

DICK GREGORY

CHRIS VAN NESS

After 15 years as a nightclub comedian, Dick Gregory recently announced his retirement from the saloon circuit to devote all of his time and energies to lectures and generally informing the public about the problems which face this country — problems involving high-level government conspiracy which his vast network of "informants" ferret out for him.

But if anyone thinks Gregory was only a saloon comic, let him look at the last 12 years of "Brother Greg's" activities as a civil rights leader, political activist and CIA headache. "When I go into a nightclub, it's only to pay my rent," Gregory insists. "You've got to remember that nobody ever *laughed* Hitler out of office. And if they're going to kill me, they're not going to do it because I made people laugh or led a few civil rights marches; it'll be because of my lectures and all the conspiracy stuff I'm telling the people about."

One of the most impressive things about Dick Gregory is his vast network of informants and the constant input of information which he has to sort out. And, being a thorough person, he refuses to discount even the most outlandish of stories. For example, think about the following story from our conversation: "You see, my research thing is



HELP WANTED

NEWSPAPER DISTRIBUTORS
FOR THE L.A. FREE PRESS

SMALL INVESTMENT REQUIRED

CALL PETE LARSEN

466-5431

ODDLY ENOUGH, THE RIGHT
LEFT, AND C. REEP. ALLEGE IT,
WAS CIA!

also my hobby. An Indian called me up from Washington one day with a story for me. 'Hey, I got to talk to you,' she said, 'this is heavy.' And I explained that I wouldn't be in Washington for at least three months, so she asked where I was going to be the next day and I told her Buffalo, New York. So I get to Buffalo, and she's there.

"So I say to her, 'Wow, this must be heavy. What's wrong?'"

"And she said: 'The moonrock is growing; it's not in the Smithsonian anymore.'"

"And I said, 'Okay. Cool. Thanks. I can deal with it from here.'"

"So I call a friend of mine with the press and say: 'Hey man, I want you to do me a favor. It's not for a story; I just got to get a balance. Have your Washington Bureau go by the Smithsonian Institution to do a story on the moonrock, and I'll bet it's not there.' Two days later he calls me back and tells me I'm right; it's not there. The only excuse they gave was that they shipped it somewhere.

"Okay. Three months go by, and this is just in the back of my head; I don't know what I can use it for. So, I'm speaking at the University of Texas in Austin, and some girls come by and offer to take me to the Lyndon John-

son Library. Now, I can't stand Lyndon Johnson, but they were so beautiful that I agreed to go.

"So we went first thing next morning, and the tour guide was so proud and everything. And in the process of passing through he stopped and said, 'Oh, that's the moonrock.' It was mounted and in a case and everything.

"So I said: 'How long have you had it?'"

"'About 18 months.'"

"And I said: 'No, you haven't had it 18 months.'"

"And he said: 'Yes; sure we have.'"

"I said: 'No; c'mon; you haven't had it 18 months.'"

"And he says: 'What do you mean? Are you telling me . . .?' And he's really getting mad. Then he says: 'Oh, no; not that one. They change it every three months. How did you know?'"

"And I said: 'Well, I was just guessing.' But I've got it in the back of my mind that if the moonrock is growing, they can't leave it for 18 months or somebody'll see it getting big. So they have to change it every three months; take that one out, bring another one in and nobody ever sees what's happening.

"Now, what I can ever use that for, I don't know; but it's there: I get all kinds of stuff, and I just pick up the phone and start checking it out."

One of the most fascinating things about Dick Gregory is that the man is apparently psychic. Although he was apparently working through some kind of numerology system, he spent the last half-hour of our talk telling me all kinds of things about myself — specific items from my past that he simply could not have known about. I mention this because Gregory has been making predictions (or astute guesses) for years. Most recently, he predicted Agnew's resignation *to the day*. Part of that same prediction included the ideas that Nelson Rockefeller would ultimately replace Agnew and Nixon would be out of office within five months. The conversation was as follows:

"I said that Nixon would be out in five months . . . if he's not dead. I've just been kind've watching his health after a couple of things happened. For one, Nixon's private doctor was indicted in New York. They got him on income tax; and ever since he's been moved out of the way, they keep showing us an Air Force doctor. And I don't trust military doctors at all, because they can do it so discreetly over a long period of time that when it happens they call it 'natural causes.' And if Nixon showed up dead tonight, don't you know that all kinds of people would

think it's suicide?

"And with the government doing the autopsy, well, the one beautiful thing that came out in the Clay Shaw trial where they brought in the doctor to perform the autopsy at Bethesda Hospital on Kennedy's head. On sworn oath, man, he admitted, man, he never pulled back the sheet. Do you believe this goes across America, right — and he said this is what was in the head and he never pulled back the sheet.

And you can't watch the stock market no more. You gotta watch prime interest rates, federal discount. It's the only lever you got on it. So, I would assume that Rockefeller's the man. And, I felt this way before any of this mess ever came out of Maryland. And the CIA is behind the whole thing.

"Let's assume the Watergate is what they tellin' it is and there was this bunch of guys surrounding the President that had a little thing going. Now I know that it's very difficult to overlook the fact that these nitwits want to make us believe they could go to the number-one super intelligence agency in the world, the CIA, and say, 'Hey, man, we fixen' to do something, but we don't want you to get involved, but we'd like for you to loan us the rubber gloves, the masks, the wigs, the camera and develop the film for us.' And they say, 'O.K., but you're sure we aren't gonna be involved, right.' Dig, what Hunt said when he testified, his closin' testimony. As we know, no government agency had anything to do with Watergate, right. He said, Hunt said, 'The funds provided for him have long been exhausted and beyond all this, I am crushed by the failure of my government to protect me and my family as it had in the past always done for its clandestine agents.' See. What's that all about? It's a stone CIA operation. And they goofed it. And I believe it's now another ballgame. Now they've gone for that East Coast money and say pshaw, it's yours. And we're gonna get rid of that.

Drawing of Dick Gregory by Peter Green is from cover of Gregory's latest album on Poppy Records, "Caught in the Act."

But, Who Runs the CIA?

"The same Germans we brought over here to set up the CIA after World War II was over. And the best documents you can get on it is lookin' up Dean Acheson's writings where he begged Harry Truman not to turn the intelligence unit over to Germans. I just crack up when I look at that. Harry Truman had to be one of the dumbest cats that ever existed to say to them, 'If you will set us up an intelligence unit as slick as yours, we'll leave you free from prosecution! Well, how could they have been that hip, if they lost the war? And then they said, on one condition, 'We have to run it for five years to get the kinks out.' And those five years have never ended."

Then you say the Nazis are running the country?

"That's right, and they just start going wild and you know, a lotta people for a long time knew that the CIA controls the drug traffic, and here this CIA agent writes a book and documents it. America still ain't listening. The CIA admitted this summer that they have given instructions to police departments across the country.

"I think one of the keys to the salvation of this country — you remember Lane, the ex-army intelligence officer — he's the first one to talk about army intelligence running dossiers. It was very interesting what he came up with, man. At the bottom of the Pentagon is a computer that has 40 million names, addresses and descriptions and the only reason it didn't work right is that there were different people in different towns and that's what zip codes is all about. The zip code looked like it wasn't gonna work; so they got to the point where they was gonna

start charging extra money for stamps if you didn't use zip codes and all the people started using zip codes. They made some heavy stuff down there.

Okay, I listen to you and I know where you're coming from. But a lot of people can listen to you and say 'Hey, that man's just paranoid.' How do you answer people like that?

"I have it covered from different angles. One, I have had agents in the house try to discredit me by saying 'I believe everything you sayin' but one thing I can't understand is how come the CIA hasn't killed you; are you one?' Heavy man. Man, let me tell you if the CIA ever gets hip enough to hire cats with my ethics and integrity America would be in good shape. I'm through with it. I won't deal with it, no shape, form or fashion. All I do is lay it out and I get it.

"I got an article that came out in the *Chicago Daily News* about Dick Gregory 'The Prophet.' I really resented that. I say, ever since I been living in Chicago, man, you call me a fool, but one day you all decide to do a story on me.' They went back over eight years and took all of my things that I said and now they say it. I'm not a fool nor a prophet; it's a minimum amount of wisdom that it takes to figure out where this trick is going.

"And when I get up and my lecture audience, as far as I'm concerned that's my audience, that's my audience, man, 90 percent of the people in there know me, know where I am and trust me, and just like you are a reviewer. You review my night club act and wreck it. I can dig that cause you ain't writin' to my fans, you writin' to your fans and if you lie to them, wow, man you put them in a trick. Not me! So, consequently when I go before my lecture people and I say, hey, now I try to balance it out and I try to give the stuff that right here is not too far away; it's gonna happen. I been savin' on the lecture circuit now they got some pictures blown up that they'll

(please turn to page 26)

INTERESTING,
IF TRUE!