Brenda Levenson

224-8941

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File
Editorials

Walter Lippman said: The best things of mankind are as useless as Amelia Earhart's adventure .....

...They are things that are undertaken, not for some definite measurable result, but because someone, not counting the costs or calculating the consequences, is moved by curiosity, the love of excellence, a point of honor, the compulsion to invent, or to make or to understand.....

....In such persons mankind overcomes the inertia which would keep it earthbound forever in its habitual ways. They have in them the free and useless energy with which alone men surpass themselves...

....Such energy cannot be planned and managed and made purposeful or weighed by the standards of utility or judged by its social consequences. It is wild and free.....

.....But all the heroes, the saints and the seers, the explorers and the creators, partake of it. They do not know what they discover. They can give no account in advance of where they are going, or explain completely where they have been....

...No preconceived theory fits them. No material purpose actuates them. They do the useless, brave, noble, the divinely foolish and the very wisest things that are done by men...

...And what they may prove to themselves and to others is that man is no mere creature of his habits, no mere automation in his routine, no mere cog in the collective machine, but that in the dust of which he is made there is also fire, lighted now and then by great winds from the sky..

Attached is a recently uncovered piece by Walter Lippman which I thought worth circulating in view of N.I.H. research.

PRODUCER: George Eckstein

PROD. #31360
(Formerly: #81832)
September 16, 1975 (Spec. Run
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A M E L I A

(Formerly: "AE")

by

Carol Sobieski

A.F. 10/25

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195 CONTINUED 195

RADIO OPERATOR
(hunched over mike)
KHAQQ. Come in three one zero five. Report position. Come in on three one zero five and I'll find you. I can hear you on three one zero five. I can find you. I can. Amelia. Amelia ---

The Commander lays a hand on the boy's shoulder, then leaves the room.

196 INT. RADIO ROOM - DAY 196

The Radio Operator is alone in the room, staring silently at the radio, its endless, infuriating static and the still-blinking homing signal -- dih, dah, dih, dah ---

OVERLAP: 12:00 Noon.

He starts turning off the radios, one by one, finally, last, the homing signal. And just sits, staring at the machines in disbelief. Then for no reason at all, he turns on the homing signal: dih, dah, dih, dah ---

NEWSMAN (V.O.)
Walter Lippman said: The best things of manking are as useless as Amelia Earhart's adventure ---

197 INT. RADIO STUDIO 197

A young man in a glass booth, reading into a mike, labeled Network.

NEWSMAN
-- They are things that are undertaken, not for some definite measurable result, but because someone, not counting the costs or calculating the consequences, is moved by curiosity, the love of excellence, a point of honor, the compulsion to invent, or to make or to understand ---

198 INT. RIDGE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 198

Ridge is in an overstuffed chair next to a floor model radio. Her face is blotched with tears, she is picking at a handkerchief. Amy, five, her hair cropped like AE's, is asleep in her lap. Davy, 7, is asleep on the floor, his hand in the box with his pet snake.

NEWSMAN (v.o.)
-- In such persons mankind overcomes the inertia which would keep it earthbound forever in its habitual ways. They have in them the free and useless energy with which alone men surpass themselves ---

199 INT. OAKLAND FLIGHT ROOM - NIGHT 199

Rain at the windows. All lights are off except for one at the wall map on which AE's course is shown, to Lae. GP is there, by the map, smoking, staring at the island and the two pins marking the ships and the red line indicating the flight path ---

NEWSMAN (v.o.)
-- Such energy cannot be planned and managed and made purposeful or weighed by the standards of utility or judged by its social consequences. It is wild and free ---

200 EXT. OAKLAND AIRPORT - NIGHT - RAIN 200

Paul Mantz, hatless, coatless, soaked to the skin, is walking up and down the empty runway, hands clasped behind his back, walking and walking and walking.

NEWSMAN (v.o.)
-- But all the heroes, the saints and the seers, the explorers and the creators, partake of it. They do not know what they discover. They can give no account in advance of where they are going, or explain completely where they have been ---

201 EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - DAWN 201

A new day, spectacular cloud formations on the horizon, a riot of color and hope, and endless expanse of ocean. Then a lone seagull appears, circling and diving for fish.

CONTINUED

201 ~~CONTINUED~~ 201

~~NEWSMAN~~ (v.o.)
-- No preconceived theory fits them. No material purpose actuates them. They do the useless, brave, noble, the divinely foolish and the very wisest things that are done by men ---

202 ~~VERY TIGHT ON AL'S FACE~~ 202

circled by the soft leather flying cap, goggles ~~docked on top~~, grinning the ~~all-out, exuberant grin.~~

~~NEWSMAN~~ (v.o.)
-- And what they may prove to themselves and to others is that man is no mere creature of his habits, no mere automaton in his routine, no mere cog in the collective machine, but that in the dust of which he is made there is also fire, lighted now and then by great winds from the sky.

~~FREEZE FRAME~~

FADE OUT

~~THE END~~