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-WOKLpress-

jottings from the
editor's desk

BRINGING THE BOYS HOME, at least some of them, continues to be a favorite item of speculation and prediction, and the majority of the speculation appears to center on the possible withdrawal of the 9th Infantry Division and support troops. On the assumption that there will be significant troop withdrawals this year, and that the 9th Division will be selected as the major US unit to leave, it might be interesting to examine what is likely to happen. If, in the event, another American unit is selected for the honor, the outcome will differ in detail but not in substance. The US 9th Infantry Div., although its elements are fairly widespread, operates mainly in three provinces: Long An, in southernmost III Corps, and Dinh Tuong and Kien Hoa, in northernmost IV Corps, the latter two containing My Tho, the Delta's "second city", and Ben Tre, its most famous (thanks to an American Army major). There are about 35,000 South Vietnamese soldiers in the three-province block, running the gamut from elite Marines to lowly Popular Forces platoons. Even assuming that these existing ARVN units are reinforced by additional ARVN contingents equal in number to the departing US units, the result will be a pronounced easing of the pressure on the Viet Minh, who are currently operating under great difficulties but (important point) operating all the same, and rather effectively. That this will be the result of the US withdrawal is not an arguable point; the statistics kept by the US Command are unanimous in this regard. The ARVN units (1) spend less time in the field than the Americans, (2) encounter the enemy far less often when they do go into the field (partly because they aren't as well trained, equipped or supported, but mostly because they don't try), and (3) do less well in the exchange of casualties when an encounter takes place. Thus, for the Viet Minh the withdrawal will mean that everything--their operation, their movement from place to place, their ability to maintain camps and caches, their very existence--will become, oh, about 50% easier than it is today, or somewhat less if the US Command steps up air raids in the area to compen-

sate. One immediate consequence of this will be an improvement in enemy morale, since the difference will be noticeable in many subtle ways to every soldier and every civilian in the area. This does not mean that there will be a dramatic shift in the military balance, though the security picture, etc., should show deterioration for some months before beginning to level off at the point where the Arvins are more or less holding their own militarily. Whether there will be some kind of dramatic activity is an open question, the answer to which depends upon something I cannot guess: the way in which the Viet Minh conceive of the change and their reaction to it. On the one hand, they might be content to lay relatively low, strengthen their position at the hamlet level, build up main-force units, etc. (This would be my inclination if I were the Viet Minh leader in the area--just enjoy the rest and don't look the gift horse in the mouth.) On the other hand, one can see the possibility of the opposite course being chosen: i.e., to do something dramatic immediately--say, striking at one or all of the provincial capitals--to make a psychological impact. I have no idea which course they will choose, but if the Administration does indeed withdraw the 9th Division, it will be interesting to see.

FAMOUS UNKNOWN PEOPLE #9: The untamed American West produced many extraordinary personalities over the latter half of the Nineteenth Century, but none more so than the Chickenshit Kid. Born Zoobidiah Puck, the son of Ezekial and Clytemnestra, he grew up on a chicken ranch a few miles outside of West Yokohama, Indiana. From his earliest childhood, Zoobidiah's only interests were the chicken ranch and guns. His duties around the ranch were chiefly concerned with keeping the coops shoveled out and cleaned, and it is from this that he acquired the nickname--and, some say, the odor--that was to remain with him throughout his abbreviated life. By the time he was 12, his skill with a pistol was so great that his fame had spread all the way to the far corners of Gumbo County, and people came from miles around to watch him practice by shooting chickens at 200 feet. Mr. & Mrs. Puck eventually put a stop to this practice, which was dangerously reducing the poultry population. In 1870, at the age of 15, the Chickenshit Kid ran away from home to make his fortune out west, and shortly thereafter he comes to the attention of historians in the town of Cowpie, Colorado, where he served as deputy sheriff and assistant stable boy. It was at this time that he established his reputation as a fast gun by outdrawing the notorious Wild Bill Sakowitz. After this, the Kid "went wrong", as those who knew him say, turning to a life of wild debauchery and crime. His most famous exploit during this period occurred on June 10, 1873, when the Kid and his feared gang stole the entire town of Mufti, Nevada, and sold it to a scrap lumber dealer in San Francisco for \$46. The outlaw leader, gun-fighter and part time gandy dancer met his end on Christmas Eve, 1879, at the hands of Lance Fairface, the marshal of Gonad City, who beat the Chickenshit Kid in a gunfight because he was in the right, because he was upstanding and reverent, and because he was standing behind the Kid with a double-barreled shotgun when the shooting started.

CONFESSIONS OF A FIRE-BUG: As long as I can remember, I've been going to watch major fires in Baltimore. It's a natural enough hobby--my grandfather and two of my uncles were fire-fighters, so I grew up in an environment in which fires and fire-fighting were an important element. Even before I could walk, my mother took me to fire scenes; one of my early memories--I suppose I was eighteen or nineteen months old--is of my mother pointing out my grandfather among a group of firemen walking around on the roof of a burning warehouse. I still respond to the scream of a siren like an excited little boy, grab-

bing a camera and running down the street yelling "Where's the fire?" A six-alarm fire ranks with the Tet Offensive and an opportunity for a date with Senta Berger as absolutely the only things for which I would interrupt playing my Barbra Streisand records.

Like all fire-buffs, I resent the occasional tendency of newspapers to refer to we hobbyists as "fire-bugs". Yet there may be a certain amount of truth in that insulting reference. Fire-buffs, or "fire fans" (which sounds like a bad pun), are generally quite reputable people. In Baltimore, e.g., most of the active fire-buffs are members of an organization called the Box 414 Association, which maintains a coffee wagon to serve firemen (and cops) at all major fires, collects money for widow's funds, and such activities. Its members, if asked, would stoutly maintain that their interest is in seeing the courageous and expert fire-fighters triumph over the consuming flames. That, however, is not really honest. Listen to the language used by a fire-buff when he gets caught in a traffic jam and arrives on the scene after an eight-alarm fire is under control--it would curl a seaman's drawers! What a fire-buff really, at heart, enjoys watching is the period when the fire is out of control, when the firemen are losing their battle with the flames. When fire-buffs get together over drinks to reminisce, it isn't the superb efforts of the fire-fighters they talk about. No, it's the occasional Big One, where the flames are shooting 300 feet into the air and additional alarms are being requested as fast as they can be given out over the radio. (And, incidentally, a lot of fire-fighters are fire-buffs in exactly the same way.) The dream of every fire-buff is to be lucky enough to be on the scene when a Big One starts--to be standing on a corner when a major fire erupts and even before the first fire engine arrives. And the greatest frustration of fire-buffs is that you always seem to be in the midst of pressing business or on the other side of town when a major fire occurs. The dream and the frustration aren't (except in a very small number of cases) caused by a desire to see fire-fighters display their abilities; from my own lifelong experience, I would estimate that at least 9 out of every 10 fire-buffs, whether they admit it or not, enjoy seeing the flames destroy the building more than they enjoy seeing the firemen douse the flames.

"GREAT POWER," quoth Secretary of State Rogers, "does not necessarily imply great freedom of action. On the contrary, it requires great restraint." This was the watchword of the Nixon Administration as it passed through the first international crisis (apart from inherited troubles) of its existence. Conservatives were naturally appalled at the timidity of Washington's response to the shooting down of an EC-121 reconnaissance plane over international waters by North Korean MIGs, and doubtless the President was embarrassed to recall his campaign rhetoric about the United States being shoved around by a "fourth-rate military power". But in the crunch, Nixon, who continues to deserve (and get) high marks for his conduct in office so far, put the campaign rhetoric in the same desk drawer with excessive pride and faced the reality. The reality is that there is nothing much the US can do about acts of this sort except to protest, and espionage is a pretty poor moral basis for indignant protest. Military retaliation is both pointless and dangerous, and the only other thing to be done was to decide whether these spy missions were really necessary, and if they were to arrange to protect the ships and planes involved. With an \$80 billion budget, the Department of Defense ought to be able to scrape up a couple of fighters to "ride shotgun" with the EC-121s and Pueblos.

Actually, the Secretary of State's little aphorism is not an entirely accurate assessment. Except for nuclear weapons, the fact is that, in the present circumstances, the United States does not have

great power, and to a large degree, therefore, restraint is dictated by sheer necessity. Vietnam is the culprit, in several ways. The US is so heavily committed in South Vietnam that the physical resources to fight another major war elsewhere simply do not exist, short of World War II-type mobilization. Equally important, the oozing disaster of Vietnam has resulted in widespread public opposition to costly foreign entanglements, pressing domestic problems cry out for funds, the economy is in none too good a shape to sustain another expeditionary force, and so on. Under those conditions, the United States is simply not in any position to take a "tough" line with any state more formidable than Costa Rica. It is probably not an exaggeration to say that, in these conditions, Washington will suffer almost any provocation rather than risk a second Korean War. And, incidentally, it should also be noted that, Mr. Nixon's campaign oratory to the contrary, the DPRK (Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea) is not exactly a fourth-rate military power. It has a regular army of 350,000 men, whose training and equipment are good enough that US analysts are known to believe that the 500,000-man ROK Army and the 55,000 Americans on the 38th Parallel would be hard put to stop an invasion without reinforcements; it has a well-trained militia and reserve force of 1,250,000 men; and it has a large and adequately modern air arm. By any except nuclear standards, North Korea is a second-rate power--not in the same league with the big powers, but equal to, say, Israel or India or Canada.

THE WAR, APRIL 17-MAY 3: The South Vietnamese armed forces, as we all know, are every day in every way getting better and better, and any month now will be taking over the major burden of the fighting without in any way leading to a diminution of the great Allied effort to Blunt Aggression and Build a Democratic Way of Life for the People of South Vietnam. (Yeah, I know I'm laying it on a little thick, but what the hell...) The US Command has recently provided some highly illuminating statistics which bear upon this matter. Every month, Allied troops engage in tens of thousands of small unit actions, and among the many figures recorded in Saigon is the one pertaining to the ratio of contact in these actions. For the American troops, the ratio is 1:16; i.e., they make contact with the enemy in 1 out of every 16 of these patrols. "Contact", of course, need not mean significant--or even insignificant--fighting. It can mean receiving one round of sniper fire; it can mean seeing an enemy soldier running across the next ridge. In any case, the US expeditionary corps has a 1:16 ratio of contact. The ARVN forces, meanwhile, manage to compile the amazing ratio of contact figure of 1:700--out of every 700 patrols initiated, 699 make no contact in any form with enemy forces. Now, the explanation for this is either (1) the Viet Minh are so terrified of the Arvins that they make a much greater effort to avoid them than to avoid the Americans, or (2) the Arvins aren't trying awfully hard. I leave it to the reader to guess which.

April 17: The weekly session in Paris was devoted to accusations and counter-accusations, as usual, and the peace scene appears to be in a general slump: it's been at least ten days since the last "break-through" was proclaimed by some segment of the press. Claimed enemy casualties declined again last week, but total Allied casualties increased sharply to over 4200, including 204 Americans and 244 ARVN killed. The increase was accounted for by an unusually high number (2691) of Americans wounded. There is no apparent reason for this; presumably it was a fluke. This morning, the Viet Minh shelled 20 towns and bases, including the city of Da Nang (where an oil storage warehouse was destroyed), and launched a ground attack on an ARVN outpost 100 miles northeast of Saigon. ARVN units fought (and lost) two sizable battles in the Delta.

Near the provincial capital of Bac Lieu, the VC overran and wiped out the government garrison in a militia compound. Casualty figures are confusing, but the number of dead and missing among the troops and pacification workers is at least 40; 11 enemy dead were claimed. About 12 miles away from that battle, another militia company was attacked, two battalions of regulars were sent in to reinforce, and fighting continued all day; the Arvins lost 26 killed, while claiming to kill 21 VC. A helicopter was shot down during a battle near Quang Ngai, and a US armored column was ambushed northwest of Saigon.

April 18: Before dawn, the Viet Minh shelled 20 towns and bases, including Long Binh. About 50 miles northwest of Saigon, an enemy unit ambushed a US armored column, killing 7 Americans and knocking out four tanks, and there were clashes southwest of the capital and in the Highlands.

April 19: The US Command announced that henceforth it will report only "significant" shellings in its communiques, and I suspect the Command's definition of "significant" might be a little different from yours or mine. In any case, that presumably means there will no longer be a daily figure on shellings. Intelligence officers report that the North Vietnamese have constructed elaborate concrete artillery emplacements in mountainsides on the South Vietnam-Laos border, threatening Allied installations west of Route 14 between Dak To and Dak Gle. The field pieces are mounted on railroad track, roll out to fire, then are rolled back into the emplacement and protected by sliding steel doors. All such emplacements are also protected by anti-aircraft guns. The hardness of the sites makes successful bombing very difficult, and the AA concentrations make any kind of bombing dangerous. Most of the artillery emplacements are, however, located on the Vietnamese side of the border, which makes them vulnerable to ground forces if the US Command is willing to pay the price in casualties, which could be steep. This morning, the Viet Minh "significantly" shelled the 25th Infantry Div. camp at Dau Tieng and the Delta provincial capital of Phu Vinh, where 4 policemen were killed. Near Cam Lo, a PAVN unit assaulted and partly overran a 5th Mechanized Div. camp, killing 13 Americans and destroying three APCs. Elsewhere, there was a battle in the Delta, a US helicopter was shot down northwest of Saigon, killing 5 Americans, and there was a clash south of Da Nang.

April 20: The Saigon government has closed three more newspapers, including Chinh Luan, the largest and most influential Saigon daily, whose publisher is a member of the Saigon regime's senate. In addition, another editor has been jailed, for "associating with Communists". Before dawn, the Viet Minh shelled the oil storage facility at Nha Be and the provincial capital of Song Be, among other targets, attacked a pacification team in the Delta, killing 6 RD workers, and assaulted an ARVN compound in the Highlands, killing 5 South Vietnamese soldiers and a US advisor. There was other fighting in the Highlands, 4 Americans were killed in two clashes northwest of Saigon, and there were clashes in the Delta and on the central coast.

April 21: In the first eight weeks of the Viet Minh's spring offensive, according to a US summary, 162 helicopters and 72 fixed-wing planes were either shot down or destroyed on the ground. If the purpose of the new US policy on reporting shellings was to de-emphasize Viet Minh activity (and it was), it failed conspicuously this morning, because there were so many attacks that even the abbreviated US Command list looked impressive. Da Nang airbase and the nearby Marble Mountain helicopter field were shelled, as were other US airfields in various parts of the country, 9th Infantry Div. HQ at Dong Tam; some provincial capitals, and several dozen lesser targets. At Lam Son, an ARVN training center on the coast near Nha Trang, the shelling was accompanied by

what the communique amusingly terms a "brazen" ground attack, in the course of which the installation was extensively damaged, 46 ARVN soldiers were killed and another 137 wounded; 2 VC were unfortunate enough to step in front of bullets during the melee. Near Cam Lo, a PAVN force partly overran a Marine camp, killing 8 Americans. Elsewhere, there were clashes northwest of Saigon, southwest of Da Nang, and in the Delta.

April 22: Thanks to an uncharacteristic measure of stupidity on the part of both major wire services, the US Command's little gimmick with regard to shellings now appears to be working. The spokesman reported 17 rocket and mortar attacks this morning (more than was officially reported yesterday morning), and all of the news services, forgetting the new US Command policy, reported this figure as the total number. Such a mistake, having once been made, tends to be reinforced subsequently, so we can probably look forward in the next few days to figures on shellings like 8, 11, 6, 14, etc., and consequently to the assertion that the Viet Minh offensive is at an end, which is at least as yet debatable. In other respects, however, the newsmen are not being so helpful to Pentagon East. An AP man who was on the scene reports that yesterday's shelling of the US airfield at Nha Trang did heavy damage to planes and buildings (the official communique claimed the usual "light damage and casualties"). Among the shellings the US Command deigned to mention this morning, in any case, were attacks on several provincial capitals, some ARVN camps in the Delta, and the US airfield at Phan Rang. There was also a light ground attack on a 25th Infantry Div. base camp 27 miles northwest of Saigon. There was a battle near Ban Me Thuot in the Highlands, and 4 US helicopters were shot down, killing 3 Americans.

April 23: The dispatch of the Seventh Fleet's Task Force 71 to Korean waters to protect reconnaissance flights is reducing Naval air operations in the Indo-Chinese theatre by one-third. The Air Force may be able to take up a lot of the slack by working its Thailand-based squadrons harder. The US Command reported 11 of this morning's shellings, including attacks on a 1st Air Cavalry Div. base camp near Tay Ninh (where a petroleum storage tank was destroyed), a nearby ARVN camp, and the provincial capital of Soc Trang. (The morning AP dispatch began with the words "The enemy's offensive of rocket and mortar attacks on Allied towns and bases appeared to have dwindled to a new low today..." Exactly the right word; it appeared to do so, because headquarters announced only about 1/3 to 1/2 of the attacks that took place.) There was fighting for the second day near Ban Me Thuot, 8 Marines were killed in a battle below the DMZ, an ARVN unit fought a battle southwest of Saigon, and 3 helicopters were shot down, killing 9 Americans.

April 24: There was progress, of sorts, in Paris today: the US gave way another notch. After months of insisting that military questions had to be dealt with before political matters could be discussed, Ambassador Lodge said today that there's no reason why both shouldn't be discussed at the same time. Xuan Thuy, in his speech, repeated the familiar theme that the only foreign troops in South Vietnam were the Americans and their "lackeys", and that they must be unconditionally withdrawn. It is worth noting for what it tells us (which is quite a lot) that the NFL and DRV are the only parties in the talks who are holding positions today that are essentially the same as those they held a year ago. Because of the May Day holiday, next week's meeting will take place Wednesday instead of Thursday. (The DRV suggested skipping next week's session altogether, but due to faulty translation the Americans thought they were suggesting a change of day and proposed Wednesday, to which Xuan Thuy, with a shrug, agreed.) Claimed enemy losses rose somewhat last week; total Allied casualties declined to 3100, but the number killed increased to 216 Americans and 329 ARVN. This morning,

the US communique again listed 11 rocket and mortar attacks, 5 US soldiers were killed in a battle northwest of Saigon, and there were clashes in the Highlands and the Delta.

April 25: According to US Intelligence analysts, several Viet Minh battalions that had been operating southwest of Hue have pulled back to the Laotian border area. Two PAVN regiments in the Khe Sanh Valley sector have also recently moved back across the Laotian border. Combined with the (fairly) recent movement of major elements of the PAVN 1st and 7th Divisions into War Zone C on the Cambodian border, this has resulted in some Intelligence sources characterizing the movement as "a general withdrawal of main-force units into their border sanctuaries". No such characterization is merited as yet. US Intelligence has always had a tendency to over-emphasize the significance of the routine movements in one direction or another that are always going on (that's why they are constantly predicting attacks on Saigon or Da Nang or whatnot that never develop). Before dawn, the Viet Minh "significantly" shelled two US camps near Tay Ninh, a couple of district capitals and a US airfield in the Highlands. In the northwestern corner of South Vietnam, a PAVN force attacked and penetrated a US-ARVN armored camp, killing 3 Americans and 8 ARVN troops, and destroying at least three APCs. About 50 miles southwest of Saigon, the VC ambushed an ARVN militia company, killing 28 Arvins and a US advisor, and capturing 30 M-16 rifles; the debacle would have been worse had not US and ARVN regulars bailed out the company. Two helicopters were shot down in separate actions, and there was a clash south of Da Nang.

April 26: In the first 16 weeks of the year, there have been a little over 11,000 Hoi Chanh (defectors). The rate has declined in the second half of this period, due to the offensive, but is still high--high enough to inspire a few US officials to jubilantly proclaim that the VC is "beginning to unravel" or "crumble". This view, however, is not so popular among American officials as it was during the last Chieu Hoi spurt in the spring of 1967. An interesting thing about the Chieu Hoi total is that more than 8000 of the 1969 defectors have come from IV Corps (in 1967, a similar imbalance was present, with two-thirds of the Hoi Chanh coming from a couple of coastal provinces). One reason for this, as noted before in these pages, is that it is from IV Corps that most of the new recruits came last spring, after the Tet offensive. As always, the overwhelming majority of the defectors are marginal people: porters, part-time guerillas, young trainees or "probationary" soldiers, etc. This morning, the US Command reported 11 significant shellings (they seem to like that figure, for some reason), there were seven bombings or grenade attacks against power facilities in Saigon, and a 25th Infantry Div. camp 45 miles northwest of Saigon was assaulted. There were clashes southwest and southeast of the capital, and on the central coast.

April 27: Gen. Lewis Walt, former I Corps commander and now deputy commandant of the Marine Corps, who even by the abysmal standards which prevail among US generals connected with Vietnam is an egregious jackass, declared in a speech that the US has won the war but that peace demonstrators, etc., are keeping the Viet Minh going. The General might tell us, if asked nicely, exactly how the peace demonstrators have been responsible for his Marines' failure to establish in four years a defense perimeter capable of protecting their main base at Da Nang from artillery fire: Before dawn, the Viet Minh shelled the provincial capital of Can Tho, 101st Airborne Div. HQ near Hue, an Army Engineer compound in the Delta, the Marine combat base at An Hoa, the US complex at Phu Bai, and other targets. They shelled and assaulted a US camp about

CONTINUED AFTER "MATTER IN MOTION"

A COLUMN MATTER IN

To paraphrase, some people seek immortality and others have it thrust upon them. A small but successful example of the former was Niccolò Cacciato, director of the Palermo Observatory of Sicily in the early 19th Century. Following the custom of the period, he Latinized his name to Nicolaus Venator or, as we would say, "Nicholas Hunter".

In 1814, the "Palermo Catalogue", a detailed star catalog, was published. Two stars in the constellation of the Dolphin, previously known only as Alpha Delphini and Beta Delphini, appeared for the first time in this catalogue with the names "Sualocin" and "Rotanev".

It was not for several decades that Cacciato's little joke became known. Finally, an English astronomer named Webb observed that the Italian had named these stars after himself! His last and first names, spelled backwards, had been given to them.

Cacciato's most gullible victim was an Englishwoman named Frances Rolleston, who fancied herself an expert on matters astronomical. In her book "Mazzaroth" (whose title comes from the Hebrew word translated as "constellations" in Job 38,32) she claims to derive these names, like most star names, from the Arabic: "Arabic Scaloon, swift (as the flow of water)." "Syriac and Chaldee Rotaneb, or Rotaneu, swiftly running (as water in the trough)."

-oOo-

What is the proper spelling of that Asian country which the United States is trying to conquer? Two views on the topic are given by two Americans who have been there: Richard H. Eney, who returned more than a year ago from a stint with the Agency for International Development, and Sp4 Brenton Ver Ploeg, a soldier presently there.

Eney: "The name of the country is Viet Nam, spelled like that in English and VIET NAM in quoc-ngu ('national writing', the Vietnamese system which utilizes Latin letters with accent-marks to indicate the phonetic tones). Vietnamese is a language of the Chinese family...Those of you who have even a smattering of any language of this family know very well that multi-syllable words are formally inadmissible; even hyphenation is sort of déclassé."

Ver Ploeg: "Allow me to testify that the Vietnamese themselves spell it 'Vietnam'--at least the ones in this area, which is admittedly former Liberation Front territory. Furthermore, the Saigon government itself, as measured by the propaganda leaflets it disseminates, cannot decide just how the name should be represented--a large failing, even for the standards of modern-day bureaucracy. In about half the cases, they spell it 'Viet-Nam'. The other half of the cases are divided between 'Vietnam' and 'Viet Nam'...Even Saigon doesn't know, so I doubt that some representative of theirs would be any more disposed to know than the government (of sorts) that he represents."

-oOo-

Edgar Allan Poe and Howard Phillips Lovecraft are famous chiefly as the greatest fantasy writers of their times. Yet both men had fairly good backgrounds in science, and paid attention to the scientific knowledge of their periods in writing many of their stories.

Poe, in his "Thousand-and-Second Tale of Scheherazade", has the famous Sultana relate to her husband, as adventures of Sinbad, all the

MOTION BY JOHN BOARDMAN

marvels of 19th Century science. Her husband listens with increasing unbelief to these tales, and finally orders her strangled when she tries to present as fact the wildest vagaries of 19th Century female fashion. ("The days have long gone by since it was possible to distinguish a woman from a dromedary...") But Poe tells, accurately if dramatically, such wonders as wave interference ("Another constructed a deep darkness out of two brilliant lights"), the steam locomotive ("There was a huge horse whose bones were iron and whose blood was boiling water"), electricity ("Another commanded the lightning to come down to him out of the heavens, and it came at his call; and served him for a plaything when it came"), and the newly discovered way to measure stellar distances ("Not even their infants...have any difficulty in seeing objects that...for twenty millions of years...had been blotted out from the face of creation").

In his "Mellonta Tauta", Poe gives a pessimistic picture of the future, extrapolating not only the science but the politics of his time. ("A fellow by the name of Mob (a foreigner, by the way) took everything into his own hands and set up a despotism...") "The Unparalleled Adventure of One Hans Pfaall" is an early trio-to-the-moon tale, inspired by the famous "Moon Hoax", but hewing as close to reasonable scientific opinion of the early 19th Century as is consistent with the plot.

It is perhaps not so well known that H. P. Lovecraft also read widely in science. His monstrosities are combatted, not with counter-incantations, but with scientific devices. The demons come not from Hell but from other worlds mathematically superimposed upon the Earth, and capable of being connected with it under the proper circumstances. When the story goes into the past (as with "The Shadow Out of Time" or "Polaris"), the scientific detail is as good as the author could make it.

-oOo-

Retirements and electoral defeats have put a lot of Democratic former office-holders on the job market. But one of them at least is doing well in a new line of work. Orval E. Faubus, sometime Governor of Arkansas, has taken a job as president of a tourist attraction called "Dogpatch, U.S.A." This new business enterprise is announced as "a cartoon character hillbilly community".

Faubus has probably never held a job more suited to his talents.

-oOo-

A question has arisen in some big city high schools as to whether Swahili ought to be taught. These demands come from black nationalists who feel that Swahili will create links between black students and the African heritage of their ancestors. But the introduction of Swahili is opposed on one or more of the following grounds, stated or implicit:

(1) Students are in school to be taught, and should accept what the school authorities decide they should be taught.

(2) The ancestors of most American Negroes came from western Africa, and Swahili is an East African language.

(3) Swahili is not a real language, but a trade pidgin developed for use between Arab conquerers and African slaves. (Of course, English arose in a comparable situation.)

(4) Actually, very few people in Africa speak Swahili.

(5) Since black Africans never had a culture, black Americans cannot have cultural connections with Africa.

Leaving these arguments aside, it is informative to look at the pragmatic aspect. What languages do the major broadcasting services use when they wish to speak to Africans? And how many hours a week do they devote to each language?

The table below lists the languages used in broadcasts to Africa by the Voice of America (VoA), the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Radio Moscow (RM) and Radio Peking (RP). Figures are hours per week. Non-European languages only are listed.

	VoA	BBC	RM	RP
Arabic	6½	10½	7	3
Swahili	1	1½	3½	1
Hausa	-	1½	2	1
Amharic	-	-	1½	-
Somali	-	1	1	-
Shona & Sindebele	-	-	1	-
Bambara	-	-	½	-
Lingala	-	-	½	-
Zulu	-	-	½	-

--John Boardman

JOTTINGS

CONTINUED

30 miles northwest of Saigon, killing 10 Americans, and threw a probing attack against the camp 45 miles northwest of the capital that was assaulted yesterday. There were clashes northeast of Saigon, below the DMZ and in the Highlands, and 3 more helicopters were shot down.

April 28: Helicopter losses continue to run at a record level. In the 65 days since the Viet Minh spring offensive began, at least 83 US helicopters have been shot down, and a substantially higher number have been destroyed on the ground. This morning, the US Command reported a dozen significant shellings. Near the Laotian border just south of the old Khe Sanh base, a PAVN unit assaulted and penetrated a 5th Mechanized Div. camp, killing 5 Americans and doing unspecified damage to tanks and APCs. Elsewhere, there was a clash south of Da Nang, 4 US troops were killed in fighting in the Delta, a 1st Infantry Div. convoy was ambushed 55 miles north of Saigon, with the loss of several trucks, two helicopter gunships and 4 American soldiers, and three helicopters and a jet were shot down in other actions.

April 29: Sen. Stephen Young of Ohio charged today that the Defense Department is lying about the number of US combat deaths by classifying some as non-combat fatalities. There are now about 6000 of the latter, and Young said that many should have been listed as combat deaths. This is not exactly a revelation--it's been known for years that US officers always and automatically classify any borderline case as "non-combat" in order to hold down the combat fatality total--but this is the first time it's been said on the floor of the Senate. The "hidden" combat deaths are an almost insignificant number in any given period, but of course they add up over the long run. I would estimate that 1200-1500 of the official "non-combat fatalities" should have been classified as combat deaths. Before dawn, the Viet Minh shelled 1st Infantry Div. HQ at Lai Khe, a US airfield in the Highlands and several dis-

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT ARTICLE

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO "DON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP"?

BY TONY MORALE

The art of obtaining secret information from one's enemy, otherwise known as spying, is nothing new; the techniques have just changed somewhat. The use of ships to spy on a potential enemy is not new, either. Presently, the Soviet Union has their "trawlers" and we have what is known in the US Navy as an AGR. These ships loiter just off the territorial waters of a country and monitor its radio wavelengths. International law does not prohibit this type of vessel, so long as they are on the high seas and not within the boundaries of a country's territorial waters.

The destroyers involved in the Tonkin Gulf incident of a few years ago were on a "spy" mission. They were attacked on the high seas by enemy torpedo boats. The destroyers repulsed the attack with no loss to themselves. However, the US Navy deemed that there was the possibility that the enemy would sink or seriously damage one of its destroyers, so vessels such as the Pueblo were fitted out for the "spy" missions.

These ships were relatively inexpensive, and the loss of one would not be as disastrous as the loss of a destroyer. They were to be armed with a few machineguns and the promise of air support if trouble arose. As the years passed by, the Navy grew to believe that an attack on one of these ships would never occur, so it became lax with the job of protecting the spy ships. Thus, the Pueblo was ordered to North Korea without adequate protection. The Navy had put the Pueblo, and its CO, Commander Lloyd Bucher, out on a limb.

On January 23rd, at 1200 hours, the Pueblo was surrounded by two subchasers and four PT boats of the North Korean Navy. When they opened fire on the Pueblo, Bucher ordered the destruction of the ship's secret papers and gear. He did not order his ship to return the North Korean fire, and above all, after he found that it was impossible to destroy all of his secret equipment, he did not order the opening of the sea-cocks and the scuttling of his ship. He instead, as we all know, chose meekly to surrender his ship.

It is very easy for me to sit here and type this criticism of Commander Bucher and the Navy, as I'm not the one under fire, but the fact remains that Bucher and the crew of the Pueblo were in the dirtiest part of the business--and that's what they were getting paid for. The Pueblo was in no position to defend itself, but the least they could have done was to scuttle the ship. Bucher chose, however, to take the easy way out, his excuse being that he saved lives by doing so. This attitude reflects the present-day softness of Americans: Bucher was not

in the life-saving business. Besides, scuttling his ship would not have made any difference in the number of men lost.

The blame for the Pueblo disaster lies in two places. First, the Navy should be blamed for putting Bucher and the Pueblo out on a limb with no protection at all. Second, Bucher should have tried to return fire or, at the very least, scuttled his ship.

This is all past history now, but it would be gross stupidity for the Navy to do nothing. To court martial Bucher would only draw attention to the Navy's error, but to give Bucher another sea command would set a precedent, for what does a commanding officer do if faced with the same type of situation? What ought to be done is for the Navy to let the situation calm down, and then give Bucher a "backwater command", such as counting blankets up in the Aleutians.

--Tony Morale

JOTTINGS

CONTINUED

strict capitals in the Delta, among other targets, An ARVN unit lost 15 killed in a battle near Cam Lo, 4 Americans died in two clashes in Tay Ninh Province and there was a clash in the Highlands.

April 30: Today's session of the Paris talks produced nothing, and next week will return to the normal meeting day of Thursday. Prince Sihanouk has apparently changed his mind, rejecting recent US recognition of his borders and calling off resumption of relations with Washington. The US Command reported no "significant" shellings this morning. In Saigon, three terrorists shot up the facade of the city hall and threw a bomb which damaged the exterior of the building. A Marine company lost 9 men killed in a battle southwest of Da Nang, there were several clashes northwest of Saigon, and the ARVN fought a battle for the third straight day just below the DMZ.

May 1: This week's humor is provided by the latest (Apr. 1st) Hamlet Evaluation System figures, which list 82.1% of the population under government control. I tell you, Meyer, I just can't wait till they get to 100% and are faced with the dual dilemma of trying to explain why the war is still going on and figuring out what to do for an encore. Actually, though it is easy to laugh at the HES flights of fantasy, the summaries are, if read carefully, remarkably candid in one respect: the virtual non-existence of real pacification. In the current summary, 2% of the hamlets--about 250, that is--are listed as "A" hamlets, the truly pacified ones. This is about the same as in the Nov. 1st, 1967, HES summary. The number of "A" hamlets constantly fluctuates, but has never risen above a minute percentage of the country's 12,600-odd hamlets. Claimed enemy casualties rose again last week, but total Allied casualties declined again, to around 2600, including 163 Americans and 237 ARVN killed. I don't usually question the figures in the weekly summary, but in this case I must observe that for ARVN losses to have fallen so low in the week in which they suffered the Apr. 25th defeat in the Delta and the Apr. 21st disaster at Lam Son is, to say the least, remarkable. The US Command reported rocket and mortar attacks before dawn on a provincial capital, several district capitals, four US base camps northwest of Saigon and Marine positions below the DMZ and near the Laotian border (in the latter two, Marine HQ said the Americans suffered fatalities but gave no number). About 50 miles northwest of Saigon, a Viet Minh battalion assaulted an ARVN Airborne camp, 7 Marines were killed in a battle near The Rockpile, there was another battle a few miles to the east, and three helicopters were shot down.

CONCLUDED AFTER LETTERS

The Democratic Journal #74 (P.O. Box 927, Yakima, Wash., 98901; sample free, 10/\$2) features articles, mostly by the editor, Mary Jean Lord, on the California grape boycott, the Black Student Union at Yakima's Davis High School, the assassination of Seattle Urban League leader Ed Pratt, sex education, a public utilities controversy in Washington, the HUAC hearings on the Battle of Chicago, the House Agriculture Appropriations Sub-Committee's use of FBI agents, a Stanford survey on what subsidized growers think of the poor (psychology students will be fascinated, political science students disgusted), school taxes, pornography, pot and Democratic Party reform. The Journal is published by and for a group of progressive Democrats in the (conservative, Republican) Yakima Valley, and is unfailingly interesting. Dick & Mary Jean Lord are a couple of people over thirty whom even Jerry Rubin might be inclined to trust.

Science Fiction Review #29 (P.O. Box 3116, Santa Monica, Calif., 90403; 50¢ per copy, \$3/year) lives up to its name by presenting 17 pages of book reviews by the editor and various others, a column by Norman Spinrad which is also a book review, Alexis Gilliland's movie review, and Banks Mebane's magazine story reviews. Actually, this issue is disappointing--or as disappointing, I hasten to add, as an issue of SFR, the world's greatest science fiction fanzine, ever gets. The reviews are quite good, and so are the other regular features (Dick Geis' editorial, Ted White's column--this one, alas, the last he will be writing due to professional commitments--and a letter section featuring organized verbal mayhem), but a magazine like Science Fiction Review ought to have a couple of meaty articles in addition to its reviews and columns. The only material in #29 outside of the regular features consists of two short articles, one by Al Snider and the other by Arthur Jean Cox, neither of which measures up to SFR's standards in style or in content. However, it remains the indispensable fanzine, beautifully printed in teensy-weensy type, chock full of cartoons, and featuring the most articulate reviews this side of anything. (It is an evidence of my limitless judiciousness that I offer these compliments despite the fact that Mr. Geis has been spreading slanderous rumors about me, implying that I kipple women in their boxes, when of course that's not where I do it at all.)

The IFW Monthly (5756 E. Seventh Ave., Tucson, Arizona, 85711; 30¢ per copy, \$3/year) and International Wargamer (4658 N. Spaulding, Chicago, Ill., 60625; 75¢ per copy, \$2.50/year) are publications of the International Federation of Wargaming, an organization of devotees of the hobby which Scott Duncan will probably write about shortly in these pages. The March, 1969, issue of the monthly contains, apart from material of interest only to members of the group, an article on naval miniatures by Tony Morale; a piece on the battleship New Jersey by the same author, an editorial, reviews of other wargaming periodicals, an article by Michael Reese on infantry-armor tactics, and Part IV of "Vic-

A PERIODIC LOOK
AT PERIODICALS

torious German Arms", by Gary Gygax and Terry Stafford, in which the Axis powers are proceeding on their course of victory in World War II. International Wargamer is the quarterly IFW publication, and the Jan.-Mar. issue appears to be written mostly by Gary Gygax. Gary has an article on Shogi, a chess variant, and one on a political board game called "Mr. President", one on Arbela (Alexander versus Darius--remember that war, Roy Tackett?), another on armor, and two on "Operation Blue", the German summer offensive against Russia in 1942, not to mention a column under the pseudonym of Beau Geste. Then there's the 15-page second edition of Avalon Hill's "Jutland Battle Manual", Mike Carr on the Battle of Murmansk, John Lundstrom on 1914 Fortress rules, and several other short items.

Hotchpotch #4 (Rick Williams, 3228 Maxim Dr., Fort Wayne, Ind., 46805; 6/75¢), a slim (12-page) mimeographed paper published by a group of students in Fort Wayne, a cosmopolitan center named after either Mad Anthony or Weird Harold, I'm not sure which Wayne. I like how Hotchpotch and other papers (Alternative, for instance) seem to be able to get so much material in such a small number of pages, and am working on discovering the secret for my own benefit. This issue contains some letters, an editorial on the press of Fort Wayne (student and commercial), poetry by various people, a reply to the previous issue's article knocking welfare statism, Wes Anderson's report on the visit to Fort Wayne of Director of Cannon Fodder Hershey, an interesting story by Diane Farhi on the ultimate in transplant science, and notes on a teacher's boycott and accompanying student demonstration, the US Army's definition of democracy (which must be read to be believed), and the Supreme Court's recent decision ("Tinker vs. Community School District") on student rights.

Bias #7 (Paul Lewis, P.O. Box 1048, Jamaica, N.Y., 11431; 40¢ per copy, 6/\$2) features a fascinating article by Robert J. Howard analyzing the reaction to the famous Mercury Theatre "War of the Worlds" broadcast, part of a continuing story by an otherwise unidentified Marge (possibly Mrs. Lewis) entitled "Witchcraft: A Journey Into Fear" which is very well done, the second part of a series by John Boardman on "The Borderlands of Art", and comments by editor Lewis on student protests, a Jamaica high school girl who refused to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, and a provocative (to say the least) proposal for punishing capital offenses. The aim of Bias, according to Paul Lewis' "Note to New Readers", is to provide an open, uncensored arena for discourse on any subject". The magazine is neatly printed, with excellent artwork and an interesting (albeit strange) layout.

Inn-Spectre #2 (Ed Reed, 668 Westover Rd., Stamford, Conn., 06902; available for a 6¢ stamp) is a very slim (seven-page) magazine published for Gestalt, an amateur press association. It is of interest to outsiders, however, because in addition to brief mailing comments the contents consist of Ed's comments on Rock and folk music, and a four or five scene play or playlet entitled "Dormi Jesus" which borders on the brilliant, I think. (It's sort of hard to be sure--in fact, it's sort of hard to be sure, in general, whether Ed Reed is a genius, a weirdo or a weird genius...no offense intended, Ed.)

The IFW Monthly (address and price above), April, 1969, displays a difficulty into which the International Federation of Wargaming seems to be falling. Since I'm not a member, it's really none of my business, but those of you who know and love me will recall that this consideration hardly ever prevents me from commenting on something. The IFW appears to be becoming bogged down in organizational and constitutional disputes, and I hope that those wargamers who are also science fiction fans will point out to their fellow hobbyists the lesson learned over a forty-year period by science fiction fandom: that it's best to keep

things as informal as possible and reduce to the absolute minimum nit-picking rules and regulations and constitutional articles. Nothing can ruin a hobby group faster than to deliver it into the hands of those whose passion is A Firm Regulation For Every Exigency and whose gospel is Roberts' Rules of Order. In any case, the April IFW Monthly includes, in addition to material on internal matters, another installment of the always-fascinating "Victorious German Arms", by Gary Gygax and Terry Stafford, Russell Reddoch's article outlining possibilities for perfecting combat rules in wargames, a review by Henry Krigsman of a new tank battle game, a bibliography (by Scott Duncan) of suggested reading on military affairs, Tony Morale on several naval battles that were fought at a recent IFW local convention, and other material.

Panzerfaust (Box 280, RD #2, Sayre, Pa., 18840; 50¢ per copy, \$3.50/year) is another wargaming periodical, this one the monthly organ of POW, Pennsylvania's Organized Wargamers. The April, 1969, issue contains a column by Gary Gygax, a very technical essay on one move in the "Battle of the Bulge" game by George Phillies, Kevin Muszynski on "The Luftwaffe at D-Day", a report on a Chicago hobby show, an article on the supply system in the game "Afrika Korps" by Bill Quinn, questions and answers about another wargame, "Company Commanders", reviews of games and magazines (including Kipple), Gary Gygax on the Third Crusade, an entertaining report on the fighting in miniature of a fictitious naval battle; and there are letters to the editor and other features. Panzerfaust has remarkable confidence in its longevity: it offers five year subscriptions for \$14.50.

BeABohema #3 (Frank Lunney, 212 Juniper St., Quakertown, Pa., 18951; 60¢ per copy, 3/\$1.50). This science fiction fanzine continues to show two separate but mutually complimentary trends: it gets bigger and it gets better with every issue. (If the present rate is maintained, issue #7 will be 230 pages and the greatest fanzine ever published.) The March issue runs 80 pages, and with this issue the enterprise has been sufficiently "shaken down" that it is beginning to look smooth: reproduction is excellent, layout is neat and Frank is beginning to show style and imagination in the use of lettering guides, the filler illustrations are many and well-placed, etc. The material is generally equal to this appearance. There are editorials by Frank and Assistant Editor (or Ass Ed) Bill Marsh, a little story by David T. Malone that is amusing and probably fraught with profound symbolism if only I knew what the hell it was, a column by Leo P. Kelley, a series of three entertaining articles by Piers Anthony, Andy Offutt and Robert E. Margroff about a story contest they once entered, Seth Dogramajian's art column, an article by Gary Hubbard on sword& sorcery fiction, a column by Piers Anthony (who is unquestionably the greatest Piers Anthony in the western world), fanzine reviews by Al Snider, 11 pages of book reviews, mostly by Faith Lincoln, a sweet young thing whose idea of a pleasant vacation is apparently to go to Yellowstone Park and beat up the bears, and a long and generally interesting letter column. Recommended to any SF fan, or to anyone who would like to see what science fiction fandom is like.

Since I have a few lines, let me answer a question posed by several readers: viz., why does this column not review the third-rate magazines (which, I assure you, I receive my full share of)? The answer is simply that I think little of reviewers who seize upon crudzines and write slashing two-page critiques to show their own brilliance. That is not my bag. I did it once, six or eight years ago, but I had the excuse of youth. The purpose of this column is to bring worthwhile periodicals to the attention of the readers; it does not even claim to "review" in any meaningful sense.

--Ted Pauls

DISSENTING OPINIONS

LETTERS

DICK SCHULTZ :: 19159 HELEN :: DETROIT, MICHIGAN, 48234

Re the Republic of Carpatho-Ukraine: It all goes back to the Munich Conference (or give-away, according to your choice of semantic reference points) in 1938. After Chamberlain and Daladier got through kissing Der Fuehrer's boots, Czechoslovakia gave in and allowed Hitler to occupy most of the Sudetenland immediately. (By the way, under the borders granted Hitler, 13% of the German-speaking Sudetenland remained outside of the borders but 11% of Czech Bohemia was tossed in--Hitler rearranged things more according to mineral deposits, fortifications and industrial centers than language.)

Even before Hitler moved in, Admiral Horthy, that notable admiral without a coastline or a navy and a regent for a king who was by law going to be shot if he set foot in the country, had begun meetings at Bratislava or Pressburg for "return" of the Ungarn-speaking minority sections. As a result of these conferences, at which second-stringer German "observers" enforced the rules, Horthy was allowed to "regain" large sections of Slovakia where the majority of the population was Hungarian-speaking and of Hungarian descent. As a result of these border changes, Hungary somehow managed to obtain a sizable Slovak and Ukrainian minority of its own. In other words, Horthy, as his cut of the pie for aiding Hitler, got a good section of Slovakia.

Then, in March of 1939, Hitler invited President Benes over to Germany for some more talks, at which time he threatened Benes, threatened Czechoslovakia and gave the signal for the Slovak separatist regime to separate itself from the Prague government. They did so, and even as Benes was signing over the remainder of Czechoslovakia to Hitler the German forces were slipping and sliding over the ice-covered roads of Bohemia-Moravia towards Prague. As a note, at least one observer of the scene said it was too bad the Czech boy scouts hadn't come out and given them a drubbing in that sort of weather.

Anyway, Slovakia proclaimed its independence and asked for German "protection" at the same time. But all of this left off at the end of Czechoslovakia, the tail-end of the Republic, the two mini-districts of Uzhorod and Mukaveco. Ukrainian-speaking districts, bordered by Roumania, Polish Galacia, the new Slovak Republic--and Horthy's Hungary. A few

members of parliament from the two rural districts hastened to their homeland, backed up by the high mountains of the Carpathians and sloping down to the rich Danubian plain of Hungary. There they conferred, and being ignored by most of the world, they tried to be included in Bohemia-Moravia. They were ignored. They proclaimed a republic of their own then, set up a currency and a postage, and attempted to establish diplomatic relations with their neighbors. They lasted just about a month, unless my memory is wrong. They lasted that long only because Hitler had, with customary deceit, failed to inform his minor partner, Admiral Horthy, that it was Czechoslovakia's turn next, or what was left of it. And it took about a month for Horthy to put together sufficient forces and diplomatic verbiage to justify annexing the little slice of land. It had been Horthy's "piece of the action" all along, so that was why they failed to put the new republic under German protection like they had Slovakia.

But Hungary was to pay a high price for the temporary possession of those lands and the Transylvanian portion from Roumania. Ask anyone who remembers Budapest in 1944...

Throughout the war, guerillas were active in the wild region and aided the short-lived Separatist Slovak Republic when they rose against their German masters in late 1944. This tragicomic opera occurred when the Slovaks smelled the scent of Russian guns and decided to take an independent course. Unlike Warsaw, however, this time the Russians were unable to come to the aid of the rising. Not that Stalin tried. Not a plane or a gun did he send, though the Slovaks enjoyed the unusual prerogative of having their own air force and air fields, and actually engaged in combat and aerial dog-fights with the FW-190's and ME-109's for the short space of a few weeks. In the end the rebellion was crushed, and heavily, though much of the armed forces slipped into the woods and high mountains and stayed there until relieved by the Russian hordes in the early months of 1945.

As far as Carpatho-Ukraine went, however, there were repercussions in London over the Stalinist seizure of the land involved. Relations between the Czech government in exile and Moscow were somewhat strained and never did exactly heal over, until the Czechs went Communist in 1948, at which point somehow or other the point was "resolved" with Russia keeping the province. By the way, to avoid additional troubles in 1956 it was through the common border Russia shared with Hungary thanks to this annexed province that Khrushchev sent his legions pouring in to wipe out the insurgent Budapest regime. Russia also, by the way, never has bothered explaining to the UN or elsewhere on just what claims she took over the province. After December 1, 1944, the Carpatho-Ukraine guerillas realized they had been invaded again rather than liberated, and Stalin acted with his customary leniency by stationing a few divisions in the area, shipping off dissidents by the trainload to the east and occupying the region continually until about 1948, when it is generally considered that the last of the hard-line guerillas had been broken up. (Well, yes, except for the time element. The Republic of Carpatho-Ukraine lasted, not a month, but 24-48 hours. Proclaimed March 14, 1939; occupied by Horthy's troops on March 15th; formally annexed on March 16th.)

SAM FRIEDMAN :: DEPT. OF SOCIOLOGY, UCLA :: LOS ANGELES, CALIF., 90024

One of the delightful things about Kipple is the respect in which its contributors hold each other. In this tradition, I want to reply to a few friendly comments made about me by a pair of my fellow Kipplers.

Derek Nelson's now famous quote "If students are brainwashed into a capitalist/racist society, etc., why then do Komar, Friedman and Co. end up as simplistic Marxists?" poses a problem of how to respond.

I could respond in kind and call him an illogical fascist or somesuch, but I doubt the value of making such a statement (as well as its truth). Or I could perhaps take him to court, but my valuation of the benefits of free speech restrains me (to say nothing of the fact that the damages done are negligible). So instead I will simply ask Mr. Nelson to back his statement up--that is, to show that I am, or have in any Kipple comments made statements that indicate that I am, a simplistic Marxist. Note well what I am saying, Derek: Do not try to show that I am simplistic alone (you might be able to make a good case for that in my bothering to reply to your inanity), nor that my beliefs are Marxist (I myself don't think they are, but that's because I have enough understanding of and respect for Marx not to gloss over some fundamental differences). You are faced with the job of showing that I am a believer in a simplistic form of Marxism--not a sophisticated form of Marxism, or a simplistic form of non-Marxist radicalism, but a simplistic form of Marxism. Or on the other hand you might admit the fact that your comments were kind of stupid themselves. As a final remark about Mr. Nelson's views, I simply want to point out that Red-baiting only works when a movement is on its last legs anyway. And if you meant to be a Red-baiter in your remarks, Mr. Nelson, I can only reply by saying "the worst for you". (Since you are obviously sincerely aggrieved, this advice may not make much of an impression, but you really ought to take anything Derek says with a grain of salt. I've been arguing with him off and on for about eight years. Rough language and off-the-cuff remarks about people's motivations, philosophies, etc., are part of Derek's style of argument. No personal enmity is involved. (And I'll bet Derek will have some choice words about me "apologizing" for him!))

In #162, on the other hand, I am faced with L. Sprague de Camp's remarks on how racism has decreased during his lifetime, which leads him to some very interesting paternalistic statements about how I and some of my fellow Kiplers are suffering from "lack of insecurity". Furthermore, we "try to impart excitement and significance to otherwise undistinguished and boring lives by tilting at an imaginary (danger)", by trying to "change the behavior and attitudes of mankind--all three billion of them--overnight by some magical alteration of the 'system' or the 'Establishment' or 'Society'." I have three levels of comments on these remarkable statements--those involving their arrogant assumptions about me, Kunkel, Barnes & Co., their moral bases, and their truth on general matters (and in specific about racism and about danger). But I want to begin by paying a certain amount of respect to Mr. de Camp--he is very talented as a writer and as an arguer in Kipple's columns he has made some very good points in the past. Thus my critique will concentrate on the somewhat atypical blindnesses and oversights he displays in #162, and perhaps on his moral nature.

First, he assumes Messrs. Barnes, Kunkel and I (& Co.) have boring and undistinguished lives. Where he gets this information I don't know. I really know very little about Messrs. Barnes, Kunkel & Co., and certainly not whether their lives are boring and undistinguished. My own life is not boring, and I thus pay a price for political involvement. As to the level of distinction of our lives, let me ask Mr. de Camp how many people of the ages he imputes to us are in fact "distinguished". Which suggests a delightful little game of the type that maybe Messrs. Nelson and de Camp would enjoy. The various Kiplers could match scores in terms of whatever it is Mr. de Camp means by "distinction" to see whether the radicals, the liberals or the conservatives get higher scores (we might even want to add a Rand-type touch: maybe construct a measure we will call the YDR--Yearly Distinction Ratio--of distinction per year). Also, let me ask where Mr. de Camp gets the idea that we see some magical changes that will suddenly alter human attitudes and behavior

all over the world as our goal? I think I have always been much more specific than that--the changes I have pointed to have been changes in the US (and any global effects reflect on the global nature of American involvements more than on any mystical quirks in my consciousness)--and I have tried to specify the question of agency to some degree in terms of a large-scale movement composed of various allied organizations and their supporters, dedicated to changing America by hard work and lots of talking to and convincing people. This movement is not yet massive, but it is getting stronger and maybe it will achieve some of its goals.

Second, a brief moral question: if it were true that all America has to offer is boring and undistinguished lives, would you then maintain there would be no reason for rebellion, Mr. de Camp?

Third, some general questions about the truth of Mr. de Camp's assumptions. He indicates we lack insecurity. Do you believe the existence of a Cold War (even if thawing) is conducive to security? Do you believe the existence of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in massive amounts and in an increasing number of countries is conducive to security? Do you believe the nature of American involvements in the Third World, with their threat of recurrent Vietnams during our lives (and, therefore, with the threat to many of us of being drafted for the dirty work) is conducive to security? Do you think that the prospects implicit in man's fooling around with the ecology of this planet are conducive to security? Do you think that the prospects for the continued existence of creative jobs in this society (under conditions of increasing bureaucratization of intellectual work of many kinds) are such as to leave us secure in the knowledge that by the time we are your age there will be such openings for anyone other than a genius?

If the above parts of this letter seem too personal, I want to apologize. Personal attacks, whether snide or paternalistic, are very hard to answer without seeming silly.

In a less personal vein, I want to remark on Mr. de Camp's comments on racism. It may be that racism has decreased during the past 50 years or so among the upper middle class types he talks about, if one means by racism a set of attitudes and behavior in terms of whom one socializes with and jokes about. And I don't remember whether Ted or Mr. Norwood were dealing with this same concept of racism or not. But let me point to the almost-racist slant to using that concept of racism as the criterion. The crux of racism is not the extent to which whites are bigots, but the extent to which blacks are disadvantaged and destroyed by their society. To focus on whites in this regard shows an extraordinary ethnocentrism. And in terms of the deprivations of blacks, the indicators are mixed. Some measures show them as having improved their position in the last 50 years. In other respects, the situation has gone downhill. So let me finish this letter with a simple point: if you want to discuss whether racism has increased or decreased (and we might find such discussion beneficial), don't take a one-sided view of racism.

TONY MORALE :: 39-30 GLENWOOD ST. :: LITTLE NECK, NEW YORK, 11363

I saw the letter that you sent to Gary Gyax concerning my battleship article in the IFW Monthly. I see that you disagreed with my contention that the New Jersey is totally unsinkable, at least by the forces that the Viet Cong and/or the North Vietnamese have at their disposal. I agree with you; if the enemy can hit the Jersey with 15 or so torpedoes. That is still the best weapon anywhere that can sink a large warship of heavy cruiser up. The problem is, however, for the enemy to hit the Jersey with that amount of torps. PT boats can feasibly do the job, if they can get through the screen of CAP, escorting destroyers, and the battery of 20 five-inch guns on the Jersey itself. The same applies for aircraft. Such a mission would by necessity be a suicide type

deal, if they can apply the human wave theory to PT boats and aircraft. The Japs did it with the Kamikaze, but with very limited success against the big ships for the quantity of aircraft expended. The Commies don't have such a large quantity of aircraft or PT boats to expend, so I think such an attack is unlikely, but not to be ignored.

As for the BB's worth over aircraft in the support role that it is now playing, there is no question. It doesn't make sense to expend a \$5,000,000 aircraft to drop a \$5,000 bomb-load on a \$500 truck! In this war, we've already dropped more tons of bombs than we did in World War II. Besides that, we are misusing our aircraft, using tactical jets to hit cities and strategic bombers to bomb tactical targets. It just doesn't make sense.

BB support fire is just more effective than bombing. The loss of a \$5,000,000 aircraft, not to mention the pilot, has got to be the most expensive part of this war. If a few 16-inch shells miss, who cares? Besides, the 16-inch shells have more hitting power than a 1000-pound bomb. (The advantages of naval gun fire over air strikes are obvious, but most of them apply to the destroyers and cruisers that operated off the DRV coast all along as much as to the New Jersey. The only advantages of the NJ, exclusively; are longer range and bigger shells. The latter is not very important, because the North Vietnamese have very few targets hard enough to require such pounding. So, in essence, the only real advantage the battleship has is that it can shell targets farther inland. It is at least an arguable question whether that one advantage is worth the expense and the risk. As to that risk, your initial absolute assertion that the NJ could not be sunk or badly damaged by the Viet Minh bothered me because it was typical of a certain aspect of military thinking that has time and time again led to catastrophe. By the book, you are right, but in real war things don't always go by the book. The difference between kriegspiel and krieg is that in the latter wholly improbable things insist on happening. By the book, Pearl Harbor shouldn't have happened; by the book, the Hood shouldn't have been sunk by a single shell fired from 18 miles; by the book, the Royal Oak shouldn't have been sunk in its "impregnable" harbor; by the book, the Tet offensive shouldn't have happened. The kind of attack the Viet Minh might have attempted against the NJ could have been something like this: a kamikaze-type attack, involving a single plane, an IL-28 bomber stripped of all non-essential weight, including extra fuel, and crammed to the cockpit with thousands of pounds of HE, taking off at night, flying at wave-tip height, smashing into the battleship at the water line. Sure, the plane probably would have been detected and shot down before it could carry out its mission, but then again it might have gotten through; if so, it would have impacted like the granddaddy of all torpedoes, and I wouldn't want to take bets on the outcome. The thing is, the sides are so uneven in what they are risking that even a very small chance that the attack could be carried out successfully makes the risk too great to justify setting the NJ up as a "prestige" target. All the Viet Minh have to lose is one plane and a four-man crew--and even in failing they get points in the Western press for the daring attempt--; whereas we stand to lose the world's only active battleship and hundreds of lives. Under those circumstances, even good odds are lousy.)

GEORGE W. PRICE :: 1439 W. NORTH SHORE AVE. :: CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 60626

The Balcon: Referring to the "oh-so-straight teens" who "became irritated by bearded men and long-haired women observing them," you remark that "I guess they thought we were the strange ones, the poor kids." Yes, I guess they did, and they were right; weren't they? You may pity them for not having your outlook on life, but still they are the vast majority and you the tiny minority, and that makes you the

strange, odd and unusual ones. Hardly an important point, but it gives me a button to sew a coat on: the ridiculous resentment that many of the "bearded men and long-haired women" seem to feel at "straight" society's contemptuous treatment of them. (I leave it up to you to decide if this applies to you personally. If the shoe fits--.) These people loudly express their contempt, and even hatred, for straight society, and are slovenly in their dress and their grooming specifically to advertise their feelings--and then they have the chutzpah to feel abused and put upon when the straights reciprocate their contempt. To be sure, there are those who wish to be bearded with no thought of despising society, and they also are made the butt of society's contempt. This is unfortunate, but is the natural result of what I call the "swastika syndrome". I have a set of the works of Kipling, published around 1910. Each book has its cover and title page liberally decorated with the ancient Indian good-luck symbol, the swastika. If that set were to be republished today, it would certainly not be trimmed with swastikas, for obvious reasons. Just as the Nazis ruined the swastika for everybody, the Jerry Rubinses are (to a lesser degree) ruining beards for everybody. It is wrong that the innocent should be punished along with the guilty, but they're asking for it: if they insist on wearing the enemy uniform, they shouldn't complain when they're treated as the enemy. (I generally have my tongue rather firmly embedded in my cheek when making remarks like "I guess they thought we were the strange ones, the poor kids." Sure, I fully realize that by society's standards we are the "strange" ones. If I feel contempt for straights, it's a friendly sort of contempt. Mostly, I feel sorry for them--that so many people should live their one and only short lives hemmed in by so many pointless inhibitions seems a shame. As for "wearing the enemy uniform", it's an experience I recommend to every person who wants a perspective on our society. You haven't truly experienced America until this happens to you: you walk down the street, clean-shaven, short hair, suit-and-tie, and encounter a cop who smiles and says, "May I help you, sir?"; then, six months later, with a goatee, a tee-shirt and medium-long hair, you encounter the same cop on the same street and he insults and hassles you as if you were black or poor or both. An illuminating experience, sir! One further note: I don't think we're all that much of a "tiny minority" anymore. I seem to be seeing an awful lot of long hair and beards these days, and the reaction my own slovenly dress and grooming draws from straights is nothing compared to what it was five years ago. Hell, the other day I saw a comrade (you'll pardon the expression) shopping in the A&P. He was wearing a John the Baptist hair style and beard, a slouch hat and a poncho, and the housewives pushing their baskets down the aisle hardly gave him a second glance. We're still a minority, right enough, but not so tiny as a few years ago.))

To some extent I share your feeling that the crew of the Pueblo did not stand up well enough under enemy pressure, although my feeling on this is pallid compared to the vast contempt I hold for their superiors for having gotten them into the mess, and even more for not taking swift action to get them out again. (What kind of action? Well, for a starter, rounding up North Korean fishing boats and holding them hostage.) However, I drew a different conclusion on the sailor who said he wished the US had dropped an atomic bomb on North Korea. You took this as a wish for suicide, in a way which would kill a few hundred thousand other people, by a man who lacked the courage to kill himself. I took it to mean that while he did not want to die, he would be willing to die if a lot of the enemy would be going with him. Not suicide, but revenge.

I generally agree with you on the impact of television on our society. As you say, "due to our peculiar social/economic structure, the airwaves have become a commercial enterprise like a washer factory, op-

erated for profit and dedicated to pleasing the largest possible group of consumers at the least possible cost." I would go a lot further, and say that the largest trouble is that the enterprise has not been commercial enough. If a free market had been allowed to operate in television, we would have had pay-TV a long time ago. Then those whose tastes are in the minority would have had as much educational and cultural programming as they were willing to pay for. That this did not happen is solely the fault of the federal government, which has prevented pay-TV. Of course the networks pressured the government into that position, with that absurd argument that the people should not have to pay for the use of "their" airwaves. That's like arguing that we shouldn't have to pay for newspapers, because they are delivered via the public streets. I doubt if they had to pressure the government very hard, since the bureaucracy is always on the lookout for ways to extend its power. The government should have no more say on television or radio programming than it does on newspaper content. The argument that the spectrum is limited had some validity when there were only 13 channels, but the advent of UHF should have sent that down the drain. (There is a lot to be said for pay-TV, but I don't think it should be a substitute for improving commercial TV (which is likely to become even worse, godhelpus, when pay-TV gets off the ground and takes away the upper 10% of its audience). I don't accept the networks' argument that they "give the public what it wants"; I think, rather, that the garbage is what the public will accept because it's what they're accustomed to getting on TV. The networks ought to be interested in educating the viewing public to the point where they wouldn't accept trash like "The Beverly Hillbillies" or whatever. Nobody's born with a liking for "educational and cultural programming"; the taste is developed through exposure. In the Soviet Union, opera is popular entertainment. That's not because the Russians have something in their genes that makes them like good music, it's because opera and knowledge of opera is promoted.))

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In #162, George Price comments that Russell Kirk and other conservatives have been complaining for many years about the shortcomings of higher education. He even mentions the figure of thirteen years. The thought immediately comes to mind, if they knew of these problems for thirteen years, just why did the students at Berkeley, San Francisco State, Columbia, etc., feel it necessary to riot (and I use the term riot only because they were alleged to be riots)? What I mean to say is, why didn't Kirk, et al., do something to change the situation, to improve the curriculum? I'm just a lowly student, too dull and stupid and immature to decide what I want to learn about. My opinions count for nothing. However, if I saw my house in the initial stages of collapse, I would repair it, and if I saw my house burning out of control, which is where the situation is today with our colleges, I would put the fire out and rebuild. And if it was a total loss, as I believe our colleges are today, I would clear the debris away and build a new structure, this time without the flaws that caused the fires in the first place.

The university as it stands today is next to useless. Speaking of my own situation, here at Auburn "University" there is a concerted effort to stamp out any of the schools that deal with the humanities. The School of Arts has consistently been cheated of funds, while other schools have received increased funds year after year. The School of Music lost its accreditation in 1944, the year it was founded, and the building it occupies has been condemned for nearly as many years. The emphasis is on science and engineering, which is okay as long as you call the institution a polytechnical institute or a technical. But a university should have universal appeal.

The university as we know it must be destroyed, not physically, but in its structure. We are still taught in the old rabbinic style, i.e., an authoritarian who would have us believe that he has all the answers (since in the old pre-press days he had the only book) stands in front of a class and lectures. Parrots a book. Few seem to realize the implications of McLuhan. The day of the POB (Print Oriented Bastard) is over.

Today, a first-grader on the first day of school has already been exposed to the entire world and so is already highly educated. Perhaps the education is not of the highest quality, but at least there is a large quantity of education in his brain. Most of this education has come through the medium of television. So what happens the first day of class? The teacher--no, more the speaker--talks at the class and tells them that television is a lot of trash and they shouldn't watch it. The child, who has been almost totally educated by the tube and has come to trust the tube, is now thrown into a state of confusion. My psychology professor told us that in the first grade there is a high motivation for learning. The child truly wants to learn more and more about the world that he has been introduced to through television. But by the fourth grade, the desire to learn has been snuffed out. If given a choice, the child would quit school. And for all the learning that he is getting he might as well quit.

My own experience has been that after I learned to read and write school had nothing more to offer me. I continued to attend because my parents urged me to, and later because I realized that a mark on a piece of paper, call it a grade or a degree if you like, meant more to someone than what was actually in my mind. So I've been fooling the system for many years. Giving them all it takes to get an "A" (I belonged to every honor society at my high school, even founding one), but obtaining all my education on my own, without a "teacher". When I came to college the situation was much the same. I started in Engineering, but the curriculum was so binding to my mind that I soon left and went into the field of communication (television, film, writing, etc.) since this was what my true education had prepared me for. I'm still learning on my own and attending classes only because it is only attending classes and getting marks on paper that "proves" that I have an "education". Thank god that I am getting a true education on the side. I am afraid that only a few of us are. This is what most students are fighting for--a meaningful, relevant education. It doesn't matter if it is in engineering or drama. As long as it is an education and not classical conditioning.

When I was in engineering, I would learn one thing in the classroom and then when I went to work for a firm in the summer, the things I had learned in the classroom were useless for the most part. "Oh, we don't do it that way, it takes too much time. Here's the best way..." When I tried it that way in school, I got bad marks. I have a friend who is a wizard in circuits, but he flunked the course here when he took it. His methods were easier, more economical, etc., but things weren't Done That Way.

George says, elsewhere in his letter, that there are "ample means for democratic reform". I got a good chuckle from that one. Here in Alabama you get a choice of Wallace Democrats and Segregationist Republicans and the Prohibition Party. The Prohibition Party is the most progressive... Our petitions are ignored, our rallies are disrupted, and some of our people are killed. But I will say this: if you have enough money, enough friends in high places, and enough weight, then you have no need to riot in order to obtain support for your programs in government.

JOTTINGS

CONCLUDED

May 2: In a delayed report, confirming a Phnom Penh radio broadcast, the US Command announced that Cambodian forces shot down two US helicopters over their border earlier this week, killing 4 Americans. According to US Intelligence, the North Vietnamese are using helicopters--including the Soviet MI-6, the largest in the world--to move men and supplies in Laos and Cambodia. Targets of overnight shellings included two district capitals and three US bases, 4 Americans were killed in the ambush of a truck convoy 55 miles northwest of Saigon, there was another clash 30 miles northwest of the capital, and two helicopters were shot down.

May 3: Now that the spring offensive (or, if you prefer, Tet offensive) has apparently ended, US Intelligence is beginning to talk about the next one, which they predict for later this month or June. It would be a shame if the Viet Minh opened another round of heavy fighting very soon, because a lull of some weeks duration is required to generate those lovely dispatches out of Washington and Saigon in which "high military authorities" tell us in great detail why the Viet Minh are no longer capable of major offensive actions. More seriously, it should be noted that a summer (or "summer-autumn") offensive would be highly unusual, since the weeks from early June to late August traditionally see a very low level of enemy activity. The US Command reported no significant shellings this morning, and ground action was confined to minor clashes. The Laotian Defense Ministry reported that government troops had recaptured the town of Xieng Khouang, on the Plain of Jars; although of little military significance, it is the first victory the Royal Laotians have had since 1967 and hence a psychological boost.

--Ted Pauls

Ron Bounds is a declarative sentence

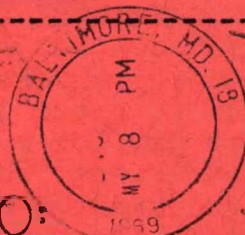
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