
THE CITIZEN

for Social Responsibility

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The Newark Public Schools...

When Silence Speaks Volumes

by; Victor Saraiva,

Articles published by the Newark Star Ledger concerning the Newark Public Schools over the course of the past year, have created an image of an upward bound institution. When the Newark Public Schools finally were able to 'balance their accounting', and publicly declare where their monies were being spent, the Ledger heralded it as a great feat. A Big Deal !

When the State of New Jersey decided to take over the Newark Public Schools, I cannot recall any investigative reporting being done regarding the corruption present, that led to separate State investigations regarding shady business dealings by members of the Newark Board of Education, and the failure of the Newark schools to teach.

When the State of NJ's department of Education, this past Fall decided to re-grade the ESPA, the state elementary public school performance examinations, which compare all students' performance to established minimal standard guidelines, the public was presented with a characterization that the testing was flawed. Upon the State's re-grading, student scores were boosted and a majority of the Newark Public School students, were now above the passing cut-off line.

Recently the newly appointed State Education Commissioner, William Librera, declared that the State of NJ will scale back and revamp the state testing program. He has taken this step in spite of federal statutes which have for over a decade established national guidelines that all states must match, and rightly so. Something stinks in this city of Newark and in this State !

The State's largest newspaper has shed very little light on decades of corruption that have impacted the Newark Public Schools and their student population, in fact generations of students within the poorest of districts in the nation. Over the years teachers have been caught selling drugs, while others have been implicated in schemes to defraud the Newark Public School system, some of whom (prior school employees as well as previous local politicians) with documented ties to organized crime.

Superintendents and School Boards can be removed, and new ones appointed, but what if the problem underlying the failure of the Newark Public Schools to prepare students is deeper than just inefficient leadership ? Before leaving her job, the prior State Superintendent, of the Newark Public Schools made reference to an entrenched 'climate of evil' , exactly what

did she mean, could it in fact be an entrenched corruption which has been made part of the Newark Public Schools and the County *political machine* ? We must remember that the overall existing structure of bureaucrats do not change, only leaders change. One often hears the explanation given by certain politicians (in private) that the students and their families are the problem, that poverty is the problem. One blames the victim, and amid rampant discrimination and corruption in the system, many embrace the answer as a viable one. Yet the State's largest newspaper has remained essentially silent for decades on the issue. Why is that ?

One can find billboards on the State's highways with the likeness of Marion Bolden, the Newark Public Schools superintendent, promising that "every child will learn", but the question to be asked is— 'what will every child learn ?' If the answer is dejection, failure, or perhaps contentment with fewer choices in life, then it is true— every student will learn.

The Newark Public Schools are abysmal, educational results after decades of failure in preparing children of this city, are a travesty, despite the billions of dollars spent over the years. Where have those monies been spent ? The Newark Public Schools may not have a clue. There are exceptions, but few indeed— Ann Street, Science High, Arts High, University High, but these are indeed the few among nearly 80 schools in the State's largest public school network.

Placards placed on byways proclaiming certain schools as blue ribbon schools, are nothing short of a propaganda campaign to attract the suburban middle class, to reverse the 'white flight of the 1960's and 70's and get them to buy into the image of a rising, shiny new city— and move back after decades of absence.

It has been said by some, that funding of the schools has been a problem, yet Newark Public School teachers and administrators are among the best paid public school employees in the State. While many students and their families struggle to clothe and feed themselves, and as the city continues to destroy public housing, some school administrators, in the city's poorest areas drive to work in expensive automobiles— creating a stark contrast of realities.

Not long ago, several teachers presented a petition to authorities requesting an investigation into alleged corruption in the school system, yet nothing has come to fruition, and the State's largest newspaper remains silent, while the bureaucratic system remains unchanged and unchallenged.

For a period close to a year our organization attempted to put together a humble program, free to the Newark Public Schools, that sought to document if pupils in the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades, at three pilot schools, were incorporating drug abuse prevention education material into memory. The overall question we sought to answer was— are these students being

taught to stay away from the drug culture and are they accepting that message? Our study was presented to the Newark Public Schools in the format of several multiple choice and short answer "quizzes" to be distributed to students. We also were planning to hold a school assembly at each school, and award prizes to the students achieving the highest scores in our 'tests', as well as commend the student who presented the best essay.

Our program was tentatively approved, *if* we performed our testing anonymously. But how then could we identify individual students for commendation? The Newark Public Schools were in essence destroying the program's viability by giving the overall impression of 'approval'. Such is the depth of hypocrisy one is faced with, at the expense of children of this city. At our insistence for a viable explanation of this argument, our program was declined by the Assistant Superintendent Dr. Gayle Griffin, the explanation given—'that the University of Akron was already instituting a study in the Newark Public Schools which was found to be superior.' (However this was only said to us after we pressed Dr. Griffin for a reason as to why our study needed to be performed anonymously.) We explored the 'Akron' criticism and found that the University of Akron is conducting a study regarding the DARE program in several school districts, one of which is indeed the Newark Public Schools. However the University of Akron is assessing whether a new DARE format being instituted this year, is successful. The DARE program entails a presentation by police officers to students, which has been criticized in the past and found not to be very successful in preventing drug abuse in kids who have participated in the program. The Newark Public Schools however, is part of the control group in the Akron study, which means that the new DARE program is not being presented in the Newark Public Schools. So why not use our program at three pilot schools as we requested? Good question.

Subsequent to the denial, we wrote the Newark Public Schools and requested under FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) to know how the Newark Public Schools was spending Federal funds received under Title IV, the **SAFE and DRUG FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES ACT**? Newark recently received nearly 5% of all such federal funds appropriated under this act, this academic year. Our correspondence has gone unanswered. So when one reads in the State's largest newspaper that the Newark Public Schools are elevating parental involvement by holding a special gathering at Liberty Science Center (Newark Star-Ledger 2/7/02, page 1, Newark Section), or by being entertained by an award winning 'winter guard' from East Side High (one of the worst High Schools, academically, in the city system), one must wonder how will propaganda and glitz, benefit the children of this city, the state's largest? What is it exactly that they are learning? And why are administrators so concerned to stop members of the public from finding out?

Our further request for the Newark Public Schools' latest Drug Incidents report, documenting instances of how many students, at which schools, were caught with drugs on school grounds, also went unanswered.

Such are times when silence... speaks volumes.

The Kennedy Assassination Reexamined

A book has recently been published which has essentially gone unnoticed as a result of other events which have seized the public psyche— as a result of the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11th, 2001, or at least it seems sensible to think that is the reason for it.

The book of which I speak, was written by Dr. Charles Crenshaw, and entitled "Trauma Room One, the JFK Medical Coverup Exposed." The book was released in late August/early September 2001. Dr. Crenshaw's book is an important eyewitness account of details surrounding the death of one of America's most beloved leaders, and which raises troubling questions regarding the true power structure of this nation. Dr. Crenshaw a Texas native, was Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Surgery and a member of the Board of Directors of Tarrant County Hospital District in Fort Worth. He received his B.S. from Southern Methodist University and his Masters degree from East Texas State University. He worked on his Ph.D. at Baylor University, and earned his M.D. from the University of Texas at Dallas. During five years of his life he was an intern at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas Texas, the hospital that received John F. Kennedy after that fateful day of November 22, 1963 when he was shot and killed in Dallas.

To this day the government of this country has proclaimed that one man killed John F. Kennedy, and that man was Lee Harvey Oswald. Oswald was working in a building called the Texas School Book Depository, from which he supposedly fired a single barrel rifle, hitting the President in the rear of his skull. Two days later, Oswald himself was shot and killed by Jack Ruby, a nightclub owner with ties to organized crime--the Mafia. He had in fact been an associate of the Chicago hoodlum, Al Capone. Later, Ruby would be an informant for the FBI.

Following the assassination of Kennedy, President Lyndon Johnson convened a special panel of investigators, and government officials--the Warren Commission. When this Commission released its

findings to the American public, it labeled the assassination as the work of one crazed man, Lee Harvey Oswald. According to the Warren report Oswald fired his rifle from a sixth floor location behind the President's parade route.

In 1992 after years of silence Dr. Crenshaw, one of the physicians who cared for John Kennedy at Parkland Hospital, published his first account of what he saw on that day. Crenshaw declared Kennedy's wounds inconsistent with the Warren report. The bullets fired at Kennedy, hit his body from the front, hitting him in the throat and in his right temple. The exiting head shot bullet, left an enormous hole in JFK's cranium, which resulted in the President's death. As Dr. Crenshaw explains it, bullets entering and exiting a body leave different marks which are easy to recognize by a trained pathologist. All the physicians attending President Kennedy agreed that those shots were fired from a location other than the location where Oswald was, yet the evidence was ignored by the Warren Commission.

Autopsy photographs corroborating this fact disappear and are substituted by altered photos. The Presidential limousine is ordered 'rebuilt' in secrecy, eliminating vital evidence of other bullets that struck the presidential limousine from different angles. By 1965 more than fifty individuals associated with the investigation of Kennedy's assassination had died. One of these was Rose Cheramie, a former employee of Jack Ruby, who two days before the President's assassination, had been found beaten by Louisiana state troopers on the side of a road. She then told Louisiana state police that her attackers were two Italian-Americans from Miami who were traveling to Dallas to kill President Kennedy. It is unknown if the U.S. Secret Service was alerted to this information. However, one day later, just one night before Kennedy's death, Secret Service agents assigned to protect the President, leave the President without Secret Service protection and go out drinking until after 3:00 in the morning at a club owned by a Miami Cuban mobster. Some of these Secret Service agents are heard laughing and joking about leaving the protection of the President and First Lady in the hands of two firemen.

Crenshaw who wrote his book with the help of Gary Shaw, places before us, facts which have been hidden and suggest a large scale conspiracy involving elements within the FBI, CIA, Secret Service, high ranking Pentagon officials, the Mafia, and Lyndon Johnson. Dr. Crenshaw's account was ridiculed by JAMA, the Journal of the American Medical Association, just after his 1992 account was printed. Crenshaw sued

JAMA and won his lawsuit. JAMA's editor, was later fired.

Crenshaw writes; *"I had to speak out, if for no other reason, because the democratic process created by the greatest constitutional document ever written was being callously and maliciously circumvented by a handful of cowards. My silence has protected them. The choice of the American people was cast aside with one squeeze of a trigger. The work of men like James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, Benjamin Franklin and the sacrifice of millions who have defended it, were rendered impotent by a few sorry criminals. Efforts to suppress and distort the truth about the assassination on the part of government officials and agents, as well as certain representatives of the media, has been well documented in previous works on this subject. That this effort included threats, intimidation, falsification and destruction of evidence, and even death has played no small roll in my silence of the past.... My medical career is over, and I no longer fear the "men in suits" nor the criticism of my peers."* (P.17).

"I believe that powerful forces assassinated President Kennedy in 1963 and that influential bodies have lied to the American people about the circumstances of--and responsibility for--that murder. Something is terribly wrong in this country when these forces continue to orchestrate, 30 years after the fact, a concerted effort to perpetuate this lie. It is not un-American to demand answers as to why, and by whom."(p.154).

The House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) concluded in 1979 that President Kennedy's death was the result of a probable conspiracy. Their records are sealed until the year 2029.

In 1998 the Assassinations Records Review Board urged the Congress to strengthen the Freedom of Information Act. Their final report concluded that *"critical records may have been withheld"* from its scrutiny, and that still more needs to be acquired. The Board was constituted in order to make all records regarding JFK's assassination available for public scrutiny. It concluded its efforts September 1998. The Board was created April 1992 as a result of Dr. Crenshaw's initial declarations in April 1992 and as a result of other facts brought to light by journalists and others who have not abandoned the investigation regarding JFK's assassination.

Dr. Crenshaw died several weeks after his second book, "Trauma Room One", was published early Fall 2001, which detailed his 1992 allegations as well as his case against JAMA, he was 68.

THE CIA DEBATE ON ASSASSINATIONS

By; Victor Saraiva

JFK and Robert F Kennedy started a war on organized crime which they never finished, nor has any other administration done so. Today high members of our political leadership speak openly of utilizing organized crime members in partnership, as allies, in the "war on terrorism".

Hollywood has helped create a changed image for the mob, with the production of films glorifying wise guys, hoodlums, and criminals. Perhaps there is an argument to be made that organized crime may now control much of the Hollywood *machine*, who knows money has to be laundered somehow. How can you not think it, when so much pornography, glorification of mafiosi characterization passes itself off as good family entertainment. Its effects are being felt. How many 'partnerships' have already been developed without the American public's knowledge?

In the 1970's as a result of the excesses of the intelligence establishment, Senator Frank Church (D-Idaho), convened congressional hearings, which led to restrictions being imposed on the CIA and the American Intelligence community. With the passage of the Patriot Act of 2001, the Bush administration has effectively turned back the clock. We have returned to an era which does not bode well for many civil freedoms enjoyed by this society for some decades. In permitting the Bush administration to do this, America has opened a Pandora's box.

It has not stopped there, Bush also restricted classified briefings to the top four leaders of the House and Senate, and some documents will be on a need to know basis only. In doing this, there has been a significant shift of power away from Congress and toward the executive branch. With the later passage of measures to create military tribunals we see... "*a coup d'etat against the U.S. constitution... it's like we're becoming a banana republic, with disappearing people, which was the phenomenon that we all saw in Latin American dictatorships in the 1970's and 1980's with the support of the U.S. government. Upwards of 1,000 aliens have just disappeared in the U.S, we don't know where they are...*" (Source: Interview Nov. 14, 2001 by Dennis Bernstein KPFA Radio 94.1FM, Berkeley California, with Dr. Francis Boyle, Professor International Law, University of Illinois College of Law).

In the early 1960's the CIA contracted John Rosselli, a Chicago mobster who in concert with the Cuban mafia, based in Miami and in Havana Cuba, was to assassinate Fidel Castro. The plot failed, but it serves to document the partnership 'mentality' between our government and members of organized crime. The CIA was instrumental in other assassination plots, including Patrice Lumumba of the Congo, Rafael Trujillo of the Dominican Republic, Duvalier of Haiti,

Sukarno of Indonesia, and others. Some of these plots were successful.

All this was made public in 1975 during the Church Committee Hearings, as a result of a report entitled '*Assassination plots Involving Foreign Leaders*' and the testimony of mobster John Roselli. The 1975 Church Committee findings, led to a ban on assassinations, with good reason. Aside from the constraints of morality, the Constitution makes no provision for 'hit men' to operate out of the White House.

Attorney General Ashcroft and the Bush administration seek to change this. There are currently discussions in Washington considering the reversal of the ban on assassinations. Anthony Lake, Bill Clinton's National Security Advisor commented for the Washington Post (Oct .28. 2001, page A01, "*CIA Weighs Targeted Killing Missions*"); "*In my heart I am often for assassination, but in my head not... until you can show me the firewall between those whose deaths you're positive would save a large number of lives, and those you're not positive about, then I think you're on a slippery slope to becoming the Borgias (an Italian aristocratic family of the Renaissance famous for assassinating its enemies).*"

The History Channel television Network, a part of the A&E network, in late November 2001 posed the question to its viewers; "*Should the CIA have the authority to assassinate a foreign head of State ?*" As of 11/23/01, 11,029 votes were cast, 85% of participants in the Internet poll voted Yes. Are these 11,029 votes representative of how America thinks? I for one, shudder at the implications for our own democracy, and its future.

James Madison late in life wrote the following words; "*Perhaps it is a universal truth that the loss of liberty at home will be charged to dangers, real or imagined from abroad.*" Words that echo and reverberate in consonance with our times.

Should we, Blindly, Trust our Government ?

The underlying basis of the Patriot Act of 2001, the curtailment of civil liberties, is based on a rationale that our government agencies, which act under shrouds of secrecy, act on our behalf, and can be trusted. Do they so act, and can they be trusted? Let us look at the record of the past.

The following is a small fragment of *known* occurrences, of secret experimentation on civilians, on Americans, without their knowledge or consent, by agencies of their own country. Some cases involving military personnel are also cited, since those servicemen involved in the 'tests' were also not informed before they too became 'guinea pigs.'

1931- Dr. Cornelius Rhoads purposely induces cancer in patients while performing experiments in Puerto Rico. He makes written affirmations that the Puerto Ricans are a vile people that deserve to be exterminated; 13 of his patients die.

He is exonerated of any crimes by an American Governor to the island. Dr. Rhoads is later appointed to direct the U.S. Army's Biological Warfare facilities in Maryland, Utah and Panama. He is later named to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, and conducts radiation experiments on prisoners, hospital patients and American soldiers.

1932- The U.S. Public Health Service initiates a study examining untreated tertiary Syphilis on African Americans, at Tuskegee Alabama. Over 400 men are not told of their illness and are denied any treatment. Many infected their wives, who also were not treated. The 'experiment' was concluded in 1972. The federal office supervising the study was the predecessor of today's Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in charge of the AIDS investigative program.

1943- The U.S. begins research on biological weapons at Fort Detrick, Maryland

1945- Project Paperclip- U.S. Army Intelligence, the CIA and the State Department actively recruit former German NAZI officers and 'researchers', as well as Japanese researchers and offer them 'sanctuary' in the U.S.. Many of these 'researchers' had conducted experimentation of germ warfare on concentration camp prisoners and American POW's. One such researcher is Dr. Shiro Ishii, responsible for over 9,000 deaths, many of whom were American POW's.

1948- The Committee on Biological Warfare, within the Department of Defense, recommends to the Secretary of Defense, that the U.S. conduct germ warfare tests on the U.S. population. Covert testing is performed by the CIA.

1950- Operation Transit III, The U.S. Navy conducts germ warfare experimentation in San Francisco. Hundreds seek medical treatment, at least one person dies. Other tests are conducted in Minneapolis.

1951- The U.S. Army conducts germ warfare experimentation on African Americans at the Norfolk Supply Center, Norfolk Virginia, using a fungus that people of color are more sensitive to than other racial groups.

1955- The CIA releases the bacterium that produces Whooping Cough in the Tampa Bay area. Twelve people die. Details concerning the experiment are still classified.

1956-1958 African American communities in Savannah, Georgia and Avon Park, Florida are subjected to a plague of mosquitoes infected with yellow fever. The insects are dropped from low flying planes and helicopters by the U.S. Army. Details of the tests are still classified.

1950-1970 Operation Whitecoat, Fort Detrick Maryland. U.S. Army conducts germ warfare tests on Seventh Day Adventists, who were Conscientious Objectors.

1966- The U.S. Army and the CIA conduct germ warfare experimentation in tunnels of the New York City subway from June 7-10. More than one million people are exposed. Details of the experiment are still classified.

1968-1969 The CIA contaminates the drinking water supply of the Food and Drug Administration Building in Washington D.C., without the knowledge of anyone in the building. Details of the experiment are still classified.

1972- Project MKULTRA, CIA supports "brain washing" experimentation on mentally ill patients. At least one death is documented, tied to the subject's contamination with LSD.

1987- Department of Defense admits that despite a treaty banning research and development of germ warfare agents, it continues to perform research at 127 Universities in the U.S.

1992- Ken Alibek, Deputy Chief of **Bio-Preparat**, the Soviet Union's super secret germ warfare laboratory facility, run by the KGB, defects to the United States. He is now working for the U.S. Army's germ warfare program.

2000- Russian scientists from the germ warfare facility at Obolensk, deliver two rare strains of Anthrax to U.S. centers at CDC-Atlanta and Fort Detrick Maryland. (Source N.Y. Times May 24, 2000).

This is a brief summary of that which has been done in secret to unsuspecting people. We have come to know these facts as a result of prior administrations, such as those of Jimmy Carter and William Clinton, which have declassified government files and made them available for public scrutiny. Such openness in government is now once again a thing of the past. With the Patriot Act of 2001, and the enormous increase in defense spending, America once again enters into an age of deep secrets and darkness. May all our children be spared the senseless acts of madness, performed in the name of national security.

EDITORIAL

What is Patriotism ?

Many of us have read, seen or witnessed, in some form, the events of September 11, 2001 and its consequences. Since that day, everywhere it seems, Old Glory, the Stars and Stripes forever wave, from the sides of apartment houses, treetops, bridges, car antennas and fire trucks. What once began as a show of solidarity for the countless hundreds or thousands who disappeared amid the rubble of what was once the twin towers of the world trade center, slowly transformed into patriotic and patrioteer fervor. Perhaps the resonance was a result of subtle tones in our society.

I knew no one personally who was lost that day, although I had initially planned to travel into the city, traveling to the twin towers' Path station. A trip which I decided to cancel that morning.

At first flags fluttered at half mast, but shortly within days, President Bush ordered all flags to be raised. Flag waiving was now officially no longer a show of solidarity for the dead, it took on a different significance— it meant unity in anger, a will for vengeance, amid grains of patriotic symbolism. The symbolism coalesced amid the onslaught of a war of words and ensuing bombardments.

Reports of the death of innocent civilians in Afghanistan have filtered through the media, and video images of children in makeshift hospitals, crying in pain, of thousands

of homeless starving refugees have not made me feel at all patriotic.

The countless placards, adorning schools, office buildings, and highways gracing the nation with words like "God Bless America" trouble me. Amid the diversity which is America, 95% of its population adheres to credence in God's existence, and is mostly Christian. But should it be that America be blessed more so than other nations or peoples? We are 4% of the world's population but control the vast majority of the world's resources, wealth and food. Is it not a fundamental teaching that to love God means also 'to forgive thine enemies'? What about the teaching that 'vengeance is mine saith the Lord'?

One cannot accept the actions of terrorists as permissible, but surely there are ways to deal with violence with ways that go beyond guttural barbarism. Must one become barbaric in order to deal with the barbarian?

I write this at the risk of being labeled unpatriotic, so be it then. But what is patriotism? Is it patriotic to stand amid the rubble of a tomb, with a bullhorn while shouting to the masses, epithets of vengeance and violence to come? Is someone with four flags on his car, that much more patriotic than someone with solely a decal of Old Glory, or even none at all? Is someone who paints the side of his home with the Stars and Stripes, patriotic beyond reproach? What is patriotism?

Early during the last century, the Russian-American feminist Emma Goldman wrote the following words which make sense to me, as they would to anyone who follows the dictates of reason rather than those of raw emotion; *"...conceit, arrogance and egotism are the essentials of patriotism. ...Patriotism assumes that our globe is divided into little spots, each one surrounded by an iron gate. Those who have had the fortune of being born on some particular spot consider themselves nobler, better, and grander, more intelligent than those living beings inhabiting any other spot. It is, therefore, the duty of everyone living on that chosen spot to fight, kill and die in the attempt to impose his superiority upon all the others.*

The inhabitants of the other spots reason in like manner, of course, with the result that from early infancy the mind of the child is provided with bloodcurdling stories about the Germans, the French, the Italians, Russians, et cetera..."

Is this not, patriotism? Must we as human beings swear an allegiance to invisible, imaginary geographic lines of division, or to a greater sense of common humanity, as compatriot travelers in time who share common problems to be resolved— in unison, for the greater good and welfare of all of humanity? Do we not, instead owe allegiance to the principles of democracy, and justice, for all peoples of this world, even the barbarians? Must we rush to violence rather than to diplomacy, in order to solve our nation's problems?

Read More

- On the JFK assassination;
 - Crenshaw, Charles, Trauma Room One, Paraview Press, New York, 2001 (ISBN 1931044309).
- On CIA & U.S. Army, Secret Experiments on Civilians;
 - Collins, Anne, In the Sleep Room: The Story of the CIA Brainwashing Experiments in Canada, Lester & Orpen, 1998 (ISBN 088619198x).
 - Welsome, Eileen, The Plutonium Files, Delta/Dell Books, 2000 (ISBN 0385319541).
 - US Army Activity in the US Biological Warfare Program, 1942-1977, Vols 1 and 2, Feb. 24, 1977 (Special Congressional Report).
- On drugs can be found on the Internet concerning symptoms, treatment, referrals, research, and parenting at;
 - www.drughelp.org
 - www.casacolumbia.org
 - www.christians-in-recovery.org
 - www.redribbonworks.org

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The Citizen for Social Responsibility was created as an educational tool which seeks to examine critical issues in our society which are not being addressed, by motivating public debate and discussion. It is solely an enterprise which does not seek profit as its reason to exist.

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