

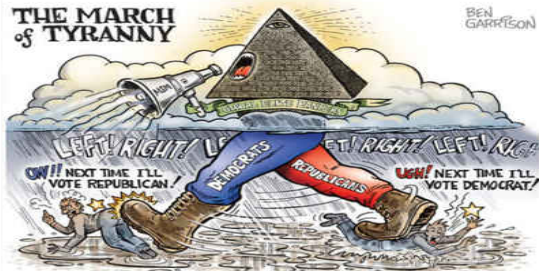
A GRRRGRAPHICS BOOK

# ROGUE CARTOONIST



## THE MARCH of TYRANNY

BEN  
GARRISON



## THE INTERNET PERILS OF A CITIZEN MUCKRAKER

**Ben Garrison**

Many concerned  
young people urged me  
to publish this book.  
I dedicate it to them.

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## ADVANCED REVIEWS

Troll comments that were harvested verbatim from anonymous message boards:

*“This actually could be the kind of thing a book is written about when you think about it.”*

—Anonymous

*“Picture a man in his mid 50s fuming about teenage Internet trolls as he hammers away on some antiquated typewriter. This book is going to be a riot.”* —Anonymous

*“His book is going to be a glorious train-wreck and will probably make him look even sillier (if that’s even possible).”* —Anonymous

*“Ben ben ben. Poor deluded ben. You were never going to change the world with a cartoon because you aren’t us ben. But we changed your world didn’t we ben?”* —Anonymous

*“He is nothing without us.” —Anonymous*

*“Maybe Ben should get a real job like being a Wal-Mart greeter instead of thinking he could make a living off of some MSPAINT tier hate speech doodles.” —Anonymous*

*“I used to feel a little sorry for this Ben Garrison guy, but if he believes this shit then fuck him.”  
—Anonymous*

*“I’m honestly surprised old benny boy has lasted this long without hanging himself. Who knows, maybe his libertarian paradise awaits him on the other side.” —Anonymous*

*“Cartoonists do not change society. Ben Garrison was nothing but a two bit doodle artist, and nothing he has ever penned could be considered hard hitting.” —Anonymous*

*“The only way Ben can escape this is with a legal name change and cosmetic surgery.”*

—Anonymous

*“So it seems that Fake Ben has officially moved on from being a dumbass lol cow to being an outright scumbag. Not only is he defensive of fags, but he’s also a feminist and openly pro-SJW.”*

—Anonymous

*“His life is completely ruined but it’s so hilarious.”* —Anonymous

*“Ben Garrison is an ignorant fuck faced freak. I hope a Jew sets him on fire, puts him out and then throws him in acid. [It] would be hilarious.”*

—Anonymous

*“Ben Garrison is a old crazy man who’s just going to blame everything on whatever seems convenient, like most conspiracy nuts.”*

—Anonymous

*“Ben Garrison is unfunny. To be a cartoonist, you need to be funny.” —Anonymous*

*“Ben Garrison perpetrated this whole meme himself and he’s really a modern version of comedic genius madman Andy Kaufmann.”*

*—Anonymous*

*“Kill yourself.” —Anonymous*

# THE MARCH of TYRANNY

BEN  
GARRISON  
10/21/2010  
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My most popular cartoon was also drawn in the least  
amount of time.

I dashed it out in about three hours.





The grrrgraphics.com watchdog

## PROLOGUE

**In 2008, the big banks were bailed out.** Like many Americans, I was outraged. We angry citizens wrote our senators and congressmen and demanded our representatives vote “NO!” We were ignored as most of the politicians voted yes anyway. One of my senators at the time, Patty Murray, made a condescending statement to us voters. She admonished citizens, saying, “Eat

your vegetables!” This kind of contempt toward voters made me even angrier.

I decided to do something about it. To illustrate the corruption, I began drawing editorial cartoons in 2009. I wanted to become a citizen journalist—a muckraker. At first my cartoons were a big success. I needed neither marketing nor a publisher. Thanks to the Internet, some of my cartoons were seen by millions of people from around the world.

Then the trolls showed up. I had unwittingly snapped a wet towel on the butt of a merciless lion of hate. I didn't realize I was about to become the most trolled cartoonist in the world.

Friends, family, and acquaintances have all informed me that it's my *own fault* for poking a stick at a hornets' nest. They said I should have ignored them. Only I didn't poke a stick at anything. The hornets spewed from their hives of enmity and began stinging without provocation.

They attacked not only me, but also my family. They targeted my business. Hackers were encouraged to target my email, Facebook, and PayPal accounts. They even defaced my fine art. Ignoring the trolls is a strategy that hasn't worked for me and neither has it worked for many who are bullied by them.

Trolling has always been a problem on the Internet . . . and it's growing worse. Cyberbullies are a more virulent type of troll and derive pleasure from attacking people online whom they don't even know. Hate speech and impersonation plague social media. Trolls create spiteful memes that, with endless repetition, can go so far as to sway young minds into actually believing it might be okay to murder people. These hateful memes permeate social media. The irresponsible trolls have created conditions that will likely tempt government to step in and end anonymous free speech altogether.

I am a humble artist with limited means. Unlike mainstream media cartoonists who have access to big shot lawyers, I've had to combat the harassment mostly by myself. I did seek advice from several attorneys. The first one gave me a free consultation and informed me that I could not sue sites such as Facebook because of their ironclad disclaimers. I'd have to go after the anonymous perpetrators instead, I was advised, which would be costly and difficult. Basically, he told me that nothing could be done. I coughed up a lot of money and hired a second lawyer. His contract stated that he promised no results and I received none. He eventually returned my money after informing me that such cases are very expensive and time consuming. Most likely there would be little chance of compensation should the case be won. I have not given up on pursuing a case, because to me it's more about justice than obtaining money.

I paid for a consultation with a third lawyer. She flatly told me that nothing could be done

without spending a fortune because Internet libel is the Achilles' heel of lawyers. She advised me to launch a PR blitz that might include writing a book. She thought it might help clear my name. Here is that book.

I'd like to thank all of those who have helped me along this journey. Many strangers have written to offer help, encouragement, and suggestions. One young man even wanted to send me money to help with legal expenses. I couldn't accept the offer because he was in college and struggling to make ends meet, but I was touched by it and by his concern. I appreciate the few bucks that strangers have contributed via my cartoon site, which includes a "donate" button. Fellow libertarians have also helped out. One was a cyber investigator who expertly tracked down several of the most brazenly offensive trolls. The difficulty lay in proving that they were the ones anonymously posting the libel.

I want to thank all the people who have helped me remove libel from Facebook. Some are Jewish. I know they probably don't agree with my politics, but they have been tireless in their reporting efforts, regardless. They are some of the smartest and kindest people I've met, and I have come to experience firsthand the kind of hate and bigotry they've faced all of their lives.

I'd like to convey a special thanks to Chae, who had the courage to write me to bring to my attention a Facebook impersonation page that had stolen my cartoons and photos, all of which were defaced into hate. The perpetrators claimed it was the "official" Ben Garrison page, and they made me appear as a Nazi white supremacist. I didn't even know it existed and was stunned to notice it had amassed nearly 1,000 "Likes." They had placed a photo of my smiling face next to words calling for the death of Jews and African-Americans. I looked with horror at my very own signature that was brazenly pasted at the end of the threat. Chae didn't know for sure if I really was

“Zykon Ben” or not and she was happy to hear that no, I was indeed not that vile troll creation.

When I saw the outrageous libel on Facebook, it marked the point where I decided to stop ignoring the trolls. Since removing that first fraudulent page, many more Facebook pages sprung up impersonating me, and Chae has helped remove each and every one. She’s spent countless hours working tirelessly to remove imposter pages from Facebook.

I especially want to thank my mom, who held the family together. She’s a musician, a fine artist, and a quintessential optimist. She requested that I not put her in my book, but I’m going to rebel and mention her in the prologue at least.

Finally, I’d like to thank my wife Tina. I’ve wanted to give up countless times, but she has always been there to encourage me. She has helped my art career tremendously. She spends a great deal of time monitoring and posting on the

GrrrGraphics.com WordPress blog as well as our authentic Facebook pages. Despite the rocky roads and many years of marriage, she still wants to keep me around for some reason. I'm a lucky man.

—Ben Garrison



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# A CITIZEN MUCKRAKER

BEN  
GARRISON NIKE  
©GRRRGRAPHICS.COM



Everyone has a talent. Everyone can speak out (or squeak out) and do something.  
Become a citizen muckraker!

***“You can’t fight city hall.”***

**This was the comment my gray-haired father made** in reply to my rambling complaint about the red light cameras popping up all over Seattle. I received a ticket in the mail because I had apparently not waited an adequate amount of time before making a right turn. It didn’t matter that I made a full stop and looked carefully before making that turn. As was his habit, my surly dad said nothing as I prattled on about my situation. I wanted to tear the ticket up. I wanted to complain to my accuser, but the company that manufactured the devices was located in Cincinnati. I had no choice but to pay. Otherwise, city government operatives would begin harassing me. Still, I was considering tearing the thing up and not paying. How could they prove I was

driving the car? What if all citizens got together and stopped paying?

“You can’t fight city hall,” grumbled my dad. I should have expected his gruff retort. Unsympathetic verbal backhands were his specialty. There would be no debate. Dad never debated anything. Very few conversations with my dad were pleasant and this one had just come to an abrupt end.

Nevertheless, his clichéd answer annoyed me for a long, long time. I was there when he died of cancer about a year later. He had been in a coma for days . . . no more conversations. I was playing Scrabble® with mom when he suddenly stopped breathing. Later, I thought of the last conversations I had had with him and what stood out the most was his cliché. I kept thinking, why *can’t* we fight city hall? Surely something can be done besides voting. Why can’t we change injustice and end corruption? After all, politicians are people, not mountains to be moved or weather to

be changed. It's not like I wanted to yell at rain clouds. There had to be some sort of effective avenue of protest. When did the red light cameras begin springing up? I didn't recall voting for them. What could I do about it now? Protest signs? I'd be ignored. Spray paint over the cameras in the middle of the night? I'd probably get arrested. Write letters to the city council? I didn't even know who they were.

I decided to pay the damn red light ticket even though I knew it constituted nothing but another unjust form of revenue collection. To prevent it from happening again, I purchased license plate covers, plastic things with swirls to deflect the light flashing from the cameras. The ticket cameras would only pick up glare. I never received another ticket. I did receive some queries along the lines of "Are they legal?" and "Aren't you afraid you'll get in trouble?" People's fear of the state increases continually as years go by. What, we're not supposed to push back? Not even in the face of open corruption? How has this

fear of the state become so pervasive in the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave? Perhaps it happened because people—including me—weren't paying enough attention. Too many citizens have failed to pay attention for a long time, and the great cost has become evident. We've paid the price in fees, fines, taxes, and lost liberties.

In the not-too-distant past, investigative journalists rang alarm bells continually, revealing corruption and ensuring public officials who committed crimes either resigned or went to jail. Nowadays very little is done. Billions of dollars are lost or stolen by our government. The president can execute citizens without due process. Votes are lost or changed. The IRS confiscates wealth from Americans who are guilty until proven financially innocent. The IRS even harasses those who speak out against government corruption. The targeted audits are illegal, but astoundingly the IRS receives no punishment.

Americans are spied upon without proper warrants by government agencies. Lobbyists bribe Congress. Congress changes laws so they can enrich themselves. For example, federal legislators can now conduct insider trading with impunity. Corporate welfare continues on a massive scale while small businesses are harassed and shut down. Police steal from citizens, murdering some outright without consequence. Presidents lie to start wars and Americans die.

And what happens? Nothing. No impeachment. No resignations. No jail time for those in charge, all of which constitute signs of corruption far advanced. Regular citizens sure do serve jail time, though. We have by far the largest prison population per capita in the world. Too many African-Americans are arrested and made to work in corporate-run prisons. It's in the best interest of the for-profit prisons to dole out lengthy sentences. It's a new form of slavery.

The formerly trusted “mainstream media” are now neither mainstream nor trusted. They have become global corporate mouthpieces, owned by corporations for corporations. The mainstream media (MSM) no longer alerts us to the problems or engages in serious investigative journalism. Instead we’re distracted with celebrity gossip and fluff. The MSM have become part of the problem.



What happens when good American Couch Potatoes do nothing.



Couch potatoes who aren't paying attention to government have a way of getting peeled.

Now, more than ever, it's up to us citizens to do the job that corporate media won't do, having become mere shells for corporate and financial institutions. They're failing to fulfill their highest journalistic calling, that of watchdog. It's up to us to speak out against the corruption . . . and we can perform the mission that professional journalists used to. We can start blogs or websites, we can start YouTube channels or print leaflets or, as

one individual I know who had the means has done: we can start a newspaper. His libertarian paper has grown by leaps and bounds in a very short time. My uncle, in his mid-80s, still operates a website, [www.wrisley.com](http://www.wrisley.com), on which he explains our dysfunctional system of money. Everyone can do something, even if seemingly small and inconsequential. Like ripples in a pond, all of these efforts add up.

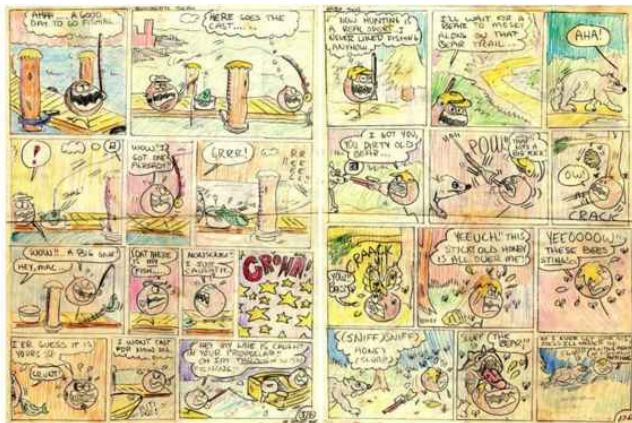
My wife Tina and I have created our own watchdog. He barks loudly at corruption and injustice. He puts the *GRRR* into [grrrgraphics.com](http://grrrgraphics.com). We may not be able to change anything at first, but shining light on the corruption can help illuminate our minds and lead to change.

As Americans, are we really okay with the militarization of our police? Are we going to allow them to treat us as enemy combatants? Are we really going to accept the fact that the CIA employs brutal torture in our name? Will we simply resign ourselves to exercises being

conducted by the U.S. military in the middle of our cities? Are we really going to sit back and watch a cabal of super-rich elitists continue to rig the game in their favor so that they get even fabulously richer while the vast majority of us continue to get poorer? The longer the corruption is allowed to fester, the more likely we will all suffer a terrible end. The pain has already begun. The time to revolt against the malfeasance is now. Please join me in that peaceful revolution and speak out while at least the spark of freedom still lingers.

It's time to fight city hall. It's time to fight the global hall. I'm neither a professional writer nor reporter. I chose political cartoons as a way to expose corruption. Everyone has a talent. Everyone can do something. Don't wait for others to do it for you. I urge you, dear reader, to join our growing ranks as a citizen muckraker.

# BEGINNINGS



“Bean Boopers” were cartoon characters I drew during my childhood.

**This muckraker was born in the winter of 1957** at a Naval hospital in Virginia under a waning crescent moon hidden behind rain clouds. My dad was at sea. I did not give my mom too much trouble, which was good because my brother and

sister were waiting for her return. We lived in Navy housing and there wasn't a lot of space. Mom has often told me how grateful she was to have a baby like me because I didn't cry much or cause any problems. I was "easy."

When my dad was 17, he joined the Navy. His first assignment was aboard a destroyer located at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. On the morning of the Japanese surprise attack, he had a day of baseball playing lined up. Instead he manned a gun, only to find it had been decommissioned. He said he saw a Japanese pilot fly low over his ship. He could see the pilot clearly. He had a black mustache and a big grin on his face. My dad's best friend from boot camp was aboard another ship and was killed in the attack. Later that night his destroyer patrolled the harbor. At the end of the war, American POWs who had long suffered in Japan came aboard his ship. He said they were walking skeletons. My dad was raised to be a faithful Christian. After the war, he returned home an ardent and bitter atheist.

As a Navy family, we moved frequently. We relocated to Rhode Island where my little brother was born. Then to Dallas where my dad, by then a Navy master chief and engine room machinist, did a stint at a recruitment station. From there we moved to San Diego, where my youngest sister was born. Dad served for a while on the USS Constitution. He was more at home on destroyers. He was known as “Big Ben Garrison,” and was a heavy, muscular man with a bad temper. He had tattoos on his wide forearms, which to me resembled Popeye’s. Dad was a master chief machinist mate, but his crew sometimes referred to him as “the meanest mate.” He had dark, wavy hair and ice blue eyes. We kids never wanted those eyes to be staring at us.

Dad didn’t know how to be a father. He ran his family like he did his crew. He would assign us work while he supervised with a cigar in one hand and a can of beer in the other. He barked out orders peppered with curses. He expected those orders to be followed immediately—or

else. It was a situation somewhat similar to the movie, *The Great Santini*. If anything, my dad taught me a good work ethic.

When I was 11 we moved to a verdant area in Washington State. Bremerton is a rainy, hilly Navy town overlooking the Sinclair Inlet in Puget Sound. My dad, who by then was retired from the Navy, had vowed never to work in a Navy yard, but there he was, employed as a machinist. He had five kids to support and his pension wasn't enough.

It was in Bremerton that I first had an inkling that I wanted to be an artist. I began doodling with a No. 2 pencil that I kept sharpened with a pocketknife that dad had given me. He had also given one to my little brother and warned us both there'd be hell to pay if we lost them. My brother promptly lost his and got a spanking. I eventually lost mine and kept my mouth shut about it.

I remember taking drawing seriously when I was in the 5th grade. I wanted to illustrate various stories I had been writing. Eventually, these illustrations turned into cartoons and my book became cartoon strips. I tried to make them humorous, even though I didn't know what was funny. Maybe I never did develop much of a sense of humor. My cartoons today aren't funny and I'm not a comedian. Cartoons need not be funny to be effective.

I filled notebooks with doodles and sketches, some of which were very tight, that is, filled with overly fussy, rigid detail. I tried to draw as realistically as I could. I also tried oil painting, but my first attempts were disasters so I decided to stick with pencil drawings.

In those "olden" days, we kids worked on art projects, learned music, and wrote stories. Yeah, we watched a lot of TV, but there were no such thing as video games. We played football, baseball, and hide-and-go-seek with other kids in the



neighborhood. When it was raining we stayed inside and played board games or read books. My two sisters worked on their own projects. My younger brother learned to play the guitar. He later ended up playing lead guitar in rock bands down in Texas. My older brother is now a vice president for an engineering company. He was a voracious reader when he was a kid and he's the smartest one in our family. Reading became a lifelong pursuit of his and he's also a talented writer. I don't pretend to be a good writer: I'm the artist in the family.

Junior high is usually a tough time for kids. In grade school everyone is friendly with everyone else (mostly), but in junior high kids are reaching puberty and everyone gets assigned a number, a rating system that results in a sort of caste system. The attractive, athletic boys and cute, popular girls receive the higher numbers. My best friend Steve had sprouted by the time he entered junior high. He was tall, handsome, and athletic. He already had a girlfriend. He wanted

nothing more to do with me. I had been assigned a lower rank. In the 7th grade everyone starts putting down everyone else for laughs. Some students insulted others in order to feel less insecure themselves. This was juvenile and mean behavior, and it's similar to what's being exhibited by today's Internet trolls. I got my fair share of put-downs, mostly on account of my cheap clothes and clumsiness on the basketball court. I came from a big family and my parents couldn't afford expensive garb. I was able to draw, however. I sketched out caricatures of my classmates, which earned me a modicum of popularity. I also drew a variety of cartoon strips that would make teachers chuckle. One of my classmates signed my 8th grade yearbook and commented that I was the best artist he had ever known and probably the best he would ever know. I was proud of that!

By the time I was ready to enter high school my dad had grown weary of Bremerton and its Navy yard along with the steep, mossy hills and the incessant rain. He decided to move back to

his home state of Texas. Only, instead of the Dallas area where he was from, he chose West Texas. I'm not sure why. It was a complete change of scenery. San Angelo was flat, hot, and without much green. There were mesquite thorns and grass burrs awaiting our feet. The pavement was scalding hot. We quickly learned we could not go barefoot in the summer as we did in Bre-merton. Dad found a job working at a machine shop.

The art teacher at my high school was very good, but many of the kids didn't appreciate her. Her name was Ms. Whitfield and she had to take a lot of guff. She was not authoritative or demanding, and sometimes her students took advantage of her kindness. Kids can be cruel and immature, but she endured us all. She saw that I had artistic ability and encouraged me. She offered good suggestions even though at times I didn't listen to her. I've regretted that ever since. Maybe I just wasn't ready to learn.

There was a senior in my art class who had a great talent. He also knew a lot about art history and modern art in particular. Many of his paintings were unconventional. He would mention terms such as impressionism and expressionism. I wasn't sure what these words meant, but they sure sounded sophisticated. I looked up to him and badgered him with a lot of questions until he would grow weary and tell me, a goofy underclassman, to shut up.

He also laughed at what I painted. He must have seen that I had developed a modest talent, but I was painting things such as red barns in fields, mountain streams, and cowboys on horses. I once painted a cowboy hermit walking out of the door of his mountain cabin and welcoming the viewer with a pot of coffee. That really sent him into a fit of laughter. He pronounced most of my paintings "trash" and even though my feelings were hurt I knew he was right. Sometimes he would just look at what I did without comment. I took that as a compliment.

By the time I was a senior, I was delighted when some of my watercolors were sold to the faculty. At \$5 apiece! It doesn't seem like much now, but at the time I was very pleased that someone would actually give me money for a work of art. I was slowly improving my craft. I even entered a few art shows in town. I didn't win, but I was happy to be accepted.

I began attending Angelo State University in the fall of 1975. I wasn't getting along with Dad, so I moved into a garage apartment when I was 18. To pay for my school and rent, I got a job at the local bakery. They made the popular Holsum® bread, but my job was donut making. The position paid a lot more than what a dishwasher or burger flipper might receive, but it was hard work. I was on my feet for eight hours starting late in the afternoon. After a while I got used to it. I could still do that job today. There was a drawback. No matter how hard I scrubbed I always smelled like a glazed donut when I went to school the next day.

Since I was going to college full-time and working a full-time job at night, I didn't have much of a social life, but that was okay because somehow I found the time to work on oil paintings. About this time I entered a prestigious art show in Midland Texas that was held annually. I won first place prizes two years in a row and I sold both paintings. I was on my way to becoming a fine artist.

When I was a senior at ASU, Dr. Otis Lumpkin, head of the art department, told me there was an opening for a part-time graphic artist at *The San Angelo Standard-Times*. He thought I might be interested in applying. I put together a portfolio of my work and went in for an interview with the graphics editor there, Ron Cook. I had seen Ron's work earlier when I was in high school. There had been a big buzz about his paintings. He had one that was on sale for \$50,000. His was a well-known name in town.

Ron was a former college football player. He was tall, handsome, and had a voice that sounded like Fess Parker's (Parker starred as Daniel Boone on TV). Fess and Ron were both native San Angeloans. Ron had returned to his hometown after working as a commercial artist for a firm in Dallas. He seemed impressed with my work and laughed when I asked him, "When I can start?" I found out later that he had chosen someone else for the job, but for some reason that person didn't show up. Another applicant turned it down, too. I was the third man in line. No matter, I was delighted to get the job. I could actually sit down while working and get paid for doing art!

As I began working at the newspaper, a harsh reality struck quickly. I was terrible. I had no idea how to do an illustration, as opposed to a cartoon. I didn't know how to prepare something for printing. I knew nothing about information graphics (infographics). I didn't know how to design anything. I knew nothing about

typography. I was greeted by failure at every turn. I also found out that deadlines were pesky things. For the first time in my life I found out about pressure combined with art.

Ron Cook was a star. He drew beautiful things quickly and effortlessly. Ron had many approaches and styles. He was a great designer and his special pages and sections stood out. He could draw realistically and could also draw editorial cartoons, which created high demand for his work. Every week during football season he'd draw a cartoon featuring an upcoming college or high school game. I was impressed by what he could draw right out of his head. Nobody wanted me to draw anything. They saw what I could do and it wasn't good. It wasn't at all like painting and I could not get the hang of it. Ron patiently taught me the ropes. Ron was also a photographer and ran the photo department. He was well liked and respected by everyone.



Back in those days before the computer revolution, everything was done by hand. Letraset® rub-off lettering was used. Border tape. Photos had to be made into halftones. Amberlith® was used for color plates and it was cut with X-ACTO® knives. Paste-ups were done with the aid of a waxing machine. I tried my best, but I knew my work was often substandard. I found out later that the managing editor and assistant managing editor both wanted me fired. Ron talked them out of it. He saw something in me that I didn't even know I had. Fellow students asked me why my work at school was so good while my newspaper work was so poor. I was trying very hard—perhaps too hard—but I wasn't succeeding.

Eventually, I received my very first courtroom assignment. I was told to draw a young man accused of attempted murder of a police officer. He was about my age, but handsome and swaggering. He knew I was drawing him, and it almost seemed as if he was preening and

strutting. I thought I did a fairly good job of capturing the scene and his likeness, but a few days after it was published, the paper received mail from the suspect. As it turned out, he also was an artist and so had sent the editor a well-drawn cartoon of me being kicked out of the *Standard-Times*. He recommended that I be fired for my terrible work. He found what I had drawn to be insultingly bad. I kept my job, while he was convicted and sent to prison for a long time. He possessed good looks, brains, and talent, but was destined to spend many years behind bars. I've often wondered what happened to that fellow artist.

Despite my poor start, I eventually learned the ropes and got better. I graduated magna cum laude at the end of the summer in 1979 with a BA degree. While many graduates enjoyed a summer in Europe or some time off, I had accepted a full-time position at the *Standard-Times*. My newspaper career had been launched. I

graduated on a Friday and was to start my career the following Monday.

# MUCKRAKER IN THE MAKING

## *S-T artist prepared for career with grade school cartoons*



What started as a love for cartooning in grade school turned into a full-time job for Ben Garrison, *Standard-Times* staff artist whose anti-Chomeli drawings have been enhancing the newspaper's nameplate the past several days.

"I've been interested in art for quite a while," Garrison said Monday. "It all started when I used to draw cartoons back in grade school and high school. Since then, in addition to cartooning, I've been doing a lot of oil painting."

Garrison is the first full-time artist on the *Standard-Times* editorial staff. His



caricatures of international figures, national political officials, sports figures, and art work for special features of the newspaper, are seen almost daily by readers of the *Standard-Times*.

He has won numerous awards for his art



work, including a first and second place for oil paintings displayed at a Midland regional art show. Several of his oils and drawings have been sold.

Originally from Bremerton, Wash., he moved to San Angelo with his family when his father retired from the U.S. Navy in 1972. He graduated from Central High in 1973 and entered Angelo State University, graduating in August of this year.



Ben Garrison  
... S-Times artist

I drew a series of cartoons to support the hostages in Iran. This experience helped spark an interest in editorial cartooning.

**I worked diligently to sharpen my newspaper skills,** and when Ron Cook left to pursue commercial art in San Antonio, the *Standard-Times* needed me. It was nice to finally feel like I was making a worthwhile contribution. I was moving up in the world. I even had my own office, a small windowless room that consisted of yellow painted cinder blocks, but it was mine and

it had a door. I improved and won a few awards at the paper.

I once drew a series of cartoons above the paper's nameplate that went with a daily count-down of the Iran hostage crisis at the end of Jimmy Carter's term. It featured a cartoon of the newspaper's mascot, General Beauregard. He was a fighting rooster who sported a camera, notebook, and press hat. This got me to thinking about drawing political cartoons. I began studying syndicated editorial cartoons that appeared in the paper. Eventually I asked the managing editor if he would be interested in some cartoons on state politics. There were plenty of syndicated cartoons on national politics, but there were very few when it came to state politics. The Pulitzer Prize-winner Ben Sargent of the *Austin-American Statesman* was one of the cartoonists giving some attention to state pols. Sargent had a unique style that stood out amid the MacNelly imitators of the time.



This was my very first editorial cartoon, drawn for the *San Angelo Standard-Times* in 1980. The topic was the reinstatement of draft registration by Jimmy Carter. Uncle Sam acts as a postman who is blowing out the birthday candles.

As is turned out, though, my very first cartoon dealt with the subject of a national draft, not state politics. It featured Uncle Sam blowing out the candles on a birthday cake of an 18-year-old while the cake was exploding in the teenager's face. The early political cartoons that I drew were

bad. Bear in mind that no matter what I've ever tried in life, I've always started out terribly. The key is to not give up. I got better and my early cartoons eventually caught on. Soon they were even being run in other papers in the newspaper chain. Harte Hanks was at that time the company that owned the *Standard-Times* and about a half-dozen other papers in Texas. I got requests for prints from several of the politicians featured in the cartoons. Several of my cartoons were included in a college textbook, *Practicing Texas Politics*. That book has progressed through many editions since and is still used to this day. It was a good feeling to succeed and gain some notoriety. Even though at that time I had not really decided what my political views were, I was gaining confidence.

It was also about that time that a young artist was hired to work in the advertising department. Her name was Tina Norton and she had long blond hair. She was beautiful. As far as looks go, she was definitely out of my league. She was

from Ohio and had recently graduated from the Columbus College of Art and Design. She could not find work in Ohio so she decided to come to West Texas. She had lived in Ohio all of her life and was ready for a change. Tina had a strong Cleveland accent and it stood out amid the Texas twang. I started seeing her work appear in ads and she was very good. The advertising department was located downstairs and I began making excuses to go down there so I could walk by her desk. I finally worked up the courage to ask her out to lunch.

Tina had a BFA and studied commercial art, but her real talent was cartooning. She could draw eye-catching cartoons—especially cartoon animals—producing them without rough sketches. She could draw them quickly and effortlessly. They had a wonderful energy and warmth. They were fun to look at and she had fun drawing them. My style, by comparison, was stiff, labored, and coldly over-detailed.



Tina loved the outdoors and angling. We went fishing for bass and crappie. Once we drove all the way out to Far West Texas and climbed Mount Guadalupe—the highest peak in the state. We camped out near the summit. For some reason there were thousands, maybe millions, of ladybugs at the top. It was surreal. They were everywhere. (No, we weren't drinking or smoking anything at the time). We also made camping trips to Padre Island and surf fished. We made a deep sea fishing trip out on the Gulf of Mexico and came back with a lot of red snapper, which provided us with many tasty dinners. On one trip we took a friend to Big Bend National Park. He was the senior in high school who had laughed at my work. He could tell I had improved. We did en plein air paintings there while Tina took photos. He used pastel while I painted in watercolor. Tina and I introduced him to a designer we knew and they eventually got married. My friend became a portrait painter and has done some fantastic work.

Tina and I were always going on trips and we had a lot of fun and adventures. In 1982 we got hitched near Cleveland. It was my good fortune to marry an artist. She had skills and knowledge that I lacked. She could critique my drawings and tell me the blunt truth with the bark left on and I would not take it personally. She wanted me to improve and I did. I learned to leave off a lot of the superfluous lines in my cartoons. I learned about the importance of black and how a balance of blacks, mid tones, and whites helped make the art more lucid and pleasing. Tina knew what worked and what didn't and always had good suggestions that helped me to advance.

It was a lot of fun to work at the *Standard-Times*. There were many talented photographers, reporters, editors, and columnists there. It was a small town newspaper with a big heart. I started winning more awards and people began to like my work. There was no longer a chance of me getting fired. One day I received an offer from *The San Antonio Express-News*. I wanted to

accept it because my salary would more than double, but I didn't want to leave the *Standard-Times*. The managing editor offered to nearly match their salary. I asked him why he didn't offer this to me before and he said, "You didn't ask." That was a good lesson about asking! I accepted the *Express-News*' offer.

San Antonio was a big city. I felt intimidated by it. It had a big-time newspaper in a very large building which boasted a huge circulation. The executive editor there, Bert Wise, asked me if I was ready to work at a "real" paper and I said I was. I didn't like the veiled disrespect toward the *Standard-Times*, but I kept my mouth shut. He also knew I drew editorial cartoons and said there was a chance I could take the place of their current cartoonist there because he had gained a lot of fame and could be leaving them soon. I liked the sound of that! Drawing cartoons full-time is what every aspiring political cartoonist dreams about. The cartoonists are many; paid positions are few.

I did not get off to a good start at the *Express-News*. My assignment was to set type on a computer terminal and paste up promotions and “WINGO” contest ads. The WINGO game helped the paper’s circulation because everyone wanted to win money. I had to keep the promos looking fun and inviting. I never had to set type at the *Standard-Times* and when I did it was Letraset® rub off lettering. The deadlines were serious and I wasn’t happy with my work. As usual, I started out failing. I did, however, get to draw a few editorial cartoons and they were published. I talked to the cartoonist there at the time and he made it crystal clear to me that he was not leaving. Most cartoonists never leave. After all, they’re the lucky ones who have grabbed the brass ring. I think he was resentful that I had even hinted at his possible departure.

The chief artist there was a white-haired man with a bolo tie and white mustache. His name was Bob Dale. Bob was an “old school” artist and cartoonist and he was very popular with the

rest of the newspaper staff. Each and every day a procession of reporters, columnists, and editors would file by his desk for a quick conversation and a joke. While chatting with them, Bob would crank out cartoons and illustrations with a black felt pen. He would use a non-photo blue pencil or pen for the rough sketches and would ink them in quickly and effortlessly for the press. There was no erasing or second-guessing. His work was top quality, if somewhat dated. The newspaper wanted something more cutting edge. *USA Today* was becoming popular and the executives at the Express-News wanted similar infographics (like maps, charts, etc.) and illustrations. Bob was not about to change. He owned a small ranch north of San Antonio and he was very conservative. He once offended San Antonio's large Hispanic population by drawing a Mexican in a sombrero snoozing under a cactus. There was a big protest outside the *Express-News* building and when Bob left for home he shot them the finger as he passed by. Bob was a character and he was fearless. He

didn't care what anyone else thought. Later on, I realized this was a good prerequisite for being a political cartoonist.

Bob wasn't impressed with my editorial cartoons. He thought they were too "liberal." In addition to that, he told me bluntly that I needed to develop a sense of humor, that my cartoons were not funny. Bob also shared with me some interesting observations. One I remember in particular was his assertion that "talent was overrated." When he was younger he was determined to make a living as an artist and cartoonist, so he spent hours each day practicing until he had a slick, professional style. He said flatly that desire was more important than talent. If one had enough desire, the talent would come. I think Bob was right.

Another artist that had a big influence on me was Gary Visgaitis. I never had any real training with information graphics. Gary loved them. He considered most artists to be a dime a dozen,

dismissing them with a wave of his heavy hand. Gary was big, bearded, and barrel-chested, and some said he looked like a cave man. “Real artists produced information graphics,” he said. Before computer graphics, they were done with Rapidograph® ink pens, T squares, triangles, border tape, and Amberlith®. Gary was a master of detail and would give me pointers while saying, “This is what separates the men from the boys.” Gary was also a terrific designer. In the early 1980s, Nigel Holmes was at the peak of his career at Time magazine and Gary was a big fan. I became a fan, too. I learned a lot from Gary. He eventually moved to the Northeast and re-designed several major newspapers there.

While in San Antonio I met another editorial cartoonist, John Darkow. He said I didn’t look “mean enough” to be an editorial cartoonist and I suspected he was correct. I still hadn’t worked out my political convictions and I, frankly, did not enjoy skewering politicians in the cartoons. Sometimes I felt sorry for them. Being mean

didn't appeal to me and I had less time to draw the cartoons anyway. I lost confidence and decided to stop drawing them altogether. My political cartooning went on a long hiatus.

San Antonio was very hot, and, unlike San Angelo, quite humid. It was almost subtropical. When I heard that the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* (the P-I) was looking for an artist I jumped at the chance. I flew up for an interview early in 1984 and I was hired. I was on cloud nine. Of all the places I lived in the country, the Pacific Northwest had been my favorite. The cool, thick salt air was a tonic for me. I loved the green and the mountains. Mount Rainier was a wondrous sight to behold. After Texas, I even loved the rain. Tina and I looked forward to doing a lot of salmon fishing.

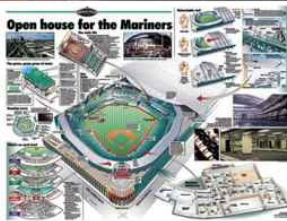




In 1984, the P-I building looked like a place where Clark Kent might work. On top of the building spun a giant globe bearing the words “It’s In The P-I.” I felt like Superman. I knew there were plenty of artists who were better than I was who deserved the job. I was lucky . . . and very grateful to be at the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. I vowed to work as hard as I could and I did. My first year there I was awarded with a plaque. I received the *Best Special Effort* award.

One thing I noticed almost immediately: as good as the San Antonio crew had been, the writers, editors, and columnists at the *Seattle P-I* were better. It wasn't difficult to notice the great writing that appeared throughout the paper every day. While many papers would insist on a uniform style, the P-I allowed reporters to write in their own voices, resulting in a variety of styles that made the reading more interesting and compelling. In addition, the P-I photographers were exceptionally talented.

I especially enjoyed working with the sports department during my years at the P-I. The *Seattle P-I* was the morning paper and the sports pages were very important. The sports department was a great team and it was a lot of fun to work with them. I would often stay late on assignments when I should have been going home to my family.



At the Seattle Post-Intelligencer I produced everything except editorial cartoons. I created illustrations, information graphics, and page design. I even dabbled with photography for the Zone pages, meant for teenage readers.

The paper eventually hired more artists, including Duane Hoffmann, Kim Carney, Dave Gray, Cliff Vancura, Wendy Wahman, and several others who made their mark. Duane was one of the best illustrators I've ever worked with and he

won many awards. All of us won several Society of Newspaper Design awards.

The P-I editorial cartoonist at the time was David Horsey, who was perhaps the biggest star at the paper. In fact, Horsey won the first *Pulitzer Prize* for the P-I. He had a great talent and was much loved, and at times it seemed like he was almost worshipped. (He now draws cartoons for the *L.A. Times*.) Horsey once went on a year's hiatus and Steve Greenberg came up from California to fill in for him. When Horsey returned, Steve continued to draw the occasional cartoon while also doing work in the art department. We taught Steve how to produce information graphics and he actually became quite good at them. For a while the art department also held occasional poker games at Steve's place—he had a ready wit and was devoted to cartooning.

Both of these editorial cartoonists fell on the liberal side of the fence. I admired their cartooning abilities even if I often disagreed with their

messages. I considered myself fairly liberal on social issues, but was definitely starting to drift away from big government beliefs. I resented the notion that more government and higher taxes were seen as the solution to every problem.

I had been working for the *Seattle P-I* for six years when my son was born in 1990. His arrival marked a sea change in my life and I have to admit I had some trouble adjusting to the fact that I was a father. As much as I loved my son, I wanted to escape. My new status as a parent dredged up some unresolved issues I had with my own dad, old emotions that I didn't want to deal with, and it resulted in a great deal of internal conflict. Nevertheless, I was determined to be a better father than my own and I believe I succeeded. In the late 1990s, my parents left Texas for the Pacific Northwest once again. They moved to Port Angeles, out on the Olympic Peninsula. Dad had finally acknowledged his alcoholism and stopped drinking altogether. He apologized to me many times and said he was proud

of my success, but our relationship remained somewhat strained.

In the mid-1990s I began doing some freelance work for a man in Ohio named Bill Hinsch. The assignments were large, complex infographics designed to help major corporations improve and solve internal business problems. They were known as learning maps. Bill was the best commercial illustrator I have ever met. His work was amazing. The man could sketch anything right out of his head, and with tremendous speed, no less. His visual problem solving ability and imagination were incredible. There was also very good money to be had in the business he was involved in, so I decided to quit the newspaper and work for myself producing learning maps. My newspaper career ended officially in 1997, but I continued to do freelance work for the Seattle P-I until the print division closed down completely in 2008.

Three momentous things happened that year. A great newspaper stopped printing and went all-digital. The big bailout of private banks outraged many and galvanized me. Tina and I put our house up for sale, after which we moved to Montana and I began muckraking in earnest.

# RAKING MUCK FROM A TO Z

## A – AMERICA



The world is returning to a feudal system where an elite few own everything and the rest of us are poor serfs left up a certain creek without a certain instrument.

**America is a country that is no longer being run by Americans. We are being run by a**



globalist oligarchy of elites who hold contempt for Us, the People. They also have contempt for our Constitution and our economic system. As a result we no longer enjoy a truly free market economy. Our capital markets are rigged and fixed to enrich those running their private casino. We are witnessing the fall of the American Republic before our very eyes. Some say the Republic started fading away as early as FDR. Others say the end began under Woodrow Wilson, when he handed control of our money supply over to private bankers by means of the Federal Reserve Act of 1913. Some might even claim the fall of the Republic began as early as Lincoln's presidency, when he suspended Habeas Corpus, jailed newspaper editors, and essentially gave centralized government primacy over the states. (He freed the slaves, but later on we all became slaves to the state). That dramatic increase in federal power was the beginning of the empire known as the United States, and now the control of this empire has been concentrated into but a few hands.

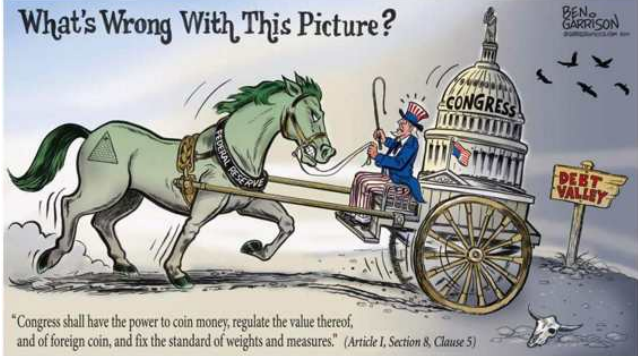
No matter when the disintegration began, the end of the Republic is at our doorstep. The NSA records everything in clear violation of rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment. Congress has been bought by special interests. Voting is rigged. Obama is corrupt to the marrow and the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) allows him to execute Americans without due process. He got away with the Fast and Furious scandal. He tells us to fight terrorism while giving aid to terrorists. Obama can't even prove his citizenship.

Our militarized local police ignore the Fourth Amendment, breaking into homes without warrants. They look like Nazis, quite frankly. Citizens—and their dogs—are executed. Too many police forces have become fear generators and state revenue collectors. Some even steal money outright from motorists. The “Land of the Free” imprisons more individuals per capita than any other country in the world. The IRS treats its

victims as guilty until they somehow prove themselves innocent before a rigged system.

The list of complaints is steadily growing. I complain all the time. Once I was told that if I didn't like America, I should shut up or leave. Nope. Real Americans stay and ring alarm bells. Whistleblowers are the real Americans. Real Americans criticize the government. The government is *NOT* the country! This is an absolutely critical distinction. It's time we all stay, take a stand, and speak up. That's what Americans are supposed to do. It's a sign you love your country and care about it. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty and we Americans haven't been vigilant enough. We need to start resisting. We need a peaceful revolution to get our country back.

# What's Wrong With This Picture?



"Congress shall have the power to coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures." (Article I, Section 8, Clause 5)

## B – BIG GOVERNMENT

Small, unobtrusive governments have a tendency to grow into leviathans. America has been no exception. From the start, our tiny government needed money. It soon devised a whiskey tax, a levy that brought about the famed Whiskey Rebellion. Almost right from the get-go, our government was using force to rob money from its citizens. Government tends to grow fastest during crises. Especially war. That's why our government starts wars (such as the War on Poverty, the

War on Drugs, the War on Terror, and so on). Governments have found they can make a lot of money on war. For example, the drug war has led to something called civil asset forfeiture—yet another form of legalized theft. The easy money corrupts police forces and judges. There's also money to be made by keeping Americans in private prisons. When seizing your assets fails to suffice, law enforcement seizes *you*. Worship of the god of Big Government is now being taught in public schools.

Too many people have become accustomed to asking Big Government to solve all their problems, and the profound cost of all this free stuff is a loss of liberty. In the beginning, we the people created federal and state governments in order to protect the rights of their citizens so that they may enjoy liberty. Now, government in general acts as the agent of an elite few at the top to take away rights in order to keep its subjects, er, citizens, "safe."

The words 'federal government' carry an authoritative finality, as if the entity can't be questioned. Big Government may seem like a faceless monolith that's impossible to resist, so much so that many have been trained to genuflect to it without question. We need to remember that government is comprised of humans, and some of them are no better than the average slob. Some are worse than the average slob. Those running Big Government have voted themselves raises and arranged for a cushy lifestyle. They are set for life. They will receive benefits and pensions far in excess of anything the average Joe laboring in the voluntary sector (often called the private sector) will ever get. Big Government has elevated itself to a form of nobility. They feather their own nests and the nests of those who get them elected in the first place. These people do not deserve our respect. They deserve contempt and resistance.

If you go ahead and assume that whatever Big Government tells you is a lie, you'll be right

almost all the time. They want to throw you off the scent of one irrefutable fact: they wield power to serve the interests of a small clique of ultra rich and powerful globalists, *not the people*. The global corporations and banks constitute a crony capitalist shadow government. We are seeing a new form of serfdom developing. The vast majority of Americans will pay more taxes and face more government control along with diminishing freedom as they get poorer. Some will work harder than ever just to maintain existence. That's also known as slavery.

## C – COPYRIGHT LAW

The Constitution authorizes copyrights for science and arts in order to further innovation and creativity. Once upon a time an author could register a copyright for his book. An artist could register a copyright for his work of art. Now such works are copyrighted automatically upon completion. Even doodles. A delicate balance must be maintained, however. Copyrighting that is too

extensive stifles creativity and discourages those who wish to build upon existing works and ideas. Insufficient copyright protections diminish the rewards for those producing the work. Congress believed copyrights should expire with the individual. That's why old books and music scores are in the public domain. Walt Disney was able to use works in the public domain, such as "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves," and turn them into copyrighted cartoons. His was an example of building on existing themes. It's the kind of innovation and creativity encouraged by our Constitution.

The Internet has caused a lot of problems for those who wish to protect their copyright. Instead of works in hard copy, things are becoming increasingly digitized. It's easy to copy songs, movies, and artwork at the click of a button. The Stop Online Piracy Act, or SOPA, failed to pass in Congress after millions of Internet users complained. On the surface SOPA seemed legitimate. Foreign websites were stealing and selling



copyrighted material. However, SOPA would have allowed the U.S. judges to shut down the domains without due process. SOPA would have been equivalent to the camel's nose being allowed in the tent. It would have allowed the mega rich and litigious corporations, along with their toady politicians, to get their grapple hooks on a free Internet. I opposed the legislation. It wound up being defeated, but Big Government still wants to get its collectivist mitts on the Internet. Copyright law is just one stratagem they will use to this end. Another is hate speech. The trolls who are abusing free speech are actually encouraging the end of their own unaccountable and irresponsible cyber bullying and hate through government intervention. (See "Hate Speech," below.)

There's also a danger that copyright "take-downs," as allowed by the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), could lead to censorship. I have been called a censor myself simply because I used the DMCA as a means to remove

defamation from Facebook, Twitter, Imgur, and other sites. In my case, the trolls claim that no copyright is applicable as long as they don't make money from defacing my cartoons—while leaving my signature on them. They are wrong. Someone does make money from the trolling. The 4chan website's Christopher "Moot" Poole and Fredrick Brennan of 8chan both encourage trolling on their sites to attract attention and money. Poole could not have remained oblivious to the constant libelous attacks against me over nearly five years. Also, when trolls ruin cyber reputations it costs their victims money in terms of lost business, not to mention the lost time and money spent on lawyers and writing DMCA takedown requests. People are free to post my unaltered cartoons and criticize them all they want. That's what's known as "fair use." That's freedom of speech. Altering my work into hate or stamping my copyrighted signature onto hate images drawn by anonymous racists is not only copyright infringement, it's libel. It's my

property and changing it into hate violates my ability to communicate and do business.



### STATISTS vs. STATESMANSHIP

Presidential elections are rigged to favor the candidates chosen by a globalist elite running the show.

### D – DEBT

The federal debt has eclipsed \$18 trillion as of my writing this. It's unbelievably gigantic and

it can't really be serviced now. To pay down debt, more debt is created. Citizens are taxed up to their necks in order to make payments on futility. We also face well over \$120 trillion by some accounts in unfunded liabilities—commitments for services already assumed by the federal government. Where is that money coming from? Most Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, with tens of millions on food stamps. The middle class is disappearing . . . or is it being intentionally extinguished? Personal debt is at an all-time high. Student loan debt has become a new trillion-dollar bubble, ensnaring in its clutches too many students who pursue degrees. Should this be considered another revived form of serfdom, in this case indentured servitude? Some will carry student debt on their backs for decades. The 0.1 percent are becoming even more fabulously wealthy while most Americans are becoming poorer, driven ever deeper into debt. The billionaires are buying larger jets while most Americans can't afford a home. We haven't

experienced a truly free market economy for perhaps decades and the American Dream has been drowned by debt. It's time for a debt jubilee (i.e., debt forgiveness) and a restart of the system—this time with sound money.



I drew this cartoon in 2009 to illustrate the ugly roots put down by an elite cabal. Hillary Clinton actually talked about taking her instructions from the CFR.

## E – ELECTIONS

At the top, they're rigged. I knew that for sure when Ron Paul had 2012 Primary election victories stolen from him by the Neocons. McCain and Romney were set up as patsies so

Obama could win. Electronic voting machines with no paper trail make it easier for those in power to stay in power. Joseph Stalin would be proud. He's the one who said, "It is enough that the people know there was an election. The people who cast the votes decide nothing. The people who count the votes decide everything." America has arrived at the same place for presidential elections. There have got to be thousands of viable candidates, but we see the same tired names over and over. Especially Bush, Clinton, Bush, Clinton, Bush, Clinton. We're not supposed to be a monarchy or an oligarchy, but it seems that way sometimes—and they're all friends with each other. They have the same goals. The elite at the top, like the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and Bilderberg cabals, decide how power's going to be distributed, not us. That's why they like to exclude other parties and possibilities from the mix. It's easier for them to control the D vs. R left/right paradigm. We definitely need a viable third party—such as

the Libertarian Party—but the rule makers make it difficult for anyone else to be included in debates or get a fair shake in the primaries. Elections are meaningful at the local level. A difference can still be made here. Since voters have greater control over local elections, even perhaps up to the state level, we would be wise to promote states' rights to counter the power wielded by federal politicians.





An earthquake in Washington, D.C. gave me this idea.  
 Ron Paul courageously demanded an end to the Federal  
 Reserve.

## **F – FEDERAL RESERVE**

It's neither federal nor does it hold any reserves. It is owned and operated by private banks for profit. It was created in 1913 with the promise of controlling booms and busts. What we got

were bigger booms and busts, along with endless war from which those private banks profited.

The Fed, using easy money policies, caused the boom of the Roaring '20s. The bust of the Great Depression helped them buy up stuff, for pennies on the dollar. Then WWII and endless war after that . . . booms and busts and bubbles—all created with the help of the Fed. More recently we experienced the Internet stock bubble and bust. Then the housing bubble and bust. Now we have the stock market bubble. All the while, they rig and heavily suppress gold and silver prices. They intervene in free markets.

The dollar itself has lost 95 percent of its value versus gold since the midnight passage of the Federal Reserve Act in 1913, but as long as it does have some value left it will be printed endlessly and used to sell short gold and silver. They can't have *real* money compete with their private printing press, and if they can keep gold and silver low, they can say the canaries in the coal

mine are healthy and everything's fine and dandy.

The stock market is also touted as a sign of a healthy economy, but most Americans neither own nor can afford stocks. We should follow Iceland's example and repudiate the funny-money debt created by the elite banks through their money printing, derivative gambling, fractional reserve abuse and Federal Reserve bailouts.

The Fed con game fleeces hardworking Americans. They steal from the public through inflation and taxes. It's time to end the Federal Reserve and its kissing cousin, the Gestapo-like IRS, along with their corrupt policies. It's time to return to a sound, honest system of money that benefits everyone—not just those at the pyramid's top. It's time to end the Fed.

## G – GLOBAL WARMING

Or is it “climate change”? I’ve seen Bill Maher actually go apoplectic when his precious global warming theory is challenged. He claims to be an atheist, but gets very angry and defensive when his climate change “god” is challenged. People use fear to get others to adhere to their religion. Fear of hell, fear of being excluded, fear of being harassed . . . all are tactics employed by some religious people to get you to “believe.” To be sure, science is also used to support the case for global warming of the anthropogenic (i.e., man-caused) variety, but those stats may be cooked. Some scientists are now saying through gritted teeth that the Earth has been *cooling*. Earlier winter weather suggests that, too. Maher will probably say that’s due to global warming, too. Sea levels aren’t rising as predicted? Global warming. The ice cap is growing at the North Pole? Global warming. Why has there been a lack of hurricanes the past few years? Global warming.

Al Gore, the man who famously claimed to have invented the Internet, made this prediction in 2007: “The entire North Polar ice cap will be gone in five years.” Scientists are beginning to admit that sea ice volume is increasing, but will the “Goracle” apologize? Unlikely. The huckster Gore now lives in a new \$9 million seaside mansion. It must use up a lot of energy, emitting plenty of dreaded carbon dioxide. Cutting back on energy use and paying carbon taxes is for the little people. The whole scam is to make people feel guilty for being alive. That way tribute collection will be easier for the globalist scam artists who need to live in expensive mansions.



If people want to express their murderous hatred, they are free to do so, but they should do it on their own dime.

Trolls do not own Facebook. There are community standards there. Trolls impersonated me numerous times and used my name and face to shout out their cries for murder. That is libel. I have the right to have the words I speak and the images I draw be presented as I intended them. The trolls screamed that I was against free speech simply because I removed their outrageous libel.

## H – HATE SPEECH

I support free speech, even anonymous free speech. Both are constitutionally protected. Hate speech is legal in America, but copyright infringement and libel are not. Those activities are against the law. People have to make a living and when they are impersonated, defamed, and libeled, their name and online reputations are sullied, which makes it more difficult for them to find work. By hate I'm not referring to hating traffic, broccoli, or the weather. We can even tell an individual we don't like to "drop dead." That's not really hate speech; it's just a figure of speech. Real hate speech consists of attacking, defaming, and even calling for the murder of people based on their race, religion, or sexual preference. On 4chan's /pol/ board, exhortations such as "Gas the kikes, race war now!" have been posted for years.

That kind of hate speech may be legal, but that doesn't make it acceptable or "right," nor is it permitted on social media—Facebook in particular. There are stated community standards. It's

not a violation of “free speech” when pages calling for the murder of human beings get removed. Trolls do not own Facebook. The haters are perfectly free to set up their own sites and pay for their own servers. They are perfectly free to cry out for another holocaust while using their own equipment. Few do this because they know the vast majority of people will ignore them. Anonymous trolls don’t believe in free speech. They overwhelm and shut down reasoned debate and replace it with blind hatred. Their hate speech emanates from the caverns of tyranny and tramples upon the free speech prerogatives of others. My own ability to communicate clearly and effectively through my artwork has been compromised by trolls. Trolls believe in hate speech, which is a form of censorship. If everything I draw or write is perverted and muddled into something I did not draw or write—but still attributed to me—isn’t that a violation of my free speech?



Andrew Anglin operates a Nazi site named *The Daily Stormer*. He screams bloody murder if his hate speech is threatened, while at the same time he encourages his “troops” to anonymously attack and troll the sites he doesn’t like. One of his followers posted this: “I’m a National Socialist, I don’t support the free speech of anyone to attack the white folk in this world. I don’t support free speech advocating ideas, programs, politics, culture etc that aren’t guided by the inspiration of National Socialism . . .” If they had the power, the haters would quickly end free speech.

## I – IRS

The Internal Revenue Service has been targeting conservative groups in recent years—that much is admitted. Instead of seeing anyone go to jail, there was stonewalling and lost—or destroyed—email evidence. The criminals get away with it. This is nothing new. The power to tax is the power to destroy, and both legacy political

parties have used the IRS as an effective tool to harass their political enemies.

The Internal Revenue Service serves its big government masters. It steals from hardworking citizens and offers the booty to big government for redistribution among cronies. This is accomplished by force or threat of force. With the IRS, you are guilty until you prove yourself innocent. On the flimsiest of whims, the agency can and has confiscated bank accounts of small businesses. For example, businesses must report to the IRS each time they deposit \$10,000 or more. One business routinely deposited less than that and so the IRS accused them of trying to *avoid* reporting by intentionally underreporting. The IRS seized the business' bank account. Incredibly, the IRS can confiscate accounts on suspicion alone. Meanwhile, many large global corporations pay little or no taxes at all.



The state claims the income tax is voluntary, but try not volunteering and see what happens.

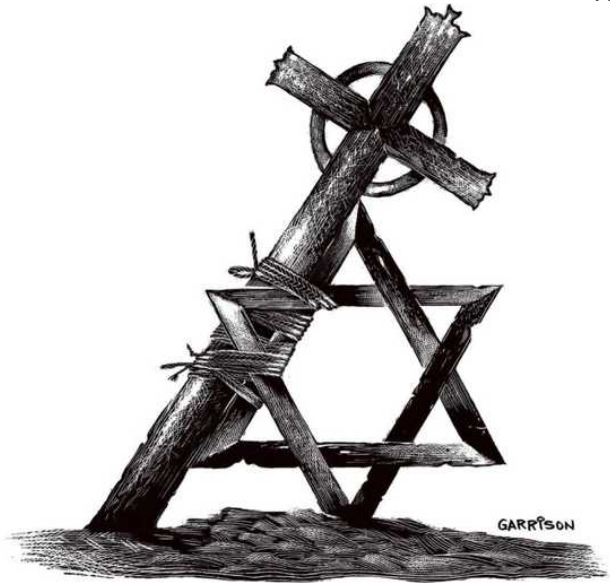
Every year, Americans spend an average of 13 hours doing their taxes. They must stumble their way through because the voluminous Internal Revenue Code is massive and incomprehensible. Anyone can be arrested for doing federal taxes “wrong.” There are far fairer ways of taxation, but the current system imposes fear and

control. And that's what it's all about. They *want* to make sure everyone is guilty, tracked, and controlled by the state. It's supposedly a voluntary tax, but it's volunteering with a gun to one's head. Try not volunteering and see what happens. Few do refuse to volunteer because they don't want all their stuff confiscated or worse, to find themselves serving a prison sentence. Irwin Schiff is one brave man who stood up for the Constitution against the "federal mafia," as he called it, and was slapped with a long prison sentence as a result.

If you work for something, you are exchanging your labor for money. It's not capital speculation producing a dividend or interest. There is no profit. There is no law that states Americans must pay a direct tax on money they earned from their labor. Frank Chodorov proved that in his book *The Income Tax, Root of all Evil*. Aaron Russo also proved it in his terrific *documentary America: From Freedom to Fascism*. The IRS has become America's Gestapo. It's time to end

the fear, the abuse, and the shearing of American citizens. It's time to end the Fed and end the IRS as well.

Finally, if the government is corrupt and not obeying its own laws, why should Americans? Would you pay income tax to Hitler? NOT paying taxes is a means of peaceful protest when all else fails—especially if your ability to “vote the bastards out” is compromised.



## **J – JEWISH PEOPLE**

I've received a lot of criticism (mostly from trolls) because I don't blame "the Jews." I'm well aware that many behind the fraud of central banking happen to be Jews, including the

Rothschild family. I do not attack anyone based on race or religion. I focus on deeds and wrongdoings. The vast majority of Jews are *not* bankers. Many are middle-class citizens trying to make a living. Jewish people have made an immeasurable contribution to mankind through the arts and sciences. I'm a classical music buff and know that many great composers, conductors, and musicians are Jewish. I support Israel's right to exist and that does not conflict with my Libertarian beliefs. I know I'll catch a lot of flak for this, but bring it on.

Israel does have a powerful lobby in the U.S., but if we're going to send money to other countries, doesn't Israel also deserve it? After all, it's supporting democracy and first-world reason. It makes no sense to send money to certain Muslim countries to help them in their goal to "wipe Israel off the map." Israel has a right to protect itself. Iran has made it clear that they'd like to destroy Israel, but I still don't hate the people of Iran. They've been saddled with tyranny as a

result of U.S. interference. The CIA meddled with their politics as early as the 1950s and forced the hated Shah and his secret police onto Iranians. The end result? The installation of religious fanatics whom many Iranians now despise. This is just one example of blowback as described by former congressman and presidential candidate Ron Paul.

On account of the Internet, anti-Semitism is on the rise. Many are attempting to revise history by saying the Holocaust was a hoax, while simultaneously shouting for another one. Like Hitler, they want to dehumanize Jews in order to make their mass murder acceptable. It's not acceptable. The Holocaust is a proven, well-documented fact of history. I will do all I can to speak out against the liars who claim it never happened. Also, the last time I heard, Israelis aren't cutting off heads or using their children as shields. Israel is an island of Democracy in a sea of hate and intolerance. Being anti-Zionist is simply another means of being anti-Semitic.



I have never penned an anti-Semitic cartoon—and never will—even though the trolls have changed nearly everything I’ve drawn into an expression of hate.

## K – KITSCH

*“Kitsch, using for raw material the debased and academicized simulacra of genuine culture, welcomes and cultivates this insensibility. It is the source of its profits. Kitsch is mechanical and operates by formulas. Kitsch is vicarious experience and faked sensations. Kitsch changes according to style, but remains always the same. Kitsch is the epitome of all that is spurious in the life of our times. Kitsch pretends to demand nothing of its customers except their money – not even their time.”*

—Clement Greenberg

Kitsch has always been with us, but when the state takes control of our education system, our media and our entertainment arms, it’s a certainty

it will get worse. It has gotten worse in America. The state wants to make sure its citizens remain subservient, not just economically, but psychologically as well. Look at what Nazi Germany forced upon its population: mind-numbing conformity along with a soul-crushing philosophy of art and music. The American public is beginning to be fed the same pap and jingoism; just look at the cartoonish and phony patriotism seen at football games as an example. The “troops” aren’t to blame for being misused and abused. It’s the fault of the oligarchy at the top that has stolen our country. They call our Navy a “global force for good.” Why does our military need to be a global force for anything? Why can’t we protect our own borders? Instead we get a kitschy slogan to reinforce globalism. Our government has become kitsch.

Our money has become insulting kitsch. The U.S. cent—the penny—epitomizes this. It costs more to produce than it’s worth, and all the tiny

zinc discs do is annoy people. But it never goes away. The government wants it there to annoy us.

Our media breathlessly informs us of kitschy celebrity scandals and gossip. Miley Cyrus sticks out her tongue and thrusts her little behind out at someone and that's supposed to be cutting edge and pushing the envelope. Nope. Just kitsch. Was anyone really surprised that a wholesome child star was turned into a whore? It's easy to be common and vulgar. Once upon a time African-Americans wrote and performed the best music in the country. They invented jazz and blues music. What incredible gifts to this country. Now it's all rap and thug culture. Some people still might consider that to be cool or edgy. It's not. It, too, is kitsch. The state loves to keep people channeled and trapped. That's why we've had the same rap stuff around for over 30 years. Rock and roll, as kitschy as that was at times, is deader than a dead dodo. Those kids in high school who might be interested in listening to classical music? They are ridiculed and insulted by other kids

who have been culturally trained to do that.  
*Kitsch must triumph!*

The movies, with few exceptions, are mostly repetitive kitsch. Mindless violence built upon computer violence with deafening sound tracks, disasters, and explosions. The dialogue is clichéd and stilted. Contrast this with the great movies made in a single year, say, 1939.

Kitsch is insidious. It permeates and infects culture, ideas, and entertainment, including video games. Recently I discovered trolls had been stamping my face and name onto an extremely dark and violent video game trailer involving a demonic character with long hair. It goes out in public and begins randomly murdering people. Internet trolls, naturally, think the murder of innocents is hilarious. The point of the game is to kill anyone and everyone using various means of violence. Men and women of all races, creeds, and religions are butchered. Children are also murdered. What's the point of the game? That's

it. Death! I saw a YouTube video in which a busty young blond woman named Tara reviewed the game called “Hatred.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12amFtzi3Ts>

She remarked that whether you like it or not, it's free speech. In fact, I got the impression she was going to buy it herself. Her reasoning: since it was free speech, it's valid speech, and since it was valid, it *must* be endorsed. She expressed no outrage at all toward the pernicious message this game was transmitting to young people. Her review seemed to defend moral relativism. Things simply happen without rhyme or reason and there is no right or wrong. Her defense of the “game” was crude sophistry. It was intellectual kitsch. The game itself was kitsch—violent kitsch. It's the same mind-numbing kitschy violence we see in movies.

"Hatred", also known as "Ben Garrison: The Video Game".



A troll using *twitter* pasted my face onto an image extracted from a video game called "Hatred." He also wrote a clumsy hate screed and began tweeting the image everywhere.

The net effect of kitsch's banality is mind control. It's easy to control people who don't respect themselves or others and whose collective minds are filled with base sex, endless graphic violence, and rote responses. Degraded people both in terms of culture and language are easier

to control. The movie *Idiocracy* sums it all up nicely and is turning out to be rather prophetic, whether intentional or not.

## **L – LIBERTY and LIBERTARIANS**

I didn't always consider myself a libertarian, but I've always voted as an Independent. Gradually I realized my views were in alignment with the Libertarian Party and I began voting for Libertarian candidates.

Libertarians believe in liberty and in self-determination. We want to help others, but voluntarily and not through coercive means, like taxation. We do not wish to be forced by the state to do things we don't want to do. We want to be free of tyranny. We want to choose whom we marry, what foods we eat, and what risks we take with our money and our lives, and we desire to do all that without having to report our actions and income to a prying government. We are not slave animals on a government farm. We believe

our military should protect our borders and forget about foreign wars and empire. We want to end the Fed and the IRS.



Ron Paul consistently hit home runs in the primaries, but the Republican Neocons made sure that Paul was shut out. (Dr. Paul was a terrific baseball player and he really did hit home runs).

Much of what Libertarians such as myself want is simply the application of common sense, but the state and its media arms don't like that. They spread all kinds of lies and propaganda to



discredit us. We are derided as rednecks, racists, or “tea baggers.” They make gross exaggerations, claiming that Libertarians pursue anarchy when all we want is for governments to adhere to the Constitution of the United States and our own individual states and to protect our Bill of Rights. The Internet trolls were shocked when I objected to having my copyrighted work defaced and my name defamed. They labeled me a hypocrite because, after all, anarchy is freedom! Wrong. Libertarians do not call for a *Road Warrior* scenario. Your freedom ends when it intrudes on the freedom of others’ and does them harm. The Second Amendment allows us to be armed. It does not excuse murdering someone with a firearm.

Libertarians are often smeared because we’re not statists, a term describing those who love big government and endlessly defer to it to solve all problems. We champion truly free markets where people get to keep what they earn—have primary claim on the fruits of their labor. We decry power and money being concentrated into a few hands.

Those at the top of the pyramid own the government and rig laws to favor themselves at the expense of everyone else. Libertarians believe that free market dynamics result in more wealth for *We, the People*, and that includes all races, religions, and creeds. For example, a truly free market in the health care sector would yield far lower prices; the Surgery Center of Oklahoma is one shining example of this. Obamacare only worsens the delivery of health care.

Differences among Libertarians do exist. Even my wife Tina and I don't see eye to eye on everything. For example, she believes gay couples should have the same rights as married people, only that their arrangement should be called a civil union instead. I believe that two adults who love each other should be able to get married outright. It's their business and the government should stay out of it. Some Libertarians are religious and some are not. Tina is a Catholic Christian. I'm not.

Stop worshipping at the Altar of Statism and join us Libertarians. Freedom will solve a lot of problems created by the state. Let's cooperate voluntarily rather than being forced to at gunpoint by a bloated, corrupt, murdering government. Let's reduce government. Decentralize it. Stop depending on it to solve problems that we should be solving ourselves.



## "LOCKSTEP"

BEN  
GARRISON  
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Libertarians such as Ron Paul pointed the way to liberty  
while  
America seemed to be in lockstep with Tyranny.

## M – MAINSTREAM MEDIA

The mainstream media (MSM) are steadily shedding readers and viewers and have been largely discredited. Owned by globalist corporations, MSM outlets serve as the mouthpieces for their masters. They don't want to rock the boat

and lose corporate advertising and kickbacks from politicians. They have become the propaganda arm of the power structure. Thanks to the Internet, we have access to the truth through alternative media. Austin, Texas, radio and Internet broadcaster Alex Jones is one such example of its influence. My younger brother, who lives in Austin, alerted me to him back in 2009. Alex Jones has been a fountainhead of great cartoon ideas for me since he has a tendency to speak in metaphors to make his points. Alex is a flawed human being just as I am, but a lot of what he says can be verified. I wish he wouldn't talk over his guests. I wish he'd stop talking about "throwing up." I wish he wouldn't talk about smashing skulls into concrete. Still, I'd rather listen to him over the mainstream media any day.

Other alternative sites to mainstream media include *The Drudge Report*. There are fine sites by bloggers who tell the truth. Karl Denninger, Tom Woods, Judge Andrew Napolitano, and Lew Rockwell are just four of many truth tellers that I

follow. Stop listening to mainstream media that aim, among other things, to channel people into the left/right, Republican/Democrat ruts.



The Second Amendment isn't just for hunting. It's the last resort citizens have to protect themselves against a tyrannical government. Obama wants the guns. If he can't get the guns, he'll outlaw the bullets. He and Eric Holder orchestrated Fast and Furious as a prelude for gun control. Expect more false flags. Big government won't give up on gun confiscation.

## N – NSA POLICE STATE

The NSA itself constitutes high treason against the United States and its citizens. The

National Security Agency keeps government secure—not the people. You have a far greater chance of getting killed by a cop than you do by a “terrorist.” The government created the terrorist bugaboo in order to drum up fear, which it uses as an excuse to install their police state. This is the new Orwellian *Amerika*, though. It’s now a country where Big Brother watches all of us and records everything we do. We are all treated as criminals. There are secret budgets and clandestine operations. Select universities train “cyber spies.” Rest assured, the Police State is hiring even when no one else is.

Not only are NSA activities a gross violation of our Fourth Amendment rights, our right to free speech is impaired and chilled. The NSA will help the IRS attack citizens for holding the “wrong” political views. The NSA is a very dangerous entity that must be shut down immediately.





Obama's moral compass does not guide him toward helping America.

## O – OBAMA

Obama wants to transform America into a socialist country and to do that it must be broken down. Obama wants and indeed promotes racial division. He's determined to take our guns away. He uses executive orders to circumvent

Congress. He desires open borders. He wants to make the health care sector even worse. He wants to precipitate crises. Big government loves crises. That's when it is able to grow the fastest. The coming epic crisis will probably be triggered by a financial collapse like we saw in 2008, but much worse. There will be shortages of food as grocery store shelves are stripped bare, with no replenishments on their way. There will be mass rioting when welfare and food stamps are pared back. It's likely that Obama will use another executive order to declare martial law. If we know anything we know this: Obama won't let a good crisis go to waste. Don't believe a word this man says. He's a shameless whopper teller. He's a bigger liar than even Bill Clinton or George W. Bush. Impeach him.

## **P – PRECIOUS METALS**

Precious metal is money. Gold and silver have served as money for 6,000 years. That's quite a track record, isn't it? The Constitution

defines money as gold and silver. The gold standard must be restored if we want sound, stable, fair money. To make that happen we have to end the Fed and shut down their big banker casino which makes a few thousand people fabulously rich while impoverishing the rest of us. They will not allow this to happen because the ability to print money is the heart of power for the cabal that has stolen our country. The paper dollar is backed by debt, fraud, and endless war. The dollar may be legal tender, but it's not real money and most definitely not a long-term store of value. Contrast this with gold and silver. When LBJ debased our coins, silver disappeared from circulation. It's an example of bad money driving out good money.

The big banks have heavily suppressed gold and silver prices to maintain the dollar's primacy. To do this, they naked short gold and silver to drive prices down. Their selling is timed and it's collusive. It's against the law, but hey, those running the show don't have to follow the law. No,

they're above the law—so far, at least. They're selling paper, representing precious metals, on the futures markets and when it comes time to deliver the actual metal they instead offer paper dollars and a little extra—take it or leave it. Very little *real* metal is actually traded. Like our debt money system, it's all a farce and yet nobody goes to jail.

My advice to those of you who want to buy a few coins to protect yourself when the dollar collapses: Forget numismatic (i.e, rare or collectible) coins. Buy bullion, uncoined gold and silver. Buy one-ounce silver rounds or bars and stack 'em. Find an unusual place to hide your gold and silver. Don't tell anyone about it, and don't put your precious metal in a bank where it can be confiscated later.

## Q – QUANTITATIVE EASING

*Quantitative Easing* is a fancy name for what the Fed is doing: printing money out of thin air. With that, they prop up their own financial institutions through the buying of bonds, securities,

and financial packages. This benefits the elite at the top and, you guessed it, the rest of us pay for it all through higher taxes and price inflation.

The Fed might talk a good game about raising interest rates, but they won't do it. They're pushing on a string. Raising rates would make the debt already choking the system that much more unmanageable. Raising rates significantly would destroy the economy. Banks, with their crazy quadrillion-dollar-derivative time bombs, would explode first. Those in charge of the system are psychopathic money junkies who seem to only care about keeping their private casino going as long as possible. They may trot out gimmicks such as 'tapering' and talk about ending QE, but it's all merely posturing. It's all a lie. The Fed will continue their easy money policy ad infinitum under the table. The low rates discourage savers and encourage speculation—gambling. We're all forced to play at their casino.

According to *Bloomberg Financial*, in 2014 a mere 16,000 families possessed \$6 trillion in assets—equal to the total wealth of the bottom two-thirds of American families. The rich are getting richer while the shrinking middle class and the poor are struggling harder to get by. *Quantitative Easing* helps the rich get richer. It helps them buy bigger private jets. It hasn't helped the economic situation for most Americans. QE will never end as long as the dollar is the global currency. The Fed will make sure we continue to plunder other countries, even our allies, in order to maintain the dollar's primacy. Make no mistake: the gold at Fort Knox was sold long ago. Gold was stolen from Libya, Iraq, and Ukraine and dumped on the markets to keep gold pricing suppressed and the dollar strong as they print that magic green paper without limit. Our allies will be forced to devalue their currencies and buy the dollar. No fiat currency has ever survived, but the Fed seems willing to bring down everything in the world to ensure their dollar has value. What a sick system.

## R – RACISM

Nobody wants to be called a racist. It has become a word similar to “heretic” used in the days of the Spanish Inquisition. Labeling someone a “racist” is a means to dehumanize them and dismiss their arguments. It’s an argument ender rather than a dialogue promoter. No need to refute anything drawn or written by a “racist.” It’s similar to calling someone a “Nazi.” Internet trolls have done this to me as a means to silence and discredit me. I have never penned a racist cartoon. I rarely address race in my cartoons because it’s a problem that’s not going to be solved anytime soon. Maybe there are no immediate solutions, but why make it worse?

There are good and bad people in all races and to call for the extermination of human beings based on race is abhorrent. The state enjoys pitting citizens against each other based on race. If Americans are distracted and continuously fighting amongst themselves over the matters of race,



gender, and various petty differences, then the state can gain more power.

BEN  
GARRISON 1/2/18  
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## The Inverted Horn of Plenty



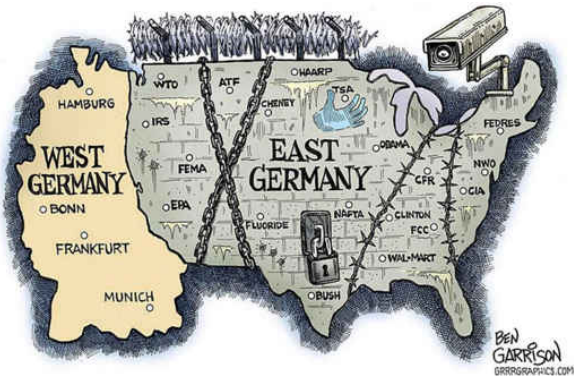
Government promises have a way of vanishing over time.

## S – SOCIAL SECURITY

This is nothing but a Ponzi scheme, only worse. I say worse because at least with a Ponzi scheme we aren't forced to participate. With Social Security, there's a statist gun to our head. Under LBJ, Congress began looting the fund. It has long been spent. Social Security is nothing

but a giant heap of IOUs. I drew a cartoon showing government as an inverted horn of plenty; citizens are forced to shovel in mounds of taxes into the great maw of government. At the other end, a pittance is returned.

Young people will find this out. Most who are paying this tax today will never see the returns on their “investment.” If it will be paid back at all, it will be paid in inflated dollars drained of purchasing power. Meanwhile, the government currently makes sure inflation numbers are consistently skewed down so they don’t have to pay retirees a fair benefit. The benefits that are promised to us certainly won’t be there as promised by big government. It’s a mathematical impossibility, especially as they open the borders and allow a flood of poor immigrants in who want to get on the dole.



My cartoon warning: America is drifting toward a police state.

## T – TYRANNY

*“And how we burned in the camps later, thinking: What would things have been like if every Security operative, when he went out at night to make an arrest, had been uncertain whether he would return alive and had to say goodbye to his family? Or if, during periods of mass arrests, as for example in Leningrad, when they arrested a quarter of the entire city, people*

*had not simply sat there in their lairs, paling with terror at every bang of the downstairs door and at every step on the staircase, but had understood they had nothing left to lose and had boldly set up in the downstairs hall an ambush of half a dozen people with axes, hammers, pokers, or whatever else was at hand? The Organs would very quickly have suffered a shortage of officers and transport and, notwithstanding all of Stalin's thirst, the cursed machine would have ground to a halt! If . . . if . . . We didn't love freedom enough. And even more — we had no awareness of the real situation . . . We purely and simply deserved everything that happened afterward."*

—Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

In America, the government derives its power—its legitimacy—from the consent of the governed. Our government was set up to protect liberty. It is now stripping it away. I do not consent to this. Americans have to stand up and speak out against this loudly before we, too, are shipped off to camps one day.

BEN  
GARRISON  
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WHAT YOU  
LIBERTARIANS DON'T  
UNDERSTAND IS  
WE **NEED** GOVERNMENT  
TO PROTECT OUR HEALTH,  
AIR, FOOD AND WATER!



If Big Government passes laws that say we must be vaccinated, it's very bad news. Once they gain complete control of our bodies, it's over. They already want to control our food, water, and the very air we breathe.

## U – UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS

I'm against blanket amnesty, which only encourages further illegal immigration. It's unfair to those who want to come to this country legally. Many of the immigrants now are refusing to

assimilate. Once upon a time, those from other countries learned English and wanted to be Americans. Now we have people claiming we should go back to Europe since we “stole” the land from Mexico, even though most Mexicans have Spanish blood coursing through their veins. I suppose they’ll want part of themselves to go back to Spain. Muslims have begun calling for Sharia Law to trump our constitutional law. There can be no country without borders and the law must apply to all or there is no justice. We need to let the U.S. Border Patrol do their jobs and stop illegal immigration. Obama should be impeached for not only refusing to do his job, but even more so: for actively breaking the law.

## **V – VACCINATIONS**

Modern medicine and vaccinations have helped mankind immensely. Unfortunately, Big Government has begun to abuse medicine now, too. The Big Pharma lobby twists Congress’ arm to make sure of that. Now we face the specter of

forced vaccinations becoming a reality. America's population is already the most inoculated. Infants in particular are attacked with all sorts of vaccinations before their own immune systems have a chance to develop. Credible scientific evidence exists strongly correlating vaccination to the skyrocketing rate of autism. The fundamental principle at stake? We should have control over our *own* bodies, and we should decide whether or not we're punctured. Do you really know what substances are in flu shots? I have never had a flu shot and I've not contracted the flu in over 30 years. Instead of expensive gall bladder surgery, I began drinking Chanca Piedra tea from Peru. I solved the problem naturally and far less expensively. Medical marijuana works wonders for some and yet this is illegal in many states. Leave it to Big Government to outlaw natural plants that exist to help us.

The government already over-injects and experiments on the U.S. military. Do you think forced medication can't happen to ordinary

civilians? It already is happening. Sodium fluoride is dumped into our drinking water with the disproven claim that it's good for our teeth. During WWII, Germany used fluoride in drinking water to render prisoners docile and obedient to authority. Aluminum and potash industry lobbyists invented the claim it was good for teeth so that their poisonous waste could be dumped directly into our water while they got paid for it. The data show it is *not* good for teeth. Many object to water fluoridation because the practice amounts to medication without the consent of the medicated and a means to control individual dosing. It produces a condition known as fluorosis. It ruins bones. It may lower IQs. It sets a precedence that government can put any kind of medication into our water for our own good. It's yet another corrupt racket that needs to end.

There are too many unnecessary surgeries and Big Pharma pills. We need to ban GMOs in our food. Stop putting fluoride in our water and pretending it's for the common good. What's



next, adding valium to our water in order calm down a rebellious populace? Stop putting chemtrails in our skies. There are too many inoculations. We need to make sure they don't become mandatory. Don't trust Dr. Government!

## W – WAR

*“Why can't everybody leave everybody else the hell alone.”*

—Jimmy Durante

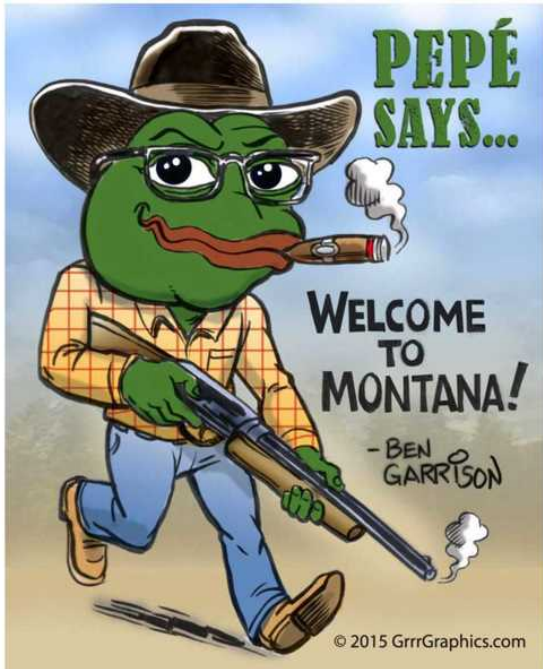
War is a racket perpetuated by the state to benefit a tiny elite at the top. Nearly all the wars fought in the 20th century could have and should have been avoided. The Spanish-American War at the end of the 19th century is an egregious example of the state starting a war by deception to accumulate territory and power, but World War I was a much bigger disaster. Wilson promised while campaigning for the presidency to avoid embroiling us in a European conflict in which we had no stake, but the banks twisted his arm. War

is profitable. The sinking of the Lusitania, which was intentionally loaded with munitions headed for England, was offered as the justification for U.S. into the Great War. If America had kept out of it, Germany would have defeated France, just as it did in the Franco-Prussian War. That would have been the end of it—and numerous historians agree on this contrary-to-fact scenario. Instead, the Versailles Treaty was imposed upon a broken Germany. When a helpless puppy is kicked and abused, it grows up to be mean. Germany was unjustly punished and so it grew up to be a vicious German shepherd, forcing us into WWII. This is another example of blowback.

Additionally, the War on Drugs has been a costly failure that needs to end. You can't declare war on plants or human nature. It's not the duty of government to protect individuals from their own foolishness. Legalize all drugs.

## X – X-RAYS

Well, this one was forced. I want to talk about the dangers of radiation. Nuclear power must end. It's simply too dangerous. Einstein has been quoted as saying, "It's a hell of a way to boil water." Those who built power plants on earthquake faults or on shorelines should be imprisoned. Period. Fukushima has continued to pour radiation into the Pacific Ocean as we enter 2015 and there seems to be no way to stop it. Rarely are updates heard about the situation from the corporate-controlled mainstream media. It's time to end nuclear power once and for all before it exterminates mankind. But ending nuclear power won't happen, because big money is involved and those who are raking it in only care about the short term and enriching themselves. They don't give two shakes about young people, let alone future generations of mankind and the environment.



I drew the popular meme 'Pepé the frog' after receiving requests to do so from young people on the popular 8chan message board. I turned him into a Montanan. The shotgun was meant to be a joke. The people in Montana are generally very friendly.

## Y – YOUNG PEOPLE

It's typical and expected that each younger generation is lost and searching for answers. The American Dream for the current crop has become merely that: a dream. Those who go to college are saddled with tremendous debt and many will spend a lifetime paying it down. Some will never fully pay it off. I'm from the baby boom generation. Youth today resent us for screwing up their country and now we boomers expect young people to pay for our Social Security as we retire. Young people should resent us, but they should resent the corrupt system even more so.

Things look bleak for young people. They will also be paying off debt accumulated by their baby boomer parents and the general spendthrift of the state. It's a ridiculously unfair system that expects subsequent generations to bear way too large of a burden. There needs to be a debt jubilee—a repudiation, really—and a reboot of the economy. If I were young, I'd be looking for

ways to organize and revolt. Otherwise, I'd face a bleak future of debt slavery and service to the government. Put down the video games and start paying attention to reality, young people!

## **Z – ZYKLON BEN**

4chan trolls began the “Zyklon Ben” meme for some dark laughs. Others promulgated it to destroy me, as evidenced by this quote that appeared on 4chan/pol/: “I know it’s wrong to laugh, but you guys ruining Ben Garrison’s career and reputation is just so goddamned hilarious.” The trolling started in 2009, and since then their foul memes have spread throughout social media. Many young people are laughing at me because I’m pointing out problems that will affect them deeply. I suppose it’s easier to laugh at truth tellers than deal with the truth they tell. They can dismiss and deride me all they want. I’m not going away. Go ahead and take personal potshots, too. Sure, I have a gut and I’m balding.

Who cares? That's what happens when one gets old.

There is no such person as Zyklon Ben. If you see my name, my defaced cartoons, or altered photos of me being used to promote hate, please realize it's all completely bogus and unfunny. Although I do have to admit I did chuckle once when the trolls 'shopped me into a series of *The Lord of the Rings* panels as "Benbo Bag-gins," where I'm reaching for a shekel instead of the Ring of Power. If I'm lucky, I'll make a few shekels from this book. I'll use the money to bring some of the worst offenders to justice.



A silly wanted poster created by a troll. I have also been placed on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list by trolls. They've spun many tall tales portraying me as a murdering fugitive who is hiding out in the Montana boonies.

## **MEME, MYSELF, AND I**

**Memes** have been around since the dawn of civilization, but there wasn't a name for them



until 1976 when Richard Dawkins wrote his famous book, *The Selfish Gene*. Dawkins writes,

“We need a name for the new replicator, a noun that conveys the idea of a unit of cultural transmission, or a unit of imitation. ‘Mimeme’ comes from a suitable Greek root, but I want a monosyllable that sounds a bit more like ‘gene.’ I hope my classicist friends will forgive me if I abbreviate mimeme to meme. If it is any consolation, it could alternatively be thought of as being related to ‘memory,’ or to the French word, ‘meme.’ It should be pronounced to rhyme with ‘cream.’ ”

Memes pertain to ideas that catch on and get spread from brain to brain like a virus. In fact, when an idea, video, cartoon, or the like has caught on and spread to millions, it is said that such a meme has gone “viral.”

Memes can be anything iconic that inhabits our brains, from music and art to scientific ideas.

The most successful memes have staying power.  $E = mc^2$  suggests Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity, for example. Nearly everyone recognizes the formula even if they don't understand it. Einstein's face itself has become a meme, representing genius. The beginning of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony is a meme of fate. It's definitive and his four-note motif has been repeated many times elsewhere. For example, Shostakovich used a variation of it that can be heard very clearly at the end of his Seventh Symphony, and the sequence still represents fate. Memes can change, evolve, or devolve because every individual perceives the meme differently. The Mona Lisa is a meme that conveys something enigmatic. It's also one of the most heavily parodied pieces of art in history. Many artists have put their own stamp on the work.

Visual memes are everywhere today. Traffic signs. Corporate logos. Advertising. Sports logos. Movie posters. Political symbols. Album covers. Cartoon characters such as Mickey Mouse. A

chrome silhouette of a sexy lady posing suggestively on a trucker's mud flaps. The list goes on and on because we are all inundated by visual noise. There's an abundance of competition for our attention, especially on the Internet.

## FINDING AN IDENTITY

"Kilroy was here" was a meme developed during WWII. It features a bald-headed man with a large nose looking over a wall. His fingers and big nose droop over. It may have originated from a man named Kilroy who was a ship inspector who drew his graffiti on ships and boxes. Anonymous soldiers everywhere replicated the meme. Soldiers who were nobodies became somebody in a surreptitious manner. They got the attention of everyone. The Kilroy meme even reached Hitler, who thought that Kilroy might be some sort of code name for a spy.

People want to make their mark on the universe. They want their existence to have worth

and meaning. Some carve their initials on picnic tables as proof that they are here. The act is intended as evidence that they are alive and mean something. The same motives compel many graffiti artists and “taggers.” The Internet has allowed an open avenue for those who previously had no outlet or direction. Their mark can now be made on cyberspace.

The younger generation perhaps sees a grim future for themselves. I see a grim future, too, if things aren't changed. The American Dream is receding further and further out of reach. Many college grads can't afford to leave their parents. Jobs are few and going to college these days can produce an avalanche of debt which many will spend a lifetime repaying. Young people are cast adrift in a sea of corruption and despair. Shifting social mores and mass immigration are changing cultures and identities. Young people are casting about for meaning, an identity, and ways to express their cynicism and frustration. They've

grown up with computers and the Internet, so naturally that is their avenue of expression.



1. This meme was spread everywhere by American soldiers during WWII. It even fooled Hitler into thinking Kilroy was a spy. Hitler was trolled.
2. "The Happy Merchant," or "Meme of the Jew" is the most ubiquitous example of anti-Semitism on the Internet. He was drawn in the 1990s by an anonymous cartoonist who called himself A. Wyatt Mann.
3. The "Mi Gusta" face is used by trolls to convey sick pleasure from happenstance.
4. "Y U NO" guy uses bad grammar to bring attention to an issue.
5. The Guy Fawkes mask is now the face of Anonymous.

6. “Feels Man” has trouble dealing with emotion. He is also known as “Voyak” or “Wojack.” He originated from a Polish image board and is apparently also used to convey empathy as in “I know that feel, bro.”

## INTERNET MEMES

An Internet subculture has sprung up on social media and websites such as 4chan and 8chan. They have created their own visual memes as a means of self-expression. Some have gone viral. For example, the sly, smiling face that represents trolling. We’ve all seen it. It’s a leering face dripping with sadistic satisfaction, designed to evoke an emotional response. It laughs at the pain and distress that it has caused others. This is the face we’re supposed to ignore, but like Kilroy’s once ubiquitous presence, it is now seen everywhere. It’s not a slickly drafted thing and appears to have been drawn in a low-level paint program. In fact, it would not be nearly as effective had it been professionally rendered. Its crudity adds a twist of shock to the insult.

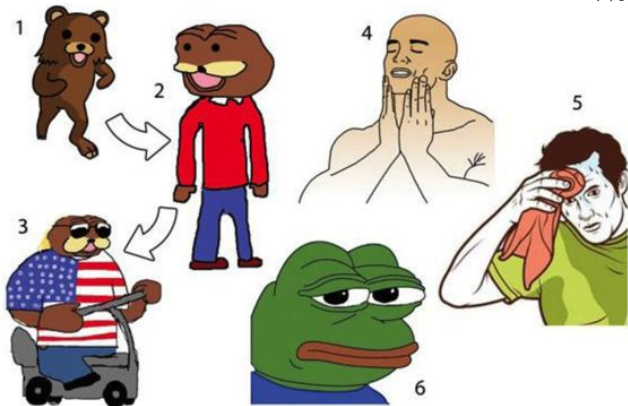
Many of the meme faces seen on social media and elsewhere were born accidentally. Some memes have even originated from typos. For example, one young poster misspelled more as moar. It has since become a staple of message board vocabulary. Other accidents turned into memes when youngsters tried to copy cartoon characters. “Rape Rodent” was based on Mighty Mouse. Someone tried to copy this popular cartoon character from the 1950s and the result was not heroic. Now rarely seen, Rape Rodent was a progenitor of the troll face. He had wrinkles and a wry grin as if he were enjoying something perverted.

Another young artist tried to copy Donald Duck. The result was “Dolan-Duck,” a psychotic rapist who looked nothing like Donald except for his blue cap. Many other Disney and Warner Brothers cartoon characters that I grew up with received similar treatment. The results have included a spate of memes including a bear-like creature named “Spurdo,” who sounds like he has



a stuffed up nose, and “Sad Frog,” also known as “Pepé” who says, “It feels bad, man.” These have become popular on message boards. Another one is known as the “feelings man.” It’s a black and white outlined image of a bald white man with a perfectly blank face. It appears he was also produced in a crude paint program. Apparently he is incapable of feeling anything and sympathizes with his brothers who may also have the same emotional handicap. Another popular meme is a figure applying both hands to his cheeks while he looks as if he’s in ecstasy. He was originally traced from a stock photo. His is the “feels good” meme, the polar opposite of the Sad Frog. There are dozens of memes such as these. Some are more successful than others.

All humans want to belong to a group or tribe and such memes are the way the younger generation communicate emotions among the group. They are standard bearers and their memes are emblems unique to their generation.



These are some of the common memes found on 4chan, 8chan, and elsewhere:

1. “Pedo Bear,” is a mascot for pedophiles and was often seen on 4chan’s /b/ board.
2. Crudely drawn by an artist in Finland, the bear known as “Spurdo” speaks with a stuffed up nose.
3. The “American Bear” is fat, stupid and too lazy to walk. He loves hamburgers and is sometimes shown being controlled by “Jews.”
4. Traced from a stock photo, this image is used by trolls to express satisfaction.
5. “Sweating Towel Guy” represents anxiety.

Originally he was posted to represent video game purchase decisions.

6. “Sad Frog,” also known as ‘Pepé,’ represents sadness. His motto is, “Feels bad, man.” There are many variations of this meme.

## HATE MEMES

Along with the relatively benign meme images described previously, images of hate have also multiplied. Hate is making its pernicious mark on the Internet. Every day on the chan /pol/ boards, you’ll see constant postings of a drawing featuring a hunched over, sinister figure. He has a long beard and a large hooked nose. He has a sneaky grin showing crooked teeth. He’s greedily rubbing his hands together. This image is known as the anti-Semitic meme of the Jew. Trolls, neo-Nazis, and anti-Semitic posters call him “The Merchant.”

The artist who drew him was originally unidentified. His pen name was “A. Wyatt Mann,” in other words “a white man.” He penned

a spate of extremely anti-Semitic and racist cartoons, mostly in the late 1980s and through the 1990s. These were very popular on neo-Nazi sites. Mann has not drawn anything since the late 1990s, but no matter. His “work” is constantly reposted on sites, blogs, and various social media. It is said the artist has long since retired from producing the racist and anti-Semitic drawings and now lives with his Jewish girlfriend in Georgia.

Neo-Nazi groups began promoting The Merchant image everywhere they could on the Internet in order to help it become accepted by young people. Then, some of those young people who apparently thought it was edgy began to post it as well.

Nazis have always been a fringe group in America. Their hate speech is tolerated as the price we pay for free speech. Until the Internet, however, they were limited to printed screeds and handouts that few wanted to read. They now have

a powerful tool, the Internet, to enable them to take their hate speech mainstream. This is their goal.

On many message boards you'll see the anti-Semitic meme of the Jew being repeated constantly in multifarious permutations. A deluge of offensive images is posted constantly on 4chan by anonymous posters known as "anons." Christopher Poole owns the site and claims all the posts are the responsibility of the poster.



1. “Dolan Duck,” a poorly drawn MS Paint character, arose from an attempt to draw Donald Duck.
2. An artist tried to draw Mighty Mouse and instead produced “Rape Rodent.”  
It was the primogenitor of the classic troll face.
3. “You mad, bro?” The classic troll face enjoys laughter at the expense of his victims.
- 4, 5, 6. More examples of troll faces. Sadistic laughter is a staple on 4chan.

The moderators at 4chan allow nearly everything to stand except for child pornography,

stolen celebrity nude photos and “Gamergate” attacks.

When hacked photos showing nude celebrities were posted on 4chan in 2014, pressure was evidently put on Poole. He made sure his moderators began removing the stolen photos.

Gamergate began on 4chan during 2014 as a result of a scandal surrounding an independent game developer named Zoe Quinn. She was targeted for misogynistic attacks on 4chan. She also received death threats. Poole’s moderators put an end to the trolling. This shows Poole is quite capable of removing libel and copyright infringement, but in my case he refused.

Since he purges the archive every so often, he avoids lawsuits. Poole’s site abounds with racism and anti-Semitism. Some trolls on /pol/ even call for the murder of blacks and Jews, but few take it seriously. It’s 4chan, after all. Although there are anonymous boards that some consider useful, /b/

and /pol/ are considered the lowest of low points on the Internet. That's why the haters aren't satisfied to stay there. They want to take their hate show to larger venues.

### LEARN THEIR LINGO: Samples of anonymous message board slang

<b>4chan</b>	Japanese in origin, it means 'four channel.' Also known as half chan. 8chan is infinity chan or 'full' chan.
<b>/pol/</b>	Politically Incorrect. Often the most popular board on 4chan and 8chan.
<b>OP</b>	Original Poster. A user who starts a thread on a 4chan board, usually accompanied by an image.
<b>BUMP</b>	This word is inserted on a thread to move it up or keep it from expiring. Also implies approval.
<b>SAGE</b>	Opposite of bump. Sage is a Japanese term (Sah-jay) to move down or kill a thread.
<b>CUCK</b>	Short for cuckhold, it refers to a man willing to watch his wife have an affair with another man.
<b>NEET</b>	No Education, Employment, or Training. It refers to young, basement-dwelling losers and/or trolls.
<b>MOAR</b>	MOAR began as a troll's typo. It has now woven its way into the trolling vernacular. It means "more."
<b>HONEY POT</b>	A site or message board used by the FBI or others to collect information on potential criminals.
<b>LOL/LULZ</b>	Laughing Out Loud devolved into 'LULZ' by trolls. Usually indicates their sides have split.
<b>NECK BEARD</b>	Slovenly trolls who don't shave their necks. They are virgins. They might also wear fedoras.
<b>LOLI</b>	Short for lolicon, a form of pornographic anime consisting of a female child, rampant on the chans.
<b>FAP</b>	To masturbate. A <i>fappening</i> occurs when groups of trolls get together and ogle pornography.
<b>NWS</b>	Not Work Safe. The chan sites are not work safe and many public places will block access to them.
<b>BUTTERFACE</b>	A woman with a beautiful body, 'but her face' is ugly. Misogyny is also rampant on the chan boards.
<b>FAGS</b>	A term of both derision and endearment on 4chan. Oldfags have been around, newfags are new.
<b>RED PILL</b>	The user swallows right wing ideology. It sometimes refers to Libertarianism or even fascism.
<b>BLUE PILL</b>	The user is a Democrat who swallows liberal or left wing ideology, which may include communism.
<b>DOX</b>	Documentation. Trolls find personal info such as addresses or phone numbers and use it to harass targets.
<b>SAUCE</b>	When a source is desired for a particular article or photo, posters will ask for 'sauce.'
<b>SIW</b>	Social Justice Warrior. An activist trying to change society. These people are despised on 4chan.
<b>BASED</b>	Means 'cool.' Based people are happy to be themselves. They don't care what others think of them.
<b>ZOG</b>	Zionist Occupied Government. Refers to the USA being run by Jews. Anti-semitism permeates the chans.

If the hate memes remained sequestered on 4chan, 8chan, and various neo-Nazi sites, they would be tolerated, but not endorsed, by the general public. In America, it's considered free



speech. The neo-Nazis aren't satisfied with that. They want their vile ideas to be accepted and even endorsed by the general public. They want their hate to go mainstream. They want more young minds converted to their cause. We should never forget their cause includes the mass murder of human beings. "Gas the kikes, race war now!" is one of their rallying cries. They want their hate memes proliferated on sites such as Facebook.

Facebook has allowed a swamp of hate to seep into the American culture at large. I've seen many pages containing horrific examples of hate on Facebook, and the site administrators often responded to repeated complaints by stating the pages did not violate its community standards. They allowed the hate images to remain. Eventually, Facebook may remove hate pages, but it takes dozens, if not hundreds, of complaints by groups devoted to reminding Facebook of their own Community Standards, which include the following:

“Facebook does not permit hate speech, but distinguishes between serious and humorous speech. While we encourage you to challenge ideas, institutions, events, and practices, we do not permit individuals or groups to attack others based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability or medical condition.”

Facebook apparently finds an image that grossly insults Jews to be humorous. Fringe groups have experienced success with their attempts to make sure The Merchant goes mainstream.

Facebook allows not only anti-Semitic hate meme drawings, but also all kinds of outright hate to flourish. Hate against blacks, Jews, Muslims, women, and gays are all allowed to stand. I know. I've reported egregious hate pages only to be told by Facebook that they do not violate their standards. If they do finally get removed, often the trolls of hate resurrect the same

pages and publish them again. I call this Facebook's "Revolving Door of Hate."

Hate is succeeding on Facebook, and I blame Facebook for that. The Nazis do not own Facebook. It is not a violation of fringe groups' free speech rights when their extreme hatred is removed from a site with nearly a billion users. The haters are free to set up their own sites and publish hate to their shriveled hearts' content. They won't get much traffic.



Many young people seem to think Hitler is ‘cool,’ and they help spread hateful Nazi nonsense throughout the Internet.

## **THE ‘ZYKLON BEN’ MEME**

This is a meme that began on 4chan and various neo-Nazi sites. It then spread to Reddit and Facebook and many other places. It started out as trolling, but has gone beyond that. It’s now outright libel and character assassination. The meme’s creators and promoters even attacked my family. I cover this in a later chapter.

Some of the neo-Nazi trolls and racists may hide their murderous intent with laughter, but make no mistake: they want people to be murdered. They want Hitler to be accepted as a good man. They work on the minds of the young to entice them to accept a favorable view of Hitler by initially offering their putrid ideas up as something chic and cool. I have checked many Facebook pages of young people who “Like” the hate pages. They are young and look wholesome. They are smiling. They have many friends. In a few cases, their parents are shown in photos on the page. Along with all this, I’ve seen swastikas and anti-Semitic images posted as if they were something new. The neo-Nazis have succeeded! Young people apparently think this sort of hate meme is edgy.

They also think it’s cool to deny the Holocaust ever occurred. They say there is no proof, even though it’s all well documented by U.S. Army investigators. The officers signed sworn affidavits. There are witnesses, film, photos and

ample evidence testifying to the truth of the Holocaust claims. But all this is ignored while at the same time some of the trolls are crying for a new holocaust. It's preposterous, but their hateful revisionism is gaining traction on social media.

It's my theory that Facebook *wants* this sort of edginess. They want to attract young people. They don't want a repeat of what happened to their social media rival site Myspace. Young people are their future source of income and if the kids like weird memes such as racist and anti-Semitic A. Wyatt Mann drawings, then so be it. After all, the buck trumps morality. Everyone using Facebook is a dollar sign to its owner, Mark Zuckerberg.

Zuckerberg is one of the richest men in the world, and like his not-so-rich counterparts, 4chan's Christopher Poole and 8chan's Fredrick "Hot Wheels" Brennan, he encourages trolls to use his site. They all utilize ironclad disclaimers and legal boilerplate in which they lay all

responsibility on their users. Poole and Brennan may be struggling to pay bills, but Zuckerberg has billions of dollars. He can afford moderators and software that blocks the IP addresses of repeated offenders. He can do it, but he won't do it. He wants the money that controversy ensures.



The Internet has enabled anti-Semitism to become even more widespread.

## **THE INTERNET HATE MACHINE**

*“Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.”*  
—Elie Wiesel

### **“IGNORE THE TROLLS”**

**You see it repeated everywhere. “Don’t feed the trolls.” “Ignore the trolls and they’ll go**



away.” “They just want attention. Don’t give it to them.”

Here is what Jennifer Golbeck, Ph.D., had to say about the subject in *Psychology Today*:

*“Trolls truly enjoy making you feel bad. . . . Both trolls and sadists feel sadistic glee at the distress of others. Sadists just want to have fun . . . and the Internet is their playground!”*

*“The next time you encounter a troll online, remember:*

- 1. These trolls are some truly difficult people.*
- 2. It is your suffering that brings them pleasure, so the best thing you can do is ignore them.”*

Just ignore them! There. Simple, chirpy advice there, huh? Trolls have always been lurking under the bridges of Internet message boards and they are easily ignored, but what about trolls who are determined to harass, defame, libel, and destroy the reputations of people—often people they

don't even know? This kind of troll, also known also as a "cyber bully," enjoys tormenting his targets while remaining anonymous. These same trolls in real life may be weak and powerless, but through the magic of the Internet they are able to put on what is equivalent to Sauron's Ring of Power. Shielded by invisibility, they are free to mercilessly torment their victims.

Cyber bullies set up shop on many places, including Facebook, Twitter, Reddit, 4chan, and 8chan, where they attack their targets with gleeful ferocity and absolute impunity. Trolls routinely lie and make up menacing, libelous stories about their quarry. With the click of a button, their vile messages are instantly spread throughout the Internet for all to see. They hurl epithets such as racist, slut, fag, nigger, kike, Nazi, or hypocrite. These insults are repeated over and over to justify their bullying. Such denigration helps strip away the target's humanity, thus making it easier for trolls to blast away, as if their victims were pixels in a video game. Trolls

often encourage their targets to “go over the edge” and commit suicide. While ruining lives is their goal, causing death is considered to be an ultimate troll achievement. They do it for sport. They do it for laughs. They do it for attention. They want any kind of attention from a world that has ignored them for most of their powerless lives.

The lies and defamation soon appear on search engines, adding insult to the injured party. Many suffer in silence while desperately hoping the trolls will go away. Those who try to push back and defend themselves can trigger outrage among the trolls. They consider the defamation and libel they spew to be their freedom of speech, which in their view is unlimited, absolute, and sacred. If you question hate speech and libel, along with the lack of responsibility and accountability of such communication on the Internet, the hate machine goes into overdrive. Their freedom of speech trumps the freedom of speech of those they attack. They want their targets to shut

up and ignore them. Perversely, if the trolls aren't ignored they gleefully claim the target is "asking for it." When impersonation pages are set up in order to destroy businesses and reputations, it's time to do more than ignore the trolls. Trolling has become an epidemic on the Internet. It's time to stop quaking in fear of the Internet Hate Machine. It's time to let the arrogant and anonymous cyber bullies know that there can be consequences to their irresponsible actions.



You can help stop trolling on social media by hitting the report button.

## THE AGE OF CYBERPATHS

The Internet has been a fabulous information and communications tool for mankind—it's equivalent to the invention of the Gutenberg press. However, it has also allowed black-hearted sadists known as cyberpaths (online manifestations of psychopaths and sociopaths) the power to make others miserable. In the past these entities were forced to keep their status hidden for fear of

punishment. Internet anonymity allows them to indulge their sadistic fantasies without fear of a punch in the nose—or worse.

The cyberpaths utilize a variety of malicious tactics to achieve their sadistic satisfaction. They flood email with hate. Some are able to hack business servers and force them to spew out spam mail, thus destroying business reputations. They steal trademarks or images that belong to their victims. They find these images on personal blogs, Facebook, and professional sites. They convert them into defamation and hate and post them everywhere they can while claiming they're the original images. They will impersonate their victims by setting up Facebook and Reddit pages, using the real names of their targets, and then start publishing disgusting material. They post hate memes while claiming the evil words within them were written by those whom they target. They do this in order to “prove” that an individual is deserving of their ridicule. It's a self-reinforcing cycle. They also know the hate speech will

worm its way onto search engines, which is the additional, pleasurable payoff enjoyed by cyberpaths.

They recruit and encourage others to join in and engage in trolling frenzies. Many have learned this behavior from video games such as *The World of Warcraft*, where players gang up to defeat various monsters. Now they're playing their game in real life. They turn their targets into monsters and then attack them, not realizing that reality is not a video game. It seems that ethics and morality are for losers in their wretched contest.

The cyberpaths may also attempt to dox their targets. Doxxing refers to documentation. If the trolls obtain a phone number, harassing phone calls will often ensue. If they find out an address, there may be massive pizza deliveries or worse, vandalism, bomb threats, and death threats. They'll even go so far as to engage in SWATting, which refers to reporting their targets to the local

police as a threat meriting a SWAT team response. The ultimate goal of the cyberpaths: the death of their targets at the hand of law enforcement. Feminist bloggers are threatened with rape. Grieving parents are tormented.

They always say their targets deserve getting trolled and humiliated. They want to keep their victims angry and helpless. This brings about a sick satisfaction for the trolls. To make sure they keep that satisfaction going, they will attack their targets for many months and, in my case, many years. For some antagonists, the attacks become an obsession and a compulsion.

The author Oisín Sweeney documents such cyberpaths in his ebook, *Hackers on Steroids: A Vigilante Journey Through the Internet Abyss of 4Chan Cyberpaths and Facebook Paedophiles*. If you've ever had the misfortune to encounter libelous trolls as I have, this book will help you gain a better understanding of the attackers. Many trolls are young, powerless, and troubled



souls who probably deserve pity. The most virulent, however, deserve a jail cell. Some of the more ghoulish trolls who tormented grieving parents were tracked down and prosecuted, but too many continue to escape justice. The ones who were exposed and punished appeared ugly and miserable. They actually looked like *real trolls*. They were definitely ugly on the inside.

The trolls come in all ages, both male and female, but they are predominantly young and male. A cyber detective I worked with found one who was a retired real estate lawyer. Apparently he spends his retirement expressing his virulent racism all day. The sadistic old troll enjoys carefully crafting venomous bile and spreading it around message boards. The younger trolls apparently consider trolling to be a video game. They're not necessarily mean spirited. They just want to have fun and a few laughs. They don't consider the trolling they do on the Internet to be immoral or "real life." Spreading hateful memes is simply seen as something fun to do. These kids

are out of touch with reality, I believe, because their brain patterns have been altered due to playing video games constantly. Other trolls enjoy getting high and then releasing their pent up frustrations on others. It's a cathartic release, evidently. Some use trolling as a means to destroy enemies or business competition anonymously.

## TOP KEKS

*“My laughter has reached uncontainable levels and my sides are now hurdling through the atmosphere at light speed!”*

—Anonymous

The above is a typical comment posted on 4chan's /pol/. I saved it because it illustrates one of the main goals of trolls: laughter. Trolling for lulz is an apparent obsession for some. It's a valuable, almost precious, commodity to them. Lulz, which is a distortion of “LOL” or “laughing out loud,” is the big payoff for trolls. On 4chan, their expression for the best form of troll laughter

is known as a top kek. This word originated from the *World of Warcraft* video game. It's another form of LOL. This is more evidence that many of the trolls are young people who have been heavily influenced by violent video games.

Besides posting comments that brag about their sides being obliterated or leaving the galaxy, they'll also often post cruel and crudely drawn meme faces with giant grins and tears of laughter spewing from eyes. They want their victims and their fellow trolls to know they are enjoying their success. Trolling becomes a competitive game. They take pride in their harmful accomplishments. Most people have heard the expression "You mad, bro?" This was a phrase invented by a troll. When victims are angry, the trolls claim victory, celebrate, and enjoy the top keks. They feel victorious and better about themselves when others are put down, and the lulz simply aren't as satisfying if the target is oblivious. They must brag about their cyber bullying and trolling victories. The combination of a

massive ego and arrogance can place a troll's anonymity at risk. Like many criminals, they just can't resist bragging and returning to the scenes of their crimes. These careless actions can help lead to their prosecution.

When the English boxer Curtis Woodhouse became the target of an arrogant, cyber bullying troll who was constantly spewing defamation and lies, he paid to have his tormentor tracked down. Woodhouse then drove many miles to the troll's neighborhood. He took a photo of a street sign and posted it so that the troll would know he was there. The boxer was going to knock on every door until he found his man. When the troll saw the photo he turned into a quivering mound of jelly. He said he was just having a little fun. The whimpering coward apologized and said, "I am sorry it's getting a bit out of hand. I am in the wrong. I accept that." Woodhouse won by default.

Woodhouse's troll exhibited typical behavior. When the trolls have their cloak of anonymity stripped away, they meekly claim they were just doing it for laughs and didn't mean any harm. Maybe they're sincere when they use this excuse. They're mostly young, socially inept weaklings who were probably bullied in real life. The Internet gives them a chance to get even.

I've experienced this firsthand. A college student with the handle of "George L. Rockwell" (a name used by an American Nazi) attacked me mercilessly on Reddit, but when he found out I was serious about bringing about some justice, he tucked tail and skedaddled completely after deleting his libelous posts. Most of the trolls will evanesce into the woodwork when faced with real life consequences.



over. Rational debate gets drowned out when hate memes are repeated endlessly by their perpetrators. When a big lie is constantly bullhorned, many start to believe it's true. Even if they don't think it's true, the messages are so ubiquitous that many young people may start to subconsciously believe, for example, that killing people is a way to solve social conflict. That's why the same hate memes and their variations are posted daily on message boards with mind-numbing regularity. The same hateful "Jew meme" character rubbing his hands together is seen constantly. The same Hitler memes and Holocaust denial memes are repeated ad nauseam. Hate is illogical. Therefore, to maintain an appearance of validity, memes of hate must be hammered into brains constantly. I've said this before, but it's my counter-meme of understanding and I feel like repeating it.

I do indeed support free speech and that includes anonymous speech. Both are protected by the Constitution. Hate speech may be legal in the

U.S., but it isn't free because it's chained to deep dungeons of tyranny and the victims often end up paying a costly price for libel and cyber bullying. Hate speech is a cul-de-sac—a prison of sorts—inhabited by its makers. Legal hate speech doesn't include illegal libel. We libertarians respect property rights. We realize that trolls are not only destroying people's reputations, they destroy intellectual property when they engage in trademark and copyright infringement.





Hate speech is *not* free speech on Facebook. There are community standards there that prohibit fake profiles and trolls calling for the murder of human beings based on their race and religion. Do not hesitate to report hate speech. Facebook may or may not remove libel and impersonation, however. I found that out firsthand. I was told in one instance they would not remove a page using my name and defaced cartoons because it was in the ‘public interest.’ After repeated reporting, the page was finally taken down.

I’ll continue to use my free speech to speak out against hate speech on social media sites. The trolling mob is upset because they expected me, a

Libertarian, to applaud what they're doing. When it comes to speech, they desire a *Road Warrior*-like anarchy where libel and defamation are common and acceptable. They want survival of the fittest where the loudest, most obnoxious voice seems to win. That kind of anarchy certainly does exist on the Internet, but the trolls are not satisfied to remain in their sandbox hellholes. The haters shout slogans such as "Kill the kikes, race war now!" They want to spread their chants of murder to popular sites such as Facebook, which has stated community standards. They want young, video game-soaked minds to pick up their hateful standards and run with them. Hate pages aren't allowed on Facebook, though, and it's not a violation of the trolls' free speech when they get booted. The haters are free to set up their *own* sites and pay for them themselves.

When I was asked to write a short essay about the ongoing cyber attacks against me, I probably went too far when I wrote that "hate speech is not free speech." I was so indignant and

furious that I wrote from emotion more than reason. I was right because hate speech is *not* free speech on Facebook and other social media, but I could have made that clearer. As a result of my hasty writing (I'm an artist, not a writer), the trolls pounced on my lack of clarity and began pecking at it like a flock of chickens. They never forgive or forget. They claimed that because I don't support hate speech on social media that I'm against free speech altogether. That is a lie. We Americans tolerate hate speech as the price we must pay for free speech.

Trolls think they are manly  
when they attack others...



...They turn into big babies  
when their libel is removed.



Many trolls epitomize hypocrisy.

That said, the vast majority of U.S. citizens are not about to accept being forced to listen to calls for murder. The trolls absurdly maintain that because we don't desire to listen to their repulsive hate speech that that's somehow a violation of their rights. I'd like to see the trolls show up in person and shout their anti-African-American hate slogans in a black neighborhood. They would never do that because there would be

consequences. There would be accountability. The fact that most of the hate shouters won't attach their real names to their filth should tell you something about the validity of their messages. They're cowards.

The trolls aren't accountable. Therefore they're able to make their hate as base and obnoxious as they like. Lacking responsibility and accountability, they can easily employ cheap sophistry, ad hominem attacks, and outrageous lies to belittle their victims. Hate speech always drives away reasoned debate. The end result? People blindly hating and wanting to kill each other. We know hate has to be repeated endlessly to appeal to base emotion, not the intellect or logic—and it's definitely not loving. Their arguments appeal to a reptilian emotional state, not reason and logic. Basically, it's a low level of consciousness.



Many neo-Nazis are immature misfits. They enjoy trolling on social media.

Currently there's not much being done to quell the rise of trolling and cyber bullying on the Internet. The police are stretched thin and will do nothing unless tangible evidence of a death threat is presented. Legal recourse is expensive and many lawyers want nothing to do with Internet libel cases. I've learned that firsthand, too. Some

are afraid they'll get sucked into the Internet Hate Machine themselves. Such fear keeps people from expressing opinions freely on the Internet.

As Internet trolls continue to get their way, unchecked, there will be more calls for government involvement. Their actions could provide an excuse for Big Government to step in and regulate the Internet. Internet taxes will then probably become inevitable as a means to pay for the enforcement. Once the state gets its camel nose under the Internet tent, it's over. The state may begin shutting down political speech that it finds objectionable. The trolls seem hell-bent on bringing this about. It's almost as if they're begging the state to step in and "solve" the problem. To those who view trolling as a fun sport, please consider this likelihood carefully and free your mind from the prison of hate speech.

Very few people are willing to sign their real names to messages of hate. Racial slurs and calls for mass murder are hurled routinely without fear

of rebuke or even a punch in the nose. Moderators are needed to stop hate from dominating comment sections. Many bloggers shut down comments entirely because they have no time to moderate. Like the barroom brawl shuts down relaxed conversations, free speech is shut down by hate speech. Hate speech is not really free after all. It's a form of censorship.





## REMOVING THE HATE

Some image hosting services are very good at taking down hate meme images if the requester can prove libel and copyright infringement. The most responsible of the image sharing sites has been Imgur. They adhere to Digital Millennium

Copyright Act (DMCA) standards and have been the quickest to respond. They must be sick of hearing from me, because I have made seemingly endless requests for removal. Imgur's responses have been fantastic, as they've quickly removed the libel every time. I tip my hat to them. All the other top sites also took troll material off their servers. Most of them removed the images within in a day or two of being notified of the libelous material. Some have taken longer. One startup, Mediocrush, is a small hosting service based in Canada and it took a little more persuasion to get them to take down obvious libel. They finally did, but they also gave me some advice:

## **“YOU HAVE LOST THIS BATTLE”**

*“You’ve angered the famous Internet hate machine and fighting it will only make it worse. Your best course of action is to ignore it and allow it to be forgotten over time. We’ve seen what these assholes can do, and it’ll only get worse as you antagonize them further. 4chan is invincible,*

*for better or worse, but it is isolated. By provoking them, you sacrifice that isolation and encourage them to spread their hate further beyond their walls. I'm sorry to hear that you have to face this, but all I can do is offer you the advice of someone who knows the hate machine all too well. Good luck."*

—Mediacrush Support

Mediacrush repeated what I had heard for years. If I had only ignored my antagonists they would have gotten bored and stopped. The fact that I did ignore them for two years didn't help me, though. Playing the *Whack-a-Mole* game hasn't helped either. When the trolls couldn't post on Imgur, they moved on to some other service. Eventually they found 'Anonimg,' which apparently is a service set up by trolls for trolls. Anonimg states they will ignore all copyright removal requests. They also will not record the uploaders' IP addresses (which may be used to identify the one doing the uploading). Perfect for trolls! The image service even stated they would

expose complainants to the public for ridicule. Their contact address is “hatemind.” Not only will they not remove libel, they join in with the trolls to make fun of the complainers.

8chan's operator, “Hot Wheels” Frederick Brennan, has set up a link for this purpose. It's a spider's web, a trap. If anyone naively complains about copyright infringement to 8chan, the complainer is instantly and publicly ridiculed for being against free speech. In my case, my phone number was published along with my email addresses and Facebook and PayPal account names. Hackers were invited to destroy me because I complained about libel and copyright infringement. I was even lectured about parody and fair use by the 20-year-old Hot Wheels himself. I showed his email and a link to the content to my lawyer who replied, “He's wrong. This is definitely NOT fair use or parody. It's actionable copyright infringement.” The trouble is, it costs an enormous amount of money to prosecute such

a case and most likely the damages awarded would be uncollectable anyway.

The Internet is a haven for trolls and their free speech trumps that of their victims. That's just the way it is. Lawyers can do little unless a huge pile of money is shoveled at the problem. Until free speech can be combined with accountability on the Internet, the trolls will not be stopped. Anonymous free speech with zero accountability is like water. It ends up seeking the lowest possible level. 4chan's politically incorrect board /pol/ is evidence of that. It's commonly known as the bowels of the Internet.

## **FIGHTING A LOST BATTLE**

So what can be done when the battle is lost? In my case, very little. My lawyer told me that even if I do find a perpetrator, a cease and desist letter would likely only antagonize him further. I must be prepared to spend a small fortune to prosecute them and that would most likely bring

about a long, drawn-out case. One woman who had her name and business dragged through the mud for years by her tormentors had to spend \$100,000 in legal fees with no guarantee she would win her case. She did finally win. Even if I won, it would be unlikely that I could collect damages. Most of the trolls are likely to be young people who work at pizza joints (if they have a job at all) and live in their parents' basements. It would be even more difficult to prosecute a troll living outside of the U.S. Essentially, I spent a lot of money on a lawyer only to find out there was little he could do.

I consulted with another lawyer and for far less money she bluntly informed me that Internet copyright infringement and defamation were the “Achilles’ heel” of libel cases. After reviewing what I had been enduring, she agreed that it was too late to simply ignore the attacks. She could see my online reputation had been compromised. She saw what a nutty Nazi had published and said I did have a potential case there—especially

for the defaced cartoons he had published, but the outcome would depend on a judge's determination of libel. The young Nazi had clearly labeled it all as satire. Carrying out a lawsuit would be risky and expensive. Then that attorney offered me what I considered the best advice I've yet received: start a PR blitz to counter the negative publicity.

I decided to become more vocal. I would speak up and speak out against trolls and warn others about the Internet Hate Machine when I could. I had a few interviews including one conducted by a college journalist in England. James Tracy conducted another. Dr. Tracy is a tenured professor at Florida Atlantic University. He created quite a controversy merely because he questioned if the Boston Marathon bombing could be a government conspiracy. The mainstream media attacked him mercilessly. Apparently people nowadays aren't supposed to speculate about such things, even when the facts don't add up. Tracy posted my interview on the Internet in

podcast form, and soon the trolls doctored it to make me sound like an anti-Semitic nut.

Similarly, I posted a short video on YouTube in which I wished supporters a happy new year. Trolls later added swastikas and sound effects to make me appear as a Nazi. Their altered video on YouTube received more views than my own.

Trolls enjoy ruining online reputations and by doing so they diminish the ability of others to communicate ideas effectively. Essentially they want to control others surreptitiously. It's not just about the lulz; it's about power over others. They don't give two shakes about the free speech of other people. They only care about indulging their sadism. Anonymous free speech, though important, does not guarantee the right to cause serious harm to others.



## **DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU!**

What can you do to prevent trolls from attacking you and your family? Here are ten safeguards:

- 1.** The best prevention is to not use the Internet at all. Don't get assigned an IP address, email, or anything else. These days that's not tenable, but bear in mind that nearly anything you publish on the Internet can be stolen and used against you. Photographs you may have given to friends long ago can be scanned in, et voilà! Your name and photos are there for all to see. Past public records and even deleted blog posts can be found. The Web is sticky and few can escape it entirely; now everything you currently communicate—whether it be via email or a cell phone conversation or some other digital means—is being recorded by the master mega troll, the NSA, in direct violation of our Fourth Amendment rights. Even the U.S. Post Office now spies on citizens. If you have a blog, what you write is recoverable even if you delete it. In other words, the Internet has a

memory. The Wayback Machine can even find deleted websites and blog posts. Trolls count on digging up anything you may have posted and twisting it into an attack. If there's a photo of you that could potentially be embarrassing, do not publish it.

2. If you don't have a Facebook account, don't create one. I wish I hadn't. It's a honey pot for the CIA, NSA, and advertisers. Zuckerberg, who started the site, once created a pejorative "Hot or Not"-style site based on university photos. According to the official story, he created Facebook in his dormitory room at Harvard. It quickly became a success, but at one point he called his users "dumb f\_\_\_s" for trusting him with personal information. This sounds like something a troll would say. Now he's one of the richest men in the world. I despise Facebook for allowing hate pages to flourish. In addition, Zuckerberg takes one's personal info and makes money from it. He is now a multi-billionaire because he has commoditized the info that millions of people freely

deliver to him. If you must have a Facebook account, never accept friend requests from people you don't know. Utilize your privacy settings. Do not allow the general public to access your information. Young people often post things that work against them later on when potential employers do searches. Use extreme caution on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and all other social media.

**3. Report the trolls.** While the ubiquitous message board trolls should be ignored, the ones who carry out a protracted campaign designed to ruin the lives of citizen journalists and bloggers demand a response. Ignoring them only encourages them. If they're posting attacks on your blog, block them or cease posting completely if you lack the time to moderate comments. Ignore all troll mail, but save it and record IP addresses for evidence. Report troll behavior to message board moderators if possible. Don't waste time reporting trolls on sites such as 4chan. The moderators there will do nothing. They draw eyeballs based

solely on their status and reputation as trolling sites. They don't want to lessen their traffic. You can try reporting trolling or impersonation to the police, but most will laugh at you and throw you out. You can report defaced images to the image services, most of whom will adhere to DMCA standards and remove the violating uploads. Be forewarned that you must prove your identification on DMCA reports and that includes supplying a phone number. Unscrupulous recipients can steal that info and spread it to trolls. That has happened to me, too. My phone number was published and harassing phone calls ensued. Death threats may be reported to the police or FBI. Don't expect results—my complaint to the FBI was ignored. (I should have known—the FBI mostly protects government interests, not the people.) Hire a lawyer if you must, but don't expect results from an attorney, either. There is little legal recourse when it comes to prosecuting the trolls for libel and copyright infringement unless you have a small fortune to toss at the

endeavor. Even if you have a troll's IP address, it's difficult to prove the troll did the actual uploading. That said, the use of your lawyer's name and email address might add more weight to your complaints.

4. Never argue with or debate trolls. One troll set up a page on Reddit where he pretended to be me, and his invented straw man answered questions and gave various racist answers. I decided to counter that by setting up a page where the *real* me could field questions. The trolls showed up en masse and asked questions such as, "When did you become a white supremacist?" They down-voted my answers and up-voted their questions, leaving only their own racist hate. It was pointless. I deleted the page. You can't win an argument with trolls. They use all the dirty tricks, sophistry, and logical fallacies to get you to lose your temper. That's their goal. They derive energy from your anger. There was an episode in the original *Star Trek* series titled "Day of the Dove," in which an alien force sets up conditions

for endless conflict between the crew of the Enterprise and the Klingons. The alien would observe the increasing hostility and absorb negative energy and satisfaction from the hate and fighting. Kang and Kirk finally threw down their weapons and became friends. The weakened alien force fled. Like that alien life force, trolls feed on negative energy. There may be some who defend you and argue with the trolls. The trolls may assume it's you doing the arguing. In my case it almost always was *not* me. Don't let that bother you either.

**5.** Put a disclaimer on your blog or site. Let the world know you're being attacked. The trolls have so permeated the Internet that you may want to explain the situation to friends, family, and employers. Chances are, they'll understand. Also, make sure you sign up on all social media with your real name if possible. If you own your own business, make sure to claim a presence for that name, too. Otherwise the trolls will acquire it

first and could then use your own name to post defamation.

**6.** Hire a cyber detective to track down your tormentor. “Out” the trolls if possible. Report their activities to their employers. If the trolls are youngsters (as many of them are), report them to their parents. One young man was impersonating me on Facebook. He was using my name and altered photos and cartoons to spread hate. I noticed his mother left a message. I’m paraphrasing, but it read “Oh, so you’re Ben Garrison now . . . I never know what to call you these days!” She seemed oblivious to what her son was doing. I clicked on her name, called up her page and saw a photo of her son on it. He appeared no older than 16, at the oldest. He looked normal and clean cut. I sent his mom a message and asked her if she was OK with her son stealing and publishing my name and copyrighted images, which he had defaced into hate. She never replied. Facebook eventually shut his page down after I sent them an infringement notice.

7. Protect your privacy. Make sure the general public doesn't have access to your home address or phone number. Use contact forms on your site. You can pay extra to your Web service provider to hide contact information. Trolls love to push the envelope and step up to criminal harassment. You don't need them showing up at your doorstep with a video camera.

8. Join a group on Facebook or elsewhere that reports hate pages and trolling. It may not solve your problem, but helping others to remove hate from social media helps prevent the harassment from spreading, and at least you'll be doing something positive. Bear in mind that one can't sue Facebook, even though I'd love to because of their gross lack of responsibility. It has been said that suing social media giants is impossible because that would be equivalent to suing the phone company because you received a harassing phone call. You need to go after the harasser instead. There are some things Facebook could do, however, to diminish the activity. They could



develop some code that would help block repetitious hate meme images. They could also block the IP addresses of the offenders. I'm not a computer expert, but Facebook must have the resources. Surely they could do more to enforce their own standards, but they apparently won't. It's the same as the troll sites. Eyeballs equate to money and they seem to want the edginess that attracts young viewers. They *want* the trolls.

**9.** Sign petitions calling for stricter moderation on social media. There are stated community standards against hate and bigotry, but enforcement is lax. Trolls who are banned simply set up new "handles" and resume their vicious attacks, scarcely missing a beat. They need to have their IP addresses banned. The trolls will say you are against free speech for encouraging stricter enforcement of standing protocols, but this is really about stopping a flood of hate where it is not allowed.

**10.** Don't suffer in silence—speak out. Instead of repeating the tiresome cliché “ignore the trolls,” do something about them. Aside from a disclaimer, go on a PR blitz like I've tried to do. Inform media and create public awareness that not everything seen on an Internet search is true. Trolls are crying out for murder in the name of comedy. Challenge such behavior. Challenge website owners to take action when trolls use your name and images to spread lies and hate. Challenge the assertion that what the trolls are doing constitutes free speech. It isn't free speech. Their right to freedom of speech is not absolute. It ends when it tramples on the freedom of others by threatening lives or livelihoods. The trolls are in fact contemptuously *shouting down* the free speech of others. They drown out freedom of speech and replace it with hate. What they're doing is a form of censorship. Ignoring it only encourages it.

## MADE INTO A MONSTER



Trolls loved to paste my face onto Nazi uniforms. They dubbed me “Zyklon Ben” and made me their own herald of hate.

**If you noticed your face** being paired with a quotation calling for the murder of human beings, would you laugh it off and ignore it? What if that image consisted of dead children and you saw your face pasted in front with the claim that you enjoyed murdering them? What if that same image of you shows up in Google search results? What if that hate meme box of your face and quote attributed to you is posted everywhere and you start receiving hate mail? What if anonymous individuals were constantly libeling you as a racist mass murderer? What if it had been going on for no less than five years? Would you still continue to ignore the whole situation as a harmless prank? Would you laugh it off? What if such negative publicity began hurting your business? Nobody wants to hire a racist, anti-Semitic, homophobic, misogynist bigot. Even if they realize it's a ridiculous lie, they might think it's better to avoid a person with such "issues." It's the dented can syndrome. The contents are still good, but

most people will choose the un-dented can at the supermarket.



Our grrrgraphics.com banner was changed by trolls and was posted on Facebook along with my name, altered photos, and defaced cartoons. Facebook would not remove the page until after repeated complaints.

The fact that trolls routinely deface my copyrighted work into hate and stamp my name onto images of hate I did not draw or put my face and signature into hate meme boxes is not only unacceptable and immoral: it's *libel*, and that's against the law. The trolls do not like rules that threaten their anonymous hate party. The trolls

think Libertarians want anarchy and total free speech. I disagreed and was maligned as a hypocrite, but free speech ends when the reputation of others is impugned unfairly and their ability to make a living is harmed. Their actions were equivalent to spray painting hate slogans on my house. The trolls actually expected me to applaud them for doing it. Some of them try to harass their victims to death. Many have wondered why I haven't committed suicide yet. Their sport is getting their targets to kill themselves. That's how sick they are.

Astonishingly, some of my friends and family blamed *me*. They said it was my fault because I didn't ignore the trolls. The trolls said I deserved it because I did not ignore them. When I did ignore them, I got blamed for their actions regardless. The trolls claimed my quiescence was a form of tacit approval. I should have just sat there and accepted a ruined reputation, the hate mail, and the threats . . . to that, I say, bullshit! It's high time people put an end to their frozen fear of

anonymous, punk Internet trolls. Everyone needs to stand up and speak out against vile bullying, threats, and character assassination.



I was on a beach hike when I found a funny rock.

It looked like a nose.

Trolls later said it proved I was anti-Semitic.

Before I joined Facebook, I had set up a simple Google blog in order to share photos and events with friends and family. I posted a few photos of me playing my viola. My son is an expert violin player. He was concertmaster at his high school orchestra. He wanted to play some music with me, so I decided to learn to read music. I posted a few progress reports on my

blog—thinking only friends and family were interested. I also posted some of my artwork. I posted some essays in support of Ron Paul and I condemned the banker bailout in 2008. I shared classical music videos that I appreciated. I uploaded a few personal photos, including a photo of me on the beach in Washington. It had been my 50th birthday and I had come across a rock shaped like a nose. I put it up to my face. Everyone thought it was funny. This photo would later be used against me to “prove” I was anti-Semitic. Trolls are fixated on offensive caricatures with large noses and they claimed I was making fun of Jews. A fun, carefree moment in my life had been turned into hate.





## TROLL FILES:



Poole claims he adheres to DMCA standards, but he allowed copyright infringement and defamation against me to occur for years. His moderators were perfectly capable of deleting threads on the 4chan /pol/ board where trolls viciously attacked me as they posted defaced cartoons with my signature left on them. The trolls claimed theirs were the 'originals.' Poole ignored my requests to remove the libel and, in fact, he sent me an email accusing me of being a racist. Poole may not even be his real name.

In 2009 my simple blog had a few dozen hits at best. Only a few friends and some family members followed it. One day, trolls suddenly

showed up and began posting anti-Semitic and racist comments. I ended up shutting down messages on my blog. I didn't have the time to constantly monitor it. Who can reason with such reckless hate? Of course, the trolls said I had shut down comments because I was against "free speech." What they call free speech has been very costly for me. I've spent endless hours trying to remove their libel. That was valuable time I could have spent on commercial art, my paintings, my cartoons, practicing my viola, or simply sharing myself with my family. That time has been stolen from me.

I learned a hard lesson about posting anything at all. Nearly every photo and piece of art I've uploaded to the Web has now been stolen, defaced into hate, and used against me. Even my words have been changed. Trolls took screen captures and degraded the words in my blog profile into hate. They stamped a swastika onto my head. They used Photoshop to paste my face onto figures wearing Nazi uniforms. They called such

alterations shooping, i.e., Photoshopping. Instead of words about me playing my viola and art, the text “exposed” me as a vicious racist bent on killing people. The trolls went as low as accusing me of deriving sexual satisfaction from murdering Jewish children. This was all done to drum up hateful, sadistic laughter. They never let such things fade away, either. They are proud of their handiwork. Everything is documented in a troll compendium, *The Encyclopedia Dramatica*. It’s the trolls’ version of Wikipedia and it shows up on searches.

The defaced cartoons in particular began proliferating on the Internet. Some of them began crowding out my real cartoons. I had to deal with a lot of hate mail and I still do. Tina tracked down one of the main sources of the impersonation and libel to a place called “/b/” on a site named 4chan. By early 2010, I had not yet even heard of this site. I thought the site’s name was wordplay. I thought it meant Fortune. After all, it did use a four-leaf clover in its logo. I quickly

discovered that the site allowed people to post whatever they liked while they were safely shielded by anonymity. These posters were referred to as “anons.” 4chan’s “Random” board, /b/, was filled with horrific images, including dismemberment photos and illustrated child pornography that they referred to as “lollies.” And there was a thread set up to bash me. One poster even wrote my obituary, claiming I had committed suicide due to the trolling. Many defaced cartoons were being posted and traded. There were posters pretending to be me and saying horrible things. Why were they attacking me? I had done nothing to offend these anonymous posters. I definitely did not deserve this kind of treatment. Nobody does. I didn’t even know it was going on, and had done nothing to start it.

I did some research that suggested it was all but impossible to stop the anons. The owner of 4chan, a thin young man named Christopher Poole, employed an ironclad disclaimer that allowed his trolls to have a field day. He claimed

his site was like the phone company. He was not responsible for things being said on the phone lines. You had to go after the callers themselves—the posters were responsible for what was found on the site, not Poole. However, his posters were able to elude that responsibility by utilizing anonymity. Going after them wouldn't be easy. So I decided to ignore the trolls. I didn't look at 4chan again for about two years. The experts said to ignore trolls, so I did. I figured they'd just get bored and stop.

But they didn't stop. The trolling intensified. They weren't content to remain down in their 4chan cesspit. They began branching out. A troll stole my photo and name and started a Google handle, which he then used to post racist and anti-Semitic messages everywhere. I got Google to shut him down. Another published a website using a free service. He stole my name, photos, and cartoons and defaced them into hate. He concocted a hateful screed and labeled it as my biography. I induced the free site service to shut that

down. I was also impersonated several times on Twitter and Tumblr. In filing complaints I had to prove it was the “real” me by sending Twitter a copy of my passport. The trolls were shut down each time, but it cost me in terms of lost time and a lot of aggravation.

What the trolls seemed to enjoy the most was publishing impersonation pages on Facebook. Their pages used my name and photos. They shooped my face onto figures wearing Nazi uniforms. All of the defaced cartoons were there. One page had a tremendous number of “Likes.” There were photos of me in meme boxes calling for race war and mass murder. In 2014 alone there have been ten such pages and I expect more to follow. Facebook actually refused to take the eighth example down. They wrote me back and stated they could find nothing wrong with it. They said it didn’t violate their community standards, even though I had provided proof and links of the copyright infringement and libel . . . not to mention it was a hate page calling for murder in

my name, which clearly violated their stated standards. As angry as I was at the trolls, I was even angrier at Facebook. I had to get my lawyer involved and he finally forced Facebook to remove the page. More time and money were lost.

Lawyers are expensive and my commercial art business was suffering. I published a blog post and claimed my business was doing well. (It wasn't.) I mistakenly thought that perhaps news of my success would show the trolls that they had failed to ruin my business. I was hoping it would discourage them and that they would give up. The trolls weren't deterred by it at all and began claiming they weren't hurting my business, so therefore they could continue their hate campaign against me guilt-free. The truth was they were harming me. In 2014 alone, I had three very promising assignments suddenly fall through without explanation. They no doubt searched my name and found all of the impersonation and hate.

It's my opinion that Facebook intentionally allows hate pages to stand. They want to draw a younger, edgier populace to their site. They want the meme-creating 4chan crowd of youngsters to join in. It's all about demographics and money. Facebook doesn't want to end up like Myspace.





Here's another example of a troll being allowed to impersonate me on Facebook. The cartoon on the banner was altered into anti-Semitism and racism. Altogether there were ten such pages on Facebook in 2014.

## WHO STARTED THE TROLLING?

Since this has never been made clear to me, I can only speculate. Perhaps the far Left statist types find my cartoons against big government to be reprehensible, and so they decided to smear me as a right-wing nutjob. Perhaps neo-Nazis are upset that I attacked the big banks and Federal Reserve without attacking "the Jews." Many on the 4chan /pol/ board claimed to be libertarian,

but from what I've seen they often ridicule genuine libertarians—including Ron Paul and Alex Jones. Ron Paul images are routinely defaced into some weird end-of-the world memes. Like me, Alex Jones is routinely ridiculed because he's not anti-Semitic. Alex Jones is also not a racist and many in the 4chan crowd just can't abide that.

Thanks to the help of a cyber investigator, I later found out that one of my main tormentors was a far Left Obama supporter who pretended to be a neo-Nazi in order to encourage other Nazis to attack me. It turns out that many on 4chan are merely engaging in role playing and pretending to be Nazis or far Right whackos, when in reality they are probably Left leaning. Anonymity makes it all possible.

# THE MARCH of JEWRY

BEN  
GARRISON  
11/21/2010  
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A typical defaced cartoon.

Trolls paste racist or anti-Semitic drawings onto my work while leaving my signature in place.

Every single cartoon I've drawn has been defaced into anti-Semitic and racist hate, and they have appeared repeatedly on 4chan since 2009. They've also appeared on similar bulletin boards. I found out that the "chan" in 4chan means channel. The trolls now brag that they will continue to deface each and every cartoon I draw from here

on out, and they say it's my fault because I "complained" about getting trolled. This is behavior typical of bullies. If a kid cries when being bullied, the bully will often beat him harder while calling him names and blaming the victim because he dared cry.

Despite /pol/'s insistence that they are far Right and "red pillled," I've noticed that this is mostly untrue. Many liberal cartoons posted there are rarely defaced. I would often see threads featuring David Horsey cartoons. None were altered. I asked them anonymously why a place as ostensibly "red pillled" as /pol/ would treat Horsey's cartoons with respect and reverence while destroying all the Ben Garrison cartoons. There were several replies. One anon said Horsey's cartoons were too well drawn and difficult to deface, while my cartoons were crummy and "asking" for it. Horsey worked at the respected LA Times while Garrison drew in a shack in Montana. My cartoons dealt with corruption, the Federal Reserve, and an encroaching police state, which

might seem fringe compared to zany cartoons produced by the mainstream media. Trolls found it was easier to paste A. Wyatt Mann racist and anti-Semitic images onto my cartoons. I suspect that's because most of the trolls are, in reality, liberals. 4chan's /pol/ board mostly hates libertarians while they pretend to be libertarian. In this way they can malign the party as nutty and racist. The mainstream media do this as well. Also, the trolls have stated that Horsey is a big name cartoonist and well-established, while they considered me a "nobody." One of them stated, "Garrison is mostly a nobody while Horsey has been a prominent cartoonist for decades and has two Pulitzer Prizes. Garrison didn't have a reputation so we forged one for him." According to 4chan, "nobodies" like me "deserve" to be trolled, while big shots deserve respect. Sounds like statist talk to me.



Many trolls on /pol/ seem to take pride in being debased lowlifes. They make fun of ‘normal’ people whom they contemptuously call ‘normies.’ My cartoons were easy for them to change because I’m neither a public figure nor famous. The fact that I’m not a public figure is actually the *source* of their chuckles. They calculated that it would be easy to turn me into a Nazi and fool the general public simply for the lulz. To a large extent, they’ve succeeded. I posted on an

unrelated message board once and another poster immediately started chiming in with, “It’s Zyklon Ben!”

The “Zyklon Ben” meme, by the way, was created on 4chan’s /pol/. The idea behind it involves my being a white supremacist murderer who especially has it in for Jews. Trolls created many weird “back stories,” most of which are completely ridiculous and unbelievable. Then, knowing I was not well known, they began to take their meme a step further, claiming that the Libertarian Ben Garrison (me) was really a Jewish troll who defaced the “real,” racist Zyklon Ben anti-Semitic cartoons into fake Libertarian cartoons. Yes, it gets confusing, but they revel in the confusion. Their lies can get very tangled and if challenged on /pol/, they will acknowledge that the real Ben is indeed the Libertarian, but he deserves to get trolled, mostly because he complained about having his cartoons stolen and altered, and he objected to being portrayed as a

murderer and therefore he's "against free speech."

To the trolls, there is no such thing as defamation, libel, or copyright infringement, and they've repeated these claims many times. One of the principal culprits, a certain "Butt nut," even exclaimed that libel and defamation were not illegal. They seem to have an anything goes attitude, possibly because many grew up playing violent video games where there were no consequences. To them, life is just a game. There are no real consequences for their actions.

At first my cartoons were reprinted in many legitimate blogs, including G. Edward Griffin's, Andrew Napolitano's, and many others. Alex Jones ran a feature on me, along with several of my cartoons, in his slick magazine, *Infowars*. I was even published in a few newspapers. Not so much now. It's the dented can syndrome and it's very difficult to un-dent a can. Will they stop now that they have succeeded with their ruse?



Would they desist if I again returned to my “ignore the trolls” policy? Unlikely. I wouldn’t be surprised if this goes on for the rest of my life.



## Facebook's Revolving Door

I reported a total of 10 impersonation pages to Facebook in 2014. Trolls constantly created libelous new pages with defaced cartoons while using my name and my face.

Facebook often refused to remove such pages and my lawyer had to get involved.

## STUPID THINGS /POL/ POSTERS SAY

According to 4chan's own rules, "trolling" is not permitted on /pol/. Yet the site's moderators allowed it when it came to me. I suspect the owner, Christopher Poole, encouraged it because it brought in eyeballs. The trolls have come up with plenty of dithering excuses for their attacks on me. The first one is the longest because the anonymous poster listed some common reasons that "prove" I deserved the defamation:

*"The first edits were for shits and giggles and the more he fed the trolls the more his cartoon edits evolved into a meme-like caricature of him being a Rambo-esque violent Neo-Nazi. He brought this on himself for not learning how-to-internet and simply being professional. All he had to do was add a disclaimer somewhere on his site to remind people that his works were*

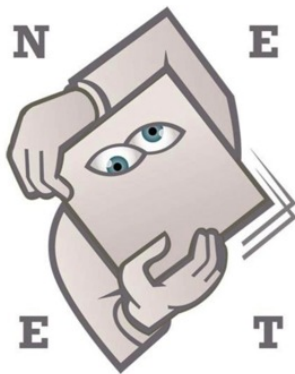
*edited by trolls and displayed some good humor about it rather than being offended and /pol/ would have stopped because they would've respected the guy. Hell, he would have profited and be more well-known from such a bigger fanbase. But no, he exposed himself for what he really is, another right-wing chicken-hawk who talks the talk but can't walk it when shit hits. He wants his free speech and free market but only when it benefits him. No better than an SJW. I think now is a good time as any to go nuclear on Ben 'Drown The Brown' Garrison. Since he has proven himself to be a humorless, unprofessional hypocrite whose dumping of libertarian values would make Ron Paul look upon him in shame, I say we don't backpedal and hit the gas to let the entire internet know who Ben 'Three Reichs And You Are Out' really is."*

—Anonymous

He says I'm not professional and unfamiliar with hate sites, and therefore I deserve to get libeled. I've made my living as an artist for

nearly 40 years, but it's fine if he wants to say I'm not a professional. It's also true that I was unfamiliar with hate sites. I did add a disclaimer in 2010, a fact that he ignores. My disclaimer did not deter them. Ignoring them did not work. My work continued to be stolen without my permission and maliciously defaced into hate even more. They give their crime a benign label: *editing*. They left my name on the hate to defame me. /pol/ as a whole respects no one. They believe in anarchy, and that means anything is acceptable as long as it produces the "side-splitting lulz." They think of themselves as untouchable and if anyone dares condemn their behavior they gang up on their victims for revenge. I've never profited from my political cartoons nor have I ever been a right-wing neocon. I never voted for Bush. Because I don't enjoy getting my reputation ruined, the anonymous poster claims I therefore deserve to see it ruined all the more. Notice how the poster takes the righteous high ground no matter how illogical. This is typical of arrogant, venom-

spitting bullies: they never admit to any wrongdoing whatsoever.



**A NEET:** No Education, Employment, or Training.  
NEETs have a difficult time fitting into society.  
Many dwell in their parents' basements.

*“He’s a fucking hypocrite. He makes cartoons about freedoms being taken away from an over-reaching government, then he wants to take away people’s freedom to edit his cartoons and criticize him calling it ‘hate speech.’ Besides, very few people had ever heard of him before*

*/pol/ started editing his cartoons, so in some ways he owes his fame to us.*” —Anonymous

There's that word again. Edit. I never allow anyone to "edit" my cartoons, let alone transform them into cries for murder while they leave my name on them. That's defacement, pure and simple. Let's say a troll owns a machine gun. He takes it and sprays slugs into a business owned by a Libertarian. If the Libertarian complains, the troll will call him a hypocrite for being opposed to the Second Amendment. That's similar to the quote above from 8chan's /pol/. Trolls often think Libertarians want complete and utter *Road Warrior*-like anarchy. That's because the trolls often do not think. They operate on sophistry and negative emotions.

*“He deserves it because he's a bad artist.”*  
—Anonymous

One troll referred to me as the “trash man.” Another complained that my cartoons were too

complicated and with “too many labels.” This is not an excuse to cyber bully someone for five years. I don’t force anyone to look at my cartoons. Herblock, the nation’s premiere editorial cartoonist in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, put a lot of labels on his cartoons and he seemed to be somewhat successful at The Washington Post. When he died, his net worth was over \$90 million. Regardless, I do tend to put too many labels on my cartoons. This kind of criticism is valid and I can accept it, but it’s not an excuse to deface my cartoons into anti-Semitic and racist hate.

*“Here’s why DMCA doesn’t apply to his cartoons . . . it’s not copyright infringement when an original piece is modified for ‘artistic purpose’ excluding any for profit motives. I’m sure there’s case law out there but I’m too lazy to look it up and I’m not a fucking lawyer.”*

—Anonymous

I consulted three lawyers and all agreed what they were doing was illegal. My lawyer is an expert and he said it was indeed copyright infringement and libel. It doesn't matter if /pol/ isn't selling defaced versions of my work. The point is they are ruining my online reputation and causing me to lose work. I pay the price for their libel in terms of lost wages and a destroyed reputation. If DMCA didn't apply, the image hosting services would not have complied with my legal complaints and taken down the copyright violations.

***“Why don't you just put up a disclaimer on your site and leave it at that?”*** —Anonymous

I did just that when I built my website five years ago, and it only seemed to encourage the abuse. Someone once wrote me and said my disclaimer was the reason I was getting trolled. He said I was “feeding the trolls” and I should take it down. In effect, I got trolled for complaining about getting trolled. I got blamed for doing nothing. I got blamed for doing something. With



trolls, it's always a no-win situation. Ignoring them doesn't work. Calling them out doesn't work. NOTHING WORKS. So I'm going to do what I want. Let them do their worst. They're already doing their worst. They've made death threats. Some have even encouraged people to show up at my door to harass me. I'd like to see them try that. Most of us here in Montana are big believers in the Second Amendment.



### Tyrone Speaks Out In Support of Ben Garrison



Big Man Tyrone

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Radio and Internet personality ‘Big Man Tyrone’ came to my defense in May of 2014. He admonished /pol/ users to end their campaign of copyright infringement. I drew the cartoon that was on his monitor. I did not pay him to defend me.

*“He deserves it because he’s against free speech.”* —Anonymous

I hear this the most because it's a core troll meme designed to get others to continue the attacks against me. It's a lie, of course. I'm all for free speech, but there are boundaries. When speech consists of vile lies designed to ruin people, it is in effect trampling on the reputation and free speech of others. The trolls seem to think there's no such thing as libel and copyright infringement. They're wrong.

***“If he would have just ignored us, we would have gotten bored and stopped.”*** —Anonymous

I ignored them for two years. They didn't grow bored and they didn't stop. Some say it had all but died out until I received help from Dr. Andre Oboler. That is a lie. Andre offered his free assistance when the trolling was getting way out of hand on social media.

***“In reality, 4chan is full of assholes, but you're the one who first painted the target on your back by being so ridiculously hypocritical and,***

***worse yet, responding to your critics in such a childish manner.***” —Anonymous

More bully talk. He's saying I “deserve” to get beat up. The trolls considered my quiescence as a sign of approval. They branched out their attacks into social media. It's fine to attack my ideas. Go ahead—I can take it. It's not fine to attack me personally, or, worse yet, attack my family. I need to make a living. It's not cool to break someone's rice bowl.

***“Nobody gives a shit who you are. You are who we say you are.”*** —Anonymous

This statement sums up the arrogance of the trolls. It's also an example of the ad populum fallacy. If a large gang drowns out reason by screaming that I'm a Nazi, it must be so. Only it's not so. Truth transcends popular opinion, which is often erroneous. The Earth isn't flat even if the majority thinks it is.

***“He deserves it because he linked to [rense.com](#), a well-known Nazi site.”*** —Anonymous

This is true, but [rense.com](#) is hardly a Nazi site. I once had it on my site because it offered the best links and stories to the ongoing Fukushima nuclear disaster. Jeff Rense has done a commendable job of covering a catastrophe that has largely gone ignored by the mainstream media. Rense also links to many stories on the economy and David Dees has regularly contributed some very compelling splash art to the site. Rense holds a great Halloween contest for artists and writers every year, thus providing an outlet for art and writing talent. His was the first major site to publish one of my cartoons. That said, I did notice a lot of anti-Zionist material that seemed to grow in frequency and intensity and so I removed the link from my site. Why does Rense hate Israel so much? You'll have to ask him, because I honestly don't know. I do know that he conducts interviews with leading economic experts such as Paul Craig Roberts and Gerald

Celente. Does that make the latter two gentlemen Nazis, too? I doubt it. I also link to the Drudge Report, Alex Jones' site, Lew Rockwell's and many others. Does that imply I endorse every single word written on all of those sites? Of course not. The trolls are good at cherry-picking.

***“He deserves it because he supports the Jews.”***  
—Anonymous

I support Israel's right to exist. It's tough beans if the trolls don't like it and it's no reason to steal my copyrighted work and deface it. Libertarians are varied in their opinions. Some favor gay marriage, some don't. Some are religious and some aren't. Some support Israel, some don't. That's their Libertarian prerogative and exercise of genuine free speech. The trolls would still be trolling regardless of my opinion on Israel or anything else. With them, it's not about expressing legitimate opinions. It's about piling on and enjoying a good personal attack and the resulting lulz. You can never win a debate with a

troll. They don't listen and they don't care. They only care about hurling their puerile insults and engaging in cheap sophistry to make their targets feel bad. They derive sadistic, and maybe even sexual, pleasure from that. They thrive on any kind of attention—even negative attention.

Let me state this again as clearly as I can: I do not hate Jews. I don't hate Muslims. Unlike the trolls, I don't attack people based on their skin color, religion, country of origin, or their sexual preference. I've never drawn a racist or anti-Semitic cartoon in my life. When my cartoons began getting defaced with words such as ZOG and Goyim starting back in 2009, I didn't even know what those words meant. One thing I do know: I've never received hate mail from Jews. The Jews I have met have been fine, caring people and they're the only ones who have tried to help me remove libel on Facebook—and they did that even though few of them agree with my politics.

I've never penned a racist or anti-Semitic cartoon. I've never hated Jews. It never even occurred to me. What I do care about are the deeds of men—not their religion or skin color. If they do laudable things—as Ron Paul has—I will draw positive cartoons praising them. If they engage in corrupt or downright criminal activities—as Obama clearly has—I will skewer them with cartoons. In Obama's case the cartoons have nothing to do with his origin, religion, or skin color. Trolls on /pol/ enjoy calling for the murder of others, and Jews in particular. They claim the Holocaust never occurred while simultaneously calling for a new one. That's legal speech in America. But why don't the anonymous posters use their own real photos and names to say that? No, that wouldn't be wise, now would it? Being cowards, they instead paste my photo and stamp my signature onto their hate instead.

*“It's easy to pump out shit like this on a computer in bum-fuck Montana without any*



*reasonable opposition or even disagreement.”*

—Anonymous

It's easy, huh? I take the time to come up with the ideas. I take the time to draw those ideas. I write short essays to go with the cartoons and I don't have the luxury of having an editor or writing coach. I spend the money for a website to post my cartoons. I don't get paid to do it; in fact, it's a money-losing proposition. It's not easy to deal with an avalanche of trolling and see my on-line reputation destroyed as a result. I'm a real person using my real name. But let's say it *is* easy. In that case, it's easy for this anonymous poster to set up his own blog and then disagree with me all he wants. He's free to draw his own cartoons. He's even free to publish my unaltered cartoons (fair use) and then pick them apart on his blog or website to his heart's content. Instead, this cynical phantom gets on /pol/ and posts personal attacks along with defaced versions of my cartoons, and he does so under his anonymity blanket. There's no responsibility or

accountability when posting anonymously. That's what's easy for *him* to do.

***“To me he is a giant faggot and pussy for doing all this stuff behind the safety of a political cartoon.”*** —Anonymous

I put my real name on my work and I take the flack. What exactly is this “safety” he’s referring to? My cartoons take risks. I do not play it safe. My cartoons would never be published in mainstream media newspapers.

***“The Ben G shoops are one of the funniest things I’ve seen on this site. You weren’t going anywhere in life and you are what in your mid 40’s? If anything, the kike merchant ones have made you more famous. Be grateful.”*** —Anonymous

This is another common theme. They think they have made my cartoons “better” by converting them to hate and they think I should be

“grateful.” (And I’m not in my mid-40s. I’m almost 60.) There is such a thing as bad publicity. At least 99 percent of Americans (including me) consider Nazis to be nutballs. That’s why the trolls degrade my work into Nazi nonsense. They want to make sure that very few people pay any attention to anything I produce. That’s called marginalization.

***“The reason it keeps happening is because you keep reacting. You are what is termed a lol-cow.”*** — Gashjake1

This tiresome “advice” was sent via an anonymous email. (He also called me “lazy” and “ignorant.”) I didn’t react to the trolls’ attacks for two long years and that failed to discourage them. What, I’m not allowed to defend my online reputation? What’s the expiration date for cyber bullying? Trolls continue to commit copyright infringement against me as they libel me almost daily—whether I respond or not. By the way, I did a search on the handle “Gashjake1” and found

that he had been banned from a site due to his trolling. So here we have a troll taking time to offer me free advice on how to deal with trolls. That was very thoughtful of him.

***“Uh, not SJW or ethnic here. But why hasn’t this dude gotten the living shit kicked out of him?”*** —Anonymous

This anonymous /pol/ poster knows it’s a farce, but encourages violence against me as part of the joke. Others have questioned why I don’t just commit suicide. One troll pasted my copyrighted cartoon signature onto a despicable cartoon of Mohammed defecating into his own mouth. The troll said, “Ben has gone too far—this could cause him to get murdered!” This was the troll’s goal. He wanted Muslims to kill me.

***“Ben outed himself as a repugnant trashy little hypocrite. His unholy alliance with the OHPI (a literal Jewish Zionist organization (look it up)***

*dedicated to shilling on 4chan and /pol/) and castigation of his former libertarian values made me want to actively destroy his life versus the passive humor based scenario we had going on before.” —Anonymous*

*“I was on your side until the Oboler thing, since then I actually installed photoshop to make a few satirical images. You fucked up, Ben. Can’t you admit you were wrong?” —Anonymous*

I probably did go overboard because I despise hate speech, and didn’t emphasize that it is legal and is supposed to be tolerated. On the other hand, I just can’t stand to see the word ‘free’ being combined with hate speech and I don’t want to tolerate it. It rankles my sensibilities. Everyone should use free speech to denounce hate speech. Libel in particular should not be tolerated. Besides, 4chan’s trolling was never passive, having already spread to Reddit, Twitter, and Facebook long before I was even aware it was happening. They were using my face and name in

their calls for murder for several years before Dr. Andre Oboler of the Online Hate Prevention Institute offered to help me. He contacted me about the time I had just spent a bundle on a lawyer. Andre volunteered his help at no charge. The mere fact that I had Andre's assistance infuriated the trolls on /pol/, and so they decided to engage in some revisionism and alter their own sordid history. They claimed they had been my good buddies all along. They were just playing some mild japes. They were engaging in a wee bit of innocent teasing which was all confined to /pol/, anyway. Then I had the unmitigated *gall* to betray them by becoming a party pooper. Their whitewashing became so ludicrous that they began claiming that no serious trolling occurred until *after* Andre came along. Trolls have no accountability or sense of history, and so history can easily and conveniently be reinvented to suit them as they go along. They are colossal liars. They are also doing the same thing with their Holocaust revisionism. That way, it makes it easier

for them to cast more blame onto their victims. Let me repeat: I was being viciously attacked on /pol/, Nazi sites (including Anglin's), Facebook, and Twitter long before Andre Oboler ever offered his aid.

***“Didn’t Ben pay Tyrone to be in support of him or something like that? I remember he wrote it to make it seem like one of his fans (like he has any) payed for Tyrone’s service, but it was painfully obvious that Ben wrote it himself.”***

—Anonymous

Wrong again. “Big Man Tyrone” is a well-known YouTube presenter and Internet commentator. He produced a short video in an attempt to reason with /pol/ posters. He upbraided /pol/ for going too far for far too long. The posters were breaking copyright and libel laws. I didn’t pay Big Man Tyrone anything. I didn’t pay Andre Oboler, either. They saw that egregious wrongs were being committed and they became involved in the matter, I suspect, out of kindness.

***“But the fact his cartoons are so easy to alter proves they are questionable at best. Some of his cartoons are even based on old anti-Semitic cartoons.”*** —Anonymous

The claim here proves that this poster is an idiot. My cartoons are *not* based on anti-Semitism. Some people assume that since trolls paste A. Wyatt Mann anti-Semitic images on my cartoons, I must be copying him somehow. Lazy minds start confusing the memes, but the lying trolls count on people being lazy.

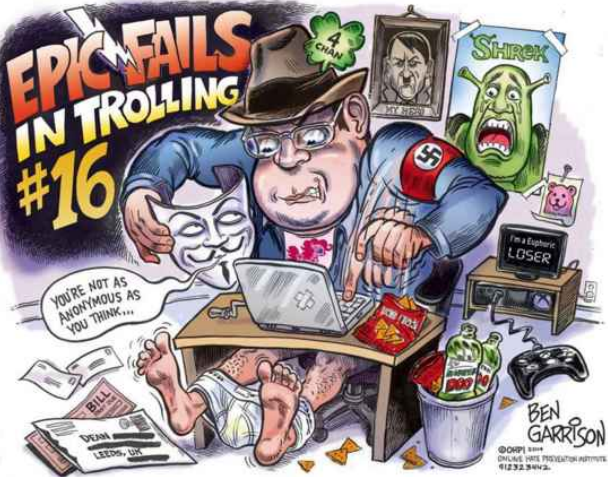
***“I still don’t get this man, he always bitches about people photoshopping his shit when it’s happened to every other fucking comic on the Internet. He’s one of the only ones to act like a little bitch about it, though . . .”*** —Anonymous

***“Get over the fact that every cartoon you ever make from here on out will be edited and circulated online. This is one of the downfalls of living in a free Country, get over it. Even after***



***your death your legacy of a kike hating race war advocate will continue to prevail.”***  
—Anonymous

A few cartoons altered on /pol/? I would have been willing to live with that, but they weren't content with defacing a few. Every cartoon I've drawn since 2009 has been defaced. Every cartoon I will draw from here on out will be defaced. Did the trolls name one other artist who has had all of his cartoons defaced? No, they did not and cannot. I'm the "most libeled cartoonist in the world." Oh, but I forgot: libel doesn't exist in a free country, at least according the /pol/ trolls who apparently think of themselves as legal experts. Nope. No such thing as copyright infringement either. One troll sent me an email and told me I should just give up and become Zyklon Ben since that's how the world would see me from now on anyway.



I worked with OHPI in an attempt to restrain the trolling.  
My cartoon only seemed to make them angrier.

*“At least with the edits we get to laugh at kosher controlled opposition in the form of some libertarian loon, who as it turns out doesn’t really care much about his own principles when it doesn’t suit him.” —Anonymous*

Because I don't believe in copyright infringement, libel, and defamation, this anonymous shadow claimed I've abandoned all of my libertarian principles. The trolls take a bite, spit me out, and then claim I'm a hypocrite for not applauding my own demise. This is a common excuse and they also like to assert that I'm such a poor example of a libertarian that even Ron Paul himself looks at me with disgust.

*“One time I sent him an email complaining about how horribly racist his cartoons are and he responded and said he was going to track down where I work and ruin my life, fuck that guy man.”* —Anonymous

A typical lie on /pol/ designed to encourage more attacks. I rarely respond to troll mail and I've never threatened anyone. One poster said anonymity was best because it allows people to be who they really are. I'm revealing this anon poster for what *he* is: a liar and a common troll.

*“I would love to have the publicity of pissing off /pol/. I wonder how much Ben Garrison has made in shekels from the massive amounts of free advertising /pol/ gives him on an hourly basis.”* —Anonymous

Some trolls actually think they are performing a good deed by viciously libeling me. They consider themselves “good guys.” They are so deluded that they think by attacking me they are helping me. This is typical of the upside-down dysfunctional morals of trolls. Business from my website dropped off considerably after the relentless daily attacks by trolls on /pol/ and elsewhere. There’s no way Poole can’t be aware of the attacks on me. They’ve been perpetrated on his site steadily since 2009.

Poole did jump into action when 4chan’s anonymous posters released the celebrity nude photos on /b/ during the summer of 2014. I suspect that the FBI leaned on him and insisted that he adhere to DMCA copyright standards. I took the

opportunity to write to their newly minted admin since I finally had an email for them and an avenue to complain. At first they were willing to remove the archived libel. Some images *were* removed. Then, as the celebrity scandal died down, I was bluntly told to stop writing them and complain directly to Christopher Poole. *Yeah, sure.* That would be like lodging a complaint with Satan over what his demons were doing.



## TROLL FILES:



Andrew Anglin admits he's a troll. He operates an absurd Nazi site that he calls "*The Daily Stormer*," On his cartoonish platform he has repeatedly smeared me as a crazed racist and murderer. He uses me as his mouthpiece to express extreme anti-Semitic and racist hatred. He also claims I am "A. Wyatt Mann," who drew racist cartoons during the 1990s.

(Mann conveniently remained anonymous).

# MEET ANDREW "ANDRE" ANGLIN, NAZI TROLL

In the spring of 2014, a blogger in Canada published one of the defaced cartoons. My libertarian cartoon had been changed into anti-Semitic hatred. I took a risk and sent him an email. I politely asked him to remove it. He wrote me back and said he had no idea it wasn't the original. He published a lot of anti-Semitism on his site, so naturally he thought it was great. He was a man close to my age and he still respected intellectual property claims. He took it down. I appreciated his having the honor to do that. I respected his right to free speech and he respected mine.

Conversely, some young men seem to lack that honorable component to their character. A Hitler lover named Andrew Anglin ignored my request to remove my altered cartoons from his sites. The fact that I even *asked* him seemed to trigger within him an angry desire to ramp up his trolling. Soon, crazy stories about me began appearing on his new site named *The Daily Stormer*. (Nazis seem to love the word storm for some reason.) His screeds, which he labeled

“satire,” were all similar. He wrote that I was a white supremacist on the run from the law and that I had murdered Jews and African-Americans and that I was a terrorist who had more mass murder planned. It was clearly a load of nonsense, but Anglin was able to use me as his symbol of hate to voice his own violent, sick fantasies. On his site he claims he is nonviolent, but he found it was easy to use my name as a means to express his hate and desire for mass murder. Other Nazi sites also published defaced cartoons, but their attacks weren’t nearly as aggressive as Anglin’s.

I disagree with everything Anglin publishes, but at least he uses his real name on his website and presumably pays for it all out of his own pocket. Still, Anglin has no respect for the property rights of others. He views libeling people while defacing their artwork and photos as within his free speech rights. He calls it “parody and satire.” He says he’s free to do this to me because I’m a “public figure.” I’m not. Someone such as



Rush Limbaugh is a public figure. Everyone knows who he is. Try putting Rush into a Nazi uniform and paste a few hate quotes next to his face. Boring. Nobody will believe it. In my case, few have heard the name Ben Garrison. I'm not a public figure and Anglin knows it. He knows he can con many people into thinking his fun house mirror versions are reality. That's what makes it funny to Anglin. That's the source of his lulz. He can claim I'm a public figure all he wants, but he's not the one who gets to determine such things. Public figures are famous movie stars, politicians, or sports idols. Go out on the street and randomly ask people if they've ever heard of Ben Garrison. You'll find nobody has ever heard of me.

Anglin saw a good trolling opportunity and trolling seems to be his main passion in life. I've seen many posts in which people state their surprise when they find out that Ben Garrison is not a Nazi white supremacist extremist. Being from Montana and wearing a cowboy hat didn't help

my case. One troll stupidly claimed my hat was a ‘symbol of hate.’ I wear such hats because they not only look good, but also I wanted to counter the impression that all those who wear cowboy hats are rednecks. Besides, the wide brims protect against the sun and skin cancer here in the mountainous region of Montana. In short, the hat is practical. Nevertheless, I was exploited because I was exploitable.

Anglin first published defaced cartoons (that he claimed were my ‘originals’) on an earlier site, *totalfacism.com*. Each cartoon was assigned with a horrific title, and he made sure he included my name with those titles. He did this in order for them to appear on Google search results. This constituted malicious libel. His latest site is filled with slurs against women, gays, Jews, Libertarians, and just about anyone who doesn’t happen to be white and a Nazi. Anglin also asks for donations. It occurred to me that perhaps he’s a professional troll. He seems to enjoy trolling so much that he figured out a way to do it full-time

while getting paid for it. Yes, he actually expects to get *paid* for laughing. The Nazi nonsense could be a convenient ruse used to attract money from the haters as well as a means to intimidate his targets. His followers were being used as his personal troll army. “Napoleon” Anglin directs that army to attack whomever he pleases. Anglin is not a tall man, but I have nothing against those who aren’t tall. His ideas are tiny, bankrupt, and discredited. He also has a hateful, diminutive approach to others, so I’ve drawn him as a small man in my cartoons. On the chan boards, such small men are often known as ‘manlets.’

Anglin tiredly repeats the trolls’ claim that I was against free speech simply because I didn’t enjoy his copyright infringement, libel, and trolling. He routinely and comically calls for trolling raids. However, when he himself became the victim of such trolling, he cried crocodile tears. Here is what he wrote when the tables were turned:

*“It appears that these persons have absolutely nothing going on in their personal or professional lives, and are thus free to devote dozens of hours per week voicing their deranged, unclear qualms over the Internet . . .*

*“Most who disagree with me appear to be afraid to directly attack my ideas, and instead look to attack me as a person . . .*

*“Do not call me a ‘shill’ or a ‘fraud’ and claim that you have ‘exposed’ me, as it simply makes you look like a pathetic, bitter individual who, being incapable of achieving anything on your own, must instead attack and try to tear down those who are achieving something . . .*

*“The entirety of his attack has been based on trying to defame me as a person . . . and trying to have acts of violence committed against me and my family. [He] has yet to state a single qualm with any one of my ideas.”*

This is how Anglin rebuffed his trolls, yet he employed the very same trolling tactics against me.

He doesn't like Libertarians. That's fine. He doesn't like my cartoons. That's fine, too. Does he publish my actual cartoons (as an example of a fair use) and pick them apart? Does he state a single qualm with any of my ideas? No. Instead, Anglin strides the easy, pejorative, and libelous path, i.e., the troll path. He attacks me as a person by publishing defaced cartoons while claiming they are my originals. He claimed the real Ben Garrison was a Nazi and the Libertarian Ben Garrison was a fake controlled by Jews. He claimed the Libertarian Ben Garrison was a troll and I was supposedly "trolling" Anglin's Nazi straw man that he had invented. He pinned my name onto this straw man, named it Zyklon Ben, and attributed statements such as "Gas the kikes, race war now!" to it. Anglin's sole "achievement" is spreading hate.

Anglin has promoted the same sick, pernicious meme that has been regurgitated on 4chan's /pol/ board for years. Anglin and the anon on /pol/ seem unwilling or incapable of

attacking my ideas. It's far easier for them to smear me by setting up a fictional character drummed up from sick fantasies and then label that caricature Ben Garrison while stealing and defacing my art and photos. They proudly trumpet such libel as free speech.

I've viewed the Facebook pages of Anglin's brother and sister. They both appeared to be normal young people. There was no sign of any Hitlerian crackpottery. I began to believe that Anglin could simply be putting on an act. Someone wrote me an email claiming his site was a "honey pot" for the FBI. That way they can keep track of various Nazis and add new ones to their database. Nazis have a tendency to espouse violence, after all. I have no way of knowing whether Anglin gets paid to provoke people or if his site is a honey pot. It probably isn't because the NSA keeps track of all digital communication anyway. The entire Internet is a giant honey pot for the CIA, FBI, and NSA.

Still, it's difficult to take Anglin at his word. Does he *really* believe the kitschy, comic book version of Nazism we see on his site? Or is it simply all a big joke put together by a fraud and master troll so that he can enjoy lulz in multiple dimensions? He gets to laugh at his trolling targets as well as those from whom he receives donations. Anglin also had a young, giggling Filipino girlfriend during his long vacation in the Philippines according to a well-known video that wound up surfacing on the Internet at one point. That's hardly the behavior of a white supremacist. However, if he is sincere, he's using his free speech to further a goal of bringing about total fascism in the United States, which would mean the end of free speech altogether. Apparently free speech would be reserved only for people such as himself. One of Anglin's readers posted this comment:

“I'm a National Socialist, I don't support the free speech of anyone to attack the white folk in this world.”

I'm white, but Anglin is all for attacking me because I'm a Libertarian. He also loves to attack Alex Jones.

Since Anglin is (for the moment) into the Nazi shtick, it comes as no surprise that he promotes a virulent hatred toward Jews. He wants them deported from the U.S. even if they are legal citizens. Fortunately, he lacks the means to do that. He also lacks the means to commission his own cartoons as well as—I'd venture—the talent to draw them himself. Instead, it's easier for him to steal and mangle my work. He also pastes my copyrighted signature onto A. Wyatt Mann racist cartoons, thereby committing libel. He encourages his troll mini army to spread them everywhere in addition to spreading the lie that I am the racist A. Wyatt Mann. By calling me a racist Nazi, he has not only defamed me, but has also encouraged acts of violence against me. And he does it all with his hat in hand, begging his followers for money. Yes, hate needs funding, too.



If Anglin expects the Jewish people in America to simply pack up and return to Europe, he has another thing coming. As one Jewish columnist put it:

“If Andrew wants to use brutal force to murder Jews in this country, there is one thing he should be aware of. Many Jews exercise their second amendment right to self-defense.”

Despite Anglin's blind spot when it comes to respecting the opinions and property of others, he does have some writing ability, and he's willing to attach his name to his trolling and libel. (He considers it all satire). It's unfortunate that he devotes his talent to hate. I have to wonder what his father, a long-time Christian psychologist, has to say about his son becoming a hate-filled Nazi. Or could it be that he's in on the joke and also enjoys it? After all, he helped his son set up his website.

Anglin is probably not a Nazi at all. His main passion seems to be trolling. To me, his Nazism is merely a puffed-up affectation designed to add fear and weight to his trolling. He uses the Nazi ideology the way a short person might use elevator shoes: he wants to be seen as a strong leader. He wants to instill fear among his trolling victims. He wants attention. He wants to get paid merely for laughing. I see him as a trumped-up and pathetic lost soul. Anglin probably deserves sympathy.



## TROLL FILES:



Butt Nut's passions in life seems to be trolling, mango trees, and his bong. Not necessarily in that order.

## THE LOWLIFES

Then there are the bottom-tier Reddit trolls such as “Butt nut,” “European88,” “6Mil-lionMore,” and many others. These trolls are constantly changing their handles, making use of many variations (the “88” in European88 stands for the 8th letter in the alphabet, H. The double H's stand for “Heil Hitler”). These entities never

sign their real names to anything. They utilize anonymity because they are cowardly. Anglin may be a troll, but at least he admits his identity.

Do a Google search on “Butt nut troll.” See the disgusting description that comes up. This is the handle Butt nut chose because he’s proud of being a lowlife. Or it could simply mean he likes rear ends. Butt nut would never say to my face what he says on /pol/ and Reddit. Butt nut-type trolls are simpleminded shit stirrers who do it for “top keks.” That evidently is their *raison d’être*. These kinds of trolls possess a borderline personality disorder, otherwise they would not devote so much time trying to destroy total strangers. They also seem to hate people who are trying to make a difference. They hate goodness. They hate muckrakers. They love hate. They spend their spare time bringing misery to others.

During the summer of 2014, I enlisted the help of a cyber detective. I was skeptical that anything could be done, but he came up with

names, addresses, and many personal attributes of some of the trolls. I was amazed. For example, he even knew the car Butt nut drove and its license plate. The trolls were not as anonymous as they had thought.



Trolls enjoy changing the words and images on my cartoons while leaving my signature on them. They then claim I'm a fake Libertarian cartoonist while their cartoons are the 'originals.' They want to silence my free speech. Internet searches showed many of their defaced cartoons were crowding out my real ones. Some began to think I

really was a racist Nazi cartoonist bent on murder. They were surprised to find out I was not.

Butt nut, as it turned out, was in his mid-30s, living in West Hollywood, Florida, south of Fort Lauderdale. He has made me his hobby. He has nothing better to do with his life than to light up a bong and then attack a complete stranger—because he can. He was outraged when he was “outed” on /pol/. This is considered a big no-no in anon land, but for some reason it’s fine for them to use my real name and destroy me as a matter of routine. I proved Butt nut was one of the main culprits regularly defacing my work and posting the libelous cartoons and hate meme boxes about me nearly every evening on /pol/. Butt nut, posting as Anonymous, was so shocked that he posted, “He even knows I grow little fruit trees!” Then Butt nut became very angry, indeed. He was exposed. As author Oisín Sweeney put it in his book *Hackers on Steroids*,

“They become apoplectic at having troll dox put around. I still can’t to this day get over how precious they are about themselves and others in their own number. They see themselves as being an untouchable elite and anything that goes against that challenges their thinking patterns so much that many of them will take severe mental breakdowns when it occurs.”

Butt nut sports a large tattoo of a blossoming mango fruit on his chest. He is gay and likes to cultivate miniature fruit trees. He likes to light up his bong, get on the Internet, and troll people. I don’t care if he’s gay or smokes pot. That’s his business. I think marijuana should be legal and I’m not against gay marriage. I don’t care if he supports President Obama and hates libertarians. There’s no way I’d ever want to know this character, but he intruded into my life when he began defacing my work and libeling me.

Butt nut has a weird obsession with me and compulsively, for a long while, posted defaced

Ben Garrison cartoons nearly every single night on Reddit and on 4chan's /pol/. Even though he pretends to be a Nazi when it suits him, Butt nut is a far Left Obama supporter and holds a grudge against me because I've had the gall to criticize his idol. During the day, Butt nut works as a low-level broker at a firm that has been heavily fined by the SEC for illegal practices and money laundering. Apparently he pushes pink sheet scam stocks on the unsuspecting.



**BUTT-NUT'S  
POGO LOGO**

Tina drew this to illustrate Butt nut's fondness for pasting anti-Semitism onto my cartoons. Butt nut, like most trolls, seemed to thrive on negative attention.

Doxxing Butt nut did not deter him. He remains obsessed with me and for many months during 2014 he would constantly post his collection of defaced Ben Garrison cartoons with the

same repulsive A. Wyatt Mann-drawn head pasted onto each of them. The head was taken from a black-and-white drawing meant to insult Jewish people. Butt nut added color to it. Butt nut likes to brag about his artistic ability, which mainly consists of cutting and pasting. Far Left Butt nut is also a trolling ally of far Right Anglin. They make strange bedfellows, indeed.



## TROLL FILES:



European88 lives in New Zealand. He's fond of pasting images of me onto photos containing acts of racial hatred.

Next to the images he places extremely graphic words of hate. He affixes my signature at the end of his hate boxes in order to libel me. I consider this man to be dangerously disturbed.

European88 has been far more careful about his digital footprint than has Butt nut. He hasn't left a trail of photos on the Internet and has tried to cover his tracks. That way he can feel safer while he spends an enormous amount of time pounding his keyboard of hate on Reddit and /pol/. Unlike Butt nut's goofiness, European88's trolling is totally devoid of any humor whatsoever. He concentrates on writing dour, turgid tirades of hate. He's responsible for many of the hate memes that use my photos. European tends to be long-winded and his hateful tedium is easy to spot on Reddit and /pol/. The information provided to me by the cyber detective on this entity was more questionable—at least in my mind—so I won't elaborate here, but apparently he lives in New Zealand. I've looked at his address using Google Earth.

During the racial tension in the fall of 2014 near St. Louis, Missouri, European88 would post photos of me along with my name in hate meme boxes on /pol/ as well as Reddit nearly every day. He would claim I wanted to kill African-Americans (he used the “N-word”) and start a race war. European88 sought to intensify racial tension while using me as a symbol of his hate. Worse yet, the 4chan /pol/ admin happily allowed this to occur night after night. After all, the owner of 4chan is a troll himself. New Zealand and Australia prohibit hate speech under the Human Rights Act of 1993, so what European88 is doing is against the law, if he does in fact reside in New Zealand. The mere fact that I have typed that will encourage him to attack me further. Go head, European88. Knock yourself out.

## **OPERATION BUTT NUT**

In late 2014, Butt nut even stole the family photo that I had on my Facebook page banner. Even though my Facebook page is viewable only

by my friends, he was still able to access that image on my page. My wife Tina, my son Ian, and I were standing by a lake in Glacier National Park when the picture was taken. Butt nut stole it and began pasting white supremacist statements onto it. He also pasted a white supremacist logo onto my son's shirt. Tina was angry. It was one thing to attack me, but to attack her son? Tina wanted to do something about it. But what could be done?

**...AROUND MANGOS**



**...PREPARE TO TANGO!**

She said we should stop ignoring what was going on and fight back a little. What could we lose? How could it get worse? So she began assembling her own meme boxes featuring the Butt nut troll. Knowing that he was a far-Lefty who loved mangos, she decided to dub him the “Mango Mangler.” It was completely silly, but it was a cathartic way to release some anger and have some fun. Tina is very good and fast with Photoshop because she used it extensively during her career as a laser show animator. She came up

with 90 percent of the memes that were posted on /pol/ and wrote nearly all the posts. She had to employ some rough language that was routine on /pol/ as a means of subterfuge. For example, they call each other ‘fags’ there, used simultaneously as both an insult and a term of endearment. Long-time posters are called oldfags. Posters new to 4chan are called newfags, and samefagging is posting anonymously to one’s self. Once a few of these terms were learned, the battle with Butt nut and the trolls was on. It didn’t matter if the person posting the defaced cartoons was really Butt nut or not. Tina wanted to associate anyone who posted the libel as being Butt nut and therefore discourage future trolling.

Reading the complaints was hilarious. Tina was told she was “libeling” Butt nut and “stealing” other meme images from /pol/ and changing them. Suddenly, libel and copyright infringement existed again! They got a taste of their own bitter medicine. The trolls began mewling that her memes were “forced,” and not funny.

Tina didn't care. She thought the memes were terrific and several times they deflected the thread away from posting defaced Garrison cartoons toward another subject completely. There were quite a few successes. Many of the trolls complained that they were being attacked by the JIDF (Jewish Internet Defense Force) and other Jewish organizations . . . or perhaps some campaign of "bots" from Israel or even Andre Oboler's Online Hate Prevention Institute itself. Nope. It was Tina. /pol/ had been tricked and knocked off balance by a middle-aged woman.

When we stopped the counter-trolling, we were in for a pleasant surprise. Butt nut resumed his daily anti-Ben Garrison trolling, but others had saved Tina's meme images and began posting them on their own. In the weeks that followed, though, the trolls reclaimed their lost ground and the daily attacks continued unabated. Operation Butt nut was a failure. It reinforced a blunt truth: It's a waste of time to engage the trolls.





## TROLL FILES:



Frederick Brennan operates 8chan and is in the Andrew Anglin camp. He hates his parents for having him because he has a rare genetic disorder that inflicted him with 'brittle bone disease.' He wants absolute 'free speech,' which means anyone can post anything they like. His site was shut down several times due to anonymous users posting child pornography. I later made peace with the man by selling this image on a coffee mug and sharing the profit.

We did find sympathizers on /pol/. Many questioned why I was being attacked so ruthlessly and relentlessly. To those who helped me, I

extend my sincere gratitude. Even those who don't particularly like my cartoons have to be very weary of the repetitive Zyklon Ben hate meme that never seemed to end. Who wants to look at the same defaced cartoons over and over? Most of /pol/ seems to be completely sick of the entire thing. So am I.



Internet trolls treated me as a never-ending source of hilarity. Here they changed my painting to a portrait of Hitler. They also pasted on a swastika button onto my shirt. It's part of their meme that I'm 'Zyklon Ben,' a racist, anti-Semitic mass murderer.

## HOW I DO WHAT I DO

**Editorial cartooning is in decline.** During its peak, there were nearly 2,000 cartoonists working at newspapers across America. When newspapers went away, so did full-time positions for political cartoonists. Now there are only a few dozen paid cartoonists and most of them are old and nearing retirement. They won't be replaced. Many young people now see the cartoons as anachronisms, a product of an old-fogey bygone era. This is tragic because pictures combined with words can be very effective and memorable. Once upon a time cartoonists used them to help bring about change and end corruption. Thomas Nast did it in the 1800s when he nearly single-handedly brought down Boss Tweed and his New York Tammany Hall gang. Herblock's cartoons helped to hasten the demise of Richard Nixon.

As big corporations took over most of the major newspaper chains, editors made sure that the cartoons weren't too offensive. Many of the cartoons became watered down. Executive editors did not want to anger politicians or corporations too much. They needed advertising revenue. The cartoonists began drawing 'safe' images. The cheap jokes crept in. The cartoons became more concerned with Left vs. Right and elephants vs. donkeys. Too many cartoonists began drawing what I call 'statist' cartoons, that is, pro-government propaganda in which Big Brother Government is always good. Cartoonists called for more taxes and bureaucracy as solutions. Those kinds of cartoonists were rewarded with accolades and Pulitzer Prizes. That era is now winding down. A free Internet means anyone can have a voice and cartoonists can draw whatever they like, unfettered and unfiltered by a legion of editors. There's no money in it, but perhaps that's the price of freedom.



I draw my cartoons in a conventional manner and then scan them into Photoshop, where color is added.

## FAST ON THE DRAW

My cartoons begin with a rough thumbnail sketch, which I develop using a tracing pad. Once the composition is established, I use a .09 mechanical pencil and draw the sketch on a large piece of Bristol board, usually measuring around 20" x

24". The mechanical pencils are superior to regular ones because there's no need to use an annoying pencil sharpener. Years ago I used No. 2 sable brushes and a small bottle of India ink, but that's messy and I've spilled the ink one time too many. I later discovered Pentel's Pocket Brush Pen®, which is wonderful. The tip retains its point and the ink refills come in plastic tubes that are inserted into the pen. No fuss, no muss. I highly recommend it. I use Sharpie® pens for lettering and detail. After the cartoon is inked, I erase the pencil sketch with a kneaded eraser.

The cartoon is then scanned into a digital form. I use a large desktop scanner for that. From there it's imported into Photoshop to clean up the lines. Then I convert it into CMYK and color it. For the web, I convert a copy to RGB.

## **HOW I COME UP WITH MY IDEAS**

The commercial art I do requires me to think in terms of visual metaphors and that habit has

helped me come up with ideas for cartoons. I keep a cheap notebook around in which I jot down ideas. Reading, listening to podcasts, and viewing YouTube videos have proven good sources for inspiration. Alex Jones spurred many of my early cartoons, including “The March of Tyranny.” He literally spoke of the two major parties (Republicans and Democrats) as being blue and red legs stepping on people. It had to be drawn and so I did it. I’ve also received ideas from fans via email. I try to credit those who send me good suggestions.

My ideas are generally not funny. I am not a comedian and I’m not interested in converting serious issues into facile jokes. I get a lot of criticism for not being humorous and it used to bother me. Not any more. I’m a fairly serious person. I’ve embraced who I am and I don’t try to force what’s not there. The trolls have sensed my solemn demeanor and it has made them attack me with even greater fury.

## ADVICE TO YOUNG CARTOONISTS

The Internet offers you a powerful platform to express political ideas in the form of cartoons. Many of the issues will affect young people for many years and so it's important that you push back. For example, I admired young people who participated in the Occupy Wall Street movement, even though some were far Left. The mere fact that they were protesting against Wall Street corruption was good enough for me and I tipped my hat to them.

The most important matter to consider when creating a cartoon is the core idea. If you have a strong foundational concept, the professionalism of the drawing doesn't matter as much. Conversely, a weak idea that's beautifully drawn isn't very effective. I've seen Pulitzer Prize winners draw gorgeous things, but if their idea boils down to a cheap shot, then I'm not impressed. For example, I've seen cartoons that depict those who support the Second Amendment as ignorant



hillbilly rednecks. That's equivalent to calling someone you disagree with "stupid." Such a pejorative attack is a flimsy excuse for a cartoon no matter how well drawn it may be.

It's perfectly all right to try to mimic the style of a cartoonist you like. Eventually your own style will shine through. Also, don't worry if your political philosophy isn't set in stone. That's usually the case for young people. Don't be afraid to change your mind on the issues and admit you were wrong. However, once you're certain, become a bulldog and let the wrongdoers have it!

# A MUCKRAKER'S PORTFOLIO

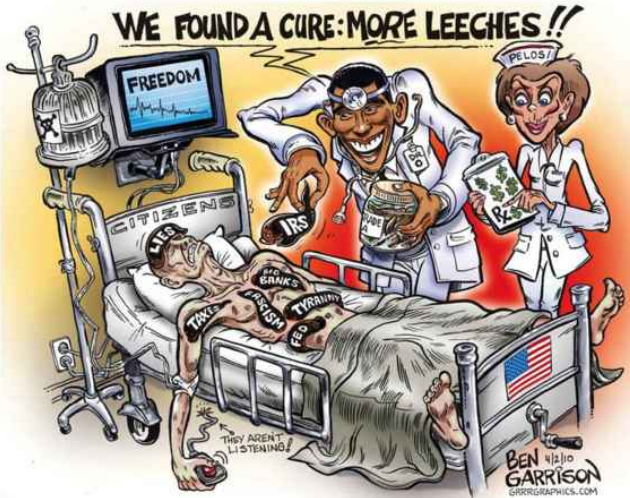


This was the first editorial cartoon that I drew since 1983.

It was penned during the summer of 2009. I did it to support Ron Paul's call for a full audit of the Federal Reserve. His son, Rand Paul, has since picked up the 'Audit the Fed' banner. I submitted this cartoon to several newspapers. I was ignored except for one. Their terse reply made it clear that they thought I was a nut.



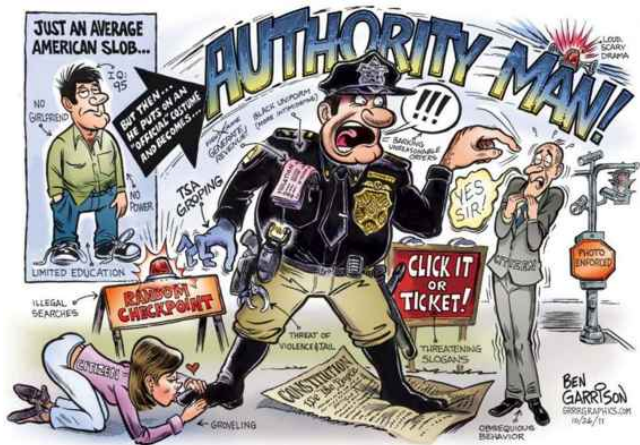
The idea for this cartoon came from an episode of *Star Trek*, called “The Apple” in which natives fed an idol named ‘Vol,’ who kept them safe.



A high school teacher used my cartoon in his class. He asked his students to write essays about what they thought the cartoon meant. One student actually sent me an email in which she asked me directly what it was supposed to mean. She showed me her essay and her writing ability impressed me. I wish I could have read all of those essays, but to me the meaning is clear: Big Gov is bad for our health.



Obama wants to circumvent the other branches of government and dictate through executive orders. Americans need to exercise non-compliance when those orders contradict the Constitution. We need to stop complying with our own enslavement.



Many police forces today actually prefer to hire people with lower IQs.

They want people who are willing to ignore the Constitution and bully citizens. Citizens have been trained to obey and not assert their legal rights—especially their Fourth Amendment rights.

It's far more likely you'll be killed by a police officer than any terrorist.

# THE LIAR IN CHIEF



He lied about his background. He lied about 'Fast and Furious.' He lied about Obamacare. He lied about 'transparency.' He lied about Benghazi. He lied about IRS corruption. He lied about war. He lied about cutting the deficit. Obama is a congenital liar.



When government wants to confiscate our guns, it's a very bad sign indeed.

The Second Amendment gives us the means to protect ourselves from enemies, foreign and domestic.

By early 2015 Obama had not yet taken our guns, so he tried to ban ammo by executive order.



# WOUND UP ABOUT GUN CONTROL...



Mainstream Media are constantly trying to talk us out of our guns. Americans aren't about to turn them in.



We've allowed a few dominant, globalist men to gain control of our destiny.



Neo Cons utilized Ann Coulter to scare Libertarians into voting for Republicans.

I drew this cartoon for the *Independent Gazette*, a newspaper chain that engages in old fashioned, muckraking investigative journalism.





A group of fantastically rich crooks at the top own and control a printing press that produces money at a flip of a switch—at the snap of their fingers. They use this money to enrich and empower themselves still further at the expense of the rest of us. They use force and propaganda to make us pay back debt that they created. We can't print up money ourselves to pay them back (we'd go to jail), therefore it becomes impossible to pay them back. We become their debt slaves.

**WHEN GOVERNMENT BECOMES A HAMMER...**

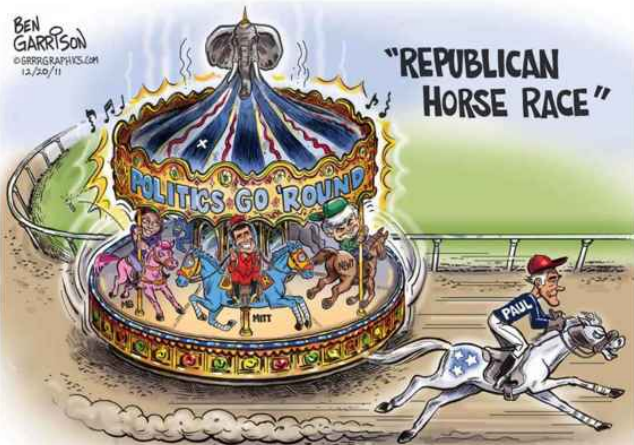


**...IT SEES CITIZENS AS NAILS.**

Americans will need to be as tough as nails to withstand the hammer of tyranny.

BEN  
GARRISON  
©GRRRGRAPHYS.COM  
12/20/11

## "REPUBLICAN HORSE RACE"



Dr. Ron Paul was the most popular candidate in many of the Republican primaries, but the Neocons made sure he couldn't win. They rigged the elections against him. Just like McCain, Mitt Romney was pre-ordained to win the nomination in 2012.



# Al Gore's GLOBAL WARMING and CLIMATE CHANGE GAME

BEN  
GARRISON

2/23/2014

@GRRRRGRAPHICS.COM



Al Gore is a disgusting huckster. He's a con man out to lay a giant guilt trip on Americans so they will pay a carbon tax to him and his globalist cronies. In 2008 he predicted the polar ice cap would be gone by 2013. Wrong! He has no shame.





Hillary runs from herself as she prepares to run for president.

After I drew this cartoon, her email scandal broke. Not even Nixon destroyed evidence, but Hillary brazenly thinks she's above the law. She should be in prison, but instead she expected to be president.

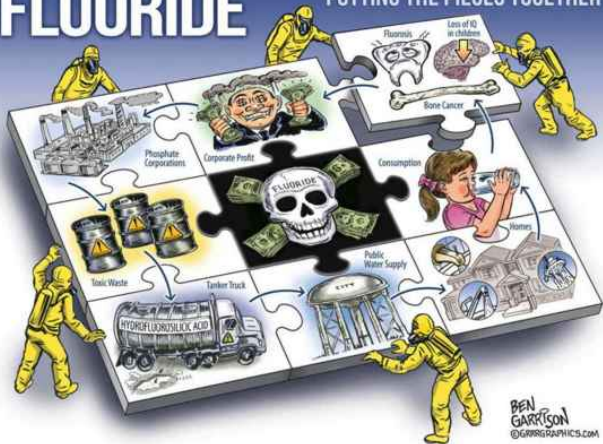
The corrupt politicians at the top don't have to fret about following the law. That's for the little people.



Janet Yellen waves her Federal Reserve magic wand that benefits the 1%.

# FLUORIDE

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER



Fluoride: Poison that is put into our water for profit.



People have sent me many excellent ideas for cartoons. Many went un-drawn because I didn't have the time, but I want to thank them nevertheless. Here's an idea sent in by Andrew H. that I did draw.

Ron Paul warned us about crony capitalism, i.e., fascism.



Government was getting so obtrusive that they were shutting down curbside lemonade stands started by little kids. With that in mind, Tina and I collaborated on this cartoon.

She drew the figures and I drew the stand and drink packets using Adobe Illustrator.



The increased federalization and militarization of police forces in America is a dangerous symptom of tyranny. Police start to see citizens as enemy combatants. The police generate revenue rather than stop crime. Too many serve statist masters, not the people.



Here is another cartoon derived from a terrific idea sent to me by Lance H. via email. He suggested I show voters building their own prison out of bricks, which represent their votes for either party. I decided to make the votes turning into acts and agencies of the statist system. We are voting and paying for our own imprisonment. We have let ourselves become slaves to Big Government, which is owned and operated by elite oligarchs bent on globalism and further consolidation of their power.

It is futile to vote for Tweedle D. or Tweedle R.





In early 2015, the Federal Communications Commission approved what is essentially a government takeover of the Internet. They gave it a benign-sounding name: “Net Neutrality.”

Big Guv can lead to the death of a free Internet.





This kind of government abuse won't end at airports if we continue to ignore it.

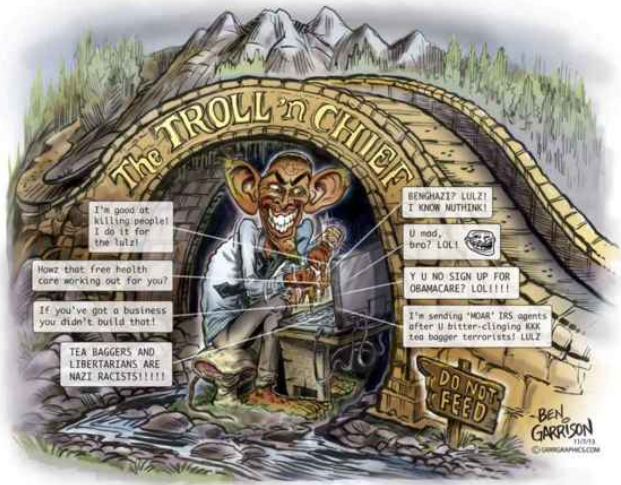
Jeff Rense published this cartoon at the top of his site early in 2010.



Too many Americans have applauded big government as ‘Santa Claus,’ who’s there to deliver us all kinds of free gifts. *They aren’t free.* Those presents come at a hefty price—our freedom. There will come a time when Americans have to stop complying with the corruption. Refuse to comply with unjust laws and orders. Refuse to fight illegal wars. Don’t give up the guns. Point out the lies and educate others about the criminals running the show—and stop believing in Santa Claus.



The Fed doesn't want us to understand how it works. They spout complex verbiage as a means to keep the general public bored and asleep.



My experience with Internet trolls inspired this cartoon.

## THE MUCK ON THE BUCK

**So I've been rolled by a few trolls.** Big deal. I will continue to do what I do. My source of energy is a seemingly never-ending supply of muck. For example, the buck.

Too many citizens find the economy to be a boring topic. The word economy itself puts them to sleep. They would prefer—at their own peril—to leave it to the so-called “experts.” We’re now seeing the end result!

Over 100 years ago, Woodrow Wilson and a Christmas holiday-distracted Congress decided to hand over the control of our money system to “expert” bankers who owned a private club known as the Federal Reserve. The name was carefully chosen to sound official, but “the Fed” is neither Federal nor does it hold any reserves. It’s a private corporation. The Fed was pitched as

a means to eliminate booms and busts as the “lender of last resort.” The Panic of 1907 was used as an excuse for their takeover of the U.S. monetary system. The early 1900s was an era of independent national banks and the big banks were losing business. The monopoly men couldn’t stand the competition, so they saw to it that a central banking system was resurrected in the form of the privately owned Federal Reserve. Andrew Jackson, who famously refused to renew the charter of the Second Bank of the United States in 1836, must have turned over in his grave.

# GANGRENE...



It will be painful to end the Fed, but if we don't, the  
Republic will die.

It's time to cut off the elite banks and their debt creation.  
It's time to end the Fed.

Money. That word wakes people up. Money has a ring to it. That's because real money, silver, makes a distinct ringing sound when it's dropped on the counter. Everyone wants money and many must work very hard to acquire it. Government wants to take it away from us and redistribute it as they see fit. Money has come in many forms

throughout history. Cattle, salt, beaver pelts, whiskey, and even cigarettes during WWII are a few examples of money that have been used when barter was too difficult. Naturally, gold and silver have historically been discovered to be the best mediums of exchange due to their rarity, durability and beauty.

## **THE ERA OF HONEST MONEY**

Gold is a special element with unique properties. It doesn't tarnish. It's extremely malleable. It's beautiful. It has uses in electronics and jewelry, but it's best known as pure money and has held that status since recorded history began.

While common elements are created during the stages of a supernova, it requires a rare collision of neutron stars to produce gold. After the collision, heavy metals, including the precious ones, swirl through interstellar dust and eventually collect and become integrated into planets. What this means is that gold is not only rare on



Earth, but everywhere in the universe. It's universal money.

The Founding Fathers saw gold and silver as a commonsense form of money. It's the legal form of money as written into the Constitution. The U.S. dollar was clearly defined by them in the Coinage Act of 1792 as a coin containing 371.25 grains of pure silver. A dollar was a unit of measure controlled by Congress. It was defined as a medium of exchange for goods and services. These definitions mean that the dollar was a stable and reliable store of value. The dollar held its value for well over a century as a result. People could save their own money and count on the fact that it would maintain its buying power. Then the Federal Reserve came along. Today's dollar is a shadow of its former self. It's worth about 5¢ compared to the dollar of 1913 (versus gold). Today's Federal Reserve debt note has become a medium of exchange only and nothing more. It's not even a store of value.

# The Silver Bull Sees **RED**



Here's another cartoon collaboration. Tina drew this cartoon and I rendered the bull using Adobe Illustrator. In 2011, JP Morgan was in serious trouble due to their short position in silver. They solved the problem by massively shorting even more silver on the futures market. JP Morgan has been the main silver shorter for many years. Recently they began accumulating the shiniest precious metal. Silver is also one of the best conductors of electricity and has many industrial uses as well as medicinal properties.

America started out with real money known as commodity money: Gold and silver. Copper

was used for pennies, and the element was also a useful metal with intrinsic value. None of these metals can be created from thin air. As time advanced, gold and silver sat in vaults and receipts for the precious metal were used. The warehouse receipts came to function as paper money that could be traded in at any time for real gold and real silver. This form of paper was known as *fiduciary money* or redeemable bank notes. In 1933 FDR signed an executive order then made it illegal to own gold. Citizens were forced to turn in their gold holdings (with few exceptions) under threats of severe fines and long prison terms. In other words, Americans' real money—their wealth—was stolen by the state at gunpoint. This was unconstitutional, but hey, Lincoln also ignored the Constitution during the War of Northern Aggression (called by some the Civil War). 1933 found the U.S. once again in an emergency situation, so why couldn't FDR do the same? Once the gold was confiscated, its price was raised from \$20.67 per ounce to \$35.00 per ounce

(in other words, the dollar was devalued by 41 percent versus gold), thus making the theft more grating.

At least we still had silver coins in circulation. Nevertheless, after 1964 LBJ turned our silver coins into copper-clad fraud. Citizens could no longer redeem their silver certificates for the real thing. Real silver coins were more valuable and were naturally driven out of circulation. Bad money always chases away good money (a dynamic known as Gresham's Law). The Bretton Woods agreement of 1945 established the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and helped remove the currency peg to gold. Nixon would close the "gold window" completely in 1971, as the U.S. would no longer allow foreign nations redeem their paper dollars in for gold. That was the end of the gold standard. Our paper notes then became fiat money, backed by nothing but stupendous debt.

If it weren't for the Great Depression, the gold may not have been confiscated. Why did a severe depression develop anyway? The Federal Reserve was established, ostensibly, to prevent booms and busts. Instead, bigger ones occurred, including the great boom of the Roaring Twenties, followed by the Great Depression bust. It was all done intentionally.

Once fiduciary money was eliminated and the fiat debt dollar was unencumbered by any restraint, LBJ could finance his Great Society along with the needless war in Vietnam that he had started with the Gulf of Tonkin false flag. Inflation followed, along with debt and more debt. It was the end of honest money and the beginning of corrupt money. It's the kind of money that would buy politicians and the mainstream media, as well as finance endless war.

The Federal Reserve began as a criminal conspiracy. The conspirators met secretly in 1911 at Jekyll Island off the coast of Georgia. They

pretended they were there to go duck hunting, but in reality the American people were their prey. Once the Fed was established, they needed an income tax to force Americans to pay interest on the money they would print out of thin air. That's why we got the 16th Amendment in 1913 as well as the Federal Reserve Act. At first, the tax was small and only slapped on the highest income bracket. This was fine with the American middle class. "Yes! Sock it to the rich—make 'em pay!" They couldn't know that they would eventually have to pay the yearly income tax while the rich at the top would mostly skate through loopholes.

The Federal Reserve benefits private elite international bankers who collect interest on every debt dollar printed. Americans don't have a commensurate printing press to pay it back. That's why the debt continuously grows, no matter what. It's a con game. What a racket they have. The big banks that own the Fed take that money and gamble with it in their derivative casino and stock market bubble. The stocks they buy

through Quantitative Easing (QE) do not largely benefit the people. Those acquisitions benefit fantastically wealthy insiders who own and manipulate the stocks. The rub is that the common people have to pay for the QE through taxes and inflation. Poor people suffer. They can't make ends meet working minimum wage jobs, but they still have to pay higher food and rent prices.



Bernanke handed out gifts to elite banks while the rest of us got stuck with the bill.

## **BAD MONEY — BAD MOON RISING**

The result of this “bad,” or fraudulent, money is that U.S. citizens have been turned into debt-paying slaves. The federal debt never goes away



and now that debt is mathematically impossible to pay off. Congress loves the system because they get to spend with wild abandon and further their power. They receive “new” money first—hot off the press when it enjoys its greatest buying power. The rest of us pay the price, so to speak, in terms of taxes and price inflation after that new money has entered the economy and bid up existing prices. Those new dollars wind up possessing less buying power by the time they trickle down to the rest of us not well connected to the federal apparatus. It’s a system that benefits those at the very top of the pyramid and impoverishes everyone else. In short, it’s a wealth transfer that perhaps not one in a 100,000 Americans could discern for most of the Fed’s 100-year existence.



The debt has become impossible to pay off. It should be repudiated.

We taxpayers must shoulder some of the blame for this. After all, we keep electing statist to Congress who are bought out by the big banks and their lobbyists. They are the politicians who have sent our jobs overseas while our wages at home have been stagnant for nearly 20 years. These same politicians want open borders to drive down wages further, as they dance to the

tune of the global corporations and become much richer while serving in Congress. They have become the new nobility. They are just like the dukes, earls, and barons of old. We, the People, have become We, the Serfs.

Federal government “stimulus” does nothing for the average person or the real economy. It benefits the now matured fascist, crony-capitalist system. The Fed has been monetizing the debt (creating more long-term debt to pay off the short-term, resulting in more debt) and buying their own bonds to keep their dysfunctional system going, and those shenanigans has been going on now longer than many thought they would ever last. A lot of the printed debt goes into proping up the stock market, but even that can’t last forever, because, after all, it’s debt money that must be paid back. If all of those printed debt notes were called in, every single buck in existence would disappear like magic. This is known as the “Mandrake Mechanism.” It’s all a magic trick based on fraud. It’s also why the Fed can’t

raise interest rates. That act would crash the system even faster, since it would make the debt that much more unmanageable. In fact, negative interest rates are now a reality. Soon, you'll have to *pay* the banks to keep an eye on your money. To keep people from keeping cash in a home safe or under a mattress, the banks are now pushing for a 'cashless' system. Electronic money would mean it would reside in a bank and that would make it easier for them to steal it. Nowadays people with cash are seen as suspicious characters. The Fed and their police will often claim that any large sum of cash must be 'drug money,' and therefore subject it to confiscation. Cash is now frowned upon and hard to withdraw from banks. They will say they *own* the money you deposit, and you're not necessarily entitled to get it back. At least, not all at once. That's how thoroughly screwed up our dysfunctional money system has become.

Bad money is like acid. It burns through and ruins everything. Our economy is a sham. Government lies to us and distorts economic

figures into such optimism that Pollyanna herself would blush. The Glass-Steagall Act was repealed during the Clinton Administration. That allowed the big banks to gamble with the money they created, and when those gambles go awry, the taxpayers are expected to pick up the tab (privatized profits but socialized losses). Gold and silver prices are heavily depressed by big bank paper manipulation in order to strengthen the dollar, even as it's printed out faster and faster. The financial cartel know if they can manipulate the stock market higher while keeping the lid on gold, it will appear that the economy is sound. It's not. It's totally rigged. They will keep their game going as long as they can, but when the music stops there won't be nearly enough chairs for the vast majority of us. Those chairs are reserved for the elite at the top. The rest of us will suffer mightily when it all comes crashing down.



## SOLUTIONS

We need to elect people who will address the cause of the problem. That problem is the Federal Reserve. We need to eliminate the Fed and the federal income tax. Do what Andrew Jackson did: kick the uppity banks to the curb, or at least start regulating them again. It's our duty as Americans to do this before we find ourselves in the midst of a full-blown a police state that will protect the bankers' open criminality. It's time to

end the Fed. It's time to return to sane, stable Constitutional money: gold and silver.

This is very unlikely to happen automatically. Americans will need to revolt and stop complying with their own enslavement. We'll need to renounce unreasonable debt. We'll have to stop paying a fraudulent income tax that is—in and of itself—a tyrannical exercise. We'll need to imprison the big bankers who have for years illegally manipulated free markets. What we'll need is a total crash and burn of our current corrupt crony system that benefits a few at the very top while turning everyone else into broke peasants dependent on big government. Our unfair and increasingly insane economy needs a complete restart and debt jubilee. This may happen regardless of whether anyone wants it or not. And it won't be pleasant.

## EPILOGUE

Our country has been stolen from us. The theft continued apace when a small, but powerful, group of elite central bankers took over the control of our money in 1913. Congress allowed it to happen because they knew the debt dollar, unrestrained by a gold standard, was a faster means to quickly buying more power. We now have a corrupt, out-of-control, warmongering government that benefits a few at the top while impoverishing and oppressing the rest of us. We, the People, permitted it all to transpire because we weren't paying attention. We've been put asleep by inertia, kitsch, and routine. It's time to wake up and start paying attention. It's time to end the fascist crony capitalist system before they completely implement their police state. It's time to end the Fed.

The debt dollar is created out of thin air and it will surely return to thin air. It's an illusion based on a con game run by confidence tricksters who



own the show. They spout incomprehensible jargon and add layers of complexity to obfuscate their deeds. They make sure kids in school are taught to obey authority. They wear fancy, expensive suits and appear respectable. They own expensive jets and live in fabulous mansions. They determine who becomes president and who's elected to Congress, but inside they are all nothing but cheap carnival grifters who have gamed our Republic to their benefit. These swindlers want to keep us divided by race and the illusion that there are two political parties with substantive differences between them. They want to drum up patriotism to support their system when, in fact, the real patriots are speaking out against that system. They want to keep us living in fear by using their IRS, their militarized police, and their unconstitutional agencies such as the TSA and NSA. The CIA even tortures people and we're expected to salute that. NO! This is not what America is about and if I can get only a few others, especially young people, to wake up and

began speaking out against the corruption, then this book will have been worth the effort.

You probably noticed that several points were repeated many times in this book. It was intentional. I felt like I needed to repeat the truth over and over to counter the endlessly repeated hate memes used against me by trolls.

The trolling has calmed down somewhat, but it hasn't gone away. Tina and I started a GoFundMe page in order to get some money to sue at least one of the offenders. Taking a case to court is a very expensive undertaking. My lawyer ended up refunding most of my money. He told me such a case was untenable. It would require a tremendous amount of money with little chance of a return. I rattled my tin cup on the Internet and mostly friends and family contributed. I thank those who have kindly offered their help and monetary support. I have not given up on bringing at least one of the trolls to justice.

I also decided to curb my anger. It's not good on one's physical or mental health to go around mad all the time. Besides, constant anger has a deleterious effect on creativity. I decided to be more understanding and less hostile toward the trolls. I even went on 8chan's /pol/ board and announced that it was the 'real' me, and I proved it by posting a message on my blog. I began fielding questions. To my surprise, a great many of the young people there actually seemed to like me. They were cordial and encouraging. Sure, there were a few attackers there too, but I've become somewhat calloused by personal attacks. After all, it has gone on for over five years and their accusations and insults no longer shock or bother me. I decided to counter their crudity with humor.

Despite the change in my attitude and approach, there's no reason for me to expect the trolling on Facebook, Reddit, and elsewhere will ever stop completely. In one case, the trolls tweeted my name constantly in a news forum,

which actually prompted a Fox news affiliate to mention my name on air during the Baltimore riots. I was dismissed by them as an ‘anti-Semitic cartoonist.’ The trolls saw it as a huge victory, because one of their main goals is to trick the lazy mainstream media into repeating their memes.

It has become a full-time job to get troll content removed, but at least on current Google searches, the name Ben Garrison no longer prompts the word ‘racist’ to appear instantly among the results. Search engines blindly report what they’ve indexed on the Internet, but now Google shows my websites and disclaimers first. Image searches, however, still rank too many of the defaced cartoons above my original work. You’ll also see photos of me with Hitler, or my face in hate meme boxes calling for murder, all indicating just how far the trolls have gone to spread their libel.

Christopher Poole decided to retire from 4chan, but the attacks against me on his site continued to linger. Others, such as Hot Wheels, complained that I was trying to intimidate him merely because I sent him a politely worded DMCA request form. Some of the haters are completely beyond reason. 4chan's Christopher 'm00t' Poole actually had me banned from his site for complaining. 8chan was more tolerant. Apparently, Hot Wheels can take the heat while m00t cannot.

The future looks precarious and I will be drawing a lot more cartoons to protest the deterioration of our Republic. All Americans, no matter what race, religion, or political ideology need to come together and speak out loudly against government corruption. It's time to return the United States to the land of the free. It's time to get your GRRR on and help take a bite out of tyranny!



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE  
**Independent Gazette**  
Your support and encouragement  
helped make this book possible.

— BEN GARRISON  
GRRRGRAPHICS.COM

## A MUCKRAKER'S READING LIST

### *“The Creature from Jekyll Island”*

By G. Edward Griffin

Griffin takes on what many consider to be a dry and boring subject and turns it into a compelling page-turner. This book is must reading for All Americans.

## ***“End the Fed”***

By Ron Paul

Dr. Paul exposes the Federal Reserve for what it is: Corrupt and unconstitutional.

## ***“The Income Tax, Root of All Evil”***

By Frank Chodorov

Read this book and you'll feel even more outrage toward the criminal IRS.

## ***“The True Story of the Bilderberg Group”***

By Daniel Estulin

Find out what the global elite has planned for us. It's not a pretty picture.

## ***“What Has Government Done to Our Money?”***

By Murray N. Rothbard

A short but classic book, it delivers a consistent libertarian view of money and its history.

***“The Real Lincoln:***

***A New Look at Abraham Lincoln, His Agenda,  
and an Unnecessary War”***

By Thomas DiLorenzo

This book smashes the well-preserved myths taught in public schools. Lincoln egregiously violated the Constitution. He was also greedy, power hungry, and a racist. He freed slaves only to aid in furthering federal power, which led to a centralized empire. In the long run, his actions helped enslave an entire nation.

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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Ben Garrison is an artist living in Big Sky Country—also known as Montana. His wife, Tina, is an animator. His son Ian is a petroleum geologist. Ben is an award-winning fine artist and illustrator as well as an information graphics expert. His hobbies include gold prospecting, skiing, and (of course) editorial cartooning. He enjoys classical music and is an amateur viola player.

