

The Challenger

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GLEANNING: AN OLD METHODOLOGY TO GET NEW LEFTOVERS

by Amy Paxson

America is a consumer culture. People buy and buy and buy some more. If they don't need it, even better and they'll buy that too. We live in an incredibly acquisitive culture. As much as I detest this rampant consumerism and its resultant child and slave labor abroad, deep unhappiness (for money still cannot solve problems of an emotional nature), shallowness and filled-to-the-brim landfills of crap, I must confess something. I, too, like to get new stuff. However, I have found a way to get that stuff in a manner that is not nearly as wasteful and expensive. We'll call it gleaning.

Gleaning is defined as the gathering of grain left over by reapers. Hungry people have been doing it for centuries. Basically, gleaning means getting the leftovers, the waste, the stuff that consumerism (or agriculture) carelessly leaves behind. Believe me, there is a lot. So what I mean is used things. Some may find this gross or shameful, but there are many advantages besides price. Look at it this way- by buying used things you are not supporting child or slave labor, huge monstrous corporations and really, if you want to get technical, you are recycling, which is not a bad thing. So what can you glean?

My favorite thing to glean is clothing. And I am not talking about the sale rack at the Gap or discount places like TJ Maxx. I am talking about used clothing. Ok, maybe some of you find this gross, but as long as you have a washing machine, or access to one, it is perfectly sanitary. Some of my most prized items of clothing have come from rummage sales or thrift stores. Some of my great finds: a designer Von Furstenberg wrap dress from the 1970's, at a rummage sale for \$2; a hand embroidered mandarin-style blouse, at a garage sale for \$1; a salmon velvet skirt with appliqué design, thrift store \$4; a light blue 1950's beaded top, thrift store \$3; vintage Levis, several pairs, various places, all \$5 or less and oodles and oodles of cool old purses, strange printed t-shirts, shoes and costume jewelry. These are but a few of the examples of my many finds. There are "normal," non-vintage finds available as well. But you can find some great old stuff- let's face it, many new clothing companies are creating vintage-looking things these days for lots of money.

You can also buy used clothing for your kids, if you have them. You have to buy new clothes every 3 or 4 months anyways- why not buy them on the cheap? Another benefit- vintage or not- is that your clothes will not look like anyone else's. Do you really want to go to Old Navy and buy that shirt everyone has? Perhaps you do want to just blend in and look like everyone else. If so, you need not read this.

So, where can I find these great, cheap clothes, you ask? Well, to be honest they are everywhere. I have included a box with some of my favorite thrift stores counter to my inclination to keep my haunts secret. Besides thrift stores you can try church rummage sales. They always have mountains of things for you to sift through and are always absurdly cheap. And however you may feel about organized religion, at least you can take comfort in the fact that your money most likely won't go towards lining some upper level executives' pockets. Rummage sales are usually on the weekends; check the classifieds on Wednesday or Thursday. And if they start at 9, get there at 9 or as close to then as possible. You will be surprised how crowded those things can be and the earlier you arrive, the better the selection will be. Garage sales are merely OK for finding clothes.

Just a few more tips about buying used clothing. When visiting thrift stores,



The Gleaners by Jean-Francois Millet

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FROM THE EDITOR

Hello Readers

Well, this issue is finally done! We ran into a few hurdles on the way- post spring break malaise and computer troubles among them- but we have finally put together an issue we can all be proud of.

Once again, instead of choosing a theme, we've run through a gamut of topics. My article is about bargain hunting, something I value greatly. Gina has continued her series of articles about the extra-canonical gospels, this time she tries to unravel all the myths and contradictions surrounding Mary Magdalene. Saba has written a piece about the problem of drugs from a very unique perspective that will hopefully make you think a little more about that issue. Finally, Rachel has written a well- reasoned essay about the larger problems of plagiarism which I am sure you will enjoy.

We have one more issue coming before the end of the semester (we hope!), which has just crept up on us all too quickly. Only a few more weeks to go everyone! Good luck with all of your end-of-the-semester craziness and have a great summer.

Any questions or comments? Email me at ninemile-wolf@yahoo.com and I will be happy to get back to you as long as you are polite, non-threatening and constructive. Enjoy!

Amy Paxson
Editor this time around

YOUR CHALLENGER STAFF

This issue's questions focus on how much (or how little) the Challenger staff is involved in the larger arena of politics/ pop culture. I hope it gives you an added appreciation for their perspectives.

1. What is your favorite magazine and why?
2. Do you pay attention to current events? Why or why not?
3. Will you be voting this November and why or why not? If you wish to reveal who you are voting for you may, but you do not have to.



Amy Paxson

1. The New Yorker. It has articles about a wide variety of things and the writing is so accomplished and well researched that it can make anything seem interesting to me, even sports.
2. I do pay attention. I think it is important. People make the mistake of thinking that what is going on on the other side of the world cannot affect their lives. History has shown us again and again how much folly there is in this attitude.
3. I will most definitely be voting this November. President Bush is leading this country into disaster on so many fronts and I want him out of office!

1. Angels on Earth (True stories of Divine intervention). Constant reminders of the endless possibilities of Divine intervention counter the ugly realities of this world.

Gina Mulroy

2. I am not interested in anything related to "pop culture." I pay close attention to "news that matters." I like to know what is going on in the world.
3. I will definitely be voting this November though, once again, I am not thrilled with the choices. Since neither political party is altruistic, I am declared as an independent voter. I tend to vote for Democrats more often than for Republicans because I have always been an advocate who fights for the underdog and for justice.



Rachel Natale



1. The only magazine I read regularly, and have a subscription to, is SPIN. I love music, and I think SPIN is interesting in that it covers less known music.
2. I don't watch the news or read newspapers, so I don't really pay attention to current events that way. Mostly because they're too depressing or confusing or skewed.
3. I probably will vote in November. I think it's important to have a say in the President. Plus, people can't really complain about who ends up voted in if they didn't even vote.

1. I do not read any magazines regularly but I like articles on scientific research, psychology and politics.

Saba Mahmud

2. I do but it depends if I haven't piled up a lot of schoolwork, usually I will read news on the internet. Most of the international news, I get by watching my home country T.V. news.
3. No, because I am not a US citizen.



We hope you enjoy this latest issue! Happy reading!

MARY MAGDALENE: APOSTLE TO THE APOSTLES OR WHORE?

By Gina Mulroy

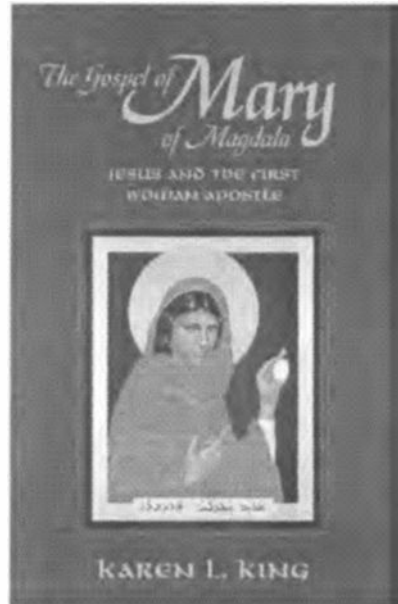
According to the canonical Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (MMLJ) gospels that provide the more well-known interpretations of the life of Jesus of Nazareth, the character of Mary Magdalene always appears as a secondary figure to the apostles and only a handful of times. What is perhaps most intriguing in this virtual dismissal of her as lacking any real importance, however, is the fact that MMLJ all agree on three critical moments to which Mary Magdalene was a central figure. She was present at the foot of the cross when Jesus died; she was the first person to discover the tomb Jesus had been laid in was empty; she was the first person to see and recognize the risen Jesus.

It would then appear that upon the shoulders of this woman fell the task of ushering in the very foundation of Christianity, the assertion that Jesus of Nazareth did in fact rise from the dead as only the Son of God could. So why then does she simply cease to exist after that momentous event as seems to be the case in the orthodox versions of her story?

The truth of the matter is that Mary of Magdala did not suddenly vanish any more than the other members of Jesus' inner circle of apostles, whose teachings circulated extensively during the first century spread of Christianity. What happened was that, like the Gospels of Thomas, James, and Philip, the story Mary had to tell was of the Gnostic tradition that stressed salvation as the search for the truth within oneself guided by the teachings of Jesus. This approach ran counter to the MMLJ versions that mandated salvation as attainable only through an acceptance of the redeeming action of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.

"The Gnostic approach instructs one to look within themselves for the 'Son of Man' because the key to salvation lies in understanding the Savior's teaching about the true nature of Humanity and the self," Karen King writes in *The Gospel of Mary of Magdala*. In con-

trast, the orthodox belief purports that an external power will deliver them. The orthodox version was favored by the Roman Emperor Constantine who wanted a comprehensible creed to unify



his empire, one that left no room for interpretation. In 325 AD the Council of Nicea acquiesced to his wishes by authoring the Nicene Creed, favoring the MMLJ gospels. Those who did not agree with the creed Constantine demanded were dealt with as enemies of the empire.

In addition, Mary of Magdala's conspicuous absence from any further reference in the orthodox MMLJ versions of what transpired after the resurrection undoubtedly reflected the male dominant culture of the early church under Peter and Paul. That tradition has only recently begun to grudgingly acknowledge women as equals before God. "In the pseudo-Pauline 'Pastoral' letters, women are forbidden to teach or even speak in church. (1 Timothy 2:11-12)," writes David Brons in his book, *Valentinian Ethics*.

Such, however, was decidedly not the case in the Gnostic tradition where it was commonly accepted for a woman to occupy a prominent position within the community of followers. The Gospel of James calls women "strong by the perception which is in them." The Gospel

of Philip, as Elaine Pagels points out in her book *The Gnostic Gospels*, not only specifically refers to Mary of Magdala as one of the apostles but also tells of the rivalry that existed between the male disciples and Mary of Magdala: "Why do you love her more than all of us? The Savior answered and said to them; 'Why do I not love you as I love her?'"

From the Gospel of Thomas we gain an insight into the thorn in his side that Mary of Magdala had become for Peter in particular. "Mary should leave us, for females are not worthy of life," says the Gospel of Thomas, translated by Marvin Meyer. Elaine Pagels points out in *The Gnostic Gospels* that "In the Pistis Sophia (Faith Wisdom) text from Nag Hammadi, Peter complains that Mary is dominating the conversation with Jesus and displacing the rightful priority of Peter and his brother apostles. Peter urges Jesus to silence her but is quickly rebuked. 'Whoever the spirit inspires is divinely ordained to speak, whether man or woman.'"

The myth that Mary of Magdala was a prostitute is not directly stated in any of the Gospels. This tradition developed and changed throughout the course of the history of Christianity. "The portrait of Mary as a repentant prostitute is pure fiction with no historical foundation whatsoever," asserts Karen King. John 8 tells of a woman caught in adultery being saved from a stoning death by Jesus' action of writing in the sand the sins of the accusers until there was no one left to cast a stone. The inference that Mary of Magdala was that woman became tantamount to biblical fact for hundreds of generations. Unfortunately, this mindset continues to the present day, as exemplified by Mel Gibson's vision of Mary of Magdala in his movie *The Passion of the Christ* which quite clearly makes that very assertion.

The lives of the apostles, regardless

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Gleaning...continued from page 1

always go on weekdays as weekends are crazy, busy and crowded. Check all clothing carefully for stains; pay special attention to the underarm area and the collars on shirts, two of the most common stain areas. At rummage sales and thrift stores, expect to be there a while. To find the very best, you need to look carefully- the whole "fine-toothed comb" thing. Unless you are very handy with a sewing machine or needle and thread or have money to pay a tailor, avoid clothes that are ripped or need alterations. Know not only your size, but also your measurements and if possible, your European size. Many older clothes are sized differently or even lack tags or are handmade, so have a pretty good idea of your own dimensions- few places have fitting rooms you would want to be undressed in, if they have them at all. This may sound obvious, but always wash your hands afterward or bring some hand disinfectant stuff to use. And always, always wash the clothing before you wear it. Lastly, avoid high-end resale shops or stores that advertise that they sell vintage clothing unless you want to pay a lot more. All those people do is go to rummage sales and thrift stores and then mark everything up. If you do not want to look yourself and don't mind paying more, then go to those stores. But for me, it's all about the hunt and the score of the cheap gem.

Another great thing to buy used is stuff for your home- dishes, décor, even furniture. Have you looked to see how expensive a new couch is lately? Rummage sales are good for finding these items, as well as garage sales and thrift stores; the latter is probably the best. Another great place to look, if you can get over the creepy aspect, are estate sales. They do not bother me personally, but I know they bother some people. If you are not familiar with them, they are when someone dies and their family member(s) try to sell all the stuff they left behind in their house. That's right; you walk around a dead person's house and look at their things. I find it interesting to see what people

leave behind and what they found important. Family members are usually willing to compromise on prices as most of them want to get rid of stuff and will just throw it in the dumpster if no one buys it. Again, look at it as recycling. Many, many antique dealers get their items at estate sales, so get there early- they are listed in the classifieds near the rummage sales.



With housewares, especially furniture, you have to be a little more careful with your selection. Always, always smell anything cloth- if it seems stinky, leave it where it lay unless you are a master upholstery cleaner. Also, unless you are a handy carpenter type or have ample time to learn woodworking skills leave damaged wood things alone. Other things to watch out for include- water stains and cracks or chips in plates. Some of the items I have found include- a green brocade chair for \$15, some china, great wooden bookcases for less than \$50 each, an old Formica kitchen table, countless aprons and linens, vintage glassware and lots of cool framed artwork. Another great place to look, if it does not make you too queasy, is people's trash. I don't mean digging through bags of stinky refuse; I mean if you see an interesting piece of furniture, stop and take a look. I am continually amazed by the quality of things that some people throw away in this country.

Books, old L.P.'s (that means records people), tapes, and C.D.'s are some other great things to buy used. Besides the benefit of cost, you can find rare and out of print things. Used book and record stores are good, but even better are library book sales- but arrive early to beat out the used book and record store owners who are there looking for things to resell for ridiculous profit. Other good places to find books include rummage sales- you would be surprised at all the hardcover art books I have picked up for a dollar. Garage sales can be good as well, but check the paper for the seller's descriptions of their sale. Sometimes at garage sales all

you will find is a bunch of old Tom Clancy hardcovers that someone got dear old dad. Some resale shops have good records and books as well, but, again, I cannot tell you how fabulous library book sales are. I am lucky enough to work in a library- so I always get the pick of the litter.

My finds in this department are almost too many to list, but they include a whole record collection of old rock, jazz and classical, countless first edition books, piles of art books and mountains of great children's books. Some tips for books- always check for water damage and always look to make sure that they are not written in, underlined, etc. If you are a book lover, as I am, make sure to only get what you actually will read or at least peruse. I have been very piggy in the past and believe me, I was sorry when I had to move 7 times in 2 1/2 years. As for records, always always check to make sure they are not scratched and not warped. If they look a little wavy they aren't worth it.

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THRIFT STORES

Unique Thrift Stores in Chicago:

*(773) 279-0850
3748 N Elston Ave
*(773) 227-2282
4441 W Diversey Ave
*(773) 762-7510
2329 S Kedzie Ave
* (312) 842-0942
3000 S Halsted St.
*(773) 434-4886
5040 S Kedzie Ave
*(773) 239-3127
9341 S Ashland Ave

*Various Salvation Army Resale shops- check the yellow pages.

Ark Thrift Stores in Chicago:

*(773)862-5011
1302 N Milwaukee Ave
*(773) 248-1117
3345 N Lincoln Ave

I could go on and on- those are some of my favorites. Thrift stores are everywhere. Check the yellow pages.
\$

PLAGIARISM: THE EASY WAY OUT?

By Rachel Natale

As students, we sometimes feel that research/final papers are, at least for the time being, the banes of our existence. Twelve to fourteen pages (with a bibliography!) can seem like a daunting task that will take forever to complete. Before we get into that end-of-semester crunch time, I thought I'd bring up the subject of an even bigger problem regarding these papers than the simple writing of them: plagiarism and, on a larger scale, cheating.

In writing about plagiarism, Wilson Mizner's quote comes to my mind: "If you steal from one author it's plagiarism; if you steal from many it's research." I'm sure all students have felt this way at one point or another, but the bottom line is that plagiarism is stealing. It's cheating. I'd like to think that in writing for honors students, plagiarism wouldn't be an issue. But in thinking that, I'd be naïve. Plagiarism and cheating happen amongst honors students and non-honors students alike, at two- and four-year colleges.

As plagiarism.org points out, plagiarism is easier today than ever before. It goes on to explain that in years gone by, students who wanted to plagiarize had to copy papers, that weren't even that readily available, by hand. Now, with the access to technology and immense resources online, students who want to plagiarize have no problem finding papers from which to copy or even whole papers to steal. This heightened ease in finding things to plagiarize from or outright steal is obviously a huge problem. When typing "free research paper" into the Yahoo! search engine, 8700 results are found. Type in "free term paper," and Yahoo! finds 42200 results. Within these thousands of results, there is something for everyone. If you're looking specifically for a paper on, say, plagiarism, one site offers 57 options from which to choose. Click on the first paper, and the site lists the original author (that is, if he wrote it himself), the grade level the paper is appropriate for, a word count and even



Cheat frequently and you're likely to become one of these.

the grade the paper will most likely receive. Although most of these "paper mill" websites advertise themselves as free, some aren't. Some sites offer a year subscription; others charge \$25 or more per page. Some even offer (for a charge, of course) custom-made papers, specific to your plagiarizing needs. The costs don't seem to discourage students from using these paper mills, however, and many sites have thousands of registered users. As a side note, a lot of these papers—free or otherwise—have gross misspellings and other grammatical errors. Students planning on using these papers would probably just be better off writing the paper themselves.

So, why is plagiarism such a big deal? Besides the obvious reasons of it being dishonest and against the rules at many (if not all) schools, plagiarism can lead to many other problems. For one, plagiarism, as with any type of cheating, has the tendency to become more than just a one-time occurrence. Plagiarism looks like the easy way out. Why write a paper when you can just take one off of the Internet, maybe even for free? Sure, there are some students who plagiarize a paper just once, but at seeing how easy it is, some students are found to do it again, even cheating in

other areas. Some students may even choose to never do their own work again after seeing the perceived ease and benefits of cheating or plagiarizing. This in itself leads to more problems. The more students there are who cheat, the fewer students there are who are actually working and learning instead of just using others' work as their own. These students are the people who, in years to come, will be our doctors, lawyers, pilots, scientists and teachers. If you had the choice, would you rather go to a doctor who had studied and did his or her work during college or someone who had cheated his or her way through? The answer is obvious. No one would choose the uneducated doctor. Thankfully, professions such as doctors and lawyers have larger, strictly supervised tests that are hard, if not impossible, on which to cheat, but other professions do not, leaving those professions vulnerable to hiring students who did indeed cheat throughout college. This, again, leads to more problems. Regardless of the fact that a new employee who cheated as a college student will not know all he or she needs to know to do the job, the cheating mentality may follow that employee into the profession on a daily basis. If an employee cheated throughout college, a fact that an employer probably would not know, he or she may be all too used to finding ways to get around doing the work instead of actually doing it. What's to say that this will change when that person enters the work world? All of these instances just go to show that plagiarism is not something that just affects the person doing it but others in the long run.

So far, I have just addressed the issue of students who plagiarize or cheat, but there is another side that has its problems: the side of the teachers. Yes, it's wrong for students to plagiarize, but it's the teachers' responsibility to catch them. I'm sure many teachers have taken precautions to stop cheating and plagiarism in their classrooms, but some still fail to do anything or, worse yet, are aware of cheating in their class-

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DRUGS: MAKE THEM LEGAL?

By Saba Mahmud

The legalization of drugs is perhaps one of the most sensitive issues to discuss. People are afraid to even hear about it, as most are familiar with stories of drug addicts committing crimes. Just imagine a person who is not willing to even go near a neighborhood where they may find addicts and you approach them and ask them if they would approve of legalizing drugs. Of course they are going to say NO; they don't want their neighborhood to be turned into an addict neighborhood and feel that is what drug legalization would create. That makes sense as people want a safe space to live, and after drug legalization, many perceive that the world would be changed into an addict heaven. While it makes sense, it may not necessarily be true.

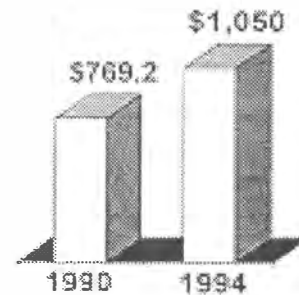
It is hard to perceive that drug legalization could be a positive thing for society. Maybe looking at it in another way will help us understand. We know that alcohol use is legal, so does it mean that everyone uses alcohol all the time? No. The majority of people know how to control their desires. They do drink but they are able to control it. Another important thing that goes along with this is DUI; DUI is a serious crime, but people still drink and drive. They get punished for this, but this does not keep many others from making the same mistake. What causes crime is not a question of drugs (or alcohol) being available and allowable, as much as it is an issue of personal choice. Not legalizing drugs does not fully address the problem, either. Did making drug use and drug possession illegal cause crime to totally disappear from our society? No, it didn't. It did not help us get rid of the problem. People do things that are illegal, regardless of whether they are illegal, only because that's what they prefer. It would be nice if the things that are not harmful are legalized for the convenience of those who desire them. This can be beneficial to society because we will not have to worry about the illegal business of drugs.

What is the purpose of legalizing drugs anyways? We all know that drugs are bad, so why should we even think about legalizing them? I think it is important. I view it as a step to be understanding of drug addiction as an illness. We all know drugs are harmful, but don't all of us know as well that alcohol and smoking are hazardous for our health and the welfare of our community? So what do we do? Do we not let anyone use alcohol and smoke? We all know the answer. We have got people smoking everywhere, making life hard for people with medical conditions like asthma and allergies, even on our own campus. Similarly people abuse alcohol, which can and does result in many other crimes, but isn't it true that they can go out to any grocery store and get more alcohol to abuse? I don't intend to say that because there is one bad thing in the society we should let the rest come in too. But if one group of people can be given a choice, why not the other?

These are some of the reasons for drug legalization that are, in my opinion, beneficial for the society in general. However, legalizing drugs will be economically favorable as well. Right now the government is spending an enormous amount of money to hunt down the drug suppliers. This money could instead be used to provide medical and psychological services to drug addicts. Or this money can very well be used to supply safer drugs to the addicts under governmental control in order to curb or eliminate drug use, which, needless to say, will require a new structure and will of course result in more employment opportunities. These steps will help the addicts reach a better and more respected status in the society, which hopefully will encourage them to be more useful members of our society. Being successful in taking some addicts off drugs will provide us with a lot of side benefits as well. For example, soci-

ety can intelligently get help and knowledge about drug abuse from their experience, and can very honestly present drug addicts with the pros and cons of drug addiction. This all may not be readily accepted, unless people understand that drug abusers should be respected and be provided with treat-

DEA Budget
(dollars in millions)



ment facilities.

We should help these people, okay. But why in the first place would anyone want to use drugs? Why can't we get rid of this problem entirely? I think we cannot get rid of this problem unless we get rid of the factors motivating it. (Even if the existing drugs will vanish, those who want them will come up with something new.) There is always a reason behind everything; at least most human behavior can be explained. One of the accepted ideas is that people who abuse drugs have somehow been abused or mistreated in their life, whether this abuse was intentional or accidental. I believe the intensity of the abuse can only be determined by the one who was abused. If it was intense for them, then it was intense for them, whether or not we believe that. If they want more support from us we should provide it to them, whether they have become abusers or not. Although it is better to help people around us before they are forced to choose the way which leads them towards devastation and bringing harm to society. Even the loneliest person will affect, either in a small or a big way, society. Let's help those people to bring a friendly and positive change to our society and themselves rather than a negative and regrettable one.

Mary...continued from page 3

of their particular twist on what Jesus said and did, are well chronicled in the annals

of orthodox church history. That is, all except for Mary of Magdala. In her case, as previously mentioned, she is never heard from again after she notifies the other apostles that she found Jesus' tomb empty. The obvious question then is what did happen to Mary of Magdala? "We simply don't know," stated Dr. King in a telephone interview. "I wish we had something to go on but that is just not the case. For the first six centuries of Christianity there was no mention of Mary of Magdala. And after that we have only the various Mary of Magdala traditions."

The varying forms of the Mary of Magdala traditions are too numerous to include in this article. Instead, this article will focus upon the scenario that, in whole or in part, reflects the central theme of the more common legends. The thread that binds these accounts together is the speculation that Mary and Jesus had a sexual relationship. "The Gospel of Philip (63:60-64:8) describes Mary of Magdala as Jesus' most intimate companion... Christ loved her more than all the disciples and used to kiss her often on her ——. The rest of the disciples were offended by it," writes Elaine Pagels in *Gnostic Gospels*.

Kissed Mary on her ——? That part is missing from the text. During a lecture on Mary of Magdala at Harvard University, Karen King discussed this controversy and the following is a synopsis of her explanation. We do not know, at least with any certainty, what of Mary's person was kissed by Jesus. The term "kiss" has many connotations in both Aramaic and Coptic languages. Often the term was used to denote the imparting of wisdom. Finding the appropriate word that fits in that fragment of text is truly the missing piece of that puzzle.

Then it would seem that all we really know, as far as Philip's account goes, is that whatever took place offended the other disciples. The speculation that arose from such a controversial implication, however, is what is primarily responsible for the myriad of interpretations that subsequently became legends. All of these legends pick up the story of Mary of Magdala at the point where the texts of MMLJ end.

It should be stated that the following accounts lack historical fact or substantiation. Mary of Magdala, bearing Jesus' son Benjamin, flees Palestine after the death of her beloved and seeks out the Essenes, who believe Jesus to have been their prophesied savior. Some years later, Mary goes to Egypt and lives within the Gnostic communities that flourished there. Her safety, however, is compromised by other Christian sects who fear her son will undo the church that is based upon the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Deciding to flee to the very fringes of the Roman Empire, Mary and her son set sail across the Mediterranean.

Sometime around 18 CE they land in the south of France where they are rescued by Gypsies, whom they live with for the remainder of their lives. In fact, one of the more significant Mary of Magdala traditions is the Gypsy belief that one of their own became Mary's adopted daughter. The Black Madonna traditions of Southern Europe, which continue to this day, acknowledges Mary of Magdala as the Gypsies' "Mother from God" and Saint Sarah La Kali (Sarah the dark one), her Gypsy daughter, the patron saint of the Gypsies.

"In the end, two basic portraits of Mary Magdalene developed, each with many variations: one stressed her roles as a prominent disciple of Jesus, a visionary, and a spiritual teacher; the other painted her as a repentant prostitute whom Jesus forgave, a latter-day Eve turned from her sinful ways. While both portraits have legendary aspects, only the first has any claim to historical truth. The historical Mary of Magdala was a prominent Jewish follower of Jesus, a visionary, and a leading apostle," concludes Karen King in *The Gospel of Mary of Magdala*.



Noli Me Tangere by Antonio Raggi



Mary Magdalene the Penitent by Sisto Badalocchio

Gleaning...continued from page 4

Another great thing to buy used are children's toys. You can find a lot at garage sales, rummage sales and thrift stores. If you go pay full price for that heap of plastic at Toys R Us you are very foolish indeed. You can usually get the same or similar items at garage sales for a mere fraction of the price. Remind yourself that cheap plastic should be just that. And you are saving a lot of space in a landfill by buying Johnny's big plastic slide secondhand. You can also usually find- my favorite- classic old wooden toys as well.

Just a few tips- always make sure they are in good condition- not broken, cracked, etc. Also, kids are dirty- make sure if the toys are dirty, you are prepared to deal with the type of dirt that is on them and remember that wooden toys do not clean up so well, being porous and all. Check to make sure all pieces are there! And if the toy is pretty old or looks dangerous, visit www.cpsc.gov for recall information. Some of my favorite toy finds have included- a wooden abacus for 80 cents, a huge box of Legos for \$3 and a wooden parking garage with cars for \$20.

And also remember- never ever buy a new car, unless you want to throw money away, as they depreciate in value ridiculously fast. But if you are going to buy a used car, do not do it from Mr. Doe in the paper. Visit a certified new car dealer to make your purchase- they have a reputation to uphold, so you can be sure that they have inspected your car, or mostly sure.

So, I hope I have inspired you to go out and find some great stuff. You can be a conscientious consumer and save yourself money! Who would have thought that possible in this day and age? Usually it is one or the other. Like Wal-mart for instance. Cheap? Yes. Conscientious? Not even close.

One last thought: gleaning is not shameful- there is nothing wrong with rummaging through used things. There is no shame in saving money, finding great things, being environmentally conscious and bucking our advertiser/ consumer corporate monster culture. You ought to be proud. Actually, what you are really doing is thwarting the system- good job! Happy hunting!

Plagiarism...

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rooms and completely overlook it. At this failure, cheating students rejoice, but students who diligently work hard resent it. Students who choose to do their own work rather than cheat should not be rewarded. Instead, students who choose to cheat rather than do their own work should be punished. The only way that can happen is for teachers to step up to their side of the responsibility and find the plagiarism within their classrooms. There are many websites and computer programs that offer anti-plagiarism services. Most compile a cumulative database of students' papers to check other students' papers against for plagiarism. These programs, just like many of the paper mills, are not free, but many colleges are buying subscriptions for the whole school to use. If the pay services are not available to teachers, there's always the option of choosing a unique sentence out of a student's paper and typing it into an Internet search engine. Chances are if the sentence comes up with any results, it's not the student's original work. Some teachers would say that they simply don't have the time to check up on every single student's papers, but teaching a student who is plagiarizing instead of learning is an even bigger waste of your time.

I, as a student who does all of my own work, do not understand plagiarism or cheating of any kind. I know that writing research papers isn't always an easy thing to do, but plagiarizing is no answer and is just detrimental in the long run. Twelve to fourteen pages of research may seem like the end of the world, but a senior thesis at a university is required to be at least thirty pages. So, the next time you have to write a research paper for your English 101 or English 102 class, just do the work! Be thankful that it's less than half of what is required in other classes, and you may actually learn something.

PICTURE CREDITS

Page 1: www.allposters.com

Page 3: www.amazon.com

Page 6: www.dea.gov

Page 7: www.thais.com (right)
and www.magaladene.org (left)

All others are clip art.



Left:
Shell, 1927
photograph
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