

# Steamshovel Press

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Issue #16  
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**CONSPIRACIES  
CONSIDERED:**

**THE FINDERS**  
Counter Culture or  
Counter Intelligence?

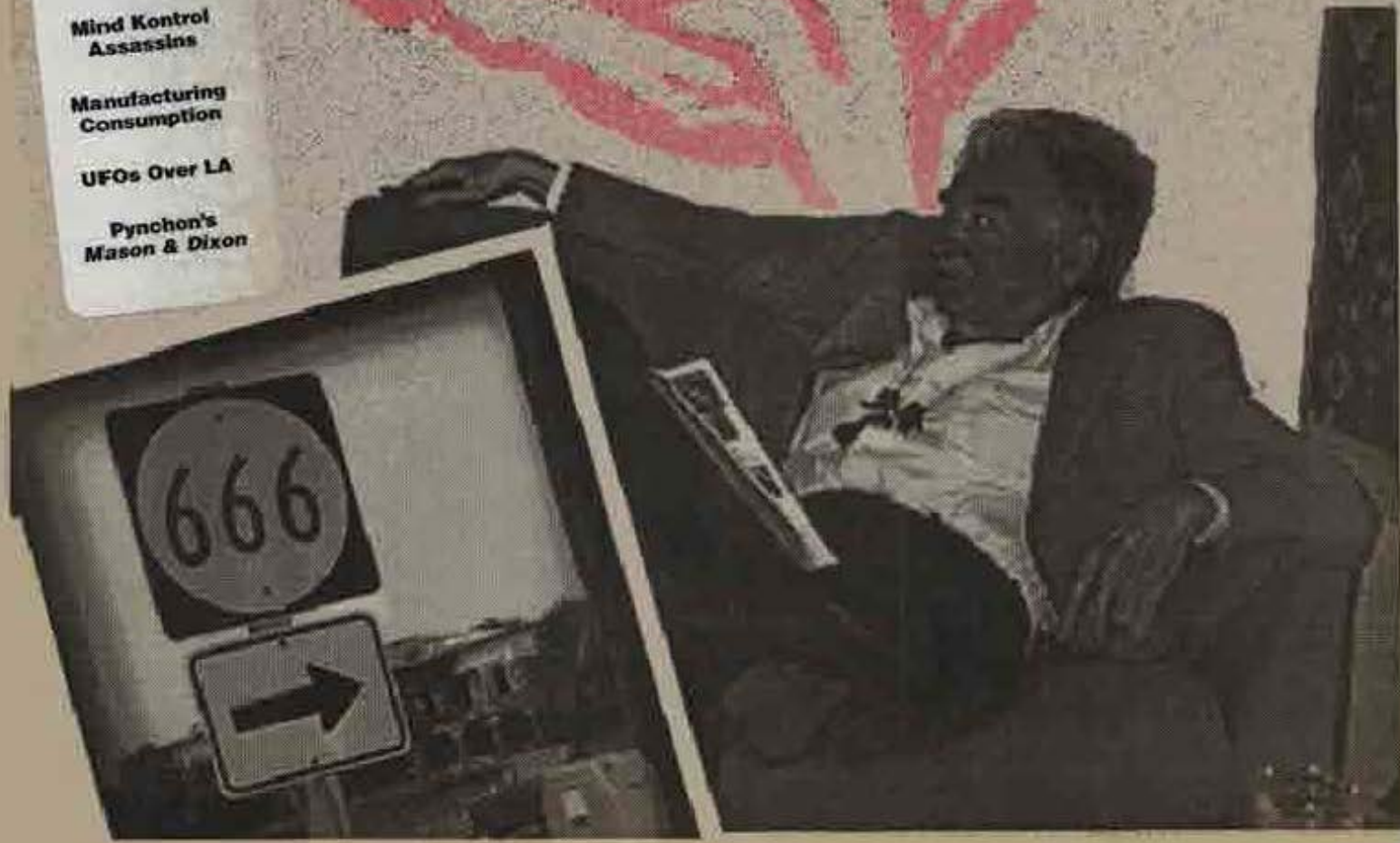
Paranoid  
Iconography

Mind Control  
Assassins

Manufacturing  
Consumption

UFOs Over LA

Pynchon's  
Mason & Dixon





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### Submissions:

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### What's with the infrequency, Kenneth?

Why has it been so long since the last issue of *Steamshovel*? At the end of last year, *Steamshovel's* major distributor, Fine Print in Austin, Texas, went out of business after filing for bankruptcy. Under ordinary circumstances, other distributors would have picked up the short fall, but Fine Print went under at a time when it owed *Steamshovel* for one issue and had already received copies of another. This cost *Steamshovel* several thousand dollars, and it has been scrambling to emerge from the financial disaster ever since. The Fine Print disaster cost the lives of many zines and others cut back production enormously. *Steamshovel* has stuck with it, however, and has been quietly re-organizing itself for continued survival. Subscribers received a notice and bail-out solicitation about this that raised enough money to help retire some printer and other debts, although others remain outstanding.

--cont'd on page 37--

# THE FINDERS' KEEPER

an interview with  
Marion David Pettie

by Kenn Thomas and Len Bracken

A 1994 reference work on utopian communities refers to the Finders as "a rather spontaneous non-organization...Their overall approach to life is to make it into a game--a challenging and educational process where the rules change from week to week, day to day, sometimes even by the hour." Contrast that with investigator Ted Gunderson's handwritten description, attached to Treasury Department memoranda on the Finders that Ted Gunderson circulates in a info-packet about the group: "the Finders are a "CIA front established in the 1960s. It has TOP CLEARANCE and PROTECTION in its ASSIGNED task of kidnapping and torture-programming young children throughout the US. Members are specially trained GOVERNMENT KIDNAPPERS known to be sexual degenerates who involve children in Satanic sex orgies and bloody rituals as well as murders of other children and slaughter of animals."

The Finders group found itself in the news in February 1987 when an anonymous caller phoned police to report two formally dressed men (Michael Houlihan and Douglas Ammerman) supervising six casually dressed children--according to police, they were unkempt, disheveled and bruised--at Myers Park in Tallahassee,

Florida. The police charged the men, members of the Finders, with child abuse,



Above: Marion David Pettie  
Photos by Len Bracken

and Detective Jim Bradley of the metropolitan police in Washington, DC, used the arrest as a pretext to raid one of the Finders' properties there. Bradley's men seized evidence they said may have been indicative of an organized ring of pedophilic child kidnappers who made animal sacrifices to Satan.

A report by Customs Special Agent Ramon J. Martinez claimed that documents found at the Finders property "revealed detailed instructions for obtaining children for unspecified purposes. The instructions included the impregnation of female members of the community known as the Finders, purchasing children, trading, and kidnapping. One telex specifically ordered the purchase of two children in Hong Kong to be arranged through a contact in the Chinese embassy there." Martinez also reported that the seized Finders evidence



"I just keep open house. That's about all I do..."

Left: Storefront properties, including theater, owned by the Finders in Culpeper, VA.

included "numerous photos of children, some nude, at least one of which was a photo of a child 'on display' and appearing to accent the child's genitals...a series of photos of adults and children dressed in white sheets participating in a "blood ritual." The ritual centered around the execution, disembowelment, skinning and dismemberment of the goats at the hands of the children, this included the removal of the testes of a male goat, the discovery of a female goat's 'womb' and the 'baby goats' inside the womb and the presentation of a goat's head to one of the children."

Despite this, charges against the men in Tallahassee were dropped, the children were sent home to their parents unharmed (although the court attached conditions to the return of two of them), and prosecutions were not pursued in DC. Police authorities

both in DC and Florida complained that the case was mishandled because the Finders work for the CIA. When Martinez went to meet with Detective Bradley to review the case, he was directed to a third party who advised that all the passport data from the seized Finders material check out as legal. According to Martinez, "the individual further advised me of circumstances which indicated that the investigation into the activity of the Finders had become a CIA internal matter. The MPD (DC metropolitan police) report has been classified secret and was not available for review. I was advised that the FBI had withdrawn from the investigation several weeks prior and that FBI Foreign Counter Intelligence Division had directed MPD not to advise the FBI Washington Field office of anything that had transpired."

The Justice Department released Martinez's report and other documents about the Finders when it opened a new investigation into the group's activities in 1993, in part to determine if the CIA had put the kibosh on the 1987 investigation. One memo claimed that the "CIA made one contact and admitted to owning the Finders organization as a front for a domestic computer training operation, but that it had gone bad." The operation, called Future Enterprises, had hired a Finder, but dismissed him when his connection to the group was exposed. North Carolina's Democratic representative Charlie Rose and Florida's Republican representative Tom Lewis supported and publicized that investigation, as did a former CIA operative named Skip Clemens (reported upon by Chris Roth in *Steamshovel Press* #11; see also pp. 295-296 of *Popular Alienation*.)

The Finders have more-or-less rational explanations for even the most bizarre behavior attributed to them, especially in the context of a group that exists to challenge social paradigms. Even the goat sacrifices, known as "Goatgate" to the group, have been attributed to the Finders just play-acting at being witches and warlocks, another "game" to dumbfound lookers-on. Many of the Finders' games serve as parody or put-on. The store windows of its offices include strange scarecrow artifacts and bumper sticker slogans like "Call Police" with the letter "C" missing. The words "Promise Keepers" adorn the marquis of an old theater owned by the Finders, although their meaning--perhaps something to do with the manic men of the infamous Christian movement Promise Keepers--is lost to strangers. Not all the weirdest at Finders HQ is Finders generated, however. Travelers arrive at Finders headquarter in Culpeper, Virginia,

an hour and a half northwest of Washington, DC, via state route 666.

The Tallahassee incident and subsequent interest placed the Finders' reputation at the center of DC's conspiracy culture. That's no small feat in a town where Operation Monarch sex-slave operations and powerful pedophilic politicians rule the rumor roost. *Steamshovel* editor Kenn Thomas and author Len Bracken (whose 1990 novel *Freeplay* included fictionalized reference to the Finders) dropped in unannounced at the Finders facilities. At the time, eight former members had filed a chancery action against the group to recover money they had pooled into they currently considered a defunct partnership. More evidence that Goatgate did cost the Finders money and members. Marion Pettie was still holding court in Culpeper, however, and granted the following impromptu interview. It is presented here as a rare look at the controversies surrounding the group, verbatim from the perspective of the main personality at its core.

**Q: How far back can you trace the origins of the Finders?**

A: I had two apartments back in the 30s and 40s in Washington and just kept open house. It was supported by the gift economy and I would throw something in. Some people would say I threw in my good taste. So anyway, it goes back that far. Four people here with me now have been with me for over twenty-five years. In fact, I kept another thing called the Free State back in the hippy period, back in the mountains here.

**Q: The Free State?**

A: Yeah, it was called the Free State and it

was known all over the world.

**Q: This was where?**

A: About twenty miles from here. About a hundred people would usually be there at any one time. A few other people have done that. A man named Gottlieb, have you ever heard of him, a musician? He kept open house like that and the government came out and closed him down. But the local authorities let me keep it going up there.

**Q: This was the 40s?**

A: No, we've moved up to the 60s here. Before that, just to give you an idea of the time period, the sheriff came out and put a gun on me one day and said, "show me some ID." I showed it to him and he says, "Oh, I know you. You're the guy what keeps beatniks." So I kept open house to beatniks. We're talking about the 50s now. Going back to World War II, I kept open house mainly to intelligence and counter-intelligence people in Washington, OSS people passing through, things like that. So the open house at that time was more or less at that level. The main ones were beatniks, though, like Dick Dabney. Ever heard his name?

**Q: What's the name?**

A: Dick Dabney. He was the number two king of the beatniks in Washington and a novelist.

**Q: But the group is basically different from the Kerouac/Ginsberg/Burroughs type crowd?**

A: I just keep open house. That's about all I do. It changes as people show up. Basically, we have about 600 acres up there and a few

houses and people who are here more or less permanently now. They spend part of the time in this town [Culpepper] and part of the time in DC and part of the time up in the mountains, and another part traveling all over the world.

**Q: But it's still basically the same drift in, drift out kind of thing.**

A: Nobody signs anything.

**Q: It's an interesting philosophical difference with the culture at large.**

A: Personally, I'd say the only thing that has been different is --I'm closest to being Taoist.

**Q: I noticed you have a Lao Tzu quote framed on the wall there.**

A: Two ministers were going to come over here and pray for me. I thought you two might have been them.

**Q: [laughter]**

A: They said they had a problem with me being a skeptic and me being in this town.

**Q: There's a church next door. That's got to be difficult.**

A: How so?

**Q: I was thinking in terms of having a bohemian crowd around. Also, that's a real thing to infiltrate in terms of the intelligence agencies.**

A: Some investigators back in the 60s tailed me for four years. At first they said they thought I was a dope dealer big time because, I didn't use it myself. Then they

*Below: guerilla window dressing at Finders' storefront.*



decided that I was a front for the CIA. They asked if I was a front for the CIA. Of course, I wouldn't have told them anyway, but I asked those people, they said they ran the name through the computer and they said, "No, we don't own that guy." So then the investigator says, "I've been working on you for four years and I can't figure out what you're doing. What the hell are you doing?" So the point is that actually I'm not doing anything, just enjoying life and working on good ideas all of the time. I considered when I was 12 years old that my mission in life was to know everything and do nothing.

**Q: I wonder if in the 1950s you ever encountered the name Wilhelm Reich or any of the Reichian people?**

A: Oh yeah.

**Q: Do you have any specific memories about that?**

A: At that particular time I also kept open house mainly to the humanist psychology movement. They would come up to the country and have all these various gatherings and movements and some of them were Reichians. But I wouldn't say that I'm an expert on Reich. I think I've read most of his books. I would say that I had an

interest but I don't really have any inside connection to that personally.

**Q: Reich's last years were in jail, as you know, and he was considered paranoid, and they burned his books and all that. He was considered paranoid because he said he was a victim of a Rockefeller conspiracy. But Rockefeller was the money behind the New Republic which ran an anti-Reich smear campaign and whose editor, Michael Straight, later confessed to being a Soviet spy.**

A: He was a little bit paranoid, they said...when a plane would go over, he'd say it was one of Rockefeller's planes...

**Q: Eisenhower's...**

A: It might have been a mixture of both of those.

**Q: What do you make then of these stories that connect the Finders up to a pedophilia ring in the CIA?**

A: The pedophiles and all that stuff...

**Q: That's all smear?**

A: I just kept open house to a lot of the counter-intelligence and intelligence people over the years. I have been reported to their security officers probably plenty of times for trying to find out what's going on in the world. I've tried all of my life to get behind the scenes in the CIA. I sent my wife in as a spy, to spy on the CIA for me. She was very happy about it, happy to tell me everything she found out. She was in a key place, you know with the records, and she could find out things for me. And my son worked for Air America, which was a proprietary of the

CIA. There are some connections, but not to me personally.

**Q: But do you have any suspicions...the Finders sounds like a real open group that attracts a lot different elements...disinformation stories could be planted by certain elements to try to connect it to pedophilia...**

A: The reason the CIA wouldn't hire me is that they wouldn't have the control factor over me. That's one of the things. They may have used me at some time without me knowing it. They have categories of unwitting agents. Maybe you two were sent here by them. But I'm pretty open about this kind of stuff, though. They wouldn't hire me as a contract employee because I wouldn't sign the papers. Anybody that's a contract employee must sign an agreement and then they pay you out the money. Well, I don't



*Above: a glimpse of Pettie's library.*

need the money, but I am trying to find out all about them. Basically, the one sentence about the CIA is that I have been studying them since before they were born. I was studying them back in the 30s. It was ONI

Back then [Office of Naval Intelligence], and then the Coordinator of Information comes on, and after that it turns into the OSS and OSS turns into the CIAU and the CIAU turns into the CIA. So I've been studying that all of my life. But I wasn't personally working for them.

**Q: The renown case, of course, took place in Florida.**

A: Would you like to hear about it?

**Q: I'd like to hear everything you have to say about it, actually.**

A: It's very simple. We had the kids and the general idea was that they would go up to the country up there, twenty miles from here, and they would go to school, a self-governing school. Adults would be available to them, intelligent, well-balanced people. And they would never be alone with a kid so that no one could accuse them of any pedophiles stuff. At least two would have to be there. As far as I know, they did all that. Then they were just taking them on a camping trip to Florida. There were four intellectuals with them and they just happen to drive into a park and somebody was suspicious because the two men were well-dressed. They had four people with them on the trip and they were all well-educated, well-balanced people. So I don't think there was any funny stuff going on.

**Q: There were just police suspicions?**

A: Well, somebody called up and said, "there's two well-dressed men with some kids in a van over there." So the police come and then they take them down and by their standards these well-dressed men weren't answering the questions properly. So then they called Washington and somebody in the



Washington police says, "Yeah, we know those people. They're Finders and we're just about to find out what they're up to up here and we'll use this as an excuse to go in there and rig them."

**Q: So you were still under surveillance by them.**

A: Surveillance? I have been personally, I know, for forty years because in other countries and so forth, counter-intelligence, come out and want to know what I'm doing...if you go around acting mysterious and just find out what's going on, naturally, people come to find out what it is.

"Anybody that's a contract employee must sign an agreement and then they pay you out the money. Well, I don't need the money, but I am trying to find out all about them. Basically, the one sentence about the CIA is that I have been studying them since before they were born."

**Q: So then it snowballs. First there are unfounded suspicions by these people and the police. The local police connect to here in Washington and they say, "oh yeah, we know about the Finders" and that plays into their paranoia.**

A: Then it goes back down to here. Like I said, in the 60s I was under surveillance for four years, from '64 to '68, and they get all their files out and everybody starts comparing them. Basically, they come up

with the idea that "we don't know what they're doing. We don't know who they're connected with." What were those people called in Holland?

**Q: The Provos?**

A: Yeah. We are more or less like Provos or Situationists or something like. Actually, we're not connected with anybody, other than trying to know what's going on the world and improve the world a little bit.

**Q: So you haven't heard anything more about that? A guy named Skip Clemons took all this and turned it into, "this is a Satanic cult." Apparently his daughter actually successfully prosecuted somebody for satanic ritual abuse at a Montessori school. Have you heard of this?**

A: Oh yeah. Maybe this is something big.

**Q: There's also a computer training center that was actually training CIA guys how to operate, right?**

A: There's some partial truth to it. We go out and do emergency services and get employment for a lot of people. So one of them was in there working, where you're talking about, but we didn't have any connection other than one man going down there. And the man didn't know it but he was so-called "hiring a Finder". The company was actually doing training for the CIA. We had no particular connection to that man other than what anybody else would call a temp worker. But it looks like on the surface that it all ties together. A lot of these things do happen, but we're not connected anymore than any of the individuals in the Provo or the Situationists were. Maybe there are some people who have been around here have

been doing some intelligence work. I don't know about it. Mainly, there's no connection and it's just like I'm telling you. Individuals, I don't know. People show up. They may be sent here by the CIA, the FBI, the state police or anybody.

**Q: Having it such a loose association furthers that. It's not like you join the Finders and get a membership card.**

A: That's right.

**Q: It's a scene. Drop in, drop out.**

A: There's no such thing as the Finders. It's just a group term for people who like to hang around me. That could be anybody. There's nothing in writing. There's not even a group.

**Q: I notice you're reading Arthur Koestler's *Thirteenth Tribe*. Is that a particular interest of yours? Did you know Koestler?**

A: I didn't know him, but I really like his books, his style of writing.

**Q: Did you know Tim Leary?**

A: Yeah.

**Q: Was he in and out of the Finders scene?**

A: At one time, when he was up in New York, he would send people down here and somebody got tired of something down here, they would go up there. It was a pretty close connection. He gave me LSD but I never took it. I kept it in the ice box in case I wanted to take it. I figured it must be pretty good if it came from him.

**Q: Did he ever ask you about it afterward?**

A: No. Actually, one of the people connected with Leary accidentally burned the house down. He was putting in a sauna and he was so efficient he burned the house down and burned the LSD up. I never did take it. But I had a particularly close connection to him at that time, we're talking about the 60s again, by me running a place down here and him running one up there and people going back and forth all of the time.

#### **STEAMSHOVEL DEBRIS: The Finders**

Readers will find the most interesting material that circulates about the Finders below. It comes from an memo entitled "Investigative Leads" with the attribution that it was "produced sometime during the 1980s/authorship unknown."

Pettie met Joseph Chiang, a chinese agent operating under journalistic cover, in 1939 and remained in close contact with him throughout the war. Around this time Pettie also made connections with the OSS, through George Varga, Earl D. Brodie and Nick Von Neuman (John Von Neumann's brother) -- all low-level OSS officers. Sometime near the end of the war, Chiang introduced Pettie to Charles E. Marsh, at the National Press Club. Marsh, who ran the best private intelligence network of his era and was an intimate of FDR, Henry Wallace and later Lyndon Johnson, became Pettie's mentor and role model, shaplong his career. (Marsh's mentor and role model was Colonel Edward M. House, who was a personal advisor to President Wilson, circa 1919, often mentioned in connection to the Council on Foreign relations). Marsh died in December 1964. His last known address was in Austin, Texas.

In the 1950s and 60s Marsh provided funds for Pettie to purchase hundreds of acres of farmland in Madison and Rappahannock Counties, near his estate in Culpeper County. Later Petty arranged for William Yandell Elliott (1896- ) of Harvard University to purchase a property adjacent to him in Madison County. Elliott was a government professor at Harvard University who was on the National Security Council's planning board and a trustee of Radio Liberty (sponsored by the CIA). As of 1984

Elliott was a board member of Accuracy in media. Wrote numerous books.

In 1946 Pettie, acting as chauffeur to General Ira Eaker, Marsh arranged for him to be trained in counterintelligence in Baltimore, Maryland. Around this time Pettie established close ties to two guards of atom bomb secrets, Captain Michael Altier (?) and Major Harry Wolanin, both retired. In 1954 Pettie recruited Eric Heiberg who lost his NSA clearance at about this time. Heiberg was redeployed as a private investigator and subsequently as a talent spotter at Georgetown University (now retired). Pettie received intelligence training at Georgetown University in 1956 and was sent to USAF intelligence training school in Frankfurt, Germany in 1956-1957. Through Marsh, Pettie got his wife a job with the CIA from 1957 to early 1961, working in Washington as secretary and in Germany for the Chief of Station, Frankfurt. Colonel Leonard Weigner, USAF (deceased 1990) trained Pettie and advised Pettie retire from active military service and surround himself with kooks, recruiting agents from youth hostels and universities. Major George Varga became Pettie's case officer, relaying Weigner's instructions until Varga died in the 1970s.

Under Varga's instructions, Pettie recruited a network of agents in Europe, including Dr. Keith Arnold (recruited in Paris in 1958) who he accompanied to Moscow in 1959 or 1960. Arnold, currently based in Hong Kong with the Roche Foundation, has made over 40 trips to mainland China and has stayed in contact with Pettie. In the 1960s Pettie established connections with the 'beat' movement. Norman Mailer and Dick Dabney (died in November 1981) frequented his Virginia farm. Dabney's widow Dana has extensive files on Pettie. Peter Gillingham (Intermediate Technology, Palo Alto, CA) and Christopher Sonne (currently Goldman saches, NY) met Pettie in Moscow in 1961. In the early 60s Pettie allowed Ralph Borsodi and Mildred Loomis to use his Virginia property for the School of Living, a 'decentralist' one-world government front organization. Around 1964 Pettie recruited Bosco Nedelcovic and deployed him to penetrate the Institute for Policy Studies (he is currently an interpreter at the war College in Washington). In 1967 or 1968 Pettie established a 'futurist' network, assisting Edward S. Cornish in founding the World Future Society and working through Roy Mason and John Naisbitt. At this time Pettie also penetrated the hippy drug culture through retired naval intelligence officers Walt Schneider (Timothy Leary and Billy Hitchcock's private pilot) and Willard Poulsen (cut out between Pettie activities and those of Leary at millbrook). In 1971 Pettie infiltrated the 'human

potential' movement, setting up Ken Kesey (Living Love) as a prominent guru and working through Dr. Stephen Beltz (related to Judith Beltz, a behavior modification specialist more recently deployed to the Institute of Cultural Affairs and the Meta Network cult.

Christopher Bird, former CIA officer who served in Japan and a psych warfare specialist in the Army, and author of New Age and occult books has also been associated with Pettie. Bird wrote *The Secret Life of Plants* with Peter Tompkins. New York: Avon, 1974. Tompkins wrote on new age subjects like the pyramids, and once served in the OSS (now anti-CIA).

Pettie's activities took a different turn in 1979 when he recruited John J. Cox, founder of general Scientific (a computer firm specializing in classified defense contracts). Cox trained several of Pettie's Finders in computer programming and communications technologies and took two or more of them to Costa Rica and Panama in 1980-81. Cox worked through Miguel Barzuna, a prominent Costa Rican money launderer, the Vienna, Virginia-based Institute for International Development and Cuban exile Emilio Rivera in Costa Rica and Panama. Through Cox, Pettie and the Finders linked up with several Washington area computer-oriented groups, including Community Computers, a front organization for The Community, a cult run by Michael Rios (aka Michael Versace). (Pettie's son, David Pettie, is a member of the Community. Pettie's other son, George, may be the one who was in Air America) Cox also recruited Theodore G. reiss (wife: Ann), a reston-based computer programmer and highly active member of Werner Erhard Seminars (EST). Cox also recruited Susan Gabriel and Judith Beltz as couriers. Pettie and Cox have simulated a falling out and pretend to be enemies...



Above: Steamshovel Press editor Kenn Thomas with Marion Pettie.



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## ALIEN INTERVENTION - DVD

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### TRAVIS WALTON, ABDUCTEE

The Travis Walton abduction is one of the most controversial cases in ufology, yet one of the most compelling. The events of Walton's abduction began on November 5, 1975 in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in Arizona. Walton was one of a seven man crew that was clearing trees on a government contract. Suddenly, they were shocked to see by the side of the road, a "luminous object, shaped like a flattened disc." Walton's abduction is one of the bestknown alien abduction cases ever reported and he speaks for the first time about the event, the aftermath and the Hollywood connection.

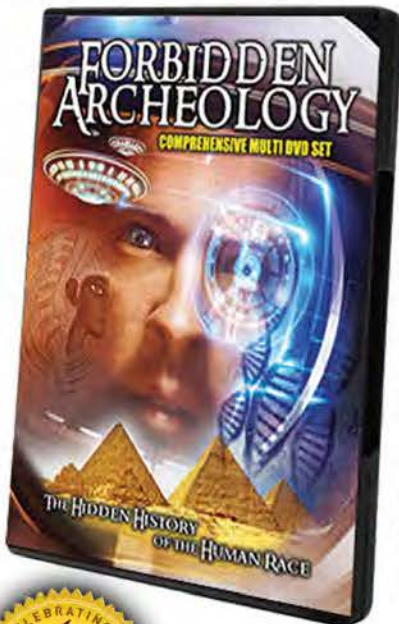
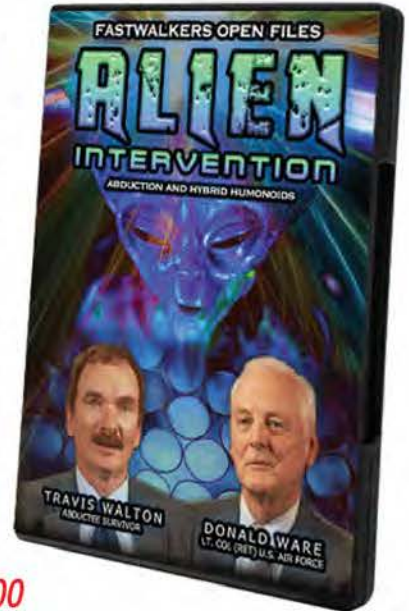
### DONALD WARE, LT. COL (RET) U.S. AIR FORCE

Donald M. Ware, Lt Col USAF (Ret), MSNE studied UFOs since age 16 when he saw seven alien vehicles over Washington, DC on July 26, 1952. He searched much of 136 countries for God's beautiful feathered creatures and found 5,644 species as he grew his love affair with Earth. He authored three articles in scientific journals. He served MUFON for ten years: Florida State Director and Eastern Regional Director -- then 18 years as a Director of the International UFO Congress. His search for truth has led to physical, mental, and spiritual interactions with the larger reality represented by an alien presence. He discussed Underground bases, Alien-Human Hybrids, the Atlantis Connection, Bigfoot encounters, and the levels of consciousness to contact alien spirit beings.

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# Paranoiac Iconography

By Max Well

Three groups fight for control of the earth. The circle represents one group; a triangle with an apex pointing up represents another; a triangle with a downward pointing apex represents the third. A fourth secret group exists and manifests itself in symbols that yield 34 degrees when measured with a protractor, one degree above the infamous Masonic 33<sup>rd</sup> degree. The symbolism of this internecine warfare is ubiquitous in the malls, on trucks and in corporate icons throughout the world, as this pictorial essay demonstrates. Keys to understanding this symbolism can be found a book by William J. Schnoebelen and James Spencer, *Mormonism's Temple of Doom*, and in the video *The Naked Truth* with Bill Jenkins, Jordan Maxwell and Derek Partridge (1-800-955-9960.)

*In the wallet:* Follow arrows along the reverse pyramid to read the encoded word word "MASON."



Six sided stars superimposed over the American eagle. 666? A sixty degree measurement often appears in the hidden symbolism as well.



*In the mail:*



The 34 degree measurement emerges twice in the US Post Office's Priority mailers.

On the highways and in the malls:

On TV and in newspapers:



Emblem from the *Star Trek* television show.

From fake story in *USA Today*.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1997

# NEWSLINE

A QUICK READ ON THE NEWS

**WALL STREET:** Dow Jones Industrial Average drops 11.31 points to 7760.78. Nasdaq index rises 11.16 to 1413.11; 30-year Treasury bond yield climbs to 2.71%. 1,3B.  
► Marriage, divorce and taxes. Your Money. 3B.

## Skies, phone lines light up Ariz.



By Scott Thompson  
Unidentified: For 105 minutes on March 13, people saw something, including this V-shaped object, flying over Arizona. UFOs? The only thing certain is that it still haunts them. 4A.



# Project Mind Kontrol: Did the U.S. Government Actually Create Programmed Assassins?

By Curt Rowlett

*"The dream of every leader, whether a tyrannical despot or a benign prophet, is to regulate the behavior of his people."*

Colin Blakemore

## Call Waiting

One of my favorite movies is a 1970's spy thriller called *Telefon*. In this film, the KGB has programmed Russian agents to commit assassinations and acts of terrorism, before committing suicide on completion of their programmed mission. All of this takes place without the subjects having any knowledge that they are mind-controlled. These individuals have been programmed to react when the lines of a Robert Frost poem are recited to them over the telephone. Placed all over America as "sleepers", these robot-assassins live their lives believing they are ordinary Americans, until the fateful moment when the telephone rings and a voice begins to recite, "The woods are lovely, dark and deep, but I have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep. Remember, comrade, miles to go before you sleep".

Pure Hollywood fantasy about a paranoid conspiracy theory, right? Maybe. I am split on whether or not I believe in such things as mind controlled, programmed assassins. A part of me refuses to accept that this concept is anything more than an irrational fear and a good plot for a movie

like *Telefon*. Then there is another part of me that looks at the information forced out of the CIA via the Freedom of Information Act and I somehow can't quite bring myself to dismiss the idea as mere concept. We now have substantiated proof that the CIA was working on projects to control human behavior. And given the history of the agency as revealed in once classified documents, it is safe to say that the CIA would have had a great interest in creating the perfect agent: one who didn't know he/she was an agent. One who was mind-controlled. Such a scenario would be plausible denial at it's finest, producing the ultimate patsy.

During their investigation and research into the history of LSD, authors Martin A. Lee and Bruce Shlain were allowed access to a special reading room at the Hyatt Regency in Rosslyn, Virginia. Documents pertinent to the CIA's MKULTRA program were being opened to the public as the result of a Senate subcommittee led by chairman Senator Ted Kennedy. In the prologue to their book *Acid Dreams*, they write:

In the course of our inquiry we uncovered CIA documents describing experiments in sensory deprivation, sleep teaching, ESP, subliminal projection, electronic brain stimulation, and many other methods that might have applications for behavior modification. One project was designed to turn people into programmed assassins who would kill on automatic command. (1)

Most conspiracy researchers are familiar with the CIA's mind control program MKULTRA. It was led by creepy scientist-spook Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, who testified before the same subcommittee only after receiving a grant of immunity from criminal prosecution. MKULTRA was launched in April of 1953 as a continuation

of mind-control experiments that originated in the Nazi death camps of such notoriety as Dachau. (MKULTRA and other CIA projects became possible because of Project Paperclip, a US Army scheme that smuggled Nazi scientists, intelligence personnel and other war criminals to the United States from Europe at the end of WWII.) The start of the Cold War and the Korean War in particular gave the go ahead to mind control research with the advent of "brain washing" as a house-hold name. Supposedly a development of the Communist-Chinese, the term was actually coined by a magazine writer later discovered to be on the CIA payroll as an "agent of influence". On the premise of a "brainwashing gap", the CIA got permission for research into countering alleged communist mind control efforts and set out to develop their own to aid in the espionage battle.

### **MKULTRA Calling: History of Horrors**

The abuses of MKULTRA are just beginning to see the light of day. On November 19, 1953, an Army scientist and germ warfare specialist named Frank Olson, who was working on an MKULTRA project, was without his knowledge or consent, slipped a dose of LSD in a drink at a party attended by other CIA personnel. For weeks afterward he remained in what many witnesses described as a state of depression and paranoia. He confided to one CIA doctor that the agency was putting something in his coffee to keep him awake at night, that people were plotting against him and that he heard voices commanding him to throw his wallet away, which he did, even though it contained several uncashed pay checks. On the last night of his life, he checked into a room at the Staller Hilton hotel in New York City along with a CIA agent assigned to watch him. Olson

allegedly jumped through a closed hotel window and fell ten stories to his death. It was Dr. Gottlieb who had slipped him the drug at the party. An elaborate cover-up eliminated any clues as to the actual circumstances of his death. The full truth of what happened would not come to light for twenty years. (On a recent episode of the television show *Unsolved Mysteries*, serious doubts were raised as to whether Olson actually jumped through the window unaided.) Olson's widow was eventually awarded a large cash settlement in connection with his death at the hands of the CIA.

Dr. Ewen Cameron, a prestigious psychiatrist who directed the Allain Memorial Institute in Montreal, Canada also worked for the CIA during MKULTRA. With financial backing from the CIA, Dr. Cameron developed a bizarre method for reprogramming people. This involved "sleep therapy" where a person was knocked out with sedatives for months at a time. Next, the phase involved "depatterning" in which the person was given massive electroshocks and frequent doses of LSD in an attempt to wipe out past behavior patterns. Then, the doctor would attempt to recondition the person's mind using a technique called "psychic driving", in which the person was again heavily sedated, locked in a "sleep room" where tape recordings of various messages were played over a speaker under the person's pillow as many as a quarter of a million times.(2) (Nine of Dr. Cameron's former "patients" have filed lawsuits against the American government in a claim that they are still suffering from trauma as a result of these experiments.)

Another death attributed to the program was that of Harold Blauer in 1953. Blauer was part of a study conducted by a group of doctors working under an army contract at the New York State Psychiatric



Institute. He died a few hours after an injection of MDA, a psychedelic, amphetamine-derived drug, similar to the 90's "rave" drug, Ecstasy. The drug had been supplied by the Army Chemical Corps in co-operation with MKULTRA. One army researcher later admitted that "we didn't know if it was dog piss or what it was we were giving to him." (3)

And in perhaps one of the most bizarre and horrifying abuses, Dr. Paul Hoch, while performing experiments for the army as a CIAA consultant, gave intraspinal injections of LSD and mescaline to psychiatric patients, later lobotomizing them. In one experiment, after a psychedelic had been administered, Dr. Hoch gave a subject a local anesthetic and asked him to describe his visual experiences as surgeons removed pieces of his brain. (4) (The list of other abuses occurring during MKULTRA is a lengthy one that could fill a large volume.)

## A Directory of Lone Nuts

But to my knowledge, we have no actual proof that the CIA was successful in actually creating a programmed assassin. Or do we? In the late 60's and early 70's, assassinations changed the course of three presidential elections. In each of these cases, responsibility was placed on a "lone nut", conveniently relieving any need for inquiries into possible conspiracies. Research into assassinations and attempted assassinations, various murders and mayhem, and covert activities of America's intelligence community aimed at American citizens contain our best evidence of the possible success of mind-control experiments that may have produced programmed assassins.

Also present in some of these cases is the technique of using "doubles" and even theatrical effects to deliberately create confusion, promote propaganda and negative sentiments against "subversive groups" or to bolster the portrait of the "lone nut" in the minds of Americans. It is possible that these "doubles" were also programmed and mind controlled. The cases of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Ronald Reagan, John Lennon, Governor George Wallace, the People's Temple "massacre" at Jones Town, the Symbionese Liberation Army, the "Zebra" murders, and even the Charles Manson Family are rife with tantalizing clues that seem to suggest that mind-control has been achieved by the CIA. Consider the following, itemized list in America's Directory of "Lone Nut" Assassins:

**Lee Harvey Oswald**- the alleged "lone nut" assassin of JFK had numerous ties to the intelligence community and served with the Marine Corps at Atsugi, Japan (originating base of the U2 spy plane flights) during which time LSD was known to have been

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field tested there by the CIA. There is the implication to be considered by his known presence there that Oswald may have been the first "Manchurian Candidate" from which others were fashioned. The use of numerous "doubles" in the Oswald saga is well documented by other researchers.

**James Earl Ray**-is the alleged assassin of Martin Luther King. This case provides us with evidence of the FBI and CIA's involvement in the assassination of a black "political dissident". In the tradition of intelligence "handlers", there is the mysterious "Raoul", whom Ray claims was his contact during the days leading up to the assassination. While there is no evidence of mind control in regard to Ray, the case remains of interest for the use of doubles "Paul Bridgemen", "Eric S. Galt", and "Ramon George Sneyd".

**Sirhan Sirhan**-portrayed as the "lone nut" in the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy. There is strong evidence of the presence of the CIA in this assassination. The LAPD (which may have been under the direction of the CIA) figures prominently in the cover-up which took place after the shooting. In what is perhaps one of the best cases for the evidence of mind-control, it has been suggested that Sirhan may have been programmed by the CIA with hypnosis and drugs. (Sirhan claims to have no memory of the killing.) Hypnotist William J. Bryan, Jr., who allegedly worked for the CIA, bragged about hypnotising Sirhan prior to the assassination, as well as the serial killer known as the "Boston Strangler", Albert DeSalvo, and was also a technical consultant for the film *The Manchurian Candidate*. Phrases from Sirhan's private notebooks show the characteristics of "automatic writing" of a hypnotically programmed subject and he even makes references to "mind control", money, and drugs. Witness Sandra Serrano, who was

harassed/intimidated/ridiculed by LAPD polygraph operator Sgt. Enrique Hernandez as he tried to get her to change her story (Hernandez had ties to the CIA and may have been a professional CIA interrogator) reported that, just prior to the shooting, she saw Sirhan with a "Latin" man and a girl in a polka-dot dress ascending an emergency stairway in the hotel where RFK was shot. Other witnesses saw Sirhan near a coffee machine inside the hotel with a girl in a polka-dot dress who was whispering to him. (Sirhan has said that the last thing he remembers prior to the shooting of RFK was having a cup of coffee with a girl. The next thing he remembers is when he is being restrained after firing his weapon at Kennedy. This suggests the possibility of additional drugs being placed in his coffee, and further hypnotic suggestion being given to him just prior to the shooting) Immediately after the shooting, witnesses saw this same woman and a male companion (the "Latin") leaving the hotel and gleefully exclaiming, "We shot him! We shot Senator Kennedy!" Prosecution psychiatrist Seymour Pollack, who was convinced that Sirhan had been programmed by someone, asked Sirhan while under hypnosis if anyone was with him when he shot Kennedy, to which he replied in a hushed tone, "the girl, the girl."

**Charles Manson**-and his followers committed the Tate-LaBianca and other killings during the 1960's. Manson used mind-control techniques such as hypnosis, high doses of LSD, and programming to turn flower children into killers, but one has to wonder just exactly where did Manson learn to program people? Manson was part of the "hippie element" at the time of the CIA's use of all kinds of drugs and MKULTRA experiments to discredit the left wing anti-war movement in America. (A type of LSD known as "Orange Sunshine" was being

used by the Manson Family immediately prior to the Tate-LaBianca murders according to Family member Charles "Tex" Watson. (13) This special LSD may have been supplied by the CIA. Orange Sunshine was manufactured and distributed by a group known as "The Brotherhood of Eternal Love" who operated out of a beach resort near Los Angeles. The Brotherhood had among it's drug manufacturers and dealers, one Ronald Stark, a person with known connections to the CIA. It is believed that Stark was responsible for the manufacture of up to 50 million hits of LSD.) (14) It is also interesting to note that Manson, an avowed racist and having a known affinity for right-wing beliefs, was somehow conveniently linked with the left in the news media. It can be argued that the Manson murders "nailed the coffin shut" in the minds of many Americans as far as the image of the Hippies as a peace-loving, political movement was concerned, and it should be considered that this could have been part of a CIA operation to discredit the anti-war movement in America. Manson has said in interviews that he based some of his "philosophy" on the science fiction novel *Stranger in a Strange Land* by Robert Heinlein. In a scenario perhaps reminiscent of Mark David Chapman's infatuation with *Catcher in the Rye*, could *Stranger in a Strange Land* somehow have been Manson's program-trigger mechanism? And consider that if a hippie-ex-convict-nobody like Charles Manson could program people to kill, why not the U.S. Government? In *Helter Skelter*, Manson prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi discusses Manson's programming techniques in depth, likening much of the programming to the same thing that takes place with recruits in the U.S. military, but Bugliosi also hints at "some missing element, some aspect of Manson's personality that we do not understand" that

enabled him to program his followers to kill. Manson was in prison during the time that the CIA was known to be using inmates at Vacaville prison in the MKULTRA experiments, a fact that leaves one guessing if perhaps Manson was some sort of mind-controlled guru cum *agent provocateur*, set loose against the "subversive" elements by the CIA. Since his incarceration for Tate-LaBianca, Manson has served part of his time at Vacaville.

**Arthur Bremer**- the attempted assassin of Governor George Wallace of Alabama, was described in the media as a deranged loner, but he wasn't alone at all if you count the involvement of the CIA and the Nixon/Watergate "plumbers" who figure prominently in this case. It has been suggested that Wallace could potentially have taken too many votes away from rival presidential candidate Richard Nixon if allowed to stay in the presidential race. He was conveniently eliminated by Bremer. On Monday, May 15, 1972, Arthur Bremer attempted to assassinate George Wallace at a campaign rally in Laurel, Maryland. According to researchers, within one hour after the Wallace shooting, Nixon aide Charles Colson, having invented a ruse to place blame for the shooting on radical extremists of the left wing, ordered Watergate "plumber" E. Howard Hunt to break into Bremer's apartment and plant Black Panther and Angela Davis literature. (Bremer, however, had political convictions leaning towards the extreme right. George Wallace himself stated that he wondered how members of Nixon's staff had found Bremer's apartment so quickly after the shooting.) But this "loner" actually had quite a few friends. One of these friends, Dennis Cassini, turned up mysteriously dead in the trunk of his own car before he could be questioned. (5) The FBI didn't even bother to investigate his death. According to

*The Milwaukee Journal:* "The former Wisconsin College Republican State Chairman said (that) Donald Segretti, confessed political spy and Republican saboteur in the 1972 presidential campaign, urged him to recruit persons in Wisconsin to do dirty tricks to embarrass the Democrats." Arthur Bremer was from Milwaukee. Records show that Bremer traveled extensively while stalking Wallace on his campaign trail, staying in expensive hotels, running up debts totalling \$5,000 dollars, which he paid. Unusual for a busboy whose total earnings were under \$2,000 dollars for the year. Bremer was also identified prior to the assassination as the man seen accompanying Watergate-operative Anthony Ulasewicz in Michigan. Bremer was sentenced to 63 years in prison and has never given any explanation as to why he shot Wallace.

**Mark David Chapman-** "lone nut" assassin who killed "leftist" John Lennon, had possible ties to the CIA as a former World Vision Employee. (World Vision Missionaries is an international evangelical order that has performed espionage work for the CIA.) Allegedly, while working for World Vision, Chapman was trained in Beirut as a "security guard". After shooting Lennon, Chapman sat down and calmly began reading from *The Catcher in the Rye*, a novel by J.D. Salinger. (According to the *Big Book of Conspiracies*, J.D. Salinger, author of "Catcher" served in the Counter Intelligence Corps during WWII with Henry Kissinger. We can theorize that this book served as some sort of post-hypnotic suggestion or program "trigger".) (6) At least one policeman who interviewed Chapman was convinced that, due to his demeanor, that he (Chapman) was under the influence of some sort of hypnotic programming. Chapman has officially been portrayed as an obsessed Beatles fan who

stalked and killed Lennon. (A source of mine who wishes to remain anonymous told me that he once worked in a record store in Decatur, Georgia where Mark David Chapman shopped for records. He claims Chapman was not a Beatles fan, but rather a Todd Rundgren fan.)

**John Hinckley, Jr.**-attempted assassin of Ronald Reagan, whose death would have placed CIA- man vice-president George Bush into the white house eight years earlier than when he was eventually elected. Hinckley was the son of a World Vision official. Like Mark David Chapman, he also had a copy of *Catcher in the Rye* in his possession when apprehended. According to official reports, Hinckley was also heavily "influenced" by the Travis Bickle character in the film *Taxi Driver*. In this film, Robert DeNiro plays an obsessed gunman who plans to assassinate a presidential candidate. (A role that was inspired by Arthur Bremer) Like Bremer, Hinckley traveled extensively around the U.S., and was arrested at the airport in Nashville, Tennessee with three handguns. Curiously, Hinckley was not placed under any surveillance after this incident. And Like Sirhan Sirhan and Bremer, Hinckley also kept a diary in which he detailed his plans for shooting Reagan. There are reports that a Hinckley "double" named "Richardson" traced Hinckley's path from Colorado to Connecticut, all the while writing letters to Jodie Foster, just as Hinckley did. (Richardson was arrested with a weapon at New York's Port Authority bus terminal, claiming he was going to kill Reagan. He also had links to World Vision.) Even Mae Brussel spotted an apparent Hinckley double prior to the assassination attempt and reported this to the Secret Service. It is known through court records that Hinckley underwent psychiatric "treatment" just prior to his attempt on Reagan and that at the time of the shooting,

he was under the influence of tranquilizers. Found not guilty by reason of insanity, he remains confined to a psychiatric hospital where he occasionally corresponded with such notables as serial killer Ted Bundy and Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme of Manson Family fame and an attempted assassin in her own right.

**Kerry Thornley**-has claimed that he and Oswald were both mind-controlled and involved in the JFK assassination without conscious knowledge. Thornley served in the Marine Corps with Oswald. He too, was once stationed at Atsugi, Japan. He has come to believe that he was, against his will and without his knowledge, part of the conspiracy that killed Kennedy. (Thornley once worked at a Mexican restaurant in the Little Five Points area in my hometown of Atlanta, Georgia. I remember him being pointed out to me once at a party. At that time, Thornley was regarded as just another oddball street personality who had wacky ideas about the JFK assassination, and no one really gave any particular credence to what he had to say. This was prior to the revival of mass interest in the assassination that was generated by the release of the Oliver Stone film, *JFK*. Since then, opinions have changed.) Thornley testified before the Warren Commission and at the time he claims he was satisfied that Oswald was Kennedy's killer. In his book, *Conspiracies, Cover-ups and Crimes*, author Jonathan Vankin interviewed Thornley and reveals, among other things, that Thornley was living/working in New Orleans at the same time that Oswald was living there and in a neighborhood that was host to a whole cadre of intelligence agencies. Thornley reportedly met both Guy Bannister and David Ferrie while in New Orleans, and after moving to L.A., he met John Roselli, one of the country's most powerful mobsters and an object of suspicion regarding the

assassination. (Roselli was later found chopped into pieces and stuffed into an oil drum which had been dumped off the Florida coast shortly before he was to testify before the House Select Committee on Assassinations) Vankin's book discusses how in 1961, while living in New Orleans, Thornley was introduced to a man named Gary Kirstein in a New Orleans bar called the Bourbon House. Thornley recalls that Kirstein was "sort of a neanderthal racist" and was writing a book titled, "Hitler Was a Good Guy". Thornley, in recalling the most memorable parts of his conversation with Kirstein states that he (Kirstein) and himself debated theoretically on how to assassinate President Kennedy, as if they were two writers discussing how it could be written in a novel. Thornley also says that Kirstein basically predicted everything that was going to happen in the next twenty years, including the Manson Family, the war in Vietnam, etc. (Thornley states that at the time he listened to this conversation, he was bored and disbelieving of Kirstein and that he had blotted out the memory of this conversation for ten years) Thornley now believes that Kirstein may have been E. Howard Hunt, CIA spook extraordinaire and Watergate "plumber". Thornley later wrote an article entitled, "Did the Plumbers Plug J.F.K., Too?" that appeared in an Atlanta underground newspaper. In the book *Secret and Suppressed*, Thornley wrote an article titled, "Is Paranoia a Form of Awareness?" in which he writes: "After I wrote 'Did the Plumbers Plug J.F.K., Too?', I got two unusual phone calls. First was a male voice imitating the sounds of a speeded-up tape recorder or a gibberish-talking cartoon character. Ten years earlier a (New Orleans resident) named Roger Lovin and I used to address one another in the Bourbon House with identical noises to those I was now hearing on the other end of the line...This

time I simply replied with a word or two of bewilderment, and the caller hung up. Within seconds, the phone rang again. Now a male voice-not Roger's-said very clearly, 'Kerry, do you know who this is?' When I answered in the negative, he said, 'Good!'-and again the caller hung up." (7)

Thornley said the voice on the telephone brought back "eerie memories" and sounded similar to the voice of the "Kirstein/Hunt" individual from New Orleans. (Shades of *Telefon*?) Also while in Atlanta, Thornley went to the Atlanta police during a time that an interest in new allegations regarding the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. were being investigated because he again "remembered that Kirstein had also talked about killing King". Twelve days after making statements to the police, Thornley was attacked and pistol-whipped by two men in ski masks who, strangely, took only his identification. Thornley now believes that he was programmed for some part in the assassination of Kennedy and that "Kirstein" was his controller and may have implanted some sort of device in his brain.

**Donald DeFreeze**-the leader of the Symbionese Liberation Army who was imprisoned at Vacaville during the time of the MKULTRA experiments, may have been a CIA, FBI "agent provocateur". He may also have been mind-controlled. According to Jonathan Vankin and John Whalen:

"There was something queer about the SLA all along. Its leader, Donald 'General Field Marshall Cinque' DeFreeze-career crook and informer for the LAPD-emerged from the California penal system's Vacaville Medical Facility where he'd come under the tutelage of CIA agent Colston Westbrook, a psychological warfare specialist. Westbrook enlisted DeFreeze into his 'Black Cultural Association.' Armed

robber DeFreeze obtained early release from Vacaville by performing "a favor" for prison authorities. (Doing a "favor" was in reference to submitting to psychiatric experiments.) The SLA went public with the assassination of African-American Oakland school superintendent Dr. Marcus Foster on Nov. 6, 1973. Just weeks earlier, a neo-Nazi group issued a flyer predicting Foster's death. "Black men" were witnessed scurrying from the scene but the arrested shooters were whites. Blackface makeup was discovered in their apartments. (8)

Regarding the use of makeup and other theatrical props, consider the following:

In a *Strange Magazine* article, *The Makeup Man and the Monster: John Chambers and the Patterson Bigfoot Suit*, editor Mark Chorvinsky mounted an investigation into whether the famous "Wright-Patterson Bigfoot film, a virtual cornerstone in the investigations and belief of the existence of Bigfoot, was actually a hoax perpetrated by renowned Hollywood makeup/effects artist John Chambers. The film was allegedly shot on October 20, 1967 and shows what is purported to be an actual Bigfoot creature as it walks through the forest in California. The footage has been featured in numerous television shows and films and is usually the film people think about when discussing the reality of the creature. During Chorvinsky's investigation, he interviewed many of Hollywood's most prominent makeup artists. Chorvinsky writes, "I have investigated many phenomena over the past decade, and some of the cases have been quite controversial, but rarely has anyone requested anonymity...I'm in the awkward position of knowing more than I can tell at this time. One aspect of either (John) Chambers' career or the legends surrounding it is the buzz about Chambers' involvement in

government-sponsored "black box" work. No one has ever been willing to go on the record concerning this alleged work, but within the Hollywood makeup community it is generally believed that such work did occur and that it has added to the secretiveness of Chambers and his closet associates...Widespread rumors in the makeup community depict Chambers applying a wig and prosthetics to a cadaver to fake the death of a foreign ruler, and engaging in a number of "Company"-sponsored "nontheatrical" projects. These black box rumors are all reminiscent of *Mission Impossible* plots, many of which relied on disguises--some courtesy of Chambers' makeup prowess. One rumor depicts the CIA watching *Mission Impossible* on television and getting disguise ideas from it, then going after the makeup artist--Chambers--to work for them...we do know for a fact that Hollywood makeup artists have been instrumental in various military/intelligence projects...In this regard I interviewed Bob Schiffer, the head of Disney's makeup and hair department with over sixty years in the business. The veteran makeup master touched on this sensitive topic:

John did mention to me at one time that he was involved in something for the government. Some of us, including myself, were recruited during World War II by (then Lieutenant) Gordon Bau for undercover work of a certain type. Sometimes we did not know what the makeup was used for. A lot of us did camouflage work in World War II. I was also involved in the years after the war. In the Bay of Pigs invasion we made up people to look Cuban. (9)

**Rev. Jim Jones**--was the supposed mastermind behind the People's Temple massacre in Guyana where over a thousand people died. The official version of this story is that Jones' followers committed

mass suicide by swallowing cyanide-laced Kool-Aid in an act of religious devotion to Jones. New information reveals the possibility that this "massacre" was in reality an MKULTRA mind-control experiment, conducted by the CIA, and that most of the dead were actually murdered. Drugs such as those used in known MKULTRA operations were discovered at Jonestown, including a whopping 11,000 doses of Thorazine, a major tranquilizer used in psychiatric hospitals. (10) In a recording made during the final moments of the mass deaths in Jonestown, Jim Jones can be heard shouting, "Get Dwyer out of here", in reference to Richard Dwyer, a CIA agent who was present during the "massacre". Evidence gathered by other researchers points to a strong CIA presence in almost all of the dealings of Jim Jones before, during and after Jonestown and to the Guyana site itself. The People's Temple also had ties to the World Vision ministry. There is evidence that Jones used doubles and even some confusion as to whether it was the genuine Jones whose body was found among the dead. Witnesses to the shooting of Congressman Leo Ryan and others at the Jonestown site describe the assailants as "zombie-like" and emotionless. In reference to a rumored "death list" compiled by the People's Temple, a congressional aide was quoted as saying, "There are 120 white, brainwashed assassins out from Jonestown awaiting the trigger word to pick up their hit." (11)

**Serial Killers**--the recent explosive rise in the 1980's of the serial killer phenomenon has always made me wonder if perhaps what we are seeing is the result of mind-control experiments gone awry. That maybe these killers are "sleepers" who woke up too early. Consider that for the most part, serial killers tend to prey on the "undesirables" of society, such as

prostitutes, homosexuals, and other targeted minorities of the right wing. The FBI's Behavioral Science Unit has stated that as many as 150 serial killers may be operating undetected in the United States. Serial killers appear to be acting under a programmed obsession to kill, usually in the same way, over and over again, as if trying to fulfill some sort of mission.

**The Zebra Killings-** San Francisco's "Zebra killings", a murder spree roughly simultaneous with the time that the SLA was active, were allegedly perpetrated by American Black Muslims motivated by "revenge" on the white race. Given the history of such tactics as the use of disinformation and smear campaigns against "subversive" groups, it is possible that this was a CIA program to discredit the Muslim movement in America, and that the murders were possibly committed by whites in black face makeup. These crimes were allegedly carried out by a Nation of Islam group that called themselves the "Death Angels" and who believed that they were serving Allah by killing "blue-eyed devils", i.e. Caucasians. To become a Death Angel, a member supposedly had to kill either nine white males, five white females, or four white children in order to earn their "wings". This was supposed to guarantee the killer a place in Mecca in the afterlife. (The police estimated that up to two thousand persons earned their "wings".) The code-named Zebra killings (so-called because the crimes involved black on white) took place in San Francisco during a six month period from 1973 to 1974 and occurring during the time of CIA/FBI involvement in Vacaville and anti-subversive type operations in California. The murders involved shootings, stabbings, and hackings with machetes. On January 28, 1974, the killers claimed five victims in one night. A group of five black

Muslims were arrested and accused of being the principal perpetrators, but one defendant (A.C. Harris) turned informant and testified with immunity. The Nation of Islam paid for three defense attorneys during the trial. All of the suspects received life sentences.

### **Disconnected Connections**

The religious "cults" that come under public scrutiny always seem to involve accusations of mind-control. Do the implications of government involvement in a place like Jonestown and what we now know about MKULTRA suggest that we will see this sort of history repeat itself? "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it" are the very words that were displayed prominently on a sign above the pulpit at Jonestown. What will future investigations reveal as to CIA/intelligence ties lying behind other groups such as the Branch Davidians? Consider the rumblings that have been heard regarding accused Oklahoma bombing suspect Timothy McViegh and a supposed mind-control device implanted in his brain. Perhaps McViegh received a special telephone call just prior to the events in Oklahoma City...

In response to public outcry in 1977, Congress forbade further research into mind-control and demanded that these programs be terminated. Former CIA man Victor Marchetti has revealed that as of today, so-called "black programs" working with mind-control still exist, only now they are better hidden. A new project that works with "synthetic telepathy" supposedly has the ability to remotely transmit microwave voices into the heads of targeted persons. This device and others are known as Less Than Lethal (LTL) weapons, according to an article that ran in the April, 1994 issue of



*Scientific American*. (12) During the NBC documentary *The Other Side*, Major Edward Dames of the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency stated that "The U.S. Government has an electronic device which could implant thoughts in people." He refused further comment afterward.

And so the beat goes on. Your tax dollars are at work, even as you sleep. And who knows, maybe the next ringing telephone could be a "wake-up call" for either you or me?

#### Notes:

- (1) *Acid Dreams: The Complete Social History of LSD: The CIA, the Sixties, and Beyond*, by Martin A. Lee and Bruce Shlain, Evergreen Books, Prologue, page xxiv.
- (2) *Acid Dreams*, page 23.
- (3) *Acid Dreams*, pages 37-38.
- (4) *Acid Dreams*, page 38.
- (5) *The Big Book of Conspiracies* by Doug Moench, Lone Nut Family Tree by Duncan Eagleson, page 160.
- (6) *The Big Book of Conspiracies*, p. 157.
- (7) *Secret and Suppressed: Banned Ideas and Hidden History*, edited by Jim Kieth, "Is Paranoia a Form of Awareness?" by Kerry Thornley, page 49.
- (8) *60 Greatest Conspiracies of All Time*, By Jonathan Vankin and John Whalen, *The Brainwashed Debutante*.
- (9) *Strange Magazine*, Issue No. 17.
- (10) *Secret and Suppressed: Banned Ideas and Hidden History*, edited by Jim Kieth, *The Black Hole of Guyana*, pages 140-141.
- (11) Associated Press, May 19, 1979.
- (12) *Scientific American*, April, 1994, article, "Bang! You're Alive!"
- (13) *Will you die for me?*, Fleming H. Revell Company, page 188-120.
- (14) *Acid Dreams*, pages 248-251.



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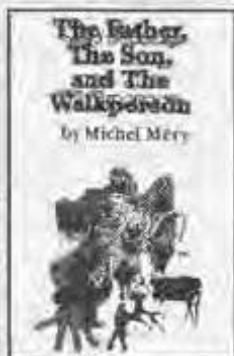
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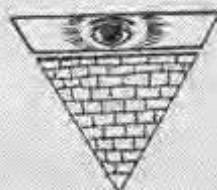
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# THE MANHATTAN PROJECT TO MANUFACTURE THE FIRST YUPPIES.

**How the *New York Times*  
and *New York Magazine*  
transformed a generation.**

By Martin Kaufman

They nauseated. They infuriated. Worst of all, they persisted, and are still with us today. But the real story of how the yuppies came about has never been told.

Instead, the media invented a yuppie mythology. In 1984, the year "yuppie" became a household word, *Newsweek* wrote "much of the energy and optimism and passion of the sixties seems to have been turned inward, on lives, careers, apartments and dinners." (1) Note the passive verb; "been turned" suggests it happened by itself, that nothing caused the rebellious sixties spirit to turn inward.

Years later, *Time* wrote "The getting-and-spending frenzy of the 1980s can be seen as just another stage in the life quest of the baby boomers, the successor to the hedonism of the sixties and the obsessive self-improvement of the Me Decade." (2) Yes, it can be seen that way, *Time*, but we'd rather see it accurately.

*Esquire* noted "Yuppiedom is a phenomenon of the Reagan era, inextricably tied to the values, follies and peculiar conditions thereof." They also credited 1966's "Gathering of the Tribes for a Human

Be-In," saying it combined "the political sit-in and teach-in with the psychedelic-mystical be-here-now to symbolize the marriage of the strains that produced the distinctive mass youth culture of the baby boomers, and eventually-so sinuously and unpredictably does the dialectic work its mysterious will-yuppies." (3) Of course! "The dialectic" did it, assisted by the be-here-now. (How could we have been so dense as to not realize that?)

Do a bit of cultural archaeology, however, and you discover that the yuppies were a created phenomenon. The manufacturing process didn't start under Reagan, but all the way back in the days of Ford, even Nixon. Its goal? To transform the anti-materialistic sixties generation back into responsible Americans; i.e., get them to buy on command.

Some background: With the pullout from Vietnam and ouster of Nixon, many people in the 70s felt they could really make change happen. The 60s spirit was alive-in 1975 seven bills to legalize marijuana were introduced in the New York legislature. (4) David Rockefeller's elitist Trilateral Commission termed such attempts by the people to influence their government a "crisis of democracy" that had to be dealt with.

Shunning competitive standards of success, many sought personal fulfillment through self-exploration-encounter groups, "est" and the like. Thus Tom Wolfe's famous criticism of "The Me Decade." The real problem for Wolfe and his wealthy patrons may well have been that inward journeys did nothing to boost corporate profits.

But what if you could channel this urge for "me" elsewhere-say, into a quest for material possessions and luxury? It might even make people like competition again. And drop their silly ideas about having a say in government.

"Coincidentally," there were powerful forces doing just such channeling. On November 10, 1976, the world's most influential newspaper, *The New York Times*, debuted its Wednesday "Living" section. In the very first issue we find all the tokens and value systems of yuppiedom that would "mysteriously" arise eight years later.

An article, "Being in the Swim in Your Own Home" began: "After a Rolls Royce complete with liveried chauffeur and a low license plate number, what else could be the ultimate status symbol? A private swimming pool in your own city residence?"

In "The Best Pâtés...in New York" Mimi Sheraton ensured that "one of the least known" of "the many glories of French gastronomy" would be unknown no longer.

Craig Claiborne implored we cook "Volaille au Coulis de Poireaux et de Truffles." "Wine Talk" discussed champagne-not the plebeian California stuff but real champagne from "the valley of the Marne River east of Paris."

A professional party organizer advised: "Better you serve celery with pâté. It holds up; it doesn't wilt." Enid Nemy, "while on the subject of status," extolled Louis Vuitton's \$275 backpack. "Pavarotti's Diet-with Pasta" made one long for the days when it was called macaroni.

Mike Wallace pondered his dream to open a restaurant (a future yuppie cliché). William F. Buckley, Jr. shared veal recipes, with a typically yuppie (and typically Buckley) unconcern for the disgraceful torture veal calves undergo.

"The 60-Minute Gourmet" described Shrimp Margarita and Vinaigrette Sauce with herbs. "Living Abroad," subtitled "Status for Hire," noted "it is still important...to have a good London address." Anticipating the yuppie obsession with credit cards as status symbols, "Personal Finance" discussed bank cards and

American Express cards. And "Personal Health" was about jogging.

In short, the very first *Living* section featured all the yuppie fixations, eight years before the yuppies became a recognized phenomenon and household word. And this was only the beginning.

What was the *Times* doing here? Were they describing a phenomenon, as real journalists do? Or were they actively endeavoring to move a reluctant generation toward big time capitalism, as elitist planners do?

If there was a yuppie trend before *Living*, the only place it's apparent is in Clay Felker's *New York Magazine*. In the early 70s, New York began subtly, then overtly, promoting what would become the yuppie lifestyle. As Felker put it, "We felt one of the major activities of people was being consumers. So we ran these endless lists of what's the best this and that."<sup>(5)</sup>

*Lifestyle* cover stories like: "Honor Thy Pasta" (1972) also paid homage to those future yuppie fetishes espresso, pâté and wine. Articles promoted Braun coffee mills and the new Cuisinart food processor. A



column, "The Underground Gourmet," made a neat little bridge between 60s culture ("underground") and the coming yuppie culture ("gourmet"). Consumerist pieces abounded: "Gael Greene eats the most expensive meal in town." "How to get the very best," wherein experts shared "their knowledge of food, from caviar to pasta..." "Manhattan Tea Party:" "Really fine tea is as different from supermarket brands as fine wine is from vin ordinaire." "The Daily Espresso" declared espresso machines "the perfect extravagance." Gael Greene conducted "a celebration of gluttony." More generational bridge terminology: "Going underground. Eight great wine cellars." If "underground" was "hip" in the sixties, the message was, "you can still be hip today. Just follow us." In 1976, *New York* introduced "radicchio" to its yuppies-in-training. And from 1970 on, there was an annual "Salary Survey" that told readers how they measured up-a nice nudge to those who had spurned competitive standards of success in the 60s.

Note that *New York* apparently never saw fit to explore the finest incense in New York, the best sitar or the 10 best places to volunteer for the poor. That was not the culture they were pushing. As "The Underground Gourmet" rather snidely put it, "Since the official end of the greening of America...St. Mark's Place, once the center for flower children's dreams and delusions, has been slowly returning to its earlier form."<sup>6</sup> And a 1970 piece, "People's Capitalism is Killing Wall Street," yearned "It wouldn't hurt if the Dow Jones Industrial Average...climbed back [up]...A new crop of boy millionaire money managers would start telling us how to live the good life..."<sup>(7)</sup> Remarkably prophetic for 1970.

If *New York* was attempting to shepherd the flower children back to Capitalism and the Flag (by proclaiming

consumption "cool"), certainly Clay Felker was the perfect man to spearhead the effort. In 1962 he'd edited a CIA-funded

#### C.I.A. SUBSIDIZED FESTIVAL TRIPS

Hundreds of Students Were Sent to World Festival.

A NEW YORK TRIBUNE STORY... CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAS... MAINTAINING A "MAGAZINE" THAT... THE STUDENTS OF AMERICA IN... WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL IN HELSINKI... IN 1962 AND HARRIS, STONER... IN 1962.

Gloria Steinem, a prominent... graduate of Sarah Lawrence, and... the C.I.A. has been a major... source of funds for the festival... with the Department of Defense... Carver, says he succeeded in... 1970. Almost all of the young... people who attended are from... the Northeast, she has known... about the magazine since... the intelligence system. Mr... Steiner said.

Steiner, who said many of... the students who attended the



Gloria Steinem

newspaper, *The Helsinki Youth News*, that sought to bend socialist-minded youths attending Helsinki's World Youth Festival toward American values. Felker's associate on this project was none other than Gloria Steinem.<sup>(8)</sup> (Later, Felker almost single-handedly engineered Steinem's rise to glory and was instrumental in helping her found *Ms. Magazine*.) In 1976, Felker and Steinem threatened to sue Random House if it published a chapter from the feminist group Redstockings' book *Feminist Revolution* that detailed Felker's involvement with the World Youth Festival, the CIA and *Ms.* The Redstockings thought *Ms.* an elitist attempt to co-opt the women's movement and channel it in the wrong direction. (The women's movement was a target of CIA's "Operation Chaos" project <sup>(9)</sup>, which sought to neutralize the Left.) Felker's attorney

wrote "the essence of the charge...is that Mr. Felker and his magazine [*New York*] were working for the CIA," which he called "false and libelous," though he later said the assertions were merely "exaggerated." (10) With Katherine Graham also objecting, Random House obediently deleted the article from the book. Graham was a major investor in *Ms.* and remains chairman of the Washington Post (whose cozy relationship with the CIA was typified by Graham's late husband, ex-Post publisher Philip Graham, helping CIA develop "Operation Mockingbird," a program to infiltrate and manipulate the news media). (11)

But despite its orgiastic consumerism, *New York* paled beside *Living*, which evangelized the high life and status with near-religious fervor.

From the second, third and fourth *Living* sections, way back in pre-yuppie 1976:

"100 Holiday Gifts for Food Lovers:" "If you cannot afford the best fresh beluga malassol caviar, give...imported Italian pasta, the DeCecco brand made in the Abruzzi region. Whatever you choose should say you thought the recipient...would recognize the best." "Owning a Rolls for an evening" told how to impress by renting a Rolls-Royce. An interview with Mr. Twinings, who "likens the appreciation of tea" to that of wine: "You're merely doing what your palate dictates. And that's the fun."

"Wine Talk:" "Let's go out and buy some wine-\$1000 worth. Oh, it might be foolish to drop the entire sum on a bottle of 1896 Lafite-Rothschild..." Mimi Sheraton: "Seekers of gastronomic exotica should waste no time getting to...the city's more ambitious produce markets..." Book review: "The Best of the Best." Point/counterpoint pieces advocating "diet" and "gluttony."

Advice on selecting wine carafes and Luxo lamps.

Enid Nemy asked the pressing question "How could \$25 million in jewels be boring?" "And when the prestigious name of Bulgari" is on the gems, and "the prestigious Skowhegan School of painting and sculpture" is the beneficiary... "it's impossible to go wrong."

"Caviar for Hard Times" described a discount caviar bar. *Wine Talk* noted "the Beaujolais Nouveau should be drunk young." Claiborne wrote "In Defense of Eating Rich Food."

On fashion: Following "the psychedelic fashions of the sixties...fashion was rather dormant. [translation: people were getting sensible.] Now...there is a renaissance of interest in clothes...Fashion is coming back into fashion."

Coming back? Or being pushed?

In 1977-79, still years before yuppieism, *Living* tackled such important issues as:

"The Best of Brie:" "Late autumn marks...the year's best season for...game, truffles, fresh *foie gras* and-especially-brie, France's King of Cheese and the Number One status choice in this country as well." (italics mine)

We also discovered the wonders of Supreme de Volaille aux Polyrons. "The succulence of Caneton Etrange a la Suedoise." "The cheeky flavor of Salade Pisse en lit Garnie a la Cote d'Azur." The delights of gourmet cooking on the road: "We have served coq au vin in Pebble Beach...spiedini in Indianapolis...pesto in Columbus..."

Claiborne: "Game...is in league with fresh oysters, fresh *foie gras* and new Beaujolais-something to titillate and glorify the palate."

The "newspaper of record" seemed

intent on setting a record for sheer single-mindedness of purpose. Their super-salesmanship (and they were selling class consciousness for the would-be nouveau riche more than food), was obsessive, overdone, and showed an appalling lack of gentility and moderation-exactly the characteristics that came to typify the new-money yuppies.

After *Living's* debut, *New York* played catch-up. December, 1976's "Joy of Jogging" dubbed running shoes "part of faddish chic." Stories grew ever shallower. "The new great-looking dining places" asked the quintessentially yuppie question, "Is the food as good as the design?" Early-1977's "Food, Glorious Food" issue had a 12-page "gourmet handbook." We learned about "Elegant Dining Without Really Trying," the best mustards in *New York*, the best coffee and "Malcolm Forbes-the most happy millionaire." The *Times* was more pretentious, but *New York* had the lock on shallowness. The two qualities combined, of course, made yuppies.

*New York's* pioneering efforts quickly spread. For L.A., Felker created New West. He recently said "at one point there were around 80 [city and regional] magazines that used essentially not only our formula but the same layouts... And...there were foreign magazines."(12)

In March, 1977, the *Times* unveiled The Home Section, with articles like "Off the rack furniture for the put-together generation," which asked, "In a hurry to own...a status steel and glass table?"; "Great entrances," about designing a statusy foyer for your living space; "Decorating for the Diaper set," which advised how to raise a status baby. "More room-and woks within reach" about kitchen storage for those who apparently required more than one wok. And on and on, every week, ad nauseam.

By the time 1984 rolled around and the name "yuppie" had been coined, the New York yuppies had been programmed for over a decade and were obedient robots. The *Times* and *New York* were now joined by innumerable other publications celebrating excess (and the economic system that made it possible). But the 1987 stock market crash found the *Times* in a reflective mood, noting that the yuppies' "huge incomes and ostentatious consumption, an inclination highlighted in both advertising and news coverage (*italics mine*; when you create a phenomenon, can you really be said to be "covering" it?)-generated deep resentment."(13) Get it? That distaste many of us felt for status-seeking and egotism was mere jealousy. That disgust at people without consciences, disguised envy. Post-crash, however, the *Times* quickly rejoined the party, with gift ideas: For your son: "A yuppie, he likes the new and different, so give him a BMW in milk, dark or white chocolate, \$14.75 at Li-lac."(14)

Disgustingly rich money-manager yuppies were actually relatively scarce, but there were tens of millions of aspiring yuppies. A 1987 survey placed these "attitudinally affluent" people, who "like to buy only the best of everything, from gourmet popcorn to crocodile shoes, regardless of their income or education level," at 58.6% of all adult Americans.(15)(Could all those "Best of" lists the *Times* and *New York*-and their many imitators-published have had anything to do with this? Nah.)

What a feat of social engineering. Moving masses of people away from flower power, and toward materialism, class-consciousness and rightist politics. And making it seem like it all just happened spontaneously, unassisted.

In 1977, the first year with both new

sections, *Times* income more than doubled from 1975.<sup>16</sup> It's interesting how the *Times'* interests and Wall Street's coincide.

More interesting still is how the *Times'* duties as lapdog to the power elite (a role well documented by Noam Chomsky and others) go well beyond just whitewashing U.S. foreign policy and printing corporate PR in the guise of news, all the way to inventing lifestyles and zeitgeists that bolster elitist values. Thus setting the course not just for educated professionals' lives, but those of the millions who emulate them. And all the other societies that emulate the U.S. (or, more accurately, are having U.S. culture forced down their throats).

Yes, the *Times* really outdid itself with its "coverage" of the yuppie phenomenon. We thought it was time they received the credit they were due.

As for Clay Felker, he wrote of this period, "...Magazines were at the leverage point of the culture, shaping attitudes...(italics mine) toward new, more fragmented ideas of identity and self-fulfillment...a trend that continues, unabated, today."<sup>17</sup> Felker now teaches at the Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley. Where once radicals envisioned a new society, today they can absorb wisdom from Berkeley's new Felker Magazine Center (established with a \$100,000 grant from the Philip L. Graham Fund <sup>(18)</sup>, named for the man who helped the CIA infiltrate and sabotage the news media).

#### Notes:

1. "The Year of the Yuppie," *Newsweek*, December 31, 1984, p. 17.
2. "The birth-and maybe death-of Yuppiedom," *Time*, April 8, 1991, p. 65.
3. Hendrick Hertzberg, "The short happy life of the American yuppie," *Esquire*, Feb, 1988.

4. Albert Goldman, "Entering the new age of pot," *New York Magazine*, Aug., 1975, p. 28.
5. "He created magazines by marrying new journalism to consumerism," *New York Times*, April 9, 1995, IV, 7:1.
6. *New York Magazine*, November 10, 1975.
7. Stanley H. Brown, "People's Capitalism is killing Wall Street," *New York Magazine*, April 6, 1970.
8. "CIA subsidized festival trips," *New York Times*, February 21, 1967, p. 33; Robert G. Kaiser, "Work of CIA with youths at festivals is defended," *Washington Post*, February 18, 1967, p. A4; Kai Bird, *The Chairman: John J. McCloy and the Making of the American Establishment*, Simon and Schuster (New York: 1992), p. 483-4, 727.
9. Lucinda Franks, "Dissension among feminists: the rift widens," *New York Times*, Aug. 29, 1975, p. 32.
10. Nancy Borman, "Random Action," *Village Voice*, May 21, 1979, p. 107.
11. Debra Davis, *Katherine the Great*, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich (NY: 1979).
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13. Lee Daniels, "After the fall: will the yuppies rise again?" *New York Times*, November 21, 1987, P. B4.
14. *NYT*, December 9, 1987, p. C1.
15. Michael Gross, "The spending spree that won't go away," *New York Times*, December 13, 1987, p. 17.
16. Joseph C. Goulden, *Fit to Print A.M. Rosenthal and his Times*, Lyle Stuart (Secaucus, N.J., 1988), p. 228-9.
17. Felker blurb for David Abrahamson's book *Magazine-Made America*, from Internet <http://abrahamson.medill.nwu.edu/WWW/MMA.html>
18. From *The Foundation Directory*, Internet <http://fdncenter.org/book/fd97sam.html>



## SAUCER SECTION



### *Flying Saucers Over Los Angeles* Book excerpt

## "A Mild Case of Something Or Other"

*Steamshovel Debris:* DeWayne Johnson's 1950 dissertation comprises most of *Flying Saucers Over Los Angeles*, the new *Steamshovel* book (order from 815-253-6390). Along with the many other first-hand oral histories with UFO lore pioneers found in the book, Johnson made contact with Hadley Cantril, an MKULTRA scientist and friend of Allen Dulles. This excerpt begins Johnson's discussion of Cantril's work.

The problem of the flying saucers becomes more confused almost in direct ratio to the amount of material collected about them. The sociological and psychological ramifications of the phenomenon could challenge a whole bevy of psychologists working full-time on this single problem.

But before getting too deeply involved in the psychological issues in the case of the flying saucers, it is altogether pertinent to look at the work done by professional psychologists in connection with what is often called "mass hysteria."

It might be pointed out that two schools of thought exist among the psychologists. Whereas certain of them find the term "mass hysteria" extremely useful, others abhor any mention of such a term.

Innocently, no doubt, Donald M. Johnson indirectly contributed to the flying

saucer issue. He talked about the "Phantom Anesthetist" of Mattoon, Ill. (1)

On a certain night in 1944, a woman in Mattoon called police with a frightened story that "someone had opened her window and sprayed her with a sickish sweet-smelling gas which partially paralyzed her legs and made her ill."

Soon more cases, with similar symptoms, were reported. The police were forced to make a full-scale effort to capture the "gasser." Citizens armed themselves with shot-guns; many claimed they caught a glimpse of the gasser or heard the spray gun; some became ill; many became frightened.

The state police with their radio-equipped cars were called in. Crime detection experts analyzed the scenes of the incidents for evidence of gaseous chemicals. Newspapers all over the United States played the story.

After ten days, with as many as seven reports in one day, the excitement died down. No evidence was found, and the conclusion of the police was that Mattoon's gasser was nothing more than imagination. Newspapers, which had run column after column of stories on the gasser, now ran more columns on "mass hysteria."

Psychologist Johnson, who had the cooperation of police officials in Mattoon, made a full investigation of the case. "Scientifically," he said, "the episode demands attention as a fascinating psychological phenomenon."

Only one case of a "mental epidemic" had been reported in recent years, he said: an outburst of hysterical twitching in a Louisiana high school described by E. A. Schuler and V. J. Parenton. (2) No other references to hysterical epidemics in the United States had appeared in standard sources for over 40 years. This raised the question, said Johnson, whether these phenomena might not be disappearing.

Johnson found the residents of Mattoon were 98 per cent native-born whites. The city itself was surrounded by prosperous farm land. Railroad repair shops and a few small industries completed the economic picture. Mattoon was pretty much of a typical mid-western city.

The investigator faced two possible hypotheses -- the actual existence of a gasser or the presence of hysteria. The gasser was ruled out because of the lack of evidence. The vomiting and paralysis could also be caused by "hysteria or dietary indiscretions." Gas victims who sought the help of physicians all were diagnosed as being victims of hysteria.

Johnson then discussed the characteristics of the vulnerable sample -- those who suffered from the hysteria. he found his sample held a much greater proportion of women than existed in the general population of the city -- 93 percent as opposed to 52 percent. he said, "This is in agreement with the laboratory studies on suggestibility (3) and the clinical reports on hysteria." (4)

Johnson found all the "victims" but one had been or were married. No children were involved. In education, the sample ranked below the population at large. Economically those involved were less prosperous than the population in general. No gassings occurred in Mattoon's high-income areas.

A similar study, that by Hadley Cantril, came up with the conclusion people in lower educational and economic brackets were most strongly influenced by Orson Welles' "Invasion from Mars" broadcast in 1938.(5)

In brief summary, Cantril found the better educated were more critical of the broadcast than were those lesser educated. Those better educated went to great lengths to check the authenticity of the Welles

broadcast and were not so easily thrown into a panic.

Johnson's conclusion concerning the anesthetist, in short, was that the phantom anesthetist, in short, was "entirely psychogenic." Although Johnson averred parallels were to be found between the phantom anesthetist and the Martian invaders, it is seen that the parallels do not predominate the two situations;

It was on the evening of October 30, 1938, that Orson Welles made his dramatic and now famous CBS broadcast on the "Mercury Theater of the Air." The story was an adaptation of H. G. Wells' book *The War of the World*. The broadcast described an invasion of the earth by Martians--which invasion threatened our entire civilization. (6)

The script was effectively written, so effective that of the six million people hearing the broadcast at least one sixth were frightened or disturbed.

Much of Cantril's later research information came from detailed interviews with 135 persons. Over 100 of these persons were upset by the broadcast. Nor were they alone in their fright at the time of the broadcast; all over the nation people were praying, crying, or fleeing frantically to escape death at the hands of the invaders.

Two basic questions arose in Cantril's mind: Why did this broadcast frighten some people when other similarly fantastic broadcasts did not, and why did this broadcast frighten some people but not others?

The answer to the first question, said Cantril, is found in the characteristics of the program which aroused "false standards of judgement."

The broadcast was dramatic and was patterned after the then current practice of interrupting regularly scheduled programs to bring the listeners special news bulletins.

"A large proportion of listeners, particularly those in the lower income and educational brackets, have grown to rely more on the radio than on the newspapers for their news."

In this conclusion Cantril had the support of Mitchell V. Charnley, who said, "The listening pattern (of radio) follows the economic pattern faithfully, but in inverse order -- the lower the living standard, the higher the amount of radio listening." (7)

Cantril's analysis followed this vein. The persons who were frightened by the broadcast were, for this occasion at least, highly suggestible; that is, they believed what they heard without making sufficient checks to prove to themselves that the broadcast was only a story. Those who were not frightened and those who believed the broadcast for only a short time were not suggestible and displayed what psychologists call a "critical faculty." Why were some critical -- and others not?

"In short," declared Cantril, "the extreme behavior evoked by the broadcast (in some people) was due to the enormous felt ego-involvement the situation created and to the complete inability of the individual to alleviate or control the consequences of the invasion."

With reference to this present flying saucer investigation, Cantril said, "New situations will demand new techniques and formulations, I suspect, but obviously should in themselves be consistent with whatever valid knowledge we have now." (8)

It is for that reason that the studies of Cantril and Johnson were quoted to such lengths here. The situation is this: If flying saucers were the result of what Johnson called "mass hysteria" and also what Cantril called "felt ego-involvement," it would follow logically that the victims of flying saucer hysteria would resemble the victims

of the Martians and the gasser -- in mind, spirit and worldly goods. But they do not...

#### Notes:

1. Donald M. Johnson, "The 'Phantom Anesthetist' of Mattoon: A Field Study of Mass Hysteria," in Theodore M. Newcomb, Eugene L. Hartley, and others, *Readings in Social Psychology*, from *The Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*; April, 1945, XL, 175-186 (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1947), pp. 639-650.
2. Op. cit., p. 639, reference to "E.A. Schuler and V. J. Parenton, 'A Recent Epidemic of Hysteria in a Louisiana High School,' *The Journal of Social Psychology*, 1943, XVII, 221-235."
3. Op. cit., p. 648, reference to "C. Bird, *Social Psychology*. (New York: D. Appleton-Century Co., 1940.)"
4. Loc. cit., reference to "A. J. Rosanoff (ed.), *Manual of Psychiatry* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1920); W. S. Sadler, *Theory and Practice of Psychiatry*, (St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Co., 1936)."
5. Hadley Cantril, Hazel Caudet and Herta Hertzog, *The Invasion from Mars*, (Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press, 1940), 228 pp.
6. Loc. cit.
7. Mitchell V. Charnley, *News by Radio* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1948), p. 45.
8. Information obtained in correspondence with Prof. Cantril.



**JFK REDUX**

## **The Strange Business of Dan Griffith**

In January 1993 Mir Aimal Kasi shot Frank Darling and another man with an assault rifle at point-blank range while they were stopped at a red light in front of CIA headquarters. According to the Washington Post, the shootings "appeared to be random." Dan Griffith knew about such "random" events, however, and he knew that name. At Mir Aimal Kasi's trial at the Fairfax County Courthouse in November 1997, Griffith discovered from Darling's father that the family had relatives on Vancouver Island. The information fit into a pattern of manipulation that Griffith had been involved with for over fifteen years. He just didn't know why.

Why would an ordinary citizen with no past connections to intelligence and/or organized crime be followed, harassed and threatened by people from several federal agencies, state and local police and mob thugs for fifteen years? Dan Griffith, who comes from the Cincinnati suburb of Covington, Kentucky, has pursued the answer to this question across fifty states, Europe and Hong Kong and, in 1993, into the assassination research community.

Griffith, a former S&I manager and commercial realtor, believes his pedestrian life ended in March 1983 when he found himself being openly tracked to Florida, Georgia and, in South Carolina, by a Vienna, VA man. ("Vienna is a CIA company town," he was once told by a DC attorney). Griffith suspected it had to do with a family estate settlement in progress at the time, but the estate's small size seemed to work against that possible motive. He submitted a FOIA request to the FBI about this in 1984, but that ended when his



*Above:* Scene of Frank Darling's murder. When Griffith circulated the photo, his mail service was stopped.

principal witness said, "If I testify, they'll follow me for twenty years."

After the estate settlement in 1985, Griffith journeyed to Portugal to visit a sister. There he was run down by a car driven by a Portuguese government employee. The day after leaving the Lisbon hospital, a Canadian intelligence agent joined him for lunch. Later, in Barcelona, a Spanish man said: "Don't go home, your government is after you." A U.S. Marine security guard escorted Griffith on the train from Madrid to Lisbon. All this too became the subject of a FOIA letter--to the State department and the Navy JAG.

In 1989, a casual acquaintance of Griffith's named Phil Conover asked him, "Are they still chasing you all over the country?" A few months later Conover was murdered and the Cincinnati homicide squad, not amused at Griffith's investigation of the homicide, subjected him to a third degree while accusing him of what was a very professional hit. Griffith was referred to "retired" FBI agent Richard Dorton, who was killed in an auto accident several months later. Griffith's investigation of

Dorton's "accident" brought threats and intimidation from police in the rural county where agent Dorton was killed. The mysterious Conover-Dorton deaths were not Griffith's first encounter with murder. In December 1987, he attempted to interview a court probation officer named Clay Taylor, who was shot execution-style just hours after his request for conversation.

In 1990, Griffith's pursuit of his bizarre situation led him to Washington, DC to interview investigative author Sally Denton (*Bluegrass Conspiracy*). He never saw Denton but had lunch with Denton's PI partner Jim Hougan (*Spooks*). The night before the Hougan luncheon, a large caliber shot was fired outside Griffith's motel room.

In 1992 Griffith encountered a woman named Tanya Darling in the September preceding Frank Darling's death. He had been instructed to deliver a 9x12 envelope to her at the docks in Victoria, British Columbia, by another new acquaintance, Tatyana Khromchenko. After some repartee about KGB contraband and CIA pigeon drops, he complied, if only to further his quest to answer that "why" question. Tanya Darling never showed up at the Victoria docks, and she was not at the house where Griffith finally left the envelope with a daughter.

Griffith's quest continued when he returned to Seattle. He spent some more time with Tatyana Khromchenko, discovering that she at one time had taught English to personnel at the Soviet ministry. She also taught the Russian language to American and British ambassadors. Pressing her for details about his own situation, Khromchenko told Griffith that she knew of a "group of VIPs" who had been tracking and harassing him since 1983.

He found out little more. Khromchenko worked for Delphi International, a State Department subsidiary

based in DC, after her employment with the Russian Foreign Ministry. Delphi was a private contractor to the U.S. government involved with Iran-Contra, and a PI supplied by Dan Alcorn, counsel to the Coalition on Political Assassinations, revealed Delphi to be a State Department front for political activity in Central America.

*Below: George Bush, Mikhael Gorbachev, Tatyana Kromchenko and Tanya Darling.*



Khromchenko's name came up again in 1997, when Griffith traveled to Hong Kong during its transition back into the hands of the Communist Chinese. While on a day tour of Macau, he had lunch with an Asian woman, named Elena, who identified herself as the Costa Rican ambassador to the Chinese Government on Taiwan. She expressed a keen interest in the details of Griffith's 1992 encounter with Tatyana Khromchenko and Tanya Darling. When he checked later, he learned from the Costa

Rican Embassy that their Taiwanese ambassador was in fact Elena Wachung.

After Frank Darling's murder, Griffith made urgent phone calls to both Tatyana Khromchenko and Tanya Darling to determine what, if any, relationship existed between them and the dead agent. He attended Mir Aimal Kasi's trial and questioned Frank Darling's father, who told him about relatives in Vancouver. Griffith also discovered another detail about the case missed by the newspapers: both Mir Aimal Kasi and Frank Darling had been stationed in Pakistan. The court sentenced Kasi to death in January 1998.

The next "random" coincidence carried Griffith's narrative forward and tied it to JFK research. In October 1993, while in Atlanta, GA, he was approached by a woman who claimed that her maiden name was Charlene Trafficante. She wanted information about Marvin Warner, Jimmy Carter's ambassador to Switzerland and a figure in Cincinnati's S&L scandal in Cincinnati, Griffith's home turf. Instead of supplying that information, Griffith asked about her connection to Santo Trafficante and his associate, Carlos Marcello. Marcello was the New Orleans mob boss that many suspected as having a hand in the JFK assassination. Charlene Trafficante became nervous and abruptly left.

Upon return to Cincinnati, JFK witness Jean Hill told Griffith about the forthcoming conference on the assassination, the ASK Symposium to be held in Dallas on the 30th anniversary. Griffith had met Hill previously on various stops of her book signing tour. In a letter to her in August 1992 he commented that "It was certainly good meeting someone who has also survived long-term, intense psychological guerilla warfare. One of the most audacious thrusts of the assault has been the effort to make me think that it is

connected to the JFK hit. What the various skills are really saying (as you quickly and sagaciously commented) is that the same operatives from 1963 are still in business. As in real estate, you can't do big deals all of the time."

On Hill's recommendation, Griffith attended ASK '93 in the hope of tracking Charlene Trafficante and restoring his search for the reason behind his own predicament. At the conference he talked to a number of researchers. One turned up Ms. Trafficante's birthdate, April 26, 1930 and Jack Brazil suggested that Griffith contact the infamous Gordon Novel. (Griffith asked G. Gordon Liddy about Gordon Novel when Liddy lectured at the Cincinnati Junior League the following February. Liddy's response: "Stay away from him.") Brazil also said, "Somebody is protecting you" and "They have excellent discipline over their skills." Griffith even approached John Judge to discuss the Frank Darling case but was intercepted by someone identifying himself as a "conventioner from Omaha". Judge had gone by the time the mysterious conventioner was through with Griffith.

Author John Davis told Griffith he would call Frank Ragano, former attorney for Santo Trafficante, to check Charlene's identity, and later Griffith received a phone call from Frank's wife Nancy Ragano explaining that Santo Trafficante had two daughters, neither named Charlene and both much younger than the person Griffith described. Griffith's response: "It is interesting that a phony mob person has been deployed."

In November 1993 he wrote to Robert L. Knight of the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights, who advised him to see his senator. When he insisted that it was criminal matter not a political one, Knight stuttered fearfully in the next conversation.

Two days later he met the fictitious daughter of Santo Trafficante.

Throughout this fifteen year period, Griffith has been told: "drop the pursuit; let sleeping dogs lie; change name and leave the country; kick over beehives and you will get stung; Carl and Charles are behind this and they want you to move to the Orient." Many hostile and merely harassing intercepts have been at meetings in private clubs from coast to coast. A CIA asset named David Hager intercepted Griffith at a meeting site in Hong Kong in July 1997. Church services have been a regular intercept point. Army Intelligence Major John Hamberg engaged Griffith in an angry conversation after a church service in his hometown of Owensboro, Kentucky.

In July 1996, Griffith attended the JFK research conference in Fredonia, NY and engaged esteemed researcher Peter Dale Scott in a long conversation about his situation. Scott identified a New York literary agent who had contacted Griffith about a book as a CIA asset. Scott also suggested that the FBI be FOIAed.

A FOIA letter was sent to the FBI and upon receiving no response from the Cincinnati office, Griffith retained an attorney who then received frivolous replies. The attorney suddenly resigned from the firm and moved to Columbus, Ohio; the replacement attorney then attempted to convince Griffith not to take the FOIA to the US District Court. Eventually the lawyer relented and suit was filed and the US attorney responded that a file existed but would not be released. As of July 1998, no hearing has been held on the FOIA action.

Simultaneous with the FBI-FOIA suit, a provocateur engaged Griffith in a scuffle in a local restaurant which resulted in a 4<sup>th</sup> degree assault charge. This misdemeanor charge has been stalled and

dragged out over a year and a half and may go to a jury trial this fall.

Griffith regards the scope, time span and number of interceptors used as quite incredible. He is anxious to collect any information, about his or any similar situation. His biggest question remains: why would a huge assault operation be launched against an ordinary citizen?

—continued from inside front cover—

Enough *Steamshovel* debt has been retired now, however, to allow for the production of this issue. With luck, the issue will jump start the *Steamshovel* operation back into full production mode. ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS CONTINUE TO BE HONORED. Subscribers who paid for four issues will receive four issues, and every attempt will be made to do it on the old quarterly basis. Additional donations and contributions to help continue to retire the outstanding debts are encouraged.

The *Steamshovel* has not been idling—see the house ads on the back cover for new *Steamshovel* books produced during this period, check out the weekly web page, and watch/listen for media appearances by *Steamshovel* editor Kenn Thomas.

**In memoriam:**

Ace R. Hayes, January 7, 1940-February 13, 1998.

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too few people understand suffering."

Carlos Castaneda, 1925-1998

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# Conspiracy 101: An Interview with John Coleman

By Uri Dowbenko

John Coleman is the author of *Conspirators Hierarchy: The Story of the Committee of 300, Diplomacy by Deception, and Socialism, the Road to Slavery*, as well as more than 400 white papers or monographs on a variety of economic and political topics.

Coleman's vitae includes service as a former British intelligence officer stationed in fourteen different countries over the past twenty years. Since 1970, he has published *World in Review*, a monthly intelligence and economics newsletter. Coleman also lists a doctorate in political science and economics among his accomplishments, having studied for five years at the British Library and British Museum in London.

**Q: How did you first find out about the Committee of 300 and what happened to you that made you determined to expose them?**

A: During the course of my professional career, I was given documents that were marked "Code: Word." "Code: Word" is the highest type of classification you can get. It's far above "Top Secret" or anything of that nature. In these documents was a plan laid out between the British government and the United States government as to how they would handle future conditions in Africa. We were there ostensibly fighting

communist penetration, trying to keep the communists out of Angola and Rhodesia and later South Africa, when in fact, what we were doing was laying the ground work for a total communist take-over. So we were there supposedly for one purpose, but in fact, we were carrying out the future plans of the New World Order.

**Q: What happened when you objected to what you called the inimical goals of the Olympians?**

A: The inimical goals of the Olympians, of course, is the same thing as the Committee of 300. In intelligence circles, that is what their name is, the Olympians.

**Q: So the documents you saw refer to them as...**

A: No, they didn't refer to them as the Olympians. They referred to the "Higher Committee" and they referred to the "Controlling Body." It was only later that I found out who this controlling body actually is. By backtracking on the name Olympians, I was then able to come up with the classification, that this was the Committee of 300.

**Q: So the origin of the term Committee of 300 is from where?**

A: It goes back to the days of the major drug trading empire. The British Empire is based upon drug trading. The British East India Company was a very powerful company dealing primarily in opium, which they grew in India, in Benares and the Ganges Valley, and then shipped to China and sold to Chinese buyers, controlled by the British government directly, for enormous profits. If you take a year like 1973, for instance, where car profits were



very good, and you combined General Motors and Ford, their sales for those two years, it would approximate about one-tenth of the sales of the general revenue earned by the British East India Company from opium sales in China. It was a huge and lucrative business, actually backed by the British government.

**Q:** So the 300 refers to 300 entities, or houses, or...

**A:** It refers to the actual structuring of this company. They knew from past experience that if you have people with unequal powers there's going to be trouble. So they structured it in such a way that there were 300 members of the board of this company, each with equal voting rights, each with an equal share approximating an equal sum of money, and with the proviso that nobody could gang up on anybody else, to outvote any member, or to oust any member.

**Q:** So it is basically an outgrowth of the British East India Company?

**A:** Yes, it was named after the controlling body that ran the British East India Company, the 300 members of the board of directors of this company that ran everything.

**Q:** And that organizational structure continues to this day?

**A:** That organization continues to this day. But, of course, it's now very much broader. It's not only introducing and expanding the drug trade in the United States. That's only one aspect. They're now into political control, not only of the United States, but Germany, France, Italy, in fact, virtually every country of the world.

## SOCIALISM THE ROAD TO SLAVERY



**Q:** In your book, *Conspirators Hierarchy*, you write that the Committee of 300 is "the ultimate secret society made up of an untouchable ruling class, which includes the Queen of England, the Queen of the Netherlands, the Queen of Denmark and the royal families of Europe. These aristocrats decided at the death of Queen Victoria, the matriarch of the Venetian Black Guelphs, that in order to gain worldwide control, it would be necessary for its aristocratic members to go into business with the nonaristocratic, but extremely powerful leaders of corporate business on a global scale, so the doors to ultimate power would open to what the Queen of England likes to refer to as the commoners." Historically speaking, was there a meeting that took place, or how was it decided?

A: No, they all got together. All the royalty got together, and then they acted through their ministers. They kept themselves at a distance. The Queen never dirties her hands with anything direct. She has her ministers. She has the Duke of Kent, who is, let's say, her executive, who takes her place as the ruler of England when she is out the country. Then the instructions are handed down right until you get to the gutter level, which is the mafia. The mafia is part of this crowd, but they keep their distance from them. They never would associate with them or report any connection whatsoever. Nobody knows where it was held, but there is some thought that it was held in one of their castles up in Scotland.

**Q: What evidence did you come across that this meeting actually took place?**

A: The evidence that this meeting took place was contained in the records by the German who was responsible for managing the finances of the Kaiser of Germany and managing the finances of the Rothschilds and one would imagine that he would know exactly what was going on. He not only made reference to the meetings, but he said quite distinctly that here is a Committee of 300 known only to each other and they rule the world. His name was Walter Rathenau.

**Q: This was when?**

A: It was 1923. And a year later, of course, he got a bullet in the back of his head for his trouble.

**Q: In *Conspirators' Hierarchy* you also write that "the Committee of 300 consists of specialists in intelligence, banking, and every facet of commercial activity... Included in the membership are the old families of the European Black Nobility,**

**the American Eastern Liberal Establishment (in Freemason hierarchy and the Order of Skull and Bones), the Illuminati, or as it is known by the Committee, 'Moriah Conquering Wind', the Mumma group, the National and World Council of Churches, the Circle of Initiates, the Nine Unknown Men, Lucis Trust, Jesuit Liberation Theologists, the Order of the Elders of Zion, The Nazi Princes, International Monetary Fund, the Bank of International Settlements, the United Nations, the Central British Quator Coronati, Italian P2 Masonry, especially those in teh Vartican hierarchy, the Central Intelligence Agency, Tavistock Institute, selected personnel, various members of leading foundations and insurance companies, the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank, the Milner Group-Round Table, German Marshall Fund, Nato, Ditchley Foundation, Club of Rome... literally, hundreds of other organizations." That's a lot of disparate groups. How do they keep order and coordinate strategy?**

## DIPLOMACY BY DECEPTION



A: They do it in exactly the same way as a giant corporation keeps order. You take a company like General Motors, for instance. How do they keep order? They've got banking, sales, advertising, management, government, public relations. There are thousands of different departments, but each department head is designated with a specific task and he is answerable to one of the specific directors on the board. That's his field of expertise.

**Q: So it's just a straightforward corporate hierarchical organization. So on a global level, who is at the top of this power structure?**

A: Well, they say in papers of this Committee of 300 that there is no end. But we all believe -- and when I say we, all intelligence people I have ever spoken to, and I've spoken to a lot of them about it -- that it's the Queen of England.

**Q: So she's the chairperson of the world, so to speak?**

A: She's also the richest and most powerful lady in the world. She gets daily briefing from MI6 [British Intelligence] of what's going on in the world. Once a week she meets with the head of MI6 and he gives her a very in depth briefing of every event that has taken place. She is far better informed than anybody else, even the British Prime Minister. These people are answerable only to her. They are not answerable to the British public or the British Parliament.

**Q: When you initially wrote your expose - were there threats to your life?**

A: Well there were a lot of problems we went through in the beginning, but we reached an understanding that if I don't cross

a certain line, I'm not going to be bothered by them. What that line is, of course, I can't tell you.

**Q: Probably one of the most controversial points in your book is that the Beatles and rock music in general were the creation of the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations in England. What kind of documents did you see that brought you to this conclusion?**

A: Well, I got hold of all of the documents concerning Theo Adorno, who was kicked out of Germany by Hitler because Hitler came across the fact that he was working with music which was designed to so confuse the mind of the listeners, directed primarily to the youth, that they would be susceptible.

**Q: Adorno was a sociologist?**

A: A musician. A professor of music.

**Q: So this was a kind of experimentation?**

A: What he was doing -- he was taking the music of the priests of Baal and he was using this, which is really a repetitive beat, incessantly played over and over with some variations, the variations being on a discordant note, atonal, which repetitively played, would make people become virtually disoriented.

**Q: What was the reason for this research?**

A: He was commissioned by the Committee of 300 to prepare the way for their huge drug invasion in America. Don't forget -- they had this enormous, profitable drug empire in China, worth billions of dollars.

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**Q: You said that people are sent to the Tavistock Institute, which you call the "premier brainwashing institution in the world," for what has been called "training." What exactly does this so-called training entail?**

**A:** Well, I use the word brainwashing, because that's a term that everybody knows and understands.

**Q: In other words, mind control techniques. What does this training entail?**

**A:** Well, this was founded by Brigadier John Rawlings Reese. He hit upon a great idea and a very simple one. He said, in psychiatry, people come to me to be healed. I can make people who are not sick -- I can make them sick by the same techniques.

**Q: Reverse the process.**

**A:** Exactly, and that simple thing he thought of, 80,000 British troops were given to him as guinea pigs. And he found out it works in the most fantastic way. And he evolved theories, which he then put into practice. Basically, he expressed the view that everybody can be controlled. It's just a matter of applying the correct techniques. Of course, those techniques are worked out by people under his control.

**Q: So psychiatry was subverted then, or was it initially a discipline strictly created for this purpose?**

**A:** It was strictly created for this purpose. People talk about Freud and so on, but these people had another ulterior motive altogether and that was to obtain full control of individuals, groups, major and minor, and eventually whole nations. The Tavistock group has been at war with this country since 1946.

Just to give you an example they worked out during the war -- the war criminal Churchill came to Tavistock and said, "We need a method of how we can defeat the Germans. They're too good for us in the military field. We can't beat them. They've bested the best of us. What can we do?" So they got their people to work and they worked out a plan which they called the Prudential Bombing Survey, which was this. They knew how much stress that people could take in their lives before cracking, before breaking. And what they worked out was that, if the American and British bombers could bomb 60% of German worker housing into extinction, the stress and the shock would be so great that the German public would no longer support the war effort and the war would come to a halt.

And that is exactly what they did. The RAF went over Dusseldorf and destroyed all the steel mills. Don't believe it. It's a pack of lies, because the steel mills and those making shells and artillery pieces are owned by both sides and financed by both parties. The Warburgs and the Rothschilds financed both sides of the war. They weren't going to go in and destroy their assets. What they were doing is destroying German worker housing. It didn't cost them anything. When they got up to a saturation of 60%, that's exactly when Germany collapsed.

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**Q: Now, regarding the Kennedy assassination, can you elaborate on the whys and wherefores?**

A: Kennedy was one of the few men who stood up against this group. When he unravelled their plans for Cuba -- that's a very long story. When he disobeyed them regarding the printing of treasury notes. He said, 'we're not going to use the Federal Reserve; we don't need them; we're going to print our own U.S. Treasury notes issued upon prayers of the people.' - They told him, 'Mr. Kennedy, Look, you're overstepping the bounds. We are giving you orders and you are going to obey them.' And he said, 'I'm not obeying orders. I'm the President of the United States.' In order to show his associates, those immediately around him, would-be successors, would-be people in line for the presidency, that they are the boss, they publicly executed him in the most brutal fashion. In full view of millions and millions of Americans.

**Q: Was he warned first?**

A: He was warned several times to stop and to take orders. They told him bluntly, 'you are here to take orders,' and he refused to take the orders.

**Q: Who were primarily the messengers of these orders?**

A: Arthur Schlesinger and people of that nature, in exactly the same way as Colonel House used to give his British intelligence orders to Woodrow Wilson, for example.

**Q: Now this explication of the Kennedy assassination will be in the new edition of your book.**

A: Yes, in the new edition of *the Committee of 300*. We're expanding the book to take in the full story of the Kennedy assassination, the bandits who executed it and why.

**Q: In your book, *Diplomacy by Deception*, you contend that AIDS has been deliberately planted in Brazil and Africa. What evidence can you cite in this regard?**

A: We have all the evidence in the world and we have it in the new book that we're going to put out called *Full Disclosure*. We quote chapter and verse how this was done, who was involved, and how these agencies of the Federal Government, particularly in the field of chemical and bacteriological warfare experiments, were given a budget by the United States government, who said, 'go out and invent these viruses. We want to use these in the future, in the wars that are coming; we need to use these, so that millions of our people don't get killed.' And this was not a new thing, of course. They did do a big test in 1919.

**Q: This was the flu epidemic?**

A: The so-called "Spanish flu epidemic." As World War I was winding down, they decided they were going to try this out on the Moroccan electorate as part of the allied war, and they did. And it killed thousands of them.

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**Q: Why is population control so important to the Committee of 300? How does the promotion of abortion, euthanasia, and suicide fit into the plans of achieving the goals of "Global 2000"?**

JC: Well, "Global 2000," as you know, was a paper prepared by the Club of Rome under the auspices of Cyrus Vance, who then presented it to President Carter three days before his term ended and told him, henceforth this is official US policy. And Carter, being a good servant, said, 'OK, this is our policy.' And it was adopted as US policy and still is today. What it basically called for was the diminution of the world's population by half by the year 2000.

In terms of the blueprint, they said that there are just too many useless eaters in the world and that the world does not have unlimited resources and these people, the useless eaters, are consuming these natural resources at an alarming rate. Also, they are polluting the earth, the rivers and the streams, and the land itself is being polluted by people. In fact, the president of the Club of Rome said, there is a cancer in the earth and the cancer is man. [*Mankind at the Turning Point* by Mesarovic and Pestel]. We've got to get rid of him. And so they devised plans to get rid of 2.5 billion people by the year 2000. And they went about it. AIDS is one of their means of achieving that. Bertrand Russell said that wars seem to have been disappointing. They haven't killed enough people. In fact, he said, we need the return of the Black Plague. AIDS, you can say, is the return of the Black Plague, greatly upgraded.

**Q: What are the latest programs introduced by the Tavistock Institute in order to continue changing American society?**

A: They are still working on exactly the same formulas. They have expanded their communication system, but the formulas have not changed. Barrage people with ideas, confuse them, give them alternatives - - this is the newest thing that is coming down and you have to accept it. You can't fight against it, and people get tired of fighting and they just give up.

**Q: During the 1980s, tens of billions of dollars were spent on SDI, Strategic Defense Initiative, with nothing to show for it. Recent evidence shows that this money has gone into mind control research and implementation, programs by the Department of Defense, NSA, DIA, and the CIA. What do your sources tell you?**

A: They tell me that the worst of them is the NSA. The NSA turned into a huge surveillance machine. They have 50,000 operatives who have the authority, not from the Constitution, but from the NSA. They can surveill anybody that they want. If they take an interest in you, they can bring tremendous forms of surveillance to bear upon you. They can even plant images in your mind. They can do it from computer to your mind, or they can do it by sound, by bypassing the auditory nerves in the cortex of the brain, and bypassing the optic nerves in the cortex of your brain. They can create images that make you think that you are doing things because you want to do them, when, in fact, you are listening to the commands that are outside of your body.

And this has been proven over and over again. That's why I'm probably going to earn the wrath of a lot of these people who say they've been kidnapped and taken aboard the space ships, but what those people experienced was just computer-to-mind transferrals or signals, bypassing the optic nerves in the cortex of the brain, which showed them a picture of them being taking aboard these ships with these little aliens.

There are so many systems working today in electronic surveillance and mind control systems that took huge amounts of money to develop the proprietary systems -- let's put it, for want of a better term -- machinery belonging to the NSA that no one else can handle. I mean, they are 18 years ahead of any computers today in the world.

**Q: In the face of all the overwhelming information you have published, what can people do to take control of their lives?**

A: The main thing to do is have faith in their country, have faith in the institutions of the Republic upon which it is founded. We are not a democracy. We are a confederated republic. Know the Constitution. Don't forget our laws are based on the laws of God. We all need to turn back to God and ask Him to help us. We need to be able to invoke the Constitution when people come with bills that are 100% unconstitutional and that have the stamp and the mark of the Communist Manifesto of 1848. We need to know history. We need to know the Constitution. When we've done that, we can be well on the road to taking charge of our own destiny.

Dr. John Coleman's books are available from Joseph Publishing, 2533 North Carson St., Carson City, Nevada 89706, 800-942-0821

## CONSPIRATORS HIERARCHY THE COMMITTEE OF 300



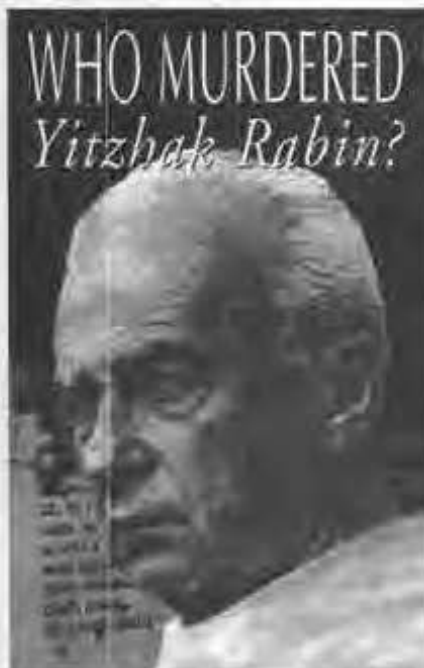
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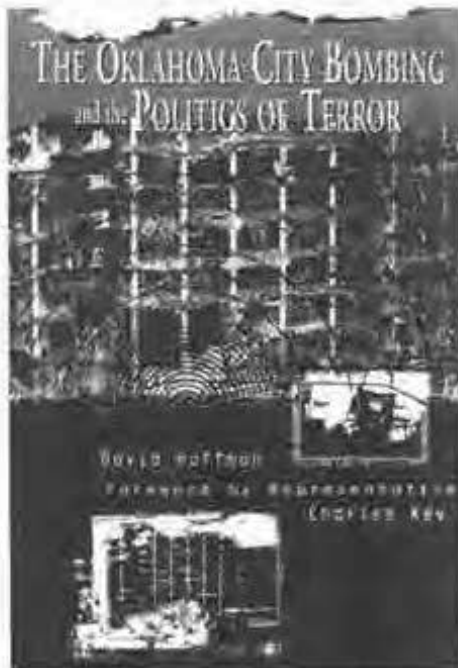
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## Caries, Cabals and Correspondence Reader Letters

Thank you for sending me *Steamshovel Press*. Excellent work, as I expected. I will soon get your book *The Octopus*, as I am a big fan of both yours and Jim Keith.

I was really impressed with Saab Lofton's article "The American Nazis and the Nation of Islam". Personally, I've long suspected that Louis Farrakhan is an agent provocateur supported by the CIA as a replacement for Malcolm X and MLK. I wonder what Lofton would think about this theory. To some, that may sound far-fetched, until one looks at his suspicious involvement with the Malcolm X death, and his recent work with another likely *agent provocateur*, Mo Kaddafi. (Read Hit # 30 in Mark Zepezauer's *The CIA's Greatest Hits* for details on Mo.)

In any case, history shows that whenever a leader is assassinated, the next step in all cases is to put a puppet in place (the "suicide" of Salvador Allende in Chile and the support of mass murderer Augusto Pinochet as a replacement by the CIA and IT&T is a good example.) As the evidence clearly shows that both the Malcolm X and MLK assassinations were at least partially involving CIA elements, it is clear they needed a replacement for the two "black messiahs". Who better than Farrakhan, who, unlike MLK and Malcolm X's later uniting philosophy, is a racist, sexist demagogue, thus splitting up African-Americans, Jews, and feminists, and thus hindering any real progressive movement for 25-plus years?

There's also the FBI's harassing entrapment of Malcolm's daughter a couple years ago, in which they were trying to

convince her to pay someone to kill Farrakhan over his involvement in her father's death, an idea she certainly did not originate and is dubious if she actually embraced. Why the FBI would set her up in such an elaborate sting doesn't make sense, unless one concludes that it was done to discredit a rising uniting force. I may add for a man who is supposedly so much against the system, Farrakhan sure doesn't seem to be looking over his shoulder. Why a man who says the things he does isn't looking over his shoulder in paranoia is beyond me. Unless, of course, he has a guardian angel. In fact, I have to wonder if Farrakhan really believes the bullshit he says, and maybe his anti-Semitism is about as cynically pragmatic as Pete Wilson's anti-immigrant exploitation.

Robert Sterling  
Los Angeles, CA

*Steamshovel* Debris: Since this letter came in, Rob Sterling has become a top source for conspiracy information on the internet. Readers should check out his *Konformist* web site at [www.konformist.com](http://www.konformist.com).

*Below: Konformist* Rob Sterling with *Steamshoveler* Kenn Thomas behind the Ambassador Hotel, site of the RFK shooting, in Los Angeles.



Here's one point of interest: the 1981 mail out of *ex-White Power* editor William Grimstad's "The Six Million reconsidered" was funded by Inamullah Khan, a Saudi royal advisor, with cash from the World Muslim League. A 1983 mail out of it and Grimstad's "Anti-Zion" came straight from WML headquarters in Karachi (Hill, Ray with Bell, Andrew, *The Other Face of Terror*, Grafton Books, 1988, p. 251.) I could go on...but I gather you will have concluded that the most fundamental difference between Nazi-ism and Islam is thirteen centuries. Otherwise, they're much the same.

Gerard Clinton  
Ireland

While the obnoxiously reactionary and openly racist commentary about me (or was it someone using my name?) in *Steamshovel* #15 from G.J.Krupey does not warrant a response, some clarification about the historical issues raised and my "ideological correctness" may be of use to your endangered readers.

Krupey, while insinuating that I somehow resemble Joe McCarthy, makes it seem as though he has single-handedly exposed my deepest secret, that I am "a leftist"! However, had he listened more attentively to my political pronouncements, he would know that he has to take the red flag he has me carrying and paint it black. To anyone with the least bit of curiosity or knowledge about me, my politics are far from secret. Though, I suspect they may seem a deep mystery to the likes of Krupey, given his level of comprehension of all other matters. I haven't hidden that I am anti-fascist and progressive as far as I know. On the other hand, I may not have mentioned it directly and slowly in my tapes, since I don't feel a need to proselytize. My lectures aim at

being factual and historical, with my own bias and opinion added but not required for reaching the general conclusions I would hope.

Krupey says I see a Nazi where McCarthy saw a communist. There are two differences at least. I am not on a Congressional committee attempting to ruin lives for political self-aggrandizement, and there really are some Nazis in positions of power. I wouldn't mind it so much if there were a Nazi under my bed, it was discovering them in bed with the US military/intelligence/corporate complex that upset me (and since I am also a pacifist, makes me go "anti-ballistic" instead).

Krupey is the second person I've seen in print that wonders whether or not I'm Jewish, though we might ask whether he's keeping a list. For the purposes of all you fascists out there, I'm at least an "honorary" Jew. Also an "honorary" mental patient, the ones you killed first. I am indeed anti-Fascist, anti-militarist, and despite Krupey's ill-conceived suspicions, anti-statist. Have you enough colored triangles for me yet? I'm willing to be "honorary" gay as well. And proud to be a graduate of the "Mae Brussell school of Jewish paranoia" as Krupey says (or don't Jews have enemies?). Mae Brussell knew what was going on around her and did something about it. We would have laughed about Krupey's letter if she were still alive, and she would have said as she did in response to so much of the stupidity, "Oh, my aching ass." Excuse us for living.

My anti-statism does include the former Soviet Union (or did I miss something?) and Israel (especially to the extent they cooperate with the American corporate and military agendas), although I must confess that neither of them look to me to hold much of a threat compared to the genocidal machinery we call "our military might." The Nazi generals would envy our

current mega-death technology and global reach (if they don't actually control it).

I never believed, from the time of the red-scare fifties I grew up in until the current day, nor did any rational person, leftist or not, that a "Soviet invasion of the US" was anything but "completely out of the question," much less "from Mexico". The nuclear stalemate of deterrence was actually a case of constant nuclear superiority on the part of the United States, until it wore down the resources and existence of a "super power" boogey-man the U.S. created out of a third-world economy struggling to break free of monarchies and capitalists who wanted it crushed from 1918 onward. The actual military and naval capabilities and machinery of the Soviet Union was incapable of such an "invasion" had it even been on anyone's suicidal agenda, and the threat of nuclear destruction that would not have recognized arbitrary national borderlines was enough to stop such fantasies from forming anywhere but in the minds of the most reactionary anti-communist elements here in America. Some are apparently still entertaining it. Nor do I think some secret Jewish cabal runs the world (nor a Nazi cabal for that matter).

I have to wonder about someone whose connection to political ideology consists of "considered myself a leftist" at one point, and "no longer consider myself a leftist" at another. He says he "won't deny" much of my critique, but finds it at the same time "skewed, lopsided and half-assed." No wonder he considers me "suspect" since I remain consistent based on rational analysis. One needs only to read his commentary, replete with sexist, racist and anti-communist rhetoric, to discover what you'd "consider" him to be.

At one point I am attacked for refusing to "stump for trials of former communists for 'crimes against humanity' in

Russia and eastern Europe" and for being "mute on the need for war crimes trials for the [Israeli] mass executions of Egyptian prisoners of war". But, at another point, I am scorned for allegedly spurning the militia for "not shedding tears over the dead children in Somalia or Bosnia or wherever like good, humane leftists do". Worse yet, I am criticized for ignoring deaths caused by communism that purportedly, by sheer numbers, make a mountain in relation to a "Nazi molehill." Obviously, Mr. Krupay has no relatives buried in this "molehill" or he might consider the difference less consequential. Of course, the deaths of the revolutionary period in Russia are dwarfed by the war dead created in the Soviet Union and across the globe by the Nazi assault, or shall we blame all that on the "communists" as well, for having the audacity to resist? And those figures are similarly challenged by the holocaust of deaths created here and abroad since the end of World War II in covert, overt and financially supported coups, wars and genocides by U.S. forces (which might be tacked on to the original Nazi death count for historical accuracy, if I was counting). But, not all the Germans were Nazis and not all the Nazis were German.

Actually, I think that all the killings were wrong, criminal and inhumane. States are states. I criticize the one I can change, the one I live in. I don't encourage trials as a solution to social ills, but I think confession and justice have their place. I don't think war is a solution to international or internal disputes, but I do believe people have the simple right of self-defense and survival by any means necessary. I just find my level of tolerance for those who find violence as the "necessary" first or anticipated solution at a low point. There is a great deal we can do before that option forces itself, and to refuse to do it may make it inevitable. I have no

revenge or blood lust, nor would I participate in it. Non-violence is actually a better defense, history must have shown us by now, though few have the guts and discipline to use it. While it is true that I am not a "KGB-Mossad disinformation agent" on both counts, I wonder if such an animal exists anywhere but in the fervid imagination of Kruprey and in the pages of *Spotlight/Criminal Politics* or whatever other enlightening journals he reads. Kruprey shows his hand once more by accusing Herbert Marcuse of "cranking out anti-Nazi propaganda pre-approved in Moscow," suggesting there might not be anti-Nazi truth somewhere.

Kruprey claims that I am critical of the militia because they are "overwhelmingly white, and even (the horror) proud of it". Actually, it's because they are overwhelmingly male, macho and stupidly reactionary, as well as being racist. And yes, being "proud" of being white in this society is objectively racist, while being "guilty" allows a different kind of paralysis that still fails to change the basic power structure of white supremacy and dominance. The militia's paramilitary mentality and response are counter-productive to real democracy and smack of the vigilantism that has appealed to disaffected veterans since they formed the Klan after the Civil War, the Hells Angels after Korea, and the militias after the Gulf War. One recent honest account of military basic training by Lt. Grossman, *On Killing*, might help readers get at the bottom of this type of social violence. The other problem is that these paramilitary groups have been prime targets for government infiltration, surrogate operations and even creation, and the arms have traditionally been supplied from military bases.

They feed on rumor and fear-mongering. I get handed these flyers with



Above: John Judge and activist Dick Gregory at a regional conference of the Coalition On Political Assassinations on the assassination of Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee.

American flags at the top, titled "Did you know that..." and followed with the most idiotic, undocumented nonsense you can imagine. No, I didn't KNOW what was not TRUE. What a stupid come on, only the punch line is worse than the joke. We have no time for disinformation, for those who hide a white supremacist agenda under the flag or the sacralization of the Constitution. Slavery used to be Constitutional, shall we go back? It is 200 years later, we have to envision our own liberation, and white males get to talk last. Better "PC" than Nazi (Not see). White male rage and fear at the dissolution of their privileged positions in the class structure is reactionary, and if that's politically correct of me to say so I hope you can hear it.

Is this all of the militia? No, but enough of the leadership that's visible. Their agenda is not progressive social justice, it is simple revenge and "I want my job and position back". And I, for one, don't need to be led anywhere by that sort of nonsense. I know the government is rotten, so is the military and the corporations, boys. Fascist, in fact, but not communist, not United Nations, not New World Order but old boys order; not external and esoteric and other, but us, just the worst of us, nobody left to blame out there. Chickens come home to roost.

But I don't want a new government made up of boys and their pop guns. I want democracy, justice, an open society, an end to racism and sexism, and the death of fascism. I want something different, direct, participatory, informed, armed by reason, visionary and liberating. I have been part of many struggles. One to end the endless war in Vietnam and Southeast Asia, which we won. One to organize active duty enlisted and veterans, who along with the Vietnamese stopped the war. One to liberate the so-called "mentally-ill", victims of drug, shock, lobotomy and menticide. One to stop the militarization of society. One to establish real, direct, non-representative democracy with open media and education, referendum, direct allocation of tax, and decentralization of economy and decision-making. One to expose and end the political assassination machinery that has continued killing throughout U.S. history, and which came of age on November 22, 1963 with a covert



military *coup d'etat*. It is a history Kruprey will end up on the wrong side of, though he cannot see the irony of finding a freedom fighter like myself "suspect" while he quotes and takes his cues from the very fascists he "considers himself" to be opposed to.

I make no apologies for being anti-racist. And despite his uniformed and unprincipled critique, the Black Panthers had a legitimate social program, got press only when the system wanted to discredit them, and were victims of an as yet unassessed Black Holocaust of massive proportions, though only a "molehill" compared to the Native American genocide that preceded it. In that respect, we taught the Nazis what to do. My problem is not with those who feel a wrong was done to Randy Weaver or to the people at Waco, it is that they have suddenly awakened from a deep sleep of denial because "good, white Christians" are being killed. It reminds me of the continuing silence concerning the shootings of students by police at predominantly Black Jackson State University in the weeks before the much-heralded, but smaller Kent State massacre by the National Guard, at a predominantly white school. And while the fire at Waco parallels the attack on MOVE in Philadelphia in many respects, they didn't burn down a whole white neighborhood to get at them. Thus, despite Kruprey's annoyance with possibly hypocritical liberal response to the Panthers, the reality is that they were systematically killed, stripped, beaten, and jailed on phony charges (including the supposed "murder" Kruprey thinks they "got away with"). They were victims of FBI Hoover's COINTELPRO, which included CIA Chaos and DIA martial law plans and sniper murders. They were infiltrated with phony leadership that survived and showed their colors, with police agents that set them up to be killed, and plagued with disinformation designed to sow distrust among themselves. State-sponsored paranoia.

To date, I have not seen any of this happening to the militia, who cannot count Weaver as one of their own after the fact,

since he was not only racist but misanthropic. And if "molehill/mountain" logic is Kruphey's criteria, the Panthers and other African American victims of the 60's alone have the militia beat hands down. A pop-gun will not save you from fascism, it is their best tool and they will be glad to put one in your hands after they kill you if you forget to buy one. They cannot be beat at their own rotten game. And the thing to do about it is not individual or small group vigilantism, which is ripe for government co-optation and control, but open exposure and real democracy. A public solution is the only possible one, an individual solution is the one they want us to take. Opportunism and paranoia suit them just fine. Hole up in your prison cell, armed to the teeth and wait for them to come and get you, and they will send in the nerve gas instead. Build a barricade mentality and they will attack from the rear, from above, from below, and probably help you build the barricade before they start. Wise up!

I am dead "serious about what I'm preaching" and I am "up to something" which is called consciousness raising. Stick with that fearful, reptilian back brain of yours and you're dead meat in this grinder. There is a thing they do not understand, but you have to come out of your hole to find it. Right now, who would stand with Kruphey? Do you want him to cover you? Think for you? There are more of us than of them, and we can think for ourselves if we put ourselves to it. We can also break the game of distrust, manipulation, fear, bigotry and selfishness they want us to play. Gandhi taught King, and King taught others that there is a way out. Not by the sword or the gun, but by the head and the heart. And, yes, by way of what Kruphey calls a "far left agenda" because that's where simple decency and fairness and justice have been pushed to as the rest of the society has been

dragged to the right. A liberal is today what a communist was when I was young. Does that make an anarchist like me into a terrorist? I suppose so, but I know who the real terrorists are, and I have no gun, no bomb, nor anything so explosive as a right mind, a good idea and a piece of the truth. Look out!

Honest John Judge  
Washington, DC

My name is Robin Marie Head. I am a Texas madam. I have been sentenced to ten years in prison under the guise of "organized crime". I was the proprietor of an escort service in Houston and Austin, Texas. There are thousands of these businesses across the U.S. listed in the yellow pages. I, myself, have befallen solely because I refused to work for the BATF namely (or DEA, FBI). These agents, our U.S. government, were interested in our exclusive clientele, to wit, "selective" state and political officials of which I do maintain a taped conversation of an agent expressing this in his distinct voice. This discreet information would be invaluable if wanting to gain influence and power over those who fraternize our services (i.e., election fraud, judicial and legislation control, a silent coup even, etc.) This is the same strategy that empowered J. Edgar Hoover to wield great authority over Washington, DC. What was the more recent "Filegate" in '96 about and whatever became of that investigation!

Ms. Robin Head, #742243  
Murray Unit, Gatesville, TX

I just received *NASA, Nazis & JFK* [the *Steamshovel Press* book]. Thanks! I immediately noticed Jean DeMenil's name in its contents.

I live in Houston next to the University of Saint Thomas, the Catholic College built by the Menils in the early sixties. Next to the campus is the Menil Museum, which houses their breathtaking collection of prehistoric art and antiquities, as well as much modern art.

Also on campus is the Rothko Chapel, which houses Mark Rothko's final works he created for this special space in the final moments before his suicide. The Chapel is in a hidden park, perhaps the most beautiful and mysterious park in all of Houston. I say hidden because it is almost a secret--few people living here are aware it is even there, although they drive within a block of it everyday.

Although I am not a Catholic, I go over to the park to escape the city, to experience the quiet solitude of the space. Usually the only people around are tourists--French, Japanese--and the poets that Dominique DeMenil supports with free housing adjoining the park. Richard Howard, Ed Hirsch, etc. I have encountered the Dalai Lama twice at the chapel, as well as Jimmy Carter, French president Mitterand, and other international leaders of various religions and power structures. Although George Bush senior lives in the immediate area, I've never seen him or Barbara around--nor George junior, our Texas governor, who seems otherwise to always be around the neighborhood.

Anyway, the reason I mention all this because of a local mystery. The campus is open year-round, with its own private security hired from the Houston police. All year, except for three days in January. The campus closes completely January 15-17 and fills with mysterious well-to-do visitors, as a part of a private celebration of Saint Sulpicius day, January 17. Perhaps you have read *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*. January 17 is the mysterious holy day celebrated in

southern France in connection with the Magdalene.

I often encounter Dominique DeMenil sitting alone outside Rothko Chapel, lost in her thoughts, frail, in her 90s. I knew her family the Schlumbergers were originally from southern France, but until I received your book I never realized Jean DeMenil was a white Russian. The Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtoshenko is here almost every other month.

I have no idea what all this means--the security of the event ensures privacy and silence.

Jack Turner  
Houston, TX

I am only a bit interested in the factual, "real world" manifestations of Elizabeth Clare Prophet and the Church Universal Triumphant [as reported in *Steamshovel Press* #14], how she captures members, how armed they are, brainwashed, etc. What I am interested in is how Prophet's church, beliefs, metaphysical work operate in the "other world," so to speak. When, for instance, she claims to have a vision in a New York hotel room of a "black horse" which she associates with the Four Horses of the Apocalypse, etc., which she does not, cannot control--which she views as some "bad karma," Biblical plague about to strike earth as earthquake, bear market, plague or war, etc.

As a person who spends most of his time in that vision world, seeing and working there, I know that what Prophet sees is very real, though "subjective." She is, in fact, channeling the horses of the Apocalypse to accomplish those prophecies which will raise her church upon the earth. She abuse metaphysical power in ways that are evil almost beyond comprehension. And, her use of metaphysical power, her secret



ties to Hell, the raising of Hell, war, disorder, crime, depression can only be seen in that "subjective" realm. Not only can it only be seen there, that is the only place she can be fought and stopped from fulfilling her Biblical end game prophecies.

As a "concrete" for instance, I have "dreamt" that her "ranch" out in Paradise valley is not a bomb shelter, rather it is a site where there are hundreds of "metaphysical nukes" buried in silos with which war can be begun, not ended. Yes, this is "subjective," I suppose, but it is where she really operates--and I feel it is where she could be most effectively hit, fought, exposed for what she is.

Jeff Lewis

They spend millions of dollars on building bigger and bigger telescopes and radiotelescopes but in my opinion it doesn't have any sense. What's the use of the Hubble telescope if it shows us how space looked like hundreds of millions of years ago? And radiotelescopes! Don't you think radio waves are too slow to contact or to get a message from another world? Another aspect: what would happen if for instance our world, I mean our whole space, is like a plane and all our attempts to contact with another intelligence are like moving on that plane? But maybe there are many other planes, other worlds with their own physics, velocities. Then all of our attempts would be of no avail. We won't discover anything different than we can find here on earth. I'd like to know if there are some scientists who don't go that way, who try to look at our world from different points of view, just like Einstein, Reich or Daniken.

Marcin Biernacki  
Poland

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## BOOK REVIEWS

# Mason & Dixon

The following commentary on Thomas Pynchon's latest novel, *Mason & Dixon* comes from a paper entitled "Mr. Pynchon's Historical Method: Using The Verifiable To Create The Plausible?" It was written by Gary Ryan, Thomas Gremaud, Kenn Thomas, and David Warren, Ph.D. and presented at the 1998 International Pynchon Week conference at King's College in London.

*The portrayal of George Washington, the Father of our Country, in Chapter 28 of Thomas Pynchon's Mason & Dixon is an Insult to the country. To characterize our first President as a land-grabbing, pot-smoking, schemer who uses racism and bribery to manipulate others for his own selfish ends should offend every loyal American. Pynchon's treatment of America's original decorated war hero who later, reluctantly, after the Devilish deception-answered his country's call for leadership in the Virtues of honesty, judgment and duty is a profound Libel not just upon George Washington but upon America itself.*

- Newt Gingrich's *Spiritual Day-Book*

Perhaps even more so than in previous works, Thomas Pynchon in *Mason & Dixon* uses extensive verifiable historical fact, often in the form of topical reference in the thought or conversation of characters. The result for some of Pynchon's readers may be a strong sense of history coming to

life--of a book closer to History than to Fiction. But is this sense of historicity in *Mason & Dixon* only an illusion created by the sophisticated technique of a writer who knows so much more than his readers that he can easily fool them?

In addition, to what degree does Pynchon's use of elements of 20th-century popular culture make some readers more accepting of certain events in the novel? For example, in drawing a connection between a scene in the book of *Mason and Dixon's* coach ride from Philadelphia to Mount Vernon and our present-day experiences of airline travel, one could argue that Pynchon creates an empathetic bond between the reader and the fictional *Mason and Dixon*. The same could be said of Washington's pot smoking, Franklin's antics and Jefferson's youthful naivete. Pynchon has persistently created in his work--take, for example, *The Crying of Lot 49*--worlds where readers find themselves unclear as to just what is really going on. In *Mason & Dixon*, legitimate debate might well be had over whether or not George Washington was really a pot-smoking real estate speculator, Benjamin Franklin genuinely lived the life of a partying public celebrity, or one of the most



memorable phrases from the Declaration of Independence originated by happenstance and primarily from the mind of Jeremiah Dixon, not that of Thomas Jefferson.

Elements in the novel to which the reader initially might conclude that "Pynchon made all this up" turn out to have more truth than the reader might suppose. The veracity of elements in the novel's account of the meeting between Charles Mason, Jeremiah Dixon and Colonel George Washington (Chapter 28), for instance, make it difficult to discern where History ends and Fiction begins. It makes credible the question: "Was Washington as a pot-smoking real estate speculator served by a Jewish-African slave who earned a good living as a stand-up comedian and gourmet chef?"

Let's first look closely at the meeting with Washington, and after analyzing Pynchon's method in this scene in particular, we will then apply what we've learned to the novel as a whole and draw some conclusions about Pynchon's purpose. In other words, is *Mason & Dixon* about History, about us, or both?

The journey to Mount Vernon reminds "us" of a ride on an airplane. Mr. Tallihoe takes them in a machine, "a coach of peculiar design" (*Mason & Dixon*, 273), and along the way, Mason and Dixon are given sandwiches to eat, magazines to read, and a drink-just like TWA. Perhaps, Pynchon is already stretching plausibility with this description of the coach as a "machine," not that it isn't consistent with the 18th Century, but conceivably, Pynchon might be drawing on our 20th Century experiences to make this curious coach ride familiar. So far, Pynchon has not necessarily changed history, just given the facts a jazzy reference. Chapter 28, starts off with the narrator, Reverend Cherrycoke, the self-styled chronicler of Mason and

Dixon, qualifying the coming events of the meeting with George Washington. As a result, readers are lead to believe that the events will be filtered through a 17th Century sensibility. Cherrycoke warns about these Virginians:

In their Decadency these Virginians practice an elaborate Folly of Courtly Love, unmodified since the Dark Ages, so relentlessly that at length they cannot distinguish Fancy from the substantial World, and their Folly absorbs them into itself They gaily dance the steps their African Slaves teach them, whilst pretending to an aristocracy they seem only to've heard rumors of ... No good can come of such dangerous Boobyism, What sort of Politics may proceed herefrom, only He that sows the Seeds of Folly in His World may say.

—The Rev Wicks Cherrycoke, *Spiritual Day-Book*

Cherrycoke goes on to say that Mason and Dixon find Washington "Out on the white column porch, tumbler in fist, the large Virginian wants to talk real estate," particularly a piece of land "passed the South Mountain." Washington goes on to discuss land speculation in general and the westward expansion of the various groups of colonists.

When Mason suggests that General Bouquet's recent Proclamation will stop all western settlements, Washington scoffs, arguing that it is all about business. Washington insists that the Proclamation has nothing to do with saving the Indian, rather it is an attempt "to confound their enemies...ProclamationShmocklamation" (*Mason & Dixon*, 277).

Washington goes on to tell Mason and Dixon that they are welcome to make political jokes in America but he warns them never to talk about religion. He tells them to represent themselves as "Deist" so as to avoid being on the wrong end of a Lancaster county rifle and then adds, "besides, you cannot know what may be waiting among the trees..."

Dixon inquires about that aroma of Indian hemp, which Washington explains it is an agricultural experiment. Washington calls for his Man Gershom, "Where be you at my Man?" And then asks Gershom to bring "some Pipes and a Bowl of the New-Cur'd hemp. And another gallon of your magnificent Punch." All proceed to get stoned and drunk.

In the midst of their conversation, Washington's describes Gershom with the phrase "an Israelite in whom there is no guile" causes a momentary ruffling of Dixon's feathers, for which Washington apologizes. Gershom notes that he is Jewish and Washington, adds that Gershom is, besides being Jewish, a professional entertainer of some celebrity in Virginia and Maryland..." indeed he is know far and wide, as a Theatrical Artist of some Attainment, leaving him less and less time for his duties here, not to mention an income per annum which creeps dangerously close to that of his nominal Master, me" (*Mason & Dixon*, 279).

Gershom jokes that Washington wants to sell I him (Gershom) some stock in the Dismal Swamp Land Company. Gershom takes the pipe from Dixon, inhales, and begins questioning the astronomers about their trip thus far. Gershom jokes that Dixon's red coat will be an easy target out in the forest and that Mason will be mistaken for a Buffalo. Washington responds to Gershom's teasing by groaning, "You see what I have to put up with ... It's makin' me jus mee-shugginah."

At this point Martha Washington comes in with a plate of food, stating, "Smell'd that Smoak, figur'd you'd be needing something to nibble on" (*Mason & Dixon*, 280). At this point, George starts a rambling narrative of the Ohio Company:

As the East India Company hath its own Navy, why, so did we our own Army. Out in the wild Anarchy of

the Forest, we alone had the coherence and discipline to see (his land develop'd as it should be. Rest easy, that the old O. C. still exists ... tho'in different Form (*Mason & Dixon*, 281).

Gershom taunts Washington about the failure of the Ohio Company, and Washington bemoans the fact that the charter wasn't written correctly because they didn't have the proper influence in the English court. Gershom points out that the O. C. failed to get the Bishop-of-Durham Clause.

Martha, meanwhile, proceeds to butter Mason up with compliments on the boys' astronomical work with the Transits of Venus. Mason feels obligated to defend himself against "what he suspects is Mrs. W.'s accusation of unworldliness of his profession. However, Mrs. Washington assures Mason that the Transit of Venus observations were a "Rage" in the colonies, where there were celebratory Transit-of-Venus wigs and Transit-of-Venus Pudding and even Transit-of-Venus songs. At this point, both Martha and George breakout into a theatrical song culminating in a center stage embrace and duet.

The next act begins with Gershom telling King and Fool jokes, which he says are based upon Master and Slave jokes but fashioned here for the select audience. "Gershom follows these by singing "Havah Nagilah," a merry Jewish Air, whilst clicking together a pair of Spoons in Syncopation.

Later, Washington is still obsessed with the Ohio Company affair and begins to discuss how Celeron de Bienville started the dispute in 1749. Celeron, asserting French claims to the region of the Ohio, began to bury lead plates, bearing the Royal Seal. Dixon, rather stoned at this point, gathers the insight that lead plates, "or Disk, might plausibly have and Electricall Purpose" (*Mason & Dixon*, 285). Mason

chides Dixon for going wild on an obsession with electricity. Undaunted, Dixon muses that the French might be developing the plates collectively to produce a Leyden-Pile:

If not for storing quantities of simple Electrick Force, then to hold smaller charges, easily shap'd into invisible Symbols, decipherable by Means surely available to those Philosophies (*Mason & Dixon*, 286).

Washington then shows the astronomers a lead plate he has dug up. Dixon gets excited, not by the Royal seal, but by what he assumes to be Chinese on the back of the plate. Washington responds "Chinese? Remarkable, Sir. The only Europeans who recognize such Writing, seem usually to be the ... Jesuits" (*Mason & Dixon*, 287). Curiously, Washington asks Dixon a startling question: "-are you ... a traveling Man?" to which Dixon, thinking that Washington has just given him a Masonic signal, replies with the secret response, "Why aye ... and I'm traveling West!" Washington then tells Dixon to be wary of Jesuits that come from Quebec in disguise, "to work some mischief down here" (*Mason & Dixon*, 287).

Thus, the chapter ends back in Philadelphia with Franklin expanding upon Dixon's hazy epiphany of Jesuit inventions, "elite teams of converted Chinese, drill'd, through Loyolan methods" (*Mason & Dixon*, 288). Dixon now understands that the Jesuits are conjoining the "Brain-Power on Earth with Asian Mysteries to make up a "small Army of Dark Engineers who could run the World" (288).

Well, was Washington as a pot-smoking real estate speculator served by a Jewish-African slave who earned a good living as a stand-up comedian and gourmet chef? A list of all the historical elements can be compiled that could be verifiable in order to make some assessment of what Pynchon

suggested could be plausible. In this way, like a good agricultural experiment, readers may separate the male from the Fimble and see what sells. The list would included the following:

What was Washington's role in French Indian war?

What is going on in Washington's life during this time?

Why would Washington sound African?

Would Washington have had a black valet (my man Gershom)?

Was Washington a real estate speculator?

Who else benefited from the Mason Dixon Line?

Is it linguistically possible for Washington to say "Proclamation Shlocklamation?"

In 1761, was there a sense that "We're not Brits, we're Americans"?

And finally, could there have been a Transit-of-Venus Wig?

Many of the things on our list turned out to be historical artifacts that we had either missed in school or had been just too lazy to look up before reading the novel. Pynchon's encyclopedic novel warns about basic American laziness. Curiously, some of the elements that can be taken as comic anachronisms or just plain fantasy turn out have some basis in actual history. Why couldn't there have been a Transit-of-Venus Wig?

The transit of Venus, which Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon observed from the South African cape, was, according to Pynchon's George Washington, more

famous than the work of the Royal Society, with observers stationed all around the world, even in Massachusetts. The event so captured the fancy of the American colonists that it entered popular culture as the transit of Venus wig, the transit of Venus pudding, and a particularly distinctive and Pynchonesque transit of Venus song. That the importance of the transit of Venus in eighteenth century American popular culture remains beyond an ability to verify, however, poses no insurmountable problem. Though unverifiable because, for one, of the lack of artifacts--the transit of Venus wig, made in all likelihood of human hair, would probably not survive, and the transit of Venus pudding, a vanilla pudding with "a single black current upon a circular field of white," (*Mason & Dixon*, 283) would require such a slight variation from the standard pudding recipe that one would not likely write it down--the entrance of the transit of Venus into popular culture is absolutely plausible on the condition that one accepts that eighteenth century America had a popular culture.

The transit of Venus wig, though characteristic of Pynchon's inclination toward the bizarre, cannot be dismissed as purely fiction; nor can the pudding. We see in this novel that the presence of Mason and Dixon at the cape drew a good deal of attention. Preparations for their observation of this celestial event required that they reside at the cape for a time long enough to qualify them as members of the community. The other members of that community had ample time to become acquainted with the astronomers and with their project. They had ample time to become excited about this global event.

And a global event it was, for while Mason and Dixon were observing the transit at the cape, other astronomers were simultaneously observing it from territories

around the world, including the North American colonies. The presence of observers in Massachusetts must have attracted attention and must have generated a popular interest in the transit in much the same way a couple fellows looking through a telescope today will find a line forming behind them.

Whether a transit-of-Venus wig actually ever existed is beside the point. One could have existed. Pynchon has created plausibility, and though a reader might suspect the faddish trappings of the transit of Venus arise from Pynchon's fiction, enough outlandish references can be verified as historically accurate that one can confidently say a colonial woman wearing her transit-of-Venus wig just may have sat down at a table to enjoy a Transit-of-Venus pudding while upon a ship in the bay outside her window sailors were launching into a chorus of, "'Tis ho, for the Transit of Venus!"



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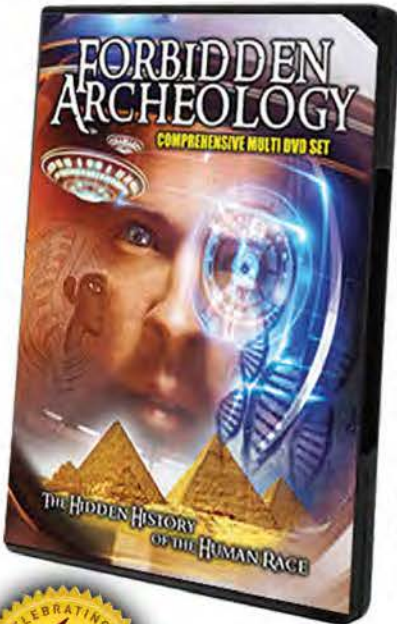
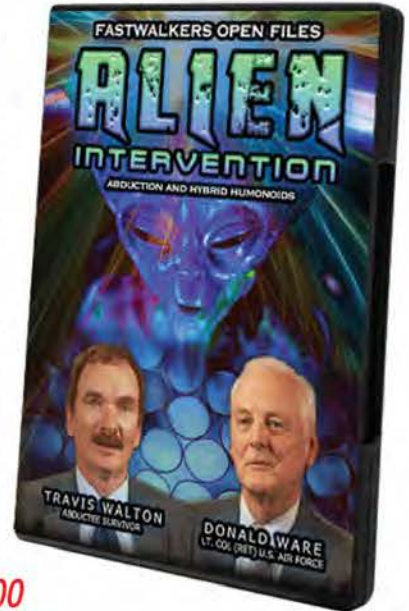
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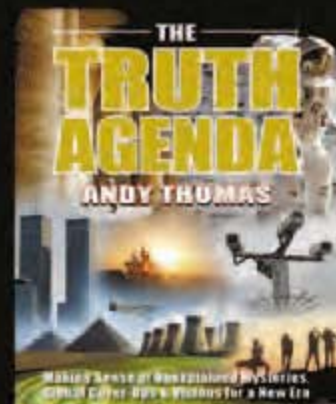


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