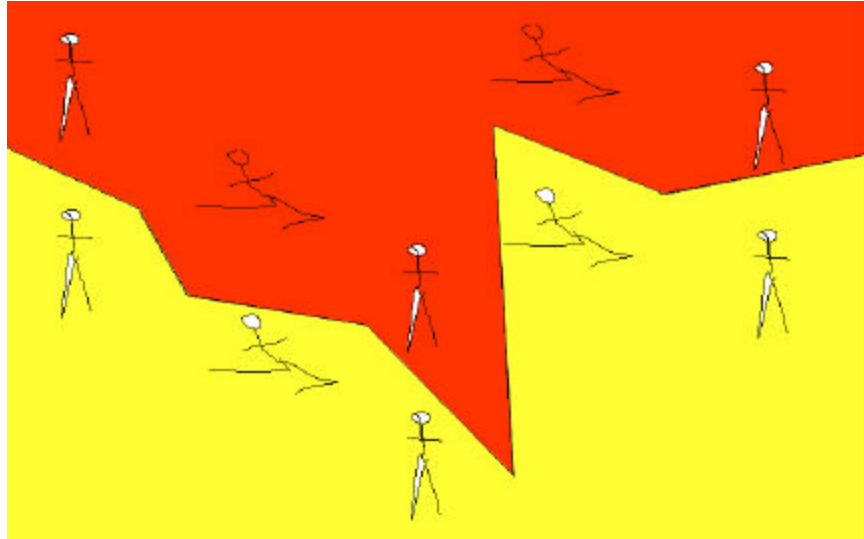


A Symmetry - 5



FREEDOM IS A POWERFUL ANIMAL THAT FIGHTS THE BARRIERS, AND
SOMETIMES MAKES PEOPLE WISH FOR HIGHER FENCES.

LANCE MORROW (UNKNOWN)

BE was taking a break and had, as usual, grabbed some thought for food. At about 3 am the group had finished the manifesto. Simultaneously taking a deep breath of satisfaction, all in the room sat back. It had taken about 8 days straight, 45 bagels, 14 cartons of juice, 5 pots of coffee, and 12 pizzas... but when it was done everyone was happy it was a good statement.

Amidst the happiness, BE coolly reminded everybody that all that was left to do was to figure out a way to get it out to the people. and on this one they contemplated for a while – another 2 days in fact.

They first thought about taking out an advertisement, but they didn't have the money for that. They then thought about setting up a press conference, but it occurred to them that nobody would come cause nobody had ever heard of them before. BE of course remembered other days, other movements and agreed.

Epiphany Jones or Pif (one of the brainchilds behind the manifesto) came up with an idea – why not pass out some pamphlets. It's been done through history and it is fairly inexpensive. We just needed to figure out how to print one up. The group could design something simple, the cost would not be astronomical and the members could pass them out all over the city and make sure that everybody was able to check it out. As with most of Pif's ideas the group went along. They went to a gingo's print shop and made about 10,000 flyers.

Before everyone went to sleep, they took flyers, mapped out their distribution zones and took off. BE, Pif and Jamal stayed a little while longer just to make sure that everything was ready to go. Please at their level of preparation they decided to retire.

I don't know if you have ever passed out flyers or anything but, let me see, it is not pleasing, enjoyable work. You are standing outside in varied

types of weather (heat, rain, wind, snow, and those boring days of unending sunshine). You come up with different ways to try to get through to the customer or, as we suggest, the participant. Referring to the person that you are trying to contact as a customer the group felt that this was trivializing what it is that we try to do and it insults the people. Nevertheless, most people tended to look at what we did as selling.

People would give us a nod trying to pre-empt the delivery. They would give you shrug, the shoulder, the finger. They would walk across the street and try to avoid the whole interaction.

No thank you is the most familiar comment. The responses don't just stop there however. More creative ones include:

- oh, I got one already on the other block (as we had mapped out the entire city this wasn't possible);
- sorry, I don't take things from strangers;
- hey look alright already, you people are everywhere bothering people.
- I have cancer, just leave me alone with your little pieces of paper so that I may die in peace;
- Don't you worry about the fact that you have killed off a whole bunch of trees and contributing to the high level of trash being left all over the floor.

The people had a million and one reasons for not acknowledging you.

The majority however will take your material and in the span of about 5 to 20 steps, they will drop your stuff on the floor or look for a trashcan. This is particularly frustrating for after a day of trying to distribute information (emptying your bag) and you have given all that you have and you are making your way back to the compound, you take a few steps and all over the floor your days work is littered. All of it.

Each of the members experienced the same the thing. Each also had a different response. Some screamed, some cried, some picked up their stuff, some attempted to distribute the fallen merchandise – after cleaning off the paper knocking off a variety of messiness off of the back, some just shrugged and returned back to base. After about a week of this ... strategy, or lack thereof, the members had become somewhat dejected.

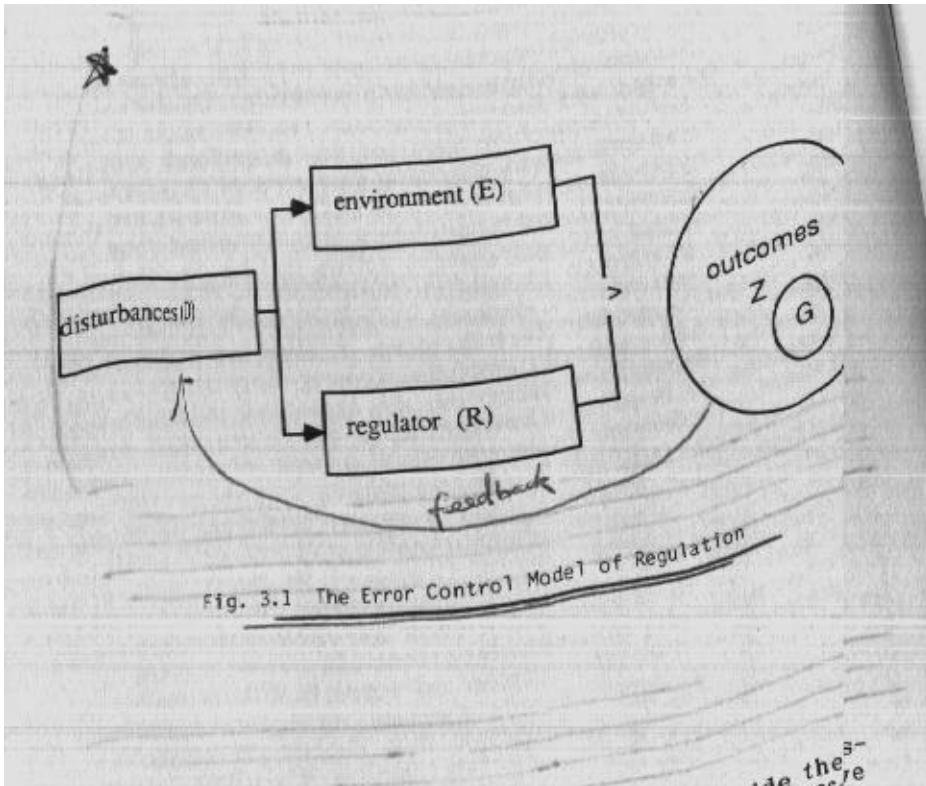


Fig. 3.1 The Error Control Model of Regulation

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Simultaneously however on the other side of town a group of organized concerned citizens had gotten together for they were upset about the large amount of trash now being left around the city by this particular group. In fact they argued that all the group was doing was adding to the litter of the city and decreasing the value of the property and the aesthetic bounty of the landscape. They concluded that something needed to be done and needed to be done soon.

The following week this group went before city council and plead their case. City council had argued that they had already allocated money toward this end and that they were not going to do any more. The citizens group was not satisfied with this however. What they started doing the next day was going to be an important step, not for activism mind you (although that is precisely what it involved). Rather, it would be a major step for stasis (the position, the outcome not the place).

What the citizens group started to do was hang out around the organizational members when they handed out pamphlets. They stayed about 10 or 15 feet from them with a huge orange bag that said "pamphlet trash co." – in which case they would just stand around and stick out their hands, arms, hearts and bags to get people to deposit the pamphlets after they picked them up.

All they would say to this was "thank you for your deposit the citizens appreciate it." Smile and leave.

Needless to say the members were not happy about this. After a while they began to realize what was going on. It was kind of hard to miss these people following you around all over the city and then standing right behind you with a big orange bag, encouraging people to throw out what you just gave them.

This led to more than one confrontation: you had those members that would try to scare these people off (one screamed in the middle of

the street "help a fellow citizen, I'm being attacked"); some would try to walk and go in different directions, hiding behind cars, running into restaurants and going out the back way and sliding out bathroom windows – anything to try to lose these people so that they can get back to the business of distributing the manifesto to the population in need, so that they can get back to the business of dropping them on the floor.

Whatever the problems presented by the citizens group, this last problem was by far the most vexing. BE came up with the idea that maybe the people weren't really able to get into what the pamphlet had to say because the printing was too small. He rushed to the front of the room one day, grabbing another member by the hand so that they can simulate the transaction.

Walk up to me slowly, he commanded. What can you see from there? How much of the material can you see from there – he kept asking at different distances. Now grab one and start to walk. Seeing him slow down he jolted him, no keep walking at your normal pace and try to read. The point was clear: you really couldn't read anything unless you stopped and nobody was going to stop because they really didn't know why they should stop.

Well that is what we are for, one of the members started. We are there to direct them, explain to them what we are about.

Come on, BE retorted. Do you think they are going to listen to somebody passing out flyers on the street. We been out there for days and I see people on every other corner passing out stuff and I also see people walking right on by them. They look at them like they are scum.

Well they are, another member chimed in. they are just trying to hook the person into buying something.

So are we, stated ephipany, really seriously. As far as the participants are concerned, we are doing the same thing, piddling our

little wares on little pieces of paper. I agree with BE, we need to get a little bit bigger, a little bit bolder with the approach.

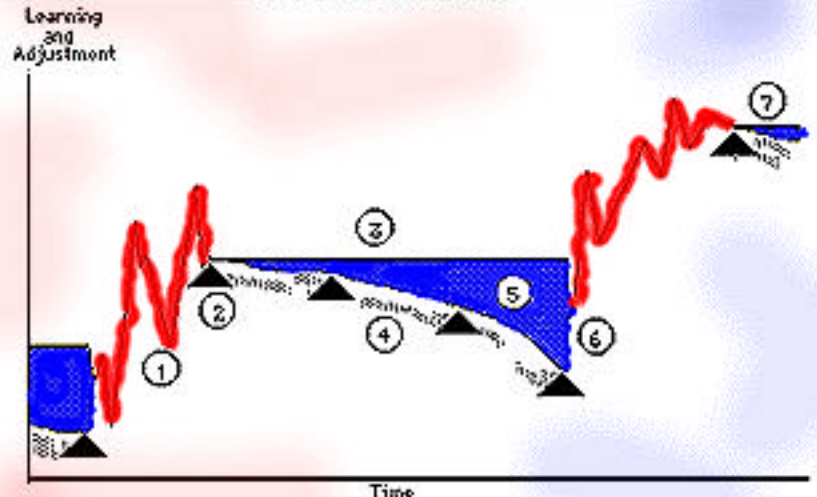
Yeah, the others added. Make it so they can't ignore us. He came up with the idea that they should use things that they used to use back in the old days – huge cardboard signs attached to the front and back of their bodies with cushioned ropes slung over the shoulders (the cushions being for comfort). Parts of the message could be distributed with these huge signs as the members walked around town. The problem of course was which parts of the message.

One of the members realized that the whole manifesto wouldn't fit on one or even a few boards. In fact, it was clear that only a few points could be raised. The basically needed to figure out what should be put on the boards to represent the manifesto and lead someone to be interested enough to read the whole thing. They figured out that if the boards were 4 by 5, if writing was put on the front as well as the back and if they had several members go around together, between them they could cover quite a bit across at any one point in time.

And thus it began:

rows of 3 or 4 members at once walking around the city in secession so that people could read one, then look at another, and then another. This seemed to be a little bit more effective than the previous mechanism because there was really nothing for anybody to take (unless they stopped you to get more information), you weren't really handing anybody anything. This eliminated the awkwardness of the physical transaction. People could just kind of glance from a distance and walk by, but in this situation, they would actually be able to see some of what the manifesto said.

The Conflict Helix



- KEY**
- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. CONFLICT | 5. GAP |
| 2. BALANCE OF POWERS | 6. DISRUPTION OF STRUCTURE OF EXPECTATIONS |
| 3. STRUCTURE OF EXPECTATIONS | 7. NEW STRUCTURE OF EXPECTATIONS |
| 4. CHANGE IN THE BALANCE OF POWERS | |

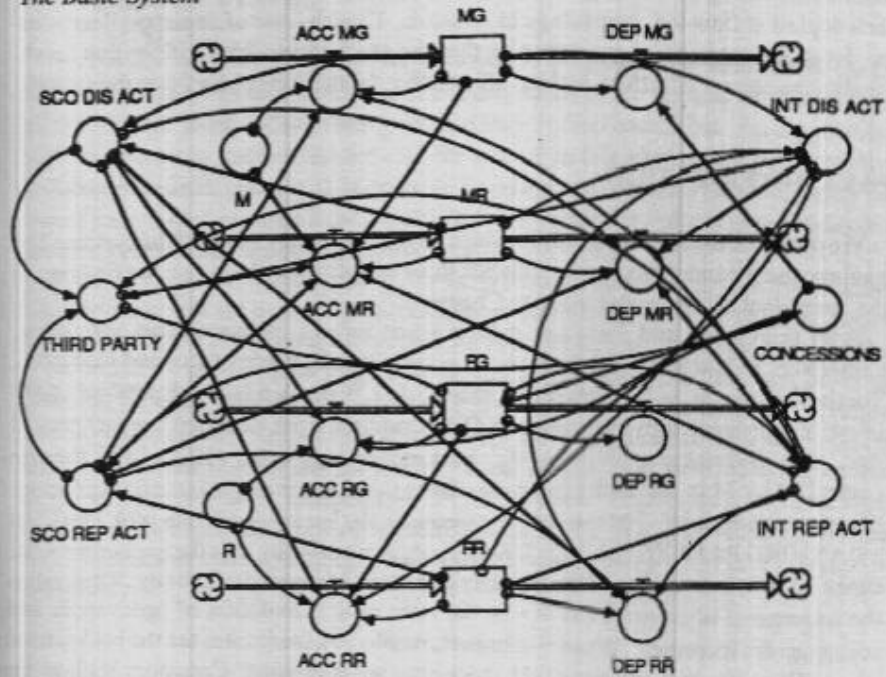
The group of concerned citizens didn't like this at all. They again went in front of city council and now they argued that the group was littering, not with their papers but with their words - Their big, huge, abusive, imposing words attached to these immense things that they were walking around with obstructing individuals walking and that the path traversed by people to get to different locations was now being blocked by these structures. This could lead to gangrene they suggested because as individuals tried to get around them they would get poked and stabbed by nails and splinters left in the boards. This would lead to a series of rashes and blisters that would be spread all throughout the city causing a medical emergency.

City council was still unmoved. Again taking the initiative the group of concerned citizens figured that the best way to handle the situation was to construct walkways that would be wide enough for people but not wide enough for these placards. They in fact would be wide enough for two normal size individuals to pass one another, which is exactly the number of people that should be walking on the sidewalk anyway and therefore they came up with these configurations that would eliminate all wide "harassment points" as they referred to locations where group members attempted to convey information.

And thus it began: for days, weeks and inevitably months the citizens group, out of their own pocket and after bringing enough votes into city council, developed their "pathways to freedom." Construction work was taking place all over the place and nobody knew what was happening.

When completed, the logic of the plan had proved quite successful. Members of the group could not walk through the pathways, at least not straight. They had to turn sideways in order to get through and people could just zip on by them without slowing down. This was somewhat uncomfortable because the signs were kind of heavy enough by themselves let alone trying to shuffle sideways while trying to carry them.

The Basic System



Note: ACCMG: Accumulation of movement grievances; MG: Movement grievances; DEP MG: Depletion of movement grievances; SCO DIS ACT: Scope of dissident activity; INT DIS ACT: Intensity of dissident activity; M: Movement response; ACC MR: Accumulation of movement resources; MR: Movement resources; DEP MR: Depletion of movement resources; THIRD PARTY: Support of the movement by third parties; CONCESSIONS: Regime concessions to the movement; ACC RG: Accumulation of regime grievances; RG: Regime grievances; DEP RG: Depletion of regime grievances; SCO REP ACT: Scope of repressive activity; INT REP ACT: Intensity of repressive activity; R: Regime response; ACC RR: Accumulation of regime resources; RR: Regime resources; DEP RR: Depletion of regime resources.

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As a response, the members decided that they would try standing in a row. Standing in a row was somewhat inefficient because viewers could only see one side. Individuals would then have to slide along a wall and when in the street they would have to turn around and lay the other way. This became real problematic if the person decided to go down another street. The members would then divide up and try to head the individual off. They were often successful with this strategy but the message would always be merely a fraction of what it was supposed to be.

The frustration of this strategy took a toll on the members and they decided to go back to the compound. Epiphany came up with the idea that since one dimension had been cut off they should move in another one. In this case you would go up. Then they realized that if you were standing on one side of the little sidewalk area you could only read so much. In response they decided to find some material that would bend near the top. This would fit the space and would allow someone to read more of the manifesto/

Because of the sheer size of the new placard they could only make 10 of them and it required about 8 to 10 members to carry them. This limited the amount of the city that the members could cover at any one time. They managed to get them up and running. After a couple days the members were back and the street with their newest configuration and the manifesto was back in the sky.

People continued to be somewhat annoyed with the whole process. They tried to find different ways of getting by, getting around, and ignoring the message. This did not make the members of the group particularly happy because they had gone through all this effort to communicate with them and they felt that their work was just wasted. A few people did stop and take a look.

To this action, the group of organized concerned citizens were truly and profoundly upset. They began talking about freedom, beacons of

light, opportunity, not being subjected or forced to do anything. And in this light they suggested that rather than have the sunlight blocked, rather than have their vision interfered with, by this group imposing their views strongly upon them – they would rather eliminate all light and with this eliminate the possibility that this would ever happen again.

They came up with concept of the lowered floor, or the raised ceiling – depending upon ones perspective. This entailed attaching to the pre-existing planmks on either side of the sidewalk a ceiling – eliminating the possibility that large signs could be brought into any ones' view. Also, this eliminated the likelihood that anyone would be subjected to the messages being put forward.

Now there were several problems with this plan: 1) the cost obviously – but this they were willing to piece together (with tax dollars of course); 2) they also had the issue that the signs could be seen as individuals walked in between the boundaries but they were willing to tolerate this although it seemed rather bizarre that individuals would walking in these tunnel configurations, attempt to cross the street, get some daylight, see political messages for a few seconds and then go back into the darkness of the tunnel; 3) with regard to the lighting within the tunnels one of the citizens came up with the idea, using his own company, with a light system that would provide light within the tunnels that would be connected to the streetlights and which for a moderate fee would light up thetunnels.

Never rattled, epiphany came up with the idea that if they were to block individuals walking throught the tunnels on either side, in other words if they could develop panels that were the size of the space – itself (on the sides and above), they could enclose an individual in the trap, until they had finished reading the material afterwhich we would then release them. This would guarantee that there was no way that they could avoid or escape seeing the message.

After this the members went about the business of trying to

measure the space. At about 3 in the morning, several of the members went to different locales in the city, going through the tunnels to size things up. While there, the members noticed that cameras had been installed within the tunnels to monitor activity. On the side of the camera were the letters GOCCC – group of concerned citizens corporation, evidently the organization had started to branch out into the surveillance, monitoring and repression business.

In response, they had to quickly improvise and come up with a way to complete their task without drawing too much attention. With a short hop they realized that the ceiling was relatively low; stretching as in a yawn in either direction (with arms out to the side) they were able to gauge how wide it was.

With these measurements set the members were more or less good to go. The members went about the business of first building the panels and then using them. Members were broken up into groups of two, and each of the pair how to practice as there were several ways that information-conveyance could be completed. Some stood about a block apart and slowly moved into to sandwich the participant. Others liked to stand against the wall and kind of sliding against the wall, snaring the individual quite unexpectedly with a flip of the board and the pelvis.

BE brought to everybody's attention the problem that if participants were entrapped without a light being overhead that they would not be able to read any of the manifesto and that all the effort would be wasted. Cheryl, another member, suggested that the organization could lower down over one of the walls a flashlight so that they could read the material. Upon trying this out however members discovered that either the participants would try to pull the members over the wall or they would end up breaking the flashlight as they attempted to breakthrough the barrier.

The members concluded that they then had to strategically entrap participants, capturing them underneath the pre-existing lights. As this is

where the GOCCC had also placed the cameras the members knew that some good timing was necessary. At each camera, the members had meticulously sabotaged the equipment or otherwise made some type of disturbance so that they could time how long it would take for GOCCC security to show up. Of course, a repair job was likely to bring a response slower than a mugging or egg throwing at a camera (as unfortunately 2 of the members were later to find out as they were confiscated in approximately half the time that they thought that they had). After these quirks were worked out, however, they were again ready to try.

Later on another member identified the point that there was no guarantee that the participants were doing the reading of the manifesto. Parnell came up with the idea to put a whole in the board, so that they could monitor progress. After Denise had been poked in the eye by a man on Wordsworth Avenue they gave this idea up.

As another response that had participants read the manifesto aloud to them before they would release them. For those individuals that decided that they did not wish to cooperate and read the manifesto, one of the boards would move in and proceed to squish them a little bit.

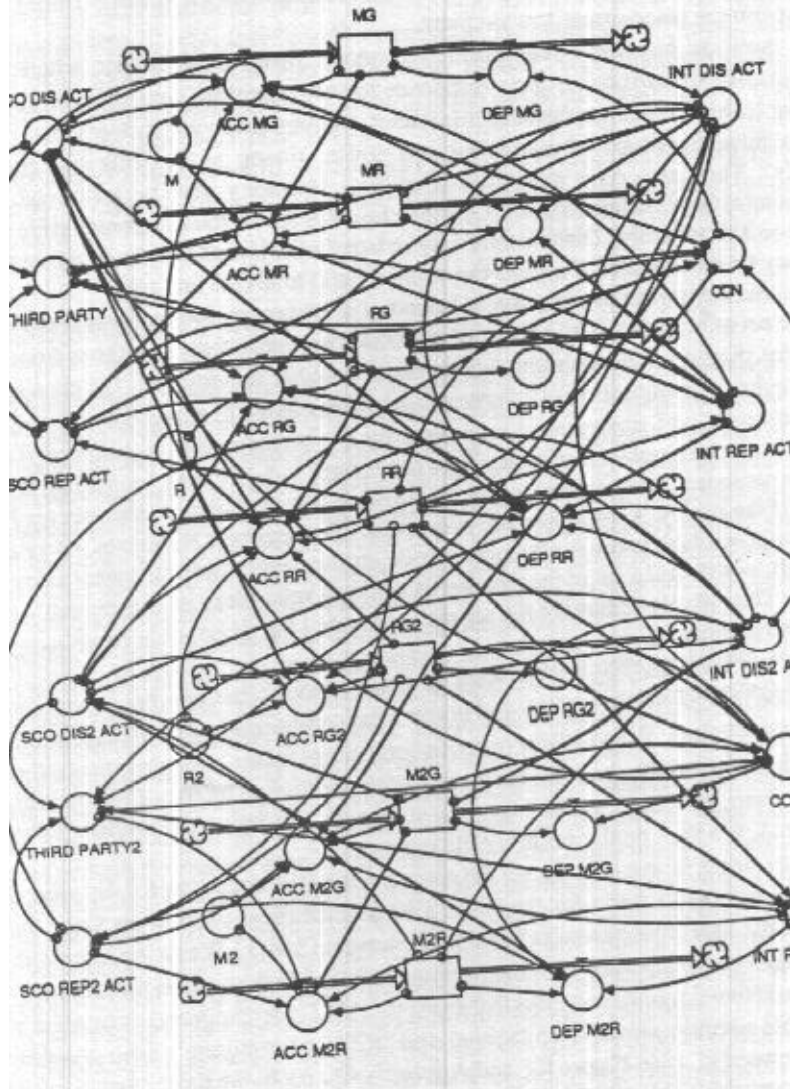
This last element more than enraged the group of organized concerned citizens. They put in even more effort trying to figure out how to eliminate the group and its manifesto. With about 300 individuals behind them in the research wing of the GOCCC, they did come up with a solution. This solution entailed coming up with an interconnecting tunnel mechanism above the individuals where the space had been merely a plank so that the large signs could be blocked. Now the GOCCC decided that they would construct holes where the lighting mechanisms were so that they could release or "download" as they would say a helmet of freedom.

The helmet would fit over one's head, sort of like oxygen masks in airlines. The individual would be captured, a hole would open up, the helmet would drop down, the individual would put the helmet on and

with this mechanism the individual could not only withstand the attack of the group but they would have access to 320 stations (although pre-approved by the GOCCC telecommunications network), inevitably to be increased to 489.

To fund this endeavor, the GOCCC reached out to the commercial business community in order to provide them with commercial time for the various stations. This provided money to fund the construction and also allowed them to construct several schools and community centers.

ment Industry



Once constructed, the members were totally confused as to what to do. The usual technique of trying to squeeze participants did not work for the helmet was made large enough to facilitate comfortable positioning of the human body. This provided enough breathing space for an individual being compressed to withstand attack until the GOCCC security team showed up to liberate them.

BE in particular started to have some problems when on one effort at communication both of the handles on his board had fallen off. The board fell on top of him as one of the participants had more aggressively utilized their helmet as a battering ram.

The next few meetings were a bit intense as everybody was trying to figure out what to do. The helmet turned out to be an effective mechanism against communication and the GOCCC started to develop different types, which could be requested by an individual under attack. One of the different types was able to shoot out tear gas; another one shot out some spikes that went into the boards and held the group member there unless they decided to let that part of the manifesto go (these confiscations allowed the GOCCC to identify what type of material was being used so that they could stake out these locations).

Because of this the group had to change their manifesto boards from a ply-wood to a light metallic material which increased the cost of each board and simultaneously the number of members that it took to carry one.

The resolution to the helmet problem was the most difficult thus far of the GOCCC counter-measures. This required that the members experiment a bit on different tactics. They had constructed their own mini-tunnel in HQ and designed everything in accordance to what surveillance reports had revealed (i.e., they had the same exact dimensions that were found on the street). The members simulated a helmet drop in of a helmet which had been commandeered when a member pretended to be entrapped, verbally requested three different helmets be dropped down

and then jumping on one as it was lowered (with the other members) and pulling on it until it fell off.

BE demonstrated that if one threw a net over the two manifesto-boards that the helmet was unable to be lowered. The helmet could be eliminated if they used a net, especially if one were reinforced with a wire-mesh which would not be cut by any blades emerging out of the helmet in the future. With this technique they were back in the street in 20 hours to continue their education of individuals.

It was at this time that GOCCC studios released its first emergency broadcast about the terrorist attacks taking place in the tunnels. According to the broadcast a group of individuals were running around town, kidnapping people off the street, performing some ritual on their bodies and then burning them. The visual accompanying the story was a charred stump of a human-like thing, all contorted, red, brown and black with steam coming off of what once might have been a head. It was not clear what had happened but one of the panels used by the group was photographed as being underneath the charred creature, suggesting that the group was responsible.

This response to the group by GOCCC was even more ingenious and sinister than the others applied before. Moreover, the GOCCC maintained that they did not want to be entrapped, they refused to be blocked from walking wherever their heart took them. Indeed, rather than live in this world with people that would interfere with other humans and burn them, they would prefer to live underground within a complex, multi-level environment. This enabled individuals who were entrapped and unable to reach the helmet of freedom to go underground and proceed on their way.

Of course there was a minor fee of \$5.00 that was required for passage. It was initially dark in the underground dwelling and construction would need to be undertaken. All of these things required capital. For those who could not pay, the GOCCC accepted all major

credit cards, checks and bank cards.

Within the underground dwelling, GOCCC lighting systems was used, the GOCCC cafes were established for those who did not wish to immediately rush to their next appointment after dropping in. The "drop" was facilitated by either a very thick mat that people would land on or a rubbery slide, depending upon the quality of one's neighborhood. Right after "touchdown" an individual was photographed and fingerprinted so that the GOCCC could track subsequent terrorist activities. GOCCC emergency medical stands were set up, libraries, automatic walkways, and there were big screens that identified where the most recent terrorist activity had taken place above ground.

This action left the group stunned for months. They just sat around numb trying to figure out how this could be countered. Interestingly, at the same time that the group's activities fell off, the terrorists activities increased dramatically. Evidently the death toll had been increased to 21.

Both above and below we see the development of the GOCCC newsletter, housing development, public transportation, beepers – there motto was simple: "We've got your back."

BE would keep consulting his book at night. Nothing he found really seemed to be relevant to what he was experiencing. It all came down to a battle to control the tunnel. They had to move fast, before people could be lowered and they had to be able to avoid the helmet-hooks.

Reading aloud to the group one night, BE came up with a really simple idea which was modified by Epiphany – a box. Either attached to bicycles, motorcycles or small tractors, could be used to encompass or capture the participant for education. Basically members would drive around the streets, which were still left alone by the GOCCC, and then into the tunnel. After this was done, members could capture individuals,

one member would then put his device in reverse, the other would go forward and off they would go or alternatively they could stay right there until the education process was complete. To facilitate verification, each member would wear headsets that were connected to an intercom system in the box. Over the "com" they could instruct the participant what to do as well as make sure that it was done correctly.

With 7 fully constructed devices, involving 14 vehicles they were back in the street within 2 days.

The effect of this strategy was not that bad actually. Of course, there were a few mishaps. The people that were monitoring the tunnels were occasionally off, so that on a few attempts more than one individual was captured in the box. Sometimes if a relatively large individual was in the tunnel and they were captured the box would not close fully. By and large things went along rather smoothly. In fact, the group got one convert, who after being "boxed" threw themselves on the ground and pledged their undying allegiance to the organization and the manifesto.

One of these over-crowding incidents did give the GOCCC idea about how to counter the box strategy. Looking back at some videotape Epiphany himself was rather dissatisfied that he had not come up with this contingency.

The solution was referred to by GOCCC personnel as the ES-Countermeasure put out by GOCC industries. The ES-Countermeasure involved the "Expando-Suit." Basically once an individual was enclosed in the box, they would push a sequence of buttons and the suit would expand into a humungous ball until the sheer integrity of the box itself buckled underneath the stress of the pressure.

This expansion would also do damage to the side embankments of the original walkway. The repair work undertaken by GOCC construction was relatively quick and each repair job came with another newsheadline

about the destructiveness of the terrorists.

Although there were insidious devices accompanying either the ES-Countermeasure or the box-configuration, it was usually the case that these terrorist attacks involved massive fire damage. Indeed, several newspeople began referring to the boxes as toasters and the charred body fragments as toast. Everyone would also begin to see bumper stickers saying: "don't roast like toast, ES the boxes and support freedom."

The ES-Countermeasure turned out to be the last straw for the group. In the face of this technology and the sheer size of the organization that they were countering, most of them just quit feeling that they were unable to continue.

BE and Epiphany were not quite done. During the day, they would take a boxload of pamphlets (the initial materials created by the group), walk to some of these terrorist locations where things were being rebuilt and dump the pamphlets into the holes created by the terrorists as well as the airducts that had been left open by the newly experienced explosions. They would watch the pamphlets float back and forth on their way down into the subterranean haven.

Once they had dispersed of all the material, BE picked up his book and his knapsack. Pulling the bag over his shoulder, he was moved to open the book and doing so he caught a glimpse of a quote by someone named Eco (1983b: 7 in rosenau p25): "The author should die" the quote began, "once (they have) finished writing, so as not to trouble the path of the text." To this, all BE could do was smile.

Almost sensing a change in mood, Epiphany stopped, turned, looked at him and asked what he found amusing. BE read the quote again – this time aloud, much to Epiphany's delight. After musing over the words a few times, individually and then in tandem, they began to move again. Their hearts were a little lighter this time, and their minds a little clearer. The journey would be long (this much they were aware). In

some way, however, it seemed to make a little bit more sense to them and with this they proceeded.

