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Mr. EIZO OTA
An MLF investigation

SPACE RELATIONS: A Slightly Gothic Interplanetary Tale Donald Barr, 1973

The year is 1974, a newly hired math and physics professor walks the aisles of The Dalton School, the most prestigious college prep school in Manhattan. He wears gold chains, fur coats and an exposed chest. His students are all underage. His name: Jeffrey Epstein. The hiring of this college dropout happened during the final year of Donald Barr as headmaster of The Dalton School. Mr. Barr happens to be the father of current US Attorney General William Barr.

In 1973, Donald Barr published a sci-fi novella, titled *Space Relations: A Slightly Gothic Interplanetary Tale*. The simplified plot: a story about a distant planet ruled by oligarchs with a penchant for young sex slaves. The novel has been poorly reviewed and criticized for its crude depictions of rape and abuse of teenagers.

Decades later, in 2019, a now convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein would die in prison under mysterious circumstances. AG William Barr, who had refused to recuse himself from overseeing this case, would call this incident 'appalling.' Note: AG Barr had worked for law firm Kirkland & Ellis in 2009, a firm that had defended Epstein just a year earlier.

A fourth man enters the plot: Alan Dershowitz. The infamous civil liberties lawyer had defended Epstein in that same 2008 prosecution case in Florida. In 2020, Dershowitz would go on to defend US President, Donald J. Trump against impeachment charges. A side story, Dershowitz is featured in a film called 'The Singularity is Near' defending the rights of a female AI by the name of Ramona. Curiously, Epstein was obsessed with the topic of transhumanism and believed in improving the human race through genetic engineering and AI. The connections get stranger.

Back to Donald Barr. In 1983 he was nominated by US President Ronald Reagan as a member of the National Council on Educational Research. That same year, Reagan gave his emblematic "Star Wars" speech, which set up the tone of the final years of the Cold War and eventually marked the establishment of the SDI, Strategic Defense Initiative, the direct predecessor to Trump's Space Force (founded in 2019).

THE BARON TRUMP COLLECTION Ingersoll Lockwood, 1889/1893

In his second year as US President, Abraham Lincoln, appointed a 21 yr old diplomat as Consul to the Kingdom of Hanover (now part of Germany and the Netherlands). This young man was Ingersoll Lockwood, a lawyer from New York, whose father had been close friends with Henry Clay, the founder of the National Republican Party. The real passion of Mr. Lockwood, however, seemed to be writing novels. Inspired by a wave of fantasy stories following Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (1865), Ingersoll set out to invent his own world featuring a particular character: Baron Trump. Published in 1889 and 1893 respectively, both *Travels and adventures of Little Baron Trump and his wonderful dog Bulger* and its sequel *Baron Trump's Marvelous Underground Journey*, tell the story of a young German boy (Heinrich Sebastian von Troomp, Baron Trump, for short), who lives in Castle Trump, is obsessed with the size of his brain, and comes up with personalized insults for people he meets throughout his bizarre adventures.

Did Ingersoll inadvertently predict the personality of the late Donald Trump, or even the name of his son Barron (save the extra 'r')? By the way, Donald can also be considered a fantasy writer. In the 1980s he invented 'John Barron' (or sometimes 'John Baron') a fictional persona that posed as a Trump spokesperson or even as a Trump Organization "vice president." Oftentimes he impersonated this character by faking his voice during phone calls. As described by Jonathan Greenberg in a recent Forbes expose: ""Trump, through this [Barron] sockpuppet, was telling me he owned 'in excess of 90 percent'" of Fred Trump's assets. This led Greenberg to include Trump in the Forbes 400 list in 1984, which was crucial in the myth-making of Trump.

Strangely, there is an additional disturbing coincidence between Lockwood and the current state of affairs in the US. He also wrote a dystopian novel called "1900: or; The Last President" (1896). In it, he described a series of November protests in NYC following the shocking presidential election victory of a populist candidate who eventually brings the American republic to its downfall.

STEVE BANNON: A PROPAGANDA RETROSPECTIVE Jonas Staal, 2018

Q. What connects Trump to World of Warcraft, Biosphere 2, and Hip Hop musicals? A. Steve Bannon.

Stephen K. Bannon is perhaps the most insidious mind behind the astounding rise to power of Donald Trump. Originally trained as an urban planner at Virginia Tech, College of Architecture & Urban Studies, Bannon went on to become a US Navy officer and eventually ended up as an investment banker for Goldman Sachs in the 80s. Between then and now, Bannon would go on to lead a

number of seemingly disparate projects. Between 1993-95, he became director of the Biosphere 2 project in Arizona, where he shifted the research from a terraforming experiment into a climate change study. Later, as CEO of Affinity Media (former Internet Gaming Entertainment), Bannon promoted the idea of generating virtual currency by having low-wage Chinese players mine for assets in World of Warcraft to be sold to wealthy gamers. It is perhaps here where he noticed the passion of disenfranchised young conservatives. As he expressed to journalist Joshua Green: "You can activate that army. They come in through Gamergate or whatever and then get turned onto politics and Trump." The deeper we go the most fascinating it gets. For instance, it could be claimed that Bannon pioneered the idea of hip hop musicals in the 90s (at least 15 years before Hamilton: An American Musical was even conceived), when he authored an adaptation of Shakespeare's Coriolanus to reflect the '92 LA riots triggered by the beating of Rodney King. Regarding his involvement with films, it is said, Bannon invented the concept of 'kinetic cinema' which involved a bombardment of imagery and subliminal messages aimed at overwhelming and implanting doubt in the viewers. I am not even mentioning his involvement in Cambridge Analytica, Breitbart, and his mentorship of far-right figure and president speechwriter Stephen Miller. Unlike the other two books, this one continues to be written from a War Room corner inside Bannon's imagination.