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THE LIGHT



AUSTRALIA

PEOPLE-FUNDED NEWSPAPER



ISSUE 12

The Uncensored Truth

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FREE

FREE JULIAN ASSANGE - See Page 7



Are we all being brainwashed?



Illustration by: Frank Maiorana

By **DARREN SMITH**

Nobody knows they're in a cult until they leave it, but what if the majority of 'mainstream' thought and discourse is in fact part of an indoctrination

process to get us all to think a certain way?

How would you know, if everyone was undergoing the same psychological manipulation, and very few people dissented from what is accepted as the norm, that you were actually in a majority cult?

If you are alive and reading

this, you know you have been brainwashed to some degree or other.

We are all born *tabula rasa*, not even knowing how to get milk from a teat; everything we know is either via our own senses or from what someone else has taught us. It is vital to note that the quality of that second-hand information is not guaranteed; the history of science teaches us this as fact.

"The individual is handicapped by coming face-to-face with a conspiracy so monstrous he cannot

believe it exists", said J. Edgar Hoover, former Director of the FBI.

We are taught from birth to trust in the established authorities and institutions, but what if they were run not for our benefit? What if their purpose is to box our thinking into certain beliefs? The compartmentalisation within every sector and department of both public and private sector means that only those directing the overall policy know exactly what is going on. Everyone else just fulfils their

role to the best of their ability and naturally believes they are contributing to the good of society.

This is also true at universities, mostly now sponsored by Bill Gates and other huge foundations and corporations, where because a chemist knows his science works, he will assume the medical-pharmaceutical guys have their ducks in a row, too. But this is a logical fallacy, from which our brains are full.

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THE LIGHT AUSTRALIA

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THIS IS A PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGE FROM YOUR TRUSTED FRIENDS, THE GOVERNMENT

Image courtesy of Bob Moran - <https://bobmoran.co.uk>

Continued from page 1

Scientific journals are a closed shop, as explained on page 6 – if your results go against the agenda they simply won't be published; all information and knowledge are thus tightly controlled.

Too many things don't seem to work as they should – yet ordinary people, who generally get a raw deal from those in power, are persuaded once every three or four years to vote for one of the major political parties who always keep the status quo.

One should again ask why, when nobody likes politicians? Everyone knows they lie, are corrupt, and are self-serving; yet every election their numerous past transgressions are somehow forgotten, and we accept again, like little children, that this time will be different, and their promises to improve things will

hold. What else but mass mind control could achieve that?

We live in an age where men can declare themselves women and compete in female sports; where children as young as four are exposed to masturbation, sexuality and changing their gender by authorities; where the truth is labelled misinformation, and lies defended with vigour on all major media outlets; where a fake climate crisis means we have to source the most expensive ways of generating power; where having the wrong opinion will get you fired or imprisoned, and where you are called fascist by those who want to restrict your speech, movement, food, energy and income.

A good comedian would have a field day with all of this madness, but sadly most of them are of the 'woke' variety, pushing the corporate narrative, mocking those

who see the truth and being very unfunny with it.

Like doctors, teachers, musicians and politicians, they have been made afraid for their livelihoods, and can't see another way to maintain their lifestyle, status and income without supporting the corporate agenda.

Here is the ultimate expression of thought control – self-censorship, the exact opposite of the pure human spirit.

Perhaps it is time for all of us to examine where exactly our knowledge about the world has come from, and use wisdom to discern its truth for ourselves, without, as we have been conditioned to, lazily relying upon the logical fallacy of 'appeal to authority'?

Using CASH is like telling the government that what you buy is none of their business! Not only government, but banks as well. CASH is freedom. Whoever controls your money controls you. To support CASH, use CASH!

CENSORED: grieving mother's story blacked out

By ALISON BEVEGE

Public submissions to the federal government's Covid-19 Response Inquiry have been bizarrely censored by artificial intelligence (AI).

RAELENE Kennedy, mother of Caitlin Gotze, 23, who died shortly after her second Pfizer shot, had her two-page submission 1784 entirely blacked out. Raelene Kennedy has bravely told her story many times including on her Facebook page *Justice4Caitlin*. But all that appears of her parliamentary submission is two black slabs.

When Raelene saw the complete redaction without even her name on it, she despaired. "The truth is never going to come out", she told *Letters From Australia* (LFA).

Raelene wrote to the Covid-19 Response Inquiry asking how she could make a submission without censorship as Caitlin's next of kin. She got a form-letter response. "Submissions may have been redacted in accordance with the Privacy Notice", the email said. "Submissions may have been redacted where they contain material with the personal or business information of third parties if the department does not have their consent to publish the information."

They will never have Caitlin's consent because she is dead. Caitlin – a healthy, vibrant, beautiful young woman – died less than two months after her second Pfizer mRNA injection. The terrible story of Caitlin's death has been told publicly by Raelene on Jab Injuries Australia's Instagram page, on the Café Locked Out podcast and to the Joint Parliamentary Covid Inquiry in 2021.

It's not a secret to be guarded with censorship. Raelene doesn't want her daughter's death covered up by censorship. She wants answers, and she has joined Dr Melissa McCann's class action suing the government on behalf of the vaccine bereaved and injured.

Is artificial intelligence now censoring our democracy?

LFA also wrote submission 1116 to the same inquiry. It has been oddly redacted as if by an AI that searches for capital letters but



Caitlin Gotze, 23, dies shortly after her second Pfizer jab. Photos: Raelene Kennedy

They will never have Caitlin's consent because she is dead. Caitlin – a healthy, vibrant, beautiful young woman – died less than two months after her second Pfizer mRNA injection.

can't tell the difference between names that need privacy and those that don't. They censored 'Bradford Hill' from the 'Bradford Hill criteria for causation', which is the scientific method for attributing causality.

The words 'Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation', 'Wellcome Trust' and 'Moderna, Janssen, AstraZeneca and Pfizer' were all redacted.

They blacked out Dr Mike Yeadon's name. Dr Yeadon worked for decades in new drug discovery and is the former head of allergy research for Pfizer. He immediately saw the dangerous mRNA gene-vaccine design flaws would lead to harm and wrote an open letter to the European Medicines Agency together with Dr Wolfgang Wodarg

warning them to stop the trials. This letter can now be downloaded from *Treaty of Lies. Pandemic of Lies. Whistleblowers of Truth* at his eponymous Substack.

The censors blacked out the entire quote from his letter. They blacked out reference to Jane Halton heading Australia's review into covid vaccine procurement while at the same time being the chair of CEPI (Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations) – a matter of public record. The names of famous authors and scientists were deleted in reference to their publicly published works.

The submissions process was run by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. A privacy notice on their Covid-19 Response Inquiry website states:

They blacked out Dr Mike Yeadon's name. Dr Yeadon worked for decades in new drug discovery and is the former head of allergy research for Pfizer. He immediately saw the dangerous mRNA gene-vaccine design flaws would lead to harm...

"The department reserves the right to refuse to publish submissions and evidence, or parts of submissions and evidence, that contain offensive language, potentially defamatory material or copyright infringing material, or material with the personal or business information of third parties if the department does not have their consent to publish the information."

That implies that what is blacked out reasonably fits that criteria. Clearly it doesn't. And it appears as though they used AI to do it.

There were more than 2000 submissions to the inquiry, the department said, and those published were online by 27 March. The department contracted Converlens, an AI company based in Adelaide, to help process them.

Converlens is a mid-sized business co-founded by former AGL Energy manager Thomas Workman, according to LinkedIn. Converlens says on its website that it handles government contracts to analyse survey data for issues such as the Indigenous voice to parliament and climate change. It appears to be a public-private partnership used by the federal government to manage the public using AI tools.

The CSIRO says on its website that Converlens, "was designed in collaboration with the Federal Government as part of the Australian Government's Business Research and Innovation Initiative in 2018, and has subsequently grown in capability and sophistication, working across government, NGO's (*sic*) and private organisations".

A group called the Observer of Public Sector Innovation

(funded by the European Commission) gave Converlens a glowing review full of jargon like "disruptor" and said it "assists people in government to excel at managing the submissions and communications process". Converlens told LFA that they act only as a data processor on behalf of their clients.

"We do not ordinarily access or control client data except in very specific circumstances described in our privacy policy and other agreements," Converlens said via email.

LFA asked The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, which is running the submissions process, for an explanation as to why they censored in this way. As of time of writing they have not replied.

A point to ponder: is this AI censorship what the government has in mind to police the internet including Facebook, Instagram, Substack, TikTok, Rumble, YouTube and Twitter (X), with the pending ACMA misinformation and disinformation censorship bill? I checked and found similar censorship on my submission to that inquiry also.

■ **For more including *Letters From Australia's unredacted submissions with sources to help your research go to lettersfromaustralia.substack.com. Stories are free, please share everywhere.***

GROUPS

Join like-minded people: together we are strong. Four new groups to support you against censorship:

- **Aligned Council of Australia** – represents more than 30 groups and one million people. Organises against the WHO power-grab with events and political action.
- **Free Speech Union** – the Australian branch is headed by writer and lawyer Dara Macdonald. It defends those who have been cancelled.
- **Australians for Science and Freedom** – academics including economist Gigi Foster are organising for intellectual freedom, open discourse and the scientific method.
- **Australian Medical Professionals' Society** – headed by cardiologist Chris Neil with expert organisation by Kara Thomas, this group organises some of the most important speaking events on the calendar.

Is the CIA the biggest funder of journalism around the world?

By JOHN MAC GHLIONN

The CIA and its puppet organisations exert a powerful influence on what we see, hear, and believe in the global public sphere. Perhaps we should start to question our 'reality.'

DURING a recent interview with Lex Fridman, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. called the CIA “the biggest funder of journalism around the world.” Rather surprisingly, the Democratic [now independent] presidential candidate’s claim carries a great deal of truth.

In 1948, Frank Wisner was appointed director of the Office of Special Projects, which was quickly renamed the Office of Policy Coordination (OPC). Known as the CIA’s espionage branch, the OPC focused on the promotion of propaganda and economic warfare, as well as subversion against hostile states and providing aid to underground resistance groups.

With the CIA’s blessing, Wisner established Operation Mockingbird, a program that sought to shape domestic American media. According to the author Deborah Davis, Operation Mockingbird recruited a number of prominent American journalists to spread very specific messages. The operation, extensive in nature, included some of the country’s most influential journalists, including Joseph Alsop, whose writing appeared in hundreds of different newspapers. Other journalists recruited to promote CIA-friendly narratives included Stewart Alsop, Ben Bradlee, and James Reston of the New York Times.

Fast forward to 2023, and the nefarious influence of the CIA appears to be as strong as ever, if not even stronger. In recent times, the CIA has been linked with a number of major U.S. outlets, including The Daily

Beast and Rolling Stone. In the aforementioned interview with Fridman, Kennedy also linked Salon, a liberal new website, to the intelligence agency.

Whether or not these outlets are working with the CIA is, of course, up for debate. What isn’t up for debate, however, is the CIA’s ability to shape narratives and mold minds, both in the U.S. and beyond.

A decade ago, President Barack Obama signed a dangerous bill into effect: the National Defense Authorization Act. As the journalist Leah Anaya noted, the bill allowed the CIA to run “legalized psychological war ops” on the American people.

The CIA’s influence over the people goes way beyond left-leaning news websites and traditional media corporations. Last year, a comprehensive investigation carried out by MintPress clearly showed that Facebook has close ties to the CIA. This makes complete sense. After all, Facebook has 2.95 billion monthly active users, and many of these users regularly access the site for news stories. The MintPress team found that Meta “recruited dozens of individuals from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), as well as many more from other agencies like the FBI and Department of Defense (DoD).” Those hired deal with “highly politically sensitive sectors such as trust, security and content moderation.”

The CIA also has close ties to Google, the American multinational tech company with a penchant for spying on individuals, both at home and abroad. Google is the most popular search engine in the world, by far. Why wouldn’t the CIA look to influence search results? It could be argued – and it has – that Silicon Valley and the CIA have a seemingly unbreakable bond.

It doesn’t even end there. The CIA’s influence also extends through a network of organizations funded by another powerful institution, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). Established in 1983, the NED is, according to its website, a non-profit corporation whose primary goal is “to advance democracy in other countries by promoting political and economic institutions.” The NED, we’re assured, is “dedicated to the growth and strengthening of democratic institutions around the world.”

However, as the New York Times reported in 1997, the NED was created “to do in the open what the Central Intelligence



Photo by iStock.com/albiberon

Agency has done surreptitiously for decades.” As Allen Weinstein, a man who played a pivotal role in the creation of the NED, said back in 1991, “A lot of what we do today was done covertly 25 years ago by the CIA.”

In other words, the NED appears to be a CIA-driven vehicle. Each year, the NED gives out thousands of grants to individuals and groups in more than 100

parties, labor unions, dissident movements and the news media.”

Although the NED has channeled much of its energy and resources towards Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Asia, Kennard and Curtis show that it has recently pivoted towards the UK, and the funding of various media outlets and at least four press freedom groups. Not surprisingly, as the duo note, all recipients “are seen

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countries. Many of these grants, worth tens of thousands of dollars, are given to media establishments and journalists.

In the UK, for example, as the investigative journalists Matt Kennard and Mark Curtis have shown, the NED has pumped millions of dollars into a number of British independent media groups. The aim, they write, is to “support things like political

as on the progressive end of the political spectrum.”

NED money, they add, has gone to UK investigative groups including Bellingcat, Finance Uncovered and openDemocracy, as well as the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Moreover, the NED has also funded a number of foreign media groups including Internews, PEN and Reporters Without

Borders. NED’s influence can be seen right across Europe, in countries like Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, and France. This should concern us all. The CIA has, for decades, operated well above the law. At the same time, it has actively resisted accountability. It has a history of carrying out illegal spying programs and subverting democracies.

All of this brings us back to Robert F. Kennedy Jr.’s statement. As is clear to see, the presidential hopeful is not wrong. If anything, he is underestimating the CIA’s powerful reach. The CIA and its puppet organizations exert a powerful influence on what we see, hear, and believe in the global public sphere. Perhaps we should start to question our reality.

■ *First published 28 July 2023 in The European Conservative – <https://tinyurl.com/5b5apxmd>*

■ *John Mac Ghlionn is a researcher and essayist. He covers psychology and social relations, and has a keen interest in social dysfunction and media manipulation. His work has been published by, among others, the New York Post, The Sydney Morning Herald, Newsweek, National Review, and The Spectator US.*

Are carbon restrictions coming your way through C40 cities?

By JESS SMITH

SO far, there are 96 'C40 Cities' worldwide, which includes Sydney and Melbourne, with more cities predicted to jump on board.

All of the United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs) have been adopted by the C40 City initiative. They have written a report on 'The Future of Urban Consumption in a 1.5° World' that contains targets for interventions they deem necessary to regulate your carbon footprint.

The targets below are aimed at 2030:

Meat consumption: Their progressive target is 16 kgs per person per year, while their ambitious target is 0 kgs per person.

Dairy consumption: Their progressive target is 90 kgs per person per year, while their ambitious target is 0 kgs of dairy per person.

Garment purchase: Their progressive target is 8 new items per person per year, while their ambitious target is 3 items per person per year.

Private vehicle ownership: Their progressive target is 190 cars per 1000 people, while their



ambitious target is 0 private vehicles per person.

Flight entitlements: Their progressive target is one short-haul return flight (less than 1500 km) every two years per person, while their ambitious target is one short-haul return flight (less than 1500 km) every three years per person.

You may be wondering how these restrictions could possibly be enforced. While this isn't made clear in the report, we can look at the existing technologies to get an idea of how they may be implemented. For example:

Carbon credit cards:

'Doconomy DO Black' is the first ever credit card with a carbon limit. It cuts you off when you have exceeded your carbon allowance. Of course, this card is currently voluntary, but what would happen if a 'climate change' state of emergency was declared?

Smart meters: Smart meters can remotely shut off or restrict energy use. An example of this is when Queensland's state-owned power grid remotely turned down almost 170,000 air conditioners six times within two months as part of a scheme to protect

the electricity network, often without the knowledge of the residents or businesses.

Meat substitutes: There is a push for us to eat insects and lab-grown meat. One thousand Australian school canteens already stock cricket chips for students, and in 2021, Edible Insects: A roadmap for the strategic growth of an emerging Australian industry was launched. Furthermore, we have a company by the name of VOW, which is currently going through the approval process to have their lab-grown meat available for consumption in Australia as early as this year.

Carbon passports: There is a call to introduce carbon passports for travel by 2040. The idea of a carbon passport centres on each traveller being assigned a yearly carbon allowance that they cannot exceed. These allowances can then 'ration' travel.

ULEZ, or 'Ultra Low Emission Zones', are already being trialed in London. Cameras that scan vehicle number plates are installed throughout the city to keep track of motorists and issue fines for non-compliance with the city's rules. This is also planned to start in Australia. A news article reports that 'Motorists in Sydney could be hit by

a congestion charge when driving in the CBD and surrounding inner-city areas as part of a transport strategy that aims to cut back on carbon emissions in the metropolis'.

Clothing trackers: Digital IDs are already used in some garments to provide information to manufacturers. Could this same technology be used to ensure you haven't exceeded your garment quota for the year?

EVs and remote controls: Ford Motor Co. has filed for a patent on technology that could remotely shut down your car's radio or air conditioning, lock you out of your vehicle, or prompt it to ceaselessly beep if you miss car payments.

As you can see, the technologies to regulate your carbon footprint already exist, and smart cities seem like a great apparatus for monitoring and controlling citizens to comply with whatever new rules and regulations the unelected officials dream up to solve the alleged 'climate crisis'.

■ **For more information and other important topics, visit Did You Know: <https://didoyouknow.ink/did-you-know-about-c40-cities/>**

Why I don't like digital ID

By PETER FAM

IN 2021, refugees in a camp in Kenya were given an ultimatum:

"Register your fingerprints or you won't receive food rations."

The refugees were sceptical. They knew that, technically, they had broken several Kenyan laws by virtue of their flight from war. Registering their fingerprints could very well be a shortcut to a dusty cell in Kisumu and a permanent entry into a system that would forever recognise them for their criminality.

Then again, they were hungry. The complexities of digital ID are explained by Silvia Masiero in her excellent paper, *Digital identity as platform-mediated surveillance*.

Digital identity schemes, Silvia says, are, "meant to match subjects with their entitlements". That is their function. To determine whether somebody gets access to something.

There was a time when having 'access' to something was a lot more straightforward. Then our

world was anchored in the physical, as opposed to the digital, access was almost always a question of simply going somewhere. You couldn't really be stopped, absent the use of force. And that meant, in general, exclusion was a much more difficult thing to achieve.

These days we are tied up in digital platforms with our banking, groceries and Centrelink. With digital ID and, more importantly, the infrastructure underpinning it, our access to these will be very easy to switch off. Indeed, the whole point of digital ID is to switch it off for anybody deemed ineligible.

What great power we seek to grant to our illustrious politicians and bureaucrats!

Late last year I wrote about the Digital ID Bill in Australia, pointing to how, as a matter of statutory interpretation, and despite assurances otherwise, it is not voluntary.

This is unsurprising. A voluntary digital ID system is a huge inconvenience. Banks and large corporations do not want to maintain multiple systems at once. It is expensive and

administratively difficult.

So, if it is not voluntary and if it is designed to determine whether you have access to core goods and services, the question must be:

Do you want the government to be able to determine whether you can access core goods and services or do you want to retain that power for yourself?

If you think governments are not going to use the powers of the digital ID platform and infrastructure, you might like to read the World Health Organisation's attempted alterations to the International Health Regulations that seek to tie digital vaccination certificates to your ability to travel, among other things.

If you think governments are not going to use the powers of the digital ID platform and infrastructure, you might like to read the World Health Organisation's attempted alterations to the International Health Regulations that seek to tie digital vaccination certificates to your ability to travel, among other things.

Are you ready for your freedom of movement to be contingent on how many holes you've punctured on your Pfizer loyalty card?

But there are far more egregious potential use cases. Have you ever thought or felt something just a little bit controversial? Is there anything that you feel pretty strongly about, something that you can see clearly but for some reason lots of others can't?

History abounds with governments clamping down on alternative opinions for the sake of their own survival. Last week [27 March 2024] the current Australian government showed us how deeply it values free speech by pushing the Digital ID Bill without allowing the

standard parliamentary debate.

Do you want your ability to access your bank account dependent on not saying anything online that might question official policy?

Ultimately, the more you allow a system built on principles of rapaciousness and domination to exploit and control you, the more it will. Nobody with any sense or connection to the reality of history is seriously arguing that digital ID is a positive thing.

The pressing question now is, are we going to permit a world that allows the ruling class to switch on and off our access to major public services at its whim?

Given that such a world seems likely at this point, we need to urgently reassess our dependency on those services and replace that dependency with a dependency on each other.

■ **Peter Fam is a lawyer in the Sydney specialist human rights law firm, Maat's Method.**

■ **Website: <https://www.maatsmethod.com.au/>**

■ **Substack: <https://maatsmethod.substack.com/>**

Open access publishing: a corrupt agenda

By **DR LISA HUTCHISON**

AS the former and founding Chief Editor of Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology, my 17-year experience in publishing has provided me with a privileged and unique perspective of the complexity, challenges, and untapped opportunities associated with the peer-reviewed academic literature.

Disturbingly, it also revealed the intertwined and corrupt practices that function beneath the surface, which remain largely undetectable to the uncritical eye. Despite my years of digesting thousands of articles covering the most influential and putative ground-breaking clinical research in oncology, I started to become troubled by the underlying conflicts of interest, co-option, and corruption within the seemingly benign and well-intentioned infrastructure underlining the publication of clinical research.

While many might consider great strides have been made in open access and data transparency, the reality is sobering. All stages of the submission, peer review, revision, decision, and publication process are subject to manipulation, through the well-oiled funding and publication machine with its 'publish or perish' mantra. Academic publishing is littered with hidden agendas and ulterior motives that significantly impact the integrity and quality of research. In 2020, when covid materialised, the latent power structures at play in the publishing industry became all too evident. Open Access is arguably Klaus Schwab's 'Great Reset' social credit system for academic publishing, covertly executed via Bill Gates.

Subscription Model

Before 2010, the standard scientific and clinical publishing model was subscription-based, in which readers – over 90% of whom would usually be experts in the field – would pay for annual subscriptions, typically up to £100 [\$190 AUD] to access the full content of a journal. Institutional subscriptions allowed greater access and value for money. At the turn of the past decade, however, rumours began circulating of discord among the scientific community and the public. Since research is publicly funded by the tax payer, it seemed only right that the public should be able to freely access the published

literature. This discord spurred the open-access movement.

Open Access

From 2010, many new journals were launched under this remit. Naturally, the open-access offering would require an alternative business model. How would these open-content options be monetised? The answer was that subscription fees were to be replaced by upfront article processing charges or APCs. These costs are not for the faint-hearted. Publishers insisted that to cover the editorial and publication costs of a 'free at the point of use' readership model, whereby authors were considerably fewer in numbers than readership or circulation figures, the APC costs were considerable. The British Medical Journal typically charges £1,500 [\$2870 AUD] per article, while some Nature titles pledge an eye-watering £10,000 [\$19,100 AUD] per article. Who would pay for these exorbitant costs? It was decided the funding bodies would cover the costs as part of the grant application funding process.

Research Funding: A Win-Win

Thus, a new model was born. Over the past decade, academia witnessed thousands of new open-access titles. For publishers, this lucrative model was enormously advantageous. Don't forget, these changes were ushered in during a transition to an increasingly online world in which print publication started to decline. Traditional printing and distribution costs were replaced by an unrestricted online publishing arena, claiming to offer enhanced transparency, access and abandoning page-budget constraints associated with print publications. Open access publishing can reap over £500,000 [\$955,000 AUD] per month for a single journal. Profit is no longer dependent on readership. Authors clamour to submit their research to the high-profile journals, and proportionally many more papers are now being published. The academic world is drowning in data and articles, with experts struggling to keep up with the literature. More content is not necessarily better!

For the funders, however, this financial model seems counter-intuitive. While employed at Nature Publishing Group, on countless occasions we were told that the pressure for open-access publishing was not emanating from the disgruntled public

wishing to read research papers, but bizarrely from the funders. Why? Surely funders would not want to pay thousands in additional costs to enable articles to be published, an expense previously linked with readers' personal pockets? This was always the component I could not understand. After all, the tax-paying public are still effectively paying twice to access research. Instead of paying a more modest subscription fee to read content, they are now paying through the nose at the submission end of the publication process, to then gain 'freely' available (and less scrutinised) content. But when the covid 'pandemic' hit in 2020, and censorship became rife in the academic world, suddenly the dots began to connect.

Academic publishing is littered with hidden agendas and ulterior motives that significantly impact the integrity and quality of research

Bill Gates, Corporate Rulers

The billionaire Bill Gates is the largest 'philanthropic' funder of medical research in the world. He invests billions into funding and publishing entities. For instance, he has pledged \$280 million to Imperial College London, \$243 million to Oxford University, \$870 million to Johns Hopkins University, \$3.4 billion to the World Health Organisation, among many others including mainstream media. Since Gates has such a huge influence on many funding bodies, it was inevitable that a corrupt co-opting metamorphosis of the publishing industry would ensue. Bill Gates created the 'S' plan, whereby all scientists receiving funding from academic institutions



funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation would need to comply with his rules or risk losing their funding. His coercion and bullying extended to threats preventing researchers submitting their findings to subscription-based online submission systems. Thus, only open-access journals 'approved' by him 'for the greater good' would guarantee sustained career and funding opportunities.

This dystopian symbiotic relationship between the funders, publishers and academia creates an elite system where only those with the 'right' credentials get published. Thus, scientific integrity is being eroded along with the diversity pool of authors and new ideas to guarantee that the 'correct' research and 'narrative' is perpetuated. It is no coincidence that all published data on the 'lethality' of the covid virus and merits of the gene-based vaccines all came from Gates-funded organisations. This has lowered the integrity bar for clinical research under the 'so-called' guise of openness and accessibility, now manifest as a win-win for publishers and funders, but entirely controlled by the funding wheels of Bill Gates!

Control the Funders, Control What's Published

How would it be possible to control what people read in academia, and even influence their opinions and future research? It is much harder to do so with a traditional subscription-based model. Easier with open-access publishing; since Gates controls the funders, he and his funders can oversee what gets published and by whom at source, thereby

orchestrating the narrative, with carte blanche on censorship, as we have witnessed in abundance. Open-access publishing has disturbing parallels with China's social credit system, representing a manipulated monster of the academic world, and no doubt part of Schwab's 'Great Reset'. There is little doubt that the open-access publishing construct, with Gates at the helm, was not a random event.

Conclusion

I call upon all self-respecting scientists and medical academics to distance themselves from Gates-funded research organisations and publishing monopolies in this corrupt, open-access enterprise. Instead, let us co-create a truly transparent, fairer and non-censored academic infrastructure (decentralised funding and publication systems) that will enable critical thinking, diversity of opinion and multi-disciplinary, collaboration-based research.

This utopian publishing revolution will be based not on divisive impact factor scores, funding power inequalities and artificial publication metrics; rather, its core aims would foster healthy debate and discussion, and the scientific freedom to explore uncharted territory, including areas outside conventionally-funded projects. It would embrace explorative, risk-taking research centred on enhancing well-being and equitable career opportunities across the plethora of clinical and life sciences disciplines. Let's make it happen!

Julian Assange must be freed

By CATHERINE EVANS

FREE, free, Julian Assange!
The chant echoing around the lively crowd outside the Royal Courts of Justice, London, for two days solid. Giddy with hope, strong with determination. Free, free, Julian Assange!

Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks and undoubtedly the world's most famous publisher of war crimes and whistle-blowers, had his final appeal against extradition to the United States on February 20-21.

Extradition would set a dangerous precedent for journalists across the world. It's the most important press freedom case in history.

This incredible journey started around 2010-2011 when WikiLeaks, well known for exposing state and corporate corruption, published clear evidence of U.S. war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan, with tens of thousands of files he received from then U.S. military analyst Bradley Manning.

The CIA claims Assange conspired with Manning to 'hack' and steal top secret military information. This has never been proven, with Manning denying the allegations. Manning, subsequently convicted under the Espionage Act, spent seven years in prison. He later went through gender reassignment to become Chelsea Manning, before her sentence was commuted by President Obama.

The Trump administration wanted Assange, too. A smear campaign rained spurious allegations on him of a rape and molestation of two Swedish women.

Soon followed U.S. charges of 'conspiracy to commit computer intrusion'. To avoid extradition to Sweden, Assange sought asylum in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London in 2012. During his time there, the U.S. illegally spied on Julian's meetings with his lawyers.

On April 11, 2019, UK



Julian Assange supporters outside the Royal Courts of Justice

authorities arrested Assange at the embassy, charging him with failing to meet bail conditions from back in 2012, and gave the ridiculous sentence of 50 weeks imprisonment at the maximum high security prison, HMP Belmarsh. And so his five-year-long incarceration, being held without trial, began.

Professor Nils Melzer has visited Assange many times. His book, *The Trial of Julian Assange: A Story of Persecution* (2022) investigates the U.S. and UK governments' collusion to reach a conviction, and gives great detail of the horrendous conditions and psychological torture Julian is subjected to.

Behind high concrete walls, ubiquitous CCTV and multiple locks and bars, Julian is kept in

solitary confinement 23 hours a day in a sparsely furnished small cell. Melzer explains he is denied sunlight, a computer, access to the gym and library, and importantly, to his American lawyer and legal papers.

Medical experts have witnessed his condition physically and mentally deteriorate severely. Journalist, John Pilger, confirmed, 'he eats little, is heavily medicated and denied basic rights.' Various court appearances show him frail and confused. He has been too ill to attend any other court appearances. In 2019, 60 doctors wrote an open letter to Home Secretary Priti Patel, with fears Julian's health was so bad that he would die inside Belmarsh.

In 2022, Patel signed the extradition order to the U.S.;

Julian's defence appealed this decision. However, the Home Office stated, extradition would not be 'incompatible with his human rights' and that while in the U.S., 'he will be treated appropriately'.

This final appeal will decide whether he can appeal against that decision. Rousing speeches to crowds outside by former British diplomat, David Murray, WikiLeaks Editor-in-Chief, Kristinn Hrafnsson, MEP Clare Daly, Stella Assange, John and Gabrielle Shipton, and others, pieced together events in the courtroom.

Doubt was cast on the impartiality of the judges, given their previous casework and political connections.

Hrafnsson summarised the key arguments for the defence: that

the U.S. has plotted to assassinate Assange, should be enough to stop extradition. There's no possibility of a fair trial in the U.S.; assurances for his safety are bunkum. The CIA could enforce conditions so harsh he would die.

Assange's lawyer, Jen Robinson, argues: "Espionage Act criminalises espionage, not journalism."

Julian's wife, Stella Assange, said the CIA are "rogue", they have "lost the plot" in targeting the press and attempting to kill Julian.

The U.S. lawyers did not refute these claims and offered nothing new but the same old lies. They argued that 'state secrets trump state crimes'. They want impunity and journalism gets in the way.

Clare Daly said: "It's not just the life of a man that's at stake, it's a stance against the criminalisation of journalism, it's the defence of freedom of speech." Daly reminds the world that Assange, a journalist, exposed war crimes, torture and criminality. This exposure resulted in them being stopped, yet those who committed them are not facing charges or imprisonment; he is.

The two judges, Victoria Sharp and Jeremy Johnson, chose not to make an immediate decision. It could be several weeks for a verdict to arrive.

Should the verdict be unfavourable, Assange's team have 24 hours to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights for a Rule 39 Order to stop extradition whilst it considers his case.

If favourable, a full appeal may still be years away from a hearing.

■ **Editor's update: Monday, 20th May 2024, saw a major victory in the Assange case. The Wikileaks publisher was granted leave to appeal his extradition to the US. Visit <https://freeassange.org>**

■ **Catherine Evans is leader of the Freedom Alliance – <https://freedomalliance.co.uk>**

■ **www.kennedy24.com/assange-petition**

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10 ways you are covertly enslaved and didn't notice

1. Voting

You choose from two or three very similar teams of corrupt politicians every three or four years, and that is about the limit of the 'say' you have in any affairs. All decisions are made without consultation, which with today's technology is easily possible. Nobody would ever vote for lockdown, war, political imprisonment or the squandering and embezzlement of billions of public tax money. But when election time comes around, they make a huge song and dance about our choice, as if ordinary people ever benefit from more government with more and more rules to follow, and more and more restrictions on what we can and cannot do, costing more and more money.

2. Legislation

When was the last time you cheered for a piece of legislation? When was the last time new laws that have been passed were on the news and discussed and dissected in detail? How many pieces of legislation can you name from the last ten or twenty years which have improved the country? Why do most countries across the world seem to be passing the same laws at the same time? Why do all of them restrict people and impose more taxes and greater bureaucracy, thus continually expanding the government?

3. Economy

Without trade, there is no food, no security and no life. Those who want to see advanced economies destroyed do not understand the real-world consequences of the theories they have been led to believe will lead to prosperity for all. All trade is essentially made in the dollar, with all other currencies pegged to it, because of interest rates. It is still commonly assumed that the dollar, and the pound, yen, euro etc. are backed by gold or silver or something of tangible value, but that has not been the case since 1971. It is all paper promises and IOUs, and this is why most people can never get ahead. They devalue the currency we are all persuaded to use - gradually at first, then all at once. As corporations and governments take over more and more of the economy, they will soon control all transactions, everywhere.

4. Licences

While we want competency tests for those wanting to fly aeroplanes and drive lorries, most licences are nothing but permissions from the state to do what was perfectly natural, free and unencumbered to do before the state decided it needed to control and charge for it. There are now thousands of licences required to do what our recent ancestors did freely, and without having to pay for it.

5. State power

Another realisation should be that officers of the state can impose tributes, fines and fees, as can corporations whom you contract with for their services. Your data (and life) are freely available to them at any time to use in whatever way they wish, whereas you can't know anything about their activities, under the guise of state secrets - all for our own safety of course. This is how the state has been assassinating, poisoning, propagandising, robbing, demoralising and subjugating the general population for centuries, and why it has now created the legal framework to do what it likes, and then keep it secret for a very long time.

6. School training

To accept all of this, we must be moulded from a very young age. John D. Rockefeller, who adapted the Prussian schooling system that had been invented to create obedient soldiers, famously said: "I don't want a nation of thinkers, I want a nation of workers." The school system, from kindergarten right through to university, is designed to make you accept authority, to follow rules, and to not question the information you are being presented with. Your children will never get educated or learn to be themselves by going to mainstream schools. It has only been two centuries or so since parents and families had the responsibility to fully educate and instruct their own children.

7. Injustices

Not only does the state carry out atrocious acts of violence, robbery and false imprisonment against individuals who have committed no crime upon another person or their property, but it always manages to absolve itself when it commits these crimes - with whitewash inquiries, cover-ups, assassinations and further miscarriages of justice on others. Recently, there is Julian Assange, but we have also had the Guildford Four, the Birmingham Six, and those at the BBC who enabled Jimmy Savile's child-raping activities, and who have never been brought to justice. We should never expect full justice in this system, and certainly not if those prosecuting are infinitely-funded by the state, i.e., ourselves.

8. Taxes

We are told that taxes are the price we pay for living in a civilised society, so that we have roads, schools, hospitals, and so that we're not invaded, and so on. But as they restrict the roads with bus and cycle lanes and planters, and leave the ones we have left full of potholes; continue to indoctrinate our children and teach them utter nonsense in schools; and the hospitals continue to be controlled by Big Pharma so there is more sickness than ever, one has to ask: what exactly are we paying for? Because not only are the services bad, but they seem to be able to conjure up billions and trillions out of thin air for wars and lockdowns and anything else they want but that clearly does not benefit the people.

9. Hypocrisy

They fly in private jets to climate conferences and then admonish the rest of us to stop driving, stop flying, and often accuse others of exactly what they are doing. While many get outraged, this is in fact an overt sign of their power over you. They know they are being hypocrites, or elitist; they want you to know, and they want you to know they don't care that you know. It's another sign that you can do nothing but moan, which is an allowed activity for free-range covert slaves.

10. Deception

By repeatedly telling us we have freedom, democracy, fairness, justice and so on, most people seem to accept it, and have certainly been trained through years at school and in employment not to rock the boat too much, if they want to maintain their lifestyle.

Of course, it is all an absolute lie and restrictions will increase, as we've outlined opposite.

How they will enslave you overtly in the future



CARBON FOOTPRINT



CITY LIMIT VIOLATIONS



TRAVEL ALLOWANCE



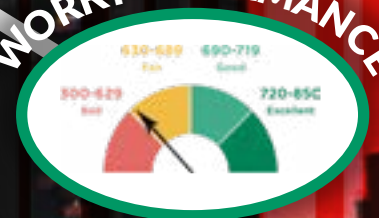
VACCINE / MEDICAL STATUS



ENERGY USAGE



WORK PERFORMANCE



Doctors cover their rear ends

By **JERRY ROBERTS**

An article in the April 2024 issue of The Australian Journal of General Practice warns of concerns about the links between COVID-19 vaccination and the debilitating illness known as 'long COVID'.

"At present, public health officials are flying blind when it comes to long COVID and vaccination", writes Robert Tindle in Volume 53 Issue 4 of

the journal, which is published by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

"Because COVID-19 vaccines were approved without long-term safety data and might cause immune dysfunction, it is perhaps premature to assume that past SARS-CoV-2 infection is the sole common factor in long COVID.

"There is concern that COVID-19 vaccinations per se might contribute to long COVID, giving rise to the colloquial term 'Long Vax(x)'.

"The spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 exhibits pathogenic characteristics and is a possible cause of post-acute sequelae after SARS-CoV-2 infection and COVID-19 vaccination.

"COVID-19 vaccines utilise a modified, stabilised prefusion spike protein that might share similar toxic effects with its viral counterpart. A possible association between COVID-19 vaccination

and the incidence of POTS (postural orthopaedic tachycardia syndrome) has been demonstrated in a cohort of 284,592 COVID-19 vaccinated individuals, though at a rate that was one fifth of the incidence of POTS after SARS-CoV-2 infection.

"Multiple studies have shown an increased risk of myocarditis after vaccination with mRNA encoding SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. mRNA vaccines can result in spike protein expression in muscle tissue, the lymphatic system, cardiomyocytes and other cells after entry into the circulation.

"Recipients of two or more injections of the mRNA vaccines display a class switch to IgG4 antibodies. Abnormally high levels of IgG4 might cause autoimmune diseases, promote cancer growth, autoimmune myocarditis and other IgG4-related diseases (IgG4-RD) in susceptible individuals.

"There are clear implications for vaccine boosting where these

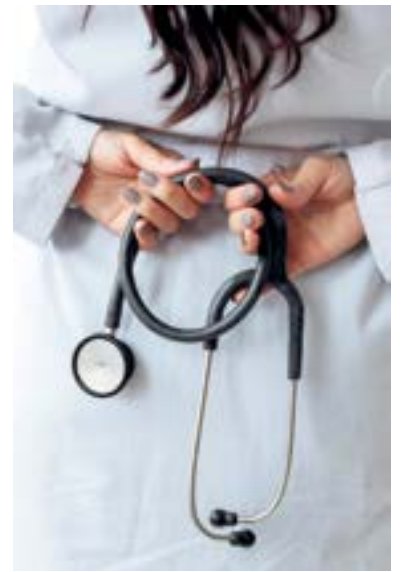
and similar observations relating to COVID-19 vaccination and the incidence of long COVID-like symptoms are substantiated, adding further to public health officials' concerns.

"Understanding the persistence of viral mRNA and viral protein and their cellular pathological effects after vaccination with and without infection is clearly required."

In his article headed 'Long COVID: Sufferers can take heart', the author writes that the median duration of long COVID symptoms is five months but 10 per cent of patients still experience symptoms at twelve months and it is still too early to say whether some individuals will ever recover.

"Often unable to secure a diagnosis, patients are wont to seek multiple serial medical opinions, frequently being told their condition is due to anxiety or post-pandemic medical issues."

The encouraging developments with which he concludes the



journal article include a peptide inhibitor. "Long COVID is, at last, receiving the attention it requires."

■ **For more information visit Dr John Campbell on Youtube**
<https://tinyurl.com/2xpx7t7u>

■ **Jerry Roberts is a Western Australian journalist.**

The pyramid of power

By **NIALL MCCRAE**

WHO'S really running this dystopian reality show? That's a question that I often face from the audience at speaking events, and I always respond by admitting that I don't know the answer.

None of us do, if we're honest. Recently, at the Brighton Free Speech Society, I asked the gathering whether they could identify the people pulling the strings. Several answers were given, each stated with certainty, but no conclusive evidence: Big Pharma, bankers, dynasties, Freemasons and Satanists were all named as the architects of a totalitarian new world order.

Whoever the master planners are, clearly there is a global agenda that all countries are expected to follow. Democracy and national sovereignty, as shown during the pseudo-pandemic, and with the preposterous climate emergency, have become a sham. In my book, *Green in Tooth and Claw*, I present this pyramid of power.

On the lower stratum are the ordinary people, who are often apathetic or gullible in regard to the official narrative (for example, believing that covid-19 vaccines are safe and effective). However, such 'commoners' are also associated with common sense.

Around the time of the EU referendum, sociologist, David Goodhart, described a

new political fault line between the progressive morality of the cosmopolitan middle class (Anywheres) and the faith, flag and family bonds of the lower social classes (Somewheres).

Brexit showed how the former deride the latter for their attraction to 'populism'. Psychological research consistently shows that no more than about 10 per cent of the population are critical thinkers, but they are disproportionately found in the lower levels of the social hierarchy (despite – or rather because of – their lower educational attainments).

Moving up to the professional managerial bureaucracy, critical thinking is less prevalent here. Conformity is rewarded, while dissidents do not fare well on the promotion ladder and are prone to disciplinary action (as I regularly observe as a trade union rep). This stratum includes lawyers, accountants,

doctors, teachers and lecturers, civil servants, councillors and backbench MPs. These are Goodhart's 'Anywheres', who dominate our culture, institutions and professions. They consider themselves sophisticated, which the dictionary defines as 'deprived of native or original simplicity'.

This is the officer class of the

societal hierarchy, and compliance is most strictly maintained within their own ranks. To get ahead in the bureaucracy, one must display the values of purported progressivism (a nexus of green and woke). Judges are only appointed if they have shown commitment to diversity, equality and inclusion. Labour and Conservative parties carefully vet candidates for each parliamentary seat, ensuring that they are in tune with the agenda.

Below this level, as the clerical officer Winston Smith found when he went walkabout in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, there is

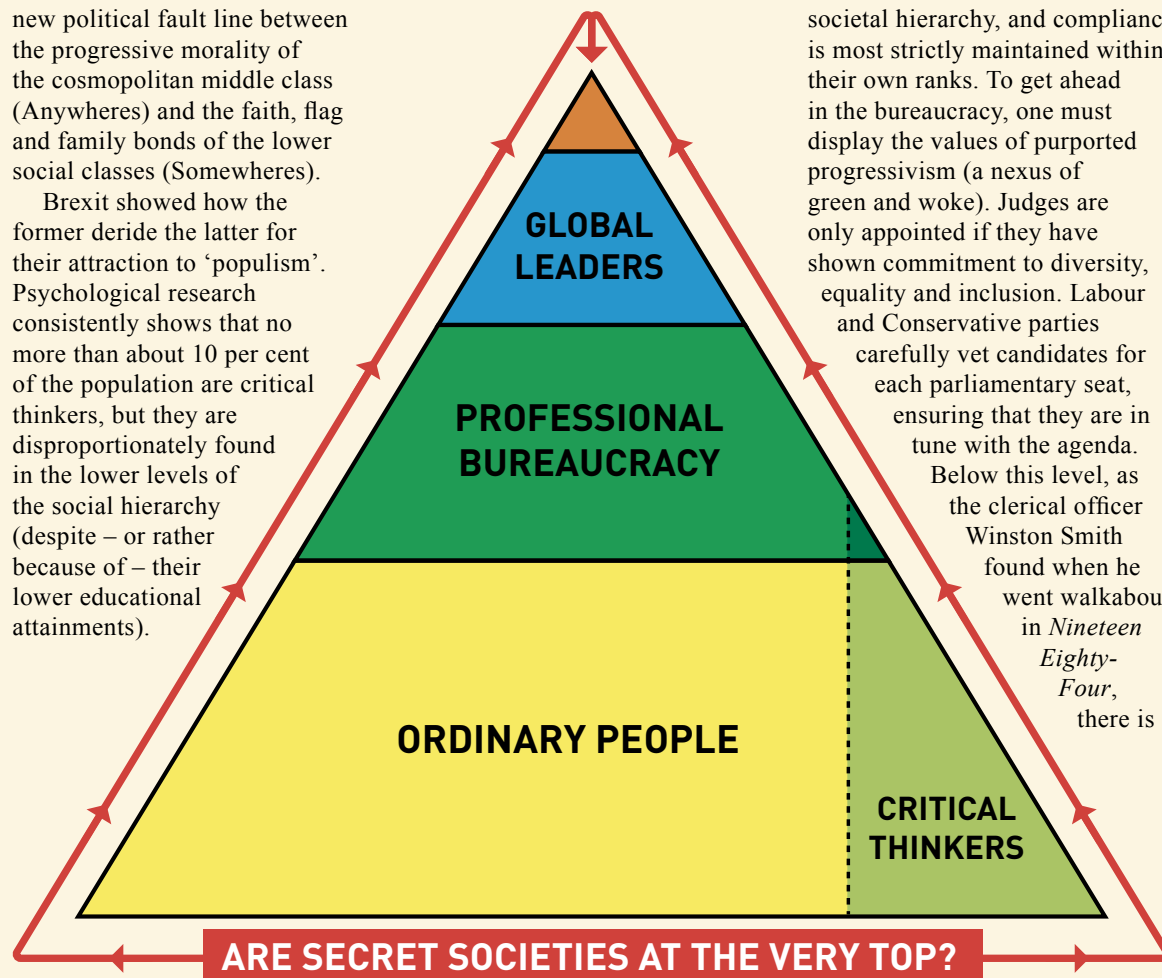
relative freedom from the ideological regime.

Ascending to the next level are global leaders. The likes of Justin Trudeau, Jacinda Ardern and Nicola Sturgeon took to the contrived covid-19 crisis like ducks to water. The difference between them and the majority of politicians is that they knew that the contagion was

a scam (this was apparent when they removed their masks as soon as the cameras were off, and when Boris Johnson held parties at 10, Downing Street soon after imposing lockdown). At the upper reaches of this level are the most prominent exponents of globalism: Tony Blair, George Soros, Barack Obama, Klaus Schwab and Bill Gates. These are frontmen; although tremendously influential, they are not at the commanding heights.

The pinnacle of the pyramid is likely to be occupied by faceless figures who stay behind the curtain. We can only guess who is directing this dystopian reality show. The World Economic Forum predicts a future in which 'you will own nothing, and you will be happy', but somebody must own the land, the buildings and the resources.

Ultimately, though, the pyramid of power is not merely for material gain. The motives may be perceived as megalomania, but I suggest a spiritual driving force. Secretive societies such as the upper degrees of Freemasonry, the Illuminati and Skull & Bones pursue a warped Gnosticism. As lesser mortals, we can only guess at where the master planners are taking us, but it's fair to assume that the emerging technocracy and transhumanism are not for our benefit.



What the nurses saw

A book review by
KATE RICHARDS

AN investigation into systemic medical murders that took place in hospitals during the COVID Panic and the nurses who fought back to save their patients.

Ken McCarthy's book is a collection of firsthand accounts from nurses and other health professionals who were working on the frontline when covid struck in 2020. What happened in the hospitals McCarthy calls 'medical murder'. This is murder by medical means, the withholding of life-saving drugs and procedures and the use of drugs and practices known to cause harm.

He reclassifies the covid time as the covid panic because seasonal respiratory illness is not new. Coronaviruses are not new. What was new was the coordinated campaign to instill fear through the media and the demand that health professionals stop thinking for themselves.

What the nurses saw, says McCarthy, was top-down systemic murder. Murder by decree from the hospital administrators who followed the orders of the Center for Disease Control. If you thought hospitals were places of healing, think again. An estimated one million Americans died of covid and 90% of these people died in hospital.

The nurses said patients were denied safe treatments for respiratory distress and inflammation such as ibuprofen and steroids. They were given drugs known to cause harm, such as remdesivir which

causes kidney failure. Ventilators were overused and misused by inexperienced staff. Many patients were not given feeding tubes while intubated, so they wasted away.

McCarthy argues this early covid phase was designed to enrich the hospitals and raise the death count. This justified the Emergency Use Authorization for dangerous drugs such as remdesivir. Escalating the community's fear built a desire for the promised mRNA 'vaccines'.

Nurses take an oath to be advocates for their patients. During the covid panic, nurses who spoke up for their patients were ignored, slandered and bullied. Some lost their licenses and their jobs.

Nicole Sirotek was one of the first nurses to go public about the crisis in the hospitals. In May 2020 she told the world via Facebook that patients were dying not of covid, but from incompetence and negligence. Strangely, though the patients had respiratory distress, no one was using a stethoscope and listening to their lungs.

Sirotek says one of the reasons for poor care during covid was the lack of experienced nurses. Baby boomers were retiring and nurses who did not want the covid shots left in droves. Young nurses sometimes did not have the confidence and experience needed for complex situations.

Sirotek says the attitude in the hospitals was fatalistic. 'It's covid, they're going to die anyway.' Normal protocols such as giving intubated patients Lovenox twice a day to prevent blood clots were discarded. When patients came in



with more than one condition only the covid was treated.

No one treated their high blood pressure or diabetes for example. Ibuprofen, which was standard treatment for inflammation, was not given. Tylenol which is typically used to reduce fever was taken off the ward. Instead Sirotek had to use ice packs or open the windows.

Sarah Choujounian is a Canadian nurse and one of the leaders of Canadian Frontline Nurses. Choujounian is an experienced aged care nurse. She knew the government spent much more on food for prisoners than for aged care residents. Now this

same government was saying it was shutting down the economy because it cared about elderly people? This did not ring true.

Choujounian watched her residents deteriorate under the severe lockdowns and the media barrage of fear. One resident died from a heart attack within the first week. The isolation from family and other visitors hit them hard. Many passed away from neglect. This is called 'failure to thrive' in the medical literature.

In her role with the Canadian Frontline Nurses, Choujounian heard disturbing reports. In some care homes, when someone tested

positive to covid, there was a two week lockdown. As the testing was faulty lockdowns happened when no one was actually sick.

Lockdowns followed lockdowns. Residents were confined to their rooms. If they 'behaved badly' they were medicated. Some residents wanted to walk in the hallways but staff took their walkers away. This exposed them to falls and hip fractures.

Choujounian spoke out against the lockdowns at a rally in October 2020. Three days later she was fired. Undaunted, she founded Nurses Against Lockdowns. She was investigated five times by the College of Nurses, had her reputation trashed by international media and received countless death threats. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police paid her a visit, too.

These are two of the nurses you'll meet. You'll also hear from Kristen Nagle, a neo-natal nurse and Mark Bishofsky, a respiratory therapist, amongst others. The final chapter, *Following the Money Trail*, is disturbing reading. Hospitals benefited financially from having covid patients or patients diagnosed with covid. The dollar value of these patients differed across the American states. Many hospitals built fine new wings following the 2020 windfall.

Given covid policies were in lockstep across the world, this book is relevant to anyone who values their health and the care of their loved ones. I encourage you to read *What the Nurses Saw* and hear these powerful firsthand accounts.

The final chapter of the covid story

A book review by
JERRY ROBERTS

IRISH author Paul Lynch takes us to the violent conclusion of the covid project in his Booker Prize winning novel *Prophet Song*.

The book's central character is Eilish, a scientist and mother of four whose husband organises a protest by teachers in Dublin and is never seen again.

The author dispenses with grammatical niceties and keeps the story moving to its tragic climax while addressing the questions that have haunted us throughout the first four years of the covid project.

Why Ireland? The question why Australia, New Zealand and Canada is easier to answer. Our Commonwealth countries have major resources of food, fibre, minerals and energy which the

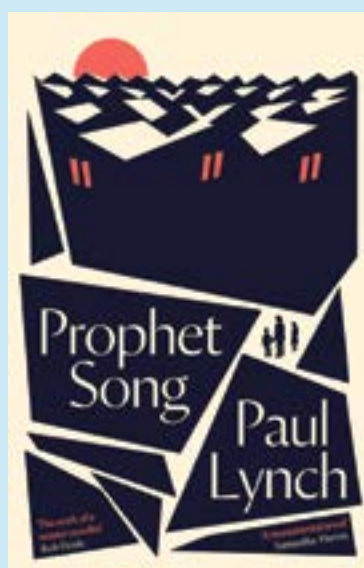
globalists want to control.

Why the once proud people of these three countries succumbed so abjectly to the rule of such puerile political pygmies as Justin Trudeau, Jacinda Ardern and the Australian premiers Mark McGowan and Daniel Andrews is more difficult to answer and more embarrassing.

Ireland is not blessed with natural riches. The great Irish resource is courage. The country's greatest export is spirited people.

The tyranny depicted in *Prophet Song* is a campaign to crush the spirit of a people. The reduction of a national population to compliant robots as we have seen in Australia throughout the covid project is bad social policy and bad economic policy. We have to fight it.

At the heart of the tyranny is an attack on the foundations of knowledge. The writer defines the essence of the project in a conversation between Eilish and



her father, also a scientist.

We are scientists, Eilish. We belong to a tradition but tradition is nothing more than what everyone agrees on – the scientists, the teachers, the institutions. If you change ownership of the

institutions then you can change ownership of the facts. You can alter the structure of belief, what is agreed upon. That is what they are doing, Eilish. It is really quite simple. The NAP (National Alliance Party) is trying to change what you and I call reality. They want to muddy it like water.

In an outburst to one of her husband's friends, Eilish captures the anguish we felt from the onset of the covid project with its bizarre states of emergency and the appointment of 'vaccine commanders'.

Look at you lot she says, the unions bowed down and silent and at least half the country in support of this carry-on and casting the teachers as villains.

By coincidence, this reviewer was reading *Prophet Song* when the television news every night showed us children buried under buildings in bomb-blasted Gaza.

Eilish enters her house looking for her son just as a bomb explodes.

Soundlessly she is raised from her feet and borne through the air rearwards with her arms held out in some counter-time of light and darkness holding pieces of cement in her mouth.

This is wonderful writing. Eilish speaks to her daughter who dreamed that her father came home.

Your father is with you all the time, she says, even when he's gone, that is the meaning of the dream, your father came home to remind you that he is always here with you because your father is always alive in your heart... because the love we are given when we are loved as a child is shared for ever inside us... It is a law of the human heart.

What an experience to be a judge for the 2023 Booker Prize and find a masterpiece on your desk. *Prophet Song* is a work of art that merits the comparison it is receiving with George Orwell's 1984. Be sure to read this book.

In pursuit of health...?

By **A VICTORIAN GP**

ABRAHAM Lincoln once said, ‘You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time.’

Conflicts of interest are fatal to the pursuit of medical science because they have the potential to harm public health. Any such suspected interference by conflicted parties must be urgently addressed.

As a practising GP in Australia, I have seen the pursuit of science evolve both in healthy and diseased ways over recent decades. Surgery has made rapid progress with the invention of devices and robotics that have transformed gruesome surgeries into simple day procedures. However, the discipline of clinical medicine has taken a downturn due to the poor training of doctors, apathy in the profession, fear of litigation, and ‘defensive medicine’ along with corruption in the research industry and biased journalism. The list goes on. Since the 1960s, an incestuous relationship appears to have evolved between teaching and research institutions, governing bodies including boards and regulators, and pharmaceutical companies. Unfortunately, many clinicians remain ignorant of this.

Australia’s drug regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), is a government authority responsible for evaluating, assessing, and monitoring medicines, devices and biological products. It is 96 per cent funded by pharmaceutical industry fees. The TGA stringently defends the independence of its regulatory decisions.

In an article in the BMJ in 2022, *From FDA to MHRA: Are drug regulators for hire*, author Maryanne Demasi writes that in the year 2020-21 the TGA approved more than nine of every ten drug company applications, adding:

‘Australia’s Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) firmly denies that its almost exclusive reliance on pharmaceutical industry funding is a conflict of interest (COI). In response to a query, the agency said, “All fees and charges are prescribed in our legislation. To

provide transparency, the TGA fees and charges are published on the TGA website.”’

Demasi further reports that the change in practices began in the United States in 1992 with the US Congress passing the Prescription Drug User Fees Act (PDUFA) which allows the industry to pay fees to have their drug assessment applications assessed promptly. These practices have since been adopted by regulators worldwide.

In the UK, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) receives 86 per cent of its funding from industry. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) took 89 per cent of its budget from industry, Japan’s Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency took 85 per cent, and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) took 65 per cent, the BMJ article reported.

The article also explored the percentages of drug approvals by the regulators. Australia’s TGA approves 94 per cent of new drug applications, the EMA 88 per cent, the MHRA 98.5 per cent, and the US FDA approve 69 per cent. It is reasonable to acknowledge a potential conflict of interest that has led to the question, can the Australian public trust drug regulators to be unbiased and free of obligations? These potential

However, the discipline of clinical medicine has taken a downturn due to the poor training of doctors, apathy in the profession, fear of litigation, and ‘defensive medicine’ along with corruption in the research industry and biased journalism.



Photo by iStock.com/megaflopp

conflicts of interest could exist globally, raising further concerns for public health.

Big Pharma has been accused of shadowing medical literature since the 1970s, allegedly eroding the trustworthiness of journals. Over the years, there have been instances of falsified, massaged, and predetermined research making it to publication and then into doctors’ offices through the visits of drug representatives, which are scheduled weekly or fortnightly as friendly reminders. On the flip side, it is frequently stated that it takes about 17 years for research evidence to reach clinical practice. So, maybe doctors need scheduled scientist and researcher visits to discuss current science as opposed to the pharma rep visits that discuss new drugs on the market.

Stanford University Professor of Medicine, John Ioannidis, a frequently cited world-renowned expert in meta-research, wrote a paper in PLOS Medicine in August of 2005 titled *Why Most Published Research Findings Are False* in which he comments on the relationship between research quality and funding:

‘A research finding is less likely to be true when the studies conducted in a field are smaller; when effect sizes are smaller; when there is a greater number and lesser pre-selection of tested relationships; where there is greater flexibility in designs, definitions, outcomes, and analytical models;

when there is greater financial and other interest and prejudice; and when more teams are involved in a scientific field in chase of statistical significance. Simulations show that for most study designs and settings, it is more likely for a research claim to be false than true. Moreover, for many current scientific fields, claimed research findings may often be simply accurate measures of the prevailing bias.’

Over the years, there have been instances of falsified, massaged, and predetermined research making it to publication and then into doctors’ offices through the visits of drug representatives...

Prominent voices in the field including Cochrane Collaboration co-founder Peter Gotzsche, former Chief Editor of the New England Journal of Medicine Marcia Angell, Lancet Editor-in-Chief Richard Horton, and BMJ Senior Editor Peter Doshi have all sounded the alarm over the quality of scientific literature. Unfortunately, poor-quality studies infiltrate media, healthcare systems, universities, and medical institutions, damaging the framework for policy-making, education, public health, and service provision.

Peter Gotzsche details the system failures caused by widespread industry corruption and impotent regulators in his 2013 book *Deadly Medicines and Organised Crime*. The crisis is further illustrated by former Editor of the New England Journal of Medicine Dr. Marcia Angell in her 2004 book, *The Truth about the Drug Companies*. Here, she outlines how health care is impacted by the malfeasance of the pharmaceutical industry which she claims is nothing short of an organised crime syndicate.

Since the start of 2020, the mantra ‘Trust the science!’ has made headlines across the world spread by so-called health experts. But what science are they referencing? The science known to most doctors is dynamic and evolving, changing like the seasons. Scientific ‘truths’ are rolled over as evidence proves contrary in time. This is the nature of science and is why science involves questioning and testing of a hypothesis. Doctors will trust a study if it is peer-reviewed, double-blinded, and placebo-controlled. However, such ‘gold standard’ studies are

long-drawn, time-consuming and require a huge outlay of funds and resources which only the pharmaceutical industry can provide. The results of such studies are most often predictable owing to the conflicts of interest.

The time has come to ask: Do we continue to allow these questions to go unanswered? And how do we fix this dangerous and easily permeable culture? For now, let’s conclude that the answer to these questions is worth billions of dollars to the industry, and will likely not be given up without a fight.

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World's largest reef secretly recovers and has record high coral cover two years in a row

By JO NOVA

ALMOST no one is aware that the Great Barrier Reef has had two bumper years of record high coral cover. The excellent results of 2022 were repeated in 2023, showing that the grand recovery of the corals, after years of bleaching, was no fluke result.

The Great Barrier Reef is the largest reef system in the world, stretching 2,300 kilometres, and including about 10% of the world's corals. But despite mankind producing one trillion tons of carbon emissions the coral is healthier than it has ever been in last 37 years of detailed surveys.

Back in 1986 when the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) started doing intensive underwater surveys, atmospheric CO2 levels were only 347ppm, far below the supposedly deadly levels of 420ppm recorded today. Yet despite humans producing more than half of all the emissions we have ever produced, the Great Barrier Reef is in great condition.

The situation is a remarkable turnaround from 2012, when the long-term trends looked dire and coral cover was so poor it was less than half the latest numbers.

Where is the crisis?

It's been an amazing recovery, showing just how resilient the reef system is, and how irrelevant carbon dioxide emissions are. Despite rising CO2, rising sea levels, and supposedly warmer oceans, the corals are thriving.

Ocean acidification was marketed as the big threat to coral growth. Yet when multiple cyclones smashed the Great Barrier Reef a decade ago, it recovered to higher highs despite the rising CO2.

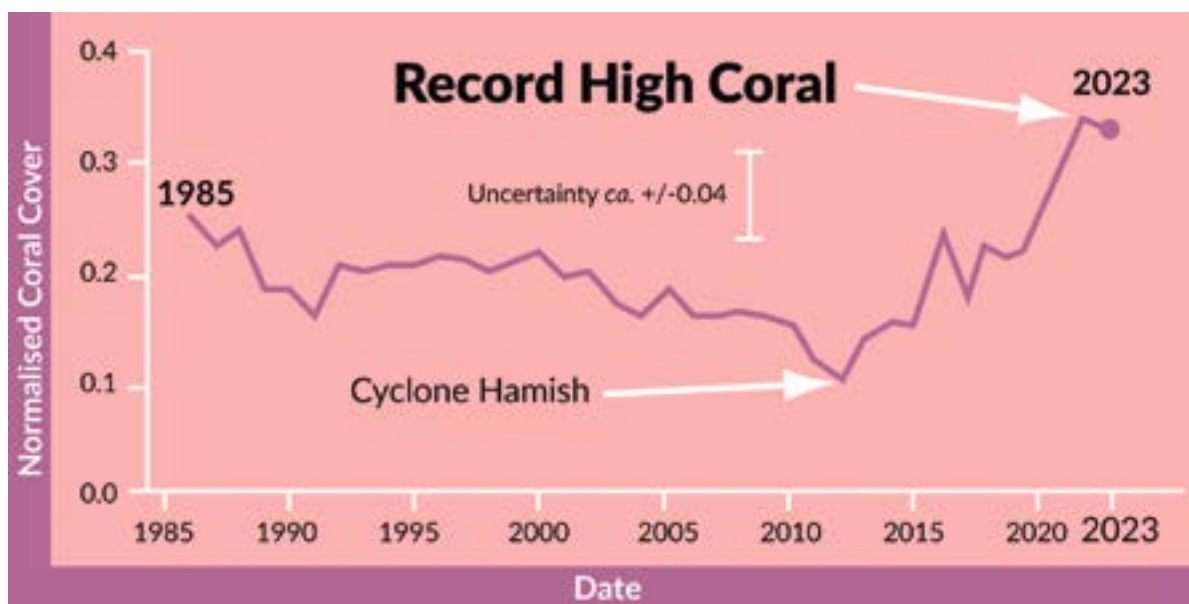
Where are the environmentalists and the institutions of science?

The secret "record high" levels also reveal so much more. The environmentalists that say they care about the reef don't seem the slightest bit excited. They haven't admitted they were wrong, changed tack, or shifted emphasis. There have been no parties to celebrate the power of nature.

The institutions that are paid to monitor marine parks don't seem to want to report good news.



Coral outcrop Flynn reef near Cairns QLD
Toby Hudson, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons



Graph courtesy of Peter Ridd.

The latest results were not even described as a record high by AIMS but merely as a "pause in recent coral recovery", almost as if AIMS doesn't want people to realize how well the reef is looking after itself? Perhaps the government funded institutes need a reef crisis more than the reef needs government funded institutes?

As Peter Ridd points out, this shows a grand failure of our institutions of science:

"The latest statistics on the amount of coral on the Great Barrier Reef, just released by the Australian Institute of Marine Science, should end 60 years of flawed predictions of its imminent demise.

"Last year's record-breaking

result was also embarrassing to the GBR science institutions. They had proclaimed that the reef had just been devastated by four unprecedented hot water bleaching events in 2016, 2017, 2020 and 2022 – but then it had more coral than ever.

"The truth is we have been scammed for decades, and the perpetrators have been caught out. Once-trusted science institutions have become untrustworthy. It is time they are subjected to serious scrutiny. Have they become ideological? Are they inclined to

It's been an amazing recovery, showing just how resilient the reef system is, and how irrelevant carbon dioxide emissions are. Despite rising CO2, rising sea levels, and supposedly warmer oceans, the corals are thriving.

groupthink? Are they motivated by the funding imperative, which relies on the reef being perpetually doomed? How do they handle dissenters – are they ostracised or welcomed? What are their quality assurance systems that clearly failed? How did they get this so wrong for 60 years?" – Peter Ridd, The Australian.

AIMS used to announce the combined average coral cover of the whole reef until 2017, but now they split the reef into three subsections and report each number separately. Indeed, if it wasn't for Peter Ridd no one would know that the results combined for the entire reef were phenomenally good. This is despite AIMS receiving \$160 million dollars (AUD) to report exactly this kind of information to the taxpayers of Australia.

If the Great Barrier Reef were at record lows, would AIMS and the media be so reluctant to tell the world?

Virtually no media outlets, apart from The Australian, have mentioned the extraordinary new results. It's no wonder almost no one knows the true state of the Great Barrier Reef.

The Australian Environment Foundation found that a month after last year's results were announced barely 3% of Australians knew the reef was at record high coral cover. Half of the country thought the coral cover was so bad, it was "below average" or at a "record low". Ten years after the reef hit rock bottom, 1 in 2 Australians have no idea of the true state of the reef.

The numbers of people in the rest of the world would be even lower.

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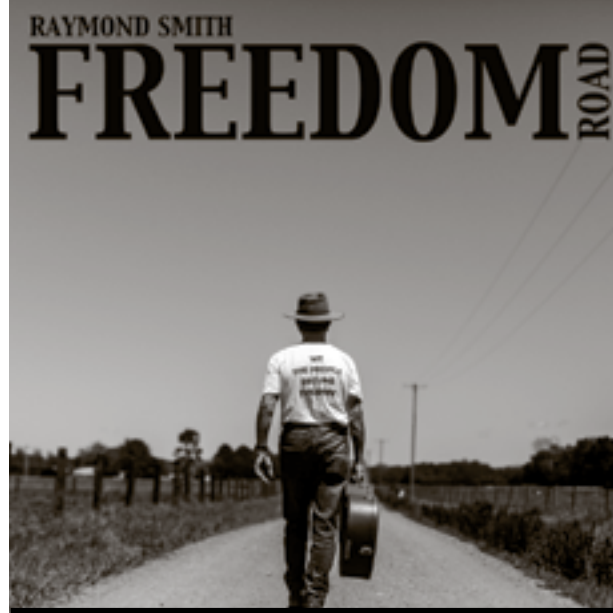
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