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FEATURES

Anniversary:
 Binghamton/Ithaca *Police Gazette* Turns 2... 3
 "Where the Bodies Are Buried"..... 8
 Retrospective of Covers..... 9

Paul Juser:
 Vampire of Doom City (Part 3)..... 3

Cinema:
 Charlie Chaplin Film Fest..... 8

DEPARTMENTS

Correspondence..... 2

Eccentric Tantrums (opinion):
Mad Men Answers the Call..... 2

Music Pages:
 Battle of the Bands Pictorial..... 4
 Band Notes..... 6
 Ozone in the AM with *The Local Scene*..... 7
Mindful Music by Dave Rice..... 7
 Survy Says To Headline
 Battle of the Bands Finals..... 7

From the Morgue (classic articles):
 Gambling Secrets of Nick The Greek
 (Part 4)..... 10

Girls on the *Police Gazette*..... 11

Dotcomix:
 The Adventures of Kim Dotcom..... 11

Dr. Caprio's Sex Clinic:
 Keeping Physically and Sexually Fit..... 14

New World Records:
 Fastest Coffee-Powered Vehicle..... 14

Limerick of the Month..... 14

Horoscope for April..... 14

Region's Best Event Listings..... 15

ECCENTRIC TANTRUMS
Mad Men Answers the Call
 Special Anniversary *Police Gazette*
 Tantrum Reprint

When *PoliceGazette.US* premiered on April 8, 2007, we published the following Eccentric Tantrum editorial. Three months later, the AMC network responded with a premiere of its own, a little show called *Mad Men*. The show, which begins its sixth season on April 7th, is considered one of the greatest—if not the greatest—dramas in television history and spearheaded a "new golden age of television." You may thank the *Police Gazette* in any way you see fit, but really, it could never be enough....

The Truth About the Popularity of Reality TV

Some among society's intellectual elites continue to declare the so-called reality television programs to be sure signs of the "dumbing down of America." If America is, indeed, being dumbed down, it is not due to the beaming of this particular variety of TV show into the households of our American families. Rather, it is more likely because not enough of its citizens are reading the *Police Gazette*! No, the real cause of the huge—and, to some, distressing—popularity of reality TV programming is the fact that the fiction brand of the same has been so God-awful.

To say that "regular" television programming—in the form of the usual fictional serial dramas, comedies and movies—has appeared to have been written, directed and acted by incompetent imbeciles clearly missing a chromosome is a kind understatement. In sheer desperation and urgent need did the always reliable viewers of America turn to the reality show in order to sate their woefully unquenched thirst for quality pathos, insight, and performance *par excellence*.

That everyone responsible for current fictional television—from the highest executive producer to the lowest apprentice assistant grip—should be banned for life from ever working in television again is a given. But until the void can be filled with artisans who actually possess talent, reality television programs will have to continue serving as the cultural stopgap they have become.



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CORRESPONDENCE
Letters from the Vault:
 June 1971

GUIDE FOR GIGOLOS

You should be ashamed of yourselves for publishing the article "How to Get a Girl to Support You and Make Her Think You're Doing Her a Favor," that appeared in your recent issue. You're doing nothing but giving would-be gigolos a blueprint to exploit innocent women.

I know of a number of lazy bums who fit your description of a shrewd cookie who knows how to get every cent his wife earns.

I never had any sympathy for Women's Liberation until I read your guide for gigolos. Now I understand what they are trying to do.

—Mrs. M. Straznick, Miami, FL

DEFENDS LESBIANS

Your article on lesbianism was of interest to me. I'd like to have my say about a thing, or two, if I may.

We have far greater problems in the country today, besides the homosexual problem. I, for one, am sick and tired of paying taxes to support unwed mothers who make a career of being seduced by every Tom, Dick and Harry so they can have more children and increase their monthly welfare check from Uncle Sam. Why don't we sterilize this scum?

Instead of being critical of lesbianism, you should evaluate the advantages they give to our economy. They are hard-working women who mind their own business. Other people should do the same.

—C.P., Pasadena, CA

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