

# Six Gun Charlie

## Risher's Benevolent Dictatorship

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I'm sitting in Dr. Risher's office. I have a blank look on my face and question marks in my eyes. The man who wrote the monumental work "Charlie's Tips for Academic Success" sits before me. Dr. Risher finishes his orange and sets his personal Garfield cup aside. I notice the maroon tie Dr. Risher wears. It has little pheasants on it. I take a mental note. I wonder of his fashion sense. It's a nice tie, I think to myself, better to have pheasants on your tie than, say...storks or penguins. I observe my surroundings. Dr. Risher's office seems a cavernous realm of books-some old and moldy but I'm sure they have quite a history. Which brings us close to our topic of discussion.

"Okay! This is interesting. I got this little bit of information from your file..."

"My file?! I have a file?!" He tilts his head bemusedly. (possibly paranoia?) Maybe I shouldn't have said he has a file.

"Well.. it wasn't a file, exactly it was more like a manila folder with one piece of paper in it."

"Where did you get it from?" Oh, um...he's asking me to reveal my sources. I shift uncomfortably. I choose to avoid the question. I get the feeling Dr. Risher senses an impending interrogation- so I ease up. Our wanting to interview him is bewildering to him. He wants to know why I've chosen to do such a thing. I prove to be less enlightening.

"Anyway," I resume my original thought, "I found out from that little folder thing with the piece of paper in it (I didn't want to say 'file') that you were an ordained minister for seven years." I was proud of my research. I had a lead and

was on to something big. With newfound confidence I asked my first well thought out question. "Do you miss it?" I could feel my career as a journalist taking off.

"No, no, not really. At the end of every sermon I wanted to hand out a test. But, in teaching, not that everything you say is great or even close to that, but you at least have a mechanism to hold people responsible for what you've said, hence, the examination." As Dr. Risher says this I experience a flashback to last semester. I had a terminal case of "Risher quiz-phobia."

I think of another question. Realizing I'm on a roll, I intone fervently "Where do you think history is going?" Dr. Risher gives me a puzzled look, the kind that makes me squirm with insecurity. The question dropped like an anchor from a sinking ship.

"You mean history as a subject to study, or...?" I can tell Dr. Risher thinks I'm odd (but most people do). My Barbara Walters routine isn't working. I'll have to change my tactics...What would Joan Rivers ask?

"So, Chuck" (okay, okay, I didn't really say Chuck) "So, you wrote Charlie's Tips for Academic Success, do you have perhaps any dating tips?"

"No," he answers, "I prefer to leave that to those who engage in such matters." Scratch the Joan Rivers routine. I really want to know where history is going.

"About history, history in general, where is it going?" Dr. Risher pauses. His eyes grow large with thought. I know I've challenged the very core of his being. (What every good investigative reporter should do). I wonder what the answer would be. If anyone would know where history is going it would be Dr. Risher. I know I've come to the right place. I'm



Dr. Risher at six years old.

about to get the inside scoop.

"Well, as a Christian, I believe it is going in the direction God is allowing or wants it to go in..."

"Hmm," I think to myself, "Yes, that's it..of course."

Dr. Risher continues, "And that's a broad statement."

I agree, so I inquire more specifically, "Where do you think God wants it to go?"

"Well, this is getting theological and I generally don't like to project..."

"Go ahead, project!" I insist.

"I believe that there is some credence in the prophetic notions. I think that we're moving toward a one world sense, certainly economically and politically to a certain extent."

"Don't a lot of people see that as a good thing though?" I question.

"Well, they would have to in order to tolerate it. There are forces that are powerful enough to break through the individual, nationalistic movements. Even though you're seeing a lot of that now politically in the Soviet block nations, this explosion of nationalism to offset the yoke of Soviet influence. However, I see that as a

temporary stage in history. The fact that you have east/west cooperation: economic interdependence; the fact that we need to consult in a world wide manner involving isolating crisis; the fact that small third world nations pose a threat to both Soviet and western interests...I see all of that as eventually contributing to this move of one world...I don't want to overstate that, but I'm not surprised by those tendencies. I don't think it will happen in our lifetime, but I think that's where history is going. Eventually there will be a Second Coming and all that."

Yes, I agree history is moving onward, toward global unity, one world government. The earth will become one big global village. It's pretty ominous. Then of course the Second Coming of Christ. I ponder this profundity. It prompts me to ask my next question.

"What do you eat for breakfast?"

"It varies, but usually, buttered toast, juice, a type of cereal (unspecified), usually but not always, coffee and vitamins."

"And what kind of vitamins?"

"Multivitamin combination."



Photo by Bob Graham

Dr. Risher tells students tales of Louis XIV

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