

# G. Gordon Liddy: Man of principle

G. Gordon Liddy would do it again, but would choose "a harder crew" the second time around.

Liddy, who addressed over 400 people at a Students' Union sponsored lecture at the Jubilee Auditorium Tuesday night, served 52 months of a 21 year sentence for his participation in the Watergate break-in.

"I organized, directed, and ran the Watergate scandal," boasted Liddy.

"Watergate," continued Liddy, "will be nothing more than a blip in history. It had nothing to do with national security, it was simply to gather political information."

"It happens all the time. After all, the Carter briefing books didn't walk over to the Reagan camp all by themselves. I didn't make up the rules of American politics, but I learned them fast enough."

As for who is to blame for the Watergate fiasco, Liddy says "it failed because I made a mistake."

Liddy's error was not properly briefing his minions, who were to pass themselves off as maintenance personnel and to break into Democratic headquarters.

Liddy had observed that the headquarter's maintenance people did not lock and unlock all the doors with their pass keys. Sometimes, to save time, they taped open the springloaded locks with electrical tape. The building's guards paid no heed to taped open doors.

The first Watergate break-in took place on Sunday, May 28, utilizing the taped door trick. It was successful, but one of the electrical bugs did not transmit. So a second break-in was planned for

the following month of June to replace the malfunctioning bug.

The second break-in took place on Friday, June 16. Unfortunately, Liddy forgot to warn his underlings to check the sign-out book to make sure that the building's maintenance people were not signed out. They were.

A guard saw the taped open door and removed the tape. The burglars replaced the tape. When the guard saw the tape a second time, and realized that the maintenance people had already left, he called in the police.

All five of Liddy's hench men were arrested.

Not only did Liddy acknowledge his major role in Watergate, he's also remarkably stoic about his lengthy sentence. Liddy, of all the Watergate criminals, spent the most time in prison.

"I was on the bridge of the aircraft carrier when the ship hit the reef. Damage control was my responsibility. And you treat the guy on the bridge differently than the guy below in charge of the engines," said Liddy. "My going to jail was an occupational hazard."

Liddy is less than enthusiastic about his Watergate compatriots: "Dean, Macgruder, and people like that are insubstantial people who were unfortunately in positions of authority, who, when a strong wind came, collapsed. They were acting consistently with their nature. There's nothing there. I don't get upset when a dog goes to the bathroom on a fire hydrant. That's the nature of the dog. Just like it's the nature of Dean to betray his associates."

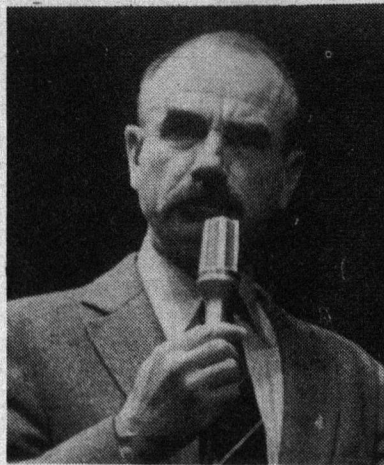
When asked to guess as to the identity of Deep Throat, Liddy stated that "Deep Throat was a composite character." Liddy add-

ed that the *Washington Post* has a long history of creating fictional composites, and that Post Editor Woodward (author of *All the President's Men*) was responsible for submitting Janet Cooke's fictional account of an eight-year old heroin addict to the Pulitzer committee.

The nature of Throat's leaks - the broad scope of his information, coupled with the inaccuracies of the testimony - lead Liddy to two conclusions. The first is that the informant would have to be "quite high in the ranks" since the Nixon White House was so compartmentalized underlings in one department wouldn't know what was going on in another department.

Liddy's second conclusion is that any informant that high up in the ranks wouldn't have made any mistakes in his leak to the press. "Within 48 hours I had fully briefed everyone of all the details of the break-in."

"There had to be several lower informants, and Woodward



and Bernstein just invented Deep Throat as a literary device."

Liddy also clarified a statement in his autobiography, *Will*, where he told Dean that he would wait on a particular street corner in case "someone wants to shoot me."

"I had information that could bring down a government. Men have been killed for less. I understood that and decided to make it easy. I didn't want a

shotgun shoved through my kitchen window on a Sunday morning that could also take out Mrs. Liddy and one or two of my kids."

And as for allegations that Liddy is unprincipled, or bends his principles to suit the occasion, Liddy replied "I have ideals and I have acted consistently with those ideals. I'm seeking to protect and advance the interests of my country."

Liddy also expressed dissatisfaction with America's "naivety."

"Americans are led deliberately into illusions by their parents - starting off with Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny - and America refuses to grow out of it. They are afraid to see reality. Americans live a life of illusions. They think the whole world is Beverly Hills while in reality the world is more like the South Bronx."

"It's a Holiday Inn view of the world: sanitized for your protection."

Story and Interview by Gilbert Bouchard

The Gateway interviewed G. Gordon Liddy yesterday afternoon before his lecture. The following is excerpted from that interview.

**Gateway:** How would you describe your political leanings?

**Liddy:** I'm perceived as being right of centre, but my sons (all in the Marines) all see me as left of centre. There's a swing to the right among our young, and I think this is a healthy thing.

**Gateway:** What was jail like?

**Liddy:** The first thing they do in jail is to test you. They want to find out if they're dealing with a wimp, a strong man, or an informer. So they fight. As one big black dude put it "we have to find out if your heart pumps blood or Kool-aid."

I was in nine different prisons. One warden tossed me out because, as he told the press, I'd intimidated 450 inmates. This was a gross exaggeration, but I was scooped up and hauled in chains into solitary.

I spent 106 days in solitary, mainly because prison officials were afraid of me.

I did quite a bit in prison, like wiretapping. You can do anything you want in prison. Just to demonstrate what I could do, in one prison I cracked the safe in the control room and recorded the serial numbers of all the revolvers. I put them all back of course, but I recorded all the numbers in my book so they would know I'd been there. Sort of like "Kilroy was here."

**Gateway:** What's in store in your future?

**Liddy:** Well, I'm in demand for book and magazine articles, and I intend to go to Hollywood to do some television work. I also have this Industrial Securities business. My Florida partners have just bought me out, and I have to reorganize my Chicago partner.

I also speak 80-120 times a year, half of the time to university groups like the U of A, and the other half to corporate groups.

**Gateway:** What about politics?

**Liddy:** I'm very knowledgeable about politics, but a return to politics belongs in the theoretically possible but highly improbable.

**Gateway:** What about becoming an ambassador?

**Liddy:** No, I can just see the media reaction in the US if I become an ambassador to anybody.

**Gateway:** What about a quiet ambassadorship, like Canada?

**Liddy:** You can reassure your readers that Canada is safe.

**Gateway:** What about being sent as an advisor somewhere, like Kissinger was sent to Central America?

**Liddy:** If I were to be sent to Central America it would be for a different kind of mission.

**Gateway:** Some people here at the U of A were upset that you were profiting from your criminal career. How do you feel about accusations of that nature?

**Liddy:** My major claim to fame is not that I spent some time in jail. You can get all kinds of people in the States who have spent

time in jail, but they're not in demand on the lecture circuit.

**Gateway:** What does the "G" stand for in your name?

**Liddy:** I was named after a lawyer friend of my father, George Gordon. My mother replied "fine, but I don't like the name George, so we're going to call him Gordon."

I have yet to learn what my mother has against the name George. She might have dated some guy named George who turned out to be a real creep, I don't know.

**Gateway:** What's your stand on gun control?

**Liddy:** The US has on the books 22 thousand gun control laws and none of them will change things. Gun control was first tried in 1137 AD by Innocent III who instated cross bow control. It didn't work either.

**Gateway:** Canada has some success with gun control laws.

**Liddy:** The US is a more violent country, and gun laws won't change that. If I'm in a homicidal rage against you and I have a gun I'll use it. If I don't have a gun, I'll probably brain you with this microphone. Then you'll need microphone control.

In the US we have a long-standing tradition of settling quarrels by violence, rather than with reason. So if you're walking in south Florida, or the south Bronx for that matter, you better have some sort of firearm with you, because when they come to rape or rob you, you won't be able to talk them out of it by reverting to sweet reason.

**Gateway:** If you had to do it again, would you knowingly break the law for your superiors?

**Liddy:** In the FBI we would break the law regularly. If a suspect we followed checked in at the Hilton, as soon as he stepped out we would move in and burglarize the room. It's done all the time. That's the way intelligence services work in the States and that's how I suspect they work here in Canada.

Just because your virtue is pure doesn't mean you can't be raped. And so I would suggest to you that security measures are needed to protect that purity.

Nobody ever raped a magnum, and if they ever tried, it would be the last time they did.

**Gateway:** What about the elections in the States this fall?

**Liddy:** Well, Gary Hart is so typically American, so wonderfully insubstantial. Hart is appealing to the growing numbers of YUPPIES (Young Professionals).

As for Jesse Jackson, he's not running for president. His major role is to register blacks to vote. But will the blacks vote for anyone else but Jackson remains to be seen. If they do then Jackson has succeeded in what he set out to do.

**Gateway:** What of the Gender Gap?

**Liddy:** The women making all the noise are the radical left, and they make a lot of noise but they have no numbers to back it up with. After all, the ERA failed in the US and it's the women of the US who defeated it. It was no loss. The ERA wasn't needed.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

The economy has affected our business too! People have become more security conscious and consequently our sales have increased - dramatically. At the close of 1983 we showed a 37% increase in business nationwide.

New York Life has expanded in Canada by opening a new Head Office in Toronto and forming a separate Canadian Company.

What does all this mean? Simply put, we need people in virtually all areas of our business.

We will be holding interviews in the Canada Employment offices on campus to fill management trainee and sales positions.

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