

Reader Reviews

Groucho, Harpo, Chico and sometimes Zeppo

University Park, Pa. — A fascination with film comedians dating back to his early childhood led Joseph Adamson, assistant professor of theatre arts at The Pennsylvania State University, to write his master's thesis on the Marx Brothers.

The thesis, done at the University of California at Los Angeles, now has been published with little revision by Simon and Schuster, titled, "Groucho, Harpo, Chico, and Sometimes Zeppo."

"I had my first movie projector at age five," Adamson said, "and from then on I was hooked on the great comedians."

Pursuing his interest, he discovered the lack of comprehensive work on the Marx Brothers, although books were available on Chaplin, Keaton, and all the other greats, he explained.

Reviewed by Variety as "the best with the most by all odds" and as "enough laughs to last at least through the winter" by New York magazine, the 464-page book with 80 illustrations was accepted for publication less than a week

after it was submitted to an agent.

Through interviews with scriptwriters and other collaborators, and with cooperation from Harpo's family, Adamson obtained a

wealth of previously unpublished material and photographs. His research entailed a lot of legwork, he said, taking him to Wisconsin to read one script and to the files of the New York and Los Angeles Times. George Seaton, one of the team's screenwriters and Adamson's "great benefactor," told the young author where he could find old movie scripts and opened many doors for further investigation.

Groucho, although more interested in current affairs such as Women's Lib and Watergate, condoned the project, saying he felt the Marx Brothers must be the subject of nearly as many publications as Abraham Lincoln, Adamson recalled.

Commenting on the surprise of modern Marx Brother's fans when they learn the famous trio worked from scripts, Adamson said the scripts are especially interesting when compared with the actual spoken lines of the films. Groucho, bored with lines often repeated in rehearsal, changed his lines frequently, the author explained, and the recognition of these alterations of the original script give insight into the considerable comedy sense of the artist.

Adamson, beginning his fourth year at Penn State, grew up near Philadelphia and is a graduate of Abington High School. He received his bachelor's degree in theatre arts and his master's degree in film history from UCLA.

Mr. Paul - Heres your chance

A new portable kit to collect scene-of-the-crime evidence as to who has fired a gun has been developed by a nuclear chemist at The Pennsylvania State University.

Working in cooperation with the Pennsylvania State Police, Dr. K. K. S. Pillay has perfected a "film lift" method that can make gunpowder residue as detectable as grease.

"The kit, which is small and can easily be carried by any officer, would permit identification of possible suspects before the evidence can be washed off or worn away," says Dr. Pillay.

"We can now distinguish," says Dr. Pillay, "the hand that pulled the trigger from a hand that only held the weapon after it was discharged."

"In fact, we can even determine, from gunpowder residue on the skin, clothing, etc., whether a person was merely in a room where a gun was fired."

It also promises better protection for the innocent.

Dr. Pillay, a research associate in nuclear engineering at Penn State, developed the kit to extend the usefulness of a technique known as neutron activation analysis.

In use since 1965 by the FBI, Treasury agents, and others, its practice has required methods too cumbersome and sophisticated to permit satisfactory collection of samples in many field situations.

In the Pillay methods, for which a patent application is pending, the officer simply applies a thin film of exceptionally pure liquid cellulose to the suspect's hands.

The film hardens in two to three minutes and can be peeled off intact, carrying with it minute traces of any substance on the hand.

By subjecting the sample to neutron activation, four elements associated with gunpowder can be positively identified, both as to presence and amount. There are barium, antimony, copper and gold. Under neutron bombardment they become radioactive and give off a highly specific "fingerprint."

This, combined with chemical assay techniques also developed by Dr. Pillay, permits a high degree of precision in identifying and measuring the critical elements.

At the moment, however, samples collected by the State Police are brought to the Penn State reactor at University Park, where they are irradiated with neutrons.

In time, says Dr. Pillay, the wider availability of neutron sources should make it possible for any police laboratory to conduct the entire analysis in its own facilities.

Associated in the project, supported by the Governor's Justice Commission, are Dr. William A. Jester, associate professor of nuclear engineering at Penn State and Harry A. Fox III, criminologist at the State Police Crime Laboratory.



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Ms. Quann Speaks on Women's Lib

Last Thursday, Dr. Lear's So. Sc. (331 Social Movements) class was fortunate to have guest speaker, Ms. Pat Quann and her colleague Ms. Sharon Smith. The discussion dealt with Women's Lib and equal rights for women. Ms. Quann is a member of the Women's Political Caucus and Harrisburg Women's Rights.

Any interested women wishing to either join or initiate a chapter on campus is asked to contact:

Women's Center
YMCA
Fourth and Walnut Streets
Harrisburg, Pa.

During the course of the term Dr. Lear is planning to have guest speakers at least once a week (Thursdays usually).

On October 11, 5th period in room E338, there will be a guest speaker to discuss Public Television. Visitors are cordially invited.

JOBS EUROPE

Santa Cruz, California. "Jobs for young people 18 to 29 are now available in Europe any time of the year" said Dr. F. X. Gordon, President of Princeton Research, at an interview with Stanford University and Palo Alto High School students.

In the past 13 years we have found jobs in Europe for 10, 823 young people. Three thousand (3,000) jobs are now available anytime of the year - Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall.

"The European Common Market unemployment rate is 50 per cent less than that of the United States. Job availability forecasts for 1974 High School and College graduates in the United States are not so rosy. There are more young people entering the job seeking market

(some 1,300,000 per year) than there are suitable jobs.

These guaranteed salaried jobs are mostly for trainees (general help) as stewardesses and stewards on trains, with large 1st class hotels, restaurants, supermarkets, department stores, etc. in Switzerland, England and Belgium. Most of the jobs include room and board in addition to local salary. Friends can work together, or near each other, if they apply together.

For free details: send a stamped self-addressed (business size) envelope to: Jobs Europe, 2350 Bean Creek Road, Santa Cruz, California 95060.

Coracidin tablets 25's
reg. \$1.45 now 79¢

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