

The Midnight Sun

Light on the Darkness

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The Straight Skinny

By Joe Greene

As if government thugs weren't bad enough, now we have to worry about government monsters too.

I'm talking about nanotech, friends. It's more than just the annoying business buzzword of the month, it's real, and it's really scary.

Egghead types and government stooges will tell you that nanotech is the greatest thing since our protozoan ancestors decided sex was more fun than fission. Me, I think it's the most frightening technology since the H-bomb. No, it's the most frightening technology ever!

Oh sure it has its uses. Now, instead of keeping a whole socket set, I have a tool that can fit itself to the head of any bolt or screw. Nifty.

What scares me, though, is the thought of what nanotech can do to a human being. Oh, it's coming ... the dawn of the "nano-augmented" government thug. If you're like me, you get a little queasy every time you have to pass by one of those "mechs." They have all that chrome where they should have skin, and if you get close enough you can hear the little motors inside humming away. They always smell faintly of motor oil. Worst of all, of course,

is that you know that they could pick you up in one hand and tear your legs off with the other, just as easy as you unwrap a candy bar, if only they wanted to.

Nasty as it is, all that chrome and plastic at least means that you can spot a mech coming. When the nano-agent arrives he'll be able to peel the most powerful mech like a banana and—here's the scary part—he'll look just like you or me.

Imagine some perfectly normal-looking guy, only he's got a 15-foot vertical jump, and he can lift almost a ton, and he's got skin that bullets bounce off of (or if they don't, the little nano-bugs in his system can repair any damage almost as soon as it occurs). Worst of all, his body and soul are literally bought and paid for by your Friends in Government.

This is, of course, the tyrant's dream and the free man's worst nightmare. The coming of the nano-agent is going to mean nothing short of the end of any hope of civil disobedience in this country. Hell, it'll probably mean the end of this country as well, because—as good old Dr. Frankenstein discovered—when you create something that powerful, it's eventually going to want to get you out of the way and take whatever you have for itself.

UN Gets Serious With Frenchies

From Wire Reports

Paris. The United Nations today announced a "major partnership" with the French government to locate and eradicate international terrorist organizations headquartered in France.

The plan will involve immediate phase-out of UNATCO forces already engaged in anti-terrorist activity, to be replaced with a new, more militaristic UN presence. The joint UN/French announcement called

the new force "a completely new concept in national security, the most efficient anti-terrorist unit ever trained, with equipment that goes to the state of the art and beyond."

The announcement singled out the anarchist/terrorist organization Silhouette as the first and most important target of the new operation. In the U.S., Silhouette is best known for claiming credit for the bombing of the Statue of Liberty.

Secret Govt. Gulag

FEMA TO DETAIN SIX MILLION AMERICANS

From Midnight Sun staff reports

FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has a top-secret plan to detain and quarantine as many as six million Americans at secret "Detention Centers." Top-secret government documents received by the Midnight Sun from high-placed sources reveal the existence of the plan, codenamed "RX 84."

According to the documents, the RX 84 plan provides for the "apprehension and detention of citizens deemed to be dangerous to the continuance of public order." The documents do not give the locations of the camps where detainees are to be taken, but they do reveal that there are at least 11 sites worldwide, with a total capacity of up to 6 million in all camps combined.

The plan kicks in in the event of an "emergency," which the documents define as "invasion, concerted military strike, civil disruption, natural disaster, pandemic or other condition deemed an imminent threat to the safety and stability of the country." Once an emergency

is declared by FEMA, the police and National Guard are to be mobilized to conduct sweeps through designated areas, rounding up the citizens under the guise of sending them to "aid shelters." The detained citizens will then be loaded on trucks and trains commandeered from civilian industry, and transported to the Detention Centers. Once at the centers, the detainees would be screened. Those deemed a threat to public security would be imprisoned, and the rest released to return home.

The Midnight Sun turned the documents over to respected Libertarian author and activist Sander Benedict for his review and analysis. In an exclusive interview, Benedict told the Sun that rumors of RX 84 had been circulating for years, but he had never before seen the plan so well documented. Benedict said he believed the documents were authentic, not counterfeits or hoaxes.

"The particularly disturbing aspect to this plan, even above the arbitrary arrest and imprisonment of thousands or millions of citizens without charge or trial,"

Benedict said, "is that FEMA, specifically FEMA director Walton Simons, apparently has the power to initiate the decision unilaterally, without the authorization of any of the three branches of government."

Benedict pointed out an allusion to the "Fawkes option," in the documents. Although the term was not defined, Benedict said "we—that is, those of us concerned about government tyranny—have heard rumors of this plan for years. It's believed that the Fawkes option involves the apprehension and imprisonment of any members of Congress, the Supreme Court, the administration and even the President himself, should FEMA come to believe them a hindrance to their plans."

Benedict says that his sources indicate that the plan "encompasses mainly politically active racial and religious, as well as students and intellectuals. Of course dissidents, social misfits and those the government considers "troublemakers" will be specifically targeted as well."

Chinese Gang War

And You Thought We Had it Tough...

From Wire Reports

Hong Kong. A major gang war has erupted in Hong Kong between the traditional organized crime gangs, or "Triads," of the city. Although the Chinese government officially denies it, representatives of the international press report that the so-called Luminous Path Triad, and its rival, the Red Arrow Triad, are engaged in a war for possession of the city center. Assassinations, bombings and terrorist acts are said to be at an all-time high.

The Triads are the traditional organizations of Chinese organized crime. Some Triads have histories of violence going back almost 2000 years.

According to reports, the main victims of this gang war have been the small businessmen and entrepreneurs of Hong Kong. These merchants have long paid "protection" to one Triad or the other. However because of the war, a merchant who is affiliated with one Triad now faces sabotage and harassment from the other. Furthermore, "protection" fees are going

up, as the Triads seek funds to counter their losses from the conflict.

So far, the international conglomerates that compose the core of Hong Kong's economy seem largely untouched by the violence. Informed sources say that government interference in the Triad war is unlikely as long as the international corporations and government agencies remain outside the conflict.

In recent weeks, Hong Kong civic authorities have stepped up the police presence in the streets. However, the police are believed to be largely in the employ of the Triads. While the police will sometimes take action to protect tourists and foreign businessmen, they do nothing to interfere between the Triads and ordinary citizens.

Last year, Hong Kong installed acoustic sensors in the inner city, designed to detect gunfire and alert police of any armed disturbance. In response, the Triads have largely turned to more ritualistic but equally bloody forms of traditional combat, including sword fighting and martial arts. Rumor has it that both Triads are funding major research operations to create high-tech hand-to-hand weapons immune to the acoustic sensors.



What Is It?

"California Dino" Seen by Dozens

Dozens in rural California have reported catching glimpses of a mysterious "dinosaur" or "bear-lizard" creature. Sightings range from Big Sur to Mt. Shasta. The image above—snapped by 15-year-old hiker Lacey Gonzales in a park just outside of Carmel—is the only known photographic image of the shy creature.

Are We Really Secure?

A refurbished security bot took out Uranus and Neptune at the Hayden Planetarium in New York City last night. No one was hurt, but significant damage was done to exhibits and building infrastructure. No official statements as to cause of the attack. Authorities have stated that although investigations continue, they believe a malfunction may be behind the bot's behavior, rather than an actual break-in attempt or other external trigger. All tours are suspended until planets can be recreated. For the entire story, turn to **Bot Insecurity**, page G9.

NATIONAL FORECAST

High particulate masses on East and West coast, visibility index 15%.

Plague Index:

New York City	80%	Chicago	65%
Los Angeles	70%	Houston	55%
Seattle	50%		

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Anti-UN organizations were quick to denounce the initiative. Writing from exile in the Caribbean, the French nationalist dissident known only as Merovech said in a release to the world's press, "This is nothing more than the final phase of the U.N.'s ongoing efforts to supplant the Sovereign government of France. France is once more occupied by the forces of international fascism."

Merovech also called Silhouette a "peaceful organization of dissident intellectuals," and blamed the "UN and the government of the United States" for the statue bombing.

Gray Death Spreads to Rural Communities

From Wire Reports

Atlanta. The Gray Death epidemic is spreading rapidly into rural communities, according to a bulletin from the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta. Until now, the plague has been localized in major urban areas, and there was some hope that a large population concentration was required in order for the disease to spread.

The report states that rural infections now stand at 8.7 percent of area population, up from 2.4 percent six months ago. In urban centers, the infection rate has risen from 22.4% to 28.6% in the last six months. In all regions, the plague carries a fatality rate of 93% within the first 100 days of infection.

The CDC bulletin stated that no breakthroughs have occurred in the search for the plague's origin, vectors or cure, but that government research programs continue.

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