

Subject: Keeping abreast of The beaten breast

Date: Tue, 25 Jun 2002 00:56:43 -0400

From: nrubin <nrubin@compuserve.com>

To: "Vigne,Randolph" <vigne@lineone.net>, "Driver,Jonty" <jontydriver@hotmail.com>, "Gunther,Magnus" <magnusg@magma.ca>

Dear Magnus, Randolph, Jonty,

No reply needed.

I've now read the GRANTA piece.

I think it's well-written if not exactly polished; an exercise in controlled, selective simulation of self-revelation. I find it both appallingly thin and reeking of the kind of half-honesty that was always characteristic of its author.

A

He lies easily, he prevaricates well, and he hides and shies away from many, many big and small untruths in the (correct) belief that no one will be bothered to reveal those as the essence of what he really is: not the flawed being we all are, just a not very plausible fake, explaining to all who will want to hear that he is something other than he appears to be. OR You can fool some of the people some of the time, etc..

So much for psychotherapy, though. (Can't help wondering where Monty Berman would have stuck his acupuncture needles if the dreary little weazel had tried to consult him!) . It may have given him a way out, but out he will remain. Sad, I suppose that it suggests yet another attempt at seeking the limelight. when he can never enjoy genuine respect. For the simple reason that he deserves none.

There may be something to be said for flagellation. But public masturbation, even if it provides relief, can only evoke distaste, if not actual disgust.

Anyone who witnessed him lying and cheating his way to various positions of trust might have been willing to overlook those facets of his character while succumbing to a lack of energy with which to compete in the game of self-propulsion.. I was one of those, once (e.g., at a very personal level, by asking him to be Best Man at my wedding).

?
A

But overlooking is not forgetting. Memory may play tricks but unless contradicted, stands. I could list a dozen illustrations of personal, political, organisational perfidy, the product of the me-only as much as of mean-mindedness.:

That he wasn't suited for what he sought for himself is indeed the big truth in the GRANTA piece. Not so much Foliet deGrandeur as a trompe l'oeil de gonflage, at much cost to too the many who allowed themselves to be misled. . An excess of puffing leads balloons to burst. His did. How can this effort at self-reinflation be of use to others, even if it is to him?.

Guilt may be expurgated, in writing (perhaps, more so in writing than otherwise). It cannot be expunged if it has a foundation in reality.

Yours,

Neville

PS: He does, incidentally (more than once) fess up about giving evidence, and the significance of doing so in bringing others to grief. But,

characteristically, he seems to think the worst bit of it was the Judge-President's description of him (given in precis, not the original 'a disgrace to the genus rattus').

?