

U.N. Column

by *Laura Parks*

In The Eye Of The Storm

If the muses are kind and the fiery furies of the fates are charitable and if the four horsemen of the Acopalypse decide to gallop off into the dark of the moon then all may yet by well.

But the muses are unkind and continue to sing in murderous blank verse even as the furies suffer the innocent to die as they listen to the four Acopalypic horsemen gallop across the urban deserts of our motherland.

The tragedy that gathers around a great and proud nation often approaches silently and amidst an orgy of national self adulation. Occassionally the inner ear of the concerned minority may hear from a far distance the cries of anguish and desperation and occassionally the inner eye may see the disasters beyond the oceans coming to sit in the rumble seat of our own affairs.

The mighty Sha of Shas. Lord and master of the Persian dominions and of the Imperial Peacock Throne tried to build an empire out of oil and the strategic position of his lands in the Persian Gulf. For 37 years Iranian oil brought vast riches to the Iranian establishment. Dreams of empire and dominion over Near and Far Eastern powers tempted the great Shah into building a gadget crazy, computerized military machine.

Uncle Sam, often called Kennedy and Nixon, went out of their way to encourage the Shah and his imperial dreams. The Shah did what all tyrants do. He built a few but massive public showcase buildings and made the trains run on time, and then let the rest of the nation rot.

In short, the cost of his military expenditures, over a 37 year span, deprived the nation of much needed social services and a rising standard of living for the people. In our time no anti-people regime seems to be able to survive for more than 40 years. This time span is long enough for inflation and rising unemployment to take firm root in the system and ultimately destroy it.

The Shahs Persian empire will never be built. The Persian Gulf will not bristly with atomic cannon nor will its summer breezes by churned up by flights of supersonic war planes. Tomorrow the Persians will build for peace and prosperity at home and live in harmony with their neighbors. The spirit of their Korean will triumph over the will of arrogant and greedy monarchs.

If we are not wise the disasters beyond the seas may be upon us in our time. The Shah failed because he wanted to build an empire while ignoring the people needs. We might fail because we are trying to support a vast military machine designed to support nations like Japan and Germany, not to mention South American and South African dictators, while ignoring the escalating social needs of people in our own backyard.

It is now perfectly clear that for all of our vaunted military strength we have been compelled to retreat from large parts of Asia and now in Iran while at the same time witnessing the tragic erosion of our major urban centers and the near collapse of our municipal financial structures.

The writing is plainly on the wall. The tragic figures at Jonestown may have seen the writing on the wall and their deaths may yet not have been in vain if we the people of the United States and our leaders can be made to realize that we are in the eye of a storm, where all appears to be calm, while all about us a massive war machine continues to devour our riches and our souls.

Making Family Life More Fun

THERE IS NOTHING LIKE A GAME

It's not always how you play the game that counts, sometimes it's the game you play.

People who choose games of luck are "a bit more vain and willing to rationalize successes and specifically failures," according to Dr. Leslie Ault, a professor of behavioral sciences and an avid game player himself.

According to Dr. Ault, most people react in a game situation the same way they do in everyday life. "This is particularly true for the impulsive person. A conservative person, however, may show a reversal of his ways. Sometimes he lets out in a game situation, a trait that he won't let out in real life." In other words, for many people games serve as an emotional outlet. They express emotions that would be unwise for them to reveal at work or in other important situations.

Dr. Ault believes many people also play games for feedback on how well their minds are working. They turn to games of skill or strategy, like Mastermind, a game for all ages because it's simple for young players and beginners yet complex for the experienced tactician. In fact, over 28 million copies of this game have been sold in 74 countries.

Besides serving as an outlet for fun and personality traits, games also promote family harmony. First of all, they bring family members together for fun through relating to each other.



GAMES are a fun way for family members to get to know each other better.

Games are not only fun but also, particularly for a child, they can be a learning experience. On playing any game, children have the opportunity to follow rules while trying to achieve some objective and respecting their fellow players. This, in a broad sense, is what life is all about—learning to obtain objectives through cooperation with others.

The secret to your family's getting the most fun from games is to play those that suit your family members' needs to test their luck and/or brains. But don't let yourself get too riled by a game. Remember playing games is only playing games.



Adult Rehabilitation

Some of America's six million men and three million women who rely too heavily on alcohol are finding a way out.

Services available at The Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Centers include personal counseling, medical attention, psychiatric consultations, and religious and employment services, as well as adequate housing and meals.



More than 70,000 men, and some women, who are unable to cope, visit Army centers each year, where they receive group therapy, spiritual guidance, and skilled counseling. Work therapy employs these troubled people in the processing of items donated to the Army for resale through family thrift stores.

Many specialized services, such as the Family Service Bureaus and Salvation Army Service Units in sparsely populated areas, provide aids to those determined to change.

Together with the Army's time-honored program of spiritual evangelism, such programs are reclaiming thousands of lives each year.

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