

Trade Winds

Jerome Beatty, Jr.

A group of archaeologists was unearthing old Maya ruins in Yucatán and became hungry for fresh meat, reports A. W. Edwards of Corpus Christi, Texas. Hunters soon brought in an abundant supply of fresh carcasses of wild peccary and other edible fauna. To preserve the meat a member of the crew set up a rack inside a stepped pyramid, built a fire, and proceeded to cure the carcasses with wood smoke. Because of poor ventilation, he was overcome by noxious fumes and became unconscious. Fortunately, he was revived. The incident prompted the expedition leader to post a sign near all the old pyramids: CAUTION: ZIGGURAT SMOKING MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH.

In May, invitations went out to important people in and around Los Angeles, inviting them to a reception in honor of Countess Diane Trejinska and the Honorable Rolf Orlovsky, international banker and celebrity. It was held May 27, and more than 100 attended. The guests of honor arrived in a Rolls-Royce, having flown from Europe for the occasion. They were curtsied to and bowed to, while some ladies argued about whether or not to remove one's gloves when meeting royalty.

"How was Vienna?" one guest asked the Countess, who replied, "So tiring, darling."

"I saw you lunching in Paris with Rudy," someone told Rolf Orlovsky, "but you don't remember me."

Eventually, word got out that it was a hoax, a stunt to promote a new book. Trejinska and Orlovsky are characters in *The Pretenders*, a novel by Gwen Davis, and their parts were played by Sandor and Katya Szabo, friends of the author. It's the kind of thing Gwen Davis would get involved in, I think, for she's a girl of no mean activity and accomplishment. She grew up in Tucson, where her father was mayor, and was graduated from Bryn Mawr at age eighteen. She sang in a Paris nightclub, wrote in London, visited Spain (fell in love with a bull-fighter), Italy (an Italian prince), fell off a pyramid in Egypt, sang in a Hollywood nightclub—all before she was twenty-one.

At twenty-two, she enrolled at Stanford to get a Master's in creative writing. The requirement was to write a "publishable" novel. Her satire on wife-swapping, *Someone's In The Kitchen With Dinah*, was not accepted,

Stanford said, because it was "undignified." Doubleday published it, which seemed to fill the requirement, but Gwen's degree was withheld. For seven years she sent them everything she wrote, and finally her fourth book, *Sweet William*, brought her the parchment. She has written a Broadway play, a motion picture, and 500 songs. "I'm the Jane Austen of the jet set," she told me.

The acronym business got out of hand long ago, but there is no stopping the trend. Recently I heard about groups fighting the teaching of sex in schools. There is PAUSE (People Against Un-constitutional Sex Education) and MOMS (Mothers for Moral Stability). In upstate New York there is GRASP (Greater Rensselaer Alcoholic Service Project), which deals with problems of alcoholics, and the Action Commit-



tee for Narcotics Education and Enforcement, which works with teenagers on those matters. The fact that it's known as ACNEE for short may or may not help.

But from John Mills Martin and Christopher Vickery of Queens College, New York, comes a message. They call it A Contrived Reduction Of Nomenclature Yielding Mnemonics. That, it is safe to say, is the final word on the subject.

Despite the intensive campaign by insurance companies, it is not always advisable to remove the ignition keys from your car. A man who lives in New Hampshire explained to me why. He was at work when he heard on the radio that two escaped convicts were being sought in the country area where he lives. They were armed and dangerous. They were looking for transportation, it was said, and would steal a car. The man quickly called home and told his wife to lock the car. He hung up, satisfied that his automobile wouldn't be stolen. He thought it over a while, and then suddenly called home and ordered her to put the keys back in the ignition and

put the car out in the driveway near the road. Why? Figure it out for yourself.

According to the Los Angeles Times's Matt Weinstock, a California housewife arranged a bowl of anemones in the living room. Her husband then added a bunch of ferns, plucked from his garden. When she snatched her flowers out of the bowl, leaving only the ferns, he asked her why she did such a thing. "Because," she replied, "with fronds like yours, who needs anemones?"

Sharps and Flats: Wayne Moseley pictures Mme. Georges Simenon departing on a long cruise and saying goodbye to her husband: "Au revoir, Georges—don't forget to write."

► Life's saddest experience: reading *Vogue's* regular feature PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT . . . , and not ever hearing anyone talk about the things in it.

► Alison Knowles, in the ninth grade in St. Louis, was amused to read in her *English Grammar and Composition*: "The Forum was a rectangular square. . . ." And what other shapes do squares come in? she asks.

► In New Jersey, two women were arrested for soliciting at a tavern called the Inn Discreet.

► The B. Dalton bookstore in Minneapolis stocks its copies of *Adultery for Adults* in the Self-Improvement section.

► A woman customer phoned the Book Nook in Clayton, Missouri, to inquire if they had copies of *Pornography's Complaint*.

► In Sacramento, a high school English teacher was brought up on charges by the school board. One of the complaints was of a too liberal attitude in the classroom where, a student declared, the teacher made reference to "dangling" participles and "copulative" verbs, in an effort to prove that "English could be sexy."

SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S
KINGSLEY DOUBLE-CROSTIC (No. 1838)

S. J. PERELMAN:
DIAL "H" FOR HEARTBURN

You had to hand it to Jack Ribaldry; cornball though he was, he cut a wide swath. He may have been Harry Hypotenuse, the sum of the squares, but his spending arm never flagged. We played so many matinees at Hattie's and Bergdorf that the help began setting their watches by me.

State of Affairs

Henry Brandon

Nixon and the Weapons Talks

BEHIND THE SEEMINGLY imperturbable facade of the Nixon Administration's monumental infighting over decisions of far-reaching importance has churned up tempers and passions. Much of the fiercest battling has raged around preparations for the Soviet-American negotiations on limiting strategic nuclear weapons. Last week, under pressures from Congress and the press, the President announced that the United States would be ready for such talks by early August, although the National Security Council has yet to hold a single meeting on the matter.

The basic difference between the Nixon and Johnson approaches to these negotiations is the sense of urgency. Under President Johnson the emphasis was on speed. That is why the Johnson team was content with internal agreements on a preliminary policy position that would enable it to begin negotiations as soon as possible; the refining was to be left until it had become clear what sort of proposals the Soviet Union would put forward.

Such controversial questions, therefore, as the development of MIRV (multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle) and the ABM were not included in the negotiating package. MIRV, a nuclear warhead containing up to a dozen smaller warheads, which enormously complicates ICBM defense, is still in the testing stage. The Russians meanwhile also have gone ahead with their own MIRV testing and ABM development. It is assumed they will want to keep the option of maintaining an ABM defense at least against the Chinese. The United States wants to do the same, but the hope is to negotiate an agreement that would make an ABM defense against the Soviet Union unnecessary.

The Johnson Administration gave top priority to such an agreement, since it would offer a clear indication of the extent to which the United States and the Soviet Union could stabilize the arms race between themselves. Robert McNamara, then Secretary of Defense, and his successor, Clark Clifford, believed that emphasis should be put on beginning talks with the Russians as soon as possible. The idea was that once they started, the negotiations would have a restraining effect on the development of new

weapons and would tend to de-escalate the arms race.

Those who argued for speed in the Nixon Administration—and most are to be found in the State Department—made headway because their opposition also obtained what it asked for. The President decided to proceed full speed with MIRV development by rejecting a unilateral moratorium and by making it clear that he would press for his ABM plan now before Congress. He left himself an out, though, by offering to negotiate a reciprocal moratorium with the Soviet Union on MIRV that, if it were put on top of the agenda of the forthcoming disarmament talks, could still halt the arms race spiral.

Another difference of opinion has arisen about Mr. Nixon's pledge to consult our NATO allies. The President and his national security affairs adviser, Dr. Henry Kissinger, strongly believe in living up to their promise. They do not want to see a repetition of the quarrels that undermined relations with our allies after the Soviet Union and the U.S. had agreed on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. This pact, it is claimed, was negotiated largely in secret and presented to the allies as a *fait accompli*. This led to endless controversy with the allies, especially the Bonn government—and the aftertaste of mistrust and continued dissatisfaction has delayed German ratification of the treaty.

On the other side of the coin, Secretary of State William Rogers and his aides are much less certain that it is possible to negotiate with the Soviets and consult with the allies at the same time. They believe that this is likely to slow down negotiations to such an extent that they will get nowhere.

The military favored delaying the missile talks primarily in order to be able to complete the MIRV tests, which have been successful so far. They view the weapon as a hedge against a Soviet superiority in numbers of ICBMs, since the United States has decided to limit the number of Minutemen to around 1,000 missiles.

Another group of experts counsels that time is not of the essence; that the Soviet Union, for economic reasons, needs a disarmament agreement far more than the United States. They maintain that the pressures in the Soviet Union for more consumer goods are such that the Kremlin cannot afford to spend as much money

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