

14-A Sunday, Sept. 2, 1979 Philadelphia Inquirer

## A school for scandal...

**RESIST.** From left, right, the said teachers suggest about as much trust as politicians did after Watergate.

"It's going to be difficult to get down to anything like a normal course of events," said another.

"It's a real head," said a school administrator. "They don't teach you how to handle these things in graduate school."

The three teachers refused their careers since — Bradfield, Ms. Myers and Valenti — have not been charged with any crimes. They have not even been publicly accused of any wrongdoing. But their names and that of Jay C. Smith, the former Upper Merion High School principal who was convicted earlier this year of robbing and attempting to rob suburban department stores and other offenses, have been listed in news reports and in rumors with Mrs. Reiser's death.

"It's kind of like a modern-day breeding, isn't it?" Valenti, the only one of the three teachers who has made public statements on the controversy, said in an interview last week. "You put the old money people in the end, and you put the new money people in the end."

At the end of the mystery movie, several innocent people were hanged.

**Children missing**

The body of Mrs. Reiser, 37, who was divorced and lived with her two children in Ardmore, was found early June 25 in the tire well of her car in the parking lot of the first floor in suburban Haverford. The Daphn County coroner said the child of suffocation and had been "criminally assaulted," but at the request of police refused to give further details. Source here indicated, however, that the child had been raped.

Mrs. Reiser and her two children, Michael, 10, and David, 11, are believed to have left their Ardmore home around 10:30 a.m. on Friday June 22. No one knows where they were going. The children have never been found.

Bradfield, 46, who has been described by colleagues as a brilliant and charismatic teacher, is the principal beneficiary of Mrs. Reiser's estate, which includes the insurance policies worth several hundred thousand dollars and other assets worth about \$250,000.

Friends said that Mrs. Reiser had conducted an affair with Bradfield for several years. Mrs. Reiser told going to marry the contractor, Bradfield did not attend the funeral, the priest's memorial service. He was in Cape May, N.J., with Valenti, Ms. Myers, and Chris Pappas, a suburban teacher who often took over Bradfield's class.

Valenti, 28, lives in the same Foxhollow apartment house as Bradfield and Ms. Myers, who according to other teachers have been having an affair for years — even while Bradfield was seeing Mrs. Reiser. Bradfield rose months ago, Valenti said, he worked in a small gift shop in Montgomeryville. Brad is owned by Mr. Myers and Bradfield.

Bradfield and the other teachers in the area have publicly about the case. They have received questions from a Philadelphia Inquirer, John Paul Carron, who, according to Valenti, has told him to get nothing about the Cape May weekend.

Bradfield has an auto accident for Smith, his former principal, testifying that he was with Smith in Queen City, N.J., on Aug. 27, 1977, the day Smith was supposed to have received \$33,000 from the Sears, Roebuck & Co. store in St. Davids. Despite Bradfield's testimony, Smith was convicted.

At an earlier trial, Smith was convicted of attempting to steal \$18,000 from the Sears store in Neshaminy Mall. Smith has also pleaded no contest in charges of illegal possession of firearms, and pleaded guilty to a conviction from his first arrest in Aug. 19, 1974, when he was charged at Cambridge with carrying a handgun to break into a car.

**'A lot alike'**

Smith, who was principal of the high school from 1966 to 1978, and Bradfield, who was active in the Upper Merion teachers' union, appeared to have a close relationship, but were actually in close contact, school officials said.

"They're a lot alike," said one school official. "They're both very bright, very bright men."

Smith, 46, an extremely responsible school administrator, had a secret life that included drugs and alcohol.

**U.S. Air Force nurse found dead in Manila**

**MANILA** — A U.S. Air Force nurse was found dead at dawn yesterday, the main gate of Clark Air Base here, police said.

Police said that Capt. Mary Byrd, 26, who died single, apparently was killed in a vehicle after which her body was dumped at the base.

**Tibetan to rule Tibet as Chinese is sacked**

**BEIJING** — The Chinese chairman of Tibet had been replaced by a Tibetan.

The New China News Agency said yesterday that Tenzin Gyatso, 42, a member of the central committee of the Chinese Communist Party, had been elected chairman of the Tibet People's Government. It did not say what happened to Rong Sheng, who had served in the regional administration since 1964 and had been chairman since 1971.

Jay C. Smith, convicted robber; Vincent Valenti, modern-day farming; Bruce Reiser, dead, children missing. (Continued on next page)

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