

The Gutenberg Experiment Sinner's aid

By HARRY HOPE

Scene: A Puritan Church and Infirmary at a Small Southern University. It is the dead of winter and snowing.

Inside, an old country doctor, Harvard Burnit, sits by the fire reading his Bible. He is dressed simply, reminding one of the portrait of the pilgrims at Plymouth Rock.

A knock on the door . . .

"Enter."

"Dr. Burnit, I need your help. I . . . I'm pregnant."

"Do I know your husband?"

"I'm not married. You see, I'm a—"

"SINNER! HARLOT! WOMAN OF THE STREETS! You have sold your body for a paltry sum. You have transgressed the laws of God," he said, dropping his book of Cotton Mather quotations.

"Wait a minute!" the young, pure-faced woman says. "This is supposed to be an Age of Enlightenment at Center of Truth and Learning. This isn't the way Chad Everett acts on 'Medical Center.'"

"You see my dear, I have no choice. There are forces which compel me to act in this way. I can't help you physically. They won't let me."

"But can you help me?"

"Yes. YES. I can exorcise the devil from you, I can cleanse your spirit. I can WASH YOU IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB. O, YE OF LITTLE FAITH! OH, YE HARLOTS! PREPARE TO MEET THY DOOM IN THE FIERY DEPTHS OF HELL!"

"What are you reading from?"

"The White Anglo Saxon Protestants' Guide to Pious

Statements, Instant Salvation and Better Homes and Gardens' by Billy Graham, Oral Roberts and Paul Pretzel."

"Well, how the hell can you help me?"

"I thought you'd never ask."

At the Great Witch Doctor's command, a horde of huge, hunchback, hairy ogres stumbled into the front room. They proceeded to tie the helpless ex-virgin down. Burnit grabs a fiery poker from the fireplace. The poker turns out to be a brand, similar to those used by Western cattle ranchers. The brand is an "A".

"What...what does "A" stand for?"

"Adulteress. We used to use it all the time in my home town of Salem until someone discovered it made identification of certain types of women easier."

The doctor begins a strange incantation of exorcism.

"Rock of Ages, cleft for me..."

He puts the hellish brand to the girl's forehead. Will nothing stop this fiend from his desecration?

No.

After the ritual, the girl, stunned, in pain, prepares to go out into the cold winter's eve.

"By the way, young lady, what do you do for a living? Do you go to school here?"

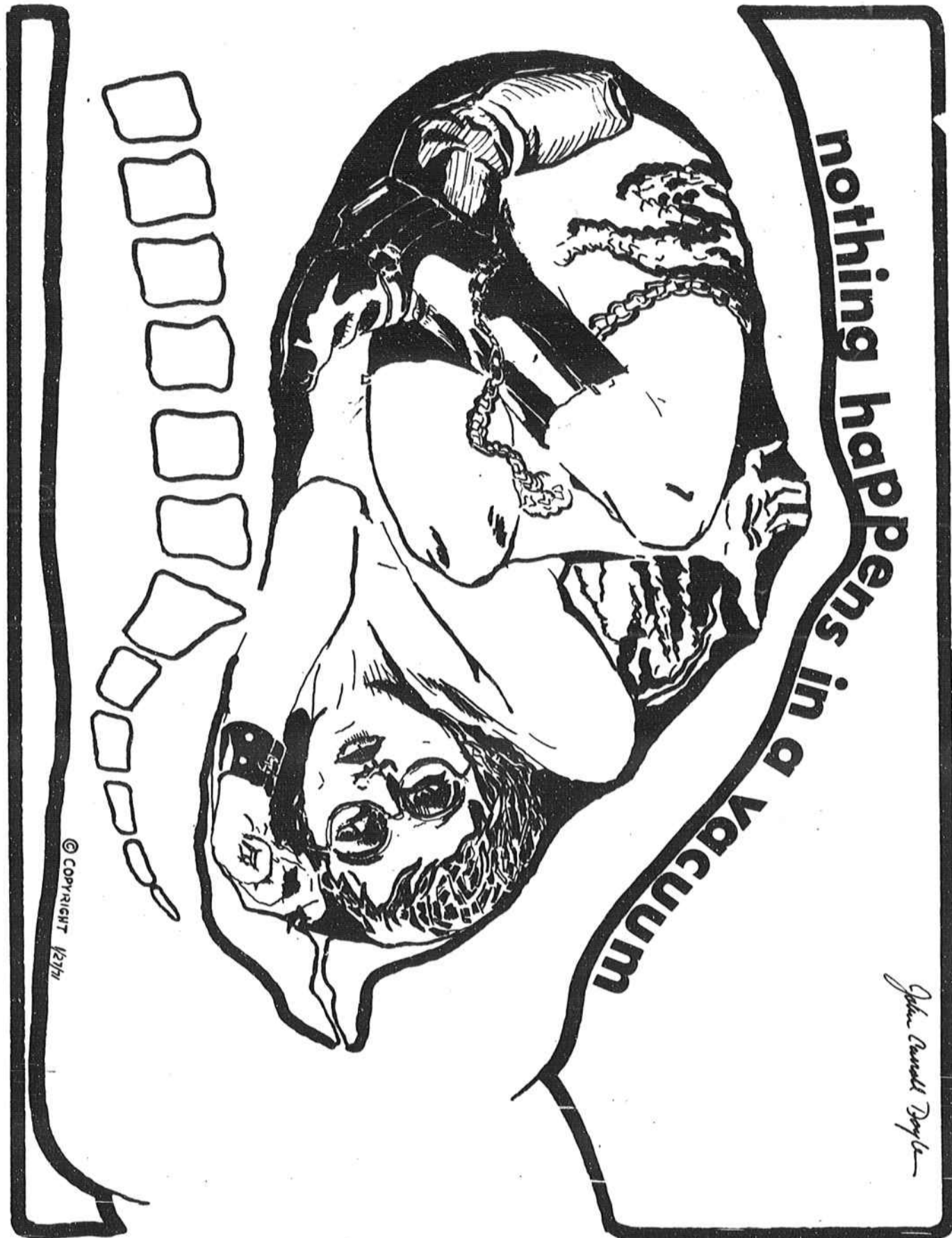
"I'm a nun."

"Well, how . . . I mean . . . who . . ."

She is gone.

Across the barren streets, she thinks of that one night of joy, communication, femininity. She thinks of the man . . .

"Damn Father Brynewxiously and his box of chocolates . . ."



Shealy possibly forgetful state legislator

.. Editor's note: Nancy Wilstach is one a core of reporters who haunts the State House every session reporting for the Evening Herald. Here she offers a few of her views on the recent female page controversy.

Isn't it sweet of Rep. Sherry Shealy to be concerned about girl pages who might have to walk home alone in the dark?

This is the reason the 21-year-old Republican, a former Miss Lexington County, gave for opposing the hiring of female pages in the General Assembly.

She said she was concerned that the young female law students might be in danger if they walked home from the Statehouse after the Senate ended a late-night session.

Did Miss Shealy forget that college students freely roam a town or a city long after the sun sets, often in areas for less "safe" than the well-guarded statehouse grounds?

Did Miss Shealy forget the existence of city buses or taxis, both of which abound in Columbia?

The blonde ex-beauty queen also expressed another fear on behalf of the girl would-be pages: "I am opposed to allowing women pages in the legislature because of the morals of some members of the House and the Senate." Later she said she made the remark in jest.

Did Miss Shealy forget the unwritten law that members of the General Assembly do not — even in jest — publicly cast aspersions on the morality, character or intzgrity of other members of the General Assembly?

The only other female member of the S.C. House of Representatives is in favor of allowing female pages in the General Assembly. Rep. Carolyn E. Frederick, R-Gréenvilfe, a '1928' graduate of Agnes Scott College, said:

"There is no valid reason why a qualified woman student at the University of South Carolina who meets in all ways the education and course requirements should not be given equal consideration for the position of page."

Two young female law students, nominated by their state senators but refused jobs as Senate pages, contend they are being discriminated against because of their sex. Senate Clerk Lovick Thomas refused to hire them, and he refused to give a reason for his action.

(Lt. Gov. Earle Elias Morris Jr., President of the Senate, recommended the hiring of girl pages during his campaign for his present office.)

If the girls are being discriminated against, it is a kind of discrimination which has more than immediate effects. It could adversely affect their futures.

No one should know this better than Lovick Thomas. He has seen former pages enter prestigious law firms and rise to positions of prominence in the state. He knows the vilue of the law students' making "contacts" and meeting influential persons in their field.

The woman lawyer has an uphill battle against tremendous odds. If she is to be successful in a profession extremely dominated by men, she needs an even break.

Wouldn't it be a disservice to deny a qualified female the right to perch briefly on this very desirable rung of the ladder of success?

Hopefully Rep. Arnold Goodstein, D-Charleston, will be successful in persuading the House of Representatives to pass his resolution that "personnel of the General Assembly" be hired without discrimination due to race, creed, sex or religion.