

CLOUDBUSTER PROJECT

Christoph Keller NY 2003

Reenactment of the scientific experiments of Wilhelm Reich from
1953–54 to influence the atmosphere by the means of orgone-energy.



The reenactments of Cloudbuster experiments took place on the roof of P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center in Long Island City and on the top of the Clock Tower in lower Manhattan, New York. These actions were based on the invention of Wilhelm Reich, the Austrian born psychologist and early scholar of Freud who developed a political theory of sexuality in the 1920s. Reich began initial experimentation with making changes to the atmosphere in 1952, shortly after the ORANUR-experiments, which focus on the reaction of Orgone with nuclear energy. The reenactments had the aim of making rain over New York in the spring and summer of 2003. Out of the roof of the Clock Tower, the empty space of the missing World Trade Center Towers makes a distinct visual gap. The vacancy of these buildings dominated the general atmosphere in New York and had some influence on the Cloudbuster reenactments as well. It rained through the entire period of Cloudbuster operations in New York.

The Cloudbuster has an uncomplicated mechanical structure, consisting of few rows of conductive metal pipes that are connected with hoses to a source of flowing water. A spacer made of organic material insulates each one of these metal conductors. According to Orgone theory, flowing water has a positive Orgone charge that can be channeled with the Cloudbuster into the sky. With activation, the apparatus attracts the Orgone present in the atmosphere, from zones of higher or lower Orgone potential. The pipes then function in channeling the relatively small attracting force of the water streaming through the base of the Cloudbuster, and direct it to a small area in the sky where it can be effective in initiating rain by conflating the unstable Orgone-potentials of negative or positive Orgone charge.

There are many reports and detailed descriptions of successful Cloudbuster-operations from 1953–54, yet Reich hasn't left a detailed construction plan behind, as he did in the case of the Orgone-boxes, the devices designed to attract and accumulate Orgone energy for healing purposes. The mystery around

the Cloudbuster is a subject for speculation with many Post- and Neo-Reichians, who believe he worried about developments in atomic energy and was afraid of the possible negative use of Orgone energy in relation to it. Assembling excerpts from the Reichian literature does leave a clear picture as to its construction. In addition there are specific instructions and precautions as to how it should be operated.

Theories about the atmosphere belong to the late period of Reich's work, and they can be seen as the extension of his early findings about the human psyche and soma to the scale of the universe. "Orgone is the manifestation of the enthalpic tendency of the universe," makes a case for this analogy to the "the bioenergetic function of excitability and motility of living substance."

1951 marked a new phase in the ability of Reich and his team to observe atmospheric phenomenon. The ORANUR-experiments were designed to investigate the influence of nuclear energy on the Orgone. The experiment created atmospheric pollution in the area around Reich's laboratory in Maine, and his reports from the time have to do with the team's illness, reports on the black hue of the atmosphere, a sky without sparkle, and birds devoid of the will to sing. These were symptoms of Deadly/Destructive Orgone Energy (DOR), and the Cloudbuster was utilized to reverse its effects.

Operation OROP occurred in the Arizona desert near Tucson, one of the driest areas in the U.S., where there was reportedly a five-year drought. Deserts contain the stagnating OR energy, to "be replaced by the self-regulatory, self-sustaining laws that governed the behavior of cloud formation, rain cycles, cosmic energy metabolism in the atmosphere, etc. as they do in the living organism." "It has great significance for the mastery of our future, that DOR surplus causes deserts in the landscape as it does in the organism." The Cloudbuster therefore could be used as an instrument for the sake of humanity: to end draughts, to prevent natural catastrophes like hurricanes or to dissolve dammed up atmospheric

DOR situations that made people suffer in some regions. The first experiments were conducted in the vicinity of his laboratory compound near Rangeley, Maine. His books and notes show evidence of success quoting local newspaper articles of a saved blueberry-harvest with an operation ending a two-month draught. On another occasion an operation saved the day for a local children's parade by preventing the forecasted heavy rainfalls.

During his work in Vienna as a physician and psychologist in the early 1920s, Reich developed an approach emphasizing sexual unhappiness as the main cause of neurotic diseases, deviating from the Freudian paradigm. He went on to finding that what was arrested by sexual repression was a factual energy, seeking release in a satisfactory sex-life and turning against the health of the individual, if it didn't. The term Orgone therefore connotes both the words Orgasm and Organism. From 1930 on, he spearheaded sex-political (Sex-Pol) activities in Berlin and engaged in the communist party. The year of 1933 became a turning point in his life and career, when he was expelled by the World Psychoanalytic Society, because of his opposition to the Freudian idea of the Todestrieb, and the communist party, because his sexual-liberation concept didn't fit the reactionary backlash of early Stalinism. Fleeing Berlin in 1933, when the Nazis took over, and settling in Norway for some years, he further developed his bion-research, trying to prove the attracting force of all living matter as physical evidence, that had been overlooked by science from the definition of the Newton axioms on. Still in Berlin in 1933 he managed to write the book *The Mass-Psychology of Fascism* relating Fascism to the individual's economy of fear and sexual repression and naming the sexually and economically repressed situation in a totalitarian society as "the emotional plague."

Reich's immigration to the U.S. in 1939 did not protect him from the persecution that dominated his life in Europe. He had already been under investigation by the FBI on suspicion of communist activities during the '40s. Starting in 1941

and containing hundreds of pages, the investigation concluded without any implicating findings in 1947, but served as an engine to the growing sense of paranoia in and around his work in the U.S. The potential of his theories to attract the masses was not overlooked by the American conservatism of the 1950s. It was the authority of the Food and Drug Administration that finally managed to cause his arrest for contempt of court, by filing a law suit against him, declaring Orgone energy did not exist, and forbidding any of its use in therapy. The resulting court injunction banned the transport and sale of his Orgone related instruments and publications, and ordered a mass burning of his books. Reich died in jail a few months after his arrest in 1957.

Since then there had been a revival to the theories of Reich in the U.S., the sexual revolution of the 1960s, and in environmental movements in the 1970s. The climate issues he had been alerted to in the 1950s such as global warming and growing desertification are now of general concern. Today one can find Internet sources for many contradicting post-Reichian theories and esoteric products. Recent studies found on the net try to explain the effect of the Cloudbuster as purely acoustic. According to them, the streaming water at the ends of the pipes, which in the Orgonic explanation have an extremely high potential to carry Orgone-energy, actually produce a low-frequency sound that has the ability to effectively destabilize atmospheric layers.

The Cloudbusting reenactments were designed to follow rule number 9 in Rules for Cloud Engineering: "Never 'drill' a hole into the sky unless you aim for long drawn rain." The daily Cloudbuster operations resumed whenever the rain would get lighter, or stop for an hour or two. It rained through the entire duration of the reenactments, setting a hundred year rainfall record for the season.

Sharon Ben-Joseph, Christoph Keller, Berlin 2003

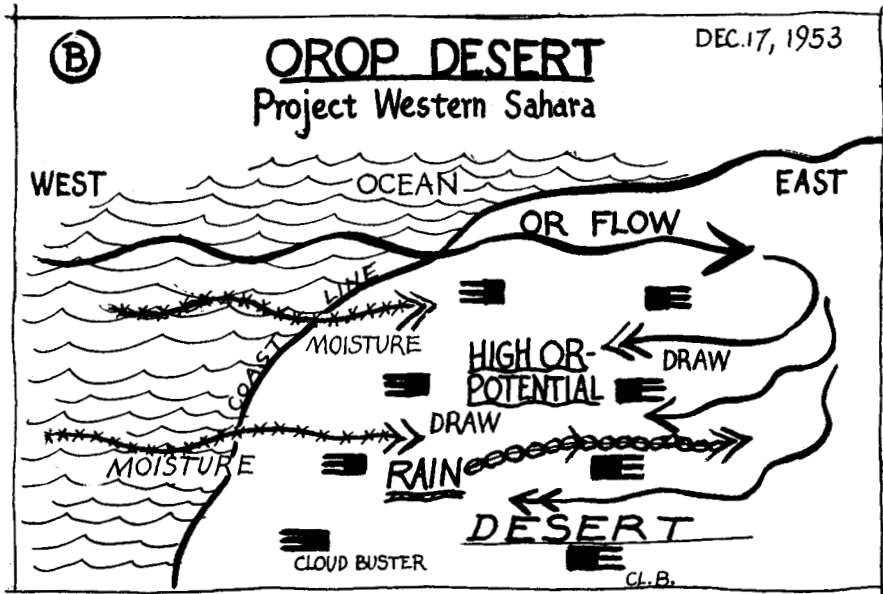



Abb. 12: Entwurf für Kampf gegen Wüste in Meeresnähe, Meer westlich (Orop Desert – Orop Wüste / Project Western Sahara – Projekt Westliche Sahara / East – Osten / Or Flow – Or-Strom / Moisture – Feuchtigkeit / High Or-Potential – hohes Or-Potential / Rain – Regen / Desert – Wüste / Cl. B. – Cloudbuster)  Cloudbuster

3.51-INCH RAIN ENDS HEAT, BOGS TRAFFIC

Continued From Page 1

Meteorologist James W. W. Osmun put the dramatic change in the weather into graphic terms. The mass of cool air that had formed in the western Canadian provinces last Saturday, he said, finally won its battle with the mass of hot, moist air that had been "defending" summer's sticky grip on the metropolis.

When the break came, the cold air rushed in below the moist, scooping it up like a vast shovel and heaving into the upper regions, where the moisture condensed. The violence of the rain, Mr. Osmun said, was attributable to the fact that the cold air was particularly cold and the moist air particularly moist.

Temperatures dropped to the sixties. The mercury was at 65 degrees at 2 P. M., but it had moved up to 73 by 7 P. M. At that time the sky had cleared and the sun had made a belated appearance, while a big "daylight" moon hung high in the eastern sky.

With the barometer rising, the forecast for today was fair. The mercury is expected to be in the low eighties.

Storm Bogs Down Subways

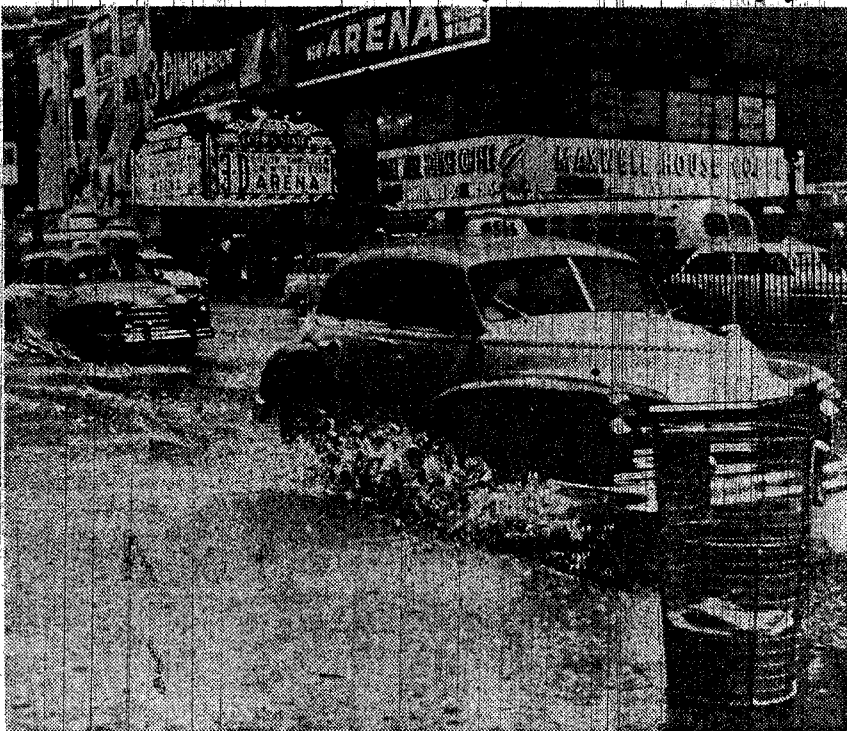
The rain delayed subways in Manhattan, the Bronx and Brooklyn. Water cascaded through gratings onto the tracks. When it rose above the level of the third rail, short circuits developed. The most serious short circuit occurred in a power cable just north of the Harlem Ship Canal, below the 225th Street-Kingsbridge Station of the I. R. T. Broadway-Van Cortlandt Park Line, which is elevated at that point.

The short, which occurred at 12:45 P. M., caused a shuddering flash that could be seen through the murk for blocks. Enough heat was generated to weaken a steel pillar supporting the track structure. As a result, the Transit Authority was forced to announce at 5 P. M. that repairs could not be completed until this morning; and no trains ran between 215th Street and Van Cortlandt Park, from the time of the mishap.

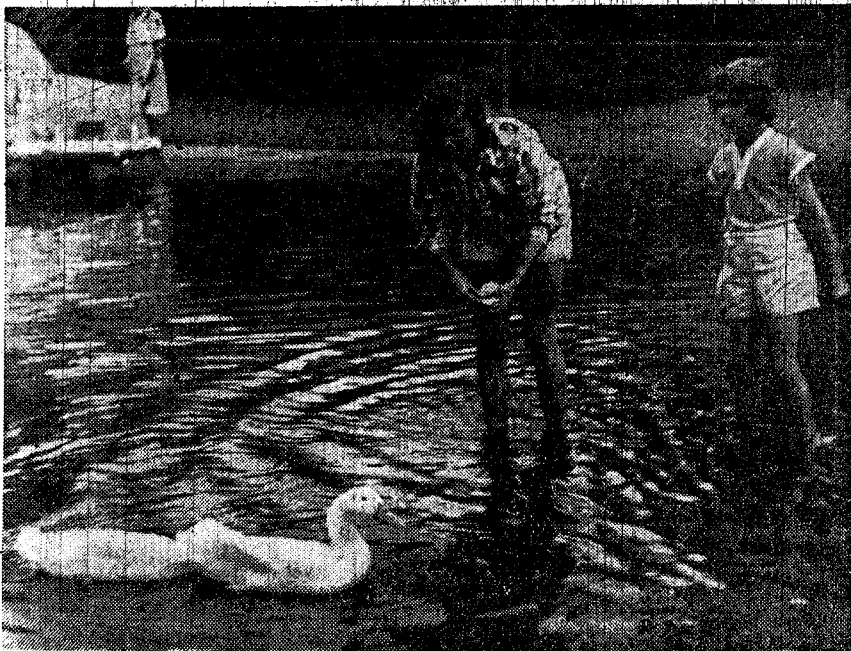
Service was erratic on the same West Side line from Seventy-ninth Street to 215th, between 11:27 A. M. and 3:30 P. M. One train that left Van Cortlandt Park at 11:15 A. M. reached Times Square at 1:40 P. M. The run normally takes thirty-six minutes.

One of the worst problems arose near the 110th Street station on the Bronx Park line, which swerves off from the Broadway line at Ninety-sixth Street. A ten-car express stalled about 500 feet south of the 110th Street station. The regular car lights went out and the wan emergency bulbs flickered on. Sixteen policemen helped 500 passengers to reach safety. Some

'Million-Dollar Rain' Soaks City--Even Ducks Enjoy It



View of deluge in Times Square area. Photo was taken at Broadway and Forty-fifth, 10:30 A. M.



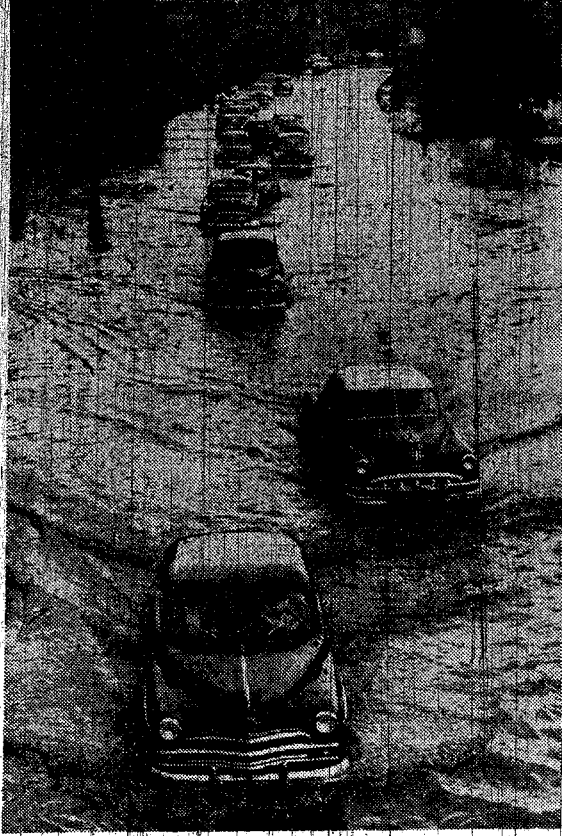
Two ducks make most of flooded intersection at 115th Avenue and 225th Street, Cambria Heights, Queens. Claudia Schiller, 17, and her sister, Alberta, owners, watch the antics.

The New York Times

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NEW YORK, FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1953.



The New York Times (by Neal Boonst)

RAIN SLOWS TRAFFIC: Cars moving slowly along flooded Laurelton Parkway in Queens. Rains ended eight-week drought.

CITY REPUBLICANS DESIGNATE NEGRO 3.51-INCH RAIN ENDS HEAT, BOGS TRAFFIC

Tammany May Name One Today
Against Carter for Borough
President of Manhattan

By JAMES A. HAGERTY

While the Manhattan and Bronx Democratic organizations were having difficulty in getting running mates for Robert F. Wagner Jr., their candidate for the nomination for Mayor, the New York County Republican executive com-

By MILTON BRACKER

A pounding rainstorm smashed the dry spell yesterday, ending the hot spell, disrupting subway service, undermining highways, flooding basements, imperiling traffic—and bringing welcome relief to parched farmland in the metropoli-

SENATE APPROVES 34.5 BILLION FUND FOR ARMED FORCES

2 Amendments by Democrats
to Increase Appropriations
for Air Power Are Beaten

By HAROLD B. HINTON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 23—The Senate approved tonight by acclamation an appropriation bill providing \$34,511,284,500 for the support of the national military establishment in the fiscal year to end June 30, 1954.

This amount was \$77,144,000 more than the House of Representatives had voted last week and the differences will be compromised by a conference committee made up of Senators and Representatives of the two Appropriations Committees who handled the money bills in their respective chambers.

As in the House, the defense budget was approved on the assurance of President Eisenhower that the sum proposed was sufficient for reasonable national security in the light of the present world situation in which, he has said, no absolute security was possible.

The funds provided will, in effect, keep the Army, Navy and Marine Corps at their present combat strength, and expand the Air Force at a slower rate than had been advocated as recently as last March by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

New Strategy Survey Planned

President Eisenhower and Charles E. Wilson, Secretary of Defense, told Congress that, although world conditions did not indicate any more favorable situation for the United States in the immediate future, a new study of national strategy would be made by the incoming Chiefs of Staff, headed by Admiral Arthur W. Radford, during the next few months.

Mr. Wilson made much of the unexpended appropriations of about \$57,600,000,000 the armed

EISENHOWER WARNS OF 'GRAVE DANGER' IN FOREIGN AID CUT

President in Letter to Bridges
Says Slash Will Be Taken
as Sign of 'Faltering'

Text of the President's letter to
Senator Bridges, Page 7.

By FELIX BELAIR JR.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 23—President Eisenhower served notice on the Senate today that "grave consequences" for the United States and the free world would follow any such major cut in his \$5,138,922,277 Mutual Security Program as was voted yesterday by the House of Representatives.

In a letter to Senator Styles Bridges, Republican of New Hampshire and chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the President did not refer directly to the House action reducing the request by \$1,115,050,575. Instead, he said the United States owed to itself and other free nations to provide courageous leadership in the face of the threat to that freedom.

"Invariably, if leadership falters in the face of grave danger in a complex situation, the result is disastrous," President Eisenhower wrote. "The amounts now in the Mutual Security Program have already been reduced and vigorously rescreened; deep cuts will certainly be received, on both sides of the Iron Curtain, as evidence of faltering."

The appropriation measure passed with the overwhelming support of House Republican leaders and membership yesterday provided \$4,438,678,000 in new money. This was \$700,244,277 less than the President's new money request. The measure canceled out \$414,806,298 of carry-over funds from past appropriations and ordered that amount returned to the Treasury.

Leaders Turned Down Appeal

When before the measure was

Wilhelm Reich: OROP Desert, p. 111

On the 23rd and 24th of July heavy thunderstorms occurred over the greater New York area causing a rainfall of 86 mm within few hours. The two-month drought period in New York was therewith concluded, as the *New York Times* and the *Bangor Daily News* report on July 24, 1953. Latter mentioned the successful break through with the drought in the area of Bar Harbor on the 6th of July. Following is the detailed article by the *New York Times*:

RAIN HINDERS CARS AND BLOCKS SUBWAY by John G. Rogers

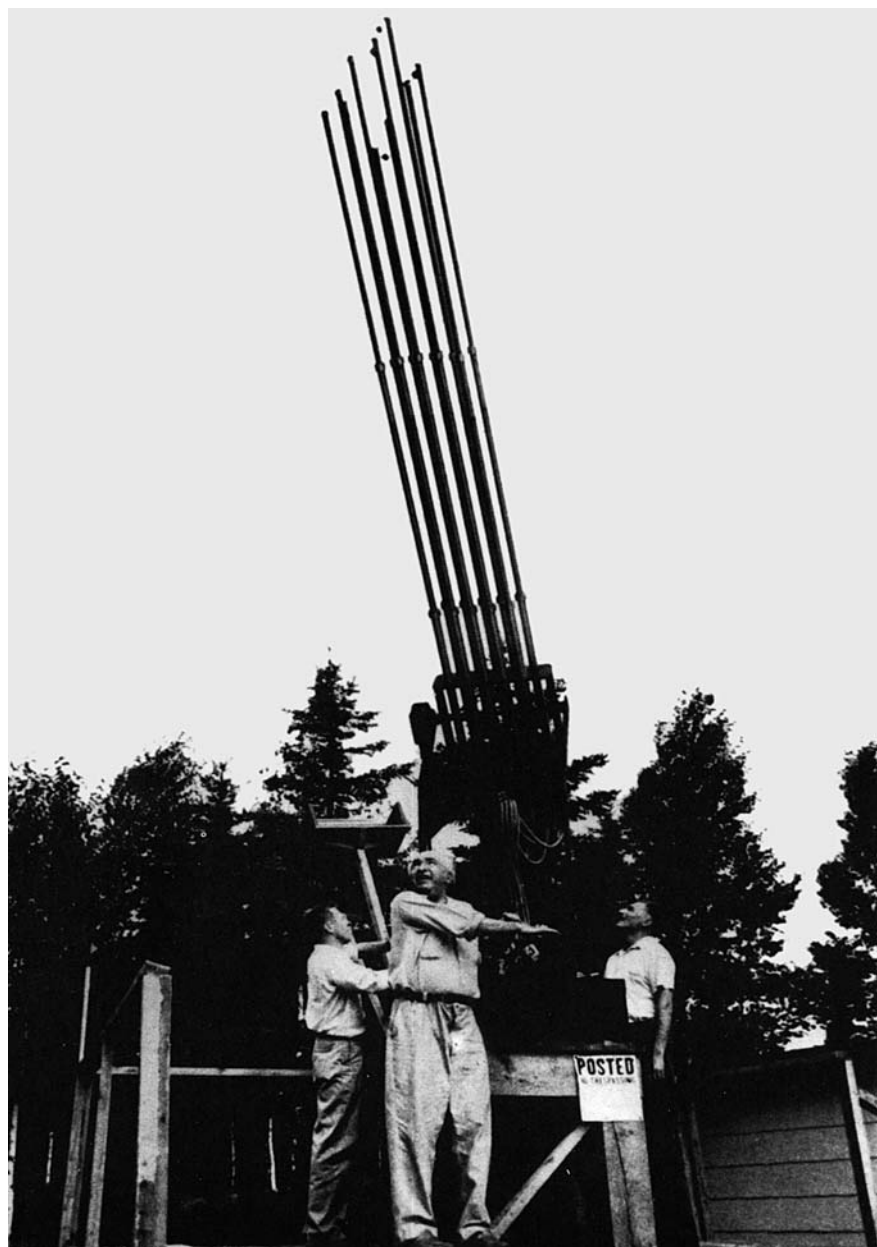
The two-month drought in New York ended yesterday with 87mm rain, of which 86mm went down within 7 hours and 40 minutes; at around 12:50 o'clock, the heavy rainfall ended. The remainder was due to drizzle in the afternoon. Field fruits and lawn areas in the vicinity of the city remained unharmed, at least preliminary, but the floods put thousands of cellars under water, brought hundreds of cars to a standstill, blocked the subway-traffic; a man drowned in two feet deep water on the roof of a five-story building. It was the 23 July with the strongest precipitation since the beginning of the official weather records and the heaviest cloudburst since the 26th of August 1947; when 93mm fell.

"Million-Dollar-Rain"

*For the farmers it was — as they say — a "Million-Dollar-Rain", that turned away the threatening total harvest loss in corn, tomatoes, beans and potatoes. The inhabitants of the city however, among them around a thousand persons, who had to leave two suburb trains, that got stuck south of the 110th street over provisional footpaths, found other labels for that. The weather office predicted good weather with temperature highs around 28 degrees Celsius for today, and for tomorrow "slightly higher, but for the season comfortable temperatures." Then the warning statement followed: "good things do not hold forever; until Sunday we have to expect further rising temperatures, and after that the heat we have to be prepared for at this time of the year, will again reach us. Norwalk and Connecticut yesterday reported the strongest precipitations in the East — altogether 132mm between 8:30 and 14:00 o'clock. Rivers and streams inundated hundreds of acres in the vicinity of the city, and in the cellars of dwellings, shops and factories the water stood up to 1.50 meters high, what caused considerable damages". **

[...] OROP ORGONON, 17.–22. July 1953 seemed to be indirectly responsible for the violent thunderstorms in the New York area, because it had not brought rain in Orgonon within a couple of hours, as it usually did after a one-hour drawing-operation. Instead, it had led to an *enduring* current of Orgone plus moisture towards the mainland west and south-west until the thunderstorm unloaded itself over New York. [...]

* Italic emphasized by me – W. R.



















Rules to follow in Cloud Engineering

- 1. Shed all ambition to impress anyone.**
- 2. Never play around with rain making or cloudbusting. The OR envelope which you tackle while “drawing” energy from the atmosphere is an energetic continuum of high power. You may cause twisters. You may stir a forest fire into the wrong direction. You may do other damage without intending to do so. Never do anything unless you must.**
- 3. If experimenting: it is important to observe and know why you are doing what, that you can achieve immediate results. Slowly growing comprehension will secure later results safely.**
- 4. In cloud engineering you do not “create rain,” – you do not “destroy clouds,” – briefly, you are not playing God. What you do is solely helping nature on its natural course.**
- 5. Have your equipment, truck, etc. especially all metal parts well grounded into water, preferably flowing water. Lack of grounding imperils your organism.**
- 6. Do not let workers draw OR energy any longer if they become blue or purple in their faces or feel dizzy. Exchange the workers; let them rest far enough way, and have their faces and arms always wetted down with fresh water.**
- 7. Do not hold on to pipes or other metal parts while you draw OR. Always use a separate plastic or wooden handle to move equipment while drawing. Have your hands always well insulated with rubber or heavy cotton gloves.**

by Wilhelm Reich

8. Have signs put up in such a manner that no one is hurt by OR charges. Do not let people stand close by. Among them may be men or women who are ill and would run some danger to their health.

9. Never “drill a hole” into the sky right above you unless you aim for a long drawn rain.

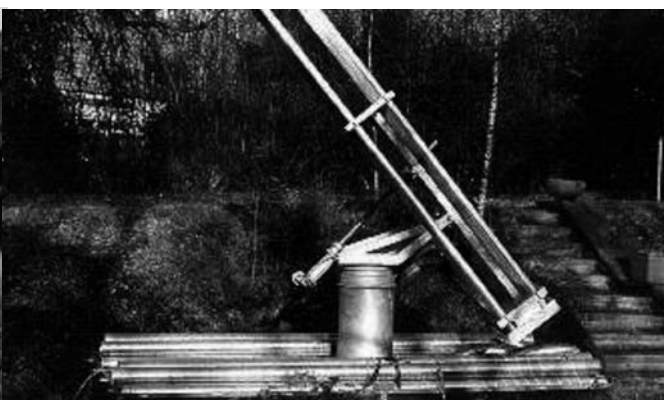
10. When you feel a breeze or wind setting in due to your operation stop drawing if the wind direction becomes too strong or even if it acquire the appearance of a twister.

11. If you wish to remove DOR clouds, draw in direction of run of OR envelope.

12. If you wish to DESTROY clouds or to stop rain, aim at center of heaviest clouds.

13. If you wish to make clouds grow heavier, draw from the vicinity of the smaller clouds, and have the large or heavy clouds undisturbed.

14. If there are no clouds in the sky and clouds should be created, disturb the stillness or evenness of the OR envelope all around you by brief, sweeping draws and draw mainly against the run of the OR envelope. To create clouds you must create differences of OR energy potentials.







Clock Tower, Lower Manhattan



P.S. 1, South Wing Terrace

Metro Section

The New York Times

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2003

Ice Unseen, Now Revered
Symbol of Survival Is Mended for Posterity



Record Falls, And Still It Keeps Falling

*June Is the Wettest Ever,
And It's Far From Over*

By ANDREA ELLIOTT

While New Yorkers fell deeper into the robotic, umbrella-toting resignation of Londoners and Seattleites, meteorologists watched excitedly as the weather in the city set a new record over the weekend: never has it rained this much in the city during June since record-keeping began in 1869.

The last time it rained nearly as much in June was in 1903, when 9.73 inches of rain fell. The new June record stood at 10.15 inches of rain recorded in Central Park as of last evening, with more than a week remaining in the month.

For pedestrians, soccer dads, joggers and others angry at the sky, records do not distract or console or invite a brighter disposition. But to several meteorologists watching skyward, the record was riveting.

"We haven't had a major record since the big snowstorm in February," said Stephen Fybish, 66, a Manhattan weather and climate researcher who can talk weather records for minutes on end. "I get a lot of pleasure out of contemplating the records coming up."

Only a handful of grumpy Starbucks customers taking refuge on Eighth Avenue near Times Square agreed even to broach the topic, and showed nary an emotion that a record had been broken.

"Not a good start to summer after having a terrible winter," was all Jennifer Anderson, 30, could offer as she sat reading "Men and Other Mammals."

While many New Yorkers are past inquiring why such bad weather has befallen them, meteorologists are still eager to offer an explanation.

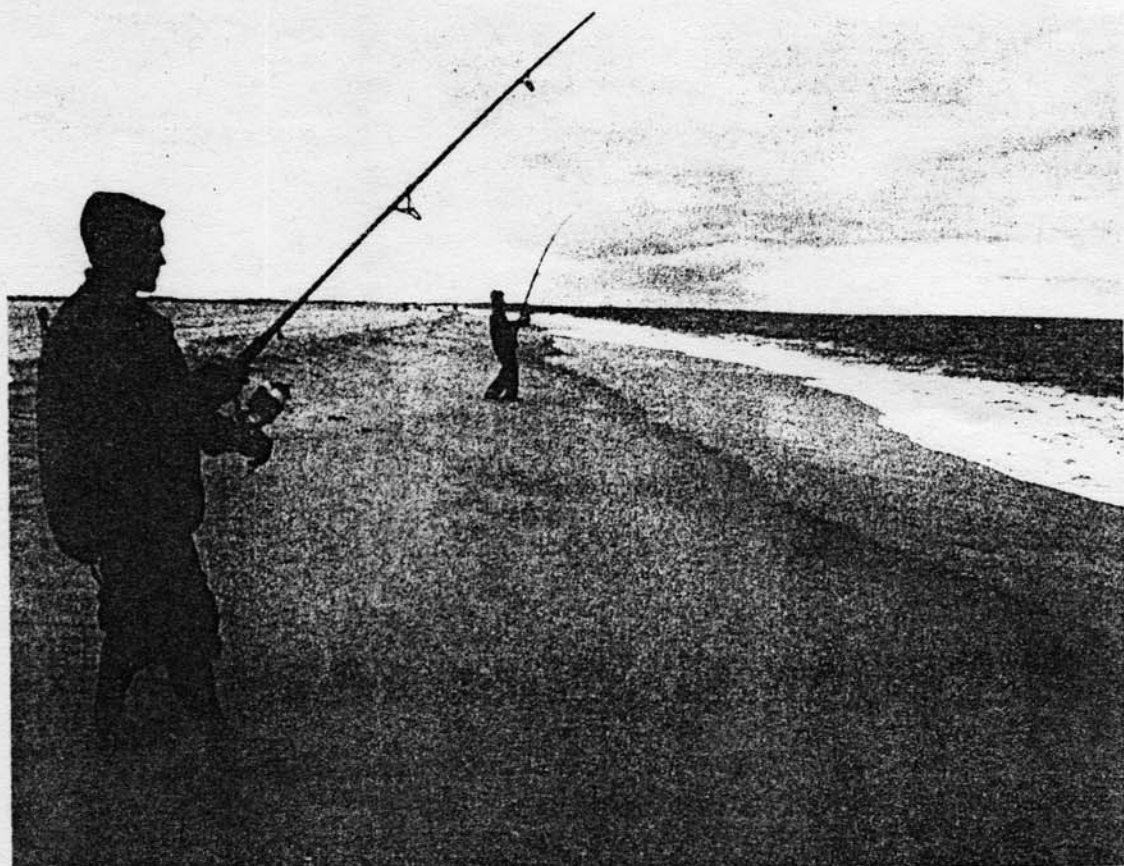
It goes something like this, according to meteorologists at Pennsylvania State University:

A river of air high in the sky — known as the jet stream — steers weather systems across the country. Part of that river is stuck. It currently dips around the New York City area, bringing low pressure, clouds, cool temperatures and rain.

"Last summer it was the other way around," said Paul Knight, a meteorologist

New York Times

NEW YORK, MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2003



Dith Pran/The New York Times

The Hundred Years' Rain

On the weekend that New York City broke a century-old record for June rainfall, no one was on the beach at Sandy Hook, N.J., yesterday but two fishermen, Hannier Rodrigues, left, and Geiner Urena. Page B1.

Israelis and Palestinians Pressed To Compromise in Mideast Talks

By STEVEN R. WEISMAN

SHUNEH Jordan June 22 — Sec- envoys, officials, business leaders

U.S. BOMBS CONVOY OF FLEEING IRAQIS

Experts to Search Attack Site

Rain Dates, Lots of Them; With Gray Skies Above, Life Is Stuck Indoors

Like his fellow New Yorkers, Brian Stites woke yesterday to more of the same: rain. [...] The mood is dim. Not since May 1989 has New York been held as captive by downpours and their accompanying gray mistresses, that chilling, Londonesque fog. It has rained on 27 of the last 50 days in New York, double the typical amount this time of year. The state's dams are overflowing. [...] Day after day, rain pounds the concrete, steams the air and is interrupted only so briefly by cameo appearances of sunshine. More than eight inches of rain have hit New York City this month, said Todd J. Miner, a meteorologist at Pennsylvania State University. "That's getting close to the wettest June of record," he said. [...] For New Yorkers, the rain is a cruel encore to a harsh winter. Beneath the damp canopy, reactions include ridicule, disgust and plain disbelief.

New York Times, June 20, 2003, Friday

Record Falls, And Still It Keeps Falling

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New York Times, June 23, 2003, Monday

Cover: Two cloud images taken from "OROP Wüste" (originally published as "OROP Desert," Rangeley, Maine, 1954), by Wilhelm Reich, in: Wilhelm Reich, *Späte Schriften*, Frankfurt am Main: Zweitausendeins, 1995, p. 92

The New York Times, Friday, July 24, 1953; first page and followup, copied from the microfilm-archive of the New York Public Library

OROP-Desert-Drawing by Wilhelm Reich, taken from Wilhelm Reich, "OROP Wüste," Ibid., pp. 87, 92

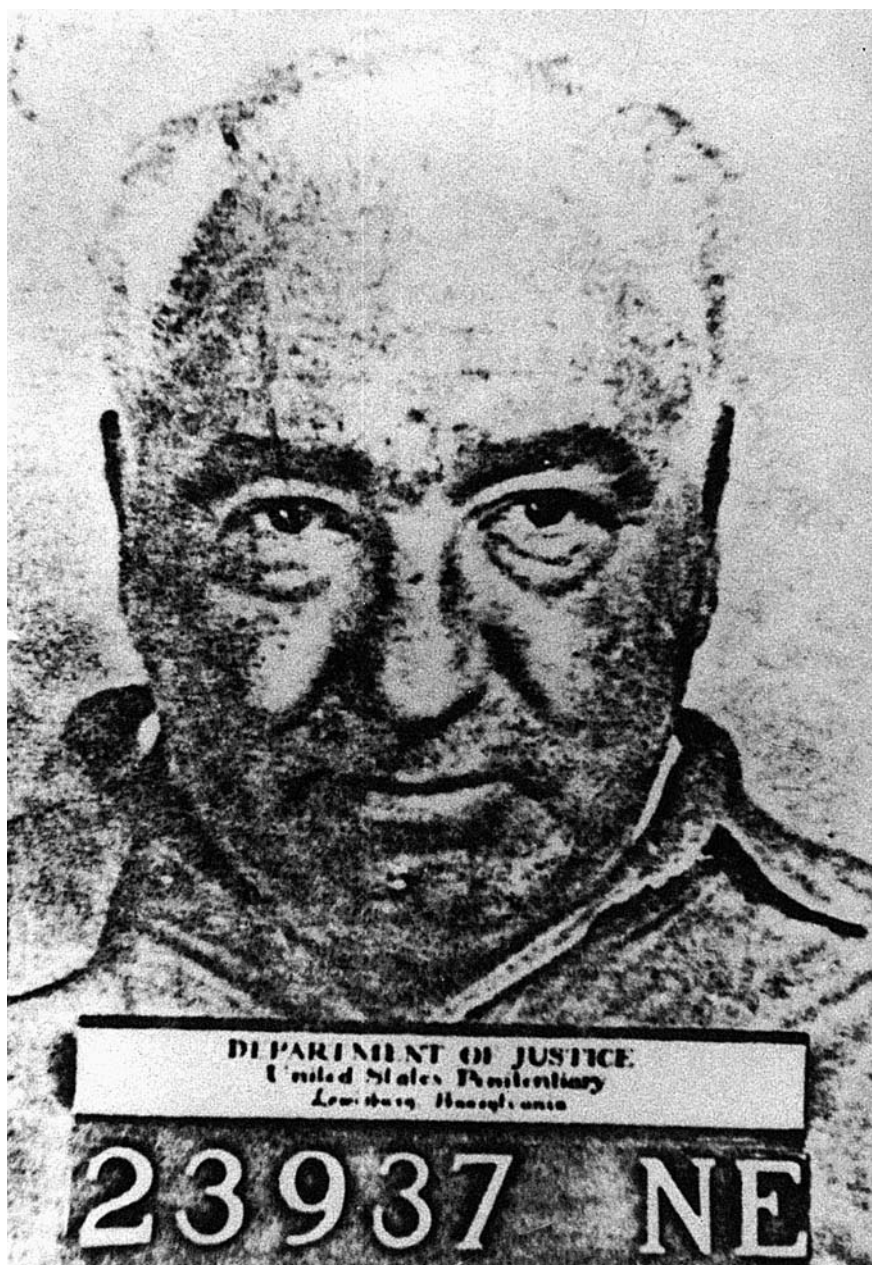
Wilhelm Reich during a Cloudbuster-Operation taken from "USA gegen Wilhelm Reich" (originally published as "The USA vs. Wilhelm Reich," 1974), by Jerome Greenfield, Frankfurt am Main: Zweitausendeins, 1995

Double-page with images of various Cloudbusters collected from websites during the research

All other Cloudbuster-images taken by Christoph Keller during the Cloudbuster-Project in May and June 2003 on the roof of the Clock Tower-Building in Lower Manhattan and the P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center in Long Island City Queens, New York

The New York Times, Monday, June 23, 2003; first page and followup; copy from original

Wilhelm Reich-portrait in the Pennsylvania Prison Files taken from "USA gegen Wilhelm Reich," by Jerome Greenfield, Ibid., p. 2



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Christoph Keller

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