



Marginalia



Letters:

SUBVERSION

SIRS:

Recent disclosures by RAMPARTS [March 1967] regarding the CIA's penetration and subversion of the NSA and of other domestic and international student bodies, viewed in conjunction with mounting evidence of CIA manipulation of the Peace Corps, the labor unions, international aid programs, news and information media, cultural missions, academic circles, emigre groups, religious councils and scientific congresses, will shock hitherto unsuspecting Americans into realizing that for totalitarian amorality their own government is without equal among nations.

What, however, has yet to be brought home to the people of the United States is the extent to which similar methods are being employed to control thought, subvert principle, and stifle dissent in their own country, the "Land of the Free." As the 1964-66 invasions-of-privacy findings of the U.S. Senate judiciary subcommittee chaired by Senator Edward V. Long made clear, few indeed are the areas of government, industry, education and culture that are free of some form of big brotherism. With clandestine agencies like the CIA and the FBI, it is standard practice to manufacture false evidence, to build up incriminating dossiers on individuals regarded as a threat to the powers-that-be. Information from such dossiers is passed freely between the various agencies (even being transmitted to corresponding agencies in other countries to which the subject plans to travel), to be disclosed by them in whatever quarters it is likely to do most harm to the subject's reputation and interests, and all this without the victim being able to respond and clear himself, for he can only guess at the identities of his detractors and the precise nature of their machinations against him.

In the light of exposures of such practices on the part of the CIA and the FBI,

it is clear that nothing less than full-scale public investigations of the agencies must be carried out if any future of national probity and individual sacrosanctity is to be preserved.

D. HOWARD ADY
(ex-Captain, British Intelligence Corps)
Los Angeles, California

SIRS:

I have learned, with deep concern, of the present crisis in the United States, in which it has been revealed that the CIA has been subsidizing the international exchange programs of the NSA.

I take this opportunity to congratulate RAMPARTS on the fundamental role it played in uncovering this political scandal. If your magazine continues such excellent work, true international exchanges, unmotivated by Cold War interests, will multiply and bring about the direct contact between peoples, the only hope for the future of universal brotherhood.

ANDRE SOCIÉ
General Councillor of the Jura
Department and Mayor,
Champagnole, France

HOMOSEXUALITY

SIRS:

I am a homosexual myself, and consequently I speak from an intimate knowledge of the subject. Had Gene Marine ["Who's Afraid of Little Annie Fanny," February 1967] been more circumspect, he would not have gone to every conceivable length to fortify his he-manliness; he would have suspected that by over-emphasis of that point, he might well be exposing that which he was trying to conceal. Who started this denigration of Woman? Did it not start back in the Garden, in which the de-feminized male when caught redhanded looked around for some convenient alibi? And ever since, every lying male—including your Marine, has thought to pull the wool over the All-Seeing "I."

Far from being women-haters, the average homosexual is Woman's most faithful ally—the unfortunate thing is

that both of us should sacrifice our dignity on the altar of his conceit. But all things having a purpose, perhaps that is God's final effort to save the obstreperous male from himself!

HARRY GRAY
Royal Oak, Michigan

SIRS:

Whoever you are, Mr. Marine, I love you. You have put down, in admirable literary style, my very feelings on the subject of homosexuality dominating the so-called Arts—but more than that, you have given a tremendous boost to my flagging spirits about being a WOMAN and not a nubile teeny-bopper or a mini-skirted high fashion colt.

You've done more for me than six months on an analyst's couch in helping me to realize that the only similarity between the Playmate of the Month and me is that we are both creased in the middle.

CONSTANCE LEVINE
Forest Hills, New York

SIRS:

Without challenging the general accuracy of Gene Marine's wisecrack about "Our Man Flint," I'd like to point out that there was never a mention of "surgery" in the gag about converting girls into pleasure units. It was all pills and flashing lights—early Leary is all.

As for Mr. Marine's reading of the intent, I can see how he reached the conclusion, but a good look at the material which was cut out of the final film might have convinced him that our problems were thespian, rather than lesbian.

SAUL DAVID
20th Century Fox Productions
Beverly Hills, California

SIRS:

Mr. Marine would not have had "a good time at Truman's party." It took him four pages to tell us that he wouldn't know how.

NANCY GOETZ
Washington, D.C.

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LOVE

SIRS:

The article on "hippies" [RAMPARTS, March 1967] was in most respects an accurate view. However, as one who is a participant in that culture I must take exception with his portrayal of Emmett Grogan and the Diggers. Emmett is not the hero of the Haight-Ashbury or its conscience, he is simply Emmett.

The movement to give things away for free and to apply the rules of love to the community are not solely dependent on any one person. There are many other beautiful people who are working with the Diggers to create an alternative environment from modern American society. Great harm is done when you portray the Diggers in terms of leaders and followers; the Diggers simply are themselves and are beautiful; Emmett is a Digger who is beautiful, and the people at RAMPARTS are beautiful too.

ALEX FORMAN

San Francisco, California

SIRS:

"May the Baby Jesus Shut Your Mouth and Open Your Mind."

CHESTER HELMS

Family Dog Productions

San Francisco, California

SEX

SIRS:

Personally, I had never found sex hilariously funny (entertaining, yes) until I read Edward Galligan's "Marriage On The Rocks" [RAMPARTS, February 1967]. This waggish piece is one of the wittiest I have ever read—a much needed tonic for a very sick world. Thanks for the below-the-belly laughs.

DR. BERNARD SCHOR

Englewood, Colorado

SIRS:

It seems quite evident your magazine is degenerating into a peddler of smut, under the guise of intellectualism.

However, posing as the intelligentsia and by your anti-war revelations, you have succeeded in rounding up a sizable subscription list. Fearing that might peter out shortly, sex, the old standby to attract attention, offered a possibility.

Had I seen the hair-do your editor wears, I do not think you would have gotten my seven dollars. It all figures.

JOHN U. MORRIS

Oswego, New York

Editorial:**THE NEW INNOCENCE**

C POLITICAL SOPHISTICATION, at its best, underlies the cynical amorality of a Richelieu or a Talleyrand, at its worst, the unflinching ability of the Nazis to computerize the extermination of their fellow men.

Thus we take heart in observing that America has recently shown itself to be a terribly unsophisticated country. The shock waves following RAMPARTS' revelation of the CIA's subversion of the National Student Association were more than political naivete. They were a sign of a New Innocence in America.

This New Innocence is concurrent with the end of the Cold War as a meaningful factor. The Nixonesque rhetoric of the '50s ring hollow to young people, and charts showing the Red pincers of the international communist conspiracy seem as germane as last year's desk calendar.

The institutions that helped create the Cold War climate in America continue, however, to plunge ahead in their traditional patterns like sterile salmon battling upstream to spawn. The CIA is, of course, the maddest example of what the Cold War has done to American life. The Agency, with neither the Congress nor the public assenting, decided it would buy off and subvert almost every legitimate institution in the country.

Not only the CIA, but others of influence who, in order to preserve their stake in the Cold War atmosphere, secretly try to manipulate public response. Hubert Humphrey, who publicly took a righteous stand about CIA infiltration of student groups, privately tried to goad reporters into attacking RAMPARTS. His liberal friend, columnist Carl Rowan, delivered the goods for the vice president: a slanderous attack questioning our motives for the NSA-CIA exposure.

For our part, we are just going to keep printing the facts as they come. If those facts turn into "exposes," it is not because of some special inclination of ours, but rather because in America today there is still a gap between our public rhetoric and our actual practices.