

ETHICS - AN OBSERVATION

MORAL OUTRAGE - RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION - APATHY - EXPLOITATION - MANIPULATION WITHOUT CONSCIOUS

Grover Cleveland and Maria Halpin had a child out of wedlock. He admitted the situation, there was no publicity surrounding Miss. Halpin.

Stripper Fanne Fox made a movie after being caught at the Tidal Basin with Congressman Wilber Mills.

Elizabeth Ray wrote a book after her affair with Ohio representative Wayne Hays.

Judith Campbell Exner wrote MY STORY, detailing her affairs with President John Kennedy and mobster San Giancana.

Aristocrat Sydney Biddle Barrows wrote the best-selling THE MAYFLOWER MADAM, with a forthcoming TV movie, after conviction for promoting prostitution.

The Watergate Era generated books by John Dean--BLIND AMBITION, Charles Colson--BORN AGAIN, and John Ehrlichman with THE COMPANY. President Nixon's book earned him 2.2 million.

Jessica Hahn admitted to an affair with Jim Bakker, of PTL fame. PLAYBOY magazine paid about \$750,000 for her story, interview, and topless layout. She has appeared on several TV interview shows and a book may be in the offing.

Donna Rice and Gary Hart cruised on the yacht MONKEY BUSINESS. She has had TV show interviews and has a modeling career with "NO EXCUSES" sportswear.

Fawn Hall, document shredder of Iran-gate fame and secretary to Lt. Col Oliver North, was on a Barbara Walters Special. She hired the William Morris Agency to be her agent for commercial offers.

Crime and conventional morality aside, the transmutation of base fame into gold does scratch at some deep nerve in the public psyche. Most observers would probably agree with Thomas Kerr, associate professor of business ethics at Carnegie-Mellon University, who would not condemn the "public for wanting titillating gossip" or the "media for giving the public what it wants." Yet people inevitably feel some unease because, as it is put by Eugene Secunda, New York University professor of advertising, marketing and media, "fame and infamy are often viewed in the same light."

"And there is the rub. Fame and infamy also turn out to be rewarded in the same ways. This is the source of disquiet, the secret price of living in a society that has precise epithets for men and women who sell their bodies but none for those who sell their souls."

From TIME Magazine, October 12, 1987, by Frank Trippett (excerpts & quotes)

ED. QUESTIONS: Who / What is right ? Who / What is wrong? - your reasons / values for that. Victimless Crimes ? Personal Business ? I didn't know it was "wrong" ! "I didn't mean to" "I . . ." Have people lost their moral compass ? Is there a lack of basic training is Dignity / Values ?



OPINIONS AND FEELINGS ARE FREQUENTLY A PERSONAL TRIUMPH OVER GOOD THINKING
YOU DEFINE REALITY BY WHAT YOU KNOW, WHAT YOU BELIEVE, AND WHAT YOU DO ABOUT IT.