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Bern Porter

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George W. Bush Scorecard of Evil

President Bush took a sharp right turn in policy soon after his inauguration, surprising heard a carefully crafted message of moderate governance during the campaign. He’s strange battles early in his administration, prompting an outcry from everyone ranging Democrats to moderate Republicans. It's getting harder every day to remember all of mystifying policies the Bush administration is pursuing, so the Wage Slave Journal off to help you keep track of all of the evil deeds Bush commits and, more important, to for your perusal when November 2004 rolls around. Be sure to bookmark this page; we'll need to update it often. And if we miss some dastardly deed, email us to tell us overlooked.

28 February 2002
Bern Porter: Colby College
Class of 1932

Bern Porter, a physicist who worked on the Manhattan Project and went on to a career as poet and artist, is one of Belfast, Maine "colorful characters," according to a Bangor Daily News feature last January. When he moved to Belfast in 1972, Porter brought along the Institute for Advanced Thinking, "a think tank" for the avant-garde. "My major focus," he said, "is to carry on some of the principles of fusing physics with poetry and humanity."

The Porter Collection

The Porter Collection of Contemporary Letters

The Porter Collection of Contemporary Letters is a gift of Bern Porter (Colby Class of 1932). It contains over 1500 volumes of periodicals and books, including many printed by British and American avant-garde presses, and focuses especially on experimental writers. The collection also serves as a repository for works by Porter himself, along with his correspondence with Maine authors and poets.

The Collection

Beat Poets
Individual Presses
Letters

Stamp/Mail Art
Black Sparrow Press

http://www.colby.edu/library/collections/special1/porter.html
ROGER JACKSON, PUBLISHER COLLECTION

Roger Jackson, a fine small press publisher in Ann Arbor, Michigan, began editing and publishing books in 1993, as an extension of his interest in collecting materials by and about Henry Miller. His primary focus as a publisher has been on the works and life of Miller, and he has published bibliographies, studies, memoirs, fiction, correspondence, artwork, ephemera, and other materials by and about Miller and his friends and associates. This includes much material published for the first time.

Other authors Jackson has published include Anais Nin, Bern Porter, Jack Saunders, Natasha Bernstein, Suzy Crowbar, and others. Of especial note is the great number of unique materials by Bern Porter.

This nearly complete collection of Jackson's output was acquired by OSU Libraries in 2001. Some out-of-print titles are present in photocopied form. Publications are arranged by year in numbered boxes.

John M. Bennett
January 2002

Bern Porter Institute
Fellow of Unnatural Sciences
NICK HERBERT

PUBLICATIONS (Partial)

- Quantum Reality: Beyond the New Physics/ Doubleday 1985
- Faster Than Light: Superluminal Loopholes in Physics/Dutton
- Elemental Mind: Human Consciousness & the New Physics/
- Alice Zwischen Den Welten (with Bill Shanley)/ DVA 1999
- Physics on All Fours/Sea Creature Press 2000
Chac Prostibulario

Ivan Argüelles & John M. Bennett
CHAC POSTIBULARIO ist ein ootwageous cuncocktioun ov linguadge in un estado ov tootal dis-schewelmento y abandonmento, un byte loik der grayte Saynt John Lennon's immurtal "A Spaniard in the Works," et aussi un byte loik le grand Saynt James Joyce's woiks, but a lot mo' apokaliptik! Loines sech az "suerte de hermicranio, indeed, suckers bloom phaster in pfister hose" cunvince der reeder that
die zwei Autoren ov dis ouvrage desurf to be hired to rekord saym, in its entoiredad, for der Nashunal Pubick Raydio, to be brodkasted in small porshuns every matins at foive dreissig ante meridiam. Durn on, dune in, dip in und oot — in die würds ov die auteurs, be "x-ed outta proporci6n bust- / ier with pasties flizzled to semble garters burning, jeezus arroz con 'poyo"! Nut recommendiert fuer reeders undah or ovah (fyll in der blank).

—Anselm Hollo

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An Article

Arianna Huffington
14 March 2002
from Working for Change / Alternet

Just the Latest US Military Crime Against the People

It's the biggest comeback of the millennium to date: nuclear weapons. Only this isn't your parents' nuclear winter. It's a whole new one, as is made clear in a classified Pentagon report leaked last week detailing the Bush administration's willingness to significantly lower the threshold for going nuclear.

Apparently the bar has now been set at "in the event of surprising military developments." But as recent events in the Shah-i-Kot Valley proved, there are rarely any other kind. So this pretty much means "at the will of the president."

Last week also saw the release of a report from the General Accounting Office (GAO) that details how the Pentagon, two major military contractors, TRW and Boeing, and a team of high-powered MIT scientists fabricated the success of the nation's first missile defense test -- turning an embarrassing failure into a phony triumph.

As attention grabbing as this sounds, the report is not really news to anyone who has been following the case of Dr. Nira Schwartz and the United States Government vs. TRW and Boeing.

Schwartz, a scientist and computer expert, was hired in 1995 by TRW to test the key component of the missile defense system: the ability of our missiles (charmingly known as "kill vehicles") to discriminate between incoming enemy warheads and harmless decoys. She soon discovered that the technology being used was fatally flawed.

Alarmed by her findings, she approached her boss, Robert Hughes, and insisted that TRW reveal the problem to the Pentagon. When she was rebuffed, Schwartz sent a letter to the company warning: "If you will not notify the U.S. government, then I will." She was fired the next day.

Two months later, Schwartz sued TRW on behalf of the U.S. government under the False Claims Act, asserting that the defense contractor had knowingly defrauded the American people. In the six years it has taken the case to work its way through a legal maze, on-going tests, including the $100 million debacle highlighted in the GAO report, have only confirmed Schwartz's findings.

By any yardstick, this is a shocking story, affecting both our national security and the nation's fiscal health. According to a recent estimate by the Congressional Budget Office, the price tag for a missile defense system would be over $230 billion. Worse, by sacrificing the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty on the altar of a missile defense shield that has been proven not to work, we are ushering in a new era of nuclear proliferation that will make the world a far more dangerous place.

Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA), who requested the GAO report on TRW, makes it clear that he has no "theological problem" with a missile defense shield. "If you can prove to me," he told me, "that we can build a system..."
capable of intercepting missiles from rogue nations, and that it will not bring with it the consequence of restarting an arms race, then I'm open to it. But the report raises way too many questions about concealment and fundamental flaws in the technology."

It's not like the information about test failures and fraud has been flying under the radar. After a judge finally unsealed Schwartz's suit, the story ended up on the front page of the New York Times in March 2000, followed by a Dan Rather interview with Schwartz on CBS.

So the question becomes: Why is the national missile shield as seemingly unstoppable as the missiles it purports to destroy? And what will it take for this story to penetrate Washington's defenses against critical information affecting national policy?

"The government's system of checks and balances has badly failed at every level throughout this process," missile defense expert and MIT professor Ted Postol told me. "What it's going to take now is stirring the public imagination and outrage."

Perhaps it will take dramatizing Nira Schwartz's story and turning her into the Erin Brockovich of the nuclear arms debate.

When I first talked with Dr. Schwartz on the phone, it was hard to picture her as the heroine in a David vs. Goliath struggle against the military-industrial complex. She speaks haltingly in a soft, thickly accented voice (she emigrated from Israel in 1984). But as she continued to tell her story, her words filled with passion, patriotism and integrity, it became clear that this is a woman on a moral mission.

"As an adopted citizen of this beautiful country," she told me, "I would do anything to be able to protect what I love so dearly. But we've wasted a decade, and billions of dollars, in a quest for a missile defense shield based on a technology that will never work."

Her commitment to exposing the truth has come at a high price. A gifted scientist with a Ph.D. in physics and engineering, and the holder of 24 United States patents, Schwartz has found herself effectively blackballed since filing her suit -- unable to land a job in her field despite having sent out over 300 resumes.

It's a disturbing precedent -- especially given the Bush administration's obsession with secrecy, and our elected representatives' unwillingness to take on a popular wartime president, lest they be branded traitors. In this kind of political climate, we need courageous whistle blowers like Nira Schwartz more than ever.

"She is definitely a hero," Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA), who has requested a Congressional hearing on this issue, told me. "She's like a 21st Century Paul Revere who is warning that this fundamentally flawed technology will not protect the American people, and at the same time it's being used to destroy the ABM treaty."

When Gary Hart and Warren Rudman released their prophetic report warning of America's vulnerability to terrorist attacks, no one paid attention, and thousands died on 9/11. Will untold millions have to die before we start paying attention to Nira Schwartz?
This week as diplomats' families and tourists quickly disappeared, journalists from Europe and America arrived in droves. Most of them stay at the Imperial Hotel in Delhi. Many of them call me.

Why are you still here, they ask, why haven't you left the city? Isn't nuclear war a real possibility? It is, but where shall I go? If I go away and everything and everyone, every friend, every tree, every home, every dog, squirrel and bird that I have known and loved is incinerated, how shall I live on? Who shall I love, and who will love me back? Which society will welcome me and allow me to be the hooligan I am, here, at home?

We've decided we're all staying. We've huddled together, we realise how much we love each other and we think what a shame it would be to die now. Life's normal, only because the macabre has become normal. While we wait for rain, for football, for justice, on TV the old generals and the eager boy anchors talk of first strike and second strike capability, as though they're discussing a family board game.

My friends and I discuss Prophecy, the film of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the dead bodies choking the river, the living stripped of their skin and hair, we remember especially the man who just melted into the steps of the building and we imagine ourselves like that, as stains on staircases.

My husband's writing a book about trees. He has a section on how figs are pollinated, each fig by its own specialised fig wasp. There are nearly 1,000 different species of fig wasps. All the fig wasps will be nuked, and my husband and his book.

A dear friend, who is an activist in the anti-dam movement in the Narmanda Valley, is on indefinite hunger strike. Today is the twelfth day of her fast. She and the others fasting with her are weakening quickly. They are protesting because the government is bulldozing schools, felling forests, uprooting handpumps, forcing people from their villages. What an act of faith and hope. But to a government comfortable with the notion of a wasted world, what's a wasted value?

Terrorists have the power to trigger a nuclear war. Non-violence is treated with contempt. Displacement, dispossession, starvation, poverty, disease, these are all just funny comic strip items now. Meanwhile, emissaries of the coalition against terror come and go preaching restraint. Tony Blair arrives to preach peace --- and on the side, to sell weapons to both India and Pakistan.

The last question every visiting journalist always asks me: 'Are you writing another book?' That question mocks me. Another book? Right now when it looks as though all the music, the art, the architecture, the literature, the whole of human civilisation means nothing to the monsters who run the world. What kind of book should I write? For now, just for now, for just a while pointlessness is my biggest enemy. That's what nuclear bombs do, whether they're used or not. They violate everything that is humane, they alter the meaning of life.

Why do we tolerate them? Why do we tolerate the men who use nuclear weapons to blackmail the entire human race?