

THE DIOGENES REPORT
“a few steps ahead of the curve”
The Wit, Wisdom & Wituperation of Emanuel L. Strunin
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**DON'T PICK ON A MALIGNED CATHOLIC PRIEST
PICK ON THE JEWS IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

That was the bottom line of the advice given by a syndicated columnist in the Stamford (CT) Advocate. Following is my response to the writer which ran in the Advocate on Aug. 23 . If you don't like what you see the media, make your voice heard.

Letters to the Editor
The Advocate

Your columnist, William A. Collins (8/18/02) either hasn't read a newspaper or watched TV for the past year or is purposely blowing smoke at your readers to confuse his real agenda. His real agenda, apparently, is to complain about so-called Catholic bashing as related to the priest abuse issue. Collins' claims that the media and individuals are picking on the Catholic Church because they are unwilling to pick on Israel and President Bush for “religious” and patriotic reasons.

He says that the media refuses to stop their coverage of priest abuse because it is a sexual issue and sex sells newspapers. I am surprised that a former mayor and state representative is so obtuse or fanatical that he doesn't recognize a child abuse problem that deserves airing and correction. We have all seen the extensive media coverage of the child abuse cases in Florida that have nothing to do with sex or the Catholic Church.

It is also upsetting that Collins drags in Israel and the White House to camouflage his defense of the indefensible. His contention that the media and individuals refrain from criticizing Israel because they are afraid of being accused of anti-Semitism is ludicrous. He obviously hasn't watched CNN or listened to NPR or read The New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times or the vicious anti-Israel stories in Connecticut's very own Hartford Courant. Or, perhaps, he hasn't listened to the variety of Jewish opinions on Israel's policies. We Jews do draw the line when it comes to advice that will lead to the destruction of Israel. We recognize that advice for what it is.

As for the media and people worried about having their patriotism called into question—Mr. Collins should open his eyes and ears to the media, Congressional and individual comments against an attack on Iraq.

I trust that Mr. Collins carried out his political duties with more understanding and sensitivity than was indicated by his column.

Sincerely,
Emanuel L. Strunin

ACROSS MY RADAR SCREEN

You Want Politically Correct? Read The Times

If you ever want to know what is politically correct, just go to The New York Times. That august twister of all the news that's fit to print proved it again with its announcement of Sunday, August 18. There was the headline, big as life and stranger than fiction: "Times Will Begin Reporting Gay Couples' Ceremonies."

Will The Times take its revised family values foray into such areas as the Mormon marrying his fifth child bride, or the Arab shepherd's commitment ceremony with his favorite ewe, or the sex-changed couple who were bride and groom at their previous marriages and are groom and bride at this marriage. How will the times know who is the bride and who is the groom at these same sex arrangements? PC does present problems.

I am sure that the American Psychiatric Association will applaud The Times' new policy by observing that the range of normal behavior is virtually unlimited. At the APA press conference announcing its support of The Times, the shrinks will undoubtedly walk in on their hands and point out that they are merely employing an alternative means of human locomotion.

Is There A Grubman Conspiracy

Given the fact that Grubman is not a common name, so when you come across it three times in one day you sit up and take notice. (Why doesn't anyone ever stand up and take notice?)

You especially take notice when all three mentions involve antisocial behavior. The first mention involves Lizzie Grubman, a celebrity publicist who, in a fit of temper when she was refused entry into a club in the Hamptons, ran down some 18 people with her SUV. The radio news report described the anger of area residents at the slap-on-the-wrist sentence she was getting as the result of a plea bargain.

The second two Grubman mentions were on the front business page of The New York Times. One was Jack Grubman, a telecommunications industry security analyst who resigned from the Salomon Smith Barney brokerage house after coming under fire for a flood of misleading or misguided recommendation which lost hundreds of millions of dollars for the clients of his employers. Of course, Mr. Grubman made many millions for himself as a result of his poor advice.

The other Grubman in the spotlight was an Allen Grubman, a lawyer and former advisor to singer-songwriter Billy Joel who sued him for "fraud, breach of contract and malpractice." The suit was later withdrawn after some kind of arrangement was reached.

Are the Grubmans, (which can be translated as common (low) men, trying to undermine the Republic?

Sensitive Comments From The Clergy

Some of the comments coming out of the priestly scandal support the saying that truth is stranger than fiction. For example, Cardinal Egan's statement that the Church cannot be held responsible for the actions of its priests since they are "independent contractors". Does the bishop go to the hiring hall each morning and hire the priests for a day's work in each parish? It's possible. What do I know, I'm not a Catholic.

Here's an item from The Boston Globe of August 15: A Father De Berardinis, who was supposed to pay hush money to an altar boy he abused, balked at handing over the cash and instead complained to the child that he "had not performed the sexual act satisfactorily." If the kid wants to get paid, he has got to do it right!

A bishop, reporting on his confrontation with a priest who had a history of abusing women, wrote that the priest did not deny the allegations and "hoped that they had been forgotten." "His body language spoke of his pain," the bishop wrote. Did this sensitive bishop try to decipher the body language of any of the abused women? (NY Times, 8/18)

A Poor Choice Of Words On The Part Of The Defense Minister

In explaining Israel's retreat from Arab terrorist strongholds, the ex-general who is still marching to the beat of the Internationale, Defense Minister Ben Eliezer said that Israel should take advantage of the "new wind that is blowing among the Palestinians." The supposed new wind is merely the old flatulence he is getting from kissing Arab ass.

NAMES

Names that fit and names that don't.

From the Stamford Advocate (8/15/02): The manager of Fine Cooking Magazine's test kitchen is Jennifer Armentrout. Be prepared for a fish dinner.

From The Boston Globe (8/15/02): The Stigmatine Fathers, is a Catholic Order that ran a seminary where the students were regularly sexually abused. Don't look at the stigma Bishop. he's my father.

Unlike his namesake, Michael Boone tried to rob a Stamford, CT grocery using a walking cane. (Advocate, 8/20) If he had asked, Daniel would have told him that a rifle works better—much better.

HEADLINES AND COMMENTS

Headlines from the world's press. Comments by Diogenes.

Top Republicans Break With Bush On Iraq Strategy

We separated the consultants from the accountants. Now if these top Republicans want to advise the President they have to stop serving as consultants to the Arabs.

Teachers Tool In Jeopardy

He should keep his pants zipped.

Lilly Hypersensitivity Drug Hits Hurdle

Not hypersensitive enough?

Smallpox In A Box

That's going to take a ton of Vagisil.

United Airlines Says It Must Get Concessions To Stay Afloat

What happened to their flotation cushions?

3 Arrested After Sex Incident In N. Y. Cathedral

Nota bene: not one of them was a priest.

Palestinians Protest A Reported Plan For Exiling Arafat

Even the Israelis are against it unless Peres and Ben Eliezer accompany him.

Cops Charge Woman In Drugs, Knife Incident

Her boyfriend complained that she was using a knife to cut his drugs (Viagra) in half..

Palestinian Terrorist Committed Suicide

Los Angeles coroner declares that Abu Nidal committed suicide despite three bullet holes in the back of his head. That makes sense.

Bin Laden Declared 'Holy War' On West

As opposed to the 'unholy war' Islam is carrying out against the East in Kashmir and the Philippines?

Siege Ends At Iraqi Embassy In Berlin

That's nice. The German police learned how to handle a hostage situation without casualties since they allowed the Israeli athletes to be murdered in Munich.

Kollek: Israel Should Not Govern Palestinians In East Jerusalem

Capital idea: ship them all to Jordan.

Israel's Dilemma: Humane Defense

Those who are compassionate to the cruel will end up being cruel to the compassionate.

CIA: We Will Reform The Palestinian Military

Reform thyself first!

Terror Attacks Boost Interest In Islam, Arabic Courses

Just like the people who want to learn how to stop the spread of cancer when they are afflicted by the disease.

Abusers Need Professional Help

I am not so sure, they seem to be performing well on their own.

Zimbabwe Leaders Force White Farmers To Leave Land

Mugabe is well on his way to achieving his goal of making all Zimbabwe farms unproductive.

QUOTES I LIKE

Some, for renown on scraps of learning dote,
And think they grow immortal as they quote.

Edward Young

Every great and original writer, in proportion as he is great and original,
must himself create the taste by which he is to be relished.

William Wordsworth

The good end happily, and the bad unhappily.
That's what fiction means.

Oscar Wilde

I'm lonesome. They are all dying. I have hardly a warm personal enemy left.

J. A. McNeill Whistler

The best is the enemy of the good.

Voltaire

Education has produced a vast population able to read
but unable to distinguish what is worth reading.

G. M. Trevelyan

Sink me the ship Master Gunner—sink her, split her in twain!
Fall into the hands of God, not into the hands of Spain!

Alfred Tennyson

And David said to Gad, I am exceedingly troubled; let us fall into the hands of the Lord,
for his mercies are many; but let me not fall into the hands of man.

II Samuel 24. 14

The Right Honourable gentleman is indebted to his memory for his jests, and to his
imagination for his facts.

Richard B. Sheridan

Marriage math: 1 & 1 makes 2, or 3, or 4 or ____.

Anonymous

There is always an easy solution to every human problem—neat, plausible and wrong.

H. L. Mencken

A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.

George Bernard Shaw

Diplomatic life: protocol, alcohol, Geritol.

Adlai E. Stevenson

Some people say that cats are sneaky, evil and cruel.
True, and they have many other fine qualities as well.

Missy Dizick

I'm tired of all this nonsense about beauty only being skin deep.
That's deep enough. What do you want—an adorable pancreas?

Jean Kerr

All God's children are not beautiful. Most of God's children are,
in fact, barely presentable.

Fran Lebowitz

COMMENTS FROM READERS

I love comments—pro or con, praise or disapproval, love or hate,
Too many of you never call or never write

- You claim to have wit and wituperation. All I see is wituperation.
Take my name off your list.

- Brilliant stuff here. Haven't lost your touch. Seems to me that Israel and its various
Washington lobby groups aren't very effective in doing the job. You just may succeed.

- Keep those "cards and letters coming." I like what you have to say and the various
twists your comments take. Glad you put me on the distribution list. In
light of what has been happening in Israel (with another bombing this morning),
I agree with you that the country's response has been very "limp dickish."
Why not put Sharon on your e-mail list?

- While I tried to ignore and pooh-pooh it in the past, I am fast realizing that when people
use historical perspective, things don't seem so surprising.

- Every once in a while you come out with a thought out polemic
congratulations! However, where are the footnotes???

- Such a clever man.

- Congratulations! Your last issue was terrific. Who wrote it?

Comments welcome: elscomm@earthlink.net

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