

Let's Not Kid Around. I'm guilty of attempted murder. 40 years ago I hatched a plot, literally a plot called the **Confessions of landor**, to kill off the human species. Ecology had burst into politics and the only thing that stood in the way for me of the Ecological Utopia was us, **our species**.

SAVING THE SPECIES

The deed was accomplished by a force called Nature which tired of our destructiveness and thoughtlessness froze us out of the web of life.

My super hero, an landor, an organic machine, was going to set off the Catastrophe that killed the species. There were many landors, members of **The Colgar Order** (the word Colgar was an archaic word referring to its mission of protecting other species from humans), but none so famous as ours.

You see, humanity managed to slip into space in sizable number thanks to the use of space and time warps, originally envisioned by science fiction writers, and then actualized by the new breed of para-physicists. The species started turning up everywhere: rootless settlers with a habit of violence to get their way. The famous Earth drifted into the background. Nobody could locate it for sure among the myriad of settled planets. Some said Earth had been nuked to death by its intelligent manifestation. The feeling of a close call, in any case, permeated the consciousness of the colonizing humans. They carried with them a strong guilty fear of meeting their comeuppance among the stars. As they ruthlessly trashed planet after planet, sending every intelligent species they encountered into extinction, they apprehensively stared ahead to the showdown that would leave humans extinct.

They did find a few colonial empires built on force but none of these survived the civil wars that they couldn't repress. It was the political genius of the humans that were able to create a domestic democracy that utilized a neural network merger that manifested as the **Almalgmnet** from which all decision making an authority derived. **Mitopol** was the final name of the political system which was responsible for providing the technology for the neural net.

Once there was a center for all to refer to, centralization set in, concentration of the participators in the neural net into a relatively small elite (in the low billions number wise). Technology made its more economical to make an end run around the regular model human, replacing them with sophisticated classes of clones, seeking the perfect type to fill variously needed social roles: white, blue, wrist, ankle and etc collar workers were cloned from Jack Lemmon, Dolly Parton, Betty Page and O.J. Simpson respectively. Specialized fighting (i.e. invading) clones were provided by John Wayne, Mike Tyson, Frank Sinatra and more.

The crisis of conscience among humans is attributable to the founder of the Order, **Leeamm, anthropysicist**, who provided demographic proof that humans were the only species possible that could threaten humans.



Leeamm concluded that the real necessity is protecting other species from humans.

Thus were born the landors - organic machines, meat engines modeled on Leeamm's physiological accomplishments resulting from experiments he made on himself and close associates. Miraculously only half a dozen deaths occurred before the Order had a production pattern. The **Leeammists** had isolated part of the problem: the reptile brain. It had to go and with it went the ungovernable impulses associated with fight/flight. An landor was not compulsively quick on the draw and so could be sent as an advance guard to prepare the ground among any highly intelligent species to make sure their image was harmless to rear guard settlers.

The Leeammists also pinpointed the reproductive apparatus which humans used to over power others with numbers. That was removed as well. Meanwhile the meat machines were laid down in clever little strands, giving it extraordinary strength and awareness, but holding itself harmless. The sense of irreplaceable individuality that seemed derived from these physiological challenges was absent in landors.

The Mitopol elite thought they had something of broader utilization here. However the first re-engineered set of clones with reptile brains or sex organs missing in the first stamping, saw brains and organs returning after only months, sometimes days. Clones could not be treated like meat machines.

Neither could be treated like puppets. Autonomy broke out continually among clones and landors. Our landor was famous for the unparalleled flow of *heir* fluid transformations, running a gamut of species in a show that to witness people paid the Order bundles of paper *pax* for. Our landor made the Order rich but also fame made *heir* Attitude impossible to deal with. Comedians called *heir* The **Heiretic** and made the sexlessness of the Colgars even more of a sensation. It made her so sexy! It became a fashion among the Clones to amputate their reptile brains and throw their genitalia out after. Yet fear, rage and lust did not disappear from the imitation landors. With no visible benefits, very few of the Clones could go long without reinstating organ growth. As the saying went might as well be hung for a Creep as a Leeamm.

Our landor's **unimeed** confession pulled the highest ratings consistently. Anything *shey* expressed was what everyone wanted. This made *heir* the object of power politics and suddenly *shey* was "entrusted" with a delicate "case" among the stars. Off *shey* went.

Oddly however the clamor was so great among *heir* fans that the Elite, the **Council of Archetectors**, felt they had to break the unbreakable rule against landors being allowed into *humein* society.

All this, and more, is part of a prologue to the moment our **landor** appears in the starsystem **P.ON.Der** and reports to the **Ecologue** in charge of the Order's **Colstry**, a dark satellite that circles the PlanetCity **TENDERLY**...

- PAUL ENCIMER

From notes for his unfinished Saga of 'landor'
- decades in the making

A RUTHLESS LITTLE BASTARD

Remembering the legacy of once the youngest-
& second time around, oldest, U.S. secretary of defense:

"A ruthless Little bastard," was President **Richard Nixon's** verdict on **Donald Rumsfeld** as recorded by the Watergate tapes - and everything in his career, supremely successful until the Iraq war, confirmed that Nixon had read him correctly.

Rumsfeld relished such tributes to his toughness, but he was above all else a skillful bureaucratic warrior in Washington and never the warlord he pretended to be. As defense secretary between 2001 and 2006, he gloried in his role as America's military chief avenging 9/11, but his arrogance and inability to adjust to the realities of the Afghan and Iraq wars produced frustration or failure on the battlefield.

Maneuver though Rumsfeld did to avoid responsibility for the Iraq war, he became the living symbol of America's plunge into the quagmire.

Typically, he responded to this by banning his staff at the Pentagon from using the word "quagmire" along with "resistance" and "insurgents".

Rumsfeld started his career as a Republican Congressman from Illinois and moved on to serve four Republican presidents. He headed the Office for Economic Opportunity under Nixon, then became defense secretary and ambassador to Nato in the **Ford** administration. As President **Ronald Reagan's** special envoy to the Middle East, he travelled to Baghdad to shake hands with **Saddam Hussein** and assure him of US support in the eight-year war that the Iraqi dictator had launched against Iran. His camaraderie with Saddam reflected American strategy at the time, but it also showed Rumsfeld's liking for people with power and his dismissiveness towards those without it.

It was **Iraq** that turned out to be his nemesis. He promoted his public image as the man who did not blench when **al-Qaeda** flew a plane into the Pentagon on 9/11. He had personally rushed to succor survivors, though witnesses later said that stories of his heroism were exaggerated. By that evening he was giving a press conference from a bunker in the Pentagon demonstrating that, though President **George W. Bush** might have

been evacuated to safety, his defense secretary was standing tall.

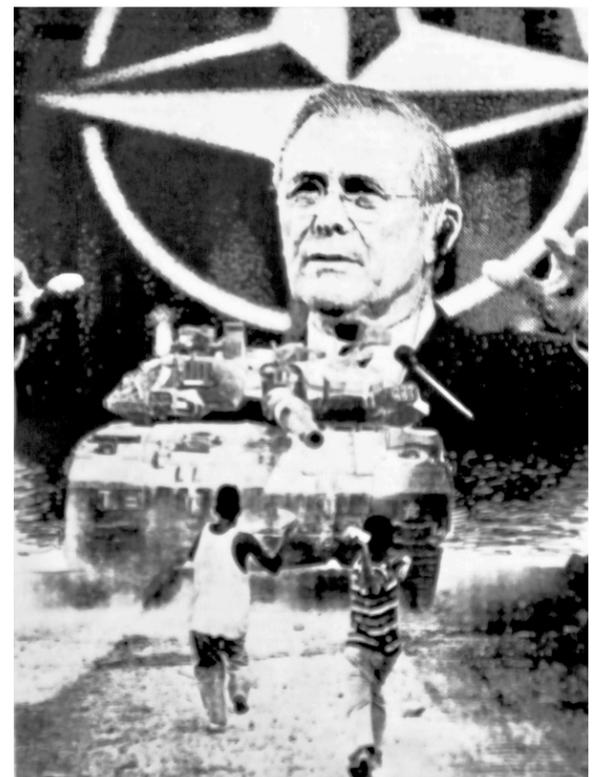
Within hours of the **al-Qaeda** attack Rumsfeld was looking to use it as justification for a war against Iraq. He sent a note to General **Richard Myers**, vice chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, looking for "best info fast ... judge whether good enough [to] hit SH [Saddam Hussein] @same time - not only UBL [Usama bin Laden]". This detail - along with much else in this piece - is derived from **Rumsfeld: His Rise, Fall and Catastrophic Legacy** by Andrew Cockburn.

Rumsfeld sought in his memoirs to evade responsibility for launching the Iraq war, claiming that President Bush had never asked him if he was in favor of it. The excuse is absurd since the defense secretary had constant one-on-one meetings with Bush who might well assume that the man in charge of gathering America's armies for the invasion was in favor of doing so.

Rumsfeld enjoyed flying around the world in his giant C-17 transport plane, addressing assemblies of US troops, but he was essentially a palace politician. Not only did he have access to the Oval Office himself, but he fought determined campaigns to exclude other top officials from meetings with the president. He was even upset when **Jerry Bremer**, the newly-appointed US viceroy in Iraq, had a private lunch with Bush in May 2003.

Rumsfeld never had much understanding of Iraq or Afghanistan and probably did not think that he had any need to do so because the military might of the US appeared overwhelming. He reacted furiously when the chair of the joint chiefs of staff, General **Eric Shinseki**, told a Senate hearing that several hundred thousand troops might be needed as an occupation force after the invasion.

Rumsfeld's pretense that he did not favor the Iraq war is easily disproved, but a better line of defense from his point of view was that almost no members of America's political-military elite were opposed to the war at the time. Critics counter this by saying that military officers whose promotion was in the hands of Rumsfeld were unlikely to express skepticism about his plans.



Rumsfeld produced a much quoted but fallacious explanation which was used to explain why the US was so often caught by surprise by disastrous events in Iraq.

He said that **some facts were known and others unknown facts, "but there are also unknown unknowns—the ones we don't know we don't know"**.

Rumsfeld said this in 2002 in relation to the shortage of evidence for the presence of **Weapons of Mass Destruction** in Iraq and it briefly won him a reputation for intellectual brilliance. But it masked the damning fact that there were "*known knowns*" about Iraq that were good reasons for believing that regime change would lead to a prolonged military and political crisis.

I remember a leader of the Iraqi opposition, who was very keen to overthrow Saddam, saying to me a few more months before the invasion that "**I just hope that the Americans do not realize what they are about to do is not in their interests.**"

Patrick Cockburn
Counterpunch.org