

FRONT RUNNERS

Some Like It Hot, Some Not

Certain problems seem to evade every effort of human genius. Gnats. The common cold. Junk mail. And the coyote. Undaunted by traps, poison, and shotguns, coyotes continue to dine on lamb chops without the decency to purchase them from the butcher like the rest of us. Now some blithe genius—a relation, no doubt, of the one who first applied garlic to bitten nails—has hit on the idea of

tampering with the coyotes' favorite food, rather than with the coyotes.

The solution comes in the form of a \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the University of Wyoming to develop—this is absolutely on the level—synthetic Tabasco to spray on sheep. Tests have shown that coyotes, like the English, prefer their game unspiced. The predators will presumably pass up curried mutton in favor of prairie dog *nature*. At least until one of them invents a synthetic mint sauce.

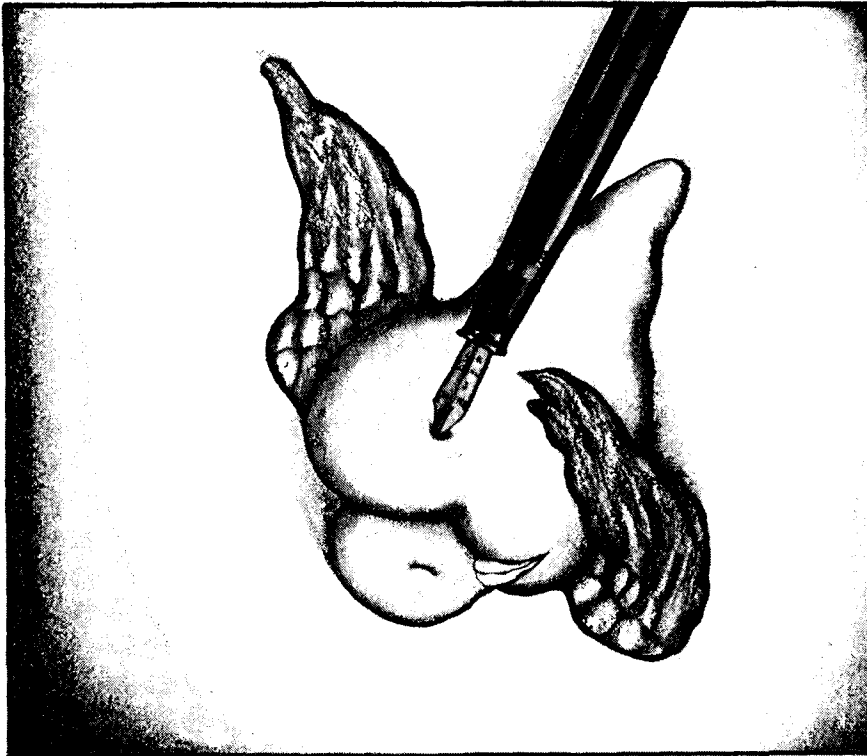
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Saturday Review,
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Alexa Grace



Unwed Contract

They say that romance is dead. Well, it's true. The demolition began with divorce insurance, which coolly recognizes the mortality of nuptial vows by indemnifying both parties against one another's claims once the marriage hits the skids. And now the coup de grace has been delivered by the UnMarriage Contract, which furnishes the same bulwark for those in a "living together arrangement."

The contract "delineates just what belongs to whom, defines property rights of parties entering into a live-together relationship, and spells out the contributions of each person to the household." It retails for a paltry \$24.95, and, once notarized, legally protects unmarried couples from the sort of alimony settlements that they would try to gouge out of one another once the fun and games turned sour. The contract's peddlers point out threateningly that actor Lee Marvin has already shelled out half a million dollars to his estranged tootsie. It could happen to you.

Apple Pie Gets Cut

Someone finally had the moxie to vote *against* children. In early August Senator Dennis DeConcini (D-Arizona) knocked out of an appropriations bill the \$1.3 million budget of the National Commission of the Year of the Child. Said DeConcini, "I am in favor of motherhood, apple pie, and children, but this is ridiculous."

What struck the lawmaker as

ridiculous was that the budget consisted wholly of such overhead costs as personnel (\$460,000, including two positions at \$47,500), and travel (\$140,000). Exactly how this expenditure was supposed to help kids was not specified.

Immediately after the decision was announced, the commission hastily drew up a list of specific objectives in order to persuade the Senator to reverse his decision. Instead, they drove the last nail into their coffin. The first specific goal—and an earth-shattering one at that—was to

"Encourage families in local communities to assume responsibility for the well-being of their children." The other objectives were framed in equally mercurial prose. That convinced the Senator, who is trying to make a reputation for himself as a budget-cutter, not to restore the item.

The last round of funding comes up in January, and the commission is already hard at work on a new statement of purpose. If they blow it again the United States could become a nonparticipant in the International Year of the Child.



Martine Beaudert

Our Father, Who Art in Flour

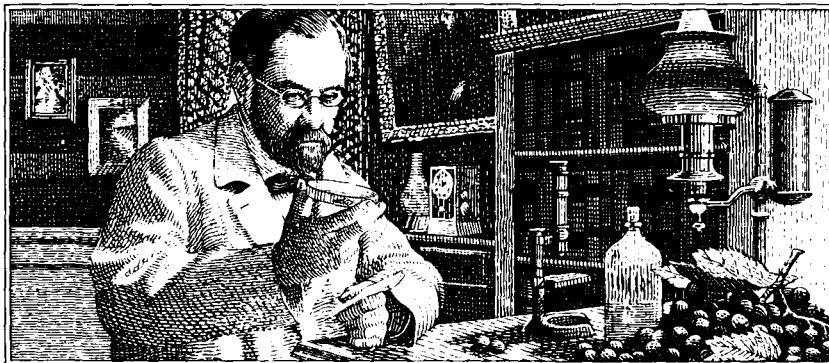
The Lord of Hosts, whose immanence in the wafer has been pretty hotly maintained, has apparently branched out into ethnic foods. In what is perhaps a form of ecumenicism, He has revealed himself, according to the Mexican farmers of tiny Lake Arthur, New Mexico, on a tortilla.

"I was rolling my husband's burrito," Mrs. Eduardo Rubio told a *Los Angeles Times* reporter, "and on the last roll I noticed something that looked like a face." The burn marks from the skillet had arrayed themselves into a striking semblance of the long-haired, mournful figure of the shroud of Turin.

Today "Jesus on a tortilla," as Mrs. Rubio aptly calls it, sits in a separate room of the Rubios' home among flowers and votive candles. Tortilla-worshippers have come by the thousands, many having trekked from New York and the Midwest. Most apparently agree with Mrs. Rubio that "this sign means Christ will return to earth."

Local religious authorities are less enthusiastic about the apparent manifestation. The Rev. Joyce Finnigan, the Franciscan priest who reluctantly blessed the tortilla, remarked, "I'm not too impressed with that kind of miracle." Rev. Finnigan notes that revelations of this variety are "not uncommon" in the area, with Christ having been glimpsed recently on a stone, in Christmas vestments, and gazing serenely from a cloud.

Fermentation: The miracle that turns the juice of the grape into wine.



Although it is an oft-proclaimed truth that fine wine is a living, growing thing, nowhere is this more evident than during that critical, and still somewhat mysterious, process called fermentation.

Yeast: The Catalyst

It is possible that a quantity of fine grapes crushed and left to themselves in an open container will, in time, ferment and yield an acceptable wine.

It is probable, however, that these same grapes will yield a wine not so pleasant.

Which it will become depends in large measure on the vagaries of simple, one-celled plants called yeasts which are found naturally in the bloom on the skins of grapes.

A Louis Pasteur Discovery

Until 1864, wine-making was a matter of uncertainty. But then Louis Pasteur discovered that these yeasts were, indeed, the agents that caused fermentation.

Equally important, he discovered that specific strains with desirable characteristics could be isolated and substituted for the wild yeast in the wine-making process, a major step toward predictable excellence.

Today, our winemakers are devoted to the study of yeasts and to their improvement. Because no one yeast works equally well in every case, we are constantly striving to isolate the ideal yeast for the different varieties of wines.

This development of the specific yeast which maximizes a grape's natural flavor potential is a primary study we have pursued for years.

To achieve a wine of predictable excellence year after year, we developed the first successful dehydration of pure wine yeast. The dehydrated form maintains the consistent purity from year to year and provides us with a "cleaner" wine that is truer in flavor and fragrance to the grape.

Some Like It Cold

During fermentation, heat is created. If we permit the fermenting juice or "must" to attain a temperature of only ninety degrees, the yeast can be injured. At one-hundred degrees, most yeast will die.

Over the years, we have developed precise cooling methods for keeping the fermenting liquid at the optimum lower temperature. This varies from grape to grape. For example, the Sauvignon Blanc, French Colombard, Chenin Blanc, Riesling or Chardonnay we use for our white wines are far more delicate and sensitive to temperature than their more robust red cousins.

We determined that fermenting them at a cooler temperature slows the change from juice to wine and results in protecting the delicacy of the resultant wine.

In this cooled state, the juice can ferment as long as fourteen days rather than three or four.

The Test Fermentation

Knowing the precise moment to draw the wine is a combination of the skill and art of our winemakers.

In some cases we actually take grape samples a few days before harvest and, on a small scale, proceed with fermentation. This gives us a preview of what to expect, and, we then make whatever adjustments necessary to produce the most consistently excellent wine.

Our Purpose

The precise control of fermentation is but one of the many steps which our winemakers have mastered in order to achieve our goal. Here at the winery of Ernest and Julio Gallo, our purpose is to bring you the finest wine that skill and care can produce.

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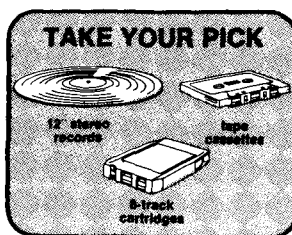
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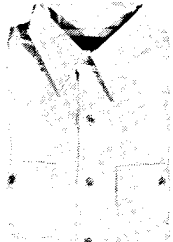
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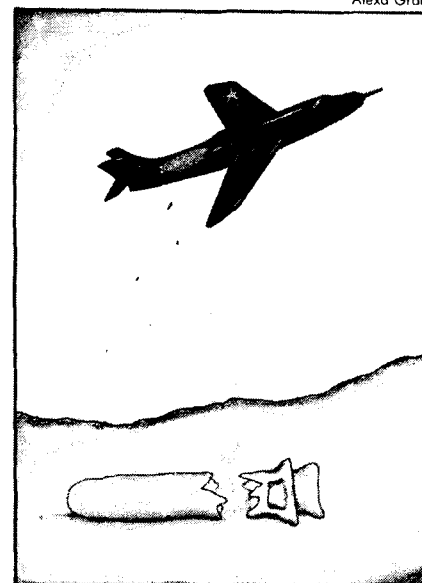
A Pox on Thee

One endangered species whose passing no one will mourn is smallpox, whose official extinction the World Health Organization hopes to announce in October 1979. By that date the only smallpox left in the world will be stabled in high-security laboratories. And there's the rub. WHO has asked the 75 labs that have virus samples to either destroy them or turn them over to one of four designated holders; most have cooperated; but a demurral, though not a refusal, has already come from at least one formidable institution—the U.S. Army.

Intransigence over smallpox samples was not a matter of much public concern until September 11, when Janet Parker, photographer at the medical school of the University of Birmingham, in England, died of the disease. Although the source of the infection has yet to be traced, inadequate security measures seem to be at fault. Which, of course, was precisely WHO's point when it began its campaign to consolidate viral stocks in 1976. Indeed, the death might accelerate the campaign. "The fact that this can happen is a warning to all laboratories," notes a WHO spokesman.

The Army, however, is unfazed. Its Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) did not respond to WHO's request that it transfer or destroy its stocks, though it has not refused to do so. Nor has the recent death shaken their resolve.

What does USAMRIID want with smallpox virus in the first place? Officials claim that they need it "for



Alexa Grace

diagnostic purposes," as might any research lab, and they fear that WHO's designated American holder, the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, might lose its supply.

An entirely less savory interpretation is that USAMRIID is holding on to the virus for research into biological warfare, which the United States forswore in 1969. WHO consultant John Richardson told *Science* magazine that "the only reason to have smallpox virus is for offensive purposes."

Army officials deny the allegations (Richardson claims he was misquoted), and point out that smallpox is too easily neutralized by vaccination to make it a serious military weapon. On the other hand, the success of WHO's eradication campaign would make vaccination unnecessary, thus leaving a vulnerable population.

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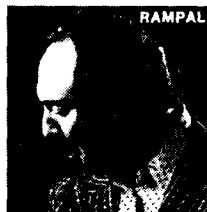
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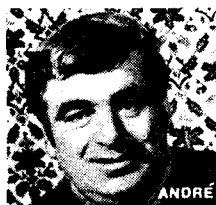
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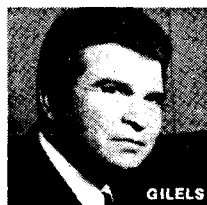
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SATURDAY REVIEW: OUTLOOKS

Editorial: Militarism in Higher Education

WITH VERY little fanfare or public discussion, the Department of Defense is giving serious consideration to a plan for involving itself in a massive way in American higher education.

Underlying this situation is an incontestable fact: Most American colleges and universities are in trouble today because their enrollments are sharply down and their expenses are sharply up. The baby boom of the Forties and Fifties led to a broad expansion of college classrooms and facilities, both on the graduate and undergraduate levels. More recently, however, the ratio of teenagers in our society has dropped precipitately as a result of the steady decline in the nation's birthrate.

The reason for the Pentagon's interest is fairly uncomplicated. The military now finds itself in vigorous competition with colleges and universities for the nation's youth. Eighteen-year-olds are at a premium. The Pentagon wants to be sure it will get its share.

The plan being developed by the defense department does not envisage a head-on struggle with the colleges. Just the opposite. It is preparing to propose a "partnership" with higher education, offering the financial help the colleges so desperately need. In return for providing facilities and tuition assistance, the Pentagon would have the opportunity to provide military training. It seems unreasonable to believe, however, that the influence of the military would stop here. Inevitably, military support would have an effect on the entire philosophy of higher education.

The interest of the military in this direction was signaled some months ago in Los Angeles in a talk given by Thomas Carr, Director of Defense Education for the Department of Defense. Mr. Carr began his talk by calling attention to the implications of the fact that the United States is running short of 18-year-olds. He came to his point quickly:

"Assuming the nation will need to maintain an active-duty military force of about 2.1 million, then in the next five to 10 years... the military must recruit more than one out of three male 18-year-olds."

Mr. Carr forecasts that by 1984 (the year has special significance in Orwellian terms) most of the skills required by the armed forces will be nonmilitary in nature. These "attractive

and worthwhile" opportunities in various forms of military service will be, he believes, appealing to 18-year-olds, who will by that time be facing increased competition from experienced workers.

Against this background, Mr. Carr offers six predictions.

First, that what would appear to be a pitched battle between the military and the colleges for 18-year-olds can be avoided very simply by having the military and the colleges join together in a series of "cooperative ventures." The implication is clear that since the military has the money it will be able to keep the colleges out of bankruptcy. Prospects for recruiting will increase.

Second, Mr. Carr predicts that students will benefit from the natural advantages offered by the military's system of education. Evaluation in civilian schools, he says, is made on a comparative basis. This means that some students are bound to suffer, not because of their own inherent weaknesses, but because of the strengths of their classmates. By contrast, Mr. Carr says, under the military little attention is paid to relative performance, while substantial attention is paid to the student's ability to perform a task successfully. Such an education, he says, will give students assurance of learning valuable skills and getting a job.

Third, Mr. Carr anticipates that "by 1984, given the involvement of such a large proportion of our young people with military service, the military will have become a major instrument for youth socialization." In this connection, Mr. Carr feels that the military will be able to "remedy deficiencies" accumulated by many youngsters in secondary schools. The nature of these deficiencies is not defined by Carr.

Fourth, Mr. Carr forecasts that our military bases around the world will be fully used in the new program. He foresees a situation in which satellites will transmit teaching materials prepared by the colleges to remote areas overseas.

Mr. Carr's fifth prediction is that education will become the means whereby the military will be able to recruit "especially qualified personnel." According to his plan, undergraduates in schools that do not offer ROTC programs will be offered commissions after two periods of summer training if they meet the appropriate qualifications. The effect, he says, will be to cut "lead

time required to produce officers."

The final prediction is that the armed forces will become the largest degree-granting institution in the world.

Mr. Carr recognizes that the widespread involvement of the military in education will not be without problems. He does not gloss over the fact that civilian education puts its emphasis on "creativity, improvement of the human condition, and preservation of cherished social values," whereas the military stresses "obedience, established procedures and hierarchy, and has little interest in a more abstract search for purer knowledge." Another characteristic of the military, he says, is that it emphasizes "competence and performance regardless of how achieved...." But he concludes that the challenge is how to "combine the best features of training and education to produce both better performers and better human beings."

It is not necessary to invent specters. Mr. Carr is the top education officer of the Pentagon. His own words make it apparent that the heavy military involvement in American higher education is not a bogey conjured up by an overheated imagination. He himself says that the military will assume "a large portion of the role once dominated by the family, the church, the school, and the civilian work setting."

The basic question arising from Mr. Carr's notions is whether the American people are going to be spectators to the process. Mr. Carr says nothing about the effect of the program on the philosophy of a free society. There was no consideration in his speech of the violation of traditional democratic procedures. According to his plan, the military would arrogate to itself the right to appropriate or spend funds—a right that, under the Constitution, is a function of the Congress. The American military already has unobstructed access to American tax dollars. It is now proposed that this access be used to establish a military presence of dominant proportions on the American campus.

Few things are more perilous to a free society than the institutionalization of security. We need to remind ourselves that ancient Sparta, which became synonymous with militarism in all its aspects, was once the most creative of all the Greek States. —N.C.