

The Curmudgeon

Gadfly historians and plain old gossip's having field day

BY STEPHEN FORD

Within the past decades, gadfly historians and plain old gossips have scandalized us all with lurid accounts of the private lives of some eminent persons.

For instance, we know that FDR had a mistress while wife Eleanor traveled around the world. Ike was engaged in a dalliance with his femme chauffeur during WW II, unbeknownst to Mamie. JFK's extra-marital partner was also a mafia connection and brother Bobby's paramour was Marilyn Monroe.

No longer content with maiming our secular saints, some authors have set their sights on the ecclesiastic variety and, if you're going to malign a religious figure, don't waste time on the less-important ones, go right to the top and start swinging.

The above is my characteristically roundabout way of comment concerning "The Holy Blood and The Holy Grail," a book published in Great Britain last week that claims Jesus Christ married Mary Magdalene; had a child by her; staged the crucifixion then fled

the Holy Land for Europe where his lineage continues today.

Beside unleashing a horde of outraged Christians understandably fuming over such sacrilege, the book's fantastic premise has also encouraged a number of questionable historians to declare a number of other historic tragedies as staged events.

You will be stunned beyond words to realize that, according to Ralph S. Leazy, former porn film producer turned author, the Watergate scandal was all a hoax.

In his just-released book, "Dis-honor Before Anything," Mr. Leazy alleges Democratic headquarters were never broken into, Richard Nixon never bugged the White House and "Deep Throat" was actually a West Coast publicity agent hired by Nixon to deliberately launch a Senate investigation into the ethics of his office.

The shocking scenario goes like this: Though luxuriating in the raiments of power, President Nixon knew there was another individual in Washington vastly more capable than he was to steer this nation through those troubled times: Congressman Gerald R. Ford.

A humble and unassuming man with his country's best interests at heart, Nixon believed he should step aside and let Gerry assume the presidency as the congressman's brilliant grasp of foreign affairs, domestic issues and public speaking clearly proved him to be the best man for the difficult job. The problem was that no president in the history of the nation had ever resigned that sacred post and Dick certainly did not want to be recorded in posterity as a quitter.

Committing himself to this noble sacrifice, Nixon set the wheels in motion for a massive cover story—the Watergate scandal—knowing fully well it was staged but it would prompt a voracious press and an alarmed public to hound him out of office, thus opening the way for Gerry's ascension to the Oval Office.

But the Watergate expose is the iceberg of the tip. There is much, much more.

For those furious over charges the founder of Christianity staged his demise, imagine the anger of atheist Moscow falsely accused of invading Afghanistan and Poland.

Foreign correspondent Hedgeshaw Sobaka reveals in his blockbuster book, "At Dawn, We Amalgamate," that Afghan authorities approached the Kremlin with a fervent plea: "Please, we have lost control of our country. We beseech you, send 10 divisions of your army across our borders, kill any of our countrymen who offend you and while you're at it, shoot us, too, because we too disgraced and don't want to live."

Sobaka relates that with heavy hearts, the Soviet Politburo painfully debated their neighboring country's request into the early hours. By the next morning, the Kremlin had reached a decision.

"We have no interest whatsoever in seizing countries closer to the oil-rich nations," announced Comrade Brezhnev. "But we will never be able to look into a mirror if we disregard Afghanistan's pleas. The world will never understand this humanitarian gesture, so, we must fake an invasion."

Sobaka explicitly details the day after when Soviet troops occupied Kabul, Afghanistan's capital.

Before a tall, bullet-pocked wall, Afghan leaders fell to their knees

and begged before a reluctant Soviet firing squad: "If you have any love in your hearts, you will shoot us. And, you must make the international community believe you invaded this tiny, defenseless country so that no one knows how miserably inept we were in running our own affairs. We know you're taking a bum rap but remember, someone will probably write a book telling the world what really happened here."

Two years later, the Kremlin was heartstruck by a similar request from one of its satellites. Political and union leaders in Poland traveled to Moscow on a dire mission. In his bestseller, "Losing Weight Through Deprivation," Dr. Hardy Cares unravels the bloated tale of Polish laborers concerned about being overweight.

To counteract their bounty, workers in Gdansk, Krakow and Warsaw implored leaders to remove meats, vegetables and anything digestible from supermarkets.

Furthermore, since dieting is only half the job of losing weight, they demanded authorities institute

some sort of physical exercise, such as standing in line all day for a loaf of bread.

But Polish leaders dragged their feet, partially stocking food shelves despite the proletarian's need for no food.

Finally, says Dr. Cares, when it was apparent marginally democratic avenues were ineffective, the unions took their case directly to Moscow and asked for military intervention. "We will accept nothing less than wholesale oppression," quotes Dr. Cares in his tome.

The Soviets shuffled their feet but after a few days' haranguing, were persuaded to intervene. The upshot of Dr. Care's book is that there is no actual Soviet invasion of Poland. It has been staged to camouflage a nation's sincere desire to trim down.

Some of you may scoff at the publishing world's latest wave of devastating revelation. So be it. Just remember, they laughed at Columbus when he insisted the world is round and some publisher somewhere will find an author who can prove it isn't.

Letters

What's Happening in dear old Dallas?

Dear Editor:

Living in Houston I rarely get a chance to travel back to Dallas, my home. Educated at Gate of Heaven and Dallas High School I spent all of my pre-collegiate life in our community.

This past Christmas I did manage to be in Dallas. Walking home from church the Sunday after Christmas I watched as the snow fell through large stately trees. I made a point of stopping by the back of the Huntsville Dam Reservoir and just stood in awe.

But it was not too long afterwards I saw another side of Dallas. My uncle, who also lives in Dallas, had his truck stolen and asked if I would take him to the police station to report the crime.

I took him and after filling out the necessary paperwork I spoke to the policeman. He told about a huge in-

crease in crime in Dallas. He told of a lack of community support for the police. People did not care to help.

I wondered if my home town was a community or just a place to live. Were there still neighborhoods or just people in the same development? Has Dallas lost the old-fashioned small town atmosphere?

I think it has. But there is still hope. If Dallas is to return to the old fashioned way of caring, then it must do it the "old fashioned way." That is to begin with prayer. Prayer still works and can work to start to rebuild Dallas.

Pray for the town, its police-fire departments, our churches and even our town paper The Post, for your children. That's where to begin the change.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Cybulski

Agrees with immunization editorial

TO THE EDITOR:

I read with interest the article titled "Immunization is not for everyone" and I couldn't agree more. But I would like to add that even though there are new regulations to start in August 1982 there is included in law an exemption for immunization: It reads 23.84-(b) RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION.

Children need not be immunized.

if the parent (or) guardian, or emancipated child objects, in writing, to the immunization on religious grounds, or on the basis of a strong moral or ethical conviction similar to a religious belief.

Yours for Better Health,
ALBERT R. KLEIN JR., D.C.
1046 Memorial Highway
Dallas, Pa.

Johnny has been robbed of his time

Dear Teacher:

Johnny can neither read nor write and I know why. I am not blaming you, nor am I going to sue you or the school. After all, that would be like taking money from my right hand pocket and putting it in the left.

Besides, you are no more to blame than I, although you should know better since education is your field. (Isn't it strange that some people are in fields, some in professions, and some in careers? Must be a form of snobbery since most of us talk about our jobs or our work. Excuse the digression, but since I can read I find a world of subjects within each sentence and this tends to make me appear convoluted (or wishy-washy, as my wife says).

But back to why Johnny can't read or write. You see, we have robbed him of his time. He is not aware of this fact since time is a rather nebulous thing, but we have, nevertheless. And we have done so in the most sophisticated and purely American way. Subliminally. The method of course is the media. All Johnny needs to know is condensed, packaged and digested for him in the form of a message, delivered electronically.

As the number of messages increase, the amount of information absorbed has decreased, and so has the quality. Most important is the fact that Johnny has not one thing to say about it. He is denied the right to make any "input". It all comes from the top down.

Johnny, you see, is no longer a student, he is a consumer. That is why he believes that "if it sells" it must be the answer. After all, you teach him that Columbus discovered America in 1492 because you were taught that Columbus discovered America in 1492. But what if Johnny shouted "Prove it!" What if Johnny asked you to prove every-

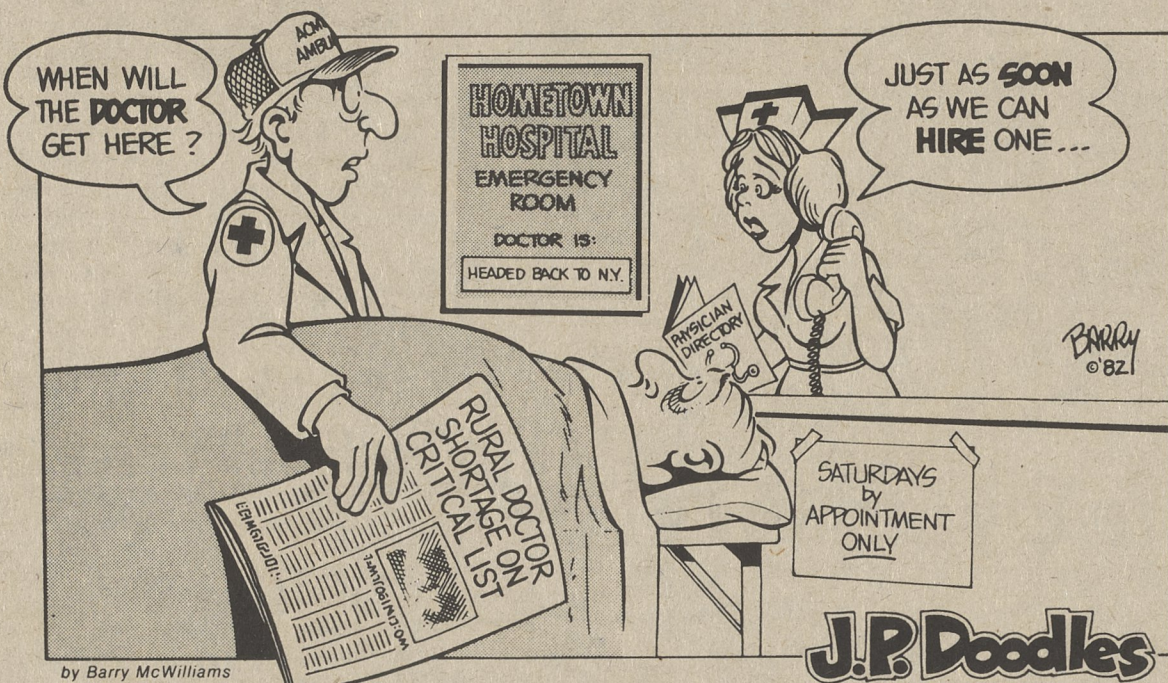
thing you tell him? The end result would be that Johnny would be taken aside, commended for his willingness to seek "truth", but asked to please stop creating chaos in the classroom with his demanding questions. Chaos, in your case, more than likely means disrupting the schedule, because, as mentioned earlier, education is now created in much the same manner as a meal at McDonald's, from corporate headquarters in Glendale, Ca., or wherever. (Somewhat Ca. just doesn't mean the same as Calif. or California, does it?)

So a crime has been committed against Johnny. Not only has his brain been drugged, but he has been enslaved by a totalitarian society. One of the tenets of a democratic society is that all citizens be allowed to think and express themselves freely on any subject, so that society may continue to change and modify itself to meet unforeseen problems and opportunities. Where is the best and practically only place for this instrument of democracy to develop if not in the schools? Since we both know it is not happening that way, we cannot say it is democratic, can we?

So Johnny can't read or write because there are those of us who are influential as the head of important institutions who don't like to be proven wrong, who don't like change because the change may mean I'll lose my job, or status in the political hierarchy. In short, we are threatened by the democratic process.

Lost in this process of so-called education is the question of whose schools are they? Who were they designed for? They were designed for our Johnny but he is the last person with any say about them, or anything else.

JOHN ALLEN



Only Yesterday Muddy road to Harveys Lake

50 Years Ago - Jan. 22, 1932

Front page of the Post featured "Dallas Pictured In Past and Present". Such landmarks as the Raub Hotel, Charles Gregory's clothing store, and the muddy, rural road to Harveys Lake.

First National Bank opened its doors.

40 Years Ago - Jan. 23, 1942

Air observers sighted 19 planes at their post in Lake Township. Fifty-six more men volunteered to help in this Daddow-Isaacs Air Raid Observation program.

F. Roy Searfoss, Dallas carried off top honors in production competition with other members of the Pennsylvania Co-operative Potato Growers' Association at the State Farm Show in Harrisburg. Searfoss reported a yield of 571 bushels of potatoes.

Engaged--Dana A. Pace to John Arthur Dungey.

Married--Betty Lewis to G. Wesley Cave; Kathleen Jean Davis to Walter Rau; Joan Blackman to Robert B. Harvey.

Deaths--Boyd F. Cooper, Trucks-ville; Alfred Sidorek, Demunds Road.

You could get--Smoked picnic hams, lean smoked bacon, chuck roast, hamburger or bologna, 25c lb.; stewing oysters 33c pt.; oranges 19c doz.; 24-lb. bag flour 83c; coffee 2 lb. 45c; toilet tissue 6 rolls 23c.

30 Years Ago - Jan. 25, 1952

Lady Baden-Powell, Chief Guide of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts spoke at the annual meeting of the Wyoming Valley Girl Scout Association. Lady Baden-Powell was instrumental in establishing scouting in England.

A grey fox which attacked Mrs. Harold Dixon, East Dallas, was suffering from rabies according to the State Laboratory in Harrisburg. Mrs. Dixon, who killed the fox, has begun the Pasteur Treatment.

Engaged--Eileen Knollin to Walter Puterbaugh; Ruth Deibert to Harold Hesser; Mary Tomascik to John J. Comer.

Married--Aleatha Rosaire Jones to Robert F. Fahringer.

Deaths--Oliver Saunders, Huntsville Road; Donald M. Williams, Loyalville native; George Z. Keller, Jr., Goss Manor.

You could get--Long Island ducklings 39c lb.; pork loin roasts 39c lb.; ground beef 65c lb.; shrimp 79c lb.; Florida oranges 2 doz. 49c; bananas 2 lb. 29c; Swiss cheese 69c lb.; bread 14c per lg. loaf; 12 oz. jar peanut butter 38c.

20 Years Ago - Jan. 25, 1962

Fred Hennebaul, Lehman wrestler injured in a meet several weeks ago, showed some progress this week. Thus far \$2,905.66 has been raised to help Fred's parents with hospital expenses.

Commonwealth Telephone Company notified its patrons that

direct long distance dialing would be available shortly.

Charles H. Long, Sweet Valley, Farm Equipment Dealer was elected to a five-year term as director of Luzerne County Agricultural Extension Association.

Married--Sharon Spencer to John Wallace; Connie Wallo to Kenneth Robbins.

Deaths--Mary Moss Dobson, New Goss Manor; Edmund Dana Sutliff, Ross Township.

You could get--Pork loins 29c lb.; roasting chickens 39c lb.; 1-lb. bag coffee 55c; eggs 59c doz.; sharp cheddar cheese 65c lb.; temple oranges 35c doz.; iceberg lettuce 10c per lg. head.

10 Years Ago - Feb. 3, 1972

After 10 years of service on the Kingston Township Police Force Paul Sabol was appointed chief of police.

Kingston Township residents turn out en masse to protest multiple housing rezoning of approximately 23 acres of land.

Married--Kathryn Connolly to John Raymond Shaskas.

Deaths--Roy Raymond Conger, Shrine View; Mary Hughes, former Dallas resident; Harry W. Nolf, former Back Mt. resident; Flossie Reigle, Fernbrook; Arthur Hunsinger, Noxen native; Corey Hoover, Outlet Road.

You could get--Chickens 28c lb.; turkeys 45c lb.; potatoes 20-lb. bag 99c; instant coffee 10-oz. jar 99c.



A TRACTOR-TRAILER with the above message has vertron Road, Trucksville. (Paul Strasser took the photo, been parked off-and-on for the past few weeks on Car- so all you guys out there with murder in your hearts...)

Homemakers school April 29

Pam Johnson, well-known Homemakers School Home Economist, will be visiting the Back Mountain on Jan. 27. She will be meeting with the staff of The Dallas Post and local merchants in order to make plans and advance preparations for the Homemakers School...Bringing Good Things to You in '82. These programs of food and appliance demonstrations are now conducted in over 300 locations in 48 states each year. Without a doubt, it is the largest homemaker-oriented promotion in North America.

This year's Homemakers School is planned for April 29, at College Misericordia. This is a program you'll want to attend, so mark the date now and be watching for more details.



PAM JOHNSON

Thought for Today..

Why don't people discern the times today?...world-wide conditions are worse than ever...even before the first great flood on earth, when all on earth were swept away to die...Only Noah and his family survived...they had found favor in the eyes of God...So were Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed...This is the will of God against evil...The biblical prophecies are revealed, in reality throughout all the world...Man is unaware of God's final plan, and the return to earth of Jesus Christ...Jesus said "Will I find faith on earth when I return"...and no one knows the time...People live today with little concern of the approaching return of the Lord.

F. BUDD SCHOOLEY, M.D.

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