



# THE HELMSMAN



VOL. 5 NO. 4

USS CANOPUS (AS 34)

APRIL 1969



# CROSS CURRENTS



"EISENHOWER - SOLDIER, STATESMAN, HUMANITARIAN"  
From memorial comments in Protestant Services  
20 March, 1969.

Though his profession was the science of waging war, he was always a man of peace. His concern was for people, and his attitude and actions toward his troops always reflected that warm characteristic.

Basic to everything about him, Eisenhower was a man of faith. He serves as another example of how a man rose to high places, but he never forgot that it was God's purpose that put him there. Our nation needs many more like him.

When is a man free? If freedom is thought to be the removal of all restraint and authority, none of us will ever be free. As long as there are two people left on this earth there will have to be some rules.

Could it be that freedom is the ability to operate within a framework of law and order, recognizing it to be for our good? So long as we are careful to assure that this framework is for the common benefit, we may well believe that law is not our enemy. We cannot live at random and be happy.

The propellers that drive a ship are fixed to the shafts, which are held strictly in position. If for any reason the shafts drop out of position, they bind, wear excessively, and are ultimately rendered useless.



*James W. Eckles*

Lieutenant, U. S. Navy  
Chaplain Corps

Our lives are like that. It is our responsibility and privilege to govern ourselves with self-control and our society with fairness and justice. That means that whatever is unfair and unjust must be stricken out. Deciding what should go is not always an easy choice.

The free man becomes his own law enforcer, recognizing the right way and conducting himself along it.

A man is free when he can be trusted. A man is free when he can enjoy discharging his responsibility. A man is free when he prefers to render service, rather than to see how much he can get away with.

After an extended silence, it is once again time for that gay reveler to lay in your field-day scarred hands and before your salt-smarting eyes the happenings of the Mag.

With much haste, a few beers and fewer fond words, the bebauchers of Rotarian virtue bid adieu to Spain, to return to their home on the bounding main. There were those among us, of course, who found the parting to be rather painful experience...

The eyes of "El Rubio" were like those of a depressed bassett hound. Having spent the eve of our departure at the "O" Club sorrowfully imbibing vino blanco and reminiscing evenings spent on the arm of a maiden so fair only the charms of Circe could match, he was in no mood to be reminded of our coming voyage. Tell us, Rubio, to what do you attribute your infallible success with the ladies of Spain? Could it be your impeccable dress, courtly manners, or your perfect command of the Spanish language? "Pass the catsupio, por fovor!"

"Floyd the Philanderer" was naturally quite upset at having to leave the arms of his beloved!!, realizing full well that there could be no return to that bower of love and tenderness, Bar Jakeline. Quote the Philander, "The nerve of that guy; come right inta de bar and started eating chow right in front of everybody and didn't even offer the local yokels any!"

But all's well that ends well and sooner than words can tell, our Don Juan will be at the wheel of his chariot of Amour, symbol of American affluence, prosperity and time payments. What time of the month does the social security check arrive? Hermione Gingold, she ain't!

While on the subject of chariots we wish to run a small item dropped in the ear of this juke-box deaf-eared reporter...

After many a hectic day of running around the Naval Base, filling out numerous forms, measuring width and length of certain shops and autos, it was finally determined that a small red vehicle would accompany its owner to the land of round door knobs. Alas and alack, a cry with the brazen fury of a thousand drunken field mice erupted from the depths at the crucial moment; NOT TWO, YOU DON'T - ONE IS ALL YOU GET!!!!

And so, as the sun pulls itself over the hills of Spain, we see our mournful former two-car-family man standing on the main deck, about to embark on a leisurely ocean cruise, sans car, but possessing the intestinal fortitude to sniff back the tears, gesture toward the Base Naval, and utter a word of tribute to that seat of bureaucracy; @##)\*\$ \$\$\$°°!!!![\*\*\*#\$\$\$#@@" Oh Well, let's walk the dog...

It has been said that the late great John L. Sullivan was a man of few words and mighty fists, but even this pillar of the pugilistic art would have cowered in the presence of the one, the only, Coca-Cola Kid. Devils, demons, even some chiefs, have felt the lash of his barbed tongue and overwhelming vocabulary.

Next month we hope to introduce you to more of the infamous citizens of the Mag. Laugh with Web the Wicked, Sneer at Oscar the Awful, and cheer the Sunshine Superman!!

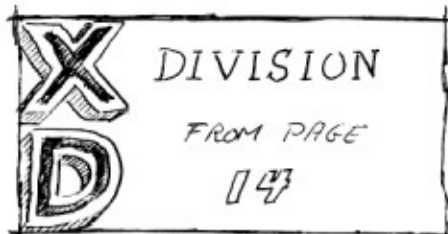
COVER PHOTO - - - - -

This is the sight that unfolded before the eyes of the crew as USS Canopus steamed out of Rota harbor.



CANOPUS UNDERWAY --- Captain Frank T. Rawlings, USN, casts off the last line as USS Canopus (AS 34) is underway from Rota, Spain. Capt. Rawlings is the Commanding Officer of the USS Holland (AS 32).





# MARINE DETACHMENT

by SGT.

OWEN U. BARTEL

Our ever-alert correspondent from the GMZ, (General Mess Zone), has informed us of his most recent success - a new, more efficient method for folding napkins, which requires fewer to stabilize unevenly keeled tables, providing uninterrupted meals and a cleaner crew. That's XD ingenuity!

XD contributed several key players for X-Division's Intramural Basketball Team, which boasts a season heavy with wins and a second place standing in the past Intramural Tournament.

In closing, I would like to pass along a little comestible for cerebral expansion, compliments of DPSN Antosy. "Work hard and do good, and your division will then know that you care!"

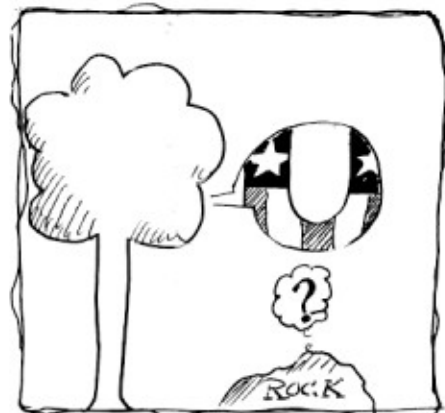
This article is written with pleasure and sadness, for I will be writing about promotions and death.

Many of our shipmates might have heard that two former members of this detachment have been killed in action in Vietnam. We have received confirmation from the Commandant of the Marine Corps, (CMC), that PFC Michael L. Russo died in Vietnam of non-battle wounds. The other man, LCpl Wilkinson, was reported to have sustained shrapnel wounds at a previous time, from which he recovered, and was returned to duty. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

To write of a happier subject, we have a new Sergeant in the Detachment. Cpl Parham was promoted to Sergeant effective 1 March 1969, and can assume duties as Assistant Gunnery Sergeant of the Detachment. I hope that all Naval personnel will extend the same courtesies shown to myself and the Detachment Gunnery Sergeant. It is a worthy step for a Marine. On the same day of promotion, Pvt Deese made his first step on the rank ladder by his promotion to PFC.

Cpl Barnes and Cpl McDonald are becoming short-timers. They both will be transferred to MB, USNB, Charleston, for separation during May 1969. On our arrival at Bremerton, LCpl Kennedy and Pvt Root will be detached and transferred to Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California. At that time, we will be replenished with four able bodies, furnished by Sea School. LCpl Arsenault will not make the trip home; his request for an inter-ship transfer to the USS HOLLAND has been granted by CMC.

## THE ROCK KNOWS



# OPS/NAV

FROM PAGE 12

needles flashing, the guys aren't in much of a mood to talk, but it is rumored that the whole ship will get to see what they're working on the day we get underway.

The "1st Grand Masters Spanish-American Invitational Doubles Table Soccer Tournament" was held recently in the American Bar, providing plenty of entertainment for the capacity crowds in attendance. Thanks to a large supply of medicinals on hand, any injuries that might have occurred were limited to bruised pride and hangovers. The new champions are the undefeated team of CYN3 "papa" Yates and YN2 "bear" Stewart, which swept through the competition, proving once again their superior skill at the table. In winning the tourney, a record-breaking streak of 24 games was established. Second place went to the upstart "Bald Eagles," a team comprised of RM3 R. Nelson and CYN3 T. Mangione. The victors are accepting any and all challenges, with plans to compete in an upcoming consolation tourney. Interested parties may contact a Deputy Commissioner at 224 for information regarding matches.

To our stalwart "E" message originators; cheer up - pretty soon you'll be able to call long distance!

# SECOND DIVISION

CONTINUED  
FROM PAGE 13

By SN CHARLES  
HOENKE

Although BM3 "Bob" Watchey, BM3 "Ray" Sears, SN "Lonnie" Doty, SN "Gus" Guedes, and SN "Andy" LaPorta will be leaving soon, their overall efforts as Naval Reservists aboard CANOPUS greatly contributed to the success of our mission here in Spain.

What's in the stars for these men? Guedes' training as a missile crane operator will land him a job with Bethlehem Steel Corp.; Watchey, Doty, and Sears will probably be knee-deep in bills after getting married in the fall, and LaPorta will be waiting for them all to "kick the bucket!" (LaPorta will shortly be co-owner of Cheshire Funeral Home, Inc., in Connecticut!)

BM2 Walter E. Noyes retires to his native state of Maine at the end of April. He's a CANOPUS plank owner, and will probably use his plank in the body shop he plans to open!

!!FLASH!! Straight Skinny...Chief Wert is is packing his seabag for a trip to Chula Vista, California! It must be R&R, right, Chief?

USS CANOPUS (AS 34)  
FPO NEW YORK 08501

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