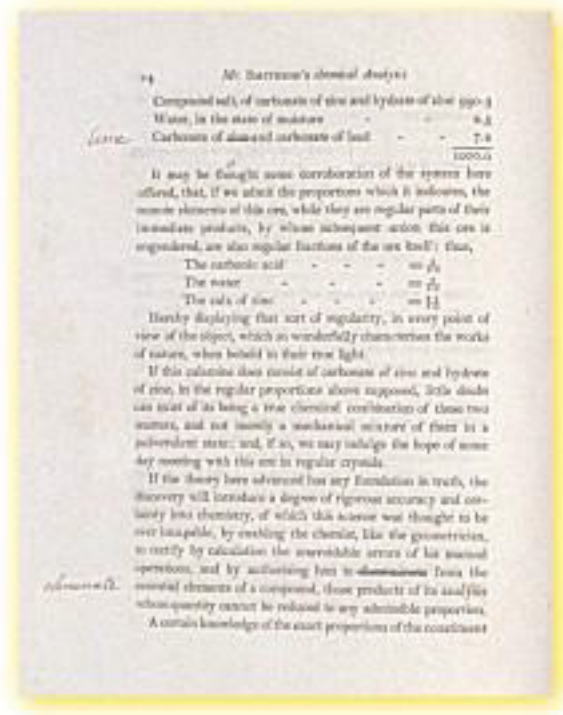


THE INSTITUTION OF JAMES SMITHSON



"I know histry isn't thru, Hinnissy, because it ain't like what I see ivry day in Halsted Street. If any wan comes along with a histry iv Greece or Rome that'll show me th' people fightin', gettin' dhrunck, makin' love, gettin' married, owin' th' grocery man an' bein' without hard coal, I'll believe they was a Greece or Rome, but not befur."



— Dunne, Finley Peter,
OBSERVATIONS BY MR. DOOLEY,
New York, 1902

**“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION,
THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY**



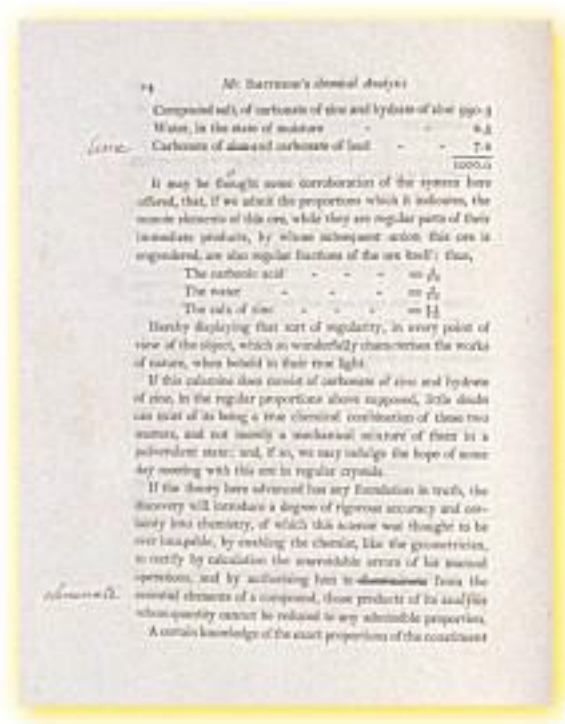
JAMES SMITHSON

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

1829



June 27, Saturday: James Smithson, who had been born in Paris in 1765, died of natural causes in Genoa. When Smithson had made his will, he had been miffed at the snottiness of British nobles to whom he was related by blood: “My name shall live in the memory of man when the titles of the Northumberlands and the Percys are extinct and forgotten.”¹ A minor stipulation in the will, in which he tried to leave everything to friendlier relatives, was that should his beneficiary die without issue, he wanted the estate to be used to create a “[Smithsonian Institution](#)” dedicated to “the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men,” and stipulating also that this institution should be set up in the USA, a country toward which he had never displayed the slightest interest. Presumably the man wasn’t wanting to think of his estate as ever falling into the hands of British snots, French snots, or Italian snots, and supposing that over here in the New World people had become different.²



1. BTW, who the hell are the Northumberlands and the Percys?

2. The Smithsonian Institution, in its current self-promotion, refers to its founding contributor only as “a British experimental scientist.” One wonders what experiments Smithson performed other than an early version of the very simple experiment which was performed by some yuppies who one day in the frenetic 1960s went to the visitor’s gallery of the New York Stock Exchange and proceeded to throw dollar bills down onto the heads of the market representatives below. Refer to the 1993 Smithsonian publication, THE CASTLE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE SMITHSONIAN BUILDING, by Cynthia R. Field, Richard E. Stamm, and Heather P. Ewing of the Office of Architectural History and Historic Preservation, page 1.



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1835



October 15, Thursday: [Richard Henry Dana, Jr.](#) reminisced with old buddies (a favorite passtime of his: we could utilize him as the type case of homosociality) from the days of the “hide crew” who lived ashore in San Diego.

During this period [Halley's Comet](#) was appearing 60 degrees north of the sun. Because of its positioning this time, it would be visible all night every night crossing the northern sky. Its tail would grow to 30 degrees.

SKY EVENT

AND NOW, FOR SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT, A REPORT FROM OUR SAILOR:

Thursday, Oct. 15th. Found here the Italian ship *La Rosa*, from the windward, which reported the brig *Pilgrim* at San Francisco, all well. Everything was as quiet here as usual. We discharged our hides, horns, and tallow, and were ready to sail again on the following Sunday. I went ashore to my old quarters, and found the gang at the hide-house going on in the even tenor of their way, and spent an hour or two, after dark, at the oven, taking a whiff with my old Kanaka friends, who really seemed glad to see me again, and saluted me as the Aikane of the Kanakas. I was grieved to find that my poor dog Bravo was dead. He had sickened and died suddenly, the very day after I sailed in the *Alert*.





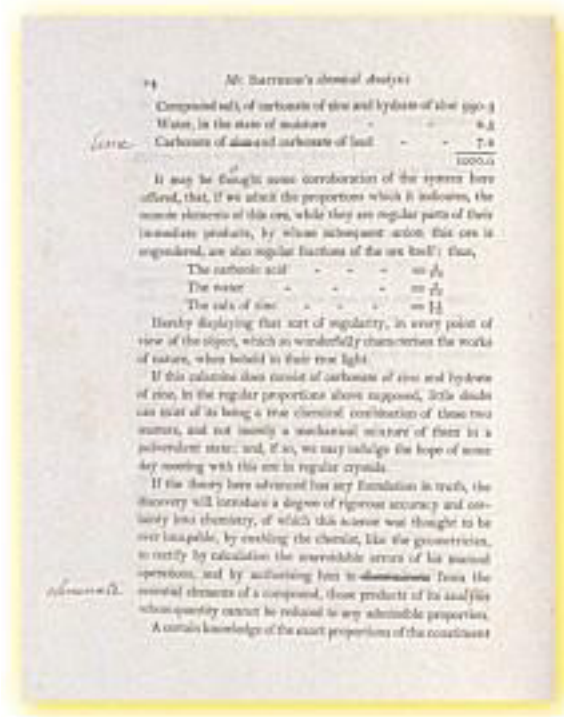
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NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT



December 17, Thursday: President Andrew Jackson inaugurated a decade of angry tugging in the federal Senate over what to do about the James Smithson bequest which would eventually become the “[Smithsonian Institution](#).”



Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

5th day 17th of 12th M 1835 / Attended Meeting which was silent but a pretty good one

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



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JAMES SMITHSON



July 1, Friday: Henry James Hungerford, having died without children, the US Congress finally saw its way clear to accept the money Hungerford's uncle James Smithson, who had died on June 27, 1829, had left in his will, over the protests of various types that the congress lacked the authority to do so and that it would be beneath our dignity to do so. –Money will be money, and the feeding trough known as the “[Smithsonian Institution](#)” was on its way.

Water was let into the first stretch of the [Erie and Wabash Canal](#).

[Richard Henry Dana, Jr.](#) and the *Alert* began to enter the latitude of Cape Horn.

AND NOW, FOR SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT, A REPORT FROM OUR SAILOR:

Friday, July 1st. We were now nearly up to the latitude of Cape Horn, and having over forty degrees of easting to make, we squared away the yards before a strong westerly gale, shook a reef out of the fore-topsail, and stood on our way, east-by-south, with the prospect of being up with the Cape in a week or ten days. As for myself, I had had no sleep for forty-eight hours; and the want of rest, together with constant wet and cold, had increased the swelling, so that my face was nearly as large as two, and I found it impossible to get my mouth open wide enough to eat. In this state, the steward applied to the captain for some rice to boil for me, but he only got only got a- “No! d--- you! Tell him to eat salt junk and hard bread, like the rest of them.” For this, of course, I was much obliged to him, and in truth it was just what I expected. However, I did not starve, for the mate, who was a man as well as a sailor, and had always been a good friend to me, smuggled a pan of rice into the galley, and told the cook to boil it for me, and not let the “old man” see it. Had it been fine weather, or in port, I should have gone below and lain by until my face got well; but in such weather as this, and short-handed as we were, it was not for me to desert my post; so I kept on deck, and stood my watch and did my duty as well as I could.

**LIFE IS LIVED FORWARD BUT UNDERSTOOD BACKWARD?
— NO, THAT’S GIVING TOO MUCH TO THE HISTORIAN’S STORIES.
LIFE ISN’T TO BE UNDERSTOOD EITHER FORWARD OR BACKWARD.**



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May 9, Wednesday: A lawyer representing the government of the United States of America obtained an order from the British Court of Chancery, for the debentures bequeathed by James Smithson for the creation of a “[Smithsonian Institution](#)” dedicated to “the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.” This lawyer would convert all the debentures into gold sovereigns and pack these sovereigns into ten, maybe more, cases weighing a thousand pounds each, evidently to carry this half-million in gold back across the Atlantic with his baggage in the hold of the passenger ship! When the US treasury would get its hands on these sovereigns, it would of course before anything else have to melt them down and cast them into proper money, coin of the realm, that is, US coins.³ Whereupon they would give these bright coins to various states in exchange for bond issues, and many of these paper promises would promptly go into default and lose a good portion of their value. And meanwhile persons such as Joel R. Poinsett of the private National Institute for the Promotion of Science would be full of good ideas about how to spend all that money, or what of it was left.

3. Would this be a precedent for the money laundering that would go on during the Nixon years, with the administration moving stacks of hundred-dollar bills into Mexico and swapping the currency there, so that when brought back to the “Plumbers” safe in the White House for disbursement to operatives, no serial numbers would be traceable? Or would it have been simpleminded chauvinism?



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

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1845

The design team of Robert Dale Owen and David Dale Owen resolved to construct the building to house the [Smithsonian Institution](#) as a castle in a “medieval revival” style which they variously characterized as “Anglo-Saxon,” as “Saxon,” and as “Norman.” (Of course, given the people who were going to provide the main raw resources out of which this stone castle was to be constructed, sweat and tears, it would have been more appropriate had this design team resolved upon some African model of architecture, such as one of the great temples at the bend of the Nile or an East African kraal or some structure in the city of Timbuctoo. But never mind.)

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT



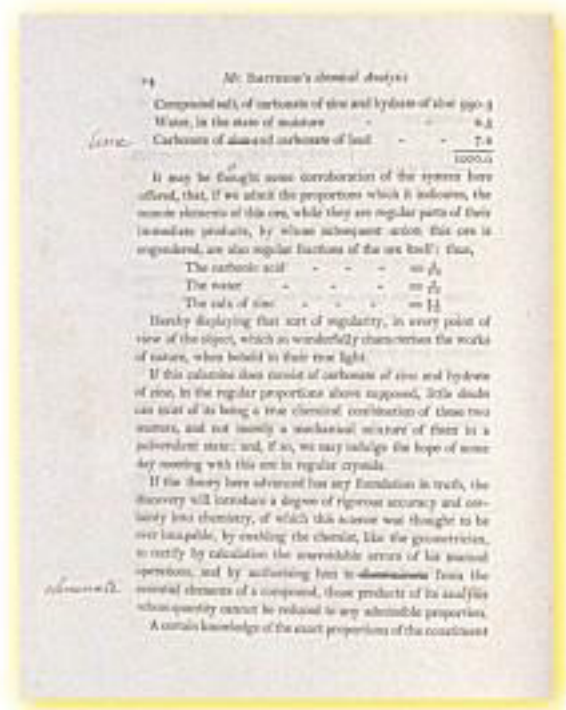


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1846

August 8, Saturday: The federal congress founded at Washington DC the [Smithsonian Institution](#) research institution funded by the bequest of the English scientist who called himself “James Smithson.” Although it was held by John Caldwell Calhoun and other members of Congress that the federal government had no power to accept such a gift, it had finally been secured, largely through the efforts of John Quincy Adams.



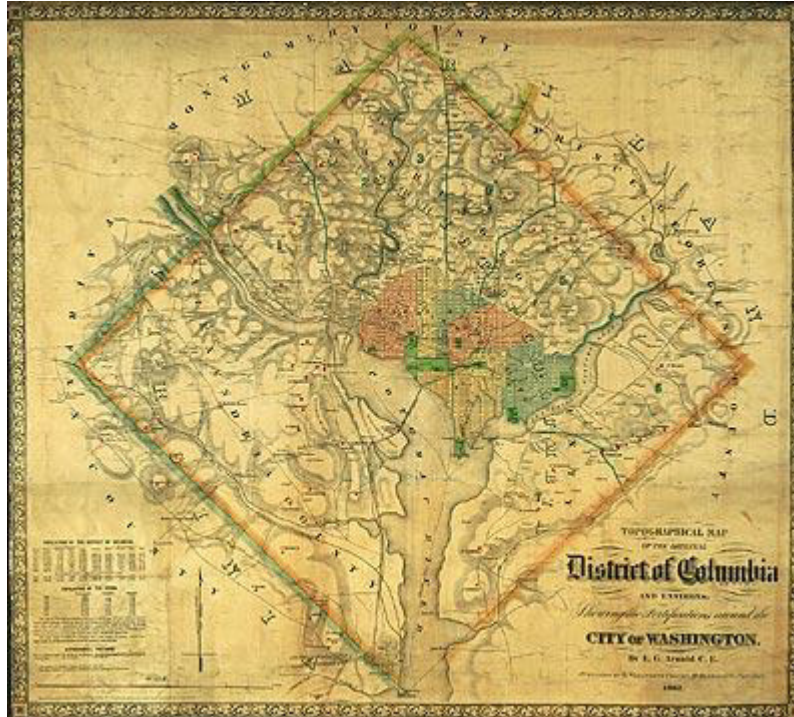
By the way at that point our federal capitol was being termed “the very seat and center of the [slave](#) trade.”



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At that point, also, the city of Alexandria was being given back to the sovereign State of Virginia.



August 10, Monday: In the US Congress, the decade of petty bickering was over and funding arrangements were finalized for the [Smithsonian Institution](#).

“For carrying into effect the acts for the suppression of the slave trade, including the support of recaptured Africans, and their removal to their country.” This appropriation of \$25,000 (STATUTES AT LARGE, IX. 96) would be the last until 1856. “Nearly all of these meagre appropriations went toward reimbursing Southern plantation owners for the care and support of illegally imported Africans, and the rest to the maintenance of the African agency. Suspiciously large sums were paid for the first purpose, considering the fact that such Africans were always worked hard by those to whom they were farmed out, and often ‘disappeared’ while in their hands.” In other words, this appears to have been more of a boondoggle, an avenue for the sharing around of tax dollars among citizens of influence, than an active suppression of the international slave trade.

W.E. Burghardt Du Bois: With the North as yet unawakened to the great changes taking place in the South, and with the attitude of the South thus in process of development, little or no constructive legislation could be expected on the subject of the slave-trade. As the divergence in sentiment became more and more pronounced, there were various attempts at legislation, all of which proved abortive. The pro-slavery party attempted, as early as 1826, and again in 1828, to abolish the African agency and leave the Africans practically at the mercy of the States;⁴ one or two attempts were made to relax the few provisions which restrained the coastwise trade;⁵ and, after the treaty of 1842, Benton proposed to stop appropriations for the African squadron



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until England defined her position on the Right of Search question.⁶ The anti-slavery men presented several bills to amend and strengthen previous laws;⁷ they sought, for instance, in vain to regulate the Texan trade, through which numbers of slaves indirectly reached the United States.⁸ Presidents and consuls earnestly recommended legislation to restrict the clearances of vessels bound on slave-trading voyages, and to hinder the facility with which slavers obtained fraudulent papers.⁹ Only one such bill succeeded in passing the Senate, and that was dropped in the House.¹⁰

The only legislation of this period was confined to a few appropriation bills. Only one of these acts, that of 1823, appropriating \$50,000,¹¹ was designed materially to aid in the suppression of the trade, all the others relating to expenses incurred after violations. After 1823 the appropriations dwindled, being made at intervals of one, two, and three years, down to 1834, when the amount was \$5,000. No further appropriations were made until 1842, when a few thousands above an unexpended surplus were appropriated. In 1843 \$5,000 were given, and finally, in 1846, \$25,000 were secured; but this was the last sum obtainable until 1856.¹² Nearly all of these meagre appropriations went toward reimbursing Southern plantation owners for the care and support of illegally imported Africans, and the rest to the maintenance of the African agency. Suspiciously large sums were paid for the first purpose, considering the fact that such Africans were always worked hard by those to whom they were farmed out, and often "disappeared" while in their hands. In the accounts we nevertheless find many items like that of \$20,286.98 for the maintenance of Negroes imported on the "Ramirez;"¹³ in 1827, \$5,442.22 for the "bounty, subsistence, clothing, medicine," etc., of fifteen Africans;¹⁴ in 1835, \$3,613 for the support of thirty-eight slaves for two months (including a bill of \$1,038 for medical attendance).¹⁵

4. In 1826 Forsyth of Georgia attempted to have a bill passed abolishing the African agency, and providing that the Africans imported be disposed of in some way that would entail no expense on the public treasury: HOME JOURNAL, 19th Congress, 1st session, page 258. In 1828 a bill was reported to the House to abolish the agency and make the Colonization Society the agents, if they would agree to the terms. The bill was so amended as merely to appropriate money for suppressing the slave-trade: HOME JOURNAL, 20th Congress, 1st session, House Bill No. 190.

5. HOME JOURNAL, 20th Congress, 1st session, House Bill No. 190, pages 121, 135; 20th Congress, 2d session, pages 58-9, 84, 215.

6. Congressional Globe, 27th Congress, 3d session, pages 328, 331-6.

7. Cf. Mercer's bill, HOUSE JOURNAL, 21st Congress, 1st session, page 512; also Strange's two bills, SENATE JOURNAL, 25th Congress, 3d session, pages 200, 313; 26th Congress, 1st session, Senate Bill No. 123.

8. SENATE JOURNAL, 25th Congress, 2d session, pages 297-8, 300.

9. SENATE DOCUMENTS, 28th Congress, 1st session IV. No. 217, page 19; SENATE EXECUTIVE DOCUMENTS, 31st Congress, 2d session, II. No. 6, pages 3, 10, etc.; 33d Congress, 1st session VIII. No. 47, pages 5-6; 34th Congress, 1st session, XV. No. 99, page 80; HOUSE JOURNAL, 26th Congress, 1st session, pages 117-8; cf. HOUSE JOURNAL, 20th Congress, 1st session, page 650, etc.; 21st Congress, 2d session, page 194; 27th Congress, 1st session, pages 31, 184; HOUSE DOCUMENTS, 29th Congress, 1st session, III. No. 43, page 11; HOUSE EXECUTIVE DOCUMENTS, 31st Congress, 1st session, III. pt. 1, No. 5, pages 7-8.

10. SENATE JOURNAL, 26th Congress, 1st session, Senate Bill No. 335; HOUSE JOURNAL, 26th Congress, 1st session, pages 1138, 1228, 1257.

11. STATUTES AT LARGE, III. 764.

12. Cf. above, Chapter VIII. page 125.

13. Cf. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, 1827.

14. Cf. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, 1827.

15. HOUSE REPORTS, 24th Congress, 1st session, I. No. 223.



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The African agency suffered many vicissitudes. The first agent, Bacon, who set out early in 1820, was authorized by President Monroe "to form an establishment on the island of Sherbro, or elsewhere on the coast of Africa," and to build barracks for three hundred persons. He was, however, warned "not to connect your agency with the views or plans of the Colonization Society, with which, under the law, the Government of the United States has no concern." Bacon soon died, and was followed during the next four years by Winn and Ayres; they succeeded in establishing a government agency on Cape Mesurado, in conjunction with that of the Colonization Society. The agent of that Society, Jehudi Ashmun, became after 1822, the virtual head of the colony; he fortified and enlarged it, and laid the foundations of an independent community. The succeeding government agents came to be merely official representatives of the United States, and the distribution of free rations for liberated Africans ceased in 1827.

Between 1819 and 1830 two hundred and fifty-two recaptured Africans were sent to the agency, and \$264,710 were expended. The property of the government at the agency was valued at \$18,895. From 1830 to 1840, nearly \$20,000 more were expended, chiefly for the agents' salaries. About 1840 the appointment of an agent ceased, and the colony became gradually self-supporting and independent. It was proclaimed as the Republic of Liberia in 1847.¹⁶

16. This account is taken exclusively from government documents: AMERICAN STATE PAPERS, NAVAL, III. Nos. 339, 340, 357, 429 E; IV. Nos. 457 R (1 and 2), 486 H, I, page 161 and 519 R, 564 P, 585 P; HOUSE REPORTS, 19th Congress, 1st session, I. No. 65; HOUSE DOCUMENTS, 19th Congress, 2d session, IV. No. 69; 21st Congress, 2d session, I. No. 2, pages 42-3, 211-8; 22d Congress 1st session, I. No. 2, pages 45, 272-4; 22d Congress, 2d session, I. No. 2, pages 48, 229; 23d Congress, 1st session, I. No. 1, pages 238, 269; 23d Congress, 2d session, I. No. 2, pages 315, 363; 24th Congress 1st session, I. No. 2, pages 336, 378; 24th Congress, 2d session, I. No. 2, pages 450, 506; 25th Congress, 2d session, I. No. 3, pages 771, 850; 26th Congress, 1st session, I. No. 2, pages 534, 612; 26th Congress, 2d session, I. No. 2, pages 405, 450. It is probable that the agent became eventually the United States consul and minister; I cannot however cite evidence for this supposition.



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1848

[Lt. Matthew Fontaine Maury](#)'s ABSTRACT LOG FOR THE USE OF AMERICAN NAVIGATORS.

Richard Owen described “homologies” — similarities of design in bird wings, fish fins and human hands.

The AAAS, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, was founded after the model of a British Association for the Advancement of Science which had been in existence for some 17 years. [Lt. Maury](#) of the [US Naval Observatory](#) was present for its initial meeting. Joseph Henry (1797-1898), who had been appointed the 1st secretary of the [Smithsonian Institution](#) in 1846, became its 1st Secretary. In this year was issued the 1st publication of the new Smithsonian Institution, [Ephraim George Squier](#)'s and Edwin H. Davis's ANCIEN MONUMENTS OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY. Thoreau would in 1849 copy the following materials into his Indian Notebook #3:¹⁷

Arrowheads, differing from each other only in variety of stone of which they are composed, are discovered in all quarters of the globe. They have been found in ... Liberia, in the tombs of Egypt ... upon the plains of Greece ... and in the rude monuments of ancient Scandinavia.

A simple heap of earth or stones seems to have been the first monument which suggested itself to man; the Pyramid, the arch, and the obelisk are evidences of a more advanced state. But rude as are these primitive memorials, they have been but little impaired by time, while other more imposing structures have sunk into shapeless ruins.

We do not, unfortunately, have electronic copy of the 1848 printing that Thoreau saw, but we do have Google Books electronic copy for the 1847 edition from the same publisher (New York: Bartlett & Welford) and have reason to expect this to be equivalent.

EPHRAIM GEORGE SQUIER

[James Ellsworth De Kay](#) became a member of this new entity, the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

THE SCIENCE OF 1848

This association established [Science Magazine](#), which was to become one of the world's foremost science journals.

17. The original notebooks are held by the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York, as manuscripts #596 through #606. There are photocopies, made by Robert F. Sayre in the 1930s, in four boxes at the University of Iowa Libraries, accession number MsC 795. More recently, Bradley P. Dean, PhD and Paul Maher, Jr. have attempted to work over these materials.



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April 17, Monday: The 54-ton bay schooner *Pearl* with its precious cargo of hope, 76 (77?) slaves belonged to “41 of the most prominent families in Washington and Georgetown and ... valued at \$100,000,” had gotten as far as the Chesapeake Bay but had there run into headwinds. A chase steamer chartered by slaveowners and their friends, not dependent upon the vagaries of the winds, was able to take the schooner into tow, and return their escaping property to our capital city. A mob had assembled on 4th Street and rushed the group when they reached Pennsylvania Avenue, shouting “Lynch them, Lynch them!” The black victims were delivered to the pens adjacent to the [Smithsonian Institution](#) to be sold South, and their white rescuers, Daniel Drayton, Captain



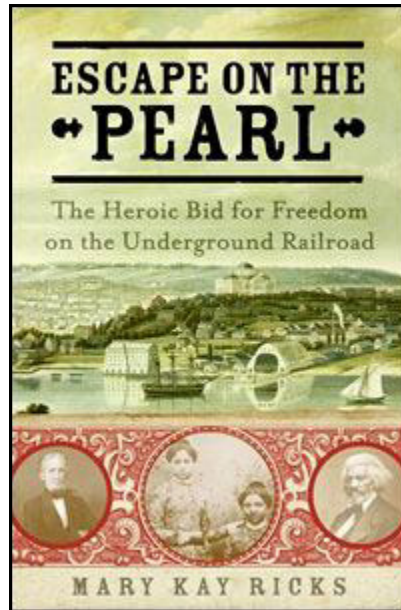
Edward Sayres, and Chester English, were placed under detention. In the course of this, the whites of DC got so excited by newspaper reporting of their misdeeds that they attempted to destroy the office of the National Era and force its editor, a Dr. Bailey, to flee the District. The attorney Horace Mann, Sr. would unsuccessfully defend the skipper, Edward Sayer, and the mate, Daniel Dreyton, who plainly were guilty-as-sin of having stolen slaves, and they would be condemned to life imprisonment, but then eventually the Attorney General of the United States would intercede, President Millard Fillmore would grant them an unconditional pardon, and the US government would spirit Drayton and Sayres at night first to [Baltimore](#), and then on to Harrisburg



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and Philadelphia in order to prevent their re-arrest by Virginia state authorities on the same charges.



The Reverend Henry Ward Beecher and his congregation would stage a mock slave auction in which the black sisters Mary and Emily Edmondson were “sold,” and in this way money would be raised, and their freedom would be purchased. Emily would tell her story to Harriet Beecher Stowe, and in 1853 this would be included in A KEY TO UNCLE TOM’S CABIN.



Emily Edmondson’s life difficulties eventually would inspire sheet music (next screen):



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H-NET BOOK REVIEW

PUBLISHED BY H-DC@H-NET.MSU.EDU (APRIL, 2006)

Josephine F. Pacheco. *THE PEARL: A FAILED SLAVE ESCAPE ON THE POTOMAC*. Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina P, 2005.

Reviewed for H-DC by Mary Beth Corrigan, Independent Scholar.

The Legacy and Significance of a Failed Mass Slave Escape

Late one Saturday night in April 1848, seventy-six enslaved men, women and children, anxious to escape and secure their freedom, boarded a schooner, *The Pearl*, anchored in Washington. Its captains Daniel Drayton and Edmund Sayres intended to sail down the Potomac River and up the Chesapeake Bay to Philadelphia, where the fugitives could hide from their owners and live in freedom. Instead, the tides prevented the boat from reaching the bay. Early Monday morning, a posse boat organized by the slave owners found the boat anchored at a sheltered spot near the mouth of the Potomac. The story of the *Pearl* -including its planning and aftermath- has long fascinated devotees of Washington history.¹⁸ Now, Josephine Pacheco has added the first book-length account: *THE PEARL: A FAILED ESCAPE ON THE POTOMAC*. She presents the *Pearl* as a major effort of the antislavery movement that ultimately shaped the sectional conflict of the 1850s. Pacheco effectively explains the planning of the *Pearl* by antislavery activists and the enthusiastic response of enslaved men, women, and children. Daniel and Mary Bell, a free black couple who longed to secure the freedom of their own children, initiated the planning for the *Pearl*. To purchase their own freedom, both Daniel and Mary overcame huge obstacles posed by their owners. They wanted the freedom of their children as well and hoped to avoid their experience of long and bitter negotiations with reluctant and capricious owners. The Bells approached William Chaplin, a radical abolitionist, who had helped several Washington slaves run away. Chaplin, in turn, contacted a fellow activist in Philadelphia who recommended Daniel Drayton to organize the escape of the Bells. Drayton was willing and experienced; a year earlier, he had transported an enslaved family of six from Washington to Philadelphia by boat. Drayton paid 100 dollars to Edward Sayres, the captain of the

18. The story of the *Pearl* has been widely told. Popular accounts include Mary Kay Ricks, "A Passage to Freedom" *Washington Post Magazine* (February 17, 2002), p. 20; and a play by Judlyne A. Lilly, "The Pearl," presented by The Source Theatre in Washington, D.C., in February 1992. Both of these accounts, Lilly's in particular, draws on the work of John H. Paynter, a descendent of one of the *Pearl* fugitives: "The Fugitives of the *Pearl*," *Journal of Negro History* 1 (July 1916): pp. 234-264; and *THE FUGITIVES OF THE PEARL* (Washington: Associated Publishers, 1930). For scholarly accounts, see Stanley Harrold, *SUBVERSIVES: ANTISLAVERY COMMUNITY IN WASHINGTON, D.C., 1828-1865* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2003) and Hilary Russell, "Underground Railroad Activists in Washington, D.C.," *Washington History* 13. no. 2 (Fall/Winter 2002): pp. 38-39.

HDT

WHAT?

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Pearl, to sail to Washington, and hired waterman Chester English to pick up the fugitives and take them to Philadelphia. When Drayton and his crew docked at the Washington wharf, they had no idea how many slaves would come aboard. The mission of the *Pearl* created such excitement within the African-American community that seventy-six enslaved men, women and children, a far larger number than Drayton imagined, took advantage of this well-financed effort to gain freedom.

Pacheco describes well the three days that followed the capture of the *Pearl*, when mobs converged on the streets to quash antislavery agitation in the nation's capital. As word of the *Pearl* spread throughout the city, several men gathered at the Washington City Jail to seize and then lynch Drayton, Sayres, and English. They also wanted to destroy the press offices of the National Era, an antislavery newspaper edited by Gamaliel Bailey. Erroneously convinced of Bailey's complicity in planning the mass escape, the mob threw bricks and stones and broke several windows of the Era's offices. These posses also targeted Ohio Congressman Joshua Giddings, perhaps the most strident of the antislavery legislators. From the beginning of the riots, the mob was on the lookout for Giddings. When the Congressman walked to the jail to offer his sympathy and to promise legal assistance to Drayton and his crew, the mobs converged on the prison again and tried to block his entrance. Undeterred, Giddings completed his visit, and though the jailers warned him that they could not protect him when he left, he faced the mob and walked away unharmed. Despite the enormity of the threat, these antislavery agitators survived largely because the police force restrained the mob. Pacheco notes that the numbers of policemen increased as the mob began to diminish. In the end, Drayton and his crew were not lynched and faced trial; Bailey and his newspaper endured; and Joshua Giddings continued to press for the end of slavery.

The fugitives on board the *Pearl* did not fare nearly as well, though Pacheco maintains that the antislavery movement supported them as much as possible. Most owners sold their slaves after retrieving them from the *Pearl*. Thanks to the reports submitted by New York Congressman John I. Slingerland to antislavery organs, Northerners learned of the sale of the erstwhile fugitives. By April 21, 1848, slave traders had put fifty of them onto rail cars bound for Baltimore, where they would receive transport to the Lower South – perhaps to New Orleans, Natchez, or Huntsville. Pacheco tries to trace the whereabouts of *Pearl* fugitives who remained in the District, but can only positively account for one, a man named Hannibal, owned by Washington resident Arianna Lyles as of 1862. One abolitionist organ claimed that a Washingtonian purchased the freedom of Mary Bell and two children, but Pacheco questions the accuracy of that account. Pacheco describes in depth the efforts of Paul and Amelia Edmonson to secure the freedom of their six children: Richard, Samuel, Ephraim, John, Mary, and Emily. Following their capture on the *Pearl*, their owners sold them to the Alexandria,



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Virginia, slave-trading firm of Bruin and Hill, which, in turn, transported them to New Orleans. Meanwhile, Paul and Amelia contacted antislavery sympathizers and managed to enlist the assistance of the prominent Beecher family. Henry Ward Beecher used his pulpit to deliver the message of the Edmonson family and managed to raise the money to purchase the freedom of the six Edmonson children. His sister Harriet Beecher Stowe published the story of the Edmonsons, which informed her highly influential work *UNCLE TOM'S CABIN*. Later, the Beechers also raised money to send Mary and Emily to Oberlin College.

Pacheco's account of the *Pearl* focuses so much upon the antislavery movement that it slights the role of the African-American community in its planning. Pacheco correctly points out that activists such as Chaplin and Cleveland raised the money and organized the expedition, but she dismisses the central role accorded to African Americans by Harriet Beecher Stowe and John Paynter (p. 70). Although both these authors have biases and misconceptions regarding the *Pearl*, their conclusions regarding the African-American community are not entirely misplaced. African Americans transformed Drayton's expedition from a modest slave escape of seven slaves to a major one of seventy-six slaves without the knowledge of the organizers or crew. As Pacheco points out, the entire community was aware of the *Pearl*'s mission. Such secrecy indicates a high level of organization and unity within the African-American community. Certainly, the participation of seventy-six slaves demonstrates the fervent desire for freedom throughout this community. Their activism changed Drayton's expedition into one so noteworthy that riots broke out in Washington for three days, northerners read about the fugitives for weeks in abolitionist organs, and Congress vociferously debated its implications.

Pacheco misses this point in part because her portrayal of this community does not include free blacks. "Slavery in the Nation's Capital," the book's weakest chapter, represents her attempt to describe the African-American community and relies largely upon travel accounts, antislavery reporting, and a reading of the literature on Washington and urban slavery. She overlooks the presence of a large number of free blacks: in 1848, they outnumbered slaves by more than three to one. Only one other slaveholding city, Baltimore, had more free black than slave residents. A large, viable free black community provided considerable opportunities to enslaved men and women. Enslaved and free black people frequently married, worshipped together, and formed a cohesive community that actively sought the freedom of its members. Moreover, free black activists frequently visited Philadelphia to nurture important ties to the antislavery movement. Pacheco missed an opportunity to provide insight into the role of this dynamic and resilient community in the Underground Railroad.¹⁹

Pacheco focuses not only on the local impact of the *Pearl* but also on its national ramifications, as she believes it is a

19. For more on the ties between free black and enslaved people, see Mary Beth Corrigan, "A Social Union of Heart and Effort: The African American Family on the Eve of Emancipation," (Ph.D. diss., University of Maryland, 1996).



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neglected event in the history of the sectional crisis. She notes that the *Pearl* influenced the debate of the Fugitive Slave Law and the end of the slave trade in the District in 1850. On at least two occasions, southern representatives brought up the specter of the *Pearl* to advocate for a strong Fugitive Slave Law. Congressman Thomas L. Clingman of North Carolina believed that District slave owners regarded the number of fugitives so corrosive to the city's slave system that they considered its destruction inevitable (p. 196). In the summer of 1850, the capture of William Chaplin with two runaway slaves -owned by two Southern Congressmen- in Silver Spring, Maryland, brought back memories of the *Pearl*. Senator Henry Foote of Mississippi recalled it as "one of the most enormous outrages ever perpetrated on rights of property, ... one of the most unblushing, high-handed, fiendish, outrageous attacks upon the rights of property existing in the District" (p. 207). In addition to these examples, Pacheco recounts arguments pressing for federal protection of fugitive slave posses that certainly complement Clingman's and Foote's views but do not expressly mention the *Pearl*. Pacheco also claims that the *Pearl* heightened distaste for the slave trade in the District, as several Congressmen and Senators cited the cruelty of the slave pens in their support of the bill to ban such trading. For these reasons, Pacheco maintains that the *Pearl* was instrumental to the adoption of the Compromise of 1850 and should be taught to all students of American history.

Pacheco overstates the role of the *Pearl* in the Compromise. The southern desire for an effective Fugitive Slave Law was so longstanding and fervent that the *Pearl* probably did not add urgency to the cause of southern lawmakers, but rather merely validated their argument. Likewise, the push to ban the interstate slave trade dated nearly to the founding of the District and included a petition campaign that overwhelmed Congress and led to the passage of a gag rule preventing the reading of these petitions in 1837. Again, the *Pearl* provided lawmakers an immediate and emotional reference point, but did not significantly alter the debate leading to the Compromise.²⁰ Even without establishing the significance of the *Pearl* in this legislation, Pacheco brings out its importance as an endeavor by the antislavery movement. She ably recounts the northern and southern reaction to the attempted mass escape and brings out the uncomfortable position of the District within the highly charged sectional debate. In the process, Pacheco's study touches upon some significant themes in southern history: the threat posed by African-American communities to the broader urban society; law and order within free and slave societies; and relations between slave owners, non-slaveholders, and antislavery advocates in the Chesapeake region. Although Pacheco frustrates the reader by not fully developing these themes, she provides a solid account of an almost mythic event among local historians that establishes its importance within the

20. On the slave trade within Washington and its role within the sectional debate, see Mary Beth Corrigan, "Imaginary Cruelties? A History of the Slave Trade in Washington, D.C.," *Washington History* 13, no. 2 (Fall/Winter 2002): pp. 4-27.



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antislavery movement. THE PEARL: A FAILED SLAVE ESCAPE ON THE POTOMAC, therefore, constitutes a significant contribution to the growing literature on antebellum Washington.

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The Reverend Professor [Edward Hitchcock](#)'s HISTORY OF A ZOOLOGICAL TEMPERANCE CONVENTION, HELD IN CENTRAL AFRICA IN 1847 (Northampton).

E. Du Bois-Reymond invented a galvanometer that could measure the electric impulses in nerves. H. von Helmholtz measured the speed of nervous impulses in frogs.

The mechanization of agriculture began. Mechanical reapers, and later the internal combustion engine (and consequently the tractor) altered the face of the world — and the growth and increasing urbanization of the world population. Between 1860 and 1920, about 1,000,000,000 acres of new land were brought under cultivation, with another 1,000,000,000 acres coming into production during the following six decades. Improvements in shipping, refrigeration, and processing further industrialized this process. Today's American farmer receives 4% of the price of chicken in the store and 12% of the price of a can of corn.

During this decade Joseph Henry of the [Smithsonian Institution](#), exploiting the popularity of the writings of Humboldt in an utterly typical and enviably wrongheaded manner, would be espousing a novel and dangerous notion: in this best of all possible worlds, rain follows the plow. All we need to do, therefore, in this best of all possible worlds, to transform the arid high grasslands of the center of the North American continent into an edenic paradise, is determinedly to turn that arid sod and till that arid soil. As in baseball's field of dreams, if you build it they will come! "They," in this case, would turn out to be the vast black clouds of dust and despair of the 1930s: the Dustbowl. [Ecology](#) will not be mocked. By this point fully half of the native-born Vermonters had abandoned its rocky soil for points west. Sometimes entire towns moved as groups. [Herman Melville](#) would comment after a tour during the 1850s, that "Some of these mountain townships ... look like countries depopulated by plague and war. Every mile or two a house is passed untenanted." [Horace Greeley](#) would embrace this wish-fulfilment fantasy: "Go West, Young Man!" The rolling plains of [Illinois](#) would turn out to possess singular advantages not only in terms of a more fertile soil but also in terms of a scale more appropriate to the emergence of labor-saving farm machinery. The dry plateaus of Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and the Texas panhandle would prove to be another, no less rocky, disappointment. And when they did turn the land into an ecological disaster, where would be Joseph Henry of the Smithsonian to say that "he was sure sorry"; where would be the federal government to make up for its poor imperial advice by the rendering of assistance to the distressed?



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[Spencer Fullerton Baird](#) became junior assistant secretary at the [Smithsonian Institution](#). The next fifteen years would be made difficult not only for him but for the others there, because of the character of the first secretary of that institution, Joseph Henry. It was perfectly legitimate, Henry felt, since he was the boss and since the reputation of that establishment was upon his shoulders, that he should be able at any time to riffle through the desks, opening and reading any and all correspondence. Woe would be the lot of any person there who had a locked desk, if the first secretary found that the key he had been given was not a working key! When Baird arrived at the new Smithsonian Castle, there were still slave pens behind the structure. On the bright side, Congress had just agreed to the Compromise of 1850 — so these pens were not as jam packed full of human chattel as they had been in previous years.



March: After spending time at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Charleston, [William Henry Harvey](#) delivered a series of four lectures at the [Smithsonian Institution](#) in Washington DC (he would return in the spring to Dublin).

Do I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.



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1851

November: [Lorin Blodget](#) became an assistant at the [Smithsonian Institution](#) at Washington. Besides this work for the Smithsonian, Blodget would conduct climatological research for the US Department of War.

The headman of the Cupanga-kitoms, a tribe of the Yuma grouping, named Antonio Garra, let it be known to the authorities of San Diego County that his people would not be paying any of the taxes assessed against them. Garra and other California Yuma headmen began planning a general revolt.



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1852

[Charles Frédéric Girard](#) wrote on Herpetology for the expedition of the US Army Corps of Topographical Engineers to the valley of the Great Salt Lake in Utah. The [Smithsonian Institution](#) published his ZOOLOGICAL, BOTANICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY, or BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN NATURAL HISTORY FOR THE YEAR 1851, the first of its kind to be produced in the US. A monograph on the cottoids appeared in the [Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge](#).

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





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1853

After [Professor Louis Agassiz](#) savaged his assistant [Charles Frédéric Girard](#), the man had obtained a science job at the [Smithsonian Institution](#), working for [Spencer Fullerton Baird](#). Professor Agassiz, outraged that any part of the scientific establishment would make any use of someone of whom he personally had blacklisted, continued relentlessly to pursue his former assistant:

If you had been willing to listen to my advise [sic] before, you should have known that Girard, though capable of sustained work and endowed with considerable ability in distinguishing the peculiarities of animals, has no judgement, and is utterly unable to trace original researches without supervision. Moreover he is as obstinate as a mule, if contradicted, which makes it necessary that he should be led with a high hand and kept in an entirely subordinate position. Now this supervision of his work you have not made; you have not tested the value of the characters upon which he has based his generic and specific distinctions. I recognize his hand both in the style of the language used, and in the scientific character of the work. In the hurry of your many engagements you have entrusted to him a task to which he is not equal; and there goes forward from the Smithsonian Instit. a production which in quality is far inferior to what is done elsewhere, though by the quantity of the materials you had the means of surpassing every work of that kind.

[Girard](#) collected specimens in Maine, Massachusetts, and South Carolina. [Baird](#) created the CATALOG OF NORTH AMERICAN REPTILES with Girard's assistance. Robert Kennicott, Girard, and other young naturalists were urged to form an informal group, known as the "Megatheria."

It was in approximately this time period that [Professor Agassiz](#) of [Harvard College](#) began to organize the scientific pressure group of schemers and administrators he referred to as his "Lazzaroni."²¹ The work of this group would continue behind the scenes until the creation, in the wee small hours of the 37th Congress, on March 3, 1863, after a decade of plotting and conspiring, of a new disciplinary "jury" (the professor's term) to be known as the National Academy of Sciences. Here they are depicted attempting to acquire respectability

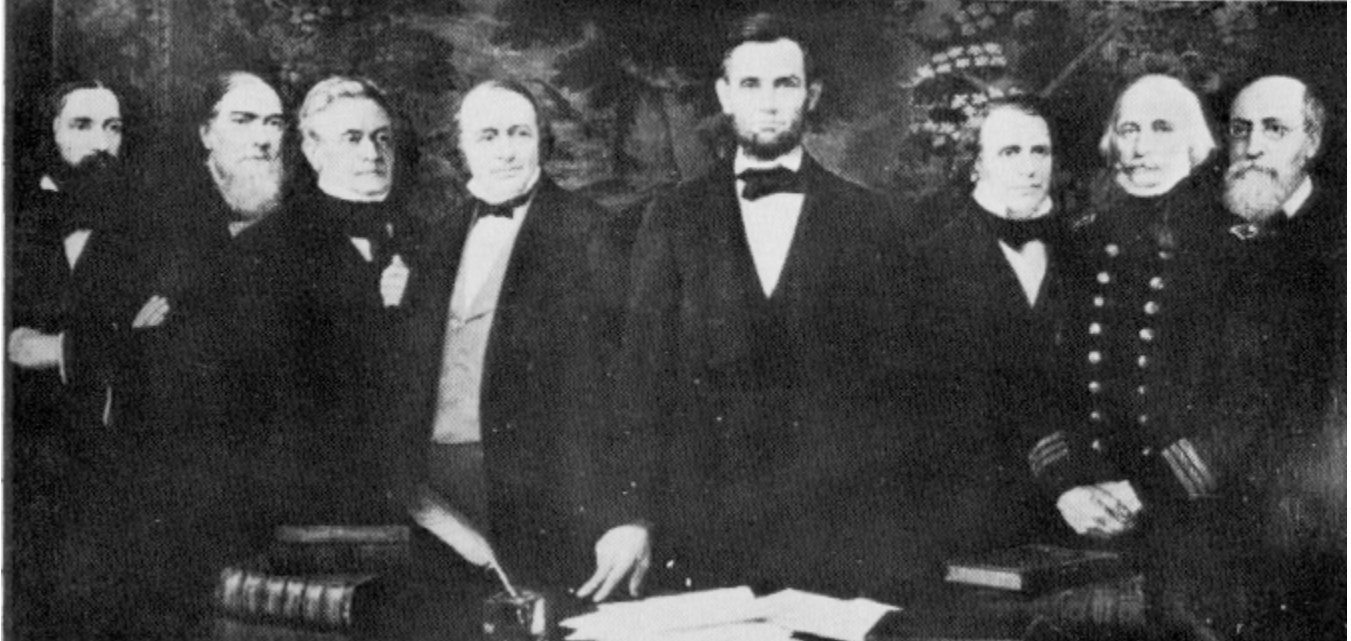
21. The Lazzaroni of [Naples](#) are gangs of pickpockets and con artists who work the street crowds for what they can get. (One of them once tried to sell me a Rolex® for like \$40, while I was waiting for a boat at the docks, but I pointed out to the man that my wristwatch had an Indiglo® dial which his Rolex® lacked, that my wristwatch had a day-of-the-week indicator which was practically all I ever looked at on the dial which his Rolex® lacked, that my wristwatch had also cost me about \$40 on sale at K-Mart when it had been new a number of years before, and besides **the brand name of my wristwatch also ended in "-ex"!** I suggested to this gent "Nevertheless, I will be willing to trade you, even-Steven!" –Meanwhile, I was keeping my arm pressed firmly against my wad of cash in the side pocket of my pants under my comb and handkerchief, just in case he was working as a team.)



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by rubbing against a respectable person (or maybe they're just trying to distract him and pick his pocket):



At some point during this year Professor [Agassiz](#) wrote from Cambridge to [Henry Thoreau](#) among others:

To: HDT
From: Louis Agassiz
Date: [1853]

{No MS — printed copy — Thoreau's copy of this form is at Widener Library}

DEAR SIR,—

Having been engaged for several years in the preparation of a Natural History of the Fishes of the United States, I wish, before beginning the printing of my work, to collect as extensive materials as possible, respecting the geographical distribution of these animals. It has occurred to me, that by means of a circular containing directions for collecting fishes I might obtain the information required. I should, indeed, like to secure separate collections of our fishes from every bay and inlet along the coast, and from every stream, river, creek, lake, and pond upon the mainland, throughout the whole country, and am satisfied that such collections would furnish invaluable information respecting the geographical distribution of our aquatic animals. I would thank you for any assistance and contribution you can furnish from your quarter of the country, and duly acknowledge it in my work; and since I extend my investigations to all the branches of Natural History, any specimens besides fishes, which may be obtained, would be equally acceptable, including geological specimens and fossil remains. In return I would propose exchanges of other specimens if desired, or reciprocate the favor in any other way in my power, and pay the expenses incurred in making collections for me. Specimens from foreign countries are also



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solicited, especially when their origin is satisfactorily ascertained. Any person into whose hands this circular may come, feeling inclined to correspond with me upon these subjects, is requested to address me under the following direction:—

L. AGASSIZ,
Professor of Zoology and Geology in the Lawrence Scientific School, at CAM-
BRIDGE, MASS.

[We may suppose that, in the above, in the original printing, the second “o” of the word Zoology would have had an umlaut over it.]

[include Directions?]

**WHAT I'M WRITING IS TRUE BUT NEVER MIND
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF**



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1855

March: By this point the castle of the [Smithsonian Institution](#) had been completed and the Lower Main Hall was open to the public (one floor of the East Wing, comprising 8 rooms, had been carpeted in the most luxurious Brussels floral carpeting and was destined as living quarters for Secretary Joseph Henry and his family). [William Francis Channing](#) delivered a lecture on the topic of “The American fire-alarm telegraph.”

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT



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1859

The [Smithsonian Institution](#) republished, in Volume IX of SMITHSONIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO KNOWLEDGE, the initial part of [Thomas Mayo Brewer](#)'s OÖLOGY OF NORTH AMERICA of 1857, devoted to an account of the geographical distribution of the birds of North America during the breeding season, with descriptions of their eggs, and covering the Birds of Prey, the Swifts, Swallows, Goatsuckers, and Kingfishers.

December 13, 1861: Pierpont introduce Orestes Augustus Brownson (The [Smithsonian Institution](#) Abolition Lecture Controversy).

DATE: During Orestes Augustus Brownson's lecture at the [Smithsonian Institution](#) in Washington DC, to discourage political excesses, the Director, Joseph Henry had all the windows closed, making at least one auditor complain of being "roasted."



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1864

August: In setting up the National Academy of Sciences, [Louis Agassiz](#)'s bully-boy "Lazzaroni" had excluded a number of reputable potential members. [Spencer Fullerton Baird](#), who had offended by hiring as an assistant at the [Smithsonian Institution](#) the researcher [Charles Frédéric Girard](#) whom Agassiz had fired, had been pointedly excluded as "only a descriptive scientist." To make sure they carried the day, the Lazzaroni had been less than frank with their colleagues about what they were doing and to whom they were doing it. Then when inquiries began to be raised, there was talk about how they had had "opportunities for inductions upon ... parts of their lives," regarding folks like Baird and [George Phillips Bond](#) of the [Harvard Observatory](#), which had led to "distinct conclusions" that such men were "too mean to bring into our Academy." As more and more of this networking came to the attention of the less well connected members, there was a definite groundswell of resentment, and, in spite of the fact that "Mr. Agassiz lost his temper —and as I found next day —took personal offense," eventually Baird would be enrolled as a member.²²



THE SCIENCE OF 1864

22.  Rivinus, E.F. and E.M. Youssef. SPENCER BAIRD OF THE SMITHSONIAN. Washington DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992.



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1865

January 24, Tuesday: The Upper Main Hall and primary towers of the castle of the [Smithsonian Institution](#) were destroyed by fire, along with their contents.

The federal government of the United States appropriated \$17,000 to carry out the treaty of July 11, 1862 with Great Britain (STATUTES AT LARGE, XIII. 424).

INTERNATIONAL SLAVE TRADE



1904

January: When the casket and corpse of [James Smithson](#) were recovered from an endangered cemetery in Genoa, Italy and brought to a resting place of honor at the [Smithsonian Institution](#) in Washington DC, it was discovered that the benefactor had been five feet six inches tall.

Table of Altitudes



Yoda	2' 0 "
Lavinia Warren	2' 8 "
Tom Thumb, Jr.	3' 4 "
Lucy (Australopithecus Afarensis)	3' 8 "
Hervé Villechaize ("Fantasy Island")	3' 11"
Charles Proteus Steinmetz	4' 0 "
Mary Moody Emerson per FBS (1)	4' 3 "
Alexander Pope	4' 6 "
Benjamin Lay	4' 7 "
Dr. Ruth Westheimer	4' 7 "
Gary Coleman ("Arnold Jackson")	4' 8 "
Edith Piaf	4' 8 "
Queen Victoria with osteoporosis	4' 8 "
Linda Hunt	4' 9 "
Queen Victoria as adult	4' 10 "
Mother Teresa	4' 10 "
Margaret Mitchell	4' 10 "
length of newer military musket	4' 10"
Charlotte Brontë	4' 10-11"
Tammy Faye Bakker	4' 11"
Soviet gymnast Olga Korbut	4' 11"
jockey Willie Shoemaker	4' 11"
Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec	4' 11"
Joan of Arc	4' 11"
Bonnie Parker of "Bonnie & Clyde"	4' 11"
Harriet Beecher Stowe	4' 11"
Laura Ingalls Wilder	4' 11"
a rather tall adult Pygmy male	4' 11"
Gloria Swanson	4' 11"1/2
Clara Barton	5' 0 "





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Isambard Kingdom Brunel	5' 0 "
Andrew Carnegie	5' 0 "
Thomas de Quincey	5' 0 "
Stephen A. Douglas	5' 0 "
Danny DeVito	5' 0 "
Immanuel Kant	5' 0 "
William Wilberforce	5' 0 "
Dollie Parton	5' 0 "
Mae West	5' 0 "
Pia Zadora	5' 0 "
Deng Xiaoping	5' 0 "
Dred Scott	5' 0 " (±)
Captain William Bligh of HMS <i>Bounty</i>	5' 0 " (±)
Harriet Tubman	5' 0 " (±)
Mary Moody Emerson per FBS (2)	5' 0 " (±)
John Brown of Providence, Rhode Island	5' 0 " (+)
John Keats	5' 3/4 "
Debbie Reynolds (Carrie Fisher's mother)	5' 1 "
Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher)	5' 1 "
Bette Midler	5' 1 "
Dudley Moore	5' 2 "
Paul Simon (of Simon & Garfunkel)	5' 2 "
Honore de Balzac	5' 2 "
Sally Field	5' 2 "
Jemmy Button	5' 2 "
Margaret Mead	5' 2 "
R. Buckminster "Bucky" Fuller	5' 2 "
Yuri Gagarin the astronaut	5' 2 "
William Walker	5' 2 "
Horatio Alger, Jr.	5' 2 "
length of older military musket	5' 2 "
the artist formerly known as Prince	5' 2 1/2 "
typical female of Thoreau's period	5' 2 1/2 "
Francis of Assisi	5' 3 "
Voltaire	5' 3 "
Mohandas Gandhi	5' 3 "
Sammy Davis, Jr.	5' 3 "
Kahlil Gibran	5' 3 "





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	Friend Daniel Ricketson	5' 3"
	The Reverend Gilbert White	5' 3"
	Nikita Khrushchev	5' 3"
	Sammy Davis, Jr.	5' 3"
	Truman Capote	5' 3"
	Kim Jong Il (North Korea)	5' 3"
	Stephen A. "Little Giant" Douglas	5' 4"
	Francisco Franco	5' 4"
	President James Madison	5' 4"
	Iosef Vissarionovich Dzugashvili "Stalin"	5' 4"
	Alan Ladd	5' 4"
	Pablo Picasso	5' 4"
	Truman Capote	5' 4"
	Queen Elizabeth	5' 4"
	Ludwig van Beethoven	5' 4"
	Typical Homo Erectus	5' 4"
	typical Neanderthal adult male	5' 4 ¹ / ₂ "
	Alan Ladd	5' 4 ¹ / ₂ "
	comte de Buffon	5' 5" (-)
	Captain Nathaniel Gordon	5' 5"
	Charles Manson	5' 5"
	Audie Murphy	5' 5"
	Harry Houdini	5' 5"
	Hung Hsiu-ch'üan 洪秀全	5' 5"
	Marilyn Monroe	5' 5 ¹ / ₂ "
	T.E. Lawrence "of Arabia"	5' 5 ¹ / ₂ "
	average runaway male American slave	5' 5-6"
	Charles Dickens	5' 6?"
	President Benjamin Harrison	5' 6"
	President Martin Van Buren	5' 6"
	James Smithson	5' 6"
	Louisa May Alcott	5' 6"
	Johann Wolfgang von Goethe	5' 6 ¹ / ₂ "
	Napoleon Bonaparte	5' 6 ¹ / ₂ "
	Emily Brontë	5' 6-7"
	Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	5' ?"
	average height, seaman of 1812	5' 6.85"
	Oliver Reed Smoot, Jr.	5' 7"





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minimum height, British soldier	5' 7"
President John Adams	5' 7"
President John Quincy Adams	5' 7"
President William McKinley	5' 7"
"Charley" Parkhurst (a female)	5' 7"
Ulysses S. Grant	5' 7"
Henry Thoreau	5' 7"
the average male of Thoreau's period	5' 7 ¹ / ₂ "
Edgar Allan Poe	5' 8"
President Ulysses S. Grant	5' 8"
President William H. Harrison	5' 8"
President James Polk	5' 8"
President Zachary Taylor	5' 8"
average height, soldier of 1812	5' 8.35"
President Rutherford B. Hayes	5' 8 ¹ / ₂ "
President Millard Fillmore	5' 9"
President Harry S. Truman	5' 9"
President Jimmy Carter	5' 9 ¹ / ₂ "
Herman Melville	5' 9 ³ / ₄ "
Calvin Coolidge	5' 10"
Andrew Johnson	5' 10"
Theodore Roosevelt	5' 10"
Thomas Paine	5' 10"
Franklin Pierce	5' 10"
Abby May Alcott	5' 10"
Reverend Henry C. Wright	5' 10"
Nathaniel Hawthorne	5' 10 ¹ / ₂ "
Louis "Deerfoot" Bennett	5' 10 ¹ / ₂ "
Friend John Greenleaf Whittier	5' 10 ¹ / ₂ "
President Dwight D. Eisenhower	5' 10 ¹ / ₂ "
Sojourner Truth	5' 11"
President Grover Cleveland	5' 11"
President Herbert Hoover	5' 11"
President Woodrow Wilson	5' 11"
President Jefferson Davis	5' 11"
President Richard M. Nixon	5' 11 ¹ / ₂ "
Robert Voorhis the hermit of Rhode Island	< 6'
Frederick Douglass	6' (-)



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Anthony Burns	6'0"
Waldo Emerson	6'0"
Joseph Smith, Jr.	6'0"
David Walker	6'0"
Sarah F. Wakefield	6'0"
Thomas Wentworth Higginson	6'0"
President James Buchanan	6'0"
President Gerald R. Ford	6'0"
President James Garfield	6'0"
President Warren Harding	6'0"
President John F. Kennedy	6'0"
President James Monroe	6'0"
President William H. Taft	6'0"
President John Tyler	6'0"
John Brown	6'0 (+)"
President Andrew Jackson	6'1"
Alfred Russel Wallace	6'1"
President Ronald Reagan	6'1"
Venture Smith	6'1 ¹ / ₂ "
John Camel Heenan	6'2"
Crispus Attucks	6'2"
President Chester A. Arthur	6'2"
President George Bush, Senior	6'2"
President Franklin D. Roosevelt	6'2"
President George Washington	6'2"



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Gabriel Prosser	6 ' 2 "
Dangerfield Newby	6 ' 2 "
Charles Augustus Lindbergh	6 ' 2 "
President Bill Clinton	6 ' 2 1/2 "
President Thomas Jefferson	6 ' 2 1/2 "
President Lyndon B. Johnson	6 ' 3 "
Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.	6 ' 3 "
Richard "King Dick" Seaver	6 ' 3 1/4 "
President Abraham Lincoln	6 ' 4 "
Marion Morrison (AKA John Wayne)	6 ' 4 "
Elisha Reynolds Potter, Senior	6 ' 4 "
Thomas Cholmondeley	6 ' 4 " (?)
Franklin Benjamin Sanborn	6 ' 5 "
Peter the Great of Russia	6 ' 7 "
Giovanni Battista Belzoni	6 ' 7 "
Thomas Jefferson (the statue)	7 ' 6 "
Jefferson Davis (the statue)	7 ' 7 "
Martin Van Buren Bates	7 ' 11 1/2 "
M. Bihin, a Belgian exhibited in Boston in 1840	8 ' "
Anna Haining Swan	8 ' 1 "





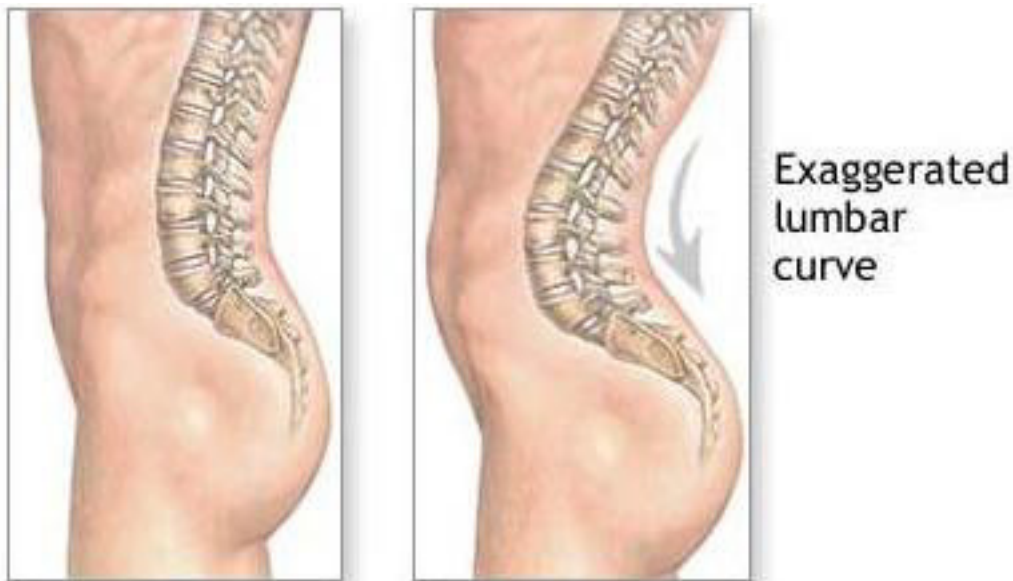
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

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1992

Rivinus, E.F. and E.M. Youssef. SPENCER BAIRD OF THE SMITHSONIAN (Washington DC: [Smithsonian Institution](#) Press).

The naked photographs of Vassar College coeds, taken during the erectness program, were discussed by Naomi Wolf, author of *THE BEAUTY MYTH*, in an Op-Ed piece in the New York *Times*. Wolf (Yale '84) recalled that the media personality Dick Cavett (Yale '55), during his speech at her Yale University commencement, had said of the invasive photos that “they had nude photographs taken of the women in gym class to check their posture. One year the photos were stolen and turned up for sale in New Haven’s red-light district.” His punchline, of course, was: “The photos found no buyers.” Cavett offered in a letter to the *Times* that his joke was an innocuous “example of how my Yale years showed up in my long-forgotten nightclub act.” It then became clear that these naked photographs had not been innocuous, as they had been made for the anthropological research of E.A. Hooton of Harvard University and W.H. Sheldon of Columbia University, who had “held that a person’s body, measured and analyzed, could tell much about intelligence, temperament, moral worth and probable future achievement.”



It was pointed out that although the inspiration for this had undoubtedly come from the founder of social Darwinism, Francis Galton, who had once proposed such a photo archive for the British population, the inspiration for this might just as well have been coming from the Nazis — who had been compiling similar archives and analyzing the photos for racial as well as characterological content.

Several things became remarkably clear during the public discussion of these invasive photographs:

First, it became remarkably clear that the concern being shown for the fine sensitivities of the students who had been so abused was a graded concern, with more concern being available for the Ivy League students of promise than for the students in less prestigious institutions, and no concern at all being available for the



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inmates of mental hospitals and prisons who had been similarly processed.

Second, it became remarkably clear that although this was obviously a screening program that had been detected, no-one was going to waste any energy wondering about the plight of the students who could not pass the naked-photograph test. At several points in the publicity, the comment was made that the downside was that the student with the spine that did not pass muster would be sent to a special remedial-posture class, and this was a comment that was blatantly exculpatory since it is very obvious that any student who failed to improve as a result of such a hypothetical remedial-posture class would have to be expelled.

Third, it became remarkably clear that no effort was going to be expended to track down the students who had been expelled from their higher educations as a result of these spinal tests (such as, for instance, [Austin Meredith](#), myself). There was going to be no compensation, there was going to be no rectification — and there was going to be no public display of concern. Such expressions of concern were evidently very expensive, and thus were going to be reserved for normal people who deserved our consideration. In this year our federal

[ASSLEY](#)

government legislated an Americans with Disabilities Act, to protect the disabled. Be it here noted that this act does nothing whatever to protect from society's abuses the deformed who are not disabled.²³ Since my deformity had never prevented me for laboring in low-status occupations, having merely disqualified me for any and all occupations involving high status (such as management positions, etc.), I have no standing under this Americans with Disabilities Act. It is not at all similar to the Civil Rights Act, which recognizes race and gender prejudices and attempts to compensate for these ingrained forms of societal discrimination. There is no recognition whatever, in the Americans with Disabilities Act, that the deformed who are merely visibly, disgustingly deformed but not particularly physically impaired by their deformity face a societal prejudice that is even more overwhelming and even more deeply rooted and even more intransigent than either race prejudice or gender prejudice. Robert Garland's historical study of the treatment accorded by Eurocentric societies to the deformed and/or disabled, titled *THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER: DEFORMITY AND DISABILITY IN THE GRAECO-ROMAN WORLD* (London: Gerald Duckworth & Co. Ltd., 1995, page 5), alleges that there is no absolute distinction between a deformity and a disability (below), but this Act of our federal legislature in fact succeeds in creating such a distinction merely by dealing as it does totally with inability to contribute to society — dealing not at all with non-disabling deformity, dealing not at all with the manner in which such deformity marginalizes one and intercepts one from being allowed to contribute to our society (except, of course, in

23. The deformed are sometimes ignored and sometimes abused, but almost never are they defended. Those who abuse the deformed may do so in our society without any fear of personal consequences; they know very well that this is seldom if ever corrected or even in any way restrained. That's just the way it is. We don't have any sympathy to spare for people who for one reason or another are inferior, botched imitations of human life. All our kindness is reserved, to the succoring of the normative specimen of the human. As a graphic example of the manner in which this society refrains from protecting the deformed who are not disabled, consider that although, for people who are so deeply unhappy about how they look that they develop anorexia or bulimia, we have a DIAGNOSTIC AND STATISTICAL MANUAL OF MENTAL DISORDERS (DSM) category known as "body dysmorphic disorder," and offer such person the drug Prozac, nevertheless for people who become so deeply unhappy about how **others** look that they become personally abusive and discriminatory, we have no DSM diagnostic category and we offer no treatment whatever. It ain't a problem, not for anybody who **matters** it ain't. If you are unhappy about how you look, so unhappy that this has consequences, then you are one sick puppy and you warrant treatment; if you are unhappy about how others look, so unhappy that this has consequences, then you may well become one of society's arbiters — for our society leaves you with a free hand to discriminate and persecute as you consider appropriate.



appropriately demeaning occupations):

[N]o absolute distinction exists between a deformity, which we may define as a deviation from normal appearance, and a disability, which, whether or not it is the result of a deformity, produces a malfunction. Take the example of a hunchback. Such a person is deformed, though whether or not he is also disabled will depend upon other variable physiological and psychological factors, unless one includes under the heading of disability the condition of being automatically debarred from certain occupations.

It was common for academic conferences on concentration camps to be held at the Radisson Hotel in Minneapolis, just six miles north of what had been the Pike Island sequestration facility, without ever mentioning that 1860s facility. At one such conference, the newspapers announced general admission, so I went to the hotel — and was stopped at the door to the conference room. The newspaper announcement, I was informed there, had been in error. Due to the sensitive nature of the topic, concentration camps, the general public was **not** welcome.

The idea that the Pike Island Sequestration Facility has not yet reached public consciousness has been hotly disputed by a number of people, who have diligently searched and have been able to point indignantly at a few insignificant, condescendingly racist, or superficial articles that have appeared in obscure historical journals over the years. One St. Paul citizen took the tactic of objecting that although there might be venues, unspecified, in which it would be appropriate to talk about such things, in the particular venue in which I, [Austin Meredith](#), had brought it up, it was out of order — and so I should be ignored until I went away.

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Another St. Paul citizen took the tactic of objecting that although the topic had not been adequately presented to date, now that Austin Meredith had mentioned it to a group of 20 people it had in fact been adequately presented to the State of Minnesota, and therefore he need not again bring up such an offensive topic, and if he did again bring it up, he should be ignored until he went away. (I notice that I lie as I write: The term that was actually mobilized, I have learned, in a meeting to which I was not invited after this meeting, was not “offensive” but “pornographic.” —Presumably, for some people, the thought of race violence is sexually titillating, and thus to be avoided, just as the thought of naked invasive pictures of college matriculants is sexually titillating, and thus to be avoided.) Another St. Paul citizen whom I attempted to brief on this topic chose the tactic of insisting that there was all the difference in the world between a **concentration** camp and a **death** camp like Auschwitz, apparently intending that mere *Konzentrationslager* were OK for Minnesota so long as they did not include anything objectionable, like gas chambers and crematoria, and another Minnesotan, a resident of Minneapolis, called me on the phone to object that the *Konzentrationslager* had only been within the state boundaries of Minnesota for less than a year, when the State Legislature in embarrassment had voted a special appropriation to have it removed somewhere, unspecified, outside our state’s borders, to have it moved in fact, by a contracting firm from Chicago, “as far west as they can take them for the money we can afford” — so what was I getting all hot and bothered about?²⁴ This person got away clean, for I don’t think very fast: I should have told her —but as usual I did not think of this until afterward,

24. The only advantages of this transfer from *Konzentrationslager* to *Konzentrationslager* were that the new camp was technically outside the state of Minnesota, and was not close to any major white population center, that is, the new camp had the advantages that it was not the fault of Minnesotans and was invisible to all but a very few white civilians. (It was not invisible, of course, to its inhabitants, or to the US Army guards, or to the surviving free members of the Dakota nation, one of whom, known as *Tatanka Iyotake* “Sitting Bull,” visited the camp and witnessed the degradation of its internees and decided it would never be safe to be the white man’s friend.)



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when visited by *l'esprit de l'escalier*— about Alfred Kazin's report of the state of affairs in Cologne in 1950:

The war was over. The war was not to be mentioned....
The war did not exist. History as it pushed along just removed the past.

Another Minnesotan got away clean, and escaped from having to deal with this material, by categorizing Austin Meredith's concern as a "concern for the poor Indians" and then condescendingly suggesting that "we" could be of better use to "them" if "we" got involved in mission work than if "we" merely talked about "their" problems and helped "them" recite "their" history of grievances and thus encouraged "them" in "their" self-destructive self-pity and drunkenness! But the topping on the cake came when a member of my worship group, a white woman who is a St. Paul resident, approached me outside our place of worship to say the following:

I come to worship in order to feel good. You are making me feel bad, and you should either not come, or not speak — or you will force me to go elsewhere to worship!

The reaction from the Minnesota Historical Society has been simpler: I have made four separate attempts, through former employees with connections and through friends who have friends inside that organization, to discover someone who would be able safely to meet with me. I have made every attempt to be nonconfrontational in this, because I wanted to be effective and because, it has seemed to me, whenever I bring up this topic in Minnesota the mere bringing up of the topic is taken by my conversant to be controversial: A typical response is "It's not so much what you say that bothers me, as the way in which you say it." For several years, while I was doing this research, there was no response other than silence from the MHS, which, I take it, in matters of this sort, is a response.

I supposed at the time that this profound silence would indicate one of two things, either that none of these lower-level employees of the Minnesota Historical Society feel they could get away with a meeting like this, or possibly that no-one who was contacted was interested in trying to tell the public the truth about Minnesota's shame when it has been most abundantly clear in Minnesota it has been that if there is anything our nice citizens do not desire to hear about, it is Minnesota's shame, how their families obtained the deeds to their farms. Yet I persisted, and made a fifth attempt, a polite-but-frank registered letter to the society—the purpose of which, I considered, has been to ensure that there is never a real Minnesota Historical Society there already being something by that name— and that fifth time, I achieved a response. On October 1, 1992, I received a written response from the society's Director, Ms. Lina Archabal at their new, grand headquarters at 345 Kellogg Boulevard West in St. Paul MN 55102-1906, denying that anyone at the MHS has been aware that for the past three years I had been attempting to reach them in order to negotiate with them, and providing the names of two editors whom I might attempt to contact in order to negotiate for publication. I thought it was an interesting touch, that Director Archabal saw fit to add to her letter that the MHS does check submitted material for **accuracy**.

Initially, after receiving this letter from Director Archabal, what I did was wait a couple of weeks. I wanted to allow time to discover whether either of the two editors cited by name in this return letter, people who certainly would have received blind "cc" copies of the letter, would telephone me and set up an appointment. Nothing. So then I telephoned and set up the appointment. The book editor set up an appointment for me to meet with



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her and the articles editor, on a holiday. I thought it strange that the meeting was to be on a holiday, but I showed up on schedule. And I was informed that somehow I had misunderstood, and had come on the wrong day, and no-one could meet with me. So then I rescheduled.

For my rescheduled appointment, when I visited the grand new edifice of the Minnesota Historical Society, I stopped by their gift shop on the way upstairs and paid 5¢ for a racist medallion they were offering to the general public. This medallion was an aluminum copy of a piece of racism from the 19th Century, a medallion which had originally been struck in precious metal by the Legislature in honor of the “defenders” of the frontier fort which isolated the “Sioux” from civilized society, Fort Ridgely on the Minnesota River at the “entrance” to the “Sioux reservation,” a fort the function of which in the 19th Century had been roughly equivalent in function to a 20th-Century guard tower at the corner of a *Konzentrationslager*. I fantasized a medal being offered in München honoring guards who had been viciously “attacked” by a mob of starving Jews, and so the first thing I did when I got into the conference room with these two editors was toss this simulacrum into the center of the huge conference table. They did not seem surprised to see it, and made no comment on it as I described it for their benefit, and read to them its legend, and still they made no response when I closed with something like

You see, it is commonly thought that the racism of the MHS is something having to do with its history, and with its historical archives, something having to do with those bad old days when the MHS didn't know better than to display the body parts of murdered non-white people in glass cases, a racist era which had been fully acknowledged and therefore dispensed with – yet it is even now a live agenda, and here among us!

The journal editor then proceeded to justify herself by informing me that she had just published a non-racist article, an article on racist attitudes, the **first ever** such article to appear from her press.

But I had done my homework! I was able to respond to her directly, that I had just studied that article in preparation for our meeting, knowing that she would refer to it, and that I could demonstrate it to be just another piece of racism — because it had explored the racist attitudes of white people and of white people only, and had then implicitly proffered these white attitudes as representative of the attitudes of all humans regardless of race. I pointed out to this lady, that to hold white people as the norm and to generalize implicitly from them to all people was precisely what we should know as racist, and shun, and I proceeded to construct a parallel situation which she was able to grasp:

Suppose (I offered) you were to publish an article about sexist attitudes which used all and only males as its informants, and the article were to draw conclusions by generalizing implicitly from males to females without asking any females how they felt about sexism. Wouldn't you say that what you had created was likely to be just another piece of sexism?

She responded that she could see the force of my analogy, and yet she knew that the author of the piece in



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question had in fact attempted without success to uncover “native informants.” She was doing the best she could and should not be criticized if there wasn’t any non-white person competent enough, or coherent enough,²⁵ to consult with in Minnesota. Besides, and she laughed nervously, can you imagine how utterly **we’d be condemned** were we to represent any **non-white** person or group as having a **racist** attitude?

Well, yes, I had to admit she had a point there. You can’t kick the victim and expect to get away with it, **not in Minnesota you can’t.**

As further evidence of the completeness of their righteousness, they pointed out to me that recently they had published the high-school diary of a 20th-Century black girl resident in St. Paul. The sum of it was, however, that these two editors stonewalled me. Bottom line, the argument with which they refused to consider anything I might submit was, and I quote, “We can’t publish fiction, it’s against our charter.” They smiled, and we shook hands and parted as they commented that they understood that I would do what I had to do.

The death rate at what the [Smithsonian Institution](#) insists upon referring to as a “sequestration facility” on Pike Island under the guns of Fort Snelling outside the Twin Cities, among the Christian Indian farmers and women and children and old men who were being held race hostage there by the US Army, approximated the death rate at Dachau, the German concentration camp outside Munich during World War II. I referred to this 19th-Century use of the island under the cannons as having been a concentration camp, and the outraged attack on me was that I was implying that the good white people of Minnesota had put **gas chambers** on the island, and were in the process of a factory extermination of these people. The outrage was that I had supposedly suggested, or somehow implied, that evidence of gas chambers had been discovered, when there had been no such gas chambers. When I attempted to explain that the term “concentration camp” involves no accusation of mass slaughter, there was no response whatever and there was no diminution in the expression of outrage.

The outrage at my accusation was in particular on the part of a Jewish woman Minnesota resident who went from group to group telling, and writing, of her parents in a concentration camp. She considered it offensive to ever mention the term “concentration camp” without a focus on merely the Jewish victims.

One Friend, speaking to me and Rey later at a dinner at their home, expressed sorrow that I had had to be disciplined by my Friends meeting. We found out in this manner, that there had been an utterly false allegation being circulated, to that effect, by a person, a Minnesotan recent immigrant from Germany, who had indeed **petitioned** the Ministry and Counsel committee, in a secret meeting, to discipline me — but had been refused.

25. Or sober enough?



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1993

In Washington DC, the US President for the 1st time received e-mail.

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Arafat and Israeli prime minister Rabin signed a peace agreement at the White House. There was to be no further discord between Palestinians and Israelis.

READ THE FULL TEXT

In Washington DC, the [Smithsonian Institution](#) put out a very nice and seemly appearing book about its castle:

Robert McC. Adams
Secretary, Smithsonian Institution
Washington DC 20560

Dear Mr. Adams,

I am delighted to peruse your new Smithsonian publication, THE CASTLE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE SMITHSONIAN BUILDING, by Cynthia R. Field, Richard E. Stamm, and Heather P. Ewing of the Office of Architectural History and Historic Preservation. However, I cannot avoid inquiring as to how it is that in this volume there has been *no attention whatever* paid to the people whose sweat and labor were the basic materials used in the construction of this edifice.

Your publication is a most revealing historical document. It is of course pleasant to learn about important white people, but were there absolutely *no* photographs taken of this work while it was in progress? Are there absolutely *no* photographs still in existence, taken from the windows of your castle, looking down upon the squalor and the stench of the slave pens that were outside?

Sincerely,

Austin Meredith





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January 7, Friday: Since we were well aware that many [Japanese](#) did not “think it right that America should put this plane on display — they say it is awful,” at the [Smithsonian Institution](#) in Washington DC “sensitive discussions” with the Japanese,

1994

about our [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, were being scheduled.

WORLD WAR II

January 31, Monday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit forwarded a copy of “Crossroads” to Hatch at the Air Force Association, asking that he “not circulate the material at this time.”

WORLD WAR II

February 7, Monday: The [Enola Gay](#) exhibit’s external advisory committee met, suggested some revisions, but approved.

WORLD WAR II

February 10, Thursday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, Crouch outlined public programs and symposia “we might create which would attract and inform a general audience and put the right face on the exhibit.”

WORLD WAR II

March 15, Tuesday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit being planned at the [Smithsonian Institution](#) in Washington DC, the Air Force Association released a special report, the basis for its criticism.

WORLD WAR II

March 16, Wednesday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit being planned at the [Smithsonian Institution](#) in Washington DC, an Air Force Association press release on the nature of the draft. “Politically Correct Curating at the Air and Space Museum.

WORLD WAR II

March 24, Thursday: Description of the [Enola Gay](#) coupled with a vivid sense of the controversy brewing, calling the airplane a “symbol of the perennial questions about whether moral lines can be drawn in warfare.”

WORLD WAR II

March 28, Monday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, the Washington [Times](#) fired the opening salvo in public.

WORLD WAR II



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March 30, Wednesday: Senator Nancy Kassebaum wrote to Adams at the [Smithsonian Institution](#), saying that an [Enola Gay](#) exhibit that veterans would find objectionable would constitute a “travesty,” and suggesting that the aircraft be moved to the Kansas Aviation Museum.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

April 1, Friday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, the Air Force Association published its 1st critique by John T. Correll, in [Air Force Magazine](#).

[WORLD WAR II](#)

April 16, Saturday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, the “Tiger Team” appointed by [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit began its evaluation and was to finish by May 25th. Harwit acknowledged the accuracy of Air Force Association criticism in a memo to his staff: “we do have a lack of balance and much of the criticism that has been levied against us is understandable.”

NASM curator Michael Neufeld’s memo to NASM Director Martin Harwit and the Tiger Team clearly spelled out four reasons why historical research shows that “the traditional justification” for the decision to drop the bomb “is no longer tenable.”

The Tiger Team charge and final report. Making a “conscientious effort to add objectivity, accuracy and balance,” the Tiger Team reviewed and made recommendations for each unit.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

April 19, Tuesday: Military historians Richard P. Hallion, Harold W. Nelson, Herman Wolk, and Edward Drea provided detailed analyses opposing the exhibit. Hallion, for instance, called the latest revisions a “cosmetic patch,” and Wolk commented that “the [Enola Gay](#) is basically a prop” in an exhibit focusing on Ground Zero.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

May: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, Director Harwit answered John T. Correll’s April story in [Air Force Magazine](#): “War Stories at Air and Space” offered, among other things in defense of the [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#), that the magazine article was “opt[ing] for silence” on central matters.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

The Famine Museum opened in Strokestown, County Roscommon, [Ireland](#), where in 1847 Major Denis Mahon had evicted thousands of tenants, forcing them to live in hastily dug out “scalps” in the roadside ditches — and had then been assassinated.

[IRISH POTATO FAMINE](#)

May 4, Wednesday: The American Legion, a veterans’ group, adopted Resolution 22 condemning the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit and began active opposition. The exhibit was seen as “politically biased” and as “in violation” of its charter.

[WORLD WAR II](#)



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May 23, Monday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, one of the 1st coverages by major national media: “War is hell, and its commemoration, while less lethal, can be just as bedeviling.”

[WORLD WAR II](#)

May 31, Tuesday: Internal [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) review occasioned by the AFA critique finished with draft #2 of the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, retitled “The Last Act: The [Atomic Bomb](#) and the End of [World War II](#).”

June 2, Monday: Letter to John T. Correll and others by Ned Humphreys details a meeting with [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) officials on the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit in which “the atmosphere was hostile and defensive from the beginning.”

[ATOM BOMB](#)

June 9, Monday: The Reverend John Hinkle claimed that God had confided to him that the [Apocalypse](#) would take place on this day. In a cataclysmic event, God would “rip the evil out of this world.” Afterward, the reverend would comment that this day was merely the beginning — and anyway the ripping out of evil was taking place invisibly.

[MILLENNIALISM](#)

Paul W. Tibbets, Jr. ripped the proposed [Enola Gay](#) exhibit in an award acceptance speech: “I suggest that the Enola Gay be preserved and displayed properly — and alone, for all the world to see. She should be presented as a peace keeper and as the harbinger of a cold war kept from going ‘hot.’”

[WORLD WAR II](#)

June 17, Tuesday: [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit wrote to Paul W. Tibbets, Jr., asking him to participate in a video for the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit: “General Tibbets, you have always served your country when it needed you. Could we not ask you to once more take up that challenge and provide the American people your views on the events that so dramatically brought [World War II](#) to a conclusion and forever changed people’s lives?”

US Navy Commander John L. Sexton and Lieutenant Commander Morgan T. Sammons graduated from the Walter Reed Army Medical Center as the initial psychologists to have been legally trained to prescribe psychoactive drugs (the two had been psychopharmacology fellows while at Walter Reed).

[PSYCHOLOGY](#)

June 21, Saturday: [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) curator Michael Neufeld considered draft #2 of the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit basically a “finished product, minor wording changes aside” in a letter to the NASM advisory board.

[WORLD WAR II](#)



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June 28, Saturday: John T. Correll provided a detailed critique of the May 31 2d draft of the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, now called “The Last Act,” concluding that though there were “commendable changes,” the revisions were less than expected, and the exhibit remained “unbalanced” and a “partisan interpretation” that most veterans were going to find objectionable.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

June 30, Monday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, the AFA strategy included lobbying and using the Freedom of Information Act.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

The 1st American Psychological Society Institute on the Teaching of [Psychology](#) was held in conjunction with the organization’s convention (Douglas Bernstein of the University of Illinois had been instrumental in organizing this Washington DC event).

July 15, Friday: In a letter to General Merrill McPeak in regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit indicated a willingness to compromise: “if you had the time and inclination to arrange for a meeting along the lines I described, it could well constitute the catalyst needed to bring this unfortunate disagreement to a suitable resolution.” Hatch indicated a willingness to compromise in a letter to Harwit: “Martin, I still believe it is possible to produce an accurate and balanced exhibit that focuses on the end of [World War II](#).”

July 21, Thursday: The Washington [Post](#) began regular coverage of the controversy over the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit: “The [Smithsonian Institution](#) has failed to mollify critics of its controversial exhibit.”

[WORLD WAR II](#)

August: The SIGGRAPH94 discussion group for selecting basis of VRML.

[Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit defended the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, identifying the intended audience as largely “those generations of Americans too young to remember how the war ended”: “If we cannot mount a thoroughly documented exhibition, then we have little hope of learning from these epochal events.”

The World War II Times devoted a large portion of its August-September issue to blasting the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit. Its headlines blared “NASM Script Offensive” and “An Insult to Our Veterans.”

[WORLD WAR II](#)

August 7, Sunday: [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit defended the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit again and was answered.

[WORLD WAR II](#)



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August 10, Wednesday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, Peter Blute R-Mass and two dozen other members of Congress expressed “concern and dismay.” The Congressional letter to Adams: “Our overriding concern is the lack of context in this exhibit.”

AFA press release: “Despite such minor changes, the ‘tilt’ of the exhibit is highly partisan.”

[WORLD WAR II](#)

August 12, Friday: The American Legion wrote to [President William Jefferson Clinton](#), calling the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit “an affront to an entire generation of Americans.”

[WORLD WAR II](#)

August 17, Wednesday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, John T. Correll reported on an August 16th meeting of various interested parties in which he cited “hostile exchanges” with [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit.

Director Harwit sent Hatch a 3-page summary update of script changes.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

August 22, Monday: John T. Correll reported on developments leading to yet another draft, says there was considerable opinion that it was time “to shut down this exhibit,” and in point #4 he was very explicit about what was making the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit so utterly unacceptable.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

August 23, Tuesday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit being planned at the [Smithsonian Institution](#) in Washington DC, the Air Force Historian reported that [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit criticized his own staff.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

August 24, Wednesday: Hatch responded to a [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit letter about AFA criticism, detailing the AFA position again, calling for the need to “seriously restructure” the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit — the problems were not minor ones of language or technical issues.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

August 29, Monday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) announced the addition of a “War in the Pacific” unit, admitting criticisms had been valid. This was a clear victory for the critics, a sign that the [Smithsonian Institution](#) recognized the need to revise, yet also evidence to some that the Smithsonian was bowing to political pressure and censorship.

[WORLD WAR II](#)



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September 1, Thursday: [Air Force Magazine](#) published its 2d major article: “The [Enola Gay](#) exhibit still lacks balance and still is emotionally charged, but the [Smithsonian](#) says the plans are final.”

WORLD WAR II

September 3, Saturday: In the first visit of a Chinese head of state to Moscow since 1957, President Jiang Zemin and President Boris Yeltsin signed agreements to reduce the number of troops on their common border and to stop aiming [nuclear weapons](#) at each other.

Incidental music to Wilson’s play *Come in Under the Shadow of the Red Rock* by Philip Glass was performed for the first time, in Gibellina, Sicily.

On *Stellar Magnitudes* for mezzo-soprano, flute/piccolo, clarinet/bass clarinet, piano, violin and cello by Brian Ferneyhough was performed for the first time, at Royaumont.

September 6, Tuesday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, Poignant protest letter to [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit from Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, is just one of a collection of protest letters from early summer through the end of the year by such organizations as American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, American Ex-Prisoners of War, 20th Air Force Association, The Military Order of the World Wars, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Exchange Club of Capitol Hill, Retired Enlisted Association, American Legion, Daedalians, Retired Officers Association, Confederate Air Force, Jewish War Veterans.

WORLD WAR II

September 9, Friday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, John T. Correll’s detailed response to the 3d draft: “the museum still has an attitude.... taken overall the exhibition still lacks balance and context.”

WORLD WAR II

September 10, Saturday: Veterans respond in letters to the editor: “Hiroshima Bomb Display Still Distorts History,” [New York Times](#), 9/10/94, 1:18 “The exhibit should be a celebration.” “They Would Have Fought to the Death,” [Wall Street Journal](#), 9/12/1994, A17 “[The [Enola Gay](#) exhibit] is an insult to all veterans.” “They [Japanese women and children] were armed with bamboo spears, bows and arrows, and kotchias, a kind of lethally shaped garden hoe.”

WORLD WAR II


September 11, Sunday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, AFA Resolution: “But further improvements can and must be made in the main exhibit. In other words, the ‘American perspective’ must be incorporated throughout.”

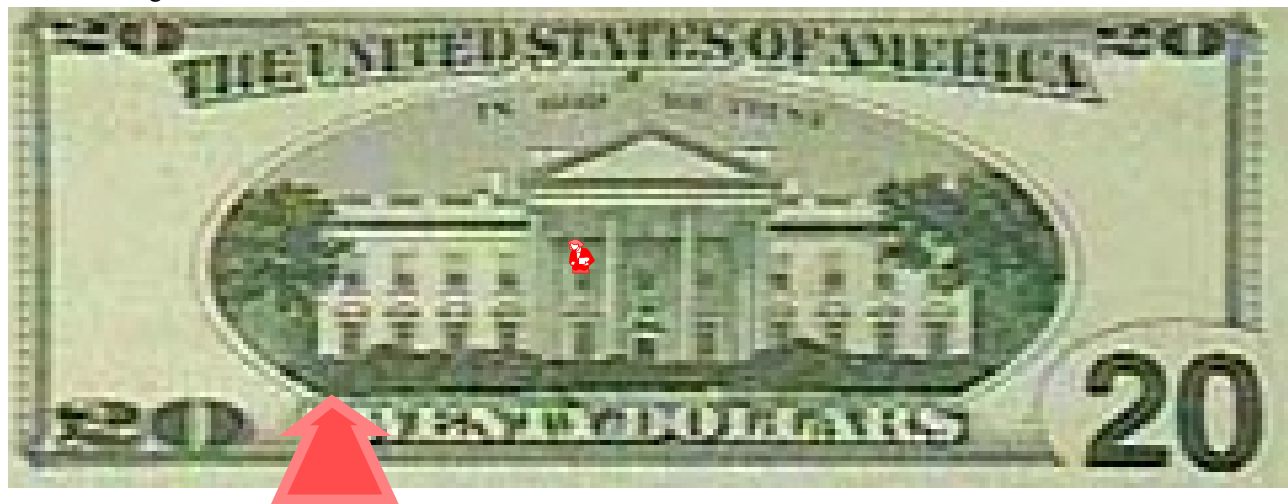
WORLD WAR II



JAMES SMITHSON

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

September 12, Monday: Frank Eugene Corder stole a red-and-white Cessna 150 trainer and made a name for himself by diving it into the White House. The sniper nest on the roof of the Executive Mansion had a maximum of 14 seconds to get off the Stinger missiles that were planned to disintegrate such an aircraft in the air, and failed to get off even one, possibly because the planes they were on the lookout for were substantially higher-tech attack bombers. The plane hit the magnolia tree that had been planted by the slaves of President Andrew Jackson. This graceful tree  is the one that is depicted on the back of our \$20.⁰⁰ bill, and the Cessna broke off one shapely limb and damaged the bullet-proof glass of the window of an aide-de-camp's office on the ground floor:



[First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton](#) came out onto the upstairs portico that had been added by President [Harry S Truman](#) and leaned over to take a peek (as simulated in red, above, on this snip from the currency) as the dead body of what's-his-face was being cut out of the wreckage.

AFA press release. A Veteran-Congressman blasted the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit: "In 1943, I left the United States for the Pacific theater as an 18-year-old Army Air Force recruit prepared to defend my country against one of the most brutal aggressors of our time. Fifty years later, I find myself again defending our country from another surprise attack, this time from American scholars attempting to rewrite history."

[WORLD WAR II](#)



September 13, Tuesday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, A pro-[Smithsonian Institution](#) historian attacked the issue of the projected number of invasion casualties, challenging the “conventional wisdom” that the bomb was needed to offset a million American casualties: “We Didn’t Have to Drop the Bomb,” by Gar Alperovitz, [Wall Street Journal](#), 9/13/1994, A19 (This argued against the classic post-war self-serving political explanation for dropping the bomb, by the Secretary of War: “The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb,” by Henry L. Stimson, [Harper’s Magazine](#), February 1947: 97-107).

[WORLD WAR II](#)

September 19, Monday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, Michael Heyman took office as the new Secretary of the [Smithsonian](#) replacing Adams as [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit’s boss: “Our first script for the exhibition was deficient,” he says immediately.

John T. Correll wrote to military groups about “further action,” making, in effect, a list of demands.

The executive committee of the Organization of American Historians wrote to the [Smithsonian](#) Board of Regents urging them to support the NASM staff: resisting the political pressure and censorship efforts was the issue.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

September 20, Tuesday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, Peace groups met with [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit. The Reverend John Dear submitted ten suggestions and the [Fellowship of Reconciliation](#) issued a press release: “The basic tone, we would argue, should be that the atomic bombing ... was a grave mistake and that the only way to ensure that it never happens again is to dismantle every nuclear weapon and every weapon of mass destruction that we possess and learn non-violent ways to resolve international conflict.”

[WORLD WAR II](#)

September 21, Wednesday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) started revisions of draft #3 in direct head-to-head, across-the-table consultation with the American Legion. NASM Director Martin Harwit: “The only way we can try to understand each other’s point of view and reach agreement is by sitting down and talking about our differences.”

[WORLD WAR II](#)

September 22, Thursday: Under the leadership of Senator Nancy Kassebaum, the US Senate overwhelmingly passes a “sense of the Senate” (non-binding) resolution against the proposed [Enola Gay](#) exhibit.

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September 27, Tuesday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, Hatch wrote to [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit criticizing the most recent draft and summarizing AFA's broad concerns: "there are serious lingering structural, contextual and ideological issues that still must be addressed."

WORLD WAR II

Harold Camping, head of Oakland's Family Radio and host of the station's Biblical discussion talk show "Open Forum," had predicted the End Times in his book "1994?" (NY: Vantage Press, 1992, pages 526-7, page 531), calculating that the Tribulation would end on September 6th and would be followed by a Last Day involving the [Second Coming](#) of Jesus Christ between September 15th and this day. When this day the 27th of September, 1994, would pass –apparently without supernatural incident that anybody had happened to notice– he would extend his prediction by two days, to September 29th. Oh, my.

MILLENNIALISM

October 1, Saturday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, New Secretary Heyman tried to strike a delicate balance in his 1st public statement about the controversy (though this was written in August, even before his 9/19 installation as Secretary): "Controversial issues arise from time to time from equally well-intentioned curatorial interpretations and can be especially testing for a Secretary-elect." There was a brief update on the situation by John T. Correll, in [Air Force Magazine](#).

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October 3, Monday: Draft #4 of the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit by [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#).

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[US President William Jefferson Clinton](#) lifted the ban on contacts with Sinn Fein.

US troops began a crackdown on Haitian paramilitaries.

Presidential elections in Brazil resulted in a victory for centrist economist Fernando Henrique Cardoso. In the Chamber of Deputies, the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party won the highest number of seats.

October 6, Thursday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, Statement by Representative Gerald B. H. Solomon: threatens the [Smithsonian](#) with the "power of the purse" that Congress wields.

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October 7, Friday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, some veterans responded in the [Wall Street Journal](#) to Alperovitz's September 13th article, in "The Carnage That Led to the Bomb": "One cannot help but suspect that many in the debate are more interested in advancing an agenda of today than in understanding the dilemmas of the past." "The Japanese held 400,000 slave laborers captive in August 1945 — all had been sentenced to execution if American forces landed in Japan." "After spending two years in New Guinea and the Philippines we were convinced that this would be our last landing and that we would die on the beaches."

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October 11, Tuesday: A peace advocacy organization added its two cents worth to the controversy over the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit: “The United States, as the only country in the world to use the atomic bomb, has a responsibility to recognize the significance of that act and to take the lead in insuring that it never happens again. We need honest reflection on the bombing and its enormous cost to humanity, not uncritical glorification of the American war effort.” — “The Japanese Victims,” by Jo Becker, New York [Times](#), 10/11/94, A20

WORLD WAR II

October 13, Thursday: The Organization of American Historians passed a resolution asking that the [Smithsonian Institution](#) be freed from political interference: “The Organization of American Historians condemns threats by members of Congress... further deplors the removal of historical documents and revisions of interpretations of history for reasons outside the professional procedures and criteria by which museum exhibitions are created.”

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October 14, Friday: The American Legion affirmed its watchdog role: “We see [the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit] as disseminating a deconstructed view of American history with the potential to undermine ... our people’s faith in our forefathers.”

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October 16, Sunday: Pro-Smithsonian historians responding. “The Curators Cave In,” by Kai Bird, New York [Times](#), 10/9/94, 4:15 “The [Smithsonian](#) should display history with all its uncomfortable complications, and not feel-good national myths,” and not engage in self-censorship “Why [Hiroshima](#) Still Haunts America’s Psyche,” by Robert Jay Lifton and Greg Mitchell, New York [Times](#), 10/16/94, 4:14 “It has never been easy to reconcile dropping the bomb with a sense of ourselves as a decent people”

“Beyond the [Smithsonian](#) Flap: Historians’ New Consensus,” by Gar Alperovitz, Washington [Post](#), 10/16/94, C3 “While it is impossible to defuse all the emotions around the [Enola Gay](#) exhibition, research findings of the last two decades can help clarify several basic questions.” See Newman, 11/30/94

WORLD WAR II

October 17, Monday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, John T. Correll critiques the October 3 4th draft: “Unfortunately, the built-in structural bias of the exhibit plan remains. It leads the visitor, step by step, to the ‘Ground Zero’ section where the curators pull their planned emotional trigger.”

WORLD WAR II

October 19, Wednesday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, In his October 28th memo to Hatch, John T. Correll would mention that there had been a 3-hour meeting with the [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) on this day.

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October 20, Thursday: AFA press release. "[Enola Gay](#) Exhibit Improved, but Significant Work Remains"

WORLD WAR II

October 28, Friday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, John T. Correll examined the 5th draft, created on October 26th, and remained unsatisfied: "Basic — and unfortunate — assessment: Minor and marginal improvements, but continuation of the structural and ideological bias we have identified before."

WORLD WAR II

November 1, Tuesday: [Air Force Magazine](#) published its 3d major article: "what the curators had in mind was more political than aeronautical.... the museum was in fact preparing to exhibit the [Enola Gay](#) in a politically rigged horror show." "The Three Doctors and the Enola Gay," by John T. Correll, [Air Force Magazine](#), 11/94, 8-12 "Revisionism at Its Worst," [Air Force Magazine](#), 11/94, 5-6. Letters supporting the AFA position, including one by Enola Gay crew member, George Caron: "I believe the use of the atom bombs convinced Japan to give up. The resultant nuclear age is an entirely different subject."

Organization of American Historians' Newsletter calls for a code of principles and published its resolution: "American museums need to adopt a Declaration of Independence if they are ever to enjoy a Bill of Rights." "S.O.S.: Storm Warning for American Museums," by Alfred F. Young, OAH Newsletter 22.4 (November 1994): 1, 6-8. "A Chronology of the [Smithsonian](#)'s 'Last Act,'" John R. Dichtl, OAH Newsletter, 22.4 (November 1994): 9-10. Contains the OAH resolution.

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November 16, Wednesday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, 48 "historians and scholars" sent a letter to Heyman charging that by giving in to pressure groups the [Smithsonian Institution](#) had "become associated with a transparent attempt at historical cleansing." This November 16th letter to Heyman asserted that "we yield to no one in our desire to honor the American soldiers," but "certain irrevocable facts cannot be omitted without so corrupting the exhibit that it is reduced to mere propaganda."

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November 17, Thursday: The historians' letter to [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit: had contained a list of minimum issues the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit should include. Professor Noam Chomsky, one of the signatories, wrote in addition that "as a strong opponent of totalitarian tendencies I naturally oppose the efforts of interested pressure groups to alter the decisions of the [Smithsonian](#)."

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After a split in his 2-party coalition, Albert Reynolds resigned a Prime Minister of [Ireland](#).

Sonata for cello and piano no.2 by Alfred Schnittke was performed for the initial time, in the Barbican Center, London.

In Kathryn Bache Miller Theater, New York, last things, I think, to think about for bass-baritone, piano, electronic sound generators and slide projections by Roger Reynolds to words of Ashberry was performed for the initial time.



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November 22, Tuesday: Bosnian Serbs fired on British planes.

Italian prosecutors informed Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi that he was under investigation for bribery.

Senator Jesse Helms warned that if [President Bill Clinton](#) came to [North Carolina](#), “he’d better have a bodyguard” (Jesse was always such fun).

The forward fuselage of Bomber 44-86292, better known as the [Enola Gay](#), was moved from Suitland, Maryland to the National Air and Space Museum in Washington DC.



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There, it would be creating great controversy, as various veterans organizations would begin to complain that neither the self-righteousness nor the chauvinism of the exhibit were being rendered adequately fulsome.²⁶

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26. Which is to say that despite all warnings from American patriots, the staff of curators made an attempt to create an exhibit which more or less provoked thought by hinting that the issue might have more than one side.



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December 1, Thursday: Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León replaced Carlos Salinas de Gortari as President of [Mexico](#).

Popular music performer Tupac Shakur was convicted of having in the previous year sexually abused a woman in a New York hotel room (he would be sentenced to prison for one and a half to four and a half years).

[Air Force Magazine](#) published its 4th major article: “If the [Enola Gay](#) program is fixed — and that is a big if — what about the next exhibition, and the one after that? What about the people who created such a biased exhibit in the first place? What else do they have in mind?” They do not seem to realize that visitors “are not interested in counterculture morality pageants put on by academic activists” (“Airplanes in the Mist” by John T. Correll, [Air Force Magazine](#), 12/94, 2).

Congressmen Sam Johnson, Peter Blute, and Stephen Buyer would become most explicit: “it is time for Secretary Heyman to act by removing [Harwit] as director” (“Harwit Firing Demanded,” [World War II Times](#), December-January 1995).

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December 4, Sunday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, Heyman responded, “I am confident that this ongoing dialogue will result in an exhibition that is historically accurate, balanced and informative and will recognize the veterans who so honorably served their country.”

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December 8, Thursday: A team of German scientists in Darmstadt, led by Peter Armbruster, claimed to have created Element 111. They called this Ununium. It had been formed by smashing nickel atoms into Bismuth. Each [atom](#) created existed for less than a second.

Bosnian Serb forced release 55 Canadian hostages but continued to hold 300 UN troops taken November 24.

Antonio Carlos Jobim died in New York at the age of 67.

A revised version of Out of Peking Opera (Violin Concerto no.1) for violin and orchestra by Tan Dun (37) was performed for the first time, in Glasgow, directed by the composer.

December 12, Monday: John T. Correll wrote sarcastically to Robert Beisner of American University, “I wonder if the research that you and your colleagues did on the controversy before declaring your flamboyant opinion was any example of the care and scholarship you give to researching other matters.” Ouch.

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December 13, Tuesday: Philip S. Foner died in Philadelphia.

In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, seven Congressmen write Heyman to express their “deep displeasure”: “there is no excuse for an exhibit which addresses one of the most morally unambiguous events of the 20th century to need five revisions” (we can all agree, of course, that our deployment of a gargantuan terror device on a city crammed with civilian women, children, and oldsters that we then well knew was devoid of any significant military apparatus, stockpiles, or weapons factories was indeed one of the most morally unambiguous events of the 20th century; our communication was not merely that we did in fact possess such weaponry, but also was “See, see, we blanch at nothing”).

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December 15, Thursday: John Gerard Bruton of *Fine Gael* replaced Albert Reynolds of *Fianna Fáil* as Prime Minister of [Ireland](#) at the head of a new 3-party coalition. Labour left the ruling coalition with *Fianna Fáil* to join with *Fine Gael* and the Democratic Left.

The Republic of Palau was admitted to the United Nations.

In the December 28 letter, John T. Correll had mentioned that there would be a meeting with NASM on this day. [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit met with the Physicians for Social Responsibility who make recommendations to restore balance in the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit: “As it now stands, the display takes a one-sided, dehumanized, and somewhat celebratory tone unsuited to the National Air and Space Museum.... The NASM must make a formal commitment to mount an exhibit on the post-war nuclear arms race, its environmental and health consequences, and opposition to it that has led to various attempts to control, limit and now reduce nuclear arms.”

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December 19, Monday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, Congressman Johnson questioned Japan’s involvement: “it is ironic that ... every effort has been made to accommodate the Japanese and their views.”

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December 28, Wednesday: John T. Correll wrote to [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) curator Tom Alison critiquing “War in the Pacific” as the new introductory unit to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit.

What follows is a sampling of the coverage of the controversy during December by major media:

“Japan Was Anticipating Annihilation,” by Wendell Phillippi, [World War II Times](#), December-January 1995: “Historians and the younger generations have literally shot the hell out of our observances of the deadliest war of all time.”

“Pass More Ammunition, Folks,” by Elbert L. Watson, [World War II Times](#), December-January 1995, 2: “Harwit ... has long since worn out his value.”

“A War of Words over World War II,” by David J. Smollar, San Diego [Union Tribune](#), 12/1/94, B11: “Let the [Smithsonian](#) listen to the voices of those who fought, and not those who would rewrite history to place the legacy of those who fought into a specific ideological camp.”



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“Japan, [Smithsonian](#) Fail at Apologizing for, Interpreting WW II,” by Robert E. Siegrist, [Potomac News](#), 12/4, 94, A11: “... the idiocy of the thought process of the flower-child-era-indoctrinated revisionists.”

“Japan Protests U.S. Stamp on A-Bombs,” by Andrew Pollack, [New York Times](#), 12/4/94, 25: “A mushroom cloud is called ‘heartless.’”

“Monuments to Vulgar Patriotism,” by Richard Grenier, [Washington Times](#), 12/5/94, A23: “But the sophisticated Mr. Heyman would feel uneasy teaching this [soldiers rejoicing that they were going to live]. Too celebratory. Too patriotic.”

“Seeking the Survivors: Japanese Museum Asks [Hiroshima](#) Victims for Views on Exhibit Here,” by Eugene L. Meyer and Eric Brace, [Washington Post](#), 12/5/94 B7.

“[A-bomb](#) Exhibit Still under Fire,” by Andrea Stone, [USA Today](#), 12/6/94, 3A: Historian Kai Bird says, “It’s extremely reminiscent of the McCarthy period.”

“Japan Still Trying to Distort WWII History,” Joan Beck, [Jacksonville Daily News](#), 12/12/94: “The blame for [the bomb’s] hellish destruction must lie not so much with those who used the bomb as with those who created the situation in which it seemed the lesser of two evils.”

“More Turbulence for [Enola Gay](#): Peace Activists Disappointed after [Smithsonian](#) Meeting,” by Eugene L. Meyer, [Washington Post](#), 12/16/94, F1: Critics decry “political censorship.”

“Incoming GOP Congress Should Shake Some Cages at [Smithsonian](#),” [Tampa Tribune](#), 12/16/94, 18: “The Smithsonian Institution’s museums are a national treasure, but they are being tarnished by smug political elitists with an aversion to American culture and a disdain for long-stipulated values.”

“[Smithsonian](#) Goes Awry on World War II,” [Asheville Citizen-Times](#), 12/21/94: “The United States did not trigger the war. And whatever means America used to end the carnage and save American lives were justified. That’s what the Smithsonian should say about the [Enola Gay](#).”

“Without Trial Lawyers, the Common Man Has No Rights at Law,” [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), 12/22/94, C3: Last letter in the section: “You have to go back to 1945.... I was 13.... My brother’s friend killed in action....”

“Atomic-bomb Cartoon Shows Steve Benson’s Warped Mind,” [Arizona Republic](#), 12/24/94: Letter about an editorial cartoon: The dropping of the bomb “was not a haphazard murderous undertaking ... but a well-thought-out military action to shorten the war and save lives. It did just that, mine included.”

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1995

January: The American Legion kept the fires burning: “Justice is what this controversy is all about. Justice to the memory of the WW II veterans. Justice to the generations we leave behind. And justice to a nation that nurtured and sustained us over the past 50 years” (“Watchdog for Veterans,” American Legion, Fall 1994, 20, 68, written during November 1994).

“The Proposed Enola Gay Exhibit, Is It An Accurate Portrayal of History?” by Julie A. Rhoad, American Legion Auxiliary National News, January-February 1995, 12-15: In the last section of this article, this historian pointed to a “redefinition of morality” with the dropping of the bomb: “it was that redefinition of morality [regarding “mass killings by bombing civilians”] that made Hiroshima and Nagasaki possible and ushered in the atomic age in a frightening way.”

“The Atomic Bombings Reconsidered” by Barton J. Bernstein, Foreign Affairs, January 1995, 135ff.

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January: The Historians Committee for Open Debate on Hiroshima was formed. For a general view of historians under fire, see also:

“Who Owns History?” by Karen Winkler, [Chronicle of Higher Education](#), January 20, 1995, A11, 18: “a lot of the critics of history today are scared of students who ask questions. They don’t necessarily want to see an informed electorate, but a compliant one.”

Heyman writes about the challenge of interpretive exhibits: “Interpretation has an important role to play in a national museum involved in education as well as in the simple display of objects.... But controversy can also be destructive to learning and to perceptions of a museum’s integrity.... We at the [Smithsonian](#) are seeking to understand when controversy is productive, when destructive, and how to assure that our integrity and reputation for balance and fairness do not suffer.” “Smithsonian Perspectives,” by I. Michael Heyman, [Smithsonian](#), January 1995, 8

Japanese perspective: Michio, Saito. “Yomigaeru borei Enora Gei: Sumisonian tenshi ronso” [Reviving the Dead Spirit of the [Enola Gay](#): The Controversy over the [Smithsonian](#) Exhibit]. [Chuo Koron](#) January 1995: 44-55.

Sampling of coverage in January by major media before the cancellation. “American Legion - approved Atomic Bomb exhibit,” editorial cartoon by Signe Wilkinson, January 1995 “Why We Dropped the Bomb,” by William Lanouette, [Civilization](#), January-February 1995, 28-39 “As rational people, we like to think that momentous decisions are based on reason and conviction or ... ‘mature consideration.’ Hiroshima reminds us that fear and doubt are every bit as important as reason and conviction. Whatever the verdict on the bombing of Japan, one thing is certain: It was not done after ‘mature consideration.’ At a time when humanity has developed weapons powerful enough to destroy the planet, that failure may be the most important legacy of the Pacific war.”

“Debate Rages over Hiroshima Bombing and Exhibition,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 1/1/95, E5 Letters

“Political Correctness Comes Out of the Attic at the [Smithsonian](#),” by Stephen Goode, [Insight](#), January 2, 1995: 30-32. (See Heyman’s response) “The single aim of the politically correct exhibits? To make viewers feel that as Americans, they are guilty of promoting devastation, pillage, and other crimes.”

“The [Enola Gay](#) Exhibit a Mainstream Victory,” [Mobile Register](#), 1/6/95, 6A “If the Enola Gay battle is any measure, conservatives have not only found their voices, they’ve also got their wits about them.”

“As a Generation Fades, So Does The Awareness of a War Gone By,” by John Shaughnessy, [Indianapolis Star](#), 1/11/95 “[Young people] haven’t been given the education they need, which is a problem with the revisionism in history we have going on.”

“The Voices of Vets on the Atomic Bomb,” by Joan Beck, [Indianapolis Star](#), 1/12/95 “Distorting history while those who lived it are still alive is infuriating. Just ask the veterans who fought the desperate, deadly battles of World War II.”

“[Enola Gay](#) Exhibit Loses Legion’s Aid,” by Rowan Scarborough, [Washington Times](#), 1/19/95, A3

“Don’t Mark War Anniversary with Stamp Backing Big Lie,” by Patrick G. Coy, [Washington Post](#), 1/19/95
“Our commemorations ought to be solemn, sensitive and above all truthful. We owe the vaporized dead, some



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of whose shadows are burned into the concrete of Hiroshima, nothing less.”

“[Smithsonian](#) Stands Firm on [A-bomb](#) Exhibit,” by Eugene L. Meyer, [Washington Post](#), 1/19/95, C1

“Group Seeks to End [Enola Gay](#) Display at the [Smithsonian](#),” [New York Times](#), 1/20/95, A25

“The [Enola Gay](#) Explosion,” [Washington Post](#), 1/20/95, A20 “The fuselage of the Enola Gay is an emotion-soaked artifact and a piece of historical heritage that the American people deserve to get a look at. They also deserve a historical presentation worthy of the subject and of the standards the [Smithsonian Institution](#) unaccountably let slip in this chaotic case.”

“Vets Blast [A-bomb](#) Exhibit,” by Andrea Stone, [USA Today](#), 1/20/95, 1A

“This Is One Mission That Should Be Scratched,” by Sandy Grady, [San Jose Mercury News](#), 1/22/95 “Memory is still too raw. Wait a generation. Wheel the [Enola Gay](#) back to its hangar and let the old bird rest in peace.”

“Benson’s View,” [Arizona Republic](#), 1/25/95, B4 Editorial cartoon (“First we obliterated...”)

“Fallout at the [Smithsonian](#),” by Ken Adelman, [Washington Times](#), 1/25/95, A16

“Museum Director’s Job on the Line,” by Rowan Scarborough, [Washington Times](#), 1/25/95, A1

“Dismissal Sought over [Enola Gay](#),” by Mike Feinsilber, [Philadelphia Inquirer](#), 1/26/95, A3

“80 Lawmakers Demand Ouster of Director of Air Museum,” by Eric Schmitt, [New York Times](#), 1/26/95, A12

“Dense [Smithsonian](#) Merits Scrutiny,” by Marianne Means, [Knoxville News Sentinel](#), 1/26/95, A10 [“The Smithsonian] regards the display not as a symbol of American victory in the most deadly war in history but as a golden tax-payer funded opportunity for antinuclear propaganda.”

“81 Gunning for Air Museum Chief,” [Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#), 1/26/95, A3

“Museum Director Backed by Boss,” by Rowan Scarborough, [Washington Times](#), 1/26/95, A3

“Real State of the Union,” by George Will, [Washington Post](#), 1/26/95, A25 “The [Smithsonian](#) Institution ... is besotted with the cranky anti-Americanism of the campuses where the American left has gone to lick its wounds, rationalize its irrelevance and teach the humanities as an indictment of America as a blemish on Western civilization, which itself is considered a blemish on the planet.”

“U. S. Exhibit on Bomber Is in Jeopardy,” by Karen De Witt, [New York Times](#), 1/28/95, 1:8

“[Enola Gay](#) a Minor Exhibit?” [Kansas City Star](#), 1/28/95, A12 Has editorial cartoon: “We’ve rewritten the war with Japan”

“Whose Memory Lives When the Last Survivor Dies?” by Gustav Niebuhr, [New York Times](#), 1/29/95, E5

“[Smithsonian](#) Elitists Distort World War II Facts,” by Jack Powers, [South Bend Tribune](#), 1/29/95, A20 “Scrub



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it. Scrap the whole damned, divisive idea at least until we recover common sense.”

“Tax Revenues vs. Historic Truth,” by Philip Terzian, Providence Journal-Bulletin, 1/29/95, 11D “This is not the 1st time the [Smithsonian](#) has mounted a tax-payer funded offense against historic truth.”

“Controversy over [Enola Gay](#) Comes to a Head,” by David Dahl, St. Petersburg Times, 1/29/95, 1A

“Another Bomb for [Enola Gay](#),” by Thom Marshall, Houston Chronicle, 1/29/95, A29 “If the Enola Gay is exhibited it should be done without any of the 500 pages of comments, out of respect for all those who have their opinions based upon first-hand knowledge and experience.”

January 1, Sunday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit being planned at the [Smithsonian Institution](#) in Washington DC, [Air Force Magazine](#) published its 5th major article. The letter is revealing: “The purpose of the National Air and Space Museum is to display articles of hardware. The purpose of the Air and Space Museum is not to editorialize (on anything) nor to teach social righteousness.” “Air and Space Museum Hit by Academic Backlash,” by John T. Correll, [Air Force Magazine](#), 1/95, 13

“Doctored History,” by Jerry W. Faust, [Air Force Magazine](#), 1/95, 7 Letter

Nine letters to the editor in Los Angeles: “Were the Japanese defending their unique culture when they bombed Pearl Harbor?” “About 30 guys I went to school with are still in those and other islands [Iwo Jima and Okinawa]. Underground.” “Debate Rages over [Hiroshima](#) Bombing and Exhibition,” Los Angeles [Times](#), 1/1/95, E5.

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January 9, Monday: National Air and Space Museum Director Martin Harwit changed the “invasion casualty” number agreed on with the American Legion to a much lower 63,000. In retaliation, on January 18th the American Legion would call for cancellation of the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit and the Director’s firing, and on January 19th would write again to [President William Jefferson Clinton](#).

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January 20, Friday: AFA press release: “it is time to cancel this exhibit.”

“AFA Blasts the Air and Space Museum on [Enola Gay](#) Reversal”

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January 23, Monday: “Open Letter” from the curators to Heyman drafted by Gregg Herken but unsent apparently at [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit wish: “We believe that a decision to cancel ‘The Last Act’ would not only lend credence to the mistaken impression of bias in the exhibit, but it would, even more importantly, stifle the free expression of differing viewpoints on a critical episode in modern American history.” “An Open Letter to the [Smithsonian](#) Secretary and Council from the Curators of the National Air and Space Museum,” 1/23/95 January 24: 81 members of the House call for director Harwit’s resignation and for congressional hearings on the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit: “In effect, Mr. Harwit’s actions were a slap in the face to all the parties who contributed their time and expertise in creating an exhibit that best reflects the contributions that all Americans made to the culmination of World War II.

WORLD WAR II

January 25, Wednesday: At 9:28 AM in Moscow, a briefcase containing a device termed “the nuclear football” was passed to the President of Russia, Boris Yeltsin. The screen of the device was conveying the intelligence that at 9:24 AM, four minutes earlier, a missile had begun to rise in the vicinity of the Norwegian Sea that appeared to be proceeding in the direction of Moscow. Yeltsin had 4,700 nuclear warheads under his authority. If he pressed a button an immediate nuclear retaliation could be launched upon targets around the world. His Chief of the General Staff, General Mikhail Kolesnikov, had such a device as well, and was similarly monitoring the situation. Judging by the radar sighting of stages of the rocket falling away as it ascended, this was likely to be an intermediate-range missile in the “Pershing II” class, maintained by NATO all over Western Europe. General Kolesnikov urging President Yeltsin to press the button. They had less than six minutes before it would be too late. As they watched the progress of the missile they noticed that its trajectory was not proceeding toward Russian territory and their tension began to ease. (Actually it was a weather rocket launched to study the aurora borealis. Actually, Norway had followed normal procedures and alerted Russia before launching this rocket, but this reassuring message had not been communicated within the war command.)

An editorial in the [American Legion](#)’s home town vigorously called for [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit firing: “Americans who love their country are increasingly disgusted with the carping of elitists dedicated to tearing down national morale, insulting national pride and debasing national achievements.”

In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, “History and Hokum,” by Rose Kennedy, Indianapolis [Star](#), A12

WORLD WAR II

January 30, Monday: Sample newspaper coverage on the day the [Smithsonian](#) Regents met to decide the fate of the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit:

“Don’t Rewrite History,” by Robert K. Dornan, [USA Today](#), 1/30/95, 14A Representative Dornan: “Congress must ensure that the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit does not demean the sacrifices of our forces.” “How they brought down the Enola Gay,” by Stephen Robinson, [Daily Telegraph](#), 1/30/95, 19 “The Smithsonian is a magnificent institution, but the briefest visit shows how public museums, like American universities, have become infected with political correctness.”

“Hijacking History,” New York [Times](#), 1/30/95, A18 “To reduce the complexities or painful ambiguities of the issue to slogans or historical shorthand is wrong.... To let politicians and groups with a particular interest frame



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the discussion and determine the conclusion is worse.... The real betrayal of American tradition would be to insist on a single version of history.... Historians and museums of history need to be insulated from any attempt to make history conform to a narrow ideological or political interest.”

“Politics has no place in the [Enola Gay](#) Exhibit,” USA Today, 1/30/95, 14A “Members of Congress should butt out and let the curators do their jobs.”

“Change in Size and Tone of [Enola Gay](#) Exhibit May Defuse Long Dispute: History Made Simple,” by Arthur Hirsch, Baltimore Sun, 1/30/95, 1D

“The Kulchur Warriors Hit the Beach,” Washington Times, 1/30/95, A20 “The elite ... appears to be all but invincible, as long as the apparatus of cultural hegemony exists, and that ought to lead the new majority in Congress to the conclusion that it is now time to get on with winning the war against the elite once and for all.”

An interview with Paul W. Tibbets, Jr. on the day the Regents meet too. “Man Who Dropped the Bomb on [Hiroshima](#) Wants Exhibit Scuttled,” by Eugene L. Meyer, Washington Post, 1/30/95, D01 “I’ve never lost a night’s sleep over [dropping the bomb], and I never will.”

Secretary Heyman announces the cancellation and replacement of the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit: “I have concluded that we made a basic error in attempting to couple an historical treatment of the use of atomic weapons with the 50th anniversary commemoration of the end of the war.” also available at: <http://www.exploratorium.edu/nagasaki/Library/ArtHeyman.html> See also Heyman’s article under February 13.

Interview a few years later elicits some information about his decision: “An American Institution,” American Legion Magazine, March 1998, 28-29, 52, 59: “[the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit] was flawed from a public relations sense. The original script, beyond any doubt, was not an adequate script.”

Sample of immediate response to the cancellation: “[Enola Gay](#) — Mission Controversy,” MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour, 1/30/95, Transcript #5153 Heyman, Harwit, Paul W. Tibbets, Jr., historians, American Legion, etc. “[Smithsonian](#) Pulls Planned World War II Exhibit,” All Things Considered (NPR), 1/30/95, Transcript #1743-1 Heyman, American Legion, peace activist

“[Smithsonian](#) Agrees to Modify Exhibition of the [Enola Gay](#),” CBS Evening News, 1/30/95 Heyman, historian, American Legion

“[Smithsonian](#) Exhibit of [Enola Gay](#),” ABC World News Tonight, 1/30/95, Transcript #5021-6 House Majority Leader Newt Gingrich: “I thought the Secretary showed considerable good judgment in deciding that the academics had overreached.”

WORLD WAR II



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January 31, Tuesday: Apple informed Voyager that it would no longer include WBA in its K-12 bundle, and asked Voyager to name a replacement title. Apple made clear that any replacement must make no mention of homosexuality, abortion, or birth control.

Sample reaction to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, continued:

“The Trend of History,” [Wall Street Journal](#), 1/31/1995, A18 “Smithsonian Scuttles Exhibit,” [Washington Post](#), 1/31/95, A1

“The [Enola Gay](#) Exhibit,” Rush Limbaugh, 1/31/95 “That’s what’s gone wrong with history — that it’s open to discussion and political correctness.”

“Smithsonian Scraps Exhibit on [Hiroshima](#),” by Eugene L. Meyer and Jacqueline Trescott, [Chicago Sun-Times](#), 1/31/95, 6

“Smithsonian Plans a Stripped-Down [Enola Gay](#) Display,” [Star Tribune](#), 1/31/95, 1A

“Strangers to Our Own Past,” by Mike Barnicle, [Boston Globe](#), 1/31/95, 13 “How did we get to a point where we so glibly offend the reality of history in order to appease revisionists trying to look at 1945 through a ridiculously altered rear-view mirror?”

“Hiroshima: A Controversy That Refuses to Die,” by John Kifner, [New York Times](#), 1/31/95, A16

“Smithsonian Scales Back Exhibit of B-29 in Atomic Bomb Attack,” by Karen De Witt, [New York Times](#), 1/31/95, A1

“Smithsonian Cancels Exhibit on Atomic Bomb,” by Arthur Hirsch, [Baltimore Sun](#), 1/31/95, 1D

“Exhibit Was ‘Flawed,’ says Smithsonian Chief,” by Rowan Scarborough, [Washington Times](#), 1/31/95, A1

“Smithsonian Says It Erred,” by Richard Serrano, [Los Angeles Times](#), 1/31/95, A1

“Controversial War Exhibit Canceled by Smithsonian,” by Craig Hines, [Houston Chronicle](#), 1/31/95, A1

“Smithsonian -[Enola Gay](#) revisionism,” editorial cartoon by Der, [Houston Post](#), 1/31/95

“Smithsonian Bails Out on [Enola Gay](#) Exhibit,” [San Francisco Chronicle](#), 1/31/95, A18 “Despite the intense political pressures, the decision should have come down squarely on behalf of academic freedom and open, vigorous discourse. The fact that it did not is a telling comment, in itself, on America’s inability to confront the full horror of atomic warfare.”

WORLD WAR II



February 1, Wednesday: Professional historians spoke of “historical cleansing”: “Such a precedent is likely to invite subsequent attempts to cancel other exhibitions at the Smithsonian.” “[Enola Gay](#) Controversy Continues,” Organization of American Historians’ Newsletter, February 1995

Sample reaction to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit continued:

“Bombing History,” Philadelphia [Inquirer](#), February 1, 1995 “The nation has flunked a history test.” With editorial cartoon: “It’s all they can handle.” “The [Smithsonian](#) Changes Course,” Washington [Post](#), 2/1/95, A18 “Over the longer term, this confidence-undermining episode constitutes a threat to the Smithsonian’s stature and independence. But the museum brought this danger on itself by the fecklessness with which it left itself open to legitimate attack on a fiercely contested topic whose delicacy and complexity it ought to have appreciated without all the fuss.”

“Exhibit A: The Pablum Museum,” Washington [Post](#), 2/1/95, D1 “This is the new mood in revolutionized Washington: When in doubt, bail out. Hit the eject button, Cave.”

“A History Lesson,” by Yoshihide Soeya, Look Japan, February 1995, 17 Written before the decision: “The attempt by many in the US to justify the bombings ... has prevented them from seeing the bombings as a human tragedy of immense proportions and as a lesson concerning the nuclear age in which we now live.”

“Japan Upset over Decision on [Enola Gay](#),” by Paul Blustein, Washington [Post](#), 2/1/95 “Japanese tend to regard the bombings as having inflicted such horrific misery on civilization as to be unjustifiable.”

“It’s All They Can Handle,” Philadelphia [Inquirer](#), 2/1/95, A14 Editorial cartoon

“Whew! Sure Am Glad to See That Gone!” Mobile Register, 2/1/95 Editorial cartoon

“The [Smithsonian](#) Retreat,” The Ledger, 2/1/95, 8A Choosing the 50th anniversary for a time of “inflammatory debate” was an “enormously dumb decision.”

“[Enola Gay](#)’s Bumpy Landing,” by Philip Terzian, Washington [Times](#), 2/1/95, A16 Includes editorial cartoon: “[Smithsonian](#) in sight, Captain.” “It must have been some comfort to those 46,000 soldiers to know that their lives were so easily expended, especially (in the view of the Smithsonian Institution) in so loathsome a cause as the American victory in the Pacific, and the liberation of Asia from Japanese oppression.”

“Ordinary Americans, History Win as [Enola Gay](#) Exhibit Is Changed,” Omaha [World-Herald](#), 2/1/95, 22 “[[Smithsonian](#)] judgment was poor. The judgment of ordinary people was much better. The outrage of ordinary people has been justified.”

“Pouting at the [Smithsonian](#),” [Plain Dealer](#), 2/1/95, 10B “Veterans who protested the original plan for the display are glad that visitors will not be subjected to more than 500 pages of revisionism vilifying a racist, imperialist U.S. policy.”

“[Enola Gay](#): [Smithsonian](#) Exhibit Not Ready to Fly,” [Star Tribune](#), 2/1/95, 14A “Current public interest may have been served by Heyman’s politically necessary decision. But only if the principle of scholarship over politics stands can veterans justly celebrate this victory without presaging a deeper defeat of the principles for which they fought.”



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“[Smithsonian](#) Botches Case of [Enola Gay](#),” [Morning Call](#), 2/1/95, A10 “To view the Enola Gay only as the vehicle that brought about the end of one war is one-sided and fails to recognize its full significance in another.... The Enola Gay is a story of heroes and horrors which needs to be completely understood if we’re ever to make sure it never happens again.”

“Suffering Never Ends,” by Murray Kempton, [Newsday](#), 2/1/95, A15 “The comfort of thinking that the past was all that different in its callousness is our shield against the recognition that we ourselves are just as bad.”

“[Smithsonian](#) Throws in Towel,” [Denver Rocky Mountain News](#), 2/1/95, 33A “Ignorance, we suppose, is slightly preferable to error, the propagation of which seemed the museum’s original goal.”

“[Smithsonian](#) Beats a Prudent Retreat,” [News Tribune](#), 2/1/95, A8 “This will go down as one of the last battles of a fast-fading generation of veterans. They’ve earned the right to savor another victory.”

“Wrong Place for Anti-Nuclear Message,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 2/1/95, B6 “the victim of its own excesses”

“Re: WWII Revisionists,” by Otto Whittington, [Houston Chronicle](#), 2/1/95, A21 Letter: “Let the U.S. ‘sob sisters’ chew on that truism [the Japanese would have used women and children as shields].”

Japanese perspective on the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit:

Rinjiro, Sodei. “Genbaku toka no rekishi to seiji” [Dropping an atomic bomb on history and politics]. [Sekai](#) no. 605 (February 1995): 13-41.

Reactions specifically by historians.

“Hiroshima, Rewritten,” by Barton J. Bernstein, [New York Times](#), 1/31/95, A21: if military leaders could express doubts then “without having their patriotism challenged, it is dismaying that their judgments have now been deemed too harsh for American eyes and ears.” “[Enola Gay](#): A New Consensus,” by Gar Alperovitz, [Washington Post](#), 2/4/95, A17: “at issue is the nature of the consensus of modern studies on the use of the atomic bomb.”

“Can Museums Achieve a Balance Between Memory and History?” by Edward Linenthal, [Chronicle of Higher Education](#), February 10, 1995, B1: sees tension between the commemorative voice and the historical voice.

“Silencing History,” by Kai Bird, [Nation](#), February 20, 1995, 224-25: “the cave-in is a ... sad commentary on our collective inability as a nation to face our history.”

[WORLD WAR II](#)



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February 2, Thursday: Sample reactions to the cancellation during the week after. “[Enola Gay](#) Exhibit,” San Jose [Mercury News](#), 2/2/95 Editorial cartoon “Museum Peace,” by Nigel Holloway, Far Eastern Economic Review, 2/2/95, 32-33 Written before the cancellation: “The bombers may finally rest in peace, but they will forever be shrouded in roiling debate.”

“The [Enola Gay](#) Saved Hundreds of Thousands of American Lives,” by Kathleen Krog, Buffalo News, 2/2/95, 3

“It’s Military History, Not Propaganda,” by Jeffrey Ethell, [Newsday](#), 2/2/95, A35 “In the end, the National Air and Space Museum would be wise to display these aircraft without surrounding them with the personal political ideology of their curators. Following that course of action will allow history to remain in the hands of those who created it.”

“Plane Truth?” Pittsburgh [Post-Gazette](#), 2/2/95, B2 “When history is distorted to reflect nothing more than narrow ideological and political interests, it doesn’t even rise to the level of bunk.”

“The [Enola Gay](#): Don’t Second-Guess ‘Tell It Like It Was’” Post and Courier, 2/2/95, A9 “Most of us old enough to remember gold stars in the windows of American homes tend to be exasperated at folks who would paint the United States as an aggressor just because we got the atom bomb before Hitler or Tojo.”

“A More Inclusive History Brings More Truth to Light,” by Wiley A. Hall, Baltimore Sun, 2/2/95, 2A “The controversy illustrates the interplay between history and popular opinion; the way society manipulates its collective memory in order to feel good about itself.”

“[Smithsonian](#) Bombs Again,” The Times-Picayune, 2/2/95, B6 “It seems to us that the treatment could have been done in a way that enlightened rather than inflamed.”

“[Enola Gay](#) Makes War Again,” by James Heavey, San Francisco Examiner, 2/2/95, A20 “Heyman had no choice. He would have been on shaky ground had he allowed the exhibit to resemble an Oliver Stone movie.”

“The Power of the [Enola Gay](#),” by Cal Thomas, Denver Post, 2/2/95, B9 “The basic error was in allowing those who think the word ‘hero’ refers only to a sandwich to rewrite history.”

“Not the Way I Remember It,” Daily Times, 2/3/95 Editorial cartoon

“Fire the [Smithsonian](#) Revisionists,” by J. T. Chapin, San Antonio [Express-News](#), 2/4/95 “The exhibit script sanitized Japan’s extremely violent involvement in WWII.”

“Or [Hiroshima](#) ‘Cult’?” Washington [Post](#), 2/4/95, A17 “In any quest for historical understanding — surely the primary function of a museum — neither celebration nor assault is appropriate, though having neither is better than having either.”

“[Enola Gay](#) Exhibit Canceled after Heated Controversy,” by Jeanne Meserve, [CNN] News, 2/4/95, Transcript #256-3

“50th Anniversary of Atomic Bomb Causes Controversy,” by Julie McCarthy, [NPR] Weekend Edition, 2/4/95, Transcript #1109-17



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“[Smithsonian](#) Institution: Fall Out,” *The Economist*, 2/4/95, 78 “[The Smithsonian] may have to reckon with a new form of American political correctness, this time not from the left but from the resurgent right.”

“The World: The History That Tripped over Memory; War of Words: What the Museum Couldn’t Say,” *New York Times*, 2/5/95, 4.5 Excerpts from the original script that the public won’t see now that there will be a “minimalist exhibition.”

“The Bomb Is Dropped on History,” by Joanne Jacobs, *San Jose Mercury News*, 2/6/95 “The best thing one can say about this whole thing is that a lot of people are now talking about the meaning of history. The worst is that the [Enola Gay](#) flight has thrown more fuel on the burning resentment against academics and intellectuals.”

“[Enola Gay](#): Handling of Exhibit Is Decried,” by Julia M. Klein, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 2/6/95, D1

“A Fitting End to [Enola Gay](#) Revisionism,” by Cal Thomas, *Post and Courier*, 2/6/95, 9A “The next time, perhaps the [Smithsonian](#) ought to consult historians who tell the truth.”

“Why Veterans Were So Enraged,” by Patrick Buchanan, *World Today*, 2/6/95, 17 “Perhaps the [Smithsonian](#) could produce a 600-page script for an exhibit on Hirohito’s Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.”

WORLD WAR II

February 3, Friday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, Japanese [Nagasaki](#) A-Bomb Testimony Committee protested: “the negative reaction to this exhibit ... made us consider that some of U.S. politicians and veterans have given up their efforts to watch the truth of history sincerely.”

WORLD WAR II

February 10, Friday: The American Legion pushed for congressional hearings even though the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit had been canceled, giving an extensive list of questions to which only Congress “can elicit the needed answers from Institution principals.”

WORLD WAR II

The 1st prescription written by a practicing psychologist legally trained to prescribe psychoactive drugs was written by US Navy Commander John L. Sexton, PhD (the prescription was for 30 100-mg tablets of Sertraline, an antidepressant that acts by blocking the reuptake of serotonin).

PSYCHOLOGY



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February 13, Monday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, Secretary Heyman was still trying to explain why the exhibit had been canceled: “the [Smithsonian](#) needs to examine what it has done well and what it has done poorly and then get a policy in place to recognize and fulfill our obligations to the American people.”

“[Correspondence] Mission of the [Smithsonian](#) Is to Teach and Celebrate,” by Michael Heyman, [Insight](#), February 13, 1995 (response to Goode)

Indianapolis registers its formal disapproval of the exhibit: “The Indianapolis City-County Council commends all those who worked so hard to have the exhibit discontinued,” and [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit “owes a public apology to the veterans of our beloved country.”

[WORLD WAR II](#)

February 14, Tuesday: Used as the “vehicle” for an extended spoof of a truly apeshit congressman from Orange County: “Suppose the [Enola Gay](#)’s displayed intact: What’s to stop Bob Dornan from scrambling into the cockpit, and howling, ‘Fire ’er up’?....”

[WORLD WAR II](#)

March: The museum community began to react to the [Enola Gay](#) controversy:

“Hovering over the profession,” Bunch says, “is the specter of scholarly self-censorship.... [the public needs to know that museums are] places where celebration can often co-exist with controversy.... in a time of politics, museums must be even more politic and political.” Young pairs “curatorial freedom” with “academic freedom.”

“Fighting the Good Fight: Museums in an Age of Uncertainty,” by Lonnie G. Bunch, [Museum News](#) 74 (March/April 1995), 32-38.

“Doing History in Public: Balancing Historical Fact with Public Meaning,” by Barbara Franco, [Perspectives: Newsletter of the American Historical Association](#) 33 (May/June 1995): 5-8.

“Open to Interpretation: Taking Responsibility for the [Enola Gay](#),” by Katharine T. Corbett and Howard S. Miller, [Exhibitionist News](#) 14 (Spring 1995): 12-14.

“The Battle of the Enola Gay,” by Mike Wallace, [Museum News](#), July-August 1995, 40-48.

“A Modest Proposal: A Bill of Rights for American Museums,” by Alfred F. Young, [Public Historian](#) 14 (Summer 1992): 67-75.

Scholars addressed such questions as what was the meaning of [Hiroshima](#) and [Nagasaki](#)? How have historians explained the American resort to atomic warfare, and how does that decision resonate in American and Japanese memory?

“Hiroshima in History and Memory: A Symposium.” [Diplomatic History](#) 19.2 (Spring 1995) (the Michael J. Hogan book collects some of these essays and adds a new one by Hogan himself specifically on the [Enola Gay](#) controversy). This collection contained:



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“Atomic Holocaust, Nazi Holocaust: Some Reflections,” by Richard H. Minear, pp. 347-67.

“Exotic Resonances: Hiroshima in American Memory,” by Paul Boyer, pp. 297-318.

“History, Collective Memory, and the Decision to Use the Bomb,” by J. Samuel Walker, pp. 319-28.

“Japan’s Delayed Surrender: A Reinterpretation,” by Herbert P. Bix, pp. 197-226.

“New Approaches, Old Interpretations, and Prospective Reconfigurations,” by Melvyn P. Leffler, pp. 172-96.

“The Bombed: Hiroshimas and Nagasakis in Japanese Memory,” by John W. Dower, pp. 275-96.

“The Quest for a Peace Culture: The [A-bomb](#) Survivors’ Long Struggle and the New Movement for Redressing Foreign Victims of Japan’s War,” by Seiitsu Tachibana, pp. 329-46.

“Understanding the Atomic Bomb and the Japanese Surrender: Missed Opportunities, Little-known near Disasters, and Modern Memory,” by Barton J. Bernstein, pp. 227-74.

WORLD WAR II

March 1, Wednesday: [Air Force Magazine](#) published its 6th article. A letter noted that “the disgusting and frightening aspect of this matter is that the pseudo-intellectuals who perpetrated the fraud are still in positions of authority.”

“Political Exhibit Crashes at the [Smithsonian](#),” by John T. Correll, [Air Force Magazine](#), 3/95, 12.

“[Smithsonian](#) Cancels [Enola Gay](#) Exhibit: AFA Praises Congressional Allies,” [Air Force Magazine](#), 3/95, 82.

“The [Enola Gay](#) Fiasco,” by Col. Herbert F. Egender, [Air Force Magazine](#), 3/95, 7 Letter.

Other veterans’ groups register their reactions, noting a “clear breach of faith” by the “Institution of Political Correctness,” and that “nothing should overshadow the contributions of veterans”:

“Nothing Should Overshadow the Contributions of Veterans,” by William M. Detweiler, American Legion, March 1995, 8.

“The [Enola Gay](#) — Mission Aborted,” by Charles D. Cooper, Retired Officer, March 1995, 4.

“Proudly Display the [Enola Gay](#),” by Herbert Molloy Mason, Jr., VFW, March 1995, 20-23.

WORLD WAR II



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March 2, Thursday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, Congressman Solomon waxed eloquent: “It is tragic that a museum funded by public dollars dare revise our history and distort the facts surrounding the use of [atomic bombs](#)” (“[Smithsonian Slaps Our Heroes in the Face](#),” by Gerald Solomon, 104th Congress, 1st Session, 141 Cong Rec E 493).

[WORLD WAR II](#)

March 8, Wednesday: The First Composite Group suggested returning the [Enola Gay](#) to a living history museum at a restored Wendover Field, Utah: “This sparse treatment [the “new” exhibit that will simply display the plane] of what is perhaps the most famous piece of World War II memorabilia is sure to trigger a new round of criticism for the [Smithsonian](#). [We] feel the only solution is to bring the [Enola Gay](#) home to Wendover Field where [we plan] to present it in an historically correct manner.”

[WORLD WAR II](#)

March 10, Friday: House Committee on Appropriations hearings: Secretary Heyman announced a “hard look” at the goals of the “nation’s museum”; “there were mistakes made in the development of” the Enola Gay exhibit; “The [Smithsonian](#) is the mirror in which we, as Americans, see our history and culture from the past, in the present, and towards the future” (“Testimony March 10, 1995 Michael Heyman Secretary Smithsonian Institution House Appropriations Interior FY96 Interior Appropriations”).

“[Enola Gay](#) Exhibit to ‘Report the Facts,’” by Rowan Scarborough, [Washington Times](#), 3/11/1995, A5.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

March 13, Monday: This story — with the sub-heading “Newt Gingrich and Pals Rewrite the 60s” — put the Enola Gay controversy in the larger context of House Speaker Gingrich’s agenda for America as a “different country” and intimated political pressure on Heyman: “Revenge of the Squares,” by Fred Barnes, [New Republic](#), 3/13/95, 23

[WORLD WAR II](#)

March 22, Wednesday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, Congressman Sam Johnson wrote to Heyman with a list of 28 questions formulated by the American Legion for upcoming hearings, which, if answered, would “help put this unfortunate situation to rest.”

[WORLD WAR II](#)

March 30, Thursday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, historians called for national teach-ins and provided a resource packet: “By acceding to such censorship the [Smithsonian](#) became associated with a transparent attempt at a form of historical cleansing. The fact that archival documents and artifacts were removed under political pressure is scandalous.”

[WORLD WAR II](#)



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April: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, “Remembering the Bomb: The Fiftieth Anniversary in the United States and Japan.” [Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars](#) 27.2 (April-June 1995): 1-73, a special issue of the Bulletin, contained several articles including “Introduction: The Bomb as Public History and Transnational Memory,” by Laura Hein, 3-15: “In the end, the [Smithsonian](#) exhibit’s censors have encouraged those Japanese who are most nostalgic for their Imperial past in a more profound way than the curators ever could have. Their celebration of state violence, silencing of critics as unpatriotic, willingness to justify unimaginable human suffering, and insistence that military decisions cannot be questioned after the fact can only move us closer to a world disturbingly like that of presurrender Japan.”

“Proposal for an International Appeal for Global Peace on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the End of World War II,” by the Japanese Committee to Appeal for World Peace, 1995, 60-62: “The passage of months and years that now amount to half a century compels us to mourn all of the war’s victims, irrespective of which side they were on during the war, and to renew our resolution never to repeat the tragedy of war.”

“[Hiroshima/Nagasaki](#) as History and Politics,” by Sodel Rinjiro, 37-41: “If the U.S. critics of the [Smithsonian](#)’s proposed exhibition are to blame for exercising political pressure to prevent anything but a celebratory presentation of the atomic bombs, those who are behind the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum also must be criticized for failing to honestly present the aggressive nature of Japan’s war.”

“The [Enola Gay](#) and the Politics of Representation,” by Lane Fenrich, [Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars](#) 27. 2 (April-June 1995): The curators “did what historians do, sifting evidence and arguing about how best to read it.” The opponents wanted “to control the imagery with which Americans remember” the end of the “good war.”

What follows is a sampling of coverage during this month by major media:

“The [Enola Gay](#): A Silent Exhibit,” Claudio G. Segre, [San Francisco Examiner](#), 4/4/95, A17: “Make no mistake about it: this scaled-back display embarrasses us all.”

“[Enola Gay](#) Reception Canceled,” by Rowan Scarborough, [Washington Times](#), 4/7/95, A4: A public reception organized by [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit to thank workers on the original exhibit was cancelled.

WORLD WAR II

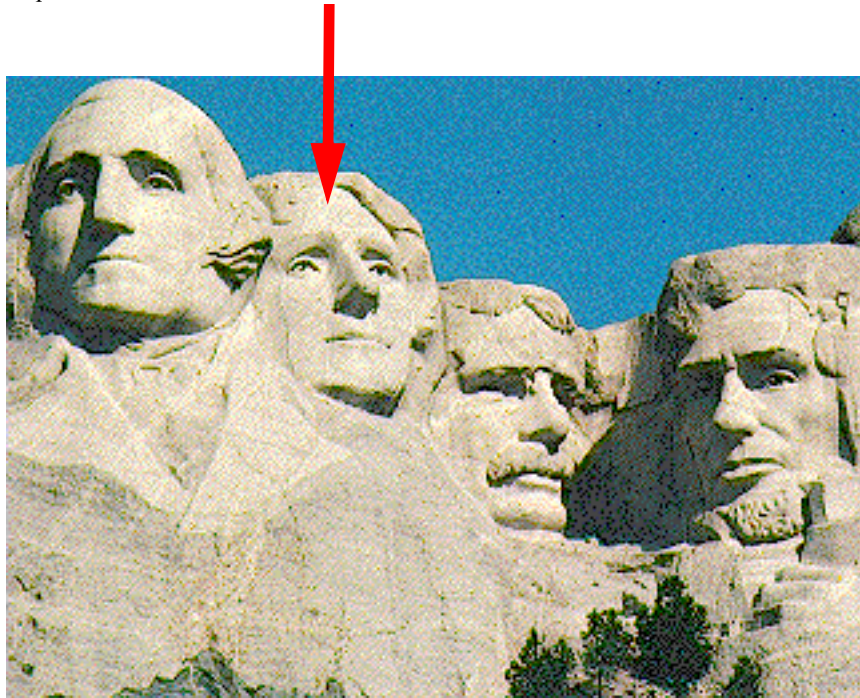


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April 19, Wednesday: On the 2d anniversary of the Waco killings, a truck bomb exploded in downtown Oklahoma City, Oklahoma killing 169 people and destroying the 9-story Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. [President William Jefferson Clinton](#) designated the [FBI](#) as lead law enforcement agency in the case. It would turn out that a man who had been taught to kill in the US Army had parked a lovingly constructed truck bomb in front of the building. In the enormous explosion, 168 were killed. McVeigh would be arrested while fleeing in a T-shirt bearing an image of President [Thomas Jefferson](#) on the front and a select quote from this man's thoughts on the back: "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants."
(Jefferson had written that in November 1787 anent a rebellion in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.)

Tim looked quite a bit like this:



Upon arrest, the authorities described McVeigh's apparel in such a manner as to obscure the nature of this reference across his back. A mug shot, taken when he was booked at the jail, was seized by the Bureau and that agency refused to release the photo. McVeigh's attorney of course downplayed the chosen sentiment:

"Well, if [Thomas Jefferson](#) said it, I shouldn't think it would be incriminating at all."



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"History is the why of now."

– Austin Meredith



Austin Meredith

McVeigh would, however, be convicted and, as a federal prisoner, executed at the federal execution facility in Terre Haute IN. Shortly before execution, according to journalist Dan Herbec, the murderer/terrorist, who had been starving himself so he would seem like a victim martyr, would explicitly cast himself as a modern-day John Brown: "One of his big heroes was John Brown, who committed some very violent acts during the 1800s in the effort to eliminate slavery in our country."

One piece of the Smithsonian salvage operation suggested by Heyman was an academic conference: "Presenting History: Museums in a Democratic Society," sponsored by the [Smithsonian Institution](#) and the University of Michigan at the University. announcement and extended summary of the conference "Museums in ID Crisis after 'Enola Gay,'" by Stephen Cain, Ann Arbor News, 4/16/95, C1 Three flaws in the Smithsonian approach: mixed the scholarly and the celebratory, failure of sensitivity, leading off with the bomb. "Smithsonian Sifts Debris of Enola Gay Plan," by Eugene L. Meyer, Washington [Post](#) 4/20/95, D01

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April 20, Thursday: "Official: [Enola Gay](#) Response Unexpected," by Julie M. Klein, Philadelphia [Inquirer](#), 4/20/95, A7 Tom Crouch is described as "largely unrepentant."

"Exhibit Debate Looks for Understanding," by John Niyo, Ann Arbor News, 4/20/95, C1

[WORLD WAR II](#)

April 21, Friday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, some reviews of the several areas of scholarly debate among and by historians. "50 Years Later, the debate rage over Hiroshima," by Karen J. Winkler, [Chronicle of Higher Education](#), April 21, 1995: A10 "Historical scholarship took a beating in the recent furor."

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The National Science Foundation Network (NSFNet) used to serve as the backbone of the Internet, which had been built by the U.S. government to encourage "scholarly" scientific communication and research, which is to say, to connect mid-level, non-commercial networks with research institutions, supercomputer centers, and (with joint funding from other nations) other computing resources around the world. However, during the 1991-1995 period the Internet has been increasingly made up of commercial networks that interface with each other and NSFNet. In about 1993 the "Internet Powers That Be" decided that the experiment was over — that



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is, they had proven and established the viability of private sector TCP/IP (Internet Protocol) networks, and government seed-money would no longer be needed to perpetuate that infrastructure. Rather, the outside funding should be directed toward future gigabit bandwidth projects and their role in building the so-called information superhighway. Internet) without killing it. As of this date the final stages began to be played out. The routing tables for NSFNet—essentially, the subway maps for packets on the Internet—were removed. Some users were somewhat impacted and part of the routing was re-established. Also, all the major backbone operators (Sprintlink, MCI, PSI, UUnet, Network99, etc.) were at this point upgrading and moving their equipment at the major Network Access Point (NAP) in Washington DC, causing more instability.

April 24, Monday: “Historians Meet Uncertainly over What History Is All About,” by Julie M. Klein, Philadelphia Inquirer, 4/24/95, D1

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May: What follows is a sampling of this month’s coverage of the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit controversy by major media, in support of the [Smithsonian Institution](#) and the historians:

“Museums: Altered States,” by Carla Koehl and Lucy Howard, Newsweek, 5/1/95, 6: “Stung by the furor over the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit ... Smithsonian officials are canceling or reworking upcoming exhibits to avoid future controversy, senior staffers charge.”

“Smithsonian Suffers Legionnaire’s Disease,” by Stanley Goldberg, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, May 1995, 28: “I resigned from the advisory board, as a protest. I was outraged that the museum administration had exposed the curators to the direct pressure of organizations such as the Air Force Association and the American Legion. And I was thunderstruck when members of Congress became actively involved.... That kind of thought control should have no place in a government committed to democracy. I believed that that issue had been settled in the 1950s, when McCarthyism was laid to rest. Apparently I was wrong.”

“History as a Lightning Rod,” by Michael Kammen, Organization of American Historians Newsletter, May 1995, 1, 6: [Kammen was at that time the president of the Organization of American Historians] “The politicization of American history has come to resemble a destructive storm.”

“[Hiroshima](#)’s New Fallout,” World Press Review, May 1995: 30-31: “The mushroom cloud of Hiroshima has been blowing across the American capital again — this time with history as its victim.”

“[Forgetting the Bomb:] The Assault on History,” by Martin J. Sherwin, Nation, May 15, 1995: 692-94: “We might want to consider revising Santayana’s famous aphorism.... [it] might read: ‘Those who insist only on their memories of the past are condemning the rest of us to avoid it.’”

“[Hiroshima](#): No Moral Justification,” Wall Street Journal, 5/22/95 (13 letters): “Let’s admit that moral principles were suspended and accept the fact that human beings repeatedly demonstrate the capacity for extreme cruelty when the circumstances permit.” “[[Harry S Truman](#)’s] omelet was winning the war, and if hundreds of thousands of innocent Japanese men, women, and children had to die to make it, well, that was just too bad.”



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“[Guest Opinion:] Misconceived Patriotism,” by Barton J. Bernstein, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, 51 (May/June 1995), 4: “Their insistence on hewing to the ‘official’ versions of the bomb story despoiled the very democratic values that were at stake in World War II. The veterans groups tried — successfully — to block free inquiry, dialogue, questioning, and dissent.”

What follows next is a sampling of this month’s coverage by major media, in support of the exhibit’s critics.

“The Biggest Decision: Why We Had to Drop the Atomic Bomb,” by Robert James Maddox, American Heritage, May/June 1995, 70-77.

“How the Legion Held Sway on Enola Gay,” American Legion, May 1995, 34-36, 66: “An inside look at how the Legion’s unflagging commitment to history — and to the veterans who gave their lives to shape it — triumphed over political correctness.”

“History Upheld,” American Legion, May 1995, 16-18: “America needs no help from Japan who persists in its own delusions of victimhood and has the audacity to declare its WWII defeat a holocaust.”

“A Letter on the Enola Gay Controversy,” by Martin Trow, Public Affairs Report, 5/95: “What troubles me is that so much of the media share in a vague way the anti-American prejudices ... and will continue to portray the argument as between inconvenient truths and vengeful old veterans.”

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“History is the why of now.”

— Austin Meredith



Austin Meredith

May 1, Monday: In regard to the Enola Gay exhibit being planned at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC, Air Force Magazine published its 8th article: “World War II does not call for neutral interpretation. There was a right and wrong side. The right side won. That is what we remember this anniversary year — no conciliatory adjustments are required” [to Japan]. “Japan’s Struggle With History,” by John T. Correll, Air Force Magazine, 5/95, 5

“VFW Honors AFA for Work on Enola Gay,” Air Force Magazine, 5/95, 152

“Air Force Magazine Revisionism,” MSgt. Merle C. Olmstead, Air Force Magazine, 5/95, 8 Letter

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May 2, Tuesday: [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit resigned: “There is no choice but to resign: the Museum’s welfare and future are too important.” Secretary Heyman announced the resignation: “For all of Dr. Harwit’s many contributions to the Institution, I wish to express my gratitude” (“Official Resigns Over Exhibit of [Enola Gay](#),” New York [Times](#), 5/2/95, A19)

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May 3, Wednesday: “What we were doing sounded logical,” offered [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit (“Air and Space Museum Chief Resigns,” by Eugene L. Meyer, Washington Post, 5/3/95, A12).

“Air and Space Museum Chief Resigns in [Enola Gay](#)’s Wake,” by Rowan Scarborough, Washington Times, 5/3/95, A3.

“Head of the [Smithsonian](#)’s Air and Space Museum Resigns,” by Mike Feinsilber, Oakland Tribune, 5/3/95.

“Asides: [Enola Gay](#) Finale,” Wall Street Journal, 5/3/95, A14: “The most revealing result was that the exhibit’s curators were surprised at the public’s reaction.”

“Museum Head Stepping Down over [Enola Gay](#),” by Andrea Stone, USA Today, 5/3/95. 4A.



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May 4, Thursday: “Resignation Right,” San Antonio [Express-News](#), 5/4/95 “Martin Harwit did the right thing... Harwit and other museum planners obviously did not understand history.”

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May 5, Friday: “Casualty of War Exhibit,” Knoxville [News-Sentinel](#), 5/5/95, A16 “[James Smithson’s] goal requires that the [Smithsonian](#) navigate between jingoism and its opposite, cynicism. The institution is now stuck in the shoals of the latter — a poor position from which to honestly tell America’s story.”

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May 7, Sunday: “[Smithsonian](#): After the Shouting,” Washington [Post](#), 5/7/95, C6 “It’s not clear what such [Congressional] hearings can or should accomplish.... Enough already. Exhibits are not the place to dictate the appropriate or accepted view of a contested historical episode. It would be no improvement at all to try to do the same thing through congressional hearings.”

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May 8, Monday: Citing Iran’s [nuclear weapons program](#) and its sponsorship of terrorism, [US President William Jefferson Clinton](#) a complete embargo on all trade with Iran.

Figment for cello by Elliott Carter was performed for the first time, in Merkin Hall, New York.

“Mr. Harwit Bails Out,” Washington [Times](#), 5/8/95, A24 “Senator Stevens’ forthcoming hearings therefore should not only keep the pressure on the [Smithsonian](#) but even turn it up, inquiring into the real and deeper sources of anti-Americanism in the class that runs the federal government’s cultural apparatus and exploring concrete ways by which the public honoring of America’s heritage can be returned to the hands of those who really honor rather than despise it.”

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May 9, Tuesday: Heyman denies rumors “that conservative Republicans are wielding undue influence over museum exhibits,” cancels an exhibit dealing with Vietnam, and welcomes the appointment of [Enola Gay](#) critic Senator Sam Johnson as a member of the Board of Regents. “[Smithsonian](#) Boss Scoffs at Rumors GOP Rules Exhibits,” Rowan Scarborough, [Washington Times](#), 5/9/95, A6 May 11, 18: Senate Committee on Rules and Administration hearings. Hearings before the Committee on Rules and Administration, United States Senate, 104th Congress, 1st Session, on The Smithsonian Institution Management Guidelines for the Future. May 11 and 18, 1995. Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1995. May 11: Opening Statements by Senators Stevens and Ford (1-4) Testimonies: Charles Sweeney, Enola Gay crew member (4-13) Charles Cooper, Retired Officers Association (13-17) Herman Harrington, American Legion (17-27) R. E. Smith, Air Force Association (28-31) Bob Manhan, Veterans of Foreign Wars (31-34)

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May 11, Thursday: The [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty](#) was extended indefinitely by 174 countries at the UN in New York.

The World Health Organization confirmed an outbreak of the Ebola virus in Kikwit, Zaire.

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May 15, Monday: [China](#) conducted an [underground nuclear test](#).

“The [Enola Gay](#)’s Final Casualty,” [U.S. News & World Report](#), 5/15/95, 18

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May 18, Thursday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, opening statements were made by Senators Stevens, Ford, and Warner.

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May 23, Tuesday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit, a Congressman submitted an editorial from an Omaha newspaper praising the National Archives for its World War II display in which reference was made to a “citizen’s committee” that had offered that the [Smithsonian Institution](#) in Washington DC should not become a “home for congratulation”: “Good history isn’t cheerleading. But neither does it consist of condemning earlier generations because they didn’t live up to the politically correct standards of the present” (“History Properly Displayed,” by Doug Bereuter, 104th Congress, 1st Session, 141 Cong Rec E 1099 June 1995).

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June: Sampling of coverage in June before the new exhibit by major media. “[Enola Gay](#) — Continuing Fallout,” Colonel Charles D. Cooper, Retired Officer, 6/95, 4 “We trust that in seeking a replacement [for [Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum](#) Director Martin Harwit], the regents will look to the chartering purposes of this gem of America’s museums and select someone without the baggage of preconceptions or political correctness.” “Just Blame That Blame-America Crowd,” by Jim Wright, Dallas [Morning News](#), 6/5/95

“The Blame America First crowd quickly learned it is hard to sell counterfeit history to a generation of Americans that made the real thing.”

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June 1, Thursday: In regard to the [Enola Gay](#) exhibit being planned at the [Smithsonian Institution](#) in Washington DC, [Air Force Magazine](#) published its 9th article. “Air and Space Museum Director Resigns,” by John T. Correll, [Air Force Magazine](#), 6/95, 13

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June 16, Friday: Describes some of the negative effects of the Heyman decision, including self-censorship, head-rolling, and the approval of “Fourth of July historiography”: “The argument that has temporarily won the day is clear and explicit: tax supported institutions ... have no business endorsing criticism of our national experience. Their mission is to praise, exalt, beautify, and glorify all that America has been and has done. This is precisely what we criticize and ridicule when espoused by other nations and other cultures: we would be better off practicing what we preach.” “How a Genuine Democracy Should Celebrate Its Past,” by John W. Dower, [Chronicle of Higher Education](#), June 16, 1995: B1 June 21: “Paint-tossing is the only sign of dissent during a week of sneak previews” of the new exhibit. “[Enola Gay](#) Exhibit Splattered with Red Paint before Opening,” by Rowan Scarborough, Washington [Times](#), 6/21/95, A6

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June 21, Wednesday: An exhibit at American University (“Constructing a Peaceful World: Beyond [Hiroshima](#) and [Nagasaki](#)”) will display some of the artifacts that had been intended for the [Smithsonian](#) exhibit that was to feature the [Enola Gay](#) (“2 Exhibits to Mark A-Bombings,” by Eugene L. Meyer, Washington [Post](#), 6/21/95, D1).

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June 28, Wednesday: A proposal was made to paint temporary shadows on the wall of a post office, to represent “the deadliest use of force in the history of man and anything that reminds people of their power, and their cost, is a worthwhile endeavor” (“Allow WWII Memorial,” Chapel Hill [Herald](#), 6/28/95, 4).

The “new” [Enola Gay](#) exhibit opened, and Heyman says the planned exhibit “provoked intense criticism from [World War II](#) veterans and others, who stated that it portrayed the United States as the aggressor and the [Japanese](#) as victims and reflected unfavorably on the valor and courage of American veterans.... The museum changed its plan substantially, but the criticism persisted and led to my decision to replace that exhibition with a simpler one.”



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July 31, Monday: The Historians' Committee for Open Debate on [Hiroshima](#) attacked the [Smithsonian](#) exhibit. Open letter to Michael Heyman, former Secretary of the Smithsonian, July 31, 1995 "The few words in the exhibit that attempt to provide some historical context for viewing the [Enola Gay](#) amount to a highly unbalanced and one-sided presentation of a largely discredited post-war justification of the atomic bombings. Such errors of fact and such tendentious interpretation in the exhibit are no doubt partly the result of your decision earlier this year to take this exhibit out of the hands of professional curators and your own board of historical advisors."

Academics, fearing suppression was becoming acceptable, went on record. American Association of University Professors Resolution, "The [Smithsonian Institution](#) and the [Enola Gay](#) Exhibition." [Academe](#) 81 (July-Aug. 1995): 56 "This meeting calls upon the Congress to ensure that the Smithsonian continues to have the latitude it needs for best fulfilling its founding purpose to increase and transmit knowledge."

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"MAGISTERIAL HISTORY" IS FANTASIZING, HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY



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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens"
in William Faulkner's INTRUDER IN THE DUST



Prepared: June 2, 2014



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ARRGH AUTOMATED RESEARCH REPORT

GENERATION HOTLINE



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.



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Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.
Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.