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LIZ SMITH

More News From Exner

NEW YORK—"So weary with disasters, tugged with fortune that I would set my life on any chance, to mend it or be rid of it," wrote Shakespéare in the "Scottish play."

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Writer Anthony Summers is the man who penned the best and most definitive book about Marilyn Monroe, in my opinion. His "Goddess," with its sensational updated chapter, gives us the basis for all the recent revelations about Monroe's unbelievable death and her relationship with the Kennedys.

Now, at my urging and arrangement, Summers has talked to Judith Exner, the brunette former dual girlfriend of John F. Kennedy and mobster Sam Giancana. These latest revelations will be presented any minute in the London Times, and, no doubt, be brought to the U.S. public as well.

Exner

In his new research, Summers will show that Exner was telling the truth about her many visits to the White House and her trysts with President John Kennedy at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. (JFK loyalists have always insisted it didn't happen!)

Summers has now seen once-sequestered White House logs that prove Exner wasn't lying. (He also located a record of a phone call from Peter Lawford to JFK on the morning Marilyn Monroe was found dead in her Brentwood bedroom.)

Exner is inevitably referred to as "a party girl" or "a moll." The implication is always that she was "a professional." I don't think she was anything more than a foolish young woman, madly in love with the blandishments of our dynamic and attractive 35th President.

It has taken Exner years to "tell all." Ever since she was subpoenaed by a congressional committee back in 1975, she has been, little by little, revealing more and more. It's not that Exner is a "tease," but that through the years she feared for her life, which has been thoroughly ruined by her Kennedy experiences.

Now I think Exner has spoken fully. So hang on for her story. It's more in the incredible, sometimes tragic, sometimes tragicomic and even occasionally lunatic history of the Kennedy years.

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Did you maybe wonder how Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf was lured to attend the opening night of New York's Metropolitan Opera? Well, let's see. You are Cecile Zilka, chairperson of the Met's special events, and you want Stormin' Norman, the hero of the Persian Gulf War. So you go to Barbara Walters and ask if she'd send along a letter to the general.

Walters, of course, has the general's personal address, as well as his ear, since her TV interviews with him on "20/20." Walters, seeing no harm in extending the playing fields of culture to include an American hero, passes Zilka's personal letter to the general.

Upshot: Walters attends the opening night with Sen. John Warner. Who does she run into but the general, who gives her a warm buss and greeting. He is sitting in Zilka's box.

Hmmm, so who did Zilka invite to share the box with her great trophy guest? Not the one who made it all happen, but—society columnist Suzy. Oh, my.

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Next week the Advocate, the gay newspaper, will offer up a cover story of three Hollywood tycoons—Barry Diller of Fox, Sid Sheinberg of MCA-Universal, Tom Pollock of MCA Motion Pictures—talking about "Hollywood Supports," a new joint project to raise the consciousness of the film industry to AIDS.

The deaths of actors Brad Davis and Rock Hudson come under discussion. We learn that Paramount's Brandon Tartikoff and MPAA's Jack Valenti have jumped on the awareness bandwagon.