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Bet You Missed It-What do Babar and Richard Gere have in common?

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Bet You Missed It

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

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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**

GOOD-FOR-YOU FOOD IS GOOD AGAIN

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel, Emeritus)

The wall between health food and *haute cuisine* has been kicked down. Fat is back, and veggie dishes are often the best on the menu. (Think char-roasted cabbage with gooseberry dressing, hazelnuts and ricotta). Tumeric, chia seeds and kimchi are part of the global powerhouse of nutrition.

Much of this trend can be traced to **Sally Fallon's** *Nourishing Traditions* (New Trends Publishing, 1995). It charted the good health of traditional cultures worldwide. Butter and other saturated fats were okay. Meat was okay. It was all a question of balance.

See — **Mari Uyehara**, "Tune Into the Tumeric Age," *The Wall Street Journal*, Sept. 16-17, 2017, p.D10.

PLUTOCRAT PROBLEMS: FAKE ART ANXIETY

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel, Emeritus)

Being duped by an art forger is the ultimate humiliation for the rich snob. Yet it's so common that any serious collector has been stung at least once.

Nicholas Taubman bought a **Clyfford Still** for \$4.3 million that had been created by a starving artist in his Queens' garage. **Alec Baldwin** is suing **Mary Boone** over a **Ross Bleckner**. **John McEnroe** and Wall Street titan **Andrew Hall** were ripped off.

The FBI estimates that of the \$6 billion spent worldwide each year on art, 75% is fake. *Is that truly possible?*

At any rate, some people like hanging fake art and humble-boasting of how much they lost. Or they know their guests won't spot their art as fake. **Aristotle Onassis** hung fake **Goyas** on his yacht.

Reformed forger **Ken Perenyi** says he does better now than when he was a counterfeiter. He'll see his work in a magazine hanging over someone's fireplace.

See — **Ben Ryder Howe**, "Wall of Shame," *Town & Country*, Oct. 2017, p.110.

PROTESTANT BEER REFORM

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel, Emeritus)

In the 16th century, the Catholic church controlled beer production through its monopoly on gruit, a mix of herbs and botanicals (sweet gale, mug wort, yarrow, ground ivy, heather, rosemary, juniper berries, ginger, cinnamon). This provided both flavor and preservation.

A 12th century German mystic and abbess, **Hildegard**, didn't care for hops, and the church followed her direction. But with gruit, the head on the beer quickly went flat.

Enter **Martin Luther** who quite liked the flavor of hops. And they were tax free.

Guttenberg broke the Catholic church's hold on the *Bible*; **Luther** did the same for beer.

See — **Nina Martyris**, NPR, Oct. 31, 2017.



BABAR'S LAST BOW

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel, Emeritus)

Jean de Brunhoff created "The Story of Babar" in 1931 and followed it with six more. His son, **Laurent**, a more gifted artist, continued the series with 50 of his own. The latest, *Barbar's Guide to Paris*, will be the final book.

Laurent is 92, has lived in Connecticut with his American wife for 32 years. **Phillis Rose** wrote the text for the books and **Laurent** illustrated.

Babar and the Little Prince are the most enduring characters of French children's literature.

See — **Tunku Varadarajan**, "Babar the Elephant Takes His Final Bow," *The Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 25-26, 2017, p. A11.

STYLIN'

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel, Emeritus)

37 years ago, **Richard Gere** became a star in *American Gigolo* (1980). He did sit-ups while hanging upside down from a bar. Worked as an escort. Wore a wardrobe by **Giorgio Armani**.

Although he never wore it in the movie, he gave interviews in a camel hair polo coat — belted, large lapels turned up in the back. And you too can have one for around \$4,000.

See — **Jacob Gallagher**, "Not Just a 'Gigolo,'" *The Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 11-12, 2017, p. D3.

LET'S READ ABOUT VILLAINS

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel, Emeritus)

Thomas Harris, *Red Dragon* (1981) (serial killer Hannibal Lecter); (2) **Cornell Woolrich**, *The Bride Wore Black* (1940) (Groom is murdered. Bride sets out to get his killers. **Woolrich** was a deeply troubled and deeply productive author. Lots of Hollywood work. Think *Rear Window*.); (3) **Melville Davisson Post**, *The Strange Schemes of Randolph Mason* (1896) (**Randolph Mason**, rogue lawyer. **Erle Stanley Gardner** named Perry Mason for him.); (4) **Donald Westlake**, *The Hot Rock* (1970) (Comic bumbling thief whose schemes all go wrong.); (5) **Sax Rohmer**, *The Insidious Dr. Fu-Manchu* (1913) (Is this the first one? **Rohmer** wrote a dozen about the arch-villain over 40 years.)

See — **Otto Penzler**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 11-12, 2017, p.C10.

CHARLESTON LIBRARY SOCIETY FOUNDING

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel, Emeritus)

In 1748, craving connection to a more civilized England, 19 young men founded the first library in Charles Town. For a shared library fund, they kicked in five shillings a week, but a missed meeting brought a five pound fine. Their seal featured **Minerva**, Roman goddess of wisdom and sponsor of the arts.

Their membership grew to 100 by 1750. The library on lower King Street still exists with 3,000 members.

See — **Leah Rhyne**, "How 19 young men founded The Charleston Library Society," *The Charleston Mercury*, Nov. 2017, p.26.