

NANCY; BUCKLEY; CAPOTE; BROTHERS AND MAILER GROUP SIDES

NANCY DICKERSON

Mr. Buckley, the evidence seems overwhelming.

BUCKLEY

Then show me one clear photograph. Give me one CREDIBLE account. Where are all those witnesses in Hanoi?

CAPOTE

They're dead, Bill.

BROTHERS

Scientists agree that -

BUCKLEY

Scientists are people who build the Brooklyn Bridge and then buy it.

MAILER

AM I INVISIBLE HERE?

BROTHERS

I find it odd, Bill, that these days you deny that anything happened -

BUCKLEY

You're misrepresenting me. I didn't say -

BROTHERS

-- when your party used these same events to turn the 1960 election.

BUCKLEY

Oh, here we go.

BROTHERS

You can't deny that Richard Nixon used the panic to suggest that the Democrats were somehow "soft" in their response to Tokyo and the sightings that followed. Most analysts agree that the issue tipped a close election in Nixon's favor.

BUCKLEY

The people spoke.

NANCY DICKERSON

Dr. Brothers makes an excellent point, if you'd like to respond.

BUCKLEY

THE PEOPLE SPOKE. What happened in Tokyo -- it was a typhoon, an earthquake, a volcano -- one of these, perhaps all of these. This so-called monster is another leftist canard, a diaphanous manifestation of the twentieth century's raging id, the hatred of the self, the fear of responsibility, the loathing of prosperity. To insist that it was a living creature, well, that must strain any partly rational person's credulity to the -

BROTHERS

That's a unique analysis.

BUCKLEY

And an accurate one.

BROTHERS

Actually, to anyone with a passing familiarity with psychoanalytic theory, it's gibberish.

BUCKLEY

You should know, you slattern.

MAILER

SWEET JESUS CHRIST, I'VE WRITTEN A BOOK.

BUCKLEY

You'd better watch out, Nancy. He might have a penknife.

MAILER

Why would you bring that up? It's well known that I stabbed my wife. You don't need to bring it up.

BROTHERS

He stabbed his wife?

CAPOTE

Well known among literati, dear.

MAILER

(pointing at Buckley) Who are you to talk? You killed Gore Vidal! In a DUEL!

BUCKLEY

An accident, nothing more.

NANCY DICKERSON

Let's hear now from the Nobel laureate on our panel.

MAILER

Shooting a man in a duel. Where's the honor in that? Stabbing him face to face, now, that's honor. Killing him with your fists -- that's honor. Pugilism!

BUCKLEY

Gore's unfortunate demise was accidental, regardless of the thousand injuries I suffered at his hand.

NANCY DICKERSON

Yukio Mishima survived the devastation of Tokyo. As I mentioned earlier, his masterpiece, "Akuma-shin," lent its name to that destructive force. Mr. Mishima, kon'nichiwa. Welcome.