



## Volume three

Each issue Lumpen compiles a series of news blurbs from the press that details a bit of our Resident in Chief's agenda for world domination. We could spice the diary up with commentary from progressive newsmagazines and critical commentary from the underground, but feel that these mainstream news sources say enough. The War on Terrorism is a Lie. Read all about it...

Compiled by Mike DiGioia

**April 26, 1999** "... your mission is different now from what it was back then [in the mid-1970s, when Mr. Bush served as DCI]. The Soviet Union is no more, and some people think, well, what do we need intelligence for? And my answer to that is, 'We've got plenty of enemies... enemies abound. [There are] unpredictable leaders willing to export instability or to commit crimes against humanity, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, narcotrafficking... fundamentalists killing in the name of God—these and more. And to combat them we need more intelligence, not less. And we need more protection for the methods we use to gather intelligence, and more protection for our sources, particularly our human sources—people who are risking their lives.'" —George Bush, commenting at ceremonies marking the designation of the CIA's Headquarters compound as the George Bush Center for Intelligence.

<http://www.cia.gov/csi/studies/winter99-00/art9.html>

**February 12, 2000** As secretary of defense during the Persian Gulf War, Richard B. Cheney played a key role in the U.S.-led military coalition that forced Iraq to retreat from Kuwait. But as chief executive officer of Halliburton Co., a Dallas-based maker of oil equipment, Cheney recently held a major stake in Dresser-Rand and Ingersoll-Dresser Pump Co., two American players in the reconstruction of Iraq's oil industry.

**November 11, 2001** Iraq provides the most dramatic example. Cheney, intentionally or inadvertently, went against his own edicts in order to pad his company's profits. He told Sam Donaldson in August 2000 that, as the head of Halliburton, "I had a firm policy that I wouldn't do anything in Iraq, even arrangements that were supposedly legal." And yet, as the Financial Times eventually proved, Cheney oversaw \$23.8 million in sales to Iraq in 1998 and 1999.

**April 17, 2002** President Bush today embraced a major American role in rebuilding Afghanistan, calling for a plan he compared to the one Gen. George C. Marshall devised for Europe after World War II, and vowed to keep the United States engaged in Afghanistan "until the mission is done."

**April 18, 2002** Contending that the armed forces have been stretched thin by the campaign against terrorism, senior military officials are urging Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld to expand the forces by 50,000 or more men and women. The chiefs of the four services assert that the high pace of war operations in Central Asia and the expansion of military activities into countries like the Philippines and Yemen have put immense stress on the nation's 1.4 million soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, senior officers said. (NYT)

**April 19, 2002** The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska was not the only place where the Bush administration was hoping to find more oil. It is also encouraging drilling at more than 50 new sites in the lower 48 states, particularly in the Rocky Mountains. The energy bill passed last year by the House includes a provision directing the administration to make it easier for oil and gas companies to obtain federal leases and permits to drill for oil and gas. That version will have to be reconciled with the Senate's. (NYT)

**April 19, 2002** President Bush said Thursday that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has "met the timetable" for withdrawing his forces from the West Bank even though Israeli troops remain in Ramallah, Bethlehem and other Palestinian communities in defiance of earlier U.S. demands that they leave "without delay." Even as Bush was reaffirming U.S. support for Sharon and praising him as a "man of peace," the United Nations' top official in the Middle East was decrying Israel's "morally repugnant" assault on the Jenin refugee camp. (Chicago Tribune)

**April 22, 2002** Mr. Bush's belief that religion has a place in government has long troubled secularists and some religious leaders, even those who have praised him for reaching out to Muslims after Sept. 11. "He went from a kind of post-Sept. 11 pluralism to presidential evangelism today," said the Rev. Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. "This man now seems to have an enormous difficulty separating his personal religious commitment from his public policy positions." (NYT)

**April 22, 2002** On Earth Day with Whiteface Mountain as his backdrop, Mr. Bush is to help restore a hiking trail and promote his "Clear Skies" initiative, a proposal that the administration says will yield cleaner air than the Clean Air Act signed by his father in 1990. Protesters will be on hand to assert that his proposal would only make things worse and to complain about Mr. Bush's inaction on global warming, a phenomenon some say can be seen when, among other things, fewer of the big lakes in the Adirondacks are freezing over in the winter. At the same time, Al Gore, derided by Mr. Bush's father as Ozone Man, is planning to give a blistering speech in Nashville about what he calls Mr. Bush's environmental failures. (NYT)

**April 25, 2002** In the past year, the United States channeled hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to American and Venezuelan groups opposed to President Hugo Chávez, including the labor group whose protests led to the Venezuelan president's brief ouster this month. The funds were provided by the Nation-

al Endowment for Democracy, a nonprofit agency created and financed by Congress. As conditions deteriorated in Venezuela and Mr. Chávez clashed with various business, labor and media groups, the endowment stepped up its assistance, quadrupling its budget for Venezuela to more than \$877,000. (NYT)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/04/25/international/americas/25VENE.html>

**April 27, 2002** The Bush administration is seeking to ease its budget shortfalls by squeezing \$1.3 billion from a federal student loan program, administration and Congressional officials said today. The proposal would prevent millions of college students and graduates from consolidating their education loans to lock in low interest rates. It was made this week as a way to deal with budget shortfalls that are expected to push the federal deficit for this year to more than \$100 billion. (NYT)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/04/28/national/28LOAN.html>

**April 28, 2002** National Rifle Association leaders took credit for President Bush's election Saturday, saying they're taking aim next at unseating gun control advocates in Congress and defeating campaign finance reform in court. "You are why Al Gore isn't in the White House," NRA executive vice president Wayne LaPierre told more than 4,500 delegates at the NRA's 131st annual meeting. "No other group could have done what we did collectively in 2000, and now it's time to finish the job," NRA lobbyist James Jay Baker said. "The Senate is the hole in our armor... The Senate is our battleground." "Like many of you, I've got more guns than I need, but not as many as I want... There is nowhere I'd rather be tonight than right here with you, on the picket line of freedom's defense," said Georgia Sen. Zell Miller to loud applause. "If you are not a member of the NRA, you really aren't performing your 'we-the-people duty' in this nation," said rocker Ted Nugent, a hunting enthusiast and NRA board member. (Washington Post)

**April 28, 2002** With elections in Colombia a month away, the Bush administration expects the country's next president to take a harder line in the battle against guerrillas and narcotics traffickers and dedicate more resources to the fight, administration officials say. The United States is already preparing for a widening war in Colombia, where the government has been battling two leftist insurgencies with ties to drug trafficking and a right-wing paramilitary organization widely accused of human rights abuses tolerated by the Colombian military. The Bush administration has asked Congress to let Colombians use American-trained soldiers and equipment against the guerrillas, arguing that it is not feasible to limit American assistance to the fight against drugs. (NYT)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/04/28/international/americas/28COLO.html>

**April 28, 2002** Less than a month before President Bush hopes to sign an agreement in Moscow cutting Russian and American nuclear arsenals, arms negotiators remain seriously divided on the nature of the reductions, with the Russians demanding a stronger commitment from the United States to destroy weapons removed from service. The Bush administration, however, is pressing for maximum flexibility—including the right to redeploy atomic weapons on short notice—while offering the Russians promises of advance warning and a clearer window on U.S. activities. The Russians complain that a deal that does not eliminate the weapons is hardly a deal at all. (Washington Post)

**April 30, 2002** Sen. Robert Byrd chastised the Bush administration Tuesday for refusing to let Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge testify to Congress, saying the decision was denying the country a full picture of the White House anti-terrorism strategy. "The real losers are the American people whose lives this government is trying to protect," Byrd, D-W.Va., said. "The Congress and the American people are forced to learn about the administration's homeland security efforts in piecemeal, patchwork fashion." (AP)

**April 30, 2002** The Pentagon is considering ways to keep a military "footprint" in Central Asia after U.S. forces leave Afghanistan, but it has no plan to estab-

lish permanent military bases, officials say. "Our basic interest is to have the ability to go into a country and have a relationship and have understandings about our ability to land or overfly and to do things that are of mutual benefit to each of us," Rumsfeld said. "But we don't have any particular plans for permanent bases." (AP)

**April 30, 2002** US troops landed in the former Soviet Republic to begin training Georgian troops for the fight against Muslim militants believed to be linked to Osama bin Laden. The \$64 million training program is part of the worldwide campaign against terrorism and is similar to US anti-terrorism training program in the Philippines and one planned for Yemen. (AP)

**May 2, 2002** The State Department reported today that Colombia is making progress in deterring human rights crimes by the armed forces and right-wing paramilitary groups, clearing the way for the release of \$62 million in American military aid. The certification drew immediate criticism from human rights groups and was met with some skepticism in Congress. Lawmakers had established the procedure to curb abuses against civilians in Colombia, which is the third largest recipient of American aid. "The administration is proposing millions in counterterrorism aid to Colombia even as the Colombian military refuses to break ties with a designated terrorist group," said José Miguel Vivanco, the director of the Americas program at Human Rights Watch. (NYT)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/05/02/international/americas/02COLO.html>

**May 4, 2002** The Bush administration has decided to renounce formally any involvement in a treaty setting up an international criminal court and is expected to declare that the signing of the document by the Clinton administration is no longer valid, government officials said today. The "unsigned" of the treaty, which is expected to be announced on Monday, will be a decisive rejection by the Bush White House of the concept of a permanent tribunal designed to prosecute individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity and other war crimes. In addition, other officials said, the United States will simultaneously assert that it will not be bound by the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, a 1969 pact that outlines the obligations of nations to obey other international treaties. (NYT)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/05/05/international/05TRIB.html>

**May 7, 2002** The Bush administration has accused Cuba of producing small quantities of germs that can be used in biological warfare and says Libya and Syria are also violating international treaties by making unconventional weapons. Luis Fernández, a spokesman for the Cuban interests section in Washington, accused the Bush administration of trying to extend the concern over international terrorism to Cuba to justify hard-line policies at a time when American farm groups, who view Cuba as a natural market, and their allies advocate loosening the four-decade American trade embargo. He added that Mr. Bolton had produced no evidence to substantiate his allegations. Administration officials say the United States now believes that Cuba has been experimenting with anthrax, as well as a small number of other deadly pathogens that they declined to identify. (NYT)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/05/07/international/americas/07WEAP.html>

**May 7, 2002** Enron Corp. drove up electricity prices during California's energy crisis, using names like "Death Star" and "Ricochet" to describe strategies that aimed to cash in on the power shortage, company documents show. "To us, this is really the smoking-gun memo," said Sean Gallagher, a staff attorney with the California Public Utilities Commission. "It's Enron's own attorneys admitting that Enron is manipulating the California market." Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., asked the Justice Department to open a criminal investigation into Enron's possible manipulation of the state's electricity market. (Washington Post)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A45027-2002May7.html>

**May 8, 2002** Several U.S. lawmakers introduced a long-awaited privacy bill Wednesday that would allow U.S. businesses to share information about cus-

tomers who have not explicitly forbidden them to do so. More than a year in the making, the privacy bill unveiled in the House of Representatives differs from a competing bill making its way through the Senate that would require businesses to get consumers' explicit permission before sharing sensitive information such as income level, religious affiliation or political interests. (Reuters)

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/politics/politics-tech-privacy.html>

**May 8, 2002** The Justice Department and CIA have not provided congressional investigators adequate access to documents and witnesses for a probe into intelligence failures related to the Sept. 11 attack, Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Bob Graham said on Wednesday. "We've been having some difficulty getting the level of access to information and potential witnesses that we had been led to believe before we started this that we would have," the Florida Democrat told reporters. (Reuters)

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/politics/politics-attack-intelligence.html>

**May 9, 2002** The Bush administration is moving to provide local educators with more freedom to establish single-sex classes in public schools with plans to amend a 1972 law targeting gender bias in education. (Reuters)

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/politics/politics-bush-education.html>

**May 10, 2002** With the Republican-controlled House of Representatives to vote next week on welfare reform, Bush met with former welfare recipients at a community center in Columbus, touting plans to tighten work requirements, cut the number of Americans on welfare and lengthen their work week from 30 to 40 hours. Bush also promoted hotly contested initiatives encouraging abstinence by teens, saying "it works every time," as well as a \$300 million plan to counsel couples on welfare to stay married "for the good of our children." (Reuters)

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/politics/politics-bush-welfare.html>

**May 10, 2002** American support for Israel, especially during its recent military offensive in the occupied territories, is driving a grass-roots effort to boycott American products throughout the Arab world. With word spread via the Internet, mosque sermons, fliers and even mobile phone messages, the boycott seems to be slowly gathering force, especially against consumer products. (NYT)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/05/10/international/middleeast/10EGYP.html>

**May 11, 2002** The Bush administration has asked a federal court to block an environmental group from questioning the former director of the White House's energy task force. The dispute is part of a lawsuit by the NRDC under the Freedom of Information Act to force the Energy Department to release information about its energy task force, chaired by Vice President Cheney. The environmental group argues that the administration has not fully complied. (Washington Post)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A3452-2002May10.html>

**May 15, 2002** The Senate intelligence committee last week approved President Bush's budget request for fiscal 2003, which will increase the total amount spent by the Pentagon, CIA and other intelligence agencies to nearly \$55 billion, congressional and administration sources said. Meanwhile, the Defense Department has informed Congress that the war in Afghanistan has cost \$17 billion since it began in October. About \$3.7 billion was spent on classified surveillance, reconnaissance and intelligence, and another \$1.76 billion paid for precision guided munitions such as laser-guided bombs, Joint Defense Attack Munitions and cruise missiles. (Washington Post)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/nation/nationalsecurity/spying/A17294-2002May14.html>

**May 17, 2002** The FBI had been aware for several years that Osama bin Laden and his terrorist network were training pilots in the United States and elsewhere around the world, according to court records and interviews at flight schools and with federal law enforcement officials. The FBI knew by 1996 of a specific threat that terrorists in al-Qaeda, Mr. bin Laden's network, might use a plane in a sui-

cide attack against the headquarters of the CIA or another large federal building in the Washington area, the law enforcement officials acknowledged. (NYT)

**May 17, 2002** Dan Rather, the star news anchor for the US television network CBS, said last night that "patriotism run amok" was in danger of trampling the freedom of American journalists to ask tough questions. And he admitted that he had shrunk from taking on the Bush administration over the war on terrorism. (The Guardian)

**May 18, 2002** Under growing criticism for a failure to act on the Phoenix memo and other potential warning signs, Bush administration officials have said repeatedly that U.S. intelligence analysts never envisioned the possibility that terrorists would use jetliners as suicide missiles and slam them into such buildings as the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. But a 1999 report prepared for the National Intelligence Council, an affiliate of the CIA, warned that terrorists associated with bin Laden might hijack an airplane and crash it into the Pentagon, White House or CIA headquarters. It predicted Islamic militant Osama bin Laden would retaliate "in a spectacular way" against Washington for U.S. cruise missile strikes in 1998 against training facilities of his al-Qaeda network in Afghanistan. "Suicide bombers belonging to al-Qaeda's martyrdom battalion could crash-land an aircraft packed with high explosives... into the Pentagon, the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency, or the White House," the report said. (Reuters)

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/news/news-attack-bush-report.html>

**May 18, 2002** Mr. and Mrs. Bush declared a net worth of between \$9m and \$19m, much of it deriving from their Texas ranch, which is valued—rather vaguely—at between \$1m and \$5m. The Bushes' wealth is dwarfed by that of the second man in the government, Vice-President Cheney, who with his wife Lynne is said to be worth between \$23m and \$70m. (The Guardian)

**May 18, 2002** Republicans led by Senator Phil Gramm of Texas and the accounting industry's trade group are working to kill a Democratic measure that would impose new rules on auditors, companies and investment banks in the wake of Enron's collapse. Mr. Gramm, who is working closely with the Bush administration, met this week with representatives from influential financial trade groups. (NYT)

**May 18, 2002** Democrats on Saturday said U.S. companies seeking to avoid paying millions of dollars in taxes by moving their headquarters to offshore tax havens were "unpatriotic" and called for legislation to stop the practice. (Reuters)

**May 18, 2002** As Latin America's third-largest economy suffers its worst collapse since the Great Depression, anti-American sentiment is on the rise. Banks, McDonald's restaurants and other American symbols have been attacked in Buenos Aires. Argentine newsmagazines and politicians are even alleging a U.S. plot to destroy the economy. "We are seeing a growing nationalism [in the region] as a logical reaction to the Republican administration in the United States that has essentially snubbed Latin America," Jorge Yoma, a senator from Argentina's governing Peronist party, told reporters recently. "And this return of the big stick policy is regenerating anti-Americanism." (Washington Post)

**May 21, 2002** Vice President Dick Cheney said today that he would advise President Bush not to turn over to Congress the August intelligence briefing that warned that terrorists were interested in hijacking airplanes, and he insisted that the investigation into Sept. 11 should be handled by the Congressional intelligence committees, not an independent commission. "There's no question that there's a recognition within the administration that the presidential authority has eroded over the years beyond the proper constitutional separation of powers," one senior administration official said. "And this is a matter of principle for the presidency." (NYT)

**May 22, 2002** In central Berlin, crowds of about 20,000 anti-war demonstrators were kept well away from President Bush and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder as they dined near the Brandenburg Gate. "We think that Bush is the biggest terrorist of the world... His father was a killer too," said Lucy Schnell who was among the protestors. (BBC)

**May 22, 2002** During Vice President Dick Cheney's tenure as its chief executive, the Halliburton Corporation altered its accounting policies so it could report as revenue more than \$100 million in disputed costs on big construction projects, public filings by the company show. Halliburton did not disclose the change to investors for over a year. A company that revises an accounting practice usually must show that its new method gives investors more accurate financial information than its old method. Halliburton's revision, Mr. Turner said, does not seem to meet that standard. In addition, such changes are supposed to be disclosed promptly, he said. (NYT)

**May 22, 2002** Argentine Economy Minister Roberto Lavagna is in Washington for a two-day visit to try and persuade the IMF to lend the country billions of dollars to try and stem the country's financial collapse. "The two prerequisites requested by the IMF, or rather the approval of two urgent legislative measures to give greater judicial stability to the country are guaranteed," Duhalde said. (Reuters)

**May 22, 2002** The Pentagon has offered to sell F-16 fighter jets to Brazil that would include advanced air-to-air missiles—the first U.S. sale of the weapon in Latin America. Earlier this year, Chile said it would buy 10 F-16 fighters from Lockheed Martin, marking the first sale of advanced U.S. warplanes to a South American country in two decades, according to Lockheed. (AP)

**May 22, 2002** Two agents for the Federal Bureau of Investigation were among those arrested on racketeering and securities fraud charges in a scheme in which confidential FBI information was used to trade and illegally manipulate stocks. US officials said on Wednesday that the scheme involved the "short-selling" of stocks, in which the expectation is that the price would decline, based on the confidential FBI reports. (FT)

**May 31, 2002** The nine Supreme Court justices are richer than all but a small percentage of Americans, with at least five millionaires among them. (Reuters)  
**June 1, 2002** West Point, NY, June 1 - President Bush told nearly 1,000 graduates at the United States Military Academy here today that the cold war doctrines of containment and deterrence were irrelevant in a world where the only strategy for defeating America's new enemies was to strike them first. "If we wait for threats to fully materialize, we will have waited too long," the President said, speaking at the commencement of the 204th graduating class of West Point, the nation's oldest military academy. "We must take the battle to the enemy, disrupt his plans and confront the worst threats before they emerge." (NYT)

**June 1, 2002** Boeing's McDonnell Douglas unit has been awarded a contract that could be worth up to \$9.2bn for weapons-related work on F-15 fighter aircraft, initially for Saudi and Israeli forces, the US Air Force said yesterday. (NYT)

**June 1, 2002** Argentine officials have charged the IMF with repeatedly moving the goalposts in the tortuous, six-month talks. On Friday, they appealed to the IMF to cut red tape and move to ease the suffering of Argentina's impoverished population. Before it would consider restarting lending to Argentina, the IMF had asked for several key reforms. Argentina's Congress had to scrap a new bankruptcy code that made it hard for creditors to collect on bad debts to Argentine companies. It also had to repeal the obscure "economic subversion" law, which had recently been revived by some judges to prosecute bankers for their alleged role in the economic crisis. The government must also get the 23 provincial governors to sign individual agreements detailing how they will cut their budget deficits by 60 percent. (FT)

**June 2, 2002** Last summer, Attorney General John Ashcroft rejected the Bureau's plea for more money for counterterrorism. In a Sept. 10 submission to the Bush administration's budget office, Mr. Ashcroft refused to endorse an FBI request for \$58 million for 149 new counterterrorism field agents, 200 additional analysts and 54 additional translators. He also proposed a \$65 million cut for a program that would have given state and local counterterrorism grants for equipment and training. After Sept. 11, Mr. Ashcroft proposed \$2 billion for FBI counterterrorism measures. (NYT)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/06/02/national/02FBI.html>

**June 4, 2002** Outraging Arab and immigration groups, the U.S. government will require as many as 100,000 visitors a year—most of them Middle Eastern men—to be fingerprinted, photographed and registered in an effort to monitor possible terrorists, officials said on Wednesday. (NYT)

**June 4, 2002** Behind closed doors and in a soundproof room, U.S. lawmakers have begun a joint probe into the failure of U.S. intelligence to thwart the September 11 attacks, as President George W. Bush warns Congress not to hinder his war on terrorism. The FBI and CIA have come under fire after a string of disclosures that they failed to share information that could have warned of the attacks, and the Bush administration has been criticised for not being open enough about what it knew. (FT)

**June 7, 2002** President George W. Bush proposed a government restructuring on Thursday to combat terrorism on US soil, centering on a new cabinet-level homeland defense department that would directly review and analyze CIA and FBI intelligence. The new domestic security agency would also take some of the most high-profile government offices including the Secret Service, Coast Guard, and Immigration and Naturalization Service away from eight separate cabinet departments, consolidating authority over border security, emergency response and protection from weapons of mass destruction. But the move is part of an effort by the administration to protect itself against charges that it did not do enough to prevent the September 11 attacks and to shift the debate away from government failures. The White House said it assembled a working group to draw up the plans in late April, weeks before revelations that the FBI ignored warnings from its Phoenix and Minneapolis field offices about suspicious men taking flying lessons. (FT)

<http://news.ft.com/servlet/contentserver?pagename=ft.com/story/ft/fullstory&c=storyft&cid=1023101520941&p=1012571727088>

**June 7, 2002** "Absolute proof cannot be precondition for action," Rumsfeld told NATO defense ministers at a closed-door meeting in Brussels, according to an outline of his presentation. The ministers discussed specific countries that Washington says are developing weapons of mass destruction and could pose a threat to allies. They included Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Cuba, Libya, and Syria, a senior U.S. defense official said. "The only way to defend against individuals or groups or organizations or countries that have weapons of mass destruction and are bent on using them against you... is to take the effort to find those global networks and to deal with them as the United States did in Afghanistan," he said. "It's all part of going from a peacetime society to a society mobilizing for war," said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer. (NYT)

**June 7, 2002** The Bush administration is undercutting environmental laws with a rule encouraging mountaintop coal mining, critics told a Senate panel Thursday. The rule is "one of the most significant and destructive changes to Clean Water Act protection in decades," said Joan Mulhern, a lawyer for Earthjustice, an environmental advocacy law firm. (Chicago Tribune)

# Technotopia

There is no question that technological growth trends in science and industry are increasing exponentially. There is, however, a growing debate about what this runaway acceleration of ingenuity may bring. A number of respected scientists and futurists now are predicting that technological progress is driving the world toward a "Singularity" - a point at which technology and nature will have become one. At this juncture, the world as we have known it will have gone extinct and new definitions of "life," "nature," and "human" will take hold.

By James Bell

"We are on the edge of change comparable to the rise of human life on Earth," San Diego University Professor of Computer Science Vernor Vinge first warned the scientific community in 1993. "Within 30 years, we will have the technological means to create superhuman intelligence. Shortly after, the human era will end."

Some scientists and philosophers have theorized that the very purpose of life is to bring about the Singularity. While leading technology industries have been aware of the Singularity concept for some time, there are concerns that, if the public understood the full ramifications of the Singularity, they would be reluctant to accept many of the new and untested technologies such as genetically engineered foods, nano-technology and robotics.

## Machine Evolution

A number of books on the coming Singularity are in the works and will soon appear. In 2003, the sequel to the blockbuster film *The Matrix* will delve into the philosophy and origins of Earth's machine-controlled future. *Matrix* cast members were required to read Wired editor Kevin Kelly's 1994 book *Out of Control: The Rise of Neo-Biological Civilization*. Page one reads, "The realm of the born - all that is nature - and the realm of the made - all that is humanly constructed - are becoming one."

Meanwhile, Warner Brothers has embarked on the most expensive film of all time - a \$180 million sequel called *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines*. The film is due out in 2003; a good decade before actual machine evolution is predicted to accelerate "out of control," plunging human civilization towards the Singularity.

Central to the workings of the Singularity are a number of "laws" - one of which is known as Moore's Law. Intel Corp. cofounder Gordon E. Moore noted that the number of transistors that could fit on a single computer chip had doubled every year for six years from the beginnings of integrated circuits in 1959. Moore predicted that the trend would continue, and it has - although the doubling rate was later adjusted to an 18-month cycle. Today, millions of circuits are found on a single miniscule computer chip and technological "progress" is accelerating at an exponential rather than a linear growth rate.

Stewart Brand, in his book *The Clock of the Long Now*, discusses another law - Monsanto's Law - which states that the ability to identify and use genetic information doubles every 12 to 24 months. This exponential growth in biological

knowledge is transforming agriculture, nutrition and healthcare in the emerging life-sciences industry.

In 2005, IBM plans to introduce "Blue Gene," a computer that can perform one million-billion calculations-per-second - about 1/20th the power of the human brain. This computer could transmit the entire contents of the Library of Congress in less than two seconds. According to Moore's Law, computer hardware will surpass human brainpower in the first decade of this century. Software that emulates the human mind - "artificial intelligence" - may take a few more years to evolve.

## Reaching Infinity

The human population also is experiencing tremendous exponential population growth. Dan Eder, a scientist at the Boeing Artificial Intelligence Center, notes that "human population growth over the past 10,000 years has been following a hyperbolic growth trend... with the asymptote [or the point of near-infinite increase] located in the year 2035 AD." An infinite number of humans is, of course, impossible. Scientists predict our numbers will hover around 9 billion by mid-century.

Eder points out that the predicted rise of artificial intelligence coincides with the asymptote of human population growth. He speculates that artificial life could begin to multiply exponentially once biological life has met its finite limits. Scientists are debating not so much if it will happen, but what discovery will set off a series of Earth-altering technologic events. They suggest that advancements in the fields of nanotechnology or the discovery of artificial intelligence could usher in the Singularity.

## Technologic Globalization

Physicists, mathematicians and scientists like Vernor Vinge and Ray Kurzweil have identified through their accelerated technological change theories the likely boundaries of the Singularity and have predicted with confidence the effects leading up to it over the next couple of decades.

The majority of people closest to these theories and laws - the tech sector - can hardly wait for the Singularity to arrive. The true believers call themselves "extropians," "post-humans" and "transhumanists" and are actively organizing not just to bring the Singularity about, but to counter what they call "techno-

phobes” and “neo-luddites” - critics like Greenpeace, Earth First! and the Rainforest Action Network.

The Progress Action Coalition [Pro-Act, [www.progressaction.org](http://www.progressaction.org)], which was formed in June 2001, fantasizes about “the dream of true artificial intelligence... adding a new richness to the human landscape never before known.” The Pro-Act website features several sections where the strategies and tactics of environmental groups and foundations are targeted for “countering.”

Pro-Act, AgBioworld, Biotechnology Progress, Foresight Institute, the Progress Freedom Foundation and other industry groups that desire accelerated scientific progress acknowledge that the greatest threat to technologic progress comes not just from environmental groups, but from a small faction of the scientific community - where one voice stands out.

### The Warning

In April 2000, a wrench was thrown into the arrival of the Singularity by an unlikely source - Sun Microsystems' Chief Scientist Bill Joy. Joy co-founded Sun Microsystems, helped create the Unix computer operating system and developed the Java and Jini software systems - systems that helped give the Internet “life.”

In a now-infamous cover story in Wired magazine, “Why the Future Doesn't Need Us,” Joy warned of the dangers posed by developments in genetics, nanotechnology and robotics. Joy's warning of the impacts of exponential technologic progress run amok gave new credence to the coming Singularity. Unless things change, Joy predicted, “We could be the last generation of humans.” Joy has warned that “knowledge alone will enable mass destruction” and termed this phenomenon “knowledge-enabled mass destruction” (KMD).

The Times of London compared Joy's statement to Einstein's 1939 letter to President Roosevelt, which warned of the dangers of the nuclear bomb.

The technologies of the 20th century gave rise to nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) technologies that, while powerful, require access to vast amounts of raw (and often rare) materials, technical information and large-scale industries. The 21st century technologies of genetics, nanotechnology and robotics (GNR) however, will require neither large facilities nor rare raw materials.

The threat posed by GNR technologies becomes further amplified by the fact that some of these new technologies have been designed to be able to “replicate” - i.e., they can build new versions of themselves. Nuclear bombs did not sprout more bombs and toxic spills did not grow more spills. If the new self-replicating GNR technologies are released into the environment, they could be nearly impossible to recall or control.

### Globalization and Singularity

Joy understands that the greatest dangers we face ultimately stem from a world where global corporations dominate - a future where much of the world has no voice in how the world is run. The 21st century GNR technologies, he writes, “are being developed almost exclusively by corporate enterprises. We are aggressively pursuing the promises of these new technologies within the now-unchallenged system of global capitalism and its manifold financial incentives and competitive pressures.”

Joy believes that the system of global capitalism, combined with our current rate of progress, gives the human race a 30 to 50 percent chance of going extinct around the time the Singularity happens. “Not only are these estimates not encouraging,” he adds, “but they do not include the probability of many horrid outcomes that lie short of extinction.”

Nobel Prize-winning atmospheric chemist Paul Crutzen contends that if chemists earlier in the last century had decided to use bromine instead of chlorine to produce commercial coolants (a mere quirk of chemistry), the ozone hole over Antarctica would have been far larger, would have lasted all year and would have severely affected life on Earth. “Avoiding that was just luck,” stated Crutzen.

It is very likely that scientists and global corporations will miss key developments (or, worse, actively avoid discussion of them). A whole generation of biologists has left the field for the biotech and nanotech labs. As biologist Craig Holdredge, who has followed biotech since its early beginnings in the 1970s, warns: The science of “biology is losing its connection with nature.”

Yet there is something missing from this discussion of the technologic singularity. The true cost of technologic progress and the Singularity will mean the unprecedented decline of the planet's inhabitants - an ever-increasing rate of global extinction.

The World Conservation Union (IUCN), the International Botanical Congress and a majority of the world's biologists believe that a global “mass extinction” already is underway. As a direct result of human activity (resource extraction, industrial agriculture, the introduction of non-native animals and population growth), up to one-fifth of all living species - mostly in the tropics - are expected to disappear within 30 years. “The speed at which species are being lost is much faster than any we've seen in the past - including those related to meteor collisions,” University of Tennessee biodiversity expert Daniel Simberloff told the Washington Post.

A 1998 Harris poll of the 5,000 members of the American Institute of Biological Sciences found 70 percent believed that what has been termed “The Sixth Extinction” is now underway. A simultaneous Harris poll found that 60 percent of the public were totally unaware of the impending biological collapse.

At the same time that nature's ancient biological creation is on the decline, artificial laboratory-created bio-tech life forms - genetically modified tomatoes, genetically engineered salmon, cloned sheep - are on the rise. Already more than 60 percent of food in US grocery stores contain genetically engineered ingredients - and that percentage is rising.

Nature and technology are not just evolving: They are competing and combining with one another. Ultimately there could be only one winner.

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*James Bell is a writer and the Program Manager at Sustain, [sustain.info] a national non-profit environmental communications firm. He recently launched The Last Wizards [LastWizards.com] where one can find essays and interviews by activists, poets and authors - like the eco-philosopher Derrick Jensen and the Druid John Michael Greer - on eco-defense, culture jamming, and occult philosophy. You can contact the author at [james@lastwizards.com](mailto:james@lastwizards.com)*

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### Resources

The Foresight Institute's [[www.foresight.org](http://www.foresight.org)] May 2000 conference on “Confronting Singularity” prompted Bill Joy to issue his famous warning about technology's threat to human survival.

Ray Kurzweil's website: [www.kurzweilai.net](http://www.kurzweilai.net)

“The Campaign for a Post-Human World,” Richard Hayes, Earth Island Journal, Spring 2001.

## Soundbites on the Singularity



### Self-Replicating Atomic-Size Machines

By James Bell

Another cutting-edge field of research with an exponential growth rate is nanotechnology - the science of building "machines" out of atoms. A nanometer is a distance one-hundredth-thousandth the width of human hair. The goal of this science is to change the atomic fabric of matter - to engineer "machine-like atomic structures" that reproduce like living matter. In this respect, it is similar to biotechnology, except that nanotechnology needs to literally create something like the non-organic version of DNA to drive the building of its tiny machines.

As University of Texas Professor Angela Belcher explains, "We're working out the rules of biology in a realm where nature hasn't had the opportunity to work." Belcher is combining genetically modified proteins with semiconductors in the hope of using proteins to do the "building" of the non-living nanostructure. The technique is a hybrid of biotechnology and nanotechnology. What would take millions of years to evolve on its own, "takes about three weeks on the bench top," says Belcher.

Machine progress is knocking down the barriers between all the sciences. Chemists, biologists, engineers and physicists are now finding themselves collaborating on experimental research. This collaboration is best illustrated by the opening of Cornell University's Nanobiotechnology Center and other such facilities around the world. These scientists predict a breakthrough around 2005 to 2015 that will open the way to molecular-size computing - allowing for exponential technologic progress to race toward infinity.

### Signs of the "Coming Singularity"

By Gar Smith

Some of the scientific "breakthroughs" expected in the next few years promise to make cloning and xenotransplantation (the introduction of genes from one species into another) seem rather benign. At least when scientists plant a spider gene in a goat or insert pig cells into a human brain, they are dealing with all-natural ingredients. In the Brave New World of the Coming Singularity, the merging of technology and nature has already yielded some disturbing progeny. Consider these examples:

- Human embryos have been successfully implanted and grown in artificial wombs. (The experiments were halted after a few days to avoid violating in-vitro fertilization regulations.)
- Researchers in Israel have fashioned a "bio-computer" out of DNA that is capable of handling a billion operations-per-second with 99.8 percent accuracy. Reuters reports that these bio-computers are so minute that "a trillion of them could fit in a test tube."<sup>10</sup> IBM has built a video

screen whose images appear so true-to-life that "the human eye finds [the video images] indistinguishable from the real thing."

- In England, University of Reading Professor Kevin Warwick has implanted microchips in his body to remotely monitor and control his physical motions. During Warwick's Project Cyborg experiments, computers were able to remotely monitor his movements and open doors at his approach.
- Engineers at the US Sandia National Labs have built a remote-controlled spy robot equipped with a TV scanner, microphone and a chemical micro-sensor. The robot weighs one ounce and is smaller than a dime. Lab scientists predict that the micro-bot could prove invaluable in protecting "US military and economic interests."
- US scientists have built a machine that, when released into the environment, powers itself by feeding on the bodies of snails and other living creatures.
- In April 2001, scientists built a robotic fish that was guided by the brain of an eel. The Washington Post heralded the grotesque achievement with the headline: "Scientists Start to Fuse Tissue and Technology in Machines."
- In February 2001, MIT researchers successfully tested a robotic fish controlled by a micro-processor and powered by the muscle tissues stripped from a frog.

### Vernon Vinge's Vision

By Gar Smith

The nonprofit Singularity Institute for Artificial Intelligence (SI AI) [[www.siginst.org](http://www.siginst.org)] exists "to bring about the Singularity - the technological creation of greater-than-human intelligence." SI AI believes that the creation of "computer-based 'artificial intelligence' [will]... result in an immediate, worldwide and material improvement to the human condition."

Vernon Vinge, the originator of the Singularity concept, is not so sanguine. "When greater-than-human intelligence drives progress, that progress will be much more rapid," Vinge conceded during his famous 1993 speech at a NASA symposium. "We can solve many problems thousands of times faster than natural selection."

"How bad could the Post-Human era be?" Vinge wondered. "Well... pretty bad. The physical extinction of the human race is one possibility." Another possibility he proposed was that, "given all that such technology can do, perhaps governments would simply decide that they no longer need citizens! The first ultra-intelligent machine is the last invention that man need ever make



(provided that the machine is docile enough to tell us how to keep it under control).” Because ultra-intelligent machines could design even better machines, Vinge predicted an “intelligence explosion” in the near future.

“A central feature of strongly superhuman entities will likely be their ability to communicate at variable bandwidths - including ones far higher than speech or written messages.”

But there is more to the human being than mere computational intelligence. Without emotion, empathy, compassion and a moral sense, raw intelligence can be a dangerous thing. As Ishi, the last surviving member of California’s indigenous Yahi nation observed: “White people are clever, but they are not wise.”

When the Singularity occurs, Vinge said, it could happen “in the blink of an eye - an exponential runaway beyond any hope of control... It will probably occur faster than any technical revolution seen so far... Even if all the governments of the world were to understand the threat and be in deadly fear of it,” Vinge warned, “progress toward the goal would continue.”

“The problem is not simply that the Singularity represents the passing of humankind from center stage,” Vinge concluded, “but that it contradicts our most deeply held notions of being. There are other paths to superhumanity,” Vinge suggested. “Computer networks and human-computer interfaces... could lead to the Singularity.” Vinge call this alternative to Artificial Intelligence “Intelligence Amplification.”

#### Ray Kurzweil’s Vision

By Gar Smith

Computer pioneer Ray Kurzweil is the winner of the world’s largest prize for invention - the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize - and was awarded the National Medal of Technology by President Clinton in 2000. He is the author of *The Age of Intelligent Machines* (MIT Press, 1990) and *The Age of Spiritual Machines* (Viking 1999). In his latest book, *The Singularity Is Near*, Kurzweil predicts that the final merging of “biological” and “artificial” intelligence will occur before the end of this century.

“The rate of technical progress is itself accelerating,” Kurzweil observes. But while people are quick to recognize this fact, “very few people have really internalized the implications of that prediction.” Industrialized societies are now doubling their rate of technological progress every 10 years. That means the 21st century will experience the equivalent of “20,000 years of progress” in a century, Kurzweil notes. “You get to a point where the rate of progress is so fast that it’s virtually a rupture in the fabric of human history.”

“Human beings get our power from having a hundred trillion inter-neural connections operating simultaneously,” Kurzweil writes. We are approaching a time when computers will be programmed to create and build even-more-intelligent systems. At this point, Kurzweil warns, the acceleration of computer intelligence threatens to become exponential. Within 20 years, computers will not merely be super-intelligent, “they will be conscious, feeling beings deserving of the same rights, privileges and consideration people give each other.

“I don’t think we can stop it. I think there are profound dangers,” Kurzweil states. Still, he doesn’t agree with Bill Joy’s argument that we must call a halt the acceleration of artificial intelligence systems before we create a system that grows out of human control. “The only way you can stop technology advancement,” Kurzweil warns, “would be to have a totalitarian, state-enforced ban.”

#### The Need for a “Green” Singularity

By Gar Smith

“We have arrived at one of history’s great watersheds,” writes Ervin Laszlo in his book, *Macroshift: Navigating the Transformation to a Sustainable World*. The civilization of the modern age “is not sustainable; it is destined to disappear.”

Laszlo, the science director of the International Peace University of Berlin, is an expert in the field of systems theory. Laszlo argues that it is critical that the world “move from economic globalization to a new and sustainable civilization.” Such profound and rapid changes in human history are called Macroshifts. Previous Macroshifts occurred with the Bronze Age, the Iron Age, the development of agriculture, the Enlightenment and the Industrial Age.

According to Laszlo, the old order of humankind’s evolution “can be encapsulated in three terms: conquest, colonization and consumption.” The coming Macroshift will require a transformation to an evolution that relies on “connection, communication and consciousness.”

Laszlo’s Macroshift represents the kind of fundamental social and economic change that environmentalists have been championing. The question now is whether the advent of an accelerating technological Singularity will eclipse Laszlo’s envisioned Macroshift and usher in a new world that leaves humankind diminished and alienated from life, from joy and from the natural world.



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# Rid the

What hap  
by Georg

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After five letters containing anthrax spores had been posted, in the autumn, to addresses in the United States, the Federal Bureau of Investigation promised that it would examine "every bit of information [and] every bit of evidence." But now the investigation appears to have stalled. Microbiologists in the US are beginning to wonder aloud whether the FBI's problem is not that it knows too little, but that it knows too much.

Reducing the number of suspects would not, one might have imagined, have been too much to ask of the biggest domestic detective agency on earth. While some of the anthrax the terrorist sent was spoiled during delivery, one sample appears to have come through intact. The letter received by Senator Tom Daschle contained one trillion anthrax spores per gram: a concentration which only a very few US government scientists, using a secret and strictly controlled technique, know how to achieve. It must, moreover, have been developed in a professional laboratory, containing rare and sophisticated "weaponization" equipment. There is only a tiny number of facilities—all of them in the US—in which it could have been produced.

The anthrax the terrorist sent belongs to the "Ames" strain of the bacterium, which was extracted from an infected cow in Texas in 1981. In December, the Washington Post reported that genetic tests showed that the variety used by the terrorist was a sub-strain cultivated by scientists at the US army's medical research institute for infectious diseases (USAMRIID) at Fort Detrick, Maryland. That finding was publicly confirmed two weeks ago, when the test results were published in the journal Science. New Scientist magazine notes that the anthrax the terrorist used appears to have emerged from Fort Detrick only recently, as the researchers found that samples which have been separated from each other for three years acquire "substantial genetic differences."

The Ames strain was distributed by USAMRIID to around 20 other laboratories in the US. Of these, according to research conducted by Barbara Hatch Rosenberg, who runs the Federation of American Scientists' biological weapons monitoring program, only four possess the equipment and expertise required for the weaponization of the anthrax sent to Senator Daschle. Three of them are US military laboratories, the fourth is a government contractor. While security in all these places has been lax, the terrorist could not have stolen all the anthrax (around 10 grams) which found its way into the postal system. He must have used the equipment to manufacture it.

Barbara Hatch Rosenberg has produced a profile of the likely perpetrator. He is an American working within the US biodefense industry, with a doctoral degree in the relevant branch of microbiology. He is skilled and experienced at handling the weapon without contaminating his surroundings. He has full security clearance and access to classified information. He is among the tiny number of Americans who had received anthrax vaccinations before September 2001. Only a handful of people fit this description. Rosenberg has told the internet magazine Salon.com that three senior scientists have identified the same man—a former USAMRIID scientist—as the likely suspect. She, and they, have told the FBI, but it seems that all the bureau has done in response is to denounce her.



Instead, it has launched the kind of "investigation" which might have been appropriate for the unwitnessed hit and run killing of a person with no known enemies. Rather than homing in on the likely suspects, in other words, it appears to have cast a net full of holes over the entire population. In January, three months after the first anthrax attack and at least a month after it knew that the sub-strain used by the attacker came from Fort Detrick, the FBI announced a reward of \$2.5m for information leading to his capture. It circulated 500,000 fliers, and sent letters to all 40,000 members of the American Society for Microbiology, asking them whether they knew someone who might have done it.

Yet, while it trawled the empty waters, the Bureau failed to cast its hook into the only ponds in which the perpetrator could have been lurking. In February, the Wall Street Journal revealed that the FBI had yet to subpoena the personnel records of the labs which had been working with the Ames strain. Four months after the investigation began, in other words, it had not bothered to find out who had been working in the places from which the anthrax must have come. It was not until March, after Barbara Hatch Rosenberg had released her findings, that the Bureau started asking laboratories for samples of their anthrax and the records relating to them.

To date, it appears to have analyzed only those specimens which already happened to be in the hands of its researchers or which had been offered, without compulsion, by laboratories. A fortnight ago, the New York Times reported that "government experts investigating the anthrax strikes are still at sea." The FBI claimed that the problem "is a lack of advisers skilled in the subtleties of germ weapons."

Last week, I phoned the FBI. Why, I asked, when the evidence was so abundant, did the trail appear to have gone cold? "The investigation is continuing," the spokesman replied. "Has it gone cold because it has led you to a government office?" I asked. He put down the phone. Had he stayed on the line, I would have asked him about a few other offenses the FBI might wish to consider. The army's development of weaponized anthrax, for example, directly contravenes both the biological weapons convention and domestic law. So does its plan to test live microbes in "aerosol chambers" at the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, also in Maryland. So does its development of a genetically modified fungus for attacking coca crops in Colombia, and GM bacteria for destroying materials belonging to enemy forces. These, as the research group Project Sunshine has discovered, appear to be just a tiny sample of the illegal offensive biological research programs which the US government has secretly funded. Several prominent scientists have suggested that the FBI's investigation is being pursued with less than the rigor we might have expected because the federal authorities have something to hide.

The FBI has dismissed them as conspiracy theorists. But there is surely a point after which incompetence becomes an insufficient explanation for failure.

George Monbiot is a columnist for the Guardian. Visit his website at: <http://www.monbiot.com>

# The Bush 9/11 Scandal for Dummies

by Bernard Weiner

Don't know about you, but all this who-knew-what-when pre-9/11 stuff is mighty confusing. So once again, I head to that all-purpose reference series for some comprehensible answers.

**Q** I've heard all these reports about the government knowing weeks and months in advance of 9/11 that airliners were going to be hijacked and flown into buildings, and yet the Bush Administration apparently did nothing and denied they did anything wrong. They claimed the fault lay in the intelligence agencies "not connecting the dots," or that it was the "FBI culture" that failed. Can you explain?

**A** Most of the "it's-the-fault-of-the-system" spin is designed to deflect attention from the real situation. Bush and his spokesmen may well be correct in saying they had no idea as to the specifics - they may not have known the exact details of the attacks - but it is more and more apparent that they knew a great deal more than they're letting on, including the possible targets.

**Q** You're not just going leave that hanging out there, are you? Just bash Bush with no evidence to back it up?

**A** There's no need to bash anybody. There is more than enough documentation to establish that the Bush Administration was fully aware that a major attack was coming from Al-Qaeda, by air, aimed at symbolic structures on the U.S. mainland, and that among mentioned targets were the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, the White House, the Congress, Statue of Liberty. (According to Richard Clarke, the White House's National Coordinator for Anti-Terrorism, the intelligence community was convinced ten weeks before 9/11 that an Al-Qaeda attack on U.S. soil was imminent.)

**Q** If they knew in advance that the, or at least an, attack was coming, why did the Bush Administration do nothing to prepare the country in advance: get photos of suspected terrorists out to airlines, have fighter jets put on emergency-standby status or even in the air as deterrents, get word out to the border police to stop these "watch-list" terrorists, put surface-to-air missiles around the White House and Pentagon, etc.?

**A** The explanation preferred by the government is to admit, eight months late, to absolute and horrendous incompetence, up and down the line (although Bush&Co., surprise!, prefer to focus the blame lower down, letting the FBI be the fall guy). But let's try an alternate explanation. Think about it for a moment. If their key goal was to mobilize the country behind the Bush Administration,

get their political/business agenda through, have a reason to move unilaterally around the globe, and defang the Democrats and other critics at home - what better way to do all that than to have Bush be the take-charge leader after a diabolic "sneak attack?"

**Q** You're suggesting the ultimate cynical strategem, purely for political ends. I can't believe that Bush and his cronies are that venal. Isn't it possible that the whole intelligence apparatus just blew it?

**A** Possible, but not bloody likely. There certainly is enough blame to spread around, but the evidence indicates that Bush and his closest aides knew that bin Laden was planning a direct attack on the U.S. mainland - using airplanes headed for those icon targets - and, in order to get the country to move in the direction he wanted, he kept silent.

**Q** But if that's true, what you've described is utterly indefensible, putting policy ahead of American citizens' lives.

**A** Now are you beginning to understand why Bush&Co. are fighting so tenaciously against a blue-ribbon commission of inquiry, and why Bush and Cheney went to Congressional leaders and asked them not to investigate the pre-9/11 period. Now do you understand why they are trying so desperately to keep everything secret, tightly locked up in the White House, only letting drips and drabs get out when there is no other way to avoid Congressional subpoenas or court-ordered disclosures? They know that if one thread of the coverup unravels, more of their darkest secrets will follow.

**Q** You're sounding like a conspiracy nut.

**A** For years, we've avoided thinking in those terms, because so many so-called "conspiracies" exist only in someone's fevered imagination. Plus, to think along these lines in this case is depressing, suggesting that American democracy can be so easily manipulated and distorted by a cabal of the greedy and power-hungry. But I'm afraid that's where the evidence leads.

**Q** You mean there's proof of Bush complicity in 9/11 locked up in the White House?

**A** We wouldn't use the term complicity. So far as we now know, Bush did not order or otherwise arrange for Al-Qaeda's attacks on September 11. But once the attacks happened, the plans Bush&Co. already had drawn up for taking advantage of the tragedy were implemented. A frightened, terrorist-obsessed nation did not realize they'd been the object of another assault, this time by those occupying the White House.

**Q** This is startling, and revolting. But I refuse to jump on the conspiracy bandwagon until I see some proof. Bush says he first heard about a "lone" pre-9/11 warning on August 6, and that it was vague and dealt with possible attacks outside the U.S. Why can't we believe him? After all, the FBI and CIA are notorious for their incompetence and bungling. You got a better version that makes sense, I'd love to hear it.

**A** Bush and his spinners want us to concentrate on who knew what detail when; it's the old magician's trick of getting you to look elsewhere while he's doing his prestidigitation. We're not talking about a little clue here and another little clue there, or an FBI memo that wasn't shared. We're talking about long-range planning and analysis of what strategic-intelligence agencies and high-level commissions and geopolitical thinkers around the globe - including those inside the U.S. - saw for years before 9/11 as likely scenarios in an age of terrorist attacks.

The conclusion about Al-Qaeda, stated again and again for years by government analysts, was basically: "They're coming, by air. Get prepared. They're well-

organized, determined, and technically adept. And they want to hit big targets, well-known symbols of America” (There was a 1999 U.S. government study, for example, that pointed out that Al-Qaeda suicide-bombers wanted to crash aircraft into a number of significant Washington targets; during the 1995 trial of Ramsi Yousef, the mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, he revealed plans to divebomb a plane into CIA headquarters, and earlier he had told FBI agents that the list was expanded to include the Pentagon and other D.C. targets.)

Elements in the FBI, all over the country, who suspected what was coming, were clamoring, begging, for more agents to be used for counter-terrorism investigations, but were turned down by Attorney General Ashcroft; Ashcroft also gave counter-terrorism short shrift in his budget plans, not even placing anti-terrorism on his priority list; John O’Neill, the FBI’s NYC anti-terrorism director, resigned, asserting that his attempts at full-scale investigating were being thwarted by higher-ups; someone in the FBI, perhaps on orders of someone higher-up, made sure that the local FBI investigation in Minneapolis of Zacaria Mousaoui was compromised. All this while Ashcroft was shredding the Constitution in his martial law-like desire to amass information, and continues even now to further expand his police-state powers.

(Note: An FBI agent has filed official complaints over the bureau’s interfering with anti-terrorism investigations; his lawyers include David Schippers, who worked for the GOP side in the Clinton impeachment effort; Schippers says the agent knew in May 2001 that “an attack on lower Manhattan was imminent.” A former FBI official said: “I don’t buy the idea that we didn’t know what was coming... Within 24 hours [of the attack], the Bureau had about 20 people identified, and photos were sent out to the news media. Obviously this information was available in the files and someone was sitting on it.”)

One can accept the usual incompetency in intelligence collection and analysis from, say, an anti-terrorist desk officer at the FBI, but not from the highest levels of national defense and intelligence in and around the President, where his spokesman, in a bald-faced lie, told the world that the 9/11 attacks came with “no warning.” More recently, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, in a quavering voice, tried to characterize the many warnings as mere “chatter,” and concerned attacks “outside the U.S.” But the many warning-reports focused on terrorist attacks both inside and outside the United States; the August 6th briefing dealt with planned attacks IN the United States.

Not only were there clear warnings from allies abroad, but the U.S., through its ECHELON and other electronic-intercept programs, may well have broken bin Laden’s encryption code; for example, the U.S. knew that he told his mother on September 9: “In two days you’re going to hear big news, and you’re not going to hear from me for a while”.

And, the word of an impending attack was getting out: put options (hedgies that a stock’s price is going to fall) in enormous quantities were being bought on United Airlines and American Airlines stock, the two carriers of the hijackers, as early as September 7; San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown was warned by “an airport security man” on September 10 to rethink his flight to New York for the next day; Newsweek reported that on September 10, “a group of top Pentagon officials suddenly canceled travel plans for the next morning, apparently because of security concerns”; many members of a Bronx mosque were also warned to stay out of lower Manhattan on September 11, etc. etc.

**Q** You’re giving me intriguing bits and pieces. Can’t you tie it all together and make it make sense?

**A** OK, you asked for it, so we’re going to provide you with a kind of shorthand scenario of what may well have gone down, a kind of narrative that attempts to tie a lot of disparate-seeming events together. There is voluminous, multi-sourced

evidence that establishes this scenario. It’s scary, so prepare yourself.

We believe that the HardRight began serious planning for a 2000 electoral victory - and then implementation of a HardRight agenda, and the destruction of a liberal opposition - a year or two after Clinton’s 1996 victory. (The impeachment of Clinton was a key ingredient to sully Democrat opposition.) The GOP HardRight leaders decided early to select George W. Bush, a none-too-bright and easily malleable young man with the right name and pedigree. They ran into a speed-bump when John McCain began to take off in the public imagination, and so with dirty tricks they wrecked his campaign in the South and elsewhere, and continued on their merry course.

For a while, they fully expected an easy victory over dull Al Gore, tainted goods for a lot of conservative Republicans and others because of his association with Clinton, but, given the obvious limitations of their candidate, they weren’t going to take a lot of chances. In Florida, for example, where it looked as if the race might be tight, they early on arranged things - through Bush’s governor-brother Jeb, and the Bush campaign’s Katherine Harriss, Florida’s Secretary of State - so that George W. couldn’t lose. An example: removing tens of thousands of eligible African-American voters from the rolls.

As it turned out, Gore won the popular vote by more than a half-million votes nationwide, and, we now know, would have won Florida’s popular vote had all the ballots been counted, but the U.S. Supreme Court HardRight majority, despite its longtime support for states’ rights, in a bit of ethical contortionism did a philosophical reverse in midair and ordered the Florida vote-counting to stop and declared Bush the winner, installing a President rather than letting the people decide for themselves.

**Q** That’s ancient history. I’m interested in 9/11, not tearing at an old scab.

**A** OK. We’re merely trying to indicate that the HardRight’s campaign to take power was not an overnight, post-9/11 whim but worked out long in advance. After so many near-chances to take total control, they would do anything to guarantee a presidential victory this time around - which would give them full control over the reins of power: Legislature (where HardRightists dominated the House and Senate), the Courts (where the HardRight dominated the U.S. Supreme Court and many appellate courts), and the Executive branch, not to mention the HardRight media control they exerted in so many areas.

They had followed the news, they knew that the Al-Qaeda terrorist network was engaged in a maniacal jihad against America, and was quite capable - as they had demonstrated on many occasions, from Saudia Arabia to East Africa to the first attempt on the World Trade Center - of carrying out their threats. They also knew, from innumerable intelligence reports from telecommunications intercepts, and from various commissions, CIA and foreign agents that Al-Qaeda liked to blow up symbolic icon structures of countries targeted, and that Al-Qaeda, and its affiliates, had an affinity for trying to use airplanes as psychological or actual weapons. (The French had foiled one such attack in 1994, where a hijacked commercial airliner would be flown into the Eiffel Tower.)

By early 2001 and into the Summer, warnings were pouring in to U.S. intelligence and military agencies from Jordan, Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Israel, and other Middle East and South Asian intelligence sources, along with Russia and Britain and the Phillipines, saying that a major attack on the U.S. mainland was in the works, involving the use of airplanes as weapons of mass destruction.

Indeed, in June and July of 2001, the alerts started to be explicit that air attacks were about to go down in the U.S.; even local FBI offices in Phoenix and Minneapolis began passing warnings up the line about Middle Eastern men acting suspiciously at flight schools. In July, Ashcroft stopped flying on commercial airliners and traveled only by private plane, and Bush, after but a few months in

office, announced he was going to ground, spending the month of August on his ranch in Crawford, Texas. Cheney disappeared from view, and our guess is that he was coordinating the overall, post-attack strategy.

Under this scenario, in mid-Summer 2001, Bush&Co. decided this was it. Bin Laden unknowingly was going to deliver them the gift of terrorism, and they were going to run with it as far and as fast and as hard as they could. The various post-attack scenarios had been worked out, the so-called USA Patriot Act - which contained various police-state eviscerations of the Constitution - was polished and prepared for a rush-job (with no hearings) through a post-attack Congress, the war plans against the Taliban in Afghanistan were readied and rolled out, the air-base countries around Afghanistan were brought onboard, and so on. All during the Summer of 2001.

**Q** I don't understand how war against Afghanistan could have been anticipated so early.

**A** Follow the money. Various oil/gas/energy companies had wanted a Central Asian pipeline to run through Afghanistan (costing much less to build, but also so it wouldn't have to go through Russia or Iran); that project was put on hold during the chaos in Afghanistan, but when the Taliban took over and brought stability to that country, the U.S. began negotiating with the Taliban about the pipeline deal. Even after sending them, via the United Nations, 43 million dollars for "poppy-seed eradication," and inviting them to talks in Texas, the Taliban began to balk. At a later meeting, the U.S. negotiator threatened them with an attack unless they handed over bin Laden and reportedly told them, in reference to the pipeline, that they could accept "a carpet of gold" or be buried in "a carpet of bombs." (The later U.S. government spin was that the bin Laden issue and the pipeline issues were separate, and that the U.S. threats didn't mix the two and there were misunderstandings of what was said.) Shortly thereafter, bin Laden, hiding out in Afghanistan, initiated the September 11th attacks, and the U.S. bombing of that country began. Oh, by the way, in case you haven't noticed, under the new <U.S.-friendly> government in Kabul, the pipeline project is back on track. Oh, by the way, the pipeline will terminate reasonably close to the power plant in India built by Enron that has been lying dormant for years, waiting for cheap energy supplies.

**Q** You're saying that U.S. war and foreign policy have been dictated by greed?

**A** Among other pleasant motivations, such as hunger for domination and control, domestically and around the globe - which always ties in with greed. That's why Bush&Co. play such political and military hardball. That's why the arrogant, take-no-prisoners, in-your-face attitude, to bully and frighten potential opponents into silence and acquiescence, even questioning their patriotism if they demur or raise embarrassing issues.

**Q** But this is a democracy, people are still speaking their minds, right?

**A** Certainly, there are areas of America's democratic republic that have not yet been shut down. But where there should be a vibrant opposition party, raising all sorts of questions about Bush Administration policy and plans, America receives mostly silence and timidity. However, as more and more of the ugly truth begins to emerge - and Enron, Anthrax, and pre-9/11 knowledge are just the tips of the iceberg - the Democrats (and moderate Republicans) are beginning to feel a bit more emboldened. But just a bit, preferring to run for cover whenever Bush&Co. accuse them of being unpatriotic when they raise pointed questions.

**Q** You're so critical and negative about the Bush Administration. Can't you say anything good about what they're doing?

**A** Yes. They have moved terrorism - the new face of warfare in our time - front and center into the world's consciousness, and have mobilized a global coalition against it. They may be making mistakes, which could lead to horrifying consequences, or acting at times out of impure motives, but at least the issue is out there and being debated and acted upon.

Now, having said that, we must point out that the institutions in this country - the Constitution, the courts, the legislative bodies, civil liberties, the Bill of Rights, the press, etc. - are in as much danger as they've ever been in. And the U.S.'s bullying attitude abroad may well lead to disastrous consequences for America down the line.

**Q** So, what's to be done?

**A** The most important thing at the moment - even, or especially when, the inevitable next terrorist attack occurs - is to break the illusion of Bush&Co. invulnerability. The best way to do that, aside from ratcheting up the Enron and Anthrax and 9/11 investigations (and it may turn out that those scandals are deeply intertwined), is to defeat GOP candidates in the upcoming November elections. If the Democrats hang on to the Senate and can take over the House, the dream of unchallengeable HardRight power will be broken. Bush&Co. will become even more desperate, overt, nasty, and in their arrogance and bullying ways, will make more mistakes and alienate more citizens. The edifice will begin to crumble even more; there will be more and deeper Congressional and media investigations; resignations and/or impeachments (of both Bush & Cheney, and Ashcroft) may well follow.

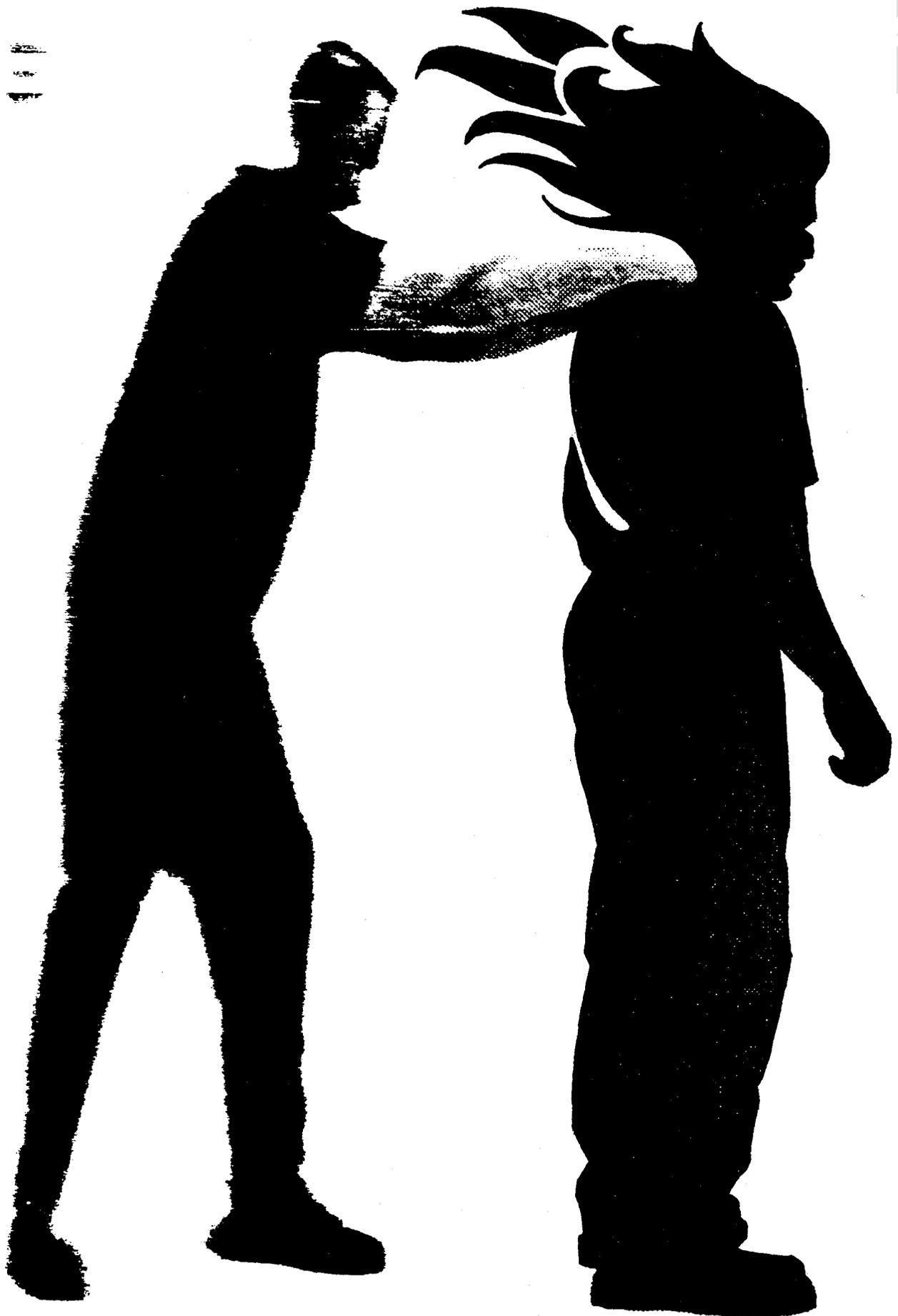
**Q** You're asking me to support ALL Democrats, even though in a particular race a moderate GOP conservative would be better?

**A** Yes. In some cases, you may have to hold your nose and send money to, canvass for, and vote for a Democrat; we can get rid of the bad ones later. The objective right now - for the future of the Constitution, and for the lives of our soldiers in uniform and civilians around the globe - has to be to break the momentum of the HardRight by taking the House and keeping the Senate from returning to GOP control. Doing so would be even more important than what happened when that courageous senator from Vermont, Jim Jeffords, appalled by the HardRight nastiness and greed-agenda of the Bush folks, resigned from the GOP and turned the Senate agenda over to the Democrats.

**Q** And you think if the GOP gets its nose bloodied in the November election, that will convince Bush to resign or lead to his impeachment? I don't get that.

**A** Churchill once told the Brits during World War II that "this is not the beginning of the end, but it is the beginning of the beginning of the end." There is a lot of hard work and organizing and educating to be done, but the recent exposure of Bush coverup-lies about pre-9/11 knowledge is "the beginning of the beginning of the end." With a GOP defeat in November, Democrats will be emboldened to speak up more, investigate deeper, and those inquiries will unlock even more awful secrets of this greed-and-power hungry administration. And that will be the beginning of the end - and the beginning of the beginning of a new era of more humane values for America and the rest of the world.

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## 90 Day Men To Everybody:

Southern

Measuring the relative growth of a band, especially a band as young as Chicago's 90 Day Men, can be tricky. After the release of 2000's *(it is) critical band*, the four-piece became - double meaning noted - critical darlings. The album, a jarring, attitude-laden calling card, received near-universal praise and wound up on Spin magazine's on-line top 20 for the year - not bad for a 'difficult' underground band with firm midwestern roots. Interestingly, a number of critics likened 90 Day Men's angular brattiness to the vicious din created by Aussie ex-pats The Birthday Party, an early 80s post-punk group led by a junkie hooligan who called himself Nick Cave. Maybe it was just bassist Robert Lowe's sub-basement tones, but, somehow, the music reviewers made a connection - one that I'm more than happy to exploit here: if...*critical band* was 90 Day Men's "Birthday Party record," then the new *To Everybody* sidesteps the sophomore slump (as The Birthday Party released two proper LPs before Nick Cave and Mick Harvey jumped ship) and bears the mature stamp of The Bad Seeds.

Credit the leg-up to pianist (and now full-time member) Andy Lansangan, whose alchemy with the ivories accounts for much of *To Everybody's* nocturnal charms.

Opener "I've got designs on you" sets Lansangan's drunken, rollicking piano against Lowe's caterwauling vocal and guitarist Brian Case's laid-back drawl and sinister wordplay. "Last Night, a DJ Saved My Life" finds the keys out front, nicely punctuating Case's 'life as a turntable' metaphor. "Saint Theresa in Ecstasy" s mix of acoustic and electric piano leads the song's long instrumental outro.

By track four, the completely instrumental "We Blame Chicago" (shades of confrontational humor here, as our boys did record this masterwork in Dallas, Texas), each band member shines: Lansangan's baroque piano, Cayce Key's nuanced drumming, Lowe's bottoms up bass, Case's space junk guitar. This is exactly the type of moment that showcases how much the band has grown over the last couple of years.

The album winds down with the organic vs. man-made fairytale "Alligator," which nicely mirrors the band's sound m.o., and closes with "A National Car Crash," its lyric recalling another set of forefathers, not at the point of rebirth, but at the moment of demise: I feel like Strange-ways here we come...

Let's hope that 90 Day Men opt to follow Cave's Bad Seeds into a fruitful career, and let another young band nip off to the brewery with The Smiths. -August Forte

## L'altra In the Afternoon

Aesthetics

The time of day when sunlight fades - an hour of good-byes before the long night ahead - informs the somber mood of In the Afternoon, L'altra's sophomore outing on departing member Ken Dyber's fine Aesthetics label. After four years of putting out records by the likes of Isotope, The Etemals, and pulseprogramming, Dyber is uprooting from homebase Chicago and moving the imprint to Portland, Oregon. He leaves his bandmates behind, as well, and In the Afternoon feels like a fond, if bittersweet, farewell.

Started as a four-piece in 1997, L'altra quickly became a sought-out opener for local forefathers like Tortoise, The Sea & Cake, and David Grubbs. The band's mix of slow-tempo songcraft and sonic experimentation won L'altra favor with peers and critics, alike, and trips across the U.S. and Europe followed in quick succession. In 2000, the band released its first LP.

Sporting a full cast of collaborators and guests, In the Afternoon improves upon the promise shown on L'altra's atmospheric debut, Music of a Sinking Occasion. If the first LP was an introduction (to Lindsay Anderson and Joseph Costa's breathless vocal interplay and the outside contributions of cellist Fried Lonberg-Holm and accordianist Robert Cruz, amongst other high-lights), then the new full-length is a manifestation of talent, craft, and dedication.

Opener "Soft Connection" is tender guitar married to flowered-up piano and trumpet accents,

a nice musical framework for the overlapping vocals. Onwards, "Certainty" drumrolls into acoustic guitar and a simple keyboard line - disarmingly sad sounds that color lyrics of "Public Rules" and "Certainty in Decline." The slightly more upbeat "Black Arrow" completes the album's strong first third.

Midway on, one begins to make something of a comparison to Low, as "A Delicate Flower" and "Traffic" hauntingly evoke the Duluth three-piece's gentle touch. "Ways Out" comes on fuller, laying a foundation for the complexity of In the Afternoon's final third.

"Broken Mouths" is a full-on piano and glitch-drum lament, while "Afternoon Sun" benefits from Charles Kim's subdued pedal steel. The instrumental closer, "Goodbye Music" appropriately enough, begins with strains of piano and cello and ends with a (field recording) snippet of an anonymous crowd - voices overlapping on a somewhere streetside.

After five years in L'altra, *In the Afternoon* may be an emotional swansong for Dyber. For the remaining members it is a promising crossroads. -August Forte

## Tiny Hairs Subtle Invisible Bodies

False Walls

## Ribbon Effect EP 98

False Walls

The inaugural releases on CJ Mitchell's False Walls imprint, Tiny Hairs' *Subtle Invisible Bodies* and *EP 98* by Ribbon Effect, nicely represent why Chicago is at the vanguard of experimental music. Both groups build upon rigorous improvisation and incorporate various electronic components, but the comparisons, for the most part, end there.

Tiny Hairs, making its full length debut with...*Bodies*, is a six man crew of sonic sculptors who specialize in hypnotic, droning instrumentals that recall the cinematic sweep of Godspeed You Black Emperor! and the jazzy crawl of Tortoise. The LP offers seven studio cuts, including the insectoid "Carasses of Bees" and the static glitchiness of "A Ghost Torn and Rolled Between the Fingers." Track #8, "Extensive and Well Cataloged Collection of Aspirated Objects," was recorded last summer at the improv-friendly Nervous Center.

Ribbon Effect has been around slightly longer than Tiny Hairs (since 1998, to be exact), and made its debut last year with Slip (on the Roomtone label). *Magnet* magazine compared the album to the "shape-shifting of (minimalist composer) Steve Reich and the more contemplative Krautrock bands." High praise, and EP 98 builds on the promise of Slip in new and exciting ways. The opening track, "The Building of the Ship," is a rhythmic marriage of guitar and accordion that recalls the late Love Tractor, while "Cast Away" is a pulsing soundscape that benefits from seriously skittery electronics.

Both bands are welcome additions to the local musical landscape, and False Walls seems to be on its way to joining the ranks of Thrill Jockey and Some Odd Pilot as local labels to watch. -August Forte

## EL-P Fantastic Damage

Def Jux

There was a time when white MCs were few and far between in the world of rap music, so standing out in the vast jungle of Hip Hop was relatively easy for an aspiring white rapper. Now advance past 2000, and there are more white MCs than you can shake a mic at. Let's hope Jazz, Rock and Pop don't repeat itself and have Hip Hop eat itself. Enter the realm of *Fantastic Damage* - the latest release from the independent Def Jux recording label. The proprietor of the label - the infamous ELP of Company Flow fame - is eloquent yet distorted in his glowing solo debut.

FD starts out with a very Gothic sounding introduction that uses every audio engineering technique in the book. Segueing into the album is the statement "The things I have to say won't wait until another day" followed by an inebriated "Shut up" from EL-P. This is the didactic that propels the LP (pun intended).

From the onset ELP is set to damage your eardrums with the robust kick drums, as in the title song: “Magnified asbestos the best of close quarter-ish.” The song that validates EL-P not only as an MC but also as a product of Hip Hop culture is “Deep Space 9mm”: “Live for the four course artistry,” states ELP as he quips about his past and present states of independence and control. “Sign to Rawkus? I’d rather be mouth-fucked by Nazis unconscious.” There are occasions when ELP’s hyper and distorted cadences damage a song as opposed to complementing it. An example of such is “Delorian,” which features Def Jux label mate and promising white MC Aesop Rock. While I consider both MCs to be thought-provoking, this song is not the best example of their work. Their vocals on this song are so convoluted that I honestly couldn’t repeat or understand what they were rapping about. However, the song does lead into the ‘Juxie Jiggy,’ “Truancy”. EL-P comments to the plagues and worries of future Hip Hopians: “Prepare yourself and stop talking-ish” to an infectious jiggy type beat.

The stand out on the album is “Accidents Don’t Happen,” with fellow Def Jux artists the Weathermen. This track is the essence of funk and electronics in a well-distorted mix. “So light your blunt bitch.” This song had several repeats in the CD.

As far as storytelling is concerned EL-P hits home with the song “Step-Father Factory.” ELP creates images of industry-manufactured father figures that have the same ailments as their fleshy counterparts (intoxication and abuse). This is the epitome of dysfunction adding to the already dysfunctional. “Who put the fun in dysfunctional?” This song is also present on the *Def Jux Presents II* compilation. *Fantastic Damage* also has features from Def Jux label mates Vast Aire and Mr. Lif. It seems as if the Walrus is getting a little help from his friends. EL-P even displays sensitivity (something rappers normally don’t do) on the song “TOJ - Time is Out of Joint.” With an eclectic beat, EL-P quips about how little words can express this sentiment of love. Overall the album is sonically tight with the exception of “DR. Hell No vs. The Praying Mantis.” This cut sounds dated, but EL-P and Vast Aire get their message across.

There are times when I wish the vocals could be articulated more clearly, but overall EL-P and company holds it down. Hopefully the Def Jux website becomes repaired so that there is a better resource for information about their artists. Let’s hope this white rapper doesn’t fade to black before that happens. -Alexander L. Howard (*Alias the MISFIT Man In Search of Infinite Truth*)

### Savath & Savalas the rolls and waves EP

Eastern Developments Music

Savath & Savalas is the alias that Scott Herren (Prefuse 73) chooses to use when exploring the rolls and waves of sound for his new EP. The familiarity with his work as Prefuse 73 would be considered glitch work to many. *Rolls and waves*, however, is not dominated by this “glitch” component. It is subtle and accompanies the lush programming in Herren’s musical foreground.

At the onset, the “rolls and waves of ignorance” is carried in on a robust horn and stand up bass wave with rolling drums and shakers. The subtly to this track is the background which is composed of glitch static. When I consider the glitch component that is prevalent in his other work, I consider the several titles that Herren must take to complete his albums. Musician (acoustic and electronic), producer, engineer and DJ are a few of the titles I would use to describe his final output. “paths in soft focus” exemplifies Herrens glitch aura with a more musically ascribed programming, meaning that the glitches are placed in a 4/4-note pattern.

Each song on this album identifies with its title. “paths in soft focus,” for example, sets out to be an excursion with electronic ghosts zipping in and out of focus. As well, the track “folk song for cello” has a revisited harmonic bass phrase that was possibly generated from tapping cello strings. This song also demonstrates the various hats Herren must wear in constructing his soundscapes. Throughout the song there are several subtly placed vocal samples sprinkled in which imply the titles for production and DJ techniques. The track “decatour queen” seems to be dedicated to this journeyman’s longing for home. The natural nighttime noises spliced with a rhythmic electronic guitar exemplify the change of Atlanta from southern farmland to new metropolis.

The rolls and waves EP finally ends with “rolls and waves of acknowledgment” which is a subtle retreat of the musical cast of characters that were present in this body of work. The overall take is a jazzy/electronic ride with none of the turbulence found in the Prefuse 73 work. -Alexander L. Howard

### Found Objects Extra Peshal

(self-released)

Found Objects just released their first EP, *Extra Peshal*, in April. This new disk tastefully builds on the approach to music they’ve possessed to this point, introducing stimulating melodies and enchanting noises into smooth harmony.

Their sound is exactly that: “found objects” of some digital alter-world. Drums and other “objects” that sound like they were found in an alley of this algorithmic dimension tatter and scatter through the recordings. Long decay pads of intriguing texture loop in and out, defining the sound of the group.

The synth-based trio takes you down dimly lit digital-world streets in the second song “Autoverfolgung,” leaving you with an antsy sense of loneliness. Random debris, hums, and buzzes form a minimal and creepy atmosphere on top of construction-zone type percussions.

Other times, they take the listener for a beautiful digital park walk, with scaping melodies and liberated arrangements of textures and tones. The opening song, “Separation,” offers a warming and comforting introduction into their unique dry-synth production. Meanwhile, the choppy and scattered drums tangle around a welcomed 4/4 beat that patiently paces through the unpredictable encounters.

On the weak side, some drum samples are reused in songs in their dry form, which keeps the EP from exploring on some levels. Also some of the rhythm-section arrangements sound occasionally underdeveloped, which can let attention drift.

Beside that small flaw *Extra Peshal* is not only unique and original, but it’s also worthwhile and adventurous. The EP and performance information is available on their clever website, <http://www.foundobjects.tv>. Found Objects consists of Jonathan Garr, Andrew VanLue, and William Street, all current residents of Chicago. -Justin Rickles (*JustinSolo@aol.com*)

### Go Back Snowball Calling Zero

Recordhead

### Airport 5 Life Starts Here

Recordhead

Let’s hear it for Robert Pollard - and give it up for Mac McCaughn and Tobin Sprout, too. Because it might not take an indie rock veteran to make such great music - but it sure feels good (and pumps some renewed vigor into the term) when they do.

Responsible for numbers 17 and 18 in the Fading Captain Series (an imprint solely dedicated to Pollard’s work in various forms), GBS has Guided By Voices’ Pollard performing his collaborative magic with Superchunk’s McCaughn. I say magic because the nature of *Calling Zero* - as well as Airport 5’s *Life Starts Here* - is truly a meeting of the minds, about as textbook a team-up as you can describe. . . . except that Pollard, providing lyrics and vocals (recorded in Dayton, OH, at Cro-Magnon Studios), worked by himself from the music created and sent by McCaughn, without getting together in the studio. Much has been made elsewhere about this being Pollard’s first venture out of the GBV “family,” but I mean, come on - it was inevitable, of course, and let’s have more of it.

Like two halves of a jagged pop brain cauterized and smoothed back together without a scar, Go Back Snowball (a.k.a. Pollard and McCaughn) connect on a fundamental level; they understand each other enough to pull off an album that hooks you immediately, but is still working on you when you’re asleep.

The music is both what you’d expect from these two accomplished artists; beautifully crafted tunes with kicks and bites in all the right places, and lyrics as tweaked and cryptic as ever from Pollard - he makes anything carry weight.

Num. 18 in the Series is the second release from Airport 5, Pollard’s reunion with former GBV cohort Tobin Sprout. Again - with Sprout making the music in Michigan and Pollard back in Cro-Magnon in Dayton - the results do not disappoint. *Life Starts Here* is a little less hooky than

*Calling Zero*, but no less accomplished in its own way. Sprout spins a soundtrack of sidelong brilliance fuzzing out and fading back in appropriately, at times recalling the old chemistry between the two, but more often inspiring a new one. Pollard is at his stern and desperate best throughout, occasionally poking his head back in for a bit of sweetness.

Cheers to the Fading Captain Series and everyone involved both past and future - with an anchor like Pollard, it's likely to reinvent the concept of oxymoron. -*Cowboy Joe Collier*

### **Billy Mahonie** what becomes before

Southern

Hark, the British post-rock poster boys have arrived and been promptly signed by one of the Chicago labels they all drool for over there in Londontown... now that we've gotten that out of the way, we can get down to a true appreciation of Billy Mahonie (aforementioned unwitting poster boys).

From math-rock to post-rock, these boys are on their way to being labeled as much as any successfully slippery band ought to be. What these four gents (Kevin Penney-bass, Howard Monkdrums, Hywell Dinsdale-bass and guitar, Gavin Baker-guitar) bring to the table is more complex than can be set down in a quick sketch... ok, I'll give it a try anyway: diverse instrumental, melodic rock/jazz/folk/experiment that practically narrates an epic tale over the course of the album. Oh yeah, and lots of excellent guitar.

Most people usually throw in a routine mention of Mogwai about now when talking about Billy Mahonie, so there you go. But I prefer to superimpose their intricate musical structures over a blurred vision of the often dreary sonic landscape - only then do I think I begin to get it.

*What becomes before* begs a few solid listens, and even if you're tempted to force its brilliance into the background because it's not crawling with vocal hooks, you'll probably end up coming back to it again and again despite your shameful attempt at subordinate relegation. Don't even try it. -*Cowboy Joe Collier*

### **schneider TM KPT. michi. gan** >>binokular

City Slang/Virgin

In case both the band's name and that of the CD weren't a dead giveaway, then the bleeps, blips, clicks, skips and buzzes of >>*binokular* would surely peg this release as German (and if not, then we've got a serious case of deutschworship on our hands).

>>*binokular* is what I imagine Lem hears playing in the background as he writes science fiction about benevolent, esoteric robots. It's good, new-fashioned electronic orgy music, to be enjoyed through either super-stereophonic engineered speakers or the crappy ones that came attached to the used computer you could afford. Imagine Kraftwerk arm wrestling TRS-80, refereed by Prefuse 73.

That's the appeal of this CD - it's at home across the technological spectrum, either reminding you of what you might accomplish digitally or accenting the level you've achieved. -*Cowboy Joe Collier*

### **Low Skies** Low Skies

(self-released)

Chicago's Low Skies certainly chose an apt name; its haunting, (bordering on downer) low-key sound evokes images of overcast afternoons, and a few of those times you spent all day in bed, brooding and staring at the ceiling.

Comparisons to Jeff Buckley cannot be avoided (mainly in the vocals), but that's not such a bad thing at this stage in their game. Low Skies doesn't chase the melodrama found in most of Buckley's stuff, however, opting for a darker, moodier, mellower (and I quote) "fuck the world" sound.

Songs on this EP build and fade, creep up and stop short of overwhelming.

Low Skies is relatively new to the local scene (they toured summer 01 with Spencer Kingman and recently opened up for The Fall at The Empty Bottle), but are already making a bit of innocuous noise around the way. Recorded by Jacob Ross (of Ribbon Effect) at Experimental Sound Studio, the 5-song EP bodes well for a planned full-length sometime in early June. -*Cowboy Joe Collier*

### **David Grubbs** Rickets & Scurvy

Drag City

Now based in Brooklyn, former Chicago (and the list of formers goes on back through Washington DC to Louisville, KY) indie mainstay David Grubbs (think Bastro, Gastr Del Sol) has fond memories of the City With Big Shoulders. "I actually really liked the neighbourhoody aspect, being able to walk to the Empty Bottle," he recently told *Wire*. His affinity for the local sound comes through loud and clear on his third full-length for Drag City, *Rickets & Scurvy*.

A bit more rockin', a bit more adept blending of musical shading, a bit more electronically bitten, and disarmingly personal, *Rickets* is Grubbs' continuing exploration of what it means to be a songwriter surfing the cusp of a constantly evolving musical moment. Backing him up once again are familiars like John McEntire (Tortoise) and Dan Brown on drums, and Noel Akchote on electric guitar, as well as new input from Matmos, Nicolas Vernhes and Drew Daniel on electronics. A beautifully crafted album with a cool, deliberate balance. -*Cowboy Joe Collier*

### **Lone Pigeon** Concubine Rice

Bad Jazz/Fence

"I've got hundreds of songs better, like the 28 stuff, and better now I'm onto 8 tracks, but it's probably the same as any artist, you only get to see a small glimpse of what they really have... but what annoys me is that all the guffy stuff is out there and no one's really heard any of the good things I've done." Lone Pigeon (a.k.a. Gordon Anderson), Spittoons and Sabres.

I guess that depends on what you call "good," because after hearing *Concubine Rice* I'm still trying to fully appreciate the wonder of the Lone Pigeon.

Both the aforementioned *28 Secret Tracks* and his latest (some say first "proper") album, *Concubine Rice* are built on the neo-folky, low-fi tradition of folks like birddog, Will Oldham (Palace Brothers) and even Beck, with the emphasis squarely on the startling songcraft. CR registers as 14 tracks on your player, but is ostensibly twice that, with each "track" doubling (or in a few cases tripling) up on songs. The result is a pleasant - if sometimes melancholy, sometimes exuberant, sometimes bizarre - journey to the Pigeon Universe, where we dine on lizards, the cows used to roam freely in the fields (until they began to fly), and the deodorant is sinister.

*Concubine Rice* is stuffed with songs that exemplify the notion that size doesn't matter, it's what you can pack into in your package that really counts. Anderson is bound through the nerves, heart and braincells to every note of this album... the music has transcended being "his" and become him. Inevitable comparisons to John Lennon or the Beatles will arise, but let's just put a stop to that right now - anyone who defaults to calling LP derivative has not been paying attention to the soul. Despite their raw production values, songs like "Waterfall," "Endless Ballad of a Riccoco Moon" and "Been So Long" reach and knock you out, while others ("Concubine Rice," "Lonely Vagabond") make full use of better production to impress. The album is peppered with support and guest appearances, most notably accordion highlights from Fence-founder and elder brother King Creosote.

A founding member of the Beta Band (catch the return of one of Gordon's best lines on "King Creosote's Wineglass Symphony") as well as other notables Chicken 'n' Chips and, of course, The Pigeons, LP knows his way around a tune... it won't be long before the world comes 'round to roost. Check out [www.fencerecords.com](http://www.fencerecords.com) for more info on the man himself or the stalwart little Scottish label. *Concubine Rice* hits the States June 24. -*Cowboy Joe Collier*

**Woodbox Gang** Wormwood

(self-released)

From the wilds of Southern Illinois stomps the grinning mess of wails, clangs, pokes and down-home harmonies known as the Woodbox Gang. *Trashcan Americana*, both the name of their debut LP and a moniker for their eclectic ally wicked homespun style (self-proclaimed), says it best - these boys got the devil blues in them, and they're not afeared of lettin' it have a shot at you, too.

Hugh DeNeal (vocals, acoustic guitar, jaw harp, piano, Hammond and chief songwriter), Brian DeNeal (bass, crowbar, vocals) and the group's resident instrumental factotum Alex Kirt (washboard, banjo, vocals, acoustic guitar, bones, shovel, gas can, dirty harmonica, ashtray, 2x4's, jug, misc. drums) - along with support from Randy Crouch on fiddle, Julie Sommer on vocals, Brad Bolin on dobro, mandolin, lap steel, acoustic guitar and banjo, and Bill Lancaster on drums - have brought to *Wormwood* all the exuberant footstompin' fun of *Trashcan Americana*, and tempered it with a slight maturation in the quality of the songwriting.

Writing from the deepest well around, his own, DeNeal pens songs that - in their initial rootsy appeal - belie their complexity of theme and emotion. Tracks like "Dot Com Machine," "Oh Woman," "Panther Song" and the backwoods dirge "They Came In Black" require a couple of listens to appreciate the multitude of levels working. Of course, there are the requisite straight-forward classic Woodbox jams, with plenty of DeNeal's tongue planted firmly in unshaven cheek ("Family Night," "Annie Dyhdde" "Sardine").

DeNeal's delivery is somewhere between John Fogerty and John Lydon, but sets off perfectly the wicked witty vein that runs through most of the material in the Woodbox canon. This is music appropriating the style and substance of roots blues, jug and americana, and bending it into a slightly skewed new vector for the modern hillbilly. Check out [www.woodboxgang.homestead.com](http://www.woodboxgang.homestead.com) for more info. -Cowboy Joe Collier

**Looper** The Snare

Mute

What happened to Looper? I mean, *Up A Tree's* happy-pop, beat-driven appeal was complimented by a playful, fun cover and liner design - *The Snare* practically shrieks "run!" with its creepy red-tinted cover and scratchy, crude-looking font. This bodes well, however, for the latest LP (and first Mute release) from former Belle and Sebastian bassist Stuart David's folktronic project. The album is based on David's novel, *The Peacock Manifesto*; it all starts to make sense.

From the first beat *The Snare* indicates that we'll be taking a detour through the more sinister (that's right) parts of David's headspace. Gone are the funky, gleeful arrangements of bygone days, replaced with a bit more kick, a little more break and a lot more down and dirty grooving. Lush vocals ride a moodysax (a la Morphine) in a recurring theme, while the sentiment expressed lyrically by The Snare ("Driving Myself Crazy," "The Snare," "Good Girls") subverts the obvious cheeriness of today's standard pop.

There's a great sparse, stripped-down element to *The Snare* that owes a little to bands like Morcheeba, etc., but it's still Looper in there at the heart of it, you can hear it in the crispness. Sharp new sound, great new album. -Cowboy Joe Collier

**Archer Prewitt** Three

Thrill Jockey

All hail the soldiers of the new pop revival, and especially Archer Prewitt. The Sea and Cake guitarist's (and former Coctails) third full-length (and first for Thrill Jockey), aptly titled *Three*, resonates with gleeful pop muscle and cements Prewitt's prowess in the solo arena.

Prewitt on *Three* produces, writes and performs, channeling the calmness of a meddle-era Floyd fused with Matthew Sweet circa-*Girlfriend*. Backed again by Mark Greenberg (The Coctails) on bass, Dave Max Crawford (Poi Dog Pondering) on keyboards and brass, Chris Manfrin

(Seam) on drums, Steve Goulding (Graham Parker & The Rumor, Poi Dog Mekons) and string arranger Paul Mertens (Brian Wilson, Poi Dog) on flutes and saxophone, and newly joined by Matt Clark (Joan of Arc) on guitar, Ted Cho (Poi Dog) on guitar et al, Prewitt lightens the mood a bit from *In The Sun and White Sky* this time around. Like any good pop album there's a tendency toward love in the mix, but none of the rocking is sacrificed.

You'd think with such a cast of musicians involved the music might get bogged down in layers, but this doesn't happen. Instead of feeling crowded, the songs on *Three* sound full, a tribute to Chicago's King Size Studios and Greenberg's home studio (where the finishing touches were applied). Throughout, Prewitt's strong vocals and guitar carry their own weight and then some. *Three* is the subtle art of pushing pop through a retro filter and tweaking it with room to spare, fit for consumption in today's digital age. - Cowboy Joe Collier

**Caural** Stars On My Ceiling

Chocolate Industries

I remember Seven pimping Caural (a.k.a. Zachary Mastoon) to me a year and a half ago when the *Paint* EP - which I ended up liking a lot - was about to drop... now the intrepid samplerkind is back with a third offering from his personal sonic landscape, *Stars On My Ceiling*.

I say personal sonic landscape because not only - like any talented artist - does Mastoon create a distinct, smoothly transitional mood across the entire album, but manages to build into every element the suggestion of his particular mindstate at the moment of its inspiration.

Like DJ Shadow and others (like Kruder & Dorfmeister), Caural has the ability to craft music that simultaneously rocks the beat and projects nearly tangible images directly into one's brain while listening. It would be nice to hear some collaboration action from this guy. -Cowboy Joe Collier

**William Steffey** Roadstar

Aquanophone

Borrowing elements from a generalized 80s/Cars (Rick Ocasek) sound with a stage whisper of Depeche Mode, Steffey's *Roadstar* emotes its way through 11 decent cuts, but delivers best with the instrumental "World's Tallest Building." Think Strawberry, but not quite. -Cowboy Joe Collier

**White Collar Crime** Their Laws Are Dimwit Greed

Soft Skull

White Collar Crime's logo is an upraised fist poking through a collared shirt, right on time for a band whose music is steeped in ideological commentary and the rejection of the status quo system.

Like Jonathan Richman and the Modern Lovers and countless others in the DIY punk school of substance over style and/or skill, WCC - while not untalented or musically unskilled by any means - goes not for the slick, typical approach on *Dimwit Greed*; how could they? Sander Hicks (playwright and founder of Soft Skull Press) has a message to get across, and that's the main objective here - "the economy is out of control, the government is a corrupt oligarchy, and the mass media is a pack of followers." Throw in a Woody Guthrie cover and a traditional worker's song, and you have what could be described as the musical sister to our own humble scribbblings. Everyone should listen to this album, and luckily its catchy as hell. -Cowboy Joe Collier

**Windsor For The Derby** The Emotional Rescue

Aesthetics

Seems like the urge to lay back and get mellow has bitten many bands of late - and sometimes whole labels, if you take soon-not-to-be-Chicago's own Aesthetics. Windsor For The Derby's fourth full-length on said low-key label steps right into line, offering moody vocals over lushly spare post-punk/folk arrangements. Thoughtful and vibrant, *The Emotional Rescue* LP is a well-

produced package from design to details, an album to daydream by. -*Cowboy Joe Collier*

**Sweep The Leg Johnny** Going Down Swinging

Southern

"Sweep The Leg Johnny is a rock and roll band that sounds like Sweep The Leg Johnny. For a moment, let's lose the metaphors and comparisons." -Southern Records press. Well, ok, but they do kind of sound like a harder-rockin' Bazooka or Sort of Quartet meets Frank Zappa or King Crimson on a hardcore tour. . . but I'll agree to stop for now.

*Going Down Swinging* is the fourth LP for this band that is, admittedly, one of those bands who do NOT easily fit into a straight category, unless the category is "a bunch of really good players who love music and have listened to a wide range of material in their collective lifetimes who just get together and play whatever sounds about right at the time." Or something like that. *Going Down Swinging* rocks, swings, and all points in between (minus any shoe-gazing, self-reflective lame parts). -*Cowboy Joe Collier*

**Crepusculous** The Clinician

Mathbat

**Membrane Conspiracy** The Myth of the Upstanding Citizen

Hopp

**Tower of Teeth** Vow of leprosy

Mathbat

Mathbat is home to some dark, abstract, experimental music. Sean Hopp and Chris Mann team up for Crepusculous' *The Clinician* ("... rather difficult listening. ..." -*Denizine*) is a non-sequitur collection of abstract noises and samples juxtaposed with equally jarring beats and rhythms - if at all. Interesting, but not for the light listener. Tower of Teeth serve up exactly the type of heavy, distorted post-industrial chunk-rock indicated by their vivid image of destruction in *Vow of Leprosy*. Perhaps the most "mainstream" (and of course I use this term relatively) is Membrane Conspiracy's (Hopp) *Upstanding Citizen*. At times resembling a demented Pop Will Eat Itself but often slipping back into that fathomless goth abstractia that characterizes the Mathbat sound, MC offer the best beats among the three (albeit they're often buried beneath the dirge-like mood that engulfs them) as well as some amusing chants. -*Cowboy Joe Collier*

**Need New Body** FT41

File-13 Records

Philadelphia experimental art-rock outfit Need New Body return with a record duly as whacked as they are - it seemed hard to pull off, but they did it. Keyboards, drums, sax, piano, pots, pans, banjos and various other traditional musical instruments and others not so traditional (or even previously considered) blend to produce a sound reminiscent of a Mr. Bungle on acid cut with crystal meth. The tracks bleed into one another surprisingly well, considering that each is its own little vignette (a half-developed plot concerning a thieving monkey is meant to give some structure to the album), and overall *FT41* is an experiment that gets positive results. -*Cowboy Joe Collier*

**Hu Vibrational** Boonghee Music I

Eastern Developments Music

You know if it's distributed by Hefty it's gonna have a groove in there somewhere. Hu Vibrational, the first artists on Sott Herren's (Prefuse-73, Savath+ Savalas) new label Eastern Developments, is the exciting collaboration between long-recognized hand drummers Adam Rudolph and Hamid Drake.

*Boonghee Music I* does nothing less than establish a new strata of dance music. Utilizing a vast array of percussive instruments like the dusun'goni, sintir, thumb piano, talking drum and many

more, boonghee is rooted in the deep bass resonance of the Udu clay drum of West Africa. The organic, mesmerizing style - stripped-hop mixed with hand drumming and colored by hints and flashes of other percussion - fits in perfectly with the minimalistic groove aspect gaining a devoted following. But boonghee is done without electronics, with drones and other melodic elements produced with harmonium and flute.

Rudolph and Drake, both renowned drummers, have worked with the likes of Pharoah Sanders, Yusef Lateef, Don Cherry, Hassan Hakmoun, Lester Bowie and others. But it was the collaboration with producer Carlos Nino (who named the group after its musical significance; "Hu" being a supreme sound as explained by H.I. Kahn and "vibrational," a word related to vibration but with the added suffix -al, said to be in tune with the divine) that brought the energy of the two men together in such a significant and exciting new way. Watch Eastern Developments to seek out the new vibe. -*Cowboy Joe Collier*

**The National Trust** Dekkagar

Thrill Jockey

Citing influences like Jefferson Starship's "Miracles," David Crosby's "If Only I Could Remember My Name," Curtis Mayfield, Ozark Mountain Daredevils and Pablo Cruise, it's easy to see where National Trust's "magic 70s orgasm afternoon" sound comes from.

Their first full-length for Thrill Jockey, Dekkagar steps back in time to a world carpeted in shag and every sound you hear is dipped in something heavy, viscous and sweet before it reaches your voluntarily relaxed ears. Production on this album is so lavish, one track ("Making Love in the Natural Light") has over 70 tracks - at least 35 of them vocals. The rest follow suit for a richly textured, if sometimes overly dreamy trip.

As National Trust co-founder Neil Rosario quips, "It all goes down better with a little Champagne or Ruinite on ice, whatever you fancy." Or a quaalude. -*Cowboy Joe Collier*

**Via Tania** Dream of... EP

Chocolate Industries

There's more than a little ambience on this release from Tia Vania (Australian native Tania May-Bowers), not surprising from the moody, atmospheric Chocolate Industries. Nods to emotive vocals a la Mazzy Star, Cowboy Junkies, ect., flesh out sparse arrangements broken over even sparser beats and moods. The press boasts VT's "...ability to compose and deconstruct tracks in order to 'see how they work.'" All I really hear is the deconstruction (or is it the reconstructed track after it's been observed 'working'? who knows, it works either way). The EP is produced by the solid hand of Prefuse-73, and includes a remix of the first track, "Universe City," which in its original form channels the Cocteau Twins just a bit too much; the remix is ace, though. -*Cowboy Joe Collier*



## Tactical Consumption

### Alliance Bakery

1736 Division

There is only one other bakery to go to besides Alliance and that is Sweet Thang! on North Ave. Both of these places were established to make you feel good. Share the love of baked goods.

### Andie's Deli

1721 Division

We love Deli's and Polish Deli's have the best meats. The hot polish girls with black hair serve secret cappuccino overloads that are cheaper than the rest of the block. A good ham and cheese sammich is less than 5 bucks. Get one, go to the park and look for a new lover.

### Arrow

1452 West Chicago

Unique and collectible delights gathered by Kim Soss. Featuring sweet furniture household items and totems for modern people.

### Black Beetle

2532 Chicago

On the south west side of the community of the past. Features hearty eatings, great drinkings and an out of the yuppies way kind of ambience.

### Blue Penguin

1922 Division

Recommended tasty sammiches across the street form weekend. Nice colas, nice deli type yummys. We wished they would advertise with us and barter for food.

### Café Laguardia

2109 W. Armitage

MMM Cuban food. This is for the meat eaters as well. Cuban sandwich. Tasty entrees. Expanded to accommodate more people.

### Café de Luca

1721 N. Damen

Mingle with the other once in awhile. And how can you not love the staff? they make de Luca worth the trip.

### Cafeteria de Pancho

2200 N. California

Mmm. Cuban food. Epanadas. A Cuban sandwich. Mmm. Right by the California El stop. Occasionally someone will bring in Krispy Kremes and make you jealous.

### Chicago Diner

3411 N. Halsted

We remember the days when looking for vegan and vegetarian food meant you could only go to Chicago Diner. Although there are more options available, we still go to the Diner for the happy service and odd hard-core vegan posse that we like to look at.

### Crazyman Records

1655 Division

We love Ed despite the miscommunications we had in the past. Record junkies will dig this small shop with weird stuff at ok prices.

### Earwax

1557 N Milwaukee

We lived with half of earwax's staff when they first opened it the good old days. Stil among our favorite places to eat, rent a movie, and bother people for change.

### Edies

1941 Chicago

Chicago Ave.s greatest retrofitted clothing shop has moved to new and more airy digs. Fun stuff. Required stop on shopping spree.

### El Nandu

2731 W. Fullerton

Yes. Empanadas. You will never feel the same. If you eat meat you will ever forget their steak. Lovely middleclass Argentinian place you could bring your mom to.

### Evil Clown

3418 N Halsted

Evil Tom is responsible for the good and advanced taste we at Lumpen have in music. Imports, hot new titles re always in stock and you can listen before you buy.

### Ezuli

1415 N. Milwaukee

I hate to say this but there are few places where whites can hang with blacks and no one gives a shit. Ezuli hangs with the best of us offering tasty food. We suggest the catfish. It turns into hip club at nite.

### Flo

1434 Chicago

I hate to say this but there are few places where whites can hang with blacks and no one gives a shit. Ezuli hangs with the best of us offering tasty food. We suggest the catfish. It turns into hip club at nite.

### Flying Saucer

1123 N. California

We used to eat here every other day when we had a job and made money. Always a favorite. Features the best veggie burger anywhere, ever.

### Gramophone Music

2665 N. Clark

All the legendary and up and coming djs shop here after or before the go to Hi Fi.

### Hi Fi

2570 N Clark

We think these guys are a bunch of fucking jag-offs, but they carry the best in the hip hop dustys, r and b and used cds anywhere in Chicago. Handsome single men are awaiting gestures of dinner dates from single women at Hi Fi. And we were kidding about them being jag-offs. Only Joe is a jag-off everyone else is great.

### Intelligensia

3123 N. Broadway

If we could only tell you the secrets of coffee brewing an the international coffee markets we have learned for the expert cholos at intelligensia. These cats understand how to make it right, why to do it right and how to support the cultural revolution through jacking your nervous system with the bean.

### Irazu

1865 N. Milwaukee

The best vegetarian burrito. The best family run central american food emporium. Been going there since we were kids.

### Jinx

1926 Division

Thank the Gods Sam and friends reopened this legendary coffee shop. Or better yet thank them by getting a cup of joe here in the morning. Fulfilling its subcultural function as one of the last few outkast and artists coffee shops in the city, Jinx has an important role in this years Summer of Love. You want to meet new boys an girls. Hang out on the stoop.

### Lenny & Me

1463 N. Milwaukee

More of what you want in the mixed fashion clothes and accessories department. Wicker park is looking more an more like the Lower east Side circa early 90s with all these funky resale and consignment shops.

### Leo's Lunch Room

18\_\_ W Division St.

Such a wonderful daily menu. Such a lovely staff. Fantastic music fills you ears while the odors of fine cooking make you forget we are living in the Age of Terror sponsored by the Lunatic paranoid family Bush.

### Lilly Vallente

1746 Division

Did you ever want to feel sexy? Have you figured out that fashion is made by independent minds and a bit of recycling of your past? Lilly presents the total sensory second hand with a twist of remodeled clothing action. Boys and girls will find themselves in good company. Tell Lisa we said hi.

### Lula Café

2537 N. Kedzie

Remodeled. Expanded. Still tasty, still worth the hike to Logan Square. Unless you live there and go there everyday already.

### Margies Candies

SE corner of Western and Armitage

You will never be satisfied. You will wait for a table. You will wonder who ever made those stuffed toys. What is behind that door? You hope this place never closes..

### Myopic Books

1468 N. Milwaukee

This is the only used bookstore for Lumpens. Myopic is the reason why this secret family magazine started again in Chicago. Myopic is the cortex for all our summer subversion. Ideas and authors are waiting to be discovered. And yet another fine staff of beautiful people run this exceptional store.

### The New World Resource Center

2600 W. Fullerton

When we talk about radical education and community action we talk about the NWRC. They do things we are incapable of dedicating our time to. You want to volunteer your services to better society? Check it out.

### 99th Floor

3406 N. Halsted

Shoes. Shoes are always hard to find yet over the years we have found them here.

### Noir

1726 Division (Women's)

1740 Division (Men's)

Immediate. Fashion. Overload. Here is where all your immediate fashion decisions are made. The new things, the playful after dark jaunts dancing to Love and Rockets on a hot summer night type of things are found here to wear. Mid priced fashion for the high minded party girl and boy.

### Northside

1635 N. Damen

Ahh yeah, still the best place for out door eating in the garden. Visit on the week days when the neighborhood is not so full of tourists.

### Orange Skin

1429 N. Milwaukee

We want everything in this store for our spaceship. If we had real jobs we would buy the hot Italian furniture that no one else has in the city. If you are looking for something fucking amazing and pricy for your pad, stop by and drool.

### Pizza Metro

1707 Division

We freaked out when they first opened. By now you must have experienced the word of mouth eating sensation of Pizza Metro. The boys that run this place give Division St. the added flair and excitement that late night Chicago needs. A mast stop.

### Privata Café

1936 Chicago

Wonderful food for good people. Gourmet cooking for the slacker class. Mario rocks our work making delicious and tasty meals priced right.

### Quimby's

1854 N. North Avenue

If you make a zine or a comic book and its not in Quimby's you're nobody. This is the Central Command Center for the New Cultural Revolution all the kids in Chicago are talking about. Quimby's has the best zines and comics in Chicago. The staff is our family and they bring in all the best underground authors poets and writers.

### Reckless Records

1532 N. Milwaukee

The hegemonic forces of music culture are spread through the halls of Reckless. How much we brand ourselves to the music we listen to is determined by these wizened souls that sometime kill each other for that used copy of X or the import only version of Y. Reckless is another well-staffed and friendly place of the sweet people. Many of the staff are front line footsoldiers in Operation Summer of Love. Respect.

### RR#1

814 Ashland

We found gifts for bridesmaids, children of rock stars, homeopathic sprits rubs and soaps. Girls will prefer the selection.

### Softcore

1420 N. Milwaukee

When you wished you had a bit of New York City fashion and taste you should stop by Softcore. They have gone through much pangs to bring the goods stuff to chill.

### Square One

1561 N. Milwaukee

S1 is here for you to feel good and treat your mind to some good sounds, tasty yummy smoothies, and healthy living.

### Stop Look

1307 Western

Celio, the owner of Stop and Look, has an eye and knack for getting the best found objects and art in the city. I got a Close Encounters of the Third Kind Postcard book with 32 postcards for \$4. Most of the art is insane, autistic outsider like, and worth the look. So stop in.

### Sultan's Market

Corner of North Ave. and Hoyne

You should already know about the wonderful fallafels. Although not the best in Chicago they are the best you'll get south of Armitage Avenue. Coming soon is Shwarma!! These guys stuck it out long enough to deserve your hard earned dosh, so give it to them .

### Supreme

1459 N. Milwaukee

This is hybrid fashion/ music/ turntable/ gallery space emporium that is recombining the best of street and dance culture. Revisit the new mini-shop and listen to the latest Chicago Sound.

### Sweet Thang

North Ave.

We mentioned how important baked goods are didn't we? There is a secret backroom smoking section. Edmar got his wedding cake here. It was delicious.

### Thai Lagoon

2322 North Avenue

Event though there are five thousand Thai restaurants in the West Town community, Thai Lagoon is still our favorite Thai food place in Chicago. Beats anything around. Do a taste test. They also hang great art and play the latest new music..

### The Guild Complex/Chopin Theatre

1543 W. Division

This place is being marketed and programmed successfully lately. Finally. By some cool The cafe next to the theatre is a good lil joint .

### Uprise

1357 N. Milwaukee

A center and shop dedicated to the street art of skateboarding. If the kids did not have Uprise they would be lost to the monoculture of McDonalds and Best Buy, incapable of identifying corporate from indy. The outkast street art graffiti mad skate freaks and hustlers have a true Chicago representative. An authentic genuine urban arts society. We love Uprise.

### Una Mae's Freak Boutique

2322 N. Milwaukee

There are beautiful women and then there are Una Mae's women. Are you looking for the best shopping for personal fashion enhancement environment? These ladies can help you. But don't think they want you. Indy fashion, old skool threads and sexy momas and papas are making it work. What more can you do to foment love? Visit Una Mae's and feel the power of being redressed.

### Uncle Fun

1338 Belmont

If this is indeed the Summer of Love then we all need to supply ourselves with the latest technology of Fun. The assortment of good toys and weird artefacts are to make your summertime party the hit of the season. If it were a perfect world we would stop by and visit Uncle Fun every week and thank him for the joy he spreads to so many people's pathetic lives. We love Uncle Fun. If you haven't been here yet, you should be ashamed of yourself.

### Untitled

2705 Clark Street

Untitled is about vision. Before anyone knew there was an underground fashion and dance movement or scene Untitled was there to service and support it. Continually on the edge of trends and pushing home grown designers as well. Untitled should be the only place to shop if you are seeking what is happening now or what will be in the future. They also have racks and racks of discounted hipster dance hip hop secret cholo clothes for all you half-timers like us.

### Weekend Records and Soap

1919 Division

These cats are tactical cultural revolutionaries that provide the editing service so many of us need in our record and cd collection. Don't know what is happening now? Go to Weekend. Need some advice for the hot parties. Go to Weekend. Official sponsors of Operation Summer of Love.

