

Conversation with Gary Webb May 2000

Was it worth it? Yes. The CIA admitted it. I know it was the truth, and that's what kept me going. I knew I was right.

My eyes were wide open. I knew what I was getting into. The kids suffered. I had the paper behind me – I thought. Support came from all sorts of places. Especially African Americans.

My wife was OK with it. She was used to me getting death threats.

You get one chance in a lifetime to do the right thing. If you don't do it, you surrender, and then they win.

These are the worst people on earth that you're dealing with – they lie, plant stories, discredit and worse for a living and have the resources and the experience. But somebody's got to do it. Otherwise they win.

The choice is to do the work -- surrender.

He was told he was the most cynical but also in some ways the most naive and idealistic. He was mentored by a journalist who taught him that the work was to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. When he killed himself, I thought of this late-night conversation.

Who won? Who won?