**Introduction**

Hello folks, and welcome to The Farm, a podcast dedicated to culture, parapolitics, and high weirdness in all its many forms. This is your host Recluse, aka Steven Snider, the longtime curator of the VISUP blog and author of A Special Relationship: Trump, Epstein, and the Secret History of the Anglo-American Establishment. As this is our subscribers section, you guys know the drill now as far as the websites go.

Alright kids, this is another solo show. But be assured, I have put a tremendous amount of effort into this one. As many of you are probably aware, I have a longstanding interest in the gifted program and special schools. I myself tested gifted in elementary school and was offered a spot at a special school for gifted kids. My parents declined on account of the distance.

I never really thought about the subject again until I read Peter Levenda's *Sinister Forces* trilogy some years ago. Levenda himself also tested gifted, and chronicles especially curious schools in those works. It brought back a rush of memories to me, including the odd tests I took. This led me to keep track of all references to special schools and the gifted program that I could find.

But it wasn't until the last three years that I became particularly fixated upon this topic. Gifted kids constitute about 5% of the population in the US. Since 2019, I've befriended a considerable amount of people and well over half of them are former gifted kids. Further, I've encountered many through my research on alternate reality games, which seem to be especially attractive to gifted kids.

Needless to say, this has left me with a lot of questions. I imagine some of you listening to this are in the same boat. So, hopefully this will provide you with some clarity. As for the rest of you, I think this will prove to be some novel research into one of the darkest nodes of the national security state. This is part of an ongoing series. In this one alone we're going to encounter Michael Aquino, Jeffrey Epstein, Walter Breen, and a host of other super creeps. But before getting to them, there's a lot I need to unpack in regards to the gifted program.

**The Origins of Intelligence Testing**

As you guys well know by now, I like to start with origins stories. So, to understand the origins of the gifted program, you have to understand the origins of intelligence testing. And that, in turn, goes back to the early eugenics movement of the mid-nineteenth century. Specifically, it was spawned from the mind of Sir Francis Galton, a half-cousin of Charles Darwin.

Galton is an endlessly fascinating figure. Besides his prestigious, Royal Society-linked family, he was also a Freemason. Galton is now primarily remembered for his advocacy of eugenics, leading to the perception that he is irrelevant in modern academic circles. This would be a gross miscalculation. In point of fact Galton, who was a polymath, has an enduring influence on a number of fields. He was a pioneer in the use of fingerprints for identification and his famous twin studies anticipated the modern field of behavioral genetics. To this day, twins are still an enduring part of that.

Galton also developed the first questionnaires and was one of the first individuals to put forth the notion of different personality models. This has subsequently become a major point of analysis, and is closely related to intelligence testing. Both of these notions were largely developed by Galton at his famed Anthropometric Laboratory.

Using Darwinism as a foundation, Galton envisioned a perfectly ordered eugenics society run by a race of supermen. This would be managed through a selective breeding program not unlike that used for animals. But a means would be needed to identify the young supermen and women so that they could be paired with a suitable mate. It was around 1865 that Galton envisioned what we would now think of as an intelligence test being administered to every young lad and lass in their prime breeding years. This way, individuals with extraordinary abilities could be identified and paired with a suitable mate so as to advance the race.

It probably goes without saying, but Galton's theories are highly controversial in the modern era. The extent to which nature versus nurture plays in the development of a child has been an ongoing one for centuries. Nature is commonly held as the chief factor, but the Rockefeller-financed discovery of genetics pushed back greatly against these notions in the twentieth century. Galton would certainly be pleased to know that a series of studies involving identical twins, the most comprehensive of which was recently conducted in Minnesota, have continued into the modern era in a bid to solve the nurture vs nature question. And as we shall see, schemes to wed high IQ individuals with an aim of creating a master race would continue into that era as well. But more on that later.

The Frenchman Alfred Binet is generally held to be the father of modern intelligence testing. While not quite as interesting, Binet is not without intrigue. He hailed from a wealthy family and held a degree in law, but not psychology, though it was the latter field he would dedicate much of his life too. His first forays involved the attempted reformation of Mesmerism in a grand theory of hypnosis Binet put forth while working at the famed Salpetriere asylum.

After Binet's theories concerning hypnotism were widely debunked by the early 1890s, he began exploring a closely related subject: suggestibility. In fact, Binet conducted the first published study of suggestion. For those of you unaware, the process of using suggestion on a subject in a hypnotic state forms the basis of the modern concept of false memory. Thus, Binet is a kind of great-grandfather to false memory-syndrome. Like Galton, he was also one of the earliest researchers to theorize distinct personality types as well.

Bizarrely, Binet was also a playwright. He collaborated on two scripts with Andre de Lorde, who was known as the "Prince of Terror." The scribe spent much of his career writing for the Grand Guignol, a theater in Paris specializing in grizzly horror productions. The theater is seen as a precursor to modern day splatter horror films. Binet contributed plays in which insanity led to brutal murders.

It is his intelligence testing that he is known to posterity for, however. Binet's famed intelligence tests actually grew out of early tests that consisted of what we would now think of as personality profiles. In theory, these were unsuccessful, but at the turn of the twentieth century Binet developed a way to effectively gauge intelligence. Binet was inspired by Galton's early forays, but he differed from Sir Francis in the nature vs nurture debate. Where Sir Francis believed it all came down to what we now know as genes, Binet felt nature was far more significant.

In 1904, Binet was tapped to join a commission to study subnormal intelligence among children. Universal education had recently become mandatory in France and the government sought a means of identifying mentally handicapped children that needed special education. By 1905, Binet and an associate developed the first formal intelligence test. Additional revisions were made in 1908 and 1911, the year of Binet's death.

Binet's tests would prove to be far more influential in the Anglo-American world. In the UK, they were embraced by the educational psychologist Sir Cyril Burt. His father had been a country doctor who treated the aging Francis Galton. Burt idolized Galton, bringing him firmly into the nature camp of the ongoing environmental debate. He was an early advocate of intelligence testing, insisting that British students should be rigorously tested at age 11 so as to stream them into schools geared towards either eventual university admission or the ordinary work force. He also reportedly conducted the largest study on identical twins ever in an attempt to resolve the nature vs nurture debate. Unsurprisingly, Burt came down firmly in the nature camp. His results were later discredited, and by Arthur Jensen no less. Jensen was one of several reputable scientists who received funding from the Pioneer Fund, the principal post-WWII American outfit supporting eugenics. Despite Jensen's criticism of Burt, other Pioneer-backed researchers such as William Shockley would go to great lengths to redeem Burt's twin research during the following decades.

But back to the intelligence tests. It was across the pond, in the States, that Binet's intelligence tests gained their most devoted following. During the decade of 1910-1920, which witnessed the first World War, the concept of human engineering became en vogue in the States. In essence, this was the use of scientific principles and technical methods to social and educational processes associated with social order. The chief visionary behind this scheme was the Rockefeller Foundation-backed social scientist Robert Yerkes. Using his work on primates as a basis, Yerkes further developed the concept of personality and how it could be used to maintain social order. This came to a head with a massive and largely forgotten study conducted during the First World War that has proven to be highly influential. But we'll get to that in a moment.

As for intelligence testing, it had two principal backers in the States during the second decade of the twentieth century. The first was psychologist and eugenicist Henry Goddard, another figure subsidized by the Rockefeller family. Goddard was the first individual to translate Binet's test into English. He began administering it during his time running the Vineland School for Feeble-Minded Girls and Boys, the first known laboratory established to study intellectual disability. Goddard saw Binet's test as an invaluable means of detecting the feebleminded at a young age so that they could be separated from the general population. Goddard also advocated intelligence testing be given to immigrants arriving at Ellis Island to screen out the mentally defective. While Goddard took a more moderate approach than many of his colleagues, his research nonetheless played a crucial role in the forced sterilization laws instituted in the US during the 1920s as well as the 1924 Immigration Act that largely restricted immigration to individuals of Anglo or Nordic descent.

The other major backer of intelligence testing was far more interested in the other end of the spectrum. He was another psychologist with ties to Rockefeller interests. He was Stanford University's Lewis Terman. In 1916, he issued the Stanford revision to Binet's test, the most comprehensive English-language adaptation of Binet's test. As such, from there on out, the intelligence scale was known as the Stanford-Binet. It remains the most popular intelligence test in North America to this day. Terman also did the first formal study on gifted children, making him the grandfather of the modern American gifted program.

But before getting to that, we need to consider a military project many of the individuals I just mentioned were linked too. In 1916, the largest amount of intelligence testing in human history was conducted. It was administered to nearly two million men in the US Army as they prepared to depart for Europe. Based upon Binet's test and Terman's adaptations, two separate tests emerged: Army Alpha and Army Beta. All recruits were given the Army Alpha test. Those that failed were given the Beta test, or some simplified version on the Binet test.

The purpose of these tests was to establish which recruits possessed the intelligence necessary for officer training or other specialized fields in the Army. Conversely, those who scored poorly were seen as ideal cannon fodder. This established the notion that "psychometric" principals should serve as the basis for an individual's role and responsibility in the United States. What this means, is that if you cannot score higher than an arbitrary number on a standardized test, you should accept a life of servitude, at best, and grease for the war machine at worst.

The funny thing about these tests is that you never hear anything about them anymore. In theory, they proved to be inconclusive. And yet, the Alpha/Beta model is lovingly cited by gifted program experts like Terry Cross as a major influence on the program. And certainly, the gifted program appears to reflect a similar modus operandi: namely, highly intelligent children are singled out and given special training via various school programs for an eventual role in leadership or crucial professions. Everybody else is given the skills necessary to be a good worker or soldier. I speculate that this is the foundation for all later personality profiles as well: Are you an alpha or beta? Are you meant to rule or manage, or serve and bleed?

In case you're wondering about *A Brave New World* connection, all I can say is that I'm right there with you. For those of you unaware, the famous novel uses the Alpha-Beta terminology for what's basically a caste system is Huxley's dystopia. As is well-known, Aldous Huxley's family were well known for their support of eugenics. And they certainly had a soft spot for Sir Francis Galton. And Huxley certainly would have encountered the Binet-Stanford test in Dartington School, which he became fascinated with during the mid-1930s. But, this was after *A Brave New World* was completed. So, all I can say is that, I don't know. It is interesting to note, however, that he encountered a certain American psychologist at Dartington named William Sheldon. Sheldon had some novel theories, which I'll get to in a moment. At Dartington, he tried to develop a "psychological nursery" where children were categorized through an association of their physiology and psychology. Huxley was impressed and became a major backer of Sheldon's. But, I digress.

Okay, let's step back a moment. Remember, this test was administered in the middle of a decade that witnessed the rise of "human engineering." The leading figure behind this concept was Robert Yerkes. Yerkes was a part of the group of psychologists who created the Army Alpha test, along with Goddard and Treman. Another individual who worked on the Army Alpha test, the psychologist David Wechsler, later created his own influential IQ test. This Army Alpha test was at the heart of the push for human engineering. And it was largely being driven by the Rockefeller family. Yerkes, Goddard, and Terman were all highly subsidized by the Rockefellers. This was part of an ongoing effort to harness the life and social sciences towards the goal of creating a more efficient industrial workforce. For obvious reasons, locating the future managers were a crucial part of this. Rockefeller monies largely created the modern life and social sciences between the World Wars for this purpose. What's more, a lot of this research was carried out at five universities: Columbia, the University of Chicago, the University of Wisconsin, Cal Tech, and Stanford. Keep those institutions in mind as we shall encounter them time and again throughout this episode. For more on this fascinating subject, see Lily E. Kay's *The Molecular Vision of Life*.

So much for intelligence testing. Before moving along to the gifted program proper, I need to address a few points. First off, the presence of the Rockefellers and why they may have been sponsoring this kind of research. No doubt many grandiose explanations can be thrown around, but I think pragmatism is the most practical one in this case. The early 20th century was not a great time for the Rockefellers. Standard Oil was targeted with anti-trust litigations during the first decade, resulting in its break up. Then, in 1914, the Ludlow Massacre occurred. The incident unfolded in Colorado, where a combination of National Guardsmen and private guards open fired upon over a thousand striking miners and their families. Some 21 people died, including women and children. This led to a running gunbattle between the Guard and the miners stretching across a 225 mile front. Eventually, federal troops had to be deployed.

Needless to say, Ludlow was a disaster for the Rockefeller family. What's more, it was becoming more and more evident that the old ways of social control were becoming less effective against an increasingly more educated populace. And this was coming on top of the ongoing transition from an agrarian to industrial society. The point being, new methods of social control, and a means for creating a compliant industrial work force, were desperately needed by the second decade of the twentieth-century.

As for why the Rockefellers chose to harness the sciences, both life and social, for this ends, I think this was rooted in the family's rise and where their wealth came from. The major backer of this type of research, especially during the Cold War, was the Ford family. While most of America's longstanding ruling families hail from the New England area and principally made their fortunes through banking or related industries, the Rockefellers and Fords were a little different. They both hailed from the Midwest originally and neither built a fortune off of finance. The Rockefeller fortune came from oil while Ford's came from cars. Both were closely tied to the industrial revolution, which in turn was driven by rapid technological developments. What I'm saying is that both families owed their fortunes to science much more so than their New York counterparts. As this type of innovation led to their family dynasties, it may have seemed logical to fund the same type of innovation for social control.

Now, the second point I want to get into is the overriding inspiration behind a lot of this research: Sir Francis Galton. This is equally true of the life sciences, which with ample Rockefeller funding discovered genetics during the mid-twentieth century. Galton had long ago theorized similar notions. What's more, a lot of our modern day intelligence and personality testing, gifted program, statistics, and even predictive modeling, have their origins with Galton. And of course, he was instrumental in enshrining the theory of evolution as a kind of secular religion. Galton is often depicted as a brilliant, if highly eccentric individual who's relevancy ceased long ago. This could not be further from the truth. Within the scientific community of that era, and probably still now, he had the status of a saint if not a demigod.

So, was there a conspiracy afoot? He was a Freemason after all and the Masons have had a longstanding interest in the Royal Society and the advancement of science in general. Or a certain type of Freemason, anyway. And that's the problem with Byzantine conspiracies of everything.

See, Freemasonry is not a uniform ideology, despite what many conspiracy theorists may claim. Going back to its roots, there are distinct differences between the British and Celtic approaches to Freemasonry, especially the Scottish variety. This subject really warrants an entire show to do it justice, but in brief: British Freemasonry did support the sciences strongly and does appear to have embraced a kind of secular humanistic creed by the eighteenth century, though probably not to the extent many would have you believe. But Celtic Masonry, which would achieve greater influence Continental Europe? It was largely steeped in mysticism and esotericism. This led to frequent clashes with the British Masons. Celtic Masonry tended to be more agreeable with Catholicism as well. The Scottish Rite largely grew out of the Jacobite movement, which was heavily subsidized by the Vatican. You can see reflections of this in the reverence it has for Catholic military orders. During the Jacobite revolts, the Vatican-sponsored Scottish Masons frequently squared off against their British counterparts.

So, what does this have to do with Galton? Well briefly, education, especially in the US by the nineteenth century, was largely dominated by the Catholic Church. Most institutions of higher education were often managed by Jesuits. British Masonry via the Royal Society was beginning to pushback against this state of affairs and the theory of evolution constituted a crucial blow against the Vatican. Galton made a logical patron saint against this backdrop. Unfortunately, this gradually seems to have resulted in religion that held eugenics as a crucial founding stone. But the Catholic component of this is widely glossed over by prominent critics of universal education such as John Taylor Gatto. He's not wrong in suggesting it's a means of social control. It's just that it didn't start with the Age of Enlightenment. The Vatican figured out controlling education was crucial to controlling society at large centuries beforehand. British Masonry was pushing back against this stranglehold with state-sponsored public schools and the like. And that doesn't make them the good guys any more than the traditionalists. They both had agendas that did not include the public's best interests.

And now, we come to final point I wanted to make before moving along. I know that when I uttered the words "alpha" and "beta," the first thing that came to some of your minds is "Monarch." And we haven't even gotten to the special schools or the pedophilia yet.

Folks, to the best of my knowledge, there is no Project Monarch and there has been one. I know that's a tough pill for a lot of people to swallow, but Hank Albarelli firmly convinced me of this years ago. Hank tracked down the originator of the Monarch narrative, who acknowledged that it was a hoax. I would say disinformation is more apt.

And that brings me to another point that needs to be emphasized here: The best disinformation often has a basis in reality. As incredible as many of the mythos surrounding Monarch may be, I'm convinced that a lot of this stuff does have a basis in reality. We're going to get into that over the course of this episode at length and I think this is really going to shock some of the more discerning listening to this. But nonetheless, this does not change the fact that Monarch is an especially malicious piece of disinformation that has ruined peoples' reputations and sanity in equal measures. Further, it has thrown ill repute on a field of research that should be taken far more seriously. A lot of the information I'm getting on this stuff is taken from a standard psychology textbook called *Pioneers of Psychology*. Like a lot of the more nefarious aspects of the ruling elite, a lot of this stuff has been hiding in plain sight for decades now in credible, scholarly works. But why bother with that stuffy crap when you've got Cathy O'Brien, right? Hence the reason why this stuff can be hidden in plain sight. Clearly, the powers that be didn't have a lot of respect for the capabilities of the Betas, and as far as I can see, they were not wrong in this assessment. Now, with that being said, let us move along.

**Gifted Program -Early Days**

Alright, so, giftedness. The concept largely originated with Lewis Terman, who had been a child prodigy. Terman's experiences of passing through school at an accelerated rate led him to the conclusion that some children had unnaturally high IQs that led them to become unusually capable adults. To test his theory, Terman first began applying the Binet intelligence test to famous historical personalities to access their childhood IQs. In other words, was greatness evident at young age via IQ?

Naturally, Terman's first subject was Galton, whom he applied a childhood IQ of 200 too. No doubt Galton would have been greatly pleased with this on a number of levels. Soon he did similar studies on men like Darwin and Kant and found more evidence of high childhood IQs. This led Treman to the conclusion that had the Binet test had been available in the past, most intellectually prominent individuals would have achieved high IQ scores as children.

To test this theory, Terman launched his most extensive and famous research study. During the 1920s, Terman and his students tested more than 250,000 California school children with variations on the Binet test. Of this subject sample, Terman and company identified a little over 1500 children whom they dubbed "gifted" due to them scoring over 140 on the intelligence test. Terman and company would continue to investigate all aspects of this groups' lives at regular intervals for decades. Long after Terman himself died, the research continued by his successors, following the subjects into old age. This is perhaps the most extensive longitudinal study of a single group ever conducted by psychologists.

By and large, Terman's theories were born out. Statistically speaking, Terman's gifted kids did extremely well. Many became professionals who achieved national and even international fame. More than 30 became eminent enough to be listed on *Who's Who*. On the whole, they were better educated, more financially successful, healthier, and happier than the national average. However, few achieved major accomplishments in the creative arts, none won Noble prizes, or achieved the status of true genius. Subsequent studies have registered similar results. On the whole, gifted kids tend to be more successful and capable than the average person, but not necessarily capable of true greatness. Incidentally, this would make them an ideal managerial class: Component and dedicated task masters who were not overly creative. In other words, they could uphold the status quo expertly, but not seriously challenge it.

Terman's study has been described as the most important study on the field of giftedness ever conducted. It of course largely conceived of the notion of giftedness in the first place, as well as the rise of standardized testing in public schools. There's another aspect of Treman's study that is important and little acknowledged: while being carried out all over California, it was based out of Stanford, in the San Francisco-Santa Cruz area. As we shall see, this whole region is crucial to the history of the gifted program, and many other things. For instance, the funding of the social sciences was largely taken up by the Ford Foundation during the Cold War. This led to the ultimate discipline of social control: behavioral science. The concept of behavioral science was almost entirely driven by the Ford Foundation, which established the first research center dedicated solely to it in 1954: the Center for the Advanced Study in Behavioral Science. It's location? Stanford University.

Interestingly, the first head of the Center was an educator named Ralph W. Tyler, who is credited with developing the "rational curriculum" adopted by schools during the 1960s. Naturally, Tyler also had an interest in gifted children, though he was less hung up on IQ than some of his predecessors. Interestingly, he was also instrumental in developing a student's personal record or file. Many of you were probably threatened with having some slip up entered into your personal record during your school years. I certainly did. You have Tyler to thank for this. He urged the creation of personnel files on students to collect personal data that would later be introduced into a computer. Basically, data harvesting began in earnest in America during the 1960s via public education. Keep in mind, Cambridge Analytica grew out of an outfit called the Behavioral Dynamics Institute, dedicated to Behavioral Science. Just like the Center Tyler was heading years prior. At Stanford, where the Internet would initially be developed by the then-linked SRI. Interesting, right? But, back to the gifted program.

Terman's research unfolded during the interwar years. Between that and the Depression, it's not entirely surprising that not much was done with the gifted until after the Second World War. Further bolstering the case of the gifted was the rise of the technocrat during WWII. All major institutions needed to be subjected to scientific management applied by men trained in elite academic environments. And who better to become the technocrats of tomorrow than the gifted kids?

Officially, the gifted program didn't begin in earnest until 1958, with the passage of the National Defense Education Act. Note, it was driven by military concerns from the get go. This went back to the following year, when the Soviets launched Sputnik. In theory, this set off a panic among the America elite as they realized we were losing the space race. This led to a perception that our efforts to craft future mathematicians and scientists was not up to snuff. Thus, the act resulted in an early version of the gifted program.

That's the official narrative anyway. But it would seem that pilot programs and related efforts were already underway well before then. For instance, during the mid-1950s, our friends at the Ford Foundation established the College Board Advanced Placement Program, more commonly known as the AP program. I went through this in high school and I suspect many of you listening did as well. AP is a kind of proto gifted program that allows students to take college level courses while still in high school. This laid the foundation for an educational ideology later dubbed "Accelerationism." Accelerationism is bantered around a lot by followers of Warwick University's Cybernetic Culture Research Unit, or Ccru. In the case of the Ccru, they saw Accelerationism as the de-regulation of capitalism for the purposes of advancing the speed of technological achievement. Academic Accelerationism is somewhat similar. Basically, it puts forth the notion that kids need to be allowed to learn as quickly as they are able to. And if they need to be skipped ahead by grades and put in college courses early to achieve this, so be it. Ccru Accelerationism is the rapid advancement of technology, while academic Accelerationism is the rapid advancement of the mind. Certainly, there is some overlap in the two goals. But I digress.

**Breen and Sheldon**

Besides the AP program, there were some even stranger early gifted programs at play during the 1950s. Easily the most infamous involves Walter Breen. I'm sure that many of you listening to this have some degree of familiarity with Breen, but for the blissfully uninitiated, here is a brief rundown:

His early years are a bit mysterious. It's generally agreed that Breen was born in San Antonio, Texas, but three separate dates have been given --1928, 1929, and 1930. He had a birth certificate from each of those years. Breen personally claimed that the 1930 date was the correct one. He was abandoned as an infant and adopted not long afterwards. His adoptive parents divorced when Breen was 6. His mother returned to Catholicism and West Virginia. They eventually ended up in Wheeling, which is near Moundsville and it's striking prison I did a blog on the weirdness of this area back in November 2021 I'd urge you guys to check out.

Anyway, Breen enlisted in the Army Air Force in October 1946. He was sent to the Lakeland Air Force base, near San Antonio, for training. Breen may have been subjected to the Army Alpha test during this point. Moria Greyland, his daughter, states that his service records place his IQ at 144. Obviously ,this is unusually high. She also notes that his military career was remarkably brief. In December 1946 he was beaten up and left for dead by his fellow soldiers. Supposedly, this assault was driven by his homosexuality. Conversely, the highly controversial quantum physicist Jack Sarfatti alleges that Breen told him that he was in a plane crash, but in New Mexico during 1947. Greyland also heard this account, but notes there is absolutely no evidence of it. The incident would have occurred during the time of the Roswell incident, interestingly enough. Breen also claimed to have been abducted by UFOs. Unsurprisingly, evidence of this is lacking as well. Thus, the plane story seems like an exercise in mythmaking.

What's not disputed is that Breen experienced severe head trauma from the beating. This led him to develop amnesia, experience periodic breakdowns and generally remain hospitalized in VA facilities for the next 4 years. He claimed to have acquired his gamed photographic memory during this time as well. He also became fascinated by coins and developed a vigorous correspondence with several well known numismatics specialists dealing in the collection of currency, especially coins. It was through these connections that Breen landed his first serious job researching coins circa 1950. He did several gigs in this capacity, one at the National Archives.

In 1951, Breen entered John Hopkins University and graduated the following year with a BA in mathematics. Even though he took accelerated courses, this was still a remarkable feat. He also joined various clubs, including an early version of Mensa, and continued to work as a numismatic on the side. It's interesting to note that this is unfolding during the Korean War. At the time, John Hopkins housed the Army's Operations Research Office, later renamed the Research Analysis Corporation. During the Korean War, it's staff was tasked with assessing the effectiveness of field operations, bombing tactics and psychological warfare operations. As to the later, they interviewed a considerable amount of North Korean POWs to gauge the effectiveness of the Army's psych war operations.

This is very interesting because, as some of you may be aware, a lot of weird stuff was going on with these POW studies and other things related to Korea. Korea was also the first time a lot of the social science research the Rockefeller Foundation had been sponsoring was used on a large scale by the military. Again, this was especially true of the POW studies, several of the extensive ones were carried out by the different branches of the military in conjunction with the CIA. The Air Force was especially active, spearheading Operation REPAIR. One of the key figures in this was Albert Biderman. Part of this research helped Biderman develop what became known as Biderman's "Chart of Coercion." This chart was used by the interrogators at Guantanamo Bay, by numerous cults, and by many self-described cult deprogrammers. This is the kind of data these POW studies were producing. So again, it's interesting Breen is attending John Hopkins during this time. It's also interesting to note that at some point during the 1950s, though likely after Breen graduated, the Army gave John Hopkins nearly half a million dollars to study "chemical warfare agent and toxic compounds" on human subjects.

So yeah, we should have a lot of questions about what went on with Breen between that six year period, spanning 1946-1952. He enters the Army Air Force while still a minor, has a serious head injury, develops amnesia and schizophrenia, spending nearly four years in VA hospitals, then makes wealthy contacts among the world of numismatics, and ends up at an elite university in the midst of psychological warfare research related to Korea. What's more, a lot of this theoretically occurred after Breen scored 144 on his IQ test. Was this a mere Binet-Stanford one, or was it the Army Alpha version. Was Breen selected to be an Alpha?

What can be said is that Breen developed an avid and life-long fascination in science fiction and fantasy during this time as well. He would become a fixture at the early cons and, despite his professed homosexuality, married author Marion Zimmer Bradley in 1964. Bradley of course achieved fame during the early 1980s for *The Mist of Avalon* and the *Darkover* series. They had two children together, and helped establish the Society for Creative Anachronism, one of the first live action role play outfits. After some time around New York state, Breen and Bradley permanently relocated to the San Francisco Bay/Santa Cruz region. They would remain there for the rest of their lives. During the 1980s, they became ordained bishops, being consecrated by a wandering bishop commonly known as Michael Itkin.

Itkin is a really interesting figure in his own right. He was himself consecrated by Christopher Maria Stanley, who was a member of both Peter Levenda's American Orthodox Catholic Church, and the Sovereign Order of Saint John. The later is a pseudo chivalric order claiming lineage from the Medieval Knights Hospitallers via the Russian line. Regardless of their heritage, various incarnations of the group have been implicated in numerous acts of domestic terrorism for decades now. Stanley also consecrated David Ferrie, a mafia-linked pilot and friend to Lee Harvey Oswald long linked to the Kennedy assassination. As for Itkin, he would later consecrate Peter Wilson Lamborn, more commonly known as Hakim Bey. Bey is the visionary behind the Temporary Autonomous Zones that became a reality during the 2020 riots. He's also a co-creator of Ong's Hat, the first alternate reality game, or ARG. Interestingly, Itkin was worked into Ong's Hat. But I digress.

But, let's return to the 1950s and Breen's work on the New York gifted program. He was working out of Columbia at the time and he had a very interesting sponsor: a psychologist named William Herbert Sheldon. Breen had originally come to Sheldon's attention via numismatic circles. Sheldon was a highly regarded one in his own right and for a time he and Breen collaborated together on rare coins. This eventually resulted in their work on the gifted program. Supposedly, Breen broke with Sheldon during the mid-1950s over the latter's alleged anti-Semitism. However, Breen's daughter, Moria Greyland, described Sheldon as a longtime mentor to her father and that Sheldon's name was often spoken of in their household.

Sheldon is a really interesting guy. He developed highly controversial theories such as somatotype and constitution psychology. Somatotype is a kind of taxonomy Sheldon developed in the 1940s. Sheldon believed that the human physique was molded by three fundamental elements he called somatotypes. These elements, which he dubbed ectomorphic, mesomorphic, and endomorphic, led to three distinct body types, which were classified by those names based upon what somatotype dominated in an individual.

With constitutional psychology, Sheldon took things I step further. Here, he claimed that a person's body type was a considerable influence on their temperament, or personality. Naturally, Sheldon's system tended to link attractiveness to desirable characteristics and the reverse to negative ones. Thus, people who were more attractive were probably smarter and more moral as well. Would you be surprised to learn that Sheldon's theories were largely derived from those of Francis Galton, who also believed appearance was indicative of intelligence and other qualities. Galton even proposed a photo archive and "beauty map" of the British public for the purposes of selective breeding.

Sheldon actually made Galton's proposition a reality. Beginning in the 1940s, Sheldon had incoming freshmen at Harvard, Yale, and Princeton, the heart of the American Ivy League, photographed nude in posture photos. Gradually, more and more schools among the top ranks were added. The process continued until the late 1970s, well after Sheldon's theories had been overwhelmingly discredited. There was a fair amount of controversy over Sheldon's nudes as well and repeated efforts have been made to destroy these photographs, which many of the universities still maintained until the 1990s, if not later.

After graduating from Brown University and doing his masters at the University of Colorado, Sheldon ended up doing his PhD work at the University of Chicago. This began a longtime association with various Rockefeller-linked schools. He later taught psychology at both the University of Chicago and the University of Wisconsin in the years leading up to World War II. In the postwar years, Sheldon was long linked to Harvard. But he held the post of "Director of Constitutional Psychology" at Columbia from 1947 till 1959. Columbia was another major Rockefeller school and he was there that he worked with Breen on the gifted program.

It's been widely reported that Breen's role in Columbia's gifted program was related to parapsychology. Gifted kids with "unique" abilities were selected to be a part of Breen's "Superkids" program. Participants included New Agey quantum physicist Jack Sarfatti; and Robert Bashlow, who later published Breen's controversial work *Greek Love*. Sarfatti later alleged that Columbia astronomy professor Lloyd Motz was also involved with the program. This is interesting in light of the fact Motz later initiated a program in 1959 called the Columbia University Science and Honors Program. Honors programs are another variation on the gifted program and this program is also described as a gifted science program by former participants. Regardless, both honors and the gifted programs promote accelerationism for exceptional students. From its inception until 1964, the Columbia program was run by Donald Barr. That would be two-time US attorney general William Barr's father and the man who later hired Jeffrey Epstein to teach math at Dalton. There are rumblings that I have been unable to confirm that Barr specifically hired a lot of former gifted kids to teach at Dalton. Certainly Dalton is a kind of special school.

And in case you're wondering folks, yes, Epstein was in the New York gifted program as a child. In fact, his connection to the gifted program may shed additional light on the murkiest aspect of the Epstein saga, namely his funding of various fringe sciences throughout the twenty-first century. Beginning with his connection to the Edge Foundation and the MIT Media Lab, Epstein made great inroads with the transhumanist movement and became a significant financial backer. As we explore the gifted program further, this will take on an increasingly disturbing light. But more on that in a latter episode.

Let us return to Breen's "Superkids" for a moment. I'm not going to delve to deeply into this subject as I'm sure many of you are aware of this saga from either Jack Sarfatti or Peter Levenda, who was also tapped to join New York's gifted program around 1961. Per Sarfatti, topics Breen discussed with these Superkids included telepathy, remote viewing, UFOs, mutant humans, contact with aliens, and extra dimensions. Sarfatti also alleged that this program was run in conjunction with the Sandia Corporation, a major defense research outfit, for the purposes of developing "super-kids to have paranormal powers and to deal with extra-dimensional intelligence."

Needless to say, not much support has come forward for many of these claims outside of Sarfatti. While there's no question Breen explored some really woo woo subjects with these kids, a link to Sandia has never been made by anyone other than Sarfatti, to the best of my knowledge. Moria Greyland, Breen's daughter, makes no references to Breen ever working with Sandia in any capacity. Sandia does offer variations on the gifted program in the form of STEM --science, technology, engineering, math --programs, but that's about all I can find. Nonetheless, there seems to be a longstanding connection to these various gifted programs and parapsychology that has never been properly explained. I'll put forward one possible explanation for that in a moment.

Another point I want to quibble with is the linkage of Breen's program with the purported special school prominent American novelist and UFO contactee Whitley Strieber has alleged to have attended during the 1950s. Strieber first started making these claims in his 1997 work *The Secret School*. He further elaborated on these experiences in a 2003 blog entitled "The Boy in the Box" published on his official website, which I will include a link too. Basically, Strieber recalled being taken to a special school for bright boys in Monterrey, Mexico during the 1950s. He felt the experience was odd, and later came to suspect it might have been a series of screen memories to cover up experimentation done to him at Randolph Air Force Base. Strieber grew up in San Antonio, where the base is near. He later attended another secret school in San Antonio's Olmos Basin run by "The Visitors." They apparently took the form of nuns whom Strieber remembers as the Sisters of Mercy. I should point out that Streiber makes no mention of the Mexico sojourn in *The Secret School*, however. They came later, after knowledge of The Finders became more widely known. And possibly after he started speaking to Peter Levenda. I'll get to The Finders below.

There's a lot about Strieber's story that's intriguing. Rumblings of special schools in Mexico first started making the rounds with one of the earliest and most controversial accounts of the JFK assassination, the Torbitt document. While most likely Soviet disinformation, it remains of interest on a lot of levels. One of the figures mentioned in Torbitt is a wandering bishop variously named John Howard Bowen or Albert Osborne. He's said to be a close associate of Fred Lee Crisman, another wandering bishop and infamous figure in Ufology. Crisman played a controversial role in the Maury Island incident, right at the dawn of the modern UFO era. While Crisman was certainly a real figure, the jury is still out on Osborne. Torbitt described him as running a school out of Texmelucan in the state of Pueblo, Mexico. As Osborne was supposedly a Nazi, the reader is left with impression this was some type of Hitler youth thing.

Later, references to a special school in Mexico appeared in The Finders scandal. For those of you unaware, The Finders were a New Agey cult steeped in the human potential movement implicated in child sex trafficking during the 1980s. Strieber would later link his experiences with The Finders allegations. While there may be some veracity to The Finders claims, nothing has ever confirmed the Torbitt allegations or Strieber's. And given Strieber's history of pushing dubious narratives, I believe a lot of caution is warranted with these claims.

If I'm being perfectly blunt, I think *The Secret School* is a work of fiction Strieber even teases this throughout. For instance, Mars, the alleged face near Cydonia, Martian are addressed throughout the work. Elsewhere, the head Sister of Mercy and head of Strieber's school is named "Carter." John Carter anyone, the famous Edgar Rice Burroughs hero? Carter is an American Civil War veteran who ends up on Mars where he became a warlord. Themes like telepathy and astral travel, also present throughout *The Special School*, appear frequently in Carter's universe. Cute, right?

That being said, I don't know that *The Secret School* should be totally discounted. At a minimum, Strieber surely based much of this material upon Sarfatti's claims, which he had been publishing online since the mid-1990s at least. Some of Strieber's claims, such as the role time travel played in the program, are in line with many of Sarfatti's long standing obsessions. Interestingly, time travel also plays heavily into the ideology of the previously mentioned Cybernetic Cultural Research Unit. I don't want to get to sidetracked by the woo, but one last point I want to make: Strieber suggests at a few point that the kids at this special school, which he would have attended circa the 1953-54 period, were at times wearing what he describes as proto virtual reality helmets with goggles. He even suggests these helmets were how he was able to travel to Mars, i.e. he may have been experiencing some type of early video game or some to that effect. We'll return to this, so do keep it in mind.

One other thing about *The Secret School* I want to throw out there: an interesting way to view Strieber's "secret school" is as a memory palace. Later in the work, Strieber describes how remembering the school in depth enables him to travel through time. The psychic ventures to Mars and other interstellar places described earlier in the work have shades of what is known as theurgy, or astral magick, to them. I'm reminded of Francis Yates' description of Bruno's memory system in *The Art of Memory*. In brief, she argued that Bruno had developed a means of using his mind palace as a way of enabling his consciousness to ascend through the planetary spheres while also calling down the forces inhabiting these regions. This is kind of in keeping with the time sorcery practiced by the Ccru or even Kenneth Grant. This further leads me to believe that *The Secret School* is a work of fiction, but one with a dual purpose. But that, i.e. the dual purpose, seems to be true of many works addressing these secret schools, most notably Levenda's *Sinister Forces* books and a few Discordian ones we'll get to later.

With Breen's program, we're on much firmer footing, especially with the account Moria Greyland has provided. Greyland raises another curious obsession of her father's that was likely related to the "Superkids" program, and which has generated little interest. It didn't officially begin until the year after Breen left the Superkids program, however. In 1957, while still at Columbia, Breen launched the "Lonely Genius Club." Its purpose was to pair high IQ bachelors with their female counterparts. Breen apparently had 28 studs lined up for this purpose during that year. His sales pitch involved the promise that when two geniuses married, they often produced little geniuses. Apparently without that quality in both parents, the chances of getting a genius in the family are about one in a million. It's unknown how many women signed up, but my guess is not many. This pure Galtonism and has little scientific basis. But it's exactly the kind of thing Breen's mentor, William Sheldon, promoted.

Breen himself was still continuing with this project after he and Bradley had relocated to the San Francisco area by the late 1960s. Breen, who long described himself as a homosexual, had married Marion Zimmer Bradley in 1964 allegedly as part of his breeding experiment. Originally he had wanted to Bradley to sire children by different IQ fathers for the purposes of observing the differences. Moria Greyland's father was supposed to be a teenager Breen had arranged for this purpose.

Its most interesting that Breen had ended up in San Francisco during this time. As I noted earlier, Stanford was a major funding conduit for the Rockefeller Foundation and instrumental in the discovery of DNA in addition to being instrumental in the nation's first gifted program. It also housed the Center for Advanced Study in Behavioral Science. Until 1969, the Stanford Research Institute, or SRI, was directly tied to the Stanford campus proper. SRI is also located in the San Francisco-Santa Cruz area. It oversaw the famous remote viewing program as well as the Augmentation Research Center, which was instrumental in the development of the Internet.

A guiding light behind all of this was the psychologist and computer scientist J.C.R. Licklidder. The Lick initially over saw the ARPA, the precursor to DARPA, program that produced the ARPAnet. While nominally envisioned as part of the military's command and control network, it was also viewed from the beginning as a means of data mining. Licklidder also oversaw DARPA's Behavioral Science office concurrently and later projects such as Cambridge indicate that the ARPAnet was also viewed as a means of compiling data for the purposes of predictive modeling --both individuals and society at large.

So, it was an interesting place to breed high IQ babies. In fairness, Breen was always much more closely associated with UC Berkeley rather than Stanford and SRI. But there was frequent overlap in the circles around these different schools. The Fundamental Fysics Groups, major proponents of quantum physics and featuring Breen's former Superkid Jack Sarfatti, had interactions across all three institutions, for instance.

Further, there's no evidence that Breen's activities were formally sponsored by any institution or agency. But given the ongoing obsession with selective breeding among certain elite circles, one can't help but wonder who was monitoring Breen's efforts. Breen and Bradley both moved among the science fiction community in California, which included several prominent writers in the field. Interestingly, one was Robert A. Heinlein, who's work had an enormous influence on the counterculture and libertarian movements in equal measures. A lot of his latter works centered upon the character of Lazarus Long, a figure nearly immortal. Long gained his longevity out of a breeding program started around World War One. I can't help but wonder if Heinlein was partially inspired by tales he heard from Breen or others around Stanford. But I digress.

For now, we need to talk about the 800 pound pink elephant in the corner: pedophilia. As I'm sure many of you are aware, Breen was a lifelong advocate of pedophilia. He was an early and vigorous member of the North American Man-Boy love Association, or NAMBLA and authored one the classic works on pedophilia dubbed *Greek Love*. His wife was also an advocate and both sexually abused their children. In fact, Breen had a long history of sexually abusing children, going back to the 1950s. Nor was any of it really hidden. What's more, Michael Itkin, the bishop who ordained Breen and Bradley, as well as several of the other priests connected to him, have all been implicated in pedophilia. Moria Greyland goes into this at length in *The Last Closet*. There are also lengthy and graphic legal depositions that lay bare the extent of Breen and Bradley's depravity.

That being said, there are no indications that Breen ever abused any of the Superkids in the Columbia program. This needs to be emphasized. No one has ever come forward with allegations of abuse in this capacity. However, one of Breen's former charges in this program, Robert Bashlow, *did* publish *Greek Love* and remained a longtime supporter of Breen's. But again, there are no indications of sexual abuse among these kids, at least by Breen or anyone else while they were in the program.

What is interesting and little remarked upon about this whole horror show is how it led to a quiet tolerance of pedophilia in Zine culture as a kind of early manifestation of edge lordisms. To understand what I'm getting at, we need to go back to the origins of the 'Zines, which were in science fiction. Pretty much all the early fanzines were sci-fi oriented. Both Breen and Bradley were active participants 'Zines, as well as the science fiction conventions that grew out of them. At the time, the principal audience for science fiction were children. Hence, this was a great way for a guy like Breen to make contact with children. Nor was he the only pedophile operating in these circles. So, from the very beginning of 'Zine culture, there was this underbelly.

Fast forward to the 1970s. Zines become increasingly counterculture oriented, especially after Discordians start launching their own 'Zines to promote *The Illuminatus* trilogy. Then came the Church of the Subgenius, a Discordian offshoot that was wholly spawned by the 'Zines. But there's an underbelly here, and the same one involving Breen. Consider a figure like Hakim Bey, who was very much a part of this Discordian and Subgenius milieu. He was also, like Breen, a member of NAMBLA and a major advocate of pedophilia. And he did this throughout the 'Zines.

Then there's Kerry Thornley himself. In one 'Zine, Kerry wrote: "It's hard to imagine how gentle paedophilic attentions could be damaging to children in a social context free of hysteria about sex. Indeed, many cultures permit degrees of adult-child erotic interaction considered deviant in ours." Kerry also penned a poem, "Jail Bate Blues," celebrating the subject. While there's scarce evidence of Kerry acting on these impulses, he has been described as an apologist for pedophilia, due to his sexual idealism of course. I say evidence of Kerry engaging in pedophilia is scarce, but there is one strange instance: Adam Gorightly recounts how Kerry fondled the 8 year old daughter of Grace Zabriskie. Apparently, it was all in good gun and part of Kerry's philosophical approach to sex. For those of you unaware, Grace Zabriskie is an actress most well known for playing the mother of Laura Palmer in *Twin Peaks*.

This soft advocacy of pedophilia would continue well into the twenty-first century, most notably via infamous Discordian troll Reverend Loveshade. Among other things, he ran multiple websites arguing against age of consent laws, purely on principle, throughout the '00s. Elsewhere, he includes nudes of children and the like in publications he issued.

Further muddying the waters are Discordian figures such as Sandra London. London is most well known for her books on serial killers, to say nothing of her relationships with several. Indeed, one could say her works even glorify serial killers and their escapades, purely on the grounds of giving these figures a voice. On the other hand, London's most recent work, *Good Little Soldiers*, is a partially autobiographic account of a kid in one of these programs for special kids. This is especially curious in light of some of the more notorious former gifted kids we'll explore in another installment.

But, how do the Discordians tie into Breen and Bradley? Well, Hakim Bey is also a wandering bishop, and he was consecrated by the same bishop as Breen and Bradley: Michael Itkin. Indeed, Bey was apparently taken enough by Itkin to incorporate him into Ong's Hat, the first alternate reality game. This combined with the membership both Breen and Bey had in NAMBLA raises the strong possibility that they knew one another, combined with both having spent a fair amount of time in the Santa Cruz-San Fran area. Robert Anton Wilson was highly active in this area as well and may have intersected with Breen and Bradley through the Bay area science fiction and alternative religious communities, among other places.

Further, as I noted at the onset of this episode, it seems like a remarkable amount of former gifted kids have been drawn into alternate reality games, which are an outgrowth of Operation Mindfuck, during the twenty-first century. This raises other interesting questions. For instance, a major figure related to the Cicada and QAnon ARGs is Thomas Schoenberger. He spent time in the Bay area throughout his life and was working for UC Berkeley during the late 1970s.In a deposition, he claimed to have a head energy during this time that made his memory of that whole era hazy. This was at a time when a guy like Walter Breen was highly active in that area.

Another interesting network with a strong presence in that region we've already alluded to is the Whole Earth Catalog milieu. Figures like Stewart Brand and John Brockman would later bring Epstein into the whole TED network. By the time the countercultures 'Zines took off in the 1980s, these guys were already on the early versions of the internet. They were yuppies through and through, the corporate face of the '60s counterculture. While the Discordian/SubGenius crowd had *Mondo 2000* and *Boing Boing*, the Whole Earth gang had *Wired*. But there was some interaction and things like Ong's Hat would occasionally find their way into the Whole Earth scene. Interestingly, the Whole Earth was more directly tied to Stanford as well.

And uniting thread is transhumanism. Robert Anton Wilson promoted a proto-version of it in some of his later works, most notably *Prometheus Rising*. That work alone partly inspired a movement known as Extrpoianism. That's basically the libertarian version of transhumanism. It has influenced people such as Hal Finney and Peter Thiel. But in the grand scheme of things, this all goes back to the postwar cybernetics movement. While it's overriding focus were command and control systems, the cyberneticists were the first to ponder man-machine integration. This grew out of the military's use of technology, especially radar, during the war and the effects it had on the operators. The brilliant 2003 German documentary *The Net* makes it clear Brand, Brochman and the whole milieu around the Whole Earth catalog were profoundly influenced by cybernetics. So to were many of the other figures we've encountered, such as J.C.R. Licklidder, the principal visionary behind the ARPAnet. Whether RAW and fellow Discordians in the Bay area were so influenced is debatable, but if *Prometheus Rising* is any indication, it was certainly in the air during that area and era and RAW may have inhaled a time or two.

While on the San Fran area, there's inevitably one last figure I have to bring up: Colonel Michael Aquino. When most people think of Aquino and San Francisco, their minds inevitably turns to the Presidio, where he allegedly engaged in molestation of several kids during the 1980s. These claims are highly controversial and have spawned a whole garden industry of Monarch-centric conspiracy theories around them.

But here's something about Aquino rarely mentioned: his family has deep roots in San Francisco. Aquino himself was born there in 1946 and would remain active in the area throughout his life. But his family ties go back at least to his grandmother, Sophie Ford. Aquino described her as part of the San Francisco aristocracy, rubbing elbows with the likes of the Crocker and Stanford families. His mother, Marian Dorothy Ford, attended Stanford for a time. She allegedly enrolled when she was just 14. Keep in mind, Stanford is where one of the earliest gift programs and studies --the one run by Lewis Terman. Terman's study began sometime during the early 1920s. Aquino's mother, who has been described as showing signs of brilliance in childhood, was supposedly born in 1912. Given her family connections and close proximity to Stanford, could she have been one of Terman's subjects?

The answer to that question is in the affirmative. Apparently, she produced an IQ of 188 at the age of 14. Terman was so impressed with her, he later wrote an introduction for a book of her poems that was never published during her life time. It was Aquino who published them posthumously. He described Terman as a mentor to his mother. This of course also raises the question of whether Aquino himself was a gifted child. Certainly as the son of a childhood prodigy known to the psychologist who developed the concept of giftedness, the possibility seems quite likely. I have been unable to turn up anything as yet, however. It is quite likely that Aquino's mother, as a participant in Terman's gifted program, was tracked her entire life by it. The listener will recall from earlier that Terman's study continued after his death and followed many of his former gifted kids to their own demise. It's one o f the longest psychological studies ever conducted. Were the offspring of Terman's subjects of interest to this program? I suspect so, but I haven't been able to turn up much on this.

At this point, I need to exercise a word of caution here. While the modern gifted program partly grew out of Stanford and the broader San Francisco area, which has also witnessed a curious milieu of pedophiles and their advocates over the years, I've found nothing to indicate that there was a formal program involving abuse. Again, no one has ever accused Breen of abusing any of his Superkids. As far as I can tell, the allegations of abuse involving Aquino did not involve gifted kids. And while Breen's little breeding program was surely inspired by the likes of Galton and Sheldon, there is no evidence that it was anything other than a private hobby. But it sure seems like there's a lot of smoke coming out of the Bay area on this subject, no? So, let's add more fuel to the fire with this next section.

**Puharich and BLUEBIRD**

In case you hadn't guessed, I'm going to start talking about Andrija Puharich now. I know guys listening are familiar with Puharich, but for the uninitiated, here's a brief rundown: sometimes described as the grandfather of the New Age movement, Puharich's lifelong advocacy for esp and entheogens have had undeniably profound influences. Not long after graduating from Northwestern Medical School, Puharich established the Round Table Foundation to study various fringe sciences. He was supported in these endeavors by such figures as Henry Wallace, at one point the vice-president of the United States, various Yankee blueblood families like the Astors and the du Ponts. Interestingly, Puharich allegedly first developed an interest in esp thanks to Warren McCullough, an early and influential member of the cybernetics movement.

On 1952's New Year's Eve, Puharich held what is sometimes referred to as the "Séance that Changed the World." Supposedly, he was contacted by entities who called themselves The Nine. Originally they claimed to be the Grand Ennead of Ancient Egypt, but later revealed to Puharich that they were inter-dimensional, and possibly cybernetic, beings. Regardless of what one thinks of this story, it would prove to be remarkably influential. A cult developed around The Nine. One of the most noteworthy individuals was *Star Trek* creator Gene Roddenberry. References to The Nine appear throughout various *Star Trek* outings, most notably *Deep Space Nine*. It was also during the 1950s Puharich did some interesting work for the national security state that remains shrouded in mystery. At a minimum, it laid the foundation for the later remote viewing experiments at SRI. But we'll get to that in a moment.

Puharich was probably at the height of his influence during the mid-1970s. It was during this time that Puharich was working closely with legendary Israeli stage magician and spy Uri Geller. For a time, Puharich even roped Geller into the saga of *The Nine*. See Puharich's batshit crazy bio of Geller, the aptly named *Uri*. It was also during this time Puharich was running his so-called "Space Kids" program out of a converted farm house in Ossining, New York. A group of kids, ranging from nine to their late teens, were brought there to develop their psychic powers. By most accounts, this was fairly similar to what Breen had been doing with his "Super Kids" some two decades earlier out of Columbia. This has led some, i.e. Jack Sarfatti, to speculate about a connection. And could it be related to Puharich's work for the national security state?

But before getting to that, I need to unpack a few things relating to all the weird shit going on in NYC and New York State by the mid-1950s. First off, Nelson Rockefeller was appointed Undersecretary of Health, Education, and Welfare in 1953. This agency was later split into the Departments of Health and Human Services on the one hand, and the Department of Education, on the other. This was the first time the US had formally tried to establish a department dedicated to education at the federal level and ends up with a Rockefeller heading. This roughly coincides with the beginning of the various gifted programs in New York state, which Nelson was long linked too and which he became the governor of in 1959. Nelson didn't hold the post for long, being bumped up to the so-called "Special Group" in 1954. This was an exclusive committee within the national Security Council largely dedicated to covert operations.

Further, both Projects ARTICHOKE and MK-ULTRA were in full swing by the mid-1950s and were highly active in New York state,. This is most interesting in light of the fact that the Rockefeller Foundation put up at least some funding for MK-ULTRA via the Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology, a front organization set up by the CIA to manage this research. Further, Columbia University was deeply implicated in this research during the 1950s. One of the most notorious CIA/Pentagon LSD contractors, Dr. Harold Abramson, was employed as a professor at Columbia throughout this time. Per H.P. Albarelli in *A Terrible Mistake*, Abramson was experimenting with LSD and mescaline on human subjects at Columbia circa 1953. It is unknown when the experiments began or ended. As Albarelli amply documented in that book and the follow-up, *A Secret Order*, further experimentation was conducted by the Rockefeller-funded New York State Psychiatric Institute, or NYSPI. This outfit was also affiliated with Columbia. At least one death, that of Harold Blauer resulting from mescaline, has been acknowledged. One of the doctors involved in that fiasco was Dr. Sidney Malitz, a professor at Columbia who eventually became Chief of Psychiatric Research at the NYPSI. In *A Secret Order*, Albarelli describes Malitz and several of his colleagues engaged in experiments involving children during the 1950s, though he does not elaborate.

Another figure active in the NYC area directly linked to MK-ULTRA and dosing kids with LSD, was Lauretta Bender. There's no question Bender's research was subsidized by the Society for the Investigation for Human Ecology, but this was not until 1960 or so. Bender was already engaged in a litany of horrendous experimentation involving children by this point, however. Bender frequently used the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children during these tests. The listener will recall that this was another intelligence test similar to Binet-Stanford, and developed by another veteran of the Army Alpha testing. I have not been able to determine how involved Bender was in the development of gifted education, but a visual motor test she developed, called the Bender-Gestalt Visual Motor Test, was routinely given to children throughout the 1960s to the 1990s to screen for giftedness, among many other things.

So, there was certainly a lot of research related to MK-ULTRA connected to Columbia University during the 1950s, potentially even involving kids. And, there was a precedent for such experimentation involving children in NYC during this era. Further, the looming presence of Nelson Rockefeller in national security circles during this time ensured that the CIA would have had the run for New York thanks to his influence there.

Now, let's get to Puharich. Reportedly, there was some type of program, based upon Puharich's research, that was active in NYC during the 1950s. Per Albarelli in *A Secret Order*, it began in 1953 and ran till at least 1963. The main part of this project was training adult women to work as couriers for the CIA and Pentagon. It was said to involve LSD, specifically in regards to narco-hypnosis. There was, however, a component involving teenagers that was said to involve "covert operations and parapsychology of sorts." Specifically, it was said to be related to the CIA's interests in "hypnosis, sleight-of-hand, and telekinesis."

Approval for the project was apparently given in 1952 with operations beginning in1953. This certainly fits with the timeframe of Breen's project. And clearly, both were related to parapsychological studies involving children. And participants such as Sarfatti have even speculated upon a connection between Breen and Puharich during this time.

But there are a few problems. For one, Puharich never worked on MK-ULTRA. All his sponsorship in that regard came from ARTICHOKE. And despite what you've heard, there was no direct connection between MK-ULTRA and ARTICHOKE. They were separate programs, the former run out of the Technical Services Staff, the latter out of the Office of Security. ARTICHOKE predated MK-ULTRA by several years. Unlike MK-ULTRA, which was strictly a CIA project, ARTICHOKE was jointly run by the Pentagon and CIA and had in fact grown out of earlier Pentagon programs. It was formally launched in 1949 as Project BLUEBIRD, but as Hank Albarelli shows in *A Terrible Mistake* and *A Secret Order*, the genesis on BLUEBIRD and ARTICHOKE was likely a Navy program started in 1947. It was known as Pelican.

Outside of Albarelli's work, Project Pelican has rarely been mentioned in the twenty-first century. This is despite it being one of the first behavioral modification programs to be leaked to the public. It's dealt with in Peter Watson's groundbreaking and sadly ignored 1978 work *War on the Mind*. What Watson revealed about Pelican was chilling. It involved Navy personnel being selected for an assassin program and other covert operations. Candidates were strapped into chairs and subjected to a full blown *Clockwork Orange* type procedure. They were drugged, their eyes were clamped open and they were shown videos of African children being murdered and the like. Watson describes this as part of a screening process for "commando units," i.e. special operations forces.

This is in keeping with the second of ARTICHOKE's two objectives. The first, and most well known, involved developing more effective means of interrogation. The second, and rarely addressed aspect, involved the creation of "aggressive soldiers." Nowadays, we would think of this as "super soldiers." Again, this was all happening during the 1947-1949 period, shortly before the US began formally establishing its first special operations forces, the storied Green Berets.

I bring all of this up for several reasons. First, Puharich long claimed that his relationship with the US intelligence community began in 1947, via a Navy program called Penguin. No one has ever been able to confirm the existence of such a program. However, the Navy program Pelican did begin in that year, and it likely involved screen personnel for special operations forces. When Puharich was formally approached by the military about his parapsychological work during 1952 and 1953, he was first approached by the Office of Chief of Psychological Warfare, and later by a Pentagon outfit linked to psychological warfare. The Office of the Chief of Psychological Warfare is actually the modern precursor to the Army Special Operations Command. Psych war officer and special operators under the same command in the Army, and much of the rest of the Pentagon for the matter. Both are considered parts of covert operations. And the latter outfit was a part of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations, the predecessor to the United States Special Operations Command, or SOCOM. What this means is that the initial interest in Puharich's research came from the special operations community and not the intelligence community.

And that may have been the prism through which ARTICHOKE viewed Puharich's research, namely as part of their mandate for super soldiers. Recall that Whitley Strieber claimed to have had a proto-VR helmet put on his head at a special school near a military base in Texas. This actually sounds a bit like Pelican, but designed for a different purpose. Was parapsychology considered in early special operations forces screening? This is pure speculation on my part, but special operations forces, especially those within the Army, have a longstanding interest in these more fringe matters. Remember that Colonel Michael Aquino, a psywar officer, spent much of his career in what became the Army Special Operations Command. And there's Colonel John Alexander, who directed the Army's so-called Jedi Project during the 1980s. Alexander is a special operator and eventual friend of Aquino's.

Finally, there's one last thing about ARTICHOKE I need to address: It was never rolled into MK-ULTRA. Both programs ran concurrently to one another until 1963, when they were spun off into successor programs. There was actually quite a bit of rivalry between the MK-ULTRA and ARTICHOKE personnel. And Puharich was at the center of it.

Throughout the 1950s, the stage magician John Mulholland worked closely with the MK-ULTRA people, most notably Sidney Gottlieb. Why exactly Mulholland was so involved is a bit of a mystery, but he was very close to the Rockefeller family, most especially Nelson. Given the woo woo nature of some of the stuff MK-ULTRA was investigating and Mulholland's background as a debunker, I suspect he was inserted partly to keep an eye on how the Rockefeller funds were being spent.

Mulholland took great issue with Puharich, whom he regarded as a charlatan. Puharich was drummed out of the Army in 1955 and would never formally return to national security circles, probably in no small part due to Mulholland's allegations of fraud. Further, the Rockefeller family seems to have maintained a decades-spanning disdain for Puharich. They would later clash over his free energy research during the 1980s, as the great Christopher Knowles has addressed. Further, this may have been part of a broader struggle between the military, on the one hand, and the Rockefeller family and fellow travelers, on the other, for control of the life and social sciences I spoke of at the beginning of this show. By the 1960s, the military had taken over much of the formal sponsorship of the social sciences. A similar battle appears to be ongoing in the life sciences. John Brisson, Mark for Houastonic Live and myself are going to get into this in an upcoming show on genetics and chemical biological warfare research.

So, would Puharich's work have caught on at a Rockefeller stronghold like Columbia? That's certainly a valid question. The program appears to have been approved before Mulholland began his vendetta against Puharich. Further, I have not seen indications that Puharich was directly involved in the project, but rather it was based upon his research. So, the possibility that Puharich's research was linked to this project being run by Breen and Sheldon cannot be discounted.

Further, as I hope this whole section has illustrated, there was something very weird going on at Columbia throughout this time. You had this gifted program being run by Sheldon that featured a parapsychological aspect directed by Breen. Breen also launches his Mensa breeding program during this time. Elsewhere, a bunch of MK-ULTRA research is being conducted on and in connection with the school. ARTICHOKE has its own program in NYC involving kids as well. And finally, a later gifted science program is launched at the school and run by Donald Barr. Barr later takes over the Dalton School and allegedly hires several former gifted kids to staff it. There was at least one such case of this: Jeffrey Epstein.

As for Barr's Columbia program, it was launched in 1959, the year after the National Defense Education Act was passed. This marked the beginning of establishing gifted programs across the nation to track and cultivate brilliant students. As we've seen from early programs in San Francisco and NYC, there are ample indications that even more sinister aims were at play. We'll explore those more in a future installment. Again, I hope you guys have enjoyed this one. It's very personal to me.