

# Controversy

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY RICHARD E. GEIS

## IN REVIEW

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## The Writing on the Wall

### COMMENTARY ON THE NEWS BY RICHARD E. GEIS

● 1-15-87 In Portland, U.S. District Judge Owen M. Panner ruled a teen-age curfew ordinance was constitutional. Panner said in a written opinion that while children have constitutional rights, they are not equal to the constitutional rights of adults. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled, he said, that governmental "authority over children's activities is broader than over like actions of adults."

"The curfew furthers significant state interests in protecting minors and encouraging active parent participation in child rearing," Panner wrote.

Ah, the naked face of the tyrant shows pure and clear. Ah, the naked fact of slavery to the state shows pure and clear. The sacred name of 'society' is not even invoked. Government is the master.

● 1-18-87 In San Jose, an unemployed carpenter, Kevin Burns, owes the Internal Revenue Service

\$1,000 in back taxes. The IRS, in its infinite stupidity, decided it would seize his daughter's \$694 bank savings account, apparently in the belief that her father had set it up for her and put the money in it for her.

But an examination by IRS of the savings record---small amounts---suggested that the daughter, Shannon, really earned and saved the money herself.

This case has hit the newspapers, nationwide, and as usual (and deservedly) earned the IRS another black eye.

The most damaging aspect of the story is in this quote from the Knight-Ridder News Service story published in the OREGONIAN today:

'Burns said that when he called the collection department to try to stop the impending seizure of Shannon's account, a "really snotty lady" told him the IRS was going to take the money and there was nothing he could do about it.'

But the IRS backed off, later, and decided it would not be a good idea.

This leaves a lot of evil-tasting questions:

# Does the IRS have the power to take someone else's money to satisfy its claim against that person's relative? (It was going ahead with the seizure before seeing the bank book.)

# Can it do this only to a minor relative? If so, what are the age parameters?

# Does this seizure 'rule' apply to business relationships as well? Can the IRS, for instance, seize employer money to pay the IRS debt of an employee?

Of all the new employees the IRS hires in 1987, 99% of them should be public relations people who should be consulted about every seizure case. Plainly the regular IRS collections agents and officers are as brutal and insensitive as starving wolves. But, then, in a sense they are starving wolves, since their careers depend on how much they collect.

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● Pierre Rinfret, a noted private, plain-speaking economist, has called Treasury Sec. Baker an ignoramus for playing fast and loose with the dollar, for creating a yo-yo effect in its value. If the dollar (or any currency) is a store of wealth and value, then it is a

moral crime for the government to deliberately rob its citizens by devaluing the currency and thus devaluing their savings.

But the only way the establishment can keep the coming depression and financial collapse at bay is by a continual, desperate, accelerating devaluation. In fact the Federal Reserve has been expanding the US money supply at a 14-20% annual rate for the past four years, and the government debt had doubled, along with private and corporate debt.

They've been able to get away with this is because foreigners have been willing to go along with the game, and because the American people have been unwilling to accept a drastic decline in their standard of living, preferring to buy with credit and more credit.

This dollar devaluation story is perhaps the most important of 1987.

One reason inflation has not re-emerged is that most of the dollars created by the Fed have found their way into the financial markets---witness the incredible climb of the stock markets lately, and continually since the Fed started pumping in August, 1982.

At some point the governments we are sandbagging will discourage investing in US Treasury debt and in the stock markets...which will then force up interest rates in this country, precipitate a stock market crash, and bring on the inevitable debt collapse.

This is a marvelous, on-going drama, and what a shame most people are unaware of it.

● The current successful Iran offensive has brought them into and almost through the elaborate defenses created to protect Iraq's second-largest city, Basra. It is likely the Iranians will manage to outflank the city on the south, reach the Persian Gulf bay to the west of the Shatt-al-Arab and cut off the Iraq forces defending the area around the Iranian beachhead of Fao (and defending the route to Kuwait!).

The main Iran force is reportedly within 6 miles of Basra and are shelling the city heavily, having brought artillery into their newly won marshland. This has caused a million people to flee Basra and has caused day-long and night-long emergency meetings of the Iraq government and military.

The Iran-Iraq war may be very close to ending. The Iranians want the deposing of Iraq's leader, Hussein, and want to control the estuary of the Tigris. They may have their way within a few months. The loss of Basra and/or the south-

ern tip of their country would be a mortal blow to Iraq and would precipitate some kind of upheaval in the government, forced perhaps by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The only geopolitical option may be for the United States to send in its carrier-based bombers and fighters to attack the Iran army and government.

That, in turn, might bring in Russia. Would Reagan have the guts to do that, now?

● 1-22-87 New rules written by the Immigration and Naturalization Service implementing a 1986 law passed by Congress, require you to show a driver's license and your Social Security card (or a passport with your Social Security card; you must provide one piece of official ID with your photo on it) when next you apply for a job. This includes all citizens of the United States. All this to insure that illegal aliens do not take jobs from 'legal residents.'

These new rules will be reviewed by Congress before being put into effect.

I suspect the next move of the people-control crowd will be to institute a tamper-proof, counterfeit-proof Social Security card which will carry your photo, and this card will in effect then become a national ID card, mandatory, issued at birth, requiring an updated photo every five years until 20, and every ten years after that. Later refinements may include a microchip record of your criminal, employment, medical, psychological history.

The fundamentalist Christians believe a laser-brand/tattoo of a national ID number will be burned into the skin of everyone---as the mark of Satan, the Anti-Christ... or something like that.

In the meantime, look for the counterfeit ID industry to become more sophisticated and profitable.

All these control moves make it almost impossible now for anyone to change identities and start over in life; there is seemingly no escape from youthful mistakes; like Marley's ghost, you must drag your past with you forever.

There must develop, therefore, an official policy of toleration of at least some low-grade criminality and socially deviant youthful behavior, else a dumb mistake in the teen years might forever haunt a person and prevent employment, education, marriage... An official Second Chance program

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would be only fair and judicious, if only to avoid creating an ever-expanding class of criminal/social deviants whose only option would be more serious and lifelong crime.

What statisticians don't seem to ever want to recognize is that every new law, every new "solution" to a problem creates new problems, some of which are worse than the problem allegedly "solved."

● The AIDS terror is forcing radical changes in certain public areas, as shown by this week's ad for condoms in *NEWSWEEK*. But the TV networks are still too afraid of the religious fundamentalists who believe, still, that sex is dirty, nonlegal sex is a sin, and by God the wages of sin is death! Many fundamentalist Christians see AIDS and venereal disease as just punishments for homosexuals and sexual license, and in their heart of hearts do not want to see cures for venereal disease and AIDS developed. Such cures would 'thwart God's will.'

● 2-5-87 Feeling in Oregon about the 'automatic' pay raise that Congress arranged for itself is running high. One caller to KXL, the local Talk Net radio station, in a Sound-Off hour, said there is no difference between the governments of Russia and the United States: in Russia all of the people vote and the government does what it wants, while in this country half of the people vote and the government does what it wants. He went on to say that in the next election he's going to vote against all the incumbents in ord-

er to get 'a different set of burglars in there.'

Burglars may be the right word; it is strange that a man is willing to spend \$200,000 or more per two-year election campaign in order to get a job paying (now) \$89,500 per year.

But maybe they're thinking of the handsome pension system they've arranged for themselves.

#### ● PLAYING GOD DEPT.

The administration unveiled its plan to help southern Africa's black nations yesterday: \$93 million in additional aid this year and next. Liberal senators want to spend an additional \$700 million over the next five years.

The strategic point of this extra aid is to help those nations just to the north of South Africa in their efforts to survive the results of their incompetent governing and the economic pressures exerted by South Africa as a result of their assistance to anti-apartheid forces in and out of South Africa.

If these 'rim' nations can be buttressed and can survive, then they can help militarily to defeat the racist Afrikaaner government of South Africa, thereby putting in place a Marxist-socialist black government after a chaotic racist bloodbath which may require United Nations intervention.

Won't that be fun?

In the meantime, a whole lot of poor people in this country would prefer to see that \$93 million spent on them!

I'd prefer it be given to the cities so that the streets could be kept clean, if nothing else. (But, then, I'm prejudiced as a bicycle rider who hates all the broken glass.)

● I feel a certain sympathy for those old fashioned people in this country who object to racism of any kind, and who cannot excuse racism, even when it is black racism.

A little squib in the paper today tells of the only white member of the East Cleveland City Council who resigned his post in the overwhelmingly black suburb because of repeated death threats.

And there is the incident the other day that happened to me. I was riding home from the store on my bike when two black teenage boys took exception to my riding down 'their' street and threw rocks at me. Big, fist-sized rocks.

Maybe it wasn't my white skin. Maybe it was my age--over 30. Maybe they hate bicycles (I did sustain some bent spokes). No words were exchanged in this incident. They just saw me and threw rocks.

So now I have to be aware and wary of black kids on little-travelled side streets.

● 2-6-87 Senator Ernest Hollings introduced a bill on Thursday to reinstate the military draft. He said it was needed to demonstrate our national willpower. He also said, "We have failed as a people to fairly and equitably distribute the burden of our nation's defense. Our volunteer forces are sadly unrepresentative of the society they serve."

What a beautiful example of political DoubleSpeak. Hollings wants to force people into the armed forces as a "democratic" measure. The "burden" of serving in the armed forces is now borne by those who freely choose to accept the pay/duties of those jobs. Presumably in Hollings' view there are too many blacks in the military. He wants to draft whites to balance the races. But that kind of thinking is racist!

As for using slavery and state power to show national willpower... Is that the kind of "resolve" we want in this land of the free?

The truth is this mealy-mouthed concern for national willpower and democracy in the armed forces is a cover--lies---to mask a need by the state for more bodies to feed into a planned war. The state now has registration of all 18-year-olds. This draft effort if passed by the Congress, would complete the staged remilitarization of the country.

● Portland, Oregon City Commissioner Bob Koch wants the city to pass an ordinance that would allow the seizure of cars from men who patronize prostitutes.

Says Koch, "If the johns aren't out there cruising around, we won't have prostitution in the city of Portland."

What a con game! Koch, a former police lieutenant, knows damn well he's talking only of street prostitutes. Apparently he's ignoring bar girls, call girls, house girls. He's all for cracking down on lower class prostitution, because it is the most visible and causes the most outcry from the public. Expensive call girls...that's another story. It would never do to take the Caddy and the BMW from the wealthy businessmen who enjoy the services of \$500-a-night ladies in high class hotel/motels. And the city would never, ever set up an expensive-call-girl entrapment operation as they often do by put-

ting out a policewoman (with satellite detectives ready to pounce) on the street.

I mean, isn't it bad enough a john might get AIDS and/or a set of nasty venereal diseases from a prostitute, he has to risk a fine, jail and the loss of his car?

But there's no stopping the erect penis. It leads the brain around like a slave on a tether.

● Last night on 20/20, the ABC 60 MINUTE clone, a story was shown about a man who used an unidentified drug to blow the minds of his female victims. The women couldn't remember what happened to them, usually, and endured extraordinary hallucinations, delusions and "disconnection" from their bodies.

Several of the victims mentioned out-of-body experiences---of seeming to rise from their bodies and looking down on themselves being raped.

Now, did this drug somehow free the mind to do this journey (as it is claimed self-hypnosis and death experiences also allow), or did the drug impose the subtle alteration of brain blood chemistry which duplicated the changes created by self-hypnosis and near-death, and are, therefore, out-of-body experiences a particular type of hallucination possible to the mind: does the mind, under complex blood denial or blood alteration, only think it is out-of-body? That's the Occam's Razor explanation---the simplest, rational explanation.

● There is an old lady I often pass on my bike as she works in her yard. She's in her eighties. We exchange hellos and a few trite remarks---until today. She told me she probably wouldn't be staying in her home much longer because



she has cancer. And she seemed very philosophical about it, accepting, stoic. She said (as I've heard two other people I know in their eighties, say) "I've lived long enough. I'm tired. The way the world is now...crime..."

I wished her a gentle going and hoped she wouldn't suffer much, and she thanked me, and said suffering was inevitable. She was ready for that, too.

I must say I admire her. And I wonder what my attitude will be when my time comes. At the moment I'm far from ready to go. But I wonder if there isn't an emotional change programmed into our DNA (as regards to old age) as well as a physical program of deterioration.

Yes, I know enthusiasm and a continuing interest in others and in the world is crucial to a long, productive life, but I suspect there is also a hormone change which, at a certain point, kicks in to make death acceptable...even welcome.

We'll see.

● 2-7-87 KGW-TV pulled The Phil Donahue Show scheduled for yesterday because it dealt with man-boy love and the North American Man-Boy Love Association.

NAMBLA believes boys from 10-12 on up to 18 (I presume) are capable of true love emotions and thus should be accepted by society.

If there is a love that dares not speak its name, this is it, I imagine. This sort of thing raises hackles down to the heels in most people, especially most parents. Homosexuality among young adults may barely get by, but man-boy homosexuality?

But man-boy bonding has existed for as long as recorded history and appears to be a natural relationship which can develop. But should any love relationship be

allowed to exist by society, even granting the love is genuine and not simply sex-and-dependence?

So far our society says no, and federal authorities are engaged in various mail-entrapment scams and schemes to prosecute men who seek boy lovers or who want boy sex or nude boy pictures.

This subject is a real libertarian tester: in the name of freedom and liberty, does anything go? At what age does a person become totally free in the Libertarian version of ideal society?

I would treat each instance of man-boy love as informally as possible: on the boy's parents level first (if they judge the man and their boy truly bonded and feel the relationship will not harm and may help their boy, with certain protections and conditions, then it shouldn't have to go any further up the line); the next step would be (I cringe at this, but we're dealing with the real world) an investigation and evaluation of the relationship by a trained, even-handed psychologist/social worker with the power to say on balance the continuation of the bonding is better than the forced rupturing of the bond by society/parents.

And it shouldn't go any further into prosecution or governmental meat-grinding machinery, which is guaranteed to do everyone more harm than good.

But even this modest proposal of mine is far from becoming legal, since any legislation would be so tangled with horror and religion and this and that, that in today's environment it wouldn't stand a chance.

Of course today, hanging over the man-boy love relationship, is the avenging angel of AIDS. That alone makes even quasi-legality of man-boy love relationships impossible.

● 2-8-87 Perhaps of special interest

to conspiratologists is the appearance on MEET THE PRESS this morning of Henry Kissinger and Cyrus Vance. Both former Secretaries of State, both top-of-the-line Establishment voices: Kissinger notably for the Rockefeller interests. Vance is a member of the Rockefeller-founded Council On Foreign Relations and Trilateral Commission, Kissinger a member of the CFR.

Both these top workers for the money power of this country went together to Russia recently and together conferred with Gorbachev and the top echelon of Russian leadership.

On MEET THE PRESS they lauded Gorbachev as a man trying to shift the USSR to a more consumer-oriented society, struggling against the military-bureaucratic establishment, a vital, energetic, determined man. They felt a disarmament deal was in the works for this year or next.

Yesterday on CNN's CROSSFIRE, Zbigniew Brzezinski, the establishment's CFR-Trilateral member who was Jimmy Carter's "handler", was also optimistic about disarmament, and was particularly scathing in his opinion of the Iran/Contragate scandal, calling it incredibly stupid.

And George Schultz today appeared on ABC's THIS WEEK WITH DAVID BRINKLEY where he was also optimistic about disarmament.

All this high-powered message-sending tends to make me think a deal has been cut and a truce of sorts arranged, so that both Russia and the USA can cut military budgets and avoid bankruptcy. To remain a credible power and threat in the world, Russia must turn to computer technology, and cannot do that with its current rigid statist structure in place.

The United States must face the economic music soon as the debt structure erodes alarmingly and forces drastic social change.

If the powers-that-be have not planned what is coming, they are certainly aware of it and are taking steps to manage events within the avalanche, so to speak.

The Total Conspiracy believers expect an economic crisis soon, planned and executed by the insiders, to propel our country further into statist control and slavery to the power structure.

If there is a long term Plan which is being followed by the megafortune, mega-power holders, then it's obvious (to me, at least) that they've learned/know that a loosely-guided free society is the best possible for the United States in order to best use the dynam-

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ics of production and lower-level free enterprise.

But events often overrun plans and defenses, and long-wave cycles seem, historically, far more powerful than any dynasty of rulers.

It seems to me that science and technology have forced a long series of social/economic/cultural/religious revolutions since the invention of gunpowder and printing, and will continue to do so, interacting with deep instinctual trends and cycles in the human psyche.

Nobody said it was simple.

● One of the reasons I'm leery of the Master Conspiracy (a power locus controlling Europe-America) is the current and past economic war going on between the US, Germany and Japan.

The sandbagging, the currency devaluations, the media manipulations...all speak of gut-level trade conflict waged by governments and central banks. I don't see a guiding hand in any of this.

● 2-12-87 The hooroar over Liberace's AIDS death, some media people saying he should have had some 'privacy' and others that he was a public figure and gave up his privacy rights thereby, is not to the point.

Those people who had sexual contact with Liberace in the time he had AIDS and didn't know it have a right to know and to be tested. And those who have had sex with those people, in turn, have a right to know and be tested.

There is no way in the world to stop the spread of AIDS unless there is full disclosure and mandatory testing of those in the widening network of sex contacts radiating from an AIDS carrier.

In this country there are a lot of bisexuals in the "swinging" set, and in the homosexual world which interpenetrates (pardon the pun)

the heterosexual sex world. So-called "switch-hitters" can turn out to be "switch-killers".

The AIDS plague is a severe problem for libertarians, since it seems to require more than enlightened cooperation between free individuals. Society and some coercion by the state seems inescapable. True, the free individual can choose celibacy and can seek out virgins for monogamous relationships, and can have himself tested for AIDS and carry the medical report around so that he can "show her his if she'll show him hers" (and watch those dates and watch for forgeries!). But such a private solution to the AIDS plague would reduce the population to a precious few in a hundred years and is not going to happen!

When AIDS starts hitting teenagers and seriously killing heterosexuals, society will go to extremes to "stop" AIDS. We'll have a medical police state.

If it turns out that AIDS is also spread by mosquitoes and bedbugs and other bloodsucking insects, civilization as we know it may be destroyed.

● 2-13-87 This is Friday the 13th. What, me superstitious?

But what I really want to talk about is that exhibition of police efficiency and integrity demon-

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strated a few days ago in Tallahassee, Florida. Six 'ragtag' children in the company of two young, well-dressed men were seized by the police, the men were both charged with child abuse. Later, the police said a doctor's report indicated more than one child showed signs of sexual abuse.

When it became known that the men belonged to the Finders and the children were offspring of Finders members, a torrent of media stories suggested the Finders were a cult and might be involved in satanic rituals and child pornography.

You may remember TN news reports showing 'evidence' taken from Finders houses and a farm---pictures and slides---purportedly showing children participating in blood-letting of animals, etc.

Now the FBI (which does some good sometimes, when it sticks to its proper legal functions) has concluded there is no satanism involved, no kidnapping, nothing illegal. And health officials in Florida reported they found no evidence of sexual abuse of the children.

The true story seems to be that the six mothers of the children (all Finders members) had gone to San Francisco to "write articles, edit and network" while several of the men in the group took the children camping (which explains why the kids appeared, according to the Tallahassee police, dirty, hungry and covered with insect bites).

The Tallahassee police, with their jumping to conclusions, with their 'doctor's report' of sex abuse, and their charges of child abuse seem to have a lot of questions to answer, as well as a few civil suits.

The national media also has to examine itself as it rushed to exploit what it wanted to be a bonanza satanism-involving-children story.

And all us viewers---this is another lesson in not believing everything you hear (accompanied by suggestive film footage), even on CBS.



Personally, I hope the Finders burn the Tallahassee police and anyone else responsible with multi-million dollar lawsuits. Hit them where it hurts, make them learn an expensive lesson!

Witchhunting is still 'in season' in this country, it seems, with all the hysteria that implies. And a lot of that hysteria is self-serving by the media and the police.



- 2-14-87 Happy Valentine's Day. But on to more serious matters. The Liberals are at it again, trying to solve problems that are none of their business by passing laws severely restricting freedoms.

A bill has been introduced in the Oregon Senate that would make surrogate motherhood a crime carrying a maximum penalty of \$100,000 and five years' in prison. Sponsored by Larry Hill, D-Springfield, Senate Bill 456 would ban any written or oral promise by a woman to conceive and carry a baby, then relinquish her rights to the child after birth.

I wish these Liberals would get their values straight: It's okay with them to conceive a child and then kill it by abortion, but not okay to conceive a child and give it a home with its father by pre-arrangement. And of course it is legal to become pregnant accidentally, carry an unwanted baby, and then sign it away for adoption. Just so long as you don't know who will adopt the baby.

With jail space at a premium, these statist "Let's pass a law!" jokers are willing to see the state prosecute and put in jail for five years pregnant women, and to do what with the babies born in prison? The foster home routine? Set up apartments in prison for the mothers-with-child? At what ultimate, accumulated cost?

- The U.S. naval buildup off Lebanon is loaded for bear: THE SPOTLIGHT (Feb. 16, 1987) reports that the three U.S. carrier battle groups in the Mediterranean have a broad range of tactical nuclear weapons:

the B-71 Mark II nuclear warhead comes in four sizes from 50 to 200 kilotons of explosive power; it is being deployed both on artillery projectiles and shipboard missiles. The Navy's depth charges used in anti-submarine warfare and underwater demolition are also now nuclear: called B-56 Mark III atomic devices, they range in power from one to 15 kilotons. The 2000-strong Marine Amphibious Landing Force aboard the carrier battle groups has been furnished with 8-inch howitzers capable of firing W-33 Mark A atomic shells as well as the W-79 Mark B neutron warhead.

Who would these big-bang weapons be used against in the Middle East? Under what circumstances?

- 2-17-87 We see a series of socialist reverses around the world: brief experiments in freedom which had to be cut short else they get out of hand and the dreaded threat of 'counter-revolution' raise its seductive head.

Cuba has reverted to a repressive, more pure socialism; Castro found that allowing free local markets in food was impossible---a few people made too much money!

And food shortages in Nicaragua are causing riots and increasing anti-government sentiment and hence increasing communist crackdowns on dissent.

China tried freedom of expression and got a hint of revolution among the intellectuals and college students. Had to stop that! But the limited free enterprise in food, services and small manufacturing is continuing, establishing a seedbed of freedom which may now be too well established to end short of mass slaughter.

- Ecuador failed to make its scheduled interest payment on its debts to big banks a few weeks ago. Since Ecuador is the "good boy" of Latin American debtor nations, this default is disturbing a lot of highly-placed financiers. They look at Brazil, now in serious inflationary trouble, and quail at the prospect of that giant debtor also defaulting. And Argentina! And M-m-mexico! It took \$12 billion last year to tide Mexico over for another year. But if the price of crude oil sinks again to below \$15 again, or below...look out!

- 2-19-87 What is it with these presidents we elect? They become arrogant, authorize illegal acts

by their subordinates, ignore congress...

Now President Reagan, it is revealed, changed his story about when he first authorized the shipment of arms to Iran from Israel, in his testimony to his own appointed Tower Commission.

First he agreed that Robert McFarlane's testimony before congress was an accurate version of events, then was talked-to by his Chief of Staff Donald Regan, and changed his story.

Today's Bob Woodward and David Hoffman story for the LA TIMES-WASHINGTON POST Service says:

After the (Tower Commission) interview, Donald T. Regan, the White House Chief of Staff who has testified there was no presidential authority for the 1985 shipment, had several long discussions with the president on the matter, according to administration sources. The president then availed himself of the invitation of the Tower Commission to meet a second time. That meeting was Feb. 11.

One source said Wednesday: "Regan redirected the president, went over the issues with him, and got the president to line up his recollections."

A second source said the president was "more enlightened."

In other words, in the McFarlane version of events with which the president initially agreed, Regan is a liar to a Congressional committee and is subject to prosecution. In this new version, after prompting and "persuasion", the president saves Regan's ass.

Jesus Christ! What kind of hold does Regan have on Ronald Reagan? Could it be, "If I go down, Mr. President, you go down! I'll tell about..."

It may be that simple and shameful.



● 2-20-87 The headline today: **McFarlane says staff covered up for Reagan.** And the key item is a memorandum written by former National Security Council advisor, Bud McFarlane, which lays out a way in which President Reagan could plausibly deny that he gave prior approval to the initial Iran arms sale.

The president has changed his story about four times, now: thrice to the American People, and once to the Tower Commission. More shifts are probably on the way.

Is anyone prepared to believe **anything** Ronald Reagan says about anything ever again? Not me!

Our president has shown himself to be shameless, gutless, a willing lawbreaker, and a liar. Isn't that wonderful?

● I note that now Brazil is about to make its own rules about paying its international debts, along with Ecuador and Peru. Can Mexico be far behind?

● So why did the Polish Pope in the Vatican ask the United States to lift trade sanctions against Poland? Why did he meet first with Polish President (formerly General, remember?) Jaruzelski? Why is the Pope willing to help the Soviets and the communist system? (Especially since he knows the KGB tried to have him assassinated!)

It's a puzzlement.

More important, why is Ronald Reagan willing to re-grant Favored Nation status to Poland, part of what he has called 'the Evil Empire'? Why open up trade (which means importing billions of \$\$ of ham and cheese and etc.) when farmers are in such trouble here? Why allow bank loans to this dictatorial socialist system?

Because there are hidden, secret policies and strategies in place which govern U.S. foreign and trade policies, and the public policies and statements are nothing but lies and fraud, fed to a gullible, careless public.

● 2-22-87 More and more, daily, revelations about the origins of Iran/Contragate. Now it is reported that Donald Regan has an iron grip on President Reagan, keeping the president isolated from even his best friends, and that Regan is conducting a war with Nancy Reagan in the White House. And now Nancy is attempting to force her husband, the president, to choose, in effect, between her and Regan.

Now every TV/media commentator is predicting Regan will be forced out, forced to resign, by the end of this month.

What a shambles this administration has become, and again how gutless and wimpy Reagan has emerged!

Is it relevant that Donald Regan is (or was in the 1970s) a member of David Rockefeller's Council On Foreign Relations? And is it a good bet that if Regan leaves, the next White House Chief of Staff will be a Rockefeller man, too?

● 2-24-87 So now Ronald Reagan "genuinely can't remember" if he orally did or did not okay that crucial first shipment of arms to Iran in 1985.

McFarlane said he did, and Regan said he didn't. In late 1986 there was a frantic White House staff effort to protect the president from the Iran/Contragate scandal, to the point of lying, forgery, fake memos, letter "re-writing" and computer doctoring. Now, in the face of the American public as judge and jury, from the witness stand of the media, Ronald Reagan, our stalwart, "stand tall" president, says he can't remember!

I feel utter contempt for Ronald Reagan. Gutless, spineless, coward, fool, bully, liar. He has risen far past his level of competency, honesty, integrity.

● 2-25-87 There is a Gay Rights bill again before the Oregon legislature, and again the same old opposition is mouthing the same old arguments against it, but with the spectre of AIDS added.

The fundamentalist, anti-sex, anti-change, anti-everything-different-from-themselves forces are eventually doomed by the trends toward tolerance and acceptance of alternate life-styles and alternate sexual orientations.

And as AIDS spreads into the non-drug, heterosexual population, and as gays learn elementary sexual protection lessons, the identification of AIDS with gays will diminish.

Just as feminism will not go away, neither will gay assertion of primary civil rights go away. If not now, then sometime in the near-future, gay rights will become real and accepted as elementary fairness, because being gay will not be considered evil, perverted, or illegal.

As fanatic Christianity becomes increasingly seen by the public as a fringe, extremist position, gay men, lesbians, trans-sexuals, the leather-rubber lovers, bondage, onanists, shoe fetishists...what-



ever! will be accepted as non-dangerous, non-threatening variations from the hypothetical norm. These people are coming out of the closet in droves, and there's no going back.

The reality of the wide spectrum of lifestyles and sexual practices in existence in the human animal is still not fully known or accepted by most "normal" people, but it will be, and rightly so. The electronic age, the explosion of the media, is blowing minds by the millions, and changing rigid attitudes in the process. This is irreversible. And I'm all for it.

● The debt problems mount, don't they? Now Argentina has joined Brazil in saying they will not pay the interest on their international debts (to major US banks, among others) unless they get lower interest rates and new loans. In essence they are blackmailing the banks, saying, "Give us a better deal, lend us more money to pay the interest and to spend on development, or you are going to have to mark down all this debt as bad loans and take tremendous hits in your bottom line and flirt with bankruptcy." They've got the banks and the US govt. by the balls.

But also on the problem plate are all those hundreds of billions of dollars in "Eurodollar bonds" which are not trading for lack of bids (of what value are they if they cannot be sold? There is no payoff date on the damned things!). Yet banks, insurance companies, some govt. agencies have bought huge amounts of these things and these Eurodollar bonds are the backing for billions of dollars of other loans...

It's all a house of cards, and a wind is coming up.

● 2-28-87 A few days ago I speculated that Donald Regan, White House Chief of Staff would probably be replaced by a member of David Rockefeller's Council on Foreign Relations, since the establishment wanted to keep a close control on President Reagan.

# REVIEWS

All uncredited reviews are  
by Richard E. Geis

## MILITARY INCOMPETENCE

By Richard A. Gabriel  
Hill & Wang, \$16.95, 1985, 208p.  
Reviewed By Edward F. Kluge, Jr.

This is a small but powerful book. Unfortunately, those who need its information will probably not read it. In a dictatorship this book could not be published. Its author would be buried in an anonymous grave.

Our military machine today is staffed with more incompetent bunglers than was the demoralized French Army which fell to the Nazi war machine.

Who is Gabriel to make this charge? He is a former Army intelligence officer who was assigned to the Pentagon, an expert with blue ribboned credentials. At the Pentagon he became aware that Americans were being lied to about the Grenada invasion. He began to investigate privately. His book reveals more about military incompetence than did Raymond Lech's ALL THE DROWNED SAILORS that described the negligence involved in the World War II sinking of the Indianapolis.

The Pentagon, Major Gabriel states, declares secret anything that might cause it embarrassment. As for overstaffing, his statistics show that in World War II there was one Army officer per 9.4 soldiers. During Vietnam the ratio was one officer per 8.5 soldiers. Today there is one officer per 6.8 soldiers. All this brass is bankrupting us! And most of these officers are poorly used, or inept, to boot.

Fiasco after fiasco is described by the Major. Mayaguez. Iran. Etc. Here's an example of our military leaders' inability to learn: When the Israelis fly a retaliatory air strike, they come in low at high speed, only two to four aircraft at a time, spend only a few seconds on target, and are gone. Our aircraft, sent in by strategic-minded Ph.D's with little or no combat experience, fly in single file and in large numbers. The first few planes escape safely but those that follow like sheep in a line, fly right into zeroed-in exploding shells. Yet no one changes tactics, no heads fall, no bureaucrats are transferred or fired. Gabriel informs us fully just how bureaucrats since World War II have learned to dilute responsibility with a cloak of secrecy so that it is almost impossible to point a finger at those who are negligent.

You were lied to about Grenada casualties and that is the real reason the press was unconstitutionally kept away from the invasion. Of course, the Reagan administration is also hellbent on establishing precedents for future, more openly oppressive regimes---in the reviewer's opinion, as evidenced by the administration's invoking of "executive privilege" during Justice Rehnquist's nomination hearings (his 1970-71 memoranda as Asst. Attorney General apparently authorized widespread civilian wiretapping in the U.S.), and the way the Dept. of Justice in February, 1986 "ruled" that the Archivist of the U.S. must honor any Nixon attempt to invoke the same hokey, made-up legal fiction of executive privilege to prevent the release and use of his Watergate papers, despite an absolutely contrary intent expressed in The Presidential Recordings and Materials Preservation Act of 1974.

Do we really need the Joint Chiefs of Staff? Gabriel has a strong opinion. You want to know stupid? More stupid than the Ancient Mariner's treatment of the albatross? We graduate 1300 senior officers a year from War College at great expense, then assign these assholes to jobs that have little if any conceivable relationship to their supposed special skills. As a corollary we may very well have the worst combat officer corps in our history.

Fortunately, Major Gabriel is retired from the military and can suffer no reprisals. He now teaches political science. There are always Tories among us---authority-fawning sycophants---who cannot stand those of us who are more Whiggish and who prefer dilution of executive power or "privilege" and who guard jealously our freedom to criticize centralized executive power that is abused and governmental incompetence of the degree that is exposed in Major Gabriel's book. The book, however, is not designed to please, to make friends, to stroke in an est manner. It exposes and is deliberately provocative.

Your reaction as a reader will be fairly predictable, given your particular mixture of emotion and reason, and the myths and shibboleths of your social class. If you should have, perchance, no class, those who delineate class would call you "Others." In that event you probably don't give a damn whether the military is competent or not. But the facts are there. Major Gabriel gives them. The only thing you might be with is a conclusion here or there.

A reasonable conclusion would be that our military sucks, but as with any human institution could be reformed and made useful.



You will stop being concerned about \$800.00 hammers for the military when you digest what Major Gabriel has to say. The whole military machine, with a few notable exceptions, is rotten to the core and corrupt. Gabriel simply fleshes out this generalized knowledge with an insider's special knowledge of the facts.

## THE SMOKE RING

By Larry Niven  
Del Rey/Ballantine, \$16.95, 1987  
ISBN 345-30256-7, 384 pages.

This is the sequel to THE INTEGRAL TREES and continues the story of human life in the weird environment of a doughnut of air within a larger torus of gas which encloses and circles a neutron star which has captured a G0 star.

This is a complicated astrophysics setup I may not have described adequately. If you thought the Ringworld was strange...

Within this inner doughnut of air lives an ecology of huge "trees" which float like spokes in an equilibrium of gravity forces. Also floating in this vast, circular tire of air are globular water ponds, free-floating tangles of jungle, and a kind of Sargasso Sea of debris called the Clump.

Add a gas giant planet called Gold and the scattered descendants of a rebel crew of a starship itself orbiting the gas torus (the ship is run by a computer originally inhabited by a human mind) and you get a fine stage for high adventure, mysteries, and constant surprises.

Larry Niven necessarily has to spend a lot of time and words describing all this and the ways humans have adapted to the ecology of the vast "trees" and the ponds and jungles and the variety of life they host.

It's fascinating--but empty. Because the people are little more

than names and slightly different physical characteristics. Depth of character and depth of emotion are in short supply. Their inner life is invisible, and because of this lack of inner complexity, alas, I lost interest. I couldn't care enough about these named bodies as they moved and talked and interacted and showed my ever more of this strange world.

For those who are more interested in the formula sf elements and the original star system ecology Larry has created, this will be a feast; the humans act as guides.

And there will be more novels in this series. At the end of THE SMOKE RING another crisis is in the works.

### NATURAL LAW

By Robert Anton Wilson  
Loompanics Unlimited  
P.O. Box 1197  
Port Townsend, WA 98368  
\$5.95 + \$2. shipping  
ISBN 0-915179-61-X

The subtitle of this thin, but very important book is 'Or Don't Put a Rubber On Your Willy.'

And by that Wilson means, if you accept the metaphysical (not provable) reality of Natural Law you're in the same boat with all those others who believe in other Aristotelian yes/no, good/bad Laws pushed by such as the Pope, Lenin, your local guru, Hitler, etc. who think all humanity should live by a single set of rigid Laws (but all other sets of rival Laws are evil and wrong).

Wilson sees the Natural Laws believers and the Man Has Natural Rights believers as in the same essential boat---self-hypnotised by symbols and inner needs---as not-free individuals seeking Solid, Eternal Answers and Rules and Comforts in generalities and self-delusions.

The book is a response to the recent "symposium" in NEW LIBERTARIAN in which Murray Rothbard, George H. Smith and Samuel Konkin III (and Robert Anton Wilson) reacted to THE MYTH OF NATURAL RIGHTS By L.A. Rollins (Loompanics, \$4.95 +\$2.). Wilson feels his long letter was unfairly interrupted by comments by editor Konkin.

It's understandable why pure Libertarians, idealists (Idealogues in Wilson's words) and theorists need the concept of Natural Law and Natural Rights; without that base the case for pure, undefiled-by-compromise Libertarianism falls into a swamp of practicality and situation in which complication and no easy answers abound. Just like reality.

There are two paragraphs in Wilson's final chapter, "Sleep-Walking and Hypnotism" I'd like to quote here because they may open a few mental eyes wide:

"If you have to deal with neurotics regularly, you will eventually observe that most of them say aloud once or twice a week something to the effect, "They won't give us a chance," "You can't win," "The smart boys have it all sewed up," etc. The odds are that such a neurotic is silently repeating these sentences sub-vocally --- in the "interior monologue" of ordinary consciousness --- many, many times a day. This form of self-hypnosis is known as a Loser Script in the language of Transactional Analysis.

"Other people hypnotize themselves into other reality-tunnels by endless repetition of such mantras as "I like everybody, and everybody likes me" (the successful Salesman script), "All niggers are treacherous" (the Racist script), "All men are bastards" (the reverse sexist or Radical Lesbian script), "I deserve a drink after a morning like that" (the apprentice Alcoholic script), "I can't control my temper" (the Go Directly to Jail Do Not Collect \$200 script), "Cancer is only mortal mind. Divine mind has no cancer. I am Divine mind" (the Christian Science script), etc."

Other mantras come to mind: "If it wasn't for him/her/them...", "Money just slips right through my fingers", "If I could just lose ten pounds..."

Wilson points out the good things that can come from self-hypnosis, and asserts that most people are hypnotised (by advertising, by political slogans, by religion, by government propaganda) most of the time---just walking around in a series of mindloops, robots repeating learned phrases, venting word-for word rote dialog in conversations.

Such people are not free, not at liberty in any real sense.

Get this book, if you dare.

### THE UFO VERDICT EXAMINING THE EVIDENCE

By Robert Sheaffer  
Prometheus Books, \$13.95, 1986  
ISBN 0-87975-338-2, 242 pages.

Prometheus Books makes it a policy to rain on a lot of parades. They are debunkers and show no mercy to fuzzy-minded, deluded, wishful thinkers...like UFOlogists of every stripe.

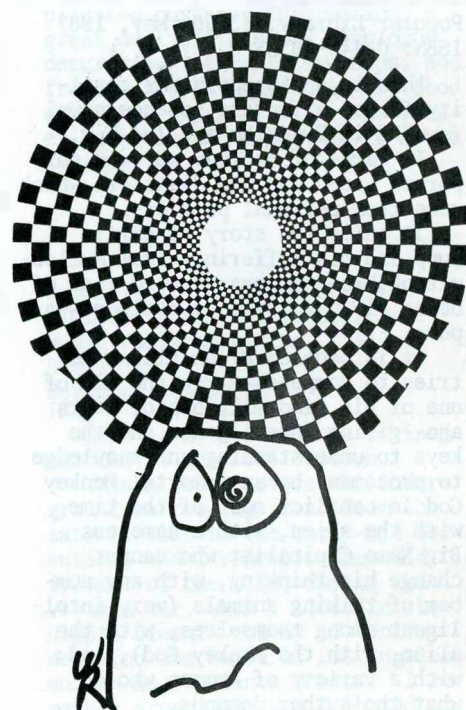
Robert Sheaffer examines in detail a number of 'prime' UFO cases and shows them all to be either frauds or most-often products of misidentification of natural astrophysical phenomena, hysteria and preconception.

He goes back in supernatural history to detail the fraud in the A. Conan Doyle case of the fairies photographs, he dismembers the "facts" of the "UFO abduction" of Betty and Barney Hill, and performs a devastating autopsy of the famous UFO sightings at Exeter, NH.

On and on, case after case, instance after instance, is demolished, until the rational reader is faced with a conclusion that may have penetrated the UFO establishment itself: that the decades-after-decades of sightings and witnesses and "evidence" all falls apart upon close examination, and that excuses and conspiracies are no longer enough to explain the lack of a single piece of hard evidence, the lack of a single irrefutable photograph, the lack of a reasonable, coherent rationale for the existence of UFOs.

Sheaffer notes the increasing desperation of the UFO establishment and its resort to a "New Age" explanation of UFOs as a paranormal psychic phenomena, and its giving up the "nuts and bolts" explanations involving alien spacecraft.

And he unmercifully goes further to show that the UFO true believers are probably from the same emotional/psychological mold as those people who believe in psychic, psi and occult "sciences".



This book is a challenge to those who feel there "is probably something to the UFO sightings" of the past forty or so years, and it is death incarnate to the true believers.

Read it and see if you become very angry.

### WRITING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BRAIN

By Henriette Anne Klauser  
Harper & Row, \$9.95, 1987, 143 pp.  
ISBN: 0-06-254490-X

I have reservations about personifying The Critic (who is in our subconscious arguing against us, criticizing, being negative) and in such extensive semi-schizophrenic methods of dealing/conversing with him/her/it, but Klauser has developed an extensive, structured way of breaking through writing blocks and barriers to a more free, improved writing style. She can help those who are too left-brained, or right-brained and those who, in Transactional Analysis terms, are struggling with a bad script given them by parents or other childhood authority figures.

There are many other writing aids here: logic is analyzed and the traps and tricks of illogic are detailed clearly. The organizing method called Branching is explained and shown. There are helps to greater spelling ability.

If you have real problems with your writing of any kind, this book is worth a shot.

### THE AMERICAN BOOK OF THE DEAD

By Stephen Billias  
Popular Library, \$3.50, May, 1987  
ISBN: 0-445-20335-8

This is a disappointing morality fable, a fantasy science novel founded in Buddhism and The Way.

It warns of nuclear war and corporate greed and the disasters which come from personal passions.

It tells the story of Bertie Rupp and his sufferings from Nucleomitophobia--an exaggerated fear of being blown to bits by nuclear weapons.

It is peopled by an alien who tries to compensate for the sin of one of his kind millions of years ago--giving intelligence and the keys to understanding and knowledge to protoman, by an immortal Monkey God in conflict most of the time with the alien, with a nameless Big Name Capitalist who cannot change his thinking, with any number of talking animals (very intelligent among themselves, with the alien, with the Monkey God), and with a variety of humans who do what the author demands.

Finally, there is the American Book of the Dead which Bertie is desperately seeking, because he feels it holds Answers. But...

At first I thought this novel a clever satire, but as I continued to read, and finally labored through to the end, I grumpily decided it was a Sincere Warning from the One True Path (with some japey on the side) and because of the impossibility of believing in any of the characters or their actions or the psy-psi magic science, I couldn't take it seriously or funnily, and so considered it a waste of time.

Nice try, Billias, but no cigar. (Except one that might or might not explode--are you sure you want to smoke it? BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED.)

### EVIDENCE AND THE CUSTER ENIGMA

By Jerome A. Greene  
Outbooks, Inc., \$4.50 + \$3. shipping  
217 Kimball Av.  
Golden, CO 80401  
ISBN 0-89646-058-4 (1986)

This new edition which includes recent archeological findings and fully incorporates indian testimony which had been distorted or ignored in earlier analyses of the Battle of the Little Big Horn River on June 27, 1876, recreates the sequence of the annihilation of five U.S. Cavalry companies under the command of Lieutenant Colonel (Brevet Major General) George Armstrong Custer.

In brief, Custer split his forces, apparently misguidedly tried to attack a very large indian encampment across the Little Big Horn, was horribly surprised to encounter a huge force estimated from 2500 to 4500 braves, was pursued, surrounded and his dwindling force chopped to pieces by arrows, by sharpshooters and in vicious hand-to-hand combat.

Nobody knows exactly when Custer died or who killed him. And in fact this reconstruction of the two-hour running battle is still open to question, but based on discovered shell casings, horse skeletons, other equipment, recorded corpse locations, etc., this effort by Greene is probably the most likely.

Fascinating.

### A SKELETON IN THE DARKROOM

By Gilbert Shapiro  
Harper & Row, \$13.95, 1986.  
ISBN 0-06-250778-8

"Serendipity is the art of finding something valuable when you are

looking for something else," writes Gilbert Shapiro in this book of detailed descriptions of instances in science where serendipity occurred.

His skill and talent are obvious in these seven recreations of the process of discovery. Especially, I think, in the story of how Wilhelm Roentgen found X rays. The showing of the man's character, his physical problems, his (to us) primitive equipment, his thought processes as he worked his way through seemingly inexplicable effects are extremely well done.

But, more, Shapiro's writing is a marvel of description and teaching of basic science and its interrelationships. In short, this book is an education, and an interesting, valuable one to boot.

If anyone wishes a book to give to a young person who has exhibited an interest in science, this is the one.

The chapters cover the discovery of X rays, the connection between electricity and magnetism, the discovery of Penicillin, cosmic microwave background radiation, the discovery of the J/Psi meson, the asteroid/comet impact hypothesis, and the discovery of pulsars. There is a bibliography and index.

### PAT'S WHORES

By Barding Dahl  
John Daniel, Publisher, \$8.95, 1986  
P.O. Box 21922  
Santa Barbara, CA 93121  
ISBN 0-936784-09-1

Yes, this novel is something of an education about slumlords, the black ghetto of L.A., and the double dealing in city real estate, the shafting of tenants (and the shafting of investors, too). And it is about the types of black tenants in the slums...

But it is primarily a novel of moral awakening; the story of Pat Fegan as he buys South L.A. rundown apartment houses, fixes them up, rents them, maintains them...and over the years becomes more at home in this area, in his buildings, than with his prejudiced, no-good white family in the "better" parts of the city. He "crosses the line" and realizes the blacks as just people; not as THEM.

Pat's whores are his old buildings which his family look upon with loathing, but are very willing to profit from.

His on-going major problem is his family and their effort born of greed and misunderstanding to sell the Southside properties and put him away in a nursing home because he gets confused while driving at night in his big white Cadillacs.

Probably this is a "do-gooder" novel because of its portrayal of most of its key black characters as honorable, kind, honest, tolerant in spite of white prejudice and rip-off strategies and tactics, and because (aside from Pat) its white characters are greed-ridden, phoney, selfish, intolerant.

Okay. I enjoyed it a lot. Dahl writes well, with compassion, and his people live! I cared about Pat, and I cared about Reggie, the black homosexual of great integrity.

A good, engrossing novel.

## THE TRUE AUTHORSHIP OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

By Hevel V. Reek  
The Abelard Reuchlin Foundation  
P.O. Box 5652,  
Kent, WA 98064  
ISBN 0-930808-02-9, 1979, 1986, \$4.

This 32-page booklet asserts that Arius Calpurnius Piso, a Roman noble, writing under the pen name of Flavius Josephus (with additional contributions from friends and relatives) created/wrote the New Testament of the Bible, as well as many of the books of the Bible, and in fact created and manipulated the formation of the early Christian church. In fact, this book asserts that Jesus and many other famous historical people were fictions created to confuse and to influence and to act as alternate identities for Josephus.

The proof of all this is a series of number codes and word signals embedded in the New Testament and other early Christian and Roman writings, and in works by famous writers since, as well as others in-the-know who signal their possession of the secrets by their use of key numbers and names and sounds.

Why did this Roman aristocrat go to all this trouble? Because in those times the Jews were 10% of the population of the Roman Empire and were causing big political trouble. Piso and his collaborators and heirs wanted to cause the Roman government to attack and decimate the Jews, to destroy the Jewish power and influence of the time. The Roman state and empire was based on slavery, and the expanding Jewish religion---8,000,000 strong---was against slavery. And the Piso family was related to the Herodian rulers of Judea and wanted to help assure the continued power of that family.

So, about 60 A.D. Lucius Calpurnius Piso composed Ur Marcus, the first version of the Gospel of Mark, and the creation of a counterforce, rival Jewish religion was begun.

And thus was initiated the 1900-year history of Christian hatred for the Jews and all the persecut-

tions and pogroms and prejudice we have seen and know today.

Alas, this is all assertion, with no coherent or believable proof or historical data or quotations or research which is not tainted by sleight-of-mind and resort to circumstantial "evidence" and weird associations.

I can believe the Roman power structure feared Jewish power and instigated/provoked Jewish rebellions and insurrections in order to destroy that growing rival. I'll even take a tentative belief that maybe Jesus Christ was a creation of necessity by early Christian leaders (a martyr is necessary for any cult if it is to make the transition to a true religion of power and wealth). But the Calpurnius Piso family creation of most of the Bible and of the Christian religion? That takes a lot of proof, and there isn't any in this booklet.

Nevertheless, this is a great item to read, and is a curiosity of some inspiration and talent.

## NUMBERLAND

By Dr. George Weinberg  
St. Martin's Press, \$9.99, 1987  
ISBN 0-312-00170-3

A fable, it is claimed, is this short little book about the Republic of Numberland, inhabited by immortal numbers (have you ever seen a dead number?) who know about humans but don't think much of us, because we decay and die.

This isn't science fiction, nor fantasy, nor anything remotely sensical, since these numbers have TV, houses, refrigerators and emotions, and have heads...

Then #6 learns of a human girl who is a number genius who has Leukemia, and miraculously (perhaps an out of number experience?) he manages to penetrate into human reality and... and...

I couldn't accept any of it.

According to the material at hand this is poignant and witty, realistic and fantastic, a simple book with an enormously important message; it examines the meaning of life and immortality.

How can a mortal man possibly know about immortality? (And how can an immortal number know about mortality?)

Since Dr. Weinberg is a psychotherapist, he may have special insights not available to us normal mortals.

My verdict: a dumb book! Nice try, St. Martin's, but for this to be a bestseller like JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL it would have to be less arcane and confusing.

## INSIDERS

MERGER: Takeover Conspiracy  
By David Thomsen  
Branden Publishing Co. 1985, \$15.95  
ISBN 0-8283-1905-7

This long novel of high-finance and low motives is virtually destroyed by its 1987 dust jacket all-black-with-white-letters-design which makes it appear a textbook.

More, it presents the reader in the beginning pages with a Foreword about what mergers in business are, then with two pages of the Cast of Characters, followed by a map of the United States showing the make-up of Union Arrow railroads routes, then a detailed financial statement titled Proposed Financial Profile As Of September 1985 of Arrow Corporation and three major railroad corporations, and then the novel faces the reader with two pages of a numbered paragraphed document titled Notes To The Proposed Financial Statement.

Finally, the reader reaches the Prologue, an exciting and interesting two-page scene in which an Arrow Corporation employee is stuffed down the large chute of an elaborate corporate shredding system, to be minced by its diamond-tipped teeth. His job had been to intercept sensitive, to-be-destroyed executive-floor papers and 'review' them. For whom, we do not know. His killer is kept unidentified.

I perked up with this scene; it promised a good read, and indicated that David Thomsen was a pro and was following a tried and true formula.

But... Chapter one is a very long conference room scene with a lot of characters described and viewed, with a great deal of complicated business information, a great deal of interior monologue describing interrelationships, and frankly, David Thomsen is not good enough to carry it off. The reader sinks in the swamp and is never seen again.

## A HISTORY OF UNDERGROUND

COMICS By Mark James Estren  
Ronin Publishing, Inc. \$17.95  
Box 1035  
Berkeley, CA 94701  
ISBN 0-914171-11-9

This is a very welcome revised edition of the 1974 edition.

This history covers the underground cartooning scene from the late Sixties to the early-mid Seventies, and I remember the wild ferment of the time, during the Vietnam war, when I lived in the Hippie/Beatnik colony of Venice West (on the coast of Los Angeles) and in nearby Santa Monica. I remember especially Ron Cobb and

Vaughn Bode, and as I wrote my six sex novels a year for Brandon and Essex and others, I watched the bold, acidic, often vicious expressions of individualism, hatred of the government, of old-fashioned sex mores, and the joyous revelry of explosive unconventional thinking, acting, expressing.

In retrospect it was a great time. I wish I'd more fully realized it at the time. (I would have saved more of those "shocking" comics and cartoons.)

So, this book is the record of that era, with hundreds of samples, panels, cartoons, drawings, some of which may widen your eyes even now and make you wonder, "Could they print *that*!? How did they get away with it?" Sometimes they didn't.

There are appendixes and a bibliography, but alas, no Index.

Estren covers the trends, the subject matter, the people in a conversational, loving, honest fashion. A fine job.

Available by mail from BOOKS-BY-PHONE, POB 522, BERKELEY, CA 94701. Phone: 1-800-858-2665

#### MRS. CALIBAN

By Rachel Ingalls  
The Harvard Common Press, \$12.95  
535 Albany St.  
Boston, MA 02118  
ISBN 0-87645-112-1

This is a haunting story about a crazy housewife who hears personal messages from her radio and who has an intense love affair behind her husband's back, in the house, with an escaped 'monsterman' who has the body of a large green man and the head of a kind of a humanoid frog.

And somehow, magically, Rachel Ingalls makes it seem logical and matter-of-fact, even a Good Thing for both Dorothy and "Larry" the monster.

Dorothy is crazy, make no mistake, and her disconnection with all of reality and normality springs from the death of her son and a subsequent miscarriage. And she knows Fred, her distant, 'too busy' husband is unfaithful.

She spends time with her best friend, Estelle, divorced, mixed up, who drinks too much and who has secrets...

A strange, rather delightful short novel with some ho-hum death and disaster at its end. Dorothy doesn't quite tune into life the way most people do. But she feels love and sadness, and the final lines of this novel are the quintessence of a woman's eternal fear.

Dell has taken the softcover rights, and movie rights have been

sold. The story and the characters make you want to cast it yourself.

The thing about this story--- at first you think the monsterman is a figment, too, but no, he's real and he's killed two scientists who were experimenting on him.

And later, he kills five others. But somehow...it doesn't matter. What matters is how these two desperate, out-of-synch creatures are going to survive another day without being discovered.

God, this will make a great film.

#### THE PROJECT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS OF A PRIVATE NETWORK OF RESEARCHERS DEDICATED TO IDENTIFYING THE NATURE OF THE RULING CLASS/CONSPIRACY  
October, November, December 1986  
Volume III, No's 8, 9, and 10.  
Edited and Published by L. Miller,  
POB 20273, Ferndale, MI 48220

The newsletter is published 10 times per year and the subscription price is \$20. Free samples are provided on request.

Lloyd Miller's core belief is: "The British Empire is the Central Phenomenon of World History Since the Decline of the Vatican."

And he and his contributors provide a lot of circumstantial evidence to make their points. But my objection is that almost all of it (perhaps by necessity) is guilt by association and logical leaps in deduction and induction dictated by the presumptions of their theories.

I'll quote from a recent letter from him to give a sample of his thinking and approach to world events.

'February 25, 1987

'Yes, I think the loans to the LDC's were part of a plan: The plan of British-Swiss "Olympian" bankers to weaken US's post-WWII temporarily dominant bankers, esp. Rockefeller and Wriston and Bank of America (Catholic). Note that Morgan was more cautious, but still participated in the US govt. mandated policy of making unrepayable loans to countries hurt by the original oil crisis, etc. The Fed will eventually have to print tons of new money to monetize these debts. The Fed is already fully authorized by banking reform acts of recent years to buy foreign debt. It is just going as slow as possible to delay the eventual inflationary impact. It is also allowing more debt to disappear in

bankruptcies than most thought possible. The debt crisis has nearly ended the temporary post-WWII domination by the US. Banan republic here we come with the Bank for International Settlements and Crown-dominated IMF calling the shots as a weakened Rocky gets back under the thumb of his overlords.

'Who said anything about ideological influence on (Rupert) Murdoch? Geopolitical moves require simultaneous press "coverage". Rupert's Empire will be useful to someone in the crunch. This is still speculation. I plan to research the matter.'

In this combined 8-9-10 issue 'Jesuit Georgetown University: Vatican's Would Be Headquarters for Control of America' is examined, and 14 pages of the Winter, 1986 issue of COVERT ACTION INFORMATION BULLETIN is reprinted which contains a conspiracy history of The Sovereign Military Order of Malta. Very interesting!

#### J.T. McINTOSH

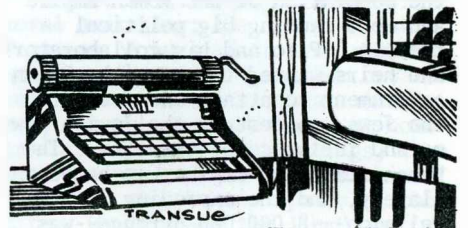
##### Memoir & Bibliography

Edited & Compiled By Ian Covell  
Chris Drumm, Books #25, 1987, 32p.  
P.O. Box 445  
Polk City, IA 50226

ISBN: 0-936055-28-6 (regular) \$2.  
-29-4 (signed) \$5.

J.T. McIntosh has been the pen-name of English SF writer James Murdoch Macgregor since he began selling fiction in 1950 and wrote and sold until 1979. In this interview-memoir he is candid and witty. What is most interesting is that he sold easily and well, in America, and stopped writing apparently because he no longer enjoyed it.

Drumm Books are for collectors and fans.



#### Common Sense

*Common Sense* (Est. 1971) is a digest of news and articles of interest to all friends of liberty. *Common Sense* is published six times a year. A sample issue may be obtained for a \$1.00. Please send all correspondence and subscriptions to: *Common Sense* L.I.S., P.O. Box 520191, Miami, Florida 33152-0191 USA.

## ELLIOTT'S BOOKLINE #4

1899 Wiessner Dr. N.E.  
Salem, OR 97303

This February issue leaves you wishing the interview with Donald Wollheim had been much longer; three questions are only a teaser. The George Zebrowski interview is longer, and more satisfying.

The strength of Elton's BOOKLINE is in his inside publishing news. He has a wide-ranging series of contacts in New York and elsewhere, and his insights and judgments based on this information flow are always interesting and often very valuable.

Single issue \$2.

Ten issues, \$20. USA

Ten issues \$35. Foreign, Air-mail.

## THREE SUMMERS---A Journal

By Yvonne Pepin

Shameless Hussy Press \$7.95

Box 3092

Berkeley, CA 94703

ISBN: 0-915288-51-6

This book had a special appeal to me, a fascination, as I read this journal written by a young woman living alone in the remote mountain country of Oregon, in a log cabin she built nearly by herself.

This is her second book of her journals. The first was CABIN JOURNAL. (It took two years to build the cabin.)

The mysteries of aloneness and loneliness permeate these journals, and the processes of creativity, talent, discipline, self-analysis, character hardening and love are examined and experienced.

I admire Yvonne Pepin for what she has accomplished and wonder if I could have done the same at her age. Granted the young have a flexibility and resilience not realized until much later in life, still, her five summers of creativity and self-examination are extraordinary and in my view admirable in the highest degree.

Her writing is perhaps better than she knows; there are images and phrases which are masterful; achingly accurate and poignant. There is humor in these journals, bravery, above all honesty.

The many, many drawings and paintings of hers in this book show her to be a very good artist, though they suffer for lack of color reproduction.



## AMERIKA

ABC-TV Miniseries Drama

Written and Directed By Donald Wrye

Amerika is far more than a long, \$40 million TV movie; it is an Event of some significance and importance.

AMERIKA is a warning and a stirring, powerful evocation of patriotism and pride in America.

It goes deep, it stirs, it deals with primal personal, national issues and problems.

It forces viewers to think, to react, to make choices.

AMERIKA is the work of one man, not a committee, the work of a very skilled and talented and insightful writer/dramatist.

It is so good, so strong, that it has terrified those in this country it is aimed at: they feel its power and are frantic to put it down, to undermine its message, to deride it and if possible discourage the people from watching it and being convinced of its message.

AMERIKA shows us what life in America would be like under a socialist state: under a totalitarian state. And the message is clear that we are heading in that direction.

The enemies of AMERIKA--those who advocate "one world", who have an actual agenda of merging the U.S. with the USSR, who are Liberals in the sense of bleeding for those suffering 'social injustice' (while ignoring the far more extensive, intensive social injustice in all socialist states), and those closet socialists who dare not admit their allegiance) are in AMERIKA faced with the consequences of their beliefs.

We see the destruction of the Bill of Rights, the invalidation of the Constitution, the concentration camps, the gulags, the forced relocation of huge numbers of citizens, the valuation of 'cooperation' over talent, the submerging of the individual to the state.

The excuses given for opposing AMERIKA is that the drama portrays Russia as the enemy and is promoting fear and loathing of the Russian system and its new, progressive leaders.

But AMERIKA is not simply anti-Russian, it is anti-dictatorship. The spelling of the series, AMERIKA, is that spelling which leftists use to characterize right-wing reactionaries and the Capitalist establishment in this country! There are echoes of Nazi Germany in this drama, of storm troopers and SS tactics of population control.

This drama is about freedom and oppression. And if the communist/socialist statist shoe fits...

## DOES REAGAN KNOW SOMETHING WE DON'T KNOW?

In his peace conference speech, Soviet leader Gorbachev said:

"At our meeting in Geneva, the U.S. president said that if the Earth faced an invasion by extra-terrestrials, the United States and the Soviet Union would join forces to repel such an invasion. I shall not dispute the hypothesis, although I think it is early...to worry about such an intrusion."

Science fiction people suspect the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI, aka STAR WARS) may be a response to secret advanced knowledge of an approaching star fleet, and that the Mariner close-up high resolution photos of Mars of a few years ago showed an alien space base. These particular photos were never released to the public, of course!

The DONAHUE show on Tuesday, Feb. 17, was devoted to AMERIKA, pro and con. And Kris Kristofferson, the hero/star of AMERIKA was a guest via satellite from Moscow where he and 850 other notables, including American entertainers, writers, economists, etc. were guests of the Soviet government (all expenses paid) for a 3-day 'international' peace gathering to hear Mikhail Gorbachev say what they wanted to hear.

Also on the DONAHUE show were William Colby, former CIA Director, and Reed Irvine, Chairman of Accuracy In Media.

Kristofferson seemed inarticulate and clumsy, able to point only to the Contras when defending his sentiments and Russia, to show, apparently that the Soviets weren't so bad because the USA did the same ugly interventionist acts.

The main argument of Irvine was that sure, the Russian people were as good as any people, but the Russian system was the evil culprit and the Communist goal was still world conquest one way or another.

William Colby was a 'moderate' voice, holding out hope that Gorbachev was a progressive, new leader who would...

Reed Irvine made a telling point to Kristofferson (for which Kris had no answer---he was outgunned intellectually and morally, and probably knew it). Irvine hoped Kristofferson would star in an equivalent movie in which American forces occupied the USSR for ten years; what would the result of that occupation be? Free elections, free enterprise, a free press, a vastly higher standard of living.

# Letters

((Editorial Reply and Commentary are enclosed in double parentheses and are always by Richard Geis.))

**DONALD A. WOLLHEIM**  
New York, February 6, 1987

'The bit in #15, p.9, that the Russians "have surfaced the charge the U.S. created AIDS in a biological weapons lab" is the first that I have seen in print of this thought---but it is something I have suspected from the very beginning of the AIDS news. It originated apparently in a detention camp for Haitian refugees from our Devalier murdercracy on that forlorn island. It was clearly directed to kill off homosexuals, drug-addicts, and the good-for-nothing blacks who had the poor taste to flee their home tyranny. All three are types the Army has always detested and what would be more natural than that the Pentagon should select them for trying out a new germ warfare item (probably genetically enriched from the endemic African version which has been around for centuries). It would also be like their technique to try it out before they developed the antidote (or have they got one, just holding it until the plague finished the job for which it was intended?). I recall in this regard the admission several years ago that during WWII (1943?), the Army tested out a means of distributing disease by putting a mild cold virus into the ventilation system of the New York subway to see how well this worked. If enough innocent people fell victim, they probably would put something worse into the Berlin subway system.'

((In the paper today (Sunday, Feb. 15) a columnist discussed the AIDS problem in Cuba which originated in Angola as a result of returned Cuban soldiers, and how a large part of the American AIDS outbreak may have come from the expulsion of 'undesirables' from Cuba to the U.S. some years ago.

((Your comment about testing a virus in a ventilation system prompts me to voice my own speculation that Legionaire's Disease, which seems to exist only in large air-conditioning units, and which seems to have disappeared, was a series of tests of a biological weapon either by the CIA or by the KGB, several years ago.

((And then--remember that extraordinary series of grain elevator explosions in the midwest a few years ago? I suspected international sabotage then, but now suspect a private enterprise conspiracy to rig wheat prices. The lack of media speculation on the sabotage/conspiracy aspects of that string of devastating explosions seemed significant then, and still does.))

'You speculate (p.10) that it seemed odd that nobody in the Reagan/Regan cabal seems to have kept notes (or tapes as Nixon and FDR did), but since you wrote that there is already news that Ronnie did keep a day-by-day diary of what he was doing---and that it will take another Nixon-type battle to get this thing unabridged into the public eye (before he burns it).'

((And news yesterday that computer memory exists of memos sent to and from the National Security Council in the White House basement, and that subsequently someone in the White House fiddled with those discs and tried to erase and/or alter the texts, unaware there

existed a master "garbage can" file which kept everything and recorded the attempts to edit and expunge. Ha! There may be some irony and poetic justice there.))



**SAMUEL EDWARD KONKIN III**  
2210 Wilshire Blvd., #379,  
Santa Monica, CA 90403  
February 9, 1987

'One problem with LoCcing CIR is that I agree with the Editor on so much. True, most great conflicts have arisen between those perceived as quite close politically (in our case, anti-politically) such as that between Stalin and Trotsky, that between Hitler & Rohm, and that between Rand and Branden. Nonetheless, I would like it understood that I perceive you as a valuable ally and inspiration, not a threat to some True Faith. Nor would I wish to waste your time and your readers with the picking of nits.

'There appears to be a major difference between us from your past criticisms of my writings. It is alluded to only in passing in CIR 15, but it is worth airing and I will take advantage of your invitation to attempt to deal with it now. That it what you call "Idealism." I gather I am accused of having it, and that it is a Bad Thing. Let us begin the exchange by my trying to establish whether I actually have it, and if I do, it is what you present it to be.

'As far as I can understand your charge, I am guilty of Idealism because I discern a pattern to human social relations (i.e. all is not Chaos amongst Man), I understand that pattern to a greater or lesser extent (or at least claim to), and I act on that for self-improvement and the improvement of others. So far I see nothing ideal about this, at least in the Kantian and other philosophical senses.

'I posit a method of following certain lines of reality's pattern for these improving actions (counter-economics). I point out (in NEW LIBERTARIAN MANIFESTO and sequels) what the shape of the resulting society will be if these lines are stressed and others are avoided. None of the choices (which lines to pursue and avoid) are ever outside that range of choices available to everyone (even those who are unable to fully understand these choices and their long-range consequences). I make no claim to achieving a Utopia and reject that "Perennial Heresy" (as Thomas Molnar calls it) as thoroughly as any Voegelinite conservative.

'Finally, I find it sufficient to win over those who will be won over and am content to live in this relatively enlightened subsociety (the Agora) with those who interact with me with similar ethics, morality, code of living, or whatever you wish to call it. I suspect it will be quite attractive to many people, but I will not force anyone to

join. In fact, until our numbers grow sufficiently large, I will not even rely on defensive force to protect us but utilize guil and the same market mechanisms I claim to have discerned above.

'Where, O Geis, have I strayed? It is true that I portray agorism romantically and often utilize traditional moral rhetoric, but it is an honest form of PR since I feel that way about it myself. Nonetheless, if this makes me an Idealist, then I fail to see either the difference between Idealism and Realism (of course, I never did see any difference) or where we significantly differ.

'Wherein lies my catastrophic error?'

((Sam, in recent years I've watched you and yours become libertarian purists who denounce those who compromise with the system of electoral power by mounting a Libertarian Party because to get elected libertarians would have to compromise their principles. You'd rather have a pure intellectual stance and a trivial little puzzle of "agorist" economic activity (which is safe as long as the authorities don't bother with you). This is an unconscious strategy of self-limitation and egotistic superiority. You can play endless holier-than-thou put-down games and argue theory till you wither and die without having to dirty your hands with the getting of real electoral power and real problems and real responsibility. Pure agorism and libertarianism and pure communism or pure anything is not attainable in this world of impure, imperfect, irrational, perverse, idealistic, self-destructive people.

((To restate my basic outlook: What you see is what you get! I have never seen in the world now or ever a pure libertarian society. I have and do see a range of possible human societies and governments, most of which are authoritarian to one degree or another, hidden or blatant, and I see a range of cultures possible to the human species, with cyclic swings, fads and fashions, in every sphere of human activity. And within those boundaries, within those cycles, I believe it is possible to make changes for the good. That's what I would call realistic idealism.

((Maybe I misread you, maybe I misjudge the purist stance I perceive. As for me, I'm not an activist, not a worker for "the cause". I'm the Observer, the Watcher, the Commentator, the Analyst. I try to see the world as it really is, to understand how it really works, and I'm always aware of how little I know and how little I understand. And I have to understand my own character slants and twists which warp and woof my judgement and choice of things-to-read, items-to-notice. But I don't envy those who are positive they know the truth; they've bought a package in order to be free of doubt and ambiguity.

((I'll probably die in a stew of doubt and uncertainty. But the world is an endless, enthralling, exciting show for such as me, and I'll study it and draw tentative conclusions as long as I'm able.))

**BOB BLACK**  
P.O. Box 431  
Boston, MA 02258  
February 19, 1987

'No, I haven't solved my personal work problem---I'm not a professional writer, and being one wouldn't free me from the world of work. Why not? Because I'd

still live surrounded by the "working wounded," too stultified and stupified by work to provide what I crave, the company of lordly egalitarians. In this all-important aspect there is no individual escape from the work-warped world. And the trends tend the wrong way, away from self-employment (on family farms, notably), and toward wage labor.

The people who "want and need work" are a lot are a lot less numerous than you suppose, judging from the way they behave---goldbricking, malingering, ripping off supplies, making personal calls ---while working. People who "want and need work," like people who want and need government and religion, are made, not born---marred in the making. It was to prove this point that I included the historical and anthropological excursions in THE ABOLITION OF WORK. How to deal with socialized submissives with their trained incapacities is a problem which I, unlike most libertarians, at least acknowledge.

Unlike you, I don't take it for granted that the existing unsavory array of industrial and colonial societies (your "workable mass societies") exhaust the possibilities. Human choice, the irrational and chance, not destiny, have formed the factory and kindred control institutions. I have no desire to "run a civilization," and wonder why we can't run free. If we have "the most personal and social freedom allowable given our technological civilization," then I ask, which do you prefer---freedom, or technological civilization? I prefer freedom. Most libertarians, I find, do not.

((Isn't 'lordly egalitarians' a contradiction in terms? But I see your point.

((Your basic problem is with the limits imposed upon us by our social and personal instincts---with "human nature." Human choice is limited by our inborn behavior structures, by the type and quality of our language, by our senses, by our environments. Small societies---tribes, cults, families---can be far more diverse and varied than can mass societies. There is a social dynamics that works in us/with us to organize and structure societies beyond a certain size/population. That's manifestly obvious. Railing against it and crying why can't we run free is, to me, the veil of an idealist with a looser script.

((The choice is not freedom or technological civilization. The choice is to realistically deal with what is, and to try to make it better in ways that are possible, or to not try. In my view, whimpering that everyone but an elite are abused and that we live in an imperfect world is a cop out and the equivalent of choosing to not try to deal with reality.))

DAVID A. DRAKE  
Box 904  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
February 6, 1987

A little background on FORTRESS ((reviewed in CIR #15)). Tom Doherty wanted a sequel to SKYRIPPER, and very much wanted an SDI component to the story. Every time I tried to argue him out of it, I wound up more closely tied to his concept. So I did an alternate universe novel, because I didn't want a 20-year timeline which would have been required had I started the 'sequel' in 1985 where the earlier book ended.

In general, my work goes out as I wrote it. With FORTRESS, I had an editor whom I respect (Harriet McDougal) and who really wanted to have line-by-line input. The sex scene in the book had about the same tone as the similar scene in SKYRIPPER. She felt it should be smoothed out---cleaned up would imply bowdlerizing, which really isn't what she did. I let her changes stand because I figure she knows more about the mainstream market which is part of the audience for this book.

This is information, not an apology (and I don't assume you'd have found my version more effective). I went over both the edited manuscript and the galleys, making numerous changes. The novel as published is exactly as I approved it.

((I think you're lucky to have an editor at TOR who takes an interest and who has time for hands-on input in her output-as-editor.))

GEORGE WARREN  
P.O. Box EB  
Pacific Grove, CA 93950  
February 8, 1987

Thanks for the look at CIR. I wish I did not have to say this, but yellow is the right color for it.

It would appear the old Dick Geis is no more, and has been replaced by the sort of failed clone which can get along with the New York establishment. The new, denatured, bland version will not print anything that might offend the cutting edges of the radical left; the feminist movement; the fanatical, incoherent, raving-and-drooling Reagan-haters; and above all the entire mechanism of left-wing McCarthyism.

I understand this. I also deplore it. The title promises a free forum; what it delivers is a thing guaranteed to tiptoe around the whole question of dissent. The result is a pale, castrated 14th carbon of THE NATION magazine, guaranteed not to raise the hackles of anyone who hates America and guaranteed to sicken anyone else.

I know it is hard to get by in the publishing world. One's editors bristle at finding anything in the copy that does not have the hard-line left's Nihil Obstat on it, and the broken-field running a pro writer has to do now to get past the lesbian Homintern in publishing is a disgrace. I can understand your reluctance to offend the truck drivers and the radlib crazies.

But what I cannot understand is how you dare to offer, for a fee, a newsletter which promises one thing but delivers another as different from the thing promised as night and day.

This has been a long time coming. SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW's last issues, in which you ran Brunner's slimy mouthings and suppressed virtually all dissent (including my letter, which was quashed altogether), should have been done on yellow paper, too. Shame on you. Aren't you at all embarrassed by this?

((Ah, George... I just got a letter from an author/publisher who refused to send a review copy of his book because he feels I am too anti-religious. And I expect letters from hard-core libertarians objecting to my opinions in that area.

((In #15 my opinions seem to be biased, I suppose, because I didn't have occasion to disembowel any idiot left-wing leaders or books or whatever. But everyone must realize I'm not a reactionary or a radical or a this or a that. I like to think of myself as a realist, a bit of a cynic, and also something of an idealist in respect to personal and economic freedoms within a framework of what I perceive to be the structures of human nature and its extensions into society and the world in whole.

So what do you think of #16?))



JOEL ROSENBERG  
1477 Chapel St., #B-4  
New Haven, CT 06511  
February 6, 1987

I'd be tempted to say, "I told you so," except that I didn't; I thought you really were going to pack it in forever.

I'm delighted to see SFR reincarnate itself in any form, and like this one a lot. (I still have my usual quibbles about your politics and your economic predictions; as you read this, please insert my standard harangue here.) I suspect I'll like it better when the lettercol heats up.

Speaking of the lettercol, since I wrote my postcard for the last SFR, Neil Schulman and I had a few friendly chats on the phone, and got together at the Atlanta Worldcon, and decided, I think, not to discuss politics further, at least not in person. I still think he's a loony welfare libertarian; he, I'm sure, thinks I'm a zany apologist for statist repression...but we're both fun to drink with.

Glad you spotted DARK KNIGHT. It is superb. Equally good, and perhaps deeper, and certainly even more apocalyptic is WATCHMEN, which I hope you've gotten your hands on by now. If not, trust me. Please---rum, do not walk. I think the suspense of waiting for the next month's issue is part of the process---don't wait.

((So who publishes WATCHMEN? I'd write for a review copy if I knew. I rarely actually buy something to read or review; there's so much on my plate as it is.))

## COMMENTARY ON THE NEWS continued

● Howard Baker, Jr., former US senator, has been chosen to be the new White House Chief of Staff. Baker is indeed a member of the CFR, as is Donald Regan.

How's that for a prediction come true?

The other two men named as possible replacements for Regan were Drew Lewis and Paul Laxalt. Neither of them, however, are members of the CFR.

Baker had plans to run for president in 1988, and accepting this job effectively kills those plans. So, why did he accept the job? Perhaps he realized he had little chance after the fiasco of his 1984 attempt (when he was criticized for inept organization and lack of planning; is this the best man suited for the Chief of Staff job?). I suspect Howard Baker has been promised something for this effort. We probably won't know the reward until after 1988.

● Joke: Howard Baker gave up his chance to run for president in order to be president as Reagan's Chief of Staff in the White House.

● 3-1-87 Interesting weekend. Now Gorbachev is offering to sign a treaty cutting way back on intermediate-range missiles, and the Rockefeller clique in Washington think it a good idea. And I'm sure not coincidentally, Soviet Ambassador to the United States, Yuri V. Dubinin, has an article published in PARADE on Sunday (a lead article, puffed on the cover) titled, "We're Willing to Negotiate."

Seems to me, that had to be coordinated with Moscow and PARADE publisher, Carlo Vittorini.

● 3-4-87 In Today's Forum in THE OREGONIAN is a revelation about cancer chemotherapy:

For some cancers such as leukemia, lymphomas, breast and testicu-

lar, chemotherapy does prolong life or relieve symptoms.

But for the most common cancers: colon and rectum, pancreas, stomach and most kinds of lung cancers, chemotherapy is not effective and can by itself make life more miserable for the cancer victim and can by itself kill him.

New drugs are being created and tested all the time, of course, but for now the discomforts and extra expense seem worthless.

'Some oncologists inform their patients of the lack of evidence that treatments work. Others may be misled by scientific papers that express unwarranted optimism about chemotherapy. Still others respond to an economic incentive. Physicians can earn much more money running active chemotherapy practices than they can providing solace and relief from suffering to dying patients and their families.'

---Martin F. Shapiro, internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA.

Emphasis added by me in the above comment and quote. This information may be of interest to you or someone you know in the future. It's worth keeping in mind.

● 3-2-87 Add Egypt to the countries defaulting on their international debts. They are 12 month behind and are being cut off by the banks.

What is not realized about the papered-over debt crisis is that while the huge international banks can be kept alive by hook or by crook, by cooking books and lying a lot, what cannot be hidden is the collapse of trade between the debtor countries and the industrialized countries. Brazil, for instance cannot continue to buy American goods, and we are cutting back on buying their goods. The down-spiral is deepening and as this no-money-to-buy-with and no-money-to-pay-with situation spreads from country to country, a drastic collapse of world trade will occur. (Is occurring.)

I got a loud laugh out of a CNN interview with a straight-faced British banker/financier who poo-

pooed the existence and possible effectiveness of a "Debtor Countries Cartel" (like OPEC).

"Cartel" is a misnomer, and maybe a deliberate one; a cartel is a group of producers attempting to limit competition and rig prices to their benefit.

An agreement by debtors to not pay debts is not a cartel in any sense, and to say a "debtor's cartel couldn't last" as this British banker did, is to engage in semantic absurdity, as he knows!

The CNN interviewer and the news media use of "cartel" in this way is very fishy; it seems to be a propaganda ploy by the establishment to fool the public just a little longer, to perhaps keep the game going while they desperately seek a way out of the hole they are in or to play for time while they position themselves for the collapse.

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Ideally, this magazine should be monthly. I've had to cut off News Commentary two weeks before this goes to the printer, and four or five book reviews are completed but languishing for lack of space.

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