

## Los Angeles Free Press



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Hey, Ken, I know I promised to do this week's installment on The Smothers Brothers Show, and I know you're worried about them getting cancelled because of bum-rap letters from the scuttlefish out there in Cloud-Cocoo-Land who are uptight by denigrations of God, Motherhood and the American Way, and I promise honest to Ba'al that the column I started at your party will appear next week...but THIS week has been some other kinda crazy, man, and I have GOT to talk about it now; I think you'll agree this is of more immediate and dangerous importance. Okay, baby?

"First Tuesday" is NBC's entry in the big anthology documentary sweepstakes; their answer to CBS's "60 Minutes." (And wouldn't you know the sonof-bitches would put it on directly opposite "60 Minutes" so you have to get cheated whichever one you watch. Would kill the mothers to put it on opposite something like

"Green Acres" so we could have TWO nights of worthwhile viewing, wouldn't it!)

NBC calls the show "a monthly, two-hour journal of news, public affairs and today's living-leavened with occasional whimsy" and it airs the first Tuesday of the month, at 9:00, on channel 4. A week ago Tuesday (as you read this) was the second edition, and what I choose to talk about this week does not, I think, fall under the heading of whimsy... unless the humor be as black as the heart of a torso killer. Is it news? Perhaps. But if it is, it is news that has been withheld from the American viewing public for many years. It is certainly a public affair—and one that we must take action about instantly! For it speaks directly to "today's living" and the sudden, gruesome cessation of same.

"First Tuesday" did a documentary segment on chemical-biological warfare in experimental stages, being conducted all across the United States....

...and a more horrifying, cold-bloodedly insane declaration of disrespect for the basics of life and decency I have never encountered. It was more terrifying than all the Hammer Films horror shows ever conceived. In its pedestrian preparation for the eradication of sentient life

on this planet through the use of botulism, anthrax and tularemia, it shrieked of the last extreme of human derangement. Its viciousness makes Jack the Ripper, Richard Speck, Charles Starkweather, Burke & Hare, Bluebeard and Madame Defarge shine as models of rational behavior. Beside the emotionless, rationalizing madmen who are preparing the aerosol sprays of nerve gas and plague, the Boston Strangler becomes a minor character disorder.

But...I gibber.

Let me try and relate it rationally, though the mind boggles and the teeth chatter and the senses reel at the consequences of what NBC presented calmly, quietly, seemingly without candor, certainly without editorialization.

CBW means Chemical-Biological Warfare. It means the use of "vectors"—animals bearing disease germs. It means seeding the atmosphere with anthrax the way US bombers seed the jungles of Viet Nam with defoliating weed-killers. It means spreading plague by aerosol spray. It means winds and air currents carrying the most virulent diseases known to man, killing guilty and innocent alike, indiscriminately. It means, dear God, the sheerest lunacy the concept of overkill has yet produced. It means that by its existence it can be utilized. It means there are actually men in this green good earth—and we saw them on that show—who can gather in conclave and discuss like ribbon clerks pricing bolts of cloth, how many megadeaths one seeding of tularemia equals. It means we have certainly come as far as we can rightfully hope to come without the wrath of all the Gods, dead and alive, the universe has ever known, descending on us.

I cannot bear to think that I live in a country where this kind of SERIOUS experimentation goes on, all in the name of defense against an enemy who is merely human. What a pallid justification for mass murder: the Commies are doing similar research. What do we become if we unleash this most hideous of the Four Horsemen? Do we ennoble ourselves by working our hands in the black death, all to preserve ourselves from the specter of another social system? How can we realistically lay claim to any decency in our "democracy" if we adopt methods of destruction that would make a Genghis Khan blanch?

Again...I tremble and shudder...and digress.

Fear does that to me.

Would that the crew-cut, lupine-faced architects of that damnable nightmare felt a like fear. But, apparently, they do not.

As we saw on that documentary, they do not shudder at cramming kangaroo mice in metal con-

tainers, spraying them with nerve gas, and watching them die 44 seconds later. They do not cry at the piteous squeals of their lab animals as they jam needles into their underbellies, injecting death into their bloodstream. They do not pause and consider their humanity as they urge human volunteers to breathe deeply of the disease germs sprayed through the mouthpieces.

"First Tuesday's" CBW segment was a seemingly-endless compendium of nightmare images. We saw a film made some years ago—and only now released—of school children who had been given over with their parent's consent (!) for experimentation with germ warfare. Tiny figures, gas-masked and overcoated, hustled into a contamination chamber. We saw a lecturer describing the life-masks we would have to wear... masks that come in enough sizes to fit persons from the age of four to eighty. And a basket-carrier affair for tykes under the age of four. All done with aplomb and stately sincerity, as though the lunacy of what they were talking about did not exist.

And about that word "vector"...

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One CBW experimenter, who had worked on a pilot project for disseminating disease germs via animal carriers, talked quietly and sensibly about having gone to an island in the Hawaiian chain, an uninhabited island, and turning loose a "vector" studded with diseased ticks. He talked of the "vector" doing this, and the "vector" doing that. And it became the key to understanding the level of debasement to which these "scientists" had descended. Not once did he say "dog" or "rabbit" or "hamster." He called the creature a "vector."

They have encapsulated themselves, denied their gut feelings, for whatever motives they consider good and sufficient. And by dehumanizing the experiments, by using "vectors" instead of "rabbits" or "mice", they can sleep nights.

But can we? Knowing our lives are held in the hands of men who may one day refer to a human plague-carrier as a "vector"?

And more horrors! more horrors! We saw rabbits used in an experiment to establish what only a tiny dose of nerve gas would do. A rabbit received merely a DROP of some deadly fluid in his eye, and instantly the pupil contracted to a point where the creature was virtually blind. It took three weeks before the pupil returned to normal size. And that was with one infinitesimal drop.

We saw sheep in a pen, injected or sprayed with the virul-

ence. Their heads hung pathetically, like cerebral palsy victims, all muscle-tone gone. We saw a cat in a cage; he was fed a mouse; he pounced and grabbed the mouse, and disemboweled him, as cats will do; then we saw the cat injected with a nameless fluid (Sander Vanocur suggested it might be LSD of a particularly nasty formula) and another mouse sent into his cage. The cat's fur literally stood up and he cowered in fear of the mouse. At one and the same moment it was hilarious—like a bad MGM cartoon—and terrifying to see the ingrained instinctual behavior of an animal, fixed since the species came into existence, suddenly reversed. And it made me wonder what kind of perpetual bumper a human being would suffer if such a weapon was used.

But we were told repeatedly that these weapons were only experimental, that they were not "within our strike capabilities" at the moment. At the moment. But if that was so, how did NBC expect us to react to:

The filmed report of US Air Force bombers that had seeded the clouds near Salt Lake City, in a supposedly "uninhabited" area, with anthrax...a seeding that had been miscalculated... and 600,000 sheep died horribly. True? Yes, we know it was true, for the Air Force has already paid the sheepherders in the area over \$400,000 in restitution monies. The Air Force rep who

was asked to comment on this admitted that the bombers had been a little "off-course," but he said only sheep had died. Yet we saw films of rabbits dying from the same disease, in the same area. And though the Air Force has never formally admitted culpability in the matter, the AF rep admitted that if those bombers had been only slightly more off-course, they would have hit the central reservoir that serves Salt Lake City. He mumbled a few words to the effect that the death toll would have been staggering.

If they can do THIS...NOW... with such little concern for their acts...what must they be prepared to do in the event of a genuine threat?

It was an eye-opening presentation. For much of the nation. For those of us who were already aware of the chamber of horrors bacteriophage labs in New Jersey, Arkansas and Utah, it was only further documentation that they are proceeding on apace, with little or no deterrent.

And suddenly, blindingly, all the student dissent for control of this and a voice in that became ludicrous. Screw it, troops! Stop fucking around taking over Sproul Hall...start picketing those goddam CBW labs on the

campuses of the University of Texas, University of Pennsylvania, University of Washington, Stanford and Illinois Institute of Technology! Black, white, Mexican, Oriental, what the hell does ANY of it matter if we go blind and gag and feel the flesh ooze from our bones with running sores and agonizing death? One man, J. Robert Oppenheimer, stood up and said, "My God, what am I doing!?" and the morality of the Bomb came under scrutiny. Oppenheimer was branded a traitor because he refused to accept the American Dream of killkillkill. History will call him a saint. If there IS any history after this! Can the thinking young people of today do any less? What effect would concerted strikes at these labs have on the men who do the work? Perhaps none, but perhaps they might have to start examining what they are about!

Karate and akida and kung-fu are self-defense systems that proclaim they are only to be used as deterrents; but the other half of that proclamation is that once having committed, you go to kill. The Bomb was created, and no one wanted to use it...but one man said the need is great enough, so use it. Now we have CBW and they tell us again we won't ever use it.

Liars! The bullshitters are with us again! The demons in lab smocks are there, filling their vials and depressing the plungers on their hypodermics! Use it... you bet your ass they'll use it. For THIS is the end-result of all the stupid America Right Or Wrong patriotism that has so corrupted our country that we would wipe out the entire population of the Earth rather than see some other system of government in power. Pyrrhic victory, you imminent murderers!

NBC didn't editorialize. They ended on a note of justification. After all, wasn't Russia into the same bag? Killkillkill. The great American Dream. On the First Tuesday of February NBC showed us the true face of that Dream. It was a death's-head vision.

After all that, Ken, I couldn't laugh too hard at what the Smothers Brothers or "Laugh-In" had to offer.

Frankly, I'm terrified.