

Rock Creek Free Press

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

Wall Street Meltdown: Fallout Hits Taxpayers



Henry Paulson, Secretary of the Treasury. Called "the PATRIOT ACT of finance", Paulson's \$700 billion bailout bill would make the Secretary of Treasury the supreme unelected ruler of finance in America: "Decisions by the Secretary pursuant to the authority of this Act are non-reviewable and committed to agency discretion, and may not be reviewed by any court of law or any administrative agency."

It's the Derivatives, Stupid! Why Fannie, Freddie, AIG Had To Be Bailed Out

BY ELLEN BROWN - GLOBAL RESEARCH

Something extraordinary is going on with these government bailouts. In March 2008, the Federal Reserve extended a \$55 billion loan to JPMorgan to "rescue" investment bank Bear Stearns from bankruptcy, a highly controversial move that tested the limits of the Federal Reserve Act. On September 7, 2008, the US government seized private mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and imposed a conservatorship, a form of bankruptcy; but rather than let the bankruptcy court sort out the assets among the claimants, the Treasury extended an unlimited credit line to the insolvent corporations and

said it would exercise its authority to buy their stock, effectively nationalizing them. Now the Federal Reserve has announced that it is giving an \$85 billion loan to American International Group (AIG), the world's largest insurance company, in exchange for a nearly 80% stake in the insurer.

The Fed is buying an insurance company? Where exactly is that covered in the Federal Reserve Act? The Associated Press calls it a "government takeover," but this is not your ordinary "nationalization" like the purchase of Fannie/Freddie stock by the US Treasury. The Federal Reserve has the power to print the

national money supply, but it is not actually a part of the US government. It is a private banking corporation owned by a consortium of private banks. The banking industry just bought the world's largest insurance company, and they used federal money to do it. Yahoo Finance reported on September 17:

"The Treasury is setting up a temporary financing program at the Fed's request. The program will auction Treasury bills to raise cash for the Fed's use. The initiative aims to help the Fed manage its balance sheet following its efforts to enhance its liquidity facilities over the

see DERIVATIVES p. 4

Links Between Anthrax Attacks and 9/11

BY BARBARA HONEGGER - RCFP

By insisting that Bruce Ivins, a biowarfare scientist then with the Army's Ft. Detrick laboratory, was behind the anthrax attacks, the Bush Administration has officially acknowledged that those attacks were perpetrated by a US Government insider — and not by bin Laden or by Iraq.

Likewise, compelling evidence has demonstrated that the mass murders of 9/11 themselves were perpetrated or enabled by US Government insiders (*The New Pearl Harbor Revisited*, David Ray Griffin, 2008). Because the Administration has thus admitted the anthrax attacks were perpetrated by a US government insider, if significant evidence links the insider

anthrax attacks to 9/11, we can reasonably infer that the same government/military insiders were behind both mass crimes.

So what is the evidence linking anthrax to 9/11?

1) Whoever wrote the letters mailed with the anthrax wanted you to believe they were linked to 9/11. As is well known, the date hand written on the anthrax letters is Sept. 11, 2001. Though the official story — that the first letter, to Florida photo journalist Bob Stevens, wasn't mailed until after 9/11 and so anthrax wasn't part of the actual 9/11 plot — it's clear that whoever wrote and dated the letters and added the super-weaponized US military anthrax wanted you to believe there is a direct connection, and that Islamic foreigners were responsible for both

("FBI Sweeps Anthrax Under the Rug," Sheila Casey and Barry Kissin, *Rock Creek Free Press*, Sept. 2008).

2) Superweaponizing anthrax was one of Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld's top priorities. Two days before 9/11, on Sept. 9, the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) held a rare press conference in which it revealed that on his first day as Secretary of Defense, Rumsfeld ordered the DIA to take Project Jefferson, a secret and illegal anthrax weaponization program to the next level of lethality and that it had achieved "success" earlier that month in a classified field test. The mainstream press reported this event on Sept. 10, 2001.

see ANTHRAX p. 2

NIST 9/11 Cover-Up Exposed

The 9/11 Interview with Michael Hess: Evidence That NIST Lied About When He and Barry Jennings Were Rescued

BY DAVID RAY GRIFFIN

Shortly after the first strike on the World Trade Center, which occurred at 8:46am on 9/11, Michael Hess, New York City's corporation counsel, and Barry Jennings, the deputy director of the Emergency Services Department of the New York City Housing Authority, headed to the Office of Emergency Management's Emergency Operating Center, which was on the 23rd floor of WTC 7, where they assumed that Mayor Rudy Giuliani would be. But when Hess and Jennings arrived, the place was empty. Jennings then telephoned someone to ask what they should do

and was told that they should leave immediately. Finding that the elevators would not work, they started down the stairs. When they reached the sixth floor, however, there was a powerful explosion beneath them, which, Jennings told the makers of "Loose Change Final Cut," caused the landing on which they were standing to give way ("Barry Jennings Uncut," video). Making their way back up to the eighth floor, they were able to break a window and call for help. Hess later reported: "[W]e were trapped on the eighth floor with smoke, thick smoke, all around us,

see NIST COVER-UP p. 2

The DC Sniper Case Six Years Later

BY DAVE MCGOWAN

It is now six years since the DC Snipers terrorized the DC area with a killing spree, apparently random, which ultimately claimed ten lives, left two wounded and forever shattered the seeming invulnerability of the affluent Maryland suburbs.

Two unlikely suspects were selected to play the roles of the feared DC Snipers: John Allen Muhammad, usually described as a 41-year-old drifter, although until shortly before the shootings he had spent his entire adult life in the military; and a 17-year-old Jamaican immigrant named Lee Boyd Malvo, who entered the country illegally several years before.

The pair allegedly conducted their killing spree by utilizing what police have described

as a car specially modified to create a mobile sniper's nest. There are, alas, numerous problems with the official scenario. And there is certainly no shortage of weirdness surrounding the alleged exploits of the pair.

Consider the following:

* Muhammad's ex-wife, with whom he has had a stormy relationship marked by bitter custody battles, shortly before the killings relocated to the DC area to take a job at, of all places, John Ashcroft's Justice Department. This peculiar fact, reported by the British press, was curiously absent in the blanket coverage of the case by the American media.

* In 2001, Muhammad reportedly kidnapped his own children, in direct violation of a court order, and took them out of the country

for an extended period of time. There is no indication that he was charged with any crime in connection with those actions, nor for repeatedly threatening his former wife.

* The rifle allegedly used in the shootings was purchased in June 2002 from a Tacoma, Washington-based dealer operating under the name "Bull's Eye Shooter Supply." The shop, located near the Army's Ft. Lewis base, is owned by a former US Army sniper instructor. Muhammad completed his lengthy tour of duty at Ft. Lewis, which has, curiously enough, a sniper training program (www.latimes.com, Oct 26).

*... But wait. According to investigator/writer Jon Rappoport's newsletters, the

see DC SNIPER p. 2

Cheney's Incredible and Deadly Lie

By Deceiving a Congressional Leader, Cheney Sent Us to War on False Pretenses and Violated the Separation of Powers - as Well as the Criminal Law

BY JOHN W. DEAN - FINDLAW

This week, I agreed to deliver a "Constitution Day" talk on a college campus. My talk was not partisan. Yet the subject matter I selected was prompted by the most incredible - not to mention the most deadly - lie Dick Cheney has yet told, which was reported earlier this week.

Last year, *Washington Post* reporter Barton Gellman and Jo Baker, now of the *New York Times*, did an extensive series for *The Post* on Cheney. Now, Gellman has done some more digging, and published the result in a book he released this week: *Angler: The Cheney Vice Presidency*. The book reveals a lie told to a high-ranking fellow Republican, and the difference that lie made. In this column, I'll explain how Cheney defied the separation of powers, and go back to the founding history to show why actions like his matter so profoundly.

Cheney's Bald-Faced Lie To Congress

According to Gellman (and to paraphrase from *The Post* story on his finding), in the run-up to the war in Iraq, the White House was worried about the stance of Republican Majority Leader Richard Armitage of Texas, who had deep concerns about going to war with Saddam Hussein. According to *The Post*, Armitage met with Cheney for a highly classified, one-on-one briefing, in Room H-208, Cheney's luxurious hideaway office on the House side of the Capitol.

During this meeting, *The Post* reports, Cheney turned Armitage around on the war issue. Cheney did so by telling the House Majority Leader that he was giving him information that the Administration could not tell the public — namely (according to Armitage), that Iraq had the "ability to miniaturize weapons of mass

destruction, particularly nuclear," which had been "substantially refined since the first Gulf War," and would soon result in "packages that could be moved even by ground personnel." In addition, Cheney linked that threat to Saddam's alleged personal ties to al Qaeda, explaining that "we now know they have the ability to develop these weapons in a very portable fashion, and they have a delivery system in their relationship with organizations such as al Qaeda."

The Post story continues, "Armitage has asked: 'Did Dick Cheney ... purposely tell me things he knew to be untrue?' His answer: 'I seriously feel that may be the case... Had I known or believed then what I believe now, I would have publicly opposed [the war] resolution right to the bitter end, and I believe I might have stopped it from happening.'"

see CHENEY p. 7

Death of Free Press in America

BY WAYNE MADSEN - WAYNE MADSEN REPORT

The death of a free press in what can now be called the "Former Federal Democratic Republic of the United States of America" (FFDR-USA) is a fait accompli. Highly-paid pseudo-"journalists" offer up their tripe and blather on cable networks owned by elements

with financial and political ties to the Republican Party. "Pig lipstick" becomes the story of the week while the fact that journalists attending the Republican National Convention were subjected to tear gas, rubber bullets, multiple searches — including examination of their papers — by overly-zealous and out-of-place Transportation Security Administration personnel who make the Gestapo look civilized, went unreported by the corporate-fascist media.

The groundwork, which includes required perception management psychological warfare operations, is now being laid for the theft of another presidential election. Meanwhile, the American people, who do not even realize that they are well past the eleventh hour before the bell tower chimes in the irreversible midnight of fascism in America, continue their obsession with football, baseball, shopping, infotainment, and the other "bread and circus" diversions foisted upon them by the ruling elite.

Few in the so-called "mainstream media" are investigating the signs that another presidential election theft is in the works, one that will result in a far-right administration that will have people pining for — dare we say? — the "good old days" of George W. Bush. We know that it was Florida in 2000, Ohio in 2004, and this year it appears that Michigan and Minnesota are the selected states required to pull off another "grand theft election" that GOP operatives have only gotten better at with practice.

The death of Constitutional America and see FREE PRESS p. 7

Latin America Unites Against Neocons

BY WAYNE MADSEN - WAYNE MADSEN REPORT Antipathy and disgust for the Bush administration and its neocon ideological ilk, including the key players and advisers in the John McCain campaign, have long taken root in the Middle East and South Asia. Names like Cheney, Wolfowitz, Perle, Feith, and Ledeen are held in utmost contempt throughout the Middle East and Muslim worlds.

The same kind of hatred for the United States and its neocon Latin American policy is now sweeping through South and Central America. In Latin America, it is individuals with names like Goldberg, Levey, Shapiro, Mukasey, Berman, Brownfield, and Shannon who have rankled Latin American nerves with their meddlesome

actions in not only grossly interfering in the domestic affairs of Latin American nations, including fomenting insurrection and acts of terrorism, but designating certain Latin American leaders and officials as aiding in drug trafficking and terrorism.

The lack of non-Cuban exile Hispanic surnames involved in crafting US Latin American policy is astounding, considering the percentage of Hispanics in the United States.

Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Thomas Shannon told Rep. Howard Berman's (D-CA) House Foreign Affairs Committee in July that "several" Venezuelans were providing support to Hezbollah, a rather bizarre mixing of Middle

East and Latin American neocon policies in an obvious effort to please Berman, one of Israel's most ardent supporters in the US Congress.

From Bolivia to Venezuela and Honduras to Argentina, Latin American governments are standing firm against the interference by the American administration, which has done everything possible to stoke the flames of insurrection and secession in energy-rich areas of Bolivia, Venezuela, and Ecuador.

Bolivia's President Evo Morales, who faces CIA and US Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)-sponsored right-wing rebellions in the energy-rich provinces of Santa Cruz, Pando, Tarija, and Beni, expelled US ambassador

see LATIN AMERICA p. 6

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October is Cancer Industry Promotion Month



CANCER from p. 1

refuses to openly urge women to prevent breast cancer by getting more vitamin D through nutritional supplements or sensible sunlight exposure. In fact, the organization continues to warn people away from sunlight, actually contributing to the mass vitamin D deficiency that's now rampant in western nations (including the US, Canada and the U.K.).

Vitamin D deficiency greatly reduces the body's ability to halt the growth of cancer tumors. That's why higher amounts of vitamin D circulating through the blood have been shown again and again to dramatically reduce the growth of cancer tumors, keeping them in check and preventing a breast cancer diagnosis. Over 75 percent of all breast and prostate cancers could be avoided through vitamin D therapy alone.

Amazingly, the American Cancer Society appears to have no interest in vitamin D. How could it be that this cancer-centric non-profit wouldn't be interested in a free therapy that could eliminate up to three-fourths of all future cancers? Shouldn't this be the No. 1 headline around the world during Breast Cancer Awareness Month? Shouldn't the ACS be screaming this fact to anyone who will listen?

But of course not. In my opinion, the American Cancer Society has no interest whatsoever in actually preventing cancer. In my view, it is only interested in promoting the screening and treatment of cancer because that's what makes money for the financial supporters of the ACS. In fact, the ACS recently restructured its own priorities to focus more on screening and treatment, and less on cancer prevention.

What's missing from the risk factors list?

Hilariously, the ACS now says there are only four major modifiable risk factors that impact your risk of breast cancer. They are:

- Weight
- Alcohol use
- Smoking
- Exercise

Where is vitamin D on the list? It remains suspiciously absent.

Strange, don't you think? The single most powerful anti-cancer nutrient known to modern science — one that helps halt the growth of virtually all tumors in the body while reducing breast cancer risk by 77 percent — isn't on the American Cancer Society's list! (See our article reporting this finding at <http://www.NaturalNews.com/021892.html>)

Has the ACS failed to read the research on this nutrient? Could the most miraculous anti-cancer nutrient known to modern science have somehow slipped by the astute scientists at the ACS?

Some intelligent outside observers might conclude that the ACS is either hopelessly ignorant about nutrition or that it simply has no interest in promoting anything that would financially harm its primary supporters (drug companies and oncology equipment manufacturers).

Think Before You Pink

Amid all the mindless reporting about Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the mainstream media, there is at least one blip of intelligence on the radar: The Think Before You Pink campaign by Breast Cancer Action (www.bcaction.org), a much better informed anti-cancer non-profit led by Barbara Brenner in San Francisco. Breast Cancer Action has a rare philosophy of refusing to accept money from pharmaceutical companies or any corporations that profit from the disease.

The American Cancer Society, on the other hand, takes all sorts of money from companies that profit from cancer. Some might argue that's why the ACS — often called the wealthiest non-profit in the world — seems to have no interest in actually preventing the disease, but rather focuses on "recruiting" more women into conventional cancer treatments that earn billions of dollars in profits for their primary financial supporters.

Breast Cancer Action has an important message for consumers: Think Before You Pink. It means, essentially, don't be hoodwinked into buying "pink" products unless you know exactly how much money is going to cancer research and where the money's going. A lot of the "pink products" money goes to the Susan G. Komen foundation, which in my opinion is another useless nonprofit engaged primarily in pleasing the interests of its big corporate supporters rather than actually doing anything useful to prevent cancer. Read the book *Pink Ribbons, Inc.* to learn more about what happens behind closed doors at the Susan G. Komen foundation.

As Breast Cancer Action points out, a lot of the "pink products" marketing is nothing more than Pinkwashing — a ploy by product marketers to boost sales of products that actually contribute to breast cancer risk! Many cosmetics and personal care products, for example, are loaded with cancer-causing chemicals that soak right through the skin and enter the bloodstream, and yet these products proudly display pink ribbons, enticing gullible women to purchase them while thinking they're doing something useful to stop breast cancer.

If it wasn't for the fact that so many women are being killed by toxic products, it would all be quite hilarious. But the sad fact is that product marketers are exploiting both the pocketbooks and bodies of women in a quest to generate more profits at any cost... including the cost in human lives.

Fighting to Prevent "Cancer Prevention"

It is interesting to note that with all the toxic chemicals found in personal care products these days, the American Cancer Society has actually fought laws and initiatives that would have helped prevent cancer. As Samuel Epstein explains on www.PreventCancer.org, "The ACS has a longstanding track record of indifference and even hostility to cancer prevention. This is particularly disturbing in view of the escalating incidence of cancer now striking one in two men and one in three women

in their lifetimes. Recent examples include issuing a joint statement with the Chlorine Institute justifying the continued global use of persistent organochlorine pesticides, and also supporting the industry in trivializing dietary pesticide residues as avoidable risks of childhood cancer. ACS policies are further exemplified by allocating under 0.1 percent of its \$700 million annual budget to environmental and occupational causes of cancer."

You can read the incredible history of the ACS's opposition to regulation of toxic chemicals at these websites: www.preventcancer.com/losing/acs.. and www.NaturalNews.com

Business as Usual in the Cancer Industry

The cancer industry is a multi-billion dollar industry that preys upon the bodies of women, exploiting them for profit and power. And if nothing changes, we'll continue to see the same madness that brought us to this point:

- Cancer non-profits that appear to have no interest in preventing cancer
- The marketing of pink ribbon products that actually cause cancer
- The routine censorship of any information about vitamin D, which cures cancer
- A complete failure of the mainstream media to report the truth about cancer
- Complete failure of conventional doctors and oncologists to recommend safe, natural and low-cost cancer therapies like medicinal mushrooms, microalgae, rainforest herbs and sunlight therapy

Add it all up and you get a future with a whole lot more cancer. Not coincidentally, that's exactly what Big Pharma wants. The more cancer patients there are, the greater their profits. Actually preventing cancer would devastate the industry's profits, costing them billions of dollars in profits they've already banked on. That's why the industry remains so focused on screening and detecting cancer but not preventing it. (Detection makes money, prevention loses money. Get it?)

Difficult to Believe? Don't Be Naive

I know a lot of people read this and think to themselves, "How could the cancer industry be so evil? How could they exploit the lives of women so callously?" Think Enron. Corporations are, by their very nature, domineering entities capable of great evil, even when the people who work in those corporations might be honest, hard-working individuals. In our current system of free market economics, only the strong, dominant corporations survive. And that requires maximizing revenues and creating new opportunities to sell more drugs to more people, regardless of the real cost in human suffering or environmental destruction.

Many of the cancer non-profits have become little more than front groups for the corporations that make money off of cancer. They act as commercial cheerleading squads, pumping up the crowd to go get screened and hopefully get diagnosed with cancer so they'll end up buying high-profit chemotherapy drugs.

New research, by the way, shows that chemotherapy drugs cause heart damage to women, leading to heart failure. Even mainstream oncologists are starting to think that maybe the industry should stop using these toxic drugs to treat breast cancer. As Dr. Pamela Douglas, a Duke University cardiologist recently said, "In the process of curing their breast cancer, we've exposed them to some pretty nasty things. And it's not just one nasty thing, it's a sequence of nasty things." Those nasty things, it turns out, cause permanent damage to the heart, kidney, liver and brain.

But they're really great for the bottom-line profits of pharmaceutical corporations. And that's the whole reason why screening and chemotherapy continues to be so strongly promoted by cancer non-profit groups, even while highly-effective prevention strategies (vitamin D prevents 77 percent of ALL cancers) are routinely ignored.

I say the cancer industry actually intends to keep the disease going as long as possible, with as many people as possible in order to maximize profits. Anyone who disagrees with me must ask the all-important question: If these cancer non-profits are so interested in preventing cancer, why won't they strongly recommend vitamin D which prevents 77 percent of all cancers? Why?

Why do we need to spend billions of dollars each year on "the search for the cure" when we have a substance right now — available for free — that prevents nearly 8 out of 10 cancers in the first place? A 77 percent reduction in all cancers sounds like a pretty important milestone to me. Seems like any organization that was actually interested in the welfare of the people would express some degree of interest in this natural vitamin, wouldn't you think?

What You Can Do

Don't be a sucker for cancer marketing schemes. Don't support pink products, and don't be fooled into getting annual mammograms (which actually cause cancer, by the way). Think before you pink! And get more sunlight and vitamin D. That's the single most powerful thing you can do to prevent breast cancer, other than perhaps quitting smoking. But if you don't smoke already, getting sunlight and vitamin D is the single most important thing you can do to prevent cancer, period!

Mike Adams is an author, investigative journalist and educator. He is the founder of the website *Health Ranger* (www.healthranger.org) which strives to educate people on how to achieve and maintain peak human health. He founded *NaturalNews.com*, an online news source covering areas from nutrition to renewable energy. He's written thousands of articles and a book chronicling his pursuit of peak health, *Grocery Warning...*



World Trade Center Building 7 can be seen standing tall in the background through the smoke of the demolished towers on the early afternoon of 9/11.

NIST 9/11 Cover-up Exposed

NIST COVER-UP from p. 1

for about an hour and a half [before] the New York Fire Department... came and got us out." (*The New Pearl Harbor Revisited*, David Ray Griffin, pp. 45-48).

Hess made this statement while being interviewed by Frank Ucciardo of UPN 9 News "on Broadway about a block from City Hall," almost a half mile from WTC 7. This interview began before noon, most likely at 11:34. The conclusion that it began at 11:34 is based on evidence derived from a DVD containing UPN 9 programs from that morning, in which the Hess interview begins at the 57-minute mark. According to a note on the DVD itself, its video began at 10:37am, which would mean that the Hess interview began at 11:34. It is possible, however, that the video might have actually started at 11:00: At the 111-minute mark, the UPN 9 program switched to live coverage by CNN of a Taliban news conference, and the only reference we have been able to find to this coverage indicates that it began at 12:51. This would mean that the video began at 11:00 and the Hess interview, therefore, at 11:57. Nevertheless, whether the earlier or the later starting time is correct, UPN 9 News began interviewing Michael Hess before noon.

However, NIST — the National Institute



Barry Jennings recounts story of explosions in live TV interview soon after being rescued from WTC 7 on the morning of 9/11.

of Standards and Technology — which was tasked with providing the official explanation of the collapse of the Twin Towers and WTC 7, claimed that the two men were rescued at "12:10 to 12:15pm." (NIST, Appendix I: Interim Report on WTC 7). Why might NIST have made this claim? The reason becomes evident in another NIST document's statement about Hess and Jennings, which begins:

"With the collapse of the two towers, a New York City employee and a WTC 7 building staff person became trapped inside of WTC 7. The two had gone to the OEM center on the 23rd floor and found no one there. As they went to get into an elevator to go downstairs the lights inside of WTC 7 flickered as WTC 2 collapsed. At this point, the elevator they were attempting to catch no longer worked, so they started down the staircase." (NIST NCSTAR 1-8 Section 5.9).

According to NIST, therefore, Hess and Jennings, upon finding the OEM center vacated, started downstairs just after 9:59, when the second tower collapsed. It was this collapse, NIST suggested, that was responsible for the elevator's failure to work.

As we saw earlier, however, Jennings said that they had arrived at the OEM center shortly after the strike on the North Tower, hence around 9:00am. He added, in fact, that he had to have been on the 23rd floor "when the second plane hit" (which was at 9:03) (*The New Pearl Harbor Revisited*, Griffin, pg. 46). Besides contradicting Jennings' testimony on that point, the NIST account went on to say:

"When they got to the 6th floor, WTC 1 [the North Tower] collapsed, the lights went out in the staircase, the sprinklers came on briefly, and the staircase filled with smoke and debris. The two men went back to the 8th floor broke out a window and called for help." (NIST NCSTAR 108: Section 5.9).

According to NIST, therefore, what Hess and Jennings took to be an explosion in WTC 7 was really just an effect of the collapse of the North Tower. That collapse occurred at 10:28. Accordingly, if the two men were then trapped for about 90 minutes before they were rescued,

this rescue must have occurred at about noon — hence NIST's claim that they were rescued at "12:10 to 12:15 PM."

NIST's timeline is clearly implausible. Claiming that Hess and Jennings started down the stairs after the collapse of the South Tower caused the elevator to fail, NIST implies that it took them 29 minutes — from 9:59 to 10:28—to descend from the 23rd floor to the 6th floor. NIST's timeline is also directly contradicted by the testimony of Jennings, who said: "After getting to the 8th floor everything was dark... [B]oth buildings were still standing. Because I looked... one way, looked the other way... [B]oth buildings were still standing." (*The New Pearl Harbor Revisited*, Griffin, pg. 46).

The strongest evidence against NIST's timeline, however, is Hess's interview with UPN 9 News. Defenders of the official account, according to which there were no explosions in WTC 7, might challenge the truth of Jennings's testimony. But if Hess was giving an interview almost a half mile away before noon, then NIST's timeline, according to which the two men were not rescued until after noon, is objectively disproved. This is the case whether we accept the 11:34 or the 11:57 starting time for this interview.

Given the fact that the interview occurred almost a half mile from the WTC, it would probably have taken Hess at least a half hour to get there after he was rescued (he surely would have talked to firefighters and other officials about the ordeal before taking off). So if the interview began at 11:34, he and Jennings would have been rescued before 11:05. If the interview began at 11:57, they would have been rescued before 11:30.

In either case, NIST's explanation for the event that Hess and Jennings took to be a massive explosion in WTC 7 itself is disproved. If the two men were rescued before 11:05 after having been trapped, as Hess said, for about 90 minutes, the event must have occurred before 9:35. Even if they were not rescued until closer to 11:30, the event must have occurred at least by 10:00. In either case, the event could not have been the collapse of the North Tower, which did not occur until 10:28.

That said, I endorse the earlier times — 11:34 for the beginning of the Hess interview, 11:05 or earlier for the rescue, and 9:35 or earlier for the explosion — for three reasons. First, the note on the DVD says that the video started at 11:34. Second, the account by Hess and Jennings suggests that they would have reached the 6th floor, where the landing was knocked out from under them, at about 9:15. Third, whereas the later times would suggest that this event occurred around 10:00, Jennings stated, as we saw, that after the explosion occurred and he and Hess made it back up to the 8th floor, the South Tower, which collapsed at 9:59, was still standing.

As I pointed out in *The New Pearl Harbor Revisited*, a BBC special on WTC 7 that aired July 6, 2008 ("The Conspiracy Files: 9/11 — The Third Tower"), distorted Jennings' testimony. Although he evidently told the BBC interviewer the same story he had earlier told to the makers of "Loose Change Final Cut," the BBC placed his testimony within the time-framework suggested by NIST. So, after playing footage in which Jennings described a massive explosion in WTC 7 (which was probably at about 9:15), the BBC says: "At 10:28, the North Tower collapses... Tower 7 takes a direct hit... Early evidence of explosives were just debris from a falling skyscraper." (*The New Pearl Harbor Revisited*, Griffin, pp. 276-77).

However, Jennings will apparently not be available to correct the record. Jennings, 53 years old, evidently died in August 2008, reportedly only a few days before NIST issued its report on WTC 7 ("Key Witness to WTC 7 Explosions Dealt at 53," Aaron Dykes, infowars.com, September 2008).

In any case, UPN 9's interview of Michael Hess is now publicly available, thanks to Dylan Avery, who made a copy of it available, and Fred Burks, who posted it at The Transformation Team (www.transformationteam.net).

David Ray Griffin is Professor of Philosophy of Religion and Theology, Emeritus, at Claremont School of Theology and Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California. Griffin is the author and editor of more than 30 books, seven of which deal with 9/11. His newest book is *The New Pearl Harbor Revisited: 9/11, the Cover-Up, and the Exposé...*

Pray For Me, Father by Sherwood Ross

Pray for me, Father, mine is the sin of cowardice
For I do not set myself on fire at the White House gate
To protest murder. I am a glutton for God's blue sky.

Pray for me, Father, for my tax dollars set a banquet for Death
With napalm and daisy cutters and snakelike missiles
That blow apart other men, and their wives and children
While I walk secure along the shore of the tranquil sea.
Pray for me, Father, and I will pray for you.

I will pray for a church that does not deary an Inquisition
Where men are broken and driven mad in the dungeons
Of Bagram, Kabul, Gitmo, and Abu Ghraib
A church of priests who recall Golgotha
As if Jesus and Jesus and Jesus by the thousands
Are not being crucified now by the Masters of War
Are not shuffling home on artificial legs
Are not staring sightless from wheelchairs
In VA hospitals into God's blue sky.

Pray for me, Father, and I will pray for you.

Rock Creek Free Press

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

By CYNTHIA MCKINNEY

Seize the Time!

We the people must now seize the time! We have always had the capability of determining our own destiny, but for various reasons, the people failed to elect the leaders who provided the correct political will. There was always some corporate or private special interest that stood in the way of the public good. And they always seemed to have the power of the purse to throw around and influence public opinion or our elected officials. The very foundation of the US economy is crumbling underneath our feet. This represents a unique moment in US history and we must now seize the time for self-determination — for health care, education, ecological wisdom, justice, and all the policies that will make a difference in the lives of the people including an end to all wars, including the drug war!

The crisis was staved off for a time for some of our major finance engines when they were able to obtain bridge funding from certain sovereign wealth funds. That option grows increasingly dim as The Federal Reserve is becoming the lender of last resort. This means that the people are becoming the owners of the primary instruments of US capital and finance. This now means that the people have a say in how these instruments are to be used and what their priorities ought to be. The people should now have more say in how their tax dollars are spent and what the priorities of government and the public sector must be. We the people must now set our demands to ensure and promote the public good.

Now, as we ponder the importance of this moment to do good and serve the needs of the people, some politicians have already figured out their answer for us: win or steal the next election, prepare for more war, and leave it to others to try and figure out what to do next. While banks are failing all around us and the US taxpayer is drenched with news of billion-dollar bailouts for *selected* companies, the Congress, which has utterly failed in its twin responsibilities of setting policy and Executive Branch oversight, plans to adjourn instead of setting new policies; lessening the impact of the economic freefall on innocent victims; or stopping war, expansion of war, new war, and occupation.

In a dizzying turn of recent events, we have all witnessed the collapse of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac mortgage providers, investment banks Lehman Brothers and Bear Stearns, and insurer American International Group (AIG), and other companies. So far, at least eleven banks have filed for bankruptcy this year. The case of the AIG bailout is particularly curious as Merrill Lynch was denied taxpayer largesse. I wonder if AIG was the selected company for bailout because of its relationship to the US intelligence community and what others would discover if AIG's books were opened in an audit. The last person to get close to AIG and its shady operations was Elliott Spitzer.

But some more fundamental issues must be explored here, relating to the underlying assumptions that have guided US political and economic activity, particularly over the last eight years.

The Bush Administration's "anything goes, just don't get caught" attitude has set the tone for what we are witnessing today. To be sure these problems didn't start in January of 2001, but they sure were allowed to accelerate during the George W. Bush Administration. For example, what tone was set when the Administration shipped \$12 billion to Paul Bremer's provisional government in Iraq in cash on wooden pallets for Iraq reconstruction? No wonder \$9 billion of it was "lost." What I'm constantly reminded of is that the money didn't just vanish, somebody got it. Now it's up to us to find out who!

However, the Administration's blatant disregard for good governance, the rule of law, standards of moral and ethical conduct, and even etiquette, when coupled with a laissez-faire, "go-along-to-get-along" attitude from Congress meant that no holes were barred and

no hands were on the deck — a sure prescription for disaster.

In my reading over the course of the last few years, I had to become somewhat conversant with the language of the new economy: bundled mortgages, securitization, SPEs, SIVs, derivatives. But in addition to the old concepts that always seemed to be with us — predatory lending, redlining, no affordable housing amid "the housing bubble," — it soon became clear that basically folks had figured out a way to make money off of a ticking time bomb. Kind of like prisons for profit. And even though the Enron scandal was supposed to have cleaned up a lot of this, unfortunately, even Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac regularly engaged in some of these practices and that's why you and I own them today. I believe it is true that the very foundations of the US economy and conventional political behavior have been shaken. Now is not the time for business as usual. And although this is by no means exhaustive, here are a few things that I think the Democratic-led Congress could work on now instead of adjourning:

1. enactment of a foreclosure moratorium now before the next phase of ARM interest rate increases take effect;
2. elimination of all ARM mortgages and their renegotiation into 30- or 40-year loans;
3. establishment of new mortgage lending practices to end predatory and discriminatory practices;
4. establishment of criteria and construction goals for affordable housing;
5. redefinition of credit and regulation of the credit industry so that discriminatory practices are completely eliminated;
6. full funding for initiatives that eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in home ownership;
7. recognition of shelter as a right according to the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights to which the US is a signatory so that no one sleeps on US streets;
8. full funding of a fund designed to cushion the job loss and provide for retraining of those at the bottom of the income scale as the economy transitions;
9. close all tax loopholes and repeal of the Bush tax cuts for the top 1% of income earners;
10. fairly tax corporations, denying federal subsidies to those who relocate jobs overseas repeal NAFTA.

And since the Congress plans to adjourn early and leave these problems to The Federal Reserve, The Federal Reserve should operate in the interests of the US taxpayer and not the interests of the private, international bankers that it currently represents. This, of course means that The Federal Reserve, too, must undergo a fundamental ownership and mission change.

This crisis does not have to be treated as merely a "market correction," or the result of a few rotten apples in an otherwise pristine barrel. This crisis truly represents the opportunity to introduce fundamental changes in the way the US economy and its political stewards operate. Responsible political leadership demands that the pain and suffering being experienced by the innocent today not be revisited upon them or the next generation tomorrow. But sadly, instead of affirmative action being taken in this direction, the Bush Administration ratchets up the drumbeat for war, Republican Party operatives busily remove duly-registered voters from the voter rolls, and our elected leaders in the Congress go home to campaign while leaving all of us to fend for ourselves. For the Administration and the Democrat-led Congress, I declare: MISSION UNACCOMPLISHED. For the public whose moment this is, I say: Power to the People!

Please visit www.runcynthiarun.org and read our platform. If you like it, please make a donation so we can spread the news and . . . seize the time!

Cynthia McKinney is a former congresswoman from Georgia and Green Party candidate for President 2008.

Republican Dirty-Trickster Now Runs Treasury Plunge Protection Team (PPT)

By GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BLOG

Remember the Bush-Cheney supporters who pretended to spontaneously protest the Miami-Dade 2000 election recount, but were really high-level Republican aides and staffers (the so-called Brooks Brothers Riot)?

Well, Jim Wilkinson was there: "Jim Wilkinson, a spokesman for the Bush recount team who was present at the protest outside the Miami-Dade canvassing room, says that there was nothing orchestrated about the protest. 'There were between 80 and 100 of us' outside the room, Wilkinson said, 'and it was a very emotional group of young people. But they thought the election was being held behind closed doors.' Hence they all walked outside the canvassing room and protested — emotionally, but spontaneously, Wilkinson said." - Salon.com, Nov 24, 2000

The same Wilkinson "helped to manage the program of embedding reporters in combat units" during the Iraq War, and has been a part of numerous other Bush administration propaganda and dirty tricks efforts. He's so bad that a reporter from Texas said Wilkinson "used techniques first perfected by Stalin".

Would you give someone like Wilkinson the keys to your car? Would you give him the keys to the economy?

Well, it turns out that Wilkinson is one of the key players of the Working Group on Financial Markets (better known as the "Plunge Protection Team" or PPT).

As the Telegraph notes, the PPT has broad powers:

It appears to have powers to support the markets in a crisis with a host of instruments, mostly by through buying futures contracts on the stock indexes (DOW, S&P 500, NASDAQ and Russell) and key credit levers. And it has the means to fry "short" traders in the hottest of oils.

Indeed, Treasury Secretary Paulson, the head of the PPT, appointed Wilkinson as his chief of staff and:

"Ordered Jim Wilkinson ... to 'oversee the creation of a Treasury Command Center to track markets world-wide and serve as an operations base in a crisis'! (Wall Street Journal)"

Given that shady characters like Wilkinson are part of the PPT, I agree with journalist Danny Schetcher when he calls for a probe of the PPT by Congress and the press and writes:

In actual fact, this secret branch of government has a sophisticated war room using every state of the art technology to monitor markets worldwide. It has emergency powers. It doesn't keep minutes. There is no freedom of information access to its deliberations.

We need to know who was lobbying "the team" and in whose interests they act.

Is their goal to get taxpayers to pay off corporate failures or centralize power as former Treasury Department official Catherine Austin Fitts believes?:

"If your goal is total centralized control, this is a

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US Economy: Rudderless and Reeling From Direct Hits

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

We were promised a "New Economy" of high-tech tradable services to take the place of the offshored manufacturing economy. Wondering what had become of the "New Economy," Duke University's Offshoring Research Network searched for it and located it offshore. Yes, the activities of the "New Economy" are also outsourced offshore.

Call centers, IT operations, back-office operations, and manufacturing have long been moved offshore. Now high-value-added proprietary activities such as research and development, engineering, product development, and analytical services are being sent offshore. All that's left is finance, and it is crumbling before our eyes.

Independent broker-dealers are disappearing: Merrill Lynch, Bear Stearns, Lehman Brothers. These venerable institutions were too thinly capitalized for the risks that they took. Merrill Lynch is now part of the Bank of America, and Lehman Brothers is history. Ill-advised financial deregulation led to financial concentration and not to more efficient markets. Independent local banks, which focused on financing local businesses, and Saving and Loan Associations, which knew the local housing market, have been replaced with large institutions that package unanalyzed

risks and sell them worldwide.

Regulation over-reached. The pendulum swung. Deregulation became an ideology and a facilitator of greed.

Deregulating electric power gave us Enron.

Deregulating the airlines destroyed famous American brand names such as Pan Am, shrank the number of companies, and caused a decline in service. When airlines were regulated, they could afford standby equipment, and cancelled flights were rare. Today, the bottom line prohibits standby equipment, and mechanical problems result in cancelled flights. When economists calculated the benefits of deregulation, they left out many of its costs.

There are no longer any blue chip companies, which means that investing for retirement has become a crapshoot. People realize this; thus, the privatization of Social Security has no support.

If we look realistically at the US economy, we see that what is not moved offshore is being bailed out. Last year, the US Department of Energy was authorized to make \$25 billion in loans to auto manufacturing firms and suppliers of automotive parts. Last week the Secretary of the Treasury took \$5 trillion dollars in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac home mortgages under its wing.

The Congressional Budget Office says

this action by the Treasury means "that the operations of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac should be directly incorporated into the federal budget." Their revenues would be treated as federal revenues, and their expenditures as federal expenditures. If the former were greater than the latter, there would be no reason for the takeover.

The open question is: what do these new liabilities do to the Treasury's own credit standing?

For now, this question is submerged. The traditional practice of fleeing to the US dollar and US Treasury bonds during periods of financial stress and uncertainty has boosted the dollar and kept interest rates low. But sooner or later the large US budget deficit, worsened by recession and bailouts, and the large trade deficit, which requires constant recycling of dollars held by foreigners into US financial and real assets, will result in renewed effort on the part of foreigners to lighten their dollar holdings.

When this time arrives, US interest rates will have to rise in order for the government to be able to continue to rely on foreigners to recycle the dollars acquired in trade to finance the US government's annual budget deficit.

The current financial problems have pushed into the background the larger problems of the US budget and trade

see US ECONOMY p. 8

Confessions of a Conspiracy Theorist

By SHEILA CASEY

Over the past few decades, the CIA controlled mainstream media in America has achieved a significant PR objective: they have made it socially unacceptable to believe that there is a conspiracy operating at the highest levels of our government. This puts those of us who do know about the plot at high levels in an awkward position: either we pretend that we don't know what we know, or we risk being ridiculed and marginalized as a pathetic joke.

He who defines the language defines the parameters of the debate, and so far the conspirators are winning. They have succeeded in imbuing the moniker "conspiracy theorist" with such intensely negative connotations that even most conspiracy theorists—such as 9/11 truth activists—tie themselves in knots to avoid earning that label.

Is there anything wrong with having theories? Of course not. Knowledge progresses through scientists proposing a certain hypothesis (or theory) and then testing to see if it holds up. It doesn't mean they are flying blind, untethered by facts. They use the facts they already know to create theories about things that

are still unknown.

Is there anything wrong with having theories about a conspiracy? Is it akin to having theories about leprechauns, poltergeists or Bigfoot? Do conspiracies exist only in the realm of fantasy or the occult?

Definitely not. There are dozens of vast conspiracies that have been validated by historians. Wikipedia lists 27 "proven" conspiracies, some of which were not the subject of any widespread speculation until they were exposed."

That is, they used to. The list of 27 proven conspiracies is in my article on the back page of the June issue of the Rock Creek Free Press, exactly as copied from Wikipedia in May 2008. That list of "proven historical conspiracies" was removed from Wikipedia on June 7, 2008, just a few days after the June issue of the Creek hit the streets of DC.

But I digress. High level government conspiracies definitely happen. So what exactly is wrong with having a theory about a vast plot to deceive us?

From the point of view of the conspirators, plenty. They cannot succeed unless their under-handed dealings

remain well out of sight. If the details of Operation Mockingbird became widely known, no one would read or watch any news from the mainstream media anymore, and their effort to control public opinion would fail.

Those in charge of the cover-ups had very good reasons for launching an all out attack on conspiracy theorists, and due to Operation Mockingbird, they are able to insert their memes into TV shows, news articles, books, movies, songs, greeting cards and comic books. Without quite realizing how it happened, the population adopts the belief desired by the conspirators: that those who suspect conspiracies are deficient human beings in every respect. Based on my own exposure to the MSM, I could easily conclude that conspiracy theorists are:

- lonely, socially inept losers
- intellectually bankrupt, oblivious to evidence
- immature, still living at home with their parents
- don't bathe or change clothes regularly
- have a tenuous grip on sanity, may be mentally ill
- paranoid

No wonder no one wants to be considered a conspiracy theorist!

Many truth activists have reacted to this

see CONSPIRACY p. 8

The Land of the Silent and the Home of the Fearful

By DAVE LINDORFF

I was a speaker last night at an anti-war event sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County, Progressive Democrats of America and Democrats For America in Lincroft, NJ, near the shore. It was a great group of activist Americans who want to see this country end the Iraq War, turn away from war as a primary instrument of policy, and start dealing with the pressing human needs of the country and the world. Yet even in this group of committed people, one woman stood up during the question-and-answer session and said, "I want to get involved in writing emails to members of Congress urging them to cut off funding for the war and other things, but if I do that won't I end up getting put on a 'watch list' or something?"

I told her the short answer was yes, she probably would. In George Bush's and Dick Cheney's America, no one is safe from such spying, and even from harassment, as witness Tom Feeley, the man behind the website Information Clearing House, who had armed men invade his house at night and threaten his wife complaining about his First Amendment-protected effort to publicize important stories on the Internet. But I also told her that it didn't matter. She should defend her freedom of speech and her right to petition for redress of grievances, just as she was defending her freedom of assembly by attending last night's event.

The only demonstrably true statement George Bush has made in his sorry eight years in office is that the Constitution is

"just a goddamned piece of paper." While it wasn't the point he was making, when he reportedly shouted this at a couple of Republican members of Congress who

were questioning the constitutionality of some of his actions, he was right that the nation's founding document is only worth the parchment and ink it's composed of, unless people use it and defend it.

There is a remarkable and palpable fear abroad in this land—not a fear of terrorism, but a fear of speaking up, a fear of being labeled as "different" or as a "troublemaker." People will lean over and whisper their opinions, if they think they are anti-Establishment, as though someone might be listening. People write me after some of my columns run, praising me for my "courage," though why it should be

see SILENT p. 7

Links Between Anthrax Attacks and 9/11

ANTHRAX from p. 1

3) Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) preplanned a bio/chem-terrorism exercise (likely involving an anthrax scenario) for which personnel were in New York City on 9/11, and Giuliani's OEM director urged White House staff to go on anti-anthrax Cipro on Sept. 11. Giuliani testified to the 9/11 Commission that his Office of Emergency Management (OEM) had scheduled a bio/chem-terrorism response exercise, called TRIPOD II, to begin the day after 9/11, Sept. 12. But personnel who were to take part in the exercise were already in New York City on Sept. 10th and OEM personnel were cleared out of their WTC7 offices on Sept. 11 and moved to the exercise command center on a New York pier and thus conveniently out of the building when it was brought down by military-grade thermate explosives on 9/11. New Jersey's Ft. Monmouth, an Army base just across the water from the Twin Towers, also held an exercise, called TIMELY ALERT II, on 9/11, almost certainly coordinated with Giuliani's TRIPOD II, further evidence that the latter was also scheduled to begin on Sept. 11.

The former director of Mayor Giuliani's OEM, Jerome "Jerry" Hauer, was a bio-warfare expert and one of the signers of the pre-9/11 Project for a New American Century manifesto calling for "a new Pearl Harbor" who had also been a central player in scripting the TRIPOD II bio-chem attack scenario exercise. Hauer was an expert in the response to building collapses and managing director of Kroll Associates before and on 9/11 (*New York Times*, July 27, 1999). Kroll Associates was the company that provided "security" for the World Trade Center, including all three buildings brought down by controlled demolition that morning. Hauer thus oversaw personnel with the complete access needed to pre-place explosive charges. It was Hauer who had advocated, despite the 1993 terrorist attack on WTC1, that Giuliani locate his OEM, from which a response to an expected follow up attack on the WTC would need to be orchestrated, next door in WTC7 (www.truthmovem.blogspot.com/2008/07). The new OEM opened on the 23rd floor of WTC7 in June 1999, where Hauer, its director, had his office. Hauer became a National Security Adviser to the National Institutes of Health on Sept. 10, the very day TRIPOD II personnel arrived in New York City. From his new NIH post, Hauer managed the Bush Administration's "response" to the imminent anthrax attacks, which falsely pointed the finger at Iraq and diverted attention from the true insider anthrax killers. Indeed, it was Hauer who zealously pushed the "bin Laden did it and just planes-and-fires brought down the Towers" official story on CBS News on 9/11 in the immediate aftermath of the attacks before anyone not on the inside could have possibly determined the actual cause of the collapses, taking pains to insist that explosives were not involved, when they were. And according to mainstream press reports and a lawsuit by the conservative government watchdog group Judicial Watch, it was Hauer who personally advised the White House to take anti-anthrax Cipro antibiotics on 9/11. Other reports state White House personnel were put on Cipro nearly a month before the attacks (*Crossing the Rubicon*, Michael Ruppert, pp. 505-506). Did Hauer recommend that White House personnel be put on an anti-anthrax antibiotics on 9/11 because he had reason to believe the 9/11 attacks would also involve anthrax and/or because he had advance knowledge there would be subsequent imminent anthrax attacks?

4) Rudolph Giuliani bought the Florida-building crime scene of the first anthrax attack. Anthrax was found throughout the American Media, Inc. (AMI) building in Boca Raton, Florida where the first anthrax letter victim, Robert Stevens, worked — as confirmed by AMI employees whose desks were near Stevens' whom I have interviewed. A "don't cross" line was put around the building by the FBI. AMI was forced to move to another location and put the building up for sale. According to the *New York Times*, this first anthrax attack crime scene, with evidence still in place, was then bought (at an anthrax sale price) by former NYC Mayor Giuliani, overseer of the Sept. 11/12 TRIPOD II bio/chem-terrorism probable-anthrax-scenario exercise, who formed a partnership

with a decontamination expert qualified to decontaminate the building. Giuliani thus controlled and oversaw the destruction of evidence at both the New York crime scene of the 9/11 attacks, the WTC, ordering the steel containing traces of controlled demolition explosives to be removed, and the crime scene of the first anthrax attack, America Media, Inc. in Florida.

The FBI had already joined the conspiracy to obstruct its own investigation of the anthrax attacks by "agreeing to the request" of Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine in Ames, Iowa to destroy its "library" of over 100 vials of the Ames strain, gathered since 1928, necessary for a definitive match against the anthrax in the mailed letters. This "library" was destroyed on Oct. 12, 2001; one week after Bob Stevens became the first victim (www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/Bioter/theamesstrain).

This Florida anthrax is critical because, according to press reports on Ivins' alleged involvement, the anthrax in the mailed letters — but not the "first" anthrax sent to Stevens — was traced back to a flask in Ivins' laboratory. The FBI claims no letter was found in connection with the anthrax recovered from Stevens' computer keyboard but assumes a "missing" letter. The Stevens anthrax is thus key to proving that Ivins, if he was involved at all, did not act alone, as it does not trace back to his flask, and because it's the closest in time to 9/11 and so most likely to be directly linked to September 11.

Based on the above, a reasonable case can be made that Giuliani's Sept. 11/12 TRIPOD II exercise was at least in part on an anthrax scenario, using an anthrax simulant; that the letters mailed slightly later with real anthrax may have been written or the text drafted for that exercise; and that Giuliani's former OEM director and close friend Jerome Hauer advised White House staff to take anti-anthrax Cipro on 9/11 because he was afraid the anthrax attack exercise scenario might be about to "go live" just as both the NORAD hijacked-plane "exercise" and the NRO plane-crashing-into-tower "exercise" had already just turned horribly real the morning of Sept. 11.

If the Florida anthrax doesn't link back to Ivins' Ft. Detrick flask and Ivins, who worked on vaccines (bio-defense) and not its weaponization (bio-offense) wasn't behind the attacks — and neither, the government now claims, was Steven Hatfill whom the Bush Administration just agreed to pay millions of dollars to settle his case — then who was? As detailed in the September issue of the *Rock Creek Free Press* by Casey and Kissin, the key suspects are CIA/DIA contractor Battelle Memorial Institute (BMI); and, individually, William Patrick and Ken Alibek.

Battelle, a bio-defense contractor located in West Jefferson, Ohio, has exclusive control of the Ames strain contained in the mailed anthrax letters and, in partnership with the CIA and Defense Intelligence Agency, ran Project Jefferson (www.alexconstantine.blogspot.com/2008/08). The FBI recently held a "science" briefing for reporters on the Ivins evidence in which it made a 180-degree reversal from the results of lab analyses of the anthrax reported by Ft. Detrick and other scientists and officials in the first year following the attacks. Those early analyses showed the spores in the letters to Senators Leahy and Daschle to be super-weaponized: they were found to be highly uniform, extremely small in size, extremely concentrated at 1 trillion per gram, electrically charged, and with a silica coating. At its "science" briefing, the FBI absurdly claimed that mail processing machines caused the additional powdering and electrical charge found in the samples — both coincidentally common results of weaponization.

William Patrick, a former top bio-scientist at Ft. Detrick and close colleague of former Giuliani OEM Director Jerry Hauer, was the mentor of initial FBI "person of interest" in the anthrax attacks Steven Hatfill. Patrick holds five classified patents and trade secrets, including on how to hyper-weaponize anthrax to the 1 trillion spores per gram contained in the letters mailed to Democratic Congressional leaders Senators Daschle and Leahy ("Terror Anthrax Linked to Type Made by U.S.," William Broad, *New York Times*, Dec. 3, 2001). After leaving

Ft. Detrick, he was contracted by Battelle to research and write a report on how mailed letters could be used as the vector for dispersing weaponized anthrax. On Sept. 9, two days before 9/11, Battelle contractor DIA announced the "success" of Project Jefferson's anthrax hyper-weaponization program. Following the Sept./Oct. 2001 letter mailings, some of which were reported to contain anthrax at 1 trillion spores per gram, a footnote in Patrick's report stating that "We have now arrived at the point where we can purify [anthrax] to the extent of 1 trillion spores in a gram" was removed from publicly available copies (Broad, *New York Times*, Dec. 3, 2001).

William Patrick worked with his close colleague and friend, former Soviet bio-weapons expert Ken Alibek, at Battelle, which also ran Project Clear Vision, a secret CIA program to reverse engineer dry-powder anthrax bombs produced by the former Soviet Union. Patrick and Alibek were the FBI's first suspects in the anthrax attacks, but the initial FBI investigative team was taken off that focus and replaced by a new team that diverted attention to Hatfill. Director Mueller himself assured a Senator that the FBI "was not investigating, nor intending to investigate, anyone with, or formerly with, BMI" (www.worldnewsstand.net). Battelle is also a contractual partner with BioPort and Scientific Applications International Corporation (SAIC), and directs the anthrax production and experimentation program at the Army's Dugway Proving Ground in Utah, the second "home" in addition to Ft. Detrick of the Ames strain contained in the letters. Hauer and Hatfill worked together at SAIC (www.tetrahedron.org).

The inside job anthrax attacks were then used as a pretext for the illegal secret domestic wiretap program and assault on the Constitution.

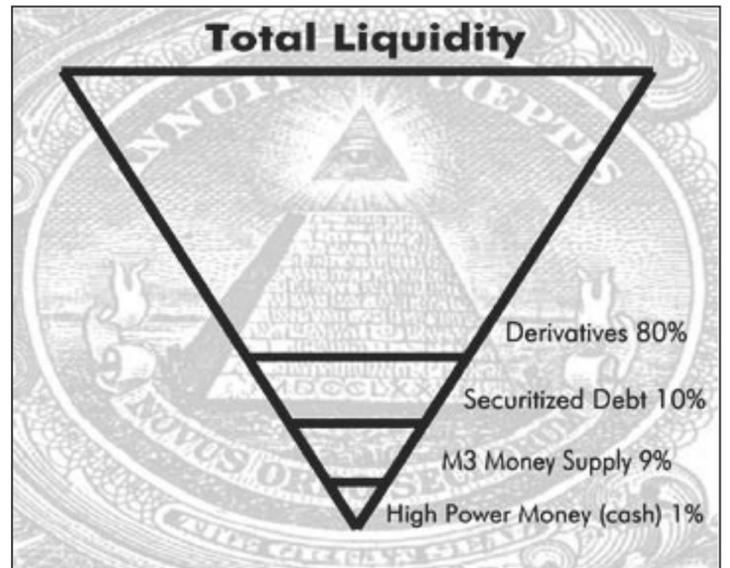
Given the timing, it is now almost certain that the anthrax attacks were used as the pretext for President Bush's illegal warrantless domestic wiretap program for which he signed the first "authorization" on Oct. 23, 2001 — right in the middle of the anthrax terror. Senator John McCain had just gone on ABC TV, on Oct. 18, to push the disinformation that a nonexistent bentonite additive, purportedly marking the anthrax as coming from Iraq, meant that Saddam Hussein was behind the attacks. To this day, the White House still refuses to provide Congress with this Oct. 23, 2001 presidential authorization for its warrantless inside-the-US surveillance program, and for obvious reason. This is the alleged authorization that we now know, from a footnote referring to it in another now-released document, contains Bush's shocking claim that the Constitution's Fourth Amendment's protections against unreasonable searches and seizures do not apply to US military operations conducted inside the United States.

The fact that the Administration continued its secret and illegal domestic spy program long after it was publicly known that the anthrax attacks were the work of one of its own inside military facilities is strong evidence the perpetrators were the same high level officials who used the attacks to justify their illegal surveillance program — the White House itself. Exposing the inside job anthrax mailings as the false pretext for the illegal warrantless domestic wiretap program is thus critical to bringing President Bush and his administration to account for its attack on Congressional Democratic leaders Daschle and Leahy then pushing for an investigation of the 9/11 attacks and resisting the president's railroad of the Patriot Act through Congress, as well as for the mass murders of Sept. 11.

We have seen the terrorists, and they are U.S. It's time for under-oath pre-impeachment hearings — and pre-court-martial hearings — to interrogate these suspects, and all others who worked with them, to expose those who wear the Scarlet A.

Barbara Honegger is a Senior Military Affairs Journalist, and former White House Policy Analyst and Special Assistant to the Assistant to the President in the first Reagan Administration. She is the author of the 9/11 exposé The Pentagon Attack Papers and October Surprise, the first book to reveal the true origins of the Iran side of the Iran/Contra scandal.

It's the Derivatives, Stupid! Why Fannie, Freddie, and AIG Had To Be Bailed Out



DERIVATIVES from p. 1

previous few quarters."

Treasury bills are the I.O.U.s of the federal government. We the taxpayers are on the hook for the Fed's "enhanced liquidity facilities," meaning the loans it has been making to everyone in sight, bank or non-bank, exercising obscure provisions in the Federal Reserve Act that may or may not say they can do it. What's going on here? Why not let the free market work? Bankruptcy courts know how to sort out assets and reorganize companies so they can operate again. Why the extraordinary measures for Fannie, Freddie and AIG?

The answer may have less to do with saving the insurance business, the housing market, or the Chinese investors clamoring for a bailout than with the greatest Ponzi scheme in history, one that is holding up the entire private global banking system. What had to be saved at all costs was not housing or the dollar but the financial derivatives industry; and the precipice from which it had to be saved was an "event of default" that could have collapsed a quadrillion dollar derivatives bubble, a collapse that could take the entire global banking system down with it.

The Anatomy of a Bubble

Until recently, most people had never even heard of derivatives; but in terms of money traded, these investments represent the biggest financial market in the world. Derivatives are financial instruments that have no intrinsic value but derive their value from something else. Basically, they are just bets. You can "hedge your bet" that something you own will go up by placing a side bet that it will go down. "Hedge funds" hedge bets in the derivatives market. Bets can be placed on anything, from the price of tea in China to the movements of specific markets.

"The point everyone misses," wrote economist Robert Chapman a decade ago, "is that buying derivatives is not investing. It is gambling, insurance and high stakes bookmaking. Derivatives create nothing." ("Derivatives - The Mystery Man Who'll Break the Global Bank at Monte Carlo," James Wesley, SurvivalBlog.com, September 2006). They not only create nothing, but they serve to enrich non-producers at the expense of the people who do create real goods and services. In congressional hearings in the early 1990s, derivatives trading was challenged as being an illegal form of gambling. But the practice was legitimized by Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, who not only lent legal and regulatory support to the trade but actively promoted derivatives as a way to improve "risk management." Partly, this was to boost the flagging profits of the banks; and at the larger banks and dealers, it worked. But the cost was an increase in risk to the financial system as a whole ("Killer Derivatives, Zombie CDOs and Basel Too?", Institutional Risk Analytics, August 14, 2007).

Since then, derivative trades have grown exponentially; until now they are larger than the entire global economy. The Bank for International Settlements recently reported that total derivatives trades exceeded one quadrillion dollars — that's 1,000 trillion dollars ("\$1.14 Quadrillion in Derivatives - What Goes up ...," Kevin DeMeritt, Gold-Eagle.com, June 2008). How is that figure even possible? The gross domestic product of all the countries in the world is only about 60 trillion dollars. The answer is that gamblers can bet as much as they want. They can bet money they don't have, and that is where the huge increase in risk comes in.

Credit default swaps (CDS) are the most widely traded form of credit derivative. CDS are bets between two parties on whether or not a company will default on its bonds. In a typical default swap, the "protection buyer" gets a large payoff from the "protection seller" if the company defaults within a certain period of time, while the "protection seller" collects periodic payments from the "protection buyer" for assuming the risk of default. CDS thus resemble insurance policies, but there is no requirement to actually hold any asset or suffer any loss, so CDS are widely used just to increase profits by gambling on market

changes. In one blogger's example, a hedge fund could sit back and collect \$320,000 a year in premiums just for selling "protection" on a risky BBB junk bond. The premiums are "free" money — free until the bond actually goes into default, when the hedge fund could be on the hook for \$100 million in claims.

And there's the catch: what if the hedge fund doesn't have the \$100 million? The fund's corporate shell or limited partnership is put into bankruptcy; but both parties are claiming the derivative as an asset on their books, which they now have to write down. Players who have "hedged their bets" by betting both ways cannot collect on their winning bets; and that means they cannot afford to pay their losing bets, causing other players to also default on their bets.

The dominoes go down in a cascade of cross-defaults that infects the whole banking industry and jeopardizes the global pyramid scheme. The potential for this sort of nuclear reaction was what prompted billionaire investor Warren Buffett to call derivatives "weapons of financial mass destruction." It is also why the banking system cannot let a major derivatives player go down, and it is the banking system that calls the shots. The Federal Reserve is literally owned by a conglomerate of banks; and Hank Paulson, who heads the US Treasury, entered that position through the revolving door of investment bank Goldman Sachs, where he was formerly CEO.

The Best Game in Town

In an article on FinancialSense.com on September 9, Daniel Amerman maintains that the government's takeover of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac was not actually a bailout of the mortgage giants. It was a bailout of the financial derivatives industry, which was faced with a \$1.4 trillion "event of default" that could have bankrupted Wall Street and much of the rest of the financial world. To explain the enormous risk involved, Amerman posits a scenario in which the mortgage giants are not bailed out by the government. When they default on the \$5 trillion in bonds and mortgage-backed securities they own or guarantee, settlements are immediately triggered on \$1.4 trillion in credit default swaps entered into by major financial firms, which have promised to make good on Fannie/Freddie defaulted bonds in return for very lucrative fee income and multi-million dollar bonuses. The value of the vulnerable bonds plummets by 70%, causing \$1 trillion (70% of \$1.4 trillion) to be due to the "protection buyers." This is more money, however, than the already-strapped financial institutions have to spare. The CDS sellers are highly leveraged themselves, which means they depend on huge day-to-day lines of credit just to stay afloat. When their creditors see the trillion dollar hit coming, they pull their financing, leaving the strapped institutions with massive portfolios of illiquid assets. The dreaded cascade of cross-defaults begins, until nearly every major investment bank and commercial bank is unable to meet its obligations. This triggers another massive round of CDS events, going to \$10 trillion, then \$20 trillion. The financial centers become insolvent, the markets have to be shut down, and when they open months later, the stock market has been crushed. The federal government and the financiers pulling its strings naturally feel compelled to step in to prevent such a disaster, even though this rewards the profligate speculators at the expense of the Fannie/Freddie shareholders who will be wiped out. Amerman concludes:

"[I]t's the best game in town. Take a huge amount of risk, be paid exceedingly well for it and if you screw up — you have absolute proof that the government will come in and bail you out at the expense of the rest of the population (who did not share in your profits in the first place)" ("The Hidden Bailout of \$1.4 Trillion in Fannie/Freddie Credit-Default Swaps," Daniel Amerman, FinancialSense.com, September 2008).

Desperate Measures for Desperate Times

It was the best game in town until September 14, when Treasury Secretary Paulson, Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke, and New York Fed

see DERIVATIVES p. 8

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The DC Sniper Case Six Years Later

DC SNIPER from p. 1

Bushmaster rifle that authorities first tried to connect to Muhammad was actually purchased, by Muhammad, from a different Tacoma gun dealer operating as “Welcher’s Gun Shop.” The problem, apparently, is that Muhammad subsequently sold that gun back to Welcher’s, which then sold it to another customer, who still has the gun in Tacoma. Rappoport claims that those transactions were confirmed by Welcher’s employees. In order then to put another Bushmaster rifle in Muhammad’s hands, it was claimed that he had, after selling back the first rifle, purchased an identical one from Bull’s Eye. If Rappoport’s information is correct, then it is conceivable that the alleged purchase of a second rifle was fabricated after the fact. Authorities have also traced the Bushmaster .223-caliber semiautomatic assault rifle allegedly used by John Allen Muhammad and Lee Malvo ... to the same Tacoma gun store. After the manufacturer shipped the gun there, there are no records reflecting how it left the store, according to court records.

* Although Muhammad is generally portrayed by the media as a chronically unemployed drifter who made a habit of staying at homeless shelters, he doesn’t appear to have had money problems. Consider all of the following facts which have emerged in various press accounts:

* Before kidnapping his children, Muhammad was ordered to pay nearly \$900 per month in child support (\$869, by one account), indicating that the court had reason to believe that he had a fairly substantial income at the time.

* He has reportedly owned, or co-owned, a number of businesses, including a karate school, an auto repair shop, and something that he called, strangely enough, “Reality Enterprises.” (www.latimes.com).

* A number of witnesses have commented on the incongruity of an allegedly homeless man who always had money to spend. The *L.A. Times* reported that a former girlfriend told her family that Muhammad’s “story didn’t make any sense ... He was a hard-luck drifter with money, a man who could pick up and fly to the Caribbean whenever he got the inclination.” The same *Times* report added that “She wasn’t the only one asking questions ... The director of the shelter has said [of Muhammad] ... ‘He was rather secretive about his past and present ... He was closed-mouthed. He didn’t have a visible source of income, but he was able to travel at a moment’s notice.’” (www.latimes.com) The *Independent Online* noted that with “no apparent means of support, Muhammad and companion John Lee Malvo traveled from the Caribbean to the north-western United States, and points in between, over the past year and a half. How they financed their activities remains a mystery.” The man who runs the homeless mission where Muhammad last stayed in Washington state, Reverend Alan Archer, was reportedly “amazed to see Muhammad getting phone calls from a travel agent.” Archer recalled that Muhammad flew off on ski trips to both Denver and Salt Lake City.

* While living in Antigua, with no visible means of support, Muhammad nevertheless was able to send all three of his children to an exclusive, private school (www.iol.co.za).

* In 2000, Muhammad, an American citizen born and raised in Louisiana, obtained an Antigua passport — allegedly by lying about who his mother was. Why he would be taken at his word and not required to show proof of Antigua citizenship has not been explained. (www.latimes.com). Also unexplained is why he was issued the passport in July 2000, although the Antigua government claims that its records don’t show Muhammad entering the country until May 2001 (www.iol.co.za). Was Muhammad traveling on that passport between July 2000 and May 2001? And if so, to where?

* Initial reports speculated that Muhammad had received sniper training. The Army has subsequently denied this. Most reports now hold that Muhammad, throughout what the *Times* described as a “checked, 16-year military career,” never distinguished himself as a skilled shooter. As the *Times* explained: “All soldiers entering the Army undergo basic training with M-16 rifles. Once every year, they have to requalify, earning ‘marksman,’ ‘sharpshooter’ or ‘expert’ marks. Muhammad ultimately earned only a sharpshooter mark, so to compare him to a military sniper would be inaccurate.” (www.calendarlive.com). Indeed it would. To even be considered for admission to the Army’s sniper schools reportedly requires three consecutive ‘expert’ rankings. Muhammad could not even manage one such score over the course of a sixteen year career. He could though, rather amazingly, score head shots on live targets from up to 500 yards away, even while firing from inside a cramped car trunk with limited visibility. Imagine that.

* Did Muhammad have more training than what is officially acknowledged? He frequently claimed that he had. Was this just baseless boasting?

* The WWSW reported that “various sources

indicate that Muhammad liked to boast about his service in the army and claimed to be working for the CIA and FBI.” While applying at a government office on Antigua, he “claimed to have attended ‘Special Forces/ Sniper School’ in the US military and to have ‘taught urban warfare.’” In the summer of 2002, Muhammad told a nephew in Baton Rouge “a dubious story about working for the Central Intelligence Agency.” (www.wsws.org).

* Muhammad further claimed that Malvo was also a highly trained operative, recruited for his ability to infiltrate the youth culture (www.msnbc.com).

* The *Guardian* reported that Muhammad “appears to have told friends” that he had received training as a sniper and had served in Special Forces.

* Muhammad’s former business partner in the karate school also recalled being told that his partner had served in Special Forces (www.guardian.co.uk).

* Muhammad’s alleged accomplice, just seventeen years old and with no formal firearms training, is claimed to have been the gunman in some of the sniper shootings. Reports claim that Muhammad trained Malvo in the use of firearms by taking target practice on a tree stump in the backyard of a Tacoma home — as though hitting a large tree stump from across a backyard is equivalent to hitting a human target from hundreds of yards away, from an awkward position within a car trunk.

* According to published reports, neither of the two had ever lived in the Washington, DC area. The pair arrived there just prior to the time that the shootings started. Strangely though, they had a thorough enough knowledge of the area to locate strategic sites from which to shoot, and to map out escape routes that enabled them to evade capture.

* The car, a 1990 blue Chevrolet Caprice acquired just before the shooting spree began, is a former police cruiser that was purchased from a New Jersey auto dealership named (and this, I have to say, is a nice touch) “Sure Shot Autos.” (www.latimes.com).

* The nation bore witness to some of the most brilliant police work in history when someone saw fit to release a “composite sketch” of a featureless, white, box truck, and then have that image plastered all over the nation’s television screens. Could anything have possibly been more counterproductive? You can imagine the calls flooding into the hotline: “Yeah, I think I counted 27 of them sniper trucks today.”

* Just hours before the suspects were arrested, Chief Charles Moose — who became a fixture on cable and network newscasts — issued via national television what appeared for all the world to be a post-hypnotic, “triggering” cue. As the *Guardian* described it: “Hours before the arrest yesterday morning of the two men now believed to be responsible for the string of murders around Washington, the Montgomery county police chief, Charles Moose, made his strangest communication with the then-unknown suspects. Swallowing hard, he began to read from a prepared statement. ‘You indicated that you want us to do and say certain things,’ he said, as mystified reporters looked on. ‘You asked us to say, quote: ‘We have caught the sniper like a duck in a noose.’ We understand that hearing us say that is important to you.’ Investigators offered no illumination of the reference, even after John Allen Muhammad and Lee Malvo were taken into custody yesterday.” Just hours later, the suddenly known suspects were found sleeping soundly and were taken into custody without offering any resistance. They were only a few miles from both the first and last shooting scenes. That final surreal announcement followed a series of increasingly bizarre, cryptic communications by Moose to the purported snipers (www.guardian.co.uk).

* At one point, Moose pleaded with the suspects to call police on the phone number that had supposedly been left behind in a message from the sniper. No one in the media bothered to ask why, if the number was in fact left by the sniper, the police were now imploring the suspect to call them on that number. Did the sniper leave the police their own phone number, just in case they might have forgotten it?

* One year before the shootings, John Allen Muhammad was known as John Allen Williams. He changed his name just in time, it appears, for the media to be able to portray him as some sort of Islamic fundamentalist. But just eleven years before, Williams had served in the Gulf War, demonstrating that he apparently had no reservations about participating in a brutal assault upon a predominantly Islamic nation (www.guardian.co.uk).

* Muhammad has been described by various witnesses as an extremely controlling man who exerted an extraordinary amount of influence over his young accomplice. Their relationship has been described as “drill sergeant/recruit.” Some reports claim that the pair first met in Antigua, while others suggest that they first teamed up in Tacoma. No reports have offered much insight into how or why this odd couple became partners (www.guardian.co.uk).

* Muhammad was not at first booked on murder charges, but rather on charges of harassing his ex-wife two years earlier.

* As previously noted, Malvo entered the United States illegally. Not long before the sniper killings began, he was detained by the INS, who were aware of his status as an illegal immigrant. Strangely though, he was subsequently released. Under normal circumstances, Malvo would have been deported.

* It is asserted by the police that someone claiming to be the sniper told them in a telephone conversation that they should “take him seriously,” and that if they had any doubts about that, they should “check with the people in Montgomery.” If this conversation did in fact take place, the most logical conclusion to draw would be that the sniper was referring to Montgomery County, Maryland, where six of the sniper’s victims were shot. But for some inexplicable reason, police immediately focused their attention on Montgomery, Alabama, where they claimed to have connected the sniper killings to a seemingly unrelated robbery/murder that was committed with a handgun of a caliber not known to have been in the possession of either Muhammad or Malvo. Among the unanswered questions raised by that unexpected turn of events: why did investigators turn their attention to Alabama? why did they zero in on that particular unsolved crime? and how were they able to suddenly identify a previously unidentified fingerprint?

* The *L.A. Times* reported that there were a number of items in the suspects’ car at the time of their arrest that seem a little out of place in a homeless drifter’s vehicle. In addition to the (planted?) Bushmaster rifle, scope and bipod, there was a Sony laptop computer, a pair of two-way radios, and - as one might expect to find - a global positioning system (www.latimes.com).

* On October 30, 2002 the *New York Times* reported that “State and federal investigators said today that John Muhammad had been talking to them for more than an hour on the day of his arrest in the sniper shootings, explaining the roots of his anger, when the United States attorney for Maryland told them to deliver him to Baltimore to face federal weapons charges and forcing them to end their interrogation.” The investigators claimed that Muhammad had waived his right to an attorney and was talking freely when federal prosecutor Thomas Di Biagio shut their interrogation down. Di Biagio claimed that he was acting on orders from the White House and the US Justice Department, though both seem to have distanced themselves from Di Biagio’s actions. Investigators claim that they felt confident that they could have gotten a confession out of Muhammad. Federal officials claimed, rather remarkably, that they weren’t really interested in a confession. An unnamed “senior federal law enforcement official” was quoted as saying: “Tell me what more we need from them? We have the ballistics. We don’t need the confession.” But was it really a confession that federal officials were worried that the investigators might hear? Or was it something else? Whatever it was, they won’t be hearing it now: “since then Muhammad has not talked to investigators.”

* The *Independent Online* noted in passing, without elaboration, that Muhammad’s ready supply of cash may have been due to a “combination of odd jobs and crimes that included human smuggling.” Is that what Muhammad’s rather mysterious travels were really all about? And if so, on whose behalf was he working? (www.iol.co.za).

* Clearly there was someone, or some entity, bankrolling Muhammad’s activities. Who were his hidden benefactors? The media avoided the issue entirely or instead they attempted to link Muhammad to some sort of “terrorist” organization, although it isn’t likely that many fingers will be pointed at his most likely benefactor: that world-wide terrorist organization that we all know and love as the CIA. Former investigative reporter, Jim Rarey, has looked into Muhammad’s criminal history and discovered that none of the alleged sniper’s past arrests appear in the FBI’s national database. Rarey has also raised questions about the ease with which Muhammad has avoided prosecution for his crimes. The obvious inference is that “the government for some reason was protecting Muhammad.” (www.worldnewsstand.net).

It is important to remember that Malvo was a kid who had been victimized throughout the entirety of his brief stay here on planet Earth. Born onto the mean streets of Jamaica, in a land ruled by violent drug lords, and apparently abandoned by his father, Malvo survived a childhood that no kid should have to endure. Smuggled into the States in the hold of a cargo ship, in the hopes of finding a better life, Malvo found nothing but further victimization and despair — at the hands of a man named John Allen Muhammad.

Through it all, Malvo remained — as friends and acquaintances have told reporters — an intelligent, thoughtful, unerringly polite and friendly kid. Malvo was convicted in Virginia of two charges on December 18, 2003 and sentenced to life in prison without parole. On October 10, 2006, Lee Malvo plead guilty to 6 counts of murder in Maryland and was sentenced to 6 life terms without parole.

John Allen Muhammad was found guilty on November 17, 2003 and sentenced to death.

On May 6, 2008, it was revealed that Muhammad asked prosecutors in a letter to help him end legal appeals of his conviction and death sentence “so that you can murder this innocent black man.” An appeal filed by Muhammad’s defense lawyers in April 2008 cited evidence of brain damage that may render Muhammad incompetent to make legal decisions, and that he should not have been allowed to represent himself at his Virginia trial.

David McGowan is the author of *Derailing Democracy and Understand the F-Word: American Fascism and the Politics of Illusion* and is also the administrator of the website *The Center for an Informed America*.



Montgomery Co. Maryland Police Chief Charles Moose seen here at a 2002 press conference

The Rise and Fall of Charles Moose

By JIM RAREY

He was riding the crest of a tidal wave of favorable publicity. He was a much sought after speaker and honored guest at function after function. His name was mentioned as the possible first black Director of the FBI. A book deal had been signed and Hollywood was considering a movie and his face graced the covers of national magazines. His name is Charles A. Moose and it was the best time of his life. It all stemmed from his command of the task force that finally arrested two suspects in the D.C. area sniper attacks.

As new information has come to light and glossed over facts are recalled, the question now becomes not “how many lives were saved by the arrest of the sniper suspects?” but “how many lives were unnecessarily lost because of Chief Moose?”

It now appears the official story on the identification of John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo as the D.C. area snipers and their arrest on October 24, 2002 is nothing but a contrived cover story for what really happened.

We would probably be stuck with most of the official story had not leaks come from the task force and particularly from the Montgomery Police Department. Moose had managed to break the “code of silence” said to exist among police officers when he “double-crossed” the patrol officers and their union leaders in contract negotiations after the arrests.

The union claimed that Moose had the information on Mohammad and Malvo earlier than acknowledged which he withheld thus endangering the safety of police officers on the case, as well as people on the streets. It tried to include a clause in the new contract requiring such information be furnished as soon as available. A watered down provision was ultimately included.

Moose further antagonized his police when, according to union president Walt Bader he opposed raises for the rank and file while himself getting a huge raise to over \$160,000 per year making him the highest paid chief in the area. The rank and file got a 2% raise.

An ATF agent member of the task force revealed that Moose had ordered that officers who checked cars following each shooting were to wave cars by if the drivers were minorities or females and to search only cars with white male drivers behind the wheel. This despite several eyewitness accounts (never made public) of suspects in a dark sedan who were either black or Hispanic in appearance; Moose “tossed” those reports implying they were bad witnesses.

One Montgomery officer (who understandably wishes to remain nameless) says he knows that Moose personally was aware of the descriptions of Muhammad and Malvo as early as Oct. 21st the day before the last victim was killed.

It was also disclosed that Moose secretly dispatched a team of undercover agents to stake out Muhammad’s ex-wife’s house two days before he was captured, according to journalist Paul Sperry. That would have been on Oct. 22nd, the day of the last killing and one day before Moose claims the two became suspects. The stakeout team was sworn to secrecy.

In the late evening of Oct. 23rd (about 6:30PM) Moose authorized the information on the two to be posted on bulletin boards at the various police stations. However he ordered no radio traffic to keep the media from finding out. Nevertheless a reporter somehow got the information and it was made public on radio and TV, resulting in the tip that culminated in the arrests.

Moose and Muhammad had served in the Oregon National Guard at the same time but in different units in Portland. Moose claims they never met. Can we take that at face value, now that we have proof Moose lied about several important aspects of the case?

Why, after shooting deaths by the same rifle were confirmed in other states didn’t the FBI take over as the lead agency? By leaving Moose in charge, police were led on a wild goose chase looking for a white man driving a white van or truck. Members of the task force, presumably including the FBI, knew there were credible eyewitness reports to the contrary.

Moose’s timeline about what he and the FBI knew and when they knew it is contradicted by subsequent information.

Robert Holmes, Muhammad’s ex-army buddy became convinced that Muhammad was the sniper after FBI employee Linda Franklin was killed on Tues. Oct. 14th. The next day (Oct. 15th) he called the Tacoma office of the FBI saying he knew the identity of the sniper and asked to talk to an agent. He was told an agent would call him back shortly. One or two days later (on Oct. 16th or 17th) an agent did call Holmes. Holmes gave him all the information that Moose claims was not obtained until an in person interview on Oct. 22nd.

In the affidavit that supported the arrest

warrant for Muhammad, furnished by an ATF agent, an apparent attempt was made to obscure the time line. The affidavit stated some of the information in it came from an FBI interview of Holmes “on or about October 21st”.

The convergence of the paths of Moose and Muhammad in Montgomery County, Maryland becomes more problematic when Moose’s background in Portland is examined.

For the first 15 or so years of Moose’s career in the Portland, Oregon Police Department starting as a beat cop, he was known for his hypersensitivity about his black race and for a touch of misogyny. However his fortunes climbed upward after he divorced his black wife and acquired a Caucasian one with political connections.

He enrolled at Portland State University (PSU) and in near record time acquired Masters and PhD degrees in Urban Studies. Shortly after obtaining his PhD, Moose was appointed Chief of Police by Portland Mayor Vera Katz. Both Moose and Katz generated some notoriety during Moose’s tenure and after he left.

Moose mounted an aggressive program to eliminate racial profiling in the Portland police department. His efforts received national publicity when Attorney General Janet Reno traveled to Portland to give Moose and his efforts recognition. Reno also recommended Moose to Montgomery County, Maryland when the chief position became vacant as the county was fighting a lawsuit by the NAACP over racial profiling by Montgomery County police.

During the same time frame, Moose was involved in at least four confrontations with private citizens over racial matters for which he was later forced to apologize. He also was required to undergo counseling for anger management.

Moose spent 23 years on the Portland Police Force from 1975 through 1998, the last five years as chief. From 1987 to 1998 Moose also served in the Oregon Air National Guard. The arrested sniper suspect, John Allen Muhammad also served in the Oregon Army National Guard at the same Portland base during 1994 and 1995 although in a different unit. Moose says as far as he knows their paths never crossed.

When Moose took the Chief’s job at Montgomery County in 1999 he also joined the D.C. Air National Guard with the rank of major. By May of 2000 he had become commander of the D.C. Air National Guard’s security forces squadron at Andrews Air Force Base.

The 60 service members in the squadron are responsible protecting the F-16 fighter aircraft of the Guard’s 113th Wing at Andrews as well as maintaining equipment and runways. Moose and the squadron worked many hours after the 9/11 attacks supporting the F-16’s that patrolled the skies over Washington, D.C. after the Pentagon was hit.

Inexplicably, no fighters were scrambled from Andrews on Sept. 11 until after the Pentagon was hit more than an hour after it was known four planes had been hijacked and both towers of the WTC had been hit. Supposedly there are F-16’s ready to scramble at all times. Someone should ask Major Moose if he has heard an acceptable explanation for the inaction at Andrews.

Moose’s personal character took a beating in the controversy over large fees he would be receiving from a book deal and a movie about the sniper campaign. The Montgomery County Ethics Commission ruled that accepting those fees would be a violation of the county’s ethics rules. Moose countered by hiring a high priced law firm to handle an appeal of the ruling. He eventually resigned as chief rather than give up the money.

Moose left a lot of questions unanswered about what (on the face of it) appears to be deliberate obstruction of justice.

On June 18, 2003 Moose resigned from the Montgomery County Police. The Air Force ordered him to active duty where he served as the Squadron Commander of the 113th Security Forces Squadron, DC Air National Guard, United States Air Force until 2005. While Moose served with that unit, he deployed to Operation Katrina and served as military liaison and adviser to the New Orleans Police Department in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Moose was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and served as a Security Forces Officer in Hawaii.

On May 1, 2006 Moose joined the Honolulu Police Department. After graduating from the Honolulu Police Academy in November 2006, Moose proudly became a rookie member of the Honolulu Police Department. Oh how the mighty have fallen.

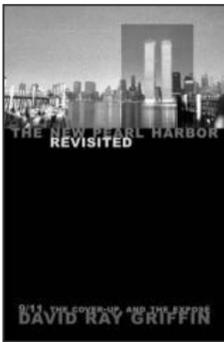
Jim Rarey is a freelance writer based in Romulus, Michigan. He is a former newspaper editor and investigative reporter, a retired customs administrator and accountant, and a student of history and the U.S. Constitution.



Book Review

The New Pearl Harbor Revisited:
9/11, the Cover-Up, and the Exposé

by David Ray Griffin



In 2004, David Ray Griffin published *The New Pearl Harbor: Disturbing Questions about the Bush Administration and 9/11*. Translated into several languages, it helped spark a worldwide movement demanding “9/11 truth.” Even as it became increasingly outdated, it continued to be widely cited as the best introduction to the issues.

Griffin has now written *The New Pearl Harbor Revisited*, which provides a chapter-by-chapter updating of the information provided in that earlier book. It shows that the case against the official account constructed by independent researchers — who now include architects, engineers, physicists, pilots, politicians, and former military officers — is far stronger than it was in 2004, leaving no doubt that 9/11 was a false-flag operation, designed to give the Bush-Cheney administration a pretext to attack oil-rich Muslim nations.

Taken together, these two books provide everything one needs to make an informed decision about 9/11 — whether one is a journalist, a political leader, a religious leader, or an ordinary citizen concerned about truth, democracy, and the rule of law.

ENDORSEMENTS

“Citizens in many countries are waging a war on the cover-up of the basis for the so-called war on terror — this basis being the official interpretation of the 9/11 attacks. Along with the Internet, which has equipped both public figures and ordinary citizens to wage this war on the cover-up, David Ray Griffin has revealed dozens of omissions, distortions, and contradictions in the official story in a way that provides undeniable evidence of its falsity. *The New Pearl Harbor Revisited* presents a powerful exposé of the false narrative that has been driving the mainstream political agenda since 9/11. It is now up to politicians and journalists around the world to expose this truth to our peoples.” — **Yukihisa Fujita, member of the House of Councilors, the Diet of Japan**

“With this work, Dr. Griffin cements his place as the preeminent spokesperson for the growing number of people who demand answers to an expanding list of questions about 9/11. . . . Even those members of the 9/11 Truth Movement who have immersed themselves thoroughly in the subject will find new information here, presented in the precise and very readable style Dr. Griffin has brought to each of his books. . . . Absent a revival of investigative

journalism — a dim prospect at best, in view of the media ownership concentration — books like this one, arming the informed citizen with solid information and providing a basis for demanding direct action, appear to be our best hope.” — **Shelton F. Lankford, Lt. Col. US Marine Corps (Ret.)**

“President Bush and Vice President Cheney have many questions to answer in light of this book. This time they should have to testify separately and under oath. Unlike their testimony at the 9/11 Commission, behind closed doors, this should be open testimony.” — **Jesse Ventura, Governor of Minnesota, 1999-2003**

“You and I, along with all citizens of the world, are victims of a heinous crime. The conspiracy that generated the Twin Tower photo-op, blamed the 9/11 attacks on Arab Muslims, and misdirected truth-seekers by destruction of evidence and willful misrepresentation is masterfully exposed in this book.” — **Lynn Margulis, Distinguished University Professor, Department of Geosciences, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and National Medal of Science recipient**

“The 9/11 Commissioners evidently likened themselves to circus workers, cleaning up after the (Republican) elephant. They did a very sloppy job, making it easy to see that 9/11 was an inside job. The contrary view — that the 9/11 attacks were perpetrated by Arab Muslims — has been the source of innumerable evils, which threaten to destroy our country and the world itself. David Griffin’s *New Pearl Harbor Revisited* contains everything needed by Congress and the press to see through the most massive crime and cover-up in our history.” — **Edward Asner, actor and citizen**

“David Ray Griffin has again painstakingly laid bare the many lingering questions and inconsistencies of the official story regarding the horrific attacks of September 11, 2001.” — **Monica Gabrielle, widow of Richard Gabrielle, who was killed at WTC2 on 9/11/01, and member of the Family Steering Committee for the 9/11 Commission**

ORDERING INFORMATION

The New Pearl Harbor Revisited can be purchased for \$20 at bookstores or Interlink Books (1-800-238-LINK) or for \$13.60 at Amazon.com

Don't Weep for Me America

by Mark Watterson

Mark Watterson has achieved a stunning success with his first book. *Don't Weep for Me America* is an eminently readable and engaging history. Watterson takes us from inside Plato's cave, where we had been enthralled by shadows, and leads us into the sunlight to reveal the actors behind the scenes.

By combining historical and literary analysis, of *Democracy in America* by Alexis de Tocqueville, *The Prince*, by Niccolò Machiavelli, as well as George Orwell's *1984*, Watterson is able to weave a coherent and revealing alternative to the schoolbook version of American history we were all taught. The difference being that Watterson's version has the ring of truth.

The book is not without its flaws. It could have benefited from additional editing, and the references to the 2008 presidential primary campaign unnecessarily make the book seem dated. But in spite of these blemishes the book is a valuable tool for anyone interested in waking his fellow Americans from their slumber. *Don't Weep for Me America* would make a fine holiday gift for somnolent friends and family.



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“Few men have been desperate enough to attack openly, and barefaced, the liberties of a free people. Such avowed conspirators can rarely succeed. . . . Even when the enterprise is begun and visible, the end must be hid, or denied. It is the business and policy of Traitors, so to disguise their treason with plausible names, and so to recommend it with popular and bewitching colors, that they themselves shall be adored, while their work is detested, and yet carried on by those that detest it.

False cases will be stated, to justify wicked counsel. They will be ever contriving and forming wicked and dangerous projects, to make the people poor, and themselves rich; well knowing that dominion follows property; that where there are wealth and power, there will be always crowds of servile dependents.

They will engage their country in ridiculous, expensive, fantastical wars, to keep the minds of men in continual hurry and agitation, and under constant fears and alarms; and, by such means, deprive them both of leisure and inclination to look into public misarranges. Men, on the contrary, will, instead of such inspection, be disposed to fall into all measures offered, seemingly, for their defence, and will agree to every wild demand made by those who are betraying them.”

— *Cato's Letters*; Number 17; Saturday, February 18, 1720 (*Cato's Letters* were our Founding Father's inspiration, long before Thomas Paine, for recognizing tyranny and declaring independence).

History's Lessons

NATO, Propaganda Due and Gladio

BY EMILE SCHEPERS - PEOPLE'S WEEKLY WORLD

When NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization) was founded after World War II, its first secretary general, British general Lord Ismay, succinctly stated its real, original purpose: “To keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down.” In other words, NATO was supposed to be an instrument not for spreading democracy, but for maintaining geopolitical hegemony in Europe by the Western capitalist states. Very soon, of course, the idea of keeping the Germans “down” was scrapped, and Germany became a major actor in NATO military matters.

But now NATO is being repackaged for the media as a sort of organization of world crusaders for democracy. New NATO members have been recruited from former socialist states and former member states of the Soviet Union, under the slogan of “protecting” those countries’ freedom. NATO participated in the destruction of Yugoslavia and in the Gulf War and Afghanistan, and now may recruit Georgia, which is pretty far from the “North Atlantic.” It is no coincidence that the pattern of new and prospective NATO states forms a close ring around Russia, with an interesting proximity to major oil pipelines.

While our corporate media paint a pretty picture of NATO, its real history shows it to be much closer to Lord Ismay's depiction of a grouping aimed at issues of power, not democracy.

A particularly sinister aspect of NATO was what came to be called Operation Gladio (“gladius” means “sword” in Latin), for its Italian manifestation. This was (and probably still is) a NATO-sponsored top secret “stay behind” program, operating under various names in all the NATO countries and in several neutral ones, including Finland, Switzerland and Sweden. The official purpose was that if the USSR and its allies would some day overrun Western Europe (a thing that never happened, and was never going to happen), there would be clandestine networks of military and civil personnel who could disrupt, attack and eventually drive out the Soviet forces.

In reality Operation Gladio became a mechanism whereby fascist and criminal elements could be secretly mobilized, not against a foreign invasion, but against progressive and labor forces within each country. To this day, there has not been a full public airing of just exactly what arrangements were made under Gladio in every NATO country.

But we do know something about what Gladio did in Italy, and it has nothing to do with democracy, freedom or the rule of law.

In Italy, the original Gladio formed its clandestine networks on the basis of old



Italy's version of 9/11: the NATO/Gladio terrorist bombing at the Central Station of Bologna on the morning of August 2, 1980, which killed 85 people and wounded more than 200.

fascists (Mussolini leftovers) and their younger imitators, the Mafia and other criminal organizations, and the extreme right wing of the Roman Catholic Church, including the well known organization Opus Dei. It had a close link to a corrupt Masonic lodge, Propaganda Due (or P2) to which key military and civilian officials belonged. Funding came partly from the CIA.

When Osama bin Laden was just a callow youth, the Gladio-P2 network carried out bombing campaigns which they then blamed on the far left. The idea of this “strategy of tension” was to maintain a high level of fear and uncertainty in the population, which would lead people to reject voting for the then-huge Italian Communist Party (PCI), and that might make a right-wing coup possible. Only the most violent of many such actions was the 1969 Piazza Fontana bombing in Milan, which killed 17, and the 1980 bombing of the train station in Bologna, in which 85 innocent civilians died. There may have been a connection to the kidnapping and murder of Prime Minister Aldo Moro in 1978 as well: Moro had been working toward a “grand alliance” of his Christian Democratic Party with the PCI. He was killed by ultra-leftist terrorists, but Gladio sometimes manipulated such people and encouraged their terrorism, because it helped the “strategy of tension.”

The Italian setup metastasized into other countries, building links with dictatorships like that of Argentina's Jorge Videla and Chile's Augusto Pinochet, and leading to terrorist actions all over the world.

When the relationship between Propaganda Due and Gladio came to light, in the wake

of the huge Vatican banking scandal (Banco Ambrosiano) which forms part of the plot of the movie “Godfather III,” there was a wave of indignation in and beyond Italy. When it was discovered that the CIA was funding much of the Gladio-type activity, and, along with Britain's MI6, was participating in planning functions, Italian authorities asked for clarification from the George H.W. Bush and Clinton administrations, which to date have not been given.

The NATO “stay behind” networks have been involved in many other undemocratic actions in the NATO countries and beyond, including massacres of leftist protesters in Turkey, the 1967 “colonels’ coup” in Greece, and, possibly, the assassination of African freedom fighters against Portuguese colonialism, Amílcar Cabral and Eduardo Mondlane. In the former West Germany, the US and the Adenauer government did not shrink from working with Gen. Reinhard Gehlen's secret network of former (?) Nazis when setting up equivalent structures.

We now see NATO incorporating more and more countries which are many long miles from the “North Atlantic” region. The pretext is to defend democracy against outside threats, but the reality is that the point of NATO's sword is aimed at democratic and left-wing forces within the countries in which it establishes itself, as well as at economic and military rivals.

NATO is not a force for democracy, but its opposite. And far from being an organization for fighting terrorism, NATO itself stands accused of fomenting terrorism. It is time for it to go.

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Latin America Unites Against Neocons

Philip Goldberg for interfering in Bolivia's domestic affairs and supporting the right-wing rebels. The State Department's spokesman Sean McCormack, whose snottiness is unprecedented for a spokesperson for America's seat of foreign diplomacy, responded by expelling Bolivia's ambassador. McCormack had earlier joked that Russia could send warships to Venezuela if it could find any that could make it that far. In a side quarrel, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reportedly upbraided British neo-con and pro-Israel Foreign Secretary David Miliband by stating “who are you to fucking lecture me?”

Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, in solidarity with Morales and reacting to yet another CIA-planned coup against him after an April, 2002 coup organized by then-US ambassador Charles Shapiro failed, ordered US ambassador Patrick Duddy to leave Venezuela. The State Department responded by expelling Venezuela's ambassador in Washington. In an act coordinated between Treasury Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Stuart Levey and the US Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), headed by Adam Szubin, the assets of two current and one former Venezuelan officials were frozen after accusations that they aided and abetted drug smuggling and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which is attempting to oust US narco-fascists from power in Colombia.

Levey and Szubin named Hugo Armando Carvajal Barrios, the Director of Venezuela's Military Intelligence Directorate (DGIM), Henry de Jesus Rangel Silva, Director of Venezuela's Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services (DISIP), and Ramon Emilio Rodriguez Chacin, the recently-departed Minister of Interior and Justice in the freeze order. The three were named by the Bush regime after DGIM and DISIP uncovered a plot by CIA-based retired Venezuelan military officers to seize the Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas blow up Chavez's presidential aircraft, and kill Chavez and his aides. The coup organization was identified as the “2-D Movement” or the “December 2 Movement.”

A spokesperson for Venezuelan National Assembly described the plotters as some of the same military officers who participated in the CIA-backed 2002 coup against Chavez. The charges by Chavez came as Morales said

the United States was behind the explosion of a natural gas pipeline from Bolivia to Brazil. The charges of American involvement in terrorist plans and attacks in Latin America came while Americans were being subjected to a gross use of another anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks to whip up nationalistic fervor.

Chavez also agreed with Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner that the trial in Miami of Guido Antonini, who is accused of attempting to deliver a suitcase of cash from Venezuela to help the presidential campaign of Kirchner in Argentina was an attempt to “trash” both Chavez and Kirchner. The Venezuelan and Argentine leaders are both ardent critics of neocons, their international free trade and financial contrivances, and the Bush regime. The Justice Department of Attorney General Michael Mukasey is using the Miami cash-for-Argentina trial to damage Chavez and his Interior Minister Tarek el-Aissami. El-Aissami's only crime appears to be that his father was born in Syria, which, of course, for neocons in their myopic and archaic view of the world, is tantamount to having a direct link to terrorism.

Argentina has shown solidarity with both Venezuela and Bolivia in their showdowns with the United States. However, disgust with neocon-occupied Washington does not end with Venezuela, Bolivia, and Argentina. Paraguayan President Fernando Lugo extended his full support to Morales in his confrontation with the right-wing provincial secessionists. Honduran President Manuel Zelaya refused to accept the credentials of the new US ambassador to Tegucigalpa in solidarity with Morales and Chavez. Zelaya announced solidarity with Nicaragua, Cuba, Bolivia, and Venezuela in their showdowns with the United States.

Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega also supported Bolivia and Venezuela in expelling the American ambassadors and announced that Nicaragua, like Venezuela, was prepared to establish closer military links with Russia. Ortega particularly supported Bolivia's sending Goldberg packing, saying the US envoy had interfered in Bolivia's internal affairs.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Samuel Santos also charged that Washington was trying to undermine Nicaragua's government by pressuring international organizations to cancel aid packages to the country. Nicaragua also recognized the independence of South Ossetia

and Abkhazia from the US- and Israeli-backed Republic of Georgia.

After El Salvador presidential candidate for the progressive Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) Mauricio Funes visited Argentina to meet with Kirchner, the neocon media began to claim that Funes was being funded by Chavez of Venezuela. The neocons, bereft of any hard evidence of “plots,” are always apt to concoct elaborate conspiracy theories that take in everyone whom they have targeted in their political sights.

The signs that the Bush regime and the neocons are on a major political offensive in Latin America is also demonstrated by the discovery in Guatemalan Vice President Rafael Espada's office in Guatemala City of three hidden microphones — one installed in a telephone, one in a calculator, and the third in a reception room. Guatemala's progressive president Alvaro Colom has expressed solidarity with Bolivia and Venezuela. Ecuador's President Rafael Correa, who has faced CIA-backed secessionists in the Guayaquil area, also stood in solidarity with Morales and Chavez. Correa has ordered the United States Air Force to vacate a military air base at Manta next year, and he accused the United States military of assisting Colombia in cross-border raids into Ecuador. Correa said if any evidence emerged of US diplomats violating Ecuador's sovereignty, they would also be expelled.

Peru's President Alan Garcia also backed Morales against the secessionists as did Uruguayan President Tabare Vazquez.

Latin America's political, military, and economic powerhouse Brazil also warned against any attempt by secessionists in Bolivia to overthrow Morales. Earlier, Brazil and Argentina announced they were eliminating the US dollar as an international monetary exchange medium. Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's foreign policy adviser, Marco Aurelio Garcia, told UPI that Brazil would oppose any rival or unconstitutional government in Bolivia. There are reports that US “paramilitaries” are active in fomenting unrest in both Bolivia and Venezuela.

Washington has also revived the US Navy's Fourth Fleet, to be based in Jacksonville, Florida, a move that Cuba, Venezuela, and Bolivia claim is a return to US “gunboat diplomacy.”

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Cheney's Incredible and Deadly Lie

CHENEY from p. 1

In short, it was this lie that sealed the nation's fate, and sent us to war in Iraq. By lying to such an influential figure in Congress, Cheney not only may have changed the course of history, but also corrupted the separation of powers with their inherent checks and balances.

Cheney's monumental dishonesty, the news of which has been buried under the current meltdown of the nation's economy, did not strike me as a topic for a Constitution Day speech. But a realistic discussion of the working of the separations of powers did seem a fitting topic, for college students need to understand the basics of our system. After we remind ourselves of those basics, Cheney's great lie can be viewed not only as a great immorality and violation of the criminal code, but also and more fundamentally as the significant breach of his oath of office to protect and defend the Constitution that it is.

Our Constitutional Separation of Powers Historians, not to mention contemporary historical documents, establish that no issue was more important to the founders of our national government than that of what its structure should be. Accordingly, in anticipation of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia during the summer of 1787, James Madison of Virginia plowed through historical accounts of governments and concluded that there are three basic forms of government: monarchy (the one), oligarchy (an elite few) and democracy (the many). Each form, however, had serious drawbacks.

As a result, Madison sought to take the best of each to create a "republic" — as had been done in varying degrees with many of the American colonies. Republics, of course, had been around a long time, for they were the forms employed by the Greeks and Romans. Thus, the republic was a form of government those who were meeting in Philadelphia well understood, in which sovereignty resides with the people who elect agents to represent them in the political decision-making process.

Madison's republic combined elements of each type of government, in a mixing of forms. It featured an executive who incorporated the strength of monarchy without the evils of a King; a Senate that embodied the wisdom of an oligarchy; and a House that balanced the self-interest of such elites with a throng of representatives who spoke for the people of the nation.

Many delegates at the founding convention were mistrustful of a pure democracy since none had worked well in the past; moreover, the country was too large and diverse to directly involve everyone. Later, Madison nicely explained the differences in *Federalist No. 14*: "[I]n a democracy, the people meet and exercise the government in person; in a republic they assemble and administer it by their representatives and agents. A democracy consequently will be confined to a small spot. A republic may be extended over a large region."

Most importantly, Madison's structure had three separate branches of the government — legislative, executive and judicial — and each branch was empowered to check and balance the others, and thereby diffuse power.

Madison's system, however, has not worked as designed even in the best of times, not to mention when there is an all-powerful Vice President hell-bent on gaming the system.

The Reality of Separation of Powers

An article in the June 2006 *Harvard Law Journal* — Daryl J. Levinson and Richard H. Pildes, "Separation of Parties, Not Powers," *Harvard Law Journal* (Jun. 2006) 2311 — provides one of the better analyses out there of the real-world workings of the separation of powers, and their accompanying checks and balances. Professors Levinson and Pildes argue that Madison's vision of separation of powers has, in fact, been trumped in America by political parties. Their point is well taken, but as I see it their conclusion is far more applicable to the Republicans than the Democrats.

"The success of American democracy overwhelmed the Madisonian conception of separation of powers almost from the outset, preempting the political dynamics that were supposed to provide each branch with a 'will of its own' that would propel departmental '[a]mbition ... to counteract ambition'."

Levinson and Pildes explain. This, in turn, they argue, made the underlying theory of the government — separation of powers — largely "anachronistic."

When they looked at government, however, they found that when different political parties control the different branches — creating a divided government — then the parties working through those branches still do operate as Madison had hoped. Why? By sifting through the work of noted political scientists, Levinson and Pildes have concluded that it is not on behalf of protecting the institutional powers that the checking and balancing occurs; rather, it is through the influence of party politics operating through that divided branch.

I believe, based on the record (and as someone who worked on the Hill when Democrats controlled both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue) that Levinson and Pildes have it half right.

Democrats under unified government (i.e., when Democrats control both Congress and the White House) have been remarkably institutionally-minded, and the separation of powers has remained viable. On the other hand, conservative Republicans — as I have explained in my book *Broken Government* (just out in paperback too) — easily place party loyalty before the responsibilities of the governmental institution in which they serve. The first six years of the Bush/Cheney Administration, for example, were a travesty in Republican denial of institutional responsibilities. In contrast, there is a long list of Democratic House and Senate Chairmen who have a on-going history of refusing to be the rubber-stamps of Democratic Presidents.

For instance, unlike in the situation where Cheney lied to former Majority Leader Arney, when both the Democratic House and Senate suspected that President Lyndon Johnson had lied to them about the incident(s) in the Gulf of Tonkin that provoked Congress to authorize the war in Viet Nam, they took action. In contrast, Republicans have not acted on Cheney's lie to Arney — and surely *Washington Post* reporter Barton Gellman is not the first person to learn about this lie.

Why Cheney Is Not Likely To Be Held Accountable

Those of us who follow these matters have long known — and I have written before — that it is Dick Cheney who is molding his hapless and naive president to his will, by effecting endless expansions of Presidential powers, and acting upon Cheney's total disregard of the separation of powers.

Cheney does not seem to believe the Constitution applies to "real leaders," who do whatever they believe they must do. Nor does he believe in the separation of powers. Indeed, Cheney absurdly claims he is himself part of the Legislative Branch because he is the presiding officer of the Senate — though, in practice, that position exists only to break tie votes. It has long been clear that Cheney has been corruptly bridging the constitutional separation of powers throughout the Bush/Cheney presidency.

If Arney is right, Dick Cheney has not only behaved improperly, but also criminally: In addition, when lying to Arney, Cheney clearly committed a "high crime or misdemeanor" in his blocking the Constitution's checks and balances from stopping our march into Iraq. During the debates that took place during the Constitution's ratification conventions, it was specifically stated that lying to Congress about matters of war would be an impeachable offense. Congress has also made it a crime.

Nonetheless, nothing is likely to happen to Cheney, for Congress is too busy dealing with the disastrous economy that he and Bush are leaving behind as they head for the door. No one seems inclined to hold Cheney responsible, and he appears totally unconcerned about the wrath of history. Yet in lying even to those in his own party, about reasons to go to war, he has sunk to a low level few have reached, and it is no hyperbole to call his actions treasonous to the structure and spirit of the Republic.

John W. Dean was Chief Minority Counsel to the Judiciary Committee of the US House of Representatives, and Associate Deputy Attorney General of the US. He served as Richard Nixon's White House lawyer. His newest book is Broken Government: How Republican Rule Destroyed the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches.

FREE PRESS from p. 1

the free press parallel one another. When the press failed to ask to right questions after a coup d'etat involving top echelons of US intelligence, law enforcement, and the military replaced President John F. Kennedy in a well-planned assassination on November 22, 1963, it did not begin to make up for its failure until after Kennedy's replacement, Lyndon Johnson, plunged the United States into an insane war in Vietnam. The media continued to display proper Fourth Estate credentials during the investigation of Johnson's successor Richard Nixon for his unconstitutional and illegal actions in the Watergate scandal.

However, the media began to fail in its responsibilities when President Jimmy Carter was forced from office as a result of a secret operation by Vice Presidential candidate George H. W. Bush and Ronald Reagan's campaign manager William Casey to illegally conspire with Iran's mullahs to keep US embassy hostages imprisoned until after the November 1980 election. The secret mission of the *SS Poet* to Iran with spare parts and weapons for Iran and its subsequent sinking by "third party" Israel went unnoticed by the media. The media would largely roll over during Reagan's secret wars in Nicaragua, weapons dealing with Iran, and the occupations of Lebanon and Grenada. The fact that a family friend of Vice President Bush almost assassinated Reagan outside a Washington hotel barely received an even cursory glance save for the skepticism of the late NBC News anchorman John Chancellor. The media would remain comatose when President George H. W. Bush invaded and occupied Panama and gave a "green light" for Saddam Hussein to invade Kuwait.

By the time Bill Clinton became President, the media was coming under the control of an elite few right-wingers who would later push the cause of neo-conservatism: US global dominance into the 21st century. The mega-corporate media would try to drive Clinton out of office over oral sex in the Oval Office. Impeachment hearings and a Senate trial were driven by the GOP's media podestals.

The same corporate media ignored the thefts of two presidential elections, denying the White House to Al Gore and John Kerry. The stage is now set for another theft and the media remains not only asleep but in the final stages of rigor mortis.

WMR has attempted to pattern itself after Drew Pearson's and Jack Anderson's syndicated muckraking column, "The Washington Merry-Go-Round." Anderson faced a constant hostile mainstream media, having his column relegated for many years to the comics page of *The Washington Post*, something his critics constantly pointed to when questioning Anderson's veracity. Anderson, like WMR, was accused of making up stories because he rarely identified his sources. Anderson and Pearson faced lawsuit threats by indignant public officials, as has WMR. Anderson had his Washington, DC office ransacked, a fate that has befallen WMR's office. And Anderson faced severe financial problems, something to which WMR can relate. Nixon's "Plumbers Unit" chief G. Gordon Liddy even considered assassinating Anderson for his publications of leaks. This editor has also received such threats, although not from those as august in covert operations as Watergate burglar Liddy.

Anderson took extreme precautions to cover himself from White House, military, FBI, and CIA tails. This editor has grown accustomed to similar measures. On January 31, 1975, Anderson wrote, "I have a sensitive eye and memory for the location of pay phones, and in conversation, my evasive code has become so effective that half the time my own staff doesn't understand my instructions."

Before he experienced financial difficulties stemming from cancellation of his *United Features* syndicated column by a number of newspapers and being dropped from ABC's "Good Morning America's" lineup, Anderson was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. He succumbed to the disease on December 17, 2005. However, Anderson had a unique view

SILENT from p. 3

perceived as requiring courage to merely write something in America is beyond me.

The worst thing is that every time someone says she or he is afraid, or acts afraid to speak or write what she or he is thinking, five more acquaintances become equally scared and silenced.

The corollary, though, is that each time someone forgets or ignores or rejects that fear, five people gain courage the do the same thing.

Now I'm not saying that there aren't people monitoring, and reporting on, what we say. I know our government is busy doing that. I assume that my Internet activities are being monitored by the National Security Agency. I assume my phones are tapped. I assume there was some agent or informant among the fine people at the church last night. But these Stasi wannabes have no power if we don't let them frighten us into silence and inaction.

What I find discouraging is the widespread acceptance, even on the left, of this effort to intimidate us, and the pervasive attitude of fear that has grown up around us. I spent a year and a half living in a truly fascistic society in China, where there are real, concrete threats to

Death of Free Press in America

of the events that would eventually lead to the rooting of a fascist regime in the United States: JFK's assassination, Vietnam, Watergate, the Abscam scam, the October Surprise, Iran-contra, the Savings & Loan debacle, Poppy Bush's Iraq war, the impeachment of Clinton, the theft of the 2000 election, and 9/11. America was always too complicated a nation to pull off a coup, Latin America-style, overnight. The fascist coup began at noon on November 22, 1963 and culminated in the morning of September 11, 2001. Everything in between was prologue for 9/11.

In an April 11, 1980, column, Anderson wrote one of the first exposes about Pakistani nuclear scientist Dr. Abdul Qadeer (AQ) Khan, who would later be discovered as having sold nuclear materials to Libya, Iran, and North Korea. But Anderson added more, "Intelligence sources explained that Pakistan is obligated to share its nuclear capability with Libya and Saudi Arabia, which have provided financial aid to its military and nuclear programs." America's "ally," Saudi Arabia shared in Khan's nuclear secrets bonanza as early as 1980. Is that why Vice President Dick Cheney and George W. Bush were so intent on shutting down the CIA's Brewster Jennings counter-proliferation operation by leaking details to Robert Novak? It is a story that WMR picked up on and ran with 24 years after Anderson first mentioned Pakistan's secret nuclear proliferation network.

And Anderson, like WMR, received his share of grief from the right-wing types, particularly William F. Buckley, the pre-neocon prevaricator and corporate mouthpiece. After being attacked by Buckley for exposing certain politicians to whom Buckley was close, Anderson wrote that Buckley's modus operandi was to call the targets of Anderson's column, get their response, and then claim that Anderson made up the charges. It is a tactic that the neocons and certain faux progressive Internet writers have long used against WMR. In his rebuttal of Buckley's tactics, Anderson wrote, "This is not to say that colleague Buckley shuns the reporter's chore of grappling with public abuses. Recently, he did a definitive expose of the indifference displayed by the stewardesses and luggage men of Spain's Iberia Airlines, raising a standard to which long-abused jetsetters the world over rallied."

Anderson continued, "And before that, he inveighed forcefully against the purging of Latin and Greek from the American Catholic liturgy and against the playing at Sunday Mass of the vulgar guitar." Buckley had accused Anderson of making up claims of torture of Americans by Chile's military junta because Buckley had received a denial about the torture from US Consul in Santiago Fred Purdy. End-of-story for Buckley. Anderson must have made the whole thing up as a way of making common cause with the Chilean leftist Mirista revolutionaries. In those days, leftist militants were the "Islamofascists" of today.

WMR has always exposed the links of the neocons to one another and their patrons. Anderson did the same with Buckley in writing that "Buckley has materialized in our lives only when we have chanced to blackguard some particular hero of his — Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R-Wis.), Roy Cohn, Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.), E. Howard Hunt."

In WMR's case, we only seem to catch the barbs of the neocons and accusations of "making it up" when we either attack someone like Dick Cheney for paying an escort to take a crap on a glass top table with him underneath reveling in the bowel evacuation, George W. Bush falling down drunk and blaming it on an unchewed pretzel, Bush and Condoleezza Rice staging a bogus Thanksgiving visit to the troops in Baghdad, George Soros practicing "progressive politics" by undercutting the currencies of Third World nations and funding coups against democratically-elected governments, and the Russian-Israeli Mafia, yes, Russian nationals who carry passports issued by the State of Israel, not the Commonwealth of Dominica, in avoiding arrest and prosecution by Russian law enforcement and Interpol.

In fact, Anderson wrote about the Russian-

Israeli Mafia on October 2, 1989, when there was still a Soviet Union. The mob, then-called the "Red Mob," and referred to later by author Robert Friedman as the "Red Mafia," targeted Mikhail Gorbachev's private cooperatives that sprang up during perestroika. The largest foreign link by the Red Mob was to the Soviet Jewish emigre community that multiplied in Brooklyn's Brighton Beach as a result of the effects of Sen. Henry "Scoop" Jackson's (D-Wash.) and Rep. Charles Vanik's (D-Ohio) trade sanctions against the Soviet Union that were tied to the emigration of Soviet Jews, many of whom never went to Israel but came to the United States. The Jackson-Vanik trade sanctions were heartily embraced by the same neocons who are today pushing for war with Russia — a Russia that has declared war on the Russian-Israeli Mafia and its allies.

We now have NBC's heir apparent to Tim Russert, David Gregory, claiming it is not up to the press to challenge the White House. Gregory is a product of fluff TV news in Sacramento. And print journalism credentials? Gregory worked for *The Eagle*, American University's campus newspaper. As to Gregory ever properly covering the collapse of Fannie Mae, there is a slight problem. Gregory's wife is Beth Wilkinon, who also happens to be Fannie Mae's General Counsel.

Conflicts-of-interest were grist for Anderson's mill in Washington, along with whistle blower revelations and leaked classified documents. Gregory and his colleagues fail to understand those underpinnings of investigative journalism. Anderson wrote the following about the press in a January 1, 1981, column a few weeks before Reagan was sworn in as president: "The role of a free press is to give the people an alternative to the official version of things, a rival account of reality, a measure by which to judge the efficacy of rulers and whether the truth is in them." So-called journalists like Gregory should know their job is not to serve as stenographers and echoing yodelers for the White House or any other government or corporate institution, including NBC's parent General Electric.

Anderson continued, "Long before our present political parties existed, the role of the village editor and dissenting pamphleteer — as monitor, arbiter, critic and rival of the politician — was embedded as a fundamental of the American system."

Being a "rival of the politician" does not mean socializing or, as Gregory displayed on television, dancing with them on stage.

Anderson told us the press' role was succinctly stated when "Thomas Jefferson spoke in his eternally repeatable declaration if he had to choose between a government without newspapers and newspapers without a government, he would take his morning paper." With a few exceptions, Jefferson would not have that choice today.

Jack Anderson only late in his career faced the problem of what happens to muckraking journalists as media consolidates under a few owners.

WMR has maintained itself in Washington in the spirit of Anderson and his predecessor with a view that it is important to keep an alternate news channel open from the nation's capital until our nation gets some relief in a Democratic administration. With that possibility looking a bit dimmer with the news about a repeat of the elections thefts of 2000 and 2004 in 2008, WMR is making contingency plans to continue operations but from a more secure, both safety-wise and financial-wise, location. Four or eight more years of neocon rule in Washington will result in even greater losses of our Bill of Rights. The invocation of extra-constitutional measures by a McCain/Palin administration are not only a possibility but a certainty.

WMR does not intend to disappear like the "Washington Merry-Go-Round." We will remain either here in Washington, DC or someplace else to continue to act as the town crier and village pamphleteer in an age of less and less independent media sources.

Wayne Madsen is a Washington based investigative journalist. www.WayneMadsenReport.com

The Land of the Silent and the Home of the Fearful

life and liberty faced by those who stand up and say what they are thinking, and yet sometimes I think that ordinary people I met in China were braver about stating their minds than many, or even most Americans are. I'm not talking here about saying things like that you think the Post Office is dysfunctional, or that you think federal bureaucrats are corrupt or that taxes are too high. I'm talking about questioning the system, or challenging the war, or protesting military spending. Chinese people would tell me all the time that the Chinese Communist Party was a corrupt gang of thugs or that you could not get justice in a Chinese court. Chinese people are closing down factories that short them on their pay. They have rallied in the thousands and burned down police stations when corrupt police have raped, killed and then covered up the death of a young girl. They have marched in massive impromptu protests at the theft of their homes through eminent domain.

If you want to see where we're headed here in America, check out the workplace. There, we Americans have, through years of collective cowardice and unwillingness to stand together in organized labor unions, allowed our constitutional freedoms to be almost completely

erased. Today, an American workplace is more akin to a police state than to a democratic society. Say what you're thinking on the job, and you're liable to lose it. Wear a shirt that says something the boss disagrees with, and you either remove that shirt or you are unemployed. Even that final refuge of free speech, the bumper sticker, can get workers in trouble if the wrong one shows up in the company parking lot. That loss of will and of freedom has in no small way contributed to the loss of jobs and the decline in living standards of American workers.

It's time for all of us to put a stop to this creeping usurpation of our liberties.

The anxious woman who asked her question came up to me after the meeting and said proudly that she would not be afraid, and would start signing on to protest letter-writing and emailing campaigns.

We need lots more like her.

Dave Lindorff is a Philadelphia-based journalist and columnist. His latest book is The Case for Impeachment (St. Martin's Press, 2006 and now available in paperback edition). His work is available at www.thiscantbhappening.net <http://www.thiscantbhappening.net/

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The so-called "Brooks Brothers Riot" in Miami, November 19, 2000, shut-down the hand recount which would have swung the election to Al Gore. The rioters, posing as angry Florida voters, were actually paid Republican Party staffers, many flown down from Washington on Enron and Halliburton corporate jets. Identified in the photo: 1: Tom Pyle, worked for Tom DeLay (R-Tex.); 2: Garry Malphrus, staff director Senate Judiciary subcommittee, now deputy director of the White House Domestic Policy Council; 3: Rory Cooper National Republican Congressional Committee; 4: Kevin Smith, GOP House aide; 5: Steven Brophy, a former GOP Senate aide; 6: Matt Schlapp, House aide and Bush campaign aide, now White House political director; 7: Roger Morse, House aide; 8: Duane Gibson, House Resources Committee; 9: Chuck Royal assistant to Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.); 10: Layna McConkey Peltier, former Senate and House aide.

I Am A Conspiracy Theorist, And Proud Of It!

CONSPIRACY from p. 3

demonization by avoiding discussing theories, and insisting they are just asking questions. Fomer Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura gave a lengthy news conference in Arizona on 9/11/08 about the anomalies in the government's story about 9/11, and he used this tactic. When asked his opinion about what was going on, he insisted he was just asking questions.

This approach is dishonest and ultimately unproductive. It is disingenuous to pretend you don't have any theories just to avoid the dreaded "CT" label. It is also nearly impossible not to have theories about something you have studied extensively; I don't know a single 9/11 Truth activist who doesn't.

It is also unproductive, because we hold back from saying the things we know to be true. Why should we only ask questions when we know some of the answers? Questions require a lot of our audience. They require listeners to come up with the answers themselves, something not everyone has the time or inclination to do. We should state what we know with confidence.

Another defensive measure employed by some in the Truth movement (such as author, David Ray Griffin) is to point out that the government's story is also a conspiracy theory. But that dog won't hunt.

For although it is technically true that any crime involving more than one person is a conspiracy, in general vernacular a "conspiracy theorist" is someone who has a theory about a very specific kind of conspiracy: one operating at the highest levels of our government, or above and outside our government. No one would use the term about someone who suspects their neighbors of planning a bank heist. For all the symmetry and beauty of Griffin's arguments, they are not persuasive to the man on the street.

The more destructive effect of Griffin's efforts is that it gives tacit assent to the meme that to be a conspiracy theorist is a bad thing, something we want to paint our enemies as being. By trying to squirm away from the label, we only create the perception that we agree that it is a shameful thing to be, and can be hurt by that label.

Let's look at how two other groups, who were victims of vicious stereotypes, reclaimed the words used to attack them. Those words are "nigger" and "queer," and today those words no longer carry the punch they once did. African Americans reclaimed "nigger" by using it to refer to each other, as did homosexuals, who took back the epithet "queer."

Borrowing from their example, I hereby announce: I AM A CONSPIRACY THEORIST! I'm proud to be one of the many Americans who have awoken and seen how badly we've been lied to. I'm part of a group that includes the smartest, most courageous, selfless, free-thinking and hard working people I've ever met. I reject those CIA-engineered stereotypes that say that I and my fellow truthers are not the bold, brave, cutting edge change agents that we are.

Put it on a bumper sticker and shout it from the rooftops. Say it loud and say it proud.

There is a conspiracy and I have a theory about it!

Sheila Casey is a DC based journalist. Her work has appeared in The Denver Post, Buzz Flash, Common Dreams and Dissident Voice. She blogs at <http://www.sheilacasey.com>.

It's the Derivatives, Stupid! Why Fannie, Freddie, and AIG Had To Be Bailed Out

DERIVATIVES from p. 4

Head Tim Geithner closed the bailout window to Lehman Brothers, a 158-year-old Wall Street investment firm and major derivatives player. Why? "There is no political will for a federal bailout," said Geithner. Bailing out Fannie and Freddie had created a furor of protest, and the taxpayers could not afford to underwrite the whole quadrillion dollar derivatives bubble. The line had to be drawn somewhere, and this was apparently it.

Or was the Fed just saving its ammunition for AIG? Recent downgrades in AIG's ratings meant that the counterparties to its massive derivatives contracts could force it to come up with \$10.5 billion in additional capital reserves immediately or file for bankruptcy. Treasury Secretary Paulson resisted advancing taxpayer money; but on Monday, September 15, stock trading was ugly, with the S & P 500 registering the largest one-day percent drop since September 11, 2001. Alan Kohler wrote in the Australian Business Spectator:

"[I]t's unlikely to be a slow-motion train wreck this time. With Lehman in liquidation, and Washington Mutual and AIG on the brink, the credit market would likely shut down entirely and interbank lending would cease." ("Lehman End-game," Alan Kohler, *Business Spectator*, Australia, September 2008).

Kohler quoted the September 14 newsletter of Professor Nouriel Roubini, who has a popular website called Global EconMonitor. Roubini warned:

"What we are facing now is the beginning of the unravelling and collapse of the entire shadow financial system, a system of institutions (broker dealers, hedge funds, private equity funds, SIVs, conduits, etc.) that look like banks (as they borrow short, are highly leveraged and lend and invest long and in illiquid ways) and thus are highly vulnerable to bank-like runs; but unlike banks they are not properly regulated and supervised, they don't have access to deposit insurance and don't have access to the lender-of-last-resort support of the central bank."

The risk posed to the system was evidently too great. On September 16, while Barclay's Bank was offering to buy the banking divisions of Lehman Brothers, the Federal Reserve agreed to bail out AIG in return for 80% of its stock. Why the Federal Reserve instead of the US Treasury? Perhaps because the Treasury would take too much heat for putting yet more taxpayer money on the line. The Federal Reserve could do it quietly through its "Open Market Operations," the ruse by which it "monetizes" government debt, turning Treasury bills (government I.O.U.s) into dollars. The taxpayers would still have to pick up the tab, but the Federal Reserve would not have to get approval from Congress first.

Time for a 21st Century New Deal?

Another hole has been plugged in a very leaky boat, keeping it afloat another day; but how long can these stopgap measures be sustained? Professor Roubini maintains:

"The step-by-step, ad hoc and non-holistic approach of Fed and Treasury to crisis management has been a failure. . . . [P]lugging and filling one hole at [a] time is useless when the entire system of levies is collapsing in the perfect financial storm of the century. A much more radical, holistic and systemic approach to crisis management is now necessary." ("Lehman End-game," Alan Kohler, *Business Spectator*, Australia, September 2008).

We may soon hear that "the credit market is frozen" - that there is no money to keep homeowners in their homes, workers gainfully employed, or infrastructure maintained. But this is not true. The underlying source of all money is government credit - our own public credit. We don't need to borrow it from the Chinese or the Saudis or private banks. The government can issue its own credit - the "full faith and credit of the United States." That was the model followed by the Pennsylvania colonists in the eighteenth century, and it worked brilliantly well. Before the provincial government came up with this plan, the Pennsylvania economy was languishing. There was little gold to conduct trade, and the British bankers were charging 8% interest to borrow what was available. The government

lending its own paper scrip. A publicly-owned bank lent the money to farmers at 5% interest. The money was returned to the government, preventing inflation; and the interest paid the government's expenses, replacing taxes. During the period the system was in place, the economy flourished, prices remained stable, and the Pennsylvania colonists paid no taxes at all. (For more on this, see E. Brown, "Sustainable Energy Development: How Costs Can Be Cut in Half," webofdebt.com/articles, November 5, 2007.)

Today's credit crisis is very similar to that facing Herbert Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt in the 1930s. In 1932, President Hoover set up the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) as a federally-owned bank that would bail out commercial banks by extending loans to them, much as the privately-owned Federal Reserve is doing today. But like today, Hoover's ploy failed. The banks did not need more loans; they were already drowning in debt. They needed customers with money to spend and invest. President Roosevelt used Hoover's new government-owned lending facility to extend loans where they were needed most - for housing, agriculture and industry. Many new federal agencies were set up and funded by the RFC, including the HOLC (Home Owners Loan Corporation) and Fannie Mae (the Federal National Mortgage Association, which was then a government-owned agency). In the 1940s, the RFC went into overdrive funding the infrastructure necessary for the US to participate in World War II, setting the country up with the infrastructure it needed to become the world's industrial leader after the war.

The RFC was a government-owned bank that sidestepped the privately-owned Federal Reserve; but unlike the Pennsylvania provincial government, which originated the money it lent, the RFC had to borrow the money first. The RFC was funded by issuing government bonds and re-lending the proceeds. Then as now, new money entered the money supply chiefly in the form of private bank loans. In a "fractional reserve" banking system, banks are allowed to lend their "reserves" many times over, effectively multiplying the amount of money in circulation. Today a system of public banks might be set up on the model of the RFC to fund productive endeavors - industry, agriculture, housing, energy - but we could go a step further than the RFC and give the new public banks the power to create credit themselves, just as the Pennsylvania government did and as private banks do now. At the rate banks are going into FDIC receivership, the federal government will soon own a string of banks, which it might as well put to productive use. Establishing a new RFC might be an easier move politically than trying to nationalize the Federal Reserve, but that is what should properly, logically be done. If we the taxpayers are putting up the money for the Fed to own the world's largest insurance company, we should own the Fed.

Proposals for reforming the banking system are not even on the radar screen of Prime Time politics today; but the current system is collapsing at train-wreck speed, and the "change" called for in Washington may soon be taking a direction undreamt of a few years ago. We need to stop funding the culprits who brought us this debacle at our expense. We need a public banking system that makes a cost-effective credit mechanism available for homeowners, manufacturing, renewable energy, and infrastructure; and the first step to making it cost-effective is to strip out the swarms of gamblers, fraudsters and profiteers now gaming the system.

Ellen Brown, J.D., developed her research skills as an attorney practicing civil litigation in Los Angeles. In *Web of Debt*, her latest book, she turns those skills to an analysis of the Federal Reserve and "the money trust." She shows how this private cartel has usurped the power to create money from the people themselves, and how we the people can get it back. Her eleven books include the bestselling *Nature's Pharmacy*, co-authored with Dr. Lynne Walker, and *Forbidden Medicine*.

Republican Dirty-Trickster Now Runs PPT

REPUBLICAN from p. 3

great way to achieve it," she argues. "Between Freddie, Fannie, Ginnie Mae, FHA, VA and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, the federal government no longer regulates or provides credit to the residential mortgage market - it is the market."

Before the economy goes down the toilet, as some analysts who are predicting a depression now fear, before that final flush, we need to find out how to protect ourselves from the plunge protectors.

George Washington blogs at www.GeorgeWashington.n.blogspot.com

US Economy: Rudderless and Reeling From Direct Hits

US ECONOMY from p. 1

deficits. Goods and services for American markets that US corporations outsource offshore return as imports, which widen the US trade deficit. Moving production offshore reduces US GDP and employment and increases foreign GDP and employment. Moving production offshore reduces the export capacity of the US economy while raising the import bill.

Therefore, how is the trade deficit to be closed? One way is through the dollar's loss in exchange value, which would reduce American consumers' real incomes and leave them too poor to purchase the offshored goods and services.

How is the budget deficit to be closed when jobs are disappearing and GDP (tax base) is being relocated offshore?

Not by higher taxes. Higher taxes are problematic for a recessionary economy in which unemployment, properly measured, is already in double digits (www.shadowstats.com).

Some people have speculated that the budget deficit will be closed by dismantling entitlement programs such as Medicare. However, considering the cost of medical insurance, this would be catastrophic for tens of millions of older Americans.

The more likely avenue will be a raid on private pensions. The Clinton administration's appointee, Alicia Munnell, as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy argued that private pensions should face a capital levy to make up for the fact that their accumulation was tax free. I expect that the federal government, faced with its own bankruptcy, will resurrect this argument, as it will be preferable to printing money like a banana republic or Weimar Germany.

In the 21st century, the US economy has been kept going by debt expansion, not by real income growth. Economists have hyped US productivity growth, but there is no sign that increased productivity has raised family incomes, an indication that there is a problem with the productivity statistics. With consumers overloaded with debt and the value of their most important asset - housing - falling, the American consumer will not be leading a recovery.

A country that had intelligent leaders would recognize its dire straits, stop its gratuitous wars, and slash its massive military budget, which exceeds that of the rest of the world combined. But a country whose foreign policy goal is world hegemony will continue on the path to destruction until the rest of the world ceases to finance its existence.

Most Americans, including the presidential candidates and the media, are unaware that the US government today, now at this minute, is unable to finance its day to day operations and must rely on foreigners to purchase its bonds. The government pays the interest to foreigners by selling more bonds, and when the bonds come due, the government redeems the bonds by selling new bonds. The day the foreigners do not buy is the day the American people and their government are brought to reality.

This is not the financial position of a superpower.

Will what happened to Lehman Brothers today be America's fate tomorrow?

Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury during President Reagan's first term. He was Associate Editor of the *Wall Street Journal*. He has held numerous academic appointments, including the William E. Simon Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Georgetown University, and Senior Research Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University.

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