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Organization Man

by Nathan Ziprin

A friend of mine who was recently released from years of servitude to Jewish organizations maintains there are three kinds of Jewish organization men. Their distinctive life-styles, he believes, reflect the evolution of American Jewry in recent years. But why paraphrase when I can let him speak for himself.

"Sociological study of our organizations would define three kinds of personality. Of course, there are many hybrid types, as well. I believe, however, that the most clear cut fauna to be found in the Jewish field are the following:

"First, the Old Guard. Typically East European-oriented, he is an amateur Yiddishist and a failed scholar. He retains an engaging innocence of mind, loves to discuss Jewish life and culture -- on which he is remarkably well read. He will often interrupt pressing tasks for relaxing conversation. Yet he is also, in the French sense of the word 'engage', a man of strong viewpoints which he fearlessly sets forth.

"He is graciously forgetful and slovenly, a fact that annoys his younger colleagues. But he is also -- there is no word that more accurately sums him up -- a 'mensch': honest, affectionate, profound. And, alas, his ranks are dwindling through debility and death.

"Second, the 'Semi-Professional'. He tries to swim with the tide of change, but he gets winded. His heart is really not with the wave of the future, but with the less-exacting past. He is in his late forties or early fifties, a son of immigrants who remembers a penurious East Side boyhood of the Talmud Torah and the Yeshiva. He remembers involvement in social causes, the Depression, strident years at a city college, the lost elan of the New Deal, the turbulent years of Zionism that climaxed with Israel's rebirth.

"Today, among younger men, he seems to reflect a hidden distrust of the new organizational order and of himself. He is painfully aware of certain undefined limitations -- and he is mellow, melancholic. He has the sense of himself in his professional role as vaguely (to borrow the terminology of existentialism) 'inauthentic.' He is the salt of the earth -- but he is slightly outmoded.

"The third category comprises the Comers, young men born into the computerized and automated age. His archetype is devoted to the suburban temple and to the Jewish education of his young children -- but his public manner seems attuned to Madison Avenue, rather than to the precepts of his sainted grandfather. He is aggressive, impersonal and 'cool' in mind and spirit. In a sense, he is the image-fulfillment of all modern organizational aspirations. He is lucid, forceful and efficient -- or appears to be.

"Unlike the two other types, he is as much at ease in a non-Jewish, as in a Jewish, setting. He is a technician. He is ambitious -- which is a quality probably required by organizations in their dynamic modern expansionist stage.

"The three types of organization men mirror the evolutionary process of Jewish organizations. For, as the organization grows, it outgrows the charming crochets and simple humanness of the Old Guard, and the easy-going earnestness of the Semi-Professional. The Age of the Expert begins."

And that is progress, is it not?
My friend is not altogether sure.

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BY JACK TELL

(Continued from Page 1)



sibilities, and therefore, one sixth of the numbers thrown should be sevens. If you carry it out ad infinitum, say a million or a billion rolls, in all probability, one sixth of the numbers thrown will be sevens. But once every six rolls???

He next describes the action at a craps table in Caesars Palace. "I've never seen so many black \$25 chips all over the layouts." You poor imitation of a reporter, you've never seen any BLACK \$25 chips at Caesars of anywhere else in Vegas. The \$25 chips are green, with dabs of white. It's the hundred dollar chips in most casinos that are black. A small point, true, but for a writer who interviewed J. Paul Getty, slobbering and licking boots over every word, to appease the richest man in the world (instead of asking why he moved to England, perhaps to avoid American taxes) you should have been more observant and more truthful, when you set out to attack a visit to Las Vegas.

Next, the "Low" writer calls the big 6, the big 8 and the field, "the more obvious sucker bets in craps." We can't argue that point because on paper, there is a higher percentage in such plays against the player. However, after years of observing the action at craps tables, we have never, not once, run into a really large winner who did not play the propositions.

Then he writes of a woman playing the craps. "She will lose all her winnings, and more, very fast, just as soon as the dice begin to behave normally. Which is any minute now." For Murray's information, we saw a woman win more than \$40,000 JUST PLAYING THE CRAPS. Who's to say if the dice are or will behave normally? Certainly not Murray.

Here's his advice: "You don't place or buy bets, and you don't play one-roll propositions, like the field or any of the so-called hardway bets." Since when is a hardway bet, a one roll proposition? Isn't it galling to have a person writing with apparent authority, who is so wrong on fundamentals. Hardway bets are wagers that the numbers 4, 6, 8 and 10 will come up in paired numbers on each dice. If they come up otherwise or a seven is rolled, you lose. But they are not one-roll propositions.

Murray describes stacks of chips on a Baccarat table. Where? He knocks Keno: "It's a game in which there's a limit on the amount any casino will pay off, but no limit on the number or the price of the tickets sold." Sounds like a real clip, don't it? Let's analyze. We've never heard of all the winners of a single Keno game NOT being paid off. The limit is a protection against more than one \$25,000 winner cropping up in the same game. We did hear of two \$25,000 winners in successive games at the Mint.

Here's a dope who yearns for Faro: "It's the only game . . . you can get an absolutely even break with the house. So try and find one in Las Vegas." We'll show him a Faro game in Vegas if he shows us one in Gardena, where card playing is legalized in California.

Enough about this moron's discourse on gambling. Here's an imbecile, who goes to sleep in his clothes in a swank Riviera Hotel room, but complains of tepid tea in a container brought by room service (unheard of); a rubber filet mignon "manfully digest earlier" and a bad breakfast with a nasal waitress. While we cannot testify as to the breathing capacities of the waitress, we resent with full intensity, the disparaging remarks concerning the food served in Vegas. With restaurants acclaimed as the finest in the world, serving dishes to gratify the most discriminating gourmet. This two-bit apparent hamburger monger, becomes a connoisseur. How do we put him in the two-bit category? Note the size of tips he admits dishing out. Wonder how they shape up to the amounts he listed on his expense account?

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