding (see Fig. 1). These six magnet-coils are arranged in a hexagon and connected as shown in the diagram (Figs. 2 and 3), in a circuit which includes two small condensers, a switch, and a pair of solenoidal coils, one sliding inside the other. To bring the device into operation the switch is left open, the magnets are moved slightly apart, and the sliding coil set into various positions, with a wait of several minutes between adjustments. The magnets are then separated still further, and the coils moved again. This process is repeated until at a critical separation of the magnets an indication appears on the voltmeter. The switch is now closed, and the procedure continued more slowly. The tension then builds up gradually to a maximum, and should then remain indefinitely. The greatest tension obtained was stated to be 12 volts.

The "Magnetstromapparat" was developed by Coler and von Unruh (now dead) early in 1933, and they were later assisted by Franz Haid of Siemens-Schukert, who built himself a model which worked in December 1933. This was seen by Dr. Kurt Mie of Berlin Technische Hochschule and Herr Fehr (Haber's assistant at the K.W.I.), who reported that the device apparently worked, and that they could detect no fraud. One model is said to have worked for 3 months locked in a room in the Norwegian Legation in Berlin in 1933. No further work appears to have been done on this system since that date.

2. The "Stromerzeuger"

This device consists of an arrangement of magnets, flat coils, and copper plates, with a primary circuit energised by a small dry battery. The output from the secondary was used to light a bank of lamps and was claimed to be many times the original input, and to continue indefinitely. Details of the circuit, and a theory as to its mode of operation were given (summarized in Appendix I).

In 1925 Coler showed a small (10-watt) version to Prof. Kloss (Berlin), who asked the Government to give it a thorough investigation, but this was refused, as was also a patent, on the grounds that it was a "perpetual motion machine". This version was also seen by Profs. Schumann (Munich), Bragstad (Trondheim) and Knudsen (Copenhagen). Reports by Kloss and Schumann are translated in Appendices II and III.

In 1933 Coler and von Unruh made up a slightly larger model with an output of 70 watts. This was demonstrated to Dr. F. Modersohn,

who obtained from Schumann and Kloss confirmation of their tests in 1926. Modersohn then consented to back the invention, and formed a company (Coler G.m.b.h.) to continue the development. At the same time a Norwegian group had been giving financial support to Coler, and these two groups clashed. Modersohn's connection with Rheinmetall Borsig and hence with the official Hermann Goering combine gave him an advantage in this. Coler then in 1937 built for the Company a larger version with an output of six kilowatts.

In 1943 Modersohn brought the device to the attention of the Research Department of the O.K.M. The investigation was placed under the direction of Oberbaurat Seysen, who sent Dr. H. Frolich to work with Coler from 1.4.43 to 25.9.43. Frohlich was convinced of the reality of the phenomena, and set about investigating the fundamentals of the device. He apparently concentrated on a study of the energy changes which occur on the opening and closing of inductive circuits. At the end of the period he was transferred to B.M.W. to work on aerodynamic problems and is now working in Moscow.

In 1944 a contract was arranged by the O.K.M. with Continental Metall A.G. for further development, but this was never carried out owing to the state of the country. In 1945 the apparatus was destroyed by a bomb, in Kolberg, whither Coler had evacuated.

Since that time Coler had been employed, sometimes as an engineer and sometimes as a labourer. Modersohn had severed his connection with Rheinmetall Borsig, of which he had been a director, and was working for the Russian authorities as a consultant in chemical engineering.

III. REPORT

1. Interrogation of Coler

Coler was questioned first about the history of his inventions, when the details above were given.

He was then questioned about the theory of the devices, but he was unable to give any coherent suggestions as to the mechanism. He stated that his researches (apparently conducted with crude apparatus) into the nature of magnetism had lead [sic] him to conclude that ferro-magnetism was an oscillating phenomenon, of frequency about 180 kilohertz. This oscillation took place in the magnetic circuit of the apparatus, and induced in the electrical circuit oscillations the frequency which of course depended

on the values of the components used. These two phenomena interacted, and gradually built up the tension. As the mechanism was not understood the proper arrangement could not be worked out, but had been arrived at by experiment, and the apparatus had to be brought into adjustment by similar trial and error

methods. Coler stated that the strength of the magnets did not decrease during use of the apparatus; and suggested that he was tapping a new sort of energy hitherto unknown—"Raumenergie" (Space-energy).

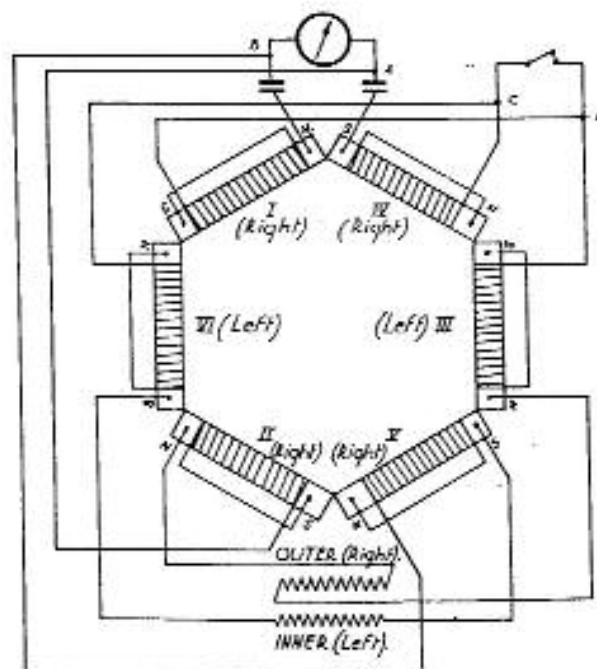


Fig. 2.

Coler gave a resume of the work done by Dr. Frohlich for the O.K.M., and produced a copy of Frohlich's report, written jointly with himself (translation reproduced as Appendix IV) and a report of his own (part of which is given in Appendix V).

Coler was next asked if he would consent to build models of these devices if material was made available. He agreed that he could do this, and stated that it would take one week to construct a "Magnetstromapparat", and a month to construct a "Stromerzeuger". Accordingly we supplied the magnets, condensers and copper wire needed for the former, and Coler proceeded to build an apparatus as discussed in Section 3.

A list of material required for the "Stromerzeuger" was drawn up by Coler.

15 15 15 20 15 mm

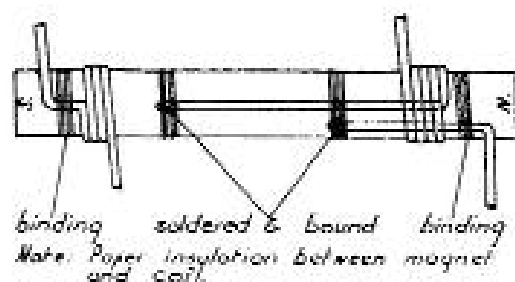


Fig. 1.

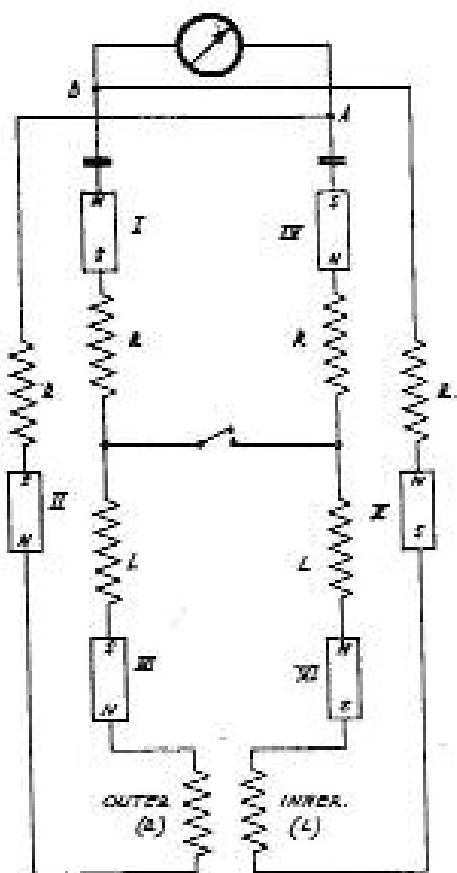


Fig. 3.

2. Interrogation of Dr. F. Modersohn

Modersohn was questioned about the history of these devices, with which he had been concerned financially, and corroborated the details given by Coler. He stated that he had at first disbelieved Coler's claims, but had taken great precautions to eliminate fraud. He had seen the 70 watt "Stromerzeuger" working on a number of occasions, and had taken it while working from one room to another. All parts were visible and nothing was hidden. As he was himself not expert he had tried to get experts to examine it thoroughly, but reputable scientists either refused to have anything to do with it at all, or else were more concerned to find a fraud than to see how it worked. The exception was Dr. Frohlich, who was

convinced of the reality of the effect, and who also believed that the secret was to be found in an analysis of the energy changes in the special inductive circuit used. He had made experiments to test his ideas, but Modersohn denied knowledge of the results. Modersohn was extremely methodical, and showed his files on the subject: these contained copies of all letters and reports concerning the device, since 1933.

3. Construction and Testing of the "Magnetstromapparat"

In our presence and with material supplied by us (some brought from England and the rest bought locally) Coler built an apparatus as shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3. It is to be noted that some magnets are wound in a clockwise direction looking at the N pole (called left) and others in an anti-clockwise direction (called right). The magnets were selected to be as nearly equal in strength as possible, and the resistance of the magnet-coil combination was checked after winding to see that this also was uniform (about .33 ohm). The physical arrangement was as shown in Fig. 2, in a breadboard style. Measurements of voltage and current across A-B were made with a Mavometer. A mechanical arrangement of sliders and cranks for separating the magnets evenly all round was made up.

On 1.7.46 experiments were being continued after three days of fruitless adjusting, and when the magnets were at a separation of about 7 mm the first small deflection was noted (about 9 a.m.). The switch was closed and by slow adjustment of the sliding coil, and by increasing the separation of the magnets to just over 8 mm, by 11 a.m. the tension was raised to 250

millivolts and by 12.30 p.m. it was 450 millivolts. This was maintained for another 3 hours when a soldered tag became disconnected, and the meter slowly dropped back to zero. Soldering up the broken connection did not restore the tension. The magnets were closed up and left overnight and the same procedure for finding the adjustment was repeated on 2.7.46. After about three hours a deflection of 60 millivolts was obtained; this was maintained for more than 30 minutes, but then decreased to zero when further adjustments were tried.

During all this work the model was completely open, and nothing could be hidden in it. The breadboard and meter could be picked up and moved round the room, tilted, or turned, without effect.

The apparatus would appear to be too crude to act as a receiver of broadcast energy, or to operate by induction from the mains (the nearest cable being at least 6 feet away), and the result must for the moment be regarded as inexplicable.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

1. It was judged that Coler was an honest experimenter and not a fraud, and due respect must be paid to the judgment of Frohlich in the matter as deduced from his report to Seysen.

2. The result obtained was genuine in so far as could be tested with the facilities available, but no attempt had yet been made to find an explanation of the phenomenon.

3. It is felt that further investigation by an expert in electromagnetic theory is warranted, and that Coler's offer to construct a model of the "Stromerzeuger" should be taken up.

∞

Editor's Note:

The complete BIOS Final Report No. 1043, including appendices, is available at the Rex Research web page <http://www.rexresearch.com/coler/colerb.htm>.

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LANGUAGE, EMOTION AND FORECASTING THE FUTURE

*The sampling of
conversations and
data-sets over the
Internet using
special software
"spiders" has
enabled the
collective psyche
and emotions to be
tapped and key
events in our future
to be forecast.*

Interview with
Clif High

by Kerry Cassidy and Bill Ryan
for Project Camelot © 2008

Email: support@projectcamelot.org

Website:

<http://projectcamelot.org/>

Following is the edited transcript of a telephone interview with Clif High from Half Past Human (see <http://halfpasthuman.com>). It was conducted by the Project Camelot team on 26 September 2008. We recommend that you read the complete transcript at http://projectcamelot.org/clif_high_half_past_human_26_sept_2008.html.

- Editor

Kerry Cassidy (KC): This is Kerry Cassidy and Bill Ryan of Project Camelot, and we're talking with Clif High from Half Past Human. We want to talk to you about your website and your research, and some of the events you're expecting to occur in the near future. I guess the most interesting way to start would be to explain a little bit about your technique.

Clif High (CH): In 1994, I came across this idea that I called The Language Model for Storing Data while working for some of the largest software companies on the planet. Over time, I wrote some software to support the idea, in an attempt to mine the Internet for emotions around the idea of stocks and bonds—with the idea that, if I knew how people felt about them, I could *predict* what their reaction would be to developing news ahead of their being able to make that actual reaction themselves, with the idea that this could be sold as a profit-making kind of a venture.

Then, in 1997, I came across something that totally flipped my mind about this whole idea, in the sense that I went looking for Stanford University Network, a stock at the time, and noticed that there were some really interesting things going on in the language I was picking up.

From 1997 to 2001, I deduced some of the following principles. All people are psychic. Most don't know it. Even if you *do* know it, it does not impact on the next statement I'm going to make, which is that all humans leak out these psychic impressions in the language that they choose to use in ordinary conversation. That was my basic premise to begin with.

My working theory from that point was that if one could sample enough of the conversations going on around the planet and sift for the nuance between why one word might be chosen in an ordinary conversation as opposed to another word for the same conversation that basically you'd had a week ago, then one could determine what is moving us, if you will, at an unconscious level and be able to make some forecasts from that in a very interesting way. Sort of an extension, if you will, of my work, of the focus of it in 1997, which was commercial. Make sense?

KC: Yes. Wonderful.

CH: So, basically, at that point I'm assuming that all these psychics are out there. I had educated myself on language and how linguistics works and how the human brain works, all this kind of thing. Along the way I wrote this little piece of software that allowed me to read off the computer screen at up to 2,000 words per minute, so I was able to suck down vast quantities of text over those

years. And it led to some interesting breakthroughs on its own.

But, in any event, the issues about language... It turns out that there is a *nuance*. Taking English speakers as an example, we might know more or less intuitively or internally the definitions of, say, about 100,000 words. Depending on your specialty and what you do for a living at the time, technically that might be slightly larger or slightly less. But any given English-speaker may only use 11,000 or 12,000 words in any given week. And the 11,000 or 12,000 words is not static from week to week to week. It shifts.

So if we start thinking about this in terms of set theory and fuzzy set theory, which is part of the programming—and I wasn't really into the programming of it all—then you start getting into the idea of: "Well, why, from week to week to week, do some of the words within our basic set fall out and why are they replaced by others?"

And that was my premise: "Oh well, that's occurring because of something that we are picking up as human antennae, walking around vibrating on the planet and also picking up information just because we're here."

KC: But what do you mean, you weren't interested in the computer modelling side of it? Or are you saying someone else took care of that?

CH: No, no. I did all of that. I was fascinated by the math in the language and so on. I'm a programmer. That's basically where I came from. I programmed for a software company. It's like Microsoft. I wrote software for phone companies, worked on some very complex stuff, worked for GEC Marconi and very large companies, those kinds of things, almost exclusively in the software realm. Eventually it rose up to the point where I was working on algorithms and computer theory, as opposed to actual software, over the course of...I don't know how many years—15, 20 years or something. I got to the point where the software component of it became less and I was getting down into the deep-sea secrets, if you will.

Tracking significant correlations

KC: I would say maybe the philosophical side of it began to draw you more.

CH: Sure. And basically, I developed some software that goes on out and eats large chunks of the Internet. It reads public domain stuff off forums and other areas, and sometimes strays into chat groups. It's not very deterministic and it follows links. So sometimes when we set it off, we don't really know where it's going to end up going in terms of what text it's going to eat. And that's part of the whole thrill of it all, if you will.

There's a serendipitous approach to this because we tell the software, called *spiders*, to sit on this server, open up this one web page and find any key words that we tell it to out of this list to start with: "If you find those words, read back a certain number of words and read forward a certain number of words, copy that, do some stuff with it, and if you find any links in there, well, have a go at it. Go follow those and do the same thing down there."

So it would go and eat some net and move and read more web pages and keep going and going and going. And I think we've got a 256 limit on how deep it can go, in links, before it has to unwind and come back and go on to the next stage. It can get some huge amounts of text out of here, on the order of, usually, about 90 million leads. And a lead is a construct that we use, where we have 2,048 bytes fore and aft, if you will, of the key word that it found. It constitutes a lead, but it also brings back the context of where it found that—in other words, if it's in a

gardening forum, if it's dating, car repair, whatever, and some other information, these kinds of things.

KC: This is something Bill and I had been discussing, asking each other whether or not you actually were feeding it key words that you were looking for.

CH: That part of the process is unique and I don't want to go too deep into it because it actually is the real key to the thing, I think, and it's a trade secret. We do have a seed list of

300,000 forums to begin hunting in. But, no, it is not deterministic in the sense of data-mining where we say: "Go on out and count the number of times you run across, you know, 'tyre' or 'wall' or 'bridge' or something." It doesn't work that way.

Basically, what it's doing is this. Here's a long column of what we call *context*. These contexts can be thought of as the name for a larger group of words. You might give it 30,000 of these names to start with. One of them might be "forward" or "energy", and we tell it: "Okay, take the word 'energy' out of this long list of 30,000 words, go over and read the entire context that we've got associated with it, and store that in your memory." And that itself might be 30,000 or 40,000 words. "Then go over to this website and see what you can match out of that in the following manner." Make sense?

Bill Ryan (BR): What that tells me is that, instead, what you're doing is looking for significant correlations. Is that a better way of looking at it?

CH: Correct. We don't actually even look at the words, the words themselves. The spiders and so forth are in a much more deterministic software language called "C", and some Perl script. Most of the processing is done by Prolog. But the Perl script will go through and do a match

"There's a serendipitous approach to this because we tell the software, called *spiders*, to sit on this server, open up this one web page and find any key words that we tell it to out of this list to start with..."

and replace, if you will. From the time we actually find any of the words we're looking for, from that point on, really all it deals with is a four-digit text number that we assign to it. And that's just so we are not dealing with the word itself... Perhaps you heard that the US government has this software out there that says, "Hmm, this fellow dialled that fellow on this phone number" or "He sent this fellow an email". It tries to develop up the concept of networks from it, right? Who's talking to whom. Not about what, but just who's talking to whom...

BR: How about other languages? Because the Chinese might be talking about things that are different from what we're talking about in the western world.

CH: Sure, they do it in different alphabets. Alphabets, to transliteration, to translation—all of this really impacts. So we're doing more than just simply English language at this stage, although we are English-centric because that forms the core of our lexicon. We could, of course, have millions of words and millions of languages but we're not up that far...

Forecasting key events

KC: So what we're looking at here, and I know that this is why we brought you on board for the moment to talk with you, is that you had made some very interesting...I don't know if you use the word "predictions", but what seem to be predictions about your data.

CH: We say "forecast".

KC: Forecast. Okay, your forecast for around the month of October 2008.

CH: Our information for October is part of a *context* that we've been picking up for a number of years relating to what we call The Death of the Dollar. We started talking publicly about The Death of the Dollar I think on July 4th, 2007, but we'd actually been picking it up in the data a number of years before that.

We have a tendency to see, to find, really big events showing up years ahead of time, and it takes us a while to sort through everything and really get a handle on what was going on. The closer we get to the event, the more data-points we get within our source that allow us to get a broader picture. So, at this stage, we've got a pointer that said we would hit a sort of an emotional plateau.

Bear in mind that all of our stuff is basically built around a numeric representation of *what I think human emotions are*, relative to certain words, and I've used that form of input for that as well. We had this data-stream that said that around 9/22, around September 22nd, we would reach

a point where, from there until 27th, we would have an emotional plateau of some high level of what we call Building Emotional Tension. Building Emotional Tension is the state we're in right now [September 26th]. Everybody who's worried about the market knows exactly what that feels like and what it does to their digestion, their sleep, etcetera—hair falling out, and so on. So, it's probably pretty self-evident.

We then had data that suggested there might be a little tiny dip from 9/27 until October 7th in terms of the amount of that building tension, but it was basically still on that same plateau.

Then, on October 7th, I *chose*...well, the Universe moved me to choose it...I chose 10 minutes after seven in the morning, UTC time—which makes it 10 after

midnight my time here on the Pacific coast—on October 7th as the point at which we would slip into what I call Release Language. Release Language is where everybody is letting out the emotion, as opposed to letting the emotion in, in effects on their body. They just can't take it any more, and they're expressing that emotion. Good, bad or indifferent, they're expressing it. So, *release* has to do with expression; *building* has to do with input.

We're going to get into a period that goes from October 7th until... Now the new data-run is showing it moved into about mid-March of 2009—pretty straightforward *release* language that entire period with no little stair-steps, if you will, in the *building tension* language.

It needs to be said that mostly life is up and down—you know, a good days/bad days kind of thing in our giant collective. We rarely see and in fact have *never* since 1997 seen anything in the models that looks like what's going to happen in

October, from October 2008 through the first part of March [2009].

KC: To make people aware of what you saw during 9/11, you didn't see such a long release period, if I remember correctly.

CH: No. That's quite correct. There were about six days of a fairly precipitous release following 9/11, and then there were three or four days of less-steep release. And then, basically, on the 11th day following 9/11 we were back into that stair-step building period. We'd already, if you will, absorbed the emotional impact of the event and were starting to respond and build emotional patterns to cope with it all.

So if we look at the two in a comparison, the...not the level, not the intensity of the emotion, but the *duration* of

"We rarely see and in fact have *never* since 1997 seen anything in the models that looks like what's going to happen in October, from October 2008 through the first part of March [2009]."

the emotion is many, many, many times longer than what was felt after 9/11. But that isn't to say that it's going to be emotionally as intense that way *continuously*.

That rarely would happen, I would think...

KC: On Rense.com, you talked about how there were *proportions* within the actual event—a certain amount of military, a certain amount of economic. Explain that.

CH: Correct. But that's not *within* the event. That's *within* the state of the model-space at the time the event occurs. Bear in mind, we don't do prophecy. We construct a highly quirky and weird little interface in time in a model-space in the computer, and then advance it tick by tick by tick and watch as it makes changes. And then, on top of that, we have to look for something significant.

So what we're seeing is, at the point at which this trigger event or precipitating event—however we think about it—occurs, the emotional tension balance is about 48 per cent economic, shading up to about 51 per cent at the moment, but that may back down by the time we get to October 7th. And then about 40–45 per cent is military. Then the rest is what we call Terra Intrusions, which is really Earth changes kinds of things, hurricanes, that sort of deal.

KC: But when you say it could be a small thing that lasts five months in duration, it could be triggered by a tiny thing—even innocuous?

CH: Correct... It could be a calamity...

Interpreting the data sets

KC: It looks like you track what looks like "trends" in language, because I'm noticing that some of your key words are words like "revolution", "transformation", "duality".

CH: Okay, they are metadata layers. Those are not key words. What happens is that we build our model-space. It gets sliced up into all these various different entities, and then over time we allow the Universe to give us words to populate them. It turns out that, over time, whole lots of words that all fall under the context of "revolution" showed up in the markets entity, and showed up in our representations of the populace of the US, and showed up in global populace representation, and so on.

So these are not key words. We don't go hunting for those. Those are *derived contexts*. Those are showing up serendipitously. Rather, the data is coming back that nicely and neatly sorts, in all of our entities, into those categories that are headed by those words...

KC: I'm also interested in the way you're looking at your data, such that you're interpreting your data. Do you find that looking at it changes it?

CH: No, I don't believe so. If you're talking about the

Heisenberg principle of uncertainty in the immediate scene, no, I don't believe that that's the case. Undoubtedly, at a quanta [*sic*] level, there's some of that going on. Now, if you're asking, "Because we see this, will the Universe change?", we don't know about that...

KC: Are you able to tell the difference when you look at what you've got, that it's positive versus negative?

CH: *Positive* and *negative* have an interesting connotation within our work, and within the lexicon and within language itself. A lot of it is culturally based.

KC: Well, how about *constructive* versus *destructive*?

CH: Destructive, yes, we are able to tell that. And at this point in our reading, in terms of how we're going through the data, the release language from October 7th onward is not what anybody would consider to be pleasant, so you may want to put a deconstructive nature on it. It's something that we must go through. Let us understand that.

"The data seem to suggest that, regardless of what the trigger event is, over those next five or six months the economic system goes from really, really nasty now to something we don't want to even describe..."

A revolution is a horrible, terrible, brutal thing in which lots of emotions and people are shed, but it is a positive thing in the end. Good, bad, whether they win or not, the revolutionary means is positive. It brings along with it a lot of brutality and excesses, and so on. But you've got to get that out of your system, just the way that we *must* have the coming crash in the economic system, which will start on October 7th regardless. The data seem to suggest that, regardless

of what the trigger event is, over those next five or six months the economic system goes from really, really nasty now to something we don't want to even describe...

KC: So what you are seeing in the future, at least in the next five months, linked to the October 7th economic situation, is that it's dire now but it's going to be something...

CH: Brutally true. Okay. This weekend we're putting up a new report that continues to refine that, because we're getting in new data. In the market descriptor, the market section there, we're going to be describing it as *brutally transformative*...

KC: Are you seeing a rise in chaos that continues up to and beyond 2012?

CH: No. Our data sets... As a rule, we start losing granularity at about 19 months. That's because of the nature of language—that most of the language, for instance, that might impact on your particular life in any given week, that would extend beyond 19 months, you don't use. You would rarely use language which had that level of duration. So granularity falls off after 19 months.

We did have some spotty bits of information and we're starting to put together this new entity that we're calling FuturePop that is going to be about the populace that will

exist in about 2018 and what they're going to be doing. But there are curious sets of inconsistencies that are appearing around 2012, and that's probably because of the emotional response that everybody has to it. But it could very well be due to the biospheric conditions that we're all going to be facing.

Revolution and alien wars?

KC: I found a really interesting point that was recurring in some of these reports, which was talking about, in essence, what appeared to be a battle with aliens.

CH: Yeah, we've got really strange stuff in there that suggests, for instance, that we're going to go through a summer of hell in 2009 here in the US that will precipitate a seething anger and so forth into actual bloody revolution. AmRev-2, we're calling it. But it'll just be part of a global wave of revolution against what we call The Powers That Be.

This is also coincident with a metadata layer that we call Secrets Revealed, where events of revolution go on. Certain institutions will be captured by the populace and the data will be released that's been hidden for hundreds of years, which then starts its own set of threads and means about revolution. They've been duped.

If we go forward in time through 2010, we get into the area where we're starting to get what we call Alien Wars...information about 2011.

Now this has to be understood: the granularity out there is very sparse. We don't have a whole lot of details. It does appear that this is not some kind of false flag operation. It also does appear that humans are involved at many different levels, not merely at a shooting level but also as perhaps some kind of a *prize* level, like we're what everybody is fighting over.

KC: Right. You talk about human body parts, etcetera.

CH: Yes, exactly. Well, that's actually coming from the release of all the Russian and other UFO information around the planet these past few months. Once that hit all the various different language boards, it really started coming out as to how many of the crashes they had found human body parts catalogued in...

Earthquake predictions

KC: So it sounds like when you find language that matches, an event occurs. In a sense it's like solving the crossword puzzle, or in a way it's almost like the Bible code. The words themselves...

CH: No, no. I would skip the Bible codes business, because the Bible codes will work on any sufficiently long text. Even if you were to unscramble our DNA and just put it out there, the various key letters, the Bible codes, will bring back what you think might be meaningful. And that's not how we do stuff.

One of our postulates is this idea that there is *bleed-through*. The idea of bleed-through is best illustrated with the Sumatran tsunami, which occurred at the end of the year [2004]. At the beginning of that year, we got the words for "300,000 people dead or killed or missing / a nation pushed back to a previous age / large earthquake / electric-driven water". Then we also got words that said "courthouse emptied due to the earthquake / famous personalities scrambling around due to the earthquake as they scrambled out of the courthouse", and so on and so on.

At the beginning of the year we couldn't tell that it was two separate events, that in that year the Scott Peterson trial in California would be emptied due to an earthquake and all these famous lawyers would go scrambling around with the media as they all emptied the courthouse building. And then another six-plus months would happen and the 300,000 people would be killed or missing and the nation would be shoved back to a previous age.

KC: Okay, but in this case you actually didn't get the name of the nation. Is that right?

CH: That's correct.

KC: And you also didn't get California in the Scott Peterson trial?

CH: Correct. See, here's part of our problem. On the Internet, we're not actually after *conscious language*. So we don't go out and count the number of times someone says "California" and

match that up and say: "Okay, the earthquake's gonna happen in California." We can't rely on that stuff because geographic references are so frequent. And we can't rely on someone saying numbers. We work on archetypes.

So, you're correct. Just like this year. We knew there was going to be a large earthquake. I sent out a warning to our subscribers. George Ure put it on his urbansurvival.com site some 36 hours ahead of the Chinese quake. We knew there was just going to be one great big whump of a quake. We had no clue as to where it would be beyond certain boundaries.

Our next earthquake prediction is for December 10th through 12th. We think there are going to be two very large earthquakes. They're not necessarily in the same

"Our next earthquake prediction is for December 10th through 12th. We think there are going to be two very large earthquakes. They're not necessarily in the same place on the planet, but they could be."

place on the planet, but they could be.

We have some references that we seem to think are valid for the Pacific Northwest, where I live.

We also have some references for the band of latitude 32 degrees north to 36 degrees north, which would cover places like California, Japan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, etcetera. And that's the best we can do at this stage.

Accuracy of forecasts

KC: What's your "hit record" at this point?

CH: Well, I don't know. I mean, we hit 2001. We had everything but the "terrorism" word. We had "military" plus "accident", and so on. We got "anthrax attack". We got the *Columbia* space shuttle disaster. We got the disaster, the accident to the Greek athletes prior to that Olympics. We got the quake for China. We've got another wedding quake, subsequent quakes in Indonesia we picked up on. We've been very accurate with economics. Some of our subscribers made a huge amount of money because we told them about the Brazilian oil fields to be discovered, about eight months before it occurred, and they bought in on Brazilian oil-hunting companies.

So, as I said, we figure about better than chance. About half of what we say ends up manifesting in a way that we can say hit it by time or the language descriptors. And eventually, probably about 55 per cent of the language ends up showing up, even if we misinterpreted it...

KC: What you're saying is that there's a place that we're at here, emotionally, and that we're going to go *down* from here to 2012—for the next four years?

CH: ...The emotional tonalities that we're living at the moment, especially those tonalities associated with words like "normalcy" and "nostalgia" and all of this kind of thing, will not be seen again. From October 7th onward, we won't recover those, as near as I can tell in my data.

And it may well be the case that those things that come along, such as the global coastal events, subsequent magnetic shifts and perhaps even a crustal shift and the destruction of most of the population on the planet, may indeed be the reason for that.

I have to say that the biospheric degradation and the changes in the solar system, the magnetosphere, the heliosphere, etcetera, etcetera, all tend to support the idea that the language is spitting out to us that the bizarre days ahead are—however inconceivable—basically our destiny.

We're going to live through some of the strangest times that have certainly been around on the planet for many thousands of years. And on the other side of it, those of us who pop out—we probably all ought to get together and say "Whew!"...

Planet X, energy from space and archetypes

KC: What about Planet X? What are you getting in that respect?

CH: The Planet X stuff is a non-starter. It appears to be almost 100 per cent disinformation from our viewpoint, in terms of what we call SKED—Subject Knowledge Elucidates the Domain. It's an analysis technique. Within our data sets, none of the Planet X material is as it is mythologically defined within our current culture.

So, yeah, there are probably large-sized asteroids, etcetera, zipping around, and even some mini-planets. But there's no giant dwarf star kind of thing that's gonna come on in and cause that kind of problem—because the solar system, at one point, cannot survive such a thing. For instance, the whole mythology does not allow for what we call *quanta effects* of interplanetary kinds of material. In other words, there's not just gravity but there's also antigravity, a repulsive force. So, those kinds of things intrude on the idea.

Plus, in our data-sets, Planet X is within a very deep subset of what we call the SpaceGoatFarts, in an area of disinfo. We've never shown any of the Planet X info emotionally, in the context in which we use, to come out of that category...

KC: Now what about Nibiru? In other words, are you having problems with the choice of language here?

CH: No, no, no. Because we've got it modelled on the various different parameters, all the way going back to Sitchin and everything. And besides which, he's a very poor linguist and mostly did a lot of bad translations on some stuff. But the best representation of that kind of a model is from a couple of the scientists out there—Paul LaViolette who is working on the electric universe model, etcetera—and their concept as to how these small little intrusions are going to act.

So, I'm sorry, but we don't show Planet X. We also show all kinds of things that are current in pop culture as falling in that bin, where we don't have an emotional archetype that supports them outside of the disinfo category.

KC: There's a lot of talk about the Earth itself going from the third to the fourth to the fifth dimension as a result of the transformations that are happening on the planet. Have you been getting information about that?

CH: We may be. I have to be somewhat vague because, again, it's an issue of: "Do we have it modelled correctly?" In our SpaceGoatFarts entity we have a subset called "unknown", and within that we have another subset

We're going to live through some of the strangest times that have certainly been around on the planet for many thousands of years.

Continued on page 83

UNEARTHING EUROPE'S OLDEST PYRAMID COMPLEX

Despite mainstream scientific criticism, new research into the so-called pyramids in Bosnia suggests that the existing hills were reshaped by an Old European civilisation to form a sacred landscape.

by Philip Coppens © 2008

PO Box 13722

North Berwick EH39 4WB

United Kingdom

info@philipcoppens.com

<http://www.philipcoppens.com>

A new pyramid paradigm

Over the past 10 years, the old paradigm that pyramids could only be found in Egypt and Central America has been substituted by a new perspective, which is that pyramids are a global phenomenon and have been built by numerous civilisations in several ages. The Pyramid of Cholula in Mexico is now regarded as the largest, though not the tallest, and the pyramid complex at Caral in Peru is the oldest, conservatively dated to 3100 BCE. Most of these findings have received little to no media attention, and even many historians are unaware of these new facts. But one new pyramid complex has been in many headlines, even making appearances on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*: the Bosnian pyramids.

What was described by Stewart as the best thing to happen to Bosnia "since...ever" began in 2005, when Bosnian-born entrepreneur Semir "Sam" Osmanagic was shown the enigmatic Visocica hill that rises above the town of Visoko, near the capital Sarajevo. Could this be a pyramid? Osmanagic decided to invest in a preliminary geological survey, which concluded that further exploration of the structure was recommended. With this, the otherwise tranquil Visoko has become one of the most controversial archaeological sites in the world—controversial because just about everyone involved in pyramid research has given an opinion on the subject.

Geologist Dr Robert Schoch, who adheres to the theory that the Sphinx is thousands of years older than accepted, said he believes the structures to be natural formations. Dr Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities, had to give his opinion as well, committing a number of *faux pas* along the way. For example, when Dr Hawass was asked by Osmanagic to provide the name of an expert, he offered Dr Ali Barakat. A geologist, Dr Barakat meticulously investigated the structures for 42 days in 2006 and he, too, concludes that they are man-made. However, Dr Hawass pretended afterwards that he'd had nothing to do with the Bosnian saga!

Dr Barakat is not alone in speaking in favour of the man-made nature of Visocica and other apparent pyramids nearby. Archaeologist Dr Nabil Mohamed Swelim, holder of three PhDs and the discoverer of four pyramids in Egypt, visited the structures in September 2007 and he, too, concludes that they are man-made "pyramid hills", as distinct from pyramids. A pyramid hill is a natural hill that is artificially enhanced to conform to the pyramid structure, whereas a pyramid is built from the bottom up.

A scientific crusade

The most avowed critic of the Bosnian pyramids in the western world is archaeology professor Anthony Harding, of the University of Exeter, UK. He voiced his opinion on the matter as early as April 2006, and drove around the town of Visoko for a few minutes in June that year, afterwards labelling the Visocica Pyramid a natural formation. One might therefore think that the good professor had then moved on to other fields, but no.

Immediately after the First International Scientific Conference, Bosnian Valley of the Pyramids (ICBP), held on 25–30 August 2008, Professor Harding approached some of those who made the official conclusion/recommendation (which is that the site requires and warrants continued excavation), stating that the archaeological establishment has "condemned" the Bosnian pyramids as "a fraud". Harding has never put any hard scientific facts on any table to support such a serious allegation. In the program for the European Association of Archaeologists September 2008 Malta conference, he summed up the discovery as the "Bosnian pyramid fiasco", which "has drawn attention to the way in which the creation of fictitious pasts can be used for political and nationalist ends". Still, if Harding is so convinced that the pyramids are fraudulent, then why waste time pursuing the story let alone approaching some of the attendees?

For this article, we contacted Professor Harding for comments but he did not reply. In previous interviews, however, he made it clear that he had an "opinion" about these pyramids before going to Visoko.

It is also clear that Harding, as the president of the European Association of Archaeologists, sees himself as the leader of a scientific crusade against so-called "pseudo-archaeology"—the Bosnian pyramids project being one of the few crusades he is able to wage, with Osmanagic as the sinner who goes against God's commands.

So why all of this controversy? As with any discovery, and especially the resultant publicity, exaggerated claims are made—or fabricated—by the media. Indeed, in this case, early media reports claimed that the structures are 12,000 years old, whereupon the sceptics immediately tried

to argue that this claim had been made by Osmanagic himself. Some observers even argued that the pyramids are extraterrestrial in origin. Such statements seem to have shocked Professor Harding the most, and he holds Osmanagic responsible for them all.

Further insights into the controversy came from American historian Merima Bojic. In a blog of 23 April 2008, titled "Aliens to Science", she wrote:

"Now, American journalists such as Colin Woodard and John Bohannon have also joined this opposition and published false articles about Mr Osmanagic. Woodard

referred to Visoko as a nationalistic enclave of the Bosnian Muslims and seemingly tried to connect Mr Osmanagic to such a nationalistic movement as well... Woodard himself also attempted to intimidate Dr Swelim and had the audacity to email the definition of 'pyramid'. Bohannon, who writes for the prominent *Science* magazine, was also an author of false articles that were so bizarre they do not even merit mention. How,

it may occur to one, does Bohannon come to write for such a well-respected and prominent magazine devoted to scientific fact while all information he gathers comes directly from the gossip journalist [Vuc] Bacanovic? Not surprisingly, Woodard does the same."

Vuc Bacanovic, in the gossip magazine *Dani*, called Dr Swelim "senile" and "a fool"—terms which are seldom used in scientific debates.

In short, one group of people has decided to quickly rule out the possibility that these structures are man-made. These people now go to extremes in trying to preserve their names, reputations and beliefs. They pretend this is not happening and they hope it will go away. Alas for them, but fortunately for everyone else, that is unlikely to be the case.

Of direct relevance is the fact that Vinca artefacts have been found in the town of Visoko, and it is therefore a strong possibility that Old Europe may also have been a pyramid-building culture.



Postcard of Visoko, circa 1954, featuring the Visocica Pyramid.

A forgotten civilisation

Visoko is within the catchment area of what Lithuanian–American archaeologist Dr Marija Gimbutas (1921–94) labelled "Old Europe", a civilisation also known as the Vinca culture. This culture is dated to roughly 6000–3000 BCE, and many believe that it inspired other cultures, including the Sumerian Ubaid period. Examples of Vinca statues have been found as far west as southern France. As recently as November 2007, archaeologists excavating a settlement in southern Serbia, believed to be at least 7,000 years old, announced that

this civilisation had great expertise in creating bronze artefacts—a discovery that requires a radical re-dating of the Bronze Age.

Of direct relevance is the fact that Vinca artefacts have been found in the town of Visoko, and it is therefore a strong possibility that Old Europe may also have been a pyramid-building culture. This conclusion might seem surprising and novel, but in essence it shouldn't be controversial.

Investigating the pyramids' construction

So, what is the Bosnian Valley of the Pyramids? The Pyramid of the Sun, which dominates the skyline over Visoko, has been the main focus of investigations. The structure does not merely look man-made, but with a height of 220 metres it is much higher than the Great Pyramid of Giza and thus would be the tallest pyramid in the world.

As is the case with the Great Pyramid, each side of the Visocica Pyramid of the Sun is perfectly aligned with the cardinal points. Indeed, as one approaches Visoko, it is hard to believe that it took until 2005 before someone seriously pondered the notion that the hill could be a pyramid. In fact, in 1984, one local author, Pavao Andelic, referred to Visocica as a "town pyramid", but nothing further was done to investigate the claim.

The bottom of the Visocica Pyramid has been built upon, and the streets of Visoko are extremely steep. Most interestingly, Osmanagic was told early on in his research that several home-owners in Visoko had wanted to build cellars but could not because of a cement-like layer hidden approximately one metre below the surface. During the civil war of the 1990s, it was reported that the hill resonated when hit by artillery fire: whereas artillery impact normally produced a sound that lasted one to two seconds, when it hit the hill it created a type of echo that lasted five to six seconds. It was clear that the hill had something unusual about it.

The most visited excavation site, about one-third of the way up the hill, has revealed the presence of large blocks of conglomerate between 50 and 100 centimetres below the surface. Similar excavations have been conducted on the other sides of the pyramid; in each case, a layer of this conglomerate has been found just below the surface. It has been suggested that the entire hill once had a six-metre-thick covering of conglomerate.

Just next to the main "tourist" site, however, the surface layer, comprising approximately 40–80 cm of sand, has

been removed over a much bigger area to reveal a uniform, cement-like (conglomerate) coating. This coating leaves little doubt in the eyes of the visitor that it is indeed man-made. However, none of the sceptics has ever referred to this section; instead, they've focused on the much smaller and less interesting site nearby.

As mentioned, Egyptian geologist Dr Ali Barakat has concluded that these blocks are man-made. Moreover, laboratory analysis results from the Civil Engineering Institute of Tuzla, made public by geophysicist Dr Enes Ramovic in September 2006, have determined that the cement comprising these blocks had been poured *in situ*. In addition, a biology expert has maintained that the experiment of planting trees on the hill 40 years ago should be deemed a failure, as the tree roots have not been able to

penetrate the conglomerate (cement) layer. He argued that this suggests the layer is man-made, as tree roots normally have no problem penetrating natural rock.

Furthermore, with renewed interest in Visocica, the ancient Bosnian city on its summit has recently been excavated. Here, it is clear that the layer of conglomerate (cement) found lower down the slope goes all the way to the top. Inside the structure, holes had been dug so that posts could be erected, either for roofs or for a mezzanine type of floor.

The western side of the pyramid was partially excavated by the Pyramid Foundation in 2006. Here, too, the team found large rectangular slabs just under the surface, as well as clearly man-made stone structures on the slope of the plateau. The overall impression is of a paved access plateau to the pyramid—a plateau which measures no less than 420 metres in length.

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More pyramid discoveries

Indeed, there is more than one pyramid here. So far, possibly *seven* pyramids have been identified, though only two have been archaeologically explored. "Only" 190 metres high and situated lower in the valley is the Pyramid of the Moon. The foot of this pyramid has become a second showcase of the Pyramid Foundation's work. Here, excavations show a type of "floor" lying on sandstone, followed by a second layer in approximately one-metre-high steps. Nearby, the team probed the location where two faces of the pyramid meet and found a free-standing stone structure. It is but one fortuitous discovery in a series of enigmatic findings.

Extensive excavations on the top of the Pyramid of the

Moon have revealed the same type of "flooring". Archaeologists uncovered a layer of topsoil with natural layers of sandstone below, but separating both is a thin layer of rectangular stone blocks that look similar in size to modern paving slabs. In substance, they look as if they were poured and laid side by side. Interestingly, some are broken, but these fractures are always random; their "original shape" is always rectangular. Whether they are natural or man-made remains a subject of intense debate, but, if natural, it is clear that this is one of the oddest geological formations on Earth, say leading geologists.

Austrian researcher Gabriele Lukacs has found that next to the Pyramid of the Moon, right on a bank of the Fojnica River, there is a quarry with an excellent example of perfectly cut sandstone blocks still sticking out of the quarry wall. That the sandstone blocks used in the pyramids were therefore cut by humans is the likeliest explanation.

The Pyramid Foundation team has identified other potential sites of interest in the valley. One is the Pyramid of the Dragon, which together with the pyramids of the Moon and the Sun makes a perfect equilateral triangle when lines are drawn connecting the apex of each pyramid, each side having a length of 2,173 metres. No work has been carried out on this third potential pyramid due to the presence of land mines on its slope, but it is clear that nature rarely creates such perfect triangles—especially not when the structures consist of three-dimensional triangles: pyramids.

Furthermore, observations by engineer Goran Cakic have revealed that there is also a "solar show" occurring between the pyramids of the Sun and the Moon. On 21 June 2008,

he observed that the shadow of the Pyramid of the Sun at noon formed a "parallel pyramid" of the same height next to the Pyramid of the Moon. Even more interesting is that on 20 August, between 18:30 and 19:30, the Pyramid of the Sun's shadow touched the entire Pyramid of the Moon. Coincidence, perhaps, but more likely design—perhaps part of a sacred light-show that typifies many ancient cultures.

Opinions vary as to whether or not these hills are "pyramid hills" or natural, but, as previously mentioned, a substantial body of scientists now agrees that they have been artificially enhanced.

Exploring the tunnels

Such doubt, however, does not exist for the nearby tunnels. The town elders tell everyone who wants to hear that they used to enter various tunnels in and around Visoko as kids, walking through them from one side of the

town to the other. When a factory was constructed near the river, large cavities had to be filled in with cement so that the premises could be built.

Another known tunnel is the Topuzovo Polje tunnel, which starts near the River Bosna but has been filled in with debris. But according to historical accounts, this tunnel once led to the Pyramid of the Sun.

To date, two tunnel complexes have been properly explored.

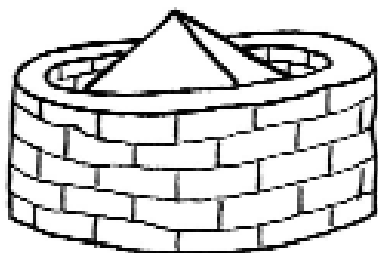
About two kilometres from the Pyramid of the Sun is Ravne, a tunnel system that so far has been mapped to a length of 300 metres. Here, the main tunnel has various offshoots, running at 45- or 90-degree angles. In the past, these side tunnels were blocked off with carefully positioned dry stone walls. Along the main passageway, several large, enigmatic stones have been discovered; their purpose remains a mystery. These stones contain a number of inscriptions suggestive of a language.

One side tunnel has stalactites. Italian geologists Dr Dario Andretti and Dr Luciano Leoni have been able to conclude that these would have taken 2,600 to 2,900 years to form, which means the tunnel can be dated to at least 1000 BCE—and most likely is older. This date is of interest, for Dr Barakat's research indicates that approximately 3,000 years ago an earthquake damaged at least one face of the Pyramid of the Sun. Further evidence of such an earthquake is visible on the Pyramid of the Moon,

On 21 June 2008, he observed that the shadow of the Pyramid of the Sun at noon formed a "parallel pyramid" of the same height next to the Pyramid of the Moon.



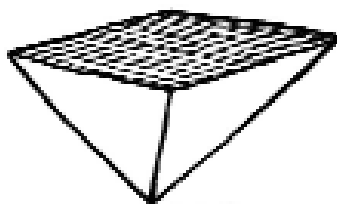
EGYPTIAN PYRAMID



ISRAELI PYRAMID



AMERICAN PYRAMID



AUSTRALIAN PYRAMID

where the stone "pavement" on the top shows obvious signs of folding. It is clear that, circa 1000 BCE, something happened that partially destroyed these structures, and this may explain why the Ravne tunnel complex has been filled in with sand and why other tunnels have collapsed.

So far, excavations of the Ravne complex have brought some remarkable results. In May 2007, a stone mould for cast metal tools was found in the tunnels. Indeed, the Ravne complex shares several characteristics with prehistoric mines elsewhere, such as at Llandudno, Wales. There, too, side tunnels were blocked off by dry stone walls, and "enigmatic" stones sit along the length of these tunnels but, in this case, they were used in the mining process.

If the Ravne tunnel complex had indeed been a mine, then it is likely that its materials were used to create the cement coating of the Pyramid of the Sun. Even sceptic Katherine Reece has argued on the Internet that these tunnels are man-made—"ancient mining tunnels dating from as long ago as 3500 BC when the area was being mined for copper". It underlines that she accepts there was human activity here at that time, though she is totally unwilling to entertain the notion that there is a pyramid nearby. However, mining experts from Zenica, Banovici and Kakanj have shown that there are no traces of minerals in these tunnels and that, hence, the tunnels could never have been copper mines.

Another opponent who has come around on the tunnels issue is historian and archaeology professor Dr Enver Imamovic, from the University of Sarajevo, who at first claimed that the tunnels are natural caves, even denying that there are side tunnels at 45 degrees—which he said was a lie perpetrated by Osmanagic—but he also stated that he had not visited them. In short, he was accusing someone of lying, though he himself could not verify anything whatsoever! Recently, though, he has accepted that these tunnels are not natural caves.

A tunnel of a different nature is the one that sits near the town's two rivers, below the grounds of the KTK factory. Here, the walls and ceilings are much more impressive and the layout itself more interesting. These tunnels are unfortunately highly unstable and prone to collapse and flooding, so little exploration has been carried out. But what is known is that the tunnel runs in the direction of the Pyramid of the Sun, dipping under the River Bosna in the very heart of the town. This, of course, suggests careful

planning, but in ancient times such a construction was also an excellent means for preserving and safeguarding the underground complex from looters—so much so that, even today, exploring these tunnels remains more than perilous.

Not just pyramids and tunnels

In the Bosnian Valley of the Pyramids, the tunnels so far have shown that humans were definitely doing something, and logic dictates that this work was connected with the pyramids. As such, the critics hardly ever focus on the tunnels; but when they do, it is with sweeping statements that try to mystify what is at heart not a complex issue at all.

Meanwhile, in September 2007, a team from the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina excavated the nearby site of Okoliste and concluded that, circa 4700–4500 BCE,

around 3,000 people lived in the settlement—one of the largest ever found in Bosnia. This shouldn't be surprising, seeing that Visoko is known to have been one of Bosnia's most fertile lands and hence a cherished location for settlers. From the development of civilisations elsewhere, we know that such settlements often had a surplus workforce, which, like elsewhere, might easily have been used to start a building project—the Bosnian pyramids, perhaps?

There is therefore a substantial pool of evidence from which one can conclude that these hills have been artificially enhanced, and that there were "civilised people" present at the right time, in the right place, to have created these pyramids. However, it is equally clear that a smoking gun, which would convince anyone, remains to be found—but, equally, it might be just a spade's turn away.

In 2008, preliminary research at the neighbouring village of Ginje brought about some further, very

interesting discoveries. Near the village is a large hill, and next to it, in the valley below, a small tumulus. On both the top of the hill and the tumulus, perfectly rectangular stone slabs have been found that are on a par with similar slabs found on and near the pyramids.

Independent researcher Nenad Djurdjevic has noted in a report, available on the Pyramid Foundation's website:

"A few years after World War II, from the roadside many of the megalithic blocks were still visible lying on the top of the hill and its flanks, but...a great number of them was gradually removed by villagers during later decades and used for the construction of foundations, walls and houses."

The remaining conglomerate blocks are of enormous size

**On both the top
of the hill and the
tumulus, perfectly
rectangular stone slabs
have been found that
are on a par with
similar slabs found
on and near the
pyramids.**

(approximately 2 m x 1 m x 1 m) and weigh about four tonnes. On the hill itself, it seems clear that these blocks once belonged to a stone structure on its summit. The tumulus in the valley below has two stone slabs lying next to each other; one is sandstone, the other conglomerate. The obvious conclusion is that people moved these two stone blocks next to one other.

In Donje Mostre, many rectangular stone blocks have also been found lining the road, and some are without any doubt man-made. On 23 September 2008, a team from the University of Kiel, Germany, found nearby a Neolithic artefact that has been dated to 6000–3000 BCE. The discovery was announced by Zilke Kujundzic, from the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina. She is actually one of the main opponents of the pyramids project and has filed numerous petitions for the Foundation's work to be stopped, claiming that the entire project is a hoax. The small ceramic pyramid—in some reports also referred to as a "Benben stone" because of the apparent visual similarities with such stones in Egypt—is a major discovery, showing that local people, millennia ago, created ceramic objects in the shape of a pyramid.

Finally, dowsing expert Adrian Incledon-Webber, of the British Society of Dowsers, has mapped the area and drawn preliminary conclusions—namely, that the pyramids sit on top of important underground waterways, with three streams meeting under the apex of the Pyramid of the Sun. He stated in email correspondence with me:

"All holy places attract water and then some are further enhanced by human intervention, i.e., encouraging further water to cross at specific points. The centres of stone circles, for instance, often have three streams crossing at their centre, too."

As elsewhere, so in Bosnia it seems.

A sacred landscape

From Ginje, there is a clear line of sight to the Pyramid of the Sun, which appears on the northern horizon. North has been linked to the World of the Dead, and in some cultures the sacred mountain to the north was sometimes called the Storehouse of the Dead.

That the sight-line from the structures in Ginje towards the Pyramid of the Sun is not accidental is underlined by research carried out by Nenad Djurdjevic. He highlights that only from the top of the tumulus, which is only a few metres high, can the profile of the Pyramid of the Sun be seen. When one stands in front of the base of the tumulus, the pyramid is not visible. This suggests that the tumulus was specifically constructed here and raised to such height as to create a line of sight to the Pyramid of the Sun.

New dimensions and developments

So, all false perceptions and ego-trips aside, it is clear that the Bosnian Valley of the Pyramids has much validity and will rock the old pyramid paradigm in years to come. But the research project will continue to be controversial for some time longer. What the Foundation needs is more time—just as it took Howard Carter several years before he located Tutankhamen's tomb. Progress is slow, but obvious.

In time, the Bosnian pyramids will not only be added to the new paradigm of pyramid structures that appear across the world, but they will also reveal a new dimension to the Vinca culture and show that the pyramids are European, rather than Egyptian, in nature. Either way, a new page is being added in the development of civilisation.

Meanwhile, some are fighting to maintain the old paradigm, which is already a lost cause. The pyramid landscape has changed, and walking through Visoko one can see a glimpse of the future as well as a remnant of the ancient past. ∞

When one stands in front of the base of the tumulus, the Pyramid of the Sun is not visible. This suggests that the tumulus was specifically constructed here and raised to such height as to create a line of sight to the Pyramid of the Sun.

About the Author:

Based in the UK, Philip Coppens has contributed 13 articles to NEXUS, most recently "The Dropa Tribe and Their Stone Discs Revisited" (see *Twilight Zone*, 15/06). His first article about the Bosnian

pyramids, "Ancient Pyramids Discovered in Europe", appeared in NEXUS 13/03. Coppens is the author of several books, including *The New Pyramid Age* (2007; reviewed in NEXUS 14/06). He was a speaker at the NEXUS Conference in Queensland, Australia, in October 2007.

Philip Coppens can be contacted by email at info@philipcoppens.com and via his website <http://www.philipcoppens.com>, where the longer version of this Bosnian Pyramids article can be accessed.

Editor's Note:

For more information on the validity of the Bosnian pyramids, visit the following websites and blog:

- International Conference, Bosnian Valley of the Pyramids, <http://www.icbp.ba>
- Bosnian Pyramid of the Sun Foundation, <http://piramidasunca.ba/en/index.php>
- <http://www.bosnian-pyramid.com>
- <http://bpblognews.blogspot.com>.

Views disputing the validity of the Bosnian pyramids are also readily available via a Google search.

Note: Due to technical problems we were not able to include accents on foreign names in this article.



EVIDENCE FOR DINOSAURS IN AUSTRALIA

by Rex and Heather Gilroy
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TALES OF BURRUNJOR

The tribespeople of pre-European Australia had traditions that described saurian-type reptiles centuries before they ever had access to European textbook illustrations of dinosaurs.

Aborigines of Arnhem Land believe that a vast region hereabouts, which they call Burrunjor, is the habitat of a terrifying, nightmarish, mammoth-sized reptilian monster, which they also call Burrunjor and whose description can be said to resemble that of *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

Campfire stories substantiating Aboriginal claims are commonplace across the far north.

In 1978, a Northern Territory bushman and explorer, Bryan Clark, related a story of his own about an event that had taken place some years before. While mustering cattle in the

Urapunji area, he became lost in the remote wilderness of that part of Arnhem Land. It took him three days to find his way out of the region and back to the homestead from where he'd originally set out.

He didn't know it at the time, but his footprints had been picked up and followed by two Aboriginal trackers and a mounted policeman. On the first night of their search they camped on the outskirts of the Burrunjor scrub, even though the two trackers protested strongly against doing so. The policeman hobbled his horse, cooked their meal and then climbed into his swag and went to sleep.

Later that night the two Aborigines, shouting unintelligibly and grasping for their packs and saddles, suddenly woke him up. The policeman realised at this moment that the ground appeared to be shaking. Hurriedly getting to his feet, he, too, gathered up his belongings. Shortly afterwards, the three galloped away.

The policeman told Bryan Clark later at the Urapunji homestead that he also had heard a sound, somewhat like

a loud puffing or grunting noise, certainly loud enough to be coming from some large animal. When asked if he intended to include this incident in his report, the policeman replied that he would not because he feared that no one would believe him.

The policeman warned Bryan never to return to that area, because if he got lost there again he'd be "on his own": the police would not come looking for him.

Aboriginal legend

The region's cave art, thousands of years old, depicts these monstrous animals. Many Aborigines of the Arnhem Land region believe these monsters wander back and forth across the Gulf country and Cape York to this day.

Regardless of what outsiders may think of these tales, the locals—both Aborigines and scattered European settlers—take them seriously.

Bushman Allan Ritchie, who conducted lapidary rock hunting safaris to some pretty remote parts of the far north during the 1970s, came to

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believe that there is some kind of dinosaur-type reptile inhabiting the Northern Territory jungles and scrublands.

"I found the Aborigines terrified of these animals. Some tribesmen showed me ancient rock paintings depicting the monsters, which they called Burrunjor. They describe Burrunjor as a *Tyrannosaurus*-like reptile. There is one region of jungle in Arnhem Land beyond which no horse will go willingly—nor will most Aborigines. Horrific sounds are heard by night and day, and the crashing of foliage in the jungle as the monsters move about. Some Aborigines and Europeans have come across enormous tracks in the soil, more than enough to keep most people out of the region," Ritchie told me in 1982.

Tracking and measuring footprints

In the coastal border country between the Northern Territory and Queensland and west of Burketown, there is another region where, like Arnhem Land, no Aborigines, horses or cattle dogs will go—for there, too, Burrunjor is said to roam.

Back in 1950, cattlemen lost stock to some mysterious beast that left the

mutilated, half-eaten remains of cows and bulls in its wake over a wide area, stretching between the border country and Burketown. Searchers on horseback found huge reptilian tracks of some bipedal-walking beast. They followed the tracks with their cattle dogs through some rough jungle terrain until they entered swampland, beyond which was more dense scrub.

It was at this point that the cattle dogs became uneasy and ran off. The horses were also uneasy and obviously did not want to cross the swamp. Most of the cattlemen decided that their animals knew best, but two men set off on foot with their carbines.

The story goes that they soon came across further tracks in an open area beyond the swamp. While his mate searched about, the other man briefly spotted the dark form of an enormous creature, perhaps 30 feet (9.14 metres) in height, further off in dense timber. The men left the scene in haste.

Johnny Mathews, a part-Aboriginal tracker, claimed to have seen a 25-foot-tall (7.62-metres-tall) bipedal reptilian monster moving through the scrub near Lagoon Creek, on the Gulf coast, one day in 1961.

"Hardly anyone outside my own people believes my story, but I know

what I saw," he said to me in 1970.

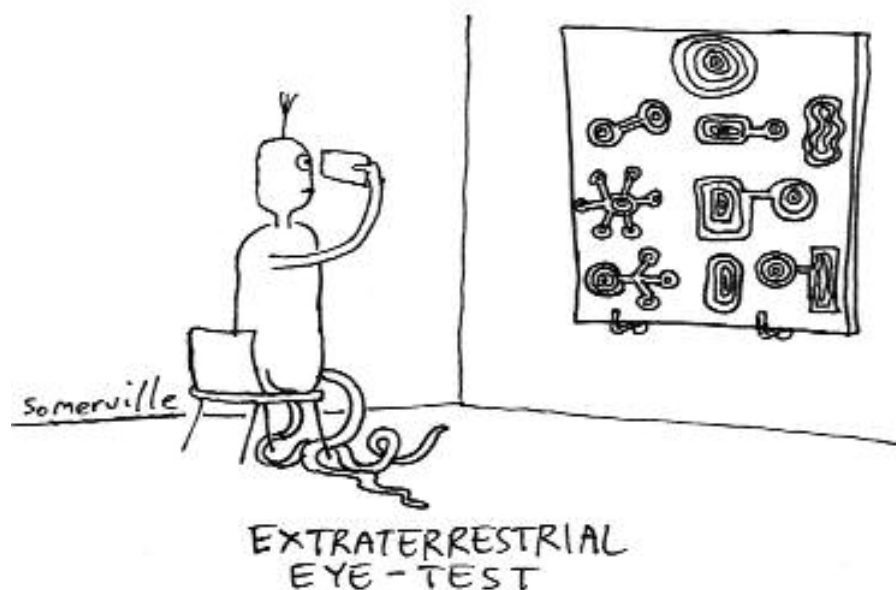
In June 1999, huge bipedal reptile-like tracks were found in sandy soil southwest of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory by Aborigines shooting wild boar. Similar, huge, claw tracks—a set of two dozen or so three-clawed footprints—were found in a dry creek bed north of Mount Isa, Queensland.

Some residents of the Normanton, Queensland, district on the Gulf of Carpentaria believe Burrunjor lives deep in the mountains far to the northeast of there, occasionally emerging into the more open country to carry off stock. They say these creatures roam at night hereabouts, and the thumping of their powerful legs has been heard by campers.

One day in May 1980, Max Field, a dingo shooter, was following freshly made tracks through scrub in the Kanuma district near Walker River, about halfway between Karumba on the Gulf coast and Normanton, when he came across a number of indistinct, giant-sized, three-clawed tracks of a bipedal animal in grass, extending across open hard ground and a dry sandy creek bed and then on into dense scrubland. Max forgot about the dingo and began looking for more of these footprints.

Max, a part-Aboriginal, knew that only one animal could have been responsible, and after counting at least 50 footprints he then left, but returned later with two mates. They measured a couple of the footprints, which were two feet 7½ inches (80 centimetres) in length by two feet five inches (73.6 cm) in width across the outstretched claws. The footprints were indistinct or did not register in the hard stony ground.

The indistinct impressions left in the dry creek sand were at least three inches (7.62 cm) deep. The centre toe was at least 14½ inches (37 cm) in length, and the outer toes measured 10 inches (25.5 cm) in length. All were



at least 4¾ inches (12 cm) in width.

The men measured the distances between six footprints over a length of 19 feet 10 inches (6.05 m). The left-to-right impressions were three feet 11 inches apart (1.2 m), leaving an average stride of nearly 3¾ feet (1.1 m).

The animal had stridden across quite open country to enter the area where the footprints were found, so, unless this had occurred at night, the Burrunjor responsible could not have helped but be seen by property owners and others.

As the men judged the impressions to be only a day old and heading west to east, they wondered if they should attempt to follow the monstrous creature but their common sense prevailed. The men decided that the maker of these footprints had to be at least 19 feet (5.8 m), perhaps 20 feet (6.1 m), in height.

My wife Heather and I arrived in the Gulf country in October 2002 to investigate the Burrunjor personally. I had heard that fresh tracks of an enormous reptilian beast were claimed to have been found by people in the Burketown district, inland from the Gulf, on the Albert River in 2001, and again on the Leichhardt River, south of Floraville, in August 2002.

North of Burketown, across Pascoe Inlet at Point Tarrant, fresh tracks of a "two-legged reptile" were claimed to have been found on a mud flat by Aboriginal fishermen in 1979. Soon afterwards, fresh mudflat Burrunjor track impressions were found in that district and Aborigines began avoiding the area. In early 1992, Aborigines found more large three-toed impressions of the enigmatic Burrunjor in the same area.

In the past, its huge tracks have been claimed found over a wide area of the inland, in places such as the Croydon district and the Gilbert River near Mount Clark, Queensland. They turned up in the Weipa area in 1990

and in the Aurukun region of western coastal Cape York Peninsula in 1998.

Eyewitness reports

Gulf bushmen have many tales to tell of mystery animals seen hereabouts and in the Gulf waters. But when it comes to Burrunjor, the height and proportions of this reptile increase depending upon the pub in which you meet these hardy fellows!

Yet despite the tall tales the researcher has to put up with, there are stories deserving further investigation, such as that of Jack and Jane Mulholland, who in 1970 were driving in their four-wheel-drive vehicle from Floraville to the Flinders River. The date was 9 September and the time about 11 am as Jack was driving along a dirt road, when suddenly they both spotted a large shape moving through the roadside scrub. Jane later described the creature coming into view as "a fearsome animal". Jack, on the other hand, described it as a "20-foot-tall 'Tyrannosaurus-like' monster with a mottled skin colouration".

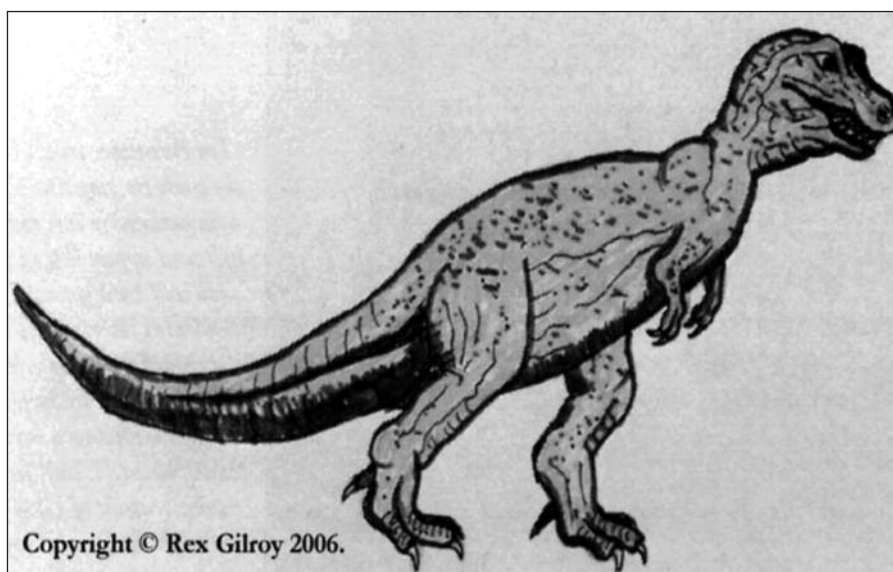
Back in 1922, in the country north of Cloncurry, south of the Gulf, stockmen claimed to have seen "a big lizard monster" that was standing upon two legs and observing them

while moving its tail from side to side. The beast began moving in their direction, so they "rode off quick smart".

The Gregory Range, southeast of Normanton, is a region of Burrunjor folklore extending back generations, and an ancient Aboriginal rock engraving of the giant is known to a few people in the Mount Surprise area.

In 1977, an Aboriginal couple chanced upon a Burrunjor, up to 20 feet in height, feeding upon a black bullock it had carried off from a cattle station in the Normanton district. The grey-skinned monster resembled a *Tyrannosaurus*, they claimed later. They ran from the scrub they were in, screaming in terror. Reaching their four-wheel-drive vehicle, they drove out of that place as fast as they could.

A man-sized, blackish-brown-coloured bipedal reptile was claimed seen deep in the Gulf scrub somewhere near Arnhem Land's eastern base country in 1982 by several Aborigines and whites on a cattle muster. It was seen to bound through scrub at a considerable pace, parallel with the direction of the horsemen. It did not show any fear of them but disappeared into the scrub.



Sketch of *Tyrannosaurus rex*

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No one dared pursue it!

During a dust storm in 1961, in a remote Gulf scrubland area north of Mount Isa, a party of six 'roo-shooters had to shelter in their truck in the bed of a dry creek. Amid clouds of swirling dust as three men sheltered inside the driving compartment and the other three sat inside the canvas-covered back, the men in the front spotted a dark object emerging from trees some distance ahead of them and then moving across open ground, oblivious to their presence. It was perhaps eight metres tall and moved on two legs, its large head a dark form amid the dust.

One of the men, Tom Geoghan, a stockman, told me this story in 1971:

"Visibility was bad but we are sure it was no normal animal; certainly not a kangaroo, like a scientist later told us after I reported the incident.

"The storm of dust eventually subsided, but there was no sign of the mystery giant monster. In any case, the group got out of the area pretty fast.

"Back in 1950, an eerie discovery was made: a lengthy 'trackway' of bipedal reptilian three-clawed footprints was found and followed by a lone buffalo-shooter in Arnhem

Land, some miles east of Darwin. They led across sandy soil, into and over and along the bank of a dry creek bed, through scrub and into more open ground.

"The shooter, Jack Peckman, said later to me that he had never before seen anything like them. They were, he said, 'about 15 inches [38 cm] in width and length, and seemed to keep on going'."

Jack followed the tracks for about a mile, rifle at the ready, before feeling uneasy about going any further.

"The tracks were about a day old, but what if their maker was somewhere just ahead?" Tom asked.

Jack was on foot and far from his camp, so he turned back. Returning to his camp, he packed his truck and drove out of there.

"Others have told me they have heard the sound of some huge beast 'huffing' and 'puffing'—but not any buffalo—in the same region, and also at one spot in the Gulf coast west of Normanton over the years. These incidents have been at night and include the sounds of crashing foliage as some tall, large animal moves through the scrub," Tom informed me.

Mounted policemen and black trackers in the 1940s and 1950s

reported similar sounds, day and night, and the finding of large bipedal, three-toed tracks. Photos taken of one such set were sent to a university scientist in Brisbane, but these were unfortunately "lost" (or, should we say, "swept under the carpet"?). Similarly, plaster casts made of two other large footprints sent to an Adelaide scientist in the 1940s also vanished without trace.

There are old tales of the Aborigines about hunting parties having speared these monsters long ago. A tribe was forced to scatter when one of these monsters entered their desert camp in the country northwest of Ayers Rock (Uluru). A lubra had to flee from a swamp while picking water plants when a taller-than-man-sized reptilian monster approached her from out of the bush in the Gulf country; warriors saved her by spearing the creature.

A "fearsome" creature

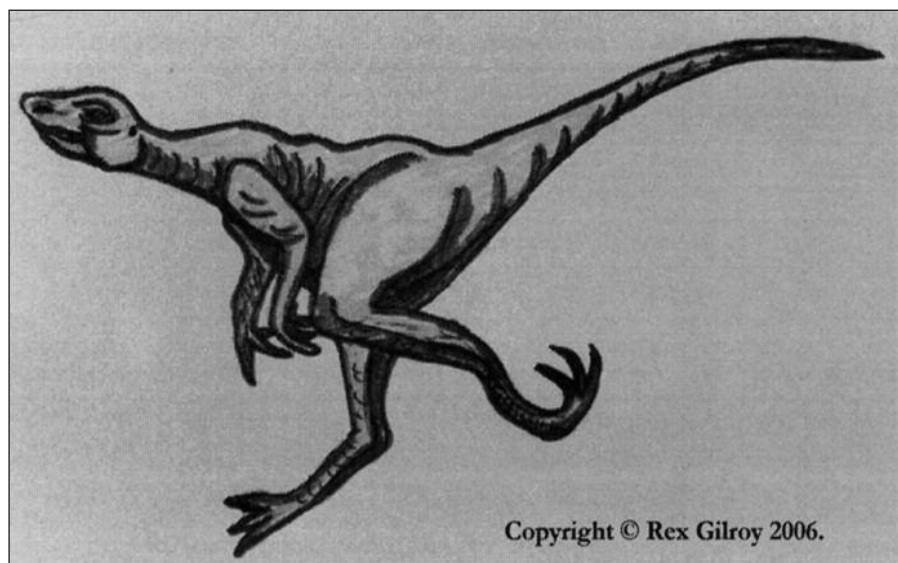
There are many tales told along the cattle runs amongst the stockmen, both white and Aboriginal, of the Burrunjor mystery.

Back in 1890, in the Gulf country to the west of Normanton, stockmen became tired of losing cattle on their widely scattered properties to some mystery beast large enough to carry them off.

Local Aborigines blamed Burrunjor for these losses, although some cattlemen were sceptical of their descriptions and chose to believe they were hunting more than one large crocodile.

Yet one cattleman in the Normanton district claimed he had seen a Burrunjor as it bounded across a clearing into coastal scrub, carrying the body of a full-grown cow in its jaws.

The cattleman, Charles Waterford, claimed the monster was a good 20 feet tall from head to tail, was mottle-coloured and looked "fearsome". He claimed that, terrified and hiding



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Sketch of human-height, bipedal reptile as described by Aborigines.

behind thick bush, he had watched the creature until it was out of sight.

The cattlemen, 20 in all, assembled with rifles and horses, intent upon tracking the reptile and shooting it. They brought their cattle dogs with them to help track down the beast.

They were in the Inverleigh area, near the Morning Inlet. As they attempted to cross the watercourse, their dogs, all 30 of them, began running off in all directions in a panic, as if fearful of something ahead, hidden in the bushland.

About this time, two of the men discovered large reptilian tracks and tail impressions in nearby creek mud. With their horses appearing reluctant to enter the water, the men decided to leave well enough alone and turned back.

In 1957, up in the McArthur River country of the Northern Territory, a mob of over 50 cattle went berserk late one night, seemingly for no apparent reason to the jackeroos camped nearby on the river bank. Then, amid all the din of the bellowing, stampeding cattle, an Aboriginal member of the group ran screaming in terror into the river.

A loud, snorting, grunting sound could be heard, and in the moonlight the dark shadowy form of some monstrous beast towering over the cattle could be seen bounding over nearby flats into scrubland.

The next morning the men found several cows and a bull dead, one of the animals partly devoured. They also found, deeply embedded across the flat earth leading into the scrub, monstrous clawed tracks—"the tracks of Burrunjor", said the frightened Aboriginal jackeroo.

More recently, in 1985, a family of travellers, the Askeys, who were in their four-wheel-drive vehicle heading for the Roper River Mission, happened to take a back road for some sightseeing. Just before they were to pull up and turn around to resume

their journey to the mission, they all saw two bipedal-walking reptilian creatures, a good 20- and 25-foot-tall respectively, moving together across an open plain some distance away.

"The monsters were a greyish-brown colour and dinosaur-like in appearance. We didn't wait around," said the father, Greg Askey.

THE CARNIVOROUS KOOLEEN

The Normanton district tribespeople for untold generations have believed in the existence of Burrunjor reptilian giants, but also have believed in another, smaller, almost man-height reptilian biped which thrives upon flesh—human and animal—and inhabits the Gulf scrublands.

There are mounted police, stockmen and others who claim either to have seen these reptilian carnivores or to have met others who have. As recently as 1993, a gemstone hunter claimed he had come face to face with a four-foot-tall (1.22 m) greenish-grey-coloured beast which approached him on a bush track. He beat it off with a pick handle before running for his four-wheel drive, scratched by the creature's front claws. He described it as being rather thin in appearance and having a lizard-like head, three-toed feet, front claws and a short tail.

Old Aboriginal traditions of Victoria include tales of Kooleen, the "man with a tail", whose physical appearance in some accounts is

very reptilian.

The Coranderrk Aboriginal people of Victoria describe Kooleen as a "huge beast" that walked the land "feeding upon both trees and Aborigines". The creature walked upon two legs and possessed a scaly skin.

Kooleen thus appears to be something akin to a carnivorous theropod dinosaur and resembles Burrunjor. Kooleen would appear to be Burrunjor under another name.

"He was the terror of the scrublands and open country of west Victoria, and tribespeople were forever on the alert for these monsters." So said an old Aboriginal acquaintance of a Dandenong Ranges pastoralist family in the 1880s. He warned them never to enter certain parts of that area because of the Kooleen monsters that lived there!

In the previous chapter of my book [chapter 20 of *Out of the Dreamtime*], I described two fossilised dinosaur footprints found in the



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Kanangra-Boyd wilderness; both are of the three-toed variety and resemble those of *Muttaburrasaurus* and *Tyrannosaurus*. Yet the volcanic ash and mud in which they were laid dates to late Pleiocene times—a mere three million years ago—and not Cretaceous times of 66 million years ago when they are supposed to have become extinct!

The tribespeople of this region and elsewhere across the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney, spoke about giant bipedal reptiles of dinosaur appearance, which they called Watthuk Muggadung, to early European settlers hereabouts in the 19th century.

It is obvious that these reptiles were alive in the Pleistocene (Ice Age) period and therefore survived into Aboriginal times. However, the way the Aborigines spoke, these reptiles were either not all that long extinct or else might still exist in those wilds. It would appear that some still do.

It has been suggested that these reptiles could be a form of *Iguanodon* similar to *Muttaburrasaurus*, unless of course it is a *Tyrannosaurus* species. Only the discovery of the skeleton or carcass of a recently deceased specimen will ever really solve the mystery, unless of course an animal

can be captured alive. But then, how does one go about capturing a live, 50-tonne or so carnivorous killing machine?

KULTA, A HUGE FOUR-LEGGED REPTILE

Central Australian Aboriginal folklore preserves the remarkable tale of Kulta, the giant "serpent" that lived in the swamps and watercourses of the far north when all the land of that part of Australia was a lush jungle- and swamp-covered region.

Kulta had a small head at the end of a long narrow neck, which was attached to an enormously bulky body supported by four great legs. It moved about the swamps and landscape with its long pointed tail sticking out behind it.

It is said that Kulta was so long that if it were to enter a forest its head would project from one end and its tail from the other. Kulta lived upon plant life in the forests and swamps.

The tribespeople feared Kulta and regarded the creature with great awe. Whenever Kulta moved about the countryside, the ground shook with its tremendous weight. Unfortunately there came a time when all the land dried up, the forests turned to desert, the swamps emptied and Kulta died.

If the appearance of Kulta as described in the ancient folklore of the Central Australian tribes is correct, then Kulta could best be described as a member of the Sauropoda, that family of Triassic Reptilia which contained some of the best-known dinosaurs: *Austrosaurus*, *Rhoetosaurus*, *Apatosaurus* and others.

Among the tribes of Groote Eylandt in the Gulf of Carpentaria, there were—or still are—widespread myths which describe huge reptilian creatures including lizards and even snakes, all of which lived in waterholes.

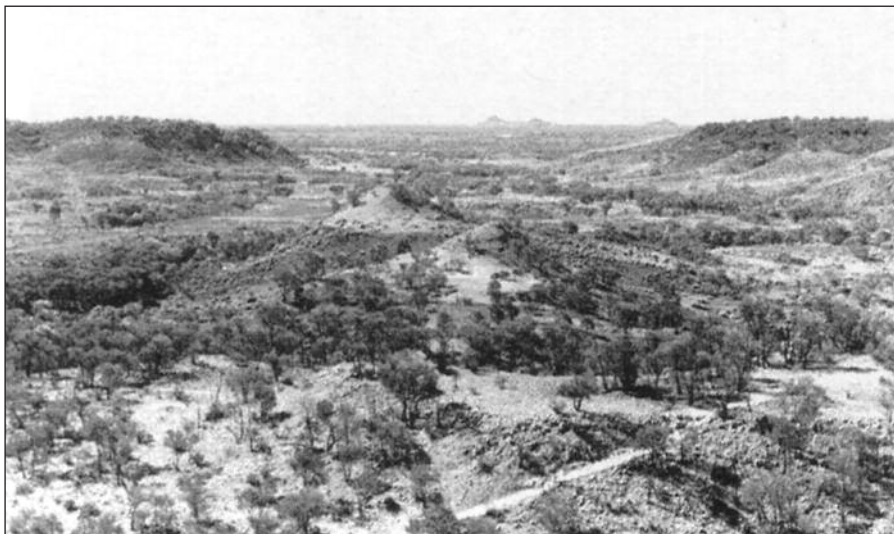
The Aborigines were afraid to approach these waterholes for fear of the beasts, and always performed ceremonies in the hope of pleasing these monsters so that they might be safe to go near the waterholes.

ABORIGINAL MYTHS OR TRUE STORIES?

The early Australian Aborigines certainly described in detail saurian-type reptilian monsters centuries before they ever had access to white man's textbook drawings of these beasts.

How, then, are we to explain these stories? As myths? As the imagination of "primitive" people who dreamed up monsters that just happened to turn up in fossil beds centuries later? But if they are to be regarded as myths and legends, let us not forget that all mythology is founded upon actual historical events of the past. ∞

(Source: Edited from chapter 21, "Beware of Burrunjors in the Bush", of *Out of the Dreamtime: The Search for Australasia's Unknown Animals* (Uru Publications, 2006), by Rex and Heather Gilroy. For more information, visit the website <http://www.mysteriousaustralia.com>. *Out of the Dreamtime* was reviewed in NEXUS vol. 14, no. 1.)



The remote Winton district, a scene of several sightings. Photo © Rex Gilroy 2006



REVIEWS

BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

GREEN IS GOOD

by Jeff Angel

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Available: www.abcshop.com.au

For 35 years, Jeff Angel has been an environmental and social change activist with the Total Environment Centre in Sydney, eventually becoming its executive director 12 years ago.

In his first book, *Green Is Good*, he charts the successes and failures of the green movement and asks if we really are saving the environment and building a sustainable society, whether in the city or the country. Angel has an informed economic and political perspective on issues encroaching on the vested interests of corporations, farmers and bureaucracies. He argues that pro-environmental advocacy has exposed the massive problems we face and showed that we need systemic change. As he sees it, Australia's recent severe droughts and the climate change alert were turning points in personal as well as political attitudes and actions, and brought discussion about sustainability and enviro-solutions to the fore.

There are hopeful signs where emissions trading schemes are on the agenda of Australia's two major political

parties, alliances are being formed between corporations and eco-groups, and media reporting on the issues is on the rise. There's also evidence that people are indeed changing their ways and adopting recycling and other eco-friendly practices. However, Angel says that as a society we still have much more to do in assuring the successful transition to sustainability.

THROUGH THE EYES OF LOVE: Journeying with Pan – Book One by Michael J. Roads

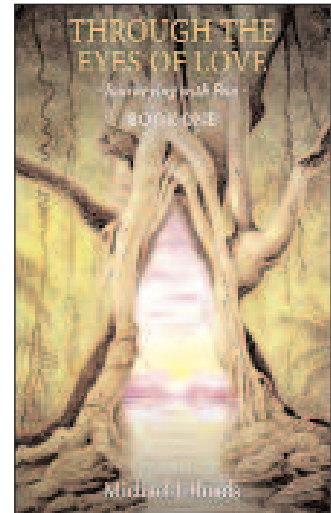
RoadsLight, Nambour, Australia, 2008
ISBN 978-0-9758476-1-9 (270pp tpb)
Available: RoadsLight Pty Ltd, PO Box 778, Nambour, Qld 4560, Australia,
www.michaelroads.com

In times of uncertainty and grief, don't panic: trust in the power of Pan, the Spirit of Nature, says Michael J. Roads in *Through the Eyes of Love*. He charts his journey since 2003 and his reconnection with the metaphysical aspect of Nature, aided, too, by the power of gardening and dreaming.

His journey is all the more poignant because, in becoming reacquainted with his long-forgotten supernatural friend Pan, he lost the love of his life, his wife Treenie. It was a lesson in giving up emotional attachment and discovering that the soul link lives on despite the death of a dearly loved one. Yet his link with Treenie is still very real and she

continues to talk with him from a higher dimensional plane of love and light. It turns out that, on a soul level, Treenie needed to pass on so that Michael could progress in his personal and spiritual development here on Earth.

As well as having Treenie to help him, Michael had the assistance of Pan, the Master Hilarion and a bevy of sylphs to reconnect his Self with All That Is. Most unexpectedly, he joined up with Carolyn, the organiser of the US leg of the Roadway tours, and married her in 2007—an arrangement stage-managed by Treenie herself, before and after her transition, in the knowledge that "Love is the thread that connects all of us as One". This is a deeply heartfelt story, full of spiritual insights and guidance.



REVIEWS



BREAKING THROUGH THE UNTOUCHABLE DISEASES

by **Gerald Green**

Sagax Publishing, Monmouth, 2008
ISBN 0-9532407-8-9 (145pp tpb)
Available: **UK**—www.autoimmune-herbalist-geraldgreen.co.uk/

Gerald Green of East Sussex, UK, became a herbalist as a result of finding natural remedies for his life-threatening ailments, from emphysema to coronary heart disease, which orthodox medicine could not cure.

In his accessible guidebook, he explains his philosophy on immunology while tackling the major auto-immune diseases—which he says are the end result of the normally friendly yeast *Candida* becoming a rampant parasitic fungus. Many pharmaceutical drugs that are used to treat auto-immune diseases like Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis kill off the good intestinal bugs and mask any beneficial medicinal effects they may have; the same goes for chemotherapy drugs used in battling cancer.

Green has found a way to treat all auto-immune diseases, including multiple sclerosis (MS), rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus, and even cancer by prescribing wormwood to kill the out-of-control *Candida*, a diet low in sugar/yeast content and capsules of "Triple Alliance" herbs. His herbal remedies vary depending on what

illness is being treated. In the case of inflammatory bowel disease, he utilises powdered licorice, slippery elm and golden seal. This humble healer has helped countless people recover from debilitating diseases, and his regimens offer promise for "hopeless" cases.

CHARLES FORT: The Man Who Invented the Supernatural

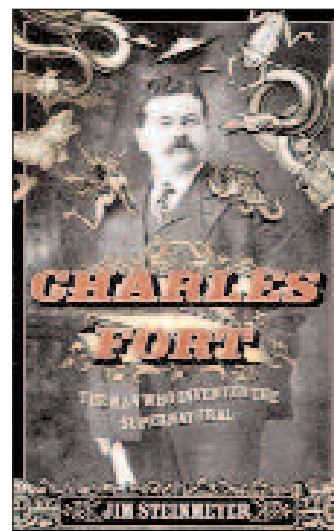
by **Jim Steinmeyer**
William Heinemann, London, 2008
ISBN 978-0-434-01629-7 (338pp hc)
Available: www.rbooks.co.uk

Charles Hoy Fort (1874–1932) had his first Fortean work, *The Book of the Damned*, published in 1919, but it was his writing style, his curiosity and scepticism and his railing against the scientific establishment that set him and his work apart. Indeed, the term "Fortean" owes itself to this writer who popularised the unexplained and anomalous in the 20th century.

Jim Steinmeyer, an illusionist and author/TV consultant on stage magic, does great justice to Fort in this impressive biography. We learn of Fort's upbringing by an authoritarian father in Albany, New York, his fascination for nature, and the ups and downs of his life as a newspaper reporter, editor and fiction writer (many examples of his writing are featured). We read of his travels in North America and abroad, his marriage at age 22 to childhood friend and supporter Anna

Filing, and his professional friendship with editor Theodore Dreiser. Fort was nearly 40 when he turned his attention to serious research into "oddities"—proof that "the world was a very strange place", and evidence for the existence of "X", a guiding force throughout nature.

Charles Fort's interest in anomalies, from fish falling from the sky to mysterious airships and teleportation (a term he coined), was one part of his metaphysical stance to find significance out of chaos. Fort was a true iconoclast, a sceptic against scientific rationalism and a cult hero whose influence has permeated into modern takes on conspiracy theories, science fiction and the paranormal.





REVIEWS

YOUR IMMUNE REVOLUTION by Toru Abo, MD, and HEALING YOUR HEALING POWER

by Kazuko Tatsumura Hillyer, PhD
Kokoro Publishing, New York, 2007
ISBN 978-0-9704979-2-5 (233pp tpb)
Available: www.gaiahh.com

This volume has plenty of actionable information for improving your lifestyle and overcoming disease. The greater part is by Japanese researcher and immunologist Dr Toru Abo; the smaller is from Shinkiko healer and author/ lecturer Dr Kazuko T. Hillyer.

Dr Abo, with 25 years' experience in immunology to his credit, sets the tone by explaining why modern medicine cannot cure disease. He writes about how all diseases are caused by tension in the sympathetic nerves. Regarding cancer, he tells why modern treatments such as surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy destroy the very immune system that is the key to activating the healing process. Of utmost importance is to increase the lymphocyte count and improve the patient's attitude. His four rules are to re-evaluate your lifestyle pattern and remove stress factors, eliminate your fear of cancer, cease any treatment that suppresses immunity, and stimulate the parasympathetic nervous system (e.g., activate the intestines by eating healthy foods like vegetables, mushrooms and brown rice).

Dr Hillyer, who has applied Dr Abo's theory in an holistic way, discusses the flow of *ki* energy and the transcendental aspect of balancing it. His techniques include utilising solar therapy and creating heat within the body by consuming the right foods in the optimal way. You are your own best doctor, he advises in his enlightening contribution to this book.

VACCINE SAFETY MANUAL

by Neil Z. Miller

New Atlantean Press, Santa Fe, 2008
ISBN 978-1881217-35-0 (559pp tpb)
Avail: www.thinktwice.com/vsm.htm

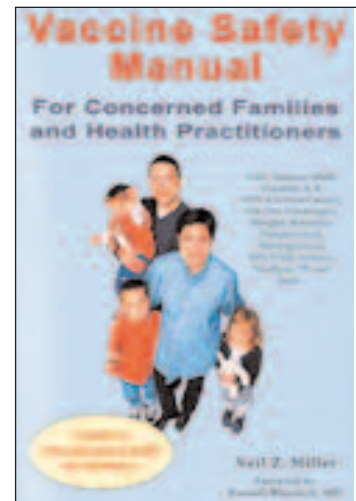
One outrageous fact made clear in this manual is that an individual's health/safety is subsumed by health authorities for whom vaccine programs, where "the benefits far outweigh the risks", are more important and when an adverse side effect, which might mean autism or death for an afflicted child, is considered as merely a statistical blip.

US-based researcher Neil Z. Miller (see reviews in 2/18, 2/25, 3/03) is upfront in declaring that the data in his manual tend to find fault with vaccines (just look at their ingredients), but he advises readers to find a balance with what's put forward by official sources such as the US FDA and CDC and the UN WHO. Thus he encourages parents to become well informed on the pros and cons of immunisation before making any decision to vaccinate their

child, and not be swayed by fear tactics. In the foreword to Miller's book, neurosurgeon Dr Russell Blaylock offers a similar cautionary approach.

Whether you're considering vaccination against chickenpox, human papilloma virus (HPV), influenza, measles, meningococcal or pertussis, or even dealing with Gulf War syndrome, there is well-researched advice to help you decide on any action. In the case of the HPV vaccine, the information is alarming to any parent or teenager contemplating a shot of Gardasil.

Miller touches on legal aspects of vaccinations in the USA, but readers elsewhere are advised to contact local, independent, vaccination information groups. A powerful sourcebook.



REVIEWS



THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE WAR ON CANCER

by Devra Davis

Basic Books, NY, London, 2007
ISBN 978-0-465-01566-5 (515pp hc)
Available: www.perseusbooks.com;
www.devradavis.org

Millions of lives could have been spared if action had been taken against the industrial and environmental causes of cancer when US President Nixon declared war on the disease in 1971. So says Dr Devra Davis, director of the Center for Environmental Oncology in Pittsburgh in her stunning account. Even more lives could have been saved if the findings of Rachel Carson (1964), of earlier researchers in the 1930s–40s such as Wilhelm Heuper, and of much earlier investigators going back 150 years had been heeded.

Dr Davis explains when, how, why and by whom attention has been diverted from so many factors that cause cancer. She singles out corporate polluters, the military, the tobacco industry, producers of personal care products, public health authorities, cancer societies, the medical profession, PR and advertising firms and other groups for ensuring that information on health risks has been kept from the public. Using many examples, she describes how research on cancer prevention and on the external, environmental causes of cancer has been downplayed, unfunded

or suppressed. Furthermore, she tells the stories of brave individuals who tried to get the message out but were stopped in their tracks, and of those who adopted alternative therapies over orthodox chemical and radiation treatments for cancer. Dr Davis also considers the relationship between cellphones, tumour incidence and industry-funded research that obscures the risks for phone users.

Finally, Dr Davis adds harrowing tales of her own family's battles against the disease. A compelling call to action.

CANCER: The Complete Recovery Guide

by Jonathan Chamberlain

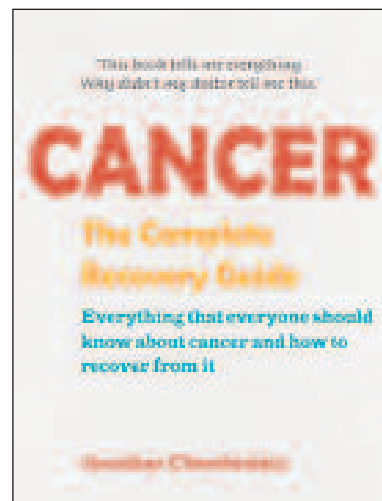
Long Island Press, UK, 2008
ISBN 978-0-9545960-1-9 (365pp tpb)
Available: www.fightingcancer.com

When his wife was diagnosed with cervical cancer in 1993, Jonathan Chamberlain began his quest for the truth about cancer and how best to cure it. While not a medical or health practitioner, he set up a website nearly 13 years ago and has written several books, having despaired that there was little readily accessible information that answered all his questions on the pros and cons of various cancer treatments.

Chamberlain's guidebook is aimed at anyone who has cancer, has undergone treatment but wants to know about the options in case the cancer returns, or is helping a cancer sufferer. The first

section considers basic facts about the nature, symptoms, causes and cures of cancer as well as problems with cancer statistics. The second covers the orthodox approach with testing, surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy and their side effects, along with the politics of the cancer industry and the money-making machine. The third section looks at complementary and alternative approaches to cancer with testing, detoxing, diet, vitamin and mineral supplements, subtle energy therapies, and the emotional and mental factors in dealing with cancer, plus a tribute to cancer research pioneers and outcasts.

There are inspirational stories and resources for further information. Chamberlain has performed a great





REVIEWS

BREAKTHROUGH POWER: Quantum-Leap New Energy Inventions...

by Jeane Manning and Joel Garbon

Amber Bridge Books, Vancouver, 2009
ISBN 978-0-9810543-0-8 (272pp tpb)
Available: Amber Bridge Books, email
info@breakthroughpower.net

The time is ripe to make a quantum leap towards the clean energy revolution, say author Jeane Manning (see 3/01, 4/02) and industrial science consultant Joel Garbon, president of the New Energy Movement in the USA.

Powerful lobbyists in the oil-gas-coal industries have long made sure that inventions based on "free energy" didn't see the light of day, and more recently renewable-energy proponents have been vying to be heard by policy-makers. What's different now is that the public is weary of high fuel prices, biofuel sources are competing with food crops, and the planet's atmosphere and oceans are drowning in excess carbon dioxide.

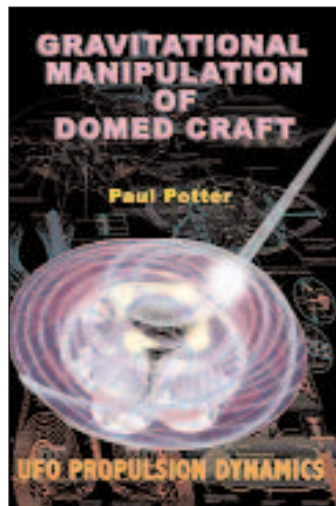
In *Breakthrough Power*, Manning and Garbon feature the new-energy inventions that really *could* transform our world, given the funding and the opportunities for them to succeed. Some of these inventions—by Tesla, Keely, Moray and Schauburger—have been hidden by history, while others are part of the emerging new era encompassing developments in cold fusion, magnetism, water fuel cells, pulsing plasma energy and more. They also cover how the media, corporations, elected representatives and even green groups have stonewalled lone inventors working on promising technologies.

There is hope for a clean, sustainable future if grassroots citizens become informed, demand a new energy future and nurture a "tidal wave of wisdom".

GRAVITATIONAL MANIPULATION OF DOMED CRAFT: UFO Propulsion Dynamics **by Paul Potter**

Adventures Unlimited Press, 2008
ISBN 978-1-931882-91-0 (592pp tpb)
Available: **Aust/NZ**—NEXUS offices;
Europe—www.frontierbookshop.nl/
whois_en.html; **USA**—www.adventures
unlimitedpress.com

Paul Potter has produced an extraordinary study of UFO propulsion dynamics based on analysis of artefacts retrieved from crashed craft in Russia and the USA, scientific research papers and eyewitness testimony from famous abductee Betty Andreasson Luca. Luca, who wrote the foreword to this book, had abduction experiences from her childhood in the 1940s through to the 1980s, and was able to reproduce with clarity many details of the craft and the ETs in her books, including *The Andreasson Affair*. Her five-year correspondence with Potter led to his being able to fine-tune his schematic diagrams and theories about the structure, composition, energy systems, operation, propulsion and



trajectories of these dome-shaped craft.

While Potter hasn't built the "AA" machine, he has created blueprints and technical data as a guide to how it would work both inside and out. He covers such advanced innovations as helical field tube technology, the "black vortex" of silent power, ferro-electric emission sphere fabrication and gravitationally polarised power spheres. He analyses gravitational pull and push forces, counter-rotating flows, superradiance amplification, and mass diminution and time dilation inside domed UFOs. Lastly, Potter reinterprets the Area 51/ S-4 UFO (as revealed by Bob Lazar) in terms of a proton cyclotron beneath the dome. This is arguably the most mind-boggling technical study of UFO design and

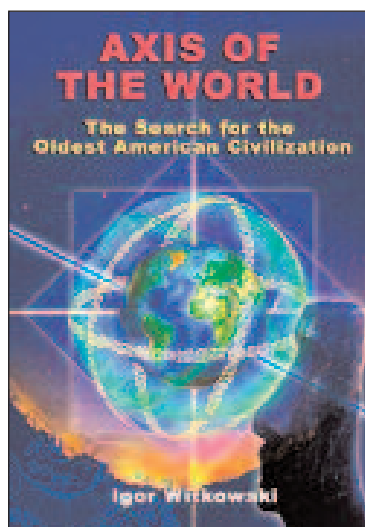
REVIEWS



THE AXIS OF THE WORLD

by Igor Witkowski

Adventures Unlimited Press, IL, 2008
ISBN 978-1-931882-81-1 (238pp tpb)
Available: **Aust/NZ**—NEXUS offices;
Europe—www.frontierbookshop.nl/whois_en.html; **USA**—www.adventuresunlimitedpress.com



Evidence for the existence of a great civilisation with a global reach in antediluvial times is uncovered here by Polish researcher Igor Witkowski (more used to writing books about World War II history). Informing him are archaeological, anthropological and geological findings, cultural and linguistic studies and genetics data.

Witkowski's cue comes from Polish professor Benon Z. Szalek, who by the early 1970s was noting commonalities among the Finno-Ugric language groups (including Basque, Hungarian, Japanese and Tamil) and developing his notion of a "supercivilisation". He theorised that the Indus Valley culture of Mohenjo Daro successfully preserved its older heritage; later migrations then spread this "proto-Dravidian" influence. It turns out that the world's oldest script, from Mohenjo Daro, is strikingly like the Rongorongo script of Easter Island, and these two places are at almost opposite ends of the globe. It's like an axis of the world, Prof. Szalek claimed, and its near-midpoint is Nan Madol in Micronesia, site of megalithic basalt structures and strange scripts.

These ancients not only must have had

seafaring skills but figured out the spherical nature of the planet. Perhaps their task was not as difficult as imagined, suggests Witkowski, in a world with much lower sea levels. Island-hopping would have been easier and the older cultural knowledge could have spread across the Pacific into South America, undergoing further development there. The signs are there to be seen, he assures us from his own travels to these regions. Many photos and maps aid in contemplating this fascinating ancient history.

AUSTRALIAN CRYPTOZOOLOGY

by Gary Opit

Self-published by Gary Opit, 2008
ISBN n/a (115pp spiral bound)
Available: Gary Opit, PO Box 383,
Brunswick Heads, NSW 2483,
Australia, email garyopit@bigpond.com

Australia is home to unique fauna but also to creatures so elusive that mainstream scientists discount any evidence for their existence. Biologist Dr Gary Opit has made cryptozoology his pet subject and has walked the hard yards in trying to confirm the reality of the yowie (giant and small species), bunyip, marsupial lion and thylacine or "Tasmanian tiger" (which he maintains is not extinct, even on the mainland).

For his guide to Australian crypto-creatures, Dr Opit draws on Aboriginal "dreaming" tales and published historical sources as well as accounts from latter-day eyewitnesses, and his conclusions are compelling.

Fellow researcher Pixie Byrnes adds her perspective, along with her illustrations, on the reclusive yowie, one species of which is akin to the legendary "Bigfoot" or Sasquatch of North America and the yeti of the Himalaya mountains.

Dr Opit thrills the reader with stories of close encounters with mysterious creatures, although it must be said he's dedicated to scientific enquiry, not sensationalism. Regular readers will recall his articles in NEXUS (6/05, 9/01), and some of this material is reproduced for this compendium. Even in this modern world, it's heartening to know there are some wild things "out there" that have not been made extinct



REVIEWS

HITLER'S SUPPRESSED AND STILL-SECRET WEAPONS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY by Henry Stevens

Adventures Unlimited Press, 2007
ISBN 978-1-931882-73-6 (334pp tpb)
Avail: **Aust/NZ**—NEXUS; **Eur**—www.frontierbookshop.nl/whois_en.html;
USA—adventuresunlimitedpress.com



One reason why Nazi Germany's advanced technology was suppressed after the end of World War II is that it was in the interests of the Americans to spirit it away for their own purposes. So writes Henry Stevens (*Hitler's Flying Saucers*, 10/03), who has utilised translated Nazi source documents, eyewitness accounts and declassified US documents to extend his thesis that the Nazis, the SS in particular, were testing and deploying highly advanced weaponry. He includes many documents and photos here to prove his point. However, in many instances, evidence for this expertise and technology ending up in US hands is circumstantial, but Stevens believes the truth will come out one day. Certain advanced technologies and processes, e.g., the development of synthetic oil, have been claimed to be the result of original work conducted in US corporations when it was already part of the Nazi war effort, he says.

The Nazi technologies and weapons under development included liquid air warhead detonators, X-ray/gamma-ray weapons, laser guns, flying wings and discs, free-energy devices, electric guns,

high-speed rockets, supermetals, time-travel devices, nitrogen and even atomic bombs. Stevens relates the account of Luigi Romersa, a trusted aide of Mussolini, who apparently witnessed a German a-bomb test on Reugen Island, and he posits that the bombs exploded over Japan in 1945 had been stolen from the Nazis. A provocative disclosure of hitherto closely guarded secrets.

THE HIDDEN EVIL by Mark M. Rich

Lulu Enterprises, NC, USA, 2008
ISBN 978-1-4357-5010-4 (316pp tpb)
Available: www.TheHiddenEvil.com

For the supranational shadow government to implement its agenda for world dictatorship, it has to co-opt local informants to terrorise individuals who thwart its plans. Mark Rich, a target himself, explains how this agenda has been ramped up in the post-9/11 terrorism-focused global society, but he provides extensive historical context as well as commentary from well-known researchers to support his argument.

Rich sets the scene with reference to the elite groups near the top of the control pyramid, e.g., transnationals, the private Federal Reserve, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Bilderbergers, and tax-exempt foundations with links to the Rothschilds and Rockefellers. He then examines how these groups have had their way, e.g., deliberately creating the Great Depression, funding the Nazis, and rewriting history via their compliant allies in the media and academia. In the second section, Rich homes in on the structure, tactics and purpose of this "hidden evil" and how informants are co-opted to serve it. As well as sophisticated mind-control and "non-lethal" technology being used, more basic techniques such as stalking, mobbing, brighting, blacklisting, character assassination and noise campaigns are employed to destabilise and alienate the targeted victim. These methods worked for the Stasi in East Germany, and they're part and parcel of the psychopathic, satanic New World Order controllers' bag of tricks.

Rich's alarming exposé is well researched and referenced. Citizens everywhere are urged to take note.

REVIEWS



DVDs

Compiled by Duncan Roads

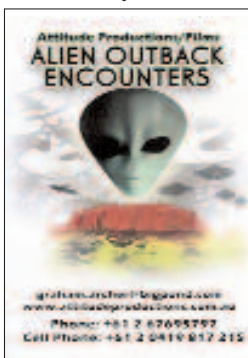
ALIEN OUTBACK ENCOUNTERS (OF AUSTRALIA)

© Attitude Productions/Films 2008
Available: **Australia**—Attitude Productions, PO Box 70, Attunga, NSW 2345, tel +61 (0)2 6769 5735, website www.attitudeproductions.com.au

Australia's outback is home to many mysteries, whether they be weird creatures (see *Twilight Zone* this issue) or strange UFO/ET encounters. This impressive 55-minute documentary includes on-location footage, eyewitness reports and interviews on UFO sightings, alien abduction reports, official UFO sightings, Aboriginal lore and more.

The film covers ancient cave drawings, Aboriginal abduction and ET stories, the Min Min lights and Devil's Marbles, and has lots of Pine Gap footage as well.

All in all, it has impressive content and good narration, and reveals real stories from real people about actual events and places in and around the vast Australian outback and beyond.



ANCIENT ROOTS, MODERN SHOOTS

by Dr Leonid Sharashkin

© Leonid Sharashkin, 2008
Available: **Australia/NZ**—www.nexusmagazine.com; **UK/Europe/USA**—www.kinsdomain.com

From the editor of *Anastasia* and the popular Ringing Cedars series of books comes this inspiring presentation on our connection to the living world around and within us.



Ancient wisdom holds that the body and psyche are intricately linked to the living environment and that contact with nature is essential for physical and mental well-being.

In this DVD you'll see that modern research offers insights into why this is so, and what practical steps we can take to establish a reciprocal flow of nourishment and energy to our environment and back.

RECONNECTING TO NATURE THROUGH SPIRITUAL PERMACULTURE

by Dr Leonid Sharashkin

© Leonid Sharashkin 2007, 2008
Available: **Australia**—NEXUS Magazine, PO Box 30, Mapleton, Qld 4560, tel +61 (0)7 5442 9280, website www.nexusmagazine.com; **UK/Europe/USA**—website www.kinsdomain.com



Despite a millennium of harsh oppression, Russian families have preserved a unique and traditional lifestyle, grounded in self-sufficiency and self-reliance. They now show a path to a more fulfilling, independent and mortgage-free existence.

As millions of people worldwide start to

embrace these ideas, there's great hope that humanity may now be entering a new age of harmony and peace.

In this insightful conference presentation (met with a standing ovation by a grateful audience), Dr Sharashkin (editor of *Anastasia* and the Ringing Cedars book series) discusses the potential of Russia's permaculture gardening movement to bring positive change to the nation and the world.



REVIEWS

MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

LIVE!

by various artists

Gemini Sun Records, USA, 2008 (CD & DVD, 74mins each)

Distributor: **USA**—Gemini Sun Records, tel +1(877) 466 4786, www.GeminiSunRecords.com

Four leading US musicians have collaborated for this special CD and DVD. Flautist Nicholas Gunn has sold several million albums, including his *Sacred Fire*, *Crossroads* and *National Parks* albums. Johannes Linstead is a popular guitarist in the new flamenco genre, his *Guitarra del Fuego* recently named a Best World Album. Pianist Loren Gold has great jazz credentials. Triple Grammy winner David Arkenstone plays electric and acoustic guitar sounds, merging these with the latest music technologies. The DVD has accompanying interviews with each musician. A collector's treat.

CéU

by CéU

Six Degrees Records, 2007 (51mins)

Distributors: **Australia**—Fuse Music, tel (02) 9699 7555; **USA**—Six Degrees, tel (415) 626 6334, website www.sixdegrees.com

This young woman, whose expressive name CéU (pronounced "cell" with a light "L") means "heaven" or "sky", is the latest sensation from São Paulo in Brazil. She has topped *Billboard's* World Music charts and been Number 1 on its new artists category. Her songs fuse warm, melodious, jazzy sounds with conventional Brazilian jazz in sensual, deep and heartfelt compositions. A fine, relaxed album from a new Latin voice phenomenon.

INTRODUCING SPAM ALLSTARS

by Spam Allstars

World Music Network, UK, 2008 (73mins)

Distributors: **Australia**—The Planet Company, tel (02) 9283 8250; **UK**—WMN, tel (0)20 7498 5252,

www.worldmusic.net; **USA**—World Circuit, tel 800 955 9588 (toll free)

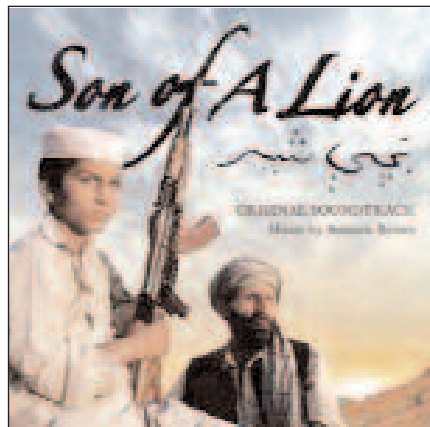
With "Spam" in the name, this band must be good! It blends and improvises with electronica and mixed turntables, producing a unique Latin, funk, hip-hop and dub sound described as *descarga* in Spanish, meaning "electrical charge"—and surely this band sparks! These Miami-based musicians are men and women steeped in Afro-Cuban, jazz, bebop and funk. They improvise on their compositions and fill their songs with comedic asides. A rocky, funky, even Pythonesque album.

SON OF A LION

by various artists

Think Music, Australia, 2008 (58mins)

Distributor: **Australia**—Fuse Music, tel (02) 9699 7555, website



www.sonofalion.com

The movie *Son of a Lion*, shown recently in cinemas around the world and winning accolades at the Berlin, Sydney and Melbourne film festivals, is the story of a sensitive boy from the northwestern frontier of Pakistan who wants to go to school—not make guns or war. For the film score, composer Amanda Brown (formerly with The Go-Betweens) sought music from the region and found the Afghani Sarshar family, whose songs and voices are featured here along with harmonium, tabla, tanbur, lutes and various wind instruments. Brown has brought together a hybrid of regional

Death of the American Empire and Economy

Continued from page 26

control over spiralling prices during the past few years, almost squarely laid on the shoulders of Saudi Arabia alone. When, in September 2008, OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) sought to maintain higher prices by cutting production, it was Saudi Arabia that voted against such a move at the expense of its own revenue.

Europe then decided that no more would it be ruined by the excesses of America. "Olde Europe" may have had enough of being dictated to by the USA, which refused to compromise on loans given to broken European nations after World War II.

On 13 October, the once-divided European Union nations unilaterally agreed to an emergency rescue plan totalling US\$2.3 trillion. It was more than three times greater than the US package for a catastrophe that America alone had created.

By mid-October, the Dow, NASDAQ and S&P 500 had erased all the gains made over the previous decade. Greenspan's pyramid scheme of easy money from nothing resulted in a massive overextension of credit, inflated housing prices and incredible stock valuations, achieved because investors would never withdraw their money all at once. But now it was crashing at breakneck speed, with no solution in sight.

President Bush said that people ought not to worry at all because "America is the most attractive destination for investors around the globe".

Those who will hurt the most are the very men and women who helped the country grow after World War II and saved their pensions for retirement due now. They had built the country during the war production years, making its weapons and arms for global conflict.

During the Cold War, the USSR was

the ever-present enemy and thus the military-industrial complex continued to grow. Only when there is a war does America profit. Russia will not tolerate a New Cold War build-up of ballistic missiles. And the Middle East has seen its historical ally turn into its worst nightmare, be it militarily or economically. No longer will these nations continue to support the dollar as the world's currency.

The world's economy is no longer America's to control, and the United States is now indebted to the rest of the world.

No more will the US be able to demand that its largest Middle Eastern oil supplier open up its banking books so as to be transparent and free from corruption and terrorist connections, lest there be consequences—for the biggest act of criminal corruption in history has just been perpetrated by the United States. It was the best con game in town: get paid well for selling vast amounts of risk, then fail

Death of the American Empire and Economy

and have governments fix the problem at the expense of the taxpayers who never saw a penny of shared wealth to begin with.

There is no easy solution to this crisis: its effects are multiplying like an infectious disease.

Islamic versus capitalist economic systems

Ironically, least affected by the crisis are Islamic banks. They have largely been immune to the collapse because Islamic banking prohibits the acquisition of wealth via gambling (or alcohol, tobacco, pornography or stocks in armaments companies), and forbids the buying and selling of a debt as well as usury. Additionally, Shari'ah banking laws forbid investing in any company with debts that exceed 30 per cent.

"Islamic banking institutions have not failed *per se* as they deal in tangible assets and assume the risk," said Dr Mohammed Ramady,

Professor of Economics at King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals. "Although the Islamic banking sector is also part of the global economy, the impact of direct exposure to sub-prime asset investments has been low," he continued. "The liquidity slowdown has especially affected Dubai, with its heavy international borrowing. The most negative effect has been a loss of confidence in the regional stock markets." Instead, said Dr Ramady, oil-surplus Arab nations are "reconsidering overseas investments in financial assets" and speeding up their own domestic projects.

Eight years ago, in May 2000, Saudi Islamic banker His Highness Dr Nayef bin Fawaaz ibn Sha'alan gave a series of economics lectures in Gulf states. At the time, his research showed that Arab investments in the US, to the tune of \$1.5 trillion, were effectively being held hostage and he recommended they be pulled out and reinvested in the tangibles of the Arab

and Islamic markets. "Not in stocks, however, because the stock market could be manipulated remotely, as we have seen in the last couple of years in the Arab market where trillions of dollars evaporated," he said.

He warned then that it was a certainty that the US economic system was on the verge of collapse because of its cumulative debts, ever-increasing deficit and the interest on that debt. "When the debts and deficits come due, they just issue new Treasury bonds to cover the old bonds due, with their interest and the new deficit, too."

The cycle cannot be stopped or the debt cancelled because the US would no longer be able to borrow. The consequence of relieving this cycle would be a total collapse of its economic system, as opposed to the partial, albeit massive, crash of 2008.

"Islamic banking," said Dr Al-

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Death of the American Empire and Economy

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Sha'alan, "always protects the individual's wealth while putting a cap on selfishness and greed. It has the best of capitalism—filtering out its negatives—and the best of socialism—filtering out its negatives, too. Both systems inevitably had to fail. Additionally, Europe and Japan did not need to be held accountable and indebted to America any more for protection against the Soviets.

"The essential difference between the Islamic economic system and the capitalist system," he continued, "is that, in Islam, wealth belongs to God—the individual being only its manager. It is a means, not a goal. In capitalism, it is the reverse: money belongs to the individual, and is a goal in and of itself. In America especially, money is worshipped like God."

In sum, the crash of the entire global economic system will be a result of America's fiscal arrogance based upon

one set of rules for itself and another for the rest of the world. Its increased "creative financing" has deluded its people into a false sense of security, and it now looks like we're seeing the failure of capitalism altogether.

The whole exercise in democracy by force against Arab Muslim nations has almost bankrupted the United States. The Cold War is over and the US has nothing to offer—no exports, no production, few natural resources and no service sector economy.

The very markets that resisted US economic policies the most, having curbed foreign direct investments into America, are those that will fare best and come out ahead. But not before having paid a very high price. ∞

About the Author:

Tanya Cariina Hsu is a political researcher and analyst focusing on Saudi Arabian–US relations. She was one of the contributors to recent written testimony on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the US Senate

Committee on the Judiciary on behalf of FOCA (Friends of Charities Association) in its Hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, and her analysis has been published and critically acclaimed throughout the USA, Europe and the Middle East.

As the Institute for Research: Middle Eastern Policy (IRMep) Director of Development and Senior Research Analyst, Ms Hsu was the first to break the barrier against public discussion of the Israeli influence upon US foreign policy decision-making in Capitol Hill's "A Clean Break" Symposium in 2004. She remains an International Fellow with the Institute.

Born in London, Ms Hsu relocated to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in 2005 and is currently completing a book on US policy towards Saudi Arabia.

Her article this edition, originally titled "Death of the American Empire", is available at the Global Research web page <http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=10651>.

Language, Emotion and Forecasting the Future

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called "energy" and it splits off into these various different areas.

There appears to be a whole lot of information about extra energy coming in from space.

The data-sets might be reflecting major changes at levels that might go down to what we call the ESR or the *electron spin resonance*. So, who knows what that's going to cause.

Would humans be able to adequately project the result of something like the change in the electron spin resonance level across the whole of the solar system if we get into some of these energetic areas, in a way that we could meaningfully pick up? I don't know. We might be getting some hints that there are some huge changes along that level coming up.

As for popping into the fourth dimension, the fourth density or something, we don't have any words specifically towards that, other than

we're picking up some of those that are coming from those people that are promulgating that idea out there. We're not picking up any of the archetypes that I would suspect should arise. It doesn't mean that we won't. We're just not at this moment.

KC: Okay, because, for example, it seems to me that maybe an archetype symbol would be the spiral.

CH: [long pause] Yeah, but that's all tied up in the idea of the eschaton and the singularity and so on. It'd be awful hard to separate that from those previous contexts and apply it. We do see a whole... We do see mass kinds of changes coming in at various different levels that are affecting the data at unexpected places. And they're pointing to things like the pineal gland.

In this coming report, we're going to write about fluoride because there's gonna be a huge emotional wave building in 2009 about the damage that was done to people as a result of

fluoride and its interaction with the pineal gland. A lot of people are going to be very, very, very upset because they will feel that something has been stolen from them. I think that what they're going to be feeling is that the potential or capacity for a better expression of humanity has been stolen from them, once they know certain information.

KC: Wow! Okay, thank you. This has been really fascinating.

BR: Clif, thank you for sharing so much with us. This has been very, very interesting. ∞

About the Interviewers:

Kerry Cassidy and Bill Ryan comprise the team behind Project Camelot (<http://projectcamelot.org>). If any readers have inside information which they would like publicised, Project Camelot promises full confidentiality and a wide audience for the disclosure of important subject matter.

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