

He said that they had not been specific but they had been quite emphatic. In Memphis, William Haddad, then an investigative editor for the *New York Post*, warned me that the "word was out" and that I had been targeted as the purported victim of a powerful media campaign. He, too, was certain that attacks were coming, and was unable to trace their origin.

During this period, *Newsweek* devoted two pages to a cruel and libelous attack upon me.* The headline read, "Conspiracy Addict," and stated that I had been involved in "flights and fantasy over the past fifteen years." It concluded that I would probably be unable to "persuade federal authorities" of my view of the massacre, since, in their view, "Mark Lane has simply cried wolf too often before." *Newsweek* echoed Lewis, calling me "the chief ghoul of American assassinations," and adding that I was a "vulture." The sources for these evaluations, said *Newsweek*, were "his critics," unnamed. Unnamed "legal colleagues" were offered as wondering "whether his behavior deserved disbarment." Instead of legal authorities, Harold Weisberg was brought forward and offered as an "assassination buff," to charge that I was "totally amoral." Weisberg had previously stated that he was working for the FBI, although that was omitted by *Newsweek*.

The *Newsweek* reporter called Terri Buford's father and asked him how he felt about the charge that his daughter and I were engaged in sexual activity. The charge was untrue. The reporter called a Memphis practicing attorney and asked her if I had sexual relations with her. Susan Brownmiller, who formerly worked at *Newsweek*, told me that when the *Newsweek* reporter called her, the "opening question was, 'Can you confirm for us that his sex life was kinky?'"

Newsweek wrote, "'To prove it wasn't an elitist campaign, he [Lane] turned the first crank on the Ditto machine, then the rest of us would spend the whole night finishing the chores,' complained feminist Susan Brownmiller."

I recently talked with Susan Brownmiller and asked if the answer attributed to her by *Newsweek* was accurate. She said it wasn't. "I was talking about how you were a charismatic leader, and the reporter said, 'How would you define charismatic?' I said 'Well, you know, the sort of person who turns a mimeograph machine once or twice and then you find yourself standing there for the rest of the night.' But that was a joke."

She added, "There was no 'Ditto machine' in any political campaign that I've ever been in. A Ditto machine is what they used at *Newsweek*. So you know it wasn't a real quote."†

*Interviewed, 18 December, 1978.
†Interviewed on June 8, 1979, in New York City.

FROM THE STRONGEST POISON BY
MARK LANE. HAWTHORN BOOKS, 1980.