

MNC NEWS

No 100

24th January 1980

HE'S SICK,
HOMELESS
AND
UNLOVED.

ABANDONED BY HIS FRIENDS.
AFRAID TO SHOW HIS FACE
LET HIM KNOW THERE IS
SOMEONE WHO CARES...
SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO
HELP. HE DOESN'T NEED
MUCH...A CHAUFFEUR, A COOK,
A GARDENER, THE BARE
NECESSITIES. PLEASE HELP.

ADOPT A SHAH.



ADOPT A SHAH...

YES I'D LIKE TO ADOPT A SHAH ☐
I PREFER TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION
TOWARDS A ISLAND RETREAT ☐
VILLA ☐ YACHT ☐

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

SWISS BANK ACCOUNT
NUMBER.....

FOR MORE INFORMATION
WRITE TO:

H. KISSINGER
CHASE MANHATTAN
BANK.
N.Y., NY. 10022

E.

USE OF GYMNASIUM

Extensive repairs have recently been carried out to the Gym floor and equipment, and now that it is completed we are naturally delighted.

However, we must try to control our natural enthusiasm and pause for a moment to consider how we personally are treating this equipment. A few simple rules, as posted on the Gym wall, are to be adhered to for the extension of the natural life of this apparatus. If any supporters of euthanasia are discovered giving the equipment the treatment, then their lives in the Gymnasium may come to an abrupt end! Please treat the equipment with care and everyone will be happy.

Definition of an intellectual: Someone who can listen to the William Tell Overture without thinking of the Lone Ranger.

What do you call a cannibal who eats his father and mother? An orphan.
(bet that came out of a cracker)

A Welshman (had to be) was condemned to receive forty whip-lashes, but the more they whipped him, the more he laughed.

"Why are you laughing so much?" they asked.

"You don't understand," he explained. "You're whipping the wrong man."

You've done it again - you've left a gap in this paper and given me a chance!

Unfortunately, my brain seems to suffer from much the same ailment as my moped (of which no more today) namely, that whenever it has a chance to show what it can do it just won't work. Here I am, with a piece of paper in front of me, my best ball-point in my hand, and nothing will come, except this bit of waffle - what Peter Simple would, I suppose, call "meaningless verbiage."

Shall I give you the Saga of the Garage, worthy of 'That's Life'? Shall I explain at great length how, having bought a car last June, for not much better reason than that I happened to see it for sale, I trotted off to the Council to ask them to let me build a garage to put it in, at the bottom of my garden and in line with all the other garages already at the bottoms of all the other gardens in the road, and how I thereby, apparently, set into massive and creaking motion all the enormous machinery of the entire Council Planning Department and necessitated the felling of a small forest to provide all the forms (in quadruplicate), and site, ground and Ordnance Survey plans (in triplicate and sextruplicate), necessitating the meeting of the Council Planning Committee, woke up numerous councillors, both local and G.L.C. (Sir Horace Cutler wrote an article for the Daily Telegraph), and finally got my permission just before Christmas? I could go on, then, to describe how I have been waiting for a driving test since last August so that the car has been sitting in a friend's garage (for lack of a home of its own) all this time, no doubt feeling more and more sorry for itself.

To this attack on Bureaucracy I could then, perhaps, append a diatribe on the state of the roads, which I am sure has nothing to do with Government spending cuts but is just plain slovenliness, and the very slender hope I have of ever getting any recompense for the damage my moped's back wheel sustained when it went down a hole beside a drain, except that I have already promised not to mention that beast again today, so that's out.

No, I very much fear that I am going to have to give this splendid opportunity the go-by, and that this week you must search in vain for the glittering gems of wit and wisdom with which I am wont to regale you. After all, no-one can be brilliant all the time - can they?

Here are some more delvings from my collection of very old howlers.

Galvanic action is set up by different metals acting with a moving metal. It is usually found near stern tubes round the propellers. It is fought with certain paints and also with *lignum vitae* round the shaft.

Spar coiling is a length of rope wrapped round a spar in the form of rings.

Dewpoint is the temperature below which the atmosphere must be cooler.

It will be noted that all clerical thermometers are mercury.

The L.H.A. is the angle made at your own convenience at 12 noon, measured the same way as the G.H.A. but on a meridian which is in your vicinity.

The G.H.A. is either E or W of the L.H.A. Therefore the longitude of the L.H.A. must be either East or West of the G.H.A.

Rational Horizon is the place on which your standing on cutting the Earth in half under your feet.

A circumpolar body is a heavenly body that revolves round and round the celestial pole, and never stops.

The difference between permanent magnetism and temporary magnetism is that permanent magnetism is permanent and temporary magnetism is only temporary.

MY PART IN THE DOWNFALL OF THE SOVIET UNION - THE USS INDEPENDENCE AND AMERICAN NAVAL PRESENCE, MEDITERRANEAN

P.J. Pannett

We had sailed from the Naval base at Naples the previous evening and were now steaming northwards, about a hundred miles west of the port, in the Tyrrhenian Sea, on board the 83,000 ton aircraft carrier, 'Independence'.

Although it is only 6 am. over twenty aircraft have been launched and recovered; some are being fired off by catapult whilst others are being hooked by arrester wires. The sea is calm and we are steaming at 21 knots into a 6 knot headwind, which makes conditions ideal for flight operations. The 4 acre flight deck is a mass of aircraft, towing tractors and men, and I wonder how they ever manage to manoeuvre the aircraft into position, let alone get them into the air.

The 'Independence' is capable of launching two aircraft simultaneously and when that happens the whole ship shakes from the thud of the delivery of two planes into the air, banking away on each bow at 150 knots and faster. They accelerate from 0 - 150 knots in 2½ seconds, which is six Gs, so it is no wonder most aircrew have black eyes.

An F4J Phantom, the type used on the 'Ark Royal' comes in, dropping fast from astern, and clomps down onto the deck, its engines suddenly wound 'wide open' in case it misses the wire and has to go off again. Fortunately this does not happen and the aircraft runs forward the full travel of the wire before being brought to an abrupt halt yards from the end of the runway. The plane swivels inboard and the helmeted and goggled deck crew duck low away from the blast of its engines. The wings fold upwards and the aircraft is towed away by a small tractor. The ship can cope with an aircraft landing every 30 seconds, and the estimated cost of replacing her is now one point eight nine billion dollars (£1000, million).

The Sixth Fleet consists of two aircraft carriers, the other one being the 90,000 ton nuclear powered 'Nimitz', a force of 35 ships, 200 planes, and 23,000 men, and they are responsible for maintaining control of the Mediterranean and nearby areas in the event of trouble.

Only 2 of the 35 ships have home ports in the Mediterranean - a submarine tender in Sardinia and the heavy cruiser USS 'Albany', the fleet flag-ship, which is based at Gaeta, north of Naples. All the other vessels are sent from the United States on six or seven month assignments.

The ships spend about 2/3 of their time at sea on training exercises with NATO vessels or on manoeuvres.

With a crew of 5,000, living conditions are somewhat cramped on the 'Independence', and the berthing compartments are crammed with bunks 3 high. I was told of a youngster who complained to his Congressman that all he got for chow was hamburgers and hot dogs. The Captain had a chat with the lad and discovered that on joining the ship he had been shown the fast food service area and that in his six months on board he had somehow not found, 20 yards away, the cafeteria-style mess room where he could have had 3 or 4 course meals, including steak, shrimp or lobster. Over 20,000 meals are served daily, and bread is freshly baked each day. The officers have to pay for their own food and believe the men eat better than they do.

The Chief Engineer on board is a Captain, who has commanded three ships, and his four main engine rooms produce 300,000 shaft horse power (a super tanker produces about 36,000), and enough electricity for a town of 40,000 people.

Lookouts are still posted, despite radar, and in bad weather two stand forward in what are still called the eyes. Charts, compasses, and parallel rulers are still used even though the ship's position can be seen instantly by reference to a satellite navigation system which makes the ones installed on merchant ships look pitiful. Decks are still swabbed and rat guards are in place in port, bells are rung and watches kept, while the ship is referred to as 'She' despite a recent US Navy Dept. instruction to refer to a ship as 'it'.

There is a 20,000 book library on board and the ship has its own daily newspaper, 'The Independence Guardian', which carries world news, football scores, crew and family news, etc., and 'pinups' by courtesy of 'Playboy'. Films are shown, often 3 or 4 different ones each night, while by day the television sets show what is going on on the flight deck.

Midnight finds us steaming at 12 knots alongside a Fleet Oiler, taking on over a million gallons of diesel fuel and several hundred thousand gallons of JP-5 for the aircraft. Sacks and crates of food and drink are also being transferred. A destroyer is

The Russians now have 49 ships in their Mediterranean Fleet, including 12 guided missile destroyers and cruisers, and it is these that pose the biggest threat. Although the Sixth Fleet is spending more time in port and at anchor than before, they are still at sea a good deal more than the Russians, who are spending increasingly more time at anchorages, for example off Hammamet, Timisia; Cythera, Greece; and off the Southern coast of Cyprus, where they have placed permanent battleship moorings.

On any day some 18 US Navy ships will be visiting various Mediterranean ports, and perhaps half their crews will be ashore. The Sixth Fleet flagship, the cruiser 'Albany' (1,000 men) is reckoned to spend \$75,000 during a week in Port. A carrier such as the 'Independence' which has 5 times that number of men on board will spend \$375,000.

An estimated \$12 million was spent last year in Mediterranean ports on ship maintenance, much of it in Naples, Genoa and Palermo. The average pay-roll for the Sixth Fleet in one month is \$12.8 m, so all efforts are being made to reduce manpower, for instance the new nuclear powered cruiser USS 'Texas' carries only 600 men compared to 1000 on the 'Albany'.

The air wing is made up of six squadrons - 84 aircraft and 2000 men, flying fighters and attack bombers and anti-submarine, electronic warfare and early warning planes. On an ordinary day of flight operations at sea the 'Independence's' aircraft will fly 150 sorties. Afterwards the pilots will return to their squadron "ready rooms" and see video recordings of their landings on, which are assessed 'A, B or C'. Many of the pilots also act as divisional officers in charge of up to 80 men - fitters, mechanics and aircraft electronics technicians, who maintain they can put right just about anything that can go wrong with a 'plane.

On a flying morning planes are brought onto the deck by one of four huge deck-edge elevators, and a helicopter flies over one flank to act as guard to pick up any "fishes". Everyone on the flight deck, including myself, has to wear inflatable lifejackets, cranial helmets, goggles, and noise suppressors. Most communication is made by miming or hand signal.

Big letters stencilled on the side of the Island say "Beware of jet blast, Propellers and Rotors," and men working in this area receive extra pay. A ship-board primer I read points out that an all-consuming Corsair can suck you right into its air-intake, and follows with the words, "never to return as issued".

When a 'plane comes in it attempts to pick up the third out of four arrester wires, but only half manage to achieve this. A phantom comes in, misses all the wires, and with its engines wide open screams past and up into the air again, with arrester hook banging on the deck. The arrester wires are changed after each hundred recoveries, though apparently if it had 98 on the clock and, say, a dozen aircraft were still to come in it probably wouldn't be changed, even though the operation takes only a few minutes. I remember reading in the paper about a wire snapping on the USS 'America' last year, while on NATO exercise. An F-14 fighter came in slightly awry and the wire parted, resulting in the aircraft going over the side. Luckily the pilot and navigator ejected safely.

A tractor driver was lost a few weeks ago on the flight deck, when he became impaled on the underwing fuel tank of an F4J Phantom, and on the ship's work-up period before arrival in the "Medy." one plane and its crew were lost on a training flight for undiscovered reasons. This particular day there were three minor incidents; a Phantom came in with a few inches of its wing tip adrift, a Viking landed on only one engine, and a Crusader rolled unchecked on the deck with no brakes, until stopped by man-power. One squadron on board on anti-submarine work has not had an accident for 17 years.

The most frightening thing, according to all the pilots I spoke to, is switching on "George", the new carrier landing system. This device does the whole job of landing. One pilot, called "Leroy", said sitting in a cockpit with his hands on his knees coming in at 120 knots on a black night is the most difficult thing he has ever done.

I asked one pilot of the Diamond Back Squadron, which flies Phantoms, when he was going to get out of the Navy. He said, "You cargo men just don't understand what keeps us here." He and most of the others thoroughly enjoy the life. Perhaps I should have joined the RN - a bit more thrilling than the Merchant Navy!

NB. On 8.1.80, the USS 'Nimitz' of the Sixth Fleet, with an escort of two cruisers, left for the North Indian Ocean via the Cape.

THE LEAST SUCCESSFUL ANIMAL RESCUE - The fireman's strike of 1978 made possible one of the great animal rescue attempts of all time. Valiantly, the British Army had taken over emergency firefighting and on 14th January they were called out by an elderly lady in South London to retrieve her cat which had become trapped in a tree. They arrived with impressive haste and soon discharged their duty. So grateful was the lady that she invited them all in for tea. Driving off later, with fond farewells completed, they ran over the cat and killed it.

THE LEAST SUCCESSFUL PAY ADVERTISEMENT - In 1976 the European Economic Community pointed out to the Irish Government that it had not yet implemented the agreed sex equality legislation. The Dublin Government immediately advertised for an equal pay enforcement officer. The advertisement offered different salary scales for men and women.

These are two extracts from a very amusing book called "The Book of Heroic Failures". It's a consoling sort of book for struggling students to read. Perhaps the Librarian will be getting a copy.

NOTICE

It is hoped to bring into operation a body whose main function will be to monitor the bureaucratic system in this college today. The governing body will be made up from various factions of the college, teaching and student.

If the outcome is too much bureaucracy steps will be taken to reduce it to an acceptable medium; if, however, not enough is evident, training will take place to various people in the use of filing cabinets, forms and departmental sectoral splits in administration plus collateral.

B. LANELL 26183B

BOOBS FROM THE PRESS

"Fireman Sydney Jacobs is expected to get his massive tender out in 30 seconds."

Weekend Telegraph

"Dying is to cost more at King's Lynn, Norfolk. Higher burial charges are being introduced at cemeteries. The increased cost of living is blamed." Daily Telegraph

Split Personality - "A spark from a bonfire set fire to a pocket of natural gas escaping from a fractured man on a building site." Wolverhampton Express & Star

"Violence - judge hits out."

Nottingham Evening Post

"Wanted - Man to work on a nuclear fissionable isotope molecular reactive counters and three phase cyclotronic uranium photo synthesizer. No experience necessary."

Advert. in the Mines Magazine

"Alsation puppies, K.C. Reg. Used children."

Daily Telegraph, Personal column

Actual question in a child's intelligence test: Fill in the missing letters in such a way that they make a word on their own: "I'm f ___ ing tired today." (Answer, eel) (Perhaps the parents were being tested - work that one out!)

A man goes into a pub. and asks for a pint of 1918 bitter. The landlord, humouring him, goes into the back of the bar and brings back a pint of ordinary beer. "Here you are, sir," says he, "A pint of 1918 Best Bitter."

"Thanks very much," replies the customer, and tossing the landlord two-pence says, "I didn't think you would have any left."

What have a goat and a plum got in common? Neither can drive a tractor.

Husband. "You know dear, Fido's hearing isn't as good as it used to be."

Wife. "Nonsense. Come here Fido. Now sit."

Husband. "There, I told you so!"

Wife. "Alright dear, I'll clean it up."

Did you hear about the paranoid rugby player?

Every time the other team went into a scrum he thought they were talking about him.

Engineering students...

'ORRIBLE CROSSWORD

Clues Across

1. (6,7) Organises shop display giving strip show reversed?
8. (5) Means of access for casting.
11. (6) Den with rug provides form for grammarian.
12. (8) The time to choose.
15. (3) Went first, or following after.
16. (5) Horse trial, maybe, happening.
17. (3) Copy cat! He's a tail-less monkey -
19. (5) - whereas this one's like a bird.
20. (5) Common peculiarity of verse.
22. (6,7) Bright plumage and a talent for mimicry, no doubt.
25. (3) The viper in her bosom.
26. (5,3) Provide the p's, or should it be peas?
29. (7) Dressed state of the right-minded.
31. (2,3,8) Facing calm time, yet depressed.
35. (3) Tree left after fire.
36. (4) You Quaker.
37. (5,4) Classical tag, set in Roman type?
39. (7) NE, E, SSE, S, and so to mystical Jews.
40. (8) A tin lump, smelted, becomes very precious.

Clues Down

1. (7) Member of team supplying horse-power.
2. (4) White and Blue, nurtured Ancient Civilisation.
3. (4) Stop for hop between garden and brewer.
4. (10,5) Not the shortest distance from A to B!
5. (8) Originally earth, air, fire and water.
6. (8) I side not, but it's still treasonable.
7. (5,4) Strange denizen of the deep.
9. (4) Is a think one on the carpet a sign of a large one in the bank?
10. (3) Little deer and unborn fish.
13. (5) Painful sign of exhaustion.
14. (4,5) Not like the Laughing Cavalier!
18. (5) Precious stone from irritated producer.
21. (10) Bright spots, provided by beacons?
23. (3) Sort of bowler seen in the City.
24. (4) Sesame! And it was!
27. (7) Salad greens.
28. (4-3) Cover up, with too many untruths?
30. (7) Openly showing wealth.
32. (5) As ant is the very Devil.
34. (5) Loose end, sound of unskilful playing.
38. (3) Saying nothing.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

B E D A N D B R E A K F A S T
 L U I E A I L O O
 U N S A U C E R W
 E N I G H T H E A D L I N E
 B R A N M N N
 L I G N U M V I T A E F D
 O D E I I A N O N A G E
 O P T E A K D N D
 D E M O T E D E L S P E T H
 E R N O P S
 D O L T S T E A L A M A R C H
 R R I B P O A
 B A L A C L A V A P O N D M
 T I V C U I B
 B E S T I A L K I D S G L
 N D Y K E

TRELLIS PUZZLE

Four-letter words hidden in the sentence below fit into the grid, as shown:-

"STOP, you PEST, it's OPENING"

PEST, STOP, OPEN

It seemed a good idea to aim the item at readers from the chapel and when I EDITED it, it was with the mind to pitch it thus, but since I paid so much attention to them it followed that though keeping those edified, I ceased to appeal to my other readers.



To help, the middle word is given.

