

9/11 Security Holes Remain • The Trilateral Commission • History: The Birth of the Roman Republic

October 4, 2004

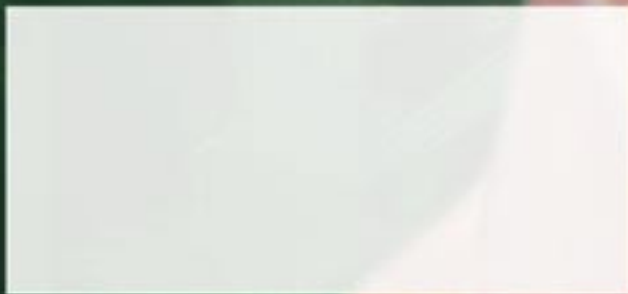
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- *Thomas Jefferson (1799)*

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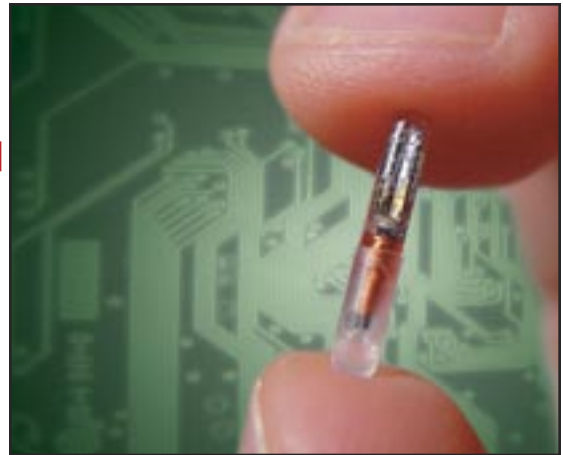
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Finding America's Heart and Soul

I am writing in response to Steve Bonta's cover story "America's Hidden Strength" in the March 22 issue of THE NEW AMERICAN. Although I'm an American citizen, I have been living overseas since 1991. Nothing makes a person appreciate his country more than spending a significant amount of time away from it.

I have just recently returned from a six-week visit to the United States and had the good fortune of spending two of those weeks driving through six upper Midwestern "fly-over" states with my family, showing them where I was born and where my roots are. Most of those two weeks were spent on rural highways driving through prairies, corn and wheat farmlands and cattle ranches. Almost without exception, the first visible landmark we noticed as we entered a small town (besides the town's water tower) was a church steeple that rose high in the sky.

It was refreshing to be able to fill up at gas stations where the owners trust strangers such as us passing through town enough to let us pump the gas *before* paying for it. It was thrilling to be at Mt. Rushmore amongst a crowd of fellow patriotic Americans who heartily sang (or at least mouthed the words) of "America the Beautiful" played over loudspeakers as huge floodlights illuminated the granite faces of four of America's greatest leaders against the dark sky. It was greatly encouraging to see numerous pro-life billboards and signs along many of the highways we were traveling on. It was perhaps most surprising to even come across a rather large monument engraved with the Ten Commandments on a college campus in one small town. Apparently, the ACLU hasn't noticed that one yet!

On a more close-up and personal level, one short visit to a relatively small, family-run dairy farm was further evidence of some of those greatest "hidden strengths" Mr. Bonta wrote about. We arrived at dusk

during the evening milking time. First, we witnessed the free enterprise system at work right before our eyes — a family-run farm not dependent on government subsidies but only on the hard work and sweat of the whole family working together to get the job done. Such demanding work is, by its very nature, family-uniting. Despite being there at one of their busiest times of the day, this Iowa family (whom we had never met before) still displayed genuine Midwestern charm and friendliness by showing us around and patiently explaining the operations of their farm while they worked. On top of their heavy work responsibilities, the parents still find time to home-school their two children.

The vast majority of Taiwanese who do visit the United States join tour groups comprised of Taiwanese nationals, thus limiting their contact with Americans. Furthermore, most tours involve brief stops in large cities on or near one coast or the other. Still, many of those who get no further than southern California's theme parks and Nevada's casinos often tell me that they've seen America. I strongly feel that no view of America is complete without spending some serious time in America's "flyover country." More than just the physical center of the U.S., it truly represents America's heart and soul.

WAYNE T. SCHAMS
Pingtung, Taiwan

Send your letters to: THE NEW AMERICAN, P.O. Box 8040, Appleton, WI 54912. Or e-mail: editor@thenewamerican.com. Due to volume received, not all letters can be answered. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

CORRECTION: In a photo caption in "Ballot Box Smear" in our September 20 issue, we mistakenly identified California Secretary of State Kevin Shelley as the plaintiff in *Jasper v. Shelley*. Mr. Shelley was the defendant.



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The Beslan Horror

More than 300 hostages died after terrorists seized a school in North Ossetia, Russia. The school in the town of Beslan was surrounded with land mines and high explosives. Children were kept in hot, unventilated rooms for more than two days, and deprived of food and water. Some were murdered by the terrorists. By the time Russian troops and security personnel ended the 53-hour siege, at least 326 people — half of them children — were dead.

Moscow immediately claimed that the murderous schoolhouse siege was the work of Chechen radicals aligned with al-Qaeda. Al-Qaeda figures have been involved in the ongoing war between the Russian government and the breakaway province of Chechnya. Initial reports claimed that the hostage-takers included Chechens, residents of the neighboring province of Ingushetia, Arabs, Kazakhs and Slavs. However, Russian defense minister Sergei Ivanov has said that not a single Chechen has been found among the 32 dead terrorists. Officials in Beslan reported finding notebooks with Arabic writing, and some eyewitnesses claimed to have heard the terrorists speaking in Russian, punctuated by occasional expressions in Arabic.

In any case, Russian general Yuri Baluyevsky claimed that Russia had the right to attack terrorist bases “anywhere in the world.” The Russian population, however, had reservations about the official line.

“Public opinion polls have shown people have little faith in the ability of the police and FSB security service [the renamed KGB] to protect them and accuse them of being corrupt and unprofessional,” noted a September 10 Reuters report from Moscow. “They are bewildered that tightened security across the country has failed to prevent three major attacks within a fortnight — the siege, a suicide bomb in Moscow that killed 10 and two plane crashes that killed 90.”

Suspicion that Putin is exploiting the Beslan atrocity, and other recent terrorist attacks, was heightened by his September 13 announcement of radical measures to

increase his presidential powers in the name of fighting terrorism.

“The former KGB spy, saying the future of the country was at stake, called for creation of a powerful anti-terror agency ‘capable of not only dealing with terror attacks but also working to avert them, destroy criminals in their hideouts and, if necessary, abroad,’” summarized an AP dispatch from Moscow. “Curiously, however, the Russian leader’s proposals focused largely on electoral changes. Putin said he would propose legislation abolishing the election of local governors by popular vote. Instead they would be nominated by the president and confirmed by local legislatures.” This would be done, Putin insisted, to streamline the executive branch and make it more responsive to the threat of terrorism. He also demanded changes in the method of electing the Russian Parliament that would make it all but impossible for independent candidates (not aligned with an official party) to win legislative seats.



Innocence amid horror: Seven-year-old Alina Tshkayeva stands near the grave of her 11-year-old brother Askharber, who was killed during the terrorist siege of their school in Beslan, Russia. More than 300 people — half of them children — were killed during the 53-hour hostage ordeal, or in the military raid that ended it.

Newscom

Saddam’s Generals on U.S. Payroll

On September 7, a grim milestone was reached when the U.S. military death toll reached 1,000. Supporters of “Operation Iraqi Freedom” insist that those killed in action gave their lives to defend our country, and liberate the long-suffering Iraqis. Those claims are impossible to reconcile with the fact that in the ongoing war to “liberate” Iraq, Washington has retained the services of the same Saddam-era military elite from which that nation was supposedly freed.

“Dozens of Saddam Hussein’s former generals and colonels are being paid hundreds of dollars a month by the Pentagon to advise U.S. and Iraqi officials on how to contain the insurgency in northern Iraq,” reported the French AFP wire service on September 8. “First installed in Baquba by Colonel Dana Pittard three months ago, Saddam’s generals are working as US consultants in a bid to ease violence in the provinces of Slahuddin, Tamim,

Sulaimaniya, and Diyala, the U.S. military said.”

Several of the generals “have links with anti-US insurgents operating throughout the province [of Diyala],” continued the report. In exchange for modest pay-offs, those military commanders — previously denigrated in administration propaganda as Ba’athist “holdouts” or “dead-enders” — use their influence with the guerrillas to end attacks on U.S. troops.

This amounts to a reversal of the “de-Ba’athification” policy installed in May 2003, in which the Iraqi army was effectively disbanded, thereby swelling the armed insurgency and fueling the insurrection that has claimed hundreds of American lives. And insurgents who are bought off rarely *stay* bought. As Kipling warned over a century ago, if you pay the “Dane-geld,” you never get rid of the Dane.

Police State Preview in NYC — I

The GOP National Convention offered a preview of new technologies and tactics being developed by the Homeland Security Department, reported the September 13 issue of *Newsweek*.

“That scruffy fellow scanning his handheld [computer] in the middle of a group of protesters? Maybe he’s only a demonstrator checking his e-mail. Or just as likely, in New York last week, he was an undercover Secret Service or Federal Protection Agency cop manipulating with a stylus a networked camera mounted 30 stories up, one of 200 throughout the city. The pictures were video-streamed to several ‘megacenters’ around the country (built-in re-

dundancy in case one center is destroyed) as well as to Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge’s office in Washington.”

“American life is now accompanied by the 24-hour whirl of 300 BioWatch detectors in 30 major urban centers, with more to come,” continued the survey. Those devices scan their immediate atmosphere for evidence of chemical or bio-terrorist attacks, automatically uploading their data to command centers. “Many more tech solutions are in the pipeline,” notes the magazine. “Coming soon: biometric passports with encoded chips, making fraud or theft virtually impossible....”

Police State Preview in NYC — II

More ominous than any technology on display at the RNC was the arrogance of power that accompanied federalization of the riot control police. “In and around Midtown Manhattan, convention-goers got a taste of life in a society where the overriding goal is to stop attacks at all costs,” wrote *Orange County Register* correspondent Stephen Greenhut in a September 5 column. “It was the bitter taste of losing one’s freedoms, albeit in this case for the short duration of this national convention.”

“Everywhere I went, scores of police officers in riot gear, gun-toting military officials, blue-suited secret-service officials with their ears wired and assorted private security guards were on call, watching us,” continued Greenhut. “Metal cattle gates prodded us to the proper place. Streets were cordoned off, sidewalks open only to those who show the right ID.”

As in any police state, rules were written on the wind and subject to arbitrary revision without notice. “One colleague mistakenly entered the wrong sidewalk area. One of New York’s Finest yelled at him, ‘Yo, get offa da sidewalk.’ ‘Where am I supposed to go?’ my friend asked. ‘Across da street!’ As he crossed the street, the cop patrolling that area yelled at him to get offa da street. You can’t win in a police state. But you dare not disobey the incomprehensible orders.”

Among the hapless innocent people caught in the security dragnet was *American Spectator* correspondent Shawn Macomber, who found himself “handcuffed so tightly that [his] fingers [went] numb” and thrown into a cell with a group of Marxist/anarchist agitators. “So what was I arrested for? Well, let’s just say it is fairly interesting to see what is passing for ‘disorderly conduct’ here in New York City.” Wrote Macomber: “My own ‘disorderly conduct’ centered around my obedience to police orders, my cooperation with anything they asked me to do, and carrying out the duties of my job.”

Attempting to cover a protest march, Macomber was ordered not to cross the street at a particular intersection. After walking to the intersection he was ordered to, he found that “bike police had boxed the protesters in,” he recalled. “I was told once again to hold tight and I would be allowed to

pass.” A bullhorn-toting officer ordered the protesters to “move on” — which they couldn’t do, because they had been boxed in. “Within seconds [of the order], a mass arrest was ordered and the police began penning everybody willy-nilly in together with a mesh orange fence,” related Macomber. Despite the fact that Secret Service agents verified his credentials with the Congressional Press Office, Macomber was arrested and held for 14 hours.



Surveillance state foretaste: A police officer models a “helmetcam” that allows covert surveillance during protests. This was just one of several new surveillance measures deployed by security personnel during the Republican National Convention in New York City.

An Independent Elector?

Richie Robb, mayor of South Charleston, West Virginia, is one of that state's five Republican electors. He has provoked the hostility of the GOP leadership by announcing his intention to carry out the duties of that office as dictated by the Constitution, rather than party loyalty.

"It's not likely that I would vote for Kerry," Mayor Robb told the September 8 *Charleston Daily Mail*. "But I'm looking at what my options are when it comes time to cast my vote." Robb has expressed strenuous disapproval of the administration's foreign policy, and aspects of its domestic policies as well. "I know that among some in my own party, what I'm discussing would be considered treasonous," Robb observes. "But I'm not going to cheerlead us down the primrose path when I know we're being led in the wrong direction.

Fellow GOP elector Rob Capeheart sees it differently. "We have a duty and a responsibility to cast our electoral votes be-

hind the president if he wins West Virginia," insists Capeheart. "Because that's what the Republican Party expected when they chose us." With the election expected to be a tightly contested affair, the "defection" of a single elector could have a dramatic impact. "Will Richie Robb decide who the next president is?" asks Capeheart. "It's more important for us to maintain an allegiance for the people of West Virginia than an allegiance to our own personal viewpoint."

Actually, an elector's first duty is to the Constitution, as he is given wisdom to interpret that duty. West Virginia is among the 24 states that impose no legal requirements binding electors to specific candidates, thus preserving the Constitution's original intent. In the past, electors have cast independent votes, most recently in the closely fought 2000 election, when an elector from the District of Columbia withheld her vote to protest D.C.'s lack of statehood.

Russia's "McCain-Feingold" Act at Work

When "ex"-KGB officer Vladimir Putin came to power in 1999, "Russia had what approximated to an independent media," notes media critic Stephen Glover in the September 11 issue of *The Spectator* of London. "Now all television channels and nearly all newspapers are controlled directly or indirectly by the Kremlin.... The country's last independent television channel was shut down last year on the pretext of financial insolvency."

As necessary, Putin's regime reverts to Brezhnev-era censorship measures. When *Izvestia* asked pointed questions about the government's actions in the recent terrorist horror at a school in Beslan, North Ossetia, Putin reacted "by securing the dismissal of the editor of *Izvestia*, Raf Shakirov." Additionally, "two Russian journalists with independent views on Chechnya were not even allowed to get to Beslan." One was arrested and jailed for five days; the other mysteriously took ill during a flight to the region after being served tea.

Another important weapon wielded by Putin against the media is the Russian version of the McCain-Feingold "campaign fi-

nance reform" law. Signed in 2002 by President Bush (who had promised to veto any measure of the sort that constricts freedom of speech), the law places severe restrictions on political speech — via advertisements and other public messages — that mentions political candidates within an election period. This has the effect of strengthening the power of the Establishment's media cartel to shape public views of issues and candidates during the period when most Americans are most interested in them. It also works to the benefit of incumbent politicians, rather than challengers.

Russia's version of McCain-Feingold, as described by Glover, is even more draconian. "A law passed last summer threatens newspapers with closure if, during an election period, they express any opinion about a politician's policies, his campaign or his personality. Intimidated by these and other new laws, many newspaper journalists practice self-censorship." Having strangled Russia's independent media in the crib, Putin is using the state-controlled media to cultivate a personality cult: "Television cameras follow Putin slavishly around Russia, portraying him in a heroic light."

Bush Administration's Medicare Fraud

"The Department of Health and Human Services [HHS] has been ordered by the Government Accountability Office [GAO] to recover the salary paid former Medicare administrator Thomas A. Scully, because he ordered a staff member to withhold information about the costs of the new Medicare bill from Congress," reported the Medical News wire service on September 7.

The GAO report, which had been requested by Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-N.J.), relied on factual findings compiled by the HHS's Office of Inspector General. The OIG's inquiry found that Scully ordered his subordinate, Richard S. Foster, "not to provide information to [congressional] members and staff, and

that Mr. Scully threatened to sanction Mr. Foster if he made any unauthorized disclosures." After Foster responded to a congressional request for information about insurance plan enrollment rates, he was rebuked by Scully's office and warned that "the consequences of insubordination are extremely severe" — a warning Foster understood to be a threat that "Mr. Scully would terminate his employment ... if he released any information to Congress without Mr. Scully's approval."

Because Scully was acting in the political interests of the Bush administration, rather than in the public interest, the GAO found that he had acted illegally and that his salary should be recovered.

Anti-UN Rhetoric vs. Reality

“Not since the convention that nominated Barry Goldwater in 1964 has a gathering of the Republican faithful featured so much UN bashing from so many prominent players in the party,” wrote columnist John Nichols of the liberal Madison, Wisconsin, *Capital Times* on September 9. “What was once the extremist line of John Birch Society cadres and their allies — ‘Get U.S. out of the UN,’ read the society’s billboards in the 1960s — has become a popular position within the Republican Party.”

The GOP rank-and-file is vehemently opposed to the UN and all it represents, and several prominent convention speakers played to that sentiment. But in tangible terms, the Bush administration continues to emphasize its commitment to building the world body’s power and prestige — a fact noted by Nichols in the same column.

“Former U.S. Senator John Danforth, a Missouri Republican, has been trying to patch up relations between the United States and the United Nations,” observed Nichols. “Bush has been trying to ease tensions since the United Nations helped the United States install Iraq’s interim government — and, notably, he avoided engaging in explicit UN bashing in his acceptance speech...”

“I can only say that when President Bush asked me to do this job, he said that the United Nations is very important, that this was a very important job,” Danforth told Nichols. “[W]orking through the UN and working with other countries and working on a multilateral basis is clearly

the [administration’s] strategy ... and it is very important.”

Another illustration of the disjunction between the Bush administration and its devoted GOP supporters was offered immediately after the convention. On September 3, as anti-UN GOP delegates and activists flew home from New York, fond memories of UN-bashing speeches resounding in their minds, Secretary of State Colin Powell told reporters that the administration would seek action from the UN Security Council to deal with Iran’s suspected nuclear weapons program.



Newscom

Globalist duplicity: President Bush, seen here with Secretary of State Colin Powell and U.S. Ambassador to the UN John Danforth, has made no secret of his intention to use the U.S. military to enforce UN Security Council decrees. That clear, consistent policy offers a sharp contrast to the “UN bashing” heard in many speeches at the GOP national convention.

Spassky’s Appeal for Fischer

In mid-August, Japan turned down an asylum request from American-born chess champion Bobby Fischer, who faces extradition to the U.S. to stand trial for violating UN sanctions against Yugoslavia. In 1992, Fischer — in defiance of a UN embargo, and after spitting on a letter of warning from the State Department — played a rematch against his storied Russian chess opponent, world champion Boris Spassky.

For the supposed crime of playing chess in defiance of a UN embargo, Fischer faces the prospect of 10 years in prison, a sizeable fine, and forfeiture of \$3 million in prize money earned by defeating Spassky for a second time. Fischer, who has renounced U.S. citizenship, has a well-earned reputation for making unpleasant and bigoted public statements, most notoriously his hideous comments praising the terrorists who committed the September 11 atrocities. But the Bush administration has no constitutional warrant to enforce UN dicta against American citizens — or individuals who repudiate U.S. citizenship, regardless of how dis-

gusting their opinions may be.

Spassky, who emigrated from the Soviet Union and became a French citizen, issued a remarkable public appeal to President Bush on August 10. “In 1972, Bobby Fischer became [a] national hero,” recalled Spassky. “He smashed me in the match in Reykjavik. The Soviet chess hegemony collapsed. One man won against a whole army.” Like Fischer, Spassky defied the UN in 1992, but the French government did not see fit to enforce the UN sanctions against him.

“I would not like to defend or justify Bobby Fischer,” continued the venerable Russian chess master. “He is what he is. I am asking only for one thing. For mercy, charity. If for some reason it is impossible, I would like to ask you the following: Please correct the mistake of President Francois Mitterand in 1992. Bobby and myself committed the same crime. Put sanctions against me also. Arrest me. And put me in the same cell with Bobby Fischer. And give us a chess set.” ■

Who Will Watch the Watchers?

Mexico's emerging surveillance state offers a sobering look into the future if the Power Elite's proposal for a "continental security" perimeter becomes reality.

by Christopher S. Bentley

What would it take to force people to accept the loss of their privacy? Could people be terrified into surrendering their priceless right to be left alone by the state? How could a population be persuaded, or compelled, to accept such radical measures as implantable data chips in the name of "public safety" — even when they knew that doing so would radically expand the power of a corrupt government?

For citizens of Mexico, these are not hypothetical questions. And as the drive accelerates to consolidate the Western Hemisphere under a single economic, political and security structure — known as the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) — those questions will become increasingly important for citizens of this nation as well.

We are already importing many of Mexico's (and the rest of Latin America's) social and economic problems, such as crime, poverty and unskilled labor. If our political systems become "harmonized" — and ultimately merged into a continent-wide or hemispheric-spanning security perimeter — it is likely that we would adapt to Mexico's small but expanding anti-kidnap program involving the use of implantable digital information chips. After all, the reasoning would be, since the crime of kidnapping would no longer be limited by borders, neither should the solution.

Mexico's "chipping" program, while more advanced than anything presently underway in the U.S., shares crucial assumptions found in Washington's approach to Homeland Security. Merger with Mexico would certainly provide a pretext to adopt increasingly radical security measures, particularly as migration (no longer called immigration) — including infiltration by Middle Eastern terrorists — escalates.

Thus it's important for Americans who value national independence and personal

autonomy to appreciate the fashion in which the population of Mexico has been manipulated into accepting a surveillance program that, if fully developed, would make an Orwellian future a reality.

Kidnapping Plague

"The videotapes and photos arrived every few days. They showed a young woman, bound and scared, crying out as her kidnapers slapped her face and beat her. The pictures, the sounds of pain, tore at her uncle Gerardo like a dull razor."

On the tapes or in the phone calls — which always came in the middle of the night — the kidnapers would ask, "when do you want us to stop?" continued the September 17, 2002 *Washington Post* account.

Demanding \$5 million in ransom, the kidnapers "threatened that the next time they would send her tongue, her eye, her ears, [or] her fingers." This was no idle threat. In some kidnapping cases throughout Mexico, victims have indeed been returned to their families — one piece at a time.

Gerardo was also warned that his niece, mother or children would be killed if he called the police. Chillingly, the kidnapers knew enough about Gerardo to offer "specific suggestions about which of [his] properties and businesses he could sell" to raise the ransom money.

This tragic and horrifying account typifies a growing plague south of the border. In Mexico, "a kidnapping occurs every six hours on average," observed the September 17, 2002 *Christian Science Monitor* — a statistic that calculates to over 1,400 abductions per year. Other sources now place that figure as high as 3,000 or 4,000 annually — a discrepancy that should be considered significant, for reasons we will examine shortly.

As the numbers of victims mount, the brazenness and bestiality of the kidnapers increases. The June 27, 2004 *Washington Post* noted that in Mexico "front-page

news stories of horrific kidnappings and of their victims — including two brothers recently killed and dumped in a garbage bin after their family paid the ransom — have become commonplace in recent weeks." Added the June 17 *Economist*, "kidnappers have become more violent. In the past, victims were rarely molested. Now female captives are usually raped, and men are often beaten and mutilated."

Not surprisingly, a continual state of fear has gripped much of the country. And with that fear has come a desperate willingness to do whatever it takes to end the onslaught.

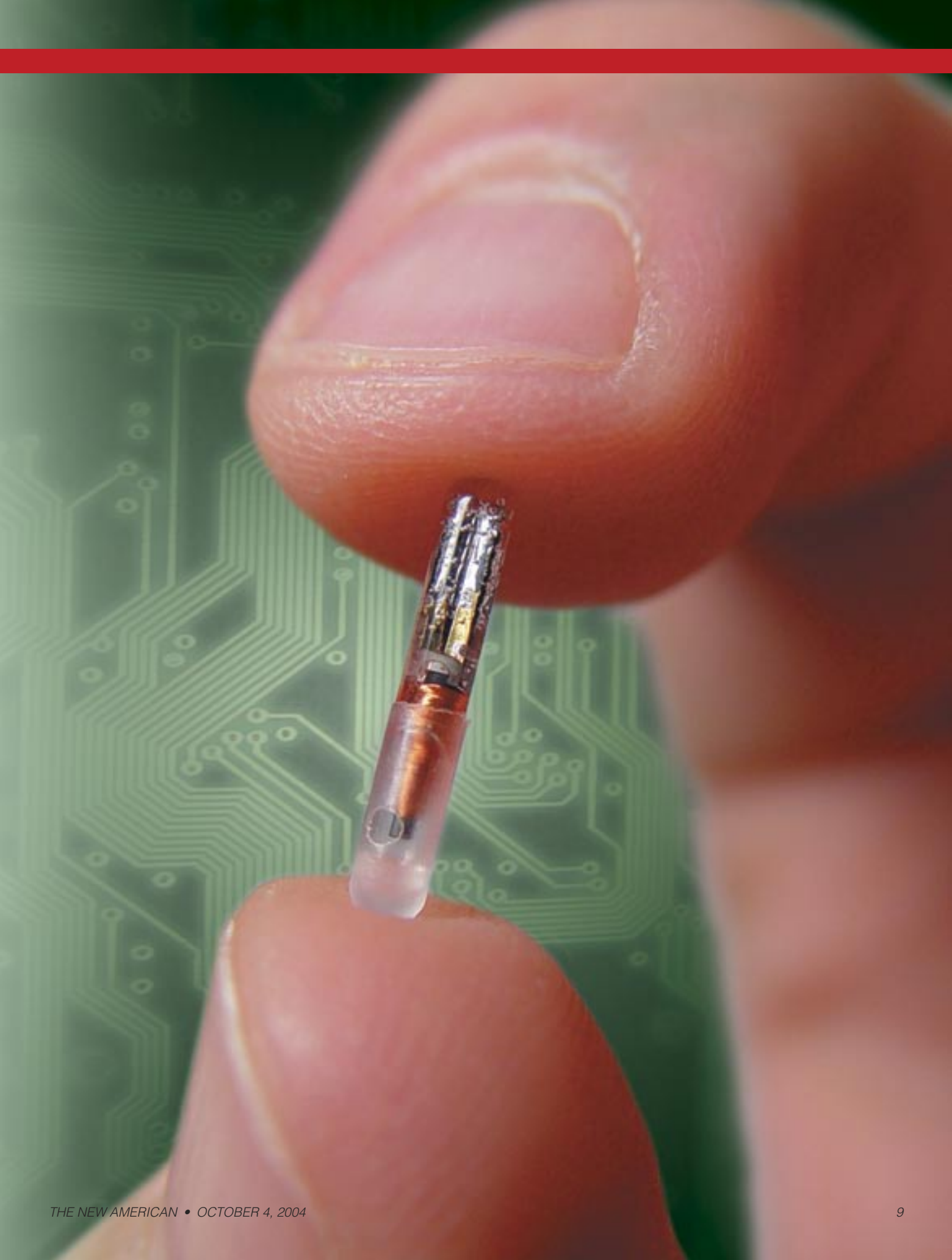
On June 27, thousands of demonstrators took to the streets of Mexico City to demand government action to end the kidnapping epidemic. Their sentiments were summarized by one demonstrator, who told the *Washington Post*, "we can't bear it any longer. Something has to change."

Contrived Crisis, Corrupt Opportunity

Unfortunately — if predictably — these desperate people were looking for help from the same government that was implicated in creating the crisis in the first place.

As previously noted, estimates of kidnap victims in Mexico vary widely. One reason for this discrepancy, according to some private investigators, is that anywhere from less than one-third to one-quarter of the victims' families ever report a kidnapping. This is because of a widespread fear of, and suspicions about, the involvement of Mexico's notoriously corrupt law enforcement in the kidnappings. And that fear is amply justified: An April 14 BBC report on the kidnapping plague in Mexico stated that "legal representatives of victims claim at least 70% of kidnaps involve police or ex-police participation."

Pedro Fletes Renteria, director of a private school in Mexico City, was kidnapped at gunpoint while on his way to work in March 2001. As was in the case of Gerardo and his niece, Fletes' abductors "knew



Just as the Mexican people are being worn down to accept microchip implants for their kidnapping plague, Americans are being softened up psychologically by the threat of terrorism to cave in to similar surveillance state solutions.

everything about him,” reported the *Post*.

After being released from nearly two months of captivity, Fletes hired private investigators to find out who was behind his kidnapping. His team found evidence of involvement at the very top of Mexico City’s police department. According to Jose Antonio Ortega, head of a security committee conducting the investigation, “telephone records show that the cell phone used by the kidnapers was also used to

make calls to the home of a top official from the department’s anti-kidnapping unit.”

What is the solution to an epidemic of kidnappings staged with the help of top-echelon Mexican law enforcement personnel, who have access to detailed personal information about their victims? According to the Mexican government, it is to provide that same corrupt

law enforcement elite with unprecedented powers to keep the entire population under surveillance.

In mid-July, Rafael Macedo de la Concha, Mexico’s attorney general, “announced that several senior members of his staff plus 160 employees at a new crime database center have ... received ... [a subdermal] ‘anti-kidnap’ chip,” reported the United Kingdom’s *Register*. In a story bearing the revealing headline, “Kidnap-

wary Mexicans Get Chipped,” the *Register* explained that Mexico’s attorney general took the “unusual step of having an ‘anti-kidnap’ chip stuck in his arm and then making the fact public...”

In a significant admission against interest, Macedo stated that his reason for being implanted was because of “widespread corruption” in his own government, which is “considered to be a major factor in the authorities’ lack of success in tackling the kidnap problem.” It was further announced that the surveillance system would “serve both as an identity device and a tracking mechanism should they be kidnapped.”

In addition to Macedo and his 160-member staff receiving the chip, “more [federal employees] are scheduled to get ‘tagged’ in coming months, and key members of the Mexican military, the police and the office of President Vicente Fox might follow suit,” noted a July 15 Associated Press report. Macedo said that the chips “were



Rightful anger; wrong approach: Thousands of Mexicans gathered on June 27 at Zócalo, a large square in Mexico City, to demand that their government do something to end the country’s chronic and increasingly violent plague of kidnappings. Tragically, those helpless people are turning to one of the main sources behind their plight for solutions.

Newscom

required to enter a new federal anti-crime information center.”

Even though Mexican officials quietly began receiving the implants in November 2003, Macedo used the current political climate to make the announcement. Having cultivated the kidnapping crisis, the corrupt Mexican government is now reaping the benefits — to the detriment of its hapless population.

Of course, measures like “chipping” do nothing to protect the recipients from kidnap gangs, who could simply amputate the implanted appendages and send them to family members as tokens of a ransom demand. But terrifying people into accepting the implants will leave them branded like cattle — stripped of their remaining freedoms and trapped in a total web of surveillance.

One Continent, Under Surveillance

It’s imperative to recognize that what’s happening in Mexico is of immediate concern to U.S. citizens. This is true because of the huge, largely undefended border we share with Mexico, and because of the growing problem of illegal immigration — including infiltration by radical Islamic terrorists — from that country. It is also true because our own leaders are determined to merge our nation with Mexico and Canada in a “continental security perimeter” that would eventually encompass the entire hemisphere under an FTAA regional government. (For more information regarding this treasonous plan, see the ad on page 16.)

This process inevitably means not only absorbing Mexico’s crime and corruption, but also adapting to the measures undertaken by that government supposedly to combat those problems. And, as we will see, similar efforts to impose “biometric identifiers” — including implantable data chips — are underway both here and abroad.

Just as the Mexican people are being worn down to accept microchip implants for their kidnapping plague, Americans are being softened up psychologically by the threat of terrorism to cave in to similar surveillance state solutions. The American people are

continually being held in suspense and bombarded with warnings that sooner or later terrorists will strike again — even as our nation’s leaders refuse to correct our porous border problem.

Jerry Hauer, a former director of New York City’s Office of Emergency Management, pointed out to the July 30 ABC News: “Al Qaeda has recognized that one of our vulnerabilities is our [in]ability to completely seal and control access through Mexico.” According to the *Tumbleweed*, a weekly newspaper published in that storied Arizona town, Middle Eastern terrorist groups have exploited that weakness.

The *Tumbleweed* reported in late July that “a flood of middle-eastern males have been caught entering the country illegally east of Douglas.” Although a spokesman for the Tucson, Arizona, sector of the Border Patrol disputes the account, the paper stands by its claim.

The weekly declared that it “has confirmed at least two documented accounts of Border Patrol agents encountering large groups of [non-Spanish speaking] males in the Chiricahua foothills...” Border Patrol agents, speaking to the newspaper on condition of anonymity, stated that these

men spoke Arabic and that they “all had brand new clothing,” unlike the poorly clad, impoverished Latin Americans usually detained at the border.

This disputed account is buttressed by information provided to the August 8 *Houston Chronicle* by Texas Representatives Solomon Ortiz (D) and Henry Bonilla (R). The congressmen reported that “federal law enforcement officials have told them that suspicious foreigners have been detained on the Texas border,” who “claimed to be from South or Central American countries, but couldn’t speak Spanish.”

Sheriff A. D’Wayne Jernigan, of Del Rio, Texas, is outraged by what federal prosecutors scathingly call the government’s “catch and release” program of illegal immigrants who are classed as “Other than Mexican” (OTM). He told the *Chronicle* that “entering this country illegally is a crime, and we’re turning our heads and ignoring it.” Homeland Security officials acknowledge that 70 percent of those released have disappeared from “law enforcement’s radar,” which calculates into the U.S. currently having a fugitive population of 400,000 OTM’s.

By leaving our borders porous and largely



AP/Wide World

Rafael Macedo de la Concha, Mexico’s attorney general, used a June 22 news conference to announce that a band of kidnapers had been detained. Three weeks later, Macedo took the opportunity in another news conference to declare that — because of “widespread corruption” in his own government — he and 160 members of his staff had been implanted last November with a subdermal, “anti-kidnap” device called the VeriChip.

Should this technology be fully implemented, it would be the nucleus of an all-encompassing global network of continual surveillance of everywhere we go, and everything we buy — limiting where we are permitted to travel, where we will live, and where we will work.

undefended, Washington is allowing Middle Eastern terrorist groups to build cells and networks in the U.S. — thereby increasing the likelihood of catastrophic terrorist attacks and, inevitably, the draconian counter-terrorist measures that would result.

Totalitarian Tools

Because the U.S. Border Patrol doesn't have the manpower to stop the flood of immigrants, calls for the technology to do so are starting. According to an August 24 Associated Press story, T.J. Bonner, president of the National Border Patrol Council, made this disturbing recommendation: "It should be simple for any law enforcement officer, *anywhere in the world*, if they encounter someone suspicious to run one biometric check that would link them to all this information so that they would know if this person is a suspected terrorist or a criminal." (Emphasis added.)

This biometric control mechanism is also one of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. Its report states: "Secure identification ... [means] biometric identifiers [that] measure unique physical characteristics, such as facial features, fingerprints, or iris scans, and reduce them to digitized, numerical statements called algorithms." The report added: "Americans should not be exempt from carrying biometric passports."

Such a totalitarian recommendation is no surprise. Half of the 10-member (supposedly "independent, bipartisan") 9/11 Commission was comprised of members of the world-government promoting Council on Foreign Relations

(CFR). CFR members on the commission included Thomas H. Kean, who served as chair, and Lee H. Hamilton, the vice chair, along with Jamie S. Gorelick, Bob Kerrey, and John F. Lehman. Philip D. Zelikow (CFR), one of three members of the commission's staff, was the executive director.

If biometric identification is deemed insufficient, the "solution" would be to make unique ID more "tamper-proof," such as by implanting the microchip, as is now beginning to take place in Mexico. A July 27 Associated Press report noted that Applied Digital, which manufactures the chips being used in Mexico and elsewhere, is positioning itself to market implantable microchip technology in the United States — where thus far it has received a chilly reception.

According to its publicity materials, Applied Digital plans to promote the technology, known as the VeriChip, for a variety of uses, including "homeland security and

secure-access applications." Company literature describes the VeriChip as "a miniaturized, implantable radio frequency identification device (RFID) that has the potential to be used in a variety of security, financial, and other applications."

Each microchip implant is about the size of a grain of rice, with a unique verification number, which is captured through the use of a proprietary scanner. The company is also attempting to develop an implant that would contain a Global Positioning System, which would allow the implanted carrier to be pinpointed anywhere on the planet.

"Mexico is the first country to go public with its use of the microchip for law-enforcement purposes," observes VeriChip's president Keith Bolton. Russia, Switzerland, Venezuela and Colombia have also purchased an undisclosed quantity of chips. And Italy's Ministry of Health announced last April that it would be putting the chips to use in hospitals as part of a six-month trial.

Bolton told the August 4, 2004 *Christian Science Monitor* that VeriChip's ex-



Getting tagged: This Mexican national is shown being implanted with the VeriChip on July 17, 2003. The chip can be used to catalog numerous details on individuals, such as identity and health history. Some 1,000 Mexicans have already volunteered to be chipped for medical purposes. Now, the Mexican government is starting to chip top members of its military and police, with the president's office to follow soon, as a means of limiting access to a new anti-crime information center. Supposedly, this system would combat corruption within the government's own ranks.

AP/Wide World

ecutives were “inspired to use the device on humans after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, when they saw firefighters heading into the twin towers ID-ing themselves by writing on their arms with magic marker.” At that moment, Bolton said, “we then realized that our chip was also a product for the human market.”

Either Mr. Bolton suffers from a memory lapse, or he is being disingenuous. One year before 9/11, the company’s Web site claimed that “future versions of the device

[subject to FDA approval] may be able to be implanted within the body” and that it was specifically designed “for use with humans.” As with many federal proposals — from creation of a Homeland Security department to the war on Iraq — introduction of the VeriChip is being piggybacked on the 9/11 tragedy as a way of gaining mainstream acceptance.

Applied Digital proposes that the system would be used to control authorized access to sundry public and private insti-

tutions, such as government installations, private-sector buildings, nuclear power plants, national research laboratories, prisons and jails, and sensitive transportation resources. It would also be used to enhance security for airports, airlines, cruise ships and ports.

“In these markets,” notes the official Web site, “VeriChip could function as a stand-alone, tamper-proof personal verification technology or it could operate in conjunction with other security technologies such as standard ID badges and advanced biometric devices (i.e. retina scanners, thumbprint readers or face recognition devices).” Additionally, the company “recently unveiled VeriPass™ and VeriTag™, which will allow airport and port security personnel to link a VeriChip subscriber to his or her luggage (both during check-in and on the airplane), flight manifest logs and airline or law enforcement software databases.”

Bluntly stated, should this technology be fully implemented, it would be the nucleus of an all-encompassing global network of continual surveillance of everywhere we go and everything we buy. It would no longer be necessary for security officials to demand “your papers, please.” It would simply be a matter of limiting people’s access to where they are permitted to travel, where they will live, or where they will work.

Projecting the Lines

The new VeriChip/biometric trend syncs up nicely with a recommendation in the September/October 2004 issue of *Foreign Affairs*, the house journal of the Council on Foreign Relations. In an article entitled “The Neglected Home Front,” Stephen E. Flynn (CFR) wrote: “The government must do more to safeguard critical U.S. infrastructure and mobilize the American public to help. For starters, it should create a semi-independent federal agency tapping into private resources that would develop and enforce security standards.” That is, a marriage between private and public sectors for developing “security standards” would be arranged — with government undoubtedly being the senior partner. In Germany and Italy such a perverse partnership was called fascism.

Introduction of the VeriChip system in Mexico takes on an added ominous sig-

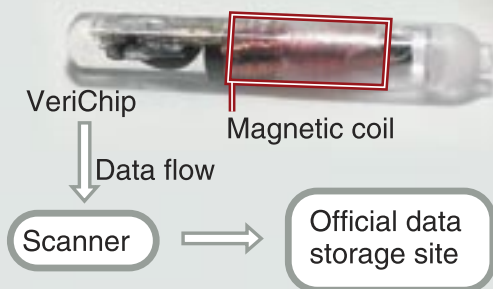
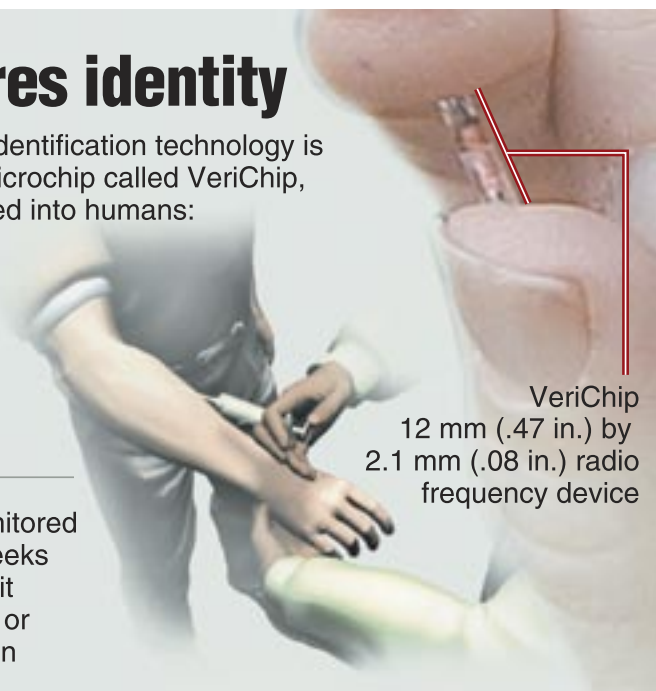
Chip stores identity

Advanced digital identification technology is available with a microchip called VeriChip, ready to be inserted into humans:

- 1** Computer ID chip coded with desired information is inserted under skin

- 2** Device is monitored for several weeks to make sure it doesn’t move or cause infection

- 3** Magnetic coil in chip is activated when handheld scanner is run across skin above it; transmitter on chip sends data



VeriChip

- Sensitive medical information
- Personal identity verification
- National defense
- Law enforcement
- Search and rescue

Under development: Implant that would work in conjunction with VeriChip and would allow satellite tracking of individuals via GPS (Global Positioning System)

Source: Applied Digital Solutions, AP, AFP, KRT Photo Service
Graphic: Jutta Scheibe, Morten Lyhne © 2002 KRT

Once total power is given to an unaccountable elite, freedom is quickly extinguished. Americans must act soon to restore our Constitution and Republic, before a universal surveillance state is erected — and we become inmates in a global prison without walls.

nificance in light of a proposal published in the January/February 2004 issue of *Foreign Affairs*. In an essay entitled “North America’s Second Decade,” Robert A. Pastor (CFR) laid out a plan for a consolidated continental security system — which would almost certainly include the use of high-tech identification systems.

Referring to the events of 9/11 as a “shock to the North American body politic,” Pastor claimed that the emerging political entity called “North America” has two possible courses that lay ahead. The first would “strengthen border enforcement and impede movement.” This would strike most Americans as the common sense position. But, in typical fashion, Pastor and his fellow internationalists

prefer the opposite course — that of integration.

By exploiting “security fears ... as a catalyst for deeper integration,” the CFR globalists hope to develop “common institutions.” Accordingly, Pastor wrote, deeper integration “would require new structures to assure mutual security, [and]

to promote trade ... [combined with] a redefinition of security that puts the United States, Mexico, and Canada inside a continental perimeter.”

Pastor’s “most important” recommendation is for the “Department of Homeland Security [to] expand its mission to include continental security — a shift best achieved by incorporating Mexican and Canadian perspectives and personnel into its design and operation.” The “perspective” of the incurably corrupt and relentlessly predatory Mexican government is typified by its willingness to use VeriChip technology against its increasingly helpless population.

Democratic presidential contender John Kerry (CFR) has caught Pastor’s vision for a North American “continental perimeter” of “security.” In an August 2004 interview with *Poder* magazine, Kerry spoke of his



The 9/11 Commission, larded with members of the world-government-promoting Council on Foreign Relations, recommended numerous surveillance state s unique physical ... features such as fingerprints, or iris scans....”

Newscom

intention to “create a ‘North American Security Perimeter’ to facilitate the legitimate travel of law-abiding citizens and crack down on bad actors trying to enter the United States. By working closely with our neighbors to coordinate our customs, immigration and law enforcement policies, we can better protect the region from terrorist threats.”

This is not to say, of course, that a re-elected President Bush would pursue a significantly different course. In fact, he has repeatedly endorsed the political and economic consolidation of the Western Hemisphere via the FTAA “free trade agreement” fraud.

During his first term, Mr. Bush has worked consistently to integrate our economy and security system with that of Mexico. And of course, he has presided over the creation of an immense Homeland Security department with an open-ended mandate to treat U.S. citizens — not foreign terrorists — as the chief threat to public order. If elected to a second term, Bush, like Kerry, would undoubtedly pursue a politically merged Western Hemisphere, with a security perimeter that would include both North and South America.

Security Perimeter, or Global Prison?

In such a “security perimeter,” the terrorists who have been permitted to infiltrate here would be left inside with the doors closed behind them. And in order to root them out, it would supposedly be necessary to target *all* people as potential enemies. The easiest “solution” to this predicament would be to uniquely identify everybody with some sort of ID, be it by microchip implant, biometric scanning (such as finger or retina) or a combination of the two.

Over 30 years ago, in an article for the December 1973 issue of *American Opinion* (predecessor to THE NEW AMERICAN), author Gary Allen surveyed the predictions made in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. George Orwell’s famous novel warning against a totalitarian future. Orwell’s major premise, wrote Allen, “was that government would use technology to establish a surveillance society which would end all privacy.”

“A dying George Orwell wrote *Nineteen Eighty-Four* as a warning to us,” Allen soberly concluded. “His message



Trading privacy for convenience: On June 28, frequent flyers at the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport signed up for a three-month project allowing them to pass quickly through a “biometric” identification checkpoint. The program requires flyers to submit to eye scans, fingerprints and criminal background checks.

is that once political and scientific power are centralized we will have no chance to escape tyranny.”

It is precisely because we have departed from our Constitution in various ways and degrees that political power is being centralized in this nation. And we are being duped and primed by the same Power Elite — which has created or exploited so many of our nation’s and the world’s problems — into accepting a *manufactured* need for all of these surveillance trappings and high-tech measures.

The Roman satirist Juvenal asked millennia ago: “Who will watch the watchers themselves?” Once total power — including that of surveillance — is given to an

unaccountable elite, freedom is quickly extinguished.

Fortunately, we’ve not reached that dismal milestone yet. But it’s looming ever larger on our horizon; and it must be halted.

Americans must act soon to restore our Constitution and Republic, before a universal surveillance state is erected — and we become inmates in a global prison without walls. ■

The John Birch Society (of which this magazine is an affiliate) has the program to expose the designs of those who would destroy America and to save our Constitution. For more information about the JBS, go to www.jbs.org.

Activate Congress: STOP the FTAA



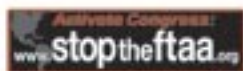
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9/11 Security Holes Remain

Former U.S. Customs agent Diane Kleiman witnessed corruption and conspiracy in the front lines of our national security.

by William F. Jasper

For Diane Kleiman, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 hit very close to home — both literally and figuratively. Her apartment, just three blocks from Ground Zero, shook violently when the first airplane hit the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Along with other residents and workers in the area who had rushed outside to see what had happened, she stared in horror and disbelief at the flaming inferno. She ran to the building, then watched, stunned

and helpless, as the second plane hit the South Tower. She saw the bodies falling, as desperate people trapped by the flames jumped to escape the firestorm. She ran for safety, choking and covered with dust and debris, as the first building collapsed.

One of Kleiman's first thoughts during the terror and tumult of that fateful morning was that her sister Beth may have been on one of the doomed flights. It wasn't until later that afternoon, around 4:00 p.m., that she learned that Beth, who had boarded a flight around 7:30 that morning, was okay.

Competing with the fear, confusion and compassion Diane Kleiman experienced that morning was another emotion: white-hot anger. "I was *furios* at Customs," she told THE NEW AMERICAN, referring to the U.S. Customs agency, where she had previously worked. "I screamed to myself, 'Why couldn't they have listened? Why did they let this happen?'"

Since June 1999, when she was fired from her Customs job at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport, Kleiman had been trying to get federal authorities to act on overwhelming evidence that top Customs officials at JFK had intentionally turned a blind eye to a criminal conspiracy with Latin American drug cartels and airline employees to bring huge amounts of narcotics into the U.S. Her firing, she says, was an act of retaliation for her efforts to expose official corruption.

"Besides the obvious issues concerned here about the damage that these drugs were causing on the street and the incalculable damage to our law enforcement and justice systems anytime corruption of this kind gets a foothold, there was the huge issue of national security," says Kleiman. "Narco-terrorism is a well-known fact; terrorist groups worldwide are tied into the drug trade. JFK is one of our nation's busiest and most important airports. Allowing this drug trade and corruption to flourish unchecked at JFK is virtually the same thing as inviting terrorists to take advantage of this giant security hole. It is a sure thing that, eventually, that is exactly what will happen."

Although the hijacked flights that were used to attack the Twin Towers and the Pentagon did not originate at JFK, the September 11 attacks and subsequent events have vindicated Diane Kleiman's warnings. The corruption, conspiracy and cover-up she witnessed firsthand is not restricted to JFK or to Customs, but is a systemic problem, infecting and crippling virtually all of federal law enforcement and intelligence. Assurances by federal author-



Diane Kleiman, former U.S. Customs Special Agent, addresses the media at a 9-11 whistleblowers' press conference in Washington, D.C., on September 13, 2004.

The New American

On September 13, Diane Kleiman joined other federal whistleblowers in Washington, D.C. for a press conference to challenge the official wisdom on counterterrorism and post-9/11 security. The whistleblowers believe there are “serious shortcomings” in the 9/11 Commission report.

ities that these problems are all being dealt with expeditiously now, or that they soon will be fixed by implementing proposals of the 9/11 Commission, are false assurances, she says, aimed at placating public concerns, not fixing a serious crisis.

On September 13, Diane Kleiman joined five other federal whistleblowers in Washington, D.C. for a press conference to challenge the official wisdom on counterterrorism and post-9/11 security. The 9/11 Commission stated at the end of its report: “We look forward to a national debate on the merits of what we have recommended, and we will participate vigorously in that debate.” The whistleblowers responded: “In this spirit, we wish to bring to the attention of the Congress, the press, and the people of the United States what we be-

lieve are serious shortcomings in the report and its recommendations.”

Speaking at the press conference, in addition to Kleiman, were: Sibel Edmonds, former language specialist, FBI; John M. Cole, former Veteran Intelligence Operations Specialist, FBI; Bogdan Dzakovic, former Special Agent & Red Team Leader, FAA;

Raymond McGovern, former analyst, CIA; and Melvin A. Goodman, former Senior Analyst/ Division Manager, CIA.

In addition to those who attended the press conference in person, another 20 whistleblowers from various federal agencies have joined as signatories to the effort. (See article on page 22.)

The Kleiman Ordeal

An incredible chain of events led former Special Agent Kleiman to the whistleblower press conference in Washington, D.C. and what has now been a five-year crusade to redeem her honor, restart her life and expose terrible wrongs that threaten our nation’s security. Diane Kleiman’s career trajectory was not that of your typical Customs agent. She is a lawyer who

had served six years as a prosecutor in the Queens District Attorney’s Office before joining the Customs unit at JFK airport.

Almost immediately, she knew something was terribly wrong. “The main security problem was not the front end, where regular airline passengers are involved, but the back end, what we call ‘the ramps,’ where the baggage handlers, mechanics, caterers and cleaning crews have access to the planes,” Kleiman told *THE NEW AMERICAN*. “There is a huge turnover in those jobs, very little security screening of those employees and very lax security concerning access to those premises — even now, post 9/11. When I started at JFK in 1999, we were taking airline employees into custody who were illegal aliens moving money out of the country illegally. Anything over \$10,000 you have to declare. And we were catching them bringing out \$30,000. And we would seize their money, let them go — and the next day they were back at work! And I said to my bosses, this is insanity. You are letting illegal aliens who should not be on the ramps to begin with have access to the planes. These people should not have been hired to begin with because they are security risks. They could easily hide a gun or a bomb on board a plane, without anyone knowing it.”

What was the reaction of her supervisors to these legitimate concerns? Outright hostility, she says. According to Kleiman, her supervisor told her “that I needed to be a team player and keep my mouth shut.” “I *am* a team player,” says Kleiman, “but the team I joined was sworn to uphold the law and protect the American people, not enforce a code of silence that protects a ‘good old boy’ network, especially if it means covering up unethical and illegal activities.”

On February 3, 1999, she was involved in a bust of a notorious Haitian drug dealer at JFK that netted approximately \$750,000 in cash. She was in the money counting room with her supervisor, who, she says, told her to record the final cash recovery as \$452,000 — allowing nearly \$300,000 to “disappear.”

Kleiman was incredulous. “I



U.S. Customs & Border Protection

Looking for contraband, a U.S. Customs & Border Protection officer examines the wheel well of a large commercial aircraft.

told him, ‘No one is going to believe that kind of a counting discrepancy.’” He told her to shut up and then ordered everyone in her group avoid her. As a rookie, that left her in a very helpless position. Fortunately, she received invaluable tutelage from a very experienced agent of the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration), who explained, in detail, how the airport drug-smuggling operations worked. An essential component of the criminal enterprise involved airline employees who would help get the illegal drugs onto international flights and then make sure the smugglers would avoid going through U.S. Customs inspection. When passengers come off international flights, they have to go through sealed “sterile corridors” to Customs and Immigration. However, some airline employees can get keys to doors in the sterile corridors and take the smugglers through these exits to evade inspection.

Customs Conspiracy

On March 13, 1999, using information from her DEA source, Agent Kleiman made a major bust of a Haitian drug operation at JFK. The Haitian courier was arrested with 46.2 pounds of cocaine. And, following the scenario outlined by the DEA agent, the courier was being escorted by an American Airlines employee with a key to an exit door. Did Kleiman get a promotion for this outstanding performance? Hardly. The airline employee got off scot-free; he was not even indicted. The Haitian smuggler was arrested, but his statement that he had smuggled drugs into JFK on prior occasions was purged from the file by the same agent in the room with the missing money. And Kleiman was called into the boss’ office and told to lie under oath to a grand jury.

According to Kleiman, her supervisor told her to report that the bust had been the result of a random search, rather than her investigation. This falsification would have helped shield exposure of what was obviously a criminal conspiracy involving Customs officials. Kleiman refused. Then,



Vigilant watchman: U.S. Customs & Border Protection Officer Jose Melendez-Perez was responsible for stopping suspected 9-11 terrorist Al-Kahtani from entering the U.S. through Orlando International Airport.

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

she says, he threatened her.

“He said, ‘Your mother lives alone, doesn’t she?’” Kleiman recounted to THE NEW AMERICAN. “And I said ‘yeah.’ Then he said, ‘Well, bad things happen to old women who live alone. They die, and no one ever finds out who did it.’ I said ‘Are you threatening me?’ And he said ‘No. You read this in the newspapers all the time. You see it all the time. People break into homes and nobody ever finds out who did it.’ And at that point, I said ‘This is it. Any conversation is over between you and me.’”

Kleiman says that her supervisor then subjected her to verbal harassment, including vulgar sexual and racial abuse. (Kleiman is Jewish). She says he taunted her, saying that no one would believe her word over his. “I knew he was probably right on that score,” she says. But it appears that her boss got sloppy. In an effort to undermine Kleiman’s credibility, he apparently decided to falsify her employee evaluations, just as he had boldly told her he would. What he didn’t know was that she had made photocopies of her earlier evaluations. During her Equal Employment Opportunity hearing, those photocopies proved that her supervisor’s later negative evaluations were forgeries, a felony of-

fence. (THE NEW AMERICAN has obtained copies of the original evaluations, as well as the later forgeries.)

But the harassment got more serious, potentially even deadly. Kleiman says that her government car all of a sudden had two tire blowouts. Then it developed a carbon monoxide leak that made her very sick. She was convinced that it was the result of tampering. Was she becoming paranoid? Apparently not. One of her former colleagues, Special Agent Brian Aryai, a Customs veteran with more than a decade of service, corroborated some of her charges in a sworn EEO deposition. Kleiman had gone to Aryai to request repair work on her government vehicle. Aryai testified in his deposition that Kleiman’s boss “asked that no repairs be authorized for her vehicle. Mr. [supervisor’s name] stated: ‘I want to make that [expletive]’s life miserable. [Expletive] her; let her suffer in that car.’”

Kleiman then went to the overall Superintendent of Customs for JFK. He sided with her boss and fired the “troublesome” rookie. In 2001, Kleiman sought help from the Office of Special Council (OSC), an entity that investigates grievances by federal employees. The OSC agreed to look into her case. She also sought help from members of Congress. The two who have

been most responsive, she says, are Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) and Richard Shelby (R-Ala.). Thanks to their letters to the OSC and to their monitoring of the investigation, Kleiman's case has not disappeared into the institutional memory hole, as have the cases of many other whistleblowers.

Pre-9/11 Warning

But the wheels of justice have been grinding very slowly. Six months prior to the attacks on September 11, Kleiman had warned the U.S. Attorney's Office that a tragedy would occur because of the lack of security at American Airlines. The U.S. Attorney's Office said they would look into it but never got back to her. To add more insult and injury upon injury, her supervisor was promoted. He is now number two man in Customs at JFK and, in effect, runs security there.

Kleiman was understandably outraged. She decided to get more vocal, to put pressure on the government through media exposure.

"Soon after I went on the Bob Grant Show [WABC radio in New York City] and told the story about Customs and the drug smuggling, the authorities started an investigation," she notes. "During Thanksgiving 2003 they made a high-profile bust at JFK involving 25 airline employees, about 19 of whom were baggage handlers. What did they find? Many of them were illegal aliens and most were felons with outstanding arrest warrants. Obviously, no serious effort had been made to fix one of our country's most obvious security problems. Here it was two years after 9/11, and U.S. citizens flying on airlines are being subjected to ever more intrusive restrictions and surveillance — and yet felons and possible terrorists were still being given untrammled access to our airports."

To top off the outrage, says Kleiman, the Customs superintendent at JFK "was taking bows and doing photo-ops for these arrests. He should have been hiding under a rock, because if he had done the most routine of background checks these criminals never would have been

hired."

The ramps and runways of our airports are still easily accessible to unauthorized personnel. Last year, for example, some teenagers rafting in the bay were buffeted by currents and winds and came ashore at the airport. They wandered around the runways for a couple hours before being taken into custody. Around the same time, at New York's LaGuardia Airport, a naked man was found wandering around the runways. "If these people could get through airport 'security,'" Kleiman says, "why even call it security?"

To drive home her point, last March Kleiman took a TV crew from FOX News to JFK. The TV station's van, with darkened windows, drove into an area supposedly off-limits to unauthorized personnel. "There was nobody manning the security booth," she says. "We drove right through." They easily went to within 100 feet of passenger planes from major airlines that were in various stages of arrival, loading and departure. "If we were terrorists, it would have been very easy to commandeer a plane, or take several of them out with firearms, missiles or hand-thrown bombs."

The truly maddening thing is that the corruption and conspiracy that Diane Kleiman has exposed are not unique to JFK or

U.S. Customs. Many other heroic current and former law enforcement and intelligence officers tell similar stories. As the September 13 whistleblower press conference in Washington, D.C. demonstrated, the security crisis is systemic, affecting virtually all of our security agencies. It is the bitter result of decades of sustained attacks on all internal security measures by subversives disguised as civil libertarians.

So far, our elected officials have chosen to perpetuate this crisis by refusing to root out those who obviously are, at best, negligent, and, at worst, criminally complicit. They use the claim that they do not want to engage in "finger pointing," as an excuse not to hold anyone accountable, allowing the guilty to escape. It is also providing an excuse for proposals to centralize police powers under the authority of a new federal intelligence "czar."

The 9/11 Commission report did not even deal with Customs or Immigration, two of the most important agencies on the front line of our national security. The glaring holes that allowed the 9/11 tragedy to occur will not be plugged by reshuffling agencies, redrawing lines on the federal bureaucracy flow charts and pouring even greater sums of money into an already bloated, unaccountable federal intelligence and law enforcement leviathan. ■



Surveying the wreckage: Customs agents review the damage from inside the NYC Customhouse after the terrorist attack.

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Experts Challenge the 9/11 Report

Dozens of whistleblowers from federal intelligence and law enforcement agencies – FBI, CIA, Customs and more – are uniting to expose and oppose the 9/11 Commission report.

by William F. Jasper

For more than two years, Sibel Edmonds, a former FBI translator of Turkish and Turkic languages, has been warning the country of major security problems that remain unaddressed at the FBI headquarters in Washington. Mrs. Edmonds has been responsible for making public a number of alarming revelations of FBI malfeasance and cover-up in matters

concerning our most sensitive areas of national security and counter terrorism.

Edmonds broke the story of the case of Melek Can Dickerson, the Turkish translator who was hired by the FBI after 9/11 despite her and her husband's records of associations with individuals and organizations that were targets of FBI investigations. Melek Can Dickerson was given a top-secret clearance and given access to numerous documents concerning terror-

ism investigations. Dickerson blocked investigations into suspect organizations she was involved with and, with her supervisor's approval, took hundreds of pages of top-secret documents outside the FBI to unknown recipients.

In 2002, Melek Can Dickerson and several FBI targets of investigation fled the United States. No criminal investigation has been opened into the Dickerson case, and Dickerson's supervisor, who



Former FBI translator Sibel Edmonds organized a press conference of federal whistleblowers to challenge the omissions and recommendations of *The 9/11 Commission Report* and to warn that serious security concerns have not been fixed.

The New American

facilitated her criminal conduct, has been promoted to supervising Arabic language units of the FBI's counterterrorism and counterintelligence investigations.

Sibel Edmonds testified before the 9/11 Commission, but the Commission's report does not include her explosive information, and only mentions her name in a single footnote. In an August 2, 2004 open letter to the 9/11 Commission, Mrs. Edmonds recounted the Dickerson case, as well as several other important incidents illustrating the depth and breadth of the crisis at the FBI. Her letter stated:

Your report omits these significant incidents, and your recommendations do not address this serious security breach and likely espionage issue. This issue needs to be investigated and prosecuted. The translation of our intelligence is being entrusted to individuals with loyalties to our enemies. Important "chit-chats" and "chatters" are being intentionally blocked from translation. Why does your report exclude this information and these serious issues despite the evidence and briefings you received? How can budget increases address and resolve this misconduct by mid-level bureaucratic management? How can the addition of an "intelligence czar" solve this problem?

Earlier this year, Edmonds was subpoenaed by attorneys for a group of 9/11

families in their lawsuit against the federal government. They were seeking to have her testify concerning information she reportedly saw at FBI headquarters proving senior officials knew of al-Qaeda plans to attack the U.S. with aircraft months before the strikes. However, in April, the Bush administration obtained a court gag order preventing her from testifying.

On Monday, September 13, Sibel Edmonds held a whistleblowers press conference in Washington, D.C., bringing together veteran agents, analysts and other experts from various government agencies involved in national security.

She was joined at the press conference by four other former federal civil servants: Diane Kleiman, former Special Agent, U.S. Customs; John M. Cole, former Veteran Intelligence Operations Specialist, FBI; Bogdan Dzakovic, former Special Agent & Red Team Leader, FAA; and Melvin A. Goodman, former Senior Analyst/Division Manager, CIA.

In her opening comments, Sibel Edmonds called upon Congress "to refrain from narrow political considerations and to apply brakes to the race to implement the [9/11] Commission recommendations." This "unique opportunity to introduce salutary reform," she noted, "must not be squandered by politically driven haste."

Edmonds further stated:

Omission is one of the major flaws in the Commission's report. We are aware of significant issues and cases that were duly reported to the Commission by those of us with direct knowledge, but somehow escaped attention. Serious problems and shortcomings within government agencies likewise were reported to the Commission but were not included in the report. The report simply does not get at the key problems within the intelligence, aviation security, and law enforcement communities. The omission of such serious and applicable issues and information by itself renders the report flawed, and casts doubt on the validity of many of its recommendations.

A more detailed report on the whistleblower press conference will appear in the next issue of THE NEW AMERICAN. ■



The federal whistleblower press conference in Washington, D.C. on September 13 was jammed with reporters, participants and camera crews.



FBI veteran intelligence operations specialist John M. Cole told the press conference of his experiences in trying to alert FBI superiors that candidates under consideration for hire by the Bureau were actually foreign intelligence agents. His warnings were disregarded, and these intelligence risks were hired and given positions that greatly endanger our nation's security.

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The One-Party State

The Republican National Convention demonstrated that both major parties are committed to building the total state.

by William Norman Grigg

“When a nation has definitely committed itself to a foreign war,” insisted legal scholar John Henry Wigmore during World War I, “all principles of normal internal order may be suspended.”

In an August 7, 1918 speech, War Industries Board Chairman Bernard Baruch was astonishingly frank in expressing the same view. “Every man’s life is at the call of the nation and so must be every man’s property,” insisted Baruch. “We are living today in a highly organized state of socialism. The state is all; the individual is of importance only as he contributes to the welfare of the state.”

Similar totalitarian cadences worked their way into the July 19, 1940 speech in which President Franklin D. Roosevelt accepted the Democrat Party’s nomination to seek an unprecedented third term. “Today all private plans, all private lives, have been in a sense repealed by an overriding public danger,” declared Roosevelt. “In the face of that public danger all those who can be of service to the Republic have no choice but to offer themselves for service in those capacities for which they may be fitted.”

These pointed endorsements of the total state represent a complete repudiation of our nation’s republican premises. The recently concluded Republican National Convention in New York City offered overwhelming proof that the GOP has embraced the vision of building the total state through perpetual war.

All Hail the “Leader Principle”

In his keynote address to Republican National Convention on September 1, Democratic Senator Zell Miller of Georgia quoted FDR’s pronouncement that all private plans and interests are “repealed” during wartime, and extolled President Bush as a man to whom we could entrust our lives, property and children.

Referring to his grandchildren, Senator Miller posed the rhetorical question: “I ask which leader is it today that has the vision, the willpower and, yes, the backbone to best protect my family?... There is but one man to whom I am willing to entrust their future that man’s name is George Bush.”

“I admire this man,” gushed Miller. “I have knocked on the door of this man’s soul and found someone home, a God-fearing man with a good heart and a spine of tem-

pered steel. The man I trust to protect my most precious possession: my family.”

Miller’s tribute to the president offers a stark contrast with Thomas Jefferson’s wise counsel: “In questions of power ... let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.” And Miller, by his own admission, is a less than reliable judge of a politician’s character.

Twelve years ago, as the keynote speak-



Sermonizing for statism: Georgia Democratic Senator Zell Miller used the keynote address at the Republican National Convention to urge bipartisan support for the total state. Quoting FDR, Miller insisted that all private interests are “repealed” during wartime.

The recently concluded Republican National Convention in New York City offered overwhelming proof that the GOP — supposed standard-bearer for limited government conservatism — has embraced the vision of building the total state through perpetual war.

er at the Democratic National Convention, Miller delivered a similarly evangelistic speech describing Bill Clinton as the messianic embodiment of political goodness. But this irony was lost on Miller’s audience, who eagerly surrendered to raptures of indignation over the impudence of any candidate who would think of supplanting our Dear Leader.

Indeed, the most remarkable aspect of Miller’s address was a section implying that there was something seditious about having a contested election in “wartime.” Referring to 1940 Republican candidate Wendell Willkie, Miller declared that “there is no better example of someone repealing their ‘private plans’ than this good man.... [H]e made it clear that he would rather lose the election than make national security a partisan campaign issue.”

“Where are such statesmen today?” continued Miller, his face contorted into a mask of theatrical indignation. “Where is the bipartisanship in this country when we need it most? Now, while young Americans are dying in the sands of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan, our nation is being torn apart and made weaker because of the Democrats’ manic obsession to bring down our Commander in Chief.”

Implicit but unmistakable in Miller’s address were the following assumptions:

- Since our nation is at war, our lives, liberty, and property belong to the state.
- George W. Bush is not

simply an elected official with specific, limited powers, but a holy personage to whom we can entrust all we hold dear (something not found in the Constitution’s presidential job description).

- Seeking to replace President Bush through the constitutionally appointed means is at best divisive and at worst treasonous.

Taken together, those assumptions amount to *fuhrerprinzip* — the “leader principle” common to all variants of totalitarianism, but most openly embraced by the German National Socialist (Nazi) Party.

As it has often been said, people go mad in groups, and come to their senses one at a time. The nastiest trick of collectivist politics of every variety is to manipulate people into remaining part of the mob, rather than engaging in critical thought as individuals. And nothing accomplishes

that design better than a state of perpetual war.

Throwing the Election

Another nasty trick frequently employed by collectivists is to control all “respectable” political alternatives in order to ensure that any electoral outcome will abet the growth of the total state.

“The argument that the two parties should represent opposed ideals and policies, one, perhaps, of the Right and the other of the Left, is a foolish idea,” commented Georgetown history professor Carroll Quigley, who was both a capable analyst of, and cheerleader for, the drive to create the total state. “Instead, the two parties should be almost identical, so that the American people can ‘throw the rascals out’ at any election without leading to any profound or extensive shifts in policy.” Senator Miller’s address illustrated the extent to which contemporary partisan politics follows Quigley’s prescription.

In addition to exalting President Bush as the distillate of political virtue, Miller’s address also hymned the supposed virtues of two liberal Democratic presidents — FDR and Harry Truman — and that of a losing Republican candidate, Wendell Willkie. These figures, along with George W. Bush, were commended for embracing an interventionist foreign policy “to fight for freedom over tyranny.” “Freedom,” in this view, is a product of our central government, with our military acting as a glorified delivery service.

“Never in the history of the world has any soldier sacrificed more for the freedom and liberty of total strangers than the American soldier,” observed Miller. “And, our soldiers don’t just give freedom abroad, they preserve it for us here at home.” Of course, Miller didn’t explain how our freedoms are being “preserved” if at the same time we are required to permit Washington to “repeal” our private plans when necessary.

The choice of Willkie as symbolic of bipartisan patrio-



AP/Wide World

Political cross-dresser: Powerful, shadowy figures connected to FDR and British intelligence maneuvered Wendell Willkie into the 1940 Republican presidential nomination. A Democrat, Willkie collaborated with FDR to beat down the administration’s Republican opponents. He was actually approached to serve as FDR’s vice presidential running mate in 1944.

tism is incredibly significant, since there is abundant evidence that Willkie — a life-long Democrat who allegedly changed his affiliation just months before being nominated by the Republicans in 1940 — conspired with both the FDR administration and a foreign intelligence service to “fix” the election.

In *Desperate Deception*, a 1998 study of pre-WWII efforts by British Intelligence to maneuver the U.S. into the war, historian Dr. Thomas Mahl records:

In June 1940, the Republicans in convention in Philadelphia nominated Willkie. He was a man who had never held political office — a man who had been a bona fide registered Democrat as late as September 1939 and whose switch to the Republican Party is difficult, perhaps impossible, to document. His nomination exempted his Democratic opponent, President Franklin Roosevelt, from the normal pressures of an election campaign.

Willkie’s nomination defied widespread and well-organized anti-interventionist sentiment at the Philadelphia convention, leading some — including noted agnostic H.L. Mencken — to speculate that it was the product of something akin to divine intervention. But soon after the convention, Communist leader Earl Browder (whose party was tactically allied with Hitler’s regime at the time) and anti-intervention conservative Nelson Sparks claimed “that the nomination of Wendell Willkie had been concocted by British Ambassador Lord Lothian, in connivance with Franklin Roosevelt, Thomas W. Lamont of J.P. Morgan, and columnist Walter Lippmann.”

It’s worth noting that, decades earlier, Roosevelt, Lamont and Lippmann had all been involved in the intrigue that led to U.S. entry into the first World War.

More importantly, notes Dr. Mahl:

There are now a number of facts available that support the accusations of Browder and Sparks. First, the people who created the Willkie candidacy were working closely with Franklin Roosevelt. Second, those who created the Willkie candidacy were working closely with British intelligence and



NARA

Model conservative? Speakers at the GOP convention repeatedly invoked the legacy of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. FDR, over the opposition of Republicans and conservative Democrats, discarded the Constitution, restructured the federal government along fascist lines, and manipulated our nation into war.

its fronts. Third, Willkie was working closely with British intelligence and its fronts, especially Fight for Freedom, on whose executive board he sat. Fourth, Willkie’s close work with his ostensible opponent, Franklin Roosevelt, particularly their joint effort to eliminate members of Willkie’s newly adopted Republican Party from office, is a collaboration rare, perhaps even unique, in American political history. Last, the secrecy and compartmentalization of the scheme to promote Willkie are a fundamental attribute of intelligence tradecraft; none of the individual toilers working for Willkie’s nomination ever knew enough to be able to see the big picture of the operation.

Battling for Britain

Among the British intelligence assets who promoted Willkie’s candidacy were attorney Grenville Clark, a prominent member of the British front Fight for Freedom who went on to prominence as an exponent of UN-enforced “global law”; journalist Walter Lippmann, the Fabian Socialist, founding editor of *The New Republic*, charter member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and key figure in the secretive post-WWI “Inquiry” group that drafted the

League of Nations covenant; and journalist Dorothy Thompson, who was active in several British Intelligence fronts. Willkie himself secretly collaborated with British Ambassador Lord Lothian.

Willkie backed FDR’s “Destroyer Deal” with Britain in 1940, which amounted to delivering part of our naval fleet to that government. The deal was patently illegal. He also supported the first peacetime conscription law in our nation’s history, a measure that made sense only as preparation for U.S. involvement in the war. Both of those betrayals followed Willkie’s nomination in a national convention carefully stage-managed by FDR’s allies. That convention was rife with dirty tricks — such as using a defective microphone to prevent former President Herbert Hoover from delivering an anti-intervention speech.

In a despairing letter to his son, California Republican Senator Hiram Johnson lamented that Willkie “had raised hell with us here by adopting the Roosevelt foreign policy, and being for conscription, etc. He really broke the back of the opposition to the conscription law.” That betrayal was described in strikingly different terms by interventionists, particularly those formally aligned with the British fifth column.

“If the Republicans had launched an all out attack on the president for doing this

[giving away part of the fleet to Britain], their candidate would have attracted hundreds of thousands of America First isolationist voters who otherwise might not go to the polls,” reflected Francis Pickens Miller, who was involved in the British fronts Century Group and Fight for Freedom. “Our chairman, Lewis Douglas, was one of Willkie’s most ardent supporters and trusted advisors.”

Lippmann described Willkie’s seizure of the Republican nomination as “providential”: “Under any other leadership than his, the Republican party would in 1940 have turned its back on Great Britain.” Which is another way of saying that any genuine Republican candidate of that era would have sought to defend American interests, rather than those of some foreign power.

Shortly after his “loss” to FDR, Willkie was appointed by Roosevelt as a presidential emissary. This was done at the suggestion of William Stephenson, the notorious British Spy known as “Intrepid” who helped coordinate British Intelligence efforts in the U.S. (particularly those directed at harassing and defaming the America First movement). With ironic wit, Stephenson’s letter to FDR referred to Willkie as “your opponent in the recent bitter elections...”

Willkie’s true relationship with FDR was no secret to the White House Correspondents Association. At the group’s March 1941 dinner a mock newsreel was shown entitled *All We Know Is What They Let Us Write in the Papers, or It Ain’t Necessarily So*. One scene in that film entitled “Bundling for Britain” depicted Roosevelt

and Willkie as bed-mates. In 1944, Willkie was approached by key Roosevelt advisers to run as Vice President on the Democratic ticket. Willkie, in failing health, declined the offer and expired from a heart attack that October.

Two Branches, One Party

The choice of Democratic Senator Zell Miller to nominate President Bush for re-election illustrates that the two “mainstream” parties are entirely fungible. Miller’s choice of Wendell Willkie to embody “bipartisanship” is even more telling. But most revealing of all was the spectacle of supposedly conservative Republican delegates engaged in an orchestrated orgy of enthusiasm on behalf of the welfare-warfare state.

“The [GOP Convention] began with a series of speeches trumpeting vast increases in federal spending: on education, healthcare, AIDS, medical research, and on and on,” approvingly wrote liberal Republican columnist Andrew Sullivan. “No, these were not Democrats. They were Bush Republicans, extolling the capacity of government to help people, to cure the sick, educate the young, save Africans from HIV, subsidize religious charities, prevent or cure breast cancer, and any other number of worthy causes. The speakers were designed to target certain demographic and interest groups, just as the Democrats used to. The notion that these things are best left to the private sector, or that spending needs to be slashed in the wake of rising debt, or that the race of a speaker is irrelevant: all these are now Republican heterodoxy.”

As commentator Eric Margolis pointed out, the Republican Party’s embrace of sanctified totalitarianism took place in a city transformed into a mini-garrison state. With the streets patrolled by a security force larger than Canada’s army, and residents and visitors subjected to roadblocks, checkpoints, and the like, New York resembled “Damascus during a military coup,” wrote Margolis.

Both the rhetoric issuing from the lectern at Madison Square Garden, and the police state measures maintaining order outside, demonstrated beyond dispute that — at the leadership level — freedom has no friend in either the Republican or Democrat branch of the Ruling Party. ■



Good judgment? Then-Governor Miller, shown above with Bill Clinton at a March 1992 campaign rally, not only vocally supported Clinton’s presidential race but was tapped to be the keynote speaker at that year’s Democrat convention, where he was effusive in his praise of Clinton’s “courage.” Speaking at the GOP convention 12 years later, he was similarly effusive in his praise of George W. Bush, describing him as having a good soul and a “spine of tempered steel.”

AP/Wide World

Spinning a Larger Web

The Trilateral blueprint for shaping a community of the developed nations of North America, Western Europe and Japan has been extended to other parts of the globe.

by John F. McManus

When it was formed in 1973, the Trilateral Commission's benign-sounding purposes included gathering prominent Western Europeans, North Americans, and Japanese to promote the "enhancement of cooperative relations," "analysis of major issues," and "the development [and] endorsement of proposals on questions of vital mutual interest." Nothing in its initial literature mentioned world government, but this has been the underlying purpose of the Trilateral Commission (TC) from its outset.

A great deal can be learned from knowing who initiated this new organization, who had sufficient clout to gather into its fold the movers and shakers of these major industrialized regions, and who supplied its finances. The name of David Rockefeller figures in every aspect of the TC. Because nothing this man has touched in his 80-plus years has been good for national independence or personal freedom, it would be ridiculous to expect the TC to be anything but another Establishment-spun web to entrap mankind.

Rockefeller is the consummate advocate of world government whose vast wealth and influence — along with that of his family — have launched, promoted or funded virtually every 20th century step on the way to global tyranny. It was the Rockefeller Foundation and allies at the like-minded Ford, Kettering and other money spigots that fueled TC from its outset.

From only 187 members at its launching, Trilateral membership in mid-2004 has swelled to 379 bankers, poli-

ticians, corporate bigwigs, media heavyweights, labor leaders, academics and even some clergymen. With three original regions, it has branched out and now claims adherents from all parts of Europe, a Mexican contingent added to the North American group, a restructured Japanese section that now includes virtually every Asian country, and a new coterie of go-along-to-get-along world planners listed under the heading "Participants from Other Areas."

The Beginning

The TC's blueprint was created in 1970 by Columbia University Professor Zbigniew Brzezinski, who would go on to become the organization's first director and President Jimmy Carter's national security

adviser. That blueprint was his 334-page book, *Between Two Ages: America's Role in the Technetronic Era*. Therein, Brzezinski praised Marxism as "the best available insight into contemporary reality," claimed that the United States had descended into "obsolescence," called for "management of America's future [with the] planner as the key social legislator and manipulator," and fretted about a "resurgence of nationalism." Brzezinski then prescribed "piecemeal" creation of "a larger community of the developed nations ... through a variety of indirect ties and already developing limitations on national sovereignty."

More specifically, Brzezinski recommended "the forging of community links among the United States, Western Europe, and Japan," then extending these



Trilateralist trio: Within three years of its founding, the Trilateral Commission placed key members at the very apex of power. Membership in the TC helped Jimmy Carter — seen here flanked by fellow Trilateralists Cyrus Vance and Zbigniew Brzezinski — rise from obscurity to the White House.

If the subversive agenda advanced by key members of the Trilateral Commission and the Council on Foreign Relations is not more widely exposed and opposed, their long-sought-after goal of world government may indeed become a reality.

to other “more advanced countries,” and later bringing on board “more advanced communist countries.” On the next-to-last page of his text, he lamented that the community of nations he hoped for was less ambitious “than the goal of world government” — which obviously was his ultimate desire.

Already a member of the David Rockefeller-led Council on Foreign Relations, Brzezinski’s book helped his star rise dramatically. In 1972, Rockefeller emissary W. Michael Blumenthal broached the Brzezinski plan at the Rockefeller-led Bilderberger meeting. At these annual conferences, over one hundred powerful individuals from Western Europe and the U.S. convene secretly to decide how the world should be managed. The brethren at this gathering in Belgium gave thumbs up to the proposal that became the TC.

Brzezinski then authored a 20-page article entitled “U.S. Policy: The Search for Focus” in the July 1973 issue of *Foreign Affairs*, the prestigious journal of the Council on Foreign Relations. In it, he repeatedly attacked “isolationism” as “a suicidal policy,” promoted the need for “global interdependence ... as the inescapable reality of our time,” and again called for “shaping a more stable and socially progressively world [by linking] the United States, Western Europe and Japan.” Terming his proposal “trilateral cooperation,” he urged that

it include 1) annual trilateral cabinet meetings, 2) a standing secretariat, 3) consultations with states outside the formal trilateral group, and 4) regular three-way meetings of respective government officials. All of this became reality in the form of the Trilateral Commission.

Later in July 1973, Rockefeller tapped Brzezinski as the director of his new creation, with George S. Franklin, former executive director of the CFR, as its secretary. Of the initial 58 U.S. members announced in November 1973, 35 were also members of the Council on Foreign Relations. Noteworthy names appearing on the TC’s first roster included Jimmy Carter, Walter Mondale, W. Michael Blumenthal, Harold Brown and Cyrus Vance. At the time, Jimmy Carter was virtually unknown outside his home state of Georgia. But when he threw his hat into the national political arena, he

soon went from “Jimmy Who?” to “Mr. President” and then chose Vice President Mondale, Treasury Secretary Blumenthal, Defense Secretary Brown, Secretary of State Vance, and national security adviser Brzezinski. Another 15 TC members won posts in the Carter administration.

George Franklin would later confirm that, prior to winning the Democratic nomination and the presidency in 1976, Carter had benefited greatly from two main “mentors,” Zbigniew Brzezinski and Richard N. Gardner, both veteran members of the Council on Foreign Relations. During the very period when he was mentoring the future president, Gardner issued his infamous call in the July 1974 issue of *Foreign Affairs* for “an end run around national sovereignty, eroding it piece by piece.”

Also in 1974, the TC issued a report entitled “The Crisis of Democracy,” recommending “centralized economic and social planning,” “centralization of power within Congress,” “a program ... to lower the job expectations of those who receive a college education,” and a variety of “limitations on freedom of the press [including] regulation by the government.”

During the Carter administration (1977-1981), many Americans became alarmed about the Trilateralist takeover and the organization’s plans for mankind. Responding to a query about the TC’s influence, CFR President Winston Lord, a member also of TC, quipped in 1978: “The Trilateral Commission doesn’t secretly run the world. The Council on Foreign Relations does that.” And Senator Barry Goldwater’s 1979 book *With No Apologies* concluded: “What the Trilaterals truly intend is the creation of worldwide economic power superior to the political governments of the nation-states involved.... As managers and creators of the system they will rule the future.”

Persistent fears among



“End run” architect: Trilateralist Richard Gardner, seen here during his term as U.S. ambassador to Spain, wrote an immensely influential essay in the CFR journal *Foreign Affairs* calling for “an end run around national sovereignty, eroding it piece by piece.” The Trilateral Commission carries out a key role in that subversive strategy.

Newscom

Americans about TC led the GOP's 1980 candidate, Ronald Reagan, to attack incumbent President Carter's foreign policy. As reported in the February 8, 1980 *New York Times*, the former California governor pointed out that "19 key members of the administration are or have been members of the Trilateral Commission." Pressed by reporters to support his charge, Reagan named Carter, Mondale, Vance, Brown and 15 others. Two months later, he told the *Christian Science Monitor* that he would shun the policies of David Rockefeller's TC.

Nevertheless, Reagan hosted David Rockefeller at a September 1980 "Prelude To Victory" party at his rented Virginia estate in Middleburg, Virginia. Evidently no longer concerned about David Rockefeller's creation, Reagan had already chosen Trilateralist George H.W. Bush as his running mate. After winning the election, he chose Trilateralist Caspar Weinberger to be his secretary of defense — even though Reagan strategist Edwin Meese had earlier charged TC influence with causing a "softening" of our nation's defenses.

Ronald Reagan was followed in the White House by Trilateralist George H.W. Bush and Trilateralist Bill Clinton. George W. Bush has never held membership in the TC but his chief mentor, Vice President Richard Cheney, is another Trilateralist, as are Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and Trade Representative Robert Zoellick. During the years since the creation of the TC, Paul Volcker and Allan Greenspan, both Trilateralists, have managed the nation's economic life as chairmen of the Federal Reserve.

Spreading the TC's Wings

At the beginning of the new millennium, Brzezinski saw the original Trilateral areas expanded to include "more advanced countries." Representatives from many other nations in Europe were tapped, adding to the original nine European nations (UK, Germany, France, Denmark, Belgium, Italy, Norway, Ireland and the Netherlands).

The August 2004 Trilateral membership, now nearly 400 strong, lists members and former members in public service from Greece, Portugal, Czech Republic, Spain, Finland, Hungary, Poland, Austria, Sweden, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Romania,



Rocky and Reagan: During his 1980 campaign for the GOP presidential nomination, Ronald Reagan pointedly denounced George Bush (the elder) for membership in the elitist organization known as the Trilateral Commission (TC). On accepting the nomination, he selected the same George Bush as his running mate — and shortly before the election he broke bread with David Rockefeller, founder of the TC and then-chairman of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Serbia, Switzerland and Estonia. None of these individuals — like their counterparts in other countries — are inconsequential. They are bankers, political leaders, media heavyweights, ambassadors, former prime ministers, union heads and corporation leaders.

An even more dramatic TC expansion occurred since the start of the new millennium with the addition of numerous Asian nations to the group formerly made up only of Japanese. While the "Pacific Asian Group" is still dominated by 60 from Japan, 35 newer members hail from Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Korea, the Philippines, Australia, Thailand and Singapore.

Another 14 more nations are represented by 24 individuals who are categorized as "Participants from Other Areas." These new Trilateralists come from Kuwait, Morocco, Argentina, Taiwan, Turkey, Israel, Hong Kong, South Africa, Jordan, Ukraine, Uruguay, China, Russia and Brazil. With the exception of most of Africa and a few Middle Eastern nations, hardly any country has been left out.

Has the Trilateral Commission altered the plans of its creators? The answer, best gleaned by looking at its membership list, is an unqualified "No." Founder Brzezinski remains as one of 12 Executive Committee members from North America, and David Rockefeller is listed as the organization's

"Founder, Honorary Chairman and Lifetime Trustee." One of the leaders, Georges Berthoin, served as European Secretary from the mid-1970s until the early 1990s. He is now listed as Honorary European Chairman.

Current U.S. members working for the world government goal include Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of State Madeline Albright, former House Speaker Thomas Foley, CFR President Richard Haass, *Wall Street Journal* Publisher Karen Elliott House, Washington Post Company Chairman Donald Graham, former FBI Director William Webster, former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, Senators Dianne Feinstein (Calif.) and Jay Rockefeller (W.Va.), and House members Jane Harman (Calif.), Dick Gephardt (Mo.), Jim Leach (Iowa), Doug Bereuter (Neb.) and Charles Rangel (N.Y.). Most of these TC members are also CFR members.

When the TC began in 1973, 60 percent of its 58 U.S. members held membership also in the Council on Foreign Relations, one of David Rockefeller's other projects. As of 2004, 70 percent of the 82 U.S. members are CFR members. If the subversive agenda advanced by these individuals and their organizations is not more widely exposed and opposed — their long-sought-after goal of world government may indeed become a reality. ■

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Sowing the Seeds of Honesty

In March, Gerald Parish of Spencer, Iowa, passed away at age 85. During the July 4th weekend, his three children (Jody Gardner of Omaha, Nebraska, and her two sisters from California) held a holiday party in his memory at the family home on Iowa's Lake Okoboji. More than 200 people attended the event.

A few days later, the sisters closed their father's bank accounts and signed the pertinent estate documents. Jody Gardner's share of the inheritance included \$20,000 in cashier's checks and \$1,000 in cash and coins, which she placed in her billfold.

On the trip back to the lake home, Gardner stopped in Milford to buy some groceries. She set the billfold on top of her van while placing the groceries in the vehicle, then forgot about it and drove off. "I can't believe I did it, but I did it," she told the July 25 *Des Moines Register*. In addition to the money, the billfold included such identifiers as her driver's license, insurance license (she is an agent), and six credit cards.

Later that day, Tim Titterington and his son Dylan, 16, were mowing Conservation Reserve Program land along a state highway near their farm outside Milford. Mr. Titterington told the *Register*, "We're just finishing up a farm south of West Okoboji. I took off down the road going home. A semi drove past, and it looked like confetti flying around. I got a little closer, and here's 20-dollar bills flying around, and receipts, and everything else." He also noticed a billfold lying in the road, about five miles from the Milford store where Gardner had stopped for groceries. "The cars and trucks were hitting it," he recalled. "It was busy, right around the holidays. Nobody was stopping. A semi would go by and blow everything into the air. Not a soul stopped to help."

Crawling on their hands and knees, Mr. Titterington and Dylan tried to retrieve the debris as cars and trucks whizzed by, "just going vroom, vroom, vroom. You know how it is. Like trying to change a tire in the middle of the interstate." It was, he says, "the Great American Scavenger Hunt."

In all, the Titteringtons spent about an hour tracking down the checks, cash and other items disgorged from the billfold.

When they arrived home, Dylan rummaged through it all and came across a telephone number that put him in touch with one of Gardner's friends, who then gave Dylan directions to the family home.

When the Titteringtons arrived at Lake Okoboji, Dylan found Gardner on a dock behind the house. Only when asked if she had lost her billfold did she realize that she had done so. "I had no idea," she says.

The billfold was empty when Dylan handed it to her, so she momentarily assumed that someone had found it before the Titteringtons. "If you're stupid enough to leave your wallet on your van and it falls off, you expect somebody to steal everything," she told the *Register*, and "somebody could have."

Actually, however, the Titteringtons had placed the contents in a plastic cup. Mr. Titterington recalls that when they gave it to her, her mouth "just kind of fell open and she goes, 'My word.'"

If someone less honest had discovered the billfold, Gardner notes, it would not have been difficult to convert the cashier's checks to cash, especially since he or she would also have had the many items of identification. She describes it as "an absolute miracle for me. Those people are amazing."

For Mr. Titterington, the good deed was simply "the way we were brought up." As his son explained when queried by the *Register*, there was no question that he and his dad would try to find the owner. In fact, the notion of "finders keepers" never crossed their minds: "We're just not like that, I guess. My dad is a guy [who] likes to be honest, and he never does anything like that. We're just farmers out here, and we've got most everything we need. It's just not our thought to keep it." Mr. Titterington adds: "You know how it is. You want to treat people like you want to be treated yourself. Someday I might lose something, and I'd sure want somebody to return it to me."

As far as she could tell, Gardner did not lose so much as a piece of paper. The Titteringtons apparently found and returned everything. She offered them a \$100 reward, but they would not take it. "They would not accept a doggone thing," she recalls. "I cried. I hugged them. To me, it was absolutely amazing. I just want these guys to get some thank-yous." Their dis-

play of integrity has, she says, restored her faith in humanity.

The experience also taught Gardner an important lesson. She now keeps her inheritance in the bank, not in her billfold.

"You Go, Girl!"

Gregory Holloway, a longtime resident of Covington, Kentucky, had steady employment until he became addicted to crack cocaine a few months ago. The father of two then turned to bank heists to support his drug habit. In early July, he stole an estimated \$1,670 from a Covington branch of PNC Bank, and a few days later took \$1,945 from a branch of Huntington Bank, also in Covington.

Shortly after 1 p.m. on the afternoon of July 26, he tried to rob a PNC Bank branch in Florence, but met his match when a feisty female teller refused to cooperate. The unidentified teller had been robbed before, and was determined not to let it happen again.

When Holloway entered the bank and demanded that the teller "put the money on the counter," he was not holding a gun or other weapon. The teller firmly told him, "No!" He then threatened, "Don't make me pull a gun," but she still made clear that she had no intention of handing over any money.

Flustered, Holloway turned and scurried from the bank. Rather than let him get away, the teller watched as he crossed the parking lot, then she jumped into a fellow employee's car, trailed him to a store in a nearby mall, and called authorities. Florence Police and Boone County Sheriff's deputies soon arrived and arrested the suspect without incident near the store's upper-level entrance.

Holloway confessed to the attempted holdup and the two earlier bank robberies. On August 11, a grand jury indicted him on two counts of bank robbery and one count of attempted bank robbery.

The July 27 Covington *Kentucky Post* quoted a spokesman for the Florence Police as saying that, while they advise robbery victims not to resist thugs who threaten to use a weapon, the teller's determination to track the suspect was "very helpful to us," and "we're glad she was able to tell us where this guy went." ■

— ROBERT W. LEE

The Birth of the Republic

Rome's astonishing ascent was not based wholly or even mostly on her military exploits, but on the moral sensibilities of her people and the limitation of government power.

by Steve Bonta

This is the first installment in a series of articles on the rise and fall of the Roman Republic.

As with most ancient nations, the origins of Rome are clouded by legend. The first inhabitants of what became the city-state of Rome may have been refugees from defeated Troy, led by the semi-legendary hero Aeneas. Rome's greatest poet, Virgil, said as much in his immortal epic, the *Aeneid*, and Roman historians, such as Appian and Livy, claimed the same.

By all accounts, Rome in the eighth century B.C. was little more than an armed camp of brigands. Yet within seven hundred years, this squalid, warlike settlement became the greatest man-made power the world had ever seen, mistress of most of Europe, North Africa, Asia Minor and the Middle East. Ancient Rome was the incubator for Christianity, the repository of Western Civilization for over a thousand years, and the setting for much of the greatest historical drama — and many of the most extraordinary characters — ever to occupy the human stage.

Rome rose to unexampled heights, only to fall with a shock that still reverberates across the centuries. Unlike the great civilizations that preceded her — Egypt, Elam, Sumer, Babylon, Carthage and others — Rome's legacy was far more than jumbled ruins. Of Rome we preserve a vast literature, a code of laws, and many of our political, cultural, artistic and religious forms. For instead of collapsing utterly, like its predecessors, Rome was first broken into fragments and then transmuted into the political and religious institutions that served as a foundation for modern Western civilization.

America's Founding Fathers, as well as their European contemporaries, were fascinated with Rome, for in the 18th century the Western world had only recently

attained the wealth, power and vitality of Roman civilization at its peak. In the more than two centuries since the American founding, American and European civilization have far outstripped and eclipsed the achievements of ancient Rome. But the mystique of Rome persists. The lessons of the rise and fall of Rome resonate in our age, when a single power consumed by imperialistic ambition and cankered by moral decay — the United States of America — seems to be slouching down the same path to decline that the Romans followed.

Of the time between the traditional founding of Rome around 753 B.C. with the ascent of Romulus and the birth of the Roman Republic in about 509 B.C. with the expulsion of the Tarquins, we know nothing not colored by legend. Yet there is no reason to believe that Romulus did not exist, or that he was not, as Plutarch and Livy both assert, the first Roman king. Romulus is depicted as a violent, warlike individual, the most ruthless member of a very rough crowd. The stories of his murder of Remus, his brother, and his war with the Sabines over the rape of the Sabine women by his men, whether true or not, are certainly in keeping with the warlike spirit the Romans cultivated, from the very foundation of their city.

State of War

With only a few brief interludes, Rome was perpetually at war from the time of the Tarquins to the ascent of Caesar Augustus. In Alexander Hamilton's words, she "never sated of carnage and conquest." Like Sparta, Rome, both as a monarchy and as a republic, was organized along military lines. Every able-bodied Roman male saw annual military service throughout his young adult years, until the time of Marius in the late second century B.C. when Rome professionalized her military. So pervasive was the military in Roman political culture that even the senators were known as "conscript fathers." Much

of Rome's success can be attributed to her fanatical attention to military order and to the cultivation of virtues conducive to military strength: unswerving loyalty, obedience, frugality, and disregard for peril to life and limb.

From her remotest beginnings, Rome enjoyed an almost uninterrupted string of military successes, at first over hostile neighbors like the Aequans, the Volscians and the Samnites, and later against overseas rivals like Carthage, Macedonia and Pontus. Rome's military setbacks, during the seven and a half centuries between her founding and the destruction of the legions of Varro by the Germans at the Battle of Teutoburg Forest in 9 A.D., were few and memorable. They included the sacking of Rome by the Gauls in about 390 B.C.; the humiliation under the Samnite yoke at Caudine Forks in 321 B.C. (which was speedily avenged by an overwhelming Roman reprisal); the setbacks against Pyrrhus, king of Epirus, and Hannibal, the Carthaginian general; the challenge of Mithridates, king of Pontus; Spartacus' short-lived slave revolt; and the slaughter of Crassus and his legions by the Parthians in 53 B.C. at Carrhae.

But for the most part, Roman military history is a dreary catalog of one-sided battles with outmatched and poorly organized foes, of the destruction or absorption of entire nations into the expanding Roman state, and of almost superhuman resilience in rebounding from rare defeats that would have broken the back of any other people, such as the disaster at Cannae in 216 B.C., where Hannibal's forces cut down the flower of Rome's entire military.

Political Strength

But the ascent of Rome was not due wholly or even mostly to her military successes.

Rome, in her evolution from armed camp to monarchy to republic to empire, discovered a formula for limiting the power of government by dividing it among several different magistrates and

elected bodies. The Roman Republic also developed a written code of laws that defined and protected the rights of Roman citizens. The exquisitely balanced Roman state conferred an extraordinary degree of political stability, while granting to Roman citizens a degree of personal liberty almost unknown in human history before that time. The Roman state was, wrote Polybius, “a union which is strong enough to withstand all emergencies, so that it is impossible to find a better form of constitution than this.”

Many of the institutions of the Roman republican government, as well as the roots of the distinctive Roman culture, developed well before the founding of the republic itself. The Senate, Rome’s oldest government body, was apparently founded by Romulus. It may have been patterned after the Gerousia, a governing body of Sparta, and also resembled the Athenian Areopagus.

Rome’s second king, Numa Pompilius — a Sabine statesman who refused an offer of the kingship until a large body of his fellow-citizens persuaded him to accept — set about civilizing the Romans and refining the crude despotism of his predecessor. “The first thing he did at the entrance into government,” Plutarch relates, “was to dismiss the band of three hundred men which had been Romulus’ life-guard ... saying that he would not distrust those who put confidence in him; nor rule over a people that distrusted him.”

Numa forbade the use of any graven image in the worship of God, a practice that seems to have persisted for more than a century after his death. He instituted many other religious reforms, including the creation of the Vestal Virgins, and lived a life of conspicuous piety that many of his

Ancient Rome was the incubator for Christianity, the repository of Western Civilization for over a thousand years, and the setting for much of the greatest historical drama — and many of the most extraordinary characters — ever to occupy the human stage.

subjects were pleased to emulate.

Numa was by disposition a man of peace, and wanted to reduce the Romans’ love of violence and warfare. He instituted the order of the Fetials, a college of priests whose special task it was, in Plutarch’s words, to “put a stop to disputes by conference and by speech; for it was not allowable to take up arms until they had declared all hopes of accommodation



The Vestal Virgins were the guardians of the sacred fire at the temple of the goddess Vesta that came to symbolize the Roman state. Violation of their oath of virginity was punished by being buried alive.

Rome discovered a formula for limiting the power of government by dividing it among several different magistrates and elected bodies. The Roman Republic also developed a written code of laws that defined and protected the rights of Roman citizens.

to be at an end.” The Fetials endured until the late Roman Empire, providing a check of sorts on the power of the Roman state to go to war.

During his reign, at least, Numa appears to have been successful in taming the warlike disposition of his people, even if it was seldom assuaged thereafter. It was the custom in Rome to shut the doors of the

temple of the god Janus during times of peace, a custom that, after Numa, was put into practice only once — during the consulship of Marcus Atilius and Titus Manlius in the third century B.C. — in all of the centuries leading up to the reign of Caesar Augustus. Wrote Plutarch with admiration:

During the reign of Numa, those gates were never seen open a single day, but continued constantly shut for a space of forty-three years together, such an entire and universal cessation of war existed. For not only had the people of Rome itself been softened and charmed into a peaceful temper by the just and mild rule of a pacific prince, but even the neighboring cities, as if some salubrious and gen-

tle air had blown from Rome upon them, began to experience a change of feeling, and partook in the general longing for the sweets of peace and order.... For during the whole reign of Numa, there was neither war, nor sedition, nor innovation in the state, nor any envy or ill-will to his person, nor plot or conspiracy from views of ambition.

Kings and Despots

Unfortunately, this state of affairs did not outlive Numa himself. Tullus Hostilius, his immediate successor, was, according to Livy, “not only unlike the preceding king, but was even of a more warlike disposition than Romulus.... Thinking, therefore, that the state was becoming languid through quiet, he everywhere sought for pretexts for stirring up war.” Before long, he succeeded in provoking a war with the Albans,



Rome triumphant: The pageantry of a Roman military triumph was a common sight in the streets of ancient Rome. The Roman Republic, almost incessantly at war, became the most formidable military power the world had ever seen.

a closely related neighboring nation. The war ended with the Roman destruction of Alba, and the permanent enmity, towards Rome, of Alba's allies.

After the Alban conflict, Tullus declared war against the Sabines, which resulted in a speedy Roman . In all, the reign of Tullus, which lasted 32 years, was applauded by Livy for its "great military renown." It set the pattern, to be followed by Rome ever after, of incessant warfare with her neighbors, and aggressive territorial expansion.

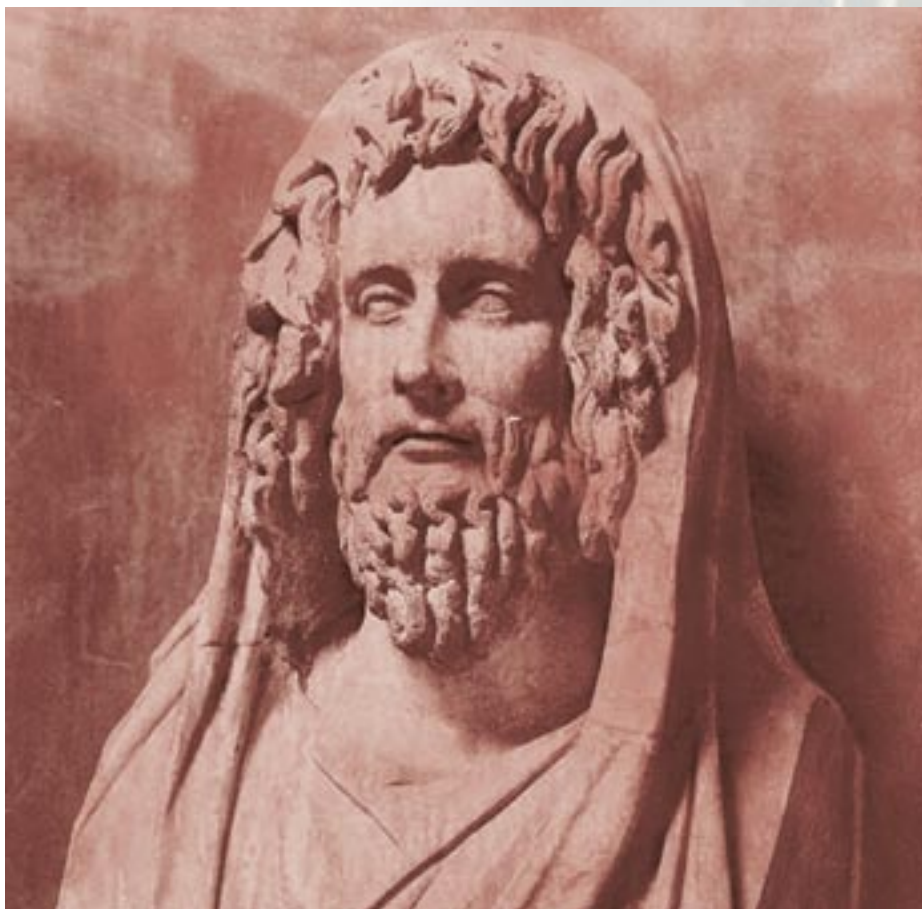
The four kings that followed Tullus continued the Roman tradition of endless war, with campaigns against formidable foes like the Veii, the Aequans and the Volscians. The latter two in particular fought the Romans for generations before finally being vanquished and absorbed into the burgeoning Roman state.

The last king of early Rome, Lucius Tarquinius Superbus ("Tarquin the Proud"), was a vicious despot who came to power by murdering his predecessor, the aged monarch Servius Tullius. Tarquin is said to have been aided in his misdeed by Tullius' daughter Tullia, with whom he had developed an adulterous liaison. Tullia found her father's lifeless body in the street outside the Senate where Tarquin had personally cast it, whereupon she triumphantly drove her chariot over it. She even, according to Livy, carried off a portion of her father's remains to be offered up to her household gods.

Tarquin lost no time clamping down on the Roman state. He purged the government of suspected rivals, including many senior senators, and even had a number of his own relatives murdered. He surrounded himself with an armed entourage, since, in Livy's estimation, "he had no claim to the kingdom except by force, inasmuch as he reigned without either the order of the people or the sanction of the senate." Like most tyrants, Tarquin was preoccupied with war and with building a monument to himself, in this case an immense temple of Jupiter intended to be the most magnificent building in the ancient world.

Rise of the Republic

Tarquin's downfall was as dramatic as his seizure of power. His youngest son Sextus conceived an illicit passion for Lucretia, the wife of a Roman aristocrat related to Tarquin himself. While Lucretia's husband



Reluctant king: Numa Pompilius, Rome's second and greatest king, at first refused the offer of kingship. His reign was the most peaceful period in Rome's history, and was marked by many religious reforms.

For the Serious Student

The original sources for Rome's semi-legendary early history are many, but two in particular stand out, as much for their literary quality as for their historical interest: Livy and Plutarch. Titus Livius or Livy was, if not the greatest, certainly the most comprehensive source for Roman history, from the founding of Rome up to the late republican period. As with most ancient authors, much of Livy's Roman history has been lost, but the remaining portions are packed with fascinating details and vivid descriptions of pivotal events like the expulsion of the Tarquins. In the American Founders' day, Livy was required reading for advanced Latin students. Nowadays, the complete surviving works of Livy are available in very readable translation, and are one of the best introductions to both the history and culture of early Rome.

Plutarch, a Greek who compiled his famous book of parallel biographies of ancient Greeks and Romans in the early 2nd century A.D., is one of the best-loved writers of all time. His brief but engaging sketches portray his subjects with honesty and affection; their failings and strengths are both held up for the reader to evaluate. Still the best translation of Plutarch's *Lives* — one of the most widely read books in early America — is the so-called Dryden translation. Compiled by poet John Dryden in the late 1600s and later edited by scholar Arthur Clough in the mid-19th century, this masterly translation is still in print in a two-volume Modern Library Classics edition. ■

— STEVE BONTA

The ascent of Rome was not due wholly or even mostly to her military successes. The exquisitely balanced Roman state conferred an extraordinary degree of political stability, while granting to Roman citizens a degree of personal liberty almost unknown in human history before that time.

was away, Sextus crept into her chamber and violated her at the point of a sword. Lucretia immediately sent for her father and husband, enjoining each to bring a trustworthy friend. Accordingly her father brought Publius Valerius and her husband summoned Lucius Junius Brutus, who happened to be a disaffected nephew of Tarquin. The distraught Lucretia informed the four men what had happened and, as an affirmation of her testimony, committed suicide on the spot, after securing their promise that the guilty party would suffer

for his crime. It was Brutus who drew Lucretia's dagger from the self-inflicted wound, and, holding it aloft, reputedly said: "By this blood, most pure before the pollution of royal villainy, I swear, and I call upon you, O gods, to witness my oath that I shall pursue Lucius Tarquin the Proud, his wicked wife, and all their race with fire, sword, and all other means in my power; nor shall I ever suffer them or any other to reign at Rome." He then led the other three in the same oath, and they then bore Lucretia's body to the Forum, where they raised a revolt against the Tarquins. After a 25-year reign of terror, Tarquin the Proud was expelled from Rome, and Brutus and Collatinus, Lucretia's husband, elected Rome's first consuls.

Lucius Junius Brutus is thus remembered as the father of the Roman Republic. After the expulsion of the Tarquins, he and all

Rome took an oath never to allow another king to reign over Rome. The new state, called a "res publica" ("people's thing") in Latin, was something new: a form of government that protected the rights of its citizens while being itself limited by laws and by the diffusion of its powers into many different magistrates and governing bodies. Brutus' commitment to the new republic was so unshakeable that he even presided over the execution of several of his own sons and nephews after finding them guilty of conspiring with agents of the exiled Tarquin to reinstall the monarchy. He eventually perished on the battlefield in hand-to-hand combat with the son of Tarquinius Superbus, during one of several unsuccessful attempts by the Tarquins to reconquer Rome.

His consular colleague Collatinus, because of bearing the surname Tarquinius, soon left office and voluntarily went into exile, to remove any apprehensions that another Tarquin might usurp power. His place was taken by Publius Valerius, the other witness to Lucretia's suicide,



and usually reckoned along with L. Brutus as Rome's most important founding father.

Plutarch compared Publius Valerius, afterwards nicknamed Poplicola ("lover of the people"), to Solon, the great law-giver of Athens. Indeed, Publius proved to be more of a statesman than his erstwhile colleague Brutus, while being as strong a partisan of popular liberty. When Publius heard that some had criticized him for his stately house on a hill overlooking the Forum, he ordered the house pulled down, and moved in with friends until furnished with a more modest house of his own.

Publius also made substantial reforms in Roman law to shore up the new republican government and to fortify the rights of the people against depredations by the state. He appointed 164 new senators to fill the vacancies of those purged by Tarquin. He enacted a law permitting offenders convicted by the consuls to appeal their sentences directly to the people, a device that, by depending on the doubtful ability of the populace to deliberate en masse, was probably much less effective as a check on state power than it was intended to be. He also instituted the death penalty for usurping any public office without the people's consent and provided for tax relief for the very poor.

Such measures may smack more of democratic excess than of true republican government. Indeed, while Rome eventually achieved the best-balanced form of government in the ancient world and deserved the appellation of republic, she shared with most other ancient popular states the fatal deficiency of allowing the masses to assemble and deliberate directly. In the long run, this handicap, together with certain other flaws, was to doom the Roman Republic. But it must be borne in mind that, when Western Civilization was in its infancy, any degree of popular govern-

ment was probably a distinct improvement over the suffocating despotism that held the rest of the human race in thrall.

With the career and reforms of Publius Valerius — whose name in a latter age was used by the authors of *The Federalist Papers* as an enlightened pseudonym — the Roman Republic was off to a brilliant beginning. Poplicola, after successfully

leading Rome in a series of wars instigated mostly by the vindictive Tarquins, stepped down from the consulship and died, having lived a life that "so far as human life may be, had been full of all that is good and honorable," in Plutarch's admiring terminology. But the Roman Republic was to outlive its founders by many centuries, and its legacy by millennia. ■



Rome on the ropes: The sacking of Rome by the Gauls in circa 390 B.C. was a rare instance of Roman military defeat, and the only time the Eternal City was breached by a foreign military invader until the last years of the Empire in the Fifth Century A.D.

EXERCISING THE RIGHT

"... the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Cat and Mouse

On April 12, Todd Keller of Tucson, Arizona, was mountain biking in a remote area of Sabino Canyon in the foothills of the Santa Catalina mountain range north of Tucson. He was looking for a certain trail but couldn't find it, despite backtracking his path twice. During a third attempt, he heard leaves rustling nearby. It was a mountain lion, which jumped out and began sprinting toward him.

Keller recalled for the May 19 *Arizona Daily Star* that he was "confident this lion intended to attack." Keller realized that he had unknowingly ridden past the hidden predator twice while looking for the elusive trail, and the "third time it chased me. There is no way it could have mistaken me for its usual prey."

Keller was armed with a handgun, which he carries both for protection and as a way to signal his location should he become lost. As the lion approached, Keller braked to a stop, jumped from his bike, and turned to face the cat from a distance of about 30 feet. When Keller yelled and fired two warning shots, the animal retreated and disappeared behind a bush some 50 feet away. When it reappeared moments later and again ran toward him, Keller fired a third shot that wounded the aggressive feline, which ran off and did not return.

Keller reported the incident to Arizona Game and Fish the next day. Four days later, trackers hired by the agency found the crippled creature in Sabino Canyon and killed it.

Pipe Versus Gun

At around 4:30 p.m. on August 14, Stanley Hagzan armed himself with a metal pipe, entered a video store in Smithtown, New York, and demanded money. Store clerk John McMurray gave Hagzan some cash, after which Hagzan tied McMurray up. McMurray, however, managed to free himself and draw his licensed handgun. When Hagzan noticed this, he moved to attack McMurray, but the now-armed clerk shot him in the right arm.

Hagzan fled, but was soon apprehended after he went to a local hospital, where officials called police. He was charged with first-degree robbery. McMurray — who had also accidentally shot himself in the

hand during the skirmish — was treated for his wound at the same hospital and released.

A police spokesman told reporters that the clerk would not face any criminal charges since he had acted in self-defense.

Tables Turned

James Lyttle, a retired Troy, Michigan, police officer, runs a security company. Shortly before 5 a.m. on August 8, Lyttle was in his SUV making his rounds near a construction site in southwest Detroit, when he stopped at an intersection. Five men armed with knives appeared and approached his vehicle.

Unaware that they were targeting an armed security guard, the carjackers began pulling Lyttle out of the SUV. Lyttle then drew his gun and fired several shots, striking two of the would-be thieves, Christopher Reinke and Mario Jaramillo. The two were carried away by their suddenly fainthearted accomplices.

Lyttle tried to call police to report the incident, but his cell phone was dead. He then drove to a nearby police precinct he remembered from his days on the force, but found that it had since been vacated. At this point, he decided to return to the crime scene and wait for police to arrive.

Meanwhile, one of the carjackers placed a call for an ambulance from a pay phone about a half-mile away, claiming that two friends had been wounded during a drive-by shooting involving a rival gang. Police, however, quickly tied the caller and his friends to the attempted carjacking.

All five were taken into custody, four of whom were eventually charged with attempted carjacking and assault with intent to rob. In addition to Reinke and Jaramillo (who were briefly hospitalized for their injuries), were Steven Reinke (Christopher's brother) and Michael Vasher (who was also charged with possessing a short-barreled shotgun).

Lyttle and his SUV both emerged from the ordeal unscathed.

Break-In

Shortly after he awoke on the morning of July 9, John McCarroll of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, noticed a suspicious vehicle



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parked in the driveway of a house he owns that is located next to his own home. The residence had been burglarized in the past, so McCarroll grabbed a flashlight, armed himself with a handgun, and went to investigate.

When he flashed a light into the dwelling, a stranger (later identified as Arthur McNeil) bolted past him and jumped into the parked car. In an attempt to apprehend the intruder, McCarroll shot out the car's tires, after which McNeil tried to run him over. Fearing for his safety, McCarroll fired two additional shots that struck McNeil in the chest and an arm.

McNeil managed to drive away, but within minutes police found his car parked at his home. He was arrested, taken to a local hospital for treatment of his wounds, and charged with simple burglary and aggravated assault.

McCarroll told the July 10 *Baton Rouge Advocate* that he hopes publicity about the incident will at least "stop the burglaries next door for a while."

And Not a Shot Was Fired

On April 12, a neighbor alerted Ronnie Breland and his son, Joshua, that trespassers had been seen in an area of Mobile County, Alabama, where Mr. Breland owns some land. Mr. Breland and Joshua, who was armed with a handgun, immediately drove to the property.

When they arrived, two men (later identified as Scottie Pauley and Edward Elmore) were standing near a truck obscured by trees, cooking methamphetamine. As the Brelands approached, one of the trespassers scurried into the woods while the other, holding a gun, began raising his arm. Joshua Breland raised his own gun as his father yelled, "Hit the ground or die." The interloper, wisely choosing the first option, lowered his gun and hit the dirt while his accomplice, crawling on his belly, re-emerged from the woods and also surrendered.

Joshua held Pauley and Elmore at gunpoint while his father bound their hands and feet. After Mobile County sheriff's deputies took charge of the drug-making duo, they were charged with second-degree criminal trespass and manufacturing methamphetamine. ■

— ROBERT W. LEE

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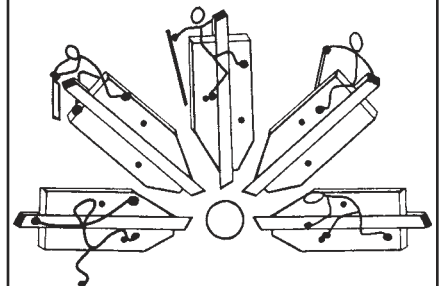
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Poor Figuring

ITEM: *The August 28 Chicago Tribune reported: "The political responses were just what you'd expect in the heat of a presidential campaign. They started within minutes of ... Census Bureau reports showing that the number of Americans living in poverty and the ranks of the uninsured rose in 2003. Democratic nominee John Kerry pounced, saying the figures show how the policies of President Bush have failed to support everyday Americans. 'Under George Bush's watch,' he intoned, 'America's families are falling further behind.' Bush supporters noted [the] report reflected none of the economy's progress in 2004. Any blame for the health-insurance crisis, they said, should fall mostly on Congress for resisting some of the president's legislative agenda."*

BETWEEN THE LINES: This finger-pointing exchange ignores, among other points, historical context and how poverty is measured. Its premises are also flawed: Where is the constitutional authorization for Washington to dictate levels of income or insurance participation? Yet, both major parties and the mass media still contend that the government can spend everyone out of poverty, despite expenditures of almost \$9 trillion (in 2003 dollars) during the last 40 years.

Meanwhile, government poverty statistics ignore non-monetary benefits, including food stamps, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Medicaid, Medicare and housing subsidies. Yet about seven in every 10 dollars of assistance to the poor comes via non-cash aid. Nutrition programs cost an all-time record of \$41.6 billion in 2003, and the most recent annual EITC transfers hit \$38.2 billion. This is not reflected in the Census numbers.

How about some perspective? The poverty rate from 1980 to 1998 averaged 13.9 percent. Although the media went ballistic over the recent uptick from 12.1 to 12.5 percent, this latest figure is lower than any year in that entire period. And the Census just reported that poverty rates "remained unchanged for Hispanics ... and blacks"; these were lower than during President Clinton's first term.

On the health-care front, doomsayers emphasize those who do not have insurance. On the other hand, the number of Americans who do have insurance rose by

a million. The percentage of uninsured, as noted by the National Center for Policy Analysis, has remained in the range of 15 percent for a decade.

There are 18.8 million uninsured between ages 18 and 34, comments the *Wall Street Journal*, "and many of them voluntarily (if unwisely) forgo coverage. Their gamble is actually encouraged by 'guaranteed issue' laws in many states that reassure the irresponsible that they can avoid buying insurance until they get sick."

Argentina's Beef with IMF

ITEM: *Hundreds of protesters in Buenos Aires, reported Reuters on August 31, "sparred with police and burned tires just a stone's throw away from where [International Monetary Fund] chief Rodrigo Rato was meeting ... with Argentine officials on his maiden visit to the financially crippled country."*

Rato's visit followed Argentina's suspension of its participation in the IMF loan program. According to Reuters, Buenos Aires wanted to "concentrate on reaching an agreement with private creditors on \$100 billion in debt on which it defaulted in January 2002."

BETWEEN THE LINES: There's plenty of blame to share for the largest sovereign default in history, including corruption and mismanagement in Argentina. While the mobs may be misguided about the IMF,

the fund itself has admitted to considerable culpability.

Argentina would probably not now have a half-million creditors if many of them hadn't expected that loans to Buenos Aires would be guaranteed. A recent IMF report acknowledges that it kept throwing money at Argentina, "even after it had become evident in the late 1990s that the political ability to deliver the necessary fiscal discipline and structural reforms was lacking." When benchmarks were missed, they were changed.

Loans were increased despite warning signs of a collapse. It has all led to what one Latin expert called "one of the greatest tragedies of modern history — the destruction of the firmest middle-class society in Latin America."

Argentina was on the IMF dole for more than three decades, even as Buenos Aires followed self-destructive policies, including almost doubling government spending between 1991 and 2001. When default loomed, bank deposits were frozen, the peso was devalued and citizens had to accept wealth-draining conversion rates.

The IMF is again offering "flexibility" on a debt-restructuring plan, while Buenos Aires is operating under the assumption that its debt will be rolled over for many years. Argentina knows that, if necessary, it can again play the default card or raise the specter of an international crisis. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR



Long-standing protests against the International Monetary Fund, such as this July 2002 march in Buenos Aires, show that many Argentines blame the IMF for their country's financial woes. Recent demonstrations have taken the same tone, failing to address the government's role in the crisis.

The Democracy Shibboleth

by William F. Jasper

The assortment of dictionaries at my desk informs me that the Hebrew word “shibboleth” can be used to refer to a stream, a flood or an ear of corn. But the word comes into notice in Old Testament history purely with respect to its use as a password, a fatal one for the Israelites, as it turned out.

We find the story of the shibboleth in the twelfth chapter of the book of Judges. Here’s how it unfolded: Israel’s tribe of Ephraim decided to cross the Jordan River and do battle with the pagan tribes of Gilead. But the Gileadites got the upper hand and put the Ephraimites to flight. The Gileadites seized the passes and fords so that the Ephraimites could not escape. None were allowed to pass except those who could pronounce the password: shibboleth. The Gileadites pronounced the word with the strong *sh* aspirate, but the Ephraimites, being unable to pronounce the *sh*, said “sibboleth.”

This slight linguistic slip-up, says the Bible, cost 42,000 Ephraimites their lives. Thus the poet Milton, in *Samson Agonistes*, wrote: “Had not his prowess quelled their pride/ In that sore battle when so many died/ Without reprieve, adjudged to death/ For want of well pronouncing *Shibboleth*.”

Although the leaders of both major parties pretend to represent very opposite viewpoints, ideologies and constituencies, they are both trying to convert our republic into a democracy.

So it is that shibboleth has come today to mean “catchword or slogan” (*Webster’s*, 1975) or “the criterion, test, or watchword of a party; a party cry or pet phrase” (*Webster’s*, 1913). The passes into both the Democrat and Republican parties were seized, in the last century, by the modern-day equivalent of the Gileadites, who bar entrance to all who will not faithfully pronounce and venerate the party shibboleths, watchwords and pet phrases. Although the Democrat and Republican party leaders pretend to represent very opposite viewpoints, ideologies and constituencies, they are, in substance, virtually indistinguishable, one from the other.

Perhaps nowhere is this similarity more pronounced than in the sustained subversive effort by both major parties to convert our republic into a democracy. If you have been listening to or reading any of the presidential campaign speeches, you have probably noticed that both Senator John Kerry and President George W. Bush make liberal use of the democracy shibboleth. In his speech to the Democrat Convention, Kerry declared: “Our purpose now is to reclaim democracy itself.” Similar utterances abound in his stump speeches. By my (admittedly unscientific)



count, however, President Bush, the titular head of the Republican Party, is the leading shibbolether when it comes to the “d” word.

President Bush’s acceptance speech at the Republican Convention was a shibboleth topper. In Iraq, he proclaimed, “more than 50 million people have been liberated and democracy is coming to the broader Middle East.” He praised “a resounding endorsement of democracy” in Afghanistan. We will discredit the terrorists, he averred, by planting “a vibrant, successful democracy at the heart of the Middle East.”

Democracy, democracy, democracy. Seven times in that speech. Senator Kerry, by comparison, utilized the “d” word shibboleth only twice in his convention speech. But we’ll be hearing much more of the same from both contenders over the remaining course of the campaign.

Are we making too much of a small matter? Our Founding Fathers would not think so; they feared and condemned democracy as, arguably, the worst form of government. For instance, James Madison, who is often referred to as “the father of the Constitution,” wrote in essay #10 of *The Federalist Papers* that “democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property; and have in general been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths.”

John Marshall, who was chief justice of the Supreme Court from 1801 to 1835, said: “Between a balanced republic and a democracy, the difference is like that between order and chaos.” President George Washington, in his first inaugural address, dedicated himself to “the preservation ... of the republican model of government.” Article IV, Section 4 of our U.S. Constitution guarantees “to every State in this Union a republican form of government.” In our “Pledge of Allegiance,” we still pledge “to the republic,” not the “democracy.”

Consider also the 1928 U.S. Army Training Manual, which was used for all of our men in army uniform. It gave this very accurate definition of a democracy: “A government of the masses. Authority derived through mass meeting or any form of ‘direct’ expression. Results in mobocracy. Attitude toward property is communistic — negating property rights.... Results in demagogism, license, agitation, discontent, anarchy.”

While the Republican Convention was underway a few weeks ago in New York City, I happened to catch part of a critique of the convention by the notoriously pro-Communist Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) on C-SPAN. IPS co-founder Marcus Raskin complained that the U.S. is “at best, a republic,” but expressed hope that it could be transformed into a democracy. He is receiving enormous aid toward that transformational objective from the new world order Gileadites in the Republican and Democrat parties. ■

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