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Posted by: [jay babcock](#) [Comments \(0\)](#)

### ["Spasm Empire" by Charles Potts](#)

Paranoid Christian Fascism is not an appropriate answer to world or American problems but it is the only one coming out of the fir days of the Bush administration.

The US government became paranoid with the passage of the [National Security Act of 1947](#), which made government a secret. It made everybody who might want to know what the government is up to an enemy, from whom the truth must be kept at all cost: 16 spy agencies enough? Why not 24? or 56?

Christianity is a comfort religion for chimpanzees without the nerve to die decently. They want to drag everybody through their Armageddon—worse than a Mel Gibson movie.

And Fascism, well the 20th century was a hundred million death essay in the futility of invading neighboring countries just because. Adios Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan, and Mussolini's "Government by Corporations" Fascism. The adult countries of Europe & Asia will have to help put the kibosh on the PCF US Empire.

With any luck the empire will collapse in time for all of us to watch. While the [Vichy](#) Democrats have decided to ratify the Bush strategy to run out the clock and blame all their failures on subsequent and former administrations (I mean where the fuck is Congressman Conyers' bill for impeachment?), our obligation is to not help them kill any innocent bodies and to stay out of the w the debris from falling empire.

Or as Edward Dorn just said: If voting changed anything, it would be illegal.

Peace

Posted by: [charles potts](#) [Comments \(1\)](#)

[Applied Magic\(k\): Mobilizing Vehicles for Change](#)

*(intended for publication in the cancelled Arthur Vol. 1, No. 26 [March 2007])*

Mobilizing Vehicles for Change  
by the Center for Tactical Magic

Much of magic(k) is an attempt to augment our natural abilities; to provide us with a supernatural physicality to overcome the obstacles of the material world. Nowhere is this more evident than in our efforts to move our bodies and our belongings from one place to another. Even some of the most famous illusions in stage magic have focused audience attention on bewildering levitation and miraculous transpositions. From the ingenuity of our ancestors who recognized the unique properties of rolling discs and float hulls, to more mystical means of mobility such as broomsticks and flying carpets, we often underestimate the magic(k) of re-locating. The banality of modern transportation not only distances us from our point of departure but also from the journey itself. Too easily we forget that vehicles are equally the means of conveyance and the agents of transmission.

Let's face it. Rarely do automobiles function like ordinary tools used to simply accomplish the task at hand. Quite the contrary. For riders, hot rods, and pimped out SUV's merely begin to scratch the enamel that glosses over our collective obsession with the means of transportation. Beyond the mods and custom accessories, motor vehicles themselves become points of departure, rather than mere carriers of goods and bodies. With names like Cougar and Jaguar, Bronco and Mustang, Thunderbird and Skylark, cars and trucks are transformed from mere technologies into totemic objects imbued with a sense of power and identity. The Cherokee and Navaj are equally stripped of any real identity as a people and forced to participate in a fetishistic masquerade. Mercury and Saturn are like gods invoked. Even Mazda shares a name with Zoroaster's divine King of Light, the likely religious precedent for benevolent monotheism (Persia, 7th Century BC). If we look beyond the gods and planets, we see the Astro, Aerostar, and Nova (which translates in Spanish to "doesn't go"). And let us not forget American Motor Company's subcompact Gremlin which scratched its way into 1970s obscurity along with its '80s offspring the Spirit. Indeed, the magic(k) of transportation lies buried deep in a veritable scrapyard of consumer manipulation, hollow fantasy and a lost sense of adventure. But we can salvage something of worth from amidst the rot.

Just as the introduction of the great iron horse changed the way travelers perceived time and distance, so too are our senses manipulated by contemporary forms of locomotion. No one can deny that we experience the world differently when we ride in a glammed-out gas-guzzling behemoth, a compact beater, or on a two-wheeled dream machine powered by our own two legs. And fewer are denying the material effects of our choices as well. Even the vestigial cynics of global warming—folks like G.W. Bush and some CEOs in Detroit—are finally acknowledging the links between climate change and fuel consumption. Perhaps this has something to do with an unpopular war that consumes nearly 400,000 barrels of oil per day just for military usage alone (approx. 144 MILLION barrels a year). Or maybe, when automakers like Ford post record losses (nearly \$12.7 BILLION) they're finally forced to reckon with the dissatisfaction and/or guilt of the consuming citizenry. Either way, we seem to be moving in the right direction, although we've got a long way to go.

Technological innovations can carry us into a future either golden or grim depending on how they shape our realities. We trust in the laws of physics and the intelligence of engineers to ensure our confidence in the ability of a great hulking chunk of metal to speedily though the clouds and deliver us to our chosen destinations. And rarely do we account for the great paradox of travel: our simultaneous conveyance across thousands of miles of sky while cramped practically motionless in the same small airplane seat wedged between two snoring salesmen. With the exception of the occasional trip to the toilet, we go absolutely nowhere. Yet, when we disembark several hours later we find ourselves in another land far from home. Logically, of course we understand how this happens. However, for all intents and purposes it wouldn't really matter if the airplane were actually a sci-fi teleporter that took five hours to program once you were inside of it. In fact, it's almost too easy to imagine a futuristic teleportation station where travelers get crammed into small seats in stuffy cabins with meager entertainment options and crappy snacks as they wait for hours for the operators to adjust all the right settings to get everyone to the proper destination.

Fortunately, we'll probably never have to endure that bleak future. According to a de-commissioned research document funded by the US Air Force in 2004, the possibilities for teleportation are limited and fairly undeveloped. (See "Teleportation Physics Study" by E. Davis, Federation of American Scientists) Limited, mind you; not "impossible," "improbable" or even "non-existent." Although the report does rule out Star Trek-style teleporters as an option, it suggests the need for additional research in psychic teleportation, worm-hole manipulation, quantum entanglement and extra-dimensional travel. It also cites Chinese studies claiming that children have been used in double-blind and triple-blind laboratory tests to successfully teleport a variety of small objects including radio transmitters, chemically-sensitive paper and live insects.

Sound too weird to be true? Maybe. But the fact that the USAF actually funded the research is not the least bit in doubt since their spokesmen have publicly commented on the study in major news media. But before you get too excited, experts largely agree that we're a long ways away from any practical applications of such theoretical physics. Still feeling a bit eager? If so, ask yourself if a teleporter truly existed, would the auto industry or Big Oil welcome it with open arms? Would it be turned into public transportation or would it be restricted to those who could afford it at a premium? Would it be a public domain technology or would it be limited to military for covert use long before the public was even informed?

Don't misunderstand. Our aim here is not to promote a conspiracy theory about the secret existence of bizarre military technology. After all, why wander down a murky alley of speculation when we can cruise a stretch of established fact. Take for instance the Pentagon's newly released "Active Denial System (ADS)." If the strangeness of the aforementioned teleportation study caused you a minor meltdown, this one'll really fry your brain. Literally. The ADS is a giant heat-ray mounted on a military Hummer that is intended for use as mobile crowd control by beaming out a silent, invisible wave that heats up people's skin up to half a kilometer away. This futuristic sci-fi vehicle is already developed and ready for deployment in situations where people might ordinarily be subjected to cannons, tear gas, pepper spray and/or rubber bullets. **If you thought Hummers were repulsive before, just wait until they start showing up at your local peace rally.** Like most military technologies that eventually steer their way into the consumer marketplace, Raytheon is also manufacturing a commercial model they call the "Silent Guardian." Care to invoke a "Silent Guardian" for your next birthday party, BBQ or bar mitzvah? We called Raytheon to inquire about the purchase price (in dollars, not souls) but their "business relations development associate" has yet to give us a fixed number.

The illusion of technological neutrality is left stranded by the wayside when we consider how the vehicle so often predetermines the nature of the voyage. Just as a train is limited to travel only where the tracks lead, so too can we predetermine some of the future destinations of society based on its machinations. While technology and magic(k) enhance our abilities to navigate a variety of terrain they are not always free to embark on the path of our choosing. As such, it's important to develop the right vehicle for the right journey, both literally and metaphorically.

A vehicle for change does not need to be complicated. All that is required is a bit of consideration regarding where you want to go and how you might go about getting there. Obviously if you're trying to get to a city 300 miles away, riding a tricycle isn't the easiest way to go. Hitchhiking, jumping a train, driving, riding, or flying generally tends to be more expedient. But if the destination is less concrete, then the mode of transportation may not be so obvious. Look for existing forces that are already flowing in the direction you want to go, and harness them for the ride. The right vehicle for the right journey might just be a remote-controlled car, a smokescreen, a bicycle-repair clinic, or the rolling thunder. But it probably isn't a giant heat-ray mounted on a Hummer.

## EXERCISES

The magic(k) of mobility can take on a wealth of forms. Here are just a few exercises to get your gears turning. As always, please us know how it works out for you by emailing us at: [goodluck@tacticalmagie.org](mailto:goodluck@tacticalmagie.org)

1. One does not always need to travel with a destination in mind. In fact, history has yielded many a mystic through wayward journeys, aimless wanderings and vision quests. But strolling without window-shopping, snacking or sight-seeing may not be as easy as it seems. To help structure the randomness of your expedition, try traveling based on a particular color, shape, or other signal (move towards the color red as it appears in your field of vision). Even if you're wandering for only an hour two, you'll most likely happen upon the unlikely if your eyes are open.

2. **Police will often use mind-tricks or verbal misdirection to gain control in a situation. It's actually quite common for a cop to ask you to do something in a manner which sounds like an order. "Would you please step out of your car and your trunk now, ma'am!?" Can you hear the tone of voice in your head? It sounds like you have to comply, right? Well, except at international borders, you have a right to privacy and never have to consent to a search of your car, your home, or your body (including bags, packages, backpacks, etc). And the police can only conduct a search if they can prove "probable cause" (i.e., you left a bag of weed sitting out on your back seat in open view), or they have a warrant. (Unless, of course you're being served with a Section 215 order from the USA Patriot Act, in which case you not only don't have any rights, but you're also legally prohibited from telling anyone about it.) So, how can one defend against such a binding spell when moving about? Heed these magic(k) words:**

- a. Remain calm and ask the cop to respect your right to privacy.
- b. State clearly: "I do not consent to a search."
- c. In a motor vehicle, you are legally required to show a valid driver's license, current registration, and, in some states, proof of insurance. Beyond that, you are not required to answer any questions.
- d. Do NOT lie. Lying to a police officer is a crime that can get you into even more trouble.
- e. Do NOT physically resist even if you know the cop is abusing his/her authority.
- f. Make a note of his/her name and badge number. (They are legally required to make this information visible and available.) This may come in handy later, especially if you want to file a complaint or contact a lawyer.
- g. NEVER consent to a search if you know that they'll find something illegal. Evidence seized during an illegal search is not admissible in court. But if you consent, and they find something, you're screwed.

\*please note: According to our research, this is accurate information to the best of our knowledge; however, we are lawyers, and the above does not represent legal advice, so please don't sue us.

3. How is teleportation even theoretically possible? You just need to think outside of the box. Look at the illustration of the square we've provided. This drawing is a 2-dimensional representation of 2-dimensional space (length x width). If we assume that the fly can only think in terms of 2-dimensions, then we see that the fly is trapped. It is bounded by the perimeter of the square. But if the fly can think 3-dimensionally, then it can escape by flying up from the paper in the third dimension (depth). Now, look at the illustration of the cube. The cube is a 2-dimensional representation of 3-dimensional space. See the fly sitting on the wall of the cube. Depending on how you look at it, that wall is either inside the cube or outside the cube. With a little effort you should be able to do both ways. Our ability to turn the cube inside-out without physically manipulating the drawing demonstrates our ability to think 4-dimensionally. Even though nothing has changed 3-dimensionally, for the fly on the wall, this way of thinking makes the difference between being trapped on the inside, or liberated on the outside.

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### [BYU students protesting planned Cheney commencement speech](#)



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### [The costs of maintaining a mercenary military.](#)

[Spending soars to keep troops](#)

\$1 billion spent on bonuses for soldiers, Marines balloons  
 The Associated Press  
 Updated: 6:33 a.m. PT April 11, 2007

WASHINGTON - The struggle to entice Army soldiers and Marines to stay in the military, after four years of war in Iraq, has ballooned.

into a \$1 billion campaign, with bonuses soaring nearly sixfold since 2003.

The size and number of bonuses have grown as officials scrambled to meet the steady demand for troops on the battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan and reverse sporadic shortfalls in the number of National Guard and Reserve soldiers willing to sign on for multiple tours.

Besides underscoring the extraordinary steps the Pentagon must take to maintain fighting forces, the rise in costs for re-enlistment incentives is putting strains on the defense budget, already strapped by the massive costs of waging war and equipping and caring for a modern military.

The bonuses can range from a few thousand dollars to as much as \$150,000 for very senior special forces soldiers who re-enlist for multiple years. All told, the Army and Marines spent \$1.03 billion for re-enlistment payments last year, compared with \$174 million in 2003, the year the war in Iraq began.

'War is expensive'

The Associated Press compiled and analyzed the budget figures from the military services for this story.

"War is expensive," said Col. Mike Jones, who oversees retention issues for the National Guard. "Winning a war, however, is less expensive than losing one."

The soaring budget for re-enlistment bonuses — particularly for the Guard and Reserves, which have seen the most dramatic cost increases — has prompted some observers to question whether the country can still afford its volunteer force.

"I believe the whole issue of the affordability of the volunteer force is something we need to look at," said Arnold Punaro, who heads an independent panel established by Congress to study the National Guard and Reserves.

The higher bonuses come as support for the war continues to wane both in Congress and with the American public. That decline is fueling concerns that more soldiers will leave the military under pressure from families who fear the rising death toll and are weary of the lengthy and repeated overseas deployments. The Iraq war has claimed the lives of at least 3,280 U.S. troops to date.

Incentives for Army Guard and Reserve members combined have skyrocketed from about \$27 million in 2003 to more than \$335 million in 2006.

The active Army, meanwhile, poured more than \$600 million into these payments last year, a six-fold increase from \$98 million in 2003. The Army gave two out of every three soldiers who re-enlisted a bonus last year, compared to less than two in 10 who received one during 2003.

Those who don't get bonuses are generally in jobs that are not in high demand or are not in war zones. For example, certain artillery crewmembers who re-enlisted outside Afghanistan or Iraq would receive no bonus, said Army spokesman Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty.

Bonuses for Marines have nearly doubled, from about \$50 million in 2003 to nearly \$90 million in 2006.

The incentives help the military compete with private employers who often pay much higher salaries, Hilferty said.

"Soldiers with valuable skills and experience are aggressively sought after by industry," Hilferty said. He said while the extra money is important, "people don't re-enlist in a wartime Army for \$13,000. ... If soldiers didn't think they were doing the right thing for the reason, they would get out and get a job back home."

He said soldiers with special skills can get bonuses between \$10,000 and \$30,000, with a select few eligible for payments up to \$50,000. Only very few highly qualified special forces soldiers would get the top bonus of \$150,000. Nearly all soldiers deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait get a maximum of \$15,000 for re-enlisting, just a bit more than the average.

Bonuses for Marines in certain critical specialties can go as high as \$60,000 for a new four-year tour. On average a Marine who re-enlists this year can receive as much as \$24,000. About eight in 10 Marines with up to six years of service will get a bonus this year, as will more than half of those with six to 14 years in the Corps.

Punaro, chairman of the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, calls the soaring costs "a ticking time bomb."

"My instinct tells me ... that the Guard and Reserve will continue to be a real bargain for the taxpayer" because the costs for the active-duty military have gone up a lot more, he said.

So far, the extra cash appears to be working. The active Army, the Guard and the Army Reserve are all on track to meet their re-enlistment goals for the fiscal year that will end Sept. 30.

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Doran, who works full-time for the Guard, signed on for another six-year tour late last year, just before he returned home from Iraq. That not only gives him the \$15,000 bonus but also makes it tax-free because he was on the battlefield when he re-enlisted.

"It helps a lot of guys out," said Doran. "And I think it does sway some of the decisions to stay in when guys are on the fence trying to decide."

Not just about money

But for some who have been sent to war as many as three times, the money isn't enough.

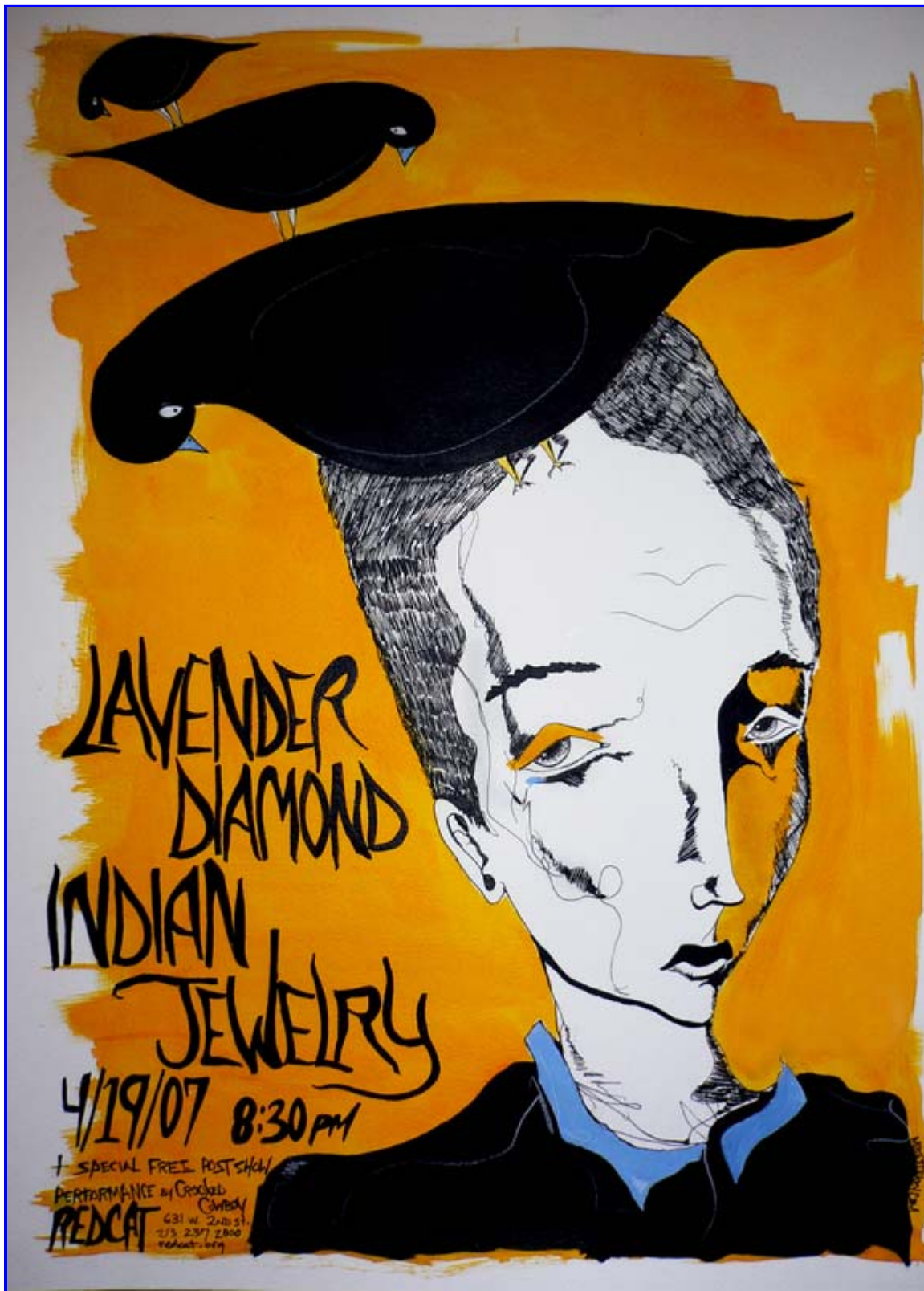
"We had some that, once we got back, opted to say goodbye and just leave. Some guys said the money did play a part in their decision to stay, others said the \$15,000 wasn't worth it."

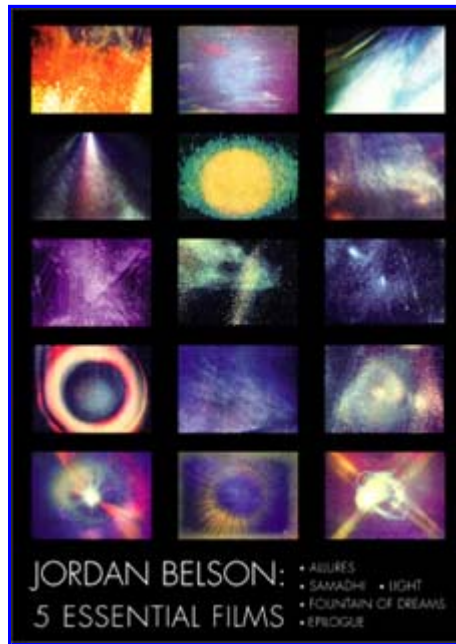
Jones of the Guard said boosting the maximum re-enlistment bonus from \$5,000 to \$15,000 caused most of the budget increase. he said, more soldiers signed up than anticipated.

"When we're at peace, and when we're not deploying units, the bonuses probably don't need to be what they are today," said Jon "When the risks are lowered, the reward would be lowered. But one of reasons we struggled in 2005 and 2004 is because we wer slow as a nation to increase the rewards at the same time as we increased the risk."

Posted by: jay babcock [Comments \(0\)](#)

[Lavender Diamond + Indian Jewelry at REDCAT April 19](#)



Posted by: jay babcock [Comments \(0\)](#)**04/10/2007****Jordan Belson - 5 Essential Films on DVD**

"Jordan Belson is one of the greatest artists of visual music. Belson creates lush vibrant experiences of exquisite color and dynamic abstract phenomena evoking sacred celestial experiences." (William Moritz)

Features:

1. "Allures" (1961). An early masterpiece of Non-Objective Cinema.

"I think of Allures as a combination of molecular structures and astronomical events mixed with subconscious and subjective phenomena - all happening simultaneously. the beginning is almost purely sensual, the end perhaps totally nonmaterial. It seems to move from matter to spirit in some way."

"...it took a year and a half to make, pieced together in thousands of different ways....Allures actually developed out of images I was working with in the Vortex Concerts." (Jordan Belson, quoted in Expanded Cinema by Gene Youngblood, p. 160-162).

The soundtrack is a collaboration with Henry Jacobs. Allures was preserved with the support of the National Film Preservation Foundation.

2. "Samadhi" (1967) evokes the ecstatic state achieved by the meditator where individual consciousness merges with the Univers

"I hoped that somehow the film could actually provide a taste of what the real experience of samadhi might be like." (from Scott MacDonald's interview with Belson in A Critical Cinema 3).

Belson adds "It is primarily an abstract cinematic work of art inspired by Yoga and Buddhism. Not a description or explanation of Samadhi."

3. "Light" (1973) is based on the continuity of the electromagnetic spectrum. It is a ride through space and light. This is the last film for which Belson composed his own soundtrack. This film was preserved with the support of the National Film Preservation Founda

4. "Fountain of Dreams" (1984) - never before released. A bold synchronization to the Transcendental music of Franz Liszt.

5. "Epilogue" (2005).

By way of a pure Visual Music experience, the Hirshhorn Museum (Smithsonian Institution) commissioned a major new work from abstract film artist Jordan Belson, who distilled 60 years of visionary sound and images into a twelve minute videofilm, synchronized to a symphonic tone poem "Isle of the Dead" by the great lyric composer Sergei Rachmaninoff. Produced by Center for Visual Music, support from the NASA Art Program. Epilogue was installed in the Visual Music exhibition at the Hirshhorn, Washington, D.C., June 15 - September 12, 2005.

Posted by: jay babcock [Comments \(0\)](#)

**"Vermont was once an independent republic, and it can be one again."**

(A sorta-followup to Peter Lamborn Wilson's piece in [Arthur Vol. 1 No. 16](#)....)

[washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)

The Once and Future Republic of Vermont

By Ian Baldwin and Frank Bryan  
Sunday, April 1, 2007; B01

BURLINGTON, Vt.

The winds of secession are blowing in the Green Mountain State.

Vermont was once an independent republic, and it can be one again. We think the time to make that happen is now. Over the past years, the U.S. government has grown too big, too corrupt and too aggressive toward the world, toward its own citizens and toward local democratic institutions. It has abandoned the democratic vision of its founders and eroded Americans' fundamental freedom.

Vermont did not join the Union to become part of an empire.

Some of us therefore seek permission to leave.

A decade before the War of Independence, Vermont became New England's first frontier, settled by pioneers escaping colonial bondage who hewed settlements across a lush region whose spine is the Green Mountains. These independent folk brought with them what Henry David Thoreau called the "true American Congress" — the New England town meeting, which is still the legislature for nearly all of Vermont's 237 towns. Here every citizen is a legislator who helps fashion the rules that govern the locality.

Today, however, Vermont no longer controls even its own National Guard, a domestic emergency force that is now employed in an imperial war 6,000 miles away. The 9/11 commission report says that "the American homeland is the planet." To defend this "homeland," the United States spends six times as much on its military as China, the next highest-spending nation, funding more than 730 military bases in more than 130 countries, abetted by more than 100 military space satellites and more than 100,000 seaborne battle-ready forces. This is the greatest military colossus ever forged.

Few heed George Washington's Farewell Address, which warned against the danger of a permanent large standing army that "can be regarded as particularly hostile to republican liberty." Or that of a later general-become-president: "We must never let the weight [of the military-industrial complex] endanger our liberties or democratic processes." Dwight D. Eisenhower pointedly included the word "congressional" after "military-industrial" but allowed his advisers to excise it. That word completes a true description of the hidden threat to democracy in the United States.

The two of us are typical of the diversity of Vermont's secessionist movement: one descended from old Vermonter stock, the other a more recent arrival — a "flatlander" from down country. Our Vermont homeland remains economically conservative and socially liberal. And the love of freedom runs deep in its psyche.

Vermont seceded from the British Empire in 1777 and stood free for 14 years, until 1791. Its constitution — which preceded the U.S. Constitution by more than a decade — was the first to prohibit slavery in the New World and to guarantee universal manhood suffrage. Vermont issued its own currency, ran its own postal service, developed its own foreign relations, grew its own food, made its own roads and paid for its own militia. No other state, not even Texas, governed itself more thoroughly or longer before giving up its nationhood and joining the Union.

But the seeds of disunion have been growing since the beginning. Vermont more or less sat out the War of 1812, and its government ordered troops fighting the British to disengage and come home. Vermont fought the Civil War primarily to end slavery; Abraham Lincoln did so primarily to save the Union. Vermont's record on the slavery issue was so strong that Georgia's legislature resolved to dig a ditch around the "pestiferous" state and float it out to sea.

After the Great Flood of 1927, the worst natural disaster in the state's history, President Calvin Coolidge (a Vermonter) offered Vermont's governor the choice: "Vermont will take care of its own." In 1936, town meetings rejected a huge federal highway referendum that would have blacktopped the Green Mountain crest line from Massachusetts to Canada.

Nor did Vermont sign on when imperial Washington demanded that the state raise its drinking age from 18 to 21 in 1985. The federal government thereupon resorted to its favored tactic, blackmail. Raise your drinking age, said Ronald Reagan, or we'll take away the money you need to keep the interstates paved. Vermont took its case for state control to the Supreme Court — and lost.

It's quite simple. The United States has destroyed the 10th Amendment, which says that "powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

The present movement for secession has been gathering steam for a decade and a half. In preparation for Vermont's bicentennial in 1991, public debates — moderated by then-Lt. Gov. Howard Dean — were held in seven towns before crowds that averaged 230 citizens. At the end of each, Dean asked all those in favor of Vermont's seceding from the Union to stand and be counted. In town after town, solid majorities stood. The final count: 999 (62 percent) for secession and 608 opposed.

In early 2003, transplanted Southerner and retired Duke University economics professor Thomas Naylor gave a speech at Johnson State College opposing the Iraq war. When he pitched the idea of secession to the crowd, he saw many eyes "light up," he said. Later that year, he and several others started a loosely organized movement (now a think tank) called the Second Vermont Republic, which has an independent quarterly journal, Vermont Commons, and a Web site.

In October 2005, about 300 Vermonters attended a statewide convention on the question of secession. Six months later, the anniversary

Vermont Poll of the University of Vermont's Center for Rural Studies found that about 8 percent of respondents replied "yes" to peaceful secession, arguably making Vermont foremost among the many states with secessionist movements (including Alaska, California, Hawaii, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Texas).

We secessionists believe that the 350-year swing of history's pendulum toward large, centralized imperial states is once again reversing itself.

Why? First, the cost of oil and gas. According to urban planner James Howard Kunstler, "Anything organized on a gigantic scale . . . will probably falter in the energy-scarce future." Second, third-wave technology is as inherently democratic and decentralist as second-wave technology was authoritarian and centralist. Gov. Jim Douglas wants Vermont to be the first "e-state," making broadband Internet access available to every household and business in the state by 2010. Vermont will soon be fully wired into the global commons.

Against this backdrop, secessionists from all over the state will gather in June to plan a grass-roots campaign to get at least 200,000 to vote by 2012 on independence. We believe that one outcome of this meeting will be dialogues among different communities of Vermonters committed to achieving local economic vitality, be they farmers, entrepreneurs, bankers, merchants, lawyers, independent media providers, construction workers, manufacturers, artists, entertainers or anyone else with a stake in Vermont's future — any for whom freedom is not just a slogan.

If Vermonters succeed in once again inventing vibrant local economies, these in turn may reinvigorate the small-scale democratic meeting tradition, the true American Congress, and re-create the rudiments of a republic once again able to make its own way in world. The once and future republic of Vermont.

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Ian Baldwin is publisher of Vermont Commons. Frank Bryan, a political science professor at the University of Vermont, is author of "Real Democracy: The New England Town Meeting and How It Works."

Posted by: jay babcock [Comments \(0\)](#)

### [Action Alert from Earthjustice re Yellowstone Grizzlies](#)

[Help Save Yellowstone Grizzlies](#)

Dear Friends:

On March 29, 2007, the Department of the Interior removed federal protection for Yellowstone's grizzly bears under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). On April 29 this "de-listing" will take effect. Only a challenge in federal court can stop this final ruling.

**I believe this decision will mark the beginning of the end of the grizzly in the contiguous states.** Here are three reasons:

First, insofar as the Yellowstone population's de-listing is based on estimates of the number of bears, the removal of ESA protection for grizzlies in and around Glacier Park (where the data on numbers is considered more reliable) will soon follow.

Second, de-listing may represent one of the most destructive actions this administration has yet taken against the natural world, largely because the Yellowstone grizzly delisting policy was developed hand-in-hand with the government's denial of the existence of global warming—an unimaginable firestorm approaching us all—and this proposal reflects that lingering ignorance.

Finally, the myopic and political removal of Yellowstone's grizzlies from the Endangered Species list effectively eliminates practical discussion of the linkages necessary for countless species of plants and animals that will need to move northward and higher to survive. I'm saying that our best chance of keeping alive and pragmatic the visionary idea of interlinking corridors (like those proposed by the Wildlands Project, Yellowstone to Yukon, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act and others) is the attainable goal of connecting the isolated grizzly ecosystem of Yellowstone northward to Canada. Without the protection that was afforded the bear under the ESA, the opportunity to complete those linkages will soon be cut off by human development and Yellowstone will remain an island that refutes our grand dreams for connectivity. **The grizzly still affords the widest available biological shoulders upon which countless plants and animals may hitch a ride in their struggle to adapt to rapidly shifting habitats.**

The decision to remove Yellowstone's grizzlies from the ESA can now only be reversed by a suit in federal court. Legal arguments revolve around bear biology. Here are some concerns:

\* The greatest climatic changes in history are now facing the Yellowstone ecosystem and already threaten major bear foods. Whitebark pine, and the nuts it produces, is arguably the grizzly's most important fall food. A two-degree warming since the 1970s rendered these trees vulnerable to blister rust and beetle infestation; whitebark pines are dying and could be eliminated from Yellowstone Park within a few decades. Remnant stands of trees would survive only in the coldest outlying regions of the ecosystem, namely the Wind River Range of Wyoming. With de-listing, management of this last refuge for pine nut eating grizzlies will be turned over to the state. Wyoming's bear management plan would not permit significant numbers of grizzlies anywhere in the Winds and at all in the southern half of the range.

\* The Forest Service and Wyoming post de-listing management plans are inadequate for grizzly survival. The number of bears in Yellowstone has rebounded because the grizzly was listed on the ESA in 1975. The Federal Wildlife Service has credibly administered this policy and they should keep doing it. The FWS currently claims that it can make "adjustments" or re-list the bear if the Yellowstone grizzly population again plummets. But it will be too late by then. The states lack the resources to monitor the number of grizzlies. This is not the time for a change in the great bear's status.



\* There are other issues, other food problems, but the nut remains this: **the Yellowstone grizzly is an island ecosystem surrounded by a sea of human industrial and commercial development chewing up the remaining habitat needed for genetic and physical linkage to northern populations and necessary for long-term survival.** On top of that, great and uncharted changes driven by global warming are coming to us all.

\* Grizzlies are touted for their adaptability and ability to find new food sources. They should be as well suited to survive the predi wave of extinction as any wild animal—except for the attitudes, personified by intolerance and greed, of people who historically h killed them and destroyed their habitat. Sometime in this century Homo sapiens must contend with real threats to our own surviv and may recognize in the face of the adversary those same human attitudes. During these times, a vigilant generosity towards th natural world is not inappropriate; may we hope for a distant reciprocation.

This note is my first, and perhaps last, fundraising letter. I wrote it because of the enormous and destructive importance of this governmental action: We cannot afford to allow the final ruling to remove the bear from the ESA to slip through uncontested. I al wrote it because of my unmitigated faith in the people of the Bozeman office of Earthjustice to do the work.

You can support the legal efforts to protect this magnificent species by writing a check to Earthjustice, indicating that your contrit should be allocated to the Grizzly Delisting case. The cost of expert witnesses, court costs and attorney time for a case of this magnitude will likely exceed \$500,000. If you have the means and might consider making a substantial donation toward this case please call Doug Honnold at Earthjustice, (406) 586-9699, with any questions or to discuss it further. All levels of support are gre welcomed: checks may be sent to Earthjustice, 209 S. Willson Ave., Bozeman, MT 59715.

I urge you to contribute to this fund in any way you can, including sending a copy of this letter to all similar-minded friends. If yo with a group or organization that has other urgent priorities, please forward this letter to appropriate supporters who may be incli to help. Please feel free to contact me personally at any time.

For the wild,

[Doug Peacock](#)

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### [Don Bolles update](#)

April 10, 2007 press release from Dr. Bronner's

"Germ" Wrongly Jailed Over Soap

Absurd GHB Drug Charges for Don Bolles, Drummer of the "The Germs", Stem From a Bottle of Dr. Bronner's Peppermint Soap Found in Van During Police Stop

ESCONDIDO, CA - The Bronner family, makers of the popular organic Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps are shocked and disturbed by musician Don Bolles' April 4th arrest for felony drug possession after police alleged an 8oz bottle of peppermint Dr. Bronner's Magic Soap tested positive for the illicit drug GHB (Gamma Hydroxy Butyrate). The notion that anyone would put GHB in a rinse-off liquid soap product is beyond be and the police field test used must have been flawed or tampered with. GHB, which produces euphoria and is an alleged aphrodisi when ingested, of course has absolutely no effect in a soap product that is rinsed off the hands and body.

Mr. Bolles, drummer of the legendary punk band The Germs, was arrested following a police traffic stop and spent three and half in various jails in Orange County before being released early Easter morning. During a consented search of Mr. Bolles vintage 196 Dodge A-108 van, Newport Beach police found a bottle of peppermint Dr. Bronner's soap which is made with organic coconut, oliv hemp, peppermint and jojoba oils. Felony drug possession could mean 20 years in prison if convicted. A pretrial hearing is schedu for Friday, April 13, 2007 at the Harbor Justice Center, 4601 Jamboree Road Newport Beach , CA at 8:30am.

"I've used only Dr. Bronner's soap for 35 years," says Mr. Bolles. "I use it for everything - bathing, washing my hair, washing my clothes - it goes everywhere I go. I'm scheduled to go to Europe to tour with The Germs this summer, but these felony charges ca keep me from travelling out of the country. This whole thing could be really devastating to a 50 year old guy just trying to make a living. I told the officer 'its soap, it smells like peppermint soap,' but he seemed intent on arresting me."

"It is totally outrageous that the police could be this malicious and idiotic," says Michael Bronner, Vice-President of Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps. "This clearly is a case of profiling by the Newport Bea police of a person who doesn't look like the people who live in that town. We are paying the cost of Mr. Bolle's lawyer, and we der the charges be dropped or proof from the police forensics lab of GHB contamination be immediately provided to us," said Bronner Adds brother David Bronner, President: "We cannot imagine anyone putting GHB, or any other drug for that matter, into a rinse-c soap product that is lathered and rinsed off the body immediately. The Newport Beach police should see how much of a buzz putt beer in their shampoo gives them, and get a grip and apologize on their hands and knees to Mr. Bolles."

At the time of the arrest Mr. Bolles was driving his girlfriend, and fellow musician Cat Scandal to an Alcoholics Anonymous meetin Newport Beach. "I had heard of GHB but the police had to tell me what it was," said Bolles. "I'm going to fight these charges."

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