



C h e l l i s
G l e n d i n n i n g

Trojans! Do Not Trust the Horse

Wireless Mind, Gullible Mind

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eco ne credite, Teuri,
quidquid id est, timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.
--Virgil, *Aeneid*

I have been contemplating the infamous Trojan Horse whose *deus-ex-machina* arrival at the edge of Troy stirred wonder among the gullible citizens, only to lure them to their demise.

I think such thoughts because another mighty horse has been steered into our midst, and like Trojans we have thrown open the gates to welcome it in.

I am referring to the onslaught of wireless technologies in the form of microwave towers, satellites showering the planet with radiation, Wireless Fidelity (WiFi) ports, Wireless Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX) antennas -- plus all the gadgets they make possible: cordless phones, pagers, Blackberries, roving laptops, wireless water meters, satellite TV and radio, in-flight internet. I am referring as well to the electromagnetic weapons, radiation-emitting stations, surveillance instruments, and crowd-control devices military and law enforcement deploy.

These sources of non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation, or radiofrequency, present a frightening specter. Some 3,000-plus medical, biological, and epidemiological studies have demonstrated links between exposure and deterioration of the blood-brain barrier that

blocks viruses and bacteria, DNA damage, leukemia, nervous system disorders, immune deficiency, heart arrhythmias and coronaries, insomnia, anxiety, depression, memory loss, dizziness, deafness, brain tumors, etc.

And who is poised to slam the gates on this interloper? Not many. Somehow a population with DDT, Love Canal, the Dalkon Shield Intrauterine Device, asbestos, Three Mile Island, and Agent Orange under its belt is mustering up the same old psychological defenses it used to not learn from those debacles.

I made “somehow” my business during the 1980s anti-nuclear movement; I studied the psyche’s means of blotting out concern for weapons build-up. I went on to research the challenges endured by survivors of health-threatening technologies and the public’s means of dismissing their suffering in my book *When Technology Wounds*.



Truth is, we’re not looking at a horse of a very different color today. Those same methods the psyche used to numb against the arms race and deny the existence of asbestos workers and DES daughters are here again.

Gullible Mind

Social philosopher Lewis Mumford’s concept of “mad rationality” comes to mind. And renegade Freudian R.D. Laing’s assertion that our “socially shared hallucinations, our collusive madness is what we call sanity.” Too, psychoanalyst Eric Fromm’s observation: “That millions of people share the same form of mental pathology does not make those people sane.”

Let’s consider *repression*: blanking out the facts and one’s feelings about the facts. As psychologist Daniel Goleman puts it: “One forgets, then forgets one has forgotten.” In this case the forgetting is made more likely because, like radiation from nuclear technologies, electromagnetic

radiation is invisible. And indeed, upon hearing of links between radiofrequency and disease, some people sputter “Uh,” spin around in a fog, and walk away. Telecommunications corporations rely on repression when touting their happy-talk-keep-talkin’ claims. “Satellite dishes receive radiation perfectly. *There’s no spillover,*” proclaim public-relations departments, while consumers stampede to their local satellite-TV outlets with nary a “Hello?” And yet, think about it: if you pour water from waist level to a dish on the floor, does it land perfectly within the dish?

Denial is like repression but carries an edge of active manipulation. When we repress, we erase the whole enchilada; when we deny, we rearrange the facts to make reality more palatable. Needless to say, the industry is the #1 perpetrator of this psychic defense. But the public isn’t bad at it either. After four decades of bio-radiological research, Dr. Robert O. Becker gave his wrap-up in 2000: “I have no doubt in my mind that at the present time the greatest polluting element in the earth’s environment is the proliferation of electromagnetic fields.” He also predicted at that time that every human will develop not one, but *many* cancers. And yet a New Mexico journalist with autoimmune disease, whose husband contracted cancer after they installed satellite internet-TV, responded with: “It’s just another thing in an already polluted world.”

Selective attention is a sub-category of denial: letting in some facts but not others. Like the artist who insists that cell phones are dangerous, but cell towers are not. And the sign-maker who busted his ass to contribute banners to fight the T-Mobile tower a half mile from his home – and then installed WiFi in the house.

With *personal disconnection* we may admit a problem but proclaim that, because of this or that, it has no personal impact. Emblematic is a chat I had with a non-profit administrator whose neighborhood in San Francisco’s Presidio was one of the first WiFi “hot spots” in the U.S. His wife had developed strange health problems while living there -- which disappeared every summer when she went to Vermont. To him, though, yoga and vitamins would provide protection.

Rationalization is the mind’s alibi. “But, but, but, but....” But I need my iPhone to report I’m noshing an energy bar at ticketing/buckled in to seat 23A/waiting at baggage claim/hailing a cab/knocking on your front door. But here in Austin I can’t get my favorite Boston radio station. But I have to check my email every ten minutes. But my girlfriends are on their phones six hours a day, I only use mine for *four!*

With *projection* we split the content of our minds into “Save” and “Delete”-- and throw what we deem unacceptable onto persons and objects outside ourselves. Come hell or high water, the telecommunications industry is muscling its \$1-trillion way toward planetary dominion; in the face of such might, vulnerability before the toxic emissions demands an outlet, lest we face our fear of confrontation. One ready target is the already fallen: the electro-sensitive. Like atomic vets and Three Mile Island residents before them, they have become recipients of disdain and discrimination, called “crazy,” given zero support, and pushed to the margins where, often homeless, they live without constitutional rights -- in their cars.

Resignation is the roll-over-play-dead defense. “Ah well.”

Could unexpected liberation of the mind be far behind?

Meanwhile – as both Democrats and Republicans throw open the gates for the industry’s plan to build a national “Smart Grid” that will leave no inch of North America unWiMAXed – Virgil’s 2000-year-old warning becomes timely: “Whatever it is, I fear the Greeks, even bringing gifts.”

Ever since the U.S. Telecommunications Act of 1996 welcomed W.T.O.-inspired deregulation and F.C.C.-bolstered corporate protections, a group of scientists and citizens has been active, working through such groups as EMR Network, EMR Policy Network, and Council on Wireless Technology Impacts. Microwave News has consistently provided information and updates.

At the same time illnesses that had been relatively unusual have become normal. Diabetes, asthma, testicular cancer, brain tumors, malignant melanoma, immune deficiency, chronic fatigue, childhood cancers, sleep dysfunction, autism, multiple sclerosis, hypothyroidism, anxiety disorders, epilepsy, strokes, heart attacks.

As a mental health professional, I am well aware that the psyche has the wherewithal to grip its defenses ‘til knuckle-white death. And yet, in my lifetime, I have also witnessed miraculous and unexpected liberations of the mind.

Notes

WIRELESS 101

When the microwave oven was first unveiled, consumers were told to jump back after turning it on. The radiation in a microwave oven is the

same as what comes off a cell tower or an iPhone. The only difference: the industry decided not to warn you anymore.

A significant increase in cancer, particularly breast and brain, occurs within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of a cell tower.

When not being used but still turned on, cell phones draw down radiofrequency waves. Men who wear cell phones on their belts can get testicular cancer.

If you can walk around talking on your phone without a cord, it is wireless, and it has the same impact as a cell phone. Worse, the base station is your own private, in-house, 24/7 *cell tower*.

The more data transmitted, the more radiation is required. Ergo: WiFi, which can send written data and photos, is more toxic than simple cell-phone messages. WiMAX, which can handle movies, videos, and huge transfers of written data, is more dangerous than WiFi.

WiFi can extend up to 300 feet from its port. When you turn it on in your house, you might be contaminating your neighbors.

Some hybrid cars infuse drivers and passengers with electromagnetic radiation.

Compact fluorescent lights can trigger migraine headaches, dizziness, and epileptic seizures.

Laboratory animals implanted with ID chips display an increase in malignant tumors, with the cancer often wrapped around the implant. This is the same device sold in pet stores to keep track of your beloved animal-people.

Radiofrequency from towers can cause forest die-off, bird deaths, and cancer in farm animals.

Some people can feel electromagnetic radiation – between 4% and 30%. They get heart palpitations, dizziness, brain fog, visual light flashes, and ringing in the ears. Many people don't feel anything. And some do, but have no idea why they feel ill.

The more radiation you are exposed to, the more likely you are to develop sensitivity.

Some scientists are exploring a causal relationship between worldwide proliferation of wireless technologies and global warming -- which stands

to reason when you think about how hot a microwave oven gets.

A Brief History of Resistance

May 2000. Pioneering a legal concept called “electromagnetic trespass,” a Spanish court orders Iberdrola S.A. to remove its transformer from an apartment building and pay for residents’ medical bills.

July 2001. In Cyprus a peaceful demonstration against Britain’s planned military communications towers turns into a riot after police open fire. Protestors ransack a police station and demand the release of their prime minister who had been doing civil disobedience atop a 160-foot mast.

September 2002. Scientists meet at the International Conference State of the Research in Electromagnetic Fields in Catania, Italy, and issue a declaration warning against electromagnetic exposure.

October 2002. German doctors issue the Freiburger Appeal proclaiming the relationship between microwave exposure and disease. Thousands of doctors worldwide sign on.

February 2003. After the biggest-ever protest meeting of a village in northern New Mexico, the local school board cancels an already-signed contract to erect cell towers on its schools.

March 2003. The Catholic Church in Italy calls for cell-phone antennas to be removed from bell towers, branding them dangerous to human health and spiritually “out of keeping.

November 2003. In England and Ireland citizens bulldoze down cell towers -- as many as eight each week.

February 2006. Ontario University in Canada bans WiFi from campus.

February 2006. An international congress of scientists in Italy issues the Benevento Resolution, warning against exposure to electromagnetic radiation and calling for wireless-free zones and wise siting of antennas.

2006. The Chamber of Doctors in Vienna, Austria, issues posters for clinics and doctors’ offices warning patients against cell-phone use.

June 2007. In Spain citizens hold International Day Against Electromagnetic Pollution to publicize the medical effects of high-voltage power lines, electric-power substations, mobile-telephone antennas, radio lines, WiFi, and WiMAX.

September 2007. Germany's Environmental Ministry and Federal Office for Radiation Protection issues an unprecedented national warning to citizens: avoid exposure to radiation emanating from WiFi and WiMAX ports in cafés, schools, and public "hot spots."

September 2007. The European Environmental Agency demands immediate action to reduce exposure to radiation from WiFi, WiMAX, mobile phones, and antennas.

October 2007. Protestors in a Druze village in Israel rip down a mobile phone mast. Police open fire on them; they fight back throwing stones and metal bars.

December 2007. After only five months of the new WiFi system in Paris' libraries, the union wins a moratorium due to the health effects among librarians.

January 2008. Thousands of Chinese demonstrators take to the streets to protest the extension of a magnetic levitation train through Shanghai.

February 2008. Cell-phone antennas in Tudela, Spain, are removed when damage to citizens' health is revealed.

March 2008. The Sebastopol City Council in California breaks its contract to install citywide WiFi.

April 2008. The National Library of France dismantles its entire WiFi system.

September 2008. The Linn-Wilsonville School Board in Portland, Oregon, unplugs its cell towers and cancels leases for WiMAX.

May-October 2009. Portland OR, Sebastopol CA, Glendale CA, Los Angeles County, and Pima County AZ pass resolutions to challenge the Telecommunications Act's ban on health and environmental protest against wireless technologies.

December 2009. The world premiere of Palestinian filmmaker Talal Jabari's *Full Signal* opens to sell-out crowds at the Santa Fe Film Festival and wins "Best Documentary" at the Myrtle Beach International Film Festival.