



Harry Golden's "Only In America"

IS IT TIME TO FORGIVE GERMANY?

The Rabbi Doctor Asher of Greensboro, N.C., in an article published in Look magazine says it is time to forgive Germany. The rabbi was born in Germany and was a refugee who escaped the slaughter.

He argues that there can

be no such thing as collective guilt. Guilt is not something inherited; it is something incurred. A German, man or woman, 30 years old, the mature citizen who is a generation younger than I, could not possibly have had any part in the Nazi massacre and atrocities. This is true. How can anyone pay a debt he does not really owe? What is such payment worth anyway?

I offered these same observations myself in 1961 when I spoke at the Free University in Berlin. I was perhaps not as articulate as the rabbi, but I think it is fair to say we are two men in agreement.

Nineteen sixty-on was my first trip to Germany. Since then I have undertaken two more. While I shall never be a Germanophile (for obvious reasons), my visits have convinced me the Germans are far from thick-skinned. They are not really proclaiming their innocence. They are like people everywhere else. They are worried about the bad things that have happened in their home.

The question is not whether you can forgive Germany, but whether ultimately the Germans can forgive themselves. When the Germans do seem thick-skinned to us, when they seem in these postwar years weary of the question of guilt, I think it is because they have not yet found the rationalization of

how they are going to forgive themselves.

The tremendous prosperity, the industrialization which has aided Germany as America's ally in Central Europe against communism has obscured the thick sense of guilt which pervades the country.

You can cut this guilt with a knife.

But what can a man say: certainly I cannot feel sorry the Germans are guilty. The worst of all lessons history had to teach us took place in Germany. Nor can any of us say, forget it. Indeed we cannot forget what the Germans did lest we ourselves somehow become as corrupt and cruel.

We are all diminished not by the guilt, but by the action which elicits it.

MAGAZINE COVERS

A good friend of mine who has worked on magazines all his life tells me whenever he is in trouble for a story to up the circulation he has a simple remedy.

He puts a new 60-day wonder diet or a new wonder 30-day diet on the cover. His problems are solved for the month.

Of course, it is true he has to spend several days worrying about the people who will flop dead because they've denied themselves sugar, or because they've eaten nothing but spinach and eggs, or because they've denied themselves carbohydrates. But as he says, a 50-cent magazine with a two million circulation figure is worth any number of diet books.

Editors also depend upon a headline which boasts the reader who can peruse a "Guide for Marital Fidelity" and the wise guys always include a "Guide for Marital Infidelity." It is quite true no one needs either, not in America, nor anywhere else for that matter.

Judging from the success of magazines which feature nude women, all of whom look like ice cream sodas, a lady without her clothes will also sell magazines.

Nothing is as sure a best-seller as a description of the perfect murder. Murder must be in everyone's heart because those stories which command immediate audience interest are those which tell how scoundrels nearly got away with it, it being carving up wives, lovers, or business partners.

In the days of prohibition,

Barney Glazer's Glazed Bits



Hollywood, Calif. - For his current shooting film "Trunk to Cairo," Audie Murphy will film his "Egypt scenes" in Israel. Well, that's an improvement... Marty Mills and his wife Edie Adams will move out of the Beverly Hills house that Ernie Kovacs, Edie's late husband, built. The surprise of it being that they lived there at all with her memories.

TONY CURTIS will accept Russia's invitation to attend its '65 Moscow Film Festival in mid-July. Tony guested at the same event in '63. This year, he'll take along a print of "The Great Race," Warner film in which he co-starred with Jack Lemmon.

BEST WISHES and speedy recovery to Robert M. Weitman, M G M's production vice-president, who suffered a slipped disc..... Herschel Bernardi, currently starring on Broadway in "Bajou," for-

articles on how beer was fermented in the basement or how wine was pressed in the bathtub never failed to arouse interest. In the days of the affluent society, of course, how to make a million dollars in the stock market is sur to bear some relation to someone with a spare buck.

But there's a bright side to all of this--there is still deep concern with the human story. A few miners trapped underground or a quantity of a rare blood type rushed across the continent still command our interest and respect.

med his own independent company to produce television and films. Herschel has been making a pot of money. Now he's asking for a mess of trouble.

EDDIE FISHER and his brother "Bunny" (Alvin), who has been his road manager for three years, have split at the seams, non-singing "Bunny" refused to sing out with any complaints, stating it simply, "We both have our faults." He used to work for Paul Anka.

PUBLICIST Russell Birdwell once received a blood transfusion from a Jewish donor. Ever since, Birdwell has labeled himself as "one quart Jewish." Following the transfusion, Birdwell's boss at the time, David O. Selznick, memored the publicist, "I am Chairman of the Jewish Welfare Drive and because you are now one of us, I am deducting ten percent from your salary for the remainder of the year."

Selznick actually made the deductions which Birdwell laughingly refused to challenge.

SAMMY FAIN, one of the cleverest Jewish songwriters, of which there are many, is one of the most talented singing songwriters, of which there are few, if any more. Sammy has written the melody for the title song of MGM's "Joy in the Morning."

Said Sammy at the Coconut Grove recently, "Richard Cahmberlain sings the tune in the film and does an un-

usually good job." Paul Francis Webster wrote the lyrics.

Fain has also written "Paris Lullaby," which Ann-Margret and Louis Jourdan sing in the MGM movie of the same name. Asked to name his first hit tune, Sammy named "Let a Smile Be Your Umbrella." It broke in 1925 and where were you then?

ISRAEL had to break its promise to lend The Mirisch Corporation 800 of its crack troops for use in "Cast a Giant Shadow," now shooting (film, not bullets) in Israel. The troops had something more important to do at the time - slap Jordan's wrist.

HARRY KARL may insist on equal time for his parish after his wife Debbie Reynolds concludes her starring role in "The Singing Nun." Harry will interplead for something like "The Cantor's Wife."



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