

‡9 Scrawlins

A A Sense of Proportion

A1 In the 1970s, William Rawlins made a comment which is revealing in the context of the Church's continuing obsession with sex vs. real sin: As the Church stood silent while US saturation bombing of Vietnam killed a million Asian atheists (who have no names on any monument in Wash, DC) [plus their foetuses], in a Cardinal-Spellman-approved war, & turned sections of Vietnam into lunar scenery, Bill suggested: if you want to get the Church upset¹ about this, then: have US airplanes drop condoms on Vietnam instead of bombs.

A2 As the average US citizen is (even between wars) subjected to hundreds of nightly-news & other media-entertainment murders per annum (including the most extreme cinema grue), nonetheless, death-penalty opponents continue to argue that the (very) occasional² & (very) sanitized state execution of a murderer might (§E2): brutalize US society.

B Doubletakes

B1 Ross Perot is upset (CBS-TV 1992/3/23) that, in the US, business and gov't have: an adversarial relationship.

B2 *TVGuide* 1991/3/9 article, quaintly entitled "TV's Top Cop Flops with His Women Costars", quotes Fred Dryer: "I will not allow you to say my ego played any part in anything."

B3 Eva Weber *Art Deco* NYC 1994 p.7 (picturing the New York World's Fair Trylon & Perisphere): "[The] 1939 World of Tomorrow fair brought the Art Deco era to a close."

C Will the US Empire Last for 535 Centuries?

Edward Gibbon³ (*Decline & Fall of the Roman Empire* Chap.35 [mid-5th century AD = end of 12th century after Romulus]): "As early as the time of Cicero and Varro it was the opinion of the Roman augurs that the *twelve vultures* which Romulus had seen, represented the *twelve centuries* assigned for the fatal period of his city. . . . But [Rome's] fall was announced by a clearer omen than the flight of vultures: the Roman government appeared every day . . . more odious and oppressive to its subjects. The taxes were multiplied with the public distress; economy was neglected in proportion as it became necessary; and the injustice of the rich shifted the unequal burden from themselves to the people If all the barbarian conquerors had been annihilated in the same hour, their total destruction would not have restored the empire of the West: and if Rome still survived, she survived the loss of freedom, of virtue, and of honour."

¹ Similarly, see *DIO* 2.3 ‡6 fn 10.

² Fact, customarily overlooked on TV 'snews: for every 100 US murders, the state executes roughly 1 murderer. Sort of an upside-down Heydrich ratio.

³ Instead of catering to the passing propaganda-fashions which bound ordinary scholars' effusions, Gibbon strove for truth & fairness — which is why his classic work now outshines others of his day, even despite centuries of attempted suppression. Indeed, his work had the special distinction of being on the Vatican *Index of Prohibited Books* (*Index Librorum Prohibitorum* Vatican City, 1948 ed., p.190) starting on 1783/9/26, five years before the work's serial publication was completed, in 1788! The *Index* is no longer published, being such an embarrassingly clumsy expression of the Church's continued program, of thought-control domination of its subjects, that it has lately been thoroughly Memory-Holed. Indeed, one might say that, today (for now), the only book effectively prohibited to Catholics is: the *Index of Prohibited Books*. (Similarly, see *DIO* 2.1 ‡3 fn 32.)

D Split-Second: Life's Start as the Most Murderous Moment

D1 On 1994/8/2 (at Brown's Arcade), I lunched with my life-long friend, Mac Plant, who now co-runs his own law firm — and in addition is, e.g., on the board of T. Rowe Price. (Mac & I were in the same 1942 class at Roland Park Country School at about age 5. And we used to spend many a 1955 afternoon chatting over philosophical matters in empty classrooms at Gilman School, where we both graduated that June.)

D2 We soon got on the subject of lawyer jokes (see *DIO* 2.3 ¶8 §D4 for our own gift to this literature), and I mentioned the one I owe to Marcello Truzzi's good cheer: "Why is a lawyer like a sperm?" "Only 1 in 10 million turns out to be a human being."⁴

D3 Mac then raised the serious question: what are the odds on getting born? The very question had long nagged at me, too — and had most recently triggered DR's wonder a few years ago (leading to the writing of §D6, below), reacting to a Ken Burns interview (in his memorable pro-North series on the War Between the States) of a Pickett's⁵ Charge-survivor-descendant's WHEW (about the odds of his getting born). I had then noted the much, much smaller likelihood, of the specific sperm & the specific egg that made any of us, ever getting together. It had to be many millions to one. And then there are the same amazing odds on your parents' getting born, etc. Multiplying all these probabilities: the odds against your ever coming into conscious existence are lower than the odds on the kinetic motion in your chair accidentally joining momenta to kick you five meters high.

D4 It turned out that Mac — who, in an ideal world, would have been one of the great academics — had thought all this out years ago, in connection with a semi-nightmare that appeared during his Princeton undergrad years.

D5 Neither Mac nor I is a mystic, so ensoulment-theories aren't satisfying. (And they explain nothing.)⁶ Some DR comments: [a] There is a *sine-qua-non* aspect, here. You couldn't even ask the question unless you already existed. [b] Every state of the universe's atoms is astronomically unlikely; so we who exist are part of that improbable scenario.

D6 Conception is nowadays commonly spoken of as the time of the beginning of human life (though Aquinas put it 40^d later⁷ for men and 80^d for women — typical for a Church that, even 700^y later, still bars women from its gov't). But it is more accurately described as a moment of mass-death. In a given city, at any moment, thousands of sperm and egg cells co-exist, ready for co-fertilization. (Thus, many millions of permutations are possible.) Each of these cells has the potential, when combined with any cell of the other type, to produce a unique human being. But when the actual combination-moment ("conception") arrives, all but one of these *millions upon millions* of potential persons dies (automatically aborted). Forever. (Subsequently aborting the resulting foetus can add less than a percent of a percent of a percent to the ghastly mass-slaughter total.) In this sense, nature itself (or God, if one is so inclined) is unavoidably more abortively brutal than any social policy mere men have ever devised. The number of sperm-egg couples that are doomed to permanent-splits, in this split-second, would greeneye the busiest divorce-lawyer.

⁴ This also reminds me of the question that has lingered in my mind since about the age of 8: why was I lucky enough to become a human instead of, say, a tree? And not only born a person but: into a kind, cultured family. Going further: why was I so fortunate as to stumble upon scientific-history discoveries that will live (whether or not under my name) as long as man values the remembrance & understanding of our predictive-science intellect's ancient origins (§K3)? And (§K13): why does Now reside in my brief (§P3) lifetime?

⁵ Geo. Stewart *Pickett's Charge* 1.10 (1963 pbk ed, p.32): South Carolinian General James Longstreet (who opposed the suicidal Charge and was as hated in the post-war South as pro-Charge Rob't E. Lee was adored) was "not a quarrelsome man, but a man who created a considerable retinue of enemies, largely because he weighed evidence and therefore frequently committed the unforgivable sin of being right; most of all, perhaps, a realist, trying to base his judgments upon determined fact, and then stubborn to maintain them."

⁶ The following question is posed by Paul Thomas, S.J.: if ensoulment (the moment at which the alleged soul enters the human) occurs right after conception, then, what happens when, in the case of twins, this foetus splits? Does the initial soul go to the left twin or the right one?

⁷ Shorn of its gender-discrimination aspect, Aquinas' ensoulment-weeks-after-conception delay doesn't seem so irrational, upon consideration of Jesuit doubting-Thomas' point, cited at fn 6 here.

E Murder as Life's Most Educational Moment

E1 Conventional criminologico-wisdom on murderers carries an implication hitherto shockingly neglected: *murder is our most under-appreciated educational tool*. Name me another rehab-treatment — *any* treatment — which can *instantly* transform an individual from ineducable to educable.⁸

E2 Keep the Guns In Our Schools: It passes my understanding why misguided softie-reformers want to disarm kids in our bullet-riddled schools. After all, bleeding-heart orthodoxy itself makes it a logical certainty that *ONLY* when a kid commits murder — *ONLY* at that precise, holy, long-sought moment of Educational Miracle (for which gov'ts have fruitlessly spent billions on wasteful follies like universities: ¶8 fn 15), will the poor child magically transform⁹ and thereupon enter into the select brotherhood of: those who can be taught. For, we know from our own higher education (decades of TV 'snews & talkshow shrinks) that, until the golden moment of his act of murder, the shooter is *ineducable* beyond all demonstration. We know to a crim-certainty that, even if we had slowly & consecutively ground 100 of the punk's rôle-model gang-shooter pals into meatloaf before his eyes & ears, this savage, pointlessly punitive, insanely vindictive, & degradingly brutalizing rite-spectacle would have not *THE SLIGHTEST* deterrent effect. (This unshakable wisdom is the foundation-stone of nonkillable TV 'snews antipathy to capital punishment.)

E3 But, even as life passes from the now-anonymous victim, the blessings of Educability descend in a flash upon our former ineducable idiot: long before the body is cold, whordes of defense lawyers, courtroom-shrinks, & social workers flock to the cause of Uplifting him. And so, the very bleeding-hearts who swore — a nanosecond before the murder — that the gunsels was immune to education, now swear he *CAN* be Educated. By them.

E4 And, of course, being idealist-do-gooders, they won't bill the gov't for a penny. . . . [No Lie: It Won't Be a Penny.]

F From Crim to Bert, or: Better Get Your Murder in While You're Still Young&Attractive

F1 Commit murder & claim insanity or abuse-rage (or maybe just acid indigestion) — and you've got a nontrivial chance at beating the rap, not to mention lucrative celebrityhood.

F2 Question: How did the sanity of a murderer ever become a *legal* issue in the first place? (Do execs abrogate business contracts by claiming temporary insanity?) Irony: the current fashion in criminology is non-vindictiveness. Yet, crim's injecting the question of sanity into a murder trial only makes sense if we wish to avoid vengeance against those who didn't know what they were doing. (I.e., the entire argument is squarely based upon vindictive justice, not upon what will produce less later crime.) Actually, if the sanity issue has any relevance to murder trials, it is: we should be even tougher on nut-murderers than on rational murderers (most of whom are less sure to repeat). And, in today's courts, the insanity-defense is simply a hook to hang jury-sympathy on. If jurors fall in love with defendants (e.g., the Menendez & BobIt cases), then courtroom rent-a-shrinks will provide the mumbojumbo justification for anointing the beloved with an Innocent verdict.

⁸ Anti-death-penalty knee-jerks are prone to fret that the state may err & take an innocent life or so per year. I counter-point to the thousands of innocents very *un*-occasionally killed by nondeterred (or released) criminals. To me, these are also state-committed murders. But that (nonparenthetical) argument presumes deterrence & so would loose force if proof appeared, showing deterrence doesn't work. My support for the death-penalty would thus weaken, but would survive, regardless, on two other grounds: [a] Though it's now commonly (& pejoratively) branded "vengeance", demonstration of a society's interest in ensuring a balance-of-justice is salutary to that society's peace & ethics. [b] Murderers too dumb to learn from the example of others' hangings shouldn't be artificially protected, but are best winnowed out. (Self-fulfilling-prophecy dep't: presuming irrationality merely nourishes it.)

⁹ Similarly, after his wife's murder — apparently by invisible-rambo Martians — "actor" O'Simpson rapidly learned to act. About time. (He's innocent of course. Those silly blood tests are easily explained: all Martians share his DNA. Bet you didn't know that. Try disproving it.)

Well, if we're going to turn murder trials into glamour contests, then let's do it right: hire Casablancas & Eileen Ford as jurors. And start each trial, not with alot of boring swearing-in ceremonies, but with a videotape of the inimitable Bert Parks, gargling *There She Is*. . . .

F3 Solution: Turn the obstruction tables on the greedy lawyers & jury-profilers who sell split-juries to rich-enough murderers. How? Simple: Answer each deliberately-hung jury with an endless succession of budget re-trials, using the dumbest, cheapest slob in the prosecutor's office. E.g., given the evidence in the O.Simpson case, a sub-moron attorney, loafing along at \$1/day, could sleep through his prosecution-presentation and still not lose all 12 jurors. [See *DIO* 6 ¶4 §C5.] So, just keep on trying this unrepentant murderer, interminably.

F4 Thus, in future, whenever a rich killer's mout'pieces narrowly finagle out of a conviction by the deliberately-hung-jury ploy, the judge simply states to the defendant:

F5 The sentence of this first-run trial&error farce is that you shall be taken from here to a place of lawful re-prosecution. There, you shall be hung by the jury until you are dead. And may god have mercy on your wallet.
[See *DIO* 6 ¶4 §§B2&C5.]

G Why Does Ethnic Fairness Outrank Ideological Fairness?

G1 TV 'snews is obsessed with ethnic balance, but not ideological balance. E.g., there is virtually (if not exactly) no representation either in Congress or the Medium for socialists or atheists.

G2 What the US needs isn't forced ethnic-mixing. (Switzerland's peace is based on 4 separate live&let-live cultures.) It needs open, unforced ideological mixing: merging the Chas.Dickens-Eleanor-Roosevelt-style kindness of the left with the question-the-long-range-consequences caution of the right. Instead, the US is getting the naïvete of the left grafted onto the anti-pleasure puritanism and viciousness of the abortion-hating right. Result: leftist-style paternalistic subsidizing of an eternal poverty cycle, while the holier-than-God (§D6) wing of the right acts as that cycle's safety-net by killing off abortion, the only remaining hope for cutting the cycle.

G3 But, look on the bright side: at least the druggeddlers are smiling. (Tobacco, booze, etc: *DIO* 2.1 ¶1 §C2.)

H Select Polish Jokes

H1 During a live call-in radio interview on astrology in San Diego c.1980, I was told with mock solemnity by playful emcee Gabriel Angel (after I'd bluntly slammed a few astrological BSitudes): "That's likely to offend some of our listeners." In the spirit Gabe had established, I replied in my most contrite tones: "Well, I certainly do apologize, to anyone out there whom I have not yet offended. Please be patient, and I'm sure to get around to you."

H2 I'm reminded of the night Gabe&I roasted the astro-nuts, as I note the number of politically-incorrect ethnic-lobby-offending comments in this *Scrawlings* entry. So, to set these blows into diffusing contextual cushioning, let's bring on some Polish¹⁰ jokes — typical and non. (All but the last [§H8] are not original with *DIO*.)

H3 Typical ones: [a] Hear about the Polish abortion clinic? Waiting period's 10 months. [b] And the Polish Airlines crash into a Warsaw cemetary? They've already recovered 8000 bodies.

¹⁰ Perhaps Poles tolerate dumb ethnic jokes because: when your tradition can boast Copernicus, Chopin, M.Curie, Paderewski, & Kowal, you get accustomed to encountering unsubtle symptoms of jealousy.

H4 Better than typical: Why does a Polish doctor smack a newborn baby on the bottom? Chastisement: "Don't you EVER crawl in there again."

H5 My favorite Polish jokes are entirely atypical:

H6 In the 1970s, when there were lines (queues) for everything in commie¹¹ Poland, a seething man — waiting in line for hours, for essential groceries — suddenly snapped: "I can't stand this anymore. I'm going to go shoot the President." The others in the line cheered him on as he took out a pistol & strode off on his mission. An hour passed. Another hour. Then, finally, he returned, and the linemembers of course all gathered around him: "Well? Did you shoot the President?" "No." "Why not?" "There was a line."

H7 Question: What do you call a Polish person who lives in a 1000-room mansion? Answer: Your Holiness.

H8 DR-*DIO* follow-up question: What do you call 1000 persons living in one room? Answer: His Holiness' birth-control pupils.¹²

I Sampling

I1 Shark Repellent: If someone recommends a folk-lore method for how-to-ward-off-shark-attacks, consider that there may be a touch of sample-bias here: true, everyone you talk to who tried it says it worked for him, but — if there have been other parties, for whom the same method failed, then: good luck in interviewing them

I2 Why the World Is Going Crazy: A reasonable explanation of the weird turn US fortunes have taken of late (e.g., burgeoning national debt): no person of normal balance would care enough to go through all the strains (of both sorts) required to run for President, merely in order to get a great mansion & chef (not to mention the glory of joining the immortal ranks of Fillmore, Pierce, Arthur, Ford, Carter, and some movie actor). Presidents also get: a 1/10 chance of being shot to death (Omaha Beach style odds), & a 1/5 chance of dying in the harness from all causes. (If only an odd sort would want to be President, then don't be surprised at what Presidents do: ¶8 fnn 4&8.)

I3 Head-Filters: TV 'snews is filtered by the prejudices of whatever talking head is earnestly ladelling it to you, and the networks' censorship of material is similar to the election filter (see Plunkitt at ¶8 §B13 & *DIO* 2.3 ¶6 fn 23): only a politically safe (emasculated) anchor will ever get near a network national desk; his output doesn't need to be censor-filtered, since the very process that got him to his podium has already done all required screening. This journal, *DIO*, is also filtered, not only in the obvious ways, but also: it would not exist if I did not have an essential belief in the fairness of history, in the possibility (probability would be too strong a word) that if enough decent persons will try to get truth to the public, a misguided record can be set straight. In this implicit belief (litle supported by the bare facts of the very historical record I wish to render more accurate!), I may be no less detached from reality than the Presidents just criticized above. *DIO* is in large part an experiment upon, an exploration of, that very point. I look forward to observing and experiencing the outcome.

¹¹ Nowadays, even the most demented lefties don't have much kind to say about the USSR anymore, so let's break the monotony by noticing something that drew no US Medium analysis at the time. As part of the usual drumbeat of one-sided propaganda damning Communism, the Medium noted that, as bad off as Poland was in daily meat consumption/capita, the citizens of the pathetic USSR ate even less meat. For contrast: can one imagine a capitalist empire permitting for a moment a situation in which a vassal state was eating better than the enslaver? It is not a blanket apology for Red Russia to suggest that this peculiar Poland-USSR meat-asymmetry hints that some top Commies, even near the end, still actually clung to belief in Communism as a mission, not an exploitation-scheme.

¹² Just as it took until the 19th century for the Church to take heliocentricity off its *Index of Prohibited Books* (see also at fn 3), so we may have to wait until the 22nd century before the Catholic cult condones a birth control method other than rhythm, aka Roman Roulette. (An old joke that is deadly serious: What do you call those who use rhythm? Parents.) Here's a calculation which (numerate) abortion-haters should try for themselves, to experience electric reality-shock: assuming c.20 years of fertility in an average marriage, even a birth-control method which is 95% effective/month will nonetheless produce over 10 children.

I4 The Ultimate Sampling Bias: Suppose that staying alive is irrational. Then all our advice (on work, heroism, suicide, or anything else) will be that of irrational folks . . .

J Tickling Orwell's Shade: Some Races More Equal Than Others?

J1 On 1994/10/28, the Medium¹³ simultaneously announced: [a] the University of Maryland's outrage at a Maryland federal court's strike-down of UMD's B.Banneker black-preference scholarship, and [b] O Simpson attorney R.Shapiro's outrage at prosecutors' alleged nonequal treatment of black potential jurors.

J2 Naturally, TV 'snews treated both these positions straightfacedly or sympathetically (& why not, since both are perfectly-orthodox coin of the TV 'snews realm) — without (as always) ever noting that they are also perfectly contradictory: [a] we must treat blacks differently, and [b] we must not treat blacks differently. As Mencken said in his *On Being an American*¹⁴ (a generation before 1984 coined the term “doublethink”): the only way a person of intelligence can tolerate watching US politics is to relax&enjoy the nation's pompous leadership as a glorious and immensely entertaining three-branch circus.

K Shorts

K1 The shrinking of the number of newspapers & other forums has downsides already noted at *DIO* 2.1 ¶1 fn 38. And the similar attrition in the number of independent nations (as the world has coagulated into a few big blocs) also has obvious negatives for freedom's possibilities. But there is an important positive: as the number of potential inter-nation confrontation-permutations gets smaller, so do the chances of nuclear war.

K2 Years ago (c.1980), DR was involved in a public debate with a prominent Creationist — one of whose surprise tactics was his denial of the existence of vestiges (e.g., the human tailbone). So I asked: “what about the male nipple”? — which drew no coherent response. When I mentioned this incident later to a very bright friend (who prefers anonymity, in a politically-correct age), he responded: “And the female brain.” (This, in the presence of both our extremely intelligent wives, who appeared to take it in the intended jocular spirit.) So now, whenever I get pseudo-sexist with my wife, I just tell her not to worry her pretty little vestige. . . . And she, in the same vein, says that if our friend really *means* there are differences between the male & female mind, she'll scratch his eyes out.

K3 History is to DR what religion is to others. DR grew up with the legends of Archimedes, Aristarchos, Eratosthenes, Hipparchos, & Ptolemy. To be one of those few fortunate scholars, who has solved and revealed glimmers of the truth of their work, is to DR what entering the Ark of the Covenant would be to a Jew or Christian. (See fn 4.)

K4 The great 19th century pioneers of music each introduced or perfected an element that separates the best music from the old soporifics¹⁵ of the 18th century: Beethoven, drama; Berlioz, mystery; Wagner, fire.

K5 How is it that today's Leftists worry (justly) that school prayer (Conservatives' longed-for cure-all grail) will be divisive (fn 25), while remaining (in the fervor of their own crusade) blind to Affirmative-Action's similar effect? And vice-versa for rightists.

¹³ Formerly: the Media. (See *DIO* 2.1 ¶1 fn 38.)

¹⁴ *Prejudices* ed. J.Farrell (ppbk, NYC 1958 pp.89-125). Mencken contends (p.125) that one can't find better entertainment than the US political scene: “this Eden of clowns”. (Mencken erred primarily in his computation of the per-capita expense of the gov't show: it was trifling in his day, but the cost then has turned out to be merely the bill for laying the foundations of the modern-gov't looting-operation, which now siphons off roughly half of the average worker's already-inadequate wages.)

¹⁵ Haydn even put a joke tutti-fortissimo into the Andante of his 94th (“Surprise”) Symphony — just to wake up those listeners who'd dozed off after getting the general idea (of Haydn's intentions) from the previous 93. . . .

K6 Yet-unfamiliar phrase, which you'll be hearing aplenty shortly (as at §R4, *DIO* 1.2 fn 181, & *DIO* 2.1 ¶1 §K1): “The Third Millennium.” Question: will 2002 April 3 be written (as it ought to be) 2/4/3 ? Or will USers read that as Feb 4, 2003 — or, will Europeans read it as April 2, 2003. Will others make it to be March 4, 2002? Answer: now that the last two (indeed, three!) digits of the year number will not exceed 31 (which has been true for most of the lives of most of us), it is time for a universally-agreed-upon dating convention. The best is the first-cited above (2/4/3 = 2002 Apr 3), because the ten-power order of the digits in the units (year, month, day) is the same as the significance-order of the units themselves: namely, descending.

K7 Why can't the US seriously lower net taxes? Simple. All US politicians must raise vast sums to get elected. These pols' benefactors expect a return of manyfold on their investment. There's only one place they're going to find that kind of money. And now you know why your tax form is called a “return”. So, next time you hear that Joe Friendly is spending x dollars a head to get elected in your district, figure [a] just to break even, he's got to get at least that much back by funneling your tax money to his funders (via contracts or whatever); [b] he could really be spending at least $2x$, and [c] $10x$ may be what it will actually cost you in tax increases to pay off the lobbies that kicked in to elect him.

K8 Where one finds the public protected by censorship, one will always find that public being led along a path which can't be defended in open discourse by its insecure navigators. (See §R6.)

K9 A few politically-incorrect reflections on the alleged brilliance of ancient Babylonian astronomy. We tend to forget that virtually all dated Babylonian math-astronomy ephemerides are from the Seleukid period. But, at this time, Babylon's ruling class was Greek. King Seleukos himself was a former Greek general. And the epoch of Seleukid astronomy was 312 BC, the date of Seleukos' restoration by another former Greek general, Ptolemy I, who ruled the Egyptian empire from Alexandria. Question: how many Normans spoke Saxon, even a century after the Norman Conquest? We should understand that, when we examine Babylonian cuneiform texts of the Seleukid period, we are analysing the literature of an ethnic underclass whose political powerlessness made it particularly vulnerable to the superstitious opium of astrologers. (And Babylonian “astronomy” was in truth astrology: *DIO* 1.2 §E3.)¹⁶ To expect high astronomy from such sources is, at best, naïve. (See *DIO* 1.2 fn 73.)

K10 One of the blessings of academe is that one not uncommonly encounters there persons who are both intelligent and decently principled: ideally of the B.Russell-A.Einstein type. (In the US business world, the pattern is instead predominantly: the smart folk exploit the nice folk. Which is why current commercialization of academe is an ominous trend, forcing young scholars into careerism to the detriment of truthseeking: see above at *Competence Held Hostage* #2.) Despite the numerous exceptions to this ideal, it is a cause for gratitude that so many exemplars do exist, and that their strivings continue to uplift our lives — by both their example and their creativity.

K11 Capitalists delight at maintaining a large pool of unemployed, in order to keep job-insecure workers' bargaining powers low, thus slashing that accursed overhead called: wages. That's why, the more capitalist a country gets, the more people end up on welfare — producing the irony that: the very capitalist nations that sneer at socialist “welfare states” have more people permanently on welfare than do the socialist countries. And that's without even including congressmen.

K12 Since I have so often been pleasantly surprised¹⁷ at unpredicted future happenings, I will cite for contrast a case where prediction actually worked out: the 1990s have seen numerous CDs of about 80 minutes, though in the 1980s, it was widely understood that the limit was 75^m. So, where was the 80^m CD predicted (on the basis of microscopic study of

¹⁶ Spelling correction there: for Rochbert read Rochberg. (Amusingly ironic, considering DR's cracks at Graßhoff in *DIO* 1.2 fn 149.) *DIO*'s apologies to Chessie R.

¹⁷ See, e.g., *DIO* 1.1 ¶3 §C.

CD surfaces), as early as 1986? — including the specific prediction that half of Mahler's symphonies would eventually go to one-CD packaging. See the Maryland Library Assn journal (*Crab 16.1* p.11; 1986 Sept). (It should be gratefully stated that DR's predictions only saw print because of the interest of adventurous then-Editor Steve Wooldridge.)

K13 As we know from Archimedes' *Sand-Reckoner*, Aristarchos was the first to propose a vast universe.¹⁸ This proposal was (given stellar parallax's invisibility) *directly due to his heliocentrism* (a connection unappreciated by Muffiosi & other History-of-science anti-whiggists) — a universe thousands of times wider than the geocentrists'. Since such scales render man a trifle with respect to the universe's size, astronomy has tended to dethrone him and to deflate his societal & religious conceits. Many older writers (e.g., Twain in *Letters to the Earth*) have considered this effect — but it is most intensely known to youngsters upon first encountering astronomy. However, there is an overlooked analogy: the equally-deflating temporal briefness of our lives, with respect to the universe's time-span. The chimera of Heaven is popular not merely due to religious anthropomorphism & a social sense of justice. It also expresses our natural reluctance (& perhaps mere inability to comprehend remote death — or even the familiar experience of sleep) to face the awesome, humbling reality that, just as the universe got along (without our perceiving it) for an infinite time before we existed, it will go on without us, after we are gone. Forever. Recalling fn 4: how vanishingly small are the odds that your & my lifetimes' almost infinitesimally tiny spans (in the context of the age of the universe) should happen to include the present? (Recall also the *sine-qua-non* consideration at §D5.)

K14 In a society whose leadership is so obsessed with bandaid-suppressing the very disharmony that its programmed overpopulation (& resultant poverty & unemployment) engenders, one marvels at the frequency with which one encounters mainstream-Medium reports of female pride, black pride, Latino pride, homosexual pride. (Never male pride, white pride, het pride. . . .) According to current (debatable) Medium orthodoxy, membership in even the last of these classes is something one is born with. OK, so: why encourage pride in something *unearned*? (See fnn 41&42.) Especially when such pride is just racism (or sexism) under an assumed name. And if such a pride-group votes as a bloc, how can it call others racist or divisive when they too lump members of that group together? If a group acts as a unit, it invites the reaction of those who call a bloc a bloc.

K15 I will continue (as at §L2) to criticize capitalist-owned TV 'snews for never even hinting that a major cause of the crime wave it ritualistically bemoans is: capitalism. (Additionally, crime ensures nightly street-gore video, which juices TV 'snews ratings, thus boosting ad revenues.) But, on the other side of the ledger, one must in fairness note that capitalism has been the dominant economic religion during the wonderful explosion of computers in the last decade, a cultural event as crucial as Gutenberg's printing press.

K16 Likewise, while I would prefer the US to have a freer, more citizen-sensitive gov't such as exists in N.Europe, it should be noted that the US virtually leads the world in success at lowering tobacco addiction. By contrast, Denmark (the freest of nations) is Europe's chief retard in this connection. Conversely, Denmark is also one of the nations least afflicted by hard-drug-related crime, which is worse in the US now (though newly-capitalist Russia is gaining on the leader) than anywhere in history. (Partly due to the degradation of the lower classes, inevitably caused by cost-cutting industrialists: §K11.) These connections are hard to miss. They suggest several thoughts and questions that relate to longterm hopes' realistic chances of eventual success:

- [a] Can a genuine liberal democracy ever defeat the tobacco plague?
- [b] Can a capitalist nation defeat the hard-drug crime-plague?
- [c] Are many (any?) major nations clearly winning both battles at once?
- [d] If not, does this seeming contradiction tell us something?

¹⁸ Partly based on Aristarchos' half-Moon experiment (*DIO 1.1* ¶7 §C1). DR finds (AAS 1994/11/12) that night-estimates of half-Moon elongation are biased high. But daylight observations (more historically likely, anyway) work better, due to the Pickering Effect: daylight-estimates of half-Moon elongation are lower than night ones.

K17 Instead of eternal GOP-vs-Dem sham arguing over whether or not to increase the military budget, why doesn't the US just take over the world (officially)¹⁹ and end all need for major military weaponry?²⁰ Answer: no lasting²¹ institution genuinely desires accomplishment of the object it claims to pursue, since that event would end its profits. Why should the money-flush Pentagon be any different?

L Crime Thoughts

L1 In recent US history, crime has been highest in areas with the most immigration. Whether border immigration or vaginal immigration: if it's out of control, you get crime.

L2 As noted at §K15, another key cause of crime is never mentioned on TV 'snews, namely: capitalism. While indeed stimulating wealth & technical progress, capitalism simultaneously produces lots of poor citizens: §K11. (See §L1: flooding the labor pool, with both sorts of immigrants, lowers wage-earners' bargaining powers. Capitalists then condemn the poor's perverse immorality in insisting on stealing to stay alive — instead of quietly starving to death like they should.) We can be sure there's no connection between that piece of censorship and the fact that all TV 'snews owners are very rich capitalists.

L3 Whom do we depend upon to stop crime? Judges, cops, pols, parole officers, prison personnel & boards, lawyers, shrinks & other social jerkers, etc. Yet, the more they cast their incantations, the worse crime gets. Another question: who's (legally) making the bigbucks out of the US crime epidemic? Answer: same cast of characters. Small world.

L4 Which smoothly segues us to . . .

M Early Earth-Size Sizeups

M1 In *DIO 2.3* ¶8 §A7, DR noted that ancient use of the dip method of measuring the Earth's circumference C would've led to a result c.6/5 high (due to atmospheric refraction): about 259,200 stades. But that suggestion presumes the experiment is done at low altitude, where horizontal lightray-curvature is 1/6 of Earth-curvature. If the experiment were instead done from a high seaside mountain, the ray's mean curvature would be weaker, thus the result would be a little nearer reality; and the "Eratosthenes" value (252,000 stades, c.230 BC) is so. [See *DIO 6* ¶1 fn 47.]

M2 Reconstructing an earlier era's Earth-size estimate: if Eratosthenes' predecessor Dikaearchos (c.300 BC) used seaside Mt.Pelion and measured 70' of dip (about right), then his slight overestimate of Pelion's height h would've led him to compute Earth-circumference C , by the equation²² $C = 4\pi h / (\theta^2)$ (where h = the mt.hgt and θ = dip in radians), as $C = 300,000$ stades, a value cited by Archimedes in his *Sand-Reckoner* and long ascribed²³ to Dikaearchos.

¹⁹ I.e., in contrast to GATT.

²⁰ After WW2, both Douglas MacArthur and Bertrand Russell (idealists from opposite ends of the political spectrum) urged [also Churchill in '48] that Allied world-takeover be carried out promptly, while the US still had a nuclear monopoly. Instead, Practical Realists made the decisions, and both US & USSR went into huge arms-race-debt, thus: a growing poverty class, drug-crime cyclicality; & so unkillable mafia influence on their gov'ts.

²¹ See *DIO 1.2* §C2.

²² The familiar math-proof of this equation involves deletion of a tiny term (h^2), a step justified by the minuscule ratio of h to the Earth's radius R . Note that when Pliny 2.162 cites Dikaearchos' measure of Mt.Pelion's height as $h = 1250$ paces (6250 Roman feet, Pliny 2.84) or 10 stades, or 1 modern nautical mile (1852 m), Pliny states that this is minuscule compared to the Earth's size. (See also Strabo 2.5.5.) Is this statement a fragment or glimmer of the above-cited math proof's deletion-step? (This deletion occurs between eqs.3&4 in DR's 1979 Feb paper on the double-sunset method: *Amer J Physics* 47.2:126-128.)

²³ At least since H.Berger: see J.Thomson *History of Ancient Geography* Cambridge Univ 1948 p.154.

N The Jackson-Hamilton Bill to Wipe Out Racial Friction

N1 The President and the First Gentleman have concocted a new medical plan, and he says he intends to reform welfare. All right, if the FG intends to spend money in the “smart” way he says he prefers, then we can improve not only US medical & welfare situations but — simultaneously — another pet FG passion: race relations.

N2 A simple bill will do the trick: gov’t medical and welfare plans must henceforth fund Michael-Jackson-style whitification process for all who desire to escape race-prejudice, on which many angry blacks have come to blame all their failures. (And, in case medicine doesn’t help an applicant, we can always have the IRS bleed him white.) Likewise, all caucasians who wish to become Persons-of-Color (in order to qualify for the Affirmative Action that so enrages certain nonparticipants, many of whom blame it for all their failures) will be funded for free entrance into the Geo.Hamilton Darkening Clinic.

N3 Upshot of the Jackson-Hamilton Bill: nobody will be a *born-helpless* Victim of racism anymore, thus: neither redneck-amateurs nor snivel-rites pros will have anything left to whine about — and we can FINALLY drop the rich²⁴ establishment’s diversionary Race Thing, and move on to intelligent issues, such as the increasingly gross fiscal divide between the US’ wealthy exploiters and their so-*easily*-manipulated and balkanized²⁵ poor.

O The Celestial Half Ellipse and Your Eyes’ Bullseyes

Two beautiful physics-phenomena, which many of us suppose require elaborate, laborious production in a college lab situation, are in fact easily visible to all, in the simplest everyday circumstances. (However, neither of the below items [§§O1&O2] appear in any textbook I’ve encountered.) These are: [a] the ellipse, and [b] the Poisson Spot.

O1 The most commonly observed ellipse is the Moon’s terminator. (The “terminator” is the boundary between the sunlit & dark part of the Moon — where the Sun would be rising or setting if one were physically standing there on the Moon.)²⁶ Actually, the terminator is a half-ellipse (with special cases occurring at the half Moon or eclipses).

O2 The “Poisson Spot” is a dramatic proof of the wave nature of light (not established until Thos. Young²⁷ & A.Fresnel, in the early 19th century); the Spot is visible to anyone who will take the trifling trouble to peer at a bright light (the outdoor sky or an indoor lamp will do) through a very small orifice which is held up virtually flush against the eye. (Most convenient: the flexible space in the main inner fold of the index finger when it is squeezed around the thumb’s tip, until the space for light’s passage is nearly as tiny as possible.) As the size of the orifice is pinched to near-vanishment, the dozens of tiny round spots that appear [“floaters”: J.Walker *Sci Am* 246.4:150] are all Poisson Spots — exhibiting the telltale proof by which Fresnel vanquished Poisson’s intelligent objection to the wave

²⁴ Nothing new here: in the 1860s, Wall Street lawyer & intellectual Geo. Templeton Strong (whose son was the firstborn US composer of durable serious music: 1856) was aghast in righteous condemnation of NYC’s Irish anti-black rioting (in which the next-latest NYC cheap-labor wave got enraged at the very-latest). After all, no new scabs were being brought in to flood the Wall Street lawyer market and thus endanger *his* job.

²⁵ The disarray of the left today has been well described as Balkanization. The “ethnic politics” perfected by Michael Novak & Jack Kennedy has not only been poisonously divisive (§§K5, K14, & P4) to the US, but its promoters have nervily covered themselves by accusing critics of: divisiveness.

²⁶ Astronomical conventions: the circular part of the Moon’s image is the “limb”, while the elliptical part is the “terminator”. At the half-Moon (see *DIO* 1.1 ¶7 fn 6), the terminator appears as a straight line — which is simply an ellipse with eccentricity $e = 1$. (For solar or lunar eclipses, e is about null.)

²⁷ This Dr. Thos. Young is the same Thos. Young who established the first step in the decipherment of the Rosetta Stone, which unlocked modern access to ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic inscriptions. Such wondrous versatility should not go unremarked. Nor should the fact that (despite prominent publication: *PhilTrans*) Young was long denied acceptance or credit for his optical discoveries, due to the shortsighted politically-correct Os of his day (most prominently Lord Brougham) — whose memory is now notorious & repugnant, and will be so to the end of time.

theory: there *is* a bright spot²⁸ in the middle of what ought to be a solid shadow if light were (as the Newton-Laplace-Poisson school had held)²⁹ waveless corpuscles. Thus, the proof that light is wavelike had literally been before every non-blind human’s eyes, throughout history — but simply had not been understood previous to Young-Fresnel. (See at *DIO* 1.1 ¶7 §F4 for similarly remarkable eternal availability of heliocentricity’s proof.)

P Germs

P1 Rehab is the alchemy of our times.

P2 The GOP creates³⁰ brutal poverty. The Dems subsidize it.³¹

P3 Life seems short only when it gets long.

P4 Divisive ethnic politics, a 1960s high for the Left, has boomeranged in the 1990s.³²

P5 The best facelift is cutfree&costfree, namely: a genuine smile.

Q OIJBAM & The Law

Q1 Before the homosexual lobby ate very-former Miss America contestant Anita Bryant, she starred in a much-aired, (obviously-)unconsciously-campy Florida orangejuice TV ad (this was years before the equally liberal Rush Limbaugh took up the orangejuice banner), enticing fashionconscious homefolks to start slurping her product at lunch & dinner, not just at breakfast. This promotion so perfectly typified the expand-your-market approach to product-hustling that our family has ever since classified all such schemes under the acronym “OIJBAM”, in honor of Anita’s immortal pitch, which was (verbatim): “Orangejuice isn’t just for breakfast anymore.”

Q2 Some less fruity OIJBAM plans: [a] Hooking Third World countries on tobacco. [b] Bo Jackson’s salivating genius-agent computing how lucrative it would be for a steroid-jock to play football as well as baseball. [c] The Medium & other promoters accustomizing the public to “singing” (E.Merman or rock)³³ that’s as attractive as glass-scratching, because: resting vocal cords for a few days between gigs isn’t as profitable as nightly performances. [d] Recycling criminals back onto the streets so rapidly that lawyers & judges can draw municipal salaries from defending-prosecuting-sentencing each precious criminal as frequently as possible. Perhaps the legal profession’s ultimate vision will yet come to pass: fiscal exploitation of the same crook not just in a morning trial but in 3 court hearings on the same day. And then it’ll be time to Rush a former juice-hustler out of Bimbaugh-Limbo to film a TV spot for the Trial Lawyers Ass’n: “Criminals aren’t just for breakfast anymore.”

²⁸ A close look at each well-defined bright spot will show that it is actually the center of a bullseye diffraction pattern. (This somewhat resembles but is not identical to the Airy disk diffraction pattern cited at *DIO* 2.3 ¶9 fn 51.)

²⁹ The story goes that, when Fresnel announced that the wave theory of light was proven by wave interference, Poisson objected before the French Academy that this was absurd because (as Poisson, a superlative mathematician, first realized & pointed out to Fresnel), if this were true, then coherent light falling upon a circular opaque object would produce a bright spot in the middle of the circular shadow! — which was patently nonsensical. Fresnel’s terse reply was in effect: well, M.Poisson, why don’t you try it? Sure enough, the bright spot was there. And, in delightful recognition of Poisson’s brilliance and priority in deducing this spectacular proof of his own preferred theory’s falsity, the phenomenon has since always been justly known as Poisson’s Spot.

³⁰ See §K11.

³¹ See *DIO* 2.3 ¶6 §G. The Democratic Party is joined (in its approach) by the Church and the Rainbow Coalition. All 3 institutions ensure their eternal fungal durability by eternally failing to shrink the poverty class (their mainstay constituency), systematically opting *strictly* for poverty-fighting approaches which are pre-guaranteed not to work. (See *DIO* 1.2 §C2.)

³² Question that may provide a clue to the fate of the Left (and perhaps the national corporate rulership’s sculpting & selective pruning of the Left’s remains): why do we see a hundred Jesse Jackson interviews for every one of Gore Vidal or Katha Pollitt [who were once (2015 edit)] the left’s brightest idea-people? (Answer: *DIO* 2.3 ¶6 fn 23.)

³³ Littleknown *DIO* pseudofact of etymology. Modern pop is called Rock because: the performers look, act, & sound like they just crawled out from under one.

R The Race Issue: Now, Which Side Is Ill With Prejudice & Hate?

Some partly tentative comments and questions on race theory & policy in the US:

R1 Our 535 congressmen are comprised almost uniformly of leeches who lie, steal, cheat, take bribes (“contributions”), and tax-suck us as near-death as possible (just short of golden-goose-snuffing): *DIO 2.3* ¶6 fn 22. And they do nothing except at the behest & with the permission of the rich & powerful. So why do these same folk suddenly go misty-eyed-mushy-idealist over bills on affirmative action, bussing, welfare, AFDC? — which cater to the poorest, least bribe-affording segment of the population. (One suggestion: see §R8 & *DIO 2.1* ¶1 §C2, fn 5, & fn 9. Another theory: aid is no more than 1 cent/month above what’s needed to buy off armed revolt in poverty areas. Looniest right-wing explanation: leftists run US policy.)

R2 Today, no one³⁴ who dissents from political correctness on race can survive in office or prominence, in either the US gov’t or its network-holy-trinity (TV ’snews, aka The Medium): §R6. In the midst of this ongoing purge, how many Liberals (besides Nat Hentoff) have ever spoken up about the simple question of free speech? Instead, what we get is hand-wringing (about dreaded heresy’s Implications) & fear of Hate-Speech (most of which is now actually coming from blacks). And, no matter how temperate and well-intended, even the most unprejudiced, openminded suggestions of the possibility of racial mean-IQ-inequality will produce some degree of hysterical-censorial smearing of the author as a hate-goader. Yet, the fact is that *every* era has a view that it wants to exempt from free-speech protections: heliocentrism in the 3rd century BC & later in the Christian Dark Ages, Darwinism in the 19th & early 20th centuries, atheistic communism for many recent decades, and now race-IQ theories. (A few years hence, the top heresy will probably be something else, perhaps communism again; or maybe anti-racism, as of yore in the Old South.) Each era thinks the previous one unenlightened — but in its smug conceit fails to see the common thread: in every case, the exception is justified by branding the banned theory *corrupting to morals & social peace*. (Perhaps it is. But that is beside the point: “the truth and beneficence of an idea are two separate issues.”)³⁵ So, does “free speech” really mean: we allow free speech for all views — except those we don’t allow it for?

R3 The standard orthodox newsbite for encouraging the eternal continuation of politically-racist affirmative-action schemes is: a single success-story case of a Liberal program that produced a single wonderful person. Question: does this propaganda-slant not bear an embarrassing resemblance to the standard Conservative ploy of pointing to a single success-story case of a brilliant, hardworking individual triumphing over poverty in a laissez-faire capitalist world? Common-sense common-lesson: it is unwise to found public policy (necessarily aimed at huge aggregates) on statistical exceptions.³⁶

R4 Whites-Ain’t-So-Smart-Either (Part 1): In response to *DIO 1.1* (¶2 §D2) promotion of drastic cuts in poverty-area birthrates, some readers said that this would require a police state, to enforce hypothetical birthrate guidelines. DR comments: [i] Where does it say in the Constitution (or the Bible) that citizens can have as many children as they want, regardless of their ability to support them? This is simply a modernly made-up pseudo-Commandment, with no justification in logic or in historical results. [ii] Evidently, critics of radical demography do not regard the current situation as a police state: middle class citizens being *forced* — at the point of a taxcollector gun — to support other couples’ children, and, secondarily, being forced (at same gunpoint) to support the drug cartel that lives like a mold, off the resulting social-death Hades. What does it say about the US gov’t’s vaunted white intelligence that: [a] this kook poverty-cure was forced upon the US public for decades, without having been pre-tested successfully in any of the 50 states,

³⁴ Except Jesse “Hymietown” Jackson, whose survival of a grossly anti-Jewish statement is simply a higher form of special-exemption affirmative action.

³⁵ See *DIO 1.1* ¶7 §G4.

³⁶ See *DIO 1.1* ¶2 fn 5.

and [b] it took 30 years for (some of) the gov’t to (begin to) realize that the cure isn’t going to work? Indeed, even now, a few light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel media diehards still keep dishing out propaganda which begs for yet-further no-endtime-certain patience with their cruel Noble Experiment,³⁷ which has succeeded primarily in blighting every major US city with sprawling, degraded slums — the cleaning up of which will take decades.

R5 The US’ previous Noble Experiment, the Prohibition of Alcohol, exhibits two parallels (with §R4):

[a] Slowness to face failure. (Prohibition lingered on from 1920 to 1933: 13 years. Even so, that’s less than half of the term of persistence of the Dems’ Great-Society folly.)

[b] The primary ultimate beneficiary of both these Experiments has been organized crime. Governmental and otherwise.

R6 The nation’s Political-Correctness police continue trying to suppress discussion and to eliminate all those they disagree with (e.g., E.Butts, H.Cosell, J.Snyder, A.Rooney, A. Campanis — none of them defended by ACLU, which is too busy accepting drug money & fretting about tobacco-ad-free-speech), in order to make public figures not just mostly but entirely³⁸ pure of mind. (Reminiscent of HUAC or 1984’s O’Brien.) One should keep ever in memory the wise observation of Ben Franklin on churches: any religion which requires establishment protection must be a logically-feeble one. (See here at §K8.)

R7 The same PC-police are ever on the paranoid alert for “code-words” emanating from anyone suspected of heresy. Unasked question: why are people *using* code-words at all? Answer: because of palpable fear that certain explicit utterances will cause job-loss or worse. Such power-structure-embedded terror is inconsistent with: [a] the US’s image of itself as a free country, and [b] the image of certain groups as powerless victims.

R8 Why do blacks hold more US political offices than women (see *DIO 2.3* ¶6 §D), even though women far outnumber blacks? Such thought-experiments prove the obvious: blacks are not politically prominent in the US because of gov’t concern for justice, or women would be in a far better situation than they are. (And black families are poorer than most, so black wealth’s pull with Congress isn’t the answer, either.) Which leaves us a mystery: why, then, are blacks so politically visible? (Speculative suggestions: §R1.)

R9 Whites-Ain’t-So-Smart-Either (Part 2): Civil Rights started a generation ago as *the* bright focus and hope for social justice, and was understandably seen as such by most of us. The uniform expectation was that, once blacks were given a fair chance, their equal mental attributes would, with reasonable promptness,³⁹ become so evident that conservatives would finally be forced to crawl away in shame at their longstanding error. Instead, civil-rights bogged down & ultimately degenerated into a 30 year exercise in unfalsifiability and alibi-artistry. (Recalling unfalsifiability’s better-perceived pioneers: Astrologers since Ptolemy — 2 millennia ago — have expected proof of their superstition finally to appear. Any day now. The 1882-founded Society for Psychical Research was equally confident that vindication for ESP was right around the corner. And UFOlogists of the 1950s were just as sure that their dream would come true imminently. So were McCarthyists after the Hiss case, when they were certain that hundreds of reds would be flushed out of the US gov’t; yet, not one other suspect was ever convicted.)

R10 Whites-Ain’t-So-Smart-Either (Part 3): The ensuing permanent race-polarization disaster has destroyed: [a] the New Deal, [b] the dream of a socialist-egalitarian US, and [c] the entire left wing here. How many leftists possess humility and lack prejudice⁴⁰ (the

³⁷ See *DIO 2.1* ¶1 fn 19 & §H2.

³⁸ Some years ago (1970s), the public school in the Pimlico area of Baltimore had a single teacher who was deemed offensively overpink. (Even his name was: Rose.) He was finally hounded out of his job. Question: what sort of nation trembles when a school’s teaching staff is merely 99% non-commie — unable to feel safe until that staff is made 100.000% orthodox?

³⁹ This point is driven home to devastating effect in the thought-experiment at p.136 of Charles Murray’s *Losing Ground* NYC 1984.

⁴⁰ In the currently fashionable inversion-lexicon of the politically-correct, “unprejudiced” = one who believes precisely what he is told by the Medium, and will not for a moment reconsider his position in such matters, being

very prejudice which they freely project onto rightists) sufficiently to step back, from the shambles of their long experiment in human transformation (§P1), and ask:

[a] Is it possible that, indeed, blacks are (on average)⁴¹ a trifle lacking mentally (perhaps in either IQ or providence) — even though rednecks say so? (Of course, rednecks⁴² ignore or alibi stats showing Orientals & Jews are distinctly smarter than WASPs.)

[b] Should a society continue on a prejudiced (prejudged) path which *rigidly* assumes⁴³ otherwise (and attempts to destroy those who disagree: §R6)? Key question that should have been carefully thought out 30⁷ ago: What if the idealists are wrong about their policies' implicit assumption of precise mean racial equality? — if so, then where are these policies going to take us? Perhaps the at-the-time-unsuspected correct answer to this question was: said policies will take us precisely where we now are in 1994 — pointless⁴⁴ mass-poverty cycles of perpetual frustration & failure in US inner cities.

S Masochistic Behaviorism: The Third Pigeon

S1 Dropping a food-reward into the cage of a pigeon who has access to a lever has been a standard testing technique, enabling modern behaviorists to advance the science of psychology. If one rewards a pigeon (“positive reinforcement”) for pulling a lever, he will learn the connection and is called: a Conditioned pigeon.

S2 But, if a random reward-system is established, some lever-pulling pigeons will nonetheless interpret the situation as correlative. We may perhaps call this: the Religious pigeon. (See *DIO 2.3* ¶6 §C.)

S3 Finally, there is the remarkable ongoing national experiment (*DIO 2.3* ¶6 §G) in which, every time the pigeon pulls his lever, he gets punished (“negative reinforcement”) — but he keeps right on pulling it, anyway. In the US, we call this pigeon: the Voter.

certain that the mean intelligence (among numerous biological factors — many of which exhibit known variations) of all races is precisely equal: a Darwinian-miracle dead-heat. (Without exception, college presidents will swear [with S. Jay Gould] that this is [beyond-question] — meanwhile scorning other fundamentalists for not accepting Darwin.)

⁴¹ It goes without saying that one must accent the word *average*. Given that numerous individual whites (e.g., Muffios) & Orientals are dim, while plenty of blacks are brilliant, it is stupid & wrong (and offensive) to judge any individual's intelligence by group skin color or gender or any other nonmental index. *Even if it be true* that there is a mass-statistical-correlation of that index to IQ, the point is irrelevant to a particular person if that individual is an achiever. (Analogously, see *DIO 1.1* ¶2 fn 5.) Indeed, the injustice of applying mass-stats to individuals is precisely why DR opposes Affirmative Action. Incidentally, even aside from black intellectuals, I have 2 favorite little-known black-smarts references to pass along: [a] Butterfly McQueen (whose filmic portrayal of Prissy in *Gone With the Wind* so enrages Liberals) is a Lifetime Member of the Freedom From Religion Foundation. (This information due to Barbara Rawlins.) [b] Jackie Robinson (whom I am lucky enough to have seen in action at Ebbets Field) was such an original that his intelligence had to be specifically banned by a special rule; he was the player who thought of the now-outlawed ploy in which a runner intentionally kicks a sure-double-play grounder, accepting 1 out instead of 2. [Note added 1994/12: The Cabinet officer I most admired was the courageously honest Jocelyn Elders.]

⁴² Due to his skepticism of US race-orthodoxy (a skepticism science encourages in less volatile areas), DR sometimes facetiously calls himself the world's only redneck-leftist. But the pose is undone by the fact that realization of the mediocrity of the genes of one's own group is not classic redneckism — nor is agnostic uncertainty. DR (of mere UK origins) notes: while black mean IQ may perhaps be below whites', Orientals' mean IQ is very likely higher — so why would anyone be proud of white skin? (Race-pride is as ridiculous and sometimes as dangerous as any other group-pride: §K14. Historically, only nationalism has proven more lethal.) [Note added 1994/12: For a fresh-viewpoint, nondogmatic article skeptical of Jensen-Murray, see B.Rensberger *Wash Post* 1994/11/16 pp.H1&6.]

⁴³ Again, the key question here isn't whether races' mean IQs are equal, but rather: why found decades of divisive public policy upon the chiseled-in-stone presumption-certain that they are equal? (See *DIO 2.1* ¶1 fn 19.)

⁴⁴ At this juncture, I don't understand what is the purpose of continuing the affirmative-action Noble Experiment. If the intent is to stamp out poverty, that can be far more painlessly accomplished in the race-blind manner cited at §R4. Why instead decree that a laborious, tedious, expensive, race-preferential, divisive, so-far-ineffectual, & still-unproven mass-rehab social-experiment is the sole permissible option? (I.e., why insist on fighting poverty *strictly the hard way*? — additionally risking possibly carrying on forever a hopeless, pointless, counter-natural-selection fight against genetic limits?) Unless there is an unstated, strangely racist requirement, demanding that, regardless of a long track-record of (mean) difficulty-in-coping (whatever the cause — cultural, providential, or IQ): a large fraction of the US positively must remain black. (Environmentalists — mostly leftwing — object to keeping dolphins in tanks or bears in zoos, yet fail to see that subsidizing ethnic ghettos is just as artificial-unnatural.)

T So, Who's Speculating?

T1 The Ivy League royalty, which *DIO* calls the “Muffia”, privately condemn *DIO*'s ancient-astronomy researches as entirely-worthless speculation. The irony of the situation could not be more extreme: §B19. Such behavior would be discreditable enough if *DIO* were merely a second-rate periodical. (Where would be the harm in recognizing some occasional merit in second-raters? *DIO* frequently shows the Muffia such simple courtesy. And upgrading.)

T2 However, the hideous truth (which even a few Muffios are beginning to get an awful inkling of) is that the articles appearing in *DIO* include some of the most important scientific-historical analyses published in their respective fields. It is amusing to see how deeply the Muffia and many of the appropriate organs of History-of-science have invested — and even now continue to invest ever more irrevocably — their reputations, in the demand that *DIO* [i] be uncited and [ii] be classified as of null value.

T3 Putative intelligent officers of Hist.sci institutions should long ago have gauged the risk⁴⁵ such an investment entails: as scholars now realize how grossly wrong the Hist.sci center has been, what will universities think of continuing to support departments so censorially dominated by inverse-evaluation dim bulbs?⁴⁶ (Given the level of scientific expertise in History-of-science, one might entertain the analogy of asking what universities would make of establishing French Lit departments staffed by professors who don't understand French very well.⁴⁷ Even the level of *historical*⁴⁸ expertise in Hist.sci often leaves one wondering, especially in the Muffia-Ptolemy affair. And: what kind of historians care so little about what will be posterity's history of the technical & dictatorial lows⁴⁹ of the Ptolemy Controversy?) Thus, with this terrible vision before it, nervous Hist.sci archonduum has become mired more&more deeply in a self-created trap of attempting an indefinite staving off of the day of reckoning. Investors of the late 1920s had a similar problem: the short-term profits were so tempting that speculators just couldn't resist being drawn ever further into a situation where, the longer the process continued, the worse the eventual Crash.

⁴⁵ *DIO 1.2* §D4.

⁴⁶ In reaction to *DIO*'s findings & exposures, Hist.sci archonduum's facial expression remains frozen in speechless, gape-jawed horror, largely because, in a rather heavily BS&brainkissing field such as Hist.sci, archons have no experience with the coldwater-douse-shock of being confronted with scientific contradiction. It simply *does not happen* in the very best social circles of Hist.sci. To borrow CSICOP bored-member Ray Hyman's insightful 1980/1/12 comment (on CSICOP's catastrophic sTARBABY attempt at scientific experimentation: *DIO 1.1* ¶8 §A8): “It's like plumbers trying to do hairdressing”. One is reminded of fellow-CSICOPer Martin Gardner's astute remarks (*Fads & Fallacies* 1957 p.252) on another fishie-out-of-water, Wilhelm Reich, who had left shrinkoanalysis for a fresh career, selling “orgone-box” pseudo-physics: “From this point onward, you may take your choice of one of three possible interpretations of Reich's development, (1) He became the world's greatest biophysicist. (2) He deteriorated from a competent psychiatrist into a self-deluded crank. (3) He merely switched to fields in which his former incompetence became more visible. Critics who favor the last view point out that psychoanalysis is still in such a confused, pioneer state that writings by incompetent theorists are easily camouflaged by technical jargon and a sprinkling of sound ideas borrowed from others. When Reich turned to biology, physics, and astronomy — where there is a solid core of verifiable knowledge — his eccentric thinking became easier to detect.”

⁴⁷ See ¶7 §B25.

⁴⁸ See *DIO 1.2* fnn 92 & 116.

⁴⁹ See ¶7 fn 11.