

Book Review

For best reading, stick with 1984

by SARA FORK

Happy New Year from the folks at the Sandy Public Library. With 1985 right on top of us, I'd like to say that we can indeed add to your reading pleasure. Unfortunately, that is not going to be the case. Book publishers appear to be playing it very safe and cautious with nothing new and exciting being forecast for the coming new year.

With that exciting revelation, let me suggest some 1984 offerings, some of which were worth reading and some of which weren't.

• Stephen King and Peter Straub have pooled their rather nebulous talents to produce (according to them), "an unforgettable epic of fantasy, adventure and resounding triumph." Once you've gotten over trying to figure out who wrote what, the book becomes a blinding bore. "The Talisman" is nothing more than a rewrite on an old theme by other authors much better equipped to handle it. In fact the Greeks did it best in those wonderful mythological tales like Jason and the Golden Fleece. Jason at least is a believable hero, while Jack in "The Talisman" is a 12-year-old idiot. One does wonder, briefly, what happened to the "Talisman" afterward, but perhaps it was found after all, like so many other golden prizes, not worth the trouble it had cost to procure it. Something like reading this book.

• In Norman Mailer's "Tough Guys Don't Dance," we have a hero of another sort. A sort of anti-hero, not a great deal smarter than poor ol' Jack and just a little more experienced. Mailer, in trying to explore the paradoxes between machismo and homosexuality, succeeds only in muddying some already murky waters. One wonders if Tim Madden is Norman Mailer's alter ego, and if so, why? Surely, even Mailer wouldn't want to appear that ridiculous.

Actually, "Tough Guys Don't Dance" is a pretty good book if (1) you're not opposed to homosexuality; sexuality and blood shed, (2) you're not opposed to Norman Mailer and (3) you don't believe, as Mailer insists, that this is a search into the recesses and buried virtues of the modern American male.

• Heros seem to come in all shapes, sizes and colors these days. In Robert Heinlein's "JOB: A Comedy of Justice," Alexander Hergenheimer is as unlikely a hero as you're ever going to find. But a hero he truly is.

Given more troubles than the biblical Job ever thought of having, Alex is put through change after impossible change as things go from

bad to worse. All Alex really wants to do is buy his lady a hot fudge sundae, but as Armageddon and the Day of Judgment approaches, Alex has his hands full. Somewhere, he felt, there had to be an answer to his problem and to the question of why he was being persecuted. And of course there was. But it was truly a Hell of an answer.

• With typical tongue-in-cheek, Antonia Fraser writes about women in the 17th century. She aptly named her book "The Weaker Vessel."

If, as 17th century man thought, women were the weaker sex, then by comparison 20th century men are complete wimps. These ladies were tough!

Research taken from diaries and letters left by the few literate ladies of the day (over 80 percent couldn't read, let alone write) shows that the average woman worked 18 hours a day, raised 3.5 children — after giving birth to at least 13 — made her own soap, clothes and home furnishings, and raised her own food and slaughtered her own cattle.

She was expected to manage her husband's estate when he was gone, which was a heck of a lot of the time (coming back only long enough to get her pregnant and leave again).

She acted in all things as her husband's agent, which meant riding horseback, or on horse drawn cart — not a carriage, that was for her husband — or walking how ever many miles it took to conduct his business affairs.

If she were a woman of some means she was auctioned off to the highest bidder or fastest talker. Rape and kidnapping were morally wrong but not legally a crime in 17th century England.

Woe to the lady who allowed herself to be deflowered!

All this, mind you, with little or no education and no legal status whatsoever. She was indeed a chattel. But a weaker vessel? Somehow I doubt it. Then, as now, she outlived her male counterpart by some five years. She had at least two husbands, three if she were rich, and kept her teeth, and a certain social standing that sometimes outweighed that of her husband.

No wonder men desperately wanted to believe that women were weak. Give these Amazons equal status and you've created an equal. Or maybe — God forbid! — not an equal but a superior. Forgive me my momentary lapse. How could I think such a thing!

Treasonous thoughts, these. Do you suppose I could be kidnapped and deflowered? We have come a long ways, haven't we girls. Happy 1985!



The Reverend Gerald Robeson and family.

Assembly of God sets missions convention

A missions convention begins at the Sandy Assembly of God with the Reverend Gerald B. Robeson speaking at the 11 a.m. service Sunday, Jan. 13.

"The people of Latin America are hungry for the word of God. We are planning a nation-wide spiritual revival," says Robeson, who is a missionary evangelist for the Assemblies of God.

Before accepting his present position as missionary evangelist, Robeson and his wife, Carol, and two daughters, Sue and Debbie, ministered in Costa Rica for six years.

They specialize in open-air crusades in which services are held every night, and many new congregations are formed, made up of crusade converts.

Permanent meeting places are built, and the new churches continue. Some of these crusade churches now have up to 2,500 in attendance.

The Robesons also maintain an active television and radio ministry. They have produced over 600 Christian television programs, and have been responsible at times for three radio programs each day.

When they return to the mission field, they will go to Mexico City to establish new congregations either through open-air or tent crusades and a television and radio ministry wherever possible.

Pastor Dale Edwards will be speaking at the 6 p.m. service and will be showing slides of his recent missionary trip to Jamaica where he was involved in establishing a new church.

On Wednesday evening, beginning at 7, Mike Hodges will speak to the Teen Challenge group as the convention continues.

Class teaches skills for protecting children

A free seminar for parents on how to teach protection skills to their children will be sponsored by the Welches Parent-Teacher Organization.

The seminar will be led by Priscilla

Warnke, who in cooperation with the Portland police department, developed a child protection system called Ident-a-Kid.

This system has been developed through a great deal of research and communication with both local and federal investigative agencies that specialize in missing and runaway children.

The seminar will be held Friday, Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room at Welches School. The kit will be available for those who wish to purchase it. All members of the community are invited to attend.

Menus

Bull Run School
Jan. 14-18

Monday: Macaroni and cheese, spinach, bread and butter, apricots and milk.

Tuesday: Tacos, buttered corn, cookie, applesauce and milk.

Wednesday: Creamed turkey, mashed potatoes, peas, bread and butter, banana Jello and milk.

Sandy

Monday: Spaghetti with meat sauce, seasoned green beans, garlic bread, pears and milk.

Tuesday: Beef burrito, carrot sticks, mixed fruit, bread and butter and milk.

Wednesday: Oven-fried chicken, cranberry sauce, tossed green salad, apple coffee cake, bread and butter and milk.

Thursday: Beef ravioli, buttered corn, fruit salad, raisin oatmeal cookie, garlic bread and milk.

Welches School

Monday: Hamburger pattie, potatoes and gravy, buttered spinach, bread and butter, orange wedge and milk.

Tuesday: Hot dog with ketchup and mustard, potato chips, carrot coins, peanuts and milk.

Wednesday: Beef taco with lettuce and cheese, buttered corn, frosted Grahams, peaches and milk.

Thursday: Oven chicken, french fries, ketchup, bread and butter, cherry crisp and milk.

Friday: Spaghetti with meat sauce, cole slaw, butter and roll, pears and milk.

Montessori school offers four-part parenting class

A four-part "parenting" class will be held at the Child's Kingdom Montessori School on Jan. 14 and 28,

Pearles performs at Hood View

Joe Pearles and The Quiet Sound singers will present a 4 p.m. sacred concert at the Hood View Seventh-day Adventist Church on Saturday, Jan. 19.

Pearles is lead singer and guitarist of The Quiet Sound group, which is from Dundee, Ore. These recording artists have been together for many years, performing inspirational gospel music.

The church is located at SE Kelso Road at 268th Court in Boring. The public is invited. There is no charge for admission.

and Feb. 11 and 25 at 7:30 p.m.

The class will be led by the school's consultant, Patricia Oriti, who has been working with children and adolescents for the past 14 years. The class will cover such topics as how to apply Montessori principles to the home environment, to family routines, and to "discipline."

Cost of the class is \$15. Space is limited. For more information or to register, call 668-8784.

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