

Republican Occultism and the Law of Quantum Failure

by Geoff Gilpin

My family moved to Appleton, Wisconsin, in 1967 when I was 13 years old. One of the first people I met was a kid in my neighborhood named Ed who was a member of the John Birch Society. As the new guy in town, Ed did his best to recruit me. He took me to Birch meetings where I learned of the traitors in government and business and academia who toil day and night to poison America from within.

He took me to Appleton's St. Mary's Cemetery, where Joseph McCarthy is buried, on November 14, the Senator's birthday, for the annual graveside vigil. He gave me copies of *None Dare Call It Conspiracy* and *None Dare Call It Treason* and pamphlets with complicated diagrams that revealed the master plan of the communists to enslave humanity for their shadowy masters, the Bavarian Illuminati.

Like a lot of "movement conservatives" (members of the groups and organizations that formed around the time that Barry Goldwater was defeated in the 1964 presidential election), Ed was a warrior fighting to save the world. I accompanied him on one of his missions.

This was in 1968 at the peak of the Vietnam war protests. The local newspaper reported that students at Appleton's Lawrence University were planning a big demonstration with a march and rally. The day before the event, I tagged along with Ed as he walked across the Lawrence campus scoping out the demo site.

We stopped in the middle of the Lawrence quad and Ed produced a thick, well-thumbed book with a black cover. He flipped through the pages and I saw lots of photos and diagrams and pages of dense text. Ed was obviously familiar with the contents. He found a page with a diagram that had lots of Xs and Os and curvy arrows like the graphs that illustrate football plays.

He held the book up to me and pointed to the diagram.

"This is the marching formation they're going to use," he announced. "These orders come direct from Moscow. This proves they're communists."

His revelation struck me with the force of day-old cottage cheese. If I'd cared even slightly, I might have asked how he knew that the upcoming march would use a particular formation. Or why the local college kids needed orders from Moscow to protest the war.

With the proof he needed, Ed announced that our next stop was the FBI.

I'd never been inside the county courthouse before. It was a dim and musty old building that seemed deserted when we arrived in the late afternoon. We found the FBI office on the second floor next to the Army recruiter, both locked. Ed knocked and I peered through the slits in the venetian blinds on the door window. The office was empty.

Ed failed to alert J. Edgar Hoover in time. He did, however, inform me of his plans to infiltrate the demonstration. "I'm going to change my appearance," he confided. "It doesn't take much. A wig. Dark glasses."

Ed gave me the full-bore John Birch treatment throughout ninth grade and our freshman year of high school and then gave up. In spite of his best efforts, I just plain didn't care that I had maybe two or three more years of freedom before the Iron Curtain rang down on America.

Ed's hard work wasn't in vain, however. He provided my introduction to politics. I didn't believe a word he said, but I had no other frame of reference. Even now, after 40 years of much better teachers, I can't help judging politics by the standards I learned in Appleton.

That's why I was suspicious of Ronald Reagan. He called himself a "conservative," but what did he talk about? Cutting taxes? Eliminating welfare? Phooey!

The Birchers didn't bother with sanctimonious crap about personal responsibility and balancing the budget. Even taxation, the holy grail of Reaganist conservatism, didn't bug them as much as the "international bankers" who used the IRS to funnel money to their masters in the Masonic lodges of Zurich. (There weren't any obvious Illuminati in Appleton, but I do recall one Birch guy pointing out a hippie and saying "I wish I was looking at that shit through the scope of a rifle.")

Once you've hung out with true believers, the modern "conservative" agenda seems like pretty thin porridge. Who would settle for cutting taxes when you could be a Jedi Knight battling the forces of darkness? Ever since Reagan got elected, I've had the feeling that mainstream, establishment conservatism was just window dressing, a polite and acceptable guise for the real thing.

We know now that this assessment is, to some extent, true. Political historians have mapped the chronology of the modern conservative movement back to its origins in the days of Barry Goldwater. Sure enough, a lot of right-wing movers and shakers paid their dues in the Birch Society, the Young Americans for Freedom, the Objectivist fan clubs spawned by Ayn Rand, and other organizations that don't get quoted in the Wall Street Journal.

That element's been there all along, sort of like a crazy uncle locked in the attic. Scratch a Trent Lott and you find his association with the Council of Conservative Citizens, a white supremacy group. Turn Alan Greenspan upside down and shake him and out comes The Collective, the inner circle of Ayn Rand's cult, where the Fed Chairman's nickname was "The Enforcer."

Once they were comfortably settled into power, the right wingers didn't have to keep the loopy stuff under wraps. It all came out: "Intelligent Design," Mexican imperialist conspiracy theories, "Bell Curve" racial pseudoscience, neocon world-government fantasies. All that stuff rose out of the Bircher crypt into the daylight of mainstream Republican conservatism.

It's a big relief now that we don't have to make believe anymore. Personally, I don't feel as guilty for my involvement with the "left wing occult," the New Age stew of meditation, trance channeling, Eastern mysticism, and quantum pseudoscience that, so far, has failed to produce a world of peace and plenty like it was supposed to. Yes, it was a stupid fantasy, but our opposite numbers on the right were hardly paragons of rationality.

Now that everything is out in the open, we can see how little difference there is between occultists left and right. Both are "occult" due to their reliance on secret sources of knowledge. Trance mediums channel the spirits; televangelists channel the Holy Spirit. The teachings of Maharishi, the guru of the Beatles, come from his esoteric reading of Indian scripture. The teachings of Leo Strauss, the guru of the neoconservatives, come from his esoteric reading of Socrates and Plato. The left has *The Secret*; the right has *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

Left or right, they're kindred bound by the lust for hidden truth. Brothers and sisters in the cult of "I know the secret and you don't."

They also share an ironic form of karma that I call the Law of Quantum Failure. There are all sorts of ways to formulate this law, as I described in my essay *Quantum Consciousness, Quantum Miracles, Quantum Failure*. The basic idea is that those who rely on the occult (broadly interpreted and ranging from paranormal beliefs to conspiracy theories) weaken themselves and strengthen their enemies.

In the original Quantum Failure essay, I gave a detailed rundown of this phenomenon as it applies to New Agers and the "left wing occult." I'd say that the Law of Quantum Failure works just as well on the other side of the aisle.

Think of all those guys like Ed who filled the seats at Birch meetings across the land. They're the ones who joined the George Wallace for President bandwagon in the hopes of rolling back civil rights. They formed militias in the eighties to protect us from the New World Order. Now, with the imminent takeover of the American southwest by the

Mexican Empire, the true believers are forming border patrols and organizing anti-immigrant rallies. Those guys gave everything for the cause. Where are they now?

A few of them went on to positions of political authority. Former Birchers include President Ronald Reagan and Tim LaHaye, co-founder of the Moral Majority and co-author of the *Left Behind* books. A few – like beer magnate Joseph Coors and Tom Monaghan of Domino's Pizza fame – had successful business careers.

Most of them, however, remained firmly planted where they started. Ed had a brief career in politics, running for the Wisconsin State Legislature (his campaign slogan was "There IS a Conspiracy!") before settling into a dead-end job in sales. His fellow travelers are still working in the paper mills back in Appleton, holding on as best they can while the traitors and perverts who control the government and the media steal their jobs and poison their country.

A few elite individuals rode the conservative movement to wealth and power while the rank and file got pie in the sky. This is basically the *What's the Matter With Kansas?* scenario. The occult element – the uniquely right-wing brew of conspiracies and pseudohistory and quack racial theories – takes it out of the realm of ordinary politics and into the zone of Quantum Failure.

For additional evidence, note the similarities between the right-wing occult as I've described it here and the left-wing occult I covered in *The Maharishi Effect*, my book on the Transcendental Meditation movement. In the latter case, it's a guru and his lieutenants getting fat off the rank and file instead of politicians and CEOs. It's all Quantum Failure, though.

The karmic effects of Quantum Failure aren't always evenly distributed. Conservatives have the strength of numbers and the veneer of respectability. They can get away with things – occult or mundane – that their left-wing counterparts can't. A guy like Ronald Reagan can rise to the heights of power in spite of his heavy load of astrology and conspiracy theories. A comparable figure on the other side – say, John Hagelin of Maharishi's Natural Law Party – goes nowhere.

The neocons and the Republican elite in general were much better at creating their own reality than New Agers and mundane liberals. They went to the top, partly by exploiting the occult weaknesses of their base. However, those who live by the apocalypse die by the apocalypse.

As far as I can tell, the right-wing elite have played all their cards – the race card, the fundamentalist card, the conspiracy card. It's all out there in public now. When the world looks at the modern Republican party they don't see conservatives, they see a bunch of guys like Ed, all grown up to be sure, but still claiming that the earth is ten thousand years old.

Now that their masks are off, the neocons and the Republican elite are vulnerable. Sure, they're still in power, and they can still whip up a lot of fear, but a big chunk of the public wants them gone. As of this writing, there's a good chance that the next American president will be a Democrat, either a woman or an African American.

The right wing elite will try to pin their downfall on the traitors in our midst. Their collapse is entirely self-inflicted, of course. It's not the Bavarian Illuminati, it's the Law of Quantum Failure.

Copyright 2008 by Geoff Gilpin