opinion

Threat of holocaust eclipses old terrors

by Dick West

WASHINGTON — Almost nothing seems as harmless today as yesterday's alarms.

That may be a good point to bear in mind as we go about trying to blot out the mental images implanted in our brains by the television film "The Day After."

Remember a few years ago when "killer bees" had us quaking with fright? In their time, they could come almost as close to scaring the pants off us as nuclear warfare does now.

The cause of terror was apparent to one and all — a strain of unusually fierce honeybees that developed by accident in

The Brazilian bees, reputed to have killed at least 150 people and thousands of animals, were reported moving northward toward the United States at the rate of about 200 miles a year

That timetable would have put them on our borders in the early 1990s, and it didn't require much imagination to picture what would happen then. The very thought was enough to make even stouthearted Americans jump into bed and pull the covers over their heads.

Where, we might ask, are the killer bees of yesteryear? They seem to have vanished from our field of dread as completely as the "killer rabbits" of the Carter

I'm not suggesting the same thing will happen to the specter of nuclear holocaust that hangs over us. But while we are still all shook up from television's portrayal of what all-out atomic war could do to the planet, this might be a good time to

reprise the saga of the bees.

For background purposes, you should

know that when honeybees become agitated they produce and release certain bodily chemicals known as "alarm pheromones." Much the same thing appears to happen to televiewers when they are shown scenes of nuclear devastation.

The big question is whether these pheromones have any connection with aggressiveness. If they do, that relation-ship could have a major bearing on whether some country will start firing off nuclear missiles.

When the Brazilian bees released chemical secretions, they didn't just communicate alarm, in the manner of television critics. They pushed the panic

As we were told at the time, an alarm pheromone would trigger "an explosive response thoughout the colony" and the bees would start stinging anyone and anything in sight.

This dire behavior led to many countermeasures, such as programs to breed mild-mannered honeybees in this

In the 15 years or so that it theoretically would take belligerent Brazilian bees to work their way this far north, American honeybee pacification research, in theory, would be able to neutralize the

Savage bees from the south would be met by a strain of bees as docile and sweet-tempered as butterflies. If the former became overly alarmed, gentle American bees would be on hand to say,

'Cool it, baby.' Such a system might not restrain the Soviets, who currently are swarming all over American disarmament proposals. Perhaps, however, there is a lesson in this



Letter: Faith in University Police restored by officer

I recently had an opportunity to work closely with the University Police as they assisted me in filing a claim at the County courthouse. I found the officers who helped me to be extremely courteous and kind; Officer Don Pauler, in particular, went out of his way to do everything he could to let me know what procedures to follow and to assure me that I was doing the right thing in filing the complaint. His attitude toward the students here at

Texas A&M was one of respect and

Officer Pauler helped me to see that the University Police, on the whole, are genuinely concerned for our safety and welfare, and get their satisfaction from being of service to the student body, not from writing parking tickets. Thank you, Officer Pauler; you restored my faith.

Jannie Prestridge Class of '84

Secret files turn up in Virginia prison

by Art Buchwald

Under the "No one is perfect" rule, the State department sent over a file cabinet full of top-secret papers to the Lorton Reformatory in Virginia. Lorton has a contract with the department to repair Foggy Bottom's furniture, but the State Department rules say the files are supposed to by empty before they leave the building.

You can imagine the excitement at Lorton when one of the inmates opened up the cabinet and discovered it was filled with the inner most secrets of our govern-

"Hey, guys, look here. There's a bunch of papers in this cabinet.'

"I'll be damned. What kind of papers?" "I don't know. This file says 'For Eyes Only.' What does that mean?"

"Guess it means your supposed to read it. What are your eyes for? Here, give me that. Man, this is hot stuff. It looks like a telegram from some State Department cat asking for \$50 million to buy off some dude in Central America who wants to knock off another dude who's running the country.'

"Here's another one. It's marked 'Top Secret, Return After Reading.' It's a letter from the Secretary of State to some dame named Margret Thatcher telling her how to fuse a cruise missile. What's a

"Beats me. Let me see what else they got in there. This one says they broke the diplomatic code of Bulgaria and they now know the order of battle of the Warsaw Pact nations."

"Boy, this stuff is boring. It don't have anything in there about how we can break out from here, does it?"

"Don't expect so. They got lots of maps of prisons in foriegn countries showing how the prisoners can break out from there, but none for Lorton.'

What's in that confidential folder?" "Just a bunch of stuff about death squads knocking off the peasants, and how to handle it if the press starts asking alone a two-time Oscar winning actress. too many questions.'

You mean they're cooling it when it comes to death squads in other coun-

"Sure looks like it."

"Then why am I doing 20 years for shooting my wife's boyfriend?

"State Department don't get involved with what we do in this country. They just supposed to protect criminals in other countries from going to jail."

"Hey, Jester, you used to work in the government before you heisted the credit union. You think this stuff got any value for us?"

"It sure does. When they find out their files are missing they're going ape until they get them back. What I suggest we do is divvy up the top-secret folders amongst ourselves and then deal with them." "How do you mean deal?"

"Well, let's say I'll give them back their plans for supplying the rebels in Nicaragua, if they take five years off my sent-

"Maybe they'll give us five years more for having the top-secret folders in our

"They won't if we tell them we'll blow the whistle to '60 Minutes' on what the State Department really thinks of Pierre Trudeau.

'Is that in the files?"

"It's right here in this top-secret folder on psychiatric profiles of heads of the

"Hey, man, give me a real good one. I got a parole hearing coming up soon, and if I give him back something they really need, the secretary of state might appear himself to recommend it."

"Sure, Shorty. Here's a game plan on how the State Department is going to shaft the secretary of defense with the White House. They'll do anything to get that one back. Don't shove, there's enough to go around for everybody, but hide them good because they're going to tear this joint apart to find them.

"Hey, we forgot something. We're supposed to repair this cabinet.

'Don't give it no mind. No one at the State Department is ever going to want to see the outside of this cabinet again.'

Jane Fonda's business flair belies her left-wing past yet). Workout will share the profits from,

but not the control of, these projects, for

which Jane will receive a cut of her own.

Next month, Jane's personal fortunes

will take another leap with the introduc-

tion of a fashion line called "Jane Fonda

Workouts." Designed and produced by a

California-based firm (Jane, who starred

in the movie "9 to 5," demanded that her

by Maxwell Glen and Cody Shearer

WASHINGTON - She'll never make the Fortune 500, but her entrepreneurial moxie would match that of the most clever computer marketeer. Her name is Fonda, and she's an example of how the avante garde is looking more and more like the old guard.

In a few short years, Henry's daughter Jane has completed an extraordinary metamorphosis to become one of America's busiest and most prominent capitalists. In fact, she's been such an active businesswoman that it's almost difficult to imagine her as a left-wing lightning rod, let

workout, Inc., located off wilshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills, oversees Jane's three exercise studios in California as well as revenues from book (at \$19.95 and \$17.75), video tape (\$69.95) and album (12.95) sales. While its executives won't disclose its earnings, Workout funnels a percentage — effectively between \$20,000 and \$40,000 — every month to husband Tom Hayden's Campaign For Economic Democracy, according to CED director Jack Nicoll. (At one time, CED received the majority of Workout's earnings, but Jane, in a demonstration of steely managerial acumen, changed that in the last year.)

Meanwhile, Simon & Schuster has published "Jane Fonda's Year of Fitness and Health" calendar (\$8.95) and plans to release a fitness guide for senior citizens sometime next year (no price

'We must not be the only ones

that feel this way. Everytime I

say 'It still hurts!' no one asks

what I'm talking about."

by Jim Earle

Slouch

manufacturer be both American and unionized), "Workouts" have apparently captured one Southern California chain store's \$1.5 million guarantee in exchange for 30 days of exclusive sales rights. Bloomingdale's and Macy's intend to give Jane's clothes — ultimately as many as 127 different items, including casual wear — separate floor space.

> she can," said a Hayden-Fonda adviser of Jane's newfound enthusiasm for licensing. "This is only the beginning...there's not going to be as direct a political connection as there is with the workout studios. This is a Jane Fonda enterprise." Alas, that may be disarming news to those who have regarded the Santa Monica mother of two as a clear and present danger to the American way. From the

Atomic Industrial Forum, some business

groups and those bitter folk who hand

out scurrilous literature at airports,

Hanoi Jane has long been the peril.

"She's probably going to do everything

Now that Fonda is providing a lesson in free enterprise worthy of Harvard Business School casebooks, her opponents may no longer want to, as one bumper sticker suggests, feed (her) to the whales. How can we afford to "Nuke Jane Fonda" when such a move would undercut our gross national product? How can

they draw comparisons between Castro

and a woman who's more and more like

Mr. Candy Bar, Reggie Jackson?

Indeed, at 45, Jane has learned to play the most conventional roles. In a leotard, she coaches pregnant moms about muscle control and healthy babies. Meanwhile, she's taken a political back seat of sorts to her husband, now a California state assemblyman: though no Pat Nixon, she's hardly a Mrs. Mao.

Like many once-inflammatory leftwingers - Jerry Rubin and Abbie Hoffman come to mind — Jane has only shown that she, too, can work within the system and do quite well by it. Some Fonda-haters may see the difference and feel the satisfaction of a missionary who's won a big convert. Others won't amd may always prefer to think of her as the rebel who sat behind North Vietnamese guns and later "killed" the nuclear power in-

Such unreconstructable Fonda-ba will always, in the grand fashion of Sulli spiracy theorists, allege some subver motive to all of Jane's wheeling and ing. They can't seem to realize that, the Phil days, a good commmie sympathin hard to find.

The Battalion

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for students in reporting, editing and photograph ses within the Department of Communications.

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