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dialogue

Canada's Independent Voices

MAGAZINE



*I don't have to be afraid of them...
they're only playing cards.
~ Alice*

**In this topsy-turvy world
of 'might makes right'
will we stand our ground
with heart and stillness?**

**Old paradigm versus the new:
fight & flight or care & create**

**Speak about the
world we truly want**



*Expect
Miracles!*

Where's my whistle!



EXTRACT: 36 OF THE 60 PAGES IN THE PRINT EDITION

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Welcome to new writer
 Ben Gillies, Winnipeg, p.9



The author of The Medical Mafia
 writes the Personocrata column

www.wimp.com/animalvoiceovers



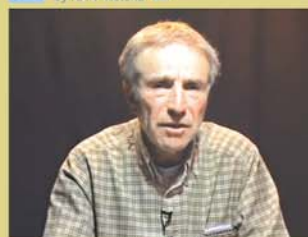
P.57 Recommended by Stephanie McDowall

vimeo

<http://www.vimeo.com/16944794>

watch the video!

Face to Face with Jack Etkin, #48
 by ICTV Victoria



JACK ETKIN

Erik's column is on p. 27

Erik Anderson
 Retired Professional Economist



"Is B.C. Hydro being
 deliberately bankrupted?"

PHOTO (RIGHT):

Duke is a Visla, a purebred
 Hungarian hunting dog. So
 smart and totally family-
 oriented. In this picture he
 was 7 weeks old. We have
 50 acres and that's about as
 much property you need to
 keep him in shape. He runs
 like a gazelle and we make
 sure that he gets out for a
 walk with us everyday for
 about an hour. We walk and
 he runs... and runs...
 It's amazing how much we
 can love our dogs isn't it?

~ Jurgen Vollrath (p.4)



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A word from the publisher and editor...



Maurice, Janet and Penny
In our backyard

So, a former head of CSIS thinks Canada has an *Alice in Wonderland* legal system [an article on page 6 discusses his comment]. And in a way he is right, in that *most* “justice” is an unjust, arbitrary means of maintaining the status quo. We must thank him for using this analogy (and WikiLeaks for ‘leaking’ it), because it has hopefully reacquainted many Canadians with the wonderful literary work of Lewis Carroll. A library copy

of The Annotated Alice [Definitive Edition, with introduction and notes by Martin Gardner and original illustrations by John Tenniel] has been a treasure-trove of symbolism and analogies. *Wonderland*’s jokes and absurdities cannot help but brighten our dreary, wacky winter days ~ while giving a surreal feeling to the growing sensationalism and political/economic/ military theatrics of life in 2011. There are many elites and fanatics these days throwing about their renditions of “Off with his head!” Although we are not living in a storybook world (or are we...), it does feel like it at times! Alice reminds us not to be afraid of the self-important characters that think they control the world, not realizing they are themselves acting from fear. Personal and ‘people’ power begins with connecting to our own heart and then, with truth and love, to each other. And Penny reminds us to adopt a state of mind that allows for miracles...

In this issue, many thoughtful writers share their wisdom regarding ways we can heal and empower ourselves and our communities, in harmony with the Earth, in these turbulent times. And others – “whistleblowers” and “lantern-bearers” – try to make sense of the propaganda and “infotainment” that pass for news these days.

There are many internet links to interesting articles and videos; if you do not have access to a computer at home, why not take your *dialogue* to your local library and use theirs (most librarians will be happy to help you!).

We would like to thank everyone who purchased Gift Subscriptions or sent a Christmas Donation to help support *dialogue*. And your words of encouragement are very much appreciated. The commitment of so many people to contributing their columns, articles, letters and photos is what makes *dialogue* so special. Together, we can keep the magazine going! We will be starting our 25th Year in July of this year! The magazine is an independent, volunteer-produced, not-for-profit publication that relies on the support of its readers to survive. Without your support and your voices, there would be no *dialogue*!

With love and gratitude,

Maurice, volunteer publisher *Janet*, volunteer editor/layout
...and Penny, of course!

*The figure of “Alice” on the cover is the John Tenniel illustration from the back cover of The Annotated Alice cited above.

A timely note from Richard Moore, Wexford, Ireland:

...This morning a book arrived and it began with the following quote, from Jelaluddin Rumi (a 13th century Persian poet):

I have lived on the lip of insanity, wanting to know reasons,
knocking on a door. It opens.

I’ve been knocking from the inside!

~ which says to me: I am the one I was trying to wake up – and the door has been opened. (More from Richard on P.21) ♣

dialogue is...

...an independent, volunteer-produced, not-for-profit Canadian magazine, written and supported by its readers - empowering their voices and the sharing of ideas.

dialogue, for 24 years, has been providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and an antidote to political correctness. We encourage readers to share with others – including our politicians – the ideas and issues gleaned from these pages.

If this is your first issue, please let us know what you think of it. If you would like to share your ideas and become a writer in *dialogue* magazine

consider this your personal invitation to participate!

We also need your support as a subscriber, to help us continue
(See P. 58 for details)

We receive NO government funding & little or no advertising revenue. We rely totally on the generous support of our readers & subscribers.

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Canadian Issues

Canada's best - not *bilingual best* - should make up the Supreme Court

Jurgen Vollrath, Embrun ON

The little nuances that distinguish language would be totally detrimental to comprehensive judicial decisions. The mom-and-pop store may get away with some misunderstandings in communication, but when it comes to deciding legal precedence there can be no mistakes.

According to the numbers, it would only make sense to have seven judges that are English with two that are French. Use the best interpreters that we have and there would be no confusion.

The original intent of the **Official Languages Act** was to provide service where numbers warranted, not an affirmative action program to those fortunate enough to be born into a French-first speaking household. Unfortunately, that is where we find ourselves and many good people are automatically rejected although totally qualified for meaningful positions.

Dr. Marguerite Ritchie, one of Canada's brightest lights



This picture of Dr. Ritchie and myself (Jurgen) was taken at a **Canadians for Language Fairness** meeting back in 2008. Dr. Ritchie is my mentor. We have had a close relationship for about 10 years now. I am also on the board of directors at her **Human Rights Institute**. One of Canada's brightest lights over the last 40 years, I believe there should be a statue of this woman on Parliament Hill. Her knowledge of the constitution and her unwavering love for this country is unprecedented in my mind. She is over 90 and still works almost every day preserving the real history of our country. The real history resembles nothing that is being taught at schools throughout our country. That certainly leads to many possible articles for Dialogue. ~ **Jurgen** [Many readers will remember Dr. Ritchie's excellent articles over the years.] ♣

How did we get into such a mess?

**Address to the Kingston Poverty Conference
By Richard Priestman, President, Kingston Chapter,
Committee on Monetary and Economic Reform**

Oct 15, 2010: [EXTRACT] Canadians paid \$160-million per day in 2009 in interest on federal, provincial and municipal debt. These costs are reflected in taxes, fees, cut-backs in public services such as education, health care and support services and deterioration of infrastructure such as roads, sewers, water lines and affordable housing. This amounts to a little under \$5 per day for every man, woman and child in the country. For a family of four that's about \$20 per day or \$140 per week, every week, all year long. Think of what could be done with \$160-million to alleviate poverty-- and then think of having \$160-million every day. The share of these costs carried by the people of Ontario amounts to \$63-million, which is still a little under \$5 per day for every person in Ontario.

You are probably thinking, this guy must be crazy. Where does it say it cost \$160-million per day to pay the interest on public debt? If we have that much debt we must have been spending like drunken sailors (with apologies to sailors). Well, we weren't spending like sailors - drunk or sober - but our politicians were spending like irresponsible, badly informed guardians of the public purse.

How did we get into such a mess? Not by living beyond our means as some would say. Unemployment insurance, welfare programs, old age pensions and housing programs did not increase as a percentage of GDP. The real culprit in the debt's astronomical rise was not social programs but high interest rates, made more galling because the government (both Liberal and Conservative) could have borrowed from its own bank at near zero cost instead! This is possible because the Bank belongs to government and the interest paid to it reverts to government as part of the bank's profit (minus small administration costs).

If our government had been using its own Bank, the Bank of Canada, as it should have for the past 35 years we would not be in this situation. From 1867 to 1975 the accumulated federal debt amounted to \$19-billion, and during that time we paid for two world wars and other smaller ones, built the trans-Canada highway, contributed to construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway, built housing, provided funds for our veterans to go to school, brought in the Canada Pension Plan and made Medicare a national service.

After 1975 the government, (which had been borrowing from the Bank of Canada since 1938 at near zero cost), began to borrow less from its own bank and more from the private sector at market rates of interest. The result was a huge increase in federal debt from \$19-billion in 1975 to \$588-billion by 1997, with a total debt for all levels of =>

government of over \$900-billion -- a 3000% increase in just 23 years. By March 31, 2009, federal government interest bearing debt stood at \$710-billion, but by 2015 the deficits will bring that up to \$868-billion. Federal debt charges, currently at \$31-billion, will grow accordingly and based on previous figures the total debt charges for all levels of government will be about double the federal charges.

Where does all this information come from? It comes from Statistics Canada's "Canadian Economic Observer", the "Canada Year Book" and the annual financial reports of the government of Canada.

The federal government can reduce the interest paid on public debt by borrowing from its own Bank at near zero cost, and to prevent the creation of too much money and control inflation it can bring back the statutory reserves. This would lead to a reduction in the profits of the commercial banks and less income for holders of government bonds, but most Canadians would benefit.

So, why aren't we doing this, you ask? Government's indebtedness to private financiers gives that sector undue influence on government policy, leading to decisions which benefit the interests of the private sector foremost rather than that of the community as a whole. Our federal government is up to its neck in debt (\$710-billion) and when you owe that much it's not so hard to choose between the wants of your creditors and the wants of ordinary Canadians.

You may have wondered why our government ignored the widely supported prison farm protest and public opinion which had the support of 'experts' as well as obvious com-

mon sense. One could ask, who is running this ship anyway? In fact, Mr. Harper did not ignore people, i.e. the people he counts as his supporters. He does care what the community wants, i.e. his community of very wealthy corporations and banks.

CONTINUE ONLINE: www.comer.org/povconrp.htm

Richard Priestman, Kingston Chapter
Committee on Monetary and Economic Reform
604 Aylmer Crescent, Kingston ON 613-634-0237♣

The corporate takeover of Canada **Madeline Bruce, Nanaimo BC**

Stephen Harper, by his proposal to end the system of direct funding for political parties means to hand Canada over to the huge corporations, and take it out of the hands of the Canadian people. Huge corporations don't have a conscience. Do the research. Look at Monsanto, who genetically alters seeds so that farmers can't save any to plant next year, and have to buy more seeds every year. Look at British Petroleum, who recklessly caused the recent lethal oil spill. Instead of programs to help poor neighborhoods, and the young offenders they spawn, Harper plans to spend billions of dollars of our hard earned money to build more prisons, and this at a time when the crime rate has fallen. Shortly before Christmas the Conservative Government made a suggestion to kill the CBC. They must be stopped now, or the Canada we know and love will be placed into the hands of a few billionaires and multimillionaires, and the rest of us will be earning the minimum wage. Overlords, and serfs. ♣

From The Canadian Daily Digest - Joe Hueglin

The DAILY DIGEST: INFORMATION and OPINION
from ST. JOHN'S to VICTORIA. [Archived at
<http://cdndailydigest.blogspot.com/>]

Wisdom trumps linguistic lunacy By MARK BONOKOSKI , QMI Agency

Dec 15, 2010: In a letter to the editor, the chief of language statistics for Statistics Canada criticized a recent editorial here for being wrong its estimate of the number of Canadians who claim fluency in both English and French.

The true number, said Jean-Pierre Corbeil, is 5.4 million — or 17% of the population — and not the scant 125,000 cited in the editorial I had penned on the national front to castigate a piece of legislation before the Senate that would require all future judges on the Supreme Court of Canada to be bilingual.

The headline read, "Bilingual judges a dumb demand." It was blunt, but accurate.

It would seem to me, though, there is a chasm between someone who claims to be bilingual, and someone who understands the nuances of both languages well enough not to lose sight of the intricacies of tone, intent and argument.

And there are precious few of the latter, fewer still with top-of-the-class law degrees, and even fewer with respected careers who would come close to qualifying to sit on the highest court without fear of misinterpreting legal submissions.

But this is where we want our best legal minds.

Yet it is already a pretty shallow gene pool from which to harvest. The number of 125,000 — which Corbeil dispels as inaccurate — came, in fact, from Statistics Canada and was gleaned from a category which should arguably leave no question of a person's equal agility in both languages.

It's the category of mother tongue. [...]

READ ONLINE: <http://tinyurl.com/OS16552386>

The Canadian Connection CSIS in Wonderland

CBC: INSIDE POLITICS BLOG

Terry Milewski, Nov. 30, 2010 [EXTRACT]

[EXTRACT] CSIS must fight while "tied in knots" by the "Alice-in-Wonderland" law courts. Why, these courts even suggest that it's illegal to use evidence that "may have been derived from torture." And that video of a weeping Omar

Khadr being grilled by CSIS agents at Guantanamo? Well, that would surely provoke Canadians to indulge their "knee-jerk anti-Americanism" and "paroxysms of moral outrage" - a "Canadian specialty," it seems. Ouch!

These, the U.S. Embassy reported, were the views expressed in 2008 by former CSIS Director Jim Judd to a visiting State Department official. Judd retired last year after five years at

the helm of Canada's Security and Intelligence Service. The cable zinged off to Washington and everyone thought his complaint would never see the light of day.

WikiLeaks has decided otherwise. What to make of it?

ONLINE: <http://tinyurl.com/CBCcsisWonderland> ♣

Canada-EU Trade Negotiations (CETA)

Canadian delegation in Brussels denounces CETA and tar sands

Brent Patterson, Council of Canadians

[On Jan. 17, 2011] the Council of Canadians joined with Canadian allies - the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the National Farmers Union, the Indigenous Environmental Network, ATTAC-Quebec, Alternatives - and European allies - Friends of the Earth Europe, the UK Tar Sands Network, La Via Campesina Europe - in front of the European Commission headquarters in Brussels to denounce the Canada-EU *Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)* and the tar sands. **[see photo, p.60]**

My message this morning: The Council of Canadians is here today to say that you can't address the climate crisis we face without also addressing trade deals. We cannot have climate justice and water justice without trade justice. We are demanding that Canadian and European negotiators step back from the CETA talks, that they stop them, and that this whole enterprise go to parliaments and to public consultations for full disclosure and debate.

We know that the European Parliament voted last spring expressing concern about the carbon impact of the tar sands, as well as their impact on water and Indigenous peoples.

We know that the European Commission's sustainability impact assessment of CETA says that the deal would promote more European investment in the tar sands, more extraction, more imports to Europe, more environmental destruction.

We also know that the European Union wants Canada to commit to deeper emission reductions to address climate change.

Already Canada's climate policy is driven by allowing for expansion of the tar sands. So is Canada's trade policy. And CETA, of course, is a big part of that. CETA equals more tar sands, more climate carnage. [...]

This is all related to our government's commitment to the tar sands. The Harper government sees CETA as a tool to further this agenda.

Stop the negotiations. Stop CETA. Europe out of the tar sands!

- Brent Patterson, COC

ONLINE: www.canadians.org/campaignblog/?p=5948

Brent Patterson is the Director of Campaigns & Communications at the Council of Canadians. [Received from June Ross]

From NAFTA to CETA: Canada-EU Deep Economic Integration

By Dana Gabriel, Salt Spring Island, Jan. 12, 2011
Be Your Own Leader.

Canada and the European Union (EU) have already held five rounds of negotiations towards a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) which will go beyond NAFTA. With the sixth round of talks scheduled to take place in Brussels, Belgium from January 17-21, Canadian and EU officials remain optimistic that a deal could be finalized by the end of 2011. Thus far, negotiations have included key areas such as goods, rules of origin, services,

investment, government procurement, as well as others. As talks enter their final crucial stages, there are growing concerns over the threat CETA poses to Canadian sovereignty. Coupled with the financial turmoil sweeping Europe, deep economic integration with the EU could prove disastrous. [...]

READ ONLINE: www.beyourownleader.blogspot.com ♣

Dana Gabriel is an activist and independent researcher. He writes about trade, globalization, sovereignty, security, as well as other issues. Contact: beyourownleader@hotmail.com . ♣

Farmers decry Canada-EU trade pact plan

(AFP) – Oct 22, 2010, OTTAWA — Canadian farmers on Friday decried a Canada-European Union trade pact under negotiation, saying they fear the loss of a practice of saving, reusing, exchanging, and selling seeds.

"This is far more sweeping than any trade agreement we've ever seen," Terry Boehm, president of the National Farmers

Union, told a press conference.

According to a draft of the agreement, currently in its fifth round of negotiations, the pact would create intellectual property rights enforcement provisions that go far beyond Canada's existing laws -- allowing for the seizure of property for alleged infringements, including crop seeds.

Canadian farmers traditionally buy new varieties of seed each year but also keep some harvested for use in the next season. More and more seeds are genetically modified and patented.

"For a farmer, he could lose his farm, his equipment and crops he's growing for using his own seeds if these are alleged to have been gene-patented, before even having his day in court," said Boehm.

"This is absolutely draconian beyond any responsible measure anywhere and will create a culture of fear in the countryside."

The National Farmers Union also expressed concern that Canada's supply management, farm support programs and the Canadian Wheat Board would be at risk under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement.

Canadians have a right to be nervous about security perimeter

[Dec. 14, 10] The Calgary Herald editorial board writes that, "The prospect of Canada ceding sovereignty to the U.S. in a secretly negotiated border security arrangement has understandably raised the hackles of the Opposition and the Council of Canadians."

"A draft proposal of a deal leaked last week talks of a perimeter security arrangement. It is thin on specifics. Canadians have a right to be nervous."

"It is not clear how imminent Canada and the U.S. are to signing a deal to mesh Canadian and U.S. security bureaucracies. The Harper government has refused to comment. A draft of the leaked proposal calls for a working group 'to report to their respective leaders within 120 days of the signing of this declaration (thought to be scheduled for

As well, the farmers blasted a proposed prohibition on cities, schools or hospitals giving preference to locally grown foods; a clause that states Canadian food safety standards could not exceed international standards; and, another that stipulates imported foods cannot be inspected until after a problem has occurred.

Canada's trade minister has said the two sides are on track to finalize a free trade agreement in 2011. Official talks for a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement were launched in June 2009.

The European Union is Canada's largest export market after the United States, with Canadian exports to the EU totaling 29.8 billion Canadian dollars (18.8 billion euros) last year.

ONLINE: <http://tinyurl.com/CETAfarmers> ♣

Received from S. McDowall/Mehdi Najari ♣

January) with a joint plan of action to realize the goals of this declaration'."

"What's troubling is that a deal could be hammered out behind closed doors and sprung on Canadians without debate."

"Most Canadians have no issue with integrated cargo security, closer co-operation with U.S. law enforcement agencies on serious offenders, or a joint approach to screening passengers to promote mobility between the two countries, but serious questions remain. Any measures that would bind Canada more tightly to the U.S. and dramatically alter our relationship must be done cautiously, and openly."

The Calgary Herald editorial is at :

<http://tinyurl.com/CH3972746> ♣

Peacemaker or cannon fodder?

Eva Lyman, Vancouver Island BC

Canada's role was as peacemaker, now turning to powder monkey (read the 1950's classic: "Peacemaker or Powder Monkey; Canada's role in a changing world"), or cannon fodder for US imperial adventurism. The US has clearly over-reached herself (themselves?) in their war ambitions: they can't win against little Iraq (or Vietnam) on their own, so they need others to do their fighting. And share the enormous cost. I don't want to have this role in the world, as a Canadian!

Many European countries have free post secondary education, dental and medical care. What is more they've had these for decades! The current movement to the right is being strongly resisted in France right now. I bet it will be elsewhere too. Part of the history of Europe culminating in the French and then Russian revolutions, shows how people react when pushed too far. The present arrogant elites, who think they're smarter than the last bunch were, may end up the same way - under the guillotine!

P.S. Back in the 90's when we were fighting the sale of

Nanose Bay, a former Justice Department staffer told this story to the judge:

She was speaking one day to a high military brass man, and asked him why our military were so prone to make concessions to the US military. His reply was a classic: "They have all the latest toys, and we want to play with the same toys the big boys have."

I have never forgotten this one. There is a real danger when those in power are still in mental puberty! ♣

Canada, Omar Khadr & NATO

Bud Pfaff, Peterborough ON.

What's this Omar Khadr matter all about? He is a born-in-Canada citizen, taken to Afghanistan when 11 years old, where his rebel father enlisted him in the Taliban and at 15 a soldier opposing the Government and American invaders seeking control of oil. During a fire fight, Americans allege Omar killed an invading enemy soldier, which is what soldiers are supposed to do, and have done for hundreds of years. As a wounded prisoner of war, Americans charged him with murder. Before entering WW2, American pilots joined the RAF killing thousands of civilians and enemy

soldiers, but no Americans were charged with murder. American invaders of Afghan have killed many innocent civilians and soldiers including Omar's father, but no American soldiers have been charged with murder. Why then did the U.S. charge this one young prisoner of war with murder and imprison him for eight years without trial. Also, what is Canada doing in Afghanistan and what is NATO doing there? NATO was initiated as a reactive defensive alliance to stand together if any member was attacked, rather than a proactive offensive organization to support American pursuit of George Bush oil. Canada was criticized for turning prisoners of war to Afghan police who tortured them, but Canada now condones the torture and religious humiliation of prisoners of war by U.S. military. As such a pawn of the U.S.A. it seems obvious why Canada was denied a temporary seat on the UN Security Council.♣

Academic Freedom of Speech

From Jim S. Allan, Toronto ON

To: Mr. Tim Hudak, MPP-Ontario, Leader of the Official Opposition, Progressive Conservative Party, Queen's Park, Toronto

Re: Denunciation by three Ontario MPPs in the Ontario Legislature of an MA Thesis submitted by a recent graduate of the University of Toronto
Dec. 18, 2010

My understanding of the situation is as follows: The thesis was presented by student Jenny Peto as part of her application for a Master's degree with the University of Toronto. Jenny Peto has now successfully graduated.

Her thesis: 1. Supported the worthy international tactic of "Boycott, Divestment and Sanction", which seeks to reverse Israel's injustices. 2. Exposed how the arguments of, "anti-Semitism" and the "Holocaust" are often used to deflect criticism of the State of Israel (however justified that criticism may be).

To give Jenny Peto additional credit for her courage in putting her graduation and future career at risk in mentioning these things in her thesis, she is herself Jewish and the grandchild of survivors of the Nazi Holocaust.

The State of Israel's discrimination against Gentiles in favour of Jews is of course indisputable. The justification for claiming that this discrimination involves a form of Apartheid is supported by many, amongst others, no less than the South African Bishop Desmond Tutu who stated that Israel's Apartheid is worse than was that of South Africa, as the South African Apartheid did not drive the Blacks off the land allotted to them, nor did it decimate the lives of civilians with sophisticated modern weapons, or restrict peaceful civilians from their means of earning their own livelihoods, as is being done by the Israelis to the Palestinians.

Show time: Kangaroo Courts and the Crimes of Continuity

Chris Floyd, Empire Burlesque, November 6, 2010

"Somewhere in hell, Joseph Stalin is smiling." So says Tony Keller, quite aptly, in his report on one of the great travesties of justice in our time (and that is a long, long list): the outrageous show trial of Omar Khadr, a young Canadian who recently pleaded guilty to various spurious "terrorism" charges after spending eight years in the maw of the American gulag, since his capture in Afghanistan at the age of 15. [...]

CONTINUE ONLINE: www.uruknet.info?p=71574 ♣

The three MPPs who denounced Jenny Peto's thesis were Steve Clark, Eric Hoskins (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration), and Peter Sherman. Their objection was that the thesis contributed to anti-Semitism, which should not be tolerated as that would be criticizing Israel. (This is one of the very points made by Jenny Peto in her thesis!)

Regarding anti-Semitism, it should be noted that it is the Palestinians who are mainly "Semitic" (originating from Shem and Palestine), and it is Jews who are mainly non-Semitic (about 72% originating mainly from Eastern Europe.) Thus, defending the State of Israel with "anti-Semitism" charges turns justice on its head. It is the State of Israel that is contributing to anti-Semitism against the Semitic Palestinians with its theft of Palestine and Palestinian land.

If we condemn any form of criticism of Israel under such labels as "anti-Semitism", no matter how justified that criticism may be, we are in effect contributing to the same form of loss of freedom that evolved in Germany that contributed to the rise to power by the Nazis before the start ⇒ of WWII. Israel would be unaccountable and uncontrollable! The three MPPs should apologise, and actions like Israeli Apartheid Week which exposes Israel's discrimination should be encouraged.

MPPs have no business interfering with university theses the way these three MPPs have done.

Please do whatever you can to protect the freedom of our universities from political interference and encourage Ontario to boycott Israel until Israel complies with international law.

*Yours truly,
Jim S. Allan, Toronto ♣*

Turning everything upside down in Iceland

[EXTRACT, Olivia Ward, thestar.com]

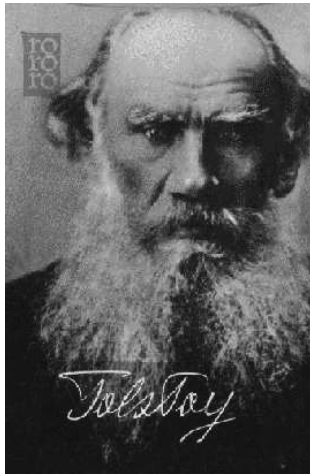
"If you want things to change you have to be willing to go into the belly of the beast," she says of her new role in politics. "The old pyramids of power are finished. We need to turn everything upside down. I am pushing the boundaries." - Icelandic poet, environmentalist, free speech crusader Birgitta Jonsdottir, who founded a non-partisan "horizontal" political movement that won four seats in parliament in 2009, only 8 weeks after it was started.

ARTICLE ONLINE: <http://tinyurl.com/Star-Iceland> ♣

"Bethink Yourselves!" - Tolstoy An Ancient Voice Raised Against Modern Evil Chris Floyd, Empire Burlesque, December 18, 2010

More than a century ago, an aging man, staring his own death in the face, spoke the truth of our times:

Again, war. Again, sufferings, necessary to nobody, utterly uncalled for.



Again fraud, again the universal stupefaction and brutalization of men.

Men who are separated from each other by thousands of miles ... are seeking out one another, in order to kill, torture, and mutilate each other in the cruelest way possible. What can this be? Is it a dream or a reality? Something is taking place which should not, cannot be;

one longs to believe that it is a dream and to wake from it. But no, it is not a dream, it is a dreadful reality!

ARTICLE ONLINE: www.uruknet.info/?p=73040 ♣

RECOMMENDED LINKS:

Birgitta Jonsdottir interview with Alex Jones:
<http://tinyurl.com/YTJonesBirgitta>

Why Washington Hates Hugo Chavez:
www.informationclearinghouse.info/article27170.htm

The real target in Tuscon:
<http://www.brasschecktv.com/page/1008.html>

Top 10 survival downloads you should have:
ONLINE: <http://tinyurl.com/survival10>

Modern Methods of Mind Control Nicholas West, Activist Post, Dec 31, 2010

The more one researches mind control, the more one will come to the conclusion that there is a coordinated script that has been in place for a very long time with the goal to turn the human race into non-thinking automatons. For as long as man has pursued power over the masses, mind control has been orchestrated by those who study human behavior in order to bend large populations to the will of a small "elite" group. Today, we have entered a perilous phase where mind control has taken on a physical, scientific dimension that threatens to become a permanent state if we do not become aware of the tools at the disposal of the technocratic dictatorship unfolding on a worldwide scale.

Modern mind control is both technological and psychological. Tests show that simply by exposing the methods of mind control, the effects can be reduced or eliminated, at least for mind control advertising and propaganda. More difficult to counter are the physical intrusions, which the military-industrial complex continues to develop and improve upon. [...] [This article discusses Education; Advertising and Propaganda; Predictive Programming; Sports, Politics, Religion; Food, Water, and Air; Drugs; Military testing; Electromagnetic spectrum; Television, Computer, and "flicker rate;" Nanobots.] A concerted effort is underway to manage and predict human behavior so that the social scientists and the dictatorial elite can control the masses and protect themselves from the fallout of a fully awake free humanity. Only by waking up to their attempts to put us to sleep do we stand a chance of preserving our free will.

ONLINE, with active links:

<http://tinyurl.com/Activist-mindcontrol> ♣

What is a Wiki?

A wiki is an editable webpage. They are used in situations where a group of people need to create, edit and review each others documents. They are useful for business workgroups and also for web-based software and knowledge projects. A Wiki is a collaborative website which can be directly edited by anyone with access to it; it is a website that allows multiple users to create, modify and organize web page content in a collaborative manner; a generic name for a web-page which anyone can edit quickly without having to learn HTML

[From Wikipedia encyclopedia] ♣

"The Fifth Columnist"

The Plot Thickens (and Thins)



Michael Neilly, Dunrobin ON

How often have you seen a movie that lacked a real plot? It leaves us hungering for more but we simply don't know why. While we humans love our stories, it is the plot that energizes the narrative and draws us in.

You might think that a plot is just a story, but this is not quite true. A story is a narrative, a series of events. A plot, on the other hand, is a story infused with cause and effect, and emotions, which makes it a dramatic situation!

In Georges Polti's book, *The 36 Dramatic Situations*, the author contends that there are just 36 story plots and no more. For instance, we have *Daring Enterprise* (Adventure) and *Pursuit*, which are very common plots. Polti gives examples, most dating back to the Greek tragedies. Many of these plots/dramatic situations, the author concedes, such as *Supplication* (a humble request or prayer) or *Conflict with a God*, don't apply any more. Could it be that we've lost some of our story telling ability, or perhaps our appetites have been dulled somehow?

The book *20 Master Plots (And How to Build Them)* by Ron Tobias refines the list further, and makes references to more contemporary stories. I know nothing of Sophocles' "*Orithyies*" or Aeschylus' "*Europa*", but I know "*Die Hard*" and "*Braveheart*."

Television reduces the number of plots to just a few. The same stories are told and retold in every police, lawyer, and medical drama ever made: the *Riddle* (mystery) and *Revenge* (payback) figure prominently. This really says something about television.

Polti's corollary to the 36 dramatic situations or plots is that there are 36 corresponding emotions! When I first read this, I simply couldn't fathom 36.

According to various sources on the internet, there are even more, up to 50, with some being combinations of the simple emotions. The 50 are: Affection, Anger, Annoyance, Angst, Apathy, Anxiety, Awe, Contempt, Curiosity, Depression, Desire, Despair, Disappointment, Disgust, Ecstasy, Empathy, Envy, Embarrassment, Euphoria, Fear, Frustration, Gratitude, Grief, Guilt, Happiness, Hatred, Hope, Horror, Hostility, Hysteria, Interest, Jealousy, Joy, Loathing, Love, Lust, Misery, Pity, Pride, Rage, Regret, Remorse, Sadness, Shame, Shyness, Sorrow, Suffering, Surprise, Wonder and Worry.

Does Polti's corollary mean that for each of the 20-50 emotional states, there is an original plot stored in our brain? Are there, for instance, 20-50 original situations, filled with

emotion and consequences, that occurred early in our childhood, to which every fleeting muscle twitch in our faces and every utterance are tied?

Looking at the list of 50 emotions, I have to say that I'm in Awe. But it's with Grief and Disgust that I lament at the quality of television, a permanent guest in our home for far too many years. In the world of television, they push our buttons, causing the same strong emotions of Revenge and Hatred to surface. Can this be good for us, you ask? I leave you on this note of Curiosity.

* * *

Widgets, guns and butter

In the late 1980s I participated in the Tony Robbins' fire walk. Mr. Robbins is a famous motivational speaker who blended the science of neuro-linguistics programming (NLP) with hypnosis to help people visualize and achieve their goals. For instance, if you think like a wealthy person, you will attract wealth. If you visualize hitting the target, you will hit the target. **The fire walk, walking across a bed of hot coals, is itself a metaphor for overcoming our fears and false, limiting beliefs.**

Being a skeptical person, I watched closely as Mr. Robbins delivered his pitch, studying the stage, listening to the music to figure out how he would hypnotize us. Robbins uttered a totally nonsensical statement, and explained that this is how he would get by our "gatekeeper." A little while later, I found myself walking across a bed of hot coals uttering the phrase "Cool moss"; and the only advice I was given was to not look down!

On the way home, I kept asking my wife if the car heater was on, because my feet were warm! Sure enough, on inspection I did find only one tiny blister on my left foot, but I was otherwise unscathed. The fire walk and Mr. Robbins taught me that **utter nonsense makes us suggestible.**

Like a lot of *Dialogue* readers and writers, I've written to government. We've all written because we believe that what is happening to our country is wrong, that it defies common sense. All too often, we get a letter back thanking us for our concern, and a statement of government policy with some flip explanation.

Many of us have written, for instance, about our government's policy of borrowing from private banks. The response is basically this:

'It is sometimes suggested that the Government of Canada should fund part or all of its debt by borrowing from the Bank of Canada, rather than by borrowing in private sector markets. The Government does not support this approach, as it would require the Bank to create new currency, which does not create any additional wealth.' ⇒

These then are the nonsensical statements made by our political masters to get indefensible policies by our gate-keeper.

Eventually we recover from our altered states, and ask simple questions. Why would borrowing from a public institution instead of a private one require the Bank to “create currency”, unless we are referring to credit? How is “additional wealth” created by government borrowing from a private institution, for that matter? And didn’t our government balance its budgets for a century without borrowing from private banks?

I understand, Mr. Banker, your argument that if government borrows from itself, then there are no checks and balances to offset governmental excesses. But here we have our federal government now paying around one third of all Canada’s tax revenues to private banks, for borrowing money that the banks never really had. (If I were to do this myself, I’d be arrested for cheque kiting.)

What private banks do is control the availability of credit. But I ask you, if Canada borrowed from the Bank of Canada, how would this affect the availability of credit? Unless we are saying that Canada is in effect subsidizing private banks by giving them 35 billion dollars a year in interest, which could be loaned out! The fact is that, since Canada’s departure from the gold standard, our currency is worth

what money traders (speculators) say it is worth. It’s the same with the private banks, whose wealth is over-stated with paper investments.

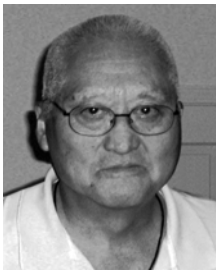
The Canadian government also warns us that inflation would be caused by government’s relying on the “printing press” as a means to finance their expenditures. They hint darkly at the experiences of runaway inflation in Germany’s Weimar republic, or in Chile under Salvador Allende. Aren’t private banks also relying on the “printing press” when they provide easy credit in the form of charge cards, lines of credit and so forth? Stimulus is stimulus, as I see it. Can the economy actually tell the difference?

Other than an Economics 101 course, where I learned about widgets, guns and butter, I know nothing about economics. But I know my feet are burning, and the heater isn’t on. Son of a gun. I’ve been hypnotized again. And so have you. The 35 billion dollars a year that now goes to private banks in the form of loan interest could buy schools and universities, rebuild our cities’ aging infrastructure and even purchase F-35 Lightning jet fighters. There are 35 billion good reasons to borrow from the Bank of Canada instead of private banks. And there is simply no logical reason for the present practice to continue.

- Mike Neilly, Dunrobin ON
dialogue always welcome, contact me at:
fifth_columnist@magma.ca ♣

Thoughts on Governance

Reorganization of governance based on the principle of subsidiarity



Gerry Masuda, Duncan BC

I have been thinking of governance for a number of years and stumbled on the principle of subsidiarity, defined in Wikipedia as: "Subsidiarity is an organizing principle that matters ought to be handled by the smallest, lowest or least centralized competent authority.

“The Oxford English Dictionary defines subsidiarity as the idea that a central authority should have a subsidiary function, performing only those tasks which cannot be performed effectively at a more immediate or local level.

“The concept is applicable in the fields of government, political science, cybernetics, management, military (Mission Command) and, metaphorically, in the distribution of software module responsibilities in object-oriented programming (according to the Information expert design guideline). Subsidiarity is, ideally or in principle, one of the features of federalism, where it asserts the rights of the parts over the whole.”

The idea of subsidiarity turns the hierarchical power triangle upside down. Power now lies with the base and

power higher up the organization is strictly limited to problems presented to it or responsibilities assigned to it. When ever possible, recommendations by higher levels of government are referred downward for decision at the municipal level.

I have concluded that our elected representatives at the provincial and national levels do not necessarily vote in our interests. This is because of party discipline which is imposed on our elected representative.

The problem is that if special interests compromise the leader of the party, internal party discipline means that our representative votes for the special interest, which generally means *at the expense of the elected representative's constituents*. This is a fundamental weakness of our 'democracy' and is best represented in the US where its form of democracy has been described as ‘the best form of democracy that money can buy!’

What I am suggesting is that organizing governance be based on the principle of subsidiarity. To make this organizing principle operative, all government incomes have to come to the municipal level where all citizens live, work and play. The municipal level is the grassroots. This financing of governance is the key to making ⇒

subsidiarity the operational organizing principle.

Only those problems which cannot be solved at the municipal level are passed up to regional, provincial, and national governments. The funding required for them to action the problem is also sent upward. The higher levels of government are thus reacting to or responding to the municipal level where the power of the *We the People* resides.

In analyzing responsibilities, it is evident that certain functions naturally should be at regional, provincial and national levels of governance (i.e. defence and foreign affairs at federal level). These can be defined, agreed to in a new constitution. The funds required by higher levels of government would have to be voted on at the municipal level

each year based on budgets submitted and allocated to municipalities on some basis such as municipal government income. Having municipalities vote annual budgets of higher levels of government means that municipalities have greater control over these higher levels of governance. Thus, in a subsidiarity-based state, the needs and desires of grassroots citizens are more likely to be considered by higher levels of governance which are in direct support of the municipal level rather than providing governance by special interests from the top-down, as is now the case.

I would appreciate comments on the above to help me develop my thinking further.

Gerry [gerry.masuda@gmail.com] ♣

Small Heartland municipalities need a fair share

This article discusses the revenue challenges facing many communities

by James Fletcher and Doug McArthur, Vancouver

Small towns and cities throughout BC are in trouble.

The present model of local government financing simply doesn't work, and indeed, it can't work.

Local governments receive only eight per cent of all taxes collected in this country but are faced with ever-growing costs as other levels of government offload responsibilities.

Over the past 32 years, successive provincial governments have chipped away at transfer payments, leaving local governments with little choice but to cut services and increase taxes. It also ended the provincial role of ensuring less well off communities can provide services comparable to the rest.

Small, resource-based towns are hit especially hard. Compounding the problem is the massive economic transition underway in our province – one marked by the decline of high-value industries such as forestry. For many towns, the result has been a shrinking tax base, as businesses close and workers leave. Small, resource-based towns are hit especially hard.

The results have been predictable – large corporations and small businesses alike are demanding tax breaks, well aware that their competitors benefit from more favourable tax regimes elsewhere.

Residents in Port Alberni saw their tax bills jump by 23.6 per cent this year when Catalyst Paper refused to pay its taxes. Shifting the tax burden from business to residents and driving up user charges increases the burden on residential property owners, takes money out of consumers' pockets and, ultimately, does not solve the real problem. The need for a new model of local government financing is becoming more urgent with each passing year.

For the past year we have studied this issue, and have just recently released a paper titled "Local Prosperity: Options for Municipal Revenue Growth in British Columbia." We argue that local governments in BC are far too dependent

on property taxes and property-related user charges and, in the past ten years, municipalities have imposed a more rapidly-growing burden of taxes and goods and service charges on local taxpayers than the provincial government placed on provincial taxpayers – a burden that is 52 per cent higher.

The solution? BC's municipalities need access to a much broader range of revenue sources. In our report, we also propose dozens of new revenue generating ideas and promising economic development concepts.

Revelstoke provides a great example of how waste wood from the local mill can be used to fuel a district heating system and generate revenue for the city. In another example, Dawson Creek played an important role in helping to establish the Peace Energy Cooperative. This producer co-op helps small-scale electricity producers sell their power to larger distributors.

Local procurement policies and import substitution strategies can help to create markets for locally produced goods and services and reduce the need for more expensive imports.

But in order to take advantage of opportunities for economic diversification, small towns need a fair share of the tax revenues that are already generated in their communities.

This will require the provincial government to act to increase transfers, and as well as broaden the revenue tools available to local governments.

Change is needed if small towns in British Columbia are to continue to offer a high quality of life and economic opportunities for the next generation.

To read our discussion paper visit:

www.thinkcity.ca/localprosperity

James Fletcher is a researcher with Think City. Doug McArthur is a professor with the School of Public Policy at Simon Fraser University. ♣

Economics Past, Present & Future

Open letter to Prof. Dr. Rodrigue Tremblay

From Dr. Jan Zvalo, Ottawa ON

Dear professor emeritus Dr. R. Tremblay,

Thank you very much for your excellent (as always) article "The Fed and the Debased Imperial Dollar..", which I received on 6th November. As usual, perhaps always, you are correct again in your economic and financial analysis and predictions. You said it very simply and made it easy to comprehend. However, I am a little surprised that neither you nor the majority of erudite professional economists succeed in hitting the nail on head. I mean, hitting so hard that the nail is completely in the wood and is difficult, if not impossible, to get out. In other words, to put elementary economic issues into the form of a simple unquestionable equation such as $4+4=8$. That is what today's economics needs and is not getting. Otherwise, it seems the musings and writings of even the most brilliant men / economists is nothing more than child's play, building big and perhaps beautiful sand castles on a sunny beach. Nice to see and admire the skills of the builder, but of no practical value.

To be more concrete and open: Why are there no, or only a very few, professional economists who would say: Capitalism is in its final, terminal stage, historically obsolete and is quickly going out of usage. It does not work properly or effectively any longer and it does not serve humankind any more; if it ever did, it did so only to a limited extent. And it never will. Like the previous outdated socio-economic systems of slavery and feudalism, capitalism is now in "bad health", effectively in a coma and has to be buried with all the honors of a fallen "hero".

The present-day capitalistic socio-economic system hinders humankind's progress, development, well-being, happiness and fairness / justice. It is modern slavery mixed with some elements of feudalism or even worse. **There is a permanent global war, officially sanctioned by the true rulers of the world**, i.e. the rich, the bankers and other members of the world plutocracy/oligarchy. Only they need wars, because only they benefit from them. The formal "national" governments, the executors of the wars, are solely their obedient servants, whom somebody defined as "psychopathocracy", masquerading as democracy.

To return to the economic turf: Anybody and everybody with an elementary knowledge of economics knows that the Big Bankers, namely the American FED (Federal Reserve) & Co., and other financial sharks, with very generous assistance from the crooked Government or governments, are scooping enormous benefits – profits – wealth through shrewd, albeit primitive and totally immoral, often criminal financial (and other-type) machinations. Trillions of dollars have poured, are still pouring and will pour to the coffers of bankers and other rich,

immoral parasites of mankind. Of course, printing or otherwise "issuing" new money (by the FED or any other bank) can only create or exacerbate inflation. We, the somewhat older generation, which cannot remember the Weimar republic's hyperinflation, still remember the chaos, inflation / hyperinflation and misery in postwar Europe. People in Latin American countries have their own experience. A few people gained, but the majority of people lost terribly. This is what we face today. I was predicting these events and the present economic situation / chaos for decades. Regretfully, my sibyl predictions have come to fruition. Personally, I am not surprised by the state of affairs in the current world. I saw it coming a long time ago. (Although I am not a professional economist, I studied economics and even taught Political Economy some time ago.)

We know that the big World Economic Crisis, the "Great Depression" of the 1930s, effectively never ended. Only was somewhat mitigated, first through WWII, then changed forms. An informed and wise person knows and honestly admits that the current capitalist system is in crisis, as I pointed out above, and needs to be either thoroughly overhauled or, even better, completely replaced. With what? Socialism, of course. Or, rather, Socialism With Human Face as we tried to establish in the sixties in the then Czecho-Slovakia led by a Slovak, Alexander Dubcek. We failed not because of the inherent faults of the projected socialism, but mainly because both the communist Soviet Union (the bloc) and the western capitalist countries (governments, establishment) were mortally afraid of it.

Can you imagine what would have happened if there were a socio-economic system based on principles of peoples' genuine power, a "government by the people for the people" as well as a national economy run not primarily for profits but for citizen's well being? The world community of plutocrats, oligarchs and all the immoral privileged trembled because they knew what we, the people, know. That this would be the end of exploitation and deprivation, "proletarianization" of masses and the end of swindles, deceptions, racketeering, undeserved profits, benefits and wealth of the few privileged.

Is it an Utopia? Perhaps. But maybe not. What we need today, and will need even more in the near future, is **open-mindedness, moral integrity, courage and determination** of public opinion influencers, namely also economists, to tell the world the full truth about what's going on in the present capitalist world and its sick, ineffective and socially harmful economy.

*With my best regards, dear Dr. Tremblay,
I greet you cordially, Dr. Jan Zvalo ♣*

What is to Follow the Peak "Monetization" of Life?

From: Charles Eisenstein, Harrisburg PA



Hello everyone,

I have an article, "A Circle of Gifts" on a cool website called shareable.net.

<http://shareable.net/blog/a-circle-of-gifts>

It is about a particular mode of gift economy, and its context of community disintegration, and its economic ramifications.

An excerpt:

Fortunately, the monetization of life has reached its peak in our time,

and is beginning a long and permanent receding (of which economic "recession" is an aspect). Both out of desire and necessity, we are poised at a critical moment of opportunity to reclaim gift culture, and therefore to build true community. The reclamation is part of a larger shift of human consciousness, a larger reunion with nature, earth, each other, and lost parts of ourselves. Our alienation from gift culture is an aberration and our independence, an illusion....

I look forward to interacting with people in the comments on the webpage (link at the end of the article).

A Circle of Gifts

By Charles Eisenstein

Wherever I go and ask people what is missing from their lives, the most common answer (if they are not impoverished or seriously ill) is "community." What happened to community, and why don't we have it any more? There are many reasons – the layout of suburbia, the disappearance of public space, the automobile and the television, the high mobility of people and jobs – and, if you trace the "why's" a few levels down, they all implicate the money system.

More directly posed: community is nearly impossible in a highly monetized society like our own. That is because community is woven from gifts, which is ultimately why poor people often have stronger communities than rich people. If you are financially independent, then you really don't depend on your neighbors – or indeed on any specific person – for anything. You can just pay someone to do it, or pay someone else to do it.

In former times, people depended for all of life's necessities and pleasures on people they knew personally. If you alien-

ated the local blacksmith, brewer, or doctor, there was no replacement. Your quality of life would be much lower. If you alienated your neighbors then you might not have help if you sprained your ankle during harvest season, or if your barn burnt down. Community was not an add-on to life, it was a way of life. Today, with only slight exaggeration, we could say we don't need anyone. I don't need the farmer who grew my food – I can pay someone else to do it. I don't need the mechanic who fixed my car. I don't need the trucker who brought my shoes to the store. I don't need any of the people who produced any of the things I use. I need someone to do their jobs, but not the unique individual people. They are replaceable and, by the same token, so am I.

That is one reason for the universally recognized superficiality of most social gatherings. How authentic can it be, when the unconscious knowledge, "I don't need you," lurks under the surface? When we get together to consume – food, drink, or entertainment – do we really draw on the gifts of anyone present? Anyone can consume. Intimacy comes from co-creation, not co-consumption, as anyone in a band can tell you, and it is different from liking or disliking someone. But in a monetized society, our creativity happens in specialized domains, for money.

To forge community then, we must do more than simply get people together. While that is a start, soon we get tired of just talking, and we want to do something, to create something. It is a very tepid community indeed, when the only need being met is the need to air opinions and feel that we are right, that we get it, and isn't it too bad that other people don't ... hey, I know! Let's collect each others' email addresses and start a listserv!

Community is woven from gifts. Unlike today's market system, whose built-in scarcity compels competition in which more for me is less for you, in a gift economy the opposite holds. Because people in gift culture pass on their surplus rather than accumulating it, your good fortune is my good fortune: more for you is more for me. Wealth circulates, gravitating toward the greatest need. In a gift community, people know that their gifts will eventually come back to them, albeit often in a new form. Such a community might be called a "circle of the gift." [...]

ONLINE: <http://shareable.net/blog/a-circle-of-gifts> ♣

Video presentation to the People of Ireland, 23 Nov 2010

With important messages for people everywhere!

Sent by Ellen Brown, forwarded by David Boese

Jim Corr, Money reformer in Ireland

An important message for the world's peoples about the ongoing organized theft of national assets by the global banking elites: **VIEW:** <http://tinyurl.com/JimCarrNov23>

The Public Banking Group is for brainstorming and discussing ideas for creating public banks, specifically state banks, county banks, city banks, and publicly-supported non-profit banks.

To read the Public Banking Group Archives, and for more options, visit this group at:

<http://groups.google.com/group/public-banking?hl=en>

THE NEW YEAR ~ 2011

New Year's Message

From Richard Moore, Wexford, Ireland

Of course there is a class war, but it's my class, the rich class, that is waging the war, and we're winning.

~ **Warren Buffet**

*The illusion of freedom will continue as long as it's profitable to continue the illusion. At the point where the illusion becomes too expensive to maintain, they will just take down the scenery, pull back the curtains, and you will see the brick wall at the back of the theater. ~ **Frank Zappa***

*It will never rain more roses. When we want more roses, we must plant more roses. ~ **George Eliot***



Richard K. Moore

Greetings,

New Years is a time for reflecting and for reassessing, usually at a personal level. In this year of 2011 it makes sense to begin by reflecting on the larger world, because that is going to be increasingly affecting us where we live.

Consider, for example, the

economy. Do you get it that there is no hope whatever for any kind of recovery? That every bailout is like removing part of the hull of the Titanic, so the flood of debt can come in quicker? That the banks have no interest in reviving the economy, and are using the bailouts either to salvage their balance sheets, or to buy bargain assets? That austerity plus debt is a self-feeding spiral to total collapse?

And then there's 'security'. Did you know that plans are already underway, to have airport type security for trains, busses, and shopping malls? Highways will be next. The day will soon come when you can't go anywhere without going through a checkpoint, and woe to you if you're on any kind of list. And of course, such mechanisms of tight control are useful, in times of collapse.

Let's not forget the world of geopolitics. Are you aware of how thoroughly surrounded Russia and China are by US bases? Do you really think Russia and China are going to be allowed to emerge from the collapse scenario as the world's new superpower combo? Do you think all those forward bases and tactical nukes are there for defensive purposes? Can't you hear the war sabers rattling ever louder, from Iran to Korea? What do you expect from an aggressive empire, when it is backed into a desperate corner, eclipsed by an up-and-coming economic and industrial power?

These are things that are just over the horizon, already visible from the crow's nest. Keep in mind also the Shock Doctrine of Disaster Capitalism, where times of crisis and chaos are seen as opportunities to 'do the impossible' re/ social engi-

neering, and I won't speculate here about what that might bring. The point I'm trying to make is that 'the world' is becoming 'the personal'. Everyone's way of life is threatened, and this New Years is the time to take it all personally.

"Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you."

~ **Pericles (430 BC)**

Which brings us to the question of reassessment. The Sufis say that with knowledge comes responsibility. If you know the ship is sinking, you can't just keep playing shuffleboard or reading your novel. You've got to do something to save yourself and your family and alert the other passengers.

Our ship, our society, is sinking. It's too late to fix it. Our responsibility, as conscious beings, is to get ourselves and those around us onto a lifeboat as quickly as possible. And a lifeboat cannot perform its task if it remains tethered to the mother ship. Unless it wants to get pulled under, it's got to disconnect and strike out on its own.

Our lifeboats are our communities. As the system crumbles, our familiar lines of supply, systems of transport, and sources of energy, will become increasingly unreliable. The only thing we can count on is what we can manage locally. Our only hope is to organize ourselves in our communities, and work with neighboring communities to achieve regional self-sufficiency.

The actual tasks involved in achieving local sustainability are not rocket science. They have to do with setting up a local system of credit and exchange, developing a culture of local production for local consumption, adopting sustainable agricultural methods, and minimizing dependence on imports from the outside (e.g. Walmart). Information on all these things is available if you look for it, and I've got quite an archive of ideas and sources for anyone who's interested.

The really difficult work is mobilizing our communities to pursue our own survival. Most people are in denial regarding collapse, and most of those 'doing something' are unfortunately rearranging deck chairs (engaging in politics), or trying to bail out the ship with teaspoons (individual life style choices). A few wise souls are pursuing localization, but they have been able to achieve only marginal mobilization.

What is needed is a new kind of leadership in our communities. Those of us who have 'knowledge' – who appreciate the nature of the challenges we are facing – must take responsibility for providing that leadership. And it is a very special kind of leadership that is called for. Not a leadership that has all the answers, and a plan to promote, but a leadership that focuses on the difficult task of community mobilization.

Rather than a plan, there is a goal: a community that ⇒

can take care of itself. That is the prize, and the new leadership must keep their eyes on this prize. Rather than having all the answers, this kind of leadership is about helping the community to develop its own answers. Rather than being about enlisting in a program, this kind of mobilization is about inviting people to engage in the process of developing and implementing their own programs.

The key principles behind this kind of leadership are inclusiveness, non-partisanship, and listening. Inclusiveness and non-partisanship are about rallying everyone in the community around their shared self-interest in creating a resilient community. The ideologies and alignments that divide citizens in the larger society have no relevance at the local level. Listening is about organizing the kind of gatherings where everyone gets a chance to be heard, enabling synergies to emerge among people's various ideas.

Earlier, I mentioned specific program elements, such as a local credit system, local production for local consumption, etc. Those kind of ideas are not key principles in the kind of leadership needed. Rather those kind of ideas become obvious, and will emerge by themselves, once there is a focus on taking care of ourselves locally.

When leaders propose a program, that encourages people to be passive followers. When people develop their own program, through inclusive dialog, then they are developing the processes of taking care of themselves. Ultimately such processes are of much greater importance than any particular program initiatives.

You may be thinking that you are not qualified to provide

"Paradise on Earth"

Bibi Farber, Next World TV

Video: www.nextworldtv.com/page/745.html

This is what I think of as a paradise on earth -- a 300 year old food forest in Vietnam. 28 generations have shared in developing this spectacularly lush environment that not only feeds the family, but provides all the medicinal herbs and plants they need.

Paradise In Your Backyard

Imagine growing up in an environment where you just need to walk outside the door and there is all the sustenance you will ever need -- literally provided by your ancestors!

This is an inspiring story that we can be thinking about as we take steps to convert our backyards, front yards and even windowsills into food producing spaces. Can we begin to think about 28 generations from now? What could be more meaningful and important than that?

Geoff Lawton is a permaculture consultant, designer and teacher from Australia. Lawton's aim is to establish self-replicating educational demonstration sites. He has currently educated over 6,000 students in per-

this kind of leadership. To this I have two things to say. First, you would not be doing it alone. Your first task would be to seek out other people who have a similar perspective that you feel comfortable working with. Second, keep in mind these gems of wisdom:

The Magic of Boldness

"The moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamed would have come his way."

~ Goethe

"If I have the belief that I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it even if I may not have it at the beginning."

~ Mahatma Gandhi

Time to mobilize, rkm

Richard K. Moore, Wexford, Ireland

This message archived at: <http://tinyurl.com/RKM446> or <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cyberjournal/message/446>
Subscribe - cyberjournal+subscribe@googlegroups.com

2012: Crossroads for Humanity:

<http://rkmdocs.blogspot.com/2010/07/toc-2012.html>

Climate science: observations vs. models

<http://rkmdocs.blogspot.com/2010/01/climate-science-observations-vs-models.html>

related websites: <http://www.governourselves.org/>
<http://escapingthematrix.org/>
<http://cyberjournal.org> ♣

maculture worldwide. Lawton's 'master plan' is see aid projects being replicated as fast as possible to help ameliorate the growing food and water crisis.

Stay tuned for more!

More at: www.nextworldtv.com/videos/permaculture ♣

EXCELLENT VIDEO!

How Permaculture Can Save Humanity and the Earth, but Not Civilization

Toby Hemenway on DandelionSalad, Dec. 22, 2010

Hemenway is a frequent teacher, consultant and lecturer on permaculture and ecological design throughout the U.S. and other countries. His writing has appeared in magazines such as Natural Home, Whole Earth Review and American Gardener. He is an adjunct professor in the School of Graduate Education at Portland State University, a Scholar-in-Residence at Pacific University, and a biologist consultant for the Biomimicry Guild.

WATCH VIDEO: <http://dandelionsalad.wordpress.com/> ♣

New thinking needed to create a more intelligent society

Gunther Ostermann, Kelowna BC (gco@shaw.ca)

In view of the political-financial-economic and environmental crisis, I would just like to share a few thoughts that I have voiced many times, in my 75 journeys around the sun. We inherited and live on an incredible beautiful planet and I am appalled how much we have destroyed during my lifetime. Within this century, we will have consumed all the stored sun's energy, such as coal, gas and oil that required billions of years of incubation. We humans do not create any natural resources whatsoever; we only harvest, and in so doing transform rainforests into deserts, and turning the oceans into fished-out cesspools.

Which political party is 'seriously' thinking about future generations? Other than changing light bulbs, solar energy, riding the bus and bicycle, no politician, no matter what colour, will talk about co-operation vs. 'useless wasteful competition,' not even privately. And that includes Suzuki and his foundation as well.

I made my living as a machinist and experienced many split-ups, where disgruntled people started their own businesses, because of money and various disagreements. Whoever talks about the cost to the environment of just one unnecessary business? A machine shop, in this case, requires valuable land and municipal services. The building itself needs a host of contractors to install water, sewer, transformers, and electrical installations for heat, light etc. That's just the empty building. Now comes the inventory, such as lifting equipments, lathes, milling machines, radial-arm-drills with all the expensive tools and welding supplies, etc.

Who ever tallies the amount of iron, steel, nickel, aluminium and copper that is required for just one machine shop, or any other business? Many of those materials now come from Third-World countries where indigenous people are displaced from their land so the precious metals can be extracted, and for that, rainforests with their exotic animals and plants are being destroyed and a desert and toxic pollution are left behind.

Who thinks about these far-reaching consequences, half-

way around the world, produced by celebrated rich entrepreneurs, who may install green energy for their business but they require precious metals just the same, when their business would not even be needed in an 'intelligent society' in the first place?

This is just one example of the waste of one particular industry. Add to that the paper-shuffling bureaucracies that create no real value to society. Now multiply this several thousand times in just one country and think how much precious materials, oil, gas and electricity could be saved, as well as greenhouse gases? It would make new hydroelectric dams unnecessary.

An intelligent society like this was the aim and dream of the CCF, the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, the predecessor of the Canadian NDP. They could give the people real hope, if they can get their act together and remember their roots. They could be instrumental in saving what's still left worth saving on our planet, since the two main Canadian parties have a history of broken promises. And the Greens? They are just too green.

In case anybody should get worried about job, career or income loss, it has been logically and scientifically established, some 80 years ago that, in a 'planned economy' everybody is entitled to a guaranteed income for life, without any debts of any kind to anybody. Under such circumstances, would any person with a sound mind consider draining a pristine lake (Fish Lake, Teztan Biny) to extract copper and gold, and during the course of a few years and jobs, turning it into a toxic waste pond, forever, or demand the same to be done in far-away places? What an insane world we live in, when a municipality is salivating at the prospect of the construction of a jail that would create jobs and boost the economy, but nobody talks about creating a social system where economic crimes would simply not exist.

I maybe a dreamer, but please heed the words of Albert Einstein;" We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them." Well now, Albert gave us something about which to think, talk & act!

Canadian launch of the film, The Economics of Happiness

The official Canadian launch of The Economics of Happiness, a 1 hour documentary about the worldwide movement for economic localization, was scheduled for Toronto, Ontario, on January 24th, 2011, in the William Doo Auditorium, at the University of Toronto. The evening featured an artist reception and the film screening followed by a moderated panel discussion and audience Q & A. The event was free and open to the public (\$15 donation greatly appreciated; no one turned away).

The Economics of Happiness demonstrates that millions of people are already engaged in building a better world. The

film shows that countless small scale initiatives around the world are exploring potential solutions to the multiple crises we face – climate chaos, economic meltdown, and our own personal suffering such as stress, loneliness, and depression. These initiatives are united around a common cause: rebuilding more democratic, human scale, ecological and local economies – the foundation of an "economics of happiness".

Some of the local efforts profiled in the film range from urban gardens in Detroit, Michigan, the **Transition Town** movement in England, community development in ⇒

Japan, ecological development in Ladakh, cultural preservation in Peru, and much more.

The film features acclaimed environmentalists, scholars and authors including, Vandana Shiva, Bill McKibben, David Korten, Juliet Schor, Richard Heinberg, accomplished Bhutanese film director Khyentse Norbu, and the first Prime Minister of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile

Samdhong Rinpoche among others.

For more information contact:

The International Society for Ecology and Culture
PO Box 9475, Berkeley CA 94709
(510) 548 4915 / s.gorelick@isec.org.uk
economicsofhappiness@isec.org.uk
www.isec.org.uk
www.theeconomicsofhappiness.org ♣

BOOKS

Political Essay by 93-year-old tops bestseller list in France

Resistance hero Stéphane Hessel stuns publishing world with 30-page work that calls on readers to be outraged about society

By Angelique Chrisafis in Paris

January 01, 2010 The Guardian -- Proving that age is no boundary to publishing success, the French book world has been taken by storm by a surprise Christmas bestseller: a political call to arms by Stéphane Hessel, 93.

The unlikely publishing sensation is a former resistance hero whose 30-page essay, Indignez-vous!, calls on readers to get angry about the state of modern society.

Launched in October by Indigène, a small publisher working out of an attic in Montpellier, southern France, the book had a tiny first print-run, 6,000, and sold for €3, unprecedentedly cheap in a country where book prices are regulated and kept high by the law.

Hessel's success has stunned France. After two months on the bestseller lists, the book has spent five weeks at number one, beating Michel Houellebecq's award-winning latest novel La Carte et le Territoire and a host of Christmas fiction. It has sold 600,000 copies and – publishers predict it will reach a million. Translations are underway for Italy and other European markets.

The book's soaring sales reflect a general mood of French exasperation at the social inequalities of Nicolas Sarkozy's presidency. But the phenomenon is mostly down to Hessel's charisma and his life story.

Hessel was born in Berlin in 1917 and emigrated to France aged seven. His free-spirited mother, Helen Grund-Hessel,

inspired the novel Jules et Jim, which became Francois Truffaut's film about a love-triangle of two male friends and a woman who loves them both. During the Nazi occupation of France, Hessel joined the French resistance, was caught, tortured and deported to Buchenwald and Dora concentration camps where he escaped hanging. After the war, he helped to draft the universal declaration of human rights and later became a diplomat.

Hessel's book argues that French people should re-embrace the values of the French resistance, which have been lost, which was driven by indignation, and French people need to get outraged again. "This is an appeal to citizens, young and old, to take responsibility for the things in our society that don't work," he said. "I wish every one of you to find your own reason for indignation. It's precious." Hessel's reasons for personal outrage include the growing gap between the very rich and the very poor, France's shocking treatment of its illegal immigrants, the need to re-establish a free press, protecting the environment, the plight of Palestinians and the importance of protecting the French welfare system. He calls for peaceful and non-violent insurrection. Sylvie Crossman, a former Le Monde foreign correspondent who co-founded Hessel's publishers, said the book was like a new, "adapted" version of Charles de Gaulle's rallying resistance appeal from London on 18 June 1940. She said the book had been a success because it gave hope to people from a real fighter who was not just an armchair intellectual.

www.informationclearinghouse.info/article27171.htm ♣

Book Review: Break Through Power

From Chris Gupta, Waterloo ON

[EXTRACT] Break Through Power: How quantum-leap new energy inventions can transform our world, a book by Jeane Manning & Joel Garbon, is a non technical and easy to understand book that contains a fantastic summary of "free energy" devices. The authors have done a superb job of making this difficult and somewhat esoteric information accessible to all. Both the experienced and those new and/or starting out in this exciting area of research will find the book eminently suitable. I have always loved Jeane's writings. She has an uncanny ability to explain complex

scientific and mathematical concepts to the lay person that most scientists and mathematicians simply can't do! This combined with Joel's industry background makes this work even better. [...]

This is a superb piece of work and a, much needed, catalyst for change – a must read!

See: Jeane Manning Answers Frequently Asked Questions About Break Through Power:

ONLINE: <http://tinyurl.com/2cp9faz>

COVER PHOTO ON P.59 ♣

From Bush to Obama - America's Fiscal Collapse

Excerpt from "*The Global Economic Crisis: The Great Depression of the XXI Century*"

Michel Chossudovsky, Global Research, Dec 18

The following is an excerpt from a chapter by Michel Chossudovsky in Global Research's new book entitled: "*The Global Economic Crisis: The Great Depression of the XXI Century*." [Michel Chossudovsky & Andrew Gavin Marshall, editors, Global Research, Montreal, 2010]

What has been implemented under Obama is strong economic medicine with a "human face". "Promise amid peril". The stated priorities of the Obama economic package are health, education, renewable energy, investment in infrastructure and transportation. "Quality education" is at the forefront. Obama has also promised to "make health care more affordable and accessible" for every American.

At first sight, the budget proposal had all the appearances of an expansionary program, a demand-oriented "Second New Deal" geared towards creating employment, rebuilding shattered social programs and reviving the real economy. The realities are otherwise. Obama's promise is based on a mammoth austerity program. The entire fiscal structure is shattered, turned upside down. To reach these stated objectives, a significant hike in public spending on social programs (health, education, housing, social security) would be required, as well as the implementation of a large-scale public investment program. Major shifts in the composition of public expenditure would also be required, i.e. a move out of a war economy, requiring a shift out of military-related spending in favor of civilian programs.

In actuality, what we are dealing with is the most drastic curtailment in public spending in American history, leading to social havoc and the potential impoverishment of millions of people. The Obama promise largely serves the interests of Wall Street, the defense contractors, the oil conglomerates and Big Pharma. In turn, the Bush-Obama bank "bailouts" have led Amer-

ica into a spiraling public debt crisis. The economic and social dislocations are potentially devastating.
War and the Economic Crisis

The worldwide meltdown of financial markets occurs at the crossroads of a major military adventure. The global financial crisis is intimately related to the war. (For further analysis, see chapters 9-12). A spiraling defense budget backlashes on the civilian sectors of economic activity. The war economy has a direct bearing on fiscal and monetary policy. Defense appropriations are in excess of 700 billion dollars (for the 2010 fiscal year). An impending fiscal crisis is looming which threatens to undermine the entire structure of public spending.

READ ONLINE AT: <http://tinyurl.com/CRG21969>

Order your copy directly from GlobalResearch.ca

Some Quotes selected by Gerry Masuda:

This book is so comprehensive that it is beyond my ability to integrate all the ideas presented. However, it gives me some insights I was not conscious of before... The whole book is full of these insights which takes me more than one or two readings to 'see'. The first quote below was taken from the preface (page xv) on my third reading. - Gerry

"The economic crisis is accompanied by a worldwide process of militarization, a "war without borders" led by the United States of America and its NATO allies. We are not dealing with a narrowly defined economic crisis or recession. The global financial architecture sustains strategic and national security objectives. In turn, the US-NATO military agenda serves to endorse a powerful business elite which relentlessly overshadows and undermines the functions of civilian government."

"What I want to contemplate is the serious prospect of war.

America escaped from the depression of the 1890s with the Spanish-American War. It only escaped the Great Depression of the 1930s with the Second World War. There was even a recession in the late 1940s from which American only escaped with the Korean War. As we face a major depression again, I believe we inevitably face the danger of major war again." Peter Dale Scott (p. 233.) ♣

NOTES AND LINKS FROM DON PARKER

From Don Parker, John Shadbolt

CRUDE: The Real Price of Oil

14 Jan 2011: The story of lawsuit by tens of thousands of Ecuadorans against Chevron over contamination of the Ecuadorian Amazon. One of the largest and most controversial legal cases on the planet. An inside look at the infamous \$27 billion Amazon Chernobyl case, CRUDE is a real-life high stakes legal drama set against a backdrop of the environmental movement, global politics, Watch online <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/crude-real-price-of-oil/>

Recommended Reading from Don Parker:

CounterPunch: **tells the facts, names the names:**

www.counterpunch.org/

The Gulf Oil Disaster: Deliberately Engineered: **Conspiracy Theory With Jesse Ventura, The BP Oil Disaster "Full Episode":**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWVQvVSeRdA

Coverage of B.C., national and international stories: <http://thetyee.ca/>

John and Dorothy McCluskey's New Blog about their Haiti trips

We have our blog from Haiti up and running:

www.jdmhaiti.blogspot.com ♣

The Whistleblower Website and Its Fallout

Wikileaks and Assange - history repeating itself

Connie Fogal, Vancouver BC [conniefogal@telus.net]

December 14, 2010: Please read this crucial and historically significant information from this contact (Daneen). Then please do not turn away, feeling depressed or helpless. Remember that the first step for hope and peace is knowledge. The second step is communicating the information. The third step is readying yourself to take a stand. The fourth step is standing when the time comes – that can take many forms. Ultimately the next step will be a form of peace and love. It is worth the effort.

Remember Ghandi's statement: *"When I despair, I remember that, all though history, the ways of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time they can seem invincible, but in the end they always fail. Think of it always."* ~ **Connie**

MUST-READ INFORMATION FORWARDED BY CONNIE:

For those of you who think that the pursuit and persecution of Assange is designed to trigger the shut-down the internet . . . you MUST read the following to understand that it goes WAY, WAY BEYOND the internet.

ORIGINAL POST: : www.huffingtonpost.com/naomi-wolf/ ♣

Espionage Act: How the government can engage in serious aggression against the people of the US

Naomi Wolf [Bestselling Author, [The End of America: Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot](#)]

[EXTRACT] Dec. 10, 2010: This week, Senators Joe Lieberman and Dianne Feinstein engaged in acts of serious aggression against their own constituents, and the American people in general. They both invoked the **1917 Espionage Act** and urged its use in going after Julian Assange. For good measure, Lieberman extended his invocation of the **Espionage Act** to include a call to use it to investigate the New York Times, which published WikiLeaks' diplomatic cables. Reports yesterday suggest that U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder may seek to invoke the **Espionage Act** against Assange.

These two Senators, and the rest of the Congressional and White House leadership who are coming forward in support of this appalling development, are cynically counting on Americans' ignorance of their own history -- an ignorance that is stoked and manipulated by those who wish to strip rights and freedoms from the American people. They are manipulatively counting on Americans to have no knowledge or memory of the dark history of the **Espionage Act** -- a history that should alert us all at once to the fact that this Act has only ever been used -- was designed deliberately to be used -- specifically and viciously to silence people like you and me.

The **Espionage Act** was crafted in 1917 -- because President Woodrow Wilson wanted a war and, faced with the troublesome First Amendment, wished to criminalize speech critical of his war. In the run-up to World War One, there were many ordinary citizens -- educators, journalists, publishers, civil rights leaders, union activists -- who were speaking out against US involvement in the war. The **Espionage Act** was used to round these citizens by the thousands for the newly minted 'crime' of their exercising their First Amendment Rights. A movie producer who showed British cruelty in a film about the Revolutionary War (since the British were our allies in World War I) got a ten-year sentence under the **Espionage Act** in 1917, and the film was seized; poet E.E. Cummings spent three and a half months in a military detention camp under the **Espionage Act** for the 'crime' of saying that he did not hate Germans. Esteemed Judge Learned Hand wrote that the wording of the **Espionage Act** was so vague that it would threaten the American tradition of freedom itself. Many were held in prison for weeks in brutal conditions without due process; some, in Connecticut -- Lieberman's home state -- were severely beaten while they were held in prison. The arrests and beatings were widely publicized and had a profound effect, terrorizing those who would otherwise speak out.

Presidential candidate Eugene Debs received a 10-year prison sentence in 1918 under the **Espionage Act** for [daring to read the First Amendment in public](#). The roundup of ordinary citizens -- charged with the **Espionage Act** -- who were jailed for daring to criticize the government was so effective in deterring others from speaking up that the **Act** silenced dissent in this country for a decade.

In the wake of this traumatic history, it was left untouched -- until those who wish the same outcome began to try to re-animate it again starting five years ago, and once again, now. Seeing the **Espionage Act** rise up again is, for anyone who knows a thing about it, like seeing the end of a horror movie in which the zombie that has enslaved the village just won't die. [...] I call on all Americans to understand once for all: this is not about Julian Assange. This, my fellow citizens, is about you.

ONLINE: <http://tinyurl.com/HPnaomi-wolfDec10> ♣

LINKS TO OTHER WIKILEAKS ARTICLES:

Tortured Until Proven Guilty: Bradley Manning and the Case Against Solitary Confinement

www.informationclearinghouse.info/article27164.htm

The Anti-Empire Report - Wikileaks, The United States, Sweden, And Devil's Island by William Blum:

www.informationclearinghouse.info/article27166.htm

Bradley Manning, the real WikiLeaks champ -- Greg Palast:

<http://tinyurl.com/OEN101201> ♣



Erik Andersen

"Prévoyance"

Observations from Erik Andersen, Gabriola Island BC

Alerting the Finance Minister to CPP investment risks...

**To: The Honourable James Flaherty
Minister of Finance, Ottawa,
Ref: CPP IB Foreign Currency
Investment Risk**

Dear Minister; By my last communication

I invited you to hire an independent consultant to conduct a "Value at Risk" computation for the CPP Investment Fund. To make it as easy as possible I included two papers that presented ways of having this test of investment risk conducted. Any news of progress?

This issue is not a trivial one. As per the last Annual Report the CPP IB represented that \$72.8 billion (about 50% of total investments) is invested in foreign jurisdictions. Currency exchange risk is very high in this portfolio.

All "Value at Risk" calculations incorporate two important themes. The first is the "Vector" (direction and velocity of change) of the currency exchange rates. The second is the "Volatility" of the rate changes over time. The greater the "Volatility"; the greater is the risk.

I am enclosing three foreign currency exchange rate charts. One each for the CDN/US\$, the CDN/EURO and the CDN/AUS\$. These charts are for the period of the year past. Respectively they indicate a loss in value to the CPP Fund of about 4% for US purchased investment and attendant incomes; a 12% loss for EU investments and incomes and a gain of about 8% for Australian investments and incomes. This material alone does not encompass all investment risks, such as simple business risk. Recently recorded rates of industrial plant closings in the US would indicate this is an emerging "game changer", affecting rates of asset write-offs.

– *Sincerely, Erik Andersen*

Cc Standing Committee on Finance, Jean Crowder; MP

Lessons about the P3 model

Headline: Macquarie sells 100% stake in sea to sky highway to private investment consortium for undisclosed sum

Erik's comment: This is where the P3 partner monetizes the public equity premium in the P3 contract. A direct example of a private interest stealing from the public's purse.

The saddest matter of all is our politicians seem unable to understand this process - or worse, they may have a personal stake in the outcome. [Read article at lailayuile.wordpress.com:]: <http://tinyurl.com/LY-Dec-22>

More on the Macquarie Connection

Erik: More intrusion by agents of government. Who is prepared to say that the private interests will not be tempted to exploit the opportunity beyond what is truly reality? The opportunity to scam money from the regular driving public

is too obvious. Personal liberties are disappearing at a rapid rate while control of the public (in a form of taxation) by private interests accelerates.

Re Comment at <http://lailayuile.com/2011/01/Curt> **added a new comment to the post The Macquarie Connection (Jan. 11) in response to Laila on Jan 7:**

Those of you who have been readers for a while may have picked up on a couple of emerging themes over the last year. One surrounds the indepth features on some of BC's P3 projects, and the other swirls around the Macquarie group of companies. You will know by now that Macquarie has had a big interest in British Columbia [...]

And now Gord's buddies get the new red light camera deal. Not mentioned in the following article, but add Canada, in particular BC, to their list.

SPEED SMILES

Is the nation's leading homegrown investment bank mobilising its own police force? Macquarie Group has redirected its attention away from gouging road tolls from motorists towards the lucrative area of road infringement detection.

Four months after setting up the new subsidiary Macquarie Radar Holdings, the silver doughnut has finally pounced by launching a \$275 million bid for the speed and red-light camera operator Redflex Holdings. Redflex, whose motto is "Making a Safer World", has contracts to help snap speeding drivers in the US, Australia, South Africa, Ireland and Saudi Arabia. (And this was back a couple of years)

[<http://camerafraud.wordpress.com/2010/12/15/ats-to-borrow-from-goldman-sachs-buy-redflex/>]

Boy it sure is paying off for MacQuarrie to have government in your pocket. – *Curt ♣*

FYI, from Erik:

Why BC needs a new party

After several ears of trying and failing to have either the NDP or the Liberals re-establish citizen dominion over the "commons", a number of us have set ourselves to try to provide a third and independent option for BC Voters.

At one time I served as a policy chairman for our local Liberal riding association. That was an eye opener. For almost 2 years I have tried in many ways to encourage, goad and plead for a loyal opposition that could energetically speak on behalf of those needing protection from our provincial government and its moneyed sponsors.

Nothing has worked conclusively so it is left to us to join as a group, representing all parts of the province, in a shared desire to recover personal financial sovereignty and re-establish government accountability. ⇒

In spite of the demonstration of citizen distress and anger over the further imposition of a regressive, consumption taxation, no one of prominence in either of mainstream political parties has committed, with certainty, the repeal of

this pernicious tax.

It is now the task of finding 25 members in each riding to establish the foundation for the "**Third Option: BC First**" who will do so and more. (News Release below) ♣

The "BC First" Party

NEWS RELEASE

BC FIRST BOARD SETS FOUNDING AGM FOR APRIL 9, 2011 IN KAMLOOPS

VANCOUVER (Jan. 9, 2011) – The up and coming BC First Party's pro-tem Board of Directors met this past weekend for the first time, setting the date of April 9, 2011 to hold the party's first Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Kamloops says **BC First** spokesman, Chris Delaney.

Delaney says the meeting saw a diverse group of thirteen directors from all over BC in attendance, including three by teleconference. "We had people from all walks of life and backgrounds there, all united by their desire to take BC back from the special interests and return it to the people."

In attendance were party founder, Sal Vetro; pro-tem President, Blake MacKenzie; Advertising & Marketing Director, Darlene Templeton; Kootenay Director, Gerry Taft; Peace River Director, Arthur Hadland; Prince George & North Central Director, Eric Allen; North Shore Region & Constituency Development Director, Eddie Petrossian; Membership and Mid Island Director, Sue Blair; Burnaby Director, Carl Presland; Vancouver Director Ron Zalko; Economics Director, Eric Andersen; and webmaster, Rainer Schmoll.

Delaney says the mood was upbeat and very enthusiastic. "We accomplished a lot in our first meeting. We are implementing plans for constituency development, fundraising, advertising and promotion, the AGM, and an election strategy that will incorporate plans for both the 2013 scheduled election, as well as a possible snap election this year," said Delaney.

Delaney says the party has also committed to leading the charge to repeal the HST in the upcoming Referendum. BC First Regional Director for the Kootenays and current Mayor of Invermere, Gerry Taft, said **BC First** will show British Columbians there are people willing to fight for

them.

"BC First grew out of the opposition against the HST because people wanted a positive alternative to the dictatorial Liberal government that imposed it on them, and to the self destructing NDP that really supports the status quo," said Taft.

"British Columbians are seeking an alternative that represents them, not big corporations or big unions. BC First is what they've been looking for, and we're going to show them that by leading the opposition to the HST in the upcoming referendum. We plan to counter the pro-HST propaganda by the Liberals and the lukewarm messaging from the NDP. The HST must go, and we're committed to leading the fight to end it," said Taft.

BC First Constituency Development Director, Eddie Petrossian, says 25 Constituency Organizers (CO's) from all over BC have signed on so far to help build party. "That is an amazing start for a new party. We need 60 more CO's to get constituencies organized in all 85 ridings. We're looking for good people who want to help take their province back."

Delaney says the party also nominated Burnaby Regional Director and CGA, Carl Presland, as its Treasurer. "Carl has the expertise for this important position to help manage our party as we grow."

"So many people say they are tired of the establishment parties ruining our province and destroying our democracy. They are sick of the polarization and self interest that works for political parties, but not for them. They want a centrist alternative that is owned by the people. That is **BC First**," said Delaney.

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Blake MacKenzie, Communications Director – (250) 483-4100

BC FIRST WEBSITE: www.bcfirst.com ♣

A FEW QUOTES: SILENCE & SINS

Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing.

– *Helen Keller*

"Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities." – *François-Marie Arouet -*

"Voltaire" (1694-1778.)

"To sin by silence when we should protest makes cowards out of men."

– *Ella Wheeler Wilcox*

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter."

– *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

"By far the most dangerous foe we have to fight is apathy – indifference from whatever cause, not from a lack of knowledge, but from carelessness, from absorption in other pursuits, from a contempt bred of self satisfaction."

– *William Osler*

"Worse than apathy is defeatism. The defeatist recognizes the problem that the apathetic person doesn't see, yet has convinced himself that there is nothing he can do and therefore washes his hands of all responsibility."

– *Laurence Overmire* ♣

Gordon Campbell's BC ~ For The Record

All This, And A Craven Mainstream Press And Media

Robin Mathews, Vancouver BC

In British Columbia the sudden decapitation of the Gordon Campbell-led sell-out of the province is having wild results.

The people who told Campbell to go were NOT in the cabinet or the caucus. He had all the legislature actors on their knees ... or worse. Cabinet member Bill Bennett's "just now" full-scale attack on Gordon Campbell makes that clear.

The people who told Campbell to go were not in the Mainstream Press and Media.

We know – in a desperate attempt to save his skin – Campbell announced a 15% tax cut, and almost before the commentators could finish saying what it meant, Campbell agreed to have it withdrawn. He (sort of) resigned. Bill Bennett, cabinet minister, said Campbell should go now, not in some months. Tossed from cabinet, Bennett spilled a lot of beans – what many of us knew anyhow, that Campbell is a tyrant, a despot, a bully ... and a lot more.

Bennett's was the gut-spilling of an old hand, not of a novice suddenly offended by the reality of Liberal politics in B.C. Bennett lived through most of the worst days while the Campbell Liberal government was stripping B.C. of wealth and tossing it to friends with fat purses. Why didn't Bill Bennett rise up three, five, seven years ago? Really bad things were happening....

The fat was in the fire before Bennett caught the scent in his nostrils. The real owners of the B.C. Liberal Party – many of whom are never seen at Liberal Party conventions, none of whom are among ordinary voters in the province – made the decision. [You might call them "the BC Bilderbergers".] It was simple: "get rid of Campbell or wander in the desert for ten years unable to have our snouts in the taxpayer-filled public trough. Now or never!" But why? What brought it to a head?

It has to do – as chief priority – with the need to cover up what has gone on in B.C. since 2001 when the Liberals took power in B.C.

It has to do with the HST fiasco in which Campbell promised no HST, and then a few weeks after the election announced its implementation.

It has to do with the million dollars a year paid to Campbell's friend and CEO of (debt buried and ownership muddled) B.C. Ferries, David Hahn.

It has to do with the truths Laila Yuile (and her quiet fellow researchers) are pulling out (like dentists using bare hands!), showing depths and depths of corruption in the awarding of contracts and the completion of highway and bridge projects – all perhaps best focussed by the term

Thanks for this article, Robin (Nov. 20, 2010, on vivelecanada.ca). I know it will inform the many citizens in BC who share your disdain for the mainstream press. – Erik Andersen

"shadow tolls". That means apparently non-existent tolls are paid secretly from general government revenues so the public won't know what inflated profits contractors are getting for their work.

It has to do with the campaign of Rafe Mair and all the environmentalists against the destruction of river energy ownership, the desiccation of BC Hydro, the amazing introduction of Accenture [of Enron Disaster fame] as a major player in BC Hydro affairs. Rafe Mair and his friend Damien Gilles about to set out on a province-wide tour to expose the villainy of the Campbell Liberals in the water energy sector – that spreads icing on the cake.

It has to do with the sudden explosion in the BC Rail Scandal Basi, Virk, and Basi case as first Crown witnesses at top levels of government and business in B.C. revealed they (and most of those who would follow) could only hedge, deny, equivocate, flounder, fake, and forget – anything but frankly tell truth to the jury. With that public revelation – that the major players in the transfer of BC Rail to the CNR have mountains to hide – came the news that the Special Prosecutor appointed in 2003 to handle a government-thick trial had been appointed in violation of the legislation – by former partners and colleagues, the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General.

Smoke began to fan into fire, as well, as it became clear the judge on the trial, Associate Chief Justice Anne MacKenzie, was refusing to lift a finger to remedy the fact that a Special Prosecutor appointed in violation of the legislation is no Special Prosecutor at all! And so there was really no legitimate Special Prosecutor on the case!

On top of which Defence lawyers insisted the RCMP investigation was [to word it gently] "biased".

The trial didn't finish. It was suddenly, brutally stopped, the door of the courtroom slammed shut.

The big boys you never see and seldom hear about made the decision that Gordon Campbell had to go. What the Liberal government has done to B.C. since 2001 has got to be covered up.

What I've listed (only part of the story) would make a graduating journalism student salivate and grab for his/her blackberry as he/she rushed out the door to cover one of the stories.

But the long list of larcenies and betrayals has had ⇒

almost no effect on the journalists of the Mainstream Press and Media in B.C. who avoid, deny, shamble, cover-up, joke, side-line, sleep, fake, fabulate – anything but present to the people of B.C. information they absolutely have to be given.

None other than peregrinating Rafe Mair pointed to that sleazy fact. He chose to berate two Mainstream columnists for failing, failing, failing. One is Mike Smyth of the Province paper. The other is Vaughn Palmer of the Vancouver Sun.

Rafe Mair is an old hand. Yet his discovery comes late ... for him, but better late than never. I've always called Vaughn Palmer "Gordon Campbell's personal representative at the Vancouver Sun". Mair is alarmed that now – only NOW – are they dumping on Gordon Campbell ... when for all those years they found ways to suck up ... to avoid gigantic issues staring them full in the face.

Then there's the two Globe and Mail columnists who've also never noticed the major matters of concern to the people of British Columbia. And they've just both written columns that would get D minus in even the worst Journalism Department anywhere in Canada. The two columns [Nov 19, 2010] should make any decent person want to retch.

Let's begin with just-prize-awarded, celebrated Gary Mason.

In the face of all the above, he writes: "Gordon Campbell's nine-plus years as Premier have been noteworthy for the extended period of calm and normalcy he brought" Campbell was able, Gary Mason says "to restore a certain amount of tranquility and respectability to the province's political culture". Mason actually writes that incredible nonsense ... and worse.

The problem today, Gary Mason tells his readers is that the province may return to the "turmoil ... which made B.C. a running, eye-rolling joke on the national stage". The problem is not – for Mason – that corruption is yards deep, that the people of the province have been shafted, double-crossed, sold out, cheated, robbed The problem is not that it may take decades of penury before British Columbians can return to something like sovereign ownership of their province.

The problem [for Gary Mason] is that our surface image may be tarnished!

And then he does a re-run of the province's political history for the last 35 years or so ... and the job he does is ... a disgrace. He places Glen Clark, just for instance, beside Gordon Campbell as if the two are comparable. Gary Mason completely rubs out the fact that Glen Clark faced what many insist was a fraudulent RCMP investigation and Supreme Court trial – and was, even so, declared innocent of all accusations of wrongdoing. The whole thing beginning – you've guessed it – in Gordon Campbell's constituency office.

What the hell! Who cares! Fill up the paper with trash. Make up history or twist it out of shape. Why not?

As if they sat together to make up their columns, Rod Mickleburgh sets off on the same brainless caper. "B.C. politics are back in wacko-land" writes Mr. Mickleburgh. We can be sure that as long as he's writing for the Globe and Mail that's what B.C. readers will get. Empty-headed nonsense. Wacko-land.

Then on the subject of wacko-land, Mr. Mickleburgh avoids all of the most pressing issues in the province brought to a head by Gordon Campbell's resignation. That takes skill. Like the other Mainstream Press and Media people in B.C. he has never addressed himself to those issues in a way that would be truly informative. But he can avoid, cover-up, slip by, joke, sleep, pad, gossip, fulminate, twist history - anything but seriously inform the readership. He's (obviously) not paid to do that. Can we say he's (obviously) paid NOT to do that?

This is a time when the Mainstream Press and Media should be reviewing the hard news, re-visiting the most egregious sell-outs by the Campbell cabinet, the dirtiest and the most capricious betrayals – many mentioned in the first part of this article. This is the time they should be putting their fingers on the worst sell-outs, mishaps, and overruns - and proposing ways to remedy all the bad things done. They don't. They won't. They will touch NONE OF IT.

No wonder concerned people in the province are reading the bloggers. The concerned people have to. They can't get real news anywhere else. It may be time for the people in B.C.'s bloggerland to declare open war against the silly, empty, comprador clowns of the Mainstream Press and Media. They – almost without exception - need replacing. They need replacing as much as the whole army of corrupt B.C. corporate/political actors the Mainstream Press and Media protect and cover for.

Robin Mathews, Victoria BC

Article at ViveLeCanada: <http://tinyurl.com/VLC-all-this>



A federal election on corporate tax cuts, party subsidies?

The Globe and Mail reports (Jan. 13, 2011) that, "Stephen Harper and his Conservatives are spoiling for an election fight with Michael Ignatieff over the controversial issue of tax breaks for big corporations."

ONLINE: www.canadians.org/campaignblog/?p=5921

OTTAWA, Jan. 13, 2011 – Prime Minister Stephen Harper says he will campaign in the next election to kill direct public financing for political parties, which last year cost taxpayers \$27 million:

ONLINE: <http://tinyurl.com/Can4099650> ♣

"Have Computer - Will Write"



Jeremy Arney

A farewell rant to Gordon Campbell.

Jeremy Arney, Victoria BC

There was a piece written for the Peninsula News by Tom Fletcher, which I suspect made it to all the local Black

Press papers, entitled 'Campbell's legacy mostly positive.' Last night I decided that the season of good will was over and composed a response for my blog, it turned out to be longer than I had intended and thus was absolutely useless to send to any newspaper... [my blog site <http://jeremyarneysblog.wordpress.com/>]

Jan. 8, 2011: Over the last few weeks I keep reading journalists' pieces in our local news deficient main stream media (which over the last decade have not reported what is really happening in BC partly I suppose because the Dictator didn't give them permission to do so and secrecy allows for avoidance of responsibility), who are trying to sell Campbell as pretty damn good.

Headlines such as "CAMPBELL'S LEGACY MOSTLY POSITIVE" from a Black Press writer caused me to wonder if the writer even lives in BC.

Our dearly departing Dictator Pinocchio started with a mandate to be envied. This could have lead him to do wondrous things for BC and the people of BC, but he chose instead to do wondrous things for the corporations clamouring to have a piece of the Super Natural BC pie. As all the people of BC know Super Natural has been changed to 'the best place on earth' and we also know that this is for the corporate friends of the Dictator not for the people of BC.

Instead of the open and transparent government promised what we got was lies and deceit, hidden agendas, closed meetings and decisions, and a very rare sitting of the legislature as cabinet decisions were easier made in secrecy than to explain what was happening and why.

My son worked very hard in the kitchen of the Victoria General Hospital as specialty chef for those with special dietary needs and he loved his job. His contract along with all those working at the hospitals was deleted and he was offered a position doing the same work but with no benefits at, if I remember correctly, \$8.50 per hour from a company which was not even Canadian. How the Hospital Workers Union allowed that to happen still defeats me and where were the NPD? Where was the public outcry and strikes?

BC Rail WILL NOT BE SOLD was an outright lie as we all know and the costs of the subsequent dealings falling out from that is staggering. The chances of that whole expensive mess being buried without us knowing who was really responsible and why are now excellent. So let's just lay it at Gordo's door because he was the Dictator. In answer to a posed question: Yes I believe we as a province should own

a railway, it obviously made money because it was sold to one of several bidders, and giving breaks to BC producers would be good business would it not. I wonder if that particular writer has realized the potential of rail from the Tar Sands of Alberta to south USA for refining the black gunk into oil? Ooh no, yet another loss of income to BC!

BC Hydro was half way to being sold very quietly before Accenture's story got out, and The Heritage Act was passed, to quiet down the howlers, which said that BC Hydro could not be sold. OK no more of it can be sold but it can be financially ruined so that it could be picked up piece meal by those corporate friends of Pinocchio the Dictator who are waiting in the wings. This story is still not being told by the BC mainstream media (a few casual mentions in articles is not telling the story) even though it is staring them in the face and to ignore it is to show complete indifference for the truth and compliance with the afore mentioned Dictator. BC Hydro has in the past few years paid to its only shareholder an annual dividend of somewhere in the region of 300 million dollars which has been used in the Health and Education fields. Now this last year it was only paid (with a 100% increase to \$600 million) because of some very fancy and suspect bookkeeping which will have to be explained under the new method of accounting which came into effect this year. Thanks Gordo, no wonder you wanted out.

An NPD premier was hounded out of office because he had a deck built on the back of his house, and Gordon Wilson was hounded out of the Liberal Party of BC because he was having a relationship not considered right by Gordon Campbell. However it is OK for Gordon to take his addiction for booze to Hawaii and get a premial criminal record, and for him to have a child, we are told, out of wedlock with a long time mistress who is on his staff payroll and still stay on as the most destructive politician in BC's History. Double standard? Of course that is Gordo's motto.... Do what I say not what I do.

Have you read the BC Green Plan? What do you think about the intent stated there that we will drill for oil and gas in the fault lines off the coast of BC?

Does hydraulic fracking in north east BC in the middle of the headwaters country sound like a reasonable proposition to you? Do you know that the entire water system up there will be poisoned? Do you have any empathy for the first nations whose treaty lands will be toxic? Do you mind if what lakes are spared by chance only, will be destroyed when they are used as tailings ponds for the mines up in that area and turned into toxic fish habitats? Does it not seem ironic to you that coal mines are not only being seriously considered up there too but Site C damn would be to provide almost free power for them and the tar sands? ⇒

Enbridge Pipe Line and super oil tankers anyone? Very green plan what? And who pays the price?

Whilst in BC the homeless, sick and handicapped and starving children in poverty are increasing, and toxic vaccines are pumped into our children's bodies almost from birth but before they leave the hospitals, whilst those hospitals are now being run by out of province or even out of country corporations and even the food is now trucked in from Edmonton, AB to Victoria BC, the tax concessions to those same corporate gluttons is destroying our provincial income and thus our ability to help those in need. Now that is a record of accomplishments only a man like Gordo could be proud of.

There is the claim made that under Campbell's guidance the financial picture of the province of BC was of surplus budgets and reduced debt. Well anyone claiming that must surely be drinking the Reagan cool aid.

The concept of carbon tax on fuel was a good one if that money collected had been used for the purpose promoted. Instead in the budget that introduced it the exact amount to be collected was the same amount that was offered as incentives to oil and gas companies to explore for more carbon producing products. Was this explained to the people of BC by the media? No, instead it was glorified as the way to go.

Income tax cuts are very easy to give to everyone until you realize that they have to be balanced by something... Services such as health, social responsibilities, education, transport, highway maintenance (now privatized of course and look at the state of the highways around Victoria and the lower mainland – I haven't been to the interior for ages but I would make a bet they are as bad all through the province), transit outside Vancouver is pathetic shown by the number of single occupancy cars morning and night. BC ferries are out of control with spiralling costs passed on to the travelling public to the point where Mainland or Island Visits are now a major expense; forget going over watch the Canucks now unless you are very wealthy. Make a reservation and that is a donation to management bonuses, but don't make one and you may get bumped by an unmanned tractor trailer unit from the so called 'drop trailer' division of the Ferries. Pay into the bonuses or get left behind...some choice eh? Are we not supposed to own this service? Is it not supposed to be for our benefit and convenience? What happened? An overseas CEO for one thing whose interest is only in the bottom line of a supposed to be service oriented ex Crown Corporation. Luckily we still have the Blackball and Anacortes ferries to the states to rescue some of our tourist traffic.

Another thing I have seen praised is the trade deals made with first Alberta and now Saskatchewan called TILMA. What a joke they are until you really look at them. Trade, Investment, Labour Movement Agreement. There was no problem with any of this according to the union leaders.

But the sting in the tail is of course there as with FTA and NAFTA in that disagreements are settled by so called independent tribunals and are stacked against the people. An example would be if a Calgary brothel (sorry Calgary it's just an example) was to apply to Sooke BC to open a branch brothel there and was turned down by Sooke, then Sooke would be sued for lost earnings. Or as I have said in the past, let's suppose that the proposed Mega Marina for the inner harbour of Victoria gets turned down completely, then the developers can and almost certainly will sue the city of Victoria for lost earnings, and in both cases the suers will win. This is supposed to be a good deal for anyone? Only if you're a corporation and then you have Campbell's blessing to grab what you can no matter how ridiculous the situation maybe.

Relations with the Feds? Well Martin for sure and now Harper are globalists and see the corporations the same way Gordo does so why would he not be in the same feeding trough as them? Give them what they want and accept the board positions and payments.

Forestry sector used to be the mainstay of BC and now we really don't have such a sector anymore...we have given Crown Lands away free thanks to Gordo, Coleman and Chong, so that they can be turned into housing developments and thus the excuse to cut trees that before were not available, and where do those trees go? Why overseas as raw logs naturally because we don't have anywhere to process them any more.

Our ocean is now a death trap for salmon smelts trying to go to sea to grow into edible fish thanks to the dangers of the lice coming from the Norwegian fish farms scattered up and down our coast line. Great run this year in the Fraser River as the fish probably figured out that Juan de Fuca is a better way out to sea and home again.

The suggestion that power developments and health care are too big to be done by the state alone are an excuse offered in defense of giving profits to private companies. What exactly is wrong with keeping those profits made from BC resources for the people of BC? If any finance minister in Canada including the federal one would only use our own Bank of Canada then the expenses would come down and any interest charged would be paid back to us instead of going into some commercial bank CEO bonus structure. The state of North Dakota has its state owned bank and is in a budget surplus position because they use that bank. We have our own bank and ignore it. Actually, provincially, we mandate which banks can be used by municipalities...very clever. No the real reason we invite corporations into the mix is so they make money and I refuse to believe none of that rubs off on people like Gordo. It certainly doesn't come back to we the people.

The HST has to be mentioned simply because it is used as the excuse for the unhappiness and anger in the ⇒

province and that is absolute BS. No one likes to pay extra taxes but we will do so if it means that the standard by which we all live is maintained or improved. Lies, contempt, arrogance and flat out refusal to listen to the people who voted for and employ these MLAs of all stripes is what has made us mad. Well I certainly, maybe I should not speak for everyone else, but I know that I will take to the streets if that is what it comes to in order to protect my children and grandchildren for Hell In BC.

Last major thing Gordo did was to destroy the whole concept of environmental responsibility by creating a new natural resource operations ministry which, just like the federal counterpart ministry of natural resources, will bypass environmental requirements in favour of speedy approval of resource developments. Not that our BC Environment Ministry was any good anyway as they approved everything.

So what did Gordo do that was beneficial to all of BC? Hmm, could have been the Olympics if it hadn't cost us so damn much in money and environmental impact. Elections every four years? Well let's see if that holds up any better than some of his other promises. On that subject I am told he has a favorite joke... "if we had fixed elections, there would be no problem" Ha Ha... What is the difference between a 'fixed' election and one in which the lies are so thick that the sun is obscured?

Personally I am glad to see the back of a man who has done so much damage to BC, and I hope that whoever his replacement may be realizes that the people of BC have finally woken up... Come to think of it, Gordo, that is probably the best and only thing you really did

for the people of BC. Pity it had to be at such a cost.
jeremyarneysblog.wordpress.com

If you don't like what you see or hear do something about it instead of complaining. ~ **Jeremy Arney**

Korean manufactured pieces for Alberta Tar Sands

MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

Jeremy Arney, Victoria BC

American citizens from four Northwestern States (to prevent damage to their roads) have BLOCKED a huge EXXON (ESSO) mega-shipment, manufactured in Korea, destined for the Alberta tar sands. [See map on P.59]

At a time when the present Reform/Alliance coalition government, masquerading as Conservatives, are claiming their priority is jobs for Canadians, they are allowing Korea to manufacture the necessary parts for Canada's shame in northern Alberta.

Why did they think these could not be made in Canada? Why were they not willing to tell Exxon, "Get it done in Canada or forget it." ? The size and scope and costs of this are breathtaking and we get nothing but the destruction of Alberta roads. There are so many questions here that need to be answered. One of those questions will be: Are the mainstream media in Western Canada going to even look into this and then report it?

Thankfully Americans have refused to allow these shipments to destroy their roads and towns on route. ♣

[Updates at: www.oregonlive.com or AllAgainstTheHaul.org]

CAP candidate for Saanich -Gulf Islands 2008

[EMAIL: iamjema@gmail.com] ♣

Kevin Krueger cannot be allowed to remain in politics in Canada: ~ after suggesting that Adrian Dix keep his head down lest someone take a potshot at him

Sue Stroud, Brentwood Bay BC

We do not allow this kind of shameful behaviour in Canadian politics and we need to stand up and say so: there have to be consequences. Apologies are nice, but the damage has already been done, something stronger is now required.

Krueger has mouthed off one too many times. Add to this the fact that he did it the week after the appalling assassination attack in Tuscon, Arizona and you've got to believe he knew exactly what he was doing and intended harm to Dix. Anyone who could cast a vote for Krueger after this should be as ashamed as Krueger himself should be.

NEWS STORY, Globe & Mail: Jan. 14, 2011:

A B.C. cabinet minister has apologized for suggesting an opposition critic should lower his profile or risk having his head shot off.

On the heels of the shooting of an Arizona Congresswoman and bystanders at a community event that left six people dead, Kevin Krueger, B.C.'s minister of social development, said in an interview Friday he regrets his choice of words.

B.C. minister Kevin Krueger's comments about Adrian Dix on CIFM Radio (.mp3 file): "If there ever was a guy that shouldn't put his head up to get it shot off, as the soldiers refer to it, it's Adrian Dix," Mr. Krueger told Kamloops radio station CIFM earlier in the day.

Mr. Krueger, who has landed in hot water in the past for his ill-chosen words, was responding to the announcement of a new sterilization unit at a hospital in his riding.

Adrian Dix, the NDP opposition critic for health, had harried the government to make the investment for three years. He called attention to the state of dirty equipment at the Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops, which led to the cancellation of hundreds of elective surgeries.

On Friday, Mr. Dix called Mr. Krueger's remarks inappropriate, coming on the same day that mourners were gathered in Arizona for the funeral of one of the six people killed by a gunman who shot U.S. congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and others at her community event.

ONLINE: <http://tinyurl.com/G-M1871057> ♣

Pamela Anderson speaks out to support BC South Coast tanker ban

From: Paul Manly [paulmanly@shaw.ca]

In a YouTube video released in December, Vancouver Island-born Hollywood actress, Pamela Anderson came out in support of the **No Tanks Coalition** campaign to ban oil tankers on the south coast of British Columbia. Shot on the Ladysmith beachfront where the former Baywatch beauty played as a child and a kilometer away from where she learned to swim, Anderson explains why she is opposed to tar sands crude oil being shipped out of Vancouver harbour. "I love it here, this is what I consider my home and we need to protect it for future generations," said Anderson.

While the (Dec. 7th) parliamentary vote on the NDP motion to ban oil tankers from the North Coast was a great gesture, it is not legislation and is not binding on the Conservative government, whose MPs voted as a block against the motion. More importantly, this motion does not extend this proposed ban to the south coast of British Columbia.

Crude oil shipments from Vancouver to China and the USA started to ramp up in 2007, this followed the closure of three of the four refineries in the Vancouver area. Currently two tankers a week carrying two to three times the amount of oil spilled by the Exxon Valdez, travel under the Iron Workers Memorial and Lions Gate bridges with as little as a few meters of clearance from the ocean floor and with very little distance from several bridge pillars. The oil industry wants to increase these tanker shipments to ten a week.

A small navigational error on the part of a tanker or another ship could result in a catastrophic accident. Double hull technology has not proven to be an adequate defense, as demonstrated by a number of oil spills in recent tanker accidents.

A major spill in Vancouver would quickly spread with tides and winds throughout the Salish Sea, the Strait of Juan de Fuca and all of the gulf islands, with oil washing up on the beaches of Nanaimo and Victoria within four days. The government's environmental audit released on Dec 7th shows that Canada could not deal with a major spill and according to **No Tanks Coalition** spokesperson Rex Weyler: "Municipal, Provincial, and Federal governments would be scrambling to assemble inadequate response systems. There would be pressure to apply toxic dispersants. Such a spill would devastate our marine ecosystems, killing sea birds, mammals, fish, crustaceans, and the plankton they live on." A major spill would also cost the BC economy billions of dollars.

While **No Tanks** supports the proposed ban on oil tankers on the north coast, "any such ban must include the actual tankers now shipping tar sands crude oil through Burrard Inlet and Georgia Strait," said Weyler.

The video entitled "Pamela Anderson - Oily beaches? No Tanks!" can be found on the CanadiansNanaimo channel on youtube at:

www.youtube.com/user/CanadiansNanaimo

The video was produced by Paul Manly of Manly Media, another islander who grew up in Ladysmith and learned to swim at the same beach where Pamela Anderson learned to swim. "We didn't know each other as children but we both share the same concern that future generations should have the same opportunities we had as children to enjoy all that nature has to offer on this beautiful coast," says Paul. ♣

60 Minutes Interview with Big Pharma Whistleblower Cheryl Eckard

Video posted By Dr. Mercola | January 18 2011

Dr. Mercola's Comments:

You may remember this story from last November (09) when it first hit the news. But in the 60 Minutes interview above, whistleblower Cheryl Eckard opens up to reveal even more disturbing details about the gross negligence at the Cidra pharmaceutical plant, run by one of GlaxoSmithKline's subsidiaries.

They eventually pleaded guilty to the felony crime of distributing adulterated drugs, yet not one single person in charge of the debacle went to jail!

Why Should We Trust Felons?

Once you've been exposed to the seedy underbelly of the drug business—the LEGAL drug business—you can't but realize that we're dealing with a very large group of criminals and felons. There's really no nicer way to put it.

After all, companies are run by human beings. Company logos don't make decisions by themselves.

As it currently stands, the company usually gets away scot

free or with a slap on the wrist. Oh, they do have to pay fines, and in this case it was three quarters of a billion dollars, but when your profits are over \$100 billion, it's not much more than a speeding ticket inconvenience and widely regarded as merely the cost of doing business.

Unless actual individuals are held accountable, what's to stop those individuals from perpetrating the same crime again and again? Nothing!

No less than 19 drug companies made AllBusiness.com's Top 100 Corporate Criminals List for the 1990s. [...]

A Safety Issue Even More Disturbing than that of Unsafe Drugs

One aspect that truly worries me is that while the criminal cases we've seen in the past several years are related to drugs, many of these companies, including GSK, also produce VACCINES.

WATCH INTERVIEW VIDEO:

<http://tinyurl.com/Mercola60minDrugs>

[Image & link on p.59] ♣

On Talking and Doing: Shorty and Me - Toronto, 1991



by Kevin D. Annett, Nanaimo BC

When I was still stupid, I kept hovering voyeuristically around homeless men and women, like all bourgeois radicals, from the safety of a salary. Back then, at age 35, I happened to occupy a cozy sinecure called "Street Chaplain and Urban Ministry Development Worker" at a United Church tax haven and

money laundering plant known as Fred Victor Mission.

And I even learned a thing or two that year, in spite of my position.

I blame some of that on Shorty.

I literally stumbled across him one winter night in the shadows of City Hall, where he and some friends grouped around a hot air grate so they wouldn't die. Shorty was high on airplane glue, his preferred opiate considering its cheap availability. But the spindly man spurned the alcoholic haze of his sidewalk buddies and struck up a conversation with me about his time in Kingston penitentiary.

My marxist tutelage years had taught me that lumpen proletarians like Shorty don't make revolutions: only sturdy, salaried industrial workers do. But as I demonstrated in my own life, anybody on a salary doesn't pose much of a threat, to anything. Shorty, on the other hand, had nothing to hang onto.

He actually took me up on my offer to come by the Mission for some lunch – since I assumed, naturally, that like me, his first concern would be for his stomach – and the next day Shorty started dismantling my world.

I don't think we ever expect to have our minds turned inside out, and it's not something we can ever really prepare for. Denial of what we're experiencing is our first and best defense. But my desire to believe Shorty helped him outflank my barriers, and he did so with Napoleonic élan, simply by talking about his life.

What landed him in Kingston Pen was that he'd killed his old man after the guy had raped and tortured Shorty's mom to death with an electric cattle prod. Shorty was eighteen.

He hadn't needed much prompting to smash the guy's head in, since Shorty had been at the receiving end himself for many years. But Shorty's Dad was a local Free Mason and an elder in the Anglican church, and friends with every cop in their New Brunswick town, so the judge rewarded the boy accordingly.

"Weren't a crime for the fucker to kill my mom. Me doing him in was," described Shorty as he piled in to cornbread and soup, and the Mission crowd ebbed and flowed around us.

Life in the Pen taught Shorty the joys of anal rape and daily beatings by the guards. His graphic description of both was

not a titillation on his part, but something he did because he saw that I really wanted to know.

"They used us like fucking lab rats all the time" Shorty went on, picking his teeth.

"They'd let you off work detail if you signed up for the shots. Lots of guys did, at first. Until they started up chucking and dying off."

Medical experiments on inmates? I asked him. By who?

"Fuck, who," he snorted. "Who d'ya think?"

Shorty leaned back then, smiling toothlessly and gesturing at his gums.

"Weren't just the shots. They did this to me. Pulled every one of 'em. That army doctor who done it, you know, he said to me, 'Shorty, why the hell would you need teeth, where you're going?'"

Shorty was in the Pen for twelve years, in time to somehow live through the big riot there in April, 1971 when the army got called in and opened fire on the cons, killing two of them.

"They blamed us, sure, but we couldn't stand their fucking tortures anymore, that shit for food, no sir. Fuck 'em. I stood up to those army boys and didn't flinch, no sir."

I noticed after awhile that people in the Mission were avoiding us, gaping at Shorty like he was still armed and dangerous, which of course he was. He noticed it and smiled. "I ain't no fucking sheep, and they know it. These farm critters don't like a wolf on the premises."

I kept the door open for Shorty after that day, and invited him to our next Sunday "worship service" in the Mission lounge: an event he took enormous delight in disrupting, with his ribald and graphic prayers spoken aloud to the Big Mother in the sky whose tits were better than those on the hooker who had made him a man at age twelve.

As so often in a later parish, I was asked to expel the intruder, and I declined.

Shorty latched on to me after that, and became a kind of adviser emeritus to me about life on the street. He suggested we start taking food and clothes out to his fellow grate-sitters at night, rather than waiting for them to come to the Mission.

The unraveling started escalating for me after that, as every night, Shorty and many others showed me what I was living in. It wasn't even the bare facts of suffering and torture alongside Canadian nicety that began crumbling my world. It was simply that another reality, another spirit, inhabited the people I used to pity: and through that spirit, I saw what was true, and false, for the very first time.

I won't describe what I encountered those nights, since I can't. What does allow and demand portrayal is the very last time I ever saw Shorty, just before I left Toronto for the west coast.

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I hadn't expected to meet him again, for he'd disappeared for a while, as he often did. It was the spring of 1992, and then-Prime Minister Brian Mulroney – the most vile and corrupt politician in our history, even by Canadian standards – was speaking at a Tory convention at the Marriott Hotel. Naturally, a lot of people were there to protest. Including, as it turned out, Shorty.

The plush lodge was surrounded by a barrier of cops three ranks deep when I arrived, and began to hobnob with all the other middle class, slightly bothered activists. But this was no Chicago '68: the police were mostly bored, and not decked out in riot gear, even. White Canadians aren't targets, after all, and never will be. But the cops were menacing enough to us polite, placarded militants, who were not even raising our voices much that day. We mingled, mostly.

Then Shorty appeared. "Let's go in!" he started yelling at us, turning his back to the cops. "The fucker's in there! We can get him! Let's go!" Shorty screamed, waving his arm forward, like General Patton at Bastogne.

I think he expected all of us to follow him and crash through the human wall of blue. But instead, we all just stood there.

Shorty turned, confused, and stared at us. We had all gone silent, and the signs seemed to go limp in our hands.

He shook his head at us like we were children, and exclaimed, "What the fuck is wrong with you? I been shot at by the army! These fuckers are nothing!"

He turned and approached the cops. My guts turned, and I felt my feet move with him. I looked around for support, and weighed, like everyone there, the knife-edge moment we all carried, and felt the inertia that freezes action begin to melt a wee bit. Some of us edged forward.

But then one cop grabbed Shorty and pushed him back. Another spoke into his mike. The line of cops stiffened.

The moment had passed, and our minds, the great betrayers, took over. Fear descended, along with all the reasons why the assault would fail. We saw the State for what it actually is, and it terrified us. But Shorty did not operate in our timid reality.

"You stupid fucks!" he screamed not at the cops, but at all of us. "You'll never do anything but talk!"

Shorty pushed his way through our crowd, and was gone.

I felt at first that I had failed him, before realizing that I and the rest had failed ourselves. But then, it wasn't as if there was much in us to fail.

I searched in vain for Shorty over the next few weeks, but I never found him. I dreaded facing his wrath, but felt a deeper regret that he was suddenly gone from my life.

Even though he's probably dead by now, I know that if we ever meet again, Shorty might notice that I've lost some of my former caution, and have passed over the barrier that once separated us. But of course, it won't

be enough for him, and it isn't enough.

Some terrible thing still suspends me in that gray zone of nothing, poised between thought and action, and able, now and then, to break free – only to freeze again: like a man moving in and out of sleep.

Like a bird, free of its cage, but slowly dying of the cold.

Rev. Kevin D. Annett is a writer, film maker and community educator from Vancouver. His website is www.hiddenfromhistory.org

"All national institutions of churches, whether Jewish, Christian, or Turkish, appear to me no other than human inventions, set up to terrify and enslave mankind, and monopolize power and profit." --**Thomas Paine**,

"The Age Of Reason"

Read and Hear the truth of Genocide in Canada, past and present, at: www.hiddenfromhistory.org , and watch Kevin's award-winning documentary film UNREPENTANT.

UNREPENTANT: Kevin Annett and Canada's Genocide - Winner, Best Foreign Documentary Film, Los Angeles Independent Film Festival, March 2007, Best Director of a Foreign Documentary, New York Independent Film Festival, October 2006; - Winner, Best Canadian Film, Creation Aboriginal Film Festival, Edmonton, 2009

Hidden No Longer: Genocide in Canada, Past and Present (2010) by Kevin Annett is the most thorough, documented body of evidence ever published concerning the planned genocide in Canadian Indian residential schools.

The book can be viewed at www.hiddennolonger.com

Canadian PM to be summoned to Tribunal in UK

Prime Minister Harper to be summoned to Tribunal to answer charges of complicity in Genocide; Tribunal will launch its own investigation in Canada

Jan. 17, 2011, ITCCS, London, UK:

Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada is about to be issued a Summons by an International Tribunal to answer charges of complicity in genocide.

And the same, the Tribunal plans to start its own investigation into children who died in Canadian Indian residential schools, if Harper doesn't take action by March 1.

In a letter issued to Harper earlier today, the Executive of the newly-formed International Tribunal into Crimes of Church and State (ITCCS) accused Harper and his government of subverting justice and exonerating the churches responsible for the deaths of thousands of children in residential schools.

The letter states that if by March 1, 2011, Harper's government has not initiated criminal charges against the Catholic, Anglican and United churches and begun to repatriate the remains of the dead children, the ITCCS will dispatch its own staff of investigators to Canada. The staff will conduct forensic investigations at alleged mass grave sites near former residential schools "in conjunction with indigenous elders and families of the ⇒

victims", and will gather evidence to indict Canada for Genocide.

The ITCCS letter concludes by informing Prime Minister Harper that it intends to issue a Public Summons to him to appear before its opening session in London, England on September 12, 2011.

The Tribunal also plans to bring criminal charges against the aforementioned churches. The ITCCS has already issued a Summons to Pope Benedict, Joseph Ratzinger, to appear at the September Tribunal.

A complete copy of the ITCCS letter to Prime Minister Harper

is available online: <http://maekids.blogspot.com/>

For more information, contact the ITCCS at: genocidetriunal@yahoo.ca, or its Canadian field agent, Rev. Kevin Annett, at this email or at 250-753-3345.

See the evidence of Genocide in Canada at

www.hiddenanolonger.com

"We will bring to light the hidden works of darkness and drive falsity to the bottomless pit. For all doctrines founded in fraud or nursed by fear shall be confounded by Truth."

- Kevin's ancestor Peter Annett, writing in *The Free Inquirer*, October 17, 1761, just before being imprisoned by the English crown for "blasphemous libel" ♣

It's Your World

By Bob Harrington, Galena Bay BC



Once the sun passes the December solstice and begins to bring its warmth back to earth, it is not too early to have spring fever. I watched a squirrel sitting on a limb in the sunshine this morning. He knows that the reason the sun shines is just so that squirrels can sunbathe on limbs. A hawk might consider that the sun shines in order to make squirrels

sunbathe on limbs so that hawks can find a meal. Deer, on the other hand, are aware that the sun shines so that they can lie on the south side of open knolls and soak up its warmth. But I know better than they – for I am aware that the sun returns with warmth so that I can stand in the pool of sunlight and feel it soaking its warmth into my body. Philosophically I am aware too that the returning sun is one of the blessings we can count, one of the simple things which, if appreciated, make us more aware of the pleasure of living.

To me, the return of the sun, with lengthening days and increasing warmth, also signifies more time for walking. This of course is perhaps a bit old fashioned in a world that runs on wheels, but it is a remarkable fact that the walker rarely goes in the ditch; and furthermore, if you have driven along the same route for a period of years, try walking the distance once and note how much more you will see. Our perception is better based on a four mile an hour pace than on a sixty mile per hour race.

Of all the words that describe walking (such as amble, pace, hike, stroll, etc.) I think I like the word saunter best. It is perhaps because the word was once used to describe pilgrims on their way to the holy land – the expression “a la Sainte Terre” meaning “to the Holy Land” became shortened to Sainte-Terrers, and eventually to “saunter.” What could better describe a carefree passage through fields, meadows and the carpeted aisles of the forest than a visit to the Holy Land?

It is not so much that walking has really become out of style – the young are still born with legs rather than with

wheels – it is more that we have become out of step with our environment. For it is when we follow the pastoral trail, away from the haze-shrouded haunts of man, that we find the true meaning of recreation – a re-creation of ourselves, of our ideas and values – of that essence of self, a philosophy by which we can live. Here in the timeless temple of the wild, south of Revelstoke, the whirling chaos of thought settles into orderly clarity, just as sediment falls to the bottom of a pool disturbed by a passing deer. The soothing elegance of nature is a powerful unguent that steals softly into the fibers of being and permeates the mind with a gentle healing touch.

The famous George Washington carver in one of his speeches said: “I like to think of Nature as an unlimited broadcasting station through which God speaks to us every hour – if we will only tune in.” There certainly is no better way to hear this message than by wandering afield. We don't have to go to the remotest corner of the Cypress Hills or to a distant peak in the Rockies or Himalayas. It's in the overgrown back corner of an abandoned pasture; the bushy stream sides; the wooded knolls – each of these is a place dressed by Nature – untorn from her breast. As Thoreau traveled all over the world around Concord, Mass., so we may travel through infinities of learning within strolling distance of towns and highways. We learn to see things by seeing and tomorrow's walk is always sure to add something that was not seen today.

Yes, outside your window, past the edge of town, where overgrown lanes suffering from want of travel turn down toward fragrant fields, eternal streams, or friendly woods, there is a harvest that is waiting to be reaped. It will not appear in dark ink in a bankbook, nor will it put one any closer to the symbolic goal of keeping up with the Jones. This harvest antedates such material values and leaves them struggling in the half light of a nether world. But it is a harvest that will fill your heart with gladness, put spring in your step and vitality in your eye. Not bad, and it's free!

(Bob Harrington's latest books are *Testimony for Earth* and a new edition of *The Soul Solution* with a foreword by Dr. David Suzuki. See reviews at www.hancockhouse.com or telephone 250 369-2281 for autographed copies, \$23.00 each.) ♣

Magical Moon Lake

Karl Backhaus, Holland Centre, ON

Greetings from Magical Moon Lake and also (belated) Merry Christmas, God's blessings and many more successful years ~ for sharing ideas of a better world.

I really enjoyed the positive and spiritual comments in your last issue.

[13.3.2010] As a new member of 'dialogue' I want to congratulate you to giving an independent voice to people. Thank you also for the introduction of my book Magical Moon Lake (on page 29 in the December/January 2010 edition of *Dialogue*). As indicated in the comments of the book, I give hands-on suggestions for living in harmony with the natural world, including how each person can have an effect on global warming. Every approach to new ideas begins as a seed on a personal level. Science is trying a patch-up job with terrible negative effects to the planet. The solutions are quite simple.

History has shown that deserts were not always deserts. In the desert of Sudan a grave of a king was found with 5000 head of cattle for his after life. Cattle, sheep and goats gave the land no chance to regenerate. And we are cutting down the forests as if they are endless. Coffee plantations are also greatly contributing to the destruction of rainforests, the lungs of the world. Forests are cut down for cattle ranches, toilet paper and news paper. Are we willing to cut back and look at our own true needs? Are we willing to change established habits?

Thoughts on our forests and our eating habits:

I watched a CBC program as well as a TVO program on global warming. The TVO program on changing our agriculture to forest gardens and eating less meat made sense.

The CBC program with GEO Science promoted tampering with the atmosphere and other unproven ways to deal with the problem. Time seems to be running out. The way we are dealing with the matter is quite scary. It is a patchwork without addressing the real issue. Like going to a doctor and keep on doing what we are doing. Business as usual.

We know that forests provide oxygen for the air and absorb CO₂. We are cutting down trees as if it is going out of style to create more farmland. The land is already overgrazed. (coffee farms are another culprit). Cows are like greenhouse gas machines of Methane that is much more potent than CO₂. Each cow uses 5 barrels of oil per cow and 800000 gallons of water. If we would include the real cost for the planet of producing meat, people would eat much less meat. (It was said that a hamburger should cost \$200). I think the global warming can be solved if we all would become vegetarians, but who would want to give up meat or cut down drastically.

Karl Backhaus, R.R. 2 B Holland Centre ON NOH 1RO
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Below is a Chapter from Magical Moon Lake – Meet the Animals, Insects, trees and Stones of my Home at Moon Lake and make some unusual discoveries along the way.

[ISBN 0-9739979-0-7]

The day I stopped eating meat

Karl Backhaus

During the senseless World War II created by our "leaders," I lived through the total destruction of Hamburg with 300,000 destroyed homes and 2900 sunken ocean-going ships. I grew up next to the main gate of this huge port that was my playground. I had to deal with rubble anywhere I looked.

At Moon Lake (in Ontario), I wanted to experience the opposite of the dark side of destruction. Perhaps this was part of my endeavour and desire with the help of God and nature to bring back to life the over 200 acres I have lived on now for over thirty years.

According to my neighbour he called this once desolate land "the moon" when he was a boy playing here. Destruction and death makes life in all of its forms 'more precious. We all have the potential to make this planet a bit better than what it was before we arrived here.

Sometimes we need a divine spark that starts our life in the right direction. There were many such sparks for me but the spark for stopping eating meat came rather unexpectedly close to 25 years ago. I never ate much meat and at the time it did not seem wrong to enjoy a barbecue steak on the weekend. Everyone around me did the same thing. But today I am aware that we are not only eating the meat to feed our bodies, we are also ingesting and absorbing residues of antibiotics, hormones, pesticides, PCB's, heavy metals and potential disease plus making our bodies acidic as a base for many diseases to take hold in us.

A most important factor in eating meat is often overlooked and perhaps rarely considered. By eating meat we are absorbing the fear of the animal when it knew that it would be killed. Fear results in increased adrenalin in the blood that feeds every living cell.

A fish farmer once told me that slowly dying fish taste better, but at what price? Today hardly anyone is without fear. Fear and violence go together. A female friend once told me that when her husband and son stopped eating meat they became less aggressive.

One cannot tell anyone not to eat meat, fish or whatever, but as conscious beings who want to live in harmony with nature for generations to come, at least it does not hurt to know what is what and to look at consequences before making choices.

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My own journey to get out of an old groove began in the early eighties, when I was little prepared to stop eating meat from one moment to the next. The looks from people who knew me, their difficulties and apologies for feeding me when I was invited were quite dramatic. No one could understand me. But I am very happy that I stuck with my decision. Meanwhile more people came on board and today vegetarian meals are found on menus.

My sudden change of attitude began with the day I was on my way to Toronto. I wanted to stop at a country butcher shop to buy European sausages and Black Forest ham. I knew that on this Wednesday the shop was closed for the public, but the German butcher who knew me had given me a blank invitation to stop-by anytime and come in through the back door.

I did not know that I had come on the day animals were slaughtered. The instant of my arrival was quite horrific. With great effort the butcher was pulling in a very large sow that was struggling to resist. It was screaming and terribly squealing. It was obvious that the pig knew what was going on and with all its might did not want to die.

Finally a freshly sharpened long knife made an end to this drama. The pig became quiet, still trembling for a while. Soon the pig would be gutted and opened up into two halves and then hung onto hooks to cool down. The whole scene was heartbreaking for me. Suddenly I realized that this sow would produce the material for the next batch of fine European meats. These meats look very tempting when one is entering through the front door. I forgot why I had come to the butcher and ended up not buying any meat that day and have never touched meat since. I did not want to be part of this continuous mass slaughtering of animals any longer.

I realize that I am only one person, but if many would follow it would have an effect. The origin of hamburgers is not much different, only on a much larger scale. Thousands of beef cattle, slaughtered in fear, daily end up in mon-

strous grinders for a consistent "quality" product that is distributed all over the world, then nicely cooked, spiced and packaged with all the trimmings for customers coming through the front door.

Ever since the time I stopped eating meat it seems to me that the animals around Moon Lake and places I visit sense or perhaps even know that I do not eat animals and that they do not have to fear for their lives. I can imagine that the food we eat has an influence on subtle electrical charges within our bodies that animals can easily detect. It is said "we are what we eat" and we can also say we eat what and who we are.

Our attitude towards the Creator and Creation is reflected in what we decide to eat and how we treat the world around us. Like a mirror we can see ourselves in how people as well as animals respond to us. I am quite certain that thoughts of fear and violence in people would gradually fade if we would be willing to learn to discern and then decide the kind of world we would be happy to live in.

P.S. In the 11/05 National Geographic Magazine on 'The Secrets of Living Longer' on the second to last page, at 'Do It Yourself' and 'Go Vegetarian', hints on Vegetarian food are given. A good place to start is the USDA's vegetarian resource list: www.Nal.usda.gov/lnic/pubs_and_db.html

Part I of Magical Moon Lake has come to its end, to be continued in Part II (of the book). If you enjoy living as I do, then I can't wait to tell you more about my life and my encounters with many forms of life here at Moon Lake. Let me give you an idea of what to expect in Part II, which originally was planned as a separate book. [...]

Every day I continue to enjoy the wonders of the natural world and I am anxious to tell you more about life here at Magical Moon Lake. – **Karl Backhaus**

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"The Golden Rule"

[EXTRACTS] Those in the secular press and the professions should be made aware in their training that they must be neutral to all belief systems, both religious & atheist – that is, have a sense that "all is MYSTERY," no matter their own private belief system.

The atheist psychiatrist whom I have called a "saint" had an intuition that all he had heard about the action of a divinity in the lives of his patients was not worthy of any Supreme Being and thus confirmed him in his own atheism. The professionals in religions have been doing a lot of misrepresenting, demeaning the divine as well as human beings.


Religious persons spend a lot of time with words of prayer, but words are cheap... "To pray is to live in perspective..."

Stan Smith, Nanaimo BC

My only personal prayer is: God, that I may know Your Will and cooperate with Your grace in order to accomplish it.

If everyone lived "*The Golden Rule*" psychiatrists might have less work to do. ♣

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"Your Health Matters"

INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

Derrick Lonsdale, M.D., Strongsville OH



In the August/September 2007 issue of Dialogue I suggested a new medical model that would abolish the present disease coding system and replace it with a system depending on the biochemical issues. I noted that the present system depends on a constellation of symptoms and physical signs (facts derived from examination of the patient) that gives rise to a diagnostic category. Furthermore, the model depends on the fact that everything above the neck is regarded as mental disease and everything below it is physical or organic. If there is a connection between the brain and the body that gives rise to changes in function, it is called psychosomatic and is sometimes referred to as "functional".

The thing that has, for many years, struck me as being almost insulting to the patient, is that a psychiatrist is asked to "talk the patient out of the symptoms" or apply a pharmaceutical mind altering drug. It is as though it is considered close to malingering.

For example, I remember doing ward rounds and as in every medical teaching institution, the resident presented a case of an adolescent boy who was being studied. He recited test after test, each of which was normal or negative. At the end of this recital the attending physician said quite slowly "Well, I am surprised, I really thought that boy had something wrong with him". This simply exposes that American medicine was modeled from the Flexner report before World War I that adopted the current medical model from Germany. It stated that the laboratory provided the diagnosis. If no laboratory clues came forth, the condition of the patient was assumed to be psychosomatic, a term derived basically from the work of Freud.

Thus, I want to use inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) as an example of this confusion. In the orthodox medical approach, IBD is considered to be a purely organic disease of the bowel and the action of the brain is strongly denied. I remember reading of a physician who just as strongly believed that his patient with IBD had a connection with the brain. He would ask a student or a resident to look into the colonoscopy instrument and then insult the patient. The student was asked to observe the blush that occurred in the bowel lining that followed. Although this was, in my view, a purely unethical experiment, it certainly illustrated the brain/bowel connection.

There are two major forms of IBD. One is called Ulcerative Colitis and the other Crohn's Disease (the usual nomenclature that names a disease after the first to observe and report it, even if nothing is known about its cause). The usual

treatment is anti-inflammatory drugs that include huge doses of prednisone.

The nervous system of the bowel is purely automatic and is controlled by the limbic system of the brain through a network of autonomic nerves. As I have indicated (Dialogue, Aug/Sept 2007) the limbic system is the most primitive part of the brain and is easily recognized as a complex computer. These nerves end in one plexus that is confined to the mucosa (the bowel lining) and another one that serves the muscles that enable the bowel to go through the wave-like motion known as peristalsis. It is so complex that it is sometimes referred to as the "second brain". We know that for every signal that goes from the brain to the bowel, there are as many as 9 signals that go from the bowel to the brain. It is a truly remarkable system of communication and it must be surely obvious that it has to be considered in both health and disease if we are to apply logical thought to why it is there and how it works. For instance, many, if not all, children with autism have bowel dysfunction that may expose itself in diarrhea or constipation, sometimes alternating between the two. The question has been raised, "which comes first, the chicken or the egg"?

Recently I was confronted with an adolescent who had been diagnosed with "inflammatory bowel disease" that was not classified as Ulcerative Colitis or Crohn's Disease. She was being treated with huge doses of prednisone and anti-inflammatory drugs, the same treatment as the classic forms, and was exhibiting a considerable amount of facial acne from the prednisone. But it was truly amazing to me that nobody had asked her very much about her diet. It was frankly appalling and was quite representative of millions of adolescents in the U.S. It involved (yes, of course you guessed it) massive amounts of sugar and high calorie carbohydrate "junk", soft drinks etc. (Dialogue Oct/Nov 2006 "The Soft Underbelly of the Next Generation").

This disastrous diet has its most important effect in damaging energy metabolism, particularly in the limbic system of the brain (Dialogue Jun/July 2007 Oxidative Metabolism and Energy). The treatment given was a series of intravenously administered vitamins. The reason for this is that energy metabolism affects all cells and the bowel cells require energy for them to function properly. Thus, by insisting on "Cold Turkey" withdrawal of all "junk" and bypassing the bowel as the portal of entry, the healing became possible. When I next saw her, the blood in the stools had disappeared, the prednisone had gradually been withdrawn and she was having normal bowel movements. Although it is easy to think that the healing of the bowel was a direct result of the nutritional treatment on the cells of the bowel, I am very sure that the brain computer came into the ⇒

equation as I will illustrate. The signals to the bowel from the computer are modified by the nutritional elements by improving the efficiency of its oxidative metabolism. When efficiency is lost, the signals become exaggerated and unbalanced. Although unproven, I am sure that Irritable Bowel Syndrome, an incredibly common phenomenon in our culture, gives rise to IBD in some people. Irritable Bowel Syndrome is, in my experience, due to the brain computer sending confusing executive signals to the target organ, in this case the bowel. I think of this confusion causing overwork of the bowel, possibly leading to structural breakdown and we also know now that the hypothalamus is involved in inflammation.

Some years ago I was consulted by a young woman who had been diagnosed with Ulcerative Colitis and was having the same treatment as that already described. I treated her with nutritional I/Vs and subsequently oral non-caloric nutrients and she went into remission. She had very taxing professional work and was very compulsive in meeting her obligations. As is apparent so often in people, she hid her tension in her daily life. I referred her to a biofeedback expert whose specialty was teaching relaxation. He attached electrodes to her scalp and the electrical information was passed into an electroencephalogram. She sat in front of a TV screen that showed Packman. She had to relax mentally in order to move Packman through the maze. If she "gritted her teeth" and tried to make Packman move, nothing happened. Alternatively, if she relaxed, Packman would move. Thus, she learned the art of relaxation and a peaceful mind. Her remission continued for several years, but one day she came in to tell me that she had seen blood in her stools that were otherwise formed. Giving her vitamin K solved the problem, suggesting a dietary defect that was discussed. After many years she has remained in good health and has raised a child who reflects her intelligence.

It may seem strange for me to say that high intelligence increases the risk of disease. This is because the brain is the greatest user of oxygen in the brain/body functions and is the first tissue to react to failing energy production (Dialogue Jun/July 2007. Oxidative Metabolism and Energy). I have previously pointed out that the brain computer is in charge of our adaptive survival reflexes (e.g. fight-or-flight) and that it becomes more reflexly active when it has a mild deprivation of oxygen or its function of oxidation. Inflammation is a defensive process (Dialogue Oct/Nov 2008 Inflammation) and we need it under appropriate conditions. It is, however, ordered by the limbic system computer and if the reflex is "over-ordered" the target organ becomes inflamed without cause. This is the natural order of things, the Yin of too little and the Yang of too much. We cannot live without oxygen, but too much will kill us. Every diver knows that! Yes, we need inflammation under the appropriate circumstances of trauma or infection, but it is "ordered" by the

computer after receiving the input signal from the attack zone. If the computer has been jeopardized by high calorie malnutrition ("The Choked Engine"), it "orders" inflammation unnecessarily and we can develop one of the inflammatory diseases, depending on the target organ. This is surely a concept that is "outside the box", the subject of my last message. (Dialogue: Oct-Nov, Outside the Box).

– **Derrick Lonsdale, M.D.**

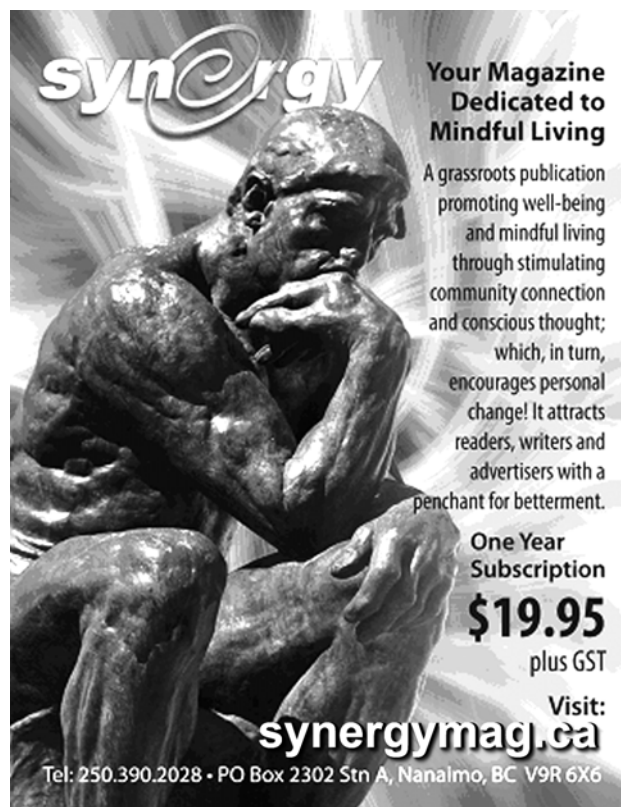
Everything is connected to everything else.

Derrick Lonsdale is a Fellow of the American College of Nutrition and a Certified Nutrition Specialist. www.prevmag.com ♣

SUMMER EVENING

When breaks the clouds and sunshine through the rain
 Lights up the earth with sharp pervasive brilliance,
 Each landmark etched and near.
 A rainbow arcs across the sky, the promise
 Made anew, and shimmering jewels refresh
 The soil, whose gentle perfume rises, steals
 The evening air, so still.
 Clarion sounds
 Give music, touched with magic tongue
 To speak to us of peace
 And nature's everlasting drive toward perfection,
 Such harmony to our senses seems to show
 Pattern and design.

Derrick Lonsdale ♣



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