

# Entertainment Outlook

## Truth revealed in 'power behind the throne'

From time to time, you just have to face up to a lamentable truth about yourself.

And in my case, the sad truth is this: I have amongst all my worldly possessions, precisely one toilet brush. It cost me \$2.49, and I bought it nearly six years ago at the supermarket.

All of which adds up to proof positive that I will never be an important Canadian, or a leader of men.

To begin with, quite frankly, I didn't have much reaction to the news that Geills Turner spent \$200 of taxpayers' money to buy five toilet brushes for Stornoway. After all, we've all gotten pretty used to the fact politicians and public servants spend our money in interesting ways.

It was just a couple of years ago, it memory serves, the Canadian Armed Forces spent \$2,000 apiece on fighter-plane antennas.

Now, the average citizen would not spend \$2,000 on an antenna for his fighter-plane. The average citizen would realize that for \$2,000 he could buy a nice antenna, plus a nifty tape-deck, plus at least 100 cassettes of the sound-track from Top Guns.

It just boils down to a simple fact of economic life, never, ever send a government official to the corner store for a half-litre of milk. If you do, he will come back three hours later with the deed to a dairy farm. Probably one that's located on 40 acres of prime swampland in Florida.

Now granted, if you let your mind dwell upon Geills Turner and her five \$40 toilet brushes, the issue begins to take on a certain interest. For starters



**Weir's View**

By Ian Weir  
Thomson News Service

the question presents itself: if Geills and John need five toilet brushes, does this mean Stornoway has five bathrooms?

This does seem a little excessive — although, to be fair, the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition is a distinguished personage, and we would not want to leave him hopping up and down outside the locked door of his only powder room, calling "Honestly, dearest, I really do have to tinkle."

The cynically minded might also be intrigued by possible connections between this sudden preoccupation with toilets and the Liberals' standing in the latest opinion polls. (And given the fact the story of Geills and her toilet brushes surfaced in the same book that depicts

her as a strong-willed and dominant woman, it's hard to banish from your mind that shop-worn phrase, "the power behind the throne.")

But still, the true significance of it all was lost upon me until I read a fascinating little news story that put the whole thing in perspective. It turns out those \$40 toilet brushes weren't a luxury, much less an extravagance — they were a wise investment.

Some enterprising reporter interviewed the owner of a shop that sells bathroom accessories. It seems the

shop in question stocks toilet brushes that range in price right up to a \$99.98 plexiglas beauty, and the owner heartily recommends such deluxe models because they "really work well" and last for years.

Well, my eyes have been opened.

Quite frankly, I don't think the average male ever pauses to consider how well a toilet brush will work. In fact, the average male sees the whole issue in much simpler terms — ideally, he should never have to find out how well the thing works at all. The key to this is

marrying the right sort of woman.

But all of a sudden, my folly becomes clear. The wise and prudent consumer — the sort who rises to the top — realizes that a good toilet brush is a one-time investment that will serve him faithfully through the years.

I, on the other hand, squandered my \$2.49 on a cheap imitation with a limited lifespan and probably no resale value at all.

And worst of all — owing to a certain romantic decision — I've actually had to use the damned thing.

### Face in the Crowd



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### ASK DICK KLEINER

#### Who are Judy's daughters?

By Dick Kleiner

Q. I have a bet with a friend I would like you to settle. I say that Judy Garland had two daughters, Bernadette Peters and Liza Minnelli. My friend says they are not sisters. Please settle this bet for us. — R.B., Catawba, S.C.

A. You lose big. Judy had two daughters, all right — Liza Minnelli and Lorna Luft. Joey Luft rounds out Garland's children. Bernadette Peters is not related to any of them.

Q. My husband says Pee-wee Herman is the singer on Herman's Hermits back in the '60s. I say NO! — Unsigned, Hallandale, Fla.

A. Good for you. You're right. Q. I recently on "Santa Barbara," Cruz and Eden were married at a place called the Peblecreek Inn, up the coast from Santa Barbara, Calif. Is this a real place? Or was it just a set? — M.L., Amarillo, Texas.

A. The name was changed, but those scenes were shot at a real inn called the Stonepine, in Carmel Valley, Calif. It is a small and elegant re-

Clint Walker. Are they related? — D.S. Warsaw, Ind.

A. Joe Penny, a star of TV's "Jake and the Fat Man," has never been married — so there is hope for all you would be Penny-pinchers. He is of Italian-English descent. He isn't related to Clint Walker. The dog, named Sebastian, is owned by noted Hollywood animal trainer Frank Inn. You may have noticed on the first show a different dog was used; Sebastian was busy when that was filmed. As soon as he became available, he was given the role.

Q. Would you please tell me who played the leading man opposite Sylvia Sydney in the movie "An American Tragedy," which was released in the early '30s? — J.J.B., Bristol, Va.

A. The key roles in that film about a tragic romantic triangle were played by Phillips Holmes, Sylvia Sydney and Frances Dee. It was released in 1931.

Q. Some time ago I watched a rerun of an old film with Lionel Barrymore and a young black boy. The two of them had the devil trapped in a tree. What was the film and who was the young black boy and what happened to him? — V.G., Killeen, Texas.

A. You must mean "On Borrowed Time" (from 1939) — although it was Death's emissary up the tree, not the devil; and the little boy was white, not black. He was played by Bobs Watson who left acting to become a minister. © 1988, NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.

(Send your questions to: Ask Dick Kleiner, P.O. Box 3978, Palm Desert, Calif. 92261. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.)



Liza Minnelli Joe Penny

sort. If you'd like to stay there, be prepared to spend \$400 a night.

Q. Please give me some information on Joe Penny. Is he married? Nationality? And does Max, the Fat Man's dog, actually belong to William Conrad? — J., Canyon, Texas.

Q. I recently saw Joe Penny in "A Whisper Kills." I noticed he favors

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