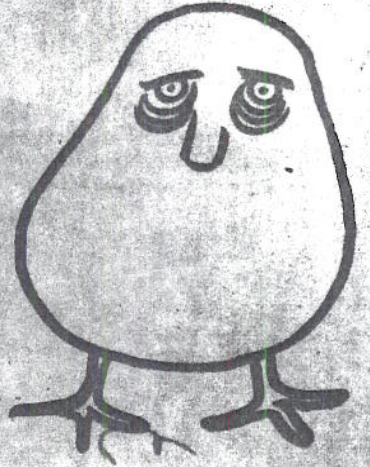


The Realist

April, 1968 — No. 78



Final Solutions to the Assassination Question

(LISA
HOWARD)

by Craig Karpel

These people seem to have been vaporized.—Jim Garrison, District Attorney, Orleans Parish, Louisiana.

On Thursday, March 9, 1967 I opened the *New York Post* to James Wechsler's column. Under the headline "IFK & Castro: Lost History?" it read:

In his final days on earth John F. Kennedy was actively and ineffectively responding to overtures from Fidel Castro for a detente with the United States.

That is the dramatic story unfolded by William Attwood, a key intermediary in the negotiations, in a new book called "Reds and Blacks" (Harper and Row) describing his experiences as journalist-turned diplomat in the Kennedy era.

Sen. Robert Kennedy, reached in Washington yesterday, confirmed the essence of Attwood's report.

The saga of the secret Castro initiative and the Kennedy Administration's cautious but affirmative, persistent probing belongs in any compilation of the inscrutable "ifs" of history. It has special relevance at this moment in the light of lurid rumors being leaked in Washington of a CIA plot, reportedly known to then Attorney General Kennedy, to assassinate Castro—and the simultaneous tale that Oswald was Castro's agent in a counterplot that led to John Kennedy's death.

The story recorded by Attwood blasts this fantasy and offers a wholly reverse version of the Washington-Havana relationship that seemed to be taking shape when John F. Kennedy was slain.

The unfinished episode began in September, 1963, when Attwood, now editor of the Cowles publications, was serving as special adviser for African affairs at the U. S. mis-

(Continued on Page 5)

by Reginald Dunsany

New Orleans D.A. Jim Garrison's courageous probe of the Kennedy assassination has confirmed the existence of a secret international terrorist ring more deadly than the Ochrana, GPU and Gestapo combined—the Homintern.

Intelligence agencies of the East and West have referred in hushed whispers to this sinister camarilla of homosexual militants ever since its founding in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1931, but until Garrison began his investigation, few hard facts confirmed the lethal scope of its activities.

Insiders in New Orleans now claim that all the major figures in the Kennedy murder were covert operatives of the Homintern's Western Hemisphere "Echelon B" network, serving under the direct control of David Ferrie, a former Eastern Airlines pilot cashiered after his arrest on sodomy charges in 1959.

Garrison characterizes Ferrie, who died under suspicious circumstances on February 22, as "the most important person of all time" and the key not only to events in Dallas but also to the systematic liquidation of eyewitnesses following in its wake (at the latest count by Penn Jones, Jr. and other assassination buffs, 23 dead, including Dorothy Kilgallen).

"You can understand Ferrie's motiva-

tion," Garrison said recently. "Kennedy was a virile, handsome successful man—everything Ferrie was not. In addition, there was the thrill of staging the perfect crime. Remember the Loeb and Leopold case in Chicago? It was the same thing with Kennedy."

Writing in the *Saturday Evening Post* (May 6, 1967) reporter James Phelan summarized Garrison's thesis as revealed in a series of exclusive interviews: "He claimed that Oswald and Ruby were both homosexuals and were both involved in the plot. He implied that Ruby—his homo-

(Continued on Page 3)

by Steve Klinger

"Mesa, Arizona—A laughing 18-year-old boy who 'wanted to get known' turned a beauty parlor into a slaughterhouse today when he shot four women and a 3-year-old girl . . . (He said) that he had got the idea from recent mass killings in Chicago and Austin . . ."

—News Item

In recent times, there has flowered in the United States a happy marriage of two great American traditions, individual initiative and violence. Not since the gangland massacres of the 1920s and '30s has the nation been swept by such a bloody wave of multiple killings, and the spontaneous and quasi-public response of American citizens has been truly unprecedented.

Dutiful coverage by the communications media evoked reactions ranging from sympathy for the victims to a half-expressed admiration for the killers, although amongst the citizenry the latter was only obliquely expressed by such expressions as "Wow, what a nut!" and "That guy had some eye, didn't he!"

Still, one could sense the competitive spirit festering about the land as upstarts on every street corner began contemplating shooting their way into fame. Indeed,

(Continued on Page 2)

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Sources in New Orleans are studiously silent on the extent of Lyndon Johnson's connection with the Homintern—it is generally assumed his torrid affair with Hearst White House correspondent Marianne Means indicates bi-sexuality at the very least—but the association of his most trusted aide with the Homintern is now accepted even by Johnson's political supporters in the FBI and CIA.

Walter Jenkins, Johnson's right-hand man since 1939, has been identified by unimpeachable sources as "Alciades"—the near-legendary Washington director of Homintern activities ever since Cordell Hull resigned as Secretary of State in 1946 amidst a shroud of scandal.

Johnson's relationship with Jenkins, who was recruited by the Homintern at the age of 26 in his home town of Jolly, Texas was described by James Reston in the *New York Times* of October 15, 1964: "It was not only that Walter Wilson Jenkins was his personal friend, but that he was also his official confidant, the last man to leave the White house in the evening..." (Italics added.)

Sources close to DA Garrison are hesitant to reveal the extent and intimacy of the relationship between Jenkins and Clay Shaw, the black-leather cum whips freak who was the bag man for Oswald, Ruby and the "gay Latinos" who fired at Kennedy from the grassy knoll, but there is no doubt the intermediary between "Alciades" and Shaw was former New Orleans Mayor De Lesseps Morrison, who died in a mysterious plane crash in Mexico in 1964 shortly after transferring his allegiance from the Homintern to the Mafia.

"If we could grill Jenkins on the stand we'd blow the lid off this entire country," one Garrison investigator who insists on anonymity told me. "But he's still too big—we can't get anywhere near him."

Jenkins' value to the Homintern was destroyed on October 7, 1964 when he was arrested in the public men's room of the Washington YMCA and charged with engaging in indecent acts with Andy Choka, a 60-year-old resident of the Soldiers' Home for Disabled Veterans.

(Choka now serves, apparently through the intermed- diary of powerful friends, as Deputy Undersecretary for Foreign Trade in the Commerce Department's European Division.)

The Homintern had covered up Jenkins' previous arrest in the YMCA lavatory in 1959, and quickly dispatched Abe Fortas (a recent LBJ adornment of the Supreme Court) and attorney Clark Clifford to pressure Washington newspaper editors into suppressing the story, but their efforts failed when Goldwater forces broke the news and Johnson was forced to accept Jenkins' resignation.

(In a poignant expression of grief, Mrs. Johnson issued a statement on October 15th declaring: "My heart is aching today for someone who had reached the end point of exhaustion in dedicated service to his country.")

But "Alciades" was not cashiered or liquidated by the Homintern once his public usefulness was ended; perhaps in recognition for his signal services in Dallas, he was awarded a yearly pension of \$100,000 and still serves as a confidential consultant on Washington affairs.

sexual name was Pinkie—executed Oswald to prevent him from telling all... Boiled down, his version of the Kennedy assassination made it out to be the result of a homosexual conspiracy...

Only a man with the cast-iron guts of the Jolly Green Giant would dare to openly challenge the Homintern. According to a former CIA agent currently employed as security officer with a major Eastern aviation company, the Homintern was founded in Switzerland in 1931 by three men, a German, an Indian and a Persian—to this day their names are not known—who pledged to "employ all means, legal and extra-legal, to advance the fortunes of homophiles around the world."

(Of the initial triumvirate, only the Persian is still alive, now occupying an honorary post without administrative authority.)

There is some evidence that the Homintern initially restricted its activities to legitimate fund-raising and propaganda, receiving large sums from certain European industrialists and Eastern potentates, but by 1933 the organization shifted its emphasis to violent attacks on leading representatives of heterosexual values and a concomitant effort to infiltrate its operatives into positions of power and influence in all the governments of the world.

The group's first major setback occurred when its man in Germany, Ernst Roehm, the notorious invert who headed the Nazi SA, was liquidated in the bloody June 30, 1934 purge only weeks before implementation of the Homintern's master plan to assassinate Hitler and insure Roehm's accession to the Chancellorship.

Homintern successes in the succeeding years have included the assassination of King Alexander I of Yugoslavia in Marseilles in 1936 (his successor was Prince Regent Paul, a bi-sexual coprophiliac who threw in his lot with the Homintern in 1935), the abdication of the Duke of Windsor (viewed as a dangerously virile symbol of Empire), the poison death of Franklin Roosevelt (following closely on his discovery of Eleanor's membership in the Androgyne Circle, the Homintern's Women's Auxiliary), the firing of General Douglas MacArthur, the censure of Senator Joseph McCarthy (whose blunderbuss attacks on "security risks" in government came dangerously close to exposing Homintern cadres in the State and Justice Departments) and the infiltration of Homintern agents into key control positions in the theatre, Hollywood and fashion industry.

In the cultural field, the Homintern has worked through the instrumentality of the "Woodstock Group," a closely knit apparatus of artists led by a triumvirate of Truman Capote, Gore Vidal and Edward Albee.

(Scribe, the Woodstock Group's precursor organization was dominated by a prominent playwright known by the code name Janus, and was instrumental in the imprisonment of Ezra Pound in St. Elizabeth's Mental Hospital and directly responsible for the destruction of Ernest Hemingway's belladonna and hebane to his food by a trusted aide now prominent in the Homintern literary hierarchy.)

But as Garrison is now discovering, the Homintern's greatest coup was the Kennedy assassination. Not only did it remove from office a despised symbol of heterosexuality and virility, but it brought to power a man fully amenable to Homintern dictate.

life, thoroughly "normal" if unimaginative, and there isn't a scintilla of evidence that Rockwell was anything but heterosexual.

Again, what troubles us is the belief that Adolf Hitler and his ideological heirs cannot be adequately condemned without throwing their sex lives into question. Imagine—if we may be permitted a fantasy—Supreme Allied Command Headquarters, London, June 3, 1944: Churchill, followed by Lord Thorneycroft, rushes up to Montgomery and Eisen-hower, crying: "Call off the invasion, boys! We just dis-covered he's straight!"

CRAIG KARPTEL

(Continued from Cover)

tion to the United Nations. He had initially been enlisted as a New Frontiersman in the role of ambassador to Guinea (and much of his book is a lively, unconventional retrospect of his African assignment). It was the Guinean ambassador who first broached to Attwood the possibility of a Cuban-U.S. rapprochement.

Attwood says he had received hints from other sources that Castro was growing restless under Communist pres-sures and was prepared to make "substantial concessions" to achieve an accommodation with the U. S. There were in-dications of a deepening rift between Castro and Che Gue-vara, the hard-line Communist who was said to regard Castro as "dangerously unreliable."

The reports seemed plausible to Attwood: a long session with Castro in 1959 "convinced me that he was too emo-tional to be a disciplined Communist, though naive enough to be swayed by Communist advisers."

Attwood suggested to UN Ambassador Adlai Stevenson and Averell Harriman that quiet contact be made with the Cuban delegation at the UN to find out "if in fact Castro did want to talk on our terms."

Harriman favored the idea but advised Attwood to ex-plore it with Robert Kennedy "because of its political im-plications." Meanwhile Stevenson discussed the matter with President Kennedy, who approved the notion of Attwood conferring with Dr. Carlos Lechuga [Wechsler spells it "Lechunga" throughout the piece], the chief Cuban delegate, "so long as I made it clear we were not soliciting discussions."

At a party a few days later Lechuga told Attwood there was a strong chance that Castro would invite him to Cuba. Robert Kennedy said he thought it would be preferable if such a private session were held outside Cuba, possibly in Mexico.

The late Lisa Howard, the spirited TV correspondent who knew Castro well and tenaciously pursued for many long months a dream of U. S.-Cuban reconciliation, learned of Attwood's talks with Lechuga and was in telephone com-munication with Maj. Rene Vallejo, Castro's personal aide.

On Oct. 31 Vallejo told Miss Howard that Castro would welcome an unpublicized visit from a U. S. official.

On Nov. 5 Attwood met with McGeorge Bundy at the White House; Bundy, he reports, said "the President more than the State Dept. was interested in exploring this overtire but thought we should now find out just what Castro wanted to discuss before going into a meeting."

Vallejo called Miss Howard again to emphasize that the Cubans would accept any secrecy arrangements we pro-posed. He also said that Castro alone would be present—and specifically stated that Guevara would not be.

Bundy told Attwood that President Kennedy still favored preliminary private talks at the UN to ascertain whether Castro was "seriously interested" in discussing the points Stevenson had raised in a UN speech on Oct. 7. In that ad-dress Stevenson said that the U.S.-Cuban cold war could be ended if Castro stopped taking orders from Moscow and

infiltrating other Latin American states, and returned to the democratic promises of his revolution.

Attwood telephoned Vallejo at a private Havana num-ber and confirmed our readiness to listen to Castro. Vallejo said Castro would tell Lechuga to discuss an agenda for the conversation.

On Nov. 19 Bundy told Attwood that the President wanted to see him immediately after he met with Lechuga. "A brief trip to Dallas."

Soon after the assassination Attwood encountered Le-chuga, who said he had been instructed by Castro on Nov. 23 to begin "formal discussions" with him.

"... I informed Bundy and later was told that the Cuban exercise would be put on ice for a while—which it was and where it has been ever since," Attwood writes.

If . . . ?

I thought this might interest Bill Turner, the ex-FBI Spe-cial Agent who is investigating the assassination for *Ram-parts* so I clipped the column and sent it off. Turner men-tioned Attwood's account in the June *Kamparis*, offering it as evidence of the dramatic changes in American foreign policy that might have taken place had Kennedy lived and, indeed, whose imminence may have helped bring about his death.

I bought *The Reds and The Blacks* so I could see if there had been any errors in Wechsler's version that I ought to bring to Turner's attention.

"The late Lisa Howard," Wechsler had written, "the spirited TV correspondent who knew Castro well and tena-ciously pursued for many long months a dream of U. S.-Cuban reconciliation, learned of Attwood's talks with Le-chuga and was in telephone communication with Maj. Rene Vallejo, Castro's personal aide."

"Meanwhile," Attwood wrote (p. 143), "Lisa Howard, a television correspondent who knew Castro well and had been briefed on my UN talks with Lechuga, had been in touch by phone with Castro's personal aide, Major Rene Vallejo."

Two things struck me.

First, Wechsler had felt called upon to note that Lisa How-ard was no longer alive. Attwood didn't mention the fact of her subsequent death, although the refers quite gra-tuitously ten pages earlier in the book to the fact that within a year after he ran into Washington painter Mary Meyer in the company of John Kennedy she had been murdered.

Second, only Wechsler thought it interesting that Lisa Howard's interest in our relations with Cuba antedated her involvement in October, 1963.

Neither of these facts could have escaped Attwood. No one in New York's journalistic community could have failed to note Lisa Howard's death in the summer of 1965, or to have known that for some time before October, 1963 she had been exploiting her hard-won contact with Castro in a personal attempt to secure the rationalization of U. S.-Cuban relations.

Both facts were so well known to me that Wechsler's re-ference to them only barely registered with me on the first reading. It was Attwood's omission of them that renewed my interest.

Lisa Howard was born Dorothy Jean Guggenheim in Cambridge, Ohio in 1926. She entered Miami University in Oxford, Ohio at the age of 16, quit after a year to act. She appeared in a few summer stock productions, in an off-Broadway production of *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*, and in a TV soap-opera, *The Edge of Night*.

The Realist

the Czechoslovakian Embassy, which represents Cuba in Havana, which handles United States affairs there, or Fidel Castro is genuinely interested in meaningful negotiations, why doesn't he address himself to the Swiss Embassy? However, this question may reasonably be raised: If Fidel Castro is genuinely interested in meaningful negotiations, why doesn't he address himself to the Swiss Embassy in Havana, which handles United States affairs there, or the Czechoslovakian Embassy, which represents Cuba in

quarters can hardly be ignored. An overture repeated so often, and in so many on his mind. It is now evident that Fidel Castro has something serious to the most casual observer of the Cuban scene it must by Surely these are not mere propaganda utterings. Even

three years. formal gathering of the Western diplomatic corps in over incidentally, marked the first time Castro had attended a amicable relations with the United States. This luncheon, continually referred to the subject of his desire for more of June at the home of the Czech ambassador to Cuba and attended by all the Western ambassadors to Cuba, Castro television and said he hoped Cuba could normalize relations with the United States. At a luncheon held at the end of June at the home of the Czech ambassador to Cuba and

On June 24th, Cuban President Dorticos spoke on Havana discussions with the United States. referred to our interview and again indicated his desire for return to Cuba, in a televised address to the people, he returned to Cuba, in a speech at Lenin Stadium in Moscow. Upon his States in a speech at Lenin Stadium in Moscow. Upon his He mentioned his desire for better relations with the United States, about his desire for negotiations with the United States, a period of eight hours, Castro was even more emphatic During our private conversations, which continued over and Cuba:

points of contention that existed between the United States interview Castro had proclaimed his desire to discuss all Report. In it Lisa Howard noted that during the filmed in-Overture" that appeared in Richard Hudson's *War/Peace* Meanwhile she had written an article titled "Castro's show starting a woman in the history of broadcasting. The five-minute afternoon show was the first network news "Woman's Touch". It went on the air September 9, 1963. ABC rewarded its lady reporter for her initiative with "Purex Presents Lisa Howard and the News, with the

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Senators Kenneth B. Keating of New York and Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota were interviewed immediately after the film. Keating said that Dr. Castro's remarks showed "a hunger for reconciliation." Humphrey, then Kennedy's spokesman in the Senate, said that Castro was "whistling in the dark" about any reconciliation.

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of himself and Lisa with a Polaroid camera given him by Castro appeared to enjoy it all. He had pictures taken words of Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson."

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Then Castro, his interpreter, the ambassador, the Minister said, "Lisa Howard, how do you do?" Five minutes later, Castro drove up, walked over to her and down to the lobby, and was taken out to the hotel steps. Lisa leaped into a low-cut brown cocktail dress, went

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"Get dressed and come downstairs," said the ambasador. "I'm in bed," said Lisa. "Come downstairs," he said.

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In May, 1961 Lisa Howard was asked to join the tenacity or resourcefulness or refusing to take no for an answer." Miss Howard told the *New York Times*. "Call it a woman." "I don't think my success has anything to do with being exclusive interview.

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He is an intellectual who also has a sense of humor."
 The admiration was apparently mutual. Castro allowed her to film another interview. "I don't believe this interview is going to do a thing for me," he joked, "but it's going to be great for your career."
 It wasn't. The interview was aired on April 19th. Castro said that at the time of Kennedy's death he believed the President was "persuading himself of his mistakes about Cuba. I had some evidence that some change was taking place in the mind of the Government of the United States a new situation . . . and we had evidence I do not want to speak about."
 Jack Gould, television critic of the Times, the next day criticized the interview as "vague."
 "But," he added, "the A. B. C. news department did treat Miss Howard rather oddly in one respect. After her program had finished, the network offered a spot announcement in support of the International Rescue Committee. Viewers were asked to contribute money to aid the thousands of victims of Castro tyranny. The matter of the refugees preferably should have been incorporated in the body of Miss Howard's program. The announcement was so pointed in its content and its placement on the air as to suggest that the network was second guessing."
 Lisa Howard kept up her contact with Castro through the Cuban premier telephoned her that year. On July 6th, the Cuban premier telephoned her to inform her that he had sent telegrams to 25 American publications inviting them to send reporters to cover the 26th of July celebrations in Cuba. Any one of the 25 publications was of course free to make the invitation public. Castro called because he was anxious to give his blonde friend the scoop.
 In the late summer of 1964 Bobby Kennedy announced that he would run for the New York Senate seat held by Keaning. On September 10th, Lisa Howard and Gore Vidal—both known as prominent figures in New York City's Democratic reform movement—met with Keaning to pledge their support to his campaign, to forestall what they called the "Bobby Kennedy power grab." The meeting was at Lisa Howard's home.
 She told the Times three days later that the group was organized because "if you feel strongly about something like this you can't remain silent—you have to show courage and stand up and be counted." One of those attending the meeting said, "Bobby is the very antithesis of his brother, the late President. He is ruthless, reactionary and dangerously authoritarian. We feel he must be stopped now."
 The first public meeting of Democrats for Keaning was held the evening of September 28th. The following day ABC suspended Lisa Howard and plugged Marlene Sanders into her news slot. ABC News released the following statement:
 "Miss Lisa Howard has been relieved from all ABC News assignments for the duration of the political campaign because she has chosen to participate publicly in partisan political activity contrary to long-established ABC News policy."
 Lisa replied that she had notified ABC on September 19th that she was working in behalf of Senator Keaning as a private citizen and that her television broadcasts would not reflect her political position. She had, she said, participated just as actively in politics during the campaigns of 1961, 1962 and 1963.
 Shortly before her suspension ABC had renewed her contract through the following September. She insisted that

the answer is a simple one. Castro is an intensely proud man and, therefore, hesitant about making a formal bid for negotiations that might be rejected out of hand—particularly where the United States is concerned.
 Castro has spent a good part of his career defying the United States, and now he simply cannot bring himself to beseech us. So he has turned to other, more subtle approaches to impart his message: a U. S. journalist, public speeches, allied ambassadors—hoping that someone on the other side will respond to the suggestion.
 Although the "U. S. journalist" had connections on the Cuban side, she was unable to make contact with the Administration. It was instead one of the "allied ambassadors"—the Guinean ambassador to Havana who first broached the topic of a Cuban rapprochement to Attwood—who started the ball rolling.
 Attwood does not mention who brought Lisa Howard into the picture at this stage. Most likely it was Bobby Kennedy. On the Attorney General's instruction, Attwood told Lechuga that he "couldn't very well go to Cuba but that if Castro wanted to talk to us we were prepared to meet him or a personal emissary at some convenient place like the UN."
 But Attwood notes that "Lechuga's message, which went through the Foreign Office, had apparently not reached Castro."
 This is why Lisa Howard was informed of the Administration's interest in arranging talks with Castro: because she was the only person in the United States of America that could run Castro's interference and get through to the man himself.
 Humphrey had said that Castro was "whistling in the dark" about any reconciliation. Now John F. Kennedy had picked up the tune, and Lisa Howard danced between them.
 Castro called Lisa Howard on New Year's Day 1964, the eve of the 5th anniversary of his seizure of power from Fulgenzio Batista. While thousands of red flags and pictures of Castro and Khrushchev decked the streets of Havana for the next day's celebrations, the Cuban Premier spoke in English for a half-hour.
 Parts of the conversation were quoted in the next day's New York Times. He said that he was hopeful that good relations with the United States might be restored that year, that until President Kennedy's "tragic death" he believed that "an eventual normalization of relations with the Kennedy Administration was possible."
 "We have spoken," he said, "and we repeat that our wish is to normalize that relationship. But now it is not for us; it belongs to the United States Government to take the next step to help that normalization because it is difficult to answer what we can do. . . . We are ready to speak about indemnification of American property nationalized by the revolutionary Government and so you see that sincerely we are ready to speak, but it does not depend only upon us. . . . I want to say to the people of the United States that in spite of the fact that President Kennedy was hard personally toward us, of course we are really sorry about his tragic death."
 Lisa went to Cuba again in the Spring of 1964. She spent 10 days inspecting bull farms, villages, housing co-operatives and agricultural schools. She was with the Cuban leader on five occasions.
 "We talked and talked," Lisa said. "He's read Shakespeare, Camus, the Greek philosophers, Thomas Paine."

there was nothing in this contract that prohibited political activity on her part. The network admitted that this was so, but that she was suspended nonetheless.

Saturday evening, October 17th saw the debut of a series of debates called "The Controversy" at the Strollers Club, once the home of *The Establishment*, the English satirical revue and now the site of Arthur's, a discotheque. It was a panel show with food, drink and audience participation, moderated by Betty Furness.

Lisa Howard and Stephen May, a lawyer and Keating partisan, debated two pro-Bobby attorneys, Robert H. Clampitt and Justin Feldman. Edwin Guthman, a top Kennedy aide, sat silently in the rear of the audience. Lisa dropped the bomb of the evening. "Brothers are not necessarily the same," she told the audience. "There was Cain and Abel."

There was loud applause and a woman's voice that said, "That's disgusting." Betty Furness rapidly closed the refrigerator door on that salient of discussion. As Lisa walked into the foyer and saw Feldman talking to Ed Guthman, she must have realized that her days in broadcasting were numbered.

Election Day came, but Purex was still Presenting Marlene Sanders. The day after Bobby was elected the network informed Lisa that her particular woman's touch was no longer in demand at ABC News. They allowed as how she wasn't in violation of her contract and that they would reciprocate by continuing to mail her the \$500 minimum weekly paycheck to which she was entitled until she resigned—and would she please resign.

"She's being canned," an unnamed ABC executive told the *Times* on November 8th. "She doesn't fit. She's a mystery girl. We just don't want her on our staff."

On December 15th, she filed suit against American Broadcasting-Paramount Theatres, Inc. for \$2,008,000 in damages. She asked for a court order requiring the company to show cause why she should not be reinstated immediately, and asked for a temporary injunction to prevent ABC from using her format on the program during her absence.

"The exercise of a sacred right and citizenship," her affidavit stated, "by participation in a public election campaign cannot possibly constitute a legitimate justification for permanently removing me from ABC television."

At a hearing the following week, Clarence Fried, ABC's lawyer, replied that the company had suspended Miss Howard because she had ignored directives to desist from participating in partisan politics and had "sabotaged" network programs. Moreover, he said, she had been insubordinate to her superiors on several occasions.

State Supreme Court Justice Louis J. Capozzoli thought actual restoration to the air would be "an extraordinary action" and reserved decision. On January 18, 1965, Justice Capozzoli denied her requests for damages, reinstatement and an injunction.

With the possibility of returning to ABC nil, Lisa didn't bother making the rounds of other broadcasters. She was convinced that she was blacklisted. "ABC," she lamented, "has, in effect, created a blacklist on which they've placed my name." Instead she exploited some of her contacts in the reform movement and landed the job of Publicity Director of New York City's anti-poverty program.

She would begin her new job on July 6, 1965. Slightly more than three weeks before she was supposed to go to work, Lisa Howard suffered what was described as a miscarriage and was admitted to Mount Sinai Hospital. She stayed there for 3 weeks, and was discharged on Fri-

day, July 2nd. Her husband, Walter Lowendahl, a film executive, drove her to their summer home in East Hampton, Long Island.

Shortly after noon on Fourth of July Sunday she was observed "acting strangely" in the parking lot of a pharmacy by "two friends," who helped her into their car and then called the police for assistance.

Patrolman William Brockman, who responded to the call, later told the *Times* that Miss Howard appeared dazed and glassy-eyed and was almost incoherent.

"She kept mumbling something about a miscarriage," the patrolman said. He escorted the friends' car to the East Hampton Medical Center, but "she collapsed before we got her inside."

The doctor at the clinic performed a tracheotomy to clear an airway and gave her oxygen. She never regained consciousness. At 12:15 p.m. Lisa Howard was pronounced dead. Dr. Mary Johnson, assistant Suffolk County medical examiner, tentatively ruled the death a suicide pending an autopsy. The police said that a prescription Miss Howard obtained Saturday for ten sleeping pills had been altered to 100 before she had it filled.

The *Times* reported that "according to a close friend, Miss Howard had been depressed since the loss of her unborn child. Speaking from her home at 63 Spring Close Highway, he said 'Lisa had taken a normal prescription last night to counter the depression. But she woke up and wandered into town seeking more barbiturates. She got them. Then she felt sick and asked two friends for help. They drove her to the East Hampton clinic, with a police escort, where she lost consciousness.'"

Two weeks later, Dr. Sidney Wenberg, Suffolk County medical examiner, ruled the death a suicide. Lisa Howard, he said, had taken enough barbiturates to kill five persons.

I first met Lisa Howard the last week in October 1962, the week the Russians were hauling missiles towards Cuba. I was contact man for the UPI film crew and we set up on a balcony overlooking the ballroom. The cameraman shot an establisher over the balustrade and when he was through he pointed to a knot of people on the floor.

"There's Stevenson, in the middle," he said. "Watch when she comes through—she doesn't care who he is, she'll strong-arm him out of there like he was her little boy."

And indeed within a few minutes Lisa Howard came through a door and made a beeline through the people and tables to where Stevenson was nodding politely, one hand in his coat pocket, his head tilted toward the floor. She stood in the group for perhaps half a minute before she lost her motherly patience and pulled Adlai out of the sandbox.

They came out of the elevator arm in arm. Stevenson looked quite pink as people whom we are used to seeing in the *grisaille* of the media tend to look in the flesh. Lisa Howard had Clairol blond hair pulled back in a bun and a pretty, heavily made-up face. She conducted a business-like interview, after which Stevenson good-evening-gentlemen us and walked out alone down the hall.

"I've seen him better," she said, shaking her head. "They want this for the 11 o'clock," she said to me.

"There's a rider downstairs waiting," I said.

"They said the same thing two weeks ago and the stuff didn't come through till the next day. They put it on overnight by mistake."

The sound man rolled his eyes and stuck his tongue in his cheek.

"I'll call the lab myself," I offered.

The Realist

"You'd better do that," she snapped. "This wouldn't be the first time you guys balled things up." She gathered her things and walked out the door.

"That mirror mirror on the wall must have not told her she was the fairest one of all tonight," said the sound man.

Lisa Howard struck me as the sort of person who took out her moods on others, not on herself.

She could indeed have killed herself; her self-possession may have been merely so much veneer over a core of pure mush. But the quality of the evidence that she did kill herself makes her suicide less than plausible. Evidence is often like Swiss cheese—it is the holes in it that make it interesting.

Lisa Howard suffered a "miscarriage" and was hospitalized for three weeks. The period of hospitalization for a miscarriage is ordinarily three days. One can assume that there may have been other factors which required her extraordinarily long stay at Mount Sinai.

She was supposed to have been despondent over the loss of her unborn child. Yet the day after her discharge from the hospital her doctor gave her a prescription for barbiturates. A doctor might as well have given her a loaded gun.

The "friend" who spoke to the *Times* says that she took the barbiturates Saturday to counter her depression. Barbiturates are pharmacologically depressants. Lisa Howard was no dope.

Two anonymous "friends" are said to have found her in the parking lot. Perhaps these "friends" partook of the same sort of anonymity as the "unidentified person" who, on March 27th of that year, had taken Jack Ruby's former attorney Tom Howard to a Dallas hospital to die (see *Reports*, November, 1966, p. 421).

If you found a friend of yours wandering around a pharmacy parking lot acting strangely, dazed, glassy-eyed and mumbling incoherently, would you wait for the police to arrive before taking her to the hospital? Put it another way—if you had just poisoned a "friend" and wanted someone to witness the simulated effects of barbiturate poisoning before the "friend" passed out or away, whom would you call?

Patrolman Brockman said that Miss Howard appeared dazed, glassy-eyed and almost incoherent. When he arrived at the scene he was told that she had been wandering around the pharmacy parking lot. If the physician who heard these facts assumed that the patient was suffering from barbiturate poisoning, standard procedure would be to remove the contents of the stomach by inducing vomiting or pumping the stomach and to administer large doses of amphetamines and an adrenalin solution.

None of these procedures was attempted.

Physicians in resort towns are exposed to the symptoms of barbiturate poisoning daily. Why didn't the doctor who treated Lisa Howard take routine action?

(Lee Bowers, the railroad terminal employee who stood in a 14-foot tower directly behind the Grassy Knoll was fatally injured on August 9, 1966 when his brand new company car veered from the road at 50 miles an hour and hit a bridge abutment. The doctor who rode in the ambulance with Bowers noticed something strange about the victim. "He was in a strange state of shock," the old doctor said, "a different kind of shock than an accident victim experiences. I can't explain it. I've never seen anything like it.")

Patrolman Brockman said Lisa Howard kept mumbling

something about a miscarriage. Does this ring true if her death was a suicide? Do people who attempt to commit suicide ramble on about the substantive cause of their attempt? If at this point Lisa Howard was in fact demented, why such extraordinary lucidity? More likely, she would be mumbling about how she was tired, or how the midday sun was hurting her eyes.

Assuming Patrolman Brockman's memory was not affected by what he later was told about the case by those close to Lisa Howard—by others with a more sinister interest in her death—what could Lisa have been trying to say? Could she have been trying to say that there had been no miscarriage? That the "miscarriage" was a ruse she used to find sanctuary in the hospital? Or that she had been poisoned and they were now going to say she had done it because of a miscarriage?

The *Times* reported that the police said she had altered her prescription "from 10 to 100." The *Times* style book dictates that the word "ten" be written out in the text—digits are used starting with 11. By quoting the police this way the reader is assured of the plausibility of such an alteration.

In fact, however, it would be impossible.

There is a law in New York State that prescriptions for barbiturates, amphetamines and narcotics be written out in words—even the time-honored practice of using X for ten and C for a hundred is not permitted in prescriptions for this drug. A pharmacist who filled a prescription for 100 barbiturate tablets would be committing a misdemeanor and putting his license in jeopardy. To dispense "100" he would have to be mad.

So we are presented with the picture of the lady newsman striding forth from the mad druggist to chew down one hundred barbiturate tablets in an exurban parking lot at high noon without benefit of a glass of water, there being no evidence that she did not commit suicide.

You will excuse me for not going after the evidence that she did not commit suicide, but I prefer not to die mumbling "Lisa Howard" and I like water with my pills.

It is too bad that Lisa Howard is no longer with us. I should have liked to ask the only American who was in constant communication with Fidel Castro whether, in the Fall of 1963 or later, he had any intimations that forces in the United States had been plotting his death, or that those forces, finding their plans truncated by presidential order, decided to vent their anti-detente spleen on our young and beautiful President.

Perhaps she could have told us whether, as she found herself moving within earshot of the titans, she had reason to believe that there were among the honorable men of this land those who viewed political questions through the reticule of a gunsight.

Perhaps she could have told us the root of her perception of Robert Kennedy as Cain and John Kennedy as Abel. Mystery girl.

