



# The **SKUNK**

Near-Wasp

Making-It  
In  
**America**  
Attainment  
Test

Markand Thakar







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**SKUNK**

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Wasp

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# **The SKUNK**

## **Near-Wasp Making-it In America**

### **Attainment Test**

by

**Markand Thakar**

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## Author/Artist's Note

It's said that a picture is worth a thousand words. And for those artists who are lucky, those words will be found in a review by a newspaper's paid-by-the-word, MFA art critic (almost always a failed artist whose critique is intended more to rationalize his or her own shortcomings, as an artist, than to enlighten the reader).

Allowing for the self-disparaging possibility (perhaps for good cause) that it's due to my own shortcomings as an artist, and not that of the medium, the statements I feel I can make as a painter and not have it result in my being an illustrator, are limited.

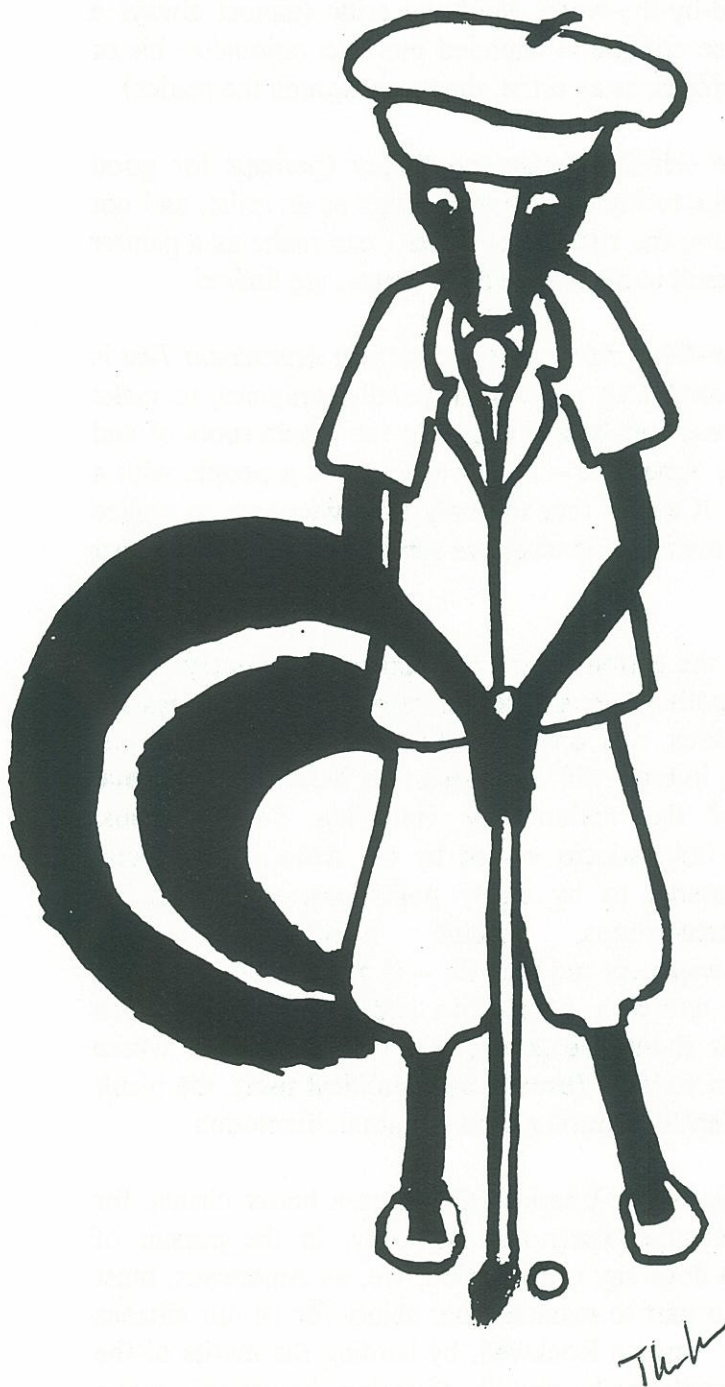
*The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-it In America Attainment Test* is my attempt, by combining prose with parallel graphics, to make ludicrous the recent nonsensical stress on the ethnic roots of and by virtually every American -- as if we were not a people with a national identity. It seems that the only time we come to realize our oneness as Americans, is when we serve in the military or visit another country.

If not countered, the current attempts to pigeon-hole every one of us into one or another hyphenated category, virtually always for questionable reasons, can only lead to the polarization of our peoples -- which, in turn, will most assuredly lead to the eventual disintegration of the nation. By ridiculing the ludicrous, hyphenate-based braggadocio voiced by the nation's losers and exploited and catered to by crafty politicians, political-action committees, hate-groups, foreign governments, sales organizations, newspapers and their ilk -- is my way of countering the self-deluding adoption, acceptance and stress on having an ethnic identity. It should be noted, that in every nation where ethnicity has been stressed (usually as a political tool), the result has been internal strife, turmoil and its eventual dissolution.

Though, unquestionably, America still offers a better chance for her citizens to engage, fairly and equitably, in the pursuit of happiness -- than does any other nation, we, as Americans, must continually do our part to maintain that ability for all our citizens -- whether like a Norman Rockwell, by lauding the merits of the nation and her people; or by brutally exposing the nation's worst traits like a Thomas Nast or an Upton Sinclair. The best medicine is often hard to swallow.

Markand Thakar







# The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-it In America Attainment Test

## Prelude

### The formation of the Great-American Middle-class

If *True-Wasps* ever existed, it's obvious that they have long since joined the ranks of the extinct -- that of the dodo and hula-hoop. Today, Americans must visit a *living museum* such as Williamsburg or Sturbridge Village, in order to see a reconstruction of the fabled *True-Wasp* and his or her environment.

The employees in the various buildings and exhibits that make up these *Real-American* museums are chosen for their outward resemblance to that of the mythical *True-Wasp*. Before being permitted to enter these museums: where arrivals may walk the hallowed, immaculate streets and enter the obviously-never-lived-in, germ-free buildings; all visitors are herded into a theater where a brain-washing indoctrination takes place.

Movies, similar to those one is forced to view when first going on jury duty, or starting work at a major corporation, are shown depicting an ideal and pristine past; they are shown free-of-charge -- after paying a hefty fee for general admission. These movies seem to run on forever, but last no more than half-an-hour or so, and are shown every hour on the hour -- except on weekends and holidays, when they're shown non-stop.

In these movies, the early immigrants are depicted by actors who not only manifest the physical aspects of the idealized mythical *True-Wasp*, but portray their moralistic ones, as well. They portray a robust population with lovely saccharine personalities, in adorable little vignettes, carefully constructed to display the moral and social niceties of a pure and honorable citizenry, as it goes about living a smiling and virtuous life. But, an attempt is also made to show the dark side of *True-Wasp* country: on the village green, a pillory is shown in which a miscreant has been locked. He can be seen kneeling in willful submission to his cajoling, benign fellow citizens.

In these films made to convey our historical, intended-to-be-universally-accepted American past, everyone is attired in freshly ironed and spotless colonial dress. No sweating, soot-encrusted smithies; no snarling dogs; no scampering rats; no drowning of heretical witches; no scarlet letters; not a torn or un-ironed shirt; nor a mud-spattered boot; nor a rutted, dusty dirt road topped with even a hint of horse droppings can be found in these shrines devoted to the depiction of *True-Wasphood*.

The plethora of freshly-made takeoffs of the reconstructed Williamsburg, Sturbridge Village and South Street Seaport, now found strewn throughout America, poignantly illustrate to their fee-paying visitors, perhaps inadvertently, why *True-Wasps* became extinct -- like so much of the earth's long-gone animal life, their habitats have long-since vanished.



Although, there are folks who attempt to blame society (often for just cause) for their shortcomings -- this, by acknowledging kinship with a minority pariah group -- or with a group that is claiming to have been harmed by the activities of members from another minority group (also, often for just cause), the usual reason individuals choose to associate themselves with one group or another (when not used as a ploy to make a Tupperware or insurance sales pitch) is merely to be amongst folks they can relate to. However, there are exceptions, and that's when they do it in an attempt to raise their own status. And, should those folks (who, by nature, are social climbers) be accepted into the select grouping of their choice, in an effort to ingratiate themselves, they go about stressing the most laudatory physical, mental, and moral characteristics of the idealized paragon said to be representative of its membership. If and when, due to their efforts, they're given credit for increasing the prestige of all the group's members, they themselves gain a high degree of acceptance and esteem: amongst them, while raising their own social standing with others, as well.

The aftereffects of this are such, that many from within the self-defined and now-made-even-more-elitist select grouping, having been filled with such pride of status, then go to great lengths to prove to the world that its pretensions are valid -- with many now included in those groupings known to risk death in order to defend their right to be considered as equals with their *bettors*. History is full of zealots from amongst arbitrarily assembled entities, who, to prove their allegiance, go about killing all who won't accept their group's superior status -- or, they may choose to die as martyrs: doing nothing to prevent, or even facilitating, their own death in anticipation of their group's admiration. Nevertheless, since God is always claimed to be on their side, families of such brave warriors have been known to wonder why it was required that they die -- in order to prove their belief in Him.

In America, due to the indoctrination children receive -- with its claims of our all being equal (students in parochial and private schools are made to believe that they're even more equal) -- those proto-adults are led to believe that they too, in our land of equal opportunity, are kin to the most elite within our most venerated social classes. Meanwhile, those folks aware that the stress in schools, that all children have the same ability to make-it when they grow up, is nothing more than the carrot dangled to make them abide by the status-preserving rules of those that have it (the stick being ostracism, or even jail, if they don't) -- and, who then go about pointing it out, are accused, perhaps with some logic, that it's a question of *sour-grapes* -- or even worse, of being a revolutionary.

It is projected, that by taking *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-it In America Attainment Test*, testees will be enabled to determine the degree that the promise of an equal opportunity to make-it, is determined by their proximity to their being a *True-Wasp*.





## The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-it In America Attainment Test

### WHY

Since it's SKUNK's contention that the more an American citizen's traits approach those of the idealized *True-Wasp*, the better his or her chances are for *Making-It* in America, *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-it In America Attainment Test* has been devised to obtain a factor that will enable any American to determine just how much that arbitrary advantage of birth influences his or her chances to partake in the great American experience. SKUNK, unable to find even one specimen of the pure, idealized American -- hereafter referred to as the *True-Wasp*, with whom to make a "scientific" comparison, has found it necessary to construct a model based on the admired characteristics attributed to the *True-Wasp*, that imaginary American.

The All-American paragon is: blond, blue-eyed, well-schooled, fair-complexioned, a church-going Protestant (preferably Episcopalian), of pure Anglo-Saxon stock and whose female relations are eligible for membership in the D.A.R.. Furthermore, the *True-Wasp* is physically sound, displays good common sense, has a steady, reliable income derived from ownership of arable land and sound investments in securities, is a non-drinker, displays no interest in sex, is totally honest, and speaks with no considered-undesirable, regional or ethnic accent.

\*

Every American-born citizen (no matter what his ethnicity, race or religion) who, in the course of being taught elementary American History was indoctrinated with the patriotic concept of the ideal American, will most assuredly recognize the aforementioned traits as those belonging to every American's illustrious ancestor: the *True-Wasp*. It was the *True-Wasp* who left behind his beautiful estate located in one of those lovely hamlets scattered throughout Jolly-Olde-England, and who sailed here on one of those glorious sailing vessels in order to populate His Majesty's benevolent colonies in the New World. It seems hardly possible that even one of those folks touted as being all America's communal ancestor, *True-Wasp*, ever came to America in a prison transport, or was related in any way to the flotsam and jetsam produced by the slums and waysides of pre-Dickensonian England -- nor that they were in any way involved with the almost total destruction of the American Indian civilizations or with the introduction and maintenance of slavery in America. Consequently, it seems only fair to completely dismiss any and all allegations of even a hint of baseness in the makeup of the *True-Wasp* -- as being totally without foundation in truth.





## The Development of the *Near-Wasp*

What made America into the world's most powerful and imitated democracy is the result of our having a nation of relatively free people, who were encumbered by but few laws or ethical restraints, as they went about trying to attain that most alluring goal: that of *Making-It* -- in any way they could. To this day, all American citizens, of every ethnic, racial and religious background benefit as a result of the past ruthless and greed-driven race to obtain a selfish, material success. (Only the Amerinds, who forfeited their land and their lives, were to lose far more than they could possibly ever gain from it.)

In exercising their freedom, America's post-Revolution citizenry, who were mainly farmers, supported the principle of free trade -- which stressed the unrestricted exportation of farm products -- and the unimpeded, duty-free importation of farm implements and equipment (a policy that remains in effect to this day). At the same time, landowners and mining interests joined the farmers in the unregulated clearing of the land. The subsequent abundance of food, fuel, ores and timber brought about the formation of flourishing iron and lumber industries that manufactured everything from oceangoing sailing vessels and harpoons to Connecticut's wooden nutmegs and nickels.

These new industries required a continuous supply of cheap labor. As a result, until 1924, the nation supported an open-door, unrestricted immigration policy (by the last decades of the twentieth century, since computer-savvy individuals were in short supply, the country encouraged the immigration of cheap labor from South and East Asia, cultures that produced an overabundance of such men and women). Soon, American ships that had carried America's exports of her raw materials and agricultural products were also handling her manufactured goods: articles that were produced by combining the plentiful, seemingly-inexhaustible supply of raw materials with the efforts of an influx of low-paid immigrant laborers.

\*

Pre-Revolutionary immigrants tried unsuccessfully to prevent the immigration of the early 1800s by the escapees from the poverty of Britain and Northern Europe. Eventually, although begrudgingly, they were admitted into mainstream American life -- almost as equals.

The availability, in the West, of cheap land, and the prospect of obtaining great riches from the mining of gold, the slaughter of native animals and the trading of their skins (though the buffalo was deliberately killed off to deprive the plains Indians of their ability to live free -- and to force them into reservations on uninhabitable land), had made it easy to entice those early immigrants to leave their new-found homes in the poorest sections of the over-crowded, over-competitive, economically-frustrating East-Coast port cities. However, later arrivals, those from Ireland and, then, especially those from the Mediterranean and East Europe, were not given the same incentives to go West. As a



consequence, by the 1950s, those ethnically-less-desirable immigrants who had arrived in the latter part of the nineteenth and the early part of the twentieth century, along with their children, and their children's children, as they bettered their economic condition, tended to move no further out than the suburbs and the outer reaches of the cities they grew up in. The eventual granting of truly full rights of citizenship, though somewhat-reluctantly, to those immigrants from Ireland, and Southern and Eastern Europe, allowed them to obtain and then exercise the political clout that was to eventually benefit all Americans. The liberalizing laws (enacted through the efforts of men like Al Smith) provided voting guarantees; the right (though limited by the still-in-force Taft-Hartley Law) to unionize; the enactment of fire codes and labor laws protecting all workers (with extra protection for children -- and for women, though now, for reasons of equality of opportunity, somewhat limited); a social security system; a minimum wage; unemployment insurance; workers compensation; a graduated income tax and renter protection -- all of which have come under constant attack by Republican conservatives and certain followers of the most dismal aspects of economic theory (admittedly, the predictions of economists, much like those of weather forecasters and fortunetellers, are sometimes right on target.)

This legislation did, in part, make up for the de facto confinement of those immigrants in America's overcrowded metropolitan areas; it also enabled them to make their eventual exodus to the suburbs. Gone were the *Irish need not apply* employment ads. Gone were the *Restricted* (Jews not allowed) signs. No longer tolerated was the vocalized, *If the Eytalians move in, were moving out*. Gone were the Polish Jokes. No longer did citizens go out to dinner or have the shirts laundered at the *Chinks*. Of, course, people being what they are, others were soon to take their place in facing the bigotry of these folks and their predecessors.

In New York and other large cities, the less fortunate, mostly from amongst Latin Americans, Southern Blacks and other new non-European arrivals moved into the recently-vacated tenements located in the less desirable areas. The democratic process was soon to come to the aid of the new slum dwellers. The consequences of their political clout brought about the enactment of the civil rights laws of the 1950s and 1960s. Oddly enough, the ensuing sudden burst of supposed opportunities for better jobs and education was, indirectly, far more responsible for causing the civil unrest and racial strife of the mid- and late-1960s, than the Vietnam war.

By the late 1970s the immigrants from South and East Asia, Latin America, the Near East and Africa were not only met with hostility from the progeny of the early immigrants from North Europe, many of whom had moved to the outer burbs and America's hinterlands, but were also faced with the bigotry of descendants of the impoverished immigrants from Ireland, the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe, many of whom were, by then, living in the outer boroughs and suburbs. The result was that many of those non-Europeans arriving during the latter part of the twentieth century had no other choice but to reside in the less desirable sections of major cities -- where they were met with the frustration-born resentment of a diversity of America's homegrown underclasses (those coming from every conceivable ethnic, racial and religious background). However, due to the no-longer-legal,



yet de facto segregation of the vast majority of African Americans and many Latinos, they showed the greatest degree of resentment. The Black hostility towards Korean-owned grocery stores, being a case in point (although their reluctance to give itemized receipts, with its concurrent feeling by buyers that they, as well as the government, were being cheated, was, no doubt, a contributing factor).

\*

During the 1980s, despite, or perhaps because most Americans (with a diversity of ethnic backgrounds) had only just gotten *theirs*, a great many supported a reactionary government's attempt to cancel a half century of hard-won social legislation. Although this brought great hardship to many Blacks and Latinos, the actual number of *other* Americans adversely affected (many of whom had voted for conservative candidates) was far greater.

During the Reagan and Bush years, with the acquiescence, if not the connivance of many claiming to be liberals, the minimum wage continued (since its inception) to lose more than half its relative purchasing power; federal support for public housing began benefiting, almost exclusively, the many self-righteous thieves from within a conservative, flag-waving administration; that same administration gave support to corrupt unions, while helping to thwart the spread of honest unionism; the graduated income tax was almost totally abrogated -- if not reversed; the banking industry was allowed free reign -- at a cost of half a trillion dollars to the US taxpayer. All these greed-motivated actions were taken in the name of fairness -- and a return to the American way.

It was as a consequence of their playing on middle-class America's fear of losing some of its hard-won privileges, that the clique of: super-wealthy, super-greedy, super-privileged, super-insecure, super-unprincipled, super-selfish, narrow-minded *Old Boys*, using the appeal of a possibly-well-meaning, bumbling actor, managed to further their own self-serving interests -- while denying a huge chunk of the population (including a goodly number in the lower-middle-income, middle class) of their ability to fully partake in the American experience.

However, due to the inexorable force for fairness that exists in the American Constitution, the one hundred million or so Americans, who were short-changed as a direct consequence of the attack upon their rights to attain full equality as Americans, have, perhaps, only suffered a tentative delay in their own all-too-often-greed-driven endeavor to make-it in America.

\*

It would be reasonable to assume that those citizens hurt by the greed-inspired activities promulgated during that decade of deceit (the 1980s) with the subsequent catering by the Bush administrations to the demands of a monied right, might not be interested in obtaining a *Near-Wasp* rating. However, due to the resiliency of America's constitutional government, every citizen, theoretically at least, still has the potential to acquire some of the characteristics that proximate those of the *True-Wasp*. Consequently, not one



American citizen should refrain from taking *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-it In America Attainment Test*.

Every American-born school child learns that he or she can be president. Moreover, since we are such an equal-opportunity nation, all children are taught that they have the same chance of obtaining the good life as anyone else. Sad to say, by the end of the 1990s, this good life had come to mean nothing more than the making and spending of a lot of money -- intellectual and emotional fulfillment became a non-issue.

As children become adults, it becomes more and more obvious that some folks are more equal than others. This shows up in the advantages that former classmates had who were related by blood, bed or marriage to wealthy or well-placed relations. Of course, the degree of success available, even in fields where they had kinfolk, was often also determined by their intelligence, physical prowess and personality. Furthermore, some fields require a certain degree of ability in order to attain the accouterments of wealth and acceptance that go with the highest levels of success. However, lacking most, if not all of those apparent requirements, doesn't necessarily offer a major impediment to the obtaining of huge financial rewards and peer group acceptance or even critical acclaim -- providing one was born into one of the *very-best* of families, had an awful lot of pull, or the kind of luck required to win a multimillion-dollar lottery three times in a row.

As a consequence, it's commonly accepted that it takes less innate ability to be a prominent actor or banker than to be an exceptional athlete. The apparent proof is that there are far more top-rung, second- and third-generation bankers and actors than there are top-rung athletes. Though often touted as proof of an inherited ability, it's related far more to that of an inherited connection -- and, as such, is proof of nepotism. Although, worldwide, the taking care of one's own is often an idealized practice, in a society that touts its having an opportunity for all its citizens to make-it -- this by hard work, education, intelligence and a willingness to take a risk, the accepting of nepotistic practices and the unrestricted passing on of one's wealth (which, by the turn of the millennium was being proposed by a president elected as the result of a tainted election) would make a farce of that claim.

There are, of course, increased chances for making-it in America that are similar to those for making-it in many other nations worldwide -- and that's for all those with unique physical, intellectual and artistic abilities -- as well as for all those instilled with great self-confidence and a drive to succeed, especially when lacking ethical scruples.

\*

Formal, as well as informal tests have been devised to measure, calculate and calibrate just how nature and nurture harm or aid individuals in their attempts to thrive while coping with the exigencies of life. Nevertheless, there is an additional and far more pervasive aspect to *making-it* in America -- and, that's the degree that the characteristics of any particular citizen, correlate to those attributed to the *True-Wasp*. *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-it In America Attainment Test* was devised to ascertain (when used in conjunction



with those other, supposedly-equally scientific tests) the testee's overall potential for *making-it* in America.

For Americans, in general, the proximity of an individual's traits to those of the mythical *True-Wasp* is the single most important factor in determining his or her potential for *Making-it in America*. The *True-Wasp*, that self-serving creation of those folks claiming to be the nation's *Real-Americans*, has been bestowed with exhaustive exemplary traits. However, since it's obvious that many of those attributes of the *True-Wasp* are quite iffy, even our most illustrious citizens must accept the fact that, even when claiming pure *Waspood*, at best they may proximate it. As a consequence, it's considered virtually impossible for any citizen of this nation of immigrants to be anything more than a *Near-Wasp*, ergo: *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-it In America Attainment Test*, to determine one's proximity to that American ideal, the *True-Wasp*.

\*

*The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-it In America Attainment Test* identifies twenty traits commonly attributed to the *True-Wasp*. Since it's only necessary to follow the simple instructions for the taking of the test, no two- or three-hundred-dollar-an-hour fee need be paid to an all-knowing shrink in order to obtain a *Near-Wasp* Rating (N-W-R).

Theories have been promulgated by economists, sociologists, psychologists, numerologists, astrologists along with every other -ologist, bartender, barber and fortuneteller in an attempt to foretell a person's potential for success. However, SKUNK finds, after extensive research, that none of those men and women of genius has ever scientifically considered the most important factor when calculating a citizen's chances for *Making-it in America* -- they have not functioned into their projections the N-W-R. It is to make up for those past omissions that *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-it In America Attainment Test* has been devised. The resultant N-W-R is intended for use with the results of I.Q. and aptitude tests, SATs and taro-card readings. It is full-well expected that the N-W-R will take its place amongst all of the other scientific determining-factors for *making-it* in America.







Thw





## The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-it In America Attainment Test

### A Systematic Testing Procedure For Determining A SKUNK *Near-Wasp* (N-W) Rating

The test consists of twenty (20) master questions of five (5) parts each

#### Testing Procedure

Let us suppose that the color of a testee's hair is dirty blond, and that of his or her father is light brown, of his or her mother is strawberry blond, of his or her mate or significant other is brown, and that some of his or her other relations have hair coloring ranging from light brown to dark brown.

Example question:	Yes(2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Does the color of your hair range from blond to red or to light brown? -----	<u>2</u>	___	___
Does (did) that of your father? -----	<u>2</u>	___	___
Does (did) that of your mother? -----	<u>2</u>	___	___
Does (did) that of your mate or significant other? -----	___	___	<u>0</u>
Does (did) that of all of your kin? -----	___	<u>1</u>	___
Total: <u>7</u> ___			

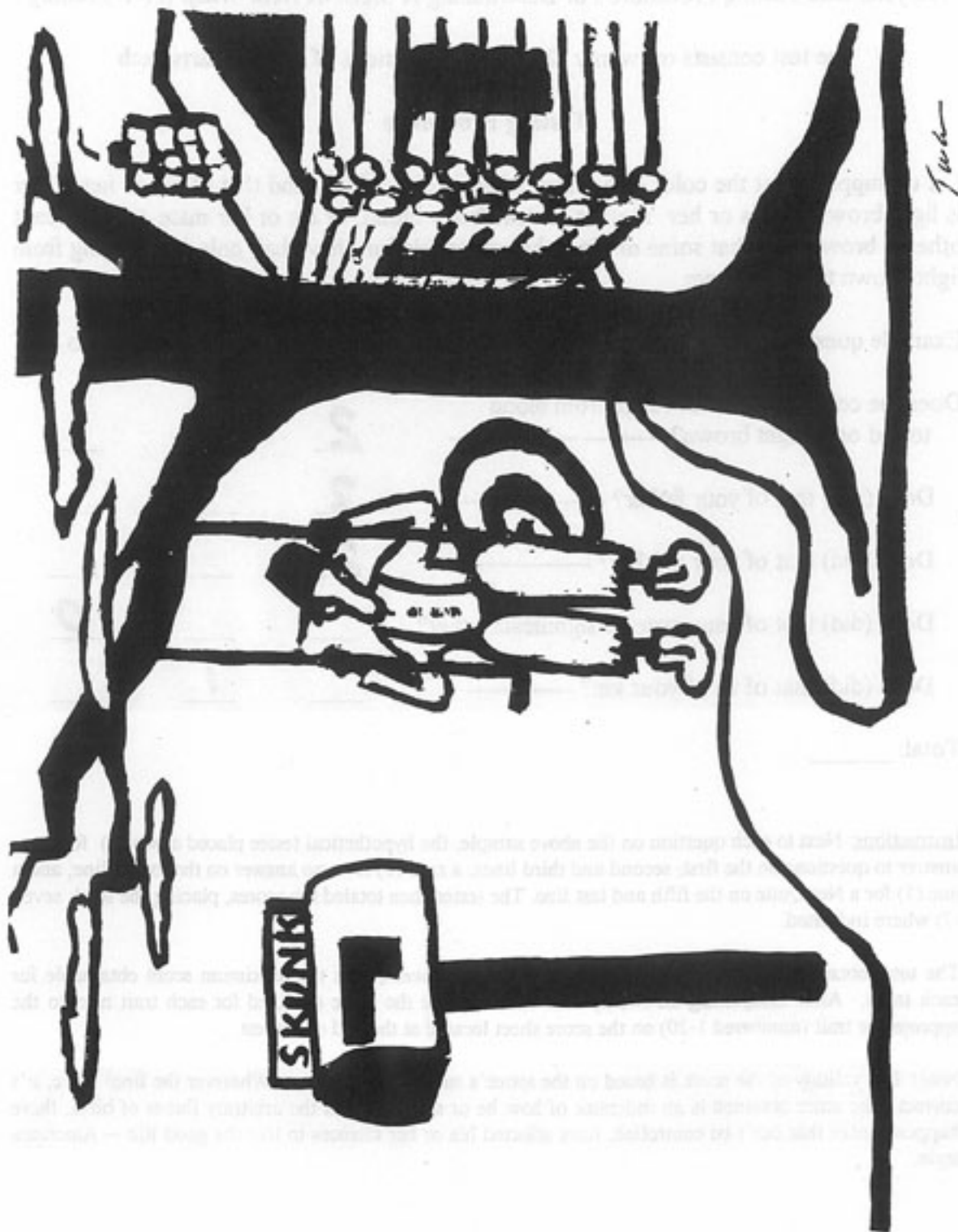
**Instructions:** Next to each question on the above sample, the hypothetical testee placed a two (2) for a yes answer to questions on the first, second and third lines; a zero (0) for a no answer on the fourth line; and a one (1) for a Not Quite on the fifth and last line. The testee then totaled the scores, placing the total: seven (7) where indicated.

The maximum score obtainable for each trait on the *Near-Wasp Determination Sheet* is 10. After completing all twenty trait sheets, place the score obtained for each trait next to the appropriate trait (numbered 1-20) on the score sheet located at the end of the test.

**Note!** The validity of the score is based on the testee's subjective judgment. Whatever the final score, it's correct. The score obtained is an indicator of how he or she feels that the arbitrary flukes of birth, those happenstances that can't be controlled, have affected his or her chances to live the good life -- American style.

IT'S NOW TIME TO TURN THE PAGE AND BEGIN THE TEST -- GOOD LUCK





The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number One (1)

Surname

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Do you have a Real-American last name? -----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your father?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your mother?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your mate or significant other?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) all of your kin? -----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number One: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test SCORE SHEET*.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).



The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Two (2)

Place of Residence

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Is your legal residence in the same <i>good</i> neighborhood, district or town where the influential older residents live?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) your father's?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) your mother's?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) your mate's or significant other's?---	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) that of all of your kin? -----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Two: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test SCORE SHEET*.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).





The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Three (3)

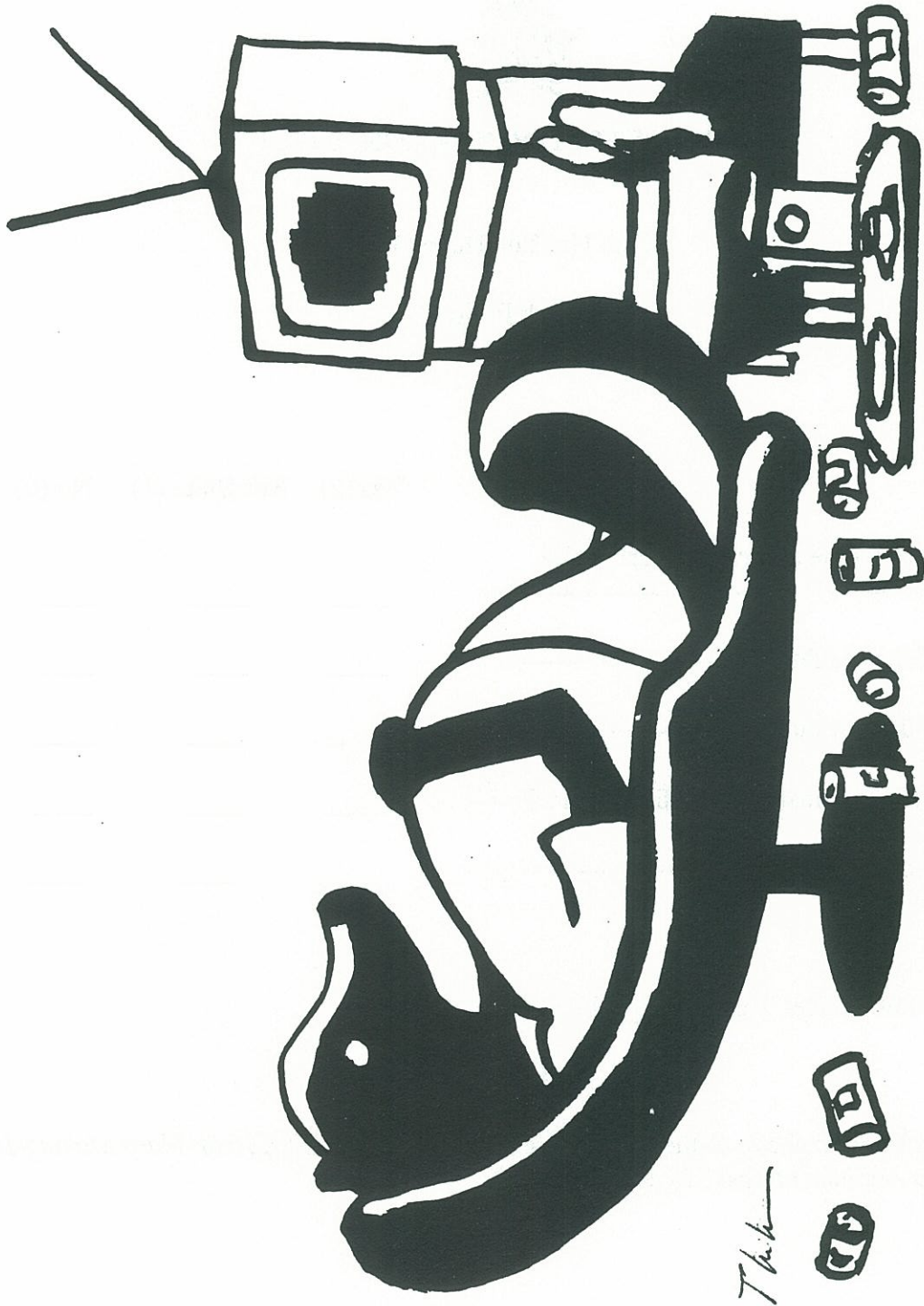
Work Ethic

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Do you abide by the <i>Protestant</i> work ethic? -----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your father?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your mother?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your mate or significant other?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) all of your kin? -----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Three: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test* SCORE SHEET.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).





The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Four (4)

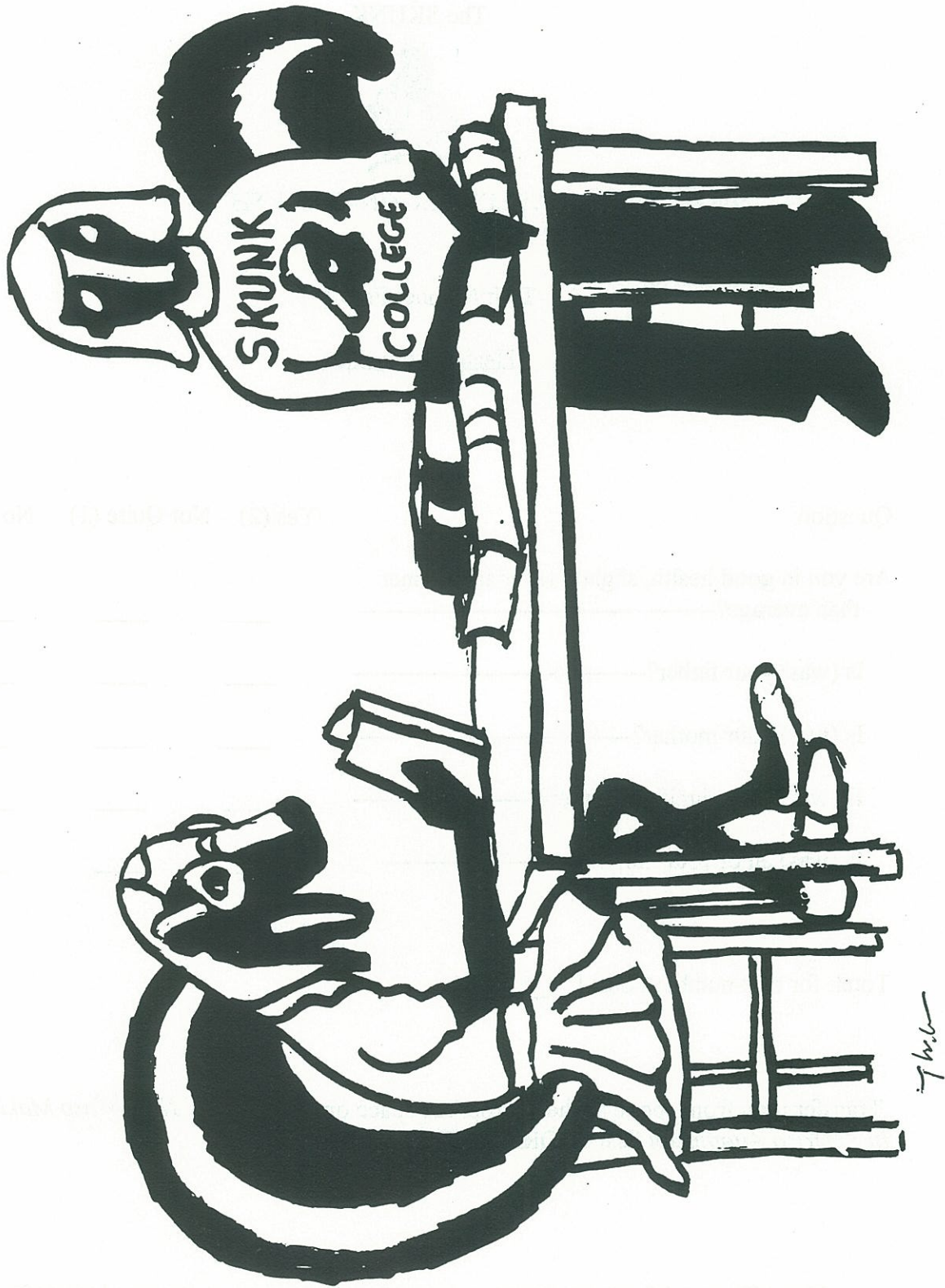
Health -- Physique

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Are you in good health, slightly taller and thinner than average?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) your father?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) your mother?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) your significant other?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) all of your kin? -----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Four: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test* SCORE SHEET.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).





The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Five (5)

Sexuality

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Do you refrain from exhibiting your sexuality? -----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your father?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your mother?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your mate or significant other?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) all of your kin? -----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Five: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test* SCORE SHEET.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).





The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Six (6)

Religion

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Were you born a Protestant: Episcopalian, Methodist. Presbyterian, Baptist, Congregationalist?-----	_____	_____	_____
Was your father?-----	_____	_____	_____
Was your mother?-----	_____	_____	_____
Was your mate or significant other?-----	_____	_____	_____
Were all of your kin? -----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Six: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test* SCORE SHEET.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).





The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Seven (7)

Secondary School -- High School

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
In lieu of public high school, did you attend a prestigious prep school? -----	_____	_____	_____
Did your father?-----	_____	_____	_____
Did your mother?-----	_____	_____	_____
Did your mate or significant other?-----	_____	_____	_____
Did (does) all of your kin? -----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Seven: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test* SCORE SHEET.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).





The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Eight (8)

Fraternity -- Sorority

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Were you requested to become a member of a prestigious fraternity or sorority?-----	_____	_____	_____
Was your father?-----	_____	_____	_____
Was your mother?-----	_____	_____	_____
Was your mate or significant other?-----	_____	_____	_____
Were all of your kin?-----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Eight: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test* SCORE SHEET.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).





The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Nine (9)

College

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Were you accepted as a freshman at an Ivy-League or Seven-Sisters College?-----	_____	_____	_____
Was your father?-----	_____	_____	_____
Was your mother?-----	_____	_____	_____
Was your mate or significant other?-----	_____	_____	_____
Were all of your kin?-----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Nine: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test* SCORE SHEET.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).





The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Ten (10)

Ethnicity

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Do you consider yourself a non-ethnic? -----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your father?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your mother?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your mate or significant other?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) all of your kin? -----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Ten: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test* SCORE SHEET.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).





The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Eleven (11)

Right From Wrong -- Common Sense

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Do you have an innate ability to determine right from wrong?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your father?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your mother?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your mate or significant other?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) all of your kin? -----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Eleven: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test* SCORE SHEET.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).



Thakar



The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Twelve (12)

Citizenship

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Are you eligible for membership in the Sons or Daughters of the American Revolution?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) your father?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) your mother?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) your mate or significant other?-----	_____	_____	_____
Are (were) all of your kin? -----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Twelve: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test* SCORE SHEET.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).





The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Thirteen (13)

Accent

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Is your speech free of all readily discernible ethnic or uncultured-regional accent?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) your father's?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) your mother's?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) your mate's or significant other's?----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) that of all of your kin? -----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Thirteen: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test* SCORE SHEET.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).





The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Fourteen (14)

Complexion

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Do you have a fair complexion? -----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your father?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your mother?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your mate or significant other?-----	_____	_____	_____
Do (did) all of your kin?-----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Fourteen: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test* SCORE SHEET.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).



Thakar



The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Fifteen

Buying Habits

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Is it your practice to buy from L.L.Bean, Ralph Lauren, McDonald's or other stores that cater to the true American ethos? -----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) it your father's?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) it your mother's?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) it your mate's or significant other's?--	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) it that of all of your kin?-----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Fifteen: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test SCORE SHEET*.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).





The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Sixteen (16)

Source of Income

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Do you derive virtually all of your income from investments such as real estate and securities? -----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your father?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your mother?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your mate or significant other?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) all of your kin? -----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Sixteen: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test* SCORE SHEET.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).





The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Seventeen (17)

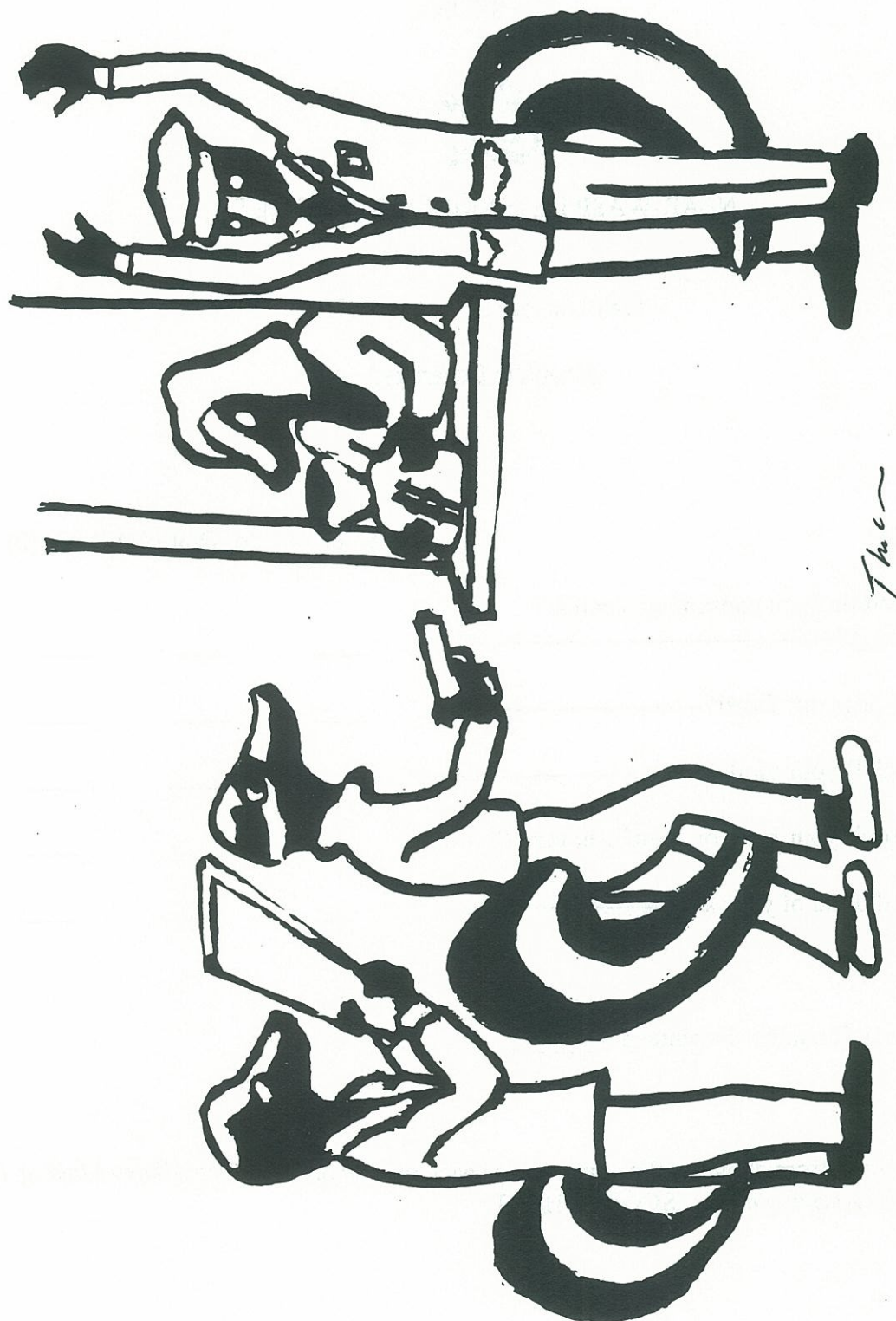
Alcoholic Beverages

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Do you refrain from consuming alcoholic beverages?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your father?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your mother?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your mate or significant other?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) all of your kin? -----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Seventeen: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test* SCORE SHEET.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).





The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Eighteen (18)

Integrity

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Are you truthful and honest with virtually all people, in all your dealings -- at all times?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) your father/-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) your mother?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) your mate or significant other?-----	_____	_____	_____
Are (were) all of your kin?-----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Eighteen: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test* SCORE SHEET.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).



Thakar



The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Nineteen (19)

Color of Hair

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Does the color of your hair range from blond to strawberry blond to light brown? -----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your father's?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your mother's?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) your mate's or significant other's?-----	_____	_____	_____
Does (did) all of your kin's? -----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Nineteen: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test* SCORE SHEET.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).



Thakar



The SKUNK



NEAR-WASP DETERMINATION SHEET

Trait Number Twenty (20)

Color of Eyes

Question:	Yes (2)	Not Quite (1)	No (0)
Is the color of your eyes blue, blue-green, green or hazel? -----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) your father's?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) your mother's?-----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) your mate's or significant other's?----	_____	_____	_____
Is (was) that of all of your kin?-----	_____	_____	_____

Total: for trait number Twenty: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Transfer total from above to the appropriate space on *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-It In America Attainment Test* SCORE SHEET.

Note! The total for the trait covered on this test page may not exceed ten (10).









## SCORE SHEET

Number	Rating	Description
1	[ ]	◇ SURNAME
2	[ ]	◇ PLACE OF RESIDENCE
3	[ ]	◇ WORK ETHIC
4	[ ]	◇ HEALTH -- PHYSIQUE
5	[ ]	◇ SEXUALITY
6	[ ]	◇ RELIGION
7	[ ]	◇ HIGH SCHOOL
8	[ ]	◇ FRATERNITY -- SORORITY
9	[ ]	◇ COLLEGE
10	[ ]	◇ ETHNICITY
11	[ ]	◇ COMMON SENSE
12	[ ]	◇ CITIZENSHIP
13	[ ]	◇ ACCENT
14	[ ]	◇ COMPLEXION
15	[ ]	◇ BUYING HABITS
16	[ ]	◇ SOURCE OF INCOME
17	[ ]	◇ ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
18	[ ]	◇ INTEGRITY
19	[ ]	◇ COLOR OF HAIR
20	[ ]	◇ COLOR OF EYES

TOTAL [ ]

This total of all Twenty (20) traits is your Near-Wasp (N-W) Rating.

## Epilogue

The N-W-R (Near-Wasp Rating) [from zero (0) to a maximum of two hundred (200) -- see SKUNK Near-Wasp Ratings Chart] determined by taking *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-it In America Attainment Test*, is a measurement of the Corrupting Results of American Prejudice (hereafter to be referred to by its acronym **CRAP**), that the average testee will, no doubt, be able to identify with. A SKUNK N-W-R above the CRAP line (100 (+/- 10) indicates that the testee may very-well have benefited by the current, CRAP -- whereas, by scoring below the CRAP line, the testee will, in all probability be able to give ample proof of the harmful effects of the CRAP that he or she was, or will be subjected to.

In summary, the SKUNK N-W-R is a measurement of the amount of preferential or detrimental treatment that the testee, as a law-abiding American citizen, has been, or can expect to be subjected to -- solely due to the extent of his or her acceptance or rejection as a *Real-American*.

An N-W-R well over the CRAP line indicates that the testee was, or can expect to be, the recipient of heretofore thought-to-be-random preferential treatment in many competitive aspects of American life. On the other hand, a testee with a N-W-R well-below the CRAP line indicates that he or she has been, and may expect to be, the recipient of blatantly discriminatory treatment. It should be noted, however, that most testees who score either very high above or very low below the CRAP line have most assuredly, at least as adults, become very aware of the effects of CRAP on their ability to compete in America's deservedly-vaunted, open-to-all, free-enterprise capitalistic system.

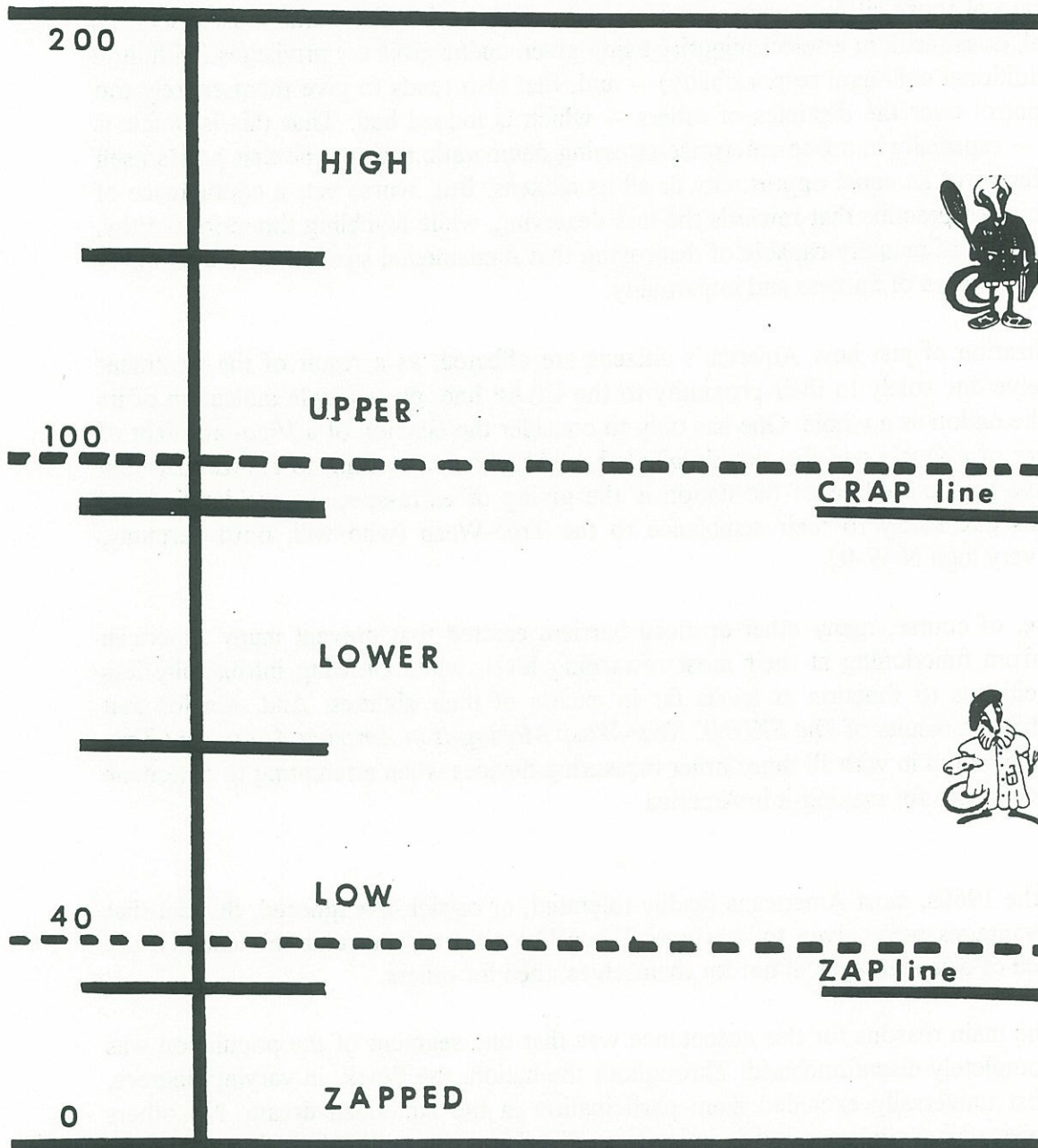
All that notwithstanding, before *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-it In America Attainment Test* was devised -- and made available to economists, sociologists, psychologists, numerologists, astrologists and every other -ologist, bartender, barber and fortuneteller -- present and wannabe citizens of our great, classless, casteless and equal-opportunity-offering nation had no means of determining the degree that that prejudicial treatment has or will have on the lives of every present and future American citizen.

The resultant Near-Wasp Rating (N-W-R) was intended for use with the scores of SATs and IQs -- plus the determinations obtained from aptitude tests, The Daily News's horoscope and taro-card readings. However, none of the scientifically-minded professional men and women who used the information derived from those established testing, career-determining and planning-for-the-future devices, were known to take into consideration their clients' N-W-R when forecasting their chances for making-it in their chosen profession (the Mayflower madam, whose N-W-R would have placed her well above the CRAP line, would have known in advance that she had an excellent chance of being





## SKUNK NEAR-WASP RATINGS



successful in her chosen profession: whore-house operator). Since their earlier time-tested means of determining a client's chances for making-it were, at best, superficial and, obviously totally inadequate, *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-it In America Attainment Test* was devised to enhance the ability of those professional soothsayers, by their factoring in the N-W-R, to ascertain a client's real chances for fulfilling his or her heart's desire -- whatever that might be.

\*

The perpetuation of the notion that there is an ideal American is not bad in itself. But, the idealization of those citizens whose physical appearance and social status most resembles that ideal, does result in a select minority being given undue arbitrary privileges (with little or no additional collateral responsibility) -- and, that also tends to give them entirely too much control over the destinies of others -- which is indeed bad. That this is unfair is obvious -- especially in a free-enterprise-stressing democratic nation, one that prides itself in its offering of an equal opportunity to all its citizens. But, worse yet, a continuance of the entrenched practice that rewards the less deserving, while humbling the more worthy, breeds a cycle of inequity capable of destroying that fundamental strength of the nation -- its pervasive sense of fairness and impartiality.

The realization of just how America's citizens are affected, as a result of the treatment they receive due solely to their proximity to the CRAP line, gives ample indication of its cost to the nation as a whole. One has only to consider the election of a Vice-president of the caliber of a Quale and the already alluded to: Mayflower madam, to realize just how destructive to the welfare of the nation is the giving of extra-special considerations to individuals due solely to their semblance to the True-Wasp (who will, most certainly, obtain a very high N-W-R).

There are, of course, many other artificial barriers erected that prevent many American citizens from functioning at their most rewarding level, while allowing intrinsically less capable citizens to function at levels far in excess of their abilities. And, it's for that reason, that the results of *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-it in America Attainment Test*, should be factored in with all those other measuring devices when attempting to determine a testee's chances for making-it in America.

\*

Prior to the 1960s, most Americans readily tolerated, or ostrich-like ignored, the fact that many advantages were given to the more Wasp-like citizens, and that this entailed the acceptance of disadvantages, if not for themselves, then for others.

One of the main reasons for this acceptance was that one segment of the population was almost completely disenfranchised. Throughout the nation, the Black, in varying degrees, was almost universally excluded from participation in the American dream. No others were subjected to such total discrimination. The bigotry practiced against all other non-Wasp groups, including the Amerind, Latino and Oriental, though just as hurtful for the individual, was not near as universal. As a consequence, everyone, providing they had



comparable qualifications, have prospered to such a degree that, as individuals, they have become far more affluent than the average person coming from the rest of the population. Many politicians (being what they are), should they find it even more un-politic to continue giving those minorities preferential treatment, will use any excuse to discontinue it. Moreover, since this has already started to occur, it takes no seer to realize that the special treatment that's being offered to the currently-assisted minorities, will not go on forever.

\*

There's a ready solution to the question of whether or not it's fair to give special consideration to one group over another -- and that's to make a college education available to every single American citizen -- this, in the same century-old tradition that made a high school education available to all comers -- a practice that was instrumental in forming the largest and most prosperous middle-class of any nation in the world.

\*

There has been no diminishing of the prerogatives of privilege that fall to those who are considered to be real Americans -- all of whom tend to score well above the CRAP line. Despite the commendable attempts to raise the expectations of certain minorities, those with the highest N-W-R (Near-Wasp-Ratings) have not, in any way, forfeited any of their long-standing special privileges -- as a matter of fact, as a result of the 1980s decade of deceit and the 1990s decade of rationalized greed, by the turn of the millennium, their monetary ascendance and the power it gave them over the rest of the peoples, was greatly increased.

\*

Many middle-class, low-scoring-near-Wasp or non-Wasp Caucasians (a huge and very productive group), began to feel that they were being economically and socially disenfranchised. This was due to the withdrawal of their past prerogatives, which were then being granted to select minorities (albeit usually well-deserved), and the continuance (and, often increase) of the special privileges wealthy and high-scoring Near-Wasps were receiving.

\*

For most of the twentieth century, those politicians who considered themselves to be conservatives, gave away those prerogatives enjoyed by America's middle class as a means of kissing up to the entrenched and demanding wealthy. Meanwhile, politicians' claiming to be liberals, were instrumental in giving away some of the prerogatives formerly enjoyed by that same middle class (those that had accrued to them as a result of the subordination and de facto segregation of Blacks). However, the detrimental affects upon their lives were, for the most part, but minimal.

There were those amongst the middle class with N-W-Rs hovering above the CRAP line (100), who had tended to vote conservative (Republican), in the belief that the adoption of the pro-wealthy, trickle-down theory would bring prosperity to all. However, they're



coming to realize that they were being bamboozled -- for most, it turned out to be a lie. The primary beneficiaries of the Reagan tax breaks were those with extremely high N-W-Rs, the extremely rich, the greediest and those politically well-connected (some of whom did have N-W-Rs well-below the CRAP line). And, after the deflation of the balloon economy of the 1990s, even some of those folks with N-W-Rs above the CRAP line became convinced that their blind support for flag-waving, conservative politicians (mainly Republicans) to represent them, was not only damaging to the well-being of all those Americans with much lower N-W-Rs, but was detrimental to their own interests as well as to that of their own, and their children's children.

It now seems obvious, judging by the low turnouts at the elections of the last few decades of the twentieth century, that many Americans feel disenfranchised. It's SKUNK's contention that America must attempt to raise the expectations of ordinary folks, those that reached their nadir during the 1980s [they were raised during the Clinton years -- only to begin their downward spiral as a result of the post-Clinton market downturn (probably worsened by the horrific fanatic-attacks of 9/11 on America -- which, some say, may well be rooted in the near-sighted, foreign and domestic policies of Reagan and Bush pere and finally triggered by those of fils)]. Most folks hope that Bush fils will not be America's new Hoover who fiddles while the economy burns? Moreover, thinking Americans hope he won't resort to using Truman's wartime-rationalized atomic bombing of Japan as a precedent to kill a few hundred thousand Afghani civilians -- or get America involved, like Truman, in a Korea-like police action. -- which ended in the death of some fifty thousand Americans. Perhaps Bush will confound the experts and do all the right things. Since only time will tell, it's hoped that by the time this piece is read, he's done them.

What America -- that nation made possible by centuries of dedication and hard work by ambitious and caring individuals -- needs, is a revival of the kind of idealistic spirit that motivated the likes of those truly-great Real-Americans: Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and, of course, SKUNK.









## GOD BLESS -AMERICA

-Americans, be but proud,

-Americans, be but proud,  
We have nothing to lose but our hyphens.

Debase the common folks,  
Add a hyphen to our name --  
Except when there's a call to arms,  
And then, Hey! -- "We're all the same"!

The inanity of the appended hyphens,  
Miraculously bestowed, upon every one of us:  
By virtue of our forefather's place of birth,  
Attains proportions most absurd --  
When applied to those folks who first arrived,  
In dugout boats, or by wandering overland,  
From Asia's northeastern regions.  
Those earliest of migrants to our land:  
Its first-known humankind,  
Now called Amerinds,  
Short -- for the misnomered, yet hyphenated --  
American-Indians.

With exceptions for an occasional hiatus,  
Like those leveling years of recession and depression,  
When all, are considered just as one,  
Or while paranoia  
Unifies us all -- to fight an all-out global war  
Against an intimidating alien-type aggressor --  
Every thought-intrusive, migrant horde  
Arriving in this new-found land,  
Has had a lasting hyphenated adjective,  
Gratuitously appended to their offspring's name --  
Thereby, bringing into question  
The real-American status -- of all their young.





This debasing of those children's standing,  
Was seldom, if ever, controversial --  
And was often self-imposed --  
Perhaps from pride -- false or otherwise,  
The: "You can't fire me, I quit," retort,  
Was used to ease the pain.

Howsoever, this ploy to save one's face,  
Served only to relieve the bigot, as it did the boss,  
From being held in just contempt,  
For taking actions based on motives crass,  
The kind that decent folks should not condone.



**Histories made up of lies are made of fragile stuff**

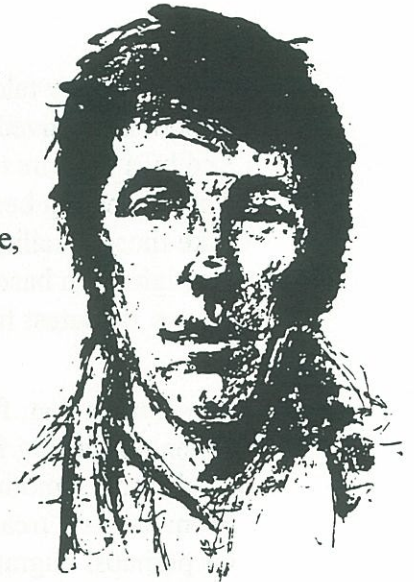
Histories made up of lies are made of fragile stuff.  
For though we often opt for memories deceitful,  
That glorify our ancestral past:  
Those from doubtful fatherlands,  
That support the flaunting of our hubris,  
In truth, we know full-well, just who and what we are,  
And how and why our forebears came to be here.

No doubt, it's best for all concerned,  
To sever, once -- and for all time,  
Those tenuous ties to non-existent old-world pasts,  
Made up of once discarded, but now restored --  
Whole-cloth.

For, in truth, they came from lands impoverished --  
To escape starvation, plagues or dwellings in poor-houses;  
To flee from bigotry and demeaning class distinctions,  
Enforced -- by their homeland's  
Long-standing betters;  
And to avoid the ravages of constant wars of conquest --  
Ruinous to all involved.

They came from lands of mankind's subjugated past,  
Where the espousing of forbidden,  
And sometimes-admirable creeds,  
Brought persecution, prison terms.  
And oft -- untimely death.

So, let's remember well, lest we forget,  
That that's from whence our forebears gladly fled --  
To breathe this nation's classless, casteless air of freedom.





### Inventing fairy tales

Inventing fairy tales,  
Describing unlivd lives of glory,  
Led by ancestors now made noble --  
Thereby hiding best forgotten facts,  
Like those entailing uneventful,  
Though often base arrivals,  
Is now the latest fashion.



The truth is that, for most of us, our forebears,  
When not fleeing from deprivation:  
Intellectual, emotional and physical;  
From bigotry, treachery, poverty and early death;  
Or perhaps, migrating here  
To plunder that which others had --  
Were carried here as cannon fodder,  
Bondsmen, felons, knaves or slave-traders' booty --  
In rat-infested holds (as all holds were -- and most remain),  
Bound by paper contracts, or in rusty, iron fetters --  
And sold to avid bidders -- as indentured servants,  
Mercenaries, redemptioners or,  
As merchandisable slaves.

We are the offspring of those foreigners so motley;  
And, though that's a fact that we surely should not deny;  
It's not a thing to brag about --  
Unless, that is, we lie --  
About the status of our ancestral past,  
Much as most other people do --  
In all the other nations on this earth.

<<>>



By being born or sworn to liberty's land

By being born or sworn to liberty's land -- America:  
That most accessible of migrant-taking states --  
One is constantly besieged by claims of obligations,  
By strangers from a multitude of alien nations --  
Who write and call and advertise  
With appeals said most urgent,  
Based on concocted ties of blood,  
To have us assist them in their attempts:  
To obtain a goodly share of all the people's taxes;  
To have us wage a war to help them dominate some others,  
Or, not to war against them --  
As they pursue their selfish ends:  
No matter how obscene their cause.

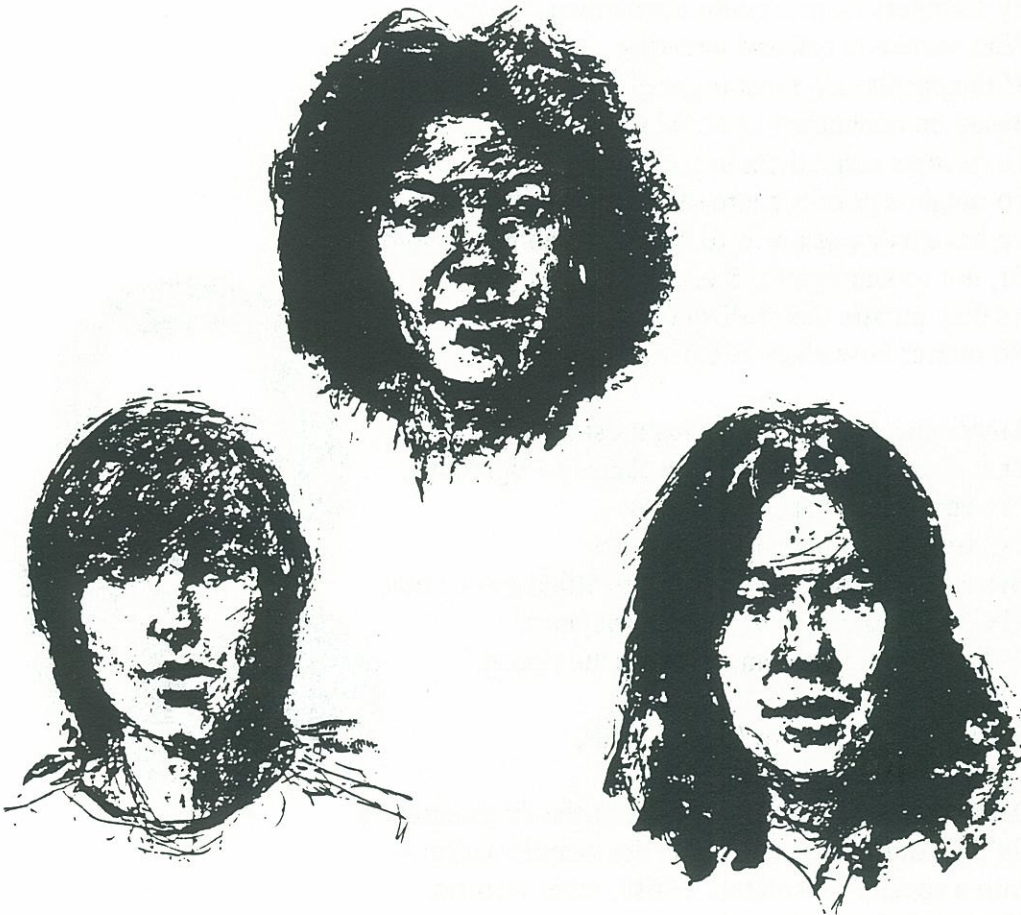
Americans, are fast becoming most aware,  
That those foreign folks with claims so righteous,  
Are conning us for selfish gains --  
By stretching truths and telling lies.  
But what's really bad, is that, unwittingly -- or not,  
Their actions are, and have always been,  
A divisive force within our idealistic nation.

So, if gifts we give to foreign lands,  
Let them be for reasons moral,  
And not the kind that brings about the fragmentation  
Of this, our unique and truly democratic nation --  
Into a society of isolated, selfish, ethno-centric,  
Hyphenated sub-groups.





In reality, we can only lay claim to but one nationality --  
And that's American;  
To which the addition of an adjectival hyphen is absurd.  
After all, we ask no other folks,  
Like: Germans, Irish, French, Italians, Turks and Greeks,  
Sardinians or Iraqis, Iranis, Indians, Pakistanis,  
Spaniards, Israelis, Swiss, Austrians,  
British, Nepalese or Sicilians:  
"How much of you is Hun or Turk, or Aryan or Slav, or  
Vandal, Goth or Frank, or Scandinavian, Celt or  
Semite, Doric, Latin, Iberian,  
Saracen, Persian or Outer Mongolian?" --  
Though seeds of all are known to intermingle  
With the seeds of virtually all the rest.  
And, that holds true for those now claiming,  
Purity of race: Caucasoid, Negroid or Mongoloid.



New barriers were raised

New barriers were raised,  
By those citizens claiming genetic-purity,  
To prevent the sullyng of their milieu,  
By certain other Americans,  
Those, who, due to indelible proof:  
The color of their skin --  
Continue to give ample evidence,  
Unlike their Caucasian and Mongoloid counterparts,  
Of their former life of bondage.



The Negroes' post-W.W.II, new- and re-won rights,  
That guaranteed them fair treatment  
Much like all the other law-abiding folk,  
Caused so many of the "all-others" --  
From within the nation's middling middle-classes,  
Of every bent and inclination,  
To fear that integration would cause the loss  
Of their own, hard-won, newly-gained,  
Up-from-poverty status.  
Thus they invented and resurrected differences,  
Based on anything but race, thought sufficient  
To prevent their union with the Black,  
And the maintenance of the segregation of the past.

*The results of many of the first post-W.W.II integration efforts were failures. Unrealistic expectations were promulgated on the part of understandably-impatient Blacks and well-meaning, knee-jerk liberals: both groups insisting on the implementation of educational and hiring programs based on an idealistically-noble, but totally unrealistic notion, that there is a one-to-one correlation between the intellectual, motivational and physical abilities of Blacks (as a monolithic entity), with those of the entire rest of the American population (as if they too were a monolithic entity). This proved to be a naive and wasteful folly -- at best.*



*To have expected Blacks, as a faceless, uniform mass, to compete on an equal footing with the rest of the population – almost overnight, was inane. It would have been a feat that no other group of peoples ever accomplished. Sitting at a lunch counter was a right, as was sitting on any vacant seat in a bus, or going to non-segregated schools, and living wherever one could afford, and receiving equal pay for equal work. But to become a real engineer, mathematician, physicist, musician, artist or doctor takes time (often generations), and a tremendous amount of parental input and individual effort. Every basketball and baseball player, opera singer, writer, dancer, and even lawyer needed the motivation to work hard for any number of years (in and out of school) to learn his or her trade.*

*The failure to live up to unrealistic expectations, resulted, on the part of many Blacks, in a display of defensive hostility. No one had bothered to tell the Black (who had, admittedly, met with far more hostility than any other group) that opportunity was only the beginning – something that the less-disadvantaged minorities, who hadn't received any governmental assistance in either school or the workplace, had already learned. In fact, they were usually hindered, rather than helped by the established society – in just about every instance. But, it hardened them and made them more determined to take advantage of whatever opportunities there were. And, so, most worked harder in America's much-touted land of opportunity, than their more-accepted counterparts. (However, since the barriers to Black participation had been far greater – they surely continue to deserve assistance in trying to overcome the deleterious consequences of the vilest aspects of racial prejudice.)*

*Going full circle, in turn, due to the resultant hostility towards "all-others" displayed by many Blacks, which resulted from their predictable inability (as a monolithic, hyphenated entity) to compete in a majority of the more intellectually-demanding professions, acted to alleviate much of the feeling of guilt that the rest of the population had for continuing to isolate them.*

The phony use of cards affirming membership,  
As a means to keep Blacks out,  
Is currently illegal -- and it's now become taboo.  
Ergo, it's much more difficult to arbitrarily  
Exclude the Blacks -- from any public social function.  
And, yet, a de facto segregation still persists,  
Despite the claims that access  
Into most private and all communal facilities,  
Is now attainable -- by one and all.



Membership in rich-men's clubs,  
Acceptance in private schools,  
Admittance to restaurants,  
Renting apartments,  
Buying a home,  
Was no longer predicated on racial acceptability.  
Instead, they were priced so high, as to effectively  
Place a social barrier between-high-income,  
Other Americans -- and Blacks.  
Meanwhile, some amongst those well-off "all-others",  
Who connive, through legal means,  
To maintain a free-from-integration life,  
Still claim to be the bearers of liberal credentials.

Religions that had born-into-membership congregations --  
Always those with few, if any, Black members --  
Experienced an increase in attendance at their schools --  
And participation at their social functions.  
The acknowledgment of their religious ties by those  
Sinners now returning to the faith of their parents,  
And of their youth, greatly reduced the likelihood  
Of their having any social contact  
With those Americans evidencing  
Noticeable Black-African Origins.  
Meanwhile, some amongst these "all-others" still claimed,  
To be the bearers of liberal credentials.

\*

But what was the average non-Negro Joe to do,  
To prevent his loss of status --  
That is to say, to prevent his being considered no better,  
Than the Black who most folks  
(Which, sad to say, included many Negroes)  
Had held in such low regard?

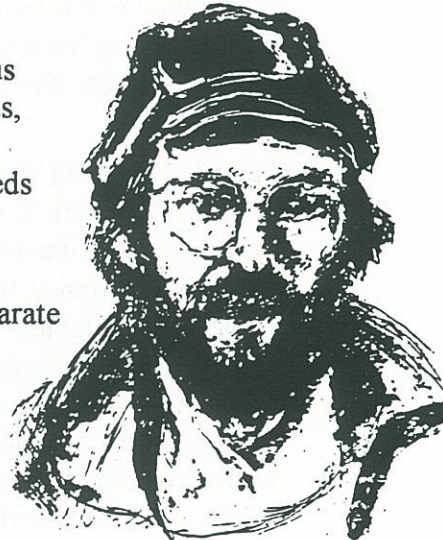


This average non-Negro Joe was forced to face hard facts.  
His income was not much greater than that,  
Of the much-shunned *burr-head* or Afro-bearing Black --  
And for some, it was much lower.  
This meant for him, he'd be:  
Eating in the very same restaurants;  
Living in the same section of town;  
Attending the same schools;  
Swimming in the same pools;  
And, possibly -- even worshipping in the same church --  
With the least respected members  
Of America's classless, democratic society.



How could he avoid this awful fate?  
He was a law-abiding citizen;  
He believed in "Law and Order";  
He was unwilling to count himself amongst the bigots;  
He refrained from joining up with crazies --  
Those with hooded heads or heads denuded.  
But, he wavered in his earlier liberal leanings.

The resurrection of the *hyphenate*,  
A term once applied by some to modify the status  
Of the progeny of those less-desirable immigrants,  
To that of a less-than-real American --  
Was adopted to comply with the self-serving needs  
Of so many of those "all-others".



This melting-pot nation of immigrants most disparate  
Was soon to become a nation divided  
Into a variety of pseudo-unique socio-economic  
And pseudo-political groups --  
Which based their membership on the ethnicity,  
Religion and national origin of a distant,  
If not non-existent kinfolk.  
This potential, for the eventual disintegration of our Union,  
Spurred on by self-serving politicians;  
Both home-grown and in alien lands,  
Have all contributed to our once again,  
Becoming a land of hyphenates,  
Like: German-, Polish-, Greek-, Irish-, Jewish-, Italian-,  
Swedish-, Indian-, Israeli-, Latino- or Chinese-  
And hyphenated on-and-on Americans.  
While few amongst us -- acknowledge being bigots.

And, now we see the revival of that nation-destroying  
Use of the previously-discredited, once-moribund hyphen.  
What caused this to happen?  
Though by now its reasons have been obfuscated  
By the opportunistic use of it, by a diversity of "all-others",  
It's basically a means  
To exclude Blacks from otherwise *open* social functions --  
Without fear of legal challenge.

The subterfuge was so well disguised, that unwittingly,  
Or perhaps deliberately,  
Black politicians have since adapted the use of the hyphen,  
To describe their own constituency:  
A group now politely-designated as African-Americans.

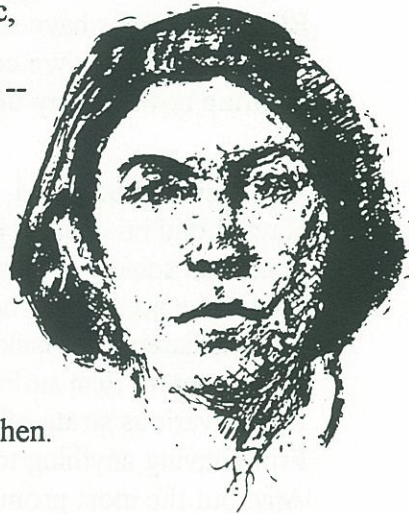
But, it should be noted, that some Americans  
Have found no need to hyphenate themselves.  
American society is so structured,  
That there are those who have little fear of being forced  
To associate with Blacks:  
They're more than sufficiently insulated  
By the various strata of lesser, "all-other" hyphenates,  
From having anything to do with  
Any, but the most prominent, African-Americans --  
Or, for that matter, with any "all-others" --  
Who might be deemed less-than desirable.





**But there were also groups**

But there were also groups of "*all-other*" -Americans,  
Whose ancestors were minorities  
In the lands from whence they fled --  
Having been denied the citizenship they had earned  
Due to their refusal to be part of the body politic,  
Or accept the religion and sort of morality  
Practiced by the mass of folks in the host nation --  
One that had given them refuge.  
Hyphenation was at first denied them.  
So, they invented ties of blood with peoples,  
In nations that often never were --  
And, if those lands had ever been,  
Or continue to live on,  
They are the ones  
That nary a blood relation had ever seen.  
Nonetheless, by doing so, they too earned a hyphen.



Be that as it may.  
Some who found their new identity,  
Now felt that just being an American-hyphenate --  
Could suffice for them no longer.  
And, so, those silly parents of oh-so-many kids,  
Told their progeny preposterous and bogus tales,  
Of mythical and non-existent ancestral ties --  
To those folks with Godly and -- or -- earthly greatness.

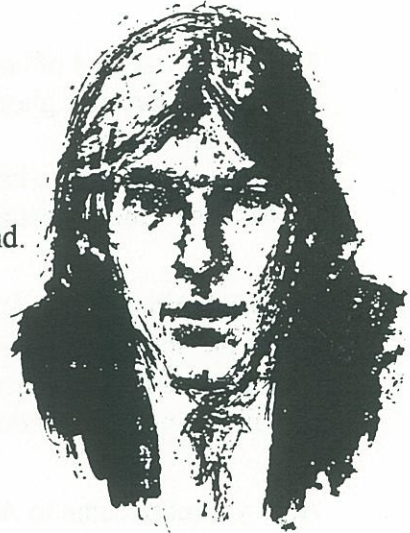
Whereupon, all the other parents  
Were duly queried by their kids,  
To determine -- if they too had an ancestry,  
Both grandiose and ancient:  
One that would enable them to hold their heads up high,  
As a hyphenated person.  
Perhaps they would learn that they too had ancestors,  
All laden down with untold wealth --  
Or of a pure and royal lineage.

The children begged for confirmation,  
Of their forebears' special status;  
And if they could claim a kinship to a master race,  
A chosen people, a differentially-treated class or caste --  
Perhaps an ancestry of philosophers, conquerors and kings;  
Or, maybe, just that their people came from,  
The preferential region of a country.

In quick response, the parents of almost all the kids,  
Invented proud beginnings for their clan.  
That is to say they lied, and told them homemade fables,  
That obfuscated those dreary dismal facts of pasts  
Thought best forgotten:  
Of depressing lives in an old corrupted country,  
And of trivial and sickly ancestral family trees.

Some were told their ancestors arrived in sailing ships,  
To assist the aborigine:  
In the proper use of English;  
To worship as a Christian; .  
To convert the Indian corn  
Into high-proof bourbon whiskey;  
And to relieve them of their freedom --  
And the awful burden, of the ownership of land.

Others, that their ancestors came only  
To enlighten all the nation's people  
By exposing them to:  
Wagnerian Grand Operas and the music  
Of Beethoven, Bach and Brahms;  
The taste of Bratwurst, Liebfraumilch, and --  
Delicious smelly cheeses --  
Plus, the strutting crew-cut members of the Bund.



Some came to give us poets' words,  
And those of Jesuit Priests,  
Waitresses to work in Schraffts,  
Carriers of hods loaded down with bright-red bricks,  
Blarney Stones, Flat-footed cops and --  
Lovable, but crooked, politicians.



While still others -- those claiming kinship with:  
Marconi, Verdi, Da Vinci and Al Capone,  
Came to give us: Caesar salad, pepperoni, pizza,  
Parmesan cheese and Chianti --  
Plus non-Jewish dark-haired actors.



Some arrived upon our shore to give us knowledge,  
Of the making of ham hocks, collard greens,  
Grits and chitterlings --  
To feed our hungry souls,  
And how to make four-point, game-winning plays,  
Play a hot sweet trumpet and sell crack and pot to kids

And yet still more came to bestow upon our peoples:  
The genius of a Plato, and Euripides,  
While serving fried eggs over --  
With side orders of ham and home fries  
In all-night greasy spoons.

Others left the land of hoary, sacred scriptures,  
By way of Europe's ghettos --  
To bring us lawyers,  
Bookies, lox and crisp half-sour pickles,  
As tokens of their greatness.



Deposed princes came dragging samovars,  
While playing squeaky violins --  
And gave us doormen and royal husbands,  
For all our poor little nouveaux-riche girls.

And yet more came to America's shore,  
To share the knowledge of Confucius, Buddha,  
Yin and yang, the writings of Mao Tse Tung --  
And to teach us all to say:  
"Easy on the starch," -- "Hold the MSG."

More came bestowing knowledge of the Vedas,  
The low cost of curry dinners, the origin of Buddha,  
The zero and the source of our number system.  
Plus those ancient writings, like the helpful Kama Sutra.

Some said they came to give us luke-warm mizu soup,  
Saki and sashimi --  
Plus those cheap blaring ghetto blasters,  
And to atone for the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The remainder told their kids that they came to this,  
Our promised land, as acts of selfless kindness --  
To give us tacos, kielbasas, roll mops, mave, tapas,  
Syrupy, thick black coffee, pie a la mode, smorgasbord,  
All-night fruit stands, ragga music, credit-giving bodegas,  
Oriental rugs, three-card Monte, heroin and AIDS.

\*

Americans -- that conglomerate of miscellaneous peoples,  
Bearing seeds of every race and creed,  
Now claim their acknowledged forebears,  
[All high-born (of course) and genetically pure],  
Did deign to set foot upon our shores,  
Out of the goodness of their hearts --  
And to do us all a favor.  
But, indeed, we know the truth, which is:  
That they were mostly just a simple, sometimes-decent folk,  
Whose contribution to the greatness of the nation,  
Was that they worked so very hard: as farmers, miners,  
Mill hands and servants for but little, if any pay --  
And as hustlers lacking principles, amassing untold wealth,  
While contributing much to the nation's future greatness.



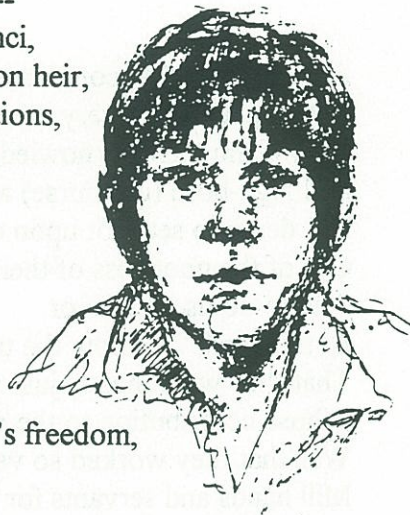


## THE ERRANT SEED

Now come and listen to this tale of humanity's beginnings --  
And why the use of hyphens is such nonsense.  
We'll skip the many billion years,  
Of evolution's ill-fated fits and starts,  
As we evolved most gradually, yet persistently --  
From gloppy, oozing, slimy seas of:  
Microscopic, amorphous kinds of things.

Then let us glide right by some many million years,  
Of simian types who stood not quite erect --  
Until the birth of that pre-stone-age Da Vinci,  
That brilliant mutant, all humanity's common heir,  
Who, perhaps by observing our chimp relations,  
Thought to chip a rock, and make a tool --  
To serve a special task --  
Alas -- a lethal weapon

Thus starts the tale of humanity's  
Lengthy circuitous odyssey,  
To reach America's now fabled shores --  
Where the long-evolving seeds of mankind's freedom,  
Will eventually resurface.



\*

The child was born in Africa's pre-nomered ancient lands --  
That child who bore the errant seed that bred the root --  
To all mankind's ancestral, gnarled and battered,  
Continually-branching family tree.

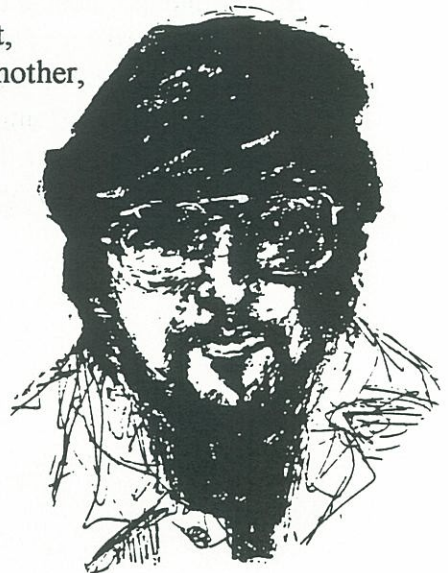
Over scores of tens of many millennia --  
In a distant, murky past,  
That freak with just the proper brain, began our human race.  
Those faulty genes  
Found in that near-proto-human being,  
Were passed on, in time, to itinerant fertile offspring.  
And, it's that seed, which enabled the ancestors of us all --  
To eventually become the masters of our planet.

That mutant's genes, did indeed,  
Initiate the beginnings of a truly master race.  
From origins within an unknown tribe,  
The crude progenitors of us all  
Burst forth in all directions,  
And spread throughout the Eur-Afro-Asian land mass.

Despite cruel nature's never-ending opposition,  
They wrested all the lands before them,  
From all the far-flung remnants of that diversity of tribes  
Of once-related, naive, near-human types of beings --  
And from all the dull-witted, feral beasts.

Within each isolated land,  
Wherever human types did settle,  
Minor mutant changes, over time, did gradually take place.  
These were the adaptations that permitted  
Each of those migrant groups  
To adapt to the peculiarities of each new-found land.  
And, so we see, how over time,  
Slightly different-looking folks  
Developed within our human race.

Later, when exercising our inborn wanderlust,  
When our forebears were to encounter one another,  
Those simple folks, the ancestors of us all,  
Assumed the strangers were unique:  
A peoples of a different race.  
And attributed the miracle of their being  
Those other folks,  
To the doings of their God(s).





Not unlike their modern-day counterparts,  
Who consider subtle variants amongst the world's  
Diversity of peoples, as sufficient reason to  
Justify their enslavement and the stealing of their lands;  
They too, those early members of our species,  
Called upon their God(s) -- through ignorance or guile,  
To sanctify and bless their not too moral deeds.  
And, nowadays, it's obvious  
That we haven't changed so much:  
For now the practice seems to be  
To legalize the beast-like acts of man,  
By quoting from the printed word --  
Claimed authored by an omnipotent -- One and Only God.

That wanderlust, etched genetically,  
Within the human psyche,  
Existent in us all, long before recorded time,  
Insured the survival of our species.  
The basic drive to freely roam was used to find:  
A land, that, if occupied, a clan could take by force.  
A land to replace the one they left behind:  
One with a depleted source of food or fuel,  
One stolen from them by invaders who were stronger.  
Or, perhaps, just to satisfy their curiosity,  
And a primal urge for change.

As aeons passed, persevering clans did wend their way  
Over strange and distant lands  
And boundless, hostile oceans.  
Like locusts, tribes of human types  
Swarmed out upon the far reaches of the earth  
In search of life-sustaining food and drink --  
Or, perhaps, to satisfy, like modern man,  
If not their need, their greed.

<<>>





### That Mutant's Brain Did Have A Strain

That mutant's brain did have a strain  
No near-human had yet possessed.  
The genes allowed the offspring of that singular,  
Mutated proto-human being,  
Whose heirs we've all become,  
To dominate our more simian kind of kin,  
And reign among the beasts.

But, what was that thing implanted  
In our predecessor's psyche,  
That gave that freak such overwhelming power?

It was the addition of that mutant's genes  
To the chromosomal makeup  
Of those earliest of human types of beings  
That expanded their ability to apply  
An analytic reasoning in their efforts to survive.  
For, until that cataclysmic time --  
When those beast-like kind of living things  
Transmuted into near-human types of beings,  
They were merely observant, imitative  
Not-too-hairy near-apes  
With a memory for routines.  
And, that is all we'd be today,  
Had we not received that dubious gift,  
Which gave us an ability to think.





To appreciate the magnitude of the consequences  
Of this seemingly insignificant event --  
Consider all the other beasts  
And all the squiggley, crawling,  
Swimming and, flying kinds of things.  
As having brains like small computers,  
with capacities limited in scope and tiny.  
And, then regard the mutant-humans' brains  
With having a potential for absorbing all the data  
And the programs of all the other living things --  
Plus, the capacity to categorize, analyze  
And plan a future action.

And, so we see just why  
Our prehistoric ancestors prevailed  
Against all the other living things,  
It was the acquisition of those freakish genes  
That allowed for all the future human beings  
To plan, to plot, to scheme and lie,  
And do whatever deed's required --  
To attain a desired end.  
While claiming God's their partner.



### Whether Gods Exist

Whether Gods exist, or ever did,  
And if they did, are dead,  
Is neither here nor now the issue.  
But humanity, since early times,  
Bestowed great powers on Them-All --  
In vain attempts to rid themselves of fears:  
The results of boundless ignorance,  
As they gained, a smattering of knowledge.

The acquisition, of that analytic brain,  
Which gave that early man a singular ability,  
To involve himself in complex causal reasoning,  
Had made him full aware  
Of the awesome voids, infinite unknowns  
And frightening realities  
Embodied in his savage, brutal life.

Since we see today, how the belief in God(s)  
By the unsophisticated masses,  
Relieves them of their anxieties --  
Those brought on  
By the ever-present quandaries  
That permeate their lives,  
It can readily be assumed  
That early-man's belief in Gods,  
Relieved them of their fears.  
And, perhaps they also thought  
Their Gods could aid them in their mini-wars --  
So they could crush their foes,  
In their attempts to steal their land,  
And carry off their wives.

Thus the stone-age padre --  
The future shaman, bishop, minister and priest;  
Elder, imam, guru, lama, rabbi, swami and ayatollah;  
Star-gazer, sorcerer, voodoo conjurer and sexy siren,  
Were created to negotiate a deal with God(s) --  
And, like the ineffectual, over-paid, modern-day shrink;  
To mitigate man's fears.





Over many a score of millennia



Over many a score of millennia,  
During humanity's long prehistory,  
Which did eventually culminate in the formation  
Of the ancient isle and river-basin cultures  
Then cropping up along the Indus, Yellow,  
Nile and Euphrates rivers --  
And the Mediterranean Sea,  
Human beings acquired a flexible social conscience.  
And, so, they relied more and more  
Upon the agents of their God(s),  
Much as it's been -- until this very day,  
To rationalize their stealing of the goods  
And homeland of an alien peoples:  
Those, who, by preceding them,  
Had prospered --  
Having occupied a more-desirable stretch of land.

Thus deals were made to gain the aid of God(s) --  
To help them kill and steal --  
To sanction acquisitions and the bestiality of kings.  
Evidence of such, can be observed:  
Indented on Sumerian clay tablets;  
Inscribed upon the walls in Egypt's sacred tombs;  
And proof of such has come to light, in digs  
Along China's ancient river basin -- and on the Isle of Crete,  
And will, in time crop up, for sure, in yet-to-be-deciphered  
Indus river writings, found in Mohenjo-daro's ancient ruins.

Those long-gone civilizations,  
Not too different from our own,  
Developed where and when environmental factors  
Allowed for human habitation:  
Water for drinking, irrigation and transportation;  
A water-based food supply  
And human waste disposal;  
Protection against wild beasts and enemy invasion.

For better or worse,  
Depending on one's point of view,  
Citizens of those proto-civilized worlds,  
Must be held responsible for being  
Amongst the first-known to have established  
Formalized, government-subsidized, priestly-run religions.

\*

In millennia long past,  
Those civilizations' originating in lands demeaningly  
Included in the condescending term *Third World*,  
Gave of their ancient culture to each succeeding horde  
Of Barbarian invaders who ventured through their borders.  
They gave to early Aryan tribes  
And a diversity of Semitic peoples --  
Then, through transmitters like the Medes  
And Greeks and Huns and Islamic hordes,  
Saracens -- and of course, the European Crusaders.

For many a thousand years, they gave --  
Since long before the birth of Polo,  
The man -- and perhaps the game;  
Before the birth of Homer --  
The Greek, and for sure -- the painter;  
Even before the mythical Egyptian foundling, Moses,  
Led the Hebrew slaves to freedom..

They gave yet of their wisdom  
To Europe's greedy, grasping empire-builders,  
Who, by the grace of an ever-obliging God,  
Murderously gobbled up their lands --  
While deceitfully pushing drugs --:  
The poppy's fruit --  
Upon a peaceful nation, for which they fought a war.





And, yet, the progeny of old beleaguered cultures,  
Gave yet more  
To the zealous Christian missionaries --  
Who brought redigested versions  
Of the no-God-needed ethics of the Buddha  
And the no-God-needed moral teachings of Confucius --  
As they gave *the Heathen* natives  
Free bowls of polished rice --  
To facilitate their conversion  
To beliefs long-since ignored in Europe --  
Those based upon the morality of the ancient East.

\*

And, now, though much diluted by exposure  
To a Western money-driven culture --  
When not directly, then through the well-taught Japanese;  
They still have yet another chance -- to offer up a taste  
Of the wisdom of their forebears  
To the latest to intrude upon their lands:  
Today's corporate multinationals  
And those throngs of corrupting greedy sellers --  
Of the modern tools of death:  
Those arms dealers --  
Citizens of a superpower -- such as our own,  
Or ones from those of a not so distant past:  
Russia, Great Britain and the liberal France --  
On down the line to the likes of:  
Norway, Canada, Israel and Brazil.



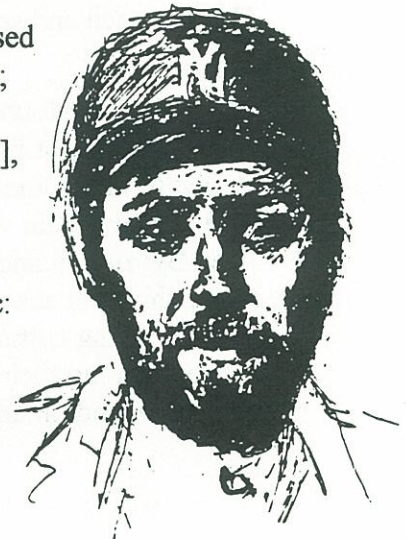
**The earliest marauding, west-bound hordes**

The earliest marauding, west-bound hordes,  
From the plains of Western Asia  
And the plateaux of Caucasian highlands,  
Carried with them,  
From South and East Asia's ancient melting pots of  
Prehistoric culture  
[That which they hadn't totally destroyed],  
The wisdom of mankind's intellectual beginnings --  
To Europe's then sparsely populated lands --  
Then peopled by a simple folk  
Of ancient stock -- uncertain.



Soon, sophisticated cultures, seemingly unique,  
Developed on the shores  
Of that great, once landlocked,  
Clear-blue, fecund sea -- the Mediterranean.  
They were the ancient peoples: Cycladians, Etruscans,  
Cretans, Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans --  
Plus the claimed descendants  
Of a conquered nation's dispersed Hebrews --  
All of whom had, since early times, absorbed  
The genes and cultures of those earliest of ancient peoples  
Now known to be part of all humanity's  
Long and varied prehistory:  
One originating far south and east of Crete:  
In the lands populated by  
Egyptians, Dravidians, Sumerians and Chinese --  
Plus, at a later time, a diversity of other peoples --  
Aryan, Asian and Semitic.

In an era, some millennia past of unfixed number,  
The years before our modern faiths were first devised  
[That of the Hindu, Buddhist, Jain and Sikh beliefs;  
Of Confucian, Shinto, Zen -- and those of:  
Ikhnatonite, Hebrew, Catholic, Muslim, Protestant],  
Those earliest of cultured ancients,  
While admixing with their neighbors,  
And later with invading, unlettered hordes  
Of rapacious raiders: Arab, Mongol and Germanic:  
Had their learning and their culture,  
Plus their age-old seeds of genius.  
Transmitted to the West.





Those marauding multitudes:  
The carriers of that knowledge, esoteric and profound,  
Absorbed from those prehistoric cultures:  
Their medicine and language, mathematics, astronomy,  
Their mythology, ethics and religions,  
Plus their histories: fanciful but sometimes real  
And all the sundry arts;  
Did transmit the culture --  
And the seed of the inherent genius of the ancients,  
To the uncultured masses west of Asia..

Having obtained a gene pool ever-so massive,  
Accomplished by those countless orgasmic cohabitations,  
And having absorbed that knowledge of the ages,  
And perhaps a touch of wisdom  
Through the intercourse of minds,  
The foundation was established  
That allowed for the naissance  
Of a North European culture --  
And the West's ability to eventually  
Conquer all the lands of all the peaceful ancients.

\*

North Europe's modern culture  
Has origins both Caucasian and barbaric.  
Before the Christian era, hordes of Indo-Europeans:  
A diversity of Celt and Slav and German tribes --  
Swept due west:  
Past Asia's fickle borders,  
Beyond the mighty Urals  
And through an almost empty Europe.  
Each successive savage wave spread throughout the land;  
Racing far and wide, as fleet as feet could take them --  
Until exhausted, sated or defeated,  
They stopped and settled down.

Then with new-found strength,  
In defense of past ill-gotten gains --  
Or just to raid some more,  
They warred again with Greece,  
Then Byzantium and Rome --  
Meanwhile still absorbing calming seeds  
Of older dying cultures --  
While donating theirs  
Of naiveté and untamed brutal instincts.



Again, lured on by tales of luxury  
And mythic mounds of wealth,  
The hordes persisted in their fierce attacks,  
Ravaging remnants of a once-mighty Roman Empire.  
Then, in turn, they fled before the onslaughts  
Of each successive westbound horde.  
At which time, all continued, without cessation  
To pillage and to murder --  
While begatting with one another.

Then, running from the Hun, the Moor, the Turk --  
Those past-absorbers of Asia's ancient culture --  
The former pillaging Caucasian and Semitic hordes  
Sped away to safety  
To the far-western reaches of the land mass --  
Killing and robbing while running hard,  
And being killed and robbed in turn.  
But, still they had the time to multiply prolifically,  
With both invader and oft-unwilling host.  
And, so we see, that in both warfare and in peace,  
All Europe's crossbred hordes continued to absorb  
The ancient genes and cultures  
Of Asia, North Africa and -- Near East.





### So in conclusion

So in conclusion,  
I now tell you, my children,  
And those you have or will have yet,  
Please, stop badgering me, and leave me but alone.  
For all your questions have been answered --  
Those both -- implicit and overt.  
For now you know, that you too  
Have a grand and voluminous  
Family tree for you to call your own --  
Just as all the other kids of all the other parents have.

So hold high your heads.  
For you're really something special.  
Your family tree includes both kings and knaves,  
Peasant's wives and easy lays.  
A Ghengis Khan and Mahatma Ghandi;  
The pensive Buddha and Adolf Hitler,  
Julius Caesar and the Virgin Mary,  
Wagner, Mozart and Jack the ripper;  
Mohammed, Copernicus, Plato and Judas;  
Saint Augustine, Hirohito and Marion Anderson;  
Nehru, Luther, Durer, Dali and the emperor Nero;  
Lincoln, Jefferson and Nixon;  
Dancer, Donner and a Vixen;  
And on from aardvarks through to zebras;  
And fish and bugs and birds and slugs.  
It's all so very huge,  
You'll never know them all by their name --  
Not even those -- for good or bad  
Who've managed to attain a fame  
Exceeding Warhol's fifteen minutes.



As you can see, we are amongst  
The most important hyphenates of all.  
And, perchance, when making up a tree  
That suits you better, or serves a private purpose,  
It would be nice if you'd reserve a place  
On a little twig for me.

<<<<<>>>>>







## About the Artist/Author

Markand Thakar



It has come to the publisher's attention that there are multitudes who've never read even one of the three novelesque, bar-stool, reflective tomes that make up Markand Thakar's India Bound series: they are somewhat autobiographical in nature -- in that the life of the protagonist, Nansink Tagore, parallels that of the artist-author of *The SKUNK Near-Wasp Making-it In America Attainment Test*. So, since those multitudes who haven't read at least one of those books have had no way of knowing just who the hell this guy is, it was felt that a short biography would be in order.

Markand Thakar was born in New York City on Declaration of Independence Day: the fourth day of July, during the fateful year of 1929: the onset of The Great American Depression. The happenings to our country, during the passage of those decades, which have become history for younger generations, remain current events for the author. Accordingly, this work, as well as those earlier tomes, though with a somewhat historical overview (Markand's being something of a history buff), relied on his recollections of the happenings and attitudes during those eventful years, from the 1930's on -- as he went about, ever the observer, filling up the corners of his life.

\*

What caused this momentous happening, the birth of Markand Thakar, was that, shortly after the turn of the last century, his father, a high caste Hindu (a Kshatriya), who was born in 1883 in the seaport city of Kachchh Mandvi, Gujarat -- after a series of personal misfortunes -- left India (then the jewel ruthlessly taken from her people and used to adorn the heretofore commonplace crown of the British Empire: then the world's sole superpower). His father traveled to New York by way of California -- this, after prolonged visits to Indo-Buddhist-Bali (then an island included in the repressed Dutch colony now known as Indonesia) and on to



Japan (then a somewhat Buddhist nation thought to be Asia's answer to the West's rapacious domination over the Pacific Islands and Asia -- only to have the Japanese attempt their own predatory domination of the Pacific islands and Asia).

*[A commentary on honor amongst thieves: Due to the real-politic threat by the British that they'd allow the Japanese to take over their East Indies possessions if they sided with the Kaiser (much as they allowed the Japanese to take over Germany's Pacific Island possessions) -- the Dutch remained neutral during WWI.]*

\*

Nature being what it is, a mother was also required. She was born in Belgium and lived in South Africa during the Boer War. *The colonizing Dutch settlers (Boers), having fled earlier, in advance of the colonizing Brits, to lands on which they were to find gold and diamonds, again attracted the ever-covetous Brits. And, due to the Boer's resistance to their presence, the Brits instigated the Boer War (1899-1902) against them, as a means of stealing their new-found wealth. A somewhat similar happenstance took place in Oklahoma, once oil was found on the reservations where American Indians had been gathered, certain unscrupulous Americans succeeded in stealing much of their new-found wealth.*

Before leaving for America, his mother had received the kind of education well-to-do European women were wont to receive. This meant: she learned to read, write and speak French, English, German and, in her case, Dutch -- besides learning the cultural niceties a Victorian-era young lady was required to abide by. All of which, since there were obstacles to her earning a degree in Europe, and therefore to her becoming a *New Woman*, made it requisite that she come to America to do her thing. Ergo, she arrived in New York, prior to our involvement in WWI, to get a college education.

New York, then, and even more by the turn of the millennium, was America's international, cultural and intellectual center. And, it was here, that the journeying Indian-Asian writer (who, during WWI, as an American citizen, was employed as a translator of Sanskrit-based languages for the US Censor's office) met and married the European wannabe *New Woman* -- whom, in turn, for her marrying a Hindu, her Orthodox parents disinherited, disowned and excommunicated (Yes, Virginia, Jews also excommunicate).



*[Allowing for the supposedly-moral spread of a bigotry-based portrayal of an enemy during wartime -- so as to justify killing them; world-wide, many folks resort to the vilification of huge, arbitrarily, lumped-up groups, as a means of rationalizing their relentless need to satisfy their greed, and-or to relieve themselves of their guilt for demeaning others as they go about dominating less-aggressive folks -- all in their attempts to take a disproportionate amount of society's wealth. Meanwhile, over-ambitious losers from every background must maintain the existence of bigotry as a means of rationalizing their own real or believed inferiority -- or as an excuse for their own lack of success.]*

Like many of Europe's educated and well-to-do Jews, none of his mother's known relations were the recipients of Nazi persecution -- they spent W.W.II in either Switzerland or South Africa -- while an aunt, who had converted to Christianity, remained in Holland.

\*

It was in New York City (for the most part in Manhattan), that the Thakars remained. During the twenty-plus years of their marriage, his father, Nainsink Mainsink Thakar was the dominant factor in their household, which, at the time of his death, in 1937, included Markand's mother, three older brothers (in 1933, a fourth was run over and killed), an older sister and Markand, the youngest.

As far as religion went, besides the family's abiding by the vegetarian diet of their Hindu father, none was practiced at home; his parents left that decision up to their children to make when grown up -- at which time the children chose to adhere to a belief in a still-prevalent generic kind of Atheistic American Protestantism. Although, after his father's death, Christmas and Easter were observed at home, it was not in any sense religious -- it was due to its being a festive American ritual.

With the outbreak of W.W.II Markand's three older brothers were drafted, and in July of 1946, he enlisted in the Regular Army, and served as a cannoneer in the US Army of Occupation, in Japan.

Over the last fifteen years of his life, Markand's father was involved in, amongst other things, following the independence movement in India, and his mother, when not pregnant, worked at home, as the foreign editor for a trade magazine, and took care of her children -- as well as she could. Since, at the time, there were no Indians to



speak of living in New York, the family's friends were mainly a few fairly-cultured, Dutch-speaking New Yorkers (Reform Church). It should be noted, as a by the way, that Markand's father would never have come to, or remained in, that era's racist America, had he not been relatively fair skinned -- at least for an Indian.

The five children who survived into adulthood were to supply America with over a dozen of their offspring: all with much varied pools of genes. Markand is the father of three such children (their mother's people had arrived during the migration of German Baptists, during the mid-1800s); he and his wife have two grandsons: one whose father's parents have Italian ancestry and the other, whose mother's parents have Chinese ancestry..

\*

Markand's formal education would be considered uneven, at best -- and his employment record was not the kind that would earn him a gold watch upon his retirement. His father having died when he was but eight years of age, and after his three brothers were drafted during W.W.II, in an effort to help out at home, he started his first after-school job -- this, when he was fourteen years of age. His jobs included stock clerk; delivery boy (at a time when boys were called boys, but had the responsibilities of men); soda jerk, short-order cook; soldier; gift-certificate salesman at Stetson Hats -- then just off Times Square; page at the Wall Street office of National City Bank (now Citibank); machinist apprentice; shenango (loading boxcars lightered to RR freight terminals in New Jersey); dish washer at Schrafft's; model maker (for an inventor); Customhouse floorman and on to owner of his own Consultant, Customhouse Brokerage and International Freight Forwarding firm (it numbered a few major corporations as accounts); treasurer of a once-major art school and an exhibiting artist (painter). He has been to France, Italy, Greece, Holland, Belgium, Romania, Japan, England, India, Sri Lanka and has traveled extensively throughout much of America and Eastern Canada.

\*

The Great American Depression was a time when many parents were broke (in those days few would admit to being poor), and few would have been willing or able to assist a stigmatic, dreamy kid to be an artist. Nevertheless, Markand always knew that he'd be one -- and drew as long as he could remember. By the time he reached his thirties, much to his immediate family's consternation, he decided that art was what he wanted to do. In the late 60's he began

exhibiting his paintings at his studio in New York, and then on tour, in minor museums and universities nationwide; during the mid-1970's his work was exhibited in SoHo. At that time he was a member of several art organizations -- yet, he was not then, nor is he now, an organization man .



**FINIS**







Cover design, artwork and illustrations by Markland Thaler

A SKUNK



Publication