



by Rick Mitz

I used to be a nothing—a little short, fat, whiney kid from Milwaukee with a running nose. I was a real thorn in my mother Rose's side; a regular down-and-outer; a wipe-out; a has-been who never was and not at all beloved in the neighborhood.

Then something happened. I became educated.

It all began in high school when I dropped out of P. S. 184 and enrolled in what must have been the first Alternative School. In the swamps of Milwaukee, everyday after school, we guys used to smoke alfalfa on the shores of lovely Lake Michigan. One afternoon, I noticed my friend, Norman, lighting up. On the cover of his matchbook it said "Finish High School."

"Let me see that, Norman," I said to Norman.

"Okay," Norman said to me.

And as I lit my weed, I opened the book of matches and read on: "Are you tired of being a nothing, a little short, fat, whiney kid from Milwaukee with a running nose, a real thorn in your mother Rose's side, a regular down-and-outer, a wipe-out, a has-been who never was, and not at all beloved in the neighborhood? Then finish High School in your spare time. You can't get anywhere without a High School diploma. Write away right away."

So right away I wrote away. A few weeks later my info arrived in plain brown wrapper.

"What's in that plain brown wrapper?" my Mother asked.

"Just some obscene literature," I told her.

"Okay," she said, "Just as long as it isn't any of that correspondence school stuff." I promised her it wasn't and the next day dropped out of school. Everyday, between the hours of 7:45 a. m. and 4:30 p. m., I'd sit on the banks of the Michigan and do my assignments diligently, taking only an hour out for lunch.

A few months later, my diploma from Matchbook High School with my name magic marked in arrived. And it now hangs proudly over my Father's pipe rack.

Upon discovering there was no Matchbook College, I enrolled at state university and took classes in bio-physics freshman English and animal husbandry.

And then it came in the mail. A pamphlet proclaiming: "Instant Learning—courses that turn your tape recorder into an automatic learning machine." Shaking with excitement, I read on.

"Now! Electronic Technology gives you a New Way to Learn Any Skill You Wish—so easily—so quickly—so automatically—so perfectly and permanently that it will take your breath away."

I dropped out of college, I sold my dorm contract, bought myself a tape recorder and ordered learning tapes on each subject. I learned to "At Last! Speak fluent Spanish, French, Italian, German in exactly 24 hours!" I started, as the ad said, "chatting away like a native." For \$9.98.

I obtained a "Power Personality"—and got "all the friends you ever wanted." I "regained accounts that formation to the teacher by rote were considered lost." I won "the unconditional approval, respect, and admiration of everyone I came in contact with." And I revitalized, as the ad promised, "my marriage

into a thrilling daily experience." It all worked. And I wasn't even in business or married. Only \$9.98 per tape.

I learned how to develop my "Creative Mind Powers" as I began to "Liberate the Creative Flow Seething Within you!" I learned "How To Defend Yourself Against The Human Parasites Who Want to Rule Your Life" and, before you could say \$9.98, I forgot my "feelings of inadequacy" and learned how to "pry open the clenched fists of control that people wrap around you!"

Night after night, while I was asleep, I began to double my power to learn (In Just A Single Weekend). I brought the "Magic of Mystic Power" into my life. I learned how to "avoid lawyers, to eat my way out of fatigue, cast astrological horoscopes, write articles that sell" and, "Through The Magic of Push-Button Self-Hypnotism," started to shed pound after pound. "You'll be More Alive, More Alert, More Attractive to the Opposite Sex." And all for only \$9.98.

In one tape I found the secret of perfect living—Instant Sleep—and learned to skyrocket my child's grades in school, as well as become a successful secretary learn "the new science to command persuasion" and win "unlimited power and control."

All this in two quick weeks.

Now I can do anything. I am the American Dream. I'm happy, I'm rich, I have control over people, I know everything you always wanted to know about everything—just ask—and I am beloved in the neighborhood. I am the perfect human being.

And now I'm in business for myself. With all my vast experience in educational alternatives, I'm opening up what I call "Knowledge College" under a new, novel and unique principal: you arrive at my building at about 8 a.m. and spend the day sitting at something called a desk as a teacher lectures to you and you take notes. Then you're tested and you give back the in-This learning program should take about four years. It is a radical plan, I know, but it just might work. As for cost, just send me \$9.98.

Reynolda Plans Summer Course

The American Foundations, a six weeks course in American history, art, and music, will be held in Winston-Salem June 12 through July 21, for selected teachers and graduate students. Sponsored by Reynolda House, Inc., which will be the base location, and Wake Forest University, this will be the sixth year this popular course has been offered.

The purpose of the course is to provide a stimulating learning experience for people who are already teaching or who will teach in the future. The course will deal with selected periods of American development from 1580 to the present. The traditional method of using manuscripts, printed materials, and maps, is illuminated and deepened by the inclusion of art, architecture, literature, music, decorative arts and the methods of using objects in teaching. The course carries six semester hours of credit toward a Master's Degree in history or certificate renewal.

The faculty and administration include Cyclone Covey, Professor of History at Wake Forest University; Barbara Lassiter, American Art Lecturer and President of Reynolda House; Nicholas B. Bragg, Executive Director of Reynolda House and Program Coordinator. Additional faculty from Wake Forest University will also participate.

The course will be made up of 25 participants, selected from applications received from those eligible to attend. The sponsors are actively seeking applicants through the distribution of brochures and application blanks mailed to colleges, museums, teachers, and students, principally in North Carolina, including participants in previous programs.

Through a grant by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation to Reynolda House, students accepted for the course will be awarded a scholarship to cover tuition, room, tours, and special activities. Tuition for eligible North Carolina in-service public school teachers may be paid from State funds. Dormitory rooms will be available at Wake Forest University.

Application deadline is May 12, and on May 13 there will be an introduction at Reynolda House for those accepted. Registration will be held at Reynolda House Sunday, June 11, and the first class will be held Monday, June 12.

Complete information may be obtained by calling Tel. 919-725-5325 or by writing Nicholas B. Bragg, Reynolda House, P. O. Box 11765, Winston-Salem, N. C. 27106.



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