

OF CABBAGES AND KINGS (AND BABY TURTLES) # 5

Published at the last possible minute by Peggy Rae Pavlat,  
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Bob just came upstairs and found me reading Bobolings instead of running the vacuum cleaner like I had told him I was going to. Reason being that whenever I run it today my headache comes back. He foolishly suggested that he run it while I type a stencil. He must have seen my expression, because after I said 'You'd kill me' and he said 'No I wouldn't', he added 'Maybe I shouldn't have said that'. So here I am. There is another reason. I'd like to mention the 1971 calendar. This year the calendar will come out either the end of October or the beginning of November. If you have any information you'd like it to contain, please feel free to write, even if I don't send you a letter specifically asking for information. Juanita Coulson and Greg Calkins mentioned that they were interested in the calendar, but didn't send money, if you two would like a copy, send \$1.25 (the .25 is for postage) and I'll be happy to mail you one. The same goes for the rest of you. I'll send back your money or keep it for next year's calendar if I run out of this year's calendar.

What do you do with all your spare time? That's a question that a few men ask me when they find out I'm married and 'only have two children and no work to do.' Aside from the usual things that homemakers do (Bob had a very good idea of what women do at home all day to start with, and I broadened his understanding from time to time by not doing all those things I do .... if that makes sense.) (Complete chaos is the usual result.)

Anyway, I've been sandwiching in housework and such like these days in between campaign activities. Since I reported to you last that I was pretty unhappy with Democrats for Political Excellence, the lid blew off as far as I am concerned. Here's what happened. I'd been pushing for a fairly factual review of the elected officials in the county. Several months ago one of the 'good guy' (in this county you have 'good guys' and 'bad guys' and never the twain shall meet) delegates had the same idea, so the group all of the sudden liked the idea. Fine. The executive board met to discuss procedures. Since I am part of a three man coalition who opposes the chairman on his personal drive for power, and, we think, tries to substitute constructive plans, a fairly reasonable plan was adopted (I think). At the next general meeting the plan was put forth, practically accepted when someone asked 'What are you really trying to do?' Our charming chairman responded 'I'm trying to burn the County Commissioners asses!' Silence..... At this point, I would have cheerfully murdered him on several grounds, any one of which would have been sufficient. Several minutes later he could have cheerfully murdered me because I said 'At the executive meeting this sentiment was not mentioned; it is not my feeling and I'm quite sure that it is not the sentiment of anyone else at the executive meeting.' Oh yes, I also preference my remarks by referring to something that the chairman had said earlier 'As the chairman has stated, he has a big mouth.'

At about that same time Royal Hart, currently a state senator and a candidate for U.S. Representative, asked me to arrange his campaign in the community I live in, Berwyn Heights. As an area goes it is not big, only 2000 homes in the area. That is a pretty sure maximum of 4000 votes. That's not much, but it can mean the difference between victory and defeat at the polls. We've already had one registration drive and with any luck will have three others and get some more of the Democrats in the area to register and vote. I'll register Republicans also, if I must, but I'm not going out of my way to do it. I figure if the Republicans want them, they can go out and do the work themselves. Hart will have a walking tour in this area in the beginning of June, and there are other activities scheduled. From a working group of one in February to two in March to about twenty in April and about thirty in early May, I think I'm doing all right. It seems to be getting a good reaction here as far as I can tell. Maybe too good for my own good. Several days ago Hart approached me and asked if I would like to help other groups work on registration. This would involve coordination of about thirty groups in this one area. I wouldn't be doing the work in the sense of knocking on doors and making phone calls as I have been in Berwyn Heights (with much help from others), but I would be helping to set up a plan of action. I haven't yet figured out quite where to start, but I'm sure that I will. Are any of you not registered? If so, I'd love to hear why you aren't, maybe it would help me in getting others registered. Most of the almost 500 people my group spoke with were very nice, many even thanked us for calling, but about one in thirty was a 'krank' and some were more than just rude. I was pretty surprised by how many people sounded really glad that we had called them, and though slightly shaken by one man, not too upset by those who didn't want to be bothered by politics. When only one member of the family was registered it was usually the man. The woman quite often said 'My husband takes care of voting for us.' This was true even when the wife said that she disagreed with her husband. A number of women said that they felt it was their responsibilities to stay home with their children and not get involved with 'all those things.'

The campaign is looking good. Prince Georges County has a bad record of splitting the Democratic Party during the primary. This wasn't such a bad thing when there was no viable Republican party, but now we have one that at least thinks it is viable. We'll see. I rather hope it isn't too effective, because the people they are running are not very good. They are quite often ex-democrats who couldn't get the nomination on their original ticket. Some of them are really good (the immediate past mayor of College Park or one), but most are not. Last primary there were nine (count them, nine) candidates for U.S. Representative. (Including Sickles and Sickler - asked to run by Republican friends in hopes of drawing enough votes from Sickles to cause him to loose). This time Royal Hart announced his candidacy last summer, and since then a field of seven candidates has narrowed to just Roy Hart. At least that's what we hear, but the last guy hasn't made it official yet. If he's planning to do something, he'd better hurry. I'd just as soon he didn't, however!

How about something new in OF CABBAGES AND ETC.; MAILING COMMENTS

COGNATE!! Thanks so much for the Valéntine, Rosemary. and the memories.

GODOT 11 Mike, it rather surprised me too, that I liked Valley of the Dolls and thought that The Group was trash, the publicity they got was certainly the other way around.

SYNAPSE Nebraska Land, Jack, is a magazine very similar to New Mexico Magazine, if you are familiar with that one. It generally has pretty pictures and features the nice parts of tourist traps while ignoring the rest of the state.

THE RAMBLING FAP Would you believe I haven't read a single book since before Christmas? I wouldn't, but it is true. I started reading ISLANDIA in December and finished the first section, it is really interesting and worth while, so much so, in fact, that I want to sit right down and read it all - at the same time, it is so good that it would be a shame to waste it, and since I don't have chunks of time anymore, I don't want to read it now. It would be terrible to be interrupted every ten minutes, and I can't set aside any time, even half an hour a day, when I'm sure not to be interrupted by the telephone, or Kathy or Eric or an impromptu visit from one of the people who is working with me on the campaign and wants to discuss something. No other book seems like it is worth while. I take it back, I did read one book, and it wasn't worth-while. Cat's Cradle. It could have been a good book if he had doubled or trippled the preliminary work on the book, but as it is it just doesn't stack up. I read that while I was sick when I was supposed to be skiing. (Bob and I both finked out and got sick, so we didn't get to go skiing anfter all. NEXT YEAR!)

It is lovely to have some room to put things. I have started to fix up the spare bedroom as an office for me. I accumulate just piles of material that I can't throw away because I will need it later in the campaign, and it is nice to have someplace out of the way to put it.

Did I ever tell you how I roared at your comments about you and the police. I especially loved the line that 'It seemed like a good idea' to make sounds like a siren to get the prowler car on the move. It is funny thing, I thought that it was funny when you told it, but I'm darn sure I wouldn't have thought it was so funny if it had been Bob and me instead of you and your wife. I guess I have no sense of humor.

ANKUS 23 The LASFSian tales are fun. I'd like to seem them continued from time to time.

MIRAGE Nice cover by Prosser, Jack.

GOLIARD Thanks for the recipe. Maybe I can talk Bob into making it for us soon. Your visit to the jewelers sounded like a ball, thanks for sharing it with us.

Maybe I'd better stop now - Have lots of things to do!