

NO
THINKING
ANY TIME



COONS
piracy



THE

GX-FILES



INTRIGUE & SELF-LOATHING IN THE GRAPHIC ARTS

BY JOSÉ CHUNG

TRUST NO ONE.

TAKE NOTHING FOR GRANTED.

*IF YOUR MOTHER SAYS IT'S TIME FOR
DINNER, DON'T BELIEVE HER. IT'S PROBABLY
JUST A WELL-CRAFTED RUSE TO LULL YOU
INTO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY.*

*SHED ALL YOUR SO-CALLED FRIENDS. STRIKE OUT ALONE.
CHANGE YOUR NAME TO FOX. START WEARING BLACK.*

*PUT MASKING TAPE ON YOUR WINDOW AND WAIT FOR
MYSTERIOUS PEOPLE TO SHOW UP AND TELL YOU THINGS
THAT YOU WON'T BELIEVE ANYWAY.*

NOW, YOU'RE READY FOR LIFE IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM...

SCIENCE FICTION AUTHOR WILLIAM GIBSON RECENTLY STATED that conspiracy theory is the new religion — and there's much to support his claim. Religion and conspiracy theory share similar traits. They both require a belief on the part of the populace. This, in turn, must be founded in great measure upon faith, for little or no empirical evidence exists.

The most sacred “truths” are guarded by men (and it is almost always men, not women) about whose daily lives precious little is known. The written records of the “faith” are disguised in foreign languages or, at bare minimum, 128-bit RSA encryption.

In a recent GX-FILES poll, nearly 90% of those queried believe that intelligent extraterrestrial life *does* exist. Almost two thirds believe that some form of EBE (extraterrestrial biological entity) has visited Earth at some time in the past. Of those that hold this belief, one-quarter feel sure that some of these beings are here, right now.

The greatest common denominator amongst all respondents? Almost all (97%) believe that the government knows more about this subject than they are willing to share with the public. If you add up the numbers, apparently more than 7% of people believe that the government is hiding proof that there is no extraterrestrial life.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A CONSPIRACY?

On behalf of the shadowy men who rule this shadowy planet, it must be said that not all conspiracies are malevolent. Indeed, many secrets are kept to ensure the privacy of the individuals that inhabit Earth. Many “conspiracies” are simply conventions that allow dialogue to take place between people of different origins. To the uninitiated, these schemes may seem sinister, but let's examine a very mundane example.

When you send an electronic document to someone far away, the most efficient process may involve a modem and some sort of compression routine to reduce the size of the file and thus the transmission time.

Anyone receiving this file without the proper decompression algorithm would be staring at a pile of gibberish on his

screen. Most people would not jump to the conclusion that there is a conspiracy afoot since there is a generally recognized need for such mechanisms in an electronic world.

Or take the example of the ordinary household mirror. Everyone would agree that the image in the mirror is flipped left-to-right. But, how many would realize that the image is also flipped up-to-down, and only appears right-side-up due to a compensation that takes place in our brains?

This everyday unconscious convention, due to the development of our perception within the construct of a bilaterally symmetrical organism, would be foreign to any life form that had evolved in zero gravity where the natural symmetry would likely be concentric.

This is not to say that all conspiracies are benign, nor are all theories about them unfounded. In this rapidly evolving world, there are thousands of power struggles under way in every corner of the globe. The vast majority of these tournaments revolve around the socio-economic shift to a corporate-based hierarchy. Why else do you think that the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is playing such a heavy hand with Microsoft?

At its current rate of growth, within thirty years Microsoft will be more influential than any government in the world.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE?

At the end of his term as President of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower exclaimed that we should keep a close watch on the military-industrial complex. He realized that the political spotlight was shifting away from state-focused activities to events that were occurring on the corporate stage.

In one of the top-rated episodes of the X-FILES, special agent Fox Mulder refused to cooperate with a science fiction author because his publishing house was inculcated in the new “military-industrial-entertainment complex”. The

allusion to Eisenhower's speech probably got a good chuckle from

Coke Chokes on Chinese “Joke”

Is there any truth to the rumour that the Chinese government accepted a large licensing fee from Coca-Cola in the 1970s in exchange for allowing the sale of its product in that Asian state, and then sandbagged the entire venture — and kept the money? It is purported that the communist government supplied marketing consultants and translators as a “helpful” gesture. When translated, the legacy Coke promo line, “the pause that refreshes” turned into... “your dead ancestors will come to visit you”.

Cybernauts Going Cyber-Nuts?

This past June, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) held its Annual Meeting in Toronto this year. Near the top of its agenda? Neuroses caused by intensive internet use, particularly when that time is spent in cyber-chat areas.

People often tend to strike up alliances with others while engaged in chat activities and often experience feelings of rejection or betrayal when their "cyber-buddies" move on to pursue other conversations. In the most extreme cases this can lead to suicide, or even murder.

those in the know, but was there more to it than that? Have the new power brokers, vested with multinational corporate credentials, already seized control of our minds and our wallets?

Sure, you can laugh now.

But Hollywood is already testing the population to gauge general acceptance levels for the occurrence of an ELE (Extinction Level Event). Just check out this summer's feature film roster: DEEP IMPACT (Earth gets slammed by comet), ARMAGEDDON (Earth gets slammed by asteroid), GODZILLA (Earth gets slammed by lizard which, in turn, gets slammed by critics). Or, past years' big winners: GHOSTBUSTERS (Earth gets slimed by protoplasmic ghosts), OUTBREAK (Earth gets slimed by virus — a theme repeated in the new X-FILES movie and season finale of MILLENNIUM), MEN IN BLACK (Earth gets slimed by aliens), INDEPENDENCE DAY (ditto).

Wake up and smell the skinny mocha latte, people!

A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL

The fight for control of the universe is on, and it all starts at your desktop. We've all come to expect that the next generation of computers will be faster — and smaller.

In fact, if one projects the miniaturization trend of the last forty years, it could be expected that supercomputers in the year 2020 will be no bigger than a speck of dust. If you think that maintaining privacy is hard today, wait until the water supply is contaminated by billions of supercomputers programmed to latch onto specific neural synapses in your brain.

Too far-fetched? Think again. The nano-computers of tomorrow will be composed of biological material — because that's the only way that they can be made to work at a molecular level.

REALLY FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY

According to American Computer Corporation (ACC), this whole phenomenon can be traced back to the alleged crash of an alien spacecraft near Roswell, New Mexico in June, 1947. In the articles contained on their website (accpc.com/roswell.htm), ACC contends that Bell Labs (now operating as a division of Lucent Technologies) reverse-engineered the world's first transistor from alien technology. The "switching-resistor" was the single greatest leap forward in the history of computer design because it combined two distinct functions and cleared the way for future integrated circuits.

One of the most interesting notes available on the subject indicates that Bell Labs (operating as a wholly-owned subsidiary of AT&T working on a variety of U.S. Department of Defence contracts) demonstrated little knowledge of the product which they sought to patent — to the extent that they incorrectly identified the

material of which it was composed. The original Patent Office documents show that AT&T claimed the circuit was made of germanium, which does

North vs. South

Ever wonder why most industrialized countries are located North of the equator? It's simple logistics. People living in the southern hemisphere can't get over the fact that they are living upside-down.

Sounds silly? Not so! Take a compass for example; the needle always points North. Furthermore, have you ever seen a world globe with Antarctica on top? It's just another case of the subtle, yet effective, brain war being waged by the northern industrial powers against their southern neighbours.

Australia is one of the only countries resistant to this tactic, since they have made it a matter of pride to be from "down under".

not possess the characteristics required to produce a "switching-resistance" effect.

The actual formulation was the far more esoteric combination of arsenic-tainted silicon. AT&T now states that this was to protect the "invention" from espionage.

EVOLUTION OF THE CORPORATE STATE

Not too many years ago, the most powerful executives in corporate hierarchies were financial officers because fiscal comprehension was the key requirement.

Today, people with a high Technical Quotient (TQ) control the highest offices in the corporate domain. In other words, yesterday's geeks are today's CEOs. You only have to look at Bill Gates to realize this fundamental truth.

So, how does all this affect the average person in the graphic arts?

More than you might think. People involved in graphic communications are knowledge workers. They have a highly evolved technical skill set. These days, they use computers for

most of their work. Frequently, they are charged with the responsibility of handling sensitive commercial and government work for eventual print or electronic publishing. They are among the greatest users of the Internet, often downloading application updates and other sundry files and utilities. They are not highly security conscious.

Aside from installing the odd virus-detection software package and perhaps passwording their systems, they take few pains to nail down potential access points or holes in their systems. One breach could mean ruin for a marketing campaign, an entire company — possibly a nation. Too dramatic?

Don't bet your CPU against it.

Losses due to industrial espionage and sabotage are thought to be in the billions of dollars (US) every year — and the problem is growing.

CACHE A COLD, FEED A VIRUS...

The computer virus is thought of mainly as a random form of sabotage inflicted on the computing population by nerdy hackers with nothing better to do. The general consensus is that these people should strive to obtain lives outside of their parents' basements.

However, there is a new kind of virus that does more than disrupt your hard disk. These viral "agents" rarely let their presence become known. They destroy no data. They merely sit and wait for specific keystrokes to be entered and record the essential data they were designed to find. Often masking their actions as core system functions, they wait for the next Internet connection so that they can relay the recorded data to a pre-designated site for storage.

These "agents" can be used to check the validity of serial numbers on applications, assemble profiles on the user, or probe weaknesses in system security for future reference. These are viruses which will rarely be detected by anti-virus software because they cause no ill effects. In fact, some of these viruses will even repair other system problems in order to limit the need for extensive diagnostics — which may expose them.

Cookies are but an annoyance compared to this new generation of sinister bugs.

All this time, while you thought that you were surfing the Net, it was really surfing you.

In a takeoff on the old adage, "Be careful what you wish for, you might get it," the Internet has turned this into, "Be careful what you search for, They might find you."

They want to know what kinds of cars you like; how much porn you consume weekly; where you would like to go on vacation; how often you frequent subversive sites and political chat rooms.

PPP = PRETTY POOR PRIVACY

Everyone probably wonders at one time or another if there's a "file" somewhere with their name on it. How

many files, and in how many databases, would likely be closer to the truth.

You might as well get used to the fact that there is no such thing as absolute security. There never was. There probably never will be. Everything in the world is knowable, and all someone needs is the right combination of keystrokes to get there.

But rest assured — no one knows

all the keystroke combinations. Not yet. Well, Bill might, but he ain't talkin'.

Intellectual Smoke Screen

Is it any wonder that governments are trying to outlaw tobacco smoking? Not when you consider that many of the great philosophers, scientists and military strategists were smokers.

MS VS. DOJ - WHO WINS?

One has to wonder whether the DOJ would be spending this much time raking Microsoft over the coals if there was no Netscape Communications. For the most part, all the pressure from the DOJ and the Attorney General's Office is predicated upon the claim that Microsoft is using unfair trade practices against the competition by virtue of its monopolistic position as the world's predominant supplier of OS software.

So, is the U.S. government protecting Netscape — or using it as an excuse to engineer the breakup of Microsoft?

A conspiratorial case could be made either way. If the government is protecting Netscape, is it (as some claim) because the CIA has a back door key for Netscape's commercial RSA-encryption-based server?

Or, if the government is using Netscape as an excuse, is it out of some world-state instinct for self-preservation?

In either case, how effective will a blockade of Windows 98 actually be?

Doesn't the U.S. government know that Windows 98 is only a stop-gap OS release? Has it no idea that Bill will soon be selling Mac OS X (Apple's Operating System 10) as the largest licensee of this new primary operating system? At that point, there can be no case for the DOJ since there will be no OS monopoly in the Microsoft house — only a shrewd licensing deal

Computerized Contagion

Isn't it odd that the newest and most dangerous Macintosh virus in years, Autostart 9805, arrived coincidentally with the announcement that Apple's QuickTime 3.0 will be the de facto standard for multimedia video streaming?

The virus takes advantage of QT's AutoPlay function to launch itself onto all available disk systems, including those of mounted network drives.

with Apple to include *Explorer* (and only *Explorer*) as the bundled Internet browser.

How can they have missed the cues? Bill has stated on several occasions that Microsoft's main focus is to become dominant in providing content creation tools. Bill agreed to simultaneous releases for all software on IBM-compatible and Macintosh platforms. Bill has bought stock in Apple — and will be buying more. Apple has moved MacOS from its Claris division (now called FileMaker Products) directly into Apple. Mac OS X can be compiled for both Intel and Motorola chip sets. Motorola has licensed the PowerPC architecture to IBM, which will be releasing a 1.12 gigahertz PPC chip this fall, with faster releases to follow in relatively short order.

So, if the U.S. government really knew everything, they wouldn't be wasting their time.

ONLY IN CANADA, YOU SAY?

The Canadian government is no better. They actually think we don't suspect that the RCMP, our national police force, was sold to Disney. They expect us to believe that we only sold them the marketing rights because they're doing a remake of DUDLEY DORIGHT. Ha! Whoever said that the RCMP was a Mickey Mouse operation must have had some early inside information.

IN OTHER TAKEOVER NEWS...

It's rumoured that Kodak/Polychrome will either be buying 3M's Imation division or Imation's Luminous division in an effort to get back into digital imaging. Having just about recovered from its forays into Prophecy and consumer PhotoCD, Kodak is whetting its appetite for another attempt at biting off more than it can chew.

Subsequent to that manoeuvre, however, it will be found that even a Kodak Moment goes better with Coke, as the soft drink giant slurps up the whole conglomerate. Following an announcement of lower than expected profits for the last quarter, which allowed 3M an opportunity to buy back some of its own shares, the company will make great gains in reselling those shares after the completion of the Kodak deal. Then, cash-rich 3M will buy SONY, a scenario made possible by the depreciated value of the

Tit for Tat

Inside sources claim that US Senator Sorey Bono, who died when he hit a tree while skiing, was actually killed in retaliation for the death of Michael Kennedy, who died when he hit a tree while skiing. Bono's body was found several hours after his death, indicating that there were no witnesses to the fatal event.

Kennedy died while skiing with family. However, no autopsy was conducted because the cause of death seemed so obvious. An "unofficial" examination of the body is said to have revealed a tiny puncture wound in the upper thigh, which could have been caused by a dart.

Sources indicate that Michael's uncle, Senator Ted Kennedy, was being offered the running-mate position on the Al Gore Presidential ticket and was seriously considering the opportunity. It is speculated that Kennedy was "warned" not to accept the nomination or serious consequences would result.

The Senator is now said to be unavailable to pair with Gore for the election race. Don't the First Lady just say something about a V-A-S-T right-wing conspiracy?

Japanese yen and part of a concession to the IMF (International Monetary Fund) to increase foreign holdings in Japanese companies to 25% by the end of the century.

Microsoft will make so much money reselling the Mac OS — and not having to support its own Windows efforts — that it will purchase NBC as a vehicle for its WebTV offerings. This will include home-schooling, home-shopping and viewer-customizable news and weather divisions. You'll be able to filter out all references to El Niño — unless you subscribe to the Conspiracy Channel, where you'll get a complete cross-referenced digest of all abnormal weather phenomena that coincide with NASA shuttle missions.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, pending the collapse of the DOJ case against Microsoft and the termination of the Attorney General's investigation, will sell off its secretly-held controlling interest in Netscape. It will cease Operation Tunnel Vision, the main goal of which has been to burrow into the computers of all U.S. citizens and foreign nationals living in the United States.

The USDI will use the resulting funds to buy up as many remaining ISPs (Internet Service Providers) as are available at that time.

Their new task, Operation DB2000, will endeavour to spread the computing burden of cataloguing all residents by breakfast-cereal-buying-habits and eye color across as many CPUs as possible. This will not affect the USDI's ongoing Operation Jitters, which involves the modulation of computer displays to send mind-altering images via subliminal high-energy spikes to particular Internet users. This means continuing bad news for epilepsy sufferers, but welcome relief for IRC chataholics, as some monies will be funneled into American Psychiatric Association coffers to battle Internet-related bi-polar personality research. Additional funding will also be earmarked for YY chromosome surfers, to be administered by the folks at www.mk-ultra.com.

CHEER UP!

Things aren't as bleak as they seem. Despite everyone's apparent connivance, there is good news on the horizon.

For the last forty years, we have been laying the groundwork for an awesome neural net, and within the next 25 years, a spontaneous event will occur that will catch everyone by surprise.

The Earth will achieve self-consciousness. There will be no more secrets. There will be no more lies. No more deception. Everyone will feel that they "belong". Some will call it Utopia. Others, Shangri-La. Many will call it Heaven.

However, until that time comes, you must trust no one — especially your mother.

Believe nothing — not even what you read. *

JOSÉ CHUNG HAS LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS ON PLUTO, MARS AND NEPTUNE.