

Brunswickan fiction feature: The March of Mysticism

By BILL DIONNE

PROLOGUE:

There are some who readily accept superstitions and avoid using their mind to pursue truth. Is it reasonable to assume that Hitler would have achieved all of his aims if he had possessed Einstein's intellect? Perhaps we will find an answer in today's world.

The March of Mysticism

It is difficult to say what leads people to delusions of grandeur. It is likely the same culprit which leads other people to follow them.

Such thoughts didn't concern Ralph Kinski. But not because of the depth of his intelligence. His thoughts dealt with the practical and the realizable. Abstract ideas were expeditiously put to use or disregarded by his steel trap of a mind rather than ruminated over.

His early years were coloured by typically boyish pursuits. Ralph's life had been so distorted that some (even childhood contemporaries) discuss his iron-willed domination of his playmates in such activities as demon worshipping and dissecting small animals. The ungarnished truth is that he was a quiet boy who got along well with others and consistently occupied himself with such hobbies as model building, carpentry, and mechanical things in general. These interests were readily pursued by Ralph while growing up on his grandparents' farm in rural Vermont.

Perhaps the most unusual thing about his formative years was his excellent performance in school. In fact,

he did so well that he won a full scholarship to Princeton University. He continued his meteoric rise in the academic world to the level of PHD in physics and astronomy. Ostensibly his ongoing brilliance was demonstrated by an appointment as an associate professor immediately upon termination of his studies.

Ralph's professional life remained quiet. He was known to have some radical ideas about society but most attention was given to the conventionalism in his work and lifestyle. A bit young to be granted admission to such a staid and tacturn faculty, he was considered to be a promising new addition by the men at the top.

One evening during his tenure at Princeton, Ralph was taking in a faculty club cocktail hour. He attempted to share his views with an older colleague, Dr. Charles Adams.

'Charles, men like us have a great resource in hand. The inexperienced, unmolded minds of our students at our disposal. We can shape the world through them.' He was cut off at this point by Dr. Adams who blurted, 'Possibly so Kinski, but keep in mind that less than one year ago you were among the ranks of the inexperienced and unmolded. Perhaps you should let yourself age a bit before you start shaping the world. Now if you will excuse me I must relieve myself.'

But alas, the dreary conservatism of his present surroundings couldn't be overcome, or was it he had more to learn about persuasion? He opted to change his en-

vironment so he could find out.

On a fine spring day Ralph left his quarters in a T-shirt and jeans carrying only his bank book and American Express card. He was on his way to Hollywood to become a guru.

It could be argued that the man was one hundred percent fruit cake. I believe that he was a normal person who harboured the same ambitions for power that many have. Ralph was different only because he had a great deal of talent and stumbled onto a way to make his plans work.

He made it to the west coast and established his firm base. He started a newsletter and started placing ads in none but the chintziest gossip magazines and trade papers.

The byline was, 'Why we are becoming slaves of technology? Hear the amazing facts as revealed by a former science professor at Princeton, Dr. Ralph Kinski. Learn how the masters of technology plan to control our lives. No one can afford not to see these vital warnings.'

With his meager savings he payed for processing and advertising. Ralph rented an old trailer and bought a used car on credit. He wasn't living on credit for very long. Many folks saw his ads and payed good American (and some Canadian) bucks for his weekly bits of wisdom.

Things began to roll. Ralph had come to know some of his subscribers through correspondences. Several had a good command of the language. They happened to be among those who felt early on the

need for his personal guidance and were anxious to offer their assistance. He hired four of them, moved into an office, and even bought a word processor (a necessary technological evil) to streamline the operation.

Ralph declared that he was delegating to them the task of informing the literate masses. He was going to take his crusade against technology out to the less fortunate population. He departed with great dispatch and solemnity, leaving behind a detailed set of guidelines for future newsletters and the phone number of his lawyer.

Travelling around California by car, Ralph hit all the major cities and shared his message in civic auditoriums and church halls. He was gaining a strong following. Most of the people who came to hear him speak became hypnotically fixed on his words. They were gladly making donations and substantial numbers began following him from city to city.

The road show was paying and gaining ground with the public. Ralph derived no satisfaction from this. He registered the crowd reaction as blind obedience. This signalled it was time to shift his plan into its next phase. His image was changing from public speaker to cult leader. Soon he would change his tactics to suit his image.

'I think, therefore I am.' the famous words of Rene

Des Cartes. Ralph saw it a different way. 'If a man doesn't think he has lost himself and then he is anybody's meat.' What's more, he believed that an unused mind should be put to work, if not for the original owner then for some likely prospector. He had gold rush fever.

Being a practical person he knew that you had to have some sort of weapons to takes people's belongings away, whether it be their properties or their minds. His device would be a person's own fear. The people Ralph felt he could influence the easiest were the ones who understood technology the least. Their lifestyles were intimidated by him.

He would use technology to turn them against it. When events reached the point where he must use more than words to gain influence, his strategy would be to stage a special effect he had learned from some independent research at Princeton. He felt he could parlay peoples' fears and angers into acceptance of him as a mystical power.

When the general public became suitably aroused by his shennanigans he meant to play his trump card and get under their skins. He would public opinion of him as a cult leader to a leader for all people. Suddenly it would not matter that many had called him a Charlton. All that would count would

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LET'S REVIVE UNB'S DRAMA SOCIETY

All students are invited to participate in Acting, Makeup, Costume and Stage Design, Lighting and Production.

There will be a MEETING at Memorial Hall Thursday, November 3-7:30 pm

