

Rattle and Hum

Douglas Wilson

If you read enough of him, T.S. Eliot grows on you after a while. Some of his poems aren't that great, but many of his lines are stupendous. "Ash on an old man's sleeve...." But to spend massive amounts of time with his poetry one has to have the kind of mind that enjoys staring at the wallpaper. His essays, on the other hand, are consistently outstanding. How's that for a mixed review?

For those who are interested, I am currently engaged in an Internet debate with an atheist philosopher named Theodore Drange. The debate is posted at infidels.org. The fact I am telling you about this means that I think I'm winning.

By the time you receive this, our local police will probably have forgotten all about it, so a little bragging is now safe, and perhaps it is even in order. But first some background. Our local city council, through a series of ridiculous circumstances, decided to quit restricting female toplessness. The noble senior editor of this journal, encouraged by some winks and nudges from me, not that he needed any, made up a flyer which announced a topless and proud lecture series by topless feminist scholars. The titles of the talks were the typical postmodern hoohah-"Topless Shadows: A Personal Narrative," "Destabilizing the Topless/Bottomless Duality," "Breasts as Embodied Intuitions," you get the drift. Some of our stalwart young Christian men, majoring in Christian culture and skylarking, papered the university with these flyers, and the next morning a bunch of them were faxed all over campus. Now you know that we live in sad days, days when satire is increasingly difficult, and almost impossible. The radio station announced the lectures all day, an instructor out of the women's center announced the lectures to a class, and the English department (listed on the flyer as sponsor) called the announced location to find out if they were in fact going on.

Well, some authorities at the University of Idaho went sideways, and had the cops out looking for the culprits. When they demanded to see the film from the security cameras at Kinko's (whence the faxes had been sent), our noble editor contacted the established authorities (Rom. 13), who told him it wasn't funny. He responded that on the contrary it was, and the next day gave out a press release on how the university was trying to repress the true, the good and the lovely.

Needless to say, lots of people showed up for the non-event, and all this happened on April 1. All in all, it was a bad day for the tight-lipped fundamentalists of the left.

If you haven't had a really good laugh in a while, get a hold of Mark Twain's essay on the literary offenses of James Fenimore Cooper.

06/15/04
09:10

MOSCOW POLICE DEPARTMENT
LAW Incident Table:

210
Page: 1

Incident Number: 99-1560
Nature: Theft-Other Case Number: _____ Image: _____
Addr: EASTSIDE MARKET PLACE Area: 14 SOUTH OF SIXT>
City: MOSCOW ST: ID Zip: 83843 Contact: KINKO'S

+-- Complainant: 7944 -----+
| Lst: KINKO'S COPIES Fst: Mid:
| DOB: / / SSN: - - Adr: 1420 S BLAINE
| Rac: Sx: Tel: (208)882-3066 Cty: MOSCOW ST: ID Zip: 83843
+-----+

Offense Codes: TPOT _____ Reported: TPOT Observed:
Circumstances: _____
Rspndg Officers: TERRY HALDEMAN
Rspnsbl Officer: TERRY HALDEMAN Agency: MPD CAD Call ID: 53533
Received By: ADRIAN CHATIGNY Last RadLog: 13:15:53 04/01/1999 CMPLT
How Received: T Telephone Clearance: NRR No Rpt Required
When Reported: 09:43:36 04/01/1999 Disposition: UNF Disp Date: 04/27/1999
Occurrd between: 09:43:36 04/01/1999 Judicial Sts:
and: 09:43:36 04/01/1999 Misc Entry: completed/sc

MO: _____
Narrative: No report required. RP does not want to press charges.
Supplement: _____

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INVOLVEMENTS:

Type	Record #	Date	Description	Relationship
NM	7944	04/01/1999	KINKO'S COPIES,	*Complainant
CA	53533	04/01/1999	09:43 04/01/1999 Theft-Other	*Initiating Call

LAW Incident Offenses Detail:
Offense Codes

Seq	Code	Amount
1	TPOT Theft, Property, Other	0.00

LAW Incident Responders Detail
Responding Officers

Seq	Name	Unit
1	TERRY HALDEMAN	113

Main Radio Log Table:

Time/Date	Typ	Unit	Code	Zone	Agnc	Description
13:15:53 04/01/1999		113	CMPLT	14	MPD	incid#=99-1560 Completed call
10:42:39 04/01/1999		113	30	PTRL	MPD	
10:42:25 04/01/1999		113	ASSGN	14	MPD	incid#=99-1560 Assigned to a c
10:24:59 04/01/1999		113	ARRVD	14	MPD	incid#=99-1560 Arrived on scen
10:24:34 04/01/1999		113	ENRT	14	MPD	incid#=99-1560 Enroute to a ca
10:12:12 04/01/1999		113	C7	PTRL	MPD	
10:04:54 04/01/1999		113	ENRT	14	MPD	incid#=99-1560 Enroute to a ca

06/15/04
08:35

MOSCOW POLICE DEPARTMENT
CAD Master Call Table:

210
Page: 1

Long-Term Call ID: 53533
Active Call: _____ Nature: Theft-Other Type: 1 Priority: 4

Address: KINKOS City: MOS MOSCOW
Zones: _: _____ : _____ : _____ Alarm Number:

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+- Complainant: 7944 -----+
| Lst: KINKO'S COPIES          Fst:          Mid:          |
| Adr: 1420 S BLAINE          DOB:      /  /    |
| Cty: MOSCOW                ST: ID  Zip: 83843  SSN:      -  -    |
| Tel: (208)882-3066         Race:   Sex:   Prev Calls:  _  Wants:  _  Adr:  _  |
| Alrt:                                                              |
+-----+

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Contact: _____ Tel: () -
Address:
Info: (See below) +

How Rcvd: T Telephone Occurred between: 09:43:36 04/01/1999
Rcvd by: ADRIAN CHATIGNY and: 09:43:36 04/01/1999
Hld Until: : : / / When Rptd: 09:43:36 04/01/1999

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INVOLVEMENTS:

Type	Record #	Date	Description	Relationship
LW	99-1560	04/01/1999	Theft-Other	*Initiating Call
NM	7944	04/01/1999	KINKO'S COPIES,	*Complainant

Call Taker Comments:

REPORT TAKEN IN THE 1400 BLOCK S BLAINE.

RP IS U OF I VICE PRESIDENT AND IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE USE OF U OF I
LETTER HEAD FOR PUTTING OUT A HOAX REF TOPLESS LECTURE. LAST BATCH CAME
FROM KINKOS.

09:47:19 04/01/99 - TOM BURRIS

210 LL U OF I ENGLISH DEPARTMENT 885-6156: THEY STATED TOPLESS LECTURE
WAS A HOAX.

10:41:35 04/01/99 - ADRIAN CHATIGNY

NOW A THEFT OF SERVICES - FAX'S NOT PAID FOR TO THE AMT OF \$23.00+
WILL NEED FOLLOW-UP WHEN MANAGER RETURNS SO SURVEILLANCE TAPES CAN BE
REVIEWED

13:15:47 04/01/99 - TOM BURRIS

CPL HALDEMAN TOOK A REPORT FROM KINKO'S.