ABSTRACT. Perhaps the concept of knowledge, prior to its being fashioned and molded by certain philosophical traditions, never offered any stable negative verdict in the original fake barn case.

Recently, we have come across a top-secret document from the Council of Intuition Adjudicators (CIA). The document reports a series of troubling developments, all stemming from efforts to exploit patented knowledge-prevention technology developed at the University of Michigan in the mid-1970s. Where traditional efforts in this area had focused on preventing knowledge by preventing belief – and hence had fallen afoul of Federal Belief Intervention (FBI) guidelines – this new generation of products is in full conformity with FBI regulations; just as neutron bombs kill while leaving buildings intact, these products prevent knowledge without affecting beliefs.

It had appeared, in the 1970s, that the effects of such weapons could be safely quarantined. Intuitions concerning their effects seemed relatively stable, and principled articulations of the circumstances under which they were effective seemed possible. But the recently discovered CIA document confirms the growing suspicion of many that such ease of containment was merely an illusion. Rather, it seems, to stop the deployment of such weapons we need to make appeal to some of the most dreaded resources in the CIA arsenal: challenging the reliability of certain widely-held intuitions about particular cases, or perhaps even by challenging the systematicity of intuitions in this realm as a whole.

Below, we reproduce the CIA document in full.
To: Council of Intuition Adjudicators (CIA) Epistemic Agents  
From: Agent 11.18.1976

As all of you know, we have for many years been coming across various shady catalogues offering a wide range of products designed to prevent knowledge without preventing belief. But few of us had taken seriously the threat that they seem to pose. Recently, however, we have undertaken a systematic exploration of these documents – and have come to a rather pessimistic conclusion: rather than following along principled lines, intuitions about these cases seem wildly unstable and case-dependent.

Below, we reproduce a number of original documents revealing this unsettling history.

1. BACKGROUND

Until quite recently, most catalogues offered only products such as the following:

**Exhibit 1:** Cardboard Building Advertisement from *Let’s Get Real* (a catalogue directed at real estate agents seeking to prevent competitors from knowing about various buildings in their neighborhoods). (Case codename “ORIGINAL BARN.”)

Since their introduction in 1976, our cardboard buildings have set the “Goldman standard” for facsimile edifices. Widely lauded by philosophers around the world as highly effective knowledge-preventers, our patented constructions are perceptually indistinguishable from their actual-building counterparts, and are available in a wide range of styles, including the garden-variety “Ann’s arbor,” the widely-popularized “Arizona adobe” and – our latest – “Nouveau Brunswick.”

Easily installed with tools available in any epistemologist’s home, these facsimiles need only to be arranged in such a way that when someone approaches the target building, there will be a large number of replicas in the area. If the subject’s eyes happen to fall on the real house (barn, etc.), they will form the belief that it is a house (barn, etc.) – but they won’t know it!

All of our facsimile buildings have been subjected to the most rigorous thought-experimental testing, and meet or exceed industry standards for knowledge-prevention.

Just to remind Agents of how this technology works, we ask them to recall the widely-circulated 1976 document produced by