

would confer with the appeals committee. A week later he had their answer for me -- if I were being fired for cause, for, in other words, something I'd done wrong, I would have had full recourse to appeal, but since I hadn't been accused of a single peccadillo, I had nothing to defend myself against and no appeal was possible.

Joseph Heller could win himself a Pulitzer with that one.

THE CIVILIZING OF THE SHREW

"You didn't drink much on the trip," she says.

I say, "I drank a lot of beer."

"Never enough to make you feel bad in the morning."

I say, "I didn't feel so hot some mornings."

"Never so bad that you felt you had to have a drink."

"A couple of days I started at lunch," I say. "Anyway, how much would you estimate I was putting away most days?"

"Oh, a couple of six-packs," she says, getting it about right. "But that isn't so much over a number of hours, in such heat, when you're keeping active and have a lot of reasons to need a little something to relax you."

What a difference a mere ten years make! This girl has really come a hell of a way!

DUBIOUS DISTINCTION

i ran into one of our former english majors and i asked him if he'd ever graduated.

he said he hadn't.

when i asked him why,
he said, "well, if you'd taught
just a couple more courses
i might've been able to.

A MODEST PROPOSAL

Since I only have an old black-and-white set anyhow,
and it's getting increasingly difficult

to tell the teams apart,

I have a suggestion for the National Basketball
Association:
divide the teams on the basis of
color.

There could be the same number of teams as now,
but half would be all-white and the other half all-black.

Or there could be more teams: instead of the L.A. Lakers
there could be the Watts Blacks and the Beach Whites.

I think the matchups would be interesting:
Jabbar-Walton, Erving-Barry, Gervin-Westphal,
and so on?

Aren't these the squarings-off
that everyone seems most excited by anyway?

I mean instead of our country being
surreptitiously obsessed by race,
let's get our fears, hatreds, partisanships
right out into the open.
Change the above, in fact,
to Watts Niggers and Beverly Hills Honkies.

I don't consider this idea the least bit ridiculous.
How is it different from the Olympics?
And, if over fifty percent of the whites in L.A.
are opposed to integration of the schools --
not just busing, mind you, but integration itself --
how is the other system working?
My idea may be the safety valve
to short-circuit racial holocaust.

I haven't figured out yet
which side gets the Orientals and Chicanos.
They can't be counted on
to remain short indefinitely.

PROCESS OF DEDUCTION

when our friend's face met the floor,
someone said,

"find out where he's been drinking!
they must pour the last honest drink
in town!"