

provides an excellent opportunity to clearly state this administration's stance on legalization: "*Our number one goal is to reduce the number of drug users in America. Legalization is a formula for self-destruction and this administration is unequivocally opposed to any 'reform' that is certain to increase drug use.*"

In his keynote speech to the Harvard gathering, Brown refuted some common, albeit "bizarre," "assertions by so-called drug experts about what the drug situation is."

For example, "there is no massive support for legalization. A 1990 Gallup poll showed that 80% of the public thought that legalizing drugs was a bad idea. . . ."

"Reflecting the views of the American public, there is no meaningful support within Congress for the legalization of illicit drugs.

"And in fact, policy-level officials who are directly responsible for the drug issue—*beginning with the President*—oppose legalization. I do, too. . . ."

"Another . . . myth is that there are excellent foreign models to show that decriminalization works: The Netherlands and the U.K. are two."

However, he said, "one need only read the international press to realize the degree to which the Dutch have visited upon themselves misery from drug abuse by enacting drug laws that go unenforced, and policies that encourage 'responsible' use rather than discourage any use at all. The Dutch are pleased to say they have remained mostly unscathed by drug use by their own citizens. They cannot say the same of the many thousands of foreign visitors who arrive to buy drugs, steal or panhandle to keep using them, and then ask the Dutch to treat them for addiction.

"And one need only recall the disastrous experience of Great Britain with the controlled distribution of heroin. In the years between 1959 and 1968—according to the 1981 *British Medical Journal*—the number of heroin addicts in the U.K. doubled every 16 months. The experiment was, of course, terminated. But addiction rates in the U.K. have not subsided.

"At the same time, no one mentions Italy, which permits heroin and other drugs to be used legally, and where the number of heroin addicts—some 350,000, by official estimates—and the level of HIV prevalence—an estimated 70%—are higher than those in any other country in western Europe. I ask myself at times why those who advocate drug policy reform are so quiet about the Italian model. . . ."

"To the overwhelming number of Americans, to the Clinton administration, to the American Congress, to American policymakers of this as well as prior administrations, to Americans involved with drug programs across the country, to Americans in drug-blighted communities across the country, legalization is exactly such a solution—neat, plausible, and wrong.

"Speaking for these Americans and for this administration, I can tell you that *it's just not going to happen.*"

Book Reviews

Robert Evans's story: coverup for satanism

by Michelle Steinberg

The Kid Stays in the Picture

by Robert Evans

Hyperion, New York, 1994

412 pages, hardbound, \$24.95

Pathetic and illiterate, the autobiography of Robert Evans, the legendary corporate executive who saved Paramount Pictures from bankruptcy, liquidation, and oblivion, is a book written in an obscure gangland-style code, in which an embittered man is venting his spleen without being able to do what he really wants—bring down the mighty mobsters who threw him to the wolves.

The "thrilling" beginning is the triumphant party celebrating the New York premier of the Paramount film "The Godfather." The time is 1972, and Evans, the producer, is hosting his alleged two best friends, Henry A. Kissinger, then secretary of state, and the notorious mobster attorney Sidney Korshak, whom he describes repeatedly as his "mentor," his "godfather," his "*consigliere* for over 20 years," at a gala party at New York's St. Regis Hotel. When Evans, in a fit of egomania, tries to "put it all together" and have Kissinger and Korshak join him, basking in all his glory, at the same table, Korshak grabs his arm in a powerful, threatening grip and growls, "Don't ever bring me and Kissinger together in public. Ever! Now go back to your table . . . schmuck."

An anecdote with promise

An anecdote with promise. What does godfather Korshak have to hide? Do Korshak and Kissinger get together privately on a regular basis? But Evans never delivers.

For someone who was busted on cocaine, who hocked his multimillion-dollar mansion to pay off mob backers in a film deal gone bad, who was nearly indicted in the cocaine-satanic murder of New York impresario Roy Radin, and whose comeback to Paramount resulted in the allegation that he threatened to kill leading lady Sharon Stone (as he had

killed three other people), not delivering on the details about Korshak, Kissinger, and Gulf and Western Chief Executive Officer Charlie Bluhdorn (whose backing to buy Paramount parent company Gulf and Western came from a known associate of the late head of "Murder, Inc.," Meyer Lansky) is probably a good idea for "staying in the picture."

There are some humorous elements. For example, who is the more loyal friend to Bobby Evans? Well, Kissinger did get him off one potential cocaine charge—by writing a personal secretary-of-state letter to Dom Mintoff, President (so-called) of the island country of Malta where Paramount was filming "Popeye the Sailor" (of all things). But when the real cocaine bust of Evans came shortly afterward in New York, godfather, mentor, and guardian angel Korshak was nowhere to be found. Behind the scenes, Evans and his brother Charles (his former partner in the fashion house Evan Piccone) tried to convince New York Sen. Jacob Javits (R) to fix the cocaine case in order to protect Kissinger from embarrassment because of the Malta letter.

Near the end, in 1989, when Evans is out of money, out of Paramount, and out of friends, there are no guardian angels to bail him out of the potential murder-conspiracy charge in the killing of New York impresario Radin, found victim of a satanic-style ritual murder in the desert outside of Los Angeles, just after Evans enlisted his support to bail out the funding for the movie "The Cotton Club."

Take that back. There was one last ally: Bob Shapiro, the same lawyer now in the news every day as one of the defense attorneys for O.J. Simpson. Shapiro, who was assigned to Evans by he-never-says-who, knew a judge in Los Angeles who helped get Evans off the hotseat in the trial of Radin's killers. Shapiro reviewed and approved this book before it was published. It's a coverup for the satanic murder of Radin, just as some believe the O.J. Simpson trial circus is a coverup for Hollywood satanism today.

Evans is no stranger to the subject of satanism. One of his earliest successes was producing "Rosemary's Baby," the film that starred Mia Farrow as the young mother impregnated by Satan. Anton LaVey, the founder of the Church of Satan, was brought in as a consultant to make sure that every occult and satanic detail was accurate. (By the way, LaVey had made an earlier career as an all-purpose towel boy for mobster Bugsy Siegel in Las Vegas before becoming America's most famous Satan-worshipper.)

With "Rosemary's Baby" came Evans's lifelong friendship with director Roman Polanski, the husband of movie star Sharon Tate, who was killed by the Manson family in a ritual murder in 1969. It was only by pure luck that Evans, by his own account, had a prior engagement the night that Tate and her friends were murdered. He would have been at the Tate dinner party at Cielo Drive when the Manson zombies invaded that night.

Tate's death did not break up Evans's friendship with Polanski, though. Evans stayed in close contact with Polan-



Evans's caption for this picture: "His new title didn't change his old habits. Now Secretary of State, dear Henry Kissinger still resided at my home whenever he visited Los Angeles. Lucky me!"

ski, almost daily, until Polanski was thrown out of the United States. Polanski's brush with the law involved statutory rape of a 13-year-old girl, an incident which allegedly involved Evans's best friend, actor Jack Nicholson, whom he "discovered."

A task for a prosecutor

Evans doesn't like details. He doesn't write about them in this book. A biography that does fill in those details would be an interesting task for an enterprising prosecutor.

But one cannot help but be amazed as to how this slimeball has shaped a generation through his films. They are very well known: "Rosemary's Baby"; "Love Story," starring his one-time wife, Ali Magraw; "The Godfather"; "The Godfather II"; "The Odd Couple"; "Chinatown," and others. The next time you find your emotions dancing to the manipulations of Hollywood's mafia, remember P.T. Barnum's motto: "There's a sucker born every minute."