

Mosquitoes and the Press

If the average citizen has an affair resulting in a car wreck and a bent golf club nobody notices or cares. That's the way it should be but thanks to the paparazzi we are bombarded with public figures personal lives whether we like it or not. How perverse.

Tiger Woods spent Thanksgiving playing golf and ended his weekend with a wrecked car, mysterious facial injuries and flashing lights. How do we know this? Because personal lives of the rich and famous do not exist.

Tabloids flood the shelves with rumors of scandal and marital dysfunctions of celebrities who made the mistake of becoming public figures. Some argue that celebrities don't have a right to privacy, which is absurd. The fascination with exposing the innermost secrets of celebrities has taken control of the media.

Paparazzi got their name from Italian producer Federico Fellini's film "La Dolce Vita." This 1960 film's vital character was Papparazzo, a press photographer. The name came from the Italian word "papataceo" which is a description for the buzzing noise made by a mosquito.

Ironically, before this film, the paparazzi of today were simply known as press photographers.

According to a CNN/USA/Gallup poll, Woods' popularity ratings are dropping with the issues of "mistresses" and affairs. Media brought to light what happened in Woods' house and therefore the public feels the need to judge him.

Kobe Bryant's affair a few years ago brought his ratings down as well. We see celebrity after celebrity brought down because of scandals yet ignore the fact that they are people too.

According to the European Convention of Human Rights, celebrities, even those in politics, have the right to privacy so far as it does not serve public interest to know. Knowing what a golfer, basketball star or actor do when they go home at night does not serve the public in any way.

If a president has an affair in the oval office, on the peoples watch, then they not only have the right but the need to know. People in a position that greatly affects the people need to be scrutinized closely while on the job. On the job being the key.

Actions in public, affecting the public are necessary for public knowledge. Privacy laws are vague when it comes to public figures. Unfortunately, cases such as that of William Sidis, child prodigy, have shown that the court systems allow media to report on anything that interests the readers.

If a photographer appeared on my neighbors porch and started asking about personal information there would be a police call. But celebrities seem to forfeit that right.

People have enough issues of their own, there are divorces, embezzling and bar fights all the time that go unnoticed. The moment a celebrity gets frisky with their event planner or smokes a joint, however, the paparazzi are all over it and the people love it.

How ironic that something named after the buzzing of a mosquito could become the designers of a national pass-time. Lucky for the fans that those celebrities they spy on make such good salaries. If not, then the invasions of their personal lives might drive them to quit. Then what would people do to kill time?