

Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer

The Blog

2013 to 2017¹

Dan E. Moldea
www.moldea.com

2017

April 2017

20: Tom von Stein of the SEC, in the hospital, and Robert Vesco

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1882094915341711&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&type=3&theater>

PAYING RESPECTS TO A LEGENDARY WARRIOR . . . I just returned from a hospital visit with our old friend and poker buddy, 81-year-old Tom von Stein, the fabled attorney for the Enforcement Division of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, who, among many other capers, had received the original assignment to investigate the corrupt American financier, Robert Vesco, over forty years ago. On loan from the SEC, Tom was also a member of the team of prosecutors with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York who pursued Vesco.

Just ahead of his criminal indictment, Vesco, who was also implicated in several Watergate-related crimes, became a fugitive from justice, winding up in Cuba after hiding in Costa Rica, among other Central American and Caribbean countries. Although U.S. officials never captured Vesco, he was indicted and convicted by the Cuban government for a variety of financial crimes. He was sentenced to thirteen years in prison and reportedly died of cancer in 2007.

Attached is a photograph I took in the hospital of Tom---who was on vacation in Egypt with his lovely girlfriend, Joye, six weeks ago. During a visit to a museum in Alexandria, Tom missed a step and fell down a flight of stairs, breaking his left hip and left shoulder.

He is handling his therapy and recovery with the same aggression that he used in pursuit of elusive fugitive financiers.

18: The re-release of *Dark Victory: Ronald Reagan, MCA, and the Mob*

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1880966252121244&id=100006236621784

¹ This catalogue is based on DEM's Facebook postings. Also, see him on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DanMoldea>.

DEM's eighth book and memoir is *Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer: Adventures of in the Jungles of Crime, Politics, and Journalism*, 2013 and 2015 (2nd edition). https://www.amazon.com/Confessions-Guerrilla-Writer-Adventures-Journalism/dp/0615799752/ref=sr_1_13?ie=UTF8&qid=1378372439&sr=8-13&keywords=Dan+Moldea.

Today, my 31-year-old book about a corrupt U.S. President with ties to the Mafia, as well as to far-right extremists, will be re-released. The Kindle version of “*Dark Victory: Ronald Reagan, MCA, and the Mob*,” which includes a new Afterword, will be published by Open Road Media as part of its Forbidden Bookshelf, the award-winning series of suppressed and censored books. . . . Notably, in spite of the battle to get this book published and in the bookstores upon its release during Reagan’s second term in 1986, “*Dark Victory*,” which was originally published by Viking Press, appeared on the *Los Angeles Times*’s bestseller list for three months.

The Los Angeles Times wrote, “*Dark Victory* is indeed a victory for author Moldea. He has, through sheer tenacity, amassed an avalanche of ominous and unnerving facts. It’s a book about power, ego and the American way. Moldea has shown us what we don’t want to see.”

Library Journal said, “Using previously classified documents, crime reporter Moldea spins several tales in this extraordinary book, principally the rise of the Music Corporation of America (MCA) from a fledgling band-booking company in 1924 to Hollywood’s most powerful TV, film, and recording conglomerate, and the intertwined journey of MCA client Reagan from mediocre actor to U.S. President.”

The San Francisco Chronicle stated that, “The whole saga reaches a critical mass of sleaze. . . . [Moldea] has woven enough threads to call into serious question the conduct of the highest office in America.”

American Film said, “Actually, Moldea tells three separate but tangential stories: organized crime’s infiltration of legitimate business and labor, the meteoric rise of the entertainment conglomerate MCA, and the jet-propelled ascension of a somewhat passe movie actor to the president of the United States. These stories have been abundantly researched and are set forth in exquisite detail.”

The Dallas Morning News wrote, “Moldea’s exhaustive expose of MCA is one of the most explosive books of the decade.”

And, in Gus Russo’s 2006 book, *Supernob: How Sidney Korshak and His Criminal Associates Became America’s Hidden Power Brokers*, the author wrote: “*Dark Victory* . . . was the most courageous, and well-researched, indictment of a sitting president and his power base in history.”

10: The ICIJ, including Leo Sisi, wins the Pulitzer Prize for the Panama Papers investigation

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1877258995825303&id=100006236621784&pref=story

I love the journalism awards season, especially when good and trusted friends are recognized for their outstanding work. . . . Today, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) was a co-recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting for “using a collaboration of more than 300 reporters on six continents to expose the hidden infrastructure and global scale of offshore tax havens,” aka “The Panama Papers Investigation,” which also won the prestigious George Polk Award in February. . . . One of those journalists is our long-time friend and colleague, Leo Sisti of Milan, one of the world’s experts on the international influence of the Mafia---which is why I wanted to meet him during a research trip to Italy in 1996. . . . Leo is also a member of our Authors Dinner Group here in Washington, D.C., which applauded his remarkable work at our dinner last June. . . . The ICIJ is a 1997 creation of another friend and colleague, Charles Lewis, the founder of the Center for Public Integrity. . . . Great work, guys, and congratulations.

7: Cal Perry, the best on-camera reporter on MSNBC

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The best on-camera reporter on MSNBC is Cal Perry, who has interviewed President Assad several times and understands the situation in Syria as well as any journalist in the business. Cal, the former bureau chief in Baghdad for CNN, is the son of our long-time friend, best-selling

author Mark Perry. . . . Below is a picture I took of father and son, both of whom were members of our late but great Thursday-night poker group (1978 to 2012). . . .

7: After the response to Assad, how long will it take for Trump to develop a taste for death?

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1875459349338601&id=100006236621784

Launching a legitimate yet restrained response to a horrendous war crime, the popular decision by Low-Bar Trump only cost the lives of a handful of Syrians. How fast will it now take for him to develop a taste for death? And how many brave American soldiers and “beautiful babies” will die in the coming months after he starts to enjoy it? . . .

5: *The Conversation* and the state of privacy in 2017

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Here's the main theme from a 43-year-old movie, which represents the state of privacy in 2017--- including but not limited to that which we voluntarily surrender online and during our day-to-day routines. . . . <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUsEIdHxBPk>

4: Sally Denton wins the IRE award for best investigative book

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JUST ANNOUNCED. . . Our friend and colleague, Sally Denton, has just won the best investigative book of the year, awarded annually by Investigative Reporters & Editors. The runner-up was David Cay Johnston, who wrote an excellent book about Donald Trump. Sally's outstanding book is “The Profiteers: Bechtel and the Men Who Built the World.” . . . Congratulations Sally!

1: Tom Mann and the Library of Congress index of onsite databases

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The legendary Dr. Tom Mann---the former top guy at the Library of Congress who has helped so many of us with our work---has asked me to forward the attached “Selected Subscription Databases Available Onsite at the Library of Congress” to friends and colleagues for your reading and researching pleasure. (I converted this searchable Word document to HTML and then anchored it to my personal website.) See: <http://www.moldea.com/LOC-Database.html>

March 2017

31: DEM on the leaks investigations, past (Clinton and the OIC) and present (Trump)

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1871844926366710&id=100006236621784

BEWARE OF LEAKS INVESTIGATIONS. . . . In Washington, D.C., investigations of government leaks are nothing new. But there are phony leaks investigations, and then there are legitimate leaks investigations.

In 1998, I filed a sworn affidavit with U.S. District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson during her leaks investigation revolving around the relentless pursuit of President Bill Clinton by independent counsel Kenneth Starr and his prosecutorial goon squad who were busy exploiting the President's sex life to concoct a case of perjury and obstructing of justice against him in a cynical effort to remove him from office.

In that case, many of the journalists who were receiving the leaks were also serving as cheerleaders, shills and stalking horses for Starr's operation. And, as part of their cooperation, these reporters knowingly provided Starr and the Office of the Independent Counsel (OIC) with information received from their own private sources who refused to speak with federal

prosecutors. When challenged about this practice by Judge Johnson, Starr and the OIC simply identified these journalists as “confidential informants” and refused to name them.

I repeat, the journalists receiving the leaks were identified by the OIC as “confidential informants.”

In the Clinton case, Starr and the OIC prosecutors, who wanted Clinton’s head on a stick, used well-placed leaks to these selected journalists as part of an overall fishing operation into the OIC’s investigation of the President’s sex life and anything else they could collect, including but not limited to Hillary Clinton’s alleged one-time affair with Deputy White House Counsel Vincent Foster, who committed suicide six months after the inauguration of President Clinton.

Now, in this current situation, Donald Trump and the Republicans are using their own leaks investigation to distract public attention away from Trump’s alleged shady business dealings with, among others, organized-crime figures in the U.S. and Russia, as well as the fact that members of the Trump campaign and the GOP might have enthusiastically aided and abetted a foreign enemy in its efforts to influence the 2016 general election.

Now more than ever, the American public should demand that the government provide a safe haven for whistleblowers with information about Trump’s alleged bad behavior---and not allow them to be hunted down and destroyed as part of a political witch hunt, operating under the guise of a leaks investigation, which is really about nothing more than intimidating and silencing potential witnesses.

29: DEM on Jack Farrell’s book, *Richard Nixon: The Life*

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Friend and colleague, investigative journalist [John Aloysius Farrell](#), formerly a member of the legendary Spotlight team at the Boston Globe, blew away a packed and standing-room-only crowd tonight at Politics and Prose, discussing his latest book, “Richard Nixon: The Life.” . . . Earlier this year, Jack made national headlines with revelations revolving around Nixon’s use of prominent Asian-American Anna Chennault, a Republican activist, to help stall the Vietnam peace talks. Jack wrote in the New York Times: “A newfound cache of notes left by H. R. Haldeman, his closest aide, shows that Nixon directed his campaign’s efforts to scuttle the peace talks, which he feared could give his opponent, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, an edge in the 1968 election. On Oct. 22, 1968, he ordered Haldeman to ‘monkey wrench’ the initiative.” . . . Congratulations and well done, Jack. (Photo by DEM)

28: The death of John L. Harrison, Tuskegee Airman

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1870465723171297&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&type=3&theater>

Tuskegee Airman John L. Harrison has died at 96. We met John at Arlington National Cemetery on September 18, 2008, at the memorial service for our friend, Jack Willis, another member of this prestigious air squadron which served with great distinction during World War II. In fact, Jack and John were among those Tuskegee Airmen who received the Congressional Gold Medal, the most prestigious award offered by the U.S. Congress. . . . God bless John Harrison. who, like Jack Willis, embodied the qualities of courage, dignity, honor, and pure class. (Photo by DEM)

25: Paul Dickson, “The Godfather of Washington Authors”

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1869188973298972&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&type=3&theater>

This afternoon, a big crowd celebrated the work of [Paul Dickson](#), "The Godfather of Washington Authors," as he launched the publication of his 66th book at Politics & Prose in Washington, D.C. . . . His latest is “Leo Durocher: Baseball’s Prodigal Son.” And it is just fabulous. . . . (Photo by DEM)

21: On the sheared sheep in Trump's fat flock (Part Two)

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1867424063475463&id=100006236621784

ON THE SHEARED SHEEP IN TRUMP'S FAT FLOCK (PART TWO). . . Donald Trump's supporters will remain faithful just as long as, among other things, 1) new draconian restrictions on immigrants and other foreigners are imposed, aka Trump's version of "ethnic cleansing," 2) they can buy, keep, and carry their damn guns, 3) they can use the N-word without being identified as racists by the politically correct crowd, 4) the government stops giving away anything for free---including but not limited to health insurance---to America's poor and the powerless, whom they want to be further humiliated with forced blood tests and make-work projects, 5) he continues to portray any and all journalists who investigate his shady past and his illegitimate presidency as perpetrators of "fake news," as well as "enemies of the people," and 6) the U.S. military will get tough with any foreign government that as much as looks at us cross-eyed, even if our tactics violate international law and the Geneva Conventions.

And then, of course, there are those Bible-thumpers and flag-wavers who blindly support the philandering, thrice-married Trump and his cynical agenda simply because he is against a woman's right to choose because "life is sacred"---but continue to support the death penalty because it's supposedly "a deterrent to crime."

What is absolutely breathtaking is the pure and unadulterated hypocrisy of Donald Trump, his basket of deplorables, and the innocent people who follow him simply because they are frightened of the real and imagined demons he has created to divert their attention from the irreversible damage he is doing to America.

In the end, those who support and defend Trump will be forever responsible for the consequences of every bizarre, reckless, and dangerous decision he makes. . . .

17: Trump believes that he may defame at will

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Even without any evidence, Donald Trump believes that he should be allowed to defame at will and then go unchallenged when he does so . . . with no consequences for his reckless and malicious words and deeds.

7: On the sheared sheep in Trump's fat flock

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ON THE SHEARED SHEEP IN TRUMP'S FAT FLOCK. . . It seems that Donald Trump's legion of supporters don't mind being conned by his deceitful populist agenda and simply don't care that he is provably dishonest and arguably mentally unbalanced, as well as an alleged pro-Russian puppet with a Cabinet and White House staff filled with pro-Russian stooges.

From all early indications---along with already embracing some Russian ambitions and engaging in a promised newfound American adventurism abroad---the Trump radicals are preparing to loot the federal government, like a Mafia family busting out a local savings & loan. They will try to give nearly everything away---via government contracts, tax breaks, repealed regulations, privatization, and dismantled federal oversight agencies---to a new and emerging class of American oligarchs, who will rival those in Russia.

Bilking the American economy appears to be their version of "draining the swamp" and "making America great again." Remarkably, Trump has established his own wall of defense, paid for in full by appealing to the worst instincts of the American voter.

4: If the Trump-Clinton situation was reversed

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This point has been made before, but I would like to make it again---with emphasis. . . . If the situation was reversed, and Donald Trump had won the popular vote by a wide margin but lost the electoral-college vote and, thus, the Presidency to Hillary Clinton---who had enjoyed the covert assistance of Russian operatives who hacked the RNC's emails while Russian officials were in constant communication with Clinton's top advisors during the campaign---the GOP and Fox News would be sounding an unbridled, unrestrained, five-alarm, all-hands-on-deck, 24-7, clarion call to all of America and throughout the world, questioning the legality and legitimacy of her victory, as well as all of her subsequent actions as President. . . .

By this time in her Presidency, Clinton would already be facing widespread charges of, among other crimes, sedition and even treason, investigated by a joint congressional select committee, an independent commission, and/or a special prosecutor.

2: What does Jared Kushner know about the Russians, and what do they know about him?

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A simple grunt crime reporter who occasionally likes to pretend that he's a political writer has just asked these two questions on Twitter. . . . "What does Jared Kushner know about the Russians? And what do the Russians know about Jared Kushner?" (3:39 P.M., March 2, 2017)

February 2017

28: On President Trump, Day 40-Plus

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1857730967778106&id=100006236621784

ON PRESIDENT TRUMP, DAY 40-PLUS. . . . With his corrupt past in New York, New Jersey, and Moscow now catching up with him, Donald Trump is quickly becoming a desperate man, battling for his personal survival and trash-talking anyone who opposes him, especially those from the institutions that are investigating his activities, including a variety of domestic and foreign intelligence agencies and, of course, the news media, which he has now described as "the enemy of the people."

As is well known, Trump has made a career of declaring war on those who criticize him---and then he plays his now-familiar role as victim when they fight back, using even their most benign responses to justify his scorched-earth, "you-pull-a-knife-then-I-draw-a-gun" routine.

Cynically ratcheting up the public's fears over an assortment of issues and circumstances, Trump, who lost the popular vote by a wide margin, is fearful of disgrace and public humiliation. After the spate of bankruptcies early in his career, he has already "been there and done that." And in the aftermath of his stunning electoral-vote victory which might have resulted from a fraudulent 2016 general election---tampered with by Russian operatives who have allegedly blackmailed him for years---he is not unlike a trapped animal, caught in a political and legal steel-jaw device. . . . Constitutional crises loom on the horizon.

Wary of a bipartisan independent commission to investigate his bad behavior, Trump is now completely dependent on the Republican intelligence-committee chairs in the House, Devin Nunes (R-CA), and in the Senate, Richard Burr (R-NC), as well as his own recent appointees, Attorney General Jeff Sessions and CIA Director Mike Pompeo---all of whom are provable right-wing ideologues---to derail any and all investigations.

And, then, there is FBI Director James Comey, who, wittingly or unwittingly, helped Trump win the general election, or, more to the point, helped to defeat Hillary Clinton by participating in the reckless and malicious smear campaign against her.

Through the Trump-Russia probe, will Comey be seeking personal redemption, or will he simply engage in yet another disgraceful performance on the public stage?

22: DEM on the Trump-Hitler comparison

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1855553504662519&id=100006236621784

For several months, many responsible people in and out of politics have compared Donald Trump to Adolf Hitler. . . . What is particularly disturbing and even alarming is that Trump doesn't appear to be doing anything to discourage this now-familiar comparison. . . .

16: DEM's pretend treatment for a movie script about a playboy/businessman

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1852645321620004&id=100006236621784

Here's another one of my pretend treatments for a make-believe movie script---based on real-life events with several possible departures from reality. . . . PART ONE: A notoriously arrogant American playboy/businessman who, with the help of his wealthy father, builds an empire via his construction company in Manhattan and his casino operations in Atlantic City reluctantly but knowingly does business with the Mafia on the East Coast, participating in at least one allegedly illegal scheme for which he is not prosecuted. But, after the investigation is dropped, he serves as a confidential informant for the FBI against segments of the underworld with which he has not been aligned. . . .

In the aftermath of several bad business deals, he loses nearly everything. Humbled after recovering from a near collapse and three bankruptcies, he re-enters the business world and tries to recoup his lost status but finds his ability to obtain traditional financing for his dreams and schemes falling short. Consequently, he looks for money overseas, finding willing investors among Russian oligarchs and members of the Russian Mafiya, who, protecting their investment, develop information that compromises him and, allegedly, at least one member of his family. . . . In return for funding his comeback and securing the continued silence of his blackmailers, the playboy/businessman provides them with façades of legitimacy, agreeing, among other tasks, to move and launder money for his Russian backers worldwide. The secret cabal does business for many years, undetected, and is wildly profitable for all involved. . . .

Then, in a cynical attempt to raise his personal business profile and enhance his family brand, he runs what appears to be a Quixotic bid as a conservative candidate for President of the United States, even though he has no practical experience in government, politics, or diplomacy and is well known as a thrice-married philanderer. . . .

The playboy/businessman puts together a team of political operatives with their own Russian connections, as well as a Murderers' Row of alt-right media stars and no-mercy opposition-research specialists to conduct a populist, scorched-earth political assault against the mainstream-news media and "The Establishment" in Washington and on Wall Street. . . .

In addition, he receives---at the behest of his Russian blackmailers who see nothing but opportunity in this situation---the enthusiastic support of the Russian intelligence apparatus, which hacks the emails of his perceived enemies and produces "fake news" against his rivals in concert with his own media connections, including a cable-television network which does little more than shill for right-wing causes while concocting faux scandals against the left. . . .

To the surprise of nearly everyone, he wins his conservative party's nomination, defeating a large group of far more qualified candidates, all of whom he taunted and trashed during the contentious primaries. . . .

In the General Election---with the inexplicable support of most of his conservative rivals and the unscrupulous abuse of his party's control of both houses of Congress---the playboy/businessman unleashes a breathtaking smear campaign against his liberal opponent, an intelligent, experienced, and honest woman, the wife of a previous President, a former U.S. Senator, and an ex-Secretary of State. . . .

As the Russian hackers gain access to the emails of the liberal party's leadership, the Director of the FBI delivers a bizarre public statement, which greatly helps the playboy/businessman and provides nothing less than legitimacy to a series of false and reckless charges leveled against his liberal opponent, which have already been supercharged by the "fake news" media operations of both the alt-right and the Russians.

14: "If I were writing this script," the upcoming faux crisis between the US and Russia

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1851583891726147&id=100006236621784

If I were writing this script. . . . In the aftermath of the public exposure of his nefarious personal and business ties to Russia, the desperate American president secretly contacts the evil Russian president, and, together, they contrive, concoct, and choreograph a Cuban-Missile Crisis-like, life-and-death situation that will hold a fearful world breathless for several weeks. . . . Fret not, in the end, the two leaders, faux adversaries, will miraculously save the day when they agree on a pre-arranged peaceful solution, a shoe-string catch. . . . The world rejoices. The scandal is diffused---at least for the moment. . . . "Fail-Safe" meets "Wag the Dog."

13: DEM on the resignation of Michael Flynn, appealing him to come clean

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1851235975094272&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

What does the President know and when did he know it? Or, better yet, what does Michael Flynn know and how will he use it?

Please do the right thing now, General Flynn---the honorable thing. . . . Take the oath and tell us the real inside story about the President and his basket of deplorables. It would be your greatest act of patriotism.

9: Jeff Stein's public-records suit against the US Government

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1849567121927824&id=100006236621784

Our friend and colleague, veteran investigative journalist and *Newsweek* national-security correspondent [Jeff Stein](#), has filed a fascinating and potentially very revealing public-records suit against several federal agencies, including the CIA and the DOJ, demanding any and all information collected as part of the vetting process for Donald Trump's national-security advisors, such as the deplorable white nationalist, Steve Bannon, and alleged Russian stooge Michael Flynn. . . . Yeah, I want to know how the hell these guys received their clearances. . . . Here's Jeff's detailed complaint:<http://courthousenews.com/wp-content/.../2017/02/trumpfoia.pdf>.

January 2017

20: Ralph Salerno: "Organized crime will put a man in the White House . . ."

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1840172216200648&id=100006236621784

“Organized crime will put a man in the White House someday—and he won’t know it until they hand him the bill.” (Ralph Salerno, Chief of Detectives, New York Police Department, 1967). . . .

19: On the Eve of Inauguration Day 2017. . . . A brief calm before the long storm (Chopin)

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On the Eve of Inauguration Day 2017. . . . A brief calm before the long storm. . . .

11: When Flynt and I nailed a politician, he stayed nailed. . . . in response to the 35-page Trump document

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When Larry Flynt and I nailed numerous politicians for hypocrisy during the impeachment drama in 1998-1999 and then later in 2007, they stayed nailed. There were no disputes. There were no denials. There were no mistakes. . . . We never released anything unless our source information was solid and could be verified. . . .

10: “We are really going to miss President Obama.”

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We are really going to miss President Obama. As a public servant and as a man, he has been the embodiment of class, dignity, integrity, intelligence, and grace under pressure. . . .

5: The death of former CIA agent Jack Platt

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Legendary former CIA agent Jack Platt, widely praised for his remarkable talent for espionage and his uncanny ability to drive journalists crazy, died last night in northern Virginia. Jack was well known for his many real-life, spy-versus-spy dramas, especially with his KGB counterpart, Gennady Vasilenko, with whom he co-founded a joint-business venture after glasnost. They also became the best of friends. . . . An upcoming book, in which I have a brief but exciting cameo role, will feature the Platt-Vasilenko relationship. . . . God bless Jack---who would have been 81 next month---and his wonderful family. (Photo by DEM.)

1: Dvořák’s “New World” Symphony for 2017

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1831723400378863&id=100006236621784

As we enter the 2017 gauntlet—which, I fear, is going to make 2016’s look like nothing more than an amusement-park ride—here’s Dvořák’s “New World” Symphony by the New York Philharmonic, which somehow seems appropriate for this moment: . . . Let’s be careful out there during the coming year.

2016

December 2016

28: Admiral William Crowe and his 2004 condemnation of President Bush

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Admiral William J. Crowe---appointed by President Reagan as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1985 and by President Clinton as the ambassador to the Court of St. James's in 1994--- was among twenty-seven retired diplomats and military leaders who issued a joint public statement in June 2004, saying that President George W. Bush and his administration did not have a competent grasp of world problems and were unable to handle "in either style or substance" the responsibilities of global leadership. . . . I wonder what Bill Crowe, with whom I was acquainted but who died in 2007, would say today about President-elect Donald Trump and his bizarre foreign-policy and national-security team, as well as their frighteningly cavalier attitude about the use of nuclear weapons. . . .

15: DEM on the death penalty after Dylann Roof's conviction

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1824891287728741&id=100006236621784

Just when you come to a point where you finally determine that the death penalty is futile, unfair, and should be banned forever, some merciless killer is convicted of a senseless act that is so heinous and so inhuman that you actually hear yourself saying out loud, "Hang that son of a bitch." . . .

13: DEM on Robert Maheu—with Maheu's book inscription to DEM

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1823909491160254&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&type=3&theater>

In the aftermath of the death of Fidel Castro, I have been going through a cache of documents as part of my ongoing downsizing process. . . . In the midst of my review, I found the autobiography of Robert Maheu, the former FBI special agent who became the chief executive of billionaire recluse Howard Hughes's casino operations in Las Vegas. . . . Also, in 1960, Maheu, through a complicated series of events, served as the liaison between the CIA and the Mafia in the now-infamous but wholly unsuccessful plots to assassinate Castro, which were revealed and detailed during the U.S. Senate Church Committee's investigations in 1975. . . . By chance, I had the good fortune to meet Maheu in early June 1978 and to interview him at length for my first book, "The Hoffa Wars," which was released three months later. . . . Maheu and I remained in touch for many years---even though I was critical of him in the Hoffa book. His 1992 memoir was titled, "Next to Hughes: Behind the Power and Tragic Downfall of Howard Hughes by His Closest Advisor." . . . Attached is the inscription that Maheu, who died in August 2008, wrote in the copy he gave to me.

8: DEM returns to the Red Fox/Andiamo

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1821270821424121&set=a.1821270834757453.1073741833.100006236621784&type=3&theater>

This afternoon, I had a late lunch at the old Machus Red Fox, now called Andiamo in Bloomfield Hills, just north of Detroit. . . . Memories flooded back. . . . A well-known American citizen was last seen standing outside this very public place in broad daylight, and then he vanished without a trace. Sooner or later, this caper must be solved. . . . I am Ahab, and the Jimmy Hoffa murder case is my white whale.

November 2016

13: DEM: The golden age of investigative journalism

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1809966052554598&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

We are entering what could become the golden age of investigative journalism. . . .

7: Cartoon: Please Lord, enough already”

https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1807303046154232&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&type=3&theater¬if_t=like¬if_id=1478555186114176

I'm hip. . . .

October 2016

13: DEM note to Trump: “You gotta be crazy to sue the *New York Times*.”

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1795213494029854&id=100006236621784

NOTE TO DONALD TRUMP: You gotta be crazy to sue the *New York Times* for libel. . . . Trust me.

11: DEM photo of Clinton and Gore as Gore endorses Hillary

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1794293270788543&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

Everything old is new again. . . . Al Gore reunites with the Clintons today. (I took this photograph on April 23, 1994.)

10: DEM on Trump and *The Hunting of the President* by Conason and Lyons

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1793911574160046&id=100006236621784

If you really want to understand this desperate, last-ditch, dirty-tricks campaign tactic against Hillary Clinton by the cowardly and shameless bully-boy, Donald Trump, and his despicable "basket of deplorables" on and near his campaign staff—and how everything old is new again, especially about Bill Clinton—you must see the updated 2004 documentary, “*The Hunting of the President*,” based on the best-selling book by **Joe Conason** and **Gene Lyons**. The film, like their book, explains everything. . . . (BTW: I make a couple of brief---but riveting---appearances in the film.) . . . Please watch the trailer.

7: Praise for President Obama for keeping us out of the Syrian civil war, explained

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1792532684297935&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

God bless President Obama for keeping us from getting entrenched and overwhelmed in yet another complicated civil war with no end and no solution. . . . (Thanks to our friend, **Stef Kotsonis**, for the brief but illuminating explanation about Syria and ISIS, which is attached.)

September 2016

10: Hillary Clinton and the “basket of deplorables”

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1781182458766291&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

Hillary Clinton continues her hardline stand against Donald Trump’s right-wing extremists, aka a “basket of deplorables.” In fact, she’s telling it like it is. . . . This is the narrative that many of us have been waiting for. And, despite all the grief she’s taking at the moment, this is the narrative that will win her the Presidency. . . . (Note: After I put this up: Hillary Clinton issued a statement, saying that she regrets saying that “half” of Trump’s supporters fell in the “basket of deplorables.” However, she continues to stand by and defend the existence of Trump’s “basket of deplorables.”)

5: Labor Day-2016 and the upcoming election with Thomas Cole painting

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1779003505650853&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&type=3&theater>

AMERICA ON LABOR DAY 2016. . . . is bracing for the breathtaking and mind-numbing carnage that is about to occur, leading to the finale of the general-election campaign on November 8. We are about to witness the motherlode of scorched-earth politics, led by a ferocious Murderers' Row of shameless opposition-research specialists who will show no mercy and will never relent. . . . Cynically trying to increase their ratings and subscriptions by turning the campaign into a perpetual horse race, the media organizations will not only enable this conflict, but they will be complicit. And in the aftermath, we will all have been entertained, but we will also be diminished. . . . (With apologies to Thomas Cole and his artwork from the series, "The Voyage of Life.")

August 2016

19: Why I trust and believe in Bill and Hillary Clinton

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1772372939647243&id=100006236621784

Why I trust and believe in Bill and Hillary Clinton, both of whom I have investigated (From my 2013 memoir, *Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer*, page 429):

“As Bill Clinton took the oath of office in January 1993, the conservative Clinton-haters and heat-seeking media muckrakers were forced to regroup and refocus their attack. It was clear from the outset that Clinton would be held to standards of behavior that had never been applied to any other President while his enemies seemed prepared to blame him for anything and everything.

“Yet, Clinton had already established a record of frustrating his political foes because of their own inability to ask the right questions. Consequently—whether the issue was the President’s personal sex life, the draft, or smoking marijuana—the Clinton haters always tried to place him in a perpetual no-win situation, accusing him of not telling the full truth in response to their imprecise questions, earmarked for Clinton to self-destruct when he tried to answer them.

“But, simply speaking, Clinton refused to commit political suicide and mostly remained technically truthful when confronted with personal questions, which always infuriated his political detractors.”

July 2016

23: Promoting David Cay Johnston’s book about Donald Trump

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1762307167320487&id=100006236621784

This should be a very big book. . . . On August 2, Pulitzer Prize winning investigative journalist David Cay Johnston—the world’s expert on Donald Trump (along with the great Wayne Barrett)—will be releasing “The Making of Donald Trump.” . . .

June 2016

23: DEM on John Lewis and the anti-gun protest in the U.S. House

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1751433205074550&id=100006236621784

God bless Congressman John Lewis. . . . Before I became a full-time independent writer and investigator, my last formal job was at ACTION, the federal volunteer agency, during the final year of the Carter Administration. I was the executive assistant to the great Mary King, the Deputy Director of ACTION who was a SNCC activist prior to the purge. "The living saint," John Lewis, was ACTION’s Associate Director for Domestic Operations, and he asked me to write a few speeches for him the year before he ran for Atlanta City Council. It is one of the great honors of my life to have served him. . . . One thing that John taught me was that there is a time to step on

the gas, and there is a time to apply the brakes. . . . With Representative Lewis front and center in the Congressional battle to bring about common-sense gun laws, I am betting that he has decided that it's time to step on the gas. And between now and November, I am hoping that the Democrats will follow his lead on all such noble issues.

May 2016

7: DEM: “If Trump, the GOP, and Fox News want another showdown on the issue of morality . . .”

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1733598613524676&id=100006236621784

If Donald Trump, the GOP, and Fox News want another showdown on the issue of morality, then we'll be happy to give it to 'em again--just as when we kicked their asses during the impeachment drama. . . .

In his best-selling business book, “Damage Control,” author [Eric Dezenhall](#), a well-known conservative and arguably the best crisis manager in America, stated: "The Republicans' worst nightmare came when Flynt retained investigative reporter Dan E. Moldea, who had been standing up to Mafia kingpins, assassins, and corrupt union bosses for decades. Moldea . . . proceeded to systematically expose the sex lives of Republican congressional leaders on the grounds that they were not qualified to judge [President] Clinton's morality. Regardless of where one stands on the political spectrum and the techniques employed on both sides of the Clinton wars, one thing soon became clear: The strategy worked."

April 2016

26: Neither Hillary nor the GOP have cause to attack vulnerable Bernie Sanders--yet

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1729659287251942&id=100006236621784

Crusty but loveable, the unvetted and Teflon-coated Bernie Sanders is enjoying the best of all worlds. . . . The Republicans, who have an opposition-research arsenal capable of badly tarnishing his halo, want nothing more than to run against Bernie---whom even Carly Fiorina could beat in a general election. Thus, Fox News gives Bernie a pass---while it swiftboats Hillary 24-7. . . . CNN and MSNBC desperately need a close contest within the Democratic Party in order for these flailing networks to stay financially afloat, so they love-bomb Bernie, too--while attacking Hillary throughout most of the day. . . . Simultaneously, Hillary's opposition-research machine has stood down from the outset, refusing to attack Bernie for fear of jeopardizing party unity after the Democratic convention. . . . Meantime, Independent Bernie---who has absolutely nothing to lose--has been throwing roundhouse punches at Hillary, most of which are foul and below the belt, and complaining about "super-delegates," created by the Democratic Party as a firewall against bomb-throwing insurgents who promise everything but deliver nothing. . . . All the while, the intractable Jello Left stands by nodding their heads in agreement with Bernie's loose and irresponsible talk about a "revolution" they have no idea how to conduct against white men with guns and concealed-carry permits. . . . Truth be told, Hillary Clinton has been and remains the only person who stands between us and the abyss of right-wing extremism. . . . Note to my friends in Bernie's camp: "It's been fun. You've been great. But your candidate is losing a lot of respect because of his unfair and unwarranted attacks against Hillary Clinton."

15: DEM reveals that reporters from the *NYT* and Fox News are on the DC Madam's lists

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1725457781005426&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

Some of my colleagues in journalism are criticizing me, because I've advised attorney Blair Sibley to destroy the DC Madam's phone list, aka Pandora's Box. . . . My response? Among other untold dilemmas, there is a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter from the *New York Times* on the actual named list, who was not a hypocrite and doesn't deserve exposure. On the other hand, there is another reporter from Fox News, whose home phone number appears on a separate list and who deserves further scrutiny because of his shameless hypocrisy. . . . Unless the hypocrites on the lists can somehow be segregated from the non-hypocrites—especially those who are non-public figures—I continue to appeal to Blair Sibley to destroy the phone records and not violate the federal restraining order. Once again, releasing them would not be in the public interest.

11: DEM advice to Blair Sibley, arguing against the release of the files

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1724164284468109&id=100006236621784

Here's my expert advice to Blair Sibley, former attorney for the DC Madam, with regard to his anticipated release of her phone records: 1) Don't violate the restraining order and place yourself at risk for a contempt charge and imprisonment; 2) Don't destroy the lives of those non-public figures who are on the Verizon-815 list and have not demonstrated moral hypocrisy; and 3) If you do indeed have whack-job Ted Cruz on one of your lists---as many have already speculated---then don't allow bully-boy Donald Trump to be the beneficiary of your decision. The pragmatic Trump is far more dangerous than the ideologue Cruz, who has absolutely no chance to win a national election. . . . My advice?: Destroy the Verizon-815 list, which is what I did with the copy that the DC Madam gave me. Releasing it would not be in the public interest. . . .

6: DEM supports whack job Cruz over bully-boy Trump

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1722232514661286&id=100006236621784

Who is the beneficiary if Ted Cruz is brought down and defeated? It will be Donald Trump, an arrogant and vindictive man. I don't want to see Trump, a bully-boy who is capable of dragging everyone around him into the sewer, get the nomination. . . . So, just as the GOP is praying that they will be running against Bernie Sanders in the general election, I am hoping that the Democrats run against Ted Cruz, a complete and total ideological whack job who is an object of political disdain, even among his Republican colleagues in the U.S. Senate. . . . For a Democrat and a Hillary Clinton supporter, Ted Cruz is the dream-come-true Republican Presidential candidate. . . . Go Ted!

2: My lunch with Blair Sibley

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1720886214795916&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&type=3&theater>

I have just returned from lunch with Montgomery Blair Sibley, the former attorney for the DC Madam, at Café Deluxe in Washington. Overwhelmed by everything that is happening—thanks to Rachel Maddow on MSNBC in particular—he wisely continues to keep his cards close to his chest. . . . He wanted this picture taken and put on FB and Twitter, but I simply couldn't stop him from holding my action-packed memoir in which I discussed him and the tragic Jeane Palfrey, the DC Madam, in chapters 140-145. . . . Good luck with whatever the hell you're doing, Blair. And God bless Jeane.

1: Montgomery Blair Sibley's charges

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1720306134853924&id=100006236621784¬if_t=like¬if_id=1459510048317076

I have no idea how the renewed D.C. Madam drama is going to unfold during the next few days—featuring the real or imagined claims of her attorney, Montgomery Blair Sibley, which were heavily touted by Rachel Maddow the other night. But if you want to know 1) the inside story about the D.C. Madam case, 2) the book I was writing with her prior to her tragic death, 3) the

saga of the infamous phone records, and 4) how I exposed Senator David Vitter (R-LA), then feel free to read all about it in chapters 140-145 of my action-packed memoir, *Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer: Adventures in the Jungles of Crime, Politics, and Journalism*. . . . (Sorry. Under the circumstances, I just had to do that.)

March 2016

15: DEM criticism of MoveOn and Black Lives Matter for their protests against Trump

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1711335995750938&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

What the hell is wrong with the leadership at [MoveOn.org](#), Black Lives Matter, and all of the others who appear to be trying to disrupt Donald Trump's campaign rallies while the Republican Party is in the midst of a bitter, full-throated meltdown? Sabotaging their own best interests, the protesters are doing nothing more than giving the opposition—which is at war with itself—a desperately needed distraction, as well as a degree of common cause and a reason to unify. Trust me, most Republicans hate Black Lives Matter a lot more than they dread the prospect of Trump becoming their Presidential nominee. . . . MoveOn, the new intractable Tea Party of the intolerant Jello Left, is doing great damage to progressives with its undisciplined and even dangerous tactics which are playing right into the hands of knuckle-dragging right-wing extremists, many of whom are itching for violent confrontations.

Dudes, as the GOP civil war rages on, just get out the way and let Donald Trump and the others talk. The more they talk, the more votes they will lose in the November election.

3: Political hate speech by Donald Trump and Fox News and the threat of violence

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1707042442846960&id=100006236621784

An opinion from a grunt crime reporter. . . . I fear that it's 1968 again. More often than not, the kind of hate speech we are now hearing from people like Donald Trump will have horrible consequences by breeding and encouraging violence: Somebody could get killed. . . . To me, this monstrous situation has been exacerbated by the gods at Fox News, who for years have been both relentless and shameless by ratcheting up the hatred against President Obama, among other targets, with their mindless speculations, half-baked opinions, and poorly sourced facts, which have done nothing more than embolden and incite right-wing extremism. . . . We are, once again, in the midst of very dangerous times, and the extremists have guns—which, in many jurisdictions, they are now permitted to carry. . . . Tread carefully, my friends and colleagues.

February 2016

12: DEM's afternoon with Dick Gregory

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1700556593495545&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&type=3&theater>

This afternoon, I ran into civil-rights activist Dick Gregory, who gave a wonderful speech in 1971 at my school, the University of Akron, which literally changed my life in the aftermath of the 1970 shootings at nearby Kent State. I felt so honored to meet him. . . . After we talked for a few minutes about our mutual friends and interests, he asked me to have coffee with him.

Alternatively, I invited him to The Clubhouse, our local hangout for journalists and investigators, where [Jeff Stein](#) of *Newsweek* and I spent an interesting couple of hours with this funny and very intelligent, but extremely intense man who is still a crusader. At 84, he is still looking good and standing tall. . . . Below is a photograph I took of Dick at The Clubhouse. . .

January 2016

20: DEM on how the GOP would attack Bernie Sanders if he receives the nomination

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1693063154244889&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

An opinion from a grunt crime reporter. . . . The Republicans will not bother to make the distinction between whether Bernie Sanders is a Socialist or a Democratic Socialist—or even a Social Democrat. Donald Trump and other knuckle-draggers in the GOP have already tagged him as a Communist. And that’s only the beginning. . . . When the blood-sucking GOP opposition-research crowd gets done with Sanders, they will have portrayed him as an active member of the Politburo, and he will be slaughtered in November. . . . Unwittingly, Bernie Sanders, a good and decent man with the best of intentions, is the perfect Democratic candidate to help the Republicans regain the White House and get control of all three branches of government. . . . Hillary Clinton, already the target of the most malicious ongoing smear campaign in American politics, is the only person standing between us and the abyss of right-wing extremism.

18: On Hillary Clinton’s loyalty to her husband and President Obama

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1692430287641509&id=100006236621784

I love acts of loyalty. I love that Hillary Clinton remained loyal to her husband after his bad behavior and kept their family together. And I love that Hillary Clinton remains so enthusiastically loyal to President Obama.

2015

December 2015

30: Marco Rubio and his brother-in-law, the convicted drug trafficker

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1686248361593035&id=100006236621784

Marco, Marco, Marco--and his brother-in-law, the convicted drug trafficker: . . . The GOP bloodbath has hit fever pitch. Is this an example of “use it or lose it” time for Jeb Bush?

28: Ex-intelligence officers and their smear campaign against Bill and Hillary Clinton

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1685411628343375&id=100006236621784

SMEAR ALERT. . . . In 2007, I discussed and wrote about a group of creepy, knuckle-dragging ex-intelligence officers who were doing opposition research on Bill and Hillary Clinton during then-Senator Clinton’s first bid for the Democratic Presidential nomination. The group focused on the former President’s alleged bad behavior, especially since he left the White House. In other words, they were trying to sabotage Senator Clinton’s campaign through her husband. Because she did not receive the nomination in 2008, the group stood down. . . . But with the former Secretary of State seemingly the clear favorite to gain the nomination in 2016, the group is now gearing up again, preparing to launch a massive smear campaign against the Clintons with the same ferocity as the shameless Swift Boat Veterans attacked 2004 Democratic Presidential candidate John Kerry. . . . Of course, the term “swiftboating” has become synonymous with harsh political attacks that are dishonest, personal, and unfair. . . . Now, especially in view of thrice-married Donald Trump’s recent threats to go after Bill Clinton, I am doubling down on this story for the 2016 campaign. . . . Here is how Salon reported on what I had said and written in 2007:

November 2015

21: David Vitter loses the election for governor of Louisiana

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1675379082679963&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

You're welcome. . . .

U.S. Senator David Vitter—a Harvard grad, a Rhodes Scholar, and a darling among those on the right wing of the Republican Party—has lost the run-off election in Louisiana, giving the Democrats their first statewide-elected official since 2008. The resurrection of Vitter's role in the D.C. Madam scandal, which I uncovered and revealed, is credited with supercharging his defeat. . . . In addition, Vitter announced that he will not be seeking reelection to his seat in the U.S. Senate. . . . Big night. .

19: Overheard in a DC restaurant, comparing Syrian refugees with gun control

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1674781692739702&id=100006236621784¬if_t=like

Overheard in a Washington, D.C. restaurant. . . .

Man: "Background checks are not good enough. If only one Syrian refugee out of a thousand is used to perpetrate a violent act, it's not worth having them here in America."

Woman: "Will you apply that same logic to the sale and possession of firearms?"

Man: [Silence]

18: The Koch Intelligence Agency, surveilling the left (with Russia?)

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1674595839424954&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

From Politico: "The political network helmed by Charles and David Koch has quietly built a secretive operation that conducts surveillance and intelligence gathering on its liberal opponents, viewing it as a key strategic tool in its efforts to reshape American public life."

16: DEM's support for President Obama's reaction to ISIS after the Paris attack

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1674196816131523&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

An opinion from a grunt crime reporter. . . . In response to President Obama's level-headed decision this morning to stay the course with our already aggressive actions against ISIS and not engage further in a variety of complicated civil wars in and around the Near and Middle East, the chicken hawks on Fox News and some on the Jello Left are claiming a lack of leadership because he won't authorize an escalated military assault, including the placement of ground troops wherever ISIS is active. . . . But, if and when that would occur, among other consequences, some brave American soldiers would inevitably be captured by ISIS, whose leaders would predictably use them as tools of propaganda. They would place them in cages and then film them getting their heads cut off. . . . The American public's emotional reaction to such brutality against our men and woman in uniform could eventually provoke a nuclear Armageddon, and that's what ISIS has wanted all along. ISIS has anticipated our overreaction. . . . The President is remaining cool and analytical, trying to avoid the mistakes we made after 9-11, especially the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the biggest political and military blunder in American history which has caused most if not all of the problems in that region ever since—including the creation of ISIS.

14: Re The Paris tragedy: Fabrizio Calvi on Mark Rossini

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1673772492840622&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

An important article by our friend, investigative journalist [Fabrizio Calvi](#) in Paris, about our friend, former FBI special agent [Mark Rossini](#), currently in Dijon in eastern France. . . God bless the dead and wounded in this latest cowardly terrorist attack. (Mark's English version of his views is in the comments section, below.)

October 2015

30: *The Washington Post* on how DEM got Senator David Vitter

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1670453029839235&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

U.S. Senator David Vitter (R-LA), a family-values conservative and a key supporter of the federal sanctity of marriage amendment, is in the midst of a contentious run-off election as governor of Louisiana, slated for November 21. . . . In July 2007, I discovered Vitter's phone number in the private records of the "D.C. Madam," Deborah Jeane Palfrey, a law-school dropout who had asked me to write a book about her life and times. . . . However, after Jeane was convicted in a federal conspiracy case (a conspiracy of one), she committed suicide in Florida. Although Vitter publicly admitted his indiscretions, he was reelected in 2010. . . . Notably, in 1999, Vitter replaced Rep. Bob Livingston (R-LA) as the representative to Louisiana's 1st Congressional District. My earlier investigation of Livingston had led to his resignation as U.S. Speaker-Designate on the day of President Clinton's impeachment, December 19, 1998.

Here is the *Washington Post* version of how I got the goods on Senator Vitter:

17: *The Washington Post* on Donald Trump and the mob

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1667787710105767&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

Donald Trump and the Mafia. . . .

13: "Brava, Hillary Clinton," my post-debate analysis, along with her Benghazi testimony

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1667010276850177&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&type=3&theater>

Brava, Hillary Clinton. . . .

(Photo by DEM, 2007) — with [Huma Abedin](#) and [Hillary Clinton](#).

8: My report on Rep. Hal Rogers after Kevin McCarthy pulled out as House Speaker candidate

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1665752896975915&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

Here's the 2011 report of the investigation I did for CREW on U.S. Representative Hal Rogers (R-KY) who is really bad news. (For a good time, read the full report, which can be found by clicking the url, below. I can't seem to get rid of the attachment which says that the page cannot be found.)

1: My 1987 *Regardie's* story about the National Rifle Association after mass shooting in Oregon

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1664245167126688&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

This is a cover story I did for the April 1987 issue of *Regardie's* magazine, detailing the internal battle within the National Rifle Association between the moderate right and the extreme right. . . . In the end, the extreme right won and continues its iron rule. . . . Meantime, God bless the dead in Oregon in the wake of today's latest mass shooting.

September 2015

30: My support for President Obama on Syria . . . “Chill”

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1664003943817477&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&type=3&theater>

I don't know what he knows about or plans for Syria, but I continue to believe in and support this great President.

August 2015

27: DEM on the Jello Left

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1654264614791410&id=100006236621784

From *Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer*, Chapter 136: “Buried Alive by the Jello Left”:
“One thing I will say for most conservatives is that after political combat they return to the battlefield, pick up their wounded, and nurse them back to health—so that they'll be ready for the next big fight.

“No matter how many times right-wing blowhards—like Rush Limbaugh (alleged drug abuse), Bill Bennett (alleged gambling addiction), and Bill O'Reilly (alleged unrequited sexual advances towards an employee)—screw up, they always return to the front lines with the enthusiastic support of their rabid fans and the implicit support of the conservative wing of the Republican Party. They forgive these media stars for their lack of accountability, even though they demand it from everyone else.

“The Left, on the other hand, has a long history of leaving its wounded bleeding on the field of battle—or simply burying them alive. There is little loyalty among liberals for other liberals, especially for independent operators who work outside the mainstream.”

On The Right, case in point, . . . [Roger Stone](#). See:

16: On the death of Julian Bond

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1650552408495964&id=100006236621784

God bless the great Julian Bond who died last night:

12: First FB promotion of the second edition of *A Washington Tragedy*

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1649453285272543&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

In order to understand today's rough-and-tumble, go-for-the-throat political atmosphere—especially with regard to Hillary Clinton—you need to understand the investigations of the death of Vincent Foster. . . . This is that story—updated and newly released today in print and as an eBook.

“Apart from the Fiske and Starr Reports, the most accurate, comprehensive account of the Foster suicide and its aftermath is *A Washington Tragedy* by Dan E. Moldea” (from Joe Conason and Gene Lyons in their bestselling book, “The Hunting of the President”)

See:

June 2015

28: Chief Justice John Roberts with friends

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1636434546574417&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&type=3>

Feared and respected opposition-researcher [Michael Rogers](#) discovered this rather interesting photograph: Note the young man on the left . . . a future Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

May 2015

23: Defending Sid Blumenthal

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1623438301207375&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

Is anyone else getting tired of all the unfair grief that is being hurled against Sid Blumenthal, the Archangel for Bill and Hillary Clinton? I fully expect the far, extreme, and crazy right wing of the Republican Party to despise him, as well as those journalists in Washington who desperately tried but flat-out failed to bring down President Bill Clinton and are now determined to continue their cynical efforts against Hillary Clinton. . . . Yes, I get that. . . . But Sid Blumenthal is a first-class family man, writer, and investigator who understands the real “enemy within” in today’s political world and has been fighting accordingly. If I were in a political battle, I would want Sid in my corner.

11: *The Hunting of Hillary* by Joe Conason and Gene Lyons

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1618652361685969&id=100006236621784

This is must reading--and, for a limited time, it's free. . . . "The Hunting of Hillary," a new e-book, by [Joe Conason](#) and [Gene Lyons](#), based on their fabulous bestselling 2000 book, "The Hunting of the President: The Ten-Year Campaign to Destroy Bill and Hillary Clinton." . . .

April 2015

23: General Petraeus sentenced – will likely go to Fox News

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1612853572265848&id=100006236621784

Today's perpetrator is tomorrow's star on Fox News. . . .

Mark Fuhrman is a convicted perjurer, but gets hired by Fox News to provide analysis about crime. Bill O'Reilly is a provable liar and fabricator, but keeps his top-rated show on Fox where he accuses his legitimate critics of lying. Sean Hannity lied about what happened to the money raised from his "Freedom Concerts," but all of the 2016 Republican Presidential candidates seem to wind up on his nightly Fox program, which panders to the far, extreme, and crazy right. . . . General Petraeus will also enjoy his own second act in the not-too-distant future.

February

20: On Corn v. O'Reilly, Part 2

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1589516871266185&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

I just watched Bill O'Reilly who continued to mischaracterize his supposed war reporting tonight on his show. Just as during the Andrea Mackris sex scandal—for which he still has never been publicly held to account—O'Reilly distracted his viewers away from the charges actually made against him by concocting non-issues never claimed by [David Corn](#) and then using two well-paid Fox News stooges, Geraldo Rivera and Bernie Goldberg, to support him. . . . I have worked with David Corn on several occasions, and I stand by him. His reporting about O'Reilly was completely accurate and on target. . . . Here is David's point-by-point response to O'Reilly's phony tap dance tonight.

19: David Corn's article about Bill O'Reilly's lies about his war-reporting experiences

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1589209331296939&id=100006236621784

Investigative journalist and best-selling author [David Corn](#), the Washington editor of Mother Jones magazine, has accused cowardly right-wing blowhard and world-class hypocrite Bill O'Reilly of Fox News of lying about his war-reporting experiences. In his usual pithy yet degenerate manner, O'Reilly has responded by calling David a "despicable jerk" and a "pig."

Will Fox News, already an alleged criminal enterprise, hold O'Reilly to the same standards of honesty and integrity that NBC has held Brian Williams--who, of course, was relentlessly attacked by O'Reilly and Fox for the exaggerations of his own wartime experiences?

In this battle, I'm betting on David Corn, the respected reporter who gave the world Mitt Romney's "47-percent speech," the defining moment of the 2012 Presidential election.

12: Mark Fuhrman of Fox News, convicted perjurer, in light of Brian Williams's sins

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1586156461602226&id=100006236621784

Convicted perjurer Mark Fuhrman, the racist former LAPD junior detective, remains on the Fox News payroll as a news analyst while Fox News relentlessly dances on Brian Williams's head because of the NBC news anchor's exaggerations. . . . What? No sky-is-falling outrage over Fuhrman's provable lies from the zombie-stooges who love Fox News?

January 2015

9: Support for the French journalists killed in the terrorist attack in Paris

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1573875482830324&id=100006236621784

The list of the 1106 journalists killed in the line of duty worldwide since 1992, compiled by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). . . <https://www.cpj.org/killed/>. . . . God bless those murdered yesterday in Paris.

6: Declaration of support for President Obama

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1573198819564657&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&type=3&theater>

Today, an unprecedented onslaught of right-wing Republicans will take over both houses of Congress and begin their final assault against Barack Obama with the complicity of Fox News. President Obama is a courageous visionary with a remarkable record of achievements in office despite the malicious and unparalleled attempts to sabotage his Presidency. . . . As a personal declaration, I will continue to fight for and defend President Obama.

2014

December 2014

20: 16th anniversary of Bob Livingston's resignation and Bill Clinton's impeachment

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1565503570334182&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

Yesterday was the 16th anniversary of the resignation of U.S. House Speaker Designate Bob Livingston (R-LA) after I caught him having an affair while he was in the midst of using the Monica Lewinsky matter to supercharge the impeachment of President Bill Clinton which occurred later that same day. However, with the Republicans' hypocrisy clear and present for all to see, President Clinton's approval rating skyrocketed to 73 percent, ending nearly all calls for his resignation and derailing any chance the Republicans—whom we continued to pursue and expose—had to convict the President at the Senate trial. . . . You're welcome.

In the aftermath of my work and the President's acquittal, I survived a federal investigation and a possible criminal indictment, promoted by the Republican National Committee, for obstruction of Congress, jury tampering, and blackmail.

Get ready for the knuckle draggers who will take control of both houses of Congress at the beginning of January to make a similar move against President Barack Obama. . . . We will be there for him, too.

November 2014

23: On Marion Barry's death

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1555190941365445&id=100006236621784

The former mayor of Washington, D.C., Marion Barry, had a heart attack and died this morning. Legal or moral considerations aside, I liked and respected this man. I thought he was a great mayor, especially during his first two terms, who genuinely cared about the poor and powerless in a city that is all about wealth and power. . . . God bless Mayor Barry.

19: David Horsey political cartoon with Obama as Caesar and the Senators with knives

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1553915684826304&id=100006236621784

The way it is, has been, and will be . . .

4: My view of Jello Left after midterm disaster

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1548085052076034&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

The Jello Left needs a lesson in loyalty. The main problem in this election was the cowardice of Democratic candidates who refused to embrace—or even finesse support for—President Obama and his progressive agenda. By running away from him early on and not defending his programs and successes, those Democrats did nothing less than validate the ongoing sabotage of the Obama presidency by the Republicans and Fox News.

3: Obama victories ignored prior to midterms

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1547533228797883&id=100006236621784

"You'd never guess that the economy is growing at 3.5 percent, unemployment is below 6 percent and gas prices are way, way down." — Rachel Maddow, November 3, 2014. See:

September 2014

27: My interview with James Traficant

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1532458996971973&id=100006236621784

The Mafia and the Congressman: My 1985 interview with James Traficant

Here is a rough-and-tumble 1985 interview I did with James Traficant, a former county sheriff in Youngstown, Ohio—who was indicted by a federal grand jury in 1982 for accepting money from the Mafia. In the presentation of their case, federal prosecutors had, among other evidence: 1) tape recordings of Traficant accepting the bribes, 2) the testimonies of several witnesses to the payoffs, and 3) Traficant’s own signed confession.

Still, Traficant, who was not a lawyer, pled not guilty, fired his defense attorneys, and represented himself at trial—inexplicably winning a complete acquittal in an episode that the U.S. Department of Justice has yet to live down.

And then, after all of that, the people of Youngstown, Ohio, elected Traficant to Congress. See: <http://www.moldea.com/Traficant.html>.

10: My picture of Clinton-Gore

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1527912400759966&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

Twenty years ago, my cousin, Jim, and his family from Cleveland visited me in Washington, D.C. While seeing the sights, we were walking on the sidewalk near the northwest edge of the White House grounds—at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and West Executive Avenue—when Jim handed me his camera and asked me to photograph his wife, Marcy, and their three children with the White House in the background.

Pointing the camera to the east, I was taking pictures of the four of them when I heard a commotion behind me in the direction of the Blair House across the street. I turned around quickly and blindly snapped this picture of President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore.

Why were the President and Vice President smiling? As they were walking by, Jim—notoriously friendly and fearless—called out, “Greetings from my ‘cousins’ in Cleveland, Peggy Zone-Fisher and her husband, Lee Fisher!”

In 1994, Lee Fisher was the attorney general for the state of Ohio. Peggy was a highly-regarded businesswoman from one of Cleveland’s most respected families. They were also major Clinton-Gore supporters.

Both the President and the Vice President stopped and told Jim to send their best regards, along with those of their wives, to the Fisher-Zone families.

BTW: This brief encounter was the first and only time I had met President Clinton. <http://www.moldea.com/Clinton-Gore.html>

August 2014

18: POGO’s interview with me about CGW

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1513918252159381&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

Did I help save the Clinton presidency during the impeachment battle and then face a possible criminal indictment for obstruction of Congress, jury tampering, and blackmail for doing so?

As a matter of fact, I did. And I finally come clean during this penetrating interview. Please forgive me for all of my sins, real or imagined. . . .

Thanks to the Project on Government Oversight (POGO) and its wonderful staff for all of their outstanding work throughout the year—year after year.

See: <http://www.pogo.org/.../investigative-reporter-dan-moldea-com...>

6: DEM at the Watergate hearings, behind John Dean with Bob Corlett

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1510564779161395&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&type=3&theater>

Up against the back wall over John Dean's left shoulder on June 25, 1973—as the former White House counsel takes the oath on the opening day of his testimony before the Senate Watergate Committee in this famous (but cropped) AP photo—I am the 23-year-old stiff wearing the tie, standing next to the cool guy with the long dark hair, the beard, and the shades: my old friend from Akron, Ohio, and a wonderful musician, [Bob Corlett](#), who still has his own band, [Zydeco Kings](#).

And . . . oh, yeah, Saturday, August 9, is the 40th anniversary of Richard Nixon's resignation as President

May 2014

4: CGW on Kent State with my 1982 photo of the shooting site

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1484630128421527&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&type=3&theater>

This is a 1982 photograph I took of the May 4, 1970, Kent State shooting site.

From *Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer*:

When we arrived on Monday, May 4, just before 9:00 A.M., the atmosphere on campus was tense. Even though we smelled no tear gas and saw no Guardsmen point their guns at anyone, both of us were afraid. And, because nearly everyone else seemed either equally scared or just plain pissed off, we decided to leave Kent, especially since Susan's morning classes had been canceled because of bomb threats. She didn't even want to go to her room in the dorm to pick up anything.

Susan was lucky that her parents lived nearby, and I was lucky to have a car. Most of the kids on campus were trapped there. I took Susan to a diner just outside Kent for breakfast and then back to her parents' home. Returning to the University of Akron, I then attended my own classes.

When I walked into the student center at a little after 2:00 P.M., the entire place was buzzing. Seeing some friends playing bridge at a corner table, I asked what was going on.

They told me that the National Guard had opened fire into a crowd of anti-war demonstrators at Kent State. Few details were available. But rumors were flying that scores of students had been shot and killed, and that several Guardsmen had been hit by sniper fire.

Shocked and shaken, I simply couldn't believe what I was hearing, telling them that I had been on Kent's campus earlier in the morning but hadn't seen any violence, just fear and anger.

That same afternoon, while listening to a bitter debate about the war in the lobby of the student center, a friend and I were surprised to find ourselves in agreement with the anti-war activists. Then, along with several others in the crowd, both of us grabbed our wallets, pulled out our draft

cards, and burned them.

For me, this overt act of defiance was a point of no return.

By nightfall, news reports clarified some of what had happened at Kent State. Four students had been shot to death and nine were wounded. There had never been any student snipers. The thirteen second barrage of gunfire had occurred at 12:24 P.M., a little over three hours after Susan and I had left Kent.

That night in Akron, I was at my part time job as an ID checker at an off-campus bar. The guy who owned the joint was a friend and saw how overwrought I was over the shootings. Midway through my shift, he instructed me to clock out for the evening and go to the rally on Akron's campus, protesting the shootings and the war.

I went and was just another face in the crowd. Jim Heinisch, one of my fraternity brothers, was the editor of the student newspaper and a leader of the demonstration. He picked me out of the mass of people and invited me to be among the dozens of students who were delivering brief statements.

When I told him I didn't know what to do, he instructed me to say whatever was in my heart. It was the first time I had ever spoken to an angry crowd. I'm sure that whatever I said was completely unintelligible—but I did get up there and speak.

During the days that followed, like tens of thousands of other students across the nation, I wore a black arm band and participated in the national moratorium for the four dead white students at Kent State—Allison Krause, Jeff Miller, Sandy Scheuer, and Bill Schroeder—and later two black students at Jackson State—Phillip Gibbs and James Earl Green—who were shot and killed in a hail of police gunfire on May 14. None of us knew any of these kids when they were alive, but nearly all of us now felt a genuine connection to them and their families in the wake of their deaths.

1: CGW on Jeane Palfrey on the 6th anniversary of her death

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1483874765163730&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&type=3&theater>

Today is the sixth anniversary of the suicide of the D.C. Madam, Deborah Jeane Palfrey, who asked me to write her doomed memoir in May 2007. Notably, her undergraduate degree was in criminal justice, and she had spent a year in law school.

Shortly after I completed my investigation and exposé of U.S. Senator David Vitter (R-Louisiana)—a self-proclaimed “family values” Christian and co-author of ... See More — with Deborah Jeane Palfrey (DEM).

April 2014

28: DEM on Donald Sterling and Mark Fuhrman, racists

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1483121198572420&id=100006236621784

Re: Donald Sterling, Cliven Bundy, Mark Fuhrman, and Fox News

The outrage on Fox News over the racist remarks of Donald Sterling of the Los Angeles Clippers and that crazy cowboy, Cliven Bundy (whom Fox had earlier embraced), rings hollow in light of the network's long and continuing association with former LAPD junior detective Mark Fuhrman, who pleaded no-contest to perjury charges in October 1996, stemming from his repeated use of the

“n-word” which he lied about during his sworn testimony in the midst of the O.J. Simpson trial. Fuhrman’s lies helped to derail the prosecution’s murder case against the ex-football star. Be assured that Fuhrman—now a convicted felon who had almost nothing to do with the actual Simpson murder investigation—will lead Fox News’s upcoming coverage of the twentieth anniversary of the June 12, 1994, murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman.

Like Fuhrman—now a convicted felon—racists Sterling and Bundy could find redemption at Fox News. Sterling could be a color commentator on Fox’s sporting events. Bundy could be a regular on O’Reilly and Hannity, railing against big government.

For more on the Simpson case—and details of Fuhrman’s bad behavior and blatant racism—see the 1997 bestselling book—Evidence Dismissed: The Inside Story of the Police Investigation of O.J. Simpson—which I wrote with the two lead detectives of the murder investigation: Tom Lange and Philip Vannatter, both of whom were honorable men and outstanding investigators.

11: DEM photos of Hillary Clinton

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1478378145713392&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

Thank goodness she is safe after the shoe-throwing incident yesterday at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. . . . In 2007, I had the pleasure to be in the same place at the same time as then-U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton—and I took a couple of nice pictures of this wonderful woman. See: <http://www.moldea.com/SenatorHillaryClinton.html>.

10: DEM and David Corn for *The Nation*, “Influence Peddling—Bush Style”

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1478131155738091&id=100006236621784

If and when Jeb Bush runs for President, it will be a field day for opposition research. Here is an October 2000 article that David Corn and I co-authored for *The Nation* about the Bush family and their long relationship with the mysterious Chinese-born Dhanin Chearavanont, one of the wealthiest people in Asia, and his family-owned company, the CP Group. See: <http://www.thenation.com/arti.../influence-peddling-bush-style#>.

8: On Billy K’s book *Stiffed* and Al Sharpton

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1477672635783943&id=100006236621784

The New York Post--which is owned by the same parent company as Fox News--is making much of Rev. Al Sharpton and his history as an informant for the FBI. That news is old news. See [Bill Knoedelseder's](#) fabulous 1993 book, *Stiffed*, which explains what really happened. http://www.amazon.com/Stiffed-Story-Music-Bus.../.../ref=sr_1_4...

2: DEM on work for CREW: Sean Hannity and the Freedom Concerts

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1475944895956717&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

Attached are the results of a lengthy investigation I did in 2010 for CREW, a Washington-based public-interest watchdog group, about Fox News anchor Sean Hannity and his so-called “Freedom Concerts.” We alleged that Hannity used these popular events to do little more than finance his right-wing agenda—and not exclusively for the stated purpose of raising scholarship money for the children of killed and wounded soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The immediate beneficiary of the enormous amount of money raised by Hannity and his allegedly “illegal and deceptive marketing practices” was an organization called Freedom Alliance, which touts Oliver North of Iran-Contra fame as its “Honorary Chairman.” North is now a commentator for Fox News.

While promoting his Freedom Concerts, Hannity made such statements as, “Every penny, 100 percent of the donations are applied to the Freedom Alliance scholarship fund.” North added, “There’s no overhead. There’s no expenses taken out. Every penny that’s donated or that’s raised through things like the Freedom Concerts” goes to the scholarship fund.

The evidence shows that such statements were demonstrably false.

Based upon my research, attorneys with the group for which I did this investigation wrote complaints to both the Internal Revenue Service and the Federal Trade Commission. Four years later, we are still waiting for action.

To review the individual complaints, our documentation for each, and the official responses from the IRS and the FTC, see: <http://www.scribd.com/.../CREW-Federal-Trade-Commission-FTC-a...>

March 2014

25: DEM photo of Gloria Steinem

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1473595126191694&id=100006236621784

Today is the 80th birthday of Gloria Steinem. I had the honor to interview her 33 years ago when she was still a kid at 47. Here's a photograph I took of this multi-talented woman back then..

21: On death of Lawrence Walsh, IC of Iran-Contra

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1472334376317769&id=100006236621784

During the 1980s, President Ronald Reagan illegally sold arms to Iran and then secretly diverted the profits from those sales to finance his illegal war in Nicaragua. When he was finally caught, Reagan, at first, lied about everything. But when confronted with the evidence, he modified his original denial—and merely claimed a bad case of amnesia.

Can you imagine the GOP’s reaction if Bill Clinton or Barack Obama had pulled such a stunt? Lawrence Walsh—the U.S. Independent Counsel who investigated the Iran-Contra Affair, as well as the corruption of Reagan's stooges—died on Wednesday. Here is the *Washington Post's* obituary about this honest man:<http://www.washingtonpost.com/.../bf505f74-b04a-11e3-95e8-39b....>

February 2014

17: Excerpt of Gabriel Sherman’s book on Fox, Bill O’Reilly and Andrea Mackris

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1459911497560057&id=100006236621784

How much hush money did Bill O'Reilly of Fox News pay Andrea Mackris? And why is that blowhard—who demands accountability from everyone else—not being held accountable for that? Here is how Gabriel Sherman reported it in his new book:<http://www.newsweek.com/oreilly-fracture-228136>.

January 2014

28: On Pete Seeger, “What Side Are You On?”

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1447920862092454&id=100006236621784

Knowing that I have spent my entire career—as an independent investigative journalist and the author of eight nonfiction books—rightly or wrongly taking sides on public issues, my good friend, [Pamela Johnson](#), just sent my favorite Pete Seeger song, “Which Side Are You On?” . . .

My dad didn’t work in a coal mine, but I have always been inspired by Seeger’s message about living life with honor and principle, especially during those moments when I have fallen short of both.

Click: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XEnTxIBuGo>

13: Arthur Fox on “Inequality”

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1444836472400893&id=100006236621784

Renowned Teamsters-reform attorney Arthur Fox, a widely-respected public-interest litigator, speaks out on economic inequality and the absolute necessity for strong and vibrant labor unions. He provides a brief but remarkably on-point analysis of the current state of America’s middle class and its “utter lack of meaningful bargaining power.”

See: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/.../income-inequality-the-defin...>

2013

December 2013

31: Ethelbert interview of DEM on UDC-TV

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1440327436185130&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

In this truly penetrating end-of-the-year interview on UDC-TV about my new book, *Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer*, author and poet Ethelbert Miller plunges into the deepest recesses of my shallow psyche and emerges unscathed with my freaking soul. . . . Happy 2014 to all of us!

5: On the death of Nelson Mandela, Hugh Masekela

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1433567880194419&id=100006236621784

A great and fearless man has died. . . . Ethelbert Miller's homage to Nelson Mandela--which I share with my family and friends.

November 2013

6: NYT article on Governor Christie’s Mafia connection

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1426772957540578&id=100006236621784

A past and future area of political research: Governor Chris Christie and the Mafia.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/24/nyregion/24christie.html...>

October 2013

17: CGW: On the GOP exploitation of Vincent Foster, Part 2

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1421462914738249&id=100006236621784

Excerpt: Chapter 110: “[The GOP’s exploitation of the suicide of Vincent Foster: Part 2]”

The *New York Times*, in the midst of the 1992 campaign, had touted a series of questionable stories about the Whitewater real-estate project in Arkansas, sourced, in part, to Bill Clinton's most partisan and vicious enemies in Arkansas. However, the Times, which broke the Whitewater story just prior to the 1992 Super Tuesday primaries, refused to relent or correct its mistakes, despite clear evidence that conflicted with their news accounts. Regardless of its errors, the newspaper continued to suggest that this land deal provided a watershed of data indicative of Clinton's corruption and lack of character.

Nevertheless, Clinton won Super Tuesday and became the Democratic front-runner. By the time of Clinton's election victory over Republican President George H. W. Bush and Reform Party candidate Ross Perot the following November, Whitewater had come to nothing. Refusing to admit it, the *New York Times* had been embarrassed by its own reporting, which, according to many experts, had been sloppy and unprofessional.

Consequently, as Clinton took the oath of office in January 1993, the conservative Clinton-haters and heat-seeking media muckrakers were forced to regroup and refocus their attack. It was clear from the outset that Clinton would be held to standards of behavior that had never been applied to any other President while his enemies seemed prepared to blame him for anything and everything. Yet, Clinton had already established a record of frustrating his political foes because of their own inability to ask the right questions. Consequently—whether the issue was the President's personal sex life, the draft, or smoking marijuana—the Clinton haters always tried to place him in a perpetual no-win situation, accusing him of not telling the full truth in response to their imprecise questions, earmarked for Clinton to self-destruct when he tried to answer them.

But, simply speaking, Clinton refused to commit political suicide and mostly remained technically truthful when confronted with personal questions, which always infuriated his political detractors. Frankly, after my libel case, *Moldea v. New York Times*, I could attest that media lawyers routinely did the same thing, twisting and torturing the English language in order to allow their clients' to evade responsibility for their mistakes.

Even though the press did not give the Clinton Administration the traditional honeymoon enjoyed by most new administrations, the only reporting that actually drew some blood resulted from the questionable firings of seven employees in the White House Travel Office during the spring of 1993. But, because the Democrats controlled both houses of Congress, no one anticipated any formal investigation.

Then, after Vincent Foster's suicide in late-July 1993, interest in the already-discredited Whitewater case was renewed by journalists who believed that more reporting needed to be done. Even though Foster's role in Whitewater was minor, the implications from the news stories led to editorials, essays, and opinion pieces—particularly in the *Wall Street Journal*, as well as the *New York Times* and the *Washington Times*—openly suggesting a White House cover up. Speculation ran rampant that a truly depressed Foster might have killed himself in order to avoid prosecution or to protect some dark secret about the Clintons revolving around Whitewater.

During my investigation, I discovered that immediately after the Foster case was closed by the Park Police and the FBI, reporters had alleged—based on several erroneous statements by Major Robert Hines, a top official in the Park Police—that Whitewater documents had been removed from Foster's office after an official search.

In reality, the four Park Police officers who had actually seen these documents admitted to me that, at the time of Foster's suicide, they didn't even know what Whitewater was. One laughed, "We couldn't have made a distinction between Whitewater land records and whitewater rafting records."

According to my investigation, Hines had based his false statements on nothing more than bad rumors, which he then made worse by stating them as facts to the media. Hines's role in this investigation was not insignificant because his comments to the press wound up giving Whitewater a new life.

Consequently, even though no wrongdoing had been shown, the Washington press corps demanded that the White House, which had made several missteps of its own, release the missing Whitewater documents from Foster's office.

These errors and misrepresentations by the media brought the then-Republican minority in Congress to life as they began demanding the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate Whitewater.

Even though the grounds for this action were dubious at best, Attorney General Janet Reno bowed to these demands in January 1994 and appointed attorney Robert Fiske, a respected Republican and a former U.S. Attorney in Manhattan, to probe Whitewater and Foster's death.

After a six-month investigation and the release of his interim report, Fiske, in cooperation with the FBI, was able to explain most of the controversies in the Foster case—including those surrounding the mystery man in the white van, who was identified—and corroborated the conclusion by the Park Police and the FBI that Foster had committed suicide.

Fiske declared that Foster had been depressed over his role in the Travel Office scandal, as well as the bad press he had received, especially on the rabidly anti Clinton editorial page of the *Wall Street Journal*.

To no one's surprise, disappointed right wing extremists loudly criticized the work of Bob Fiske, their fellow Republican. Senator Lauch Faircloth (R-North Carolina) and Congressman Dan Burton (R-Indiana) angrily demanded Fiske's immediate dismissal. Faircloth was Fiske's most vocal critic during the U.S. Senate Banking Committee's oversight hearings in July that scrutinized the independent counsel's interim report.

As Fiske continued to investigate the White House's handling of the files found in Foster's office, President Clinton signed a new Independent Counsel Act into law. However, the procedure called for the appointment of independent counsels, not by the Attorney General but, by a panel of three appellate judges, who were appointed by the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court—just as the act had originally been written in 1978.

In a surprise move on August 5, 1994, the three judge panel replaced Fiske with Kenneth Starr, who, by the way, was the author of "The World Amicus" in *Moldea v. New York Times*. The following week, President Clinton appointed Abner Mikva—who was one of the three appellate judges and the original lone dissenter in my case—as his new White House counsel. . . .

16: CGW: On the GOP exploitation of Vincent Foster, Part 1

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Excerpt: Chapter 109, “[The GOP’s exploitation of the suicide of Vincent Foster: Part 1]”

Leaving the White House at a little after 1:00 P.M. on July 20, 1993, [Deputy White House Counsel Vincent] Foster drove his 1989 gray Honda Accord to Fort Marcy Park just off the George Washington Parkway in McLean, Virginia. He parked his car next to a trail that led to a large open grove.

Taking off his blue pin-striped suit coat and tie, he placed them on the front passenger seat of his car, along with his White House pass and his wallet, which contained, among other things, a list of three local psychiatrists.

After loosening the top button of his white shirt, Foster opened the glove compartment and reached for an oven mitt in which he had concealed an antique, black-colored .38-Colt revolver. Inside the cylinder were two live rounds of round-nose lead ammunition.

He placed the gun in his left-front pocket, unknowingly transferring a portion of a sunflower-seed husk from the oven mitt. Leaving his car unlocked and the oven mitt in the glove compartment, Foster walked through the park, passing a Civil War cannon in a large grove, and into a smaller grove nearly 250 yards from his car. Upon entering this heavily wooded area, he saw a second cannon.

He switched off his White House pager, sat in front of the cannon's barrel, and removed the gun from his left pocket. Bracketed by dense foliage, he was facing downhill.

He cocked the hammer of the revolver. Placing his right thumb on the trigger and steadying the weapon with his left hand, he put the gun in his mouth and fired a single shot.

The bullet perforated his brain and crashed out the back of his skull, killing him instantly. The backlash caused his eyeglasses to fall from his face and tumble down the hill. His hands fell limply downhill at his sides with the gun still in his right hand—his thumb trapped in the trigger guard. A stream of blood trickled from his mouth and nose, soaking the right shoulder of his shirt. More blood from a small exit wound in the back of his head flowed down the hill and soaked the ground beneath him, as well as the back of his shirt.

Plain and simple, Foster, who left no suicide note, had taken his own life. But no one had seen him do it, and no one had heard the shot. In fact, no known person had even seen him alive in the park. A mystery man in a white van, who had stopped in the park to urinate in the woods, stumbled upon the body at about 6:00 P.M. Quickly leaving the area, the mystery man—who was later identified—went to a nearby maintenance station for the National Park Service and told an employee what he had found, asking him to call the police. Then, the mystery man vanished into the rush-hour traffic.

The park service employee dutifully called the local rescue squad and then the U.S. Park Police, which had jurisdiction. Within minutes, two rescue teams and a lone Park Police officer, who had been stationed nearby, arrived at the scene. The officer, Kevin Fornshill, joined two of the rescue workers in their frantic search for the reported dead body, splitting off from them in the main grove and finding his way into a shady grove. There, Fornshill located the unidentified body and called for the paramedics.

Within minutes, police investigators arrived at the crime scene and began a routine investigation which found no evidence of a struggle and no reason to believe that Foster, who was identified after a search of his car, had been murdered.

However, during that probe, some police mistakes were made. Evidence was left unchecked, and questions remained unanswered.

Also, in the midst of the Park Police probe, the White House Counsel's Office, which did not order Foster's office sealed until the day after his death, initially stalled police investigators, preventing them from conducting interviews and searching the office. When the police were finally permitted to speak with four of the last known White House staffers to have seen Foster alive, the interviews were monitored and, in one case, disrupted by members of the Counsel's Office.

Earlier, the police had agreed to the Counsel's Office request to allow attorneys from the Department of Justice to serve as intermediaries during a review of the documents in Foster's office. As the police understood the arrangement: If the White House declared a privilege on a particular document and did not want to show it to the police, then the attorneys from Justice would view the material and decide on the merits of the claim.

But, instead, White House Counsel Bernard Nussbaum—aggressively protecting the rights of his client—conducted the search unilaterally two days after Foster's death, refusing to allow either the Park Police or the attorneys from the Justice Department to participate in the search or to see any documents. Consequently, the police investigators and the Justice Department lawyers suspected that the White House was hiding something.

Immediately, the media went into its predictable frenzy. They detailed the close friendship that Foster had enjoyed with the President and especially the First Lady—with whom Foster, her one-time law partner, was rumored to have had an affair.

Although there was little initial speculation that any foul play had occurred, journalists quickly discovered that Foster had been involved in a handful of controversies, including a recent mini-scandal involving the White House Travel Office. As a result of this and other problems, the *Wall Street Journal* had written several editorials critical of Foster prior to his death.

During the week after Foster's suicide, the White House continued to maintain that he had not been depressed. But, after an attorney in the Counsel's Office discovered a torn-up note—that bitterly derided enemies of the President, as well as the "sport" of personal destruction in official Washington—the White House's position changed.

Suddenly, Foster's family and colleagues began to reveal details of the growing depression that had led to his suicide. His sister had given him the list of three psychiatrists found in his wallet, urging him to make an appointment with one of them. Her husband had given Foster a list of six attorneys in case he faced a legal battle over the Travel Office matter. Later, Foster's wife told police investigators that her husband—the day before his death—had contacted their family doctor who prescribed a mild anti-depressant.

The torn-up note was kept from police investigators for nearly thirty hours. It had been found in Foster's briefcase, which had been supposedly emptied by Nussbaum during the search of Foster's office several days earlier. The U.S. Capitol Police eventually confirmed that the note was in Foster's handwriting.

Although the note contained no fingerprints, the Park Police, in concert with the Department of Justice and the FBI, concluded that Foster had written it just before he committed suicide—although it was not considered to be an actual suicide note. . . .

14: CGW: The corruption of Ronald Reagan

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Excerpt: Chapter 55, “[The corruption of Ronald Reagan]”

(With appreciation to the late citizen-activist Mae Churchill, as well as journalists Bill Knoedelseder, Dave Robb, and the late Jack Tobin—whose roles in this investigation are highlighted in my book.)

Ronald Reagan had come to Los Angeles in 1937 to make motion pictures. In 1940, MCA bought out the talent agency that represented Reagan. Lew Wasserman, a rising star at MCA, became

Reagan's personal agent, later negotiating his first million-dollar contract with Warner Brothers on Reagan's behalf, based on the success of the actor's 1942 film, *King's Row*.

In 1946, Wasserman became the president of MCA, and the following year, Reagan, with his film career already in decline at the end of his seven-year contract, became the president of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG).

A sweetheart relationship developed between MCA and SAG, which culminated in July 1952 during Reagan's fifth consecutive term as SAG's president. Reagan and Laurence Beilenson—an attorney for MCA who had previously served as SAG's general counsel and represented Reagan in his 1949 divorce from actress Jane Wyman—negotiated an exclusive blanket waiver from SAG that permitted MCA to engage in unlimited film production.

In fact, the agreement violated SAG's bylaws, which prohibited talent agents from employing their own clients. At the time, no other talent agency could receive a similar arrangement. A Justice Department memorandum . . . indicated that the waiver became "the central fact of MCA's whole rise to power."

At the end of Reagan's fifth term as SAG president, he began to have serious financial problems, particularly with the IRS. MCA negotiated a deal with a Las Vegas hotel-casino, which was owned and operated by associates of the Chicago Outfit, for Reagan to host a song-and-dance show and to receive enough money to cover his back tax debt.

When Reagan returned to Hollywood, MCA, through its newly formed film company, Revue Productions, selected him to host its flagship television program, the General Electric Theater for \$125,000 a year. He was paid additional fees when he actually produced episodes for the series. Despite his status as a television producer, Reagan remained on SAG's board of directors in another violation of the guild's bylaws, which prohibited producers from holding office in the actors' guild. In 1959, when Reagan ran for an unprecedented sixth term as SAG's president, his opponents raised the bylaws issue. However, Reagan denied on the record that he had ever produced any episodes for the General Electric Theater—which was an outright lie.

Wasserman had encouraged Reagan to seek his sixth term. MCA was facing sensitive negotiations with SAG over residual television and motion picture rights for actors. The issue eventually forced SAG to strike in 1960, and Reagan, as SAG president, became the actors' chief negotiator.

The contract that Reagan arranged with the studios is still known in Hollywood as "The Great Giveaway." It did provide residuals for actors—but only for films made after 1960. The studios kept everything before 1960, which was worth billions of dollars. This greatly benefited MCA, which had recently purchased Paramount Pictures's huge film library in 1959.

(Later, Richard Walsh, the president of IATSE during the 1960 SAG strike, told me that labor lawyer and Mafia mouthpiece Sidney Korshak, a close friend of Lew Wasserman, was directly involved in the negotiations with Reagan—just as Jack Tobin had predicted.)

In 1962, the Justice Department filed a federal antitrust suit against MCA, alleging that it was both a talent agency and a production company. SAG was charged as a coconspirator.

Reagan became the subject of both criminal and civil investigations by the FBI and a federal grand jury in Los Angeles. A Justice Department memorandum quoted a Hollywood source as saying, "Ronald Reagan is a complete slave of MCA who would do their bidding on anything."

Reagan was subpoenaed to testify before the grand jury, but he experienced amnesia during his testimony on February 5, 1962, failing to recall significant details of his role in the SAG MCA blanket waiver decision in 1952.

Federal prosecutors were so convinced that Reagan had perjured himself repeatedly during his testimony that they subpoenaed his and his wife's federal income tax returns for the years 1952 to 1955. His second wife, actress Nancy Reagan, had been a member of the SAG board of directors since 1951.

However, in July 1962—in the aftermath of MCA's purchase of Decca Records, the parent company of Universal Pictures—MCA agreed to abolish its talent agency as part of a consent decree with the Kennedy Justice Department. As a result, all charges against and investigations of the company and its alleged coconspirators, including Reagan and SAG, were dropped, and the record of the case was sealed.

Universal quickly became the biggest film producer in the entertainment industry. Claiming that he was deeply affected by the breakup of MCA—which, in fact, had turned the company into an even more powerful multibillion dollar international corporation—Reagan, supposedly a lifelong Democrat, suddenly became an anti big government Republican, just like his political mentors at MCA, board chair Jules Stein and vice president Taft Schreiber, both of whom were active in Republican Party politics.

In return for Reagan's long time loyalty to his benefactors, MCA, through its cooperation in the selling of Reagan's Malibu properties, helped Reagan to become a multi-millionaire—and, then, the governor of California. . . .

3: CGW: On the suicide of Jean Palfrey

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Excerpt: Chapter 145, “[The suicide of the D.C. Madam]”

On May 6 [2008]—the day after the Tarpon Springs medical examiner officially declared that [Jeane] Palfrey had committed suicide—the chief investigating detective for the Tarpon Springs Police Department contacted me for additional material which he wanted for his formal report. I gave him a copy of my book proposal with Palfrey—in which she twice discussed the possibility of suicide, as well as copies of my final emails to her. Also, I arranged a conference call among the detective and me with Jim Grady, who was at the April 11 lunch where Palfrey and I last saw each other.

After speaking with the police, I called Blanche Palfrey to express my sympathy and to discuss her daughter's death. At the outset, I told her how upset I was with Jeane for placing her mother in the position to find her body hanging at the end of a rope.

Blanche, who couldn't have been happier to hear from me, said that Jeane “was so upset about going back to prison that she couldn't stop crying.”

During our continuing conversation, she spoke of Jeane's recent overdose in Orlando. When I said that I didn't know what she was talking about, she explained that on April 25, Jeane had gone to her condominium in Orlando and taken an intentional overdose of pills. She was unconscious for nearly thirty hours.

Failing to end her life in that manner, Jeane then returned home and hanged herself. I asked Blanche if she had told the police this story. She replied that she had not, adding that she didn't want to cause any more trouble.

I told her that she had to tell the police. I gave her the lead detective's name and telephone number. She assured me that she would make the call.

I called Blanche again on May 9 and asked her if she had provided the information about Jeane's earlier unsuccessful attempt to kill herself to the police. She replied that she had not.

I then asked for her permission to represent her with the police and disclose this information. Blanche agreed, and I immediately called the lead detective in the case and told him what Blanche had told me about Jeane's attempted suicide in Orlando.

The detective knew nothing about this. I invited him to call Blanche who would give him all the details.

On Saturday, May 10, I appeared on CNN to respond to the ludicrous but nagging accusations against me. . . .

August 2013

24: DEM 1983 picture on the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1406745692876638&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&type=3>

Only a 13-year old kid in Akron during the August 28, 1963, March on Washington, I covered its 20th anniversary where I took this picture thirty years ago. . . . God bless MLK, especially this week for the 50th anniversary celebration here in D.C. of a wonderful landmark moment in the civil-rights movement, as well as one of the greatest speeches in American history.

1: DEM on MSNBC/Olbermann on Vincent Foster (1998)

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1: DEM on CNN/Take Two on *Dark Victory* and Contra drugs (1986)

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July 2013

23: Film of Bill O'Reilly losing it

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1396450673906140&id=100006236621784

Last night, Bill O'Reilly scolded black kids for using "the f-word in every sentence." Remember this role model's own use of the word:<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5qU4qudJYk>. (Not for children.)