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LIZ SMITH



Who Killed Kennedy?

THERE'S THREE things that you're gonna hear, and if you can ignore these three things, you'll be fine. They're gonna say you're gay, you're broke and you're on drugs. Everybody in Hollywood, that's what they'll write. Deal with it, rise above it, and you'll deal with everything else in Hollywood."

That's what insomniac, avid reader and good Samaritan Eddie Murphy advised Will Smith some years ago when

Smith was in the first flush of his still-growing success. This comes from the new issue of *GQ* with Will on the cover, profiled inside by Gerri Hirshey.

We are sure the very clever Smith took Eddie's advice to heart. Just as we are sure Will would probably have a glass of warm milk if he couldn't sleep, rather than drive around the wicked side of town. (Still and all, the Murphy incident was a non-story if ever there was one. The LAPD obviously was having a slow



AP Photo, 1961

John F. Kennedy
What his secretary thought

ALL OF YOU anti-Communist fanatics — who like the idea that John F. Kennedy was killed by a lone gunman — might like to know what someone very close to JFK had to say in 1964. It's his secretary, Evelyn Lincoln, who wrote a letter to a teacher in Roanoke, Va. She said: "Dear Richard Duncan, it's my belief that there was a conspiracy because there were those that disliked JFK and felt the only way to get rid of him was to assassinate him. These five conspirators, in my opinion, were Lyndon B. Johnson, J. Edgar Hoover, the Mafia, the CIA, and the Cubans in Florida. The House Intelligence Committee investigation

SO WHAT?

...not believe these remarks from Evelyn Lincoln have ever been printed before. We do know that she talked to the journalist Seymour Hirsch just before her death in 1995. And he said to have some amazing revelations from Kennedy's personal secretary, which he is putting into a book soon to be published.

THE NEW CD of what and reenergized Fleetwood Mac is headed to tape a live concert for MTV in Los Angeles May 22-23 for broadcast later this year. The band members, including the blonde cypriot Stevie Nicks, all seem much happier now that they've ended a long period of going their own ways. Warner Records will release the CD of the event, and has high hopes that the new disc might even equal Fleetwood's legendary *Unstoppable*, the biggest-selling CD album in music history.

James Halperin's futuristic novel,

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...the *Youth Machine*, has been acquired by producer Bruce Berman, the former president of Warner Brothers. Berman paid half a million dollars for Halperin's first effort. The author would like to see *War* Kilmer as the star. So who is the performer most representative of the fast-coming-to-land '90s? Why that ultimate symbol of the '80s — Madonna herself. She beat out Tom Cruise, Mel Gibson, Garth Brooks, Michael Jordan, Tom Hanks, and Michael Jackson, according to a *Live!* magazine survey. Sally Kirkland is more excited by her stint as a director for Showtime's *Women* series than by anything she's done since her Oscar-nominated turn in *Anna* 10 years ago. Kirkland's episode for the series is called "Lover From Another Planet" and one of the male leads is Morgan England, the beautiful and talented son of Gloria Leachman. Or, so he is described by Sally, who surely knows from beautiful, talented men. And finally, that manly man, Liam Neeson, is preparing to portray Oscar Wilde in a

movie later this year, with Hugh Grant, co-starring as his lover, Lord Alfred Douglas, the infamous "Bosie." Already there's controversy, though not the sort one might expect. The Oscar Wilde Society declares Neeson "too heterosexual" to play Wilde. (Huh?) As for Grant, he is deemed "too old" for the role of the selfish, indiscreet boy who led the author of "The Importance of Being Earnest" to ruin.

THIS COLUMN recently defended the lyrics of songwriter Leslie Bricusse in the Broadway musical "Jekyll and Hyde." I had referred to the manner in which one critic made fun of Bricusse's words: "What is this thing inside of me, what evil force makes Edward Hyde of me?" I said if Stephen Sondheim had written the same lyrics, critics would cheer. There is enormous snobbery attached to anything Sondheim does.

But now we learn that the critic who criticized him also misquoted Bricusse. The actual lyric goes like this: "What streak of madness lies inside of me? What is the truth my fears conceal? What evil force makes Edward Hyde of me? What darker side of me does this reveal?"

Bricusse said to me: "It really doesn't matter. Lyrics should never be separated from their music anyway. Something that sounds wonderful can look pretty stupid on the written page."

The man who wrote lyrics for "Stop The World, I Want to Get Off" and dozens of other hits is now returning to London with his wife, Evie. He is under a deadline to get his Dr. Dolittle musical on the West End stage.