

3 Minutes Introduction

Witch Hunt Production

"One of the saddest lessons of history is this: If we've been bamboozled long enough, we tend to reject any evidence of the bamboozle. We're no longer interested in finding out the truth. The bamboozle has captured us. It is simply too painful to acknowledge — even to ourselves — that we've been so credulous."

That was a quote from Carl Sagan.

And good morning. You are listening to Religion Roundtable. Pull up a chair to the colloquium. You can just tune in, or you can share your views by calling us at 1-877-899-5866. We'll be taking calls later on in the show. You can also write to me at rrt@godwithoutreligion.com and visit us online at www.godwithoutreligion.com.

2 Minutes My Memo

What's Sagan's point: Sagan is commenting on the fact human beings are as capable of identifying with bamboozles as with the truth. Our sense of self, our very identity, is dependent upon the bamboozle being true. So what's at stake in challenging a hoax is our very ideas about ourselves. To avoid the pain of questioning the bamboozle, we simply refuse to question the things we believe, and we take offense when someone else questions them.

I think bamboozles can be presidents, popes, religious ideologies, and scientific theories.

One of the biggest hoaxes in all of humanity's history has got to be the historicity of Jesus. I studied the Jesus myth at Columbia University with a scholar who happened to be a Catholic nun. By the time finals exam came around, she was asking questions like: If Christian were taught the history of their religion, how would modern Christianity change? We are going to have a show on just this topic. The God Who Wasn't There by Beyond Belief Media and Brian Flemming will be on the show June 10.

But that is ancient history and it's almost understandable.

7 Minutes News/ Raise the Question

What about modern day bamboozles?

In March, an article written by Celia Farber titled Out of Control: AIDS and the Corruption of Medical Science appeared in Harper's magazine. Though a great deal of the article was an historical narrative, telling the tragic story of an otherwise healthy pregnant mother who died a few years ago of after receiving AIDS medication as a patient in a laboratory test, the appearance of the article infuriated AIDS relief activists because it called into question the procedures by which we routinely test for AIDS, the connection between AIDS and HIV, and the ethical standards of government agencies and pharmaceutical companies who have financial interests in the way AIDS is perceived by the public.

Speaking of perception:

Circumcision Studied in Africa as AIDS Preventive - New York Times

Already, more than 17 million Africans have died from AIDS and another 25 million are infected with the HIV virus, 2 million of whom are children.

Ideals Collide as Vatican Rethinks Condom Ban - New York Times

Church officials recently confirmed that Pope Benedict XVI had requested a report on whether it might be acceptable for Catholics to use condoms in one narrow circumstance: to protect life inside a marriage when one partner is infected with H.I.V. or is sick with AIDS.

Mapping the crisis - BBC NEWS

Food crises were once primarily triggered by natural disasters like droughts. But according to research by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, man-made causes are increasingly to blame. These include conflict and poor governance, as well as HIV/Aids.

Gay Cubans fight own Aids battle - BBC

Two-thirds of all Cubans with Aids are homosexual men.

Red States, Blue States: New Labels for Long-Running Differences – NY Times

Cultural and religious attitudes play a big role in voting behavior. For example, the fraction of the population who agreed with the statement "AIDS is God's punishment for immoral sexual behavior" was highly correlated with whether the state was red or blue, according to surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center.

Zimbabwe faces Aids drug shortage - BBC

Unicef Cites China's Gains in Fighting Child Hunger

The country has been warned that it needs to update how it handles the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

And now, CNN reported just this week that the Center for Disease control (CDC, a Federal office) wants the HIV test to be routine, and for all Americans to be regularly tested starting this Summer, not just high risk groups. They do not plan on drafting a consent form specifically for AIDS, which means you'll just have the test as part of standard operating procedure. And the American Medical Association is backing up this decision.

It seems to me to be a slam dunk: AIDS is real and it is killing millions of people all over the world.

But let's look at the other side of this issue:

AIDS is treated by drugs, and drugs are manufactured by multinational multi-billion dollar pharmaceutical corporations.

- U.S. brand pharmaceutical sales for 2005: \$229.5 billion.
- U.S. generic pharmaceutical sales: \$22.3 billion.
- The pharmaceutical industry ranks among the fastest growing manufacturing industries.

- Earnings are much higher than in other manufacturing industries.

Total number of prescriptions in U.S., 2001: 3.1 billion
Cost of the above: \$132 billion

Projected cost of prescriptions in U.S., 2014: \$414 billion.

Blockbuster products coming off patent are valued at \$22 billion in 2006, \$27 billion in 2007, and \$29 billion in 2008.

HERE'S A BIT OF CORRUPTION -- VACCINE INDUSTRY LOBBYISTS HELPED WRITE FRIST-BACKED SHIELD LAW:

"Vaccine industry officials helped shape legislation behind the scenes that Republican Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist secretly amended into a bill to shield them from lawsuits," the Tennessean reports.

More corruption: Interviews and corporate and federal records obtained by the LA Times document hundreds of consulting payments to ranking NIH (National Institute of Health) officials. Senior NIH scientists are collecting paychecks and stock options from pharmaceutical companies. Outside payments to NIH scientists are being hidden from public view. Over 94% of the agency's top-paid employees keep their consulting income confidential. As a result, the NIH is one of the most secretive agencies in the federal government when it comes to financial disclosures. This is astounding considering that since 1990, its annual budget has nearly quadrupled, to \$27.9 billion this fiscal year, and senior NIH scientists are among the highest-paid employees in the federal government.

Get this: Thomas J. Kindt, the director of in-house research at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, accepted \$63,000 in consulting fees from a New York biotech (i.e. drug) company, Inovvir Laboratories, and wound up an inventor on one of its patents.

Asked why the government received no consideration, Kindt said that he had contributed to the "basic idea" while using vacation time.

"No work was done on it as a government employee," said Kindt, whose annual salary at the NIH is \$191,200.

Dr. Arnold S. Relman, the former editor of the New England Journal of Medicine, asks these questions:

Are judgment calls on the safety of individual patients affected by commercial interests?

Can study participants trust that experimental treatments are chosen on merit and not because of officials' personal financial interests?

Will scientists shade their interpretations of study results to favor their clients?

Will officials favor their clients over other companies that seek NIH grants or collaborations?

This is pertinent, since the pregnant mother who died of experimental AIDS drugs had no health issues and might not have been HIV positive. Assuming HIV positive means anything.

1. "If there is evidence that HIV causes AIDS, there should be scientific documents which either singly or collectively demonstrate that fact, at least with a high probability. There is no such document."

"We [Duesberg and herself] have not been able to discover any good reasons why most of the people on earth believe that AIDS is a disease caused by a virus called HIV. There is simply no scientific evidence demonstrating that this is true."

Dr. Kary Mullis, Biochemist, 1993 Nobel Prize for Chemistry.

2. "Up to today there is actually no single scientifically really convincing evidence for the existence of HIV. Not even once such a retrovirus has been isolated and purified by the methods of classical virology." Dr. Heinz Ludwig Sanger, Emeritus Professor of Molecular Biology and Virology, Max-Planck-Institutes for Biochemistry, Munchen.

3. "I do not regard the causal relationship between HIV and any disease as settled. I have seen considerable evidence that highly improper statistics concerning HIV and AIDS have been passed off as science, and that top members of the scientific establishment have carelessly, if not irresponsible, joined the media in spreading

misinformation about the nature of AIDS." (Yale Scientific, Fall 1994)
Dr. Serge Lang, Professor of Mathematics, Yale University

4. "In the old days it was required that a scientist address the possibilities of proving his hypothesis wrong as well as right. Now there's none of that in standard HIV-AIDS program with all its billions of dollars." Dr. Richard Strohman, Emeritus Professor of Cell Biology at the University of California at Berkeley

5. "HIV is an ordinary retrovirus. There is nothing about this virus that is unique. Everything that is discovered about HIV has an analogue in other retroviruses that don't cause AIDS. HIV only contains a very small piece of genetic information. There's no way it can do all these elaborate things they say it does." (Spin June 1992) Dr. Harvey Bialy, Molecular Biologist, former editor of Bio/Technology and Nature Biotechnology

6. "Unfortunately, an AIDS 'establishment' seems to have formed that intends to discourage challenges to the dogma on one side and often insists on following discredited ideas on the other." (Sunday Times (London) 3 April 1994) Dr. Roger Cunningham, Immunologist, Microbiologist and Director of the Centre for Immunology at the State University of New York at Buffalo

7. "The HIV-causes-AIDS dogma represents the grandest and perhaps the most morally destructive fraud that has ever been perpetrated on young men and women of the Western world." (Sunday Times (London) 3 April 1994) Dr. Charles Thomas, former Professor of Biochemistry, Harvard and John Hopkins Universities

8. "The marketing of HIV, through press releases and statements, as a killer virus causing AIDS without the need for any other factors, has so distorted research and treatment that it may have caused thousands of people to suffer and die." (Sunday times (London) 17 May 1992) Dr. Joseph Sonnabend, New York Physician, founder of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR)

9. "I think zidovudine [AZT] was never really evaluated properly and that its efficacy has never been proved, but its toxicity certainly is important. And I think it has killed a lot of people. Especially at the

high doses. I personally think it not worth using alone or in combination at all." Dr. Andrew Herxheimer, Emeritus Professor of Pharmacology, UK Cochrane Centre, Oxford

10. "Dominated by the media, by special pressure groups and by the interests of several pharmaceutical companies, the AIDS establishment efforts to control the disease lost contact with open-minded, peer-reviewed medical science since the unproven HIV/AIDS hypothesis received 100% of the research funds while all other hypotheses were ignored." (Reappraising AIDS Nov./Dec. 1998) Dr. Etienne de Harven, Emeritus Professor of Pathology, at the University of Toronto

11. "The HIV hypothesis ranks with the 'bad air' theory for malaria and the 'bacterial infection' theory of beriberi and pellagra [caused by nutritional deficiencies]. It is a hoax that became a scam." (Sunday Times (London) 3 April 1994) Dr. Bernard Forscher, former editor of the U.S. Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences

Actually, it became an Oscar-winning movie starring Tom Hanks, not to mention AIDS benefit concerts, and we all know of Bono, the U2 front man, who is doing amazing work with HIV/AIDS awareness.

12. Even Luc Montagnier, the discoverer of HIV, has stated repeatedly that the virus cannot cause AIDS without contributing causes. Quote: "Psychological factors are critical in supporting immune function. If you suppress this psychological support by telling someone he's condemned to die, your words alone will have condemned him."

From 1985 to 1992, the number of AIDS cases in the US increased, and have since 1992 decreased, yet the number of people since 1985 that were HIV positive has remained constant.

So here's the question: Is AIDS a legitimate disease that we should all be seriously concerned about, or is it one of the greatest scams of the modern era?

The most important whistle blowers is Dr. Peter Duesberg, professor of molecular and cell biology at the University of California, Berkeley.

Gordon Stewart, a consultant to the World Health Organization (WHO) on social and behavioral aspects of communicable diseases: In 1987, Professor Peter Duesberg, a pioneer in retrovirology at the University of California in Berkeley, suggested instead that HIV was a latent virus incapable of causing AIDS which was due, in his view, either to suppression of immunity by toxic drugs or to a recrudescence of other diseases. A fuller statement of his view, published by the prestigious US National Academy of Sciences in 1989, caused a furor. Duesberg's arguments were not debated. He was almost universally demonized but not silenced. Indeed, his dilemma became the focus of all doubts about AIDS, from whatever source. This did not help his courageous effort to promote rational debate because, by attracting irresponsible support, it enabled the consensus to discredit responsible doubts.

Duesberg is not alone in dissenting from AIDS orthodoxy. More than 2,300 people, mostly scientists and doctors, including Nobelists in chemistry and medicine, have signed the petition of the Group for the Scientific Reappraisal of the HIV-AIDS Hypothesis, which calls for a more independent and skeptical approach to the question of AIDS causality.

Stewart writes: I was impressed by the overriding fact that, in all countries with reliable registration procedures, full-blown AIDS was confined to the original risk groups of homosexual men and drug users, and to those -- like female partners of bisexual men and their infants -- who were passively exposed to the same risks. This trend was so invariable by 1987 that predictions based on appropriate mathematical formulae were accurate in numbers and distribution, year by year. There was no evidence whatsoever in 1987 that AIDS was being transmitted heterosexually in general populations except in headline propaganda about the scare of AIDS internationally. But I found then that, although the data and opinions that I offered to the WHO received attention internally, they were barred from publication. Meanwhile, medical literature exploded, with worldwide coverage in all media, to accommodate the consensus view that AIDS was becoming a global pandemic. Alarming figures accepted at face value by WHO from some third world countries were used to support this assertion.

He continues: Meanwhile, the passage of time showed that my predictions made in 1989 were accurate to within 10 percent of actual registrations of AIDS, whereas those published in the symposium, official projections, and other expert quarters were exaggerated, often by orders of magnitude.

Secretive censorship like this is familiar to everyone who has dared to question orthodox views on AIDS. The result is that essential questions are never debated openly except in a few lesser journals. Otherwise, the censorship maintained by the international consensus of experts in the main research councils, learned societies, official committees, and WHO is unyielding; so also are the main channels in radio, television, and the press. This censorship is not unique, but in my 57 years as a professional, I have never encountered anything like it nor did I ever think that I would in the world of medical science where, as in all other science, difference of opinion is the sine qua non of all advance.

There are many reasons for the censorship I have encountered. Different reasons for different people -- scientists profess scientific explanations for rejecting articles, editors profess editorial reasons, such as, "it's no longer news." In all, however, colleagues and I attempting to publish have met an unholy alliance intent on rejecting any papers that offer serious criticisms of the orthodoxy. There are, naturally, vested interests involved; many bodies and individuals receive high rewards for their work within orthodox AIDS science. Underlying much of this, the pharmaceutical companies have their own obvious agenda.

Witch Hunt Clip

11 Minutes Guest/Callers

ELLNER PHONE NUMBER: 212-580-3471, 212-243-7306

Witch Hunt Clip

"Just look at us. Everything is backwards; everything is upside down. Doctors destroy health, lawyers destroy justice, universities destroy

knowledge, governments destroy freedom, the major media destroy information and religions destroy spirituality."

1-877-899-5866

That was a quote from Rev Dr Michael Ellner, who is the co-author of three books: the award-winning "Quantum Focus: The Quick, Mind-Powered Total Program for Self-Development, Healing and Happiness" (1997), "How To Get UNstuck" (2005), and "The IBS Relief Workbook" (2005).

He is the president of HEAL, which is Health Education AIDS Liaison in NYC.

HEAL was the first NGO in the world to question:

- 1, Conventional treatments for AIDS
- 2, The Value of T-cell Testing
3. The claim widely made that "Everyone is at Risk"
4. Early Treatment
5. HIV Testing
6. The claim that sexual transmission was driving AIDS in Africa

These positions were later validated, and largely suppressed or ignored, by published studies and news reports.

In 1998, A European Commission project organized to "Train Allied Health Workers in Alternative Approaches for Treating AIDS" cited him as one of the world's leading experts on Alternative approaches helping people with AIDS. His articles on AIDS have appeared all over the world and he's received numerous awards for his various works.

He's also been a practicing hypnotherapist for over 25 years. And ironically he feels that hypnosis and AIDS are not so far apart...

Rev Doctor, welcome to the show.

Tell us about your news books, HOW TO GET UNstuck and The IBS Relief Playbook

www.quantumfocusing.com

In just a few words, what is AIDS?

How do you feel about the CDC asking that an HIV test become standard operating procedure for all Americans?

For how long have pharmaceutical companies been funding NGO's and nonprofit organizations to voice pro-drug ideologies?

Is the HIV Test Scientifically Valid? I ask because I got this from an HIV TEST-KIT INSERTS:

* "At present there is no recognized standard for establishing the presence or absence of HIV-1 antibody in human blood." (Abbott Lab HIV Test - EIA)

* "The risk of an asymptomatic person with a repeatedly reactive serum developing AIDS or an AIDS-related condition is not known." (Genetic Systems HIV Test - Peptide EIA)

* "The AMPLICOR HIV-1 (PCR "Viral Load") MONITOR test is not intended to be used as a screening test for HIV or as a diagnostic test to confirm the presence of HIV infection" (Roche, Amplicor HIV Test Kit).

* "Do not use this kit as the sole basis of diagnosis of HIV-1 infection." (Epitope, Inc. HIV Test - Western Blot)

**"Clinical studies continue to clarify and refine the interpretation and medical significance of the presence of antibodies to HIV." (Abbott Laboratories HIV Test - EIA)

I don't get it. Why all the disclaimers and caveats? You're being tested for AIDS, if you test positive you go home depressed, and yet, nothing might be wrong with you?

Talk to me about the gay community's response to AIDS. What was their cause, how did they help their cause, and how did they hinder it?

With all of these scientists coming out to expose the hoax, why wasn't the public edified? How did the bamboozle stick?

It is possible to find case studies and laboratory evidence that supports both sides of this debate, how does the public know how to select the data that reflects the true nature of the HIV-AIDS connection? How do we know whether or not proponents on either side of this issue aren't merely propagating ideas in order to garner a following?

Why would the World Health Organization, the National Institute for Health, the Center for Disease Control, and various other governmental organizations want to spread a fear of sex? How do they benefit? How did religious ideology get into the mix? Why was sex=death so important a message to them?

What would convince you that HIV causes AIDS?

What do you believe is the best response to the AIDS crisis, real or perceived? What benefits will come out of debunking the HIV-AIDS connection?

Tom Hanks in Philadelphia plays a gay man who got AIDS from having sex in a movie theater. He had lesions all over his face. He experienced wasting. Isn't this what happens to victims of the disease? What message is this sending, and is it an accurate message?

11 Minutes Guest/Skit/Callers

Witch Hunt Clip

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Celia Farber writes: There are currently at least eleven different criteria for how many and what proteins at which hand density signal "positive." The most stringent criteria (four hands) are upheld in Australia and France; the least stringent (two hands), in Africa, where an HIV test is not even required as part of an AIDS diagnosis. The U.S. standard is three reactive hands. It has been pointed out that a person could revert to being HIV negative simply by buying a plane ticket from Uganda to Australia.

Celia Farber writes: Africa, as the news media never tires of telling us, has become ground zero of the AIDS epidemic. The clinical definition of AIDS in Africa, however, is stunningly broad and generic, and was seemingly designed to be little other than a signal for funding. It is in no way comparable to Western definitions. The "Bangui definition" of AIDS was established in the city of Bangui in the Central African Republic, at a conference in 1985. The definition requires neither a positive HIV test nor a low T-cell count, as in the West, but only the presence of chronic diarrhea, fever, significant weight loss, and asthenia, as well as other minor symptoms. These happen to be the symptoms of chronic malnutrition, malaria, parasitic infections, and other common African illnesses. (In 1994 the definition was updated to suggest the use of HIV tests, but in practice they are prohibitively expensive.) Even when HIV tests are performed, many diseases that are endemic to Africa, such as malaria and TB, are known to cause false positives." What are the differences between tests and diagnosis of HIV/AIDS in America and in other countries of Africa, Europe and Australia?

What would convince you that HIV causes AIDS?

What is the connection between AIDS and racism?

Are you saying that instead of treating their real problem, which is poverty and all the health hazards that come with it, we are manufacturing a problem that hurts Africans, enriches pharmaceutical corporations, and gives us the illusion of helping others?

I just read to you clips of huge numbers of Africans with HIV. Where do these numbers come from? How are these Africans tested for HIV? If we follow the money, who is making money off of false data?

9 Minutes Skit/Callers

Witch Hunt Clip

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What are the dangers of the mainstreaming of AIDS by the media and celebrities?

What was the cause of the misleading science on AIDS? How did it start?

How do the anti-HIV drugs like AZT cause death? In what ways has it suppressed the recovery of unhealthy people that are made to believe they have AIDS?

Could you briefly explain how the T cell tests are misleading? You claim that every HIV positive test is presumptive. Could you please elaborate on that?

In what ways is it hard for AIDS denialists to reach out to people? How is the pressure from the people who “need” AIDS or “create” AIDS?

Why is there is no AIDS-epidemic in prostitutes? If AIDS is sexually contagious, shouldn't it wipe out the prostitution population?

Talk a bit about AIDS babies. What forces and factors led to the death of that pregnant mother?

“If AIDS doesn't spread, the virus business is dead!”

Why aren't the honest government officials and the celebrities exposing this fraud?

Here is what gets me. We won't determine on this show what is the truth; that is for scientists to decide. But scientists are just people, and when their livelihood is at stake, they might say things they shouldn't or be afraid to say things they should publicly voice. When it came to Duesberg, just hypothesizing regarding HIV was cause to ostracize him and cut off his funding. The spirit of science did not prevail, and so we still don't have the concrete answers. I think the lesson here is that the evidence, like Carl Sagan warns, must outweigh our personal identities, our narrow ambitions, and our wishful thinking and belief systems. We have to look at the evidence, though it may be threatening our sense of self, our ideologies, and even our income. Remember scurvy? Until the discovery of vitamin C and niacin, the medical establishment insisted the cause was

mysterious infectious agents. Those who pointed out that dietary changes cured it were dismissed as flat-earthers. It took about two centuries before doctors swallowed their pride and accepted the fact that they were killing people by delivering babies and performing operations without washing their hands.

Nobel laureate Kary Mullis, told Farber "Look, there's no sociological mystery here. It's just people's income and position being threatened by the things Peter Duesberg is saying. That's why they're so nasty. In the AIDS field, there is a widespread neurosis among scientists, but the frenzy with which people approach the HIV debate has slacked off, because there's just so much slowly accumulating evidence against them. It's really hard for them to deal with it. They made a really big mistake and they're not ever going to fix it. They're still poisoning people."

2 Minutes Closing

Events on the horizon: From July 22nd to the 28th, I'll be leading a retreat at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, NY on Seeking God Without Religion. For more information, you can call (800) 944-1001, or write to registration@eomega.org. Visit www.eomega.org. Also, go to www.godwithoutreligion.com for information on the book God Without Religion, read an excerpt or the Foreword by Arun Gandhi, or listen to other radio interviews, get information on other God Without Religion retreats, or to raising a question, comment on the God Without Religion forum.

If you want your questions or comments read on the air, please send them to rrt@godwithoutreligion.com or to Religion Roundtable, PO Box 40731, Albuquerque, NM 87196.