

FROM :MAILER

FAX NO. :5084872136

Feb. 20 2004 03:06PM P1

FROM :JMWORDCRAFT

FAX NO. :17186243782

Feb. 19 2004 01:04PM P5

Cristina Carrillo interview

*For family
Double space final*

1 I took great pleasure in reading Harlot's Ghost. One of my surprises was to find a "tender" Norman Mailer close to the monumental and tough. Is tenderness an easy emotion for you?

ANS:

As important as severity. I think it is the way to look at one's characters . Tolstoy is a fine working guide. He had the power to be full of compassion yet was never without severe moral judgment. It's what I look for.

2. Also in Harlot's Ghost, there is a strong presence of women. My question is: what have women taught you?

ANS:

More than men, probably. I expect it is because they are more rooted in the mystery of creation than men.

3. There is also a portrait of America's heroes, of the need to fight the evil of high spheres, of corruption, of a world of good and evil. For you, what is the most outstanding parallel with the present situation?

ANS:

This is where we come back to Harlot's Ghost. Intelligence officers have a variety of motives. Some are simple careerists; some are patriots; some are scrupulous; others are wild adventurers. ~~You have some turn corrupt.~~ Then *in their varying ways, all of them* you have all of them dealing with material that comes in from people who often give false information because their ~~vested interest~~ *loyalty* is to the other side, or to their own pocketbook. You also have ~~people~~ *spies* who are treacherous to both sides, who can be doubled. You have agents who are criminals and will do anything to earn money. After which, you have ~~people~~ *intelligence personnel* analyzing this mess of lies and corruption and distortion, willful distortion, plus the intense passions of ~~the~~ people on the other side—for instance, the Iraqis who wanted to overthrow Hussein and were ready to distort material by the *very intensity* of their passion. Then, *After which* this collection of skewed information, is adjusted to the best of their ability by the analysts, who often have their separate

agendas, ~~and then~~ this much-worked-over mess is brought to the politicians. ~~they, in turn,~~
~~who~~ will deal with it--the high politicians, the Presidents, Prime Ministers,
and war ministers. They have their own agendas which ~~may be~~ ^{one after} altogether
different from ~~most of~~ ^{most of} the information given to them. So they pick and
choose. ~~It then~~ ^{It then} goes back to the careerists in Intelligence who look to follow what
the leaders want. Now ~~your own Intelligence agency~~ ^{they} knows how to skew
the information further. By the end, every answer is determined by the needs
at the top. No signal need be given. It is all hints and cues, and ultimately,
~~comes to~~ ^{in the way of accuracy} not much more than the desire to satisfy one's boss.

4. You say that the America that attracts you is the one that permits you to be free. What is your concept of freedom?

ANS:

To be able to say what I think without having to feel undue dread.

5. You've written a lot about Cuba and Castro, a very charismatic leader. In the '60s, you wrote, "Fidel Castro, you are giving us hope." In the chaotic situation of present times, where do you see hope? And why?

ANS:

~~I trust say that~~ ^{game} I still find it in the American people. The fact that ~~they~~ ^{game} can see through a

charlatan like Bush, that fifty percent of the people at this point, seem to

realize that he's a fraud is remarkable considering what a skillful and

^{manipulator} determined ~~lie~~ ^{man who has no interest in} he is. It's almost impossible to catch a ~~total liar~~ ^{the truth} provided he

never stops long enough to tell the truth. I don't think that is going to be our

President's first mistake. He will know enough to keep from colliding with

^{real} the facts. ~~I would say he does not touch~~

~~with reality so much as with the kind of virtual reality that goes into video games~~

6. At the age of 81, what are your priorities, your biggest pleasures, your

main preoccupations?

ANS:

At this point in my life, it's work. I have my nine children; I love them;

~~they're fine~~ I have a fine wife; I love her. But when you get to my age, those

~~loyalties~~ ^{still} matters become a stable part of your life. So it is work which remains as the

one set of adventures you can undertake.

7. You said your only dissatisfaction with your life is with things you have never done. Can you share at least one?

ANS:

I no longer regret the excitements I failed to have. Perhaps they would have led me away from some of the better work I did.

8. Talking about the perils of technology, you say, "Technology will be the only culture. Culture will not be important." But if this occurs the human side will be killed. Don't you think this will be the end of humankind?

ANS:

It is perfectly possible that technology will prove to be the end of humankind.

There is such a divorce from one's senses, one's sense, even, of morality--for technology ^{can be} is murderous to morality, since ultimately, it is removed from compassion, that yes, ^{let's} this is a century when we have to wonder whether it will be the last century of humankind.

One way or another, we ^{need} have to come to terms with the human depredations of technology and dominate it rather than keep on being twisted in its direction.

FROM :MAILER

FAX NO. :5084872136

Feb. 20 2004 03:07PM P6

FROM :JMWORDCRAFT

FAX NO. :17186243782

Feb. 19 2004 01:05PM P10

6

9. How do you regard the virtual reality we are sinking in?

ANS:

I think the easiest way to eliminate the virtual reality that America sank into--
to use your verb—is by entering the contest to defeat President Bush in the
'04 elections. He's a man who lives entirely in virtual reality. The real world

is not nearly so close to him as his scenarios, his notions of how the game can

I suspect he sees life as a video game.
be played. The fundamental element in his posturing, in his assertions of

religious faith and his ongoing hypocrisy is that these are all *modes of* ways to play the

in the game. Virtual reality is *toxic* *game* to serious foreign policy. Foreign policy is

~~not a video game but Bush does not know that.~~ When he says he's a "war
president," it's as if he's chosen to be one of the contestants in his own video
game.

10. You say young people may not read but know how to screw. Does it
worry you, this trend among youth?

ANS

What worries me more than where the youth are going--since the old are usually the least reliable witness on whether the youth are doing splendidly or are awful--is to go back to the previous question: it's whether we can keep technology in check. I do see it as a Pied Piper who can lead the young off the cliff.

11. To stay in good health and a good state of mind, do you read, follow a diet, or some other regimen?

ANS:

The answer is "More or less." I read; I eat reasonably, I live reasonably. I'm in reasonably good health and like all people my age, have all sorts of minor afflictions which are not worth discussing.

12. Finally, having everything you want, having been spoiled by life, how can you be a pessimist? Also, does being rich oblige you to be altruistic? Do you see poverty as something absurd?

ANS:

I don't see myself as having been spoiled by life. I think I've been lifted by life and smacked around to some degree ^{*I've also had great and good luck*} by life. I've done things that are ^{*decent*} fairly good and made terrible errors. I don't see myself as pessimistic, rather, as realistic.

Moreover, I'm not rich. I am what we call in America "well-to-do," which means I don't have to worry about money every week and that is a great relief. And I'm pleased with that.

The only way I can answer your question—which is several questions—"Do you see poverty as something absurd?"—I see it as more than absurd. I see it, given the great powers of production we now have in the 21st century, I see poverty as obscene. I think this notion that the free market will take care of everything is one more absurdity, one more obscenity. The so-called free market will take care of enriching the most ^{*powerful (and unfree)*} ~~industrious and enterprising~~ corporations. It will also drag a great many second-rate corporations along with them. But the ultimate tendency of the so-called free market, I believe, is that the poor will get poorer.

Finally, what we're in need of is some kind of socialism that's not ego-ridden by the idea that man is superior to all other creatures and things. Once there's

a belief in a Creator, socialism begins to make sense. Religious belief needn't at all be the Jehovah of the Gospels and of the fundamentalists. It can be an existential God doing the best He or She can do against great obstacles, against—and this may be what it comes down to—against the intense opposition of the Devil. Once we rid ourselves of the notion that God is all-good and all-powerful, we can begin to love the idea that God shares with us our desire for a finer world and a better vision. But let us never suppose it is pre-ordained or fore-ordained. It is still a human and divine aspiration that has not yet been achieved, not by us, and not by God. In the larger dimensions of the Cosmos, even God is a working stiff.

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intensity of their passion. Then you ~~bring~~ ^{skewed} this information, after it's been

adjusted to the best of ^{their} your ability by ^{the} your analysts, who very often also have

their separate agendas, and you bring it to the politicians who will work with

it--the high politicians, the Presidents and Prime Ministers, ^{and even ministers} people like that.

Now, they have an agenda themselves which may be altogether different from most

of what the information has told you ^{given to them} (so they pick and choose. Then you have

careerists in intelligence who look to follow what the leaders want, so you get

Now you own intelligence agency knows answers that are self-determined by the needs at the top.

Now to skew the information further, by the end every answer is determined by the needs at the top, no signal.

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need to be given. It is all mixed and messy, and I think not much more than this. It is all mixed and messy, and I think not much more than this.

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6. At the age of 81, what are your priorities, your biggest pleasures, your main preoccupations?

ANS:

At this point in my life, it's work. ^{mine} I have my children; I love them; they're fine; I have a fine wife; I love her. But when you get to my age, those matters ^{stable} ~~become more static than your own work~~ ^{a part of your life so, it is work} ~~which remains as the~~ ^{last set of adventures you can} ~~take~~ ^{undertake}.

Continuation, second day:

I'd say at this point it's work. I'm happy with my family life, happy with my children. My sense of adventure is obviously diminished so what I

concentrate on is my work. There's a novel that's important to me now that I'm working on.

As the film director Elia Kazan once said, "Work is a blessing." It's a remark that applies most to older people.

7. You said your only dissatisfaction with your life is with things you have never done. Can you share at least one?

*I no longer regret the excitement
I failed to have. Perhaps they would
have led me away from some of
the better work I did.*

ANS: I find the question off-putting, and I'll content myself with answering—and

~~this is a facetious answer to some degree—one of the things I never did is I~~

~~never did a parachute jump. This sort of question, I must say, I dislike.~~

8. Talking about the perils of technology, you say, "Technology will be the only culture. Culture will not be important." But if this occurs the human side will be killed. Don't you think this will be the end of humankind?

ANS:

Yes

Yes, it's perfectly possible that technology will prove to be the end of

humankind. There is such a divorce from one's mentality, one's senses, one's

(since ultimately it is removed)
sense, even, of morality--for technology is murderous to morality, if you
contemplate it--then yes, ~~this~~ ^{that yes, this} century is the century when we have to wonder

~~for the first time it began in the last century but now I think it's very real to~~

~~true at least, and I think for millions of people that this may be the last~~

century of humankind.

And one way or another, we have to come to terms with technology and

dominate it rather than ~~having it dominate us.~~

its direction.

9. How do you regard the virtual reality we are sinking in?

ANS:

I think the easiest way to eliminate the virtual reality America sank into--to

use your verb ^{by} entering the war ^{contest} ~~with Iraq~~ ^{in the '04 election} to defeat President Bush. He's

a man who lives entirely in virtual reality. I think ~~the~~ ^{that} the real world is not nearly

so close to him as ~~his notions~~ ^{notions}, his scenarios, his structures of how the game

can be played. The fundamental element in his posturing, in his scenarios, in

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is not a video game ^{but} and Bush does not know that.

When he says he's a "war president" it's as if he's chosen to be one of the contestants in his own game.

he's his own video game.

10. You say young people may not read but know how to screw. Does it worry you, this trend among youth?

ANS

What worries me much ^{more} than where the youth are going—since the old are usually the least reliable witness on whether the youth are doing splendid ^{are} things or ^{awful things}—is to go back to the previous question: it's whether we can keep technology ^{in check} from leading us. ~~Technology is a Pied Piper~~ ^{I disagree it can} ~~lead us off the cliff and destroy civilization.~~ ^{the young}

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FROM :MAILER

FAX NO. :5084872136

Feb. 17 2004 01:00PM P9

FROM :JMWORDCRAFT

FAX NO. :17186243782

Feb. 16 2004 03:06PM FB

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and no one's been able to disprove it as far as I am concerned, is that the poor
will get poorer; they get less.

Finally, what we're in need of is some kind of socialism that's not ego-ridden
by the idea that man is superior to all things. ^{other creatures and things} Once there's a belief in a
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Final
Double space
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I must say that I still find it in the American people. The fact that so many can see through a charlatan like Bush, that fifty percent of the people at this point, seem to realize that he's a fraud is remarkable considering what a

skillful and determined manipulator he is. It's almost impossible to catch a man who has no interest in the truth, provided he never stops long enough to tell the truth. I don't think that is going to be our President's first mistake. He will know enough to keep from colliding with the real facts.

6. At the age of 81, what are your priorities, your biggest pleasures, your main preoccupations?

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At this point in my life, it's work. I have my nine children; I love them; I have a fine wife; I love her. But when you get to my age, those loyalties become a stable part of your life. So it is work which remains as the one set of adventures you can still undertake.

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compassion, that ^{too} yes! This is a century when we have to wonder whether it will be the last century of humankind, *before it comes to an end.*

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At this point in my life, it's work. I have my children; I love them; they're fine; I have a fine wife; I love her. But when you get to my age, those matters become more static than your own work.

Continuation, second day:

I'd say at this point it's work. I'm happy with my family life, happy with my children. My sense of adventure is obviously diminished so what I

concentrate on is my work. There's a novel that's important to me now that I'm working on.

As the film director Elia Kazan once said, "Work is a blessing." It's a remark that applies most to older people.

7. You said your only dissatisfaction with your life is with things you have never done. Can you share at least one?

ANS:

I find the question off-putting, and I'll content myself with answering--and this is a facetious answer to some degree--one of the things I never did is I never did a parachute jump. This sort of question, I must say, I do dislike.

8. Talking about the perils of technology, you say, "Technology will be the only culture. Culture will not be important." But if this occurs the human side will be killed. Don't you think this will be the end of humankind?

ANS:

Yes, it's perfectly possible that technology will prove to be the end of humankind. There is such a divorce from one's mentality, one's senses, one's

sense, even, of morality--for technology is murderous to morality, if you contemplate it--then yes: this century is the century when we have to wonder for the first time--it began in the last century but now I think it's very real to me at least, and I think for millions of people--that this may be the last century of humankind.

And one way or another, we have to come to terms with technology and dominate it rather than having it dominate us.

9. How do you regard the virtual reality we are sinking in?

ANS:

I think the easiest way to eliminate the virtual reality America sank into--to use your verb--by entering the war with Iraq is to defeat President Bush. He's a man who lives entirely in virtual reality. I think the real world is not nearly so close to him as his notions, his scenarios, his structures of how the game can be played. The fundamental element in his posturing, in his scenarios, in his assertions of faith and his ongoing hypocrisy and cant is these are all ways to play the game. Virtual reality is a poison to foreign policy. Foreign policy is not a video game and Bush does not know that.

10. You say young people may not read but know how to screw. Does it worry you, this trend among youth?

ANS

What worries me much than where the youth are going--since the old are usually the least reliable witness on whether the youth are doing splendid things or awful things--is to go back to the previous question: it's whether we can keep technology from leading us. Technology is a Pied Piper than can lead us off the cliff and destroy civilization.

11. To stay in good health and a good state of mind, do you read, follow a diet, or some other regimen?

ANS:

The answer is "More or less." I read; I eat reasonably, I live reasonably. I'm in reasonably good health and like all people my age, have all sorts of minor afflictions which are not worth discussing.

12. Finally, having everything you want, having been spoiled by life, how can you be a pessimist? Also, does being rich oblige you to be altruistic? Do you see poverty as something absurd?

ANS:

I don't see myself as having been spoiled by life. I think I've been lifted by life and smacked around a little bit by life. I've done things that are fairly good and made terrible errors. I don't see myself as pessimistic, rather, as realistic.

Moreover, I'm not rich. I am what we call in America "well-to-do," which means I don't have to worry about money every week and that is a great relief. And I'm pleased with that.

The only way I can answer your question--which is several questions--"Do you see poverty as something absurd?"--I see it as more than absurd. I see it, given the great powers of production we now have in the 21st century, I see poverty as obscene. I see this notion that the free market will take care of everything as one more absurdity, one more obscenity. The free market will take care of making the most industrious and enterprising capitalists wealthier. It will also drag a great many second-raters with them who will also become wealthy. But the ultimate tendency of the free market, I believe,

and no one's been able to disprove it as far as I am concerned, is that the poor get poorer; they get less.

Finally, what we're in need of is some kind of socialism that's not ego-ridden by the idea that man is superior to all things. Once there's a belief in a Creator, socialism begins to make sense. It doesn't have to be the Creator of the Gospels or of the fundamentalists. It can be an existentialist God doing the best He or She can do against great obstacles and against the intense opposition of the devil.

Cristina Carrillo interview

1 I took great pleasure in reading Harlot's Ghost. One of my surprises was to find a "tender" Norman Mailer close to the monumental and tough. Is tenderness an easy emotion for you?

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As important as severity. I think it is the way to look at one's characters . Tolstoy is a fine working guide. He had the power to be full of compassion yet was never without severe moral judgment. It's what I look for.

2. Also in Harlot's Ghost, there is a strong presence of women. My question is: what have women taught you?

ANS:

More than men, probably. I expect it is because they are more rooted in the mystery of creation than men.

3. There is also a portrait of America's heroes, of the need to fight the evil of high spheres, of corruption, of a world of good and evil. For you, what is the most outstanding parallel with the present situation?

ANS:

This is where we come back to Harlot's Ghost. Intelligence officers have a variety of motives. Some are simple careerists; some are patriots; some are scrupulous; others are wild adventurers. Some turn corrupt. Then, in their varying ways, all of them deal with material that comes in from people who often give false information because their loyalty is to the other side, or to their own pocketbook. You also have spies who are treacherous to both sides, who can be doubled. You have agents who are criminals and will do anything to earn money. After which, you have intelligence personnel analyzing this mess of lies and corruption and distortion, willful distortion, plus the intense passions of people on the other side--for instance, the Iraqis who wanted to overthrow Hussein and so were ready to distort material in the interest of their passion. After which, this collection of skewed information is adjusted to the best of their ability by the analysts, who often have their separate agendas. Then this much-worked-over mess is brought to the politicians. They, in turn, will deal with it--the high politicians, the Presidents, Prime Ministers, and war ministers. They have their own agendas

which are often altogether different from most of the information given to them. So they pick and choose. It then goes back to the careerists in Intelligence who look to follow what the leaders want. They skew the information further. By the end, every answer is determined by the needs at the top. No signal need be given. It is all hints and cues, and ultimately, comes to not much more in the way of acumen than the desire to satisfy one's boss.

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I must say that I still find it in the American people. The fact that so many can see through a charlatan like Bush, that fifty percent of the people at this point, seem to realize that he's a fraud is remarkable considering what a

skillful and determined manipulator he is. It's almost impossible to catch a man who has no interest in the truth, provided he never stops long enough to tell the truth. I don't think that is going to be our President's first mistake. He will know enough to keep from colliding with the real facts.

6. At the age of 81, what are your priorities, your biggest pleasures, your main preoccupations?

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At this point in my life, it's work. I have my nine children; I love them; I have a fine wife; I love her. But when you get to my age, those loyalties become a stable part of your life. So it is work which remains as the one set of adventures you can still undertake.

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in his posturing, in his assertions of religious faith and his ongoing hypocrisy is that these are all modes of play in the game. Virtual reality is toxic to serious foreign policy. When he says he's a "war president," it's as if he's chosen to be one of the contestants in his own video game.

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What worries me more than where the youth are going--since the old are usually the least reliable witness on whether the youth are doing splendidly or are awful--is to go back to the previous question: it's whether we can keep technology in check. I do see it as a Pied Piper who can lead the young off the cliff.

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ANS:

I don't see myself as having been spoiled by life. I think I've been lifted by life and smacked around to some degree. I've also had great and good luck. I've done things that are fairly good and made terrible errors. I don't see myself as pessimistic, rather, as realistic.

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with them. But the ultimate tendency of the so-called free market, I believe, is that the poor will get poorer.

Finally, what we're in need of is some kind of socialism that's not ego-ridden by the idea that man is superior to all other creatures and things. Once there's a belief in a Creator, socialism begins to make sense. Religious belief needn't at all be the Jehovah of the Gospels and of the fundamentalists. It can be an existential God doing the best He or She can do against great obstacles, against—and this may be what it comes down to—against the intense opposition of the Devil. Once we rid ourselves of the notion that God is all-good and all-powerful, we can begin to love the idea that God shares with us our desire for a finer world and a better vision. But let us never suppose it is pre-ordained or fore-ordained. It is still a human and divine aspiration that has not yet been achieved, not by us, and not by God. In the larger dimensions of the Cosmos, even God is a working stiff.

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a belief in a Creator, socialism begins to make sense. Religious belief needn't at all be the Jehovah of the Gospels and of the fundamentalists. It can be an existential God doing the best He or She can do against great obstacles, against—and this may be what it comes down to—against the intense opposition of the Devil. Once we rid ourselves of the notion that God is all-good and all-powerful, we can begin to love the idea that God shares with us our desire for a finer world and a better vision. But let us never suppose it is pre-ordained or fore-ordained. It is still a human and divine aspiration that has not yet been achieved, not by us, and not by God. In the larger dimensions of the Cosmos, even God is a working stiff.

Cristina Carrillo interview

1
Faxed
by Dwyer
2/17/04

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ANS:

I think it is the way to look at ones
As important as severity *in the way I look at my characters*. I use Tolstoy as *is a fine* my working guide. He had a great ability; *the power* it was to be full of compassion *but never* and yet never without subtle moral judgment. It's what I look for.

2. Also in Harlot's Ghost, there is a strong presence of women. My question is: what have women taught you?

ANS:

More than men, probably, *expect* and I would suppose it is because they are *more* rooted in the mystery of creation *more* than men.

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Now, they have an agenda themselves which may be altogether different from

what the information has told you, so they pick and choose. Then you have

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determined liar he is about everything. It's almost impossible ever to catch a total liar, *provided they never stop* The only time liars ever get caught is when they stop long enough

I don't think that is to tell the truth, and that is probably not going to be our President's weakness.

First mistake. He will know enough to keep ~~himself~~ the facts from colliding with the facts

6. At the age of 81, what are your priorities, your biggest pleasures, your main preoccupations?

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fine; I have a fine wife; I love her. But when you get to my age, those matters

stable become more static *a part of your life so, it is work* than your own work, *which remains as the last set of adventures you can undertake.*

Continuation, second day:

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Faxed by [signature] 2/20/04

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*For farang
Double check first*

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More than men, probably. I expect it is because they are more rooted in the mystery of creation than men.

3. There is also a portrait of America's heroes, of the need to fight the evil of high spheres, of corruption, of a world of good and evil. For you, what is the most outstanding parallel with the present situation?

ANS:

This is where we come back to Harlot's Ghost. Intelligence officers have a variety of motives. Some are simple careerists; some are patriots; some are scrupulous; others are wild adventurers. ~~You have~~ ^{in their varying ways, all of them} some turn corrupt. Then ~~you have all of them~~ dealing with material that comes in from people who often give false information because their ^{loyalty to} ~~vested interest~~ is in the other side, or to their own pocketbook. You also have ^{spies} ~~people~~ who are treacherous to both sides, who can be doubled. You have agents who are criminals and will do anything to earn money. ^{intelligence personnel} After which, you have ~~people~~ analyzing this mess of lies and corruption and distortion, willful distortion, plus the intense passions of ~~the~~ people on the other side—for instance, the Iraqis who wanted to overthrow Hussein ^{so} and were ready to distort material ⁱⁿ by the ~~very intensity~~ ^{interest} of their passion. ^{After which} Then, ~~this~~ collection of skewed information, is adjusted to the best of their ability by the analysts, who often have their separate

agendas, and then this much-worked-over mess is brought to the politicians. *they, in turn,* who will deal with it--the high politicians, the Presidents, Prime Ministers, and war ministers. They have their own agendas which *are often* ~~may be~~ altogether different from *most of* ~~most of~~ the information given to them. So they pick and choose. *It then* ~~It~~ goes back to the careerists in Intelligence who look to follow what the leaders want. *they* ~~Now your own Intelligence agency~~ knows how to skew the information further. By the end, every answer is determined by the needs at the top. No signal need be given. It is all hints and cues, and ultimately, *comes to* ~~in the way of accuracy~~ *not much more* ~~than the desire to satisfy one's boss.~~

4. You say that the America that attracts you is the one that permits you to be free. What is your concept of freedom?

ANS:

To be able to say what I think without having to feel undue dread.

5. You've written a lot about Cuba and Castro, a very charismatic leader. In the '60s, you wrote, "Fidel Castro, you are giving us hope." In the chaotic situation of present times, where do you see hope? And why?

ANS:

~~I must say that~~
~~I~~ still find it in the American people. The fact that ~~they~~ ^{so many} can see through a

charlatan like Bush, that fifty percent of the people at this point, seem to

realize that he's a fraud is remarkable considering what a skillful and

~~determined liar~~ ^{manipulator} he is. It's almost impossible to catch a ^{man who has no interest in} ~~total liar~~ ^(the truth) provided he

never stops long enough to tell the truth. I don't think that is going to be our

President's first mistake. He will know enough to keep from colliding with

~~the facts.~~ ^{real}

~~I would say he does not too~~
~~with reality so much as with the kind~~
~~of virtual reality that goes into video games~~

6. At the age of 81, what are your priorities, your biggest pleasures, your

main preoccupations?

ANS:

At this point in my life, it's work. I have my nine children; I love them;

~~they're fine~~ I have a fine wife; I love her. But when you get to my age, those

~~loyalties~~
~~matters~~ become a stable part of your life. So it is work which remains as the

one set of adventures you can ^{still} undertake.

7. You said your only dissatisfaction with your life is with things you have never done. Can you share at least one?

ANS:

I no longer regret the excitements I failed to have. Perhaps they would have led me away from some of the better work I did.

8. Talking about the perils of technology, you say, "Technology will be the only culture. Culture will not be important." But if this occurs the human side will be killed. Don't you think this will be the end of humankind?

ANS:

It is perfectly possible that technology will prove to be the end of humankind.

There is such a divorce from one's senses, one's sense, even, of morality--for technology ^{can be} is murderous to morality, since ultimately, it is removed from compassion, that yes, ^{it} this is a century when we have to wonder whether it will be the last century of humankind.

One way or another, we ^{need} have to come to terms with the human depredations of technology and dominate it rather than keep on being twisted in its direction.

9. How do you regard the virtual reality we are sinking in?

ANS:

I think the easiest way to eliminate the virtual reality that America sank into-- to use your verb—is by entering the contest to defeat President Bush in the '04 elections. He's a man who lives entirely in virtual reality. The real world

is not nearly so close to him as his scenarios, his notions of how the game can

be played. *I suspect he sees life as a video game.* The fundamental element in his posturing, in his assertions of

religious faith and his ongoing hypocrisy is that these are all *models of* ways to play the

in the game. Virtual reality is *toxic* *game* to serious foreign policy. *A* Foreign policy is

~~not a video game but Bush does not know that~~ When he says he's a "war

president," it's as if he's chosen to be one of the contestants in his own video game.

10. You say young people may not read but know how to screw. Does it worry you, this trend among youth?

ANS

What worries me more than where the youth are going--since the old are usually the least reliable witness on whether the youth are doing splendidly or are awful--is to go back to the previous question: it's whether we can keep technology in check. I do see it as a Pied Piper who can lead the young off the cliff.

11. To stay in good health and a good state of mind, do you read, follow a diet, or some other regimen?

ANS:

The answer is "More or less." I read; I eat reasonably, I live reasonably. I'm in reasonably good health and like all people my age, have all sorts of minor afflictions which are not worth discussing.

12. Finally, having everything you want, having been spoiled by life, how can you be a pessimist? Also, does being rich oblige you to be altruistic? Do you see poverty as something absurd?

ANS:

I don't see myself as having been spoiled by life. I think I've been lifted by life and smacked around to some degree ^{*I've also had great and good luck*} ~~by life~~. I've done things that are ^{*decent*} ~~good~~ and made terrible errors. I don't see myself as pessimistic, rather, as realistic.

Moreover, I'm not rich. I am what we call in America "well-to-do," which means I don't have to worry about money every week and that is a great relief. And I'm pleased with that.

The only way I can answer your question—which is several questions—"Do you see poverty as something absurd?"—I see it as more than absurd. I see it, given the great powers of production we now have in the 21st century, I see poverty as obscene. I think this notion that the free market will take care of everything is one more absurdity, one more obscenity. The so-called free market will take care of enriching the most ^{*powerful (and un-free)*} ~~industrious and enterprising~~ corporations. It will also drag a great many second-rate corporations along with them. But the ultimate tendency of the so-called free market, I believe, is that the poor will get poorer.

Finally, what we're in need of is some kind of socialism that's not ego-ridden by the idea that man is superior to all other creatures and things. Once there's

a belief in a Creator, socialism begins to make sense. Religious belief needn't at all be the Jehovah of the Gospels and of the fundamentalists. It can be an existential God doing the best He or She can do against great obstacles, against—and this may be what it comes down to—against the intense opposition of the Devil. Once we rid ourselves of the notion that God is all-good and all-powerful, we can begin to love the idea that God shares with us our desire for a finer world and a better vision. But let us never suppose it is pre-ordained or fore-ordained. It is still a human and divine aspiration that has not yet been achieved, not by us, and not by God. In the larger dimensions of the Cosmos, even God is a working stiff.

Cristina Carrillo interview

Final
Double space.
copy to white luncheon

1 I took great pleasure in reading Harlot's Ghost. One of my surprises was to find a "tender" Norman Mailer close to the monumental and tough. Is tenderness an easy emotion for you?

ANS:

As important as severity. I think it is the way to look at one's characters . Tolstoy is a fine working guide. He had the power to be full of compassion yet was never without severe moral judgment. It's what I look for.

2. Also in Harlot's Ghost, there is a strong presence of women. My question is: what have women taught you?

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