

Title: Dumb stormtroopers of investing world

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[Overstock CEO Patrick Byrne Names Steve Cohen And Mike Milken As "Sith Lords"](<https://www.businessinsider.com/overstock-ceo-patrick-byrne-names-steve-cohen-and-mike-milken-as-sith-lords-2010-1>)

Wanna know who is associated with them? Aka [dumb stormtroopers](<https://twitter.com/ryancohen/status/1503565469068009473>) that targeted GameStop in 2019

Leon Black teamed up with Sycamore Partners and TriArtisan Capital to put people on GameStop's board that they've used to crash other companies like [ColdWater Creek and PF Changs](<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jim-bell-a125b77>) after a [buyout rumor was going about them](<https://web.archive.org/web/20190104194934/https://www.cnbc.com/2019/01/04/gamestop-shares-surge-12percent-on-report-it-could-announce-a-buyer-soon.html>)

[He also lives the same place as Ken Griffin and the head of Goldman Sachs](<https://imgur.com/pYuUE9w.jpg>) read [more here](https://reddit.com/r/Superstonk/comments/ttnyrn/ken_griffin_citadel_steven_cohen_sac_capital_and/)

It was rumored that Apollo Global Management was going to buy GameStop in 2019, so they got their friends to board the company and try to sink the ship and get their *specialty pennies on the dollar* of leveraged buyouts.

>[Private equity firms interested in buying GameStop include Sycamore Partners and Apollo Global Management, people familiar with the matter told the Journal.](<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/01/04/gamestop-shares-surge-12percent-on-report-it-could-announce-a-buyer-soon.html>) January 2019, curious when all this started.

They did it to PF Changs with none other than Paulson & Co (the John Paulson that helped cause 2008) [(read more here)](https://www.reddit.com/r/Superstonk/comments/svl80n/were_in_2008_on_repeat_ill_show_you/)

> Private-equity firms TriArtisan Capital Partners and Paulson & Co. Inc. have agreed to buy the heavily indebted P.F. Chang's from Centerbridge Partners in a \$700 million deal, according to a report by Bloomberg on Thursday, citing a notice to investors.

> The deal, expected to close in the first three months of the year, is expected to take out all of the company's \$675 million in debt.

> [Chang's has \$375 million in secured debt and another \$300 million in unsecured bonds.](<https://restaurantbusinessonline.com/financing/report-says-pf-changs-be-sold-investment-firms>)

Look who was at PF Changs when it happened

> "We want to thank Centerbridge Partners for their strong support of P.F. Chang's. We are fortunate to have a partnership with Paulson and TriArtisan which will allow us to implement a collaborative growth strategy," [Jim Bell, P.F. Chang's CEO, said in a statement. "Paulson and TriArtisan bring financial strength and expertise that will allow us to grow our dine-in and off-premises channels both domestically and internationally."](<https://www.fsrmagazine.com/chain-restaurants/firms-close-sale-pf-changs>)

> Credit Suisse served as Paulson and TriArtisan's financial adviser for the transaction and Ropes & Gray LLP and Kleinberg, Kaplan, Wolff & Cohen, P.C. served as legal counsel.

Found the parent company

> [TriArtisan Capital Partners is the merchant banking arm of Morgan Joseph TriArtisan LLC. TriArtisan makes investments in market leading companies in partnership with accomplished management, leading private equity funds and institutional limited partners.](<https://www.cbinsights.com/investor/triartisan-capital-partners>)

Apollo Global Management is invested.

> [Leon Black's Apollo Global Management has invested an undisclosed amount in preferred stock of Morgan Joseph TriArtisan, Bloomberg reports. The company has also registered its own brokerage, AP CM, to find clients and negotiate deals for its buyout and hedge funds.](<https://www.institutionalinvestor.com/article/b150y606nn0nst/apollo-invests-in-morgan-joseph>)

> Apollo, with \$67.6 billion in assets as of Dec. 31, 2010, may offer additional financing to the securities firm. New York-based Morgan Joseph TriArtisan, formed through the merger of Morgan Joseph and merchant bank, Tri-Artisan Partners, will help underwrite bond sales for companies controlled by Black's funds.

> [From 1977 to 1990, Black was employed by investment bank Drexel Burnham Lambert, where he served as managing director, head of the Mergers & Acquisitions Group, and co-head of the Corporate Finance Department.[12] Black was regarded as "junk bond king" Michael Milken's right-hand man at Drexel.[13] In 1990, he co-founded, on the heels of the collapse of Drexel Burnham Lambert, the private equity firm Apollo Global Management.[14][15] Notable founders included: John Hannan, Drexel's former co-director of international finance; Craig Cogut, a lawyer who worked with Drexel's high-yield division in Los Angeles; Arthur Bilger, the former head of the Drexel's corporate finance department; Antony Ressler, who worked as a senior vice president in Drexel's high yield department with responsibility for the new issue/syndicate desk; and Marc Rowan, Josh Harris and Michael Gross, who all worked under Black in the mergers and acquisitions department.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leon_Black)

Leon black is tied to Drexel, where he worked with Fred joseph. Drexel being Mike Milken's junk-bond start.

> [Fred Joseph bought into a firm founded by John Adams Morgan to establish Morgan Joseph, a middle-market investment bank that caters to many of the same kinds of clients as Drexel had. In 2011, the firm merged with Tri-Artisan Partners, a merchant bank, to form Morgan Joseph TriArtisan. Although the firm carried Joseph's name and he was part-owner, he was only co-head of corporate finance until his death in 2009. In 1993, the SEC barred him from serving as president, chairman or CEO of a securities firm for life for failing to properly supervise Milken. Morgan Joseph TriArtisan's chairman and CEO is John Sorte, Joseph's successor as president and CEO of Drexel from 1990 to 1992.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drexel_Burnham_Lambert)

Sycamore Partners did this with Jim Bell at ColdWater Creek.

> Sycamore Partners was founded in 2011 by Stefan Kaluzny and Peter Morrow.[3] [Before Sycamore, Kaluzny was a Managing Partner at Golden Gate Capital and was employed since the firm's inception.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sycamore_Partners)

> [July 9, 2012 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Coldwater Creek Inc. (Nasdaq:CWTR) announced the closing of a five-year, \$65 million senior secured term loan provided by Golden Gate Capital, a leading private equity firm with extensive experience in the retail sector.](<https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2012/07/09/272993/261557/en/Coldwater-Creek-Announces-New-65-Million-Financing-with-Golden-Gate-Capital-and-Reiterates-Second-Quarter-Financial-Guidance.html>)

> [founded in 1984 as a catalog retailer, ColdWater Creek went in to open stores nationwide. The company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in spring 2014 with plans to liquidate and close it's more than 300 stores. Sycamore Partners subsequently acquired the ColdWater Creek brand and other intellectual property.](<https://chainstoreage.com/coldwater-creek-calls-it-quits-least-now>)

Jim Bell, [ColdWater Creek - 2009 to 2014](<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jim-bell-a125b77>)

~~~June~~~ May 2019, months after the Apollo and Sycamore rumors.

> [Frank Hamlin (now GameStop's chief customer officer) and former Tile Shop board member Chirs Homeister (now GameStop's chief merchandising officer). James Bell, former Wok Holdings CFO, meanwhile, steps into Lloyd's former position as GameStop's CFO.](<https://www.gamedeveloper.com/business/gamestop-coo-and-cfo-rob-lloyd-steps-down-amid-executive-shuffle>)

> [In a press release, recently appointed CEO George Sherman said that the changes aim to "advance GameStop's transformation as we work to position the company for the future and bring gaming culture and experiences to life in every community."](https://www.gamedeveloper.com/business/gamestop-coo-and-cfo-rob-lloyd-steps-down-amid-executive-shuffle)

More info confirming connections

> [GameStop has hired Jim Bell as executive vice president and chief financial officer to fill his role. Bell was previously the CFO of Walk Holdings, which owns P.F. Changs and other restaurants. GameStop has also hired Chris Homeister as executive vice president and chief merchandising officer. Homeister previously led Best Buy's gaming efforts.](<https://gamedaily.biz/article/925/gamestop-shares-nosedive-after-quarterly-earnings-miss-analyst-expectations-by-90-million>)

> P.F. Chang's parent [Wok Holdings, owned by TriArtisan Capital Advisors and Paulson & Co.](<https://www.institutionalinvestor.com/article/b1kzmp4qkx1wg7/Private-Equity-Owned-Restaurants-This-Is-the-Worst-I-ve-Ever-Seen-It>) that \*he was there to sell to them.\*

[Here's the debt contract signed by him](<https://contracts.justia.com/companies/gamestop-corp-562/contract/107023/>)

Which ties these assets to the debt.

- \* GAMESTOP CORP,
- \* GAMESTOP, INC.
- \* SUNRISE PUBLICATIONS, INC.
- \* ELBO INC.
- \* EB INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, INC.
- \* GAMESTOP TEXAS LTD.
- \* GS MOBILE, INC.
- \* GEEKNET, INC.
- \* MARKETING CONTROL SERVICES, INC.
- \* SOCOM LLC

The year before all this, [is when ThinkGeek and their patents were merged with GameStop's](<https://www.gamesindustry.biz/articles/2019-06-14-thinkgeek-moves-in-with-gamestop>)

> Gamestop subsidiary ThinkGeek will be shutting down its online gaming and pop culture clothing, accessory, and toy store and moving the bulk of its business into GameStop brick and mortar and online stores.

The other guy mentioned above, Chris Homeister, [was at best buy while this was happening](<https://www.forbes.com/sites/larrydownes/2012/01/02/why-best-buy-is-going-out-of-business-gradually/>)

> Senior Vice President & General Manager - Merchandising

> Best Buy

> Apr 2005 - Sep 2012 - 7 years 6

Note: [he's also gone now too, July last year](<https://www.linkedin.com/in/chrishomeister>)

\*\*\*Various external connections:\*\*\*

[This guy lobbies on behalf of Boston Consulting Group and TriArtisan Capital](<https://imgur.com/rUMHjgJ.jpg>) and [this one too](<https://imgur.com/QorKZ96.jpg>) link [found here](<https://www.opensecrets.org/federal-lobbying/firms/lobbyists?cycle=2020&id=D000032355>)

Then there's [this guy and his list of leveraged to tits buyouts as a resume](<https://peprofessional.com/2014/07/triartisan-capital-hires-scott-lemone/>)

> Scott Lemone, an investment banker with over 25 years' experience raising capital for retailers, has joined TriArtisan Capital Partners, the merchant banking arm of Morgan Joseph TriArtisan. Mr. Lemone will lead the firm's investment activity in retailing.

> "Scott has an outstanding background and knowledge of retailing that will be of great value in identifying opportunities and structuring transactions for our institutional investors," said Gerald Cromack, Managing Director of TriArtisan Capital.

> TriArtisan has been an active investor in the retailing sector, including investments in Paper Source, Sur La Table, and Claire's Stores. TriArtisan also recently closed on an investment in TGI Friday's, a casual dining company.

> Mr. Lemone has advised on over \$50 billion in value of mergers and acquisitions, and financings, in the retail space, including working with such firms as Lowe's Companies, AutoZone, Sears, Petco, OfficeDepot, Dick's Sporting Goods, and Best Buy. Mr. Lemone began his career at Kidder, Peabody and Co. in 1989, spent nine years at Merrill Lynch, including several as Retailing Group Co- Head, and was the senior retailing banker in the US for Lehman Brothers. Most recently, Mr. Lemone headed the Retailing Group for SunTrust Robinson Humphrey.

This guy is tied to both TriArtisan Capital and Anchorage

> Edward Grebow, 67, has served on our Board of Directors since September 2016. [Mr. Grebow also serves on the board of directors of Xenith Bank. He was designated as a nominee to our Board of Directors by ACOMO-HR, LLC, an affiliate of Anchorage Capital Group, L.L.C. ("Anchorage"), pursuant to the terms of the Investment Agreement between the us and Anchorage. He is a Managing Director of TriArtisan Capital Advisors where he advises financial services, media and technology companies. Mr. Grebow joined TriArtisan in November 2013 after serving as President and Chief Executive Officer of Amalgamated Bank.](<https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1143155/000119312517151965/d376034d10ka.htm>) Previously, Mr. Grebow was a Managing Director of J.C. Flowers & Co, a leading private equity firm focused on the financial services sector. Until June 2006, Mr. Grebow served as President of the ULLICO Inc. family of companies, including the \$6 billion Union Labor Life Insurance Company. In 2002 and 2003, Mr. Grebow served as President of the Metropolitan Television Alliance ("MTVA"), a consortium of 11 New York Metropolitan Area Broadcasters seeking to rebuild the television and emergency services transmission tower destroyed atop The World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Prior to joining MTVA, Mr. Grebow was Deputy President of Sony Electronics, Inc., and President of Sony's Broadcast and Professional Company. Earlier in his career, Mr. Grebow served as Executive Vice President in charge of Operations at CBS, Inc., Vice President at JP Morgan & Co. Inc., President of JP Morgan Leasefunding Corp. and Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of The Bowery Savings Bank. Mr. Grebow serves as a Director and Audit Committee Chairman of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and Alcentra Capital Corporation and as a Trustee of NY PBS station WNET. He has also served on the Board of Trustees of The George Washington University, the American Film Institute, Theatre Development Fund, Flowers National Bank and Panavision Inc. He was appointed by Governor Mario Cuomo to the New York State Hospital Review and Planning Council.

Check out what happened at the same time

> [Lance Milken, the son of one-time "junk bond king" Michael Milken, has departed Apollo Global Management, the private equity group that was founded by former colleagues of his father, to set up a family office.](<https://www.ft.com/content/18f6d2e6-1f64-11e9-b126-46fc3ad87c65>)

> The younger Mr Milken, 43, was a senior partner at Apollo in its core private equity business, which manages \$72bn.

> [A Wharton School graduate like his father, Mr Milken joined Apollo in 1998 as a junior investor.](<https://www.ft.com/content/18f6d2e6-1f64-11e9-b126-46fc3ad87c65>)

I'm of the firm belief, the 140% short was part of this plan, and everyone holding short positions from 2019 to 2021 should be investigated for connections to these guys.

Pretty easy connection as to how Steve Cohen got involved (Milken), Ken Griffin (Milken), Anchorage (listed above), who else is connected to Apollo, Drexel or this scheme?

Read that line again....

> Leon Black's Apollo Global Management has invested an undisclosed amount in preferred stock of Morgan Joseph TriArtisan, Bloomberg reports. [The company has also registered its own brokerage, AP CM, to find clients and negotiate deals for its buyout and hedge funds.](<https://www.institutionalinvestor.com/article/b150y606nn0nst/apollo-invests-in-morgan-joseph>)

George Sherman was at Best Buy the same time as Chris Homeister. Direct ties..... he rehired the guy from Best Buy that was [doing this under his watch.](<https://www.forbes.com/sites/larrydownes/2012/01/02/why-best-buy-is-going-out-of-business-gradually/>)

\*\*\*George Sherman\*\*\*

> Senior Vice President Services

> Best Buy

> [Jun 2009 - Mar 2013 - 3 years 10 months](<https://www.linkedin.com/in/georgesherman>)

\*\*\*Chris Homeister\*\*\*

> Senior Vice President & General Manager - Merchandising

> Best Buy

> Apr 2005 - Sep 2012 - 7 years 6

Nvm, Sherman was helping him.

> George Sherman, who oversaw Geek Squad for Best Buy, has left the electronics retailer after nearly four years on the job, according to a Star Tribune report.

> [Best Buy also laid off 600 Geek Squad employees last summer as part of a restructuring of the division.](<https://www.bizjournals.com/twincities/news/2013/03/13/best-buy-geek-squad-george-sherman.html>)

The current group tearing apart Chewy [is BC Partners](<https://imgur.com/a/d1BCbd8>)

[Have you seen Chewy's board now?](<https://investor.chewy.com/governance/board-of-directors/default.aspx>)

> Mr. Svider currently serves as Partner and Chairman of BC Partners and as Chairman of the Executive Committee of BC Partners.

> Prior to joining Chewy, Mr. Singh held senior leadership positions at Amazon, where from 2015 to 2017, he served as Worldwide Director of Amazon Inc.'s Consumables businesses (fresh and pantry) and, from 2013 to 2015, as General Manager for Amazon, Inc.'s

> Mr. Ahmed currently serves as Partner at BC Partners, as a member of the Executive Committee of BC Partners, and as the firm's Chief Administrative Officer.

> Mr. Chang currently serves as Partner at BC Partners. Before joining BC Partners in 2009, from 1999 to 2009, Mr. Chang served as Principal of JLL Partners, LLC.

> Ms. Dickson has been Chief Financial Officer and Chief Administrative Officer of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. since January 2016.

> Mr. Kim currently serves as Principal at BC Partners.

> Mr. Leland currently serves as Managing Director and Head of Capital Markets at BC Partners. Since 2019, Mr. Leland has also served as Chief Executive Officer of BC Partners Securities LLC, a registered broker dealer in the United States. Before joining BC Partners in 2018, from 2000 to 2018, Mr. Leland served at Citigroup Inc., most recently as Managing Director in the Capital Markets Originations Group, with a focus on leveraged finance.

> Mr. Nelson currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of Global Net Lease, Inc. (NYSE "GNL"), a publicly-traded real estate investment trust, a position he has held since July 2017, and has served, since March 2017, as a director of GNL.

> Ms. Sibenac currently serves as Managing Director at BC Partners in Portfolio Operations. Before joining BC Partners in 2017, from 2012 to 2017, Ms. Sibenac served in management positions at Amazon, Inc., and, from 2003 to 2010, she served in technical and commercial leadership roles at Lockheed Martin Corporation.

> Mr. Star currently serves as Executive Chairman and Investment Committee Chair of Longview Asset Management LLC ("Longview"), a multi-strategy investment firm that invests on behalf of individuals, trusts and charitable foundations.

[Apollo bought Yahoo](<https://www.apollo.com/media/press-releases/2021/09-01-2021-161530593>)

Right after [yahoo "had glitches"]([https://www.reddit.com/r/Superstonk/comments/pm1trq/smooth\\_brain\\_math\\_yahoo\\_finance\\_float\\_glitch/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Superstonk/comments/pm1trq/smooth_brain_math_yahoo_finance_float_glitch/)) showing there's 305 million shares in circulation

They also just [merged with an insurance company](<https://imgur.com/3LtfKR4.jpg>) trying to guarantee that bailout.