

PERSONAL JOURNAL #10

3-15-79 Ahh, the freedom of uncensored writing... Wha—? you say? Geis has been censored? Well, an attempt at censorship was made.

See, when I took the pasted-up copy pages of REG #9 to the printer I have been using these many years for small jobs, the officious, arrogant, snotty "assistant manager" (of an office with maybe three employees) happened to read part of the first page, and after I was gone phoned a superior in the organization, read the superior what I had said in REG about the slipshod job of printing they had done on REG #8 (before redoing it when I complained) and was (I presume) told to call me and insist I delete the section or suffer having them refuse all my printing business forever.

There are only about two hundred printers in and around Portland.

I agreed to come by the next day and pick up the copy. Intending then to simply have another 'budget' printer do the job.

Then I received a call from a higher up, a friend in the chain whom I have known and liked for maybe six years.

She insisted that I had slandered their company and was endangering their "thousands of dollars of advertising". I was incredulous. One man who reports a sloppy job of printing in his 500-copy personal journal (with about ten Oregon subscribers) is a threat?

She even said that unless I changed the wording or deleted the section they would turn the matter over to their attorney.

I got huffy and she changed direction and then mentioned that she didn't see why I had to mention their name!

Their damned name wasn't important to me, so I instantly agreed to delete those two words...and she agreed that they would then agree to print the issue.

And, indeed, that is what I presume is now occurring.

But as I think back now on it all, I'm absolutely amazed at their over-reaction, their panic, their insecurity, and their preposterous waste of valuable executive time to deal with this terrible threat to their existence.

And I'm appalled at their lack of perspective and terror of any public (however marginally public) reporting of an error...and I'm disturbed at their attempt at coercion and use of threat. (Though I'm equally sure their attorney would tell them they had no case if they didn't already know it.

Why did I take REG back to them? They're still the cheapest printers I've found in Portland.

3-17-79 A transformer blew in a sub-station last night and 2000 homes (ours included) were without electricity for two hours.

But we already had a fire going in the fireplace, and I quickly brought up two camping lanterns and we settled down to read and listen to the battery-operated radio I have had for twenty years (a Zenith transistor—never a bit of trouble) and one news item was ironic: Pacific Power & Light Co. (whose power was out) was applying to the Oregon utility commission for a 13.6% raise in rates. After five or six similar raises in the past few years. We are using less electricity now and paying about double the monthly rate compared to 1976.

Since the oil burner is a major user of power in the home, not using the oil furnace saves both oil and a significant dollar value of electricity.

The fireplace furnace/blower setup now looks more and more like a great small investment.

By the way, a small tip: when the power goes off in your home or apartment, turn off your TV, refrigerator and oil burner because when the power comes back on it will surge past the usual voltage, and it is possible to rev up and burn out electric motors and TVs. After a few seconds the power

company's regulators will have stabilized the voltage and then you can turn appliances and etc. back on. A really conscientious person would turn off everything except one tell-tale light.

3-24-79 HEW chief Califano told a health group that there is reason for the three biggest lies in America. These lies are:

1. THE CHECK IS IN THE MAIL.
2. OF COURSE I'LL MARRY YOU, SWEET-HEART.
3. WE'RE FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU.

It used to be thought that the reason alcoholics were so skinny and malnourished was because they lived off their alcohol calories and weren't hungry enough most of the time to eat a balanced diet.

Now researchers have discovered that seven drinks a day (about seven beers, or seven shots or seven mixed drinks) for as little as three weeks results in a change in body chemistry and small intestine activity. The small intestine's behavior alters from absorption to rejection of food passed on from the stomach. Anemia is guaranteed.

So now you know how to commit suicide if you like to drink. A couple years of at least seven drinks per day will weaken and starve your body so much you'll be easy prey to some disease—maybe pneumonia—and you'll be gone.

Umm...I wouldn't advise using this technique to lose weight. The booze would cost too much and you might not be in condition to stop in time.

The "catastrophic" rise in prices lately has everybody screaming. George Meany—the moron—wants total wage/price/profit/interest controls, and everybody is shell-shocked by the 15% annual rate of what is mistakenly called "inflation."

What is going on is that the Fed-

eral Reserve was into a policy of inflating the money supply up until November of last year. The dollar crisis (the creditors blew the whistle on the constant devaluation of the dollar) forced the Fed to reverse and just about stop cold the creation of new money. And that new policy has been in effect for five months now.

All that money from last year is now working its way through the economy—a kind of delayed action effect—and the Fed freeze won't begin to be felt for another month or so. THEN there will be a slowdown, maybe a credit crunch...as the tight-money pill works its way through the economy.

"Inflation" will moderate, unemployment will rise...

What you must remember about the current price increases is that a large percentage of them are real-cost increases, and not just automatic consequences of previous (1978) dollar devaluation by the government. Energy is more expensive in real dollar, real cost terms. And meat is more expensive largely due to supply and demand factors.

At present our national income is expanding less than our cost increases, and sooner or later—right now for a lot of people—shrinking real-purchasing-power will force a stark realization of a lowered standard of living. Consumer debt skyrocketed in 1978 as people bought to beat price increases. That option is about ended as credit runs out and uncommitted income shrinks.

The economy is vulnerable to a debt crunch. If the coming slowdown lasts too long it will enter a second, catastrophic phase of everybody-can't-pay-what-they-owe. A deflation/depression.

Turkey owes the big banks and the international lending agencies 10 billion dollars. There is no way they are going to be able to pay off those debts. They are now into a second round of rescheduling debts and postponing payments.

It's all a stall. All that's possible now is loans from the U.S. government which can be used to keep the big banks' loans legally alive.

But as other countries default and have to be aided by the U.S. treasury,

there will be maverick politicians who will try to make headlines and higher office by viewing this ripoff with alarm. Maverick, anti-establishment magazines and other media will play that tune, and Congress will be forced to pay attention.

If it turns out that a big bank is in serious trouble a run on all banks could develop.

But that's years away, I think.

Oil, oil, oil... What is the real truth about oil?

The truth is that there is enough oil in the ground in this country to supply our needs, but it won't be pumped out of the ground until the oil companies get their price. We've sucked up most of the easy-to-get oil, and the vast amounts of harder-to-get oil will wait for decontrol and supply-demand prices that will make it highly profitable to bring up and use.

Those are the cold equations. We will suck up foreign oil as long as it is cheap enough.

Energy will always be available—coal and oil—from-coal, and oil shale and Mexican oil...Canadian oil...Chinese oil...

(One reason for our eagerness to kiss and make up to China may be that our spy satellites which examine the world's geography with mineral deposit sensitivity probably discovered a great deal of wealth in that country which even the Chinese do not know about yet.

The Rockefeller/Morgan power locus, with pipelines into the U.S. administration and the C.I.A. got advance data and set things in motion.)

A point to remember is that we are not totally dependent on foreign oil as is Europe. In order to assure oil supplies from the near east OPEC suppliers, Europe may have to become our enemy. They may have to side with the arabs in the festering, endless problem of the Palestinian refugees/homeland/Israeli-occupation.

The Egypt-Israel treaty about to be signed waffles on the Palestinian question, and is probably doomed to fail, in spite of all the billions of dollars our government is going to spend to keep the facade in place. Israel will

never give the West Bank lands back to the Palestinians. And when this is finally, irrevokably clear to everyone, Egypt will revolt against Sadat or Sadat will have to denounce the Israelis and break the treaty.

The Saudis already know the facts of life, but are in a box: they are a moslem nation and must support moslem dogma and imperitives. They must support the Palestinians and the PLO, and must protect themselves against leftist-marxist invasion and subversion. They must protect their money and their oil, and their rule. Only the U.S. can help them there.

They might make a deal with Russia: call off your pressure from Iran, Africa and South Yemen and we'll be more anti-American and inflict some damage to the American and European economies. But that is also self-destructive. The Saudi ruling family is walking a tight-rope and the odds are they won't be able to do it more than a few years more.

So almost surely there are more oil crises coming from the near east. We can expect ever-higher energy costs, in real terms, and if not a depression, at least a long-term stagnation of the economy, high unemployment and a lower standard of living for most people.

The benevolent government, of course, will be only too happy to extend its help/control and Big Brother it up all over the place.

It'll be the carrot on a stick for most people—nibble, nibble—into a near total dependence on government for food, work and shelter, as ever-larger percentages of families are gathered in to become captives and slaves and powerless, frightened wards of the power-hungry government bureaus and departments. Ahh, how they'll secretly enjoy the begging, the supplication, the power of virtual life and death over people. How the bureaucrats will beat their breasts over their work load and how they serve and protect...how much they love their slaves—err—recipients!

I'm going to add some grape vines to the back fenceline, behind the garage. The raspberries are very happy there, so we'll give grapes a try. After a few years the excess, if any, of grapes can be dried to raisins.

3-28-79 Saw an ad in ORGANIC GARDENING two days ago for a fireplace insert or device that would draw air from outside to feed oxygen to the fire, therefore conserving warm house air. That would make the fireplace forced-air heating unit even more efficient. Then I realized I have such a potential system already built into my fireplace.

There is a square hole in the back floor of the fireplace, usually covered by a metal plate, which allows ashes to be deposited into a large holding space about three feet long, two wide, and 15" high. And there is an access door to that space on the outside of the fireplace, to allow periodic scooping-out of the acculated ashes.

So...why not open that access door (a metal plate that slides up and down in metal slot-guides), and remove the plate that covers the inside fireplace hole? I'd get a flow of air from outside up through the fireplace. Da?

I tried it.

Too much air! The fire burned like a blast furnace!

So I narrowed the outside opening to a minimum and made a new cover for the inner hole so that the air is channeled forward toward the glass doors and then feeds the fire. Too, I have two firebrick in position which allow me to adjust the opening and control, roughly the fresh air flow. And which allow me to seal off the air if I want. A kind of crude damper.

The whole point of this entry is to alert you to this option if your fireplace is built with a convenient ashes box below and has an outside access.

The temperature is supposed to drop to 40° tonight, so I'll give the new air-supply system a good test.

The extent of the Media coverage of the Israeli-Egypt peace treaty signing is a sign that the establishment wants to pretend it's a great success and triumph. It's built on the sand of the Palestinian question, and even what was signed wouldn't have come about if Iran hadn't gone down the tubes and if the Egyptian economy hadn't gotten progressively worse. And, most important, if Carter and his bosses hadn't decided to bribe everyone in sight with aid and arms packages...\$4.5 billion is the lat-

est total given. You can bet your pocket money it'll creep up and up, unobtrusively as the years pass.

The treaty is so much a blatantly American affair—Carter's visit, the signing in Washington, the lobbying of Congress by Begin and Sadat—so obviously American contrived and managed, that it labels Israel and Egypt as bought and paid for client states, puppets, and certainly puts Sadat in our pocket in the eyes of every arab...everyone with a brain...in the world.

Making the strings so visible may have been a mistake.

Sadat is now in a class with the shah of Iran. You can look for him to crack down more and more heavily on opposition to him in Egypt. And sooner or later....he'll be overthrown.

In Iran we see leftists helping one and all population groups who want more autonomy. Anything to destabilize or balcanize the country. Khomeini may be able to stay in power as long as he lives, but he's very old, and when he dies, has a stroke, whatever, a power vacuum will be created and the Communists will probably be ready to take over.

3-31-79 About the "accident" at the Three Mile-Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania....

The authorities have gone through the usual series of lies about what happened. Ever-conscious of eventual law suits and possible criminal charges...new laws possibly closing the plant down forever (at great loss to the stockholders of the utility), they have only reluctantly admitted the extent and seriousness of the event.

From my reading of the newspaper and viewing TV reports, a partial melt-down of the pile seems to have occurred. At first one-quarter of the fuel rods were damaged. Now, it is reported that half of them are damaged.

"Damaged" could mean melted. The question is: can the technicians keep the small pool of melted radioactive metal at the bottom of the core from penetrating the wall of the reactor and eating/melting through the concrete back-up containment walls and floors.

I don't think the authorities are yet

admitting the full danger. They want to prevent panic. They want to save the nuclear power industry.

But always remember: Authorities often lie. In a crisis they always lie.

After two nights of not having to heat the house because of warm enough days (the house absorbs and holds heat very well) we used the fireplace "furnace" last night. The outside air draft works well; it makes for a hotter fire and allows a smaller fire. Also, there is no danger of the fire going out, a problem we had previously. It takes about five small chunks of wood an hour to keep the house temperature at a steady 71-72°. And that includes heating a large livingroom, a diningroom, a kitchen, a hall, and (marginally) two bedrooms and the bathroom, whose doors are always partially open.

There are reports that the major oil companies began to reduce imports of foreign oil before the Iran shut-down, and that the present "shortage" was planned, to pressure the country for decontrol of oil prices for domestic oil.

Until domestic oil is decontrolled you can expect a series of "shortages" in years to come. Energy Secretary Schlesinger is doing his best to help this scheme, but strong opposition in Congress and in the cynical public has to be overcome.

The Oregon legislature is forgetting the tax-cut message of last Fall. They are tinkering and rearranging, trial-ballooning... What will come out of the legislature is a tax shift: some small property tax cuts for home-owners only, an income tax cut... But NOT an indexing of tax rates to inflation, which keeps in place the racheting of people into higher tax brackets as their inflation-fueled income rises...(though their purchasing power remains the same or declines). Thus after a few years taxpayers will be back in the same old high tax bite rut.

As predicted, the people are starting another referendum petition to put a flat 1% of assessed value limit on property taxes, for everybody.

Here we go again.

Now the Three Mile nuclear plant has a hydrogen bubble which is becoming more and more explosive (potentially) as time goes by...and the counties surrounding the site are on full evacuation alert. And President Carter has made a visit to the plant and said a precautionary evacuation may be necessary...

We are told the nuclear pile is stable and the hydrogen bubble is diminished. But. An evacuation of possibly several hundred thousand people may still be required if the engineers (and higher authorities agree) that a venting of the pile is required to solve the crisis problem of the potential of a melt-down or hydrogen explosion.

Venting presumably means releasing that radioactive hydrogen to the outside air...and contaminating the air and land down wind for an X number of miles.

I suspect that the pile is notter and the bubble more critical than we are being told.

I suspect they are "preparing" the local population for evacuation with soothing words.

I suspect they are waiting for a favorable weather report (best wind direction, no rain) before ordering the evacuation.

I suspect the army and national guard are being readied for anti-looter duty, etc.

If there is an evacuation and a contamination of nearby lands...the nuclear power industry is stopped dead in its tracks.

The Arab League has agreed on an economic and political boycott of Egypt to punish Sadat for signing the separate peace treaty with Israel.

This includes (surprisingly) Saudi Arabia...who now will I assume cut off their billion dollar aid to Egypt.

That, if true, will be a terrific blow to Egypt. First reports of Egyptian reaction to the boycott is that they shrug and said they expected it.

But living so close to the margin as Egypt does...that means the U.S. will have to send an extra billion dollars in aid, to keep the people fed and to keep Sadat in power. Thus the \$4.5 billion dollars the Treaty was to cost

us in three years will now total around \$7.5 billion, at least.

This will make Sadat even more obviously "our man" and Egypt an in-our-hip-pocket country...and will polarize the other arab countries against us even more.

The Saudis may have bought themselves some time and some acceptance among their more-moslem-than-thou and socialist Arab League neighbors by agreeing to cut off their aid to Egypt. If so, they will be obliged to continue their anti-American, anti-Egypt/Sadat policy.

THAT MEANS cutting production of oil to keep the oil price high and then higher.

THE WARRIORS is a fast-moving Good-NY-Gang-Being-Chased-With-Intent-to-Kill across New York City by various other (bizarre) NY gangs. The Warriors are mistakenly believed by the others to have killed a "unity" gang leader at a big gang conclave in the Bronx.

But for all its running and fighting and costumed, freaky gangs, the movie sucks. The Warriors are supposed to be tough, street-wise young men. But they are taken in, tricked, conned by the most obvious ploys by their enemies-of-the-night and by a stakeout police-woman in a park. The plot needed these traps and narrow escapes, and all the script writers could think of was SEX! Young men running for their lives will risk everything for SEX!

The film has a classic structure and the fight scenes are almost beautiful to watch, so well-done are they. But the Dumb Quotient ruined the movie for me.

4-3-79 The situation at Three Mile Island is probably now safe for the surrounding communities, because the engineers have gotten most of the hydrogen bubble in the nuclear core vessel drained away into the surrounding container building. So there will not be a melt-down or an explosion.

BUT. The large container building is now thoroughly contaminated with very "hot" radioactive wastes, and the entire nuclear power facility may be a total loss.

Which leads me to these thoughts: As the existing, operating nuclear power plants age, more and more components will break down. There will be more and more "accidents" and more and more frequent repair shut-downs, making the electricity produced by such plants more and more expensive.

Also, there is still no safe, acceptable way to store the accumulating radioactive waste from nuclear power plants (and from manufacturers who use radioactive materials). The question of what the utility and the government is going to do with the massive quantities of radioactive water and hydrogen from the Three Mile Island disaster which is now in the sealed container building has not been faced.

In the end, the true, accumulated costs of our nuclear power industry (including the not-considered or underestimated costs of tearing down or abandoning-but-having-to-guard inoperative, aged nuclear power plants) have not yet been realized. They will be staggering.

4-7-79 It turned out that a voluntary evacuation of up to one-sixth of the people around (20 miles around) the Three Mile Island nuclear plant occurred. Something on the order, it is reported, of 100,000 people were scared enough to leave.

And I was surprised to learn that so much radioactive steam had been automatically vented into the air on a continuing basis. And that a lot of radioactive water had been pumped into an unsealed utility building. All of this is, to me, NOW-they-tell-us info kept secret or minimized in national radio and TV and wire service reports.

Yes, the government and the other people who are vulnerable to blame will tell the truth eleven different ways before they'll tell a lie!

Good ol' President Jimmy Carter bit the bullet and did what he had been told to do by his oil/bank bosses: he will gradually decontrol the price of domestically produced oil over the next few years. He then shifted the monkey off his back to that of Congress, by asking our bought-and-paid-for representatives to pass an excess-profits

tax on the expected windfall profits of the oil companies.

Oh, yeah, Congress will pass an excess profits tax, with loopholes and exceptions, to insure that David Rockefeller & Co. get their extra billions per year, and some of the tax money will go to more lip-service development of "alternative energy sources", and more transfer payments of wealth to poor people who can't afford the higher heating oil costs.

What this charade is, of course, is a disguised per-gallon tax on oil and gasoline by the government. It is also another big price increase by the oil banks. They each get what they want. And very soon after the current controversy over decontrol fades away (and just in time for the heavy travel and tourist season) gasoline will be in good supply.

It is said that the American people will pay any price to drive their cars. That proposition will be tested in the next three years.

I do expect some decline in driving by those who really are low on after-the-necessities-are-paid-for money every two weeks. Eating out will slump a bit...movie-going will slow, and TV watching will go up. Maybe reading will increase.

When the recession/depression hits later this year all these optional spending industries will suffer drastically.

I know I promised you all a ~~fantasy~~ sexy novel, MASTERS OF DEATH, would start in this issue of REG.

But I got a call a few nights ago from a NY editor who is presiding over a new line of sex-laden S&S novels his publisher is beginning, and who liked CANNED MEAT and ONE IMMORTAL MAN, and who invited me to send opening chapters and an outline for the new line.

The quickest way I could do this was to send what I had written of MASTERS OF DEATH, which as far as I can tell from the conversation fits the requirements. We shall see.

I can't delay this issue while I conjure up another novel for REG, so I'll stick with the regular format until I find out about MASTERS. And, too, I don't like to write two novels simultaneously. I'm not that schizo-

phrenic!

I could do a present-day sex novel, and maybe I will...maybe it would be appropriate for a personalzine devoted to present-day affairs. Hmmm... I have this novel, SPLITTING, outlined... (Have had for years) Maybe next issue it will begin in these pages.

4-8-79 I laugh! I snirkle! Jimmy Carter is so utterly contemptible... I see that he is now vowing to fight Congress to the death to get his proposed excess profits tax imposed on the oil companies, to prevent obscene profits and a monumental rip-off.

This is called misdirection. HE IS THE ONE who is going to decontrol the existing domestic "old" oil prices which will allow the oil companies to raise prices to world levels (read OPEC levels) from \$6. a barrel to \$18 - \$20 per barrel.

He's trying to blame Congress and the evil big oil companies for the consequences of his actions. Well, he's trying to shift the blame and save as much of his political life as remains.

I wonder how David Rockefeller will pay Carter off? Keep that question in mind.

4-10-79 Now I'm thinking of doing the first 7,000 words or so of SPLITTING this issue, once I get the partial and outline of MASTERS OF DEATH off to NY in a few days.

I'll have to type/cut-the-stencils for it on the IBM, however. No matter how I arrange lights, it is very hard to see these words clearly; the light glares off the stencil film and with this very small type size....

I can manage okay for these type of entries, but fiction is something else.

As I understand the situation, the "cooling down" process at Three Mile Island is one of some danger, because the scientists are afraid any cooling of the pile will possibly create another hydrogen bubble and renewed danger of explosion and damage to the water pressure and cooling water flow mechanisms...thereby bringing a melt-down into possibility, again.

So the powers-that-be at the nuclear power plant are simply holding the damaged pile in a stable 270° heat range and a 1000 pound per square inch pressure range, and are waiting for the best advice and the best procedure.

Obviously they're scared to death of another "accident" and another radiation scare and the resulting death-blow-to-nuclear-power publicity.

In a way they're holding a hand grenade with the pin pulled.

The latest suggested way to safely store radioactive wastes is this, as reported in SCIENCE NEWS, March 31, 1979:

'The idea is to bond atoms of the radioactive waste into the crystalline structure of a stable, synthetic host rock composed primarily of three minerals: perovskite, hollandite, and celsian — at least two of which are highly insoluble. The mixture of minerals and radioactive wastes would be melted separately and then combined in a ratio of nine parts melted rock to one part waste. The igneous blend would then be poured into a thick-walled nickel canister and uniaxially cold-pressed to about 70% of its theoretical density. After being sealed with a thick copper and nickel lid, the entire assembly should be hot-pressed at 1200°C to 1300°C into a mechanically strong package.'

The burial procedure requires drilling holes in granite to depths of 3000 meters. The holes could be filled with these waste/rock copper-nickel canisters to 1000 meters. The top 1000 meters would be filled/sealed with impermeable clay and mudstone.

My comment is that all that may be effective, but it sounds agonizingly expensive! Plainly, we have got ourselves a deadly, financially ruinous tiger by the tail in nuclear energy and nuclear manufacture.

Now it is discovered that small changes in the earth's magnetic field, caused by the flux of solar particles, is responsible for a change in some medical problems—especially heart attacks.

How does it happen? Scientists are not sure. Some obscure effect on

the glands...blood chemistry.... Biology and astrology and medicine may eventually be merged. Someday you might see advertisements for living in "high" or "low" earth magnetic areas for longer life, for the best chance of conceiving a child having a certain character...intelligence....

And could be certain areas would be avoided...deserted...because of the earth magnetism level.

By Ghod, sir, fortunes await people with foresight and daring, in this field!

4-12-79 The United States' public (national) debt passed the \$800 billion mark this week.

Our government's debt has doubled in seven years! This, plus a comparable increase in business, personal, and state and local debt over the same period, has resulted in a 100% devaluation of the dollar.

It's that simple. What is called inflation is actually devaluation. Actual real-cost prices aren't increasing; the value of the paper money is decreasing bit by bit as more and more is "printed" by borrowing.

When you are into an economy that is living off the future you must take the actions required to either beat the debtors at their game or insulate yourself and your wealth/purchasing-power from what they are doing to the "money".

It has been 50 years since 1929. The powers-that-be have decided to restrict the money supply, tighten the cost of money, increase the real cost of living, and try to draw back from the brink of an "inflationary" blow-off.

The result will be/is a recession that may in turn get out of control as the top-heavy mountain of debt starts to melt into unavoidable, snowballing bankruptcy.

SUICIDE IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF BANKRUPTCY

I note with jaundiced eye and curled lip that President Carter intends to nominate Emmett Rice and Frederick H. Schultz to fill two vacancies on the seven-member Federal Reserve Board.

The "Fed" governs the nation's mon-

ey and credit. It is supposed to be an independent agency. Ha! It is being blatantly stacked with Rockefeller/Morgan agents and fellow travellers.

Last year Carter put Fed Chairman G. William Miller and Nancy Teeters on the board. Now Emmett Rice, a Washington DC banker who has served on the World Bank and in the Treasury Department (both institutions long controlled by the U.S. money elite), who is just coincidentally a member of the Rockefeller Council on Foreign Relations, is to be one of the most powerful men in the country by reason of his votes as a member of the Federal Reserve Board.

Mr. Schultz is a big Florida investment banker who is a long-time friend of Jimmy Carter.

Emmett Rice is sure to be confirmed to the Board by the Senate. Schultz—formerly a rabid Democrat politician—may have more trouble because of his history of partisanship. The Fed Board is supposed to be non-political.

4-17-79 ABC News reported last night that the Supreme Court is soon to reveal a ruling on libel law which will permit public officials suing for libel to force journalists to tell what their thoughts, opinions and conclusions were while they prepared news stories.

Amazing, if true. (This is the first leak of a Supreme Court ruling before it was officially issued.)

It would give government another weapon against the press (and thus against the populace who have a right-to-know, and it seems to wipe out the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, which permits an accused person to decline to answer because of possible self-incrimination.

And it raises the question: how does the accuser force the defendant to answer? How will the court (to whom the accuser will turn for force) make the defendant talk? Put him/her in jail? (As Grand Juries now do on occasion?) And how on earth will the accuser or the court determine if the defendant is telling the truth about what he thought in a given moment or two perhaps a year past? Torture?

What madness!

And yet a further question—will this ruling apply to private persons'

libel cases? How does it affect slander cases?

One of the bothersome problems in burning cardboard-and-paper logs in the fireplace (or woodstove) is having to fish out the wire and metal rings that held the logs together, from the ashes, later.

I pondered upon this and came up with the idea of cutting the paperboard into same-size strips and using glue or paste to bind stacks of them together, thus creating square, laminated "logs".

And I did just that, using ordinary flour-and-water paste to cut costs to a minimum.

They burn fine, but in making them I discovered they are time-consuming to create. It is easier and quicker by far to make roll-up logs and bind them closed with wire or cut-off sections of tin cans. Even counting the time to retrieve the metal from the ashes. And you can reuse the can sections and wire loops several times before they break or crumble due to metal fatigue from the high heat and cooling.

DEAR DETECTIVE is a new TV series with Brenda Vaccaro playing a detective sergeant on the homicide squad. She is now a matronly woman of middle-age.

The program is rather gentle as murder & cops shows go, since the confronted-with-damning-evidence murderer (male and female) always slumps and accepts defeat in the final scene with Brenda. (The lady detective obviously would not be much in a fight and couldn't run a hundred yards at top speed to save her soul.)

There is an amusing switch-in-roles, too, as three male detectives act as her gophers, drivers, and general subservients.

The program is unrealistic as hell, but it has charm and Brenda is a very good actress.

((I note that this series is a short-lived one, having been optioned for only about five episodes.))

4-20-79 INSULT ADDED TO INJURY DEPT. Our non-bearing peach tree—now four years old (and nary a peach) has done it again. All the blooms fell off after giving us hope again. They faded

and fell. And that is the last straw. All the neighbors' peach trees bear every year. So I was sold (at a local nursery) a non-self-pollinating variety. (Come to think, that was the same place that sold me the D'Anjou pear tree and didn't tell me that variety don't bear unless they have a companion within whisper distance.)

So, in high dudgeon and low malice I went out to K-Mart and bought me a young—

GOOD GOD! I just went outside to check the variety I bought and discover it is a Hale. My Stark Bros. fruit-growing booklet says the Hale peach tree is the only variety (listed) which is NOT self-pollinating! Screwed a-gain?

Well, I'll put the little bastard in the ground and hope it can be pollinated by the older tree (and that in turn can be pollinated by the new one.) Whatthehell. I may end up with two fine, bearing, peach trees. Or I might end up with apoplexy.

The U.S. Court of Customs and Patent Appeals has reaffirmed its earlier ruling that a corporation has the right to patent new forms of life created in its own laboratory.

This means that "genetic engineering" has a go-ahead. The possibilities are mind-boggling. The future is looking us in the face—from a test tube.

At issue this time is a "manufactured" bacteria which eats oil better than any natural bacteria.

So...how about a skin bacteria which eats human waste like sweat?—and which exudes a perfume? One that relishes dandruff?

How about a selective disease which suspends ovulation only? One that renders the testicles inoperative as long as wished?

How about a special carpet of hardy mold which grows on the floor and takes the place of carpeting? Naturally it would thrive on dirt and crumbs....

Further down the line are creatures designed for specific labor purposes—picking vegetables, eating unwanted bugs and pests.... Gradually the industrial/home needs would require greater and greater intelligence....

The androids are coming!

4-24-70 In a little-noted ruling last week the Supreme Court did another little number on our constitutional right to be free of unreasonable search and seizure.

By a vote of 6-3 the Court said it was Constitutional for federal agents to force their way into your home or office and plant electronic or mechanical surveillance equipment if a judge okays the surveillance, since 'covert entry' is almost always required to plant the bugs and/or cameras.

For freedom lovers this Nixon-stacked Supreme Court might be called Nixon's Revenge.

Presumably federal agents might sometime, faced with a sophisticated alarm/lock system on a home or office, be forced to fake a strong-arm break-and-entry "robbery" in order to cover their true purpose.

The Court ruled that although the Omnibus Crime Control Act passed by congress did not explicitly authorize breaking and entering, it gives the courts the inherent power to do so.

But where does it stop? Is any means justified to gain the ends of electronic surveillance? Would they be justified in killing a watchdog? Stealing a TV set, or money, to make the "robbery" appear legitimate? Would it be okay to bribe a watchman? Render unconscious a watchman? A wife? A child? Kill an unwanted witness?

Think I'm going off the deep end? Maybe. I suspect the killing would be accidental or the result of panic/pressure by an agent, and would be covered up.

Madness! Sweden has voted in its parliament—259-6—to pass a law (starting July 1, that makes it a crime for any parent to strike any child for any reason, or to treat any child at any time in any way that is humiliating to a child.

No spanking! No slaps! No sending to bed without supper... In short, no punishment except disapproval is allowed.

"Ingmar, I don't think it was right for you to have just kicked in the TV, set your sister on fire and spread flour all over the house."

"SHUT UP, you big motherfucker! I'll do what I want! And you better watch your step! Your attitude—always complaining!—is coming close to making me feel humiliated in the eyes of my friends."

To put it mildly, I think the Liberal/idealist dogma is going to be shot down in flames in Sweden if this law is ever seriously enforced. Children are not simply inher-

ently Good Creatures who are small adults. They are naked ids who must be trained, conditioned, 'civilized' to society. A child whose natural solipsism is not shattered is going to be a sociopath—a criminal—and the blame for that is with the parents and the state.

If the state in Sweden wishes to create a generation of children who know only I WANT and I TAKE and I WILL DO WHAT I WANT, then the whole of their society will suffer for it.

Average individual taxes—paid have risen from \$94. in 1914 when the federal income tax law was first put in place, to \$2,100. in 1978.

Think about it. Consider how the federal government (and the state and local governments aping the feds) have grown in power and ability to interfere and warp and control society in every aspect, by the ability to tax, by the ability to inflate (devalue) the currency and by the ability to consequently buy the loyalty of large segments of the people.

The trend is for more and more control, ever larger tax bites, and ever more devaluation. It works for those who love power over people. They will fight like tigers any attempt to restrict or diminish their power game.

It looks to me like the trend is now beyond control. So I advise you to learn to use inflation (devaluation) and other aspects of their power system to your benefit as much as possible. It's your only defense.

4-25-79 I note with a blink that a movie titled RAW MEAT has opened in Portland today...a horror film starring Donald Pleasance and Christopher Lee. No connection to my 60s novel, RAW MEAT, I'm fairly sure. I'll try to see the film sometime.

Local movie houses—some of

them, anyway—have adopted an "economy hour" from 5 to 6 PM. \$1.50 admission price.

The theaters also shade their admission prices by selling Economy Packs of two-for-one-price coupons (along with ½-price offers by other merchants in the city—mostly fast-foods).

But even two admissions for \$3.75 is high for a single feature.

It strikes me that with gasoline scheduled to be ratcheted ever higher, these large suburban multi-auditorium complexes—with three or four people showing up to watch a film at full price—or half price—will have to bite the bullet and offer more incentives to TV watchers. Do I hear free dishes and Bingo Nights rattling in the closet?

Loompanics Unlimited (a publisher specializing in "underground" and "beyond-the-pale" books (not sex) sent two of their latest for review.

BLACK MARKET OPERATIONS is a study of how stolen goods finds its way to the retail customer. Written by Ted Roselius and Douglas Benton, both Associate Professors at the Colorado State University College of Business, the book has value for its incorporation of pure market theory (supply and demand) with the fencing of stolen property.

It is structured and written in academic, but the chapter on sources of information is great for the pure look into the business of robbery and fencing. A writer would refer to this.

The essence of the book is that the street thief is the equivalent of minimum-wage labor. Fencing is a very safe multi-leveled wholesaler-retailer chain operation and where the real big profits lie.

BLACK MARKET OPERATIONS—\$6. from Loompanics Unlimited, POB 264, Mason, MI 48854.

The other book(let) is the DIRECTORY OF MAIL DROPS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA (With an Appendix for Foreign Countries). Compiled by Michael Hoy. Just published and up to date.

Names and addresses of people and businesses who will rent you their address for receiving mail. Most of them will remail for you, forward mail, and

some will offer telephone and secretarial services.

The Directory costs \$4. from the address above.

4-27-79 An elderly man whom I know told me he had used a length of garden hose in a bicycle tire to replace a worn-out, many-patched tube. He said it worked, but the tire always looked half flat.

It occurred to me that it would be possible to slip a thinner hose into a regular hose and use that combination in a tire, thus giving more support.

I imagine the wheel would be heavier and the ride more bumpier, but I could put up with that in exchange for blessed freedom from flat tires! And freedom from having to fix flats and buying new innertubes.

I'll try this idea sometime when I have an hour or two to spare.

(Another option would be a thin racing bike tube within a slit-lengthwise hose within a regular bike tire, thus giving near-perfect protection against ordinary glass bits, though not against tack and nails. But I've only had a tack/nail flat twice in my 40-year-bicycle-riding life.

Where does all that broken-up glass come from? From young cretins in cars who finish a bottle of wine/beer/pop and who maliciously throw it out of the car window to hear it break and with the hope/wish that the pieces will cause somebody on a bicycle to have a flat. (These jerks have now graduated to cars so they don't have to worry about broken glass causing them problems.)

I hate bottle tossers. They are shits!

The establishment propaganda hype about the need for registration for a National Service for Youth or a new draft suggests to me that the prime movers/owners of our country:

1. Know there is a depression on the way and realize there will be a need to "employ" armies of unemployed, pissed-off young people;

2. Have an overseas war planned and need to have registration in place so that a draft can be begun very quickly.

Their problem is that the youth of

this country are wise and cynical and not about to be conned by words of "Patriotism" "Honor" "Duty" "Country" and etc. The con game by the rulers and their agents is known and of no validity anymore.

The populace will/would fight like tigers to defend the United States from invasion. But will not go to Europe or Asia or Africa or anywhere to die for Exxon, GMC or Citibank.

The Establishment got away with it till—Vietnam. That war (and Watergate) ruined the people for a nice \$\$ Empire war for perhaps generations.

I don't think the Owners realize yet how angry and manipulated the people feel. Especially the under-forty generations. I suspect a new "crisis" is in the works and an Establishment call to fight overseas will result in a near rebellion.

(Of course the over-thirty generations are enraged and pissed about inflation and taxes, and are just beginning to tumble that Carter and Congress intend to try to balance the budget by inflating taxes—by new taxes on oil price increases, and by letting inflation escalate taxpayers into ever-higher tax brackets —instead of by cutting spending.)

If the people don't turn out at least 50% of the incumbent Representatives and Senators in 1980...then my worst fears will have been confirmed and slavery-by-another-name will close in on us.

It does no good to prove to politicians that Socialism and Communism don't work worth a shit, and that a free market and a free people do work best; the powers-that-be are in the power business, and the best, most satisfying power is over people.

They know statism is lousy, inefficient and harmful to people. They also know it concentrates power...from the individual to the state. That's what they want! THEY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING! Don't give them the benefit of the doubt and think they're simply mistaken or stupid. They are greedy, lying, hypocritical bastards...just like the rest of us, and don't forget it!

The fiction that follows is necessarily interrupted in mid-sentence. It continues next issue.