

# The Age of Deception and Manipulation

Do you remember the Phen-fen craze almost 30 years ago? In case you don't, or were unaware of it, as I was, here is a short refresher from our A.I. friends on the internet.

Phen fen (short for phentermine + fenfluramine) was an off label anti obesity regimen widely prescribed in the early to mid 1990s. It became extremely popular—over 18 million prescriptions were written in 1996 alone—because the two drugs together suppressed appetite more effectively than either alone.

Some we know tried this “miracle” drug and actually lost significant amounts of weight. They started looking much better at their lower weights. But alas, it proved to be too good to be true. After several years researchers found that the combination did harm to the body, primarily damage to the heart, and so they withdrew it.

Now we are seeing other fads all across the grocery store. The scariest is based on a new treatment for weight loss, called GLP-1. I gather that there are different forms of GLP-1, and other drugs similar to it. Like Phen-fen, it's almost irresistible since it seems to do the hard part of the weight loss – taking the pounds off – and the upside is that it works to train the person to eat better foods, hopefully creating a habit that will outlast the need for the drug.

Of course, the grocery industry cannot leave alone this opportunity for marketing more stuff to the shoppers, so now we are starting to see a push for GLP-1 friendly foods with the signage to go with it. We are being encouraged to make it easier to shop for those who use the weight loss drugs, which seems like a common-sense thing to do.

I confess that I feel the same skepticism toward these new drugs that I felt about the Phen-fen craze in the 90s. It's too good to be true. It's too easy. Do we really trust those experts who have decided that this is a good thing? Do the doctors who are prescribing these drugs fully understand the products, their risks and side effects, their long term effect on the human body?

Do we learn nothing from painful experience? Remember Covid, the flu that is still with us in some form or another, but created a worldwide panic only 6 short



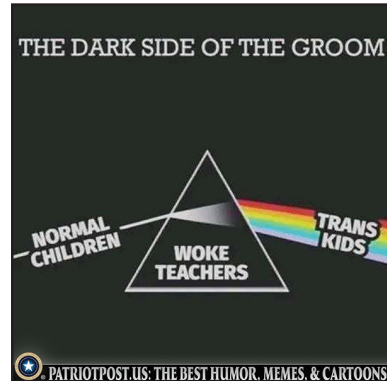
## Supreme Court Rules Securing Elections Unconstitutional

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in 2020? We were almost forced to take untested Covid vaccines to protect us from this virus, which proved to be a terrible error that caused even more suffering, permanent damage, and even deaths in some cases.

The national broader context for this is how we are rapidly being engulfed by decep-

tion and manipulation, rooted in satanic evil. In the few short years since my dad (Ernie Gommel) passed in 2012, we've witnessed an onslaught of evil spirit attacking politicians, the Democrat Party, universities, judges, and others, who appear to have insanely abandoned traditional human morality and spirituality and who are trying to impose their insanity on the rest of us. That evil spirit was



present all throughout the Covid debacle and is present in the looney pronouncements by judges blocking Trump at every turn.

We see it in the push to mutilate children to change their sex, if that were possible. We see it in celebration of baby murder, transsexual activities, and homosexual marriage. Where it is more subtle but just as present is in these trends that all of a sudden burst into popular culture from who-knows-where, whether foods and beverages or social media sites like TikTok. At our store we struggle to keep up with all of the new items due to these trends. Early on it was energy drinks, which have multiplied into dozens, if not hundreds, of beverages, all laced with varying levels of caffeine and sugar. Some contain so much caffeine that we refuse to carry them or try to maintain a minimum age requirement to buy them. More recently the fad is protein this and protein that, from ramen to cereal to dairy products. I'm told that the purpose of the protein is to support the GLP-1 diet.

The manipulation in these things is obvious – getting a gullible public to fall for the



Study: Majority Of Christians Will Replace Holy Spirit With ChatGPT By 2028

narrative and spend their money for these things. The deception is the narrative – how harmless or good for you these things are, how cool people everywhere use them; how everybody's doing it.

We couldn't trust “them” for the truth about Covid and they pushed us into extremely harmful behavior. How and why should we trust “them” for anything else?

We are truly in the age of deception, and we have allowed ourselves to be lulled into semi-awareness, especially the younger generations who have been indoctrinated

instead of being taught the basics of analytical and creative thinking, individual character, integrity, morality, etc. We are told that there is no truth, that there are no inviolable natural laws; that God is a myth or whatever you choose to imagine Him to be. Many churches follow the culture rather than leading it.

The Apostle Paul knew that this was coming. In 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 (NIV) he said, *For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.*

Sounds an awful lot like us these days, doesn't it? I've often wondered what Paul meant when he referred to “displays of signs and wonders that serve the lie.” It has now been revealed: computers and technology have long impressed those



of us who grew up before they became dominant. (The younger set doesn't know the difference.) Now they have developed into Artificial Intelligence (A.I.), which is increasing in capability exponentially daily, weekly, monthly, to the point at which there is argument about whether or not AI means the end of humanity.

Meanwhile, a small graphic at the corner of my screen pushes happily visiting Disneyland, or watching football, or eating out at a certain restaurant. Should we not do those things? Honestly I don't know anymore. I'm not immune to the deception and manipulation all around us. I feel safer if I avoid popular culture, serve God as He has called us, and then stay at home with the doggies.

The very last words of the Bible, in Revelation 22:20-21, *He [Jesus] who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”*

[Sure hope so!] **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

[Yes!] **The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.**

[And Amen!!]

Linda Gommel

**Mitsubishi Cement Corporation Educational Foundation**

## RUN IN THE ROCKS

October 10, 2024  
Lucerne Valley High School  
33233 Rabbit Springs Rd.

Registration 7:00am  
5k START - 8:00am

Register at **ACTIVE.COM**

**HAUNTED GHOST TOWN**

Sat., Oct. 24th, 6pm-10pm  
Admission is **FREE**

30200 Del Oro Rd, Lucerne Valley

**CANDY BAGS - GAMES - FACE PAINTING**  
**FOOD VENDORS ON SITE**

Presented by the Lucerne Valley Lions Club and the Chamber of Commerce

**LVEDA Meeting**  
(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

**Monday, Oct. 26th**  
**5:00 pm at the Moose Lodge**  
on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Rd.

**Is something bugging you?**  
**COME TO THE NEXT MEETING**  
**TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION!**

## On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web

