

"Have you ever broken your nose fourteen times falling down the same step was all she said as the endlessly soft parade of cars and trucks and cabs and buses and trains and planes and bikes and people and pets and friends and enemies and lovers and children and old folks and poets and priests and politicians and crooks and hippies and republicans and heroes and ghosts and all sorts of scraps of humanity passed by oblivious

--John Pargas

Letter From West Point

The following are words written by a student at West Point Military Academy. Chuck, a friend of mine from high school, wrote me this letter last spring. It gives an insider's glimpse into life at the prime training facility for future U.S. military and political leaders, and what happens to West Pointers with a conscience.

energy equals mass times the speed of life squared
By MEL ALLEN, JR.

*always the light
a solid, living necessity
it could mean hope
or mercy
euthanasia again and again*



*a day
is built
only for destruction
only to remember
always the light*



"A good, violently executed plan, good use of terrain, and surprise can give you a decisive advantage." (FM 22-100, pg. 30)

This is what I study.

"The enemy will come leading with elite motorized forces equipped with BMP's T-72's. You can expect to be outnumbered 3-5-1. You must delay the enemy so that second line defenses may be set up. Casualties on both sides will be high."

I have fought the battle of the Fulga Gap 100 times. I will fight it 100 more.

"The enemy will try to either bypass you or overrun your posi

The little town of Hof always gets destroyed in these games.

"When the enemy is attempting to destroy your positions, they will attack with T-72's leading, followed by mounted BMP's."

I wonder if the people in Hof know that?

"You can expect heavy gunship and air support."

A war like this would be insane. "Your mission is clear." How many people will die?

"Use TOW teams and BFV's to destroy..." I'm gonna throw up.

"...M-60's cover the dismounted..." nuts "...achieve flank shots..." headache "...grazing fire along FPF..." f--k this.

At this point, Chuck writes the word "BREAK" on his letter. The next page announces that he got a tattoo of a unicorn on his shoulder. He signs,

*Your friend, who is in here somewhere,
I think, I hope, Chuck*

