

SEPTEMBER 1998

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ALEXIS GILLILAND-----1
4030 Eighth St S., Arlington, VA 22204

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All Post Office Mail to:

RICHARD E. GEIS

PO BOX 11408

PORTLAND OR 97211-0408

email: CompuServe: 100313,3440

INTERNET:

100313.3440@compuserve.com

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Freedom of the press:
Whoever owns the press
owns the freedom.
---Arthur Lane Terego

Freedom of speech:
Everyone can speak; only the
wealthy can make themselves
heard.
---Arthur Lane Terego



Geis Editorial Notes

■ Recent 100% increases in copying costs imposed by Staples and Office Depot have forced me to reduce pages to six and to reduce the type size to keep approximately the same wordage. I hope your eyes are better than mine.

■ I see lately that I've mistakenly taken the easy road in putting these issues together. I started *The Geis Letter* with the intent of filling each issue with my own commentary and reviews. Then, as time passed, out of ego and sloth, I solicited 'feedback' in the form of letters of comment, and gradually the letters began to fill the pages... I suffered the dreaded 'letter creep' disease.

Until we see in #51 that my contribution had declined far too much.

So, with this issue I am reclaiming some territory, and from next issue onward it shall be as it was in the beginning: Geis ubber alles. Space Hog.

I still want feedback and FYI stuff, especially corrections of mistakes and additional info which may change my view(s).

I'm sorry to cut off the 'regulars' and others from these pages, but it would be a mistake to keep publishing this newsletter as a letterzine.

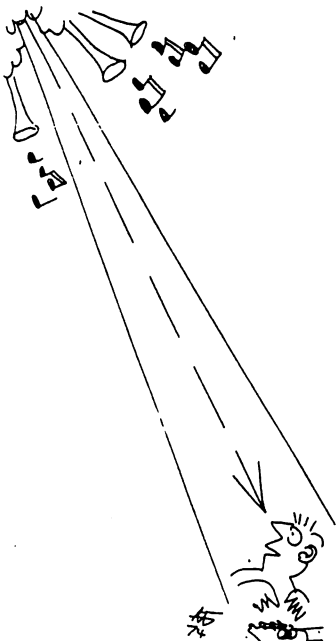
News Diary

■ 8-18-98 Infant Clinton's stiff-faced speech to the world Monday night struck me as a desperate attempt to hide and escape and to command we forgive him for his outrageous lack of moral character...and to blame others for his problems.

I especially liked his use of euphemisms: 'mislead' for lie, and 'inappropriate relationship' for power-male sex abuse of a barely adult young woman.

We are supposed to forgive and forget his sins and cowardice, and in the name of the sacred Presidency let him probably continue to abuse The Presidency.

This man is not a man; he's a disguised infant who will arrogantly and selfishly put his lust and needs and status and ego over anything and anyone, who has no real conscience, whose natural



charisma and political talents and successes have fed his infantile feeling of ME FIRST and I CAN GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING [tempting fate] to this point where he has exceeded his talents and grasp and luck and stands exposed for what he is.

As to the future: the crunch will come when Special Prosecutor Starr sends his Report to the House of Representatives. Then the key, detailed portions proving Clinton's perjury, obstructions of justice, withholding evidence, influencing grand jury witnesses and their testimony...all those felonies...will leak to the media (the death of a thousand bytes) in an endless flood and the jig will be up...and the poll figures down!

A delegation of Democrat leaders from the damaged party, from the House and from the Senate will eventually visit Clinton [as a delegation of top Republicans visited Nixon] and he will resign as the least awful fate.

New President Al Gore will, of course, pardon him and his wife for all and any crimes, and, having avoided the ultimate Impeachment stain on his 'honor', Clinton will go (still the infant victim!) and after a few rootless years will take a prestige job in Hollywood.

■ BUT--- There is the problem of what is a horny president to do if his wife is a cold bitch and won't put out?

There must be a privacy mechanism and an understanding---unstated societal permission---for him to have brought in a top call girl---or to have a mistress---without suffering pious public morality finger-pointing and condemnation. Eight years of celibacy should not be a job requirement for any president.

Can the media endure that knowledge without exploiting it for ratings? And can the public endure their president sometimes resorting to commercial sex during his term(s)?

I hope so.

■ 8-20-98 Now the president, in retaliation for the recent U.S. embassy bombings in Africa, has ordered Cruise missile strikes against six or seven terrorist related sites in Afghanistan, and a chemical factory in Khartoum, Sudan, which it is initially claimed produced precursor chemicals which are used in chemical weapons. The U.S. forces tried to limit 'collateral losses' (civilian casualties) in Khartoum by sending the missiles at night.

I cannot help but wonder why that terrorist related phrasing was used in regard to the Afghanistan attack? What does that include---the local Afghanistan

village where some of the in-training terrorists are housed?

At a press conference one reporter asked Defense Secretary Cohen if these strikes were timed to distract the media and the public from Clinton's 'Monica' problem; the *Wag The Dog* scenario.

The cynicism inherent in that question is both appalling and amusing.

Although the thought has crossed my mind---and other minds---that the CIA may have been used to arrange by unofficial agents, 'cut-outs' and CIA-funded terrorist groups the July Africa embassy bombings for just this purpose -- saving Clinton's ass by giving him the opportunity and retaliation-necessity to be John Wayne and to milk that "getting tough" role for as long as possible.

But is even this politician, this solipsist infant with a secret death wish, capable of sacrificing hundreds of people to help save his presidency? Well, there is the socialist 'sacrifice the few individuals for the greater good of society' argument which comes naturally to the Liberal mind.

But would the CIA do the embassy bombings, indirectly, to set up the need for 'retaliation' strikes? Are they that obedient to any president's self-serving orders?

I personally don't think so. Not for a slimy, cowardly creature like Clinton, and certainly not to create a mere two-three day subsequent image-builder for Clinton.

But that despicable scenario will begin to look credible if there are a lot of follow-up terrorist revelations, air strikes and suspicious (CIA-funded?) "terrorist retaliations" for our retaliations, requiring months of Bill "John Wayne" Clinton's self-important posturing and crisis decisions. [He walks from helicopter to Air Force One very nicely.] Congress would not want to impose Impeachment proceedings on this most important, busy president during this 'crisis time'.

The *Wag The Dog* scenario requires this declared 'war against terrorism' to continue at a crisis level for a long time. I doubt that is possible.

I only hope this hypothetical doesn't extrapolationally extend to Cruise missiles being sent against 'Terrorist Militia Bases' (and 'related' targets) in Montana and Idaho.

But seriously, folks... I don't believe the CIA and/or FBI would engineer serious incidents like these embassy bombings except as part of a greater social-change agenda and only on orders from their real Owners. And I hope this scenario is not the case.

As to Impeachment---there's nothing

unthinkable or sacrilegious about firing a chief executive who has screwed up and disgraced himself and smeared the presidency. Huge, transnational (country-size) corporations change CEOs often, and Clinton is at base only a public employee we citizens have hired. He's not a god, except in his own petulant, infantile mind...and in the minds of his sycophant hangers-on, those transfixed by his 'charm', and those 'yellow dog Democrats' who would vote for a dog if it's a Democrat.

■ 8-21-98 Now we learn at least 70 missiles were sent against that big terrorist base complex in Afghanistan, and six missiles were sent to hit that Sudanese pharmaceuticals plant in Khartoum.

Interesting that the U.S. decided to wipe out a plant which it asserts makes (among many other products) two 'precursor' chemicals used in the manufacture of deadly chemical weapons...but did not attack a known terrorist chemical weapons lab in an isolated part of Sudan, and a known terrorist storage facility for chemical weapons!

Why not attack them instead of the in-city pharmaceuticals plant? We were afraid of releasing a cloud of deadly gases into the atmosphere (as we did inadvertently in Iraq during our war there. Can you spell Gulf War Syndrome?).

We would be up on U.N. charges of war crimes against humanity. Not good for The Pure Self-Image.

Thus terrorist chem. weapons labs and storage sites apparently have a secret will-not-bomb guarantee from the U.S. govt. [Safer to missile a not-deadly chemical plant for marginal, perhaps opportunistic reasons.]

Destroying the Khartoum chemical plant will probably eventually be judged unwise and overreactive by the U.N and some members of congress. The public will support the Sudan attack; they hate to give up the thrill of 'standing tall!' by destroying factories and injuring innocent people with remote high tech weapons. A nation of pathetic jingoists and weak egos.

Incidentally, news reports (especially on major TV and radio news highlight moments) are often reporting the Sudanese target as a 'chemical weapons plant'. A flat lie. Sloppy thinking and bad writing...or deliberate 'misleading' [lying] propaganda to help justify the attack?

It was the U.S. government who identified the plant as having been targeted because it made 'precursor' chemicals used in chemical weapons.

If those chemicals were being used on-site to create (with other components) full-fledged deadly chemical weapons, the U.S. government would have said so from the beginning! And would we have sent six Cruise missiles to blow up a chemical weapons-making (VX nerve gas) plant in the capital city of Sudan?

I don't think so!

■ 8-21-98 The NY stock markets cracked but didn't break today, as the worldwide debt collapse continues in Russia, Asia, and now in South America.

Big German banks, heavily into Russian loans, are taking huge hits, as are the biggest NY banks.

The disappearance of trillions of dollars of wealth, worldwide, is dramatic and terrifying for those who realize the true nature of what is happening. **Everywhere** there is a flight to safety by those capable of pulling out their money, with U.S. Treasury paper the most sought as the most safe haven. The 'little guy' overseas is locked in place and, having believed his government and his financial experts, is losing his savings and property values in an endless grinding decline---the deflation of the money supply and of securities and other asset prices and valuations.

It is said by the deluded optimists that all the various governments have to do is inflate: run huge deficits and 'reliquify' their country (as the U.S. is urging Japan do), but we see what a hundred billion of 'rescue' dollars from the IMF has done in the past year---money down the ratholes of Asia and Russia, and nothing accomplished but a few months' delay of the inevitable.

Stuffing the banks of Japan with 'printed' government money to encourage easy bank loans will not work; not enough qualified borrowers, not enough business opportunities which will make money in a worsening depression, and bankers terrified of losing more billions in bad loans (and losing their jobs).

The Japanese government would have to quickly spend trillions of yen in naked deficits on hundreds of huge, make-work programs.

It is impossible to 'reliquify' (spend into prosperity with fake money) in an emergency splurge while the deflationary collapse is under way. Everything of value (afraid of shrinking buying power) would leave the country with a one-way ticket.

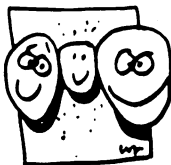
The conservative, savings-oriented citizens of Japan are not willing to rape themselves by such a devaluation of their wealth. And certainly not at the prodding of a U.S. government acting in the inter-

ests of the oligarchy which owns it.

Germany desperately tried the 'printing press solution' after WWI and was utterly ruined...and produced Adolph Hitler and the Nazis in the bargain.

Russia seems now on the same road.

News Diary continued p. 6



Letter

ELTON ELLIOTT

INTERNET:virtadv@aol.com

8-10-98 'Dick, congratulations on fifty plus issues of TGL. I always find it an interesting blend of information and opinion. Speaking of opinion, I too, am bothered by those who say they know nothing about whatever situation is at hand, and then proceed to blather on and on. This glorying in ignorance seems to be a growing phenomenon, sometimes caused by government cover-ups, sometimes by intellectual sloth? In any event, here are four tidbits designed to counter the spreading darkness, and perhaps provide some slight illumination.

'First, countless textbooks on World War Two omit any mention of Japanese attacks on the states of the USA during the war (Alaska and Hawaii were attacked, but at that time had not been admitted as states.) In fact, the US west coast was attacked several times during the war. Along the southern Oregon coast a Japanese plane, launched from a submarine, tried to bomb the town of Coos Bay, doing minor damage, but not injuring anyone. At the mouth of the Columbia River, between Oregon and Washington, a Japanese submarine shelled Battery Russell (part of Fort Stevens) on the Oregon side. Near Medford, also in Oregon, a Japanese balloon bomb exploded, killing several people.

Years later, (in either 1961, or 1962) my father, who worked at Fort Stevens, which by this time had become a State Park, called home and told my mother that a Japanese plane had been found in dense undergrowth at the extreme southern end of the park, near a public highway called Ridge Road. He told her that they were moving the plane, and he had to work so he couldn't leave, but that it's something worth checking out. Mom put me in the car (I was

either four or five years old) and drove down to the site of the wreck (it was about five miles from the house my parents were renting, also on Ridge Road). We got there in time to see the plane (it looked like a Kate torpedo bomber) being hoisted out of the brush by a crane and placed onto a large flatbed. That event never made the papers, and my dad told us he had been told "by some government bigwigs" not to talk about it. But my mom'll never forget it, nor will I.

REG: No, no, no, you and your mother are misremembering! That plane didn't crash on American soil, and there was no a conspiracy within the US government to hide that information! Good God, man, do you expect the readers to believe a conspiracy by thousands of people to be in place for so long and be so effective? Get real!

'Second, we "know" that the Northern Territories are part of Canada. Oh, Canada might have jurisdiction over parts of them, but the Territories have been separated for some time, and a part of them, Nunavut, has been put under local tribal control. Another part, centered around Yellowknife, located on the shores of the Great Slave Lake, is owned mostly by the crown. Not owned by Canada.

'Not owned by the United Kingdom but directly owned by the British monarchy, more specifically owned by the house of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (which changed its name during World War One to Windsor -- the name of one of the family's castles). The world's largest gold mines, and some of the world's largest deposits of oil, are found there. Queen Elizabeth and Prince Charles visit their "subjects" frequently.

REG: This makes me wonder who really owns the Falkland Islands, for instance, with its huge, rarely mentioned surrounding undersea oil deposits. What is the true status of some other empire 'possessions' of the Crown?

'Third, Alexis A. Gilliland (the very talented cartoonist), in TGL #51, talking about Waco stated that "... there was no Attorney General in place for Clinton to plot with," -- true enough, Clinton AG appointees Zoey Baird and Kimba Wood had not made the cut, and Janet Reno was still in the confirmation process. But his next comments, "nor any Democratic staffers, only Republican incumbents," are **WRONG**. When Clinton took over, he appointed Webster

Hubbell (one of Hillary Clinton's partners at the Rose law firm in Little, Rock) to an assistant AG position, and Hubbell began acting as AG in reality, if not in title. He fired all of the Republicans, thus quashing any further investigation of his immediate predecessor George Herbert Walker Bush, and began installing Clinton loyalists, including fellow Rose alumni Vincent W. Foster.

In his book, Hubbell revealed that the first two items President Clinton asked him to investigate were: find out what the government knew about who really killed President John F. Kennedy, and to find out what the government knew about UFO's. Hubbell reiterated these amazing requests on an appearance on *Politically Incorrect*, (the ABC show hosted by Bill Maher, which follows *Nightline*). He did not tell what he found out.

This fits Clinton's favorite m.o.: get the goods -- on anyone, enemy or ally, if those facts can be of some later benefit. For instance, Filegate. His incessant snooping probably was inspired by the most influential man in his life; a man he gave public credit to in 1992 during his acceptance speech to the Democrat National convention: Carroll Quigley (Clinton's professor at George-town University), whose 1100-page tome, *Tragedy and Hope*, was used by the late John Birch Society conspira-tologist, Gary Allen, in his bestselling book, *None Dare Call It Conspiracy*.

REG: I'd be willing to bet Clinton didn't get no satisfaction from those queries, since the keepers-of-the-secrets, the CIA and the FBI, notoriously have files even presidents---those temporary govt. employees---can't access.

Finally, if former White House lawyer, Lanny Davis's comments (on CNN's *Crossfire* last week) are any indication, Clinton's spinmeisters are getting more and more desparate. To paraphrase, Davis (a man whose arrogance is exceeded only by his stupidity) said what if Clinton had a vasectomy, and there turned out to be no DNA in the stains on Monica Lewinsky's dress, what then? Amazingly, none of the other people present, including co-hosts Pat Buchanan or Bill Press, said or did anything. I would have started laughing. Lanny Davis, and they, are thus revealed as scientific illiterates. Sperm is surrounded by vascular fluid which contains plenty of DNA, in fact, more useful DNA than sperm (which is incomplete, and designed to unite with an Egg to create

new strands of DNA). So, a man who had a vasectomy would provide more useful information, than one who hadn't. Although both would provide more than enough DNA to determine the source of the issuance.

REG: The "source of the issuance"! What an elegant phrase. I prefer the more forceful "ejaculator".

Letter

ANONYMOUS

8-11-98 I'm listening to another Art Bell show "archive," via internet on my computer. It's pretty slick actually, seems like something you should experience at least once. Even if you never feel like screwing with it again. But given the flexibility it offers, to listen to "live" radio shows whenever you please (Ken Hamblin and Dr. Laura are both available too. There may not be as extensive archives as for Art Bell, but there are some. And I know that at least Ken Hamblin's show is carried "live" on internet every day, as is Art Bell) you may change your mind once you get into it. Certainly listening is becoming much easier for you, over time, than any kind of reading. You may be able to get "books on tape" this way also.

Tonight Art started out with a guest about the UFO sighting over Phoenix last year. He played a tape of an Air Force person he talked to about the sighting, and about removing "gun camera" film from a plane that had flown close to it.

The second hour is more interesting. The guest is named Joel Skousen (sp?), author of the book *Strategic Relocation: North American Guide to Safe Places* which has a basically obvious purpose. He's billed as a high-security expert, among other things. But for some reason the discussion of the book didn't last long. Now they're off onto "global conspiracy" type things, mostly emphasizing Russia and how the media ignores Russia compared to China and other places. Such as, that the US gov't will get all upset at how Saddam Hussein will occasionally cause trouble for weapons inspection teams; but we don't hear that Russia is in the process of developing major new weapons technology and facilities, including some big underground stuff --- contrary to the image of "peace" that the major US media and gov't agencies like to present --- and has NEVER allowed

US/UN weapons inspection teams in. And also that Clinton has apparently signed an executive order changing the US nuclear defense policy so that we will no longer "launch on warning." The result being, according to reports at the time (*Washington Times*, was mentioned), that we will "absorb a First Strike in the name of peace." And much/all of this is supposedly aimed at helping usher in a New World Order, because nothing but a major disaster-type situation would convince people that such a situation was needed.

And this guy started out being such a sensible-sounding counterweight to the Gary North stuff! This hour of the show began with Joel Skousen offering counterpoints to a lot of the more extreme ideas that Gary North had during his segments with Art Bell. Now he seems to be saying basically "well, y2k isn't really a bad problem. But not to worry, we'll have a government-conspiracy-induced nuclear conflagration and then a militarily-enforced New World Order! So, cheer up, everyone!"

Skousen appears to believe that Russia is being set up to attack the US with nuclear weapons, to which we will not respond, both because the land-based weapons will be destroyed by their first strike --- with Launch On Warning they'd be on the way already, and not destroyed when the Russian missiles hit --- and because some time ago submarine nuclear launch procedures were changed so that only a direct presidential order can do that --- which won't happen because the Russian first strike will wipe out the means of communication for doing so, if not wiping out the president directly.

Having basically exhausted their nuclear capability, China will step in as the tool of the New World Order folks --- having been build up mostly by US, through the technology transfers we hear about lately --- and attack Russia conventionally. With their nuclear arsenal spent, and not much conventional military worth speaking of, Russia is controlled as well.

No doubt there's more to this, but you get the gist of it. This is really another show to get tape(s) of, but I suppose you won't be interested.

REG: Thanks for the report from the Conspiracy front.

You're right, I won't get the tapes or buy a new computer to access the internet's sound archives. At least, not yet. And not to listen to Art Bell. I have enough trouble listening to Rush Limbaugh on the radio.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Some reviewed, others listed and described and sometimes unfairly dealt with.

Review

ALL I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FILMMAKING I LEARNED FROM THE TOXIC AVENGER --- The Shocking

True Story of Troma Studios

By Lloyd Kaufman and James Gunn

Introduction by Roger Corman

Berkley Boulevard, \$14.00, 1998, 336 p., Trade Paperback, ISBN: 0-425-16357-1.

It's all about Lloyd Kaufman, manic ego-maniac and "talented" filmmaker who learned one lesson: if there are enough tits and asses in a film, all mistakes, gaffes, goofs, obsessions and warped thinking is forgiven. He writes stream-of-consciousness narration about his cunning, blatant, stream-of-consciousness life.

TRANCE FORMATION OF AMERICA

The True Life Story of a CIA Mind

Control Slave

By Cathy O'Brien with Mark Phillips

Reality Marketing, PO Box 27740, Las Vegas, NV 89126, 1995, \$15.00 + \$3 p&h, 244p., Trade Paperback, ISBN: 0-9660165-4-8.

Review

U-TURN - The Shooting Script Screenplay and Foreword by JOHN RIDLEY. Introduction by OLIVER STONE

Newmarket Press, 18 East 48th St., New York, NY 10017, 1997, \$16.95, 142 pp with 27 b&w photos, Trade Paperback, ISBN:1-55704-327-2.

As a story, judging from the script, this is a disappointing, pretentious, somewhat absurd noir movie about a loner gambler (Sean Penn) who owes big money who is stranded in a small southwest desert town, who meets a beautiful young wife (Jennifer Lopez) who wants to use him to kill her rich husband (Nick Nolte), and who discovers the husband wants him to kill the wife...

There is a blind indian philosopher (Jon Voight) who sits beside the road, a malicious, dishonest garage mechanic (Billy Bob Thornton), an involved-with-the-wife sheriff (Powers Boothe), a teenage temptress (Claire Danes), her jealous boyfriend (Joaquin Phoenix)...

But as is clear from the Introduction by Oliver Stone, who is the Director, the 'shooting script' don't mean shit! In practice it's a guide, not a Bible. And Director Stone made numerous changes and cuts in the 'shooting script'.

My problem is I haven't yet seen the film. But I'd say from this reading experience that it's almost pointless to

I was kidnapped by aliens who made me their king but I came back to marry the woman I love.



read a so-called 'shooting script' if you haven't seen the movie at least once.

Still, it appeared to me that Nolte in this small role was wasted as an actor. Hell, all but Penn and Lopez were wasted and are in the film for their name value.

Review

NOAM CHOMSKY - Whose World Order? Conflicting Visions: Do People Matter? [April 21, 1998]

A speech sponsored by Northeast Indiana Central Labor Council AFL-CIO.

Radio Free Maine, Roger Leisner, P.O. Box 2705, Augusta, ME 04338. Phone: (207) 622-6629 Tel/Fax. \$10.50, Audio tape.

Chomsky is a breath of fresh, socialist air as he excoriates the influences and machinations of mega-corporatism and the Owners' control of governments and corporate efforts to control the world.

He laments the decline of 'Democracy' and the power of labor which he feels is the essence of democracy and the only organized means of giving power and voice to the masses.

He inflicts a lot of metaphorical damage, but he is a tolerated, famous gadfly, after all, and this is his job.

He points out how the people have been ripped-off and cheated and enslaved by corporate lies and ruthlessness, but until a real depression sets in and real mass unemployment sets in there will not occur the kind of social changes he wants.

CAPITALISM AND THE MEDIA -

Edward Herman, economist, Joan

Greenbaum, and John Belamy Foster

[Panel #21, 3/21/98]

Radio Free Maine, Roger Leisner, P.O. Box 2705, Augusta, ME 04338. Phone: (207) 622-6629 Tel/Fax. \$10.50, Audio tape.

Interesting and valuable insights and behind-the-scenes info and data in re capitalist media control, sins and insults.

1998 SSC A WORLD TO WIN: From the Manifesto to New Organizing for Socialist Change [Panel #60, 3/22/98, Transnational Labor Organizing]

Jean-Pierre Page France
Jakob Moneta Germany
David Abdullah Trinidad
Elaine Bernard Canada

Radio Free Maine, Roger Leisner, P.O. Box 2705, Augusta, ME 04338. Phone: (207) 622-6629 Tel/Fax. \$10.50, Audio tape.

Nuts and bolts talk about how to gain greater influence in the international labor movement. Boring to me.

AN EVENING OF POLITICS WITH MICHAEL MOORE [12-4-97]

Sponsored by the Brown University Lecture Board.

Radio Free Maine, Roger Leisner, P.O. Box 2705, Augusta, ME 04338. Phone: (207) 622-6629 Tel/Fax. \$10.50, Audio tape.

Recorded by off-podium mike and very difficult (amid echoes and loss of sound spectrum) to understand.

HOW FEW REMAIN

By Henry Turtledove

Del Rey Books, \$7.99, 1997, 596 p., Mass Market Paperback Novel. ISBN:0-345-40614-1

An alternate history novel about a second American Civil War nearly 20 years after the first, fought by North and South armies mostly in the lawless West among indians, outlaws, the French and the English.

This type of novel is inherently subversive, since it forces the reader to confront the chaos theory of history as well as the conspiracy theory of history, and how tiny events can eventually cause such massive changes.

Turtledove, a long-time, talented pro, with several dozen novels to his high credit, is in fine form; he's not sloppy, and he's conscientious in style and technique.

Interesting that Del Rey categorizes this novel as in the Alternate History genre. I wasn't aware that publishers and booksellers had created and recognized an Alternate History genre. Not quite sf, and not quite fantasy...

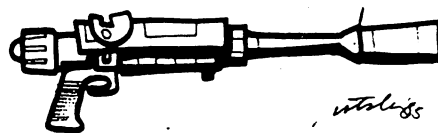
CHILDREN OF THE DUSK

By Janet Berliner and George Guthridge

White Wolf Publishing, 780 Park North Blvd, Suite 100, Clarkston, GA 30021, 1997, \$5.99, 451 p., Dark Fantasy Mass Market Paperback, ISBN:1-56504-932-2.

The third novel in the Madagascar Manifesto trilogy which uses the WWII attempt by Nazi Germany to create a homeland for Jews on the African island of Madagascar.

The story incorporates native sorcery and strange creatures.



Letter

☆☆☆Harry Warner, Jr.☆☆☆
423 Summit Av., Hagerstown, MD 21740

8-1-98 'You mention [In my review of *A Wealth of Fable*] trusting me rather than your memory. That reminds me of one complaint I had received from a prominent fan of the 1950s about an anecdote involving a kitten that fell into the punch bowl. He told me I had everything right involving the fan shack except that incident, because no kitten ever lived there. I looked up my notes and found that I had derived that information from the complainant via a fanzine article. I gave him the data on the fanzine in question and he couldn't believe he'd written such a thing. He found someone who had that old fanzine and sure enough, there it was. So he decided that he must have gone against his principles and embellished the facts just that once, because it never happened. Then some time later, he encountered an old fan friend from the punch era and grumbled about the matter. She told him there definitely had been a kitten in the apartment and suddenly my correspondent remembered the kitten and its descent into the punch bowl. I felt much better.'

REG: Your experiences in writing history are echoed by every history writer; there are infernal glitches in our memories, and as a result of my own memory lapses and gaps, I distrust all the autobiographies famous people write.

If the future is never what it's supposed to be, then the past is never what we think it was...and the present is always incomplete. We all live in uncertain limbos.

Letter

JOSEPH T. MAJOR

1409 Christy Av., Louisville, KY 40204-2040

8-20-98 'Update in TGL #51: Did Harold Robbins write the Harold Robbins book published in 1998? This goes back a ways. Remember that in Britain, "V.C. Andrews" is "V.C. Andrews™" because she only wrote four of the books that appear (and keep on appearing) under her own name. And nowadays, with increased MBA mentality in publishing, any profitable line is going to be kept on going no matter what.'

'Review of *Promised Land* by

Connie Willis and Cynthia Felice in TGL #51: "Seems to be a gothic romance translated into sf," you say. I remember when it startled me to go into a used book store and see a shelf of romances marked 'Time Travel and Fantasy Romances. The romance market is big, bigger than the SF & Fantasy markets. Combine that with editors seeking to level the playing field for women writers and you are going to end up with a lot of SF & F being not tales of feminist empowerment, but romances.'

REG: Well, whatever sells. Apparently men don't buy and read fiction much anymore, and the major reader market is female. Is that because it is politically incorrect to write (and publish) strong masculine novels anymore (thus denying men their natural fiction food?), or because men have been so cowed and guilted by women in the past twenty years that they daren't buy 'men only' fiction and find the rest of the fiction spectrum too bland or genderically repellent?

News Diary continued

■ 8-25-98 The legitimacy of the Khartoum missile attack is coming under greater and greater international protest and doubt. The administration is making claims of proof that the destroyed pharmaceuticals plant was making precursor chemicals for nerve gas production. They cite finding, months ago, some of a precursor chemical compound in a soil sample from outside the plant! [Where it could have been easily planted by, oh, a CIA agent, perhaps...to be "found" by another CIA agent?]

What is that discovered rare chemical? Ethel Methylphosphonothionate. According to the *New York Times News Service* story written by Steven Lee Myers from Washington, DC.

The U.S. has refused to turn over its evidence to the U.N. And the U.S. has opposed a request in the U.N. by Arab nations to send inspectors to search the rubble in Khartoum for signs of chemicals related to VX.

Interesting that we now oppose inspections of our activities...as enemy and villain Iraq opposes inspections of their activities.

■ Now a report from *Newsday* that Clinton has been an assassination target twice (Phillipines in '94 and at the cancelled Pakistan visit in Feb. '98.) directed by the now totally demonized

millionaire terrorist Osama bin Laden.

It is reported that bin Laden was not present at his terrorist base complex when the 70 or more Cruise missiles arrived. Was he forewarned? Does he still have friends in the CIA from when he worked with the U.S. to oppose the Russian invasion of Afghanistan? [Reportedly, he came to hate the U.S. government when it broke promises to him about leaving Saudi Arabia after the Gulf War.]

We have to wonder if this assassination report is part of a pre-planned campaign to keep the Terrorism Threat boiling.

Perhaps a domestic terrorist attack is in order.

■ And now a sample of the salacious and juvenile play that occurred between our President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky. As reported by Rush Limbaugh.

In a study off the Oval Office, reportedly while a head of state waited in the Rose Garden, Clinton enjoyed watching Monica use a cigar [hopefully still in its plastic tube] as a masturbatory device.

Whoopee.

■ 8-25-98 A 'retaliatory' bomb was set off or thrown into a Planet Hollywood nightclub in Cape Town, South Africa, killing 1, injuring 24, apparently by a group called Muslims Against Global Oppression. MAGO.

Almost as if scripted, hmmm?

■ 8-26-98 It occurs to me now that possibly the U.S. govt.'s decision to accept Libya's offer to allow a neutral country trial of its two suspects in the 1988 Pan-Am flight 103 air disaster (after having avoided that offer for a year or more) is part of the 'terrorist crisis' scenario being followed.

This paranoid-conspiracy speculation is fun to throw up against the wall of reality and see how much sticks.

The moves by Tony Blair's UK government to advance new laws against terrorism could also be viewed as a building block in the 'terrorist crisis atmosphere' being created.

