EVENTS

‘American Heiress’ evokes the dark side of the ‘70s

BY CHRIS FORAN
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL (TNS)

AMERICAN HEIRESS: THE WILD SAGA OF THE KIDNAPPING, CRIMES AND TRIAL OF PATTY HEARST, by Jeffrey Toobin; Doubleday (384 pages, $28.95)

BOOK REVIEW

In modern media culture, news stories blow up, consume us and then, in a matter of months, devolve into trivia, pop-culture reference material and, in the end, a footnote.

Take the 1974 kidnapping of heiress Patricia Hearst. The case dominated America’s consciousness for most of two years, especially after she announced she had joined her captors, a homegrown terrorist group calling itself the Symbionese Liberation Army. Bank robberies, a shootout with police and a year on the run followed — along with her capture, trial and conviction.

Today the story has all but faded into the fabric of our memory of the 1970s, just another crazy, expectation-upending event in a decade filled with crazy, expectation-upending events.

In “American Heiress: The Wild Saga of the Kidnapping, Crimes and Trial of Patty Hearst,” veteran crime writer and legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin brings the saga back into focus.

In engaging and breezily written prose, he shows that it’s more than a footnote to its time. In many ways, Hearst’s tale embodied its time, or at least the dark side of it.

Toobin — whose book “The Run of His Life” was the basis for this year’s hit FX series “The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story” — deftly sets the stage by taking us back to the less-than-thrilling days of 1974, with gas prices soaring, faith in government and institutions collapsing, and violence by self-proclaimed terrorists escalating.

San Francisco, once ground zero for the peace-and-love protest movement, had become the epicenter for a rising counterculture of anger and violence. One ragtag group, the SLA, was led by a prison escapee named Donald DeFreeze, who renamed himself Cinque, and included a cast of characters for whom experience-free radical education was an informing factor.

After the SLA gained notoriety by assassinating a prominent African-American educator, it set out to take on the oppressors by kidnapping one of their own — Hearst.

Political kidnappings were all but unheard of in the United States, so the taking of 19-year-old Hearst was doubly jolting. The narrative turned sideways two months later when, after Hearst issued a recorded statement saying she had changed her name to “Tania” and joined the SLA, the group robbed a San Francisco bank. The group made sure, Toobin points out, that the branch had then-new security cameras so that everyone could see Hearst toting a machine gun as one of the robbers.

The search for a high-profile kidnap victim became a search for a bank robber. The nine members of the SLA, including Hearst, fled to a series of safe houses until they finally retreated to Los Angeles. There, on May 17, 1974, six of the SLA (Hearst was out on an errand with two others) were killed in a firefight with police, and the rest went on the run again before finally being caught in September 1975.

Hearst’s trial came down to whether she was a willing participant or was, as her lawyers tried to frame the case, “brainwashed.” Toobin leaves no doubt which side he’s on; throughout “American Heiress,” Hearst is depicted as a woman who, while not always having the final say on her own life, made her own decisions, whether it was becoming “Tania” or giving evidence against her former comrades.

Although Hearst refused to give Toobin an interview, he went to extraordinary lengths to get as much primary source information as he could, going so far as buying a massive archive of documents amassed by one of Hearst’s surviving confederates, Bill Harris.

What results is a terrifically detailed recounting of the Hearst case and its aftermath. But “American Heiress” is more than that. In telling this story, Toobin also opens a window on the surrealism of the ‘70s in a way that makes it all of a piece — and, in some instances, a harbinger of the future.

In particular, Toobin’s recounting of the SLA firefight is one of the most chilling chapters in “American Heiress.” In little more than an hour, the LAPD SWAT team — a relatively new creation — fired 83 tear-gas canisters and more than 5,300 rounds of ammunition into the house where the SLA was holding out. The SLA, which had started the shooting, fired about 2,000 to 3,000 rounds before the house went up in flames. All of the action aired live on national television, thanks to a new TV innovation called the Minicam.

And then there’s the Hearst case’s six degrees of separation. Again and again, Toobin illustrates how famous people got caught up in the saga in weird ways, from NBA great Bill Walton, who lived with the couple who had hidden Hearst and some of her SLA cohorts; to Sara Jane Moore, who helped carry out a big food giveaway by the Hearsts (one of the kidnappers’ early demands) and, a year later, tried to assassinate President Gerald Ford.

And the head of the SWAT team that engaged in that horrific firefight with the SLA? That was Daryl Gates, who later became chief of the Los Angeles Police Department, until he was nudged into retirement after the Rodney King case and its aftermath.

Things to Do

BANGOR — Bean luncheon, noon-1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, corner of Hammond and High streets. Hot dogs, casseroles, rolls, dessert and beverages. Bag lunch for future meal will be distributed to attendees. Free and open to all.

BAR HARBOR — Mount Desert Summer Chorale concerts, 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 5-6, St. Saviour Episcopal Church, 41 Mount Desert St. Features vocal soloists who are recent graduates from Mount Desert Island High School — soprano Caroline Homer, mezzo-soprano Rhiannon Vonder Haar, tenor Ethan Craigo and bass Logan MacDonald. Pre-concert talk, 7 p.m. summerchorale.org or 244-0042.

BAR HARBOR — Eighth annual Summer Organ Series, 12:15-1 p.m. Fridays through August, St. Saviour’s Episcopal Parish, 41 Mt. Desert St. Timothy Jon Olsen, Aug. 5; Douglas Beck, Aug. 12; Ray Cornils, Aug. 19; Julia Morris-Myers, Aug. 26. Admission by donation. Reception to meet the artists. 288-4215 or stsaviours.me.

BAR HARBOR — Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce and Reel Pizza hosting Seaside Cinema, screening of family-friendly movies, 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, through Aug. 17, Agamont Park, downtown Bar Harbor. Free popcorn provided by Camden National Bank. 801-2566 or barharborinfo.com/Events/Summer-Family-Film-Series.aspx.

BELFAST — First Amendment specialist Catherine Ross, author of “Lessons in Censorship: How Schools and Courts Subvert Students’ First Amendment Rights,” discussing issues of free speech, censorship and balance between students’ rights and classroom order at talk and book signing, 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5, Left Bank Books, 109 Church St. Free and open to all, reservations strongly encouraged.

BELFAST — Free cookout and concert open to all, 4-7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 7, 189 Lincolnville Ave., near Troy Howard Middle School. Event will thank men and women who serve to protect safety and freedoms, including the military, veterans, police officers and firefighters. Music provided by Exit 244 and DJ Holly P. Activities for children and door prizes, including two tickets to 2016 Darlings Waterfront Concert. 930-5640 or joyasuncion@roadrunner.com.

CAMDEN — “Beethoven’s Wig,” a show blending live performance with animations of famous musicians and classical instruments, 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5, Camden Opera House, 29 Elm St. Tickets $14, $9 children, available at 536-5850, camdenoperahouse.com or at the door a half hour before showtime.

DEER ISLE — Church fair, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, St. Brendan’s Church, 627 North Deer Isle Road. Furniture, antiques, household items, children’s toys, garden tools and plants, baked goods, books and more. Refreshments available. Benefits church and outreach programs. 348-6240 or office@stbrendanthenavigator.org.

DEER ISLE — Opening reception featuring paintings of Janis Goodman, paintings and etching of Vaino Kola, and paintings and watercolor studies of Adele Ursone, 2-6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 7, Turtle Gallery, 61 North Deer Isle Road, Route 15. Exhibit runs through Saturday, Aug. 27. 348-9977 or TheTurtleGallery.com.

DOVER-FOXCROFT — Lobster roll and barbecue sale in conjunction with Homecoming Weekend, 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, United Methodist Church of Dover-Foxcroft, 156 East Main St. Lobster rolls, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs and bake sale. Open to all. 64-8055 or doverfoxcroftumc@gmail.com.

EASTPORT — Eastport Moonlight Movies, 8 p.m. Fridays, Sutherland Amphitheater, 80 Water St.: “How to Steal a Million,” Aug. 5; “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid,” Aug. 12; “The Peanuts Movie,” Aug. 19; “Star Wars: The Force Awakens,” Aug. 26. 214-0040 or lolly@sweetiesdowneast.com.

GREENVILLE JUNCTION — Auction, 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, People’s United Methodist Church. Auction preview, 9:30 a.m. Items up for bid include vacation package, antiques, gift certificates, snowmobile gear, books and more. Tom at tmurray@emhs.org or 695-2523.

HANCOCK — Community yard sale, church fair and silent auction, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, Union Congregational Church of Hancock, UCC, 1368 Route 1. Rain date, Saturday, Aug. 13. Household goods, furniture, bicycles, books, knick-knacks, jewelry, plants, antiques, art work, baked goods and more. Breakfast and lunch foods available. 422-3100.

HOLDEN — Daughters of the Nile Ankh Temple 160 yard sale and bake sale, rain or shine, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 5-6, 262 Copeland Hill Road. Benefits Shriners Hospitals for Children. Lorena Fenalson, 989-3664 or 745-8819, or Jane Ritchie, 848-8819.

JONESPORT — Annual Lobster Feed, 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, Sawyer Memorial Congregational Church, 28 Sawyer Square. Dinner with one lobster, $15, $20 dinner with two lobsters. Include corn, yeast rolls, cole slaw and homemade blueberry dessert. Hot dog dinners available for landlubbers, $7. 497-3480 or sharonhext1@gmail.com.

MORRILL — Morrill Fire Department and Auxiliary bake sale and yard sale, 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, fire station. Auction, 10 a.m.; hot dogs and drinks all day. Fire Chief Pat Scribner at 342-2129 or 505-5152.

NEWPORT — Book talk and signing by author Ardeana Hamlin, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, Newport Cultural Center. Free and open to all. Free refreshments. 368-5074 or lmccartin@newport.lib.me.us.

ORLAND — Baked bean and casserole supper, 5-6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, Orland United Methodist Church, off Route 1 near the river in Orland Village. Baked beans, casseroles, salads, biscuits, beverage and pie. $8, $4 children 5 to 12, free to children under 5. Cindy Kimball, 469-0077.

PROSPECT — Ten Bucks Theatre production of “The Comedy of Errors,” 6 p.m. through Sunday, Aug. 7, Fort Knox State Park. $10. Bring blanket or chair and picnic.

ROCKLAND — Farnsworth Art Museum and Strand Theatre First Friday Film, “Francofonia,” 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5, the Strand. $8 museum members, $10 others, available at the Strand box office.

SURRY — Award-winning Neptune’s Car, contemporary folk duo of guitarists Holly Hansen and Steve Hayes, 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, Surry Arts: At the Barn, 8 Cross Road. $15. 667-1308 or surryartsatthebarn.com.

SURRY — Evening of jazz featuring saxophonist Ed Harlow and pianist Maxim Lubarksy, 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 7, Surry Arts: At the Barn, 8 Cross Road. $15. Refreshments. 667-1308 or surryartsatthebarn.com.

For a complete listing of calendar items or to submit your event, visit www.bangordailynews.com.

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Nine Lives (PG)	11:55	1:45	3:30	5:15	7:00	8:45
Suicide Squad (PG-13)	11:35	1:55	4:15		6:40	9:00
Jason Bourne (PG-13)	11:45	2:05	4:25		6:45	9:05
Bad Moms (R)	11:35	1:30	3:25	5:20	7:15	9:10
Hillary's America (PG-13)	11:50		3:00	5:00	7:00	9:00
Star Trek Beyond (PG-13)	11:40	2:00	4:20		6:40	9:00
The Secret Lift of Pets (PG)	11:55	1:45	3:30	5:15	7:00	8:45

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Friday prime time

MOVIES

		7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
BROADCAST	2 NBC	Olympic	Rio Olympics Opening Ceremony. (N Same-day Tape) (HD)							
	4 CBC	2016 Rio Olympics Opening Ceremony. From Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (N) (L)								National
	5 CBS	Big Bang	Broke Girl	NCIS: Los Angeles		Hawaii Five-0 (HD)		Blue Bloods (HD)		News
	52 CW	Family Guy	Family Guy	Masters of	Masters of	Penn & Teller: Fool Us		News	Seinfeld	Cougar
	6 NBC	Olympic	Rio Olympics Opening Ceremony. (N Same-day Tape) (HD)							
	7 ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy!	Shark Tank (HD)		(:01) What Would You Do?		20/20 (N) (HD)		News
	WAGM FOX	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	MasterChef Three-layer cake; feeding 100 farmers.				News	Big Bang	Big Bang
	8 ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy!	Shark Tank (HD)		(:01) What Would You Do?		20/20 (N) (HD)		News
	MPBN PBS	PBS NewsHour (N) (HD)		Washington	Charlie	British Baking		POV (HD)		C. Rose
	9 IND	Blue Bloods		Shark Tank (HD)		Motive (HD)		News-Lisa	CTV News	Big Bang
	13 CBS	Ent. Tonight	The Insider	NCIS: Los Angeles		Hawaii Five-0 (HD)		Blue Bloods (HD)		News
	22 FOX	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	MasterChef Three-layer cake; feeding 100 farmers.				FOX 22 News at 10 (N)		Bones
	33 IND	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Happy Days	Gilligan Isle	Hogan Hero	Hogan Hero	C. Burnett
	38 IND	Big Bang	Big Bang	Bones (HD)		Bones (HD)		WBZ News (N) (HD)		PMC
KIDS	NICK	Crashletes	Thunder	All In	Game	Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends
	DISN	K.C. Under.	Elena	Stuck	Girl Meets	Girl Meets	Bizaardvark	Walk the	Walk the	Lego
	FREE	Charlie	(:45) ★★★ Batman Begins (2005, Action) Christian Bale, Michael Caine. (PG-13)							700 Club
LEARN	HIST	Ancient Aliens		Ancient Aliens		Ancient Aliens		Ancient Aliens		Aliens
	DISC	Alaskan Bush People		Alaskan Bush: Off Grid		Alaskan Bush People		Alaskan Bush People		Alaskan
	TLC	Scorned: Love Kills		Killer Women Lust and obsession turn into violence.				Women in Prison		Killer
	A&E	The First 48		★★★★ Saving Private Ryan (1998, War) Tom Hanks, Edward Burns, Tom Sizemore. (R)						
	ANPL	Treehouse Masters		Treehouse Masters		(:01) Treehouse Masters		Treehouse: Out on a Limb		Treehouse
SPORTS	CSNE	SportsNet	Early	The '86 Celtics				Sports	SportsNet	Sports
	ESPN	SportsCenter (N) (L)				Boxing Premier Boxing Champions. (N) (L)				SportCtr
	ESPN2	SportsCenter (N) (L)		BattleFrog Cham.		City Slam		City Slam		City Slam
	NBCSP	NASCAR America		NASCAR Racing		NASCAR Racing			NASCAR Racing	
	NESN	Heartland Poker Tour		Cruisin'	Cruisin'	Pitch	Red Sox	MLB Baseball: Red Sox at Dodgers		
NEWS	CNBC	Undercover Boss		Undercover Boss		Undercover Boss		Undercover Boss		Undercover
	CNN	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)		Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight		Morgan Spurlock Inside		Anthony
	FNC	Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor (N)		The Kelly File (N)		Hannity (N)		O'Reilly
	MSNBC	Hardball Chris Matthews		All In With Chris Hayes		Rachel Maddow Show		Hardball Chris Matthews		All In With
VARIETY	AMC	(6:45) ★★★★ Jaws (1975, Suspense) (ESP) Roy Scheider. (PG)					(:45) ★★ Jaws 2 (1978) (ESP) Roy Scheider. (PG)			
	BRV	(6:55) ★★★ Mrs. Doubtfire (1993) Robin Williams.				Real Housewives of		(:15) ★★★ Mrs. Doubtfire (1993) (PG)		
	CMT	Last Man	Last Man	★★★ 9 to 5 (1980, Comedy) Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin. (PG)				★★ Overboard (1987)		
	COM	Futurama	Futurama	(7:50) ★★ Shallow Hal (2001) Gwyneth Paltrow. (PG-13)				★★ Shallow Hal (2001)		
	E!	E! News (N)		Botched		Botched		Botched By Nature		E! News
	FOOD	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
	FX	(5:30) 21 Jump Street (R)		★★★ Captain America: The First Avenger (2011, Action) Chris Evans. (PG-13)						Green Lnt
	GAC	Top 20 Countdown		Flea Market	Flea Market	Flea Market	Flea Market	Flea Market	Flea Market	Flea Market
	HALL	Last Man	Last Man	Kitten Summer Games (N)				The Middle	The Middle	Golden Girls
	HGTV	Caribbean	Caribbean	Vintage Flip	Vintage Flip	Vintage Flip	Vintage Flip	Hunters	Hunters Int'l	Hunters
	LIFE	Bring It!		Bring It! (N)		Bring It! (N)		(:02) The Rap Game (N)		Little
	MTV	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.	Joking Off
	OXY	Snapped		Snapped		Policewomen Files (N)		Snapped		Police
	SPIKE	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops
	SYFY	★ Sharknado 2: The Second One (2014) Ian Ziering.				Killjoys (N)		Dark Matter (N)		Killjoys
	TBN	Supernat.	Potters	Fear Fight	Hal Lindsey	End/ Age	Perry Stone	Praise the Lord		
	TBS	Broke Girl	Broke Girl	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	★★★ Rush Hour (1998) Jackie Chan.		
	TCM	(5:30) ★★★ Gypsy (NR)		★★★★ On the Waterfront (1954) Marlon Brando.				★★★★ A Streetcar Named Desire		
	TMC	(6:05) The Grifters (1990)		★★★ Revolutionary Road (2008, Drama) (ESP) (R)				★★ Dark Water (2005) (ESP) (PG-13)		
	TNT	Bones (ESP)		★★ Olympus Has Fallen (2013) Gerard Butler. (R)				Pirates of the Caribbean		
	TRAVEL	Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at
	TRU	Funniest	Funniest	Funniest	Funniest	Funniest	Funniest	Funniest	Funniest	Greatest
	TVL	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	★★ Can't Buy Me Love (1987) Patrick Dempsey.				(:15) The King of Queens		King
	USA	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam
	VH1	(6:00) ★★★ Ghostbusters (1984) (PG)			T.I. and Tiny	Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta		Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta		Amber Rose
	WGN-A	Person of Interest		Person of Interest		Person of Interest		Person of Interest		Person
PREMIUM	HBO	(5:45) ★★★ Independence Day (1996) (PG-13)		(:15) ★★★ Charlie Wilson's War (2007, Drama) (ESP) Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts. (R)				Real Time With Bill Maher (N) (L) 6		The Night Of
	MAX	(5:55) ★★★ 300 (2007) (ESP) Gerard Butler. (R)		(7:50) ★★★ Frank Miller's Sin City (2005, Action) (ESP) Jessica Alba, Devon Aoki, Alexis Bledel. (R)				Outcast Kyle asks Mark for help to find Allison.		Outcast (ESP)
	SHOW	★★★ The Imitation Game (2014, Historical Drama) (ESP) Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley. (PG-13)				★★★ Black Hawk Down (2001, War) (ESP) Josh Hartnett. U.S. soldiers meet with disaster in 1993 Mogadishu, Somalia. (R)				
	STARZ	★★★ Ant-Man (2015) Paul Rudd. Ant-Man uses his shrinking skills to battle Yellowjacket. (PG-13)				Power James prepares to leave Ghost behind.		Power Ghost ties up loose ends. (ESP)		Power (ESP)
	STZENC	(6:10) ★★★ Signs (2002) (ESP) Mel Gibson.		★★★ You Only Live Twice (1967) Sean Connery. Agent 007 poses as Asian to foil SPECTRE's Blofeld.				★★★ GoldenEye (1995, Action) (ESP) Pierce Brosnan, Sean Bean. (PG-13)		