

# CORRESPONDENCE LOVE LETTERS & ADVICE

## Sore Throat

There is a basic philosophical proposition which states that it is impossible to arrive at truth if one begins with a false premise. In your last issue ("Strange Bedfellows," RS 213), ROLLING STONE demonstrated anew the accuracy of that idea.

You report that you have discovered that I am "Deep Throat," the unnamed informer of *All the President's Men*. You are wrong, of course, as I could have told you if you had just taken the trouble to check with me before rushing to press. Your principal error is that you start from a false premise.

Your theory is built upon the "fact" that I was a CIA man—all else follows from that. The real fact is that I am not now, nor have I ever been, a CIA man; specifically, I have never received information from the CIA about anyone in the White House, never been given instructions to plant news stories on behalf of the CIA, never received a salary from the CIA, never had regular meetings with the CIA, and never performed any personal service of any kind for the CIA. All this is well established on the public record (didn't you read the Rockefeller Commission Report?) and it cuts the heart out of your carefully constructed hypothesis.

Don't quote me all your "evidence"—opinions of other journalists, magazines, CIA memos taken out of context, or other men's speculations. I was there when the Mullen Company's arrangement with the CIA was discussed; I know what happened. I am an eyewitness and I have testified under oath; my statements have been documented and accepted by competent authorities. Can any of your "authorities" say the same?

There is no point in discussing the particulars of your article because they are irrelevant, springing as they do from a false premise. Just take some advice: next time, do your homework. If you are writing about a living individual, talk to him—he might surprise you by knowing more about himself than you do. And be sure to read the Rockefeller Commission Report. It is not as spicy as your own publication (there are no pictures), but it is a lot better informed.

ROBERT F. BENNETT  
Woodland Hills, California

HOWARD KOHN REPLIES: Mr. Bennett's testimony under oath before

the 1974 House Special Subcommittee on Intelligence belies his latter-day denials to the Rockefeller Commission. "Bob Woodward of the Washington Post interviewed me at great length on numerous occasions," Bennett told the committee on July 2nd, 1974. "I have told Woodward everything I know about the Watergate case, except the Mullen Company's tie to the CIA. I never mentioned that to him. It has never appeared in any Washington Post story. I pointed this out to Mr. Eisenstadt. I said, 'As a result, I am a good friend of Woodward.'"

Eisenstadt, according to a CIA internal memo obtained by the Senate Watergate committee, was the CIA agent to whom Bennett reported so the CIA could "be brought up to date on developments resulting from the Watergate Five incident." The Rockefeller report states that Bennett met with a CIA case officer. Bennett's role as a CIA subordinate who leaked information to the media on orders from CIA higher-ups became part of the public record when U.S. Judge Gerhard Gesell ruled on May 23rd, 1974, that Bennett's revelations in the Ellsberg case were "attributable to the CIA."

As for Mr. Bennett's distress at not meeting me prior to the article, I can only point him to his faithful assistants in the Hughes organization who fended off every effort I made to talk to him. —H.K.

## Mob Reaction

In 1960, on my 16th birthday, my father gave me 15 shares in Mary Carter Paint Corporation to give me an insight into the workings of the American capitalist system. As a result of that gift and the Kohn article, I can now report that my understanding of that system is complete.

BARRY H. SILVERBLATT  
San Francisco, California

Howard Kohn and the RS staff certainly have it together on the rehash front. "Strange Bedfellows" threw me into the eighth circle of depression, but I came out on the other side determined to quit working on articles about house plants and libraries and start a little investigative journalism of my own. Maybe if more folks knew the facts they won't just get mad—they'll get even.

C. S. WARREN  
Washington, D.C.

Your article by Howard Kohn on the Hughes, Lansky, CIA and Nixon connection was the most intriguing, interesting, bizarre, fascinating and... scariest story I have ever read in my life.

BILLY RAFERS  
Moore, Oklahoma

Without a doubt, "Strange Bedfellows" is the most important article ever published by ROLLING STONE. This thorough investigative report should be made mandatory text for school children when studying recent U.S. history. Inasmuch as this will never happen, I am saving my copy so my children or anybody else's can know the truth.

MARC A. CATONE  
Prescott, Arizona

## Disdain

The John Dane article (RS 213) is basically a very silly piece. There were a lot of people like him in Saigon in the mid-Sixties—guys who thought it was neat to be "where the action was."

I think Dane is as phony as his name. You should get someone who knows weapons to comment on his pathetic little "arsenal." There he stands, a pudgy little guy, a clerk trying to look dangerous. Most legitimate sportsmen have better guns than these. Not only are they all completely legal, they aren't even good guns, especially for killing people.

The real tip-off on Dane, though, is his stupidity and his lack of contact with anyone in a position of power. This is why he gets in trouble all the time. He makes dumb deals, gets put in the can and nobody cares enough about him to get him out. Smart criminals take risks only when they are on the job—for the legal shit, the fix is in.

Finally, the article was worse than silly; it gives the impression that people like Dane—even the smart and competent ones—can make a difference in the way things go in the world today. They can't. I learned that in Vietnam. What gives the VC and the FAPLA their power is not the fact that they are hot-shit weapons and demolitions experts. They aren't. They are, however, resolute, disciplined, and they have the active support of millions of people. Against these kinds of forces, people like Dane who think that "killing is good, it's exciting and dangerous" just don't make it.

PETER J. NEWCOMER  
Storrs, Connecticut

## A Real Shiner

Thanks for the wonderful review of the new Stones album, *Black and Blue* (RS 213). Dave Marsh shows insight into what the Stones are really all about. They are not afraid to change with the times and they know that time isn't really on their side. The new album proves that the Stones can still make tasteful music, even though it isn't in the same rock & roll genre as it used to be.

Many Stones fans choose to remain in the past. The Stones are moving on and their fans better start doing the same or else they're going to miss a lot of real fine music.

With *Black and Blue*, the Rolling Stones have once again showed that they are not "just a memory of a love that used to mean so much to me," but instead are still "one of a kind."

ALAN J. ZEISSER  
Far Rockaway, New York

Dave Marsh's review of the Stones' latest album sounds like a perfect review of your magazine, except the Stones do what they do with more class.

FRANK MARTINEZ  
San Francisco, California

## Writer Wronged

Re: Greil Marcus's review of *Seventeen Time* (RS 213)—it seemed more a review of Lillian Hellman as a person. How differently we see Miss Hellman as a writer. The statement which puzzled me was: "No writer... is so convinced of her own superiority, innocence and nobility." Of all the writers I have read none has ever struck me as being so totally honest with her readers and herself as Lillian Hellman. Her ability to admit that there are many things she has done that she does not understand, or is just beginning to understand after a lifetime, does seem noble, in my eyes. I felt that her adjectives "timid" people, "often remarkable" people, were simply that—adjectives.

I feel Miss Hellman is one of our greatest writers, has lived through many things that are hard (for me, at least) to even comprehend. And I hope you have read (or will read) *An Unfinished Woman*, another interesting probe of her early life. I do hope you enjoy it as much as I.

CAROLYN WOLFE  
New York, New York

## Phil Ochs

Thanks for your article on Phil Ochs (RS 213). It was so much easier to read about his death than way that the way I initially read about it, in *Newsweek* under "Deaths." Their article made the reality of the loss all the more harsh and impersonal.

Now all that's left to say is that the world has been cheated out of an artist who gave us the lines, "I'm going to give you all that I've got to give/Cross my heart, and I hope to live."

MARK WITMAN  
Austin, Texas

## Leadbelly

Leadbelly is dead and can't sue, but at least his friends can stand up for him. He was not vicious, not a "pathological killer." If there is any term that fit him, when we knew him back in the Forties, it was the old-fashioned term "gentleman."

Perhaps the author of your article (*American Grandstand*, RS 211) jumped to some bad conclusions because of reading some lying books about Leadbelly. I'm sure he never met him.

PETE SEEGER  
Beacon, New York

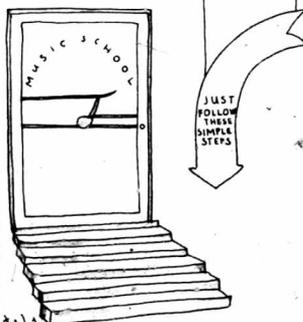


Illustration by FUTZIE NUTZLE