

SOURCES

"There is an inherent risk of theft, misuse, and loss of drugs," reports the General Accounting Office in a November report, "Seized Drugs and Weapons" (available online at www.gao.gov/new.items/ai00017.pdf), that looks at how poorly the Drug Enforcement Administration, which seized more than 275,000 kilograms of illegal drugs in fiscal year 1998, kept track of such evidence. **The report suggests that some runny noses at the DEA may not simply be due to the common cold.** "Weaknesses related to DEA's accountability over drug... evidence... included (1) incomplete and missing drug evidence documentation, including chain of custody documentation, (2) inaccurate recordkeeping of... evidence, and (3) improper accounting for drug weights, including unverified and unexplained weight differences in drug exhibits."

"You may think you can write whatever you wish today. You may boast about your action because you defamed this or that person, but when we are dead and buried in our graves, we shall be together again."

—Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, warning dissident Iranian journalists during a September sermon, quoted in Volume 3, No. 4 of the *Middle East Review of International Affairs* (available online at www.biu.ac.il/SOC/besa/meria/)

and counterspying, with revolutionaries and the Czarist secret police often involved in complex duplicities. Golovinski himself changed sides after the 1917 revolution, becoming a Bolshevik propagandist.

Of course, a parallel universe of *Protocol*-believers has continued to claim that the *Protocols* are authentic, and that any evidence to the contrary is the real forgery. The leading proponent of this view was probably Nesta Webster, who wrote prolifically in the 1920s about purported Jewish conspiracies, and whose anti-revolutionary zeal may have stemmed from her belief that she had been guillotined by French revolutionaries in an earlier incarnation.

The *Protocols* remain widely sold in the Middle East, are readily available in Japan, and have lately become quite popular in the Balkans. In the U.S., reprints can be found in many Afrocentric bookstores. The *Protocols* were reprinted in their entirety in William Cooper's popular 1991 conspiracist work, *Behold a Pale Horse*, though Cooper instructed readers that "any reference to 'Jews' should be replaced with the word 'Illuminati.'"

Forfeiting Sense

By Jesse Walker

In 1996, some Missouri highway troopers stopped a speeding Volkswagen Golf. One thing led to another, and before long they were searching the car. When they found \$24,000 in cash stored by the battery, they decided they were dealing with drug dealers and seized both the money and the vehicle. In early 1999, the latter was



LIABILITIES

the *Protocols* in 1944.

The *Protocols* have been known to be a forgery since 1921, when *The Times* of London revealed that they had been largely copied from an 1864 political tract by a Frenchman, Maurice Joly. That work was a commentary on French politics and had nothing to do with Jews. Golovinski, working with such mystical anti-modernizers as the Holy Brotherhood, combined Joly's fantasy elements of world domination with earlier anti-Jewish and anti-Masonic material to produce "evidence" of an overarching Jewish-Masonic plot. Late-Imperial Russia was awash in documentary forgeries, domestic spying,

capitalist modernization of Russia was really a Jewish plot to control the world. Golovinski's handiwork—24 subversive "protocols" that purport to be the minutes of a secret "Zionist" conclave—was to become a bulwark of anti-Semitic paranoia and an essential text of Nazism. The *Protocols* remain dear to credulous paranoids throughout the world.

Historian Lepekhine discovered Golovinski's authorship in Russia's long-closed archives and published his findings last November in the French newsweekly *L'Express*. Golovinski had been linked to the work before: The German writer Konrad Heiden identified him as an author of

BRICKBATS

♦ If you're going to Santa Cruz, California, be sure to leave any bad feelings at the city line. A group is trying to get a motion on March's ballot to make the city a "hate free" zone. So if someone cuts you off in traffic or your barber gives you a bad haircut, you'll just have to smile.

♦ Other Golden State cities are trying to get rid of another nuisance: tobacco. The state now bans smoking in almost all public places, and some officials are trying to stamp it out in private ones as well. Local governments across the state are urging landlords to ban smoking in apartment buildings and are encouraging people to sue their landlords if the neighbors smoke. One suit has already been filed in Pasadena, where a woman claims a neighbor's fumes killed her dog.

♦ Clerical worker Beverly Lancaster knew just what to do when she felt her employer—the city of Birmingham, England—had mistreated her. She sued it, winning more than \$100,000. What had the city done to incur her wrath? It had promoted her. Lancaster took the city to court because the new job left her filled with stress. She told her employers she didn't want the job, but they insisted on keeping her there, despite her claim that she didn't have the proper qualifications.

Henry Payne



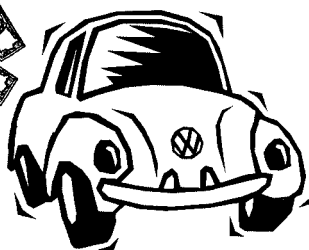
auctioned for \$5,400 to Jeffrey Chappell and his mother Helen.

Two months later, a mechanic found another \$82,000 hidden in the gas tank. He called the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the government took the money. The Chappells are taking the matter to court.

"I bought the car 'as is,'" Jeffrey explains, "and the law is very clear. If I had bought the car from a used car dealer, the money would be mine. It seems that the law applies to everyone except the government." What's more, if the authorities decide that the cash is drug money, the cops could seize the car, without compensation, yet again—even though no one suspects the Chappells of being involved in the drug trade.

Meanwhile, the original \$24,000 seems to be lost in the bowels of the federal beast: No one's sure who has it. And the car's original owners? They were never

charged with any crime and are free to this day.



Blind Profits

By Brian J. Taylor

Do markets undermine prejudice?

In his 1957 book *The Economics of Discrimination*, economist Gary Becker argued that free markets would reduce and eventually eliminate discrimination in the workplace. Firms must pay for their "taste for discrimination," the logic goes, by hiring more expensive white men over equally qualified women or minorities. The more competitive a market is, the more damage discrimination will do to the firm. The business that refuses to change its practices loses to competitors

not willing to sacrifice their profits in the name of racial or gender solidarity.

Over the past two decades, the gap between men's and women's pay has indeed narrowed. While women in the labor force generally have more education and experience than before, that doesn't entirely account for the recent gains.

In "Importing Equality?" (available at www.ny.frb.org/rmaghome/staff_rp/sr74.html), a recent study for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, economists Sandra E. Black and Elizabeth Brainerd tested Becker's theory in certain manufacturing sectors. In concentrated sectors, where a few large firms dominate the industry, women's pay has trailed that of men to a greater extent than in more competitive sectors of the economy, but as concen-

