

# NORTH DUMPLING ISLAND

Micronationality, the Media and the American Dream

CLARICE M. BUTKUS

<clarice\_m2000@yahoo.com>

## Abstract

North Dumpling Island is a 3-acre stretch of land off the Atlantic Coast of the United States. The island has had five known owners since 1639, the most recent of whom is famed inventor and entrepreneur Dean Kamen. In 1986, Kamen launched a humorous campaign for the island's secession in response to the State of New York's denial of permission to build a wind turbine tower on his residentially zoned island property. The following article traces highlights of the media's response to that campaign and discusses how Kamen has leveraged media publicity around his claims for micronationality to draw attention to his scientific and environmental initiatives, including a micronational model for sustainable energy consumption.

## Key Words

North Dumpling Island, Dean Kamen, micronationality

## Introduction

Islands, and particularly islands off the Atlantic coast, have played a key role in the development of the United States. The first documented European settlement in mainland North America, for instance, was at Roanoke, a barrier island off the North Carolina coast, in 1585. More significantly, the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam, established on Manhattan Island in the Hudson River in 1624, provided the foundation for the development of New York as a major global city. Tiny Nantucket island, off of Cape Cod, also rose to global prominence in the 18th and 19th centuries as a major whaling base, whose ships worked fishing grounds in the North and South Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Since the end of the Civil War in 1865 the United States has also made a number of strategic acquisitions of islands, including: Hawai'i (1898), Puerto Rico (1898), Guam (1899), American Samoa (1900), Midway Island (1903), the western Virgin Islands (1916) and the Northern Mariana islands (1978).<sup>1</sup> To date, no islands – or, indeed, other areas – have successfully seceded from the United States. The few attempts to claim independence have either been for isolated reefs just outside of territorial waters, such as Cortes Bank off the California coast, which saw two attempts to establish an independent micronation there in the 1980s until the US incorporated it within its territorial waters (see Dixon, 2011); or from small areas that have claimed micronational status, with varying degrees of seriousness. Several of the higher profile

## Butkus: North Dumping Island

examples of the latter have been located on islands, including the Conch Republic, established in Florida in 1982 (see Steinberg and Chapman, 2009), and North Dumping Island, the subject of this article.

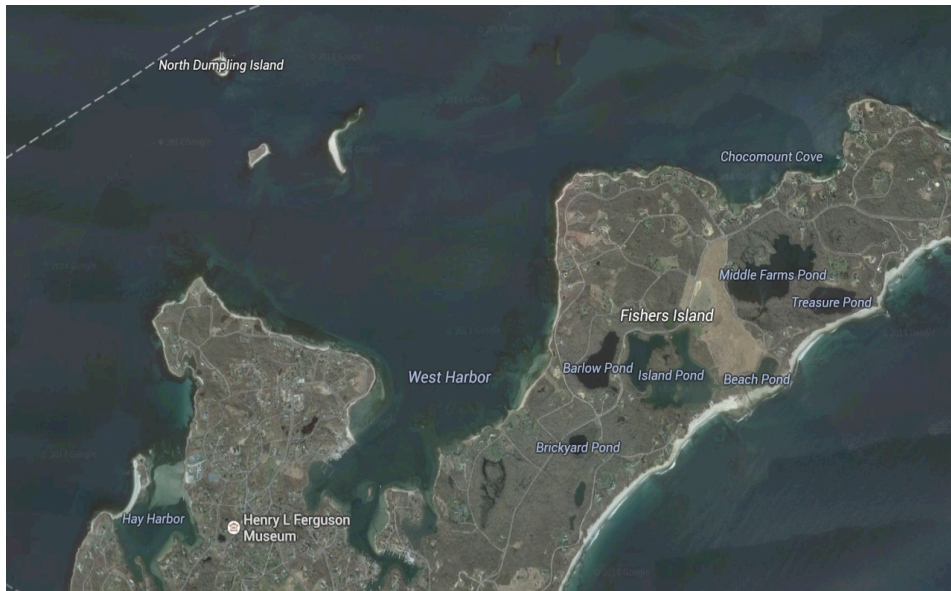


Figure 1 – Map showing North Dumpling Island's proximity to Fisher's Island (adapted from Google Maps)

### I. Island History and Ownership

North Dumpling is a privately owned island that spans three acres 1.6 km off the coast of the state of Connecticut. It is the northernmost of two islands, North and South Dumpling, both found in Fisher's Island Sound. North Dumpling is adjacent to well-known Fisher's Island, popular from the turn of the last century with affluent 'old money' New Englanders taking up summer residence on this picturesque stretch of land. Despite close proximity to the Connecticut coast, North Dumpling is officially within the jurisdiction of New York State. The first formal colonial engagement with the island was in 1639, when John Winthrop, son of the founder of the city of Boston and the Massachusetts Bay Colony, took ownership of North Dumpling. (Winthrop, Jr. was also owner of Fisher's Island, which he owned from 1640 until his death in 1676). North Dumpling remained in the possession of the Winthrop family until 1847, when it was sold to the US government for use as a light station to guide vessels through Fisher's Island Sound. North Dumpling became the subject of notoriety as the alleged location of alcohol smuggling during American Prohibition (1920-33), with North Dumpling's lighthouse keeper coming under suspicion for secreting stores of liquor to sell to the monied residents of Fisher's Island (charges that were never substantiated) (US Coast Guard, nd). North Dumpling continued to operate as a commissioned lighthouse until 1959, when its beacon was automated. The US government then sold the island to George Washburn, a prominent New York investor in search of a retreat. In 1980, it once again changed hands, this time to David Levitt, who purchased the island as a private estate and extensively renovated the property in the colonial style of many

## Butkus: North Dumpling Island

Fisher's Island homes, including elaborate mural paintings of New England ports commissioned from artist Eveline Roberge and an imported replica of Stonehenge. In 1986, North Dumpling was sold to its current owner, Dean Kamen, the eccentric genius inventor and multimillionaire whose tongue-in-cheek campaign to establish North Dumpling as a micronation is the focus of this case study.

### II. Lord Dumpling

Dean Kamen is a self-taught physicist, entrepreneur and inventor born in 1951 to parents Evelyn and Jack Kamen, the latter being an illustrator for *Mad*, *Weird Science* and other *EC Comics* publications. His most famous (though ill-fated) invention was the Segway Transporter, a personal transportation vehicle for energy-efficient motorised movement. When Kamen purchased North Dumpling Island in 1986, he had already amassed considerable private wealth through the invention and commercialisation of the first drug infusion pump and other medical technologies. Kamen bought the island for US\$2.5 million originally as a private estate. When New York State officials denied him permission to construct a wind turbine to power an electric generator on site, Kamen launched a humorous campaign for secession declaring the 'North Dumpling Republic' to be an independent nation under his rule as 'Lord Dumpling II'. (The State of New York objected to Kamen building any structure more than 40 feet tall in a residential zone. The turbine required a 100-ft tower). As a 1988 *New York Times* profile entitled 'From L.I. Sound, A New Nation Asserts Itself' noted:

*Although owning an island in the Sound and considering it to be a land apart is not an unheard of notion, few people have gone to such theatrical lengths to establish a semblance of sovereignty. (Ravo, 1988: online)*



Figure: North Dumpling Island (with miniature model Stonehenge to the left) Source: Wikimedia (2014)

Along with North Dumpling's claims, there have also been other secessionist movements in the region associated with Long Island and with Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and the Elizabeth Islands<sup>2</sup> over the last three decades. However, several distinctions set these movements apart from the case of North Dumpling. First, none of the parties initiating secession in these areas was able to claim private ownership of

## Butkus: North Dumpling Island

their prospective micronations. Second, there has been a markedly different media response to these claims compared with North Dumpling.

Sustained media response and publicity played an important role in the 1977 grassroots secession movement by residents of Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and the Elizabeth Islands. Claims for micronationality came to a head over threats to the island residents' political representation in the Massachusetts state legislature. A move toward redistricting (initially begun 10 years prior to calls for secession) proposed combining Dukes and Nantucket counties with the towns of Chatham, Eastham, Orleans, Truro, and Wellfleet, thus grouping 12,000 islanders within the same district as 24,000 Cape Cod residents. In response, the All-Island Selectmen's Association voted to secede from the State of Massachusetts and also considered claiming independence from the US at large. Some local island media outlets fervently supported the islanders' secessionist initiative. *The Vineyard Gazette*, for example, declared the redistricting bill to be:

*in the clearest and simplest terms a denial of the basic principles of democracy. As geographic units, set aside long ago by glacier, ocean and other forces, the Islands are in no way comparable to the mainland districts and the distribution of their population. To amalgamate them with Cape Cod would be to hand them over to exploitation by antagonistic and predatory forces.* (cited in Seccombe, 2007: online)

Media momentum culminated in a US national television broadcast story and surrounding states Connecticut, Vermont and even far away Hawaii issued official invitations to the islands to join their states. As one movement leader later explained, "I guess they all did it for reasons of personal or state publicity," (ibid).

Long Island has seen a series of sporadic efforts to claim different degrees and types of autonomy over the last fifteen years, ranging from calls for statehood through to the creation of fanciful, web-based entities such as the independent nation of Winnecomac on Long island, imagined by Cesidio Tallini.<sup>3</sup> In contrast to the somewhat indulgent tolerance exercised towards Kamen; a *New York Times* piece titled 'What Has the Hamptons, 4 Airports and a Hankering for Independence?' (Kilgannon, 2007) was quick to cast Tallini's claims for the island's independence as both funny and naive. The article produces a humorous image of Tallini's 'credibility gap,' referencing his lifestyle as that of a 45-year old unemployed, bachelor living in his parents' home, concerned about being monitored by high level US intelligence officials. The subtext of much of the article is that Tallini's ideas are wild and that he is living out a skewed view of the world from his isolated place behind a computer screen.

With a similar eye to publicity to the campaign around Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and the Elizabeth Islands in the late 1970s, Kamen has staged various tongue-in-cheek performances of sovereignty. He created (or, rather, purportedly unearthed) the Island's constitution (which closely replicates the terms of the US Constitution), created a flag and introduced currency, which features a 250,000 Dumpling note bearing a portrait of Kamen in bowtie and propeller-donned cap, and an occasionally published *North Dumpling Times* newspaper. Other official practices humorously performed by Kamen include the Island's Customs' documentation, which requests "distinguishing marks of both the applicant's face and buttocks" and an official Navy and Airforce consisting respectively of a surplus amphibious vehicle and the helicopter he personally pilots (Inbar, 2010: online). Kamen also appointed an official Cabinet, including his "Minister of

## Butkus: North Dumpling Island

Nepotism,” as well as the “Ministers of Ice Cream” - famed ice cream entrepreneurs Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, and the “Minister of Brunch,” Broadway director Paul Lazurus<sup>4</sup> who penned the lyrics to North Dumpling’s national anthem (sung to the tune of ‘America The Beautiful’), which included the lines:

*O isolate  
With star-filled skies  
And crashing waves of foam  
From Moonwatch Hill  
To Great Stonehenge  
O blessed second home*

As Grydehoj (2014) notes, “many micronations are designed to be funny”. For McConnell, Moreau and Dittmer (2012: 808), that comedic impulse occurs across a spectrum of “explicit and implicit expressions of humour, seriousness, playfulness and criticality” that micronationalists deploy to highlight/critique some of the more arbitrary notions of sovereignty, often through the quasi-farcical performance thereof. Dean Kamen’s North Dumpling campaign fits most closely within this category of micronation, whose purposely humorous declarations of secession serve to raise public awareness for (typically marginalised) political, social or environmental issues. However, unlike many micronationalist movements, Kamen both significantly controls the deployment of humour around his initiative (in stark contrast to a figure like Cessidio Tallini, discussed above) but also feigns the broader act of secessionist critique by convincing powerful political allies (with entrenched American nationalist interests) to engage in the performance. As part of his initial media campaign, for instance, Kamen convinced his close friend (then) US President George H. Bush to ‘play along with the joke’ by countersigning a non-aggression pact with North Dumpling.

Many micronational movements drive the ire or ridicule of more established sovereign forces (including the media), thus engaging short-term ‘conflict coverage’ or satirical response. This leads to varying degrees of success in producing platforms able to sustainably disrupt traditional categories of political, social or environmental experience. As Lattas notes elsewhere in this volume, micronationalists frequently deploy the technique of “remaining in dispute with the authorities of government” in which the repetitive staging of a “tacticalised sovereignty” effectively “queers” or “opens up to something other” that practice of sovereignty (2014: 63). Kamen’s campaign is precisely the opposite of this type of gesture. His course draws attention to the significance of mutual (complicit) posturing in performances of nationality. Rather than the tension of two parties in dispute and an irresolution that keeps the micronationalist claim viable; this is the performed tension of two bodies never fundamentally at odds with each other. (Mimicking to a large extent the explicit performances of nationalist posturing that frequently veil implicit shared interests by the transnational power elite within global capitalism.) President Bush’s acknowledgement of North Dumpling’s secession ensures its inoculation as serious threat to established national sovereignty. Indeed, it is its role as a non-threat to (and even reinforcement of) American values that has enabled Kamen to powerfully ‘spin out’ the tale of North Dumpling across media in the US and UK to garner interest in his philanthropic pursuits (and particular worldview).

### III. Media Response

*Kamen maintains an enviable public image as an altruistic Buckaroo Banzai of the 21st century.* (Penenberg, 2000: online)

## Butkus: North Dumpling Island

Kamen has had particular success with the media by trading on a currency of popular fascination/bemusement with his public persona (and eccentric island rulership) to gain exposure for several specific causes – from energy sustainability to the next generation of American scientific and technological ‘superiority’. When Kamen first declared secession in the late 1980s, he had yet to fully establish his media profile as that Banzai-like anti-hero and “quasi-mythical character who resists characterizations” (Martell, 2010: online). In the over 30-year period since his declaration of secession, Kamen and North Dumpling have found audiences in countless articles and broadcasts. Kamen’s secession ‘war’ was fought in the lifestyle, business and technology pages, where he succeeded in making his story ‘evergreen’, in part by playing on his eccentricity and deadpan micronationalist claims. Kamen’s persona, described variously as comparable to everything from Willy Wonka to Batman, James Bond and American inventors Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison, was perfect media fodder. Television broadcasts and publications from the (American) *Today Show* to *The New York Times*, the *Economist*, *The Guardian* and *The Telegraph* to the *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous* instinctively cast Kamen in the role of the slightly mad genius secretly devising the next great technological invention in a “tricked out Batcave” (Kirsner, 1999: online). Throughout the 1990s, Kamen was, in fact, developing his (now infamous) Segway, as well as experimenting with enhanced energy efficiency on North Dumpling, and building two organizations, DEKA<sup>5</sup>, his R&D company and FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology)<sup>6</sup>, Kamen’s non-profit arm focused on espousing the virtues (and ‘cool factor’) of science and technology in order to inspire young adults to engage in scientific pursuits. The media were quick to pick up on Kamen’s rising star as the public figure “going global with a robochair that climbs stairs, a miracle motor that fights disease, and his wildest notion of all – that scientists will be the 21<sup>st</sup> century’s superstars” (Kirsner, 1999). As part of its extended feature on Kamen in 1999, *Wired* magazine featured Kamen as one of its “breakout artists” and an “inventpreneur”. The article not only provides an extended account of Kamen’s achievements, but also faithfully recounts the North Dumpling story, concluding that:

*It’s a microcosm of his worldview, a whimsical combination of leave-me-alone and dreams of ‘techno-utopia.’ An aerial photograph that hangs in Kamen’s office at Deka bears a caption that reads: ‘The Only 100 Percent Science-Literate Society.’ (ibid)*

Kamen’s first large-scale engagement with media speculation about his “Batcave” activities came with the overhyped launch of the (ultimately unsuccessful) Segway. As *The Economist* (2010) notes:

*Before its unveiling, Mr Kamen’s mysterious new invention was the subject of feverish speculation. Steve Jobs of Apple said it was “as big a deal as the PC” and John Doerr, a venture capitalist, mused that it would be “bigger than the internet”. It was, in fact, a rather clever two-wheeled, self-balancing scooter, using technology similar to the iBot. But after all the hype it could not possibly live up to expectations. (Harris, 2010: online)*

Despite this early high-profile public relations failure (partially the subject of Steve Kemper’s 2003 book *Code Name Ginger*), Kamen remained undeterred in bringing initiatives like his North Dumpling Island energy sustainability efforts and FIRST activities to the public. Throughout the 2000’s Kamen’s projects were featured in numerous articles. In 2008, *Esquire* Magazine featured a story on his “Magical Water Machine” – his invention called the Slingshot, a vapour-compression water distiller that purifies any

## Butkus: North Dumpling Island

liquid source into medicinal-grade water. The interview was held on North Dumpling – “tracking Lord Dumpling’s genius on his seceded island of geekery” with Kamen demonstrating many of his environmental initiatives in, as *Esquire* put it, “a proof of concept center for all of Kamen’s wild ideas” (Richardson, 2008: online). In October of that year, Kamen ‘seceded’ once again, this time from the electrical grid, when the US Coast Guard elected to cut off power supply to the island and replace lighthouse power through use of solar panels. The *New York Times* featured a piece on “Dean Kamen’s ‘LED Nation’ describing how Kamen reduced the island’s energy consumption by replacing incandescent lights with LED bulbs consuming 1/10 of the wattage. Even the prominent American engineering publication, *IEEE Spectrum*, framed its story of Kamen’s success at demonstrating zero-net energy within the humorous context of the Dumplonian Empire (Adlee, 2009).

Kamen was also featured as one of the main subjects of the documentary *How to Start Your Own Country*, directed by Jody Shapiro (2011), which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival. The documentary tracks several micronations and principalities including North Dumpling, the Republic of Molossia, the Principality of Seborga, the Seasteading Institute, the New Free State of Caroline, Sealand and the Hutt River Principality in Australia; again using “comedy to raise serious questions about what it means to be a country” (The Seasteading Institute Blog, 2010). In it, Kamen moves swiftly along McConnell, Moreau and Dittmer’s spectrum, between the “playfulness” of his descriptions of the North Dumpling constitution creating a separate country with virtually identical principles to the US, “which is why the Dumplonians and Americans have gotten along for so many years;” to a more serious take on his utopian aims and on the significance of his claims for micronationality:

*To me Dumpling is the manifestation of a lot of peoples’ hopes and dreams. ‘If I got to do it my way how would do it?’... It’s not a place for right-wing Columbine kind of thinking. It’s not a place for left-wing drop out of society thinking. But when people snicker and smirk at it and you try to get at the core of why is that preposterous, yet you take it as an immutable, undeniable, unchangeable given that this country exists, has a right to exist, has a right to empower you with rights, has the right to tell you what rights you don’t have. Why is that completely rational in your mind, but a new and different country is completely preposterous. What’s the difference? (Kamen in Shapiro, 2011).*

Kamen’s savvy use of the whimsical aspects of North Dumpling and other aspects of his work is something he has spoken about in the media. In an online article accompanying his guest appearance on the (American) *TODAY* show in anticipation of the launch of his science and technology program, *Dean of Invention* on the Planet Green network, the author notes that: “Kamen admits he uses mirth to attract attention to what he considers his most important work: inspiring others to think outside the box in developing new ways to better lives” (Inbar, 2010: online). Other articles, like *The Guardian*’s profile, posit North Dumpling as Kamen’s humorously attention-grabbing shorthand for proof of success (at least in the closed system of the island), in order to avoid excessive speculation (or doubt) around his yet-to-be-disclosed inventions:

*When pressed for more details [on his future projects], Kamen clams up, or rather changes the subject to North Dumpling, his three-acre private island off the coast of New York, which he refers to in deadpan as an independent kingdom. ‘Dumpling is completely carbon neutral,’ he says. ‘We have solar panels on every building, a 10kW wind turbine, our own*

## **Butkus: North Dumpling Island**

*little Stirling engine for backup power, burning only local fuel. We're making our own water out of the ocean with Slingshot. And we are now developing a foreign aid program to help the U.S. (Harris, 2009: online)*

As the 2014 *Telegraph* article entitled: 'Dean Kamen: part man, part machine', puts it:

*This image of the Peter Pan of physics is one Kamen does little to dispel - indeed, when at one point he hints that he might not genuinely think that North Dumpling Island is a sovereign nation with plans to join Nato, he quickly adds, 'you can't put that in', like a man keen to preserve a child's belief in Father Christmas. (Higginbotham, 2008: online).*

## II. Conclusion

Unlike some micronational movements, Kamen's North Dumpling foray is neither strictly for commercial self-interest, nor fundamentally questioning of many of the traditional political values or social organisation of the hegemonic national entity/culture from which it (pseudo-) secedes. (Even his faux-Cabinet is, after all, still the strict provenance of affluent white American males). Kamen's story follows in many ways the paradigm of iconic figures like Steve Jobs or Bill Gates, the self-made (geeky) white (American) male who makes his fortune through the power of his individual talents, fortitude and capitalist spirit and then magnanimously gives back to bring the nation (or humanity) forward. This is, in part, why the story resonates so well with the media, programmed to receive it as the success of the American Dream writ large in the individual as free capitalist innovator reinforcing notions of American ingenuity and the essential 'goodness' of the American project.

In Kamen's case, North Dumpling also significantly fulfils what Thomas Frey describes as "the greatest value of an independent island nation" - as "proving ground for experimentation" (Frey, 2009: online). Kamen's transformation of the island into a working model for "how the US should handle many of its energy issues" has raised awareness for the possibilities of energy sustainability in a popularly assimilable way - delivering it in the context of an eccentric Hollywood-like genius tucked away in his superhero lair - one that happens to be green, carbon-neutral and burning only local fuel. The manageable scale and space of a small island environment has allowed Kamen to perfect a vision of energy usage that combines solar power, a Stirling engine and LED light system in ways that would be far more difficult to produce in a larger established national setting, principally because of the entrenched (though inefficient) energy models and commercial interests therein. More recent articles about Kamen represent him as emphasising a dire need for renewed interest and focus on science and technology among young Americans. In several interviews he laments the fading of the promise of technology as it is "squandered on quick buck applications" (Harris, 2009: online). He expresses concern that America will no longer be able to support a high quality of life for future generations unless it succeeds in convincing students to become engineers to solve the world's (predominantly) environmental challenges. Within these contexts, he is able to point to the separate space of North Dumpling, a utopian version of the productive aspects of technology.

A *New York Times* piece published in 1988 cast Kamen's then-newly purchased island home in these terms:



## Butkus: North Dumpling Island

*his tulip-ringed island is neither a sandbox for old hippies, an opulent Fitzgeraldian paradise, nor a galling example of how kids can fritter away their trust funds. Rather it is a talented workaholic's magnificent symbol of escape and reward, of achieving the ultimate home away from home, of going beyond – way beyond – the American Dream* (Ravo, 1988: online).

Dean Kamen's Dumplonian island empire has increasingly come to serve as a symbol of the enduring perfectability of a 1950s' version of the American Dream – steeped in unflinching faith in technological innovation and material comforts for all. Micronationalist claims for this small island thereby establish a physical and metaphorical space 'beyond' the reality of the existing American nation-state (and its decline).

### Endnotes

---

<sup>1</sup> The United States also acquired Nvassa Island (located off the south western corner of Haiti) in 1858 despite Haiti's counter-claim, and has subsequently administered it as an unincorporated territory of the US.

<sup>2</sup> The islands form an affluent summer vacationing area south of Cape Cod in the US state of Massachusetts.

<sup>3</sup> See the Micronational website at: [winnecomac.com/](http://winnecomac.com/) - accessed March 2014.

<sup>4</sup> Lazarus is an American director, producer and writer of television, film and theatre projects and is currently working on a feature-length documentary about Dean Kamen's mission to provide safe water to the world.

<sup>5</sup> The name DEKA is formed from the first letters of Dean Kamen's name. According to the company's website at [www.dekaresearch.com/index.shtml](http://www.dekaresearch.com/index.shtml) (accessed March 2014), Kamen "founded DEKA Research & Development Corporation to develop internally generated inventions as well as to provide research and development for major corporate clients." The company primarily develops medical devices, including prosthetic devices for soldiers with lost limbs that DEKA created for America's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

<sup>6</sup> FIRST is a non-profit organisation that hosts an annual robotics competition played out with the intensity of sporting events in large arenas to encourage young students to become immersed in the excitement of science and technology. FIRST's stated vision on its website at [www.usfirst.org/](http://www.usfirst.org/) is: "To transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology leaders" (accessed March 2014)

### Bibliography

Adlee, S (2009) 'Empire Off The Grid' *IEE Spectrum* July 31st, online at: [spectrum.ieee.org/energy/renewables/empire-off-the-grid](http://spectrum.ieee.org/energy/renewables/empire-off-the-grid) - accessed February 2014

Dixon, C (2011) *Ghost Wave: The discovery of Cortes Bank and the biggest wave on Earth*, Sydney: Hachette

Frey, T (2009) 'Seven predictions for the coming age of micronations', Da Vinci Institute website: [www.davinciinstitute.com/papers/seven-predictions-for-the-coming-age-of-micronations/](http://www.davinciinstitute.com/papers/seven-predictions-for-the-coming-age-of-micronations/) - accessed March 2014

Grydehoj, A (2014) 'Micronations and the failure of cultural nationalism: Captain Calamity's sovereign state of Forvik (Shetland)', *Shima: The International Journal of Research into Island Cultures* v8n1: 33-47

Harris, M (2009) 'Segway inventor on future technology – and why videogames aren't it' *The Guardian* July 22nd, online at: [www.theguardian.com/technology/2009/jul/22/dean-kamen-interview](http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2009/jul/22/dean-kamen-interview) - accessed March 2014

----- (2010) 'Mr. Segway's difficult path' *The Economist* June 10<sup>th</sup>, online at: [www.economist.com/node/16295592](http://www.economist.com/node/16295592) - accessed March 2014

Higginbotham, A (2008) 'Dean Kamen: part man, part machine', *The Telegraph* October 27th, online at: [www.telegraph.co.uk/science/science-news/3353906/Dean-Kamen-part-man-part-machine.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/science-news/3353906/Dean-Kamen-part-man-part-machine.html) - accessed March 2014

Inbar, M (2010) 'Welcome to the secret island of an eccentric genius', *TODAY Show* website October 21st, online at: [www.today.com/id/39775733/ns/today-today\\_tech/t/welcome-secret-island-eccentric-genius/#.UyZKnO1QPN4](http://www.today.com/id/39775733/ns/today-today_tech/t/welcome-secret-island-eccentric-genius/#.UyZKnO1QPN4) - accessed March 2014

Kemper, S (2003) *Code Name Ginger: The Story behind Segway and Dean Kamen's Quest to Invent a New World*, New York: Harvard Business Review Press

Kilgannon, (2007) 'What Has the Hamptons, 4 Airports and a Hankering for Independence?', *The New York Times* September 22nd, online at: [www.nytimes.com/2007/09/22/nyregion/22secede.html?pagewanted=all&r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/22/nyregion/22secede.html?pagewanted=all&r=0) - accessed March 2014

Kirsner, S (1999) 'Breakout Artist', *Wired Magazine*, online at: [www.wired.com/wired/archive/8.09/kamen\\_pr.html](http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/8.09/kamen_pr.html) - accessed February 2014

Lattas, J (2014) 'Queer Sovereignty: The Gay and Lesbian Kingdom of the Coral Sea Islands', *Shima: The International Journal of Research into Island Cultures* v8n1: 58-70

Lighthouse Friends (nd) website: [www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=740](http://www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=740)- accessed March 2014

McConnell, F, Moreau, T and Dittmer, J (2012) 'Mimicking State Diplomacy: The Legitimizing Strategies of Unofficial Diplomacies', *Geoforum* v43 n4: 804/814

Martell, N (2010) 'The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai: No Matter Where It Went, There It Was', *Filter Magazine* August 13th, online at: [filtermagazine.com/index.php/exclusives/entry/the\\_adventures\\_of\\_buckaroo\\_banzai\\_no\\_matter\\_where\\_it\\_went\\_there\\_it\\_was/](http://filtermagazine.com/index.php/exclusives/entry/the_adventures_of_buckaroo_banzai_no_matter_where_it_went_there_it_was/) - accessed March 2014

## Butkus: North Dumpling Island

---

Penenberg, A (2000) 'What 'it' is: The Evidence Behind Dean Kamen's Secret Invention', author's website February, online at: [penenberg.com/story-archive/what-it-is-the-evidence-behind-dean-kamens-secret-invention/](http://penenberg.com/story-archive/what-it-is-the-evidence-behind-dean-kamens-secret-invention/) - accessed March 2014

Ravo, N (1988) 'Our Towns; From L.I. Sound, A New Nation Asserts Itself', *The New York Times* April 22nd, online at: [www.nytimes.com/1988/04/22/nyregion/our-towns-from-li-sound-a-new-nation-asserts-itself.html](http://www.nytimes.com/1988/04/22/nyregion/our-towns-from-li-sound-a-new-nation-asserts-itself.html) - accessed March 2014

Richardson, J (2008) 'How Dean Kamen's Magical Water Machine Could Save the World' *Esquire* November 24th, online at: [www.esquire.com/features/dean-kamen-1208](http://www.esquire.com/features/dean-kamen-1208) - accessed March 2014

Seasteading Institute (2010) *The Seasteading Institute Blog* August 17th: [www.seasteading.org/2010/08/documentary-micronations-featuring-seasteading-premiering-911-toronto-film-fes/](http://www.seasteading.org/2010/08/documentary-micronations-featuring-seasteading-premiering-911-toronto-film-fes/) - accessed March 2014

Seccombe, M (2007) 'Talkin' About a Revolution', *Martha's Vineyard Magazine*, September, online at [www.mvmagazine.com/2007/september-october/secession.php](http://www.mvmagazine.com/2007/september-october/secession.php) - accessed March 2014

Steinberg, P.E and Chapman, T.E (2009) 'Key West's Conch Republic: Building Sovereignties of Connection', *Political Geography* 2009: 1-13

Taub, E (2008) 'Dean Kamen's 'LED Nation'', *The New York Times* December 8th, online at: [bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/12/08/dean-kamens-led-nation/?\\_php=true&\\_type=blogs&\\_r=0](http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/12/08/dean-kamens-led-nation/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=0) - accessed February 2014

US Coast Guard (nd) 'North Dumpling Light', US Coast Guard website: [www.uscg.mil/d1/antlis/files/lights%5Cndl.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/d1/antlis/files/lights%5Cndl.asp) - accessed March 2014