

SCIENCE

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EDITORIAL

A Milk-Free Zone

Science. Dr. Noitall, you are the greatest exposé of conspiracies in the world—the man who showed that Oswald did not act alone in assassinating Kennedy, John Wilkes Booth did not act alone in assassinating Lincoln, and Cain did not act alone in killing Abel. Because of you the public now knows all three were unsuspecting dupes in massive CIA plots.

Noitall. A vast understatement of my true worth.

Science. Are you working to expose any new conspiracies?

Noitall. I am working on the conspiracy to put bioengineered milk in the tummies of America's children.

Science. Putting milk in children's tummies is not a new idea. Is the bioengineered milk poisonous?

Noitall. No. That's the deviousness behind this whole conspiracy. The milk is identical to the usual milk, but the cows are fed a hormone to cause them to produce much more of it. Hence, bioengineered milk can be produced more cheaply. Can you imagine anything more dastardly than cheap milk? Who dares come out against cheap milk? We must create the image that bioengineered milk is dangerous.

Science. But the Food and Drug Administration says it's safe.

Noitall. Who believes them? Obviously a branch of the CIA. The people are rallying to the slogan, "No hormone-produced milk."

Science. But all milk is hormone-produced.

Noitall. Just what I planned. As the conspiracy theory grows, we will be in a position to demand a non-hormone-induced milk. We already have public interest groups rallying for "a milk-free zone."

Science. But milk is a very nutritious food for children and adults.

Noitall. Conspiracy theories are rarely based on logic but are welcomed by those who want to believe bad things about someone or some organization.

Science. But will it ever be possible to bring milk back into favor?

Noitall. No way. It just happens my consortium has a new drink that contains no hormones and can be used as a substitute.

Science. A substitute that looks like milk?

Noitall. Yes. Chalk dust and alcohol. One glassful gives you a daily supply of calcium and makes you feel great.

Science. But that is an unscientific twisting of facts.

Noitall. Public relations facts are very different from the scientific facts you scientists seem to revere. Public relations facts can be created by any Ph.D., no matter whether he has a laboratory or has published in a peer-reviewed journal in the last century. As long as we can quote that "Dr. X disagrees," we can consider $2 + 2 = 5$ worthy of equal treatment to $2 + 2 = 4$ proposed by Dr. Y who goes along with the establishment. Then we create an Institute of Milk Research to publish long columns of boring data which no one will read. The use of journalists who do not state the credentials of their sources is particularly helpful to our cause.

Science. Why are you so interested in milk?

Noitall. As the dean of conspiracy theorists, I need new challenges. Any dull, ordinary conspiracist can implicate the CIA or a corporation or trial lawyers, but it takes a real genius to make a villain out of milk.

Science. Are there any other challenges you see on the horizon?

Noitall. I am hard at work on the population explosion conspiracy. We have discovered that it is caused by the unregulated transfer of raw DNA between consenting adults in the dark hours of the night. While we have laws against bioengineered DNA, the lobbyists and big interests have allowed the transfer of raw, untreated DNA to go unregulated.

Science. How will you get your program going?

Noitall. We are trying to establish a DNA control bureaucracy that requires prescreening before any DNA transfers. The sex urge is a very powerful instinct and may not be totally preventable. However, filling out ten applications in triplicate for permission prior to any sex act may serve as an appreciable deterrent. It will certainly make it less fun. The usual far left, far right, and middle class interests have blocked us so far, but the modern trend toward Puritanism will allow us to prevail.

Daniel E. Koshland Jr.