

A "genre of narrative"? That's a new one.

A THOUSAND WORDS ABOUT OUR CULTURE

# WHAT'S WITH ALL THE SECRETS AND LIES? *(behind the scenes)*

BY STEPHEN MARCHE

**AGENRE OF NARRATIVE** has recently come to dominate our lives, and I'm going to give it a fancy German name so you will have some way to describe it at your next dinner party. Are you ready? Here it is: "Geheimlebensroman," the story of the secret life. Recently, stories of secret lives, of men and women who are somehow the opposite of what they seem, have managed to overtake even the addiction memoir and the coming-of-age narrative as the most popular and prevalent genre in Ameri-



By "our", Mr. Marche means him and his colleagues.  
Because they are being dominated, they must in turn (try to) dominate "y'all". (It's called transference)

Don't be distracted, by the distraction.

COMMENT  
THE PUBLIC ON THE PRIVATE



Last week, when Anthony Weiner's congressional colleagues succeeded in getting him to resign, his constituents were not in the same hurry to show him the door. Surely they were embarrassed for him—it was difficult not to be—but a majority of the voters in his Brooklyn and Queens district wanted him to stay in office. It wasn't practical: the distraction had become too distracting. We might have had to endure a future of press conferences dogged by the very loud heckler who, throughout the press conference in which the Congressman announced his resignation, shouted stuff like "Are you more than seven inches?" On the Republican side, Representative Christopher Lee, of New York, had resigned from the House in February immediately after news broke of his Internet self-exposure—he had sent a photograph of himself bare-chested to a woman he contacted through Craigslist—and the Democratic leaders apparently felt that they could demand no less when their guy sent around much raunchier self-portraits. Still, it's interesting to contemplate that it is often the political classes, more than the voters, who want to rid themselves of trouble like Weiner.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY TOM BACHTELL

Double-speak

← not said ironically (any distraction, by definition, is "too distracting")

Lamestream: obviously you are the ones who are distracted.

The only question is; by what?

God forbid people get distracted from their miserable lives.

'crap.'

GLENN BECK TO SARAH PALIN,  
WHO ANSWERED "ALL OF THEM"  
WHEN ASKED, "WHO'S YOUR DADDY?"

CORDOVA

## Sale to editor saves Cordova newspaper

One of the six weekly publications in the soon-to-be shuttered Alaska Newspapers Inc. chain has a new owner.

Calista Corp. announced Tuesday it is selling the Cordova Times to Jennifer Gibbins, the editor for the last year. Terms weren't disclosed.

The first publication date under her ownership will be determined. She says she is evaluating how to structure the paper using print and web technologies.

Calista announced plans to close and liquidate the chain July 22.

The other five weeklies are the Arctic Sounder, the Bristol Bay Times, the Dutch Harbor Fisherman, the Seward Phoenix Log and the Tundra Drums.

The Alaska Native corporation says the last publications will be Aug. 15, and the newspaper office will close Aug. 31. Coincidence?

Calista says it's entertaining offers for the other papers.

— The Associated Press

Yeah, they just happen to be closing on the 5th Anniversary of the biggest event in Alaska's history

This is not about money, it's about politics.