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Frontiersman

Facing the truth, however great the cost.

January 2011

Conspiracy Theory

Sam Aurelius Milam III

Various conspiracy theorists have claimed that the attacks of September 11, 2001 were perpetrated by a faction within the U.S. government. I've seen most of the arguments that the opponents of those conspiracy theorists use against that theory. Most of those arguments are nonsense. The most nearly credible among them is that the conspiracy theorists must be wrong because they're conspiracy theorists. The other arguments must be incredibly lame to be worse than that. Anyway, the idea is that if somebody's a conspiracy theorist, then he's a nut case by definition and that's a sufficient reason to discredit him and to disbelieve his theory.

The critics of the conspiracy theorists all seem to believe that the attacks of September 11, 2001 were perpetrated by Muslims. If pressed, they'll admit that the Muslims most certainly planned the attacks in secret. That is, it was a Muslim conspiracy. So, the critics of the conspiracy theorists are, themselves, conspiracy theorists. The only difference is that they advocate a Muslim conspiracy instead of a conspiracy within the U.S. government. Here's the important point. If being a

conspiracy theorist is a sufficient criticism to debunk the idea that the attacks were perpetrated by a faction within the U.S. government then it's also a sufficient criticism to debunk the idea that the attacks were perpetrated by Muslims. Thus, the critics are hoist with their own petard. Of course it was a conspiracy. No matter who did it, they planned it in secret. So, let's accept the idea that there's nothing wrong with being a conspiracy theorist. Everybody knows that the attacks were the result of a conspiracy.

How many conspirators would be required in order for such a conspiracy to work? Consider that, in the United States, there are one hundred senators, 435 congressmen, one president, and nine Supreme Court justices. Those 545 people allegedly run the entire country. They do it without anybody else having any reliable knowledge of their actual agendas. If you can believe that those few people run the entire country, then it ought to be easy for you to believe that a much smaller group could load some airplanes with explosives, hijack a few other airplanes, launch a cruise missile, rig some buildings with explosives, and dispose of anything and anybody that might compromise the conspiracy.

I suggest that you read my essay [Unnamed Agency](#). It's available on *Pharos*. ↴

Dilbert's Salary Theorem

Original Source Unknown. Forwarded by David, of Idaho Falls, Idaho.

According to Dilbert's Salary Theorem, engineers and scientists can never earn as much as business executives, sales people, accountants, and liberal arts majors. This theorem can now be supported by a mathematical equation based on the following three axioms.

- Axiom 1: Knowledge = Power
- Axiom 2: Power = Work / Time
- Axiom 3: Time = Money

Since

Knowledge = Power,
therefore

$$\text{Knowledge} = \text{Work} / \text{Time}.$$

Since

$$\text{Time} = \text{Money},$$

therefore

$$\text{Knowledge} = \text{Work} / \text{Money}.$$

Solving for Money, we get,

$$\text{Money} = \text{Work} / \text{Knowledge}.$$

Thus, as knowledge decreases, money increases, regardless of work. Similarly, as knowledge increases, money decreases, regardless of work.

QED. ∞

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California's Overcrowded Prisons

Free Lazor

For more than three decades, California's prison guards have been re-sentencing prisoners to new prison terms at their whim, keeping thousands of prisoners locked up far beyond the sentences that were imposed on them by the courts that tried them. Even the most powerful state or federal judges can't do that. Even the Supreme Court can't extend or impose additional prison sentences without a jury trial. However, the California prison guards can do it. There are presently thousands of prisoners, perhaps more than 20,000, who are being kept imprisoned by this extra-judicial sentencing long after their court-imposed sentences were fully served.

Like many nefarious practices, this abuse of power is disguised as a useful and necessary procedure. It hides under the pretense of a disciplinary procedure called a Rule Violation Report (RVR). That is, any prison employee, usually a prison guard, can write an RVR, documenting an alleged rule violation, whether or not such a violation actually occurred. Another prison guard sits as the judge of the RVR, determining guilt or innocence and selecting from a myriad of punishments that are specified in the rule book. The rule book does not include options to expand prisoners' sentences. It does contain rules to assure a fair hearing, though there's no remedy for the fact that those fair hearing rules are not followed. Often, there isn't any hearing at all. The rule book also provides for referring serious and "real" cases to the DA for judicial prosecution. That means that those prisoners who commit real crimes receive all of the judicial protections to assure a reliable verdict. That, and not RVRs, is the proper method for adding to a prisoner's sentence. An RVR is prohibited if a jury acquits a prisoner on a disciplinary matter. In contrast, those falsely accused of petty infractions, like stepping over an out-of-bounds line on the pavement, being on the phone out-of-turn, or disagreeing with a guard on any issue, don't get judicial trials. Instead, they get false RVRs. Most RVRs are written by guards as retaliation against prisoners who've filed complaints against the guards for committing acts of serious misconduct. There are even quotas. This writer has seen female guards in tears for weeks because they didn't meet their illegal,

underground quotas of RVRs and, consequently, were denied promotions. Such quotas, of course, have bred an industry-within-an-industry of manufacturing false RVRs.

RVRs can amount to "life without parole" sentences because parole board members consider RVRs to be relevant during parole hearings. Any RVR is regarded by parole board members as grounds to forbid parole, however irrelevant the RVR might be and even when parole board members acknowledge that an alleged violation couldn't have occurred. The practice is in direct defiance of the governing statutes (Penal Code §§190 and 3041 (a) and (b)). Nevertheless, no exceptions are made where any RVR is involved. Though parole release is mandatory, it's illegally denied for up to 15 years before the next scheduled parole hearing. During each such extended period of denial of parole, targeted prisoners are certain to receive more fake RVRs. It happens at the whim of the guards and guarantees parole denial at the next hearing. Three such denials means 45 more years in prison, in addition to time already served. That can potentially mean life in prison for a sentence of only eight or so years, by the jury's verdict. There's no jury involvement in the RVR process. Sometimes, prisoners whose crimes were especially atrocious have been released years earlier than other prisoners who were sentenced to the same term but were targeted with false RVRs. The disparity continues today, with no remedy in sight. ∞

About Free Lazor

Gayle Travis

The author was never involved in crime. On the contrary, he legally shot an armed would-be murderer who broke into his home. Lazor was wrongfully convicted of murder for his act of self-defense. Had he been paroled when the law required, in 1992, he could have been able to prove that he was the victim of one of the worst cases ever of conviction manufacturing by corrupt officials. Prison guards have vowed to keep Lazor's release on parole blocked forever, converting his sentence into life without parole.

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Dreamscape:

The General Electric Company

Sam Aurelius Milam III

For many years after I left the General Electric Company, I was haunted by recurring bad dreams about the situation. Here's a typical dream scenario.

I arrive at work one day, apparently as usual, only to realize that I'd forgotten to go to work for about the previous year. For some reason, during that year it just didn't occur to me to go to work. I was busy doing other things. I just wake up that morning, completely forget that I haven't been going to work, and go to work. I don't realize my mistake until I'm already in the building.

I wander around the building, wondering why I've still been receiving paychecks during the entire time that I wasn't going to work. It seems that nobody noticed my absence. During my absence, everything was reorganized and relocated. I wander around the building looking for something familiar. The place is filled with busy strangers. I can't find my office. I can't find anybody who knows me. Mostly, I can't find anybody that I recognize. Occasionally, I find somebody who seems familiar but I can't remember his name and he's way too busy for me to interrupt him.

I'm desperate to retrieve all of the personal things that I'd taken to work to use in my office. I recall that I'd had a lot of personal computers and a lot of furniture, all my personal property, in my office. I'd been using my own file cabinets, desks, and so forth. Occasionally, as I wander around the building, I notice a lamp or some other such thing that had been mine and that is being used by somebody else.

Whenever I had such a dream, it never actually ended. It just sort of faded and then I'd wake up feeling stressed, and trembling. Being awake and realizing that I didn't work at GE anymore was always a welcome relief.

I seldom have those dreams anymore. On those rare occasions when I do, they're shorter and less coherent. I don't have the lost and bewildered feeling. I usually enter the dream in search of something and then realize that, somehow, I don't need it after all. Maybe, after almost 30 years, I'm finally recovering from the dismal experience of working as a wage slave in a repressive bureaucracy managed mostly by nitwits or self-centered empire builders who cared more for their own prerogatives than they did for the product.

I suggest that you read the section on the General Electric Company in my memoir [Outward Bound](#). It's available on [Pharos](#). 🦅

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sam,

I cannot get enough of your incisive and brutally honest comments. I hope you hear from some of my friends to whom I send your link.

Liberty, my favorite magazine has ceased print publication and gone digital and free on line. Your readers are bound to like it. <http://www.libertyunbound.com/>....

Reason magazine (January 2011) had an interesting article on anarchy, "**The First War on Terror**". What is your definition and analysis of anarchy?

Thanks for sharing your wisdom with us timid souls. —Boblink

Regarding my various comments, have you looked at [Milam's Notes](#)? It contains many of my thoughts from the early years. The collection was originally inspired by Long's Notes, a collection of thoughts by a fictional character named Lazarus Long in an old Heinlein story.

I no longer remember the name of the story.

So far as I'm aware, I haven't been contacted by any of your friends. Even so, I appreciate you sending a link.

In a political or societal context, chaos is lack of order, government is order achieved coercively, and anarchy is order achieved without coercion. In order for anarchy to work, people must behave like mature adults. Also, they must have a good understanding of and respect for contracts. I suppose that's why we have so little anarchy in the world, and so much government. Of course, once government exists then anarchy becomes illegal and chaos becomes the only alternative. I suggest my little essay [Anarchy, Monarchy, Malarkey](#). It's available on [Pharos](#). —editor

Stray Thoughts

Sam Aurelius Milam III

Challenge — Freedom isn't for sissies.

Laundry Chores — It's easier to match your socks in dim light. 🦅

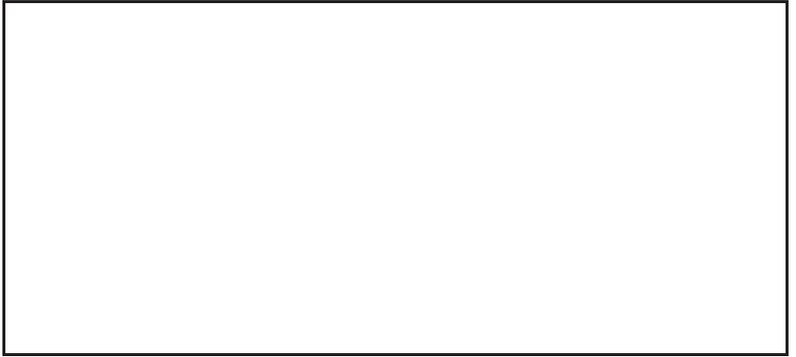
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Nation in Distress

A good example can be as instructive as a bad one. —Tuesday, February 19, 1991
[Milam's Notes](#)



Acknowledgments

My thanks to the following: SantaClara Bob; Lady Jan the Voluptuous; my mother; Dewey and Betty; Boblink; Eric, of Ione, California; and Sir Donald the Elusive. —editor

Court Quotes

From *Humor in the Court* and *More Humor in the Court*, by Mary Louise Gilman, editor of the *National Shorthand Reporter*. Forwarded by Don G.

Q: All your responses must be oral, OK?

A: OK.

Q: What school did you go to?

A: Oral. ∞

Funny Statements

Original Source Unknown. Forwarded by David, of Idaho Falls, Idaho.

- On the other hand, you have different fingers.
- Despite the rising cost of living, have you noticed how it remains so popular? ∞

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Funny Quotes by Famous People

Original Source Unknown. Forwarded by Millie, of Baltimore, Maryland.

- I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalog: "No good in a bed, but fine against a wall."
—Eleanor Roosevelt
- I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back. —Zsa Zsa Gabor
- Sometimes, when I look at my children, I say to myself, "Lillian, you should have remained a virgin."
—Lillian Carter
(mother of Jimmy Carter)
- My luck is so bad that if I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying.
—Rodney Dangerfield
- Until I was thirteen, I thought my name was SHUT UP.
—Joe Namath

Submissions — I solicit letters, articles, and cartoons for the newsletter, but I don't pay for them. Short items are more likely to be printed. I suggest that letters and articles be shorter than 500 words but that's flexible depending on space available and the content of the piece.

Payment — This newsletter isn't for sale. If you want to make a voluntary contribution, then I prefer cash or U.S. postage stamps. For checks or money orders, please inquire. For PayPal payments, use editor@frontiersman.my3website.net. The continued existence of the newsletter will depend, in part, on such contributions. I don't accept anything that requires me to provide ID to receive it. In case anybody's curious, I also accept gold, silver, platinum, etc. —Sam Aurelius Milam III, editor

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