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Hinckley's not crazy...

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Hinckley: ". . . because Travis (the character that assassinated a politician in Taxi Driver) brought so many handguns. Ask him, not me."

Newsweek: ". . . Which Americans are being helped most by Reagan and which are being hurt most?"

Hinckley: "I believe all Americans will eventually be helped by Mr. Reagan's changes. He is the best president we've had this century. Let's give the man a chance."

Yeah, let's give the man a chance, Hinckley says. Only he means himself, not the president. In fact, the whole interview is a plea for himself.

It's exactly the plea he'll give when tried for the assassination attempt of the president of the United States: innocent by reason of insanity.

Hinckley's answers to Newsweek are so calculatingly absurd, so predictably "crazy," that he blew his cover. They cry out, "Hey, look at me. I'm in love with a movie star. I tried to kill the president. I'm insane."

Trouble is, he's trying too hard. He's like Klinger in television's M*A*S*H, wearing dresses, pantyhose and high heels to put his insanity on display. Klinger's looking for a discharge; Hinckley's looking for a lenient sentence.

That's why the Newsweek article will probably hurt Hinckley. He comes off not as insane, but as smart. Lines like "I don't admire any political leaders, except perhaps, Mr. Reagan" are too crafty to be crazy.

It's gotten to the point where it sounds like a game to Hinckley. It's like once he got the Jodie Foster story rolling, it was too much fun to stop. "Doing it for Jodie" seemed as insane an alibi as any, and insane is the ruling the man wants.

Now, if he tried to put his game to the test in a trial, it will most likely (and hopefully) explode in his face. If he parrots the Newsweek article - parading his insanity as proudly as Klinger wears his dresses - he's sure to lock himself out of the looney bin and in to a federal prison forever.

Liberals threatened by loss of status

By Joseph Sobran

column-writing business, called to account. Where is Carl Rowan, has launched their evidence? an extraordinary attack on Thomas Sowell, the black economist, likening him to Vidkun Quisling, the Nor- be sought in the imaginwegian collaborator with ations of the accusers. Carl the Nazis, charging that Rowan belongs to a political Sowell is helping those who and cultural establishment Rowan says are "taking that has staked its prestige food out of the mouths of black children."

Sowell's offense? He favors the free market and poses a kind of threat to the opposes, as self-defeating, federal poverty programs. Rowan, naturally, reacts Note that Sowell, who can with violent emotions. But speak harshly himself, has he projects his reaction onto never accused people like Sowell in the form of a Rowan of helping to snatch violent metaphor - snatchfood out of children's ing food from children. mouths. Why does Rowan That is Rowan's rhetorical find it necessary to resort to way of trying to share his such violent imagery? The president of Yale others. University likewise couldn't content himself with simple criticism, on rational grounds, of the religious Right poses a threat to the Right: he called them "vio- liberal cultural values Yale lent," "racist," and "coer- represents. If Falwell rises, cive," and linked them to a recent increase in acts of Yale too feels menaced. antisemitism. Why? When has any Moral Majoritarian to others, its spokesman engaged in the sort of be- tries to represent the Moral havior the alleges?

Again, why? These are serious charges. The men My colleague in the who make them should be

Poses threat

The answer, I think, is to on the social policies Sowell is criticizing.

In that sense, Sowell social status of Carl Rowan. sense of menace with Likewise with Yale's president. The psychology is the same. The new religious Yale declines in importance. To communicate its fear gentlemen Majority as an actual physical threat to all citizens, Ivy

ous radicals" - dangerous wrong, as Thomas Sowell not just to the establish- does and Jerry Falwell does. ment, but to the society at And of course I wish they large. By portraying conser- would tone down their vatives as actual physical language. threats, liberals are trying to

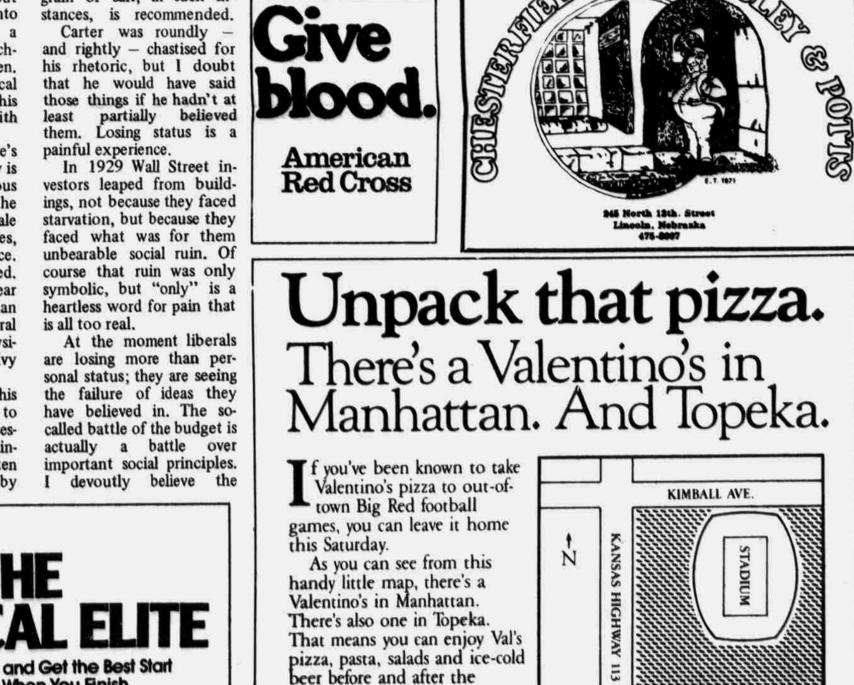
rally the public behind them They are idealists with a in their own peculiar hour heavy stake in their ideals. of peril.

Collies vs. dachshunds

portray Ronald Reagan as a I think they have earned a racist and war monger who little compassion for themwould set race against race, selves. Jew against Christian, and collie against dachshund. A grain of salt, in such instances, is recommended. Carter was roundly and rightly – chastised for

portraying them as "danger- liberals' principles are

But they are not cynics. Having been on the losing side myself for quite a while, I know what they are During the 1980 camp- going through. And for all aign, Jimmy Carter tried to their mistakes and excesses,







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Never, as far as I know. League or not. Heaven knows there are plenty of violent acts com- is a natural reaction, and to mitted daily in this country. understand it is not neces-But they are not the work sarily to condone it. Declinof Thomas Sowell, or Jerry Falwell.

My boss didn't under-

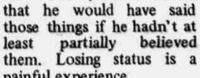
stand that I was healthy

So I was let go. A lot of people are like

my boss. They think that

again.

Silly, of course. But this ing establishments often react to their status rival by



painful experience. In 1929 Wall Street investors leaped from buildings, not because they faced starvation, but because they faced what was for them unbearable social ruin. Of course that ruin was only symbolic, but "only" is a heartless word for pain that is all too real. At the moment liberals

are losing more than personal status; they are seeing the failure of ideas they have believed in. The socalled battle of the budget is actually a battle over important social principles. devoutly believe the 1

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