

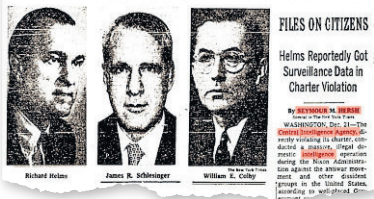
**HOLD THE FRONT PAGE!**  
Seymour Hersh, seen here in 1972, broke the news on My Lai, left, and on the CIA's illegal surveillance of American citizens

younger self, of the times he screwed up, of how demanding and difficult he could be (there is a story of him hurling his typewriter through a window at *The New York Times*, and another about his meeting John Lennon and not having a clue who he was). "People who have read the book are surprised," he says, "because I am known for being somewhat full of myself."

**S**ome of his more recent reporting – controversial pieces on the killing of Osama bin Laden in the *London Review of Books*, for instance, and on the use of chemical weapons in Syria in *Die Welt* – has resulted in accusations that his work has become conspiratorial and thinly sourced. "I don't care," Hersh says. "It's always been like that. People did not want to believe me on My Lai. I will let history be my judge."

He has always had little time for much of the media. "Even though we know that they lie, cable news treats official announcements as the truth, with no attempt to verify them," he says. "There aren't enough journalists doing investigative work, challenging the official accounts." He worries how much of what the American military does goes under the radar. "We are in 76 countries right now

**HUGE C.I.A. OPERATION REPORTED IN U.S. AGAINST ANTIWAR FORCES, OTHER DISSIDENTS IN NIXON YEARS**



**'The head of the CIA said I knew more about what was going on there than he did'**

and most of those forces are under Special Operations Command," he says. "There are good guys on the inside, but you have to stop the special operators. But we have a president who doesn't understand, doesn't pay attention."

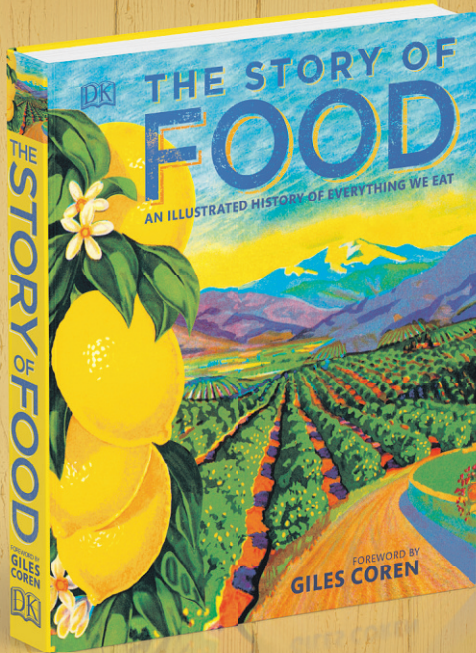
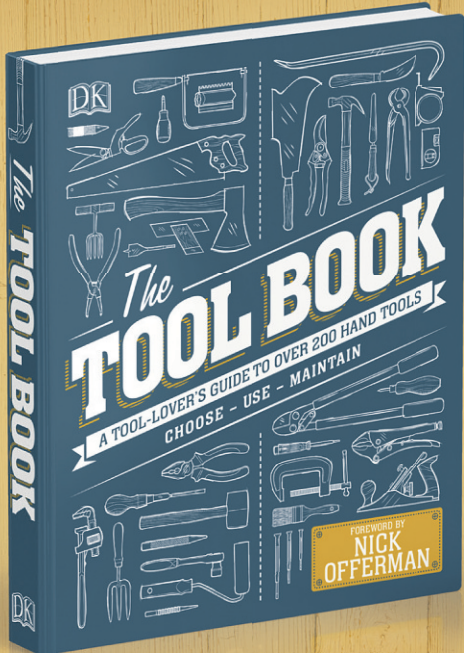
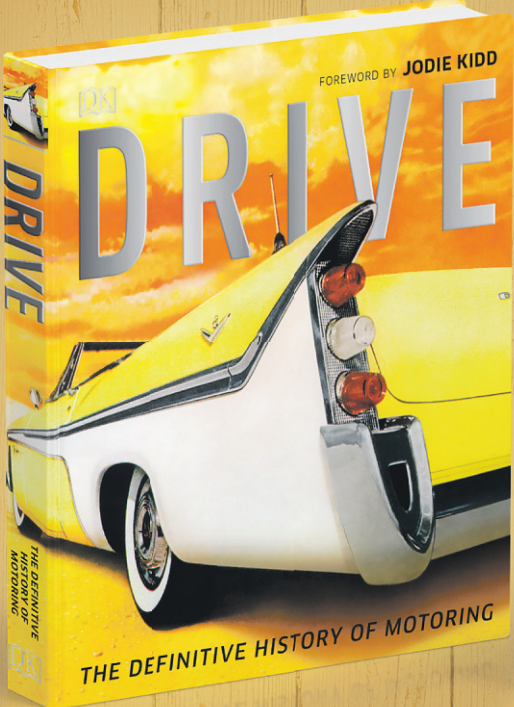
Trump, he fears, isn't going anywhere soon. Hersh believes not only that people are overplaying the potential findings of Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian involvement in the 2016 presidential election, but that the

media's obsession with Trump is predominating. "Trump is catnip," he says. "They are getting more customers, more circulation, more ratings. And all the Democrats are doing is running against Trump. That's what Hillary [Clinton] did. So, what I say is, 'look out Democrats!' because I can see him getting re-elected."

Hersh is no passive observer of the political scene. One of the reasons he was hesitant about writing a memoir is that it might send out the message he was done with reporting. He points at the huge pile of files on his desk. "I think I have figured out a way of doing the Cheney book," he says. Then he points at a second pile on the floor: "That's all on Hillary". He indicates a third: "Those are from a defector from Pakistani intelligence. Amazing s--- that I don't know what to do with. Pakistan has over 100 nuclear bombs. And they are completely out of control. How is this not the most pressing foreign policy issue of our time?" He sure as hell wants to find out. The phone rings three times during our interview, sources and contacts touching base. "There is no way I could stop," he says. "I'm a junkie."

**Reporter: A Memoir by Seymour M Hersh (Allen Lane) is out now**

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