

Time

A comforting bull from the Secretary of State, Mr. Cyrus Vance, regarding the common decency of the Plains, Georgia, Miracle Man and Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, moderate Stalinist:

When the two men eventually sit down together, they will get along well. Both of them are strong men and have similar dreams and aspirations about the most fundamental issues.

[April 24, 1978]

District of Columbia Bar Journal

A forward-looking moment with Theodore J. Garrish, Esq., the articulate general counsel of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission:

Principally, I think it is going to be in the rule making area. We are going to have increased activity in regulations of chronic hazards. I expect that we are going to have some increased efforts to deal with carcinogens. We will also be spending a substantial amount of resources in some areas like aluminum wiring. We have a tremendous amount of litigation right now in the aluminum wire area. We are handling some of the defense work relating to aluminum wire and that is going to continue and probably be a resource consuming kind of activity for the next year or so. One of the things that is going to come up is our sleepwear modifications which will be changes in the sleepwear standard. I think you will see some activities in the lawnmower area and upholstered furniture before the year is up.

[February 1978]

The Great Books Series

Stirring passages culled from *Are We All Nazis?*, a book of popcorn psychology written by Prof. Dr. Hans Askenasy, the latest poriferan orator to hit the campus lecture circuit:

The asinine and hypocritical inanities of a William Buckley, perpetually inebriated by his own verbosity, are due not to ignorance but to defective moral development....

As for Richard Nixon, let me just say that he is by all objective measures a textbook psychopathic criminal whose misfortune was to have been born in a democratic country. Lest we forget, he was elected twice—the second time by a historic landslide. His opponent apparently had the misfortune to have been decent....

Christ said this to people who did not like his preaching: "Ye serpents, ye generations of vipers, how can ye escape damnation of hell?..."

So we begin with a paranoid schizophrenic, suffering from delusions and hallucinations, a vicious, hypocritical man unconcerned with social issues.... Following the Prince of Peace came the appropriately named Dark Ages. Then Crusades and the medieval centuries. Then Luther and witch trials. And so on down to the Nazis and us....

From our study of the Nazis we have found that they were essentially normal, ordinary men. And...we now know that those Nazis and these Americans,—which is to say you and I— for all our superficial differences such as time and place, are, psychologically speaking, interchangeable. Which is food for thought.

Are We All Nazis?

by Hans Askenasy

[Lyle Stuart]

The Progressive

Mr. Bryant Avery, managing editor of the *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars*, informs agape readers of the *Progressive* about yet another stimulant to his concern, to wit: Shedd's Food Products, makers of Shedd's infamous peanut butter:

Recently, Shedd's has been using a marketing gimmick: If you buy their five-pound plastic pail of peanut butter, you also receive two free "Wacky Packs" inside. For the uninitiated, "Wacky Packs" are stickers such as my four-year-old might paste on the fender of his bike.

Nice gimmick, right? Wrong. Look at what we got. Flabbergasted, I sent off a note to



Shedd's, and received a speedy reply. The thrust of my complaint was that the label for "Extra Strong Commie Cleanser" obviously reinforces the kind of bigotry most of us call McCarthyism—that persistent strain of U.S. right-wing crackpottery that defines itself as guardian of Our Way. I also related it to the ideological insanity that led us to rain death and destruction upon Indochina. And, incidentally, the slogan on the sticker is historically absurd, linking "Hippies, Yippies, and Flippees" (whatever they may be) with communists.

I realize that the whole thing may have been intended as a joke, but it isn't funny. Since "Wacky Packs" are made by Topps Chewing Gum, Inc., I've been wondering what other little goodies are being distributed to our heirs.

[May 1978]

The Nation

A powerful act of the imagination turns a review of a mediocre book about America in the 1950s, *The Great Fear*, into obligatory reading for the *Nation's* dizzy throng: There follows, nevertheless, some 700 copiously footnoted pages delineating, in numbing detail, the American Gulag, more prosaic than the Soviet version, but chilling enough in its vast scale, thoroughness, petty vindictiveness, and hypocrisy. People weren't shipped off to the wastes of Siberia; they were made outcasts in their own neighborhoods.... People were so frightened that they bought *The Nation* on the newsstand rather than risk getting it in the mail.

[April 22, 1978]

New York Post

Miss Harriet Van Horne, a professional hysteric, reviews the television presentation "Holocaust":

As we watch these brave decent people march to the showers—where poison gas came out of the spigot—and see the Nazis at their most bestial, we may think "Americans would never allow this sort of thing to happen." Then, with a stab, comes the single word, "Vietnam!" Our own mini-holocaust.

[April 14, 1978]

The Humanist

Another laugh on poor Sr. Giovanni Jacop Casanova, deceased and unavailable to defend his art since 1798:

The healthiest environment for sexual growth is one that provides the richest possible banquet of experiences and models from which the individual can learn without fear of social censure. If each individual is free to act according to his or her sense of sexual identity preference, and role, then men and women will be truly able to express who they are.

[March/April 1978]

Saturday Review

The tough-minded William Cole speaks his mind about one of modern liberalism's most romantic gallants, Dr. Fidel Castro:

As a knee jerk liberal, I am of two minds about Cuba: I applaud the accomplishments of Castro's revolution but am uneasy about the absence of civil liberties. It was a gorgeous romantic revolution, in which Castro, to quote one of his aides, showed "audacity, stylized imagination"—qualities that are still on view according to photojournalist Fred Ward's *Inside Cuba Today*....

[April 1, 1978]

Bloomington [Indiana] Herald-Telephone
Godfrey Sperling, liberal, lays down the limits of our First Amendment rights:

Mr. Califano's plan would (a) emphasize the dissemination of information about the danger of smoking and (b) place a further curb on tobacco advertising. Here it seems relevant to ask whether it isn't time to put an end to such advertising. Why should the print media be permitted to push a product the government deems dangerous?

[February 6, 1978]

New York

Prettily put prodigies of radical thought from Angela Davis, "black communist" Making the event even more memorable Miss Davis revealed these thoughts in *New York* magazine's "Special Home-Furnishing Issue":

I'm not pessimistic about change in this country. I'm convinced that this country will one day be socialist.... I have no bodyguard. In order to live a good life and make some intellectual and political contributions I had to myself of paranoia.... Having grown into movement, my life is tied up with struggle. I try to find joy in personal existence because it's necessary to energize oneself.... Most people think this system can no longer work for them. But without a movement all is chaos and a contradictory response.

[April 17, 1978]

CORRESPONDENCE
(continued from page 41)

and "feeling"—a language that he knows is foreign to the argument I made. The self-evident truths mentioned in the Declaration of Independence are no more a matter of "belief" than the existence of Ernest van den Haag; and those who do not know Mr. van den Haag better may

suspect that he is seeking to achieve, through linguistic reduction, what he has not been able to accomplish with his substantive argument. Of course the dispute would move to the question of *a priori* and necessary truths, but I forbear to say more than I have already lest someone write in to tell us that *a priori*, necessary truths are nowhere mentioned in the Constitution. □

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PERSONAL

Dear Leo Joseph: *Pourquoi, perche, warum, and cur* do you not write to *La Folle du Nord*?

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Some things have to be watched more carefully, depending on how and where you drive your car. For example, if you do a lot of driving on dry, dusty roads, you may need to change the air cleaner and oil filter more often than the maintenance schedule indicates. Remember, the maintenance schedule that comes with your car is based on average driving conditions.

If you have an older car that still needs an annual tune-up, what should it include? There are some basic things to be checked: spark plugs, points, condensers, idling speed, and drive belts.

It can't hurt to check the air cleaner and fuel filter, tire pressure, and brake fluid, either. And when you do take your car in for a tune-up, don't be shy. Find out exactly what you need and what you're getting for your money.

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