

NEW YORK INTELLIGENCER



Bouton as Maverick: Will television get a hit off him?

Winding Up for a TV Pitch: Hometown Boy's New Stuff

Jim Bouton says he isn't just collecting material for another book up in Oregon where he's pitching for the Portland Mavericks. But the 36-year-old ex-Yankee, who took a leave without pay from his CBS News sportscaster's job to make his baseball comeback, is in fact working on a television situation-comedy series based on his first literary effort, *Ball Four*, which had a healthy lifetime sales record of about 2 million copies in hardcover and paperback. Bouton's first weeks back on the mound suggest he's not simply funning around; he won two out of three games. (His previous record was 61 wins and 60 losses.) And Bouton's Channel 2 colleague and occasional baseball practice partner Jim Jensen isn't at all surprised. According to Jensen, "Bouton still has his fast ball, and a beautiful knuckler that goes *whoosh*, dropping away from the batter as it crosses the plate." The knuckler, we hear, was perfected on a special "pitch-back" rig Bouton had installed in his backyard.

Camp David Rated X

It wasn't the Playboy Mansion, but Camp David did have "all the dirty movies," according to Maureen Dean's book (with Hays Gorey), *"Mo": A Woman's View of Watergate*, which Simon and Schuster is bringing out this November. At least that's what H. R. ("Bob") Halde- man told John Dean when Dean was assigned to go up to the presidential retreat and draft his famous Water- gate report. What's more, reports Mo, who was invited to accompany her husband, there was a projectionist on duty 24 hours a day.

Dancers Stepping Up

Following in the tapsteps of Bob Fosse and Michael Bennett, another choreog- rapher—in this case, a wom- an—has turned director. Pat Birch (*Candide*, *A Little Night Music*, *Grease*) is now directing rehearsals of an "eclectic musical tribute" to the mobile and restless Amer- ican people—blacks, whites, Orientals, the lot of us. The show, *Truckload*, produced by the Shubert Organization, Adela Holzer, and American Bandstand's Dick Clark, with music by Louis St. Louis, will open at the Lyceum in September.

'Assassins' Probe Gets Prime Time

The "unanswered" ques- tions in the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr., and the attempted assas- sination of George Wallace will be examined in a CBS News report that may pre- empt most of the network's nighttime schedule on No- vember 20. According to Les Midgley, executive producer of "The Assassins," what is currently being checked out includes:

- The possibility of a "second Oswald" firing at J.F.K., as well as the first Oswald's CIA connections.

- The discrepancies in the R.F.K. shooting account, such as the powder burns on Kennedy vs. eyewitness testi- mony saying that Sirhan Sir- han's gun wasn't that close.

- James Earl Ray's finan- cial backing and his eccentric movements before and after the King shooting.

- The alleged Charles Col- son-Richard Nixon interest in Arthur Bremer, suggested by at least one of the White House tapes.

Midgley, who produced the CBS News special on the Warren Report in 1967, ac- knowledges that "there has been a rebirth of conspiracy theories, and after Watergate, I can understand that." The conspiracy theories flourish mostly on college campuses. "The idea for 'The Assassins' came from Dan Rather," Midgley says. "He was trav- eling around the country pro- moting his book on Nixon, and the questions he got weren't about Watergate, but about the Warren Commis- sion and other governmental 'cover-ups.'" The first CBS News report on the Warren Report has been called a "whitewash." Midgley, nat- urally, disagrees, but says: "I hope like hell we can un- cover some absolutely sensa- tional stuff. . . . These are major criminal cases with some exotic people, and strange things going on. . . ."

Media Monitor: Quick Takes

■ Bob Schieffer, the CBS White House correspondent, grew up in the shadow of his brother Tom, who serves in the Texas legislature. That used to bother Bob, but no more—thanks to Bill Small, the CBS News executive who assigned him to the White House. As Bob Schieffer puts it, "I used to be Tom Schief- fer's brother, but Bill Small gave me my own identity. Now I'm Dan Rather's re- placement." Brother Tom is a man with a sense of hu- mor, too. He recently per- suaded a waitress in Vail, Colorado, where the pres- ident was vacationing, to go up to Bob and ask, "Haven't I seen you on TV?" Bob said she probably had, because he covers the White House for CBS. Then the waitress delivered the line Tom had written for her: "Oh, really? Tell me, what is Dan Rather really like?"



Schieffer: Identity crisis.

■ *Harper's* magazine will be the newest entry in the media-monitoring business. Editor Lewis Lapham is in- troducing a new column, tentatively titled "The Fourth Estate," in *Harper's* Novem- ber issue. Rather than one monitor, the column will be open to contributors from outside the magazine. "We don't want any pontification," says Lapham. "The more spe- cific the item, the better. But any pretext will do—TV an- chormen's styles, the '76 presidential campaign, space shots, even other media mon- itors. . . ."

"WHITEWASH II"
ONE ASSUMES.