

# COUNTERCLOCK

## ISSUE 12

SEPTEMBER 2012

*In 1972 author Arthur C Clarke was asked to predict the future over the next 20 years. By chance I found this article in 1992 and compared Arthur's predictions to reality. The great truth then was, all that needed a substantial investment (buildings, streets, ships and aircraft, etc) are meant to last for more than 20 years, so it is safe to assume they will still be around. But all which is encumbering the economy of individuals, can change from today until tomorrow. And so it has been.*

*Now, yet another 20 years have gone by and many of Arthur's words of prophecy still widely apply. But for the first time, I feel the next 20 years can't be predicted as easily. The near future will have to bring about more and radical changes. We can't keep buying and throwing away stuff as we have been doing. The piles of garbage get bigger and bigger as more of the planets population are reaching for a more comfortable life. We need more and more energy to keep up our lifestyle and we already use the resources of the Earth faster than they can be replaced. However... the selling, buying and wasting is now stalling. Why? It should be obvious that a system based on constant economic growth will have to break down eventually. We can not have infinite growth on a finite planet. It is simply impossible.*

*But humankind is facing more than the One problem. Overpopulation, environmental changes and resource depletion add stress to the already fragile system. The speed with which we approach the tipping point is steadily increasing. What can we expect to happen in the next 20 years?*

3000 Years ago the world was estimated to have been inhabited by roughly 50 million people. According to Wikipedia, which is just as inaccurate as everyone else, by the year 1000, we had increased to 310 million.

In the year 1804, many like to believe they know, the planet Earth hit its first billion representatives of the species *homo sapiens*.

By 1912, there were 1.000 homo sapiens on every simian troglodyte (chimpanzee) and in 1927 we hit the 2<sup>nd</sup> billion. I was born in 1959. So I came just in time to be among humankind as we swished past 3 billion in the year 1960. I noticed the ticking of the world population clock for the first time as we numbered 4 billion in 1975.

For some reason I was more or less oblivious to the passing of the 5 billion milestone in 1987 and didn't react much either as we hit 6 billion in 1999. But somewhere between October 2011 and March 2012 we passed the 7 billion number. It depends on who you consult. The US Census Bureau or UN. Because no one

really knows exactly how many we are. No one ever knew exactly. It has always been estimates.

But we can be fairly certain that the chimpanzees now are less than 250.000 in the world. And even if they unite with the possibly 100.000 gorillas and less than 70.000 orangutans (from both Borneo and Sumatra), I believe we do not need to fear any events from the *Planet of the Apes* to be coming true.

As a matter of fact. Even if they would plot to overthrow the rule of homo sapiens by winning the trust of all the remaining lions (<40.000), tigers (<3.000), wolves and bears, foxes, leopards, panthers, puma, lynxes, rhinos, elephants. Yes, even if the otherwise peaceful giraffes, zebra, antelope, moose and deer join, we have nothing to fear. We can wipe them all out with a single nuke.

Hell, a none-endangered species like the wild boar in a sparsely populated country like Sweden, can't even take on Gothenburg, even if they are joined by all the bears, lynx, moose and wolves of both Sweden and Norway. Wildlife simply isn't what it used to be (100 years ago).

And everyone needs to eat. Everyone. It is projected that there will be 8 billion barely humane beings on this planet by 2025. And everyone needs to eat. Let's get it over with! Let's make ivory chess pieces and mah jong tiles of the remaining half million elephants on this planet and we have a lot of meat to share with hungry people.

The projections beyond 2025 are really interesting. About.com Geography, which is part of the New York times can see the numbers 9 billion people and 10 billion for the years 2043 and 2083. UN 2010 projections and the US Census Bureau have a variable outlook.

According to the highest estimate, the world population may rise to 16 billion by 2100; according to the lowest estimate, it may decline to only 6 billion.

Trying to find accurate numbers on the internet is very confusing. About many things. A country with a whole lot of pencil pushers can give you a fairly exact number as to their population, but when it comes to wild boars, the estimate is 150.000-300.000.

The question of how much farmland there is on the planet, is interesting. I have found all sort of different estimates, none of them conclusive. We could convert more forestland to farmland, but then we'd be killing off our oxygen suppliers (curiously enough, the wikipedia article about oxygen doesn't mention trees at all). Even if we had more farmland, let's not forget it needs to be irrigated as well. We then need to replace the nourishment which has been taken from the ground. And for all of this, we need more energy.



*This is not science fiction. This is now.*

## George Harrison, lyrics: - Bangla Desh (1971)

My friend came to me, with sadness in his eyes  
He told me that he wanted help  
Before his country dies  
Although I couldn't feel the pain, I knew I had to try  
Now I'm asking all of you  
To help us save some lives

Bangla Desh, Bangla Desh  
Where so many people are dying fast  
And it sure looks like a mess  
I've never seen such distress  
Now won't you lend your hand and understand  
Relieve the people of Bangla Desh  
Bangla Desh, Bangla Desh

Estimates for 1971 had the population of this Bengali country at 71 million. Yup, we saved them, all right.

They are now estimated over 162 million people. Well done, there! Indeed. The population is relatively young, with 60% being 25 or younger. Life expectancy at birth is estimated to be 70 years for both gender in 2012. It is now the 8<sup>th</sup> most populous country in the world. It is also the most densely populated large country in the world, if we don't count very, very small countries, like city-states. My guess is, the distress seen in 1971 will become a mere whisper compared to what the future has in store.

It didn't work out as nicely for the Somalians. One year ago it was reported by the BBC that as many as 750,000 Somalians could die as their drought worsened. Imagine! That is more people than the entire elephant population of this planet!!! Yet... the demography of Somalia shows that their population has increased by another million people since 2010. The curve looks a bit odd. It is more or less constant between 1980 and until 1995 where the 6 and a half million Somalians only increased with one hundred thousand people over 15 years. We must have done something right... because in the following 10 years the population went up with two million. Now Somalia is more populous than Sweden. Albeit most of them still very young, though...

You should *amuse* yourself with Mr Google. Type the name Somalia and see what images come up! Lots of guns, children, dead people and various combinations of the above. But sorry, this is neither science fiction, nor fantasy. This is now.

## Meanwhile... elsewhere on the Planet...

The Arctic Ice has receded to a new level low since 2007. I recall that the North Pole was free of ice for the first time in the brief period of my short life. Ice shelves twice and four times the size of Manhattan have been breaking off from Greenland and Antarctica. This in itself is not necessarily alarming. This happens now and then. I have Venice 111 km away. They will holler, when melting ice and rising sea levels become a problem for us. Should, let's say, all the ice of Greenland melt away, it raises the sea level by 7 meters. Should it happen at the South Pole, the ice from Antarctica added to the oceans, would make Venice disappear completely under another 20 meters of water. Not likely to happen any

time soon. But... in January 2011 it was reported, that the sun went up 2 days early on Greenland. Because the sheet of ice has been sinking.

And now, as I pour me a whisky, I am wondering if an abrupt climate change as in *The Day After Tomorrow* can happen. There is still another week of thaw in the Arctic as I write this. We shall see how low this years ice sheet low will become. I have already bookmarked the NSIDC (National Snow and Ice Data Center) in Firefox.



*Okay, it is a bit harsh, but not necessarily an abnormal amount of snow for a place like Stockholm. I've told my son not to worry unless the snow doesn't thaw away in the summer any more. That would be the time to head south.*

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*As you may know already. Most money doesn't exist as money at all. It only exists as numbers in computers. Some of this money is backed up by real existing stuff, but a lot of money are mere ghost assets and backed up by absolutely nothing. In the past 4 years between 30 and 40 trillion dollars of ghost assets have vanished into what it was to begin with – thin air.*

*Wikipedia has an article named*

## ●2007–2012 GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS

...as if the crisis could be over any time soon. If the world ends at Christmas, they would be right, but I doubt it. At least it is an admission that we are still in one and the same crisis that began in 2007.

There is a lot of data to absorb and you got to be *REALLY* interested in order to read it all. But wikipedia is a very clever encyclopedia, so you can fairly easily navigate your way to the list of bank failures in the US, 2008 until present day. 25 banks in 2008, 140 in 2009, 157 in 2010 and 92 in 2011. So far, according to wikipedia, only 39 banks have failed in 2012, so far. *In contrast, in the five years prior to 2008, only 11 banks had failed.*

I must say, I even had not heard of all those banks failing. I heard of, maybe 2 and the other 451 banks who failed are news to me. Maybe to you as well? I wonder if the numbers are going down because the US is running out of banks. How many banks did the US have to begin with?

Anyway... I have a feeling there were more banks in the US, than there were grizzly bears on planet Earth (548).

The US isn't merely running out of banks. They're running out of loan options as well. The Obama regime has increased the 12 trillion dollar debt George Bush left behind with another 4 trillion dollar. In essence, Obama is spending more than a trillion bucks every year. And he is not likely to hit the brakes. If you think the Eurozone had a problem, wait until investors become aware that the yanks **never** will be able to pay back their debts.

I sincerely doubt they intend to. The US also has more than 114 trillion dollars in outstanding liabilities to deal with. And you thought Greece had a problem?

Can we fix it by going to war? Will the powers succeed in convincing Israel to attack Iran? But, if Russia and China is backing Iran, then will we not have another huge conflict on our hands? Perhaps this is what they want. It would be a rather efficient way to reduce global population. And it could be the ticket to globally reducing everything else as well, for that matter. Except radiation. MAD MAX suddenly doesn't look so far fetched any longer. Or in fact the entire aftermath genre.

How did this planet ever become so fucked up? You should google "[I Want The Earth Plus 5%](#)" and read the lovely *fairy tale* written by Larry Hannigan from Australia in 1971. It gives you an idea of how things began and an inkling of how absurd the situation today is.

However. Most people really don't give a damn. As long as it isn't happening to you **now**, and on your turf, let it be tomorrow's problem. Each day has enough trouble of its own..

Though somehow everything might be interconnected, we just can't see the big picture and in what way it affects **us** and what we possibly can do about it. Well, you are right, if you think that way. Because you can't if you don't give a fuck. To change anything, you would have to change your life. And that is uncomfortable.

As long as we are comfortable, we don't **want** to think about it, or do anything about anything. As for wildlife, they don't complain, so we are not disturbed in our precious complacency. Overpopulation might just solve itself. Countries where people breed like rabbits are bound to end up with a massive famine. Meanwhile, we watch TV, drive our racing cars and eat our last jars of caviar.

The monkey in the corner will be gone long before us. It once did strike me as a bit odd, that Roger Waters album *AMUSED TO DEATH* didn't stir up more reactions than it did. And how many have read the book by Neil Postman - "Amusing Ourselves to Death"?

*We watched the tragedy unfold  
We did as we were told  
We bought and sold  
It was the greatest show on earth  
But then it was over  
We ohhed and aahed  
We drove our racing cars  
We ate our last few jars of caviar  
And somewhere out there in the stars  
A keen-eyed look-out  
Spied a flickering light*

*Our last hurrah  
And when they found our shadows  
Grouped around the TV sets  
They ran down every lead  
They repeated every test  
They checked out all the data on their lists  
And then the alien anthropologists  
Admitted they were still perplexed  
But on eliminating every other reason  
For our sad demise  
They logged the only explanation left  
This species has amused itself to death  
No tears to cry no feelings left  
This species has amused itself to death*



## WIKIPEDIA AND TERRORISM

Wikipedia has become another tool for propaganda. The English language entry illustrates its article on terrorism with an image of the destruction of the World Trade Center. But when it comes to define terrorism, it begins with the words: "The definition of terrorism has proved controversial." And continues with a more or less obscure lecture on why it is so.

Germany has had its experience with terrorism through the Baader-Meinhof Gang (aka Red Army Faction) in the 60's and 70's. Just for fun... compare the English language wikipedia-text to the German language text and search for the word "terror".

Without much trouble you will notice that the Germans have absolutely no doubts about whether or not the Red Army Faction was a terrorist group.

In the German wikipedia-entry on terrorism it begins with a very easy and clearly understandable statement: "As **terrorism** (latin – terror "fear, fright") we understand actions of violence (ex: kidnapping, assassinations, use of explosives, etc) against a political order, to bring about a political change.

In the German paragraph for the definition of terrorism, it is pointed out that the controversy around the definition is about the difference between 'resistance fighters' and

'terrorism'. A revolutionary becomes a hero, like Lenin, in case his resistance fight succeeds. But if he fails, he is deemed a criminal like Andreas Baader, and goes to jail. Well, in the case of Baader, he actually succeeded in his own way, because Germany did change for the better after its nasty experience with the RAF.

I have never made it a secret, that Christian Worch was an sf-fandom friend of mine. Even though I never shared his political views. Today he is the leader of the Neo-Nazi movement in Germany. But recently I encountered some Germans in their 30's at a party here in Italy. And they had never even heard of Worch, or his predecessor Michael Kühnen. I'd say, that is a very good thing. Worch is still alive and well, trying to make his fuzz up in the north of the country. But he doesn't get much attention and is widely unknown to the public. So, not being heard, means he can do precious little damage. Being ignored, the Neo-Nazi movement in Germany doesn't gain much momentum. As it should be.

But why would anyone want to obscure the issue what a terrorist is? Well... maybe because you can accuse who ever you want to, if the definition is according to George:

*If you harbor terrorists, you are terrorists. If you train or arm a terrorist, you are a terrorist. If you feed a terrorist or fund a terrorist, you're a terrorist, and you will be held accountable by the United States and our friends.*

(George W. Bush)

*Old man, who the hell are you gonna kill next? (R. Waters)*

So far, we are still able to speak our mind. Maybe because no one listens, even when we speak the truth. No matter how well we phrase it. We are being bombarded with information every day. Advertisement, TV, radio, sms, email, blogs, FB status updates, etc

Bread and Circuses. Really, the feedback on this fanzine is not what it used to be. One LoC, one comment. And *basta!* Am I disappointed? Of course! We have too much bread and too much circus.

What we don't have, and what everyone is asking for, is more time. You could have it. First get rid of your TV (better to have a digital projector and buy DVD). You get less propaganda and misinformation and you don't need to watch as many advertisements.



*The flag of Friuli, where I live...*

## THE 9/11 MYTH – A MEDIA HOAX

*Since this book by Roberto Quaglia is written in Italian, I had to outsource the reading of it to competent friends and neighbours. Both of my test pilots finished this 500 page whopper in less than a week. I dare say, I am holding a potential bestseller in my hands. This book needs to be translated, and I'd be more than happy to relay on any interested publishers to the author.*

Like most other people, I believed the official story. The only thing, which seemed very odd to me from the beginning, was the collapse of building 7, which wasn't hit by any plane. But when trying to find an answer to this question, instead of finding a credible answer, instead it brings up more questions. And it is not only what we saw, which turns out to be extremely odd, it is also what we didn't see. Looking closer at the facts, my second question became the following: "After the first plane hit one of the towers, and since it was 17 minutes between the planes... How come NORAD was not in the air, to at least shoot down the second plane?"



The more we learn about 9/11, the more questions arise. The only thing we can be 100% sure about is, that we have not been told the truth. What really happened? Why do we not get straight answers? Why is no proper investigation being made? The official story is so full of holes that almost any idiot, even I can see, it is not the entire truth.

- If terrorists really wanted to do damage, why attack the WTC in the morning, when barely anyone is there? Why not do it when the building is full? With more people in it.
- How could Jane Standley (BBC) report the collapse of the Salomon Brothers Building (WTC 7) 45 minutes prior to the collapse?
- Was there anyone who had a benefit from the *terrorist attack*?

Roberto Quaglia takes a closer look at the given facts and points out one curiosity after the other.

Browsing the internet, I found the 9/11 Truth Movement to be by far stronger than I had anticipated. Of course, Wikipedia does its best to discredit them. Wiki does however *not* explain any inconsistencies and completely ignores the BBC-fuck up with predicting the collapse of WTC7. The only *lead* we get is through youtube, where it is stated that the *phrophecy* came from REUTERS.

But how long will the lie be able to withstand the ever growing numbers of disbelievers? Everyone who takes his time to examine the official story, will inevitably find some of its weaknesses. You just have to know what questions to ask. Roberto Quaglia helps you with this.

Inspired by Roberto, I took a second look at a scene which has burned itself into my memory. I always felt there was something wrong with it, but I could not say what it was. Until now.



This is a freeze frame from the official footage. Anyone can examine this scene in the comfort of their own home. Either you buy a documentary DVD about the destruction of the WTC, or you find one of the clips on youtube.



This is the moment before impact of flight 175. The layout of the aircraft in this picture has been much debated, because it appears to have some extra equipment attached to its underside. Something which doesn't belong on a commercial airliner. I find this entire debate to be misleading, since it focuses on the *wrong* moment in time.

*I don't believe there was any plane at all.*

What has been bothering me about this sequence is not the extra equipment on the aircraft. It is the fact that it appears to be melting into the wall without any structural break-up. The freeze frame a fraction of a second after this image is very strange. The wing of an airplane is where most of its fuel is stored. It should be as sturdy as a barrel of beer. One would expect the wings to break off at impact. Yet the plane melts into the wall like a ghost.



No structural break-up. This is the immediate instant before the explosion. This image ought to be impossible. Yet, it is right there, in front of everyone's eyes.

**IF** 9/11 really would be a conspiracy, then how come no one has come forward to blow the whistle? Well, people **have** come forward to do so. Susan Lindauer, CIA and Sibel Edmonds, FBI are two of them. Blowing the whistle on this one is not an easy thing to do. But a good number of people need to have been involved in this. And why has no one exposed the hoax yet?

## QUI BONO?

(Marcus Tullius Cicero)

It is an interesting question, who benefits from this? A man named Larry Silverstein has been enormously lucky in all of this.

Six months before the 9/11 attacks the WTC was *privatized* by being leased to a private sector developer. The lease was purchased by the Silverstein Group for \$3.2 billion. The towers required some \$200 million in renovations and improvements, most of which related to removal and replacement of building materials declared to be health hazards in the years since the towers were built. \$200 million represented an entire year's worth of revenues from the World Trade Towers.

*"It was well-known by the city of New York that the WTC was an asbestos bombshell. For years, the Port Authority treated the building like an aging dinosaur, attempting on several occasions to get permits to demolish the building for liability reasons, but being turned down due the known asbestos problem. Further, it was well-known the only reason the building was still standing until 9/11 was because it was too costly to disassemble the twin towers floor by floor since the Port Authority was prohibited legally from demolishing the buildings."* [Arctic Beacon]

Instead of renovation, Silverstein is rebuilding, funded by the insurance coverage on the property which *fortuitously* covered acts of terrorism. Even better, Silverstein filed two insurance claims for the maximum amount of the policy, based on the two, in his view, separate attacks.

*"A federal jury on Monday ruled that the assault on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center was in fact two occurrences for insurance purposes. The finding in U.S. District Court in Manhattan means leaseholder Larry Silverstein may collect up to \$4.6 billion according to reports."* [Forbes.com 12/06/04]

Silverstein is an incredibly lucky man. Not only does he escape the inferno himself, but he also makes a nice profit of it. This is of course not illegal, it is merely a huge stroke of luck.

*"September 11, 2001: Larry Silverstein Doesn't Go to WTC Due to Doctor's Appointment (8:00 a.m.) WTC leaseholder Larry Silverstein is supposed to be working in the temporary offices of his company, Silverstein Properties, on the 88th floor of the North Tower. However, at his Park Avenue apartment, Silverstein's wife reportedly "laid down the law: The developer could not cancel an appointment with his dermatologist, even to meet with tenants at his most important property."* [New York Observer, 3/17/2003; New York Magazine, 4/18/2005]

Not only Larry himself is a lucky man, but his entire family: *"Two of Silverstein's children—his son, Roger, and daughter, Lisa—work for his company and have been regularly attending meetings with WTC tenants at Windows on the World (the restaurant at the top of the North Tower). Yet this morning they are running late. According to the New York Observer, "If the attack had happened just a little later, Mr. Silverstein's children would likely have been trapped at Windows."* [New York Observer, 3/17/2003]

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David Tengelin (25) from Sweden was not so lucky. He and allegedly 372 other foreign citizens perished with the twin towers. Among them 10 Italians. Maybe it is not a coincidence that this book first appears in Italian language, because we still don't know who these 10 Italian citizens were. One website lists 38 of them. (Probably including American citizens. It must be so, because, while the vast majority of them have Italian surnames, not 10 of them have Italian given names).

Because, if this all was a big media hoax, then the underlying truth must be that nobody died. The planes, the people in the windows... All was special fx. The names of 3.000 victims are made up. Against this, I'd say that while you *can* invent 3.000 Americans and 10 Italians for the purpose. But you can't invent a single Swedish person, without Sweden having complete knowledge about him (or her). Question is why Sweden, which made decades of fuzz over Dagmar Hagelin, and they are still occasionally yacking about Raoul Wallenberg (as if anyone cares), but hasn't asked one intelligent question yet, concerning why David Tengelin is dead.

I doubt the Swedish are in on anything. They're just being thick.

## WHAT I BELIEVE REALLY HAPPENED

Yes, there were *hijackings* on 9/11. The aircrafts were all empty, save for the pilots and some agents. They were taken over American territory, where the military has poor radar coverage. There their transponders were switched off and the planes went back as training flights to their Airlines. Insurance covered the loss of the planes and no one was asking for the registry numbers (yet).

The Twin Towers themselves, as building 7, were brought down in controlled demolitions. No question about it. The future will undoubtedly reveal this.

The unofficial story is probably that no casualties were intended. Those who were paid for their acting service and special effects production were well compensated and made to believe that *no one* died on 9/11 and that infact no real crime had been committed (except maybe a massive insurance fraud).

I am not buying that no one died, but David Tengelin, Lieutenant General Timothy Maude and a few others, whose names were more than the fiction of someones imagination, were probably called *collateral damage*. But I can see how Maude must have been a thorn in the side to macho soldiers like Erik Prince.

The latter was another person who made his career in the wake of 9/11 by founding Blackwater. I believe he already had his troops gathered on the day the Earth gasped. And of course... George Bush, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld had their agenda straight in 2001.

Even though Saddam Hussein didn't oppose against any weapons inspection by the US, UN or who ever, it was already decided to blame Iraq, bombing them back to the stone age and then contracting American business operations to rebuild the country. They had oil to pay with. We all remember how Bush promised us to find hidden weapons of mass destruction.

Now we have a similar story with Iran. They also have oil to pay with. Nobody really believes the Americans anymore, but they have all the big guns and bombs, so they can bully anyone into doing their bidding.

If all the alleged terrorists were Saudi-Arabians, then why attack Iraq? And Osama bin Ladin, al-Qaeda and their friends. Did they even exist, or were they merely the boogey men of modern time? We never got to see what the dead Osama looked like. I believe, this was because we *never* had any picture of the man. If I intended to make a career as a terrorist, I would make damn sure my enemies wouldn't know what I look like. Nor know my real name. But for the public we need a picture *and* a name. It looks better that way. One appears less stupid.

Sorry, for ranting, fellows. The real terrorists are people who believe they have power. People who believe they need to have more money than they can ever spend. The United States is the Worlds largest terror-exporting country. Terror = fear, fright.

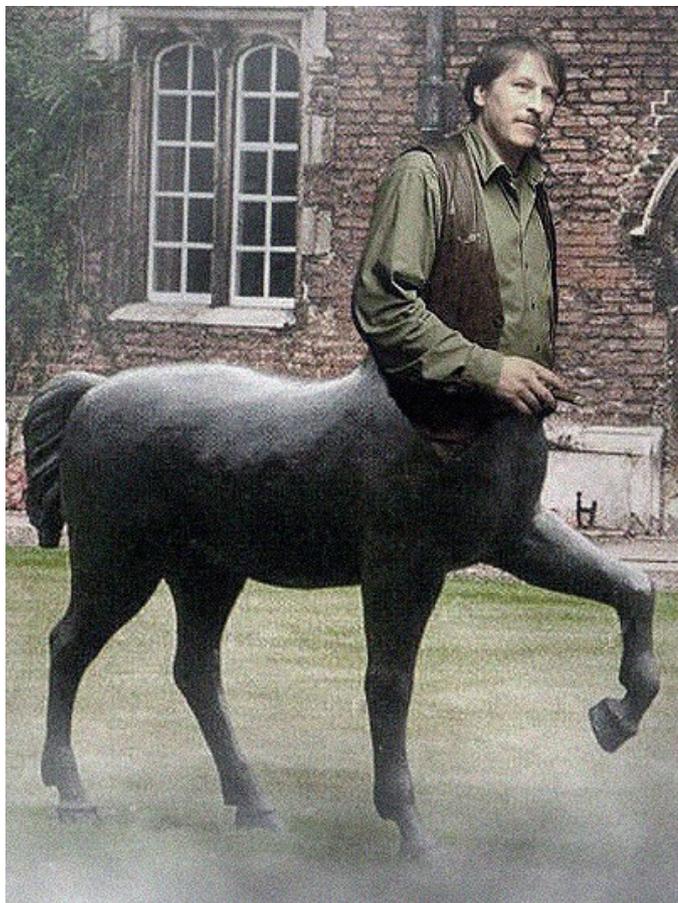
If I were to be afraid of anything, then it would be of the Americans. The United States will eventually have to face their demons. But until then, their corporations will probably do all they can to steal (or buy at a wholesale price for rebuilding your country, after devastating it) your oil and fresh water, rare earths and whatever they can lay their hands on. And the bad guys will always get away with it, since the gods only punish stupidity.

## THE HUMAN GENOME PROJECT

Or “Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid...”

In nov 2008, the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy wrote:” *Although originating and centered in the U.S., laboratories across the globe contributed to the mapping and sequencing of the haploid human genome’s 22 autosomes and 2 sex chromosomes. The official date of completion was timed to coincide with celebrations of the 50th anniversary of James D. Watson and Francis Crick’s discovery of the double-helical structure of DNA. On 12 April 2003, heads of government of the six countries which contributed to the sequencing efforts (the U.S., the U.K., Japan, France, Germany, and China) issued a joint proclamation that the “essential sequence of three billion base pairs of DNA of the Human Genome, the molecular instruction book of human life,” had been achieved. HGP researchers compared their feat to the Apollo moon landing and splitting the atom, foreseeing the dawn of a new era, “the era of the genome.”*

Yehaa!! Now we can give you wings! Or an extra eye. A mouth in your arm pit perhaps? Prepare for a freak show unseen before. Extra interesting if we get a Billy Gates of gene manipulation. Why should such a man not appear among us? In the future your children can get service packs 1, 2, 3 and 4. Until they finally function like and resemble a human being. What to do with the mistakes? Well, it will be meat, so we could turn them into Soylent Green. But for a centaur we also need horse genome.



## WORLD ON A WIRE (WELT AM DRAHT)

The ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE FICTION is not a book one reads from page to page, even though it may well be worth it. I have the first St Martin’s Griffin edition from november 1995. This is, as far as I am aware of, the point on from which John Clute’s work with it has become wider acknowledged. In it, we find that Hans Joachim Alpers already has informed us about this one and only sf film by Rainer Werner Fassbinder.

WELT AM DRAHT was made for TV in 1973, based upon Daniel F Galouyes novel Counterfeit World (aka Simulacron-3, from 1964).

Of course, the World wasn’t ready yet. Virtual Reality didn’t become a popular term in sf until the mid 80’s. We, who can recall what computers were like in 1973, can imagine what an incredible leap of imagination Fassbinder made. Let’s not even begin to talk about Daniel Galouyes’s original novel.



*Welt am Draht* were a two parts mini-series, each 105 minutes.

Simulacron is a giant computer (had to be, by what we knew about computers in the 60’s and 70’s), whose virtual world was inhabited by people who were unaware of their status of being mere programs. In the real world, this being at the Institute for Cybernetics and Futures Investigation, the protagonist Stiller, arrives to the conclusion that what we perceive as the real world also has to be a simulation.

## BRIEF HISTORY OF NAUGHTY MUSIC

If I were to choose the songs for a CD of naughty music, reflecting its evolution, then the first relevant song which comes to my mind would be by the Beatles “*Why Don’t We Do It In the Road*” (1968). Of course, there had been vaguely naughty music before, such as Millie Small who already 1964 was singing “*My Boy Lollipop*”, but in the brains of regular people, this metaphor didn’t come through as such. While individuals can be brilliant, the anonymous mass of blind, dumb and deaf consumers are so thick, one can wonder why there isn’t a barb wired fence around every major city, to keep the monkeys from escaping their zoo. No, the image projected into their brains was of a boy with a lollipop, just like she was singing it. One needs to be considerably more direct in order to affect and upset public opinion. The choice for my second song on the album, would thus be James Brown’s *Sex Machine* from 1970. It caused some outrage among the most prudent people and maybe it

was fortunate, that James Brown was black, since the same people would have the inclination to deem him as an animal anyway, because of his complexion. Never remembering that they are as close to the apes themselves, since we all genetically speaking belong to the same race of humans.

*Lola*, by the Kinks was way to discrete. People don't really listen to the lyrics. They can sing along for years without realizing its all about a transvestite, or cross-dresser. *Lola* should of course be song number three.

I'm not sure I would have *Queen Bitch* (1971) by David Bowie on the album, nor T.Rex *Jeepster* (1971), but Lou Reed created a pretty safe 4<sup>th</sup> candidate with *Walk On the Wild Side* (1972). A lot of people in Europe were singing along without understanding one word of it.

Something being really, really naughty was suspected when Donna Summer 1975 started moaning and gasping in *Love to Love You Baby*. Now THAT caught the attention of every good Christian.

Falling further into depravity (with a nice beat to it, though) was Ian Dury with *Sex & Drugs and Rock'n Roll*. The lyrics were easy and distinct enough to follow...

*Sex and Drugs and Rock'n Roll*, is all my brain and body need. *Sex and Drugs and Rock'n Roll*, is very good indeed. Also, 1977, the very name Sex Pistols was offensive and so were their song titles, such as *Big Tits Across America*, *Is The Queen A Moron* and *Fucking Rotter*.

Finally Frank Zappa took the biscuit with his song *Bobby Brown* in 1979. The song was banned from the radio in countries where people could understand the words. But in Sweden (for example) it became a big hit.

*Centerfold* 1982 by J Geils Band was totally decent, compared to Zappa.

It wasn't until Frankie Goes to Hollywood created another commotion with *Relax, Don't Do It* in 1984. From then on, *Touch Me* 1986 Samantha Fox, *I'm Too Sexy* 1991 Right Said Fred and *I Touch Myself* 1991 Divinyls passed already hardened public ears and even Madonna couldn't raise more than an eyebrow with her *Erotica* in 1992. *Fire Water Burn* still got some amusing wit in its lyrics by the Bloodhound Gang in 1996.

*I'm a Bitch* 1997 Meredith Brooks

*Horny* 1998 Mousse T vs Hot'n'Juicy

*Would You...?* (Go to Bed With Me) 1998 Touch And Go  
Really, I can't see that there could come any song now which possibly could upset anyone.

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## Letter of Comment

From: Lloyd Penney  
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June 12, 2012

Hello! It's been a very long time! It's been three years since issue 10 of CounterClock, and I am sure I've missed an issue or two along the way. So, let's get back in touch.

The golden age SF was for us when we were kids. We weren't necessarily there for the science, but for the adventure of meeting aliens out beyond the Rim. People

never really understood why we liked these adventures; I think we needed them to make our humdrum existences more interesting, to excite us, to make us say, "Wow!"

We also needed something to stimulate us mentally. Even if we knew it couldn't possibly work, we liked shows with FTL travel, or a time machine. We needed something different in our lives. Television and movies tried to do it, but unfortunately, they catered to the lowest common denominator, and their product came across as dull compared to the books who took us anywhere and anywhen. Personally, that's still the case.

Some fans have mentioned that Stieg Larsson was a Swedish fan some time back...I think we need an article about Larsson's fannish activities, so we can see what led to his writing one of the most popular series of books in the past few years. I think we need the background connections to see where he came from, and why he left.

Conventions? I suppose I am spoiled. I've been to over 200 in my lifetime, and when we have enough money and the impetus to travel, we go to Worldcon. I like Worldcons, but I too like the cozy cons. There are cons I can take public transit to if I needed to, but we are often involved with programming, and we bring something with us via car. Yes, there are lots of ladies at conventions... Yvonne and I have been married for 29 years now, and these good-looking ladies are usually friends. We both get to spend time with them.

Movies...couldn't tell you what movies was the last one I saw. Television...because I work evenings, and have for the past 7 years, I haven't followed any TV SF, including Doctor Who. I keep getting told I must see it, and am told I should record it. If I don't have time to watch it when it is broadcast, it's not likely I will have the time to see the recording later on.

I hope this isn't the only letter of comment you get... sorry this took a while to get to you. I found you on Facebook, and was reminded that you've got back issues in the cloud, and that they are stored in a dropbox. And, there's hints about issue 12. Good! See you then.

**WvW:** I will see what I can do about Stieg Larsson. Our encounters were few and we didn't have a lot to say to each other. But I know a few people who must have known him rather well. I will ask them, if anyone feels inclined to enlighten us about the sf-fan Larsson.

This was indeed the only LoC. I believe, not only email and mailing lists are killing the fanzine, but also blogs and FB status updates and comments. All the needs the fanzines ones fulfilled are now being fulfilled in other ways. But, at least... WAHF: Michael Swanwick

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This issue was completed on September 11<sup>th</sup> 2012 under my own imposed pressure of a deadline. This summer has been hot. Worse than ever. Even the local population has not experienced such a hot and humid summer like this before. The sun was merciless and the days of rain were few. Being from the north of Europe I am less well equipped than most to handle this heat.

I hope it didn't fry my brain completely, because I still intend to make at least another 12 issues of this fanzine.  
Until next, huggles All! **Wolf von Witting**