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1-8-79 Sweet, loveable mother nature can be a bastard.

Here in Oregon we've had the worst November on record, the second worst December, and judging by the current extended below-freezing weather [with ice cakes jamming the Willamette river--unheard of in living memory], January will be as bad. Scheduled for today and tonight are freezing rain and snow.

I suspect this winter is going to become typical...a new cold period is setting in...a natural weather cycle or--the result of man's pollution of the atmosphere and a malfunctioning of the system?

The problem is: if the severe weather is a symptom of air pollution in upper and lower levels of the atmosphere, then a slight shift to colder weather means even more pollution as nations burn more and more fuel (and further pollute) in order to keep warm. Thus making the malfunctioning worse....

I flinch at the increased energy bills...and flinch at the prospect of the bills if I decide to put in a greenhouse this summer (or whenever I can afford it) and attempt to grow things in it during a winter of this severity. Frankly, Scarlet, I wonder if tomatoes in January are worth the money.

The more I think about it all, the more I find large, deep, cold frames worthy of building--with wood and old glass I already have in the garage storage areas.

I've been re-doing the interior of the house lately---painted the ceilings, paneled the hall, one bedroom, and the livingroom (with the diningroom yet to do). Thank god for K-Mart---their \$5.57 sale paneling is/was a great buy! Was a great buy. I doubt if I'll ever see that price again.

Also, this month Sears is slated to put in new carpeting---something called bright avacado in a top quality tightly-woven shag. What I'm doing--have mostly done---is redo the house while I can afford it (or at least while I think I can afford it) and consider it done for at least ten years.

I expect hard times. But that's nothing new, to you Geis-readers.

So, let me take a look at the world this morning---

The situation in Iran is working through its predestined scenes. The

shah is trying to save his throne by giving up some of his absolute power. A compromise.

His domestic and foreign opponents want him completely out (if not dead) and won't accept the compromise government. Turmoil and strikes will continue.

Oil will perhaps flow at a small rate, mostly for domestic use.

I suspect a strange marriage will result eventually---a union of socialists and religious fundamentalists which will rule Iran. They will agree to deny oil to Israel and South Africa and perhaps compromise on selling the United States some oil---in order to keep some money coming in and to get back most of the vital technicians necessary to make the Iranian economy function. They will offer the West a stable government and will severely restrict Western "influence."

And they will follow the Russian line in foreign policy. [After a purge of the armed forces.] They will probably have to shift to Russian military equipment, planes, etc.

This will be a great blow to the rulers of the West and will perhaps result in some radical new policies or treaties---such as a strong mutual defense treaty with Saudi Arabia, perhaps Egypt, perhaps Pakistan or India. The United States will have to put its military guts on the line to protect its oil lines. [It'll be a long time before Mexico and Canada can develop their reserves to heavy USA-need production levels, and even longer for China.]

So Vietnam has invaded Cambodia and thrown out the radical, absolutist communist rulers there, and is installing a set of more moderate, practical communist rulers.

I said this might happen a few months ago---an extreme government usually doesn't last long.

Now we see long after the fact that Nixon and Ford (honorable men!) doublecrossed the Vietnamese leaders during the final year(s) of the war, and in fact lied to them about the American government's intentions.

Vietnam...now Taiwan... Will Israel be next?

The sacred honor of our government is worth shit, as all other heads of government know for sure. Our rulers are perfectly willing to screw anyone to get what they want or to avoid paying a price they object to, or to avoid an embarrassing obligation. They do it it diplo-

matic spheres, military spheres and monetary/fiscal spheres.

Can you trust your government? Can you trust your president? Your congress?

Of course not. Do not expect them to keep their word, obey their own laws or tell the truth. They're only human.

That's why you should not let them have the power they have over you and your property and your life.

12-31-78 Dear me, how the House Assassinations Committee had to scramble to cover its preconceptions and rewrite its 'lone assassin' ratification of the Warren Report!

The poor fellows had to meet for five and one-half hours a couple days ago to change their minds under pressure of public opinion and highly uncomfortable evidence that four shots were fired at Kennedy and that therefore there were at least two shooters.

It was the acoustics experts' reports on their analysis of the police radio recording in Dallas that did it. It convinced enough congressmen to force a rewrite of the already written report.

They had spent two years "investigating" the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King and were about to kill off the conspiracy theorists for good when they were forced to join the ranks of those who all along thought the Dealey Plaza shooting was an ambush by a team of assassins.

Now we know for sure why Oswald (or whoever) passed up a beautiful straight-on shot at Kennedy from the Texas School Book Depository Building, waited while the Presiden-

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tial limousine turned the corner under his gun, and waited until the car was in the "grassy knoll" area of the Plaza. The sixth-floor window shooter passed up opportunities for better/best shots and took lesser shots (had to wait after one or two shots for the limousine to clear a tree in the line of fire) so that his fellow assassin(s) could get in crossfire shot(s) from the concrete fence at the top of the knoll.

Forced to acknowledge the two-gun realities, the committee went on to accept conspiracy in the Martin Luther King assassination, concluding that James Earl Ray probably was the shooter but had help.

Well, that's something. Although it speaks ill of the committee that it has the guts to condemn the FBI and the CIA and Secret Service for lack of considering conspiracy seriously enough, when the committee itself only was brought kicking and screaming to conspiracy at the last moment by evidence it could not ignore or undermine.

The committee is now throwing the whole mess into the lap of the Justice Department (which doesn't want to touch it with a forty-foot pole).

I wonder if Congress will be interested in funding the committee for another two years while it wastes millions of dollars again looking in the wrong directions?

The Federal Reserve has spent 10 billion of its 30 billion dollar support-the-dollar fund, and the value of the dollar is now sinking back to where it was when they began this vaunted program. It has in fact lost half its initial rebound gain.

In January Social Security taxes go up, the price of oil and gas goes up... February and March should be interesting as leading-indicator months for the cost of living and production, unemployment and the debt situation.

Carter is going to China sooner than I thought---sometime this spring, according to the latest word from Washington. Soon after his economic summit meeting with heads of state from Europe in January.

David Rockefeller and Co. are really dancing Carter around.

The Shah of Iran has sent most of his family to safety, and is leaking plans to take his usual rest & recreation trip in Europe. Thus he will probably go into exile and Iran will be in the hands of the military and whatever civilian govt the military can create and palm off on the people. The socialists and communists won't take kindly to such, though, and instability and

rioting and sabotage and death squads will be the order of the day.

Perhaps elements of the armed forces will stage coups and counter-coups.... Boy-oh-boy, just like in Vietnam!

1-15-79 WHAT I DID DURING MY WINTER VACATION or HOW TO BE UNPREPARED AND RUIN A REPUTATION or HUBRIS IS A TERRIBLE DISEASE or WHAT, ME TRUST CIVILIZATION?

Portland is only now 99% recovered from the really unusual and severe ice storm---freezing rain---that put a coat of ice one to two inches thick over everything last week.

At its worst over 90,000 homes were without electricity. 50,000 or so phones were out. The streets and sidewalks were skating rinks.

The major problem in this city of trees was tree limbs cracking off under the load of all that ice on the smaller branches and taking power and phones lines to the ground with them.

Our electricity went off twice. Once for 23-1/2 hours, and a day and a half later, out for almost exactly three days.

So how did Geis and Lady Companion fare during this breakdown of civilization?

Not too badly. But I was caught with my stove down because the fireplace chimney is all crudded up with carbon and creosote and I dared not use it.

I had disassembled the stove-and-pipes last summer in a general cleanup and renovation and "up-grading of life" due to higher income and a desire to avoid the general dirtiness and problems of a woodstove. (It belched smoke into the livingroom on occasion and the ceiling was getting all sooty, for one thing.)

So I took the stove out and painted the ceiling a nice creamy off-white and we have recently paneled the walls of the hall and livingroom and entranceway (and will be paneling the diningroom Real Soon Now), and last Thursday [the day we had full power and expected it to continue] we had new shag carpeting put in---diningroom, hall, livingroom, entranceway---so everything was nice and new and clean....

Civilization is CLEAN and EASY. Civilization is convenience and labor-saving. It is communication.

We were abruptly thrown into a candle and kerosene lamp existence. And going out to eat.

I had to buy a propane two-burner cook stove and a propane lantern and about 15 bottles of propane to fuel them.

We were cold because all the propane catalytic heaters had been sold out everywhere.

So there I was, huddled in blankets, reading. I read a lot, and listened to my twenty-year-old transistor radio which told me Pacific Power & Light had restored service to all but 6000 homes...all but 3000 homes...all but 1500 homes...

Needless to say, we were among the last to get power. It came on last night at 12:30 AM.

What did I learn?

As soon as I can afford it I will have the chimney cleaned and repaired and perhaps have a spark arrestor in place on top. Do not write and suggest I clean the chimney. I freeze on ladders when six feet off the ground. I cling and get dizzy. My balance is faulty and I fear heights. And the fireplace chimney is at least thirty feet high. AAARRRRRGHHH!!!!

So in future possible outages we'll be able to use the fireplace. (I might even re-rig the hot-air fireplace blower I bought a few years ago and didn't use much because the blower made too much noise.) Oh, stupid man! The blower runs on electricity!

And, as soon as supplies return to the Portland area, I will buy a catalytic propane heater as a primary or backup for the fireplace.

But a storm like we just had comes only once every ten years or so. And I'd prefer the convenience of oil heat until next time.

That is, as long as I/we can afford it. What all this comes down to is enjoying civilization as long as possible, and resorting to more time-consuming, dirtier ways only if forced by events/economy.

This leads me into another area of thought: The dogma and idealism of the back-to-nature ecologists and the "simple life" advocates is mistaken, I think. You can only avoid or escape the rat-race of modern life by embracing the different rat-race of an earlier time. I have come to appreciate the vast knowledge and crucial details and anxieties inherent--built into--the so-called simpler life of say the 1850s.

The hassles were a bit different, the pressures sprang from other sources, but they were there! In fact, I'm pretty sure the anxieties of live-or-die crops and no-welfare poverty were tremendous compared to today's problems.

To grow my own food here requires a really detailed and wide-ranging knowledge of plants, soil, watering, preserving, drying, etc. etc. Same is true for success-

ful use of a woodstove for heating and cooking. A self-sufficient person or family has to know everything--plumbing, carpentry, wiring, a thousand details of specialized knowledge.

And it comes down to the price you pay for a great degree of independence from government and society. The price is time. It takes time to grow your own food, time to tend a stove, cut wood, etc. It leaves (as earlier civilizations and peoples knew) damned little time to read, do art, relax, enjoy liesure.

I'd have to work day and night if I still published SFR by mimeograph and collated, stapled, etc. myself.

Yet the alternative---being dependent on others for vital life supplies and functions--food and shelter and heat and light---is dangerous and repulsive.

What's the answer?

A compromise, as usual. Provide yourself with the necessary back-up systems for emergencies. Yet enjoy the vulnerable services and pleasures of modern life as long as you can afford them.

I hereby vow to have the fireplace chimney cleaned, repaired and set up for woodstove use.

I will have one of my small wood stoves cleaned, lined with fire brick, and ready to go, along with the necessary pipe. [Wood I've got stacked in the garage--a year's supply if needed.] And I vow to have a goodly supply of dried food ready. Plus a supply of propane for the camp stove and lantern and the catalytic heater. Also a supply of kerosene for the wick lamps. And batteries for the radio.

We could be going into a series of severe winters, and this sort of breakdown could happen again and again. (The hurricane that hit Portland ten or so years ago left most of the city without power for up to ten days!)

I found it positively humiliating that I was caught short and unprepared last week. Never again.

The shah of Iran has sent his family out of the country, to America, it is reported, and will probably follow them out tomorrow.

It's unlikely he'll ever return.

What will follow his exile will be a power struggle between the usual fragments from the moderates to the religious rightists to the left. The military will act when required. With virtually all the foreign technicians fled, the Iranian oil fields will likely not return to anywhere near full production--thus the country will be bankrupt soon.

You see, Iran has about 9 billion dollars in external debt, much of it owed to the big NY international banks---Chase-Manhattan and Citibank. But Chase and Citibank didn't expose themselves to the full loan ---they head bank syndicates who make the loan: a hundred million here, a hundred from that bank, fifty from another... So the collapse of Iran's money-making ability and ability to pay its debts hasn't concentrated vulnerability in New York banks, but in reality to dozens of smaller banks as well. Technically, any of the small banks could vote to call the loans, thus tumbling the house of cards, admitting the loans are bad and legally admitting probable losses in the billions.

This is the last thing they want to happen. But inevitably it will happen someday. This year... next year...because there are other billions of dollars in loans in actual bankruptcy situations (but kept quiet and covered up by legal/financial fictions) in Indonesia, Peru, Turkey and Zaire, to list the worst, critical cases.

The international debt structure for American banks especially is trembling and shaking. It could begin to collapse any week now.

See page 33 of the January 15 issue of BUSINESS WEEK.

1-16-79 A clipping from a reader in Australia tells of an Adelaide researcher in nutrition who says that since Linus Pauling's book VITAMIN C AND THE COMMON COLD began selling in Australia---and since imports of vitamin C [ascorbic acid] have increased dramatically---the number of hospital admissions for kidney stones has increased.

Dr. A.J. McMichael thinks there is a cause-effect linkage---that heavy intake of vitamin C causes the formation (or speeds the formation) of kidney stones.

He has no individual or clinical proof, however---only that since imports of C have increased for the past ten years, so have kidney stones.

This relationship has not been noted anywhere else in the world, but it's worth thinking about.

To a degree I have always had a lingering suspicion that anything taken to excess is probably not a benefit, since it will likely force the body to work harder to right the natural blood chemistry balance of the body.

But since the body has changing needs, 'excess' is difficult to judge. I probably take more vitamins than my body needs, every day, but I think the stress of getting rid of the relatively small excess is made up by having everything in the system the body needs, all the time.

Some people do overdo taking vitamins with self-treatment megavitamin therapy, and such massive doses of C, the B-complex, E...likely do have an effect on the body chemistry if prolonged.

But that's their right, as I have a right to practice medicine on myself. [Until the State declares that my body is not mine anymore, belongs to the State, and must be considered an asset of the State, protected by the State, and used by the State.]

I have, since my late twenties, felt my life was an experiment in nutrition. If I live longer than my dad who was a drunk and a life-long nutritional disaster area... I'll maybe have proved something. He lived to be 73. After forty or so years of two-pack-a-day smoking.

I do not smoke, and never have. I drink moderately. I am about fifteen pounds overweight at the moment. Well, nobody's perfect.

Not much in the news... The shah of Iran has flown out of Iran



and won't be back. The exiled religious leader, Khomeini, is set to fly home to Iran and set up a moslem religious dictatorship. He must get rid of the existing secular government headed by Bakhtiar. And of course the armed forces are always there with the ability to take over again.

All the elements of a civil war a la Lebanon.

Of special note is the policy shared by Bakhtiar and Khomeini---of denying Israel any Iranian oil.

Iran has been Israel's main supplier of oil. Israel has a binding understanding with the USA: we must keep them supplied with oil if their supplies are cut off---as is now the case.

This gives us more leverage over the Israeli government. But makes Israel more likely to want to hang on to those Sinai oil wells they captured from Egypt in the last war.

Rep. John Cavanaugh (D-Neb.) said Monday he will introduce legislation to revive the military draft---and will make women as well as men liable to be inducted.

If that bill is passed I suspect a lot of ERA supporters will lose interest in equality and agitate for the president to veto the new draft.

On the other hand, if young women are to be drafted and serve in the military, they have every right to equality all up and down the line in American society, and ERA should be passed by congress if that is what is needed to assure true equal rights in this country.

(But imagine the furor if, during a war situation, women infantry soldiers become pregnant in ever-increasing numbers----using that ploy to avoid combat time. Would the army require them to take contraceptives? Would it go to the Supreme Court?)

Every legal change has consequences...often (mostly) unanticipated. That's what makes life interesting.

The Dec. 23 & 30, 1978 issue of SCIENCE NEWS has an article on the so-called Holy Shroud of Turin---what is held to be the burial cloth of Christ which has a mysterious imprint of the body on/in the cloth.

Scientific tests go on to attempt to verify its legitimacy.

What was missing was information as to how tall the man was.

The photo of the image in SCIENCE NEWS shows a man at least 8-1/2 heads high. [Artists use the 'heads' measure to structure figures in proportion.] Now, a man 8-1/2 heads tall is nearly of heroic proportions. That is, if real, a man well in excess of six feet. About six-five, I'd estimate.

Astonishing for Biblical times, when the average man was five and a half feet tall.

But religious artists always made Christ larger-than-life in paintings. And I think the "forger" did that in the case of the Holy Shroud. It would never do to depict Christ as average-sized. You must preserve and buttress the myth and the tradition. The artist's patron wouldn't have stood for a common Christ. A dumpy, bandy-legged Christ would be worse than God without a beard.

1-18-79 Listening and watching a Carter press conference is listening and watching a con man give voice to the official bullshit.

Yesterday President Carter said the USA has no intention or ability to interfere in the internal affairs of Iran...and we would not permit any other country to do so.

None of the hundred or so reporters assembled asked how we would prevent interference if we could not and would not do it ourselves.

Carter hopes Khomeini (the exiled moslem leader of Iran) will give the civilian Bakhtiar government a chance...when everyone who can read knows Khomeini has labeled the present civil government 'illegitimate' and called for its overthrow. Khomeini wants to return soon to preside over a theocracy [as the big American media put it, being unwilling to call it true: a religious dictatorship].

Khomeini is anti-American and anti-capitalist, a "fundamentalist" moslem religious leader who wants to undo the societal, cultural and perhaps technological advances or changes made by the shah in the past thirty years.

Lots of luck. I suspect that most of the people don't really want that kind of medieval life and once they get a good taste of it will recoil---thus fomenting even more (continuing) unrest and rebellion.

A West German banking figure revealed a few days ago that it cost central banks in Europe and the USA over 50 billion dollars in 1978 to support the dollar...and added that this cannot go on much longer.

My estimate is about six months before the USA fund of 50 billion is exhausted. [It could be wiped out much sooner if the Europeans, primarily the West Germans, stop trying to keep the dollar value of their mark from rising---currency traders would smell more devaluation of the dollar and rush to sell dollars in an avalanche.]

If the European currency union is strong enough it could virtually cut loose from the dollar. If that happens all hell would break loose. The true and ugly and masked consequences of our sea of debt over the past twenty-three years would come home to roost in the form of tremendous price increases as the value of the dollar sank to incredible new lows, forcing draconian budget cuts and debt liquidations...a depression.

Of course, I could be wrong. The depression will likely come more slowly and subtly in the next three years...a long slide, because the government would resort to more debt and controls to try to combat the inevitable.

I remember when I was a kid, various diseases and insanities and sinfulnesses "ran in the family" of whoever.

Then science said poo-poo, that's superstition and folk-scary-stories and every person is innocent and not prone to inherit such things.

NOW, repeatedly, with science uncovering genetic/biological causes of one madness after another, one disease after another, with psychosomatic causes declining...

The latest is that indeed, alcoholism can "run in the family". It is possible to inherit a metabolic 'weakness' which makes children of an alcoholic [who may have been the child of an alcoholic] vulnerable, & if not guarded against consciously, lead to a dependence on alcohol.

Another example of the old ways being best has been proved: A powerful growth-stimulating substance has been discovered in mother's milk by a Harvard Medical School scientist. This substance is five times more potent in stimulating the growth and division of cells than are the nutrients in ordinary blood. This newly discovered substance is found especially in the first breast milk produced after delivery.

So--breast feeding is vital for the health and development of the newborn infant, and the child should have access to that supermilk as soon after birth as possible.

1-21-79 The people of Oregon, last November, elected a Republican to be Governor largely because he was conservative and promised to take the best parts of Proposition 6 and Proposition 11 [tax cut measures, one put on the ballot by initiative, the other by the legislature to counter #6---both failed to pass by narrow margins] and offer them to the people at the next general election.

But I see now that his proposals are getting the Christmas tree effect and simplicity is being sicklied over by complicated formulas and special-interest considerations. This, mind you, before the legislators get their sticky fingers on the bill.

The result will be non-stop wrangling, secret deals, a warped, monster of a "tax cut" bill which will largely shift the tax burden from the property tax to the income tax, and a further disenchantment with politicians by the citizenry.

There will likely be another tax initiative passed around for the necessary number of signatures, and I would expect it to pass next time. And I would expect it to cut taxes heavily, with no way out for the politicians to evade cutting spending.

Jerry Brown's assessment of the future has prompted him to come out for severely restricted federal spending--a constitutional amendment to require every federal yearly budget to be balanced.

This does not mean spending cannot be increased in a national emergency. It means that congress must increase taxes to pay for it. It would force pay-as-you-go budgets.

Of course, after a generation or two of deficit spending and ever-higher inflation rates, politicians, Liberals and gimme-something-for-nothing citizen groups see this kind of discipline as a terrible thing---for them.

But the people who pay for all this--the taxpayers---are simply sick and tired of paying for waste and welfare. They don't like working three and four months of the year for others.

Jerry Brown has obviously been shaken to his boots by California's Proposition 13, and sees it as a wave of the future. He thinks he can ride that wave into the White House. With this endorsement of forced balanced budgets for the federal government, Brown is positioned as a palatable alternative to Ronald Reagan---or any Republican presidential candidate in 1980. He has stolen their thunder. His campaign would be "Tax & spending limits---with compassion."

Easier said than done, of course. Blood would flow. Well, it'll flow regardless, when the current debt bubble collapses.

Since this time last year, consumer and mortgage debt has increased at least 150 billion dollars.

This is a classic symptom of inflation psychology---buy NOW to beat higher prices later, and pay the debts later in cheaper dollars.

But the consumers have added debt at a rate that cannot be main-



tained for long. At some point in time they'll reach a point where they cannot add more debt payments to their outgo every month...and they'll stop. And the economy will slow down and THEN the crisis will hit.

Workers will be laid off, some will be unable to make these big debt payments, the creditors will retrench, more people will be out of work... And if by then the big banks are forced to admit to huge bad debts overseas.... The whole debt structure could come tumbling down, layer after layer, deeper and deeper, until trillions of dollars has been wiped out---killed---by bankruptcy, and the long, 50-year cycle can start anew.

Will the government be able to save us? All it will be able to do is keep people from starving and freezing, one way or another. The federal government seems all-powerful, but even it is limited in the face of an avalanche of debt liquidation.

To "combat" this crisis the government will---alas---try to keep the structure from falling by making loans to this or that huge corporation, to this and that huge bank, to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.... It will buy mountains of crops to support farm prices. It will extend unemployment insurance again and again... The federal deficit will go to incredible heights....

And, I fear, the people, in their terror and woe, will demand all kinds of federal controls to try to stop the slide...and we'll end up with a President who presides over a bureaucracy which is in virtual total control of the country and the people.

We are schizophrenic in this country---we want freedom, lower taxes, but we do not want the self-reliance and responsibility-for-self that implies. We want something for nothing, and we'll end up paying for it in the coin of freedom.

I've said all this before. But it feels good to say it again every once in a while. Masked slavery can be such a seductive option.

Now I'm going up to watch the Super Bowl. I expect Pittsburgh to win.

1-22-79 I am coming to hate corporate publishers... And editors who are so callous and shit-on-you in attitude toward writers that they will not extend any professional courtesy to fellow professionals. I simply don't understand people like that.

For instance, I managed to write a sex novel over a year ago. I sent it to Carlyle Corporation, publishers of Bee-Line Books.

The novel has not been seen nor heard of since.

Uh, sorry, my memory was playing tricks... I sent the novel to my agent who sent it to Carlyle, and I haven't heard from him in months and months...

My problem is I want to know what happens to my mss.---where they went, what was said, etc. Up to date info. And because I'm not a million-dollar writer an agent hasn't the time or the interest [nor should he] to cater to me in this way.

So I've more or less decided to go back to marketing my stuff myself, depending on what the agent has to say in response to a letter reflecting this move on my part.

Another aspect of my character is that I HATE being an employee. I HATE being dependent on others for my income---one or two people who decide if I figuratively live or die.

That probably explains why self-publishing is so attractive to me, and why I have worked so hard so long to make SFR profitable enough to support me, and why independence from vital life-support utilities and other food sources is so attractive to me.

I trust very few people. I do not trust ANY government.

So don't be surprised if I put that sex novel (mentioned above) on stencil and publish it myself and offer it to whoever wants a copy

among the SFR/REG readership.

I've been a full-time professional writer for twenty years and I resent intensely professional shit when it is dumped on me by editors and publishers. Fuck them!

On the other hand, once I find an editor and publisher who treat me with courtesy and respect and who like what I write, I am likely to stick with them exclusively for as long as they'll have me.

1-23-79 I see that the top general of the Iranian army has exhorted his troops to remain loyal to the constitution and to established authority.

That's quite an admission to make (by inference it indicates a great amount of contrary loyalty to the rebel moslem leader Khomeini exists in the armed forces) and points to a limit on what the army can do in the way of supporting the shah-appointed Prime Minister, S. Bakhtiar.

If the generals command the soldiers to shoot pro-Khomeini demonstrators wholesale [once Khomeini arrives in Iran] there will be a lot of refusals among the soldiers and no doubt fragmentary defections by small units. There could develop armed rebellion---a holy war---to establish a moslem republic, with Russia via its satellite Afghanistan sending in arms and supplies to assist the rebellion.

The U.S. government should resist temptation to back the shah-appointed regime and the army. Khomeini may decide to sell oil to everyone but the USA, once he gains power.

The Steelers won the SuperBowl game by a few points, as I thought they would. Hell of an exciting game, though, with some fluke calls and a missed catch deciding it.

Interesting statistic in the 1-22-79 issue of BUSINESS WEEK. Real weekly take home pay as measured in 1967 "hard" dollars, for the American worker, on average, has declined in 12 months from \$95.39 to \$92.16 in November, 1978.

The real [less inflation] rate of pay in 1967 was \$90.86. That's a meager gain in 11 years of \$1.30. And in the meantime a mountain of debt has been piled up on that \$1.30 gain that didn't exist in 1967.

Another nail in the coffin of psychiatry was hammered in recently with the discovery of a gene that can be inherited and which causes psychotic depression.

Not only that, genetic flaws and "weaknesses" make certain people

more susceptible than others to such diseases as heart trouble, cancer, diabetes, malaria, high blood pressure...schizophrenia....

These on-going findings suggest to me that individuals should while in college or in high school have available to them a knowledge of their family's genetic/health problems, his/her own genetic makeup and weak points and susceptibilities, and should choose a career and work location (and wife and house and friends) with all this in mind, to insure optimum health lifelong, and a longer life.

Lots of luck.

1-24-79 There is the mild smell of cartel in the strange occurrence of Pepsi-Cola acquiring exclusive rights to the USSR market for an American soft drink, while Coca-Cola has taken China with no competition.

How nice to be able to divide up the world market like that.

#I see that New York City has been okayed to re-enter the bond market, will be selling \$125 million short term notes at 8% interest, in February.

This AP story doesn't tell how short 'short term' is, but if anybody buys a new NY bond for any period over a year, he's got rocks in his head! The fundamental spending and budget problems of NY City have not yet been faced up to, and the city will be in hot bankruptcy water again in two years.

#Remarkable that the billion-dollar theft of coal from US government lands doesn't get line one in the Oregonian today. Instead the major space-waster was Carter's State of the Union speech which was the usual pious crap and wishful thinking.

I'm interested in this coal-theft story---how various coal mining companies strip-mined up to an estimated billion dollars worth of coal from government land without being stopped and without higher-ups being appraised of it.

CBS reported last night that the companies are not known and that some of them have been sold or gone out of existence...

Marvelous! As if there are not records of such transactions and no records of previous ownership.

This smacks of establishment cover-up...which means establishment rip-off. Which in turn means the big oil companies (which own many coal companies) may have had a big hand in this rip-off.

If this scandal dies off and is pursued only half-heartedly...it means that Rockefeller & Co. want

it thus. And in my book that means Rockefeller & Co.---through various legal hidey-holes and masks---benefited from that massive coal steal.

I know--all this is if and maybe. But if the story dies prematurely, and if the prosecution is reluctant or delayed forever.... I can read Rockefeller in big letters.

#Something fishy in the stand taken by Energy Secretary Schlesinger yesterday on Mexican natural gas.

Sen. Kennedy charges the Carter administration is refusing to let American companies import Mexican natural gas in order to protect big [read Rockefeller] oil and gas interests.

Schlesinger, patently a Rockefeller oriented member of the establishment, denies this, saying we won't let Mexico sell US companies natural gas because the Mexicans want a price which is 35% above what Canada charges us for natural gas, and is four times the average price of interstate gas in this country.

So, I ask myself, why would any company pay that price?

I answer, only if the company has an automatic pass-through deal which allows them to simply up the price to the consumer. State Utility Commissions usually are required to guarantee a fair profit to power and heating utility companies.

But nevertheless, gas is in competition with oil and electricity and wood and coal, and cannot price itself out of the competition.

So if there is ever decontrol of oil and natural gas pricing---the market will set the prices---supply and demand.

I note that the Carter[Rockefeller] administration will send a standby oil/gas rationing plan to Congress next month. But Schlesinger said it should be considered a last resort. With Iran's oil probably denied us for a year or more, and Mexico hostile and unwilling to go full-ahead on developing their oil fields, all it would take now for another crisis oil shortage would be trouble in Saudi Arabia...and within two or three years (maybe sooner) Russia will probably have managed that.

The establishment of this country has mismanaged our affairs---economic and international---terribly for the past ten years. Their political and government agents have screwed up every way it can be done, and the mistakes and monumental misjudgments continue.

Is this decline in American power part of a deliberate plan? Some people think so. I don't. I think the owners of this country have lost touch with reality, are trying to stave off, delay having to pay the price of past mistakes and are there-

by sinking deeper into a rut of moral and intellectual and philosophical bankruptcy. They're terribly afraid, they are no longer masters of the world, and they are thrashing around desperately to keep the structure from collapsing. In the meantime the strains increase, the deterioration continues, the facade cracks.

1-26-79 Some economic notes.

* Rail carloadings are down again this week, as are truck freight miles. Unemployment claims are up as are the number of people getting unemployment compensation.

* Interest rates have paused in their upward surge, probably due to slower demands for credit as the winter storms cut business activity. The key will be March and April, when construction usually starts up again in the top-tier states, and commerce comes out of the deep freeze.

If there is an early start to the recession, March and April might turn out to be nowhere months.

* Strange that the price of gold has soared lately, to about \$235. per oz. This in the face of increased US Treasury sales and an apparent stop of the decline of the dollar. Of course the stability of the dollar is more illusion than real, since the US and European central banks have been buying dollars like mad just to stop its slide. This increased demand for gold may mean Some People Know Something.

MOVIES-----

THE BOYS FROM BRAZIL is a very good present-day science fantasy thriller. Gregory Peck and especially Sir Laurence Olivier made it a two man show, with Olivier as the old Jewish Nazi-hunter so excellent he'll be nominated for an Oscar, for sure. Peck might be nominated, too. His evil Nazi doktor is chilling. A damned good movie.

A WEDDING is directed by Robert Altman, who is a darling of film critics, I guess, because he likes to show the warts and hidden minor and major character flaws of people in his films. A WEDDING has a large, excellent, well-chosen cast...with two minor roles--the Nurse and the Doctor--stealing it. I was mildly surprised that Mia Farrow did a short nude scene. The thought comes upon seeing her stroll on camera in the buff (with a wedding bouquet covering her muff) "So that's what her tits look like. Eh!" I remember that the love scene and drugged-sex scenes in ROSEMARY'S BABY were played with a more amply endowed woman's body/breasts.

A WEDDING is viciously satirical in places, and merciless, though mostly its for good-natured fun and mocking human foibles.

THE NORSEMAN would have been okay twenty years ago. But its unrealistic plot and characters and bad acting and miscasting undermined the apparently excellent historically accurate Norse and Indian life-style and artifacts. The movie also proved beyond a doubt that Lee Majors cannot act. I felt sorry for Jack Elam playing a wizard.

GOIN SOUTH is an anti-hero western with Jack Nicholson having great fun as a scroungy, opportunistic (with gradually uncovered morals) badman saved (by indentured servitude marriage) from hanging by a young woman who wants him to work her dead father's gold mine.

It was a fairly good movie, but predictable after the first ten minutes. Worth seeing.

1-27-79 I see my the morning paper that Nelson Rockefeller died of an apparent heart attack--right out of the blue.

That's one satisfaction the proles have, anyway--that the rich and powerful die just like anyone else, and often sooner. The Rockefellers have been a long-lived family, but this time a Rockefeller kicked off at age 70.

Nelson was the "visible" Rockefeller, while David is the one who rules the vast empire of money and property.

I got a laugh out of a line in the AP story on Nelson's death. They wrote:

'Ford, upon assuming the presidency after Nixon's resignation, persuaded Rockefeller to leave political retirement to become the appointed vice president.'

I think it was the other way around: Ford had to be persuaded to choose Rockefeller, probably as a payoff in some way.

Well, anyway...so much for the best doctors money can retain; they didn't spot his flawed heart or the danger of a clot or whatever happened, and one of the rulers of the US is dead.

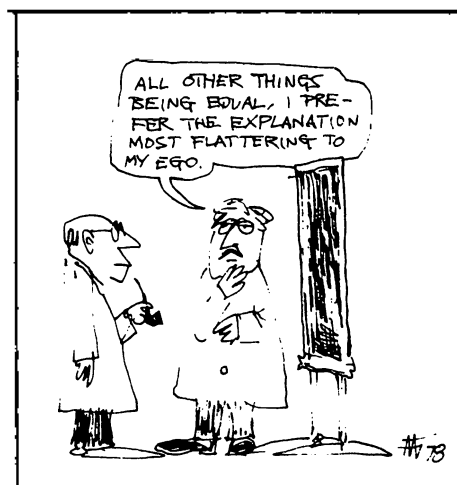
Now there'll be a big todo and a special program on CBS and maybe NBC on his life and accomplishments (bringing NY to near financial ruin will not be mentioned), and maybe a quasi-state funeral attended by heads of state and etc. Depends on how the family wants to handle it.

Another case of The State Knows Best is in the news: the 3-year-old boy with leukemia whose parents were treating him with Laetrile and vitamins as adjuncts to the "approved" chemotherapy.

They say the drugs made the boy like a wild animal and kept him very ill. The State doctors say the Laetrile was poisoning the child. The parents say the Laetrile and vitamins counteracted the side-effects of the drugs and made him normal and fairly symptom-free.

The parents claim to be acting in the boy's best interests--which is why they've sacrificed everything and moved to Tijuana, Mexico and have him on the regimen of drugs, Laetrile and vitamins again. The state of Mass. says the boy is a ward of the state and the parents have kidnapped their own son....

If your approach is what is best for the boy, you'd have to know all about the details of his disease and the past effectiveness of the drugs, etc., etc., etc.



If your concern is freedom vs. slavery to the State, you have a different judgement.

I suspect the judge acted too quickly to force the issue, and should have been on better moral ground. That means it should have been obvious that the boy was dying of the Laetrile and vitamins.

If the drug therapy had been discontinued and the disease treated solely by Laetrile and vitamins, then the State would be on solid moral and legal ground to force the issue. Not so as it stands.

Maybe a year or so from now it will be possible to judge the merits of the case by the fact of the boy's having recovered from leukemia... or died.

And then there's the case of the young woman fireperson who insists on breast-feeding her infant son in the fire station during her 'personal time'.

The Fire Chief had threatened to

fire the woman if she kept on this horrible nursing while on duty.

A judge issued a restraining order preventing the Chief from discharging her.

There it stands---a network news human interest story.

The Iowa City, IA Fire Chief is an idiot, of course. Rigid, male chauvinist, sexist. The grandmother brings the infant for its feeding and takes it home afterward. The only nit-picking rule being broken is one concerning the prohibition of regular visits by family members.

He should have simply quietly made an exception in this case and forgotten the matter.

Maybe he was a bottle baby and subconsciously resents the baby getting something he didn't get? Does he get hives at the mental picture of this attractive young woman "exposing" her swollen breasts in a fire station...with all those men close by...separated from her by only a closed door? Is he uptight because his authority is being resisted, mocked, diminished?

Whatever, some accommodations will have to be made for women workers and mothers, in public and private service jobs...maybe even in manufacturing plants.

Some months ago I commented on the conviction obtained by the Federales (with the help of the Postal Service) in Wyoming. Briefly, the man sold sex movies by mail to a small clientele. The Feds had a postal inspector order films from him for the express purpose of making a case in a small town they had selected in the expectation the citizens from whom the jury would be picked would be anti-sex and anti-porno and thus convict.

This is a form of entrapment but was used frequently in the Sixties and Seventies by the federal government to prosecute people who dealt in sex merchandise by mail. It was allowed by a section of law passed by congress in the Fifties, I think.

The man was duly convicted, and appealed. And now, lo---the Supreme Court has handed down a reversal of his conviction and in the process has in effect thrown out the piece of dubious law upon which these pre-planned, site-chosen porno cases are based.

Since this was a simple, clear case of quasi entrapment, of a set-up, the Court has said to the Justice Dept.: Don't do this no more! This reversal of a conviction is precedent in law, and any future, similar cases of entrapment-by-mail will most likely be thrown out by lower federal and state courts.

The notification of reversal and order to the U.S. District Court for the district of Wyoming to vacate

its judgement also mentions that Supreme Court Justices White, Powell and Rehnquist dissented. Which means it was a 6-3 decision.

I did not notice this story in the OREGONIAN. Tsk. This is a very important decision and relieves editors, publishers, and writers of a large worry. Also motion picture producers, actors, etc. Anyone who sells what might be called erotica by mail is concerned...as are their customers...about their freedom and right of choice.

1-28-79 I notice a large number of ads in the paper for woodstoves and various inserts for fireplaces to make them more efficient heaters. The people of Portland were taught a lesson during the early January ice storm and power cut-off, and seem to be willing to buy all kinds of back-up heating equipment.

Also, heating oil and gas and electricity has gone up and is scheduled to go up by leaps and bounds in 1979.

I've been thinking more about our fireplace, too. As soon as I can afford to have it cleaned I'll put a sheet of metal in the back of it to reflect heat better, rig up the pipe sections I have which are supposed to heat up and direct flows of hot air out into the room, and angle those upper pipe sections to become a support for a wall of wood which is also supposed to direct more heat outward. The burning wall of course, resting against the pipes, will heat the pipes more and hopefully cause them to vent out more hot air.

All this is subject to testing.

The problem I have been thinking about is how to stop the flue from draining off all the warmth from the house after the fire dies down and you want to go to bed. The flue must remain open enough to keep CO² and smoke from filling the house, and as a result, because the heat generated by the fire is less than the heat drained by the flue, you can wake up in the morning with ice on your nose and the house as cold as a refrigerator.

The solution is to seal off the fireplace except for a very small vent to allow some draw up the flue to drain off the dying fire's smoke and gasses. You'll have some heat loss due to the vent, but not the huge loss from an unsealed fireplace.

I have some ideas....

I see that Iran's Prime Minister Bakhtiar is going to fly to Paris to confer with Khomeini to "seek advice" on Iran's future. This comes as rumors fly that there have been pre-

liminary negotiations between Khomeini and the current Iranian government and the military.

Obviously Bakhtiar's visit is to seek assurances that Khomeini isn't going to make radical changes in Iran when he takes over. If the military and Bakhtiar are given those assurances they will probably bow to public demands and make a big show of unity and help Khomeini take over. If Khomeini is too arrogant and idealistic and radical...he will be resisted and there will be a civil war in Iran.

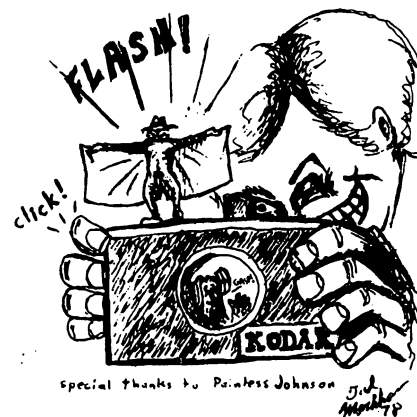
Khomeini has said that a lot of the existing contracts with western companies will be cancelled as too disruptive to the moslem way of life.

And there is a LOT of worry that he may declare most of Iran's debt to the big western banks to be cancelled. Essentially Bakhtiar and the military are acting as agents for Iran's creditors as well as their own power and positions.

If Khomeini is adamant and arrogant, he might be assassinated, as was Mossadegh, the rebel who took over Iran's government and who wouldn't play ball with the big oil companies. The CIA eliminated him.

There will be a memorial service next Friday at a big church in NY for Nelson Rockefeller. Many notables will attend...such as all the Rockefeller agents and cohorts in government, including, I'm sure, Carter, Mondale, Vance, Brzezinski, Kissinger...

Both Carter and Mondale may not be there, since putting the P and VP of the USA in one place like that may not be a good idea, security-wise. It should be interesting to see who is invited and who not.



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