Bet You Missed It-What do politicians and liquid lunches have in common?

Bruce Strauch
The Citadel, strauchb@citadel.edu

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Recommended Citation
Strauch, Bruce (2014) "Bet You Missed It-What do politicians and liquid lunches have in common?," Against the Grain: Vol. 26: Iss. 4, Article 37.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.6824

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Bet You Missed It

Press Clippings — In the News — Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

Column Editor:  Bruce Strauch  (The Citadel)

Editor’s Note:  Hey, are y’all reading this?  If you know of an article that should be called to Against the Grain’s attention ... send an email to <kstrauch@comcast.net>.  We’re listening! — KS

GRIM DAYS IN VICHY FRANCE
by Bruce Strauch  (The Citadel)

And the French continue to agonize over their national shame.  (1) Jean D’Ormesson,  At God’s Pleasure (1974) (your selector calls D’Ormesson France’s greatest living author);  (2) Jean Bruller,  The Silence of the Sea (1942) (note the date;  this was published anonymously and distributed by hand);  (3) Allan Massie,  A Question of Loyalties (1989);  (4) Philippe Claudel,  Brodeck’s Report (2007);  (5) Hélène Berr,  The Journal of Hélène Berr (2008).


AND WHILE WE’RE ON WAR ...
by Bruce Strauch  (The Citadel)

Let’s have five reads on D-Day.  (1) Ed.  Winston Ramsey,  D-Day Then and Now (this is condensed from After the Battle, a magazine with a big rep among WWII historians)(1995);  (2) Jonathan Gawne,  Spearheading D-Day (a look at all the special units you never hear about:  Coast Guard, Navy Scouts and Raiders, special beach battalions, signalmen et al.) (1998);  (3) Max Hastings,  Overlord (covers entire Normandy campaign) (1984);  (4) Donald Burgett,  Currahee! (account of a 19-year-old paratrooper) (1967);  (5) Joseph Balkoski,  Omaha Beach (sometimes referred to as finest living D-Day historian) (2004).


LIQUID LUNCH LOG
by Bruce Strauch  (The Citadel)

A profile of federal judge Denise Cote who handled the price-fixing prosecution of various publishers and Apple.  She hit the publishers with $166 million in sanctions to compensate readers who were overcharged on books (Have you gotten a check?  I haven’t.)  But even more devastating to them, she required they keep a record of their familiar cozy chats over lunch at the Union Square Café.

This is reported to have chilled the book business.

But of course.  It doesn’t pay.  Liquid lunches are the only joy.


ANONYMOUS AUTHORS
by Bruce Strauch  (The Citadel)

The Allen Drury series —  Advise and Consent; Decision;  Mark Coffin,  U.S.S. — are among the remarkably few novels about D.C.‘s “grasping politicians, ambitious reporters and wheedling influence-peddlers.”  They have been out of print but are now reissued by WordFire Press.

Primary Colors got some brief attention largely because the author was anonymous and everyone played a guessing game.

But the first significant Washington novel was also published anonymously.  Democracy was a tale of corruption and amorality set in U.S. Grant’s scandal-ridden administration.  It came out on April Fool’s Day 1880.  Three decades later, the author was discovered to be Henry Adams.


RECORDS OF UNSPARING FRANKNESS
by Bruce Strauch  (The Citadel)

Someone has an ironic sense of humor.  Because blockbuster author Jeffrey Archer went to prison for perjury due to a diary someone kept.  But let’s see Archer’s favorite reads on diaries.  And for anyone who went to Fiesole in Cambridge, he lives in Grantchester where Rupert Brooke used to bicycle for tea.


Is the Future Convergence or Collision?  
from page 1

scholarly publishers will need to assess their respective positions in the marketplace and will need to act in a far more expeditious manner than they have in the past.  Further, these new emerging technologies are speeding up the collision that we all will face.  Library resource budgets have been and will continue to be challenged, and that pressure has caused library directors to refine and reduce their collections from publishers.  This in turn challenges the publishers to deliver the best journals and articles on a commercially sound basis.  Meanwhile, the author community since the beginning of time has been burdened with “publish or perish” as they build scholarly reputations.  How will they be able to find the most germane articles for their research and how will they get their articles published and then found?  This article discusses these topics in detail and points toward some potential answers.