

# Wrestling Key To U.S. - Soviet Relations

By  
JONATHAN PHILLIPS

According to Clark DeLeon, columnist for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, this is how it went down.

Dave "Dr. D" Schultz was paired with Sgt. Slaughter, the big, tough ex-USMC drill sergeant. It was a tag-team bout against Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka, who earns his moniker by pinning opponents with chest-high cross body blocks launched from high on the turnbuckle and accompanied by blood-curdling Jamaican war-cries.

Superfly was paired with Andre the Giant, standing 7 feet, four and a half inches in stocking feet and weighing in at 492 pounds, give or take a pound.

Sgt. Slaughter was taking a pounding in the ring, and trying desperately to tag up with his partner. As he painfully inched his way toward the corner, taking a beating all the while, he finally got close enough to make a tag. With his last ounce of strength, he stretched out to Dr. D.

Then Dr. D turned his back on the Sgt.

To make a short story shorter, the all-consuming rage that this act of treachery brought on gave Slaughter new life. He escaped from Andre, chased the slimy Schultz to the dressing room and gave him a sound thrashing.

Then the valiant leatherneck leaped into the ring, foaming at the mouth and ready to take on the two formidable adversaries alone. But instead of coming to battle, Andre and Superfly slowly extended hands of friendship to their foe.

United by their disgust at the cowardly, untrustworthy Dr. D, the three embraced at center ring, as more than 15,000 wrasslin' fans cheered wildly for Sgt. Slaughter.

Now hold it just a minute, I thought. DeLeon is one of my favorite writers, but this piece could not be correct.

In pro wrestling's sweaty miniature morality plays there are clearly defined good guys and clearly defined bad guys, and 15,000 people don't cheer for bad guys. The people who write the scripts don't write them so that 15,000 folks are inspired to cheer for bad guys.

And I didn't spend all those Saturday evenings watching Mid-Atlantic Championship Wrestling for nothin'. I knew Sgt.

Slaughter was a bad guy. I had seen him pull nearly any dirty trick to win a match. I knew that he was known as one of the foulest, meanest, low-down hombres to ever climb into the "squared circle," as eminent wrestling announcer Gordon Solie calls it for unknown reasons.

Slaughter fought dirty, habitually tried to hurt as well as defeat people, and who despised by each and every right-minded fan at Raleigh's Dorton Arena.

No way could they make him the darling of the Philly Spectrum.

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Lo and behold, the very next Saturday the wrasslin' show was coming to us from Boston. In against red-blooded American Boy Eddie "No-Nickname" Gilbert was the Iron Shiek.

For those of you who don't know an atomic knee drop from the cobra clutch, the Iron Shiek is the best-designed theatrical villain since Snidely Whiplash. I mean, this guy wears wrestling tights that say "Iran" down the sides, is accompanied into the ring by a clown with full Lawrence-of-Arabia gear, and carries a flag with the Ayatollah's picture on it, which he bows to before each bout.

You could not design a more anti-American villain.

After the evil I.S. vanquished Gilbert, he sneered at the crowd, shouted "look at your crushed America," and spat on Gilbert, who lay writhing in pain on the canvas.

From out of the dressing room, dressed in camouflage fatigue pants, bolted Sgt. Slaughter, USMC. He had seen, he had heard, and boy, was he mad.

The Sergeant leaped into the ring, flailed the Shiek, and sent the Iranian Scum scrambling to his dressing room in fright. Slaughter then declared war on the Iron Shiek, led a packed Boston Garden in a gravel-voiced, fiery-eyed Pledge of Allegiance, and walked proudly from the ring with more chants of "USA, USA" ringing in his ears than the 1980 Olympic hockey team got.

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## Art-Wyeth Exhibition

An all day bus trip to the North Carolina Museum of Art is planned for March 21, 1984. The trip will include lunch and an afternoon tour of the new Museum on Blue Ridge Road. The fee is \$25 for the Craven Arts Council & Gallery, Inc. contributors and \$35 for non-contributors. A minimum of 40 participants is required. Registration deadline March 14. Send checks payable Craven Arts Council & Gallery, P.O. Box 596, New Bern, N.C. 28560.

The new Gallery Coordinator for the Craven Arts Council & Gallery, Inc. will accompany the tour. The current temporary exhibit "HOWARD PYLE AND THE WYETHS: FOUR GENERATIONS OF AMERICAN IMAGINATION" will be featured on a guided tour through the museum by a trained North Carolina Museum docent.

The tour will leave Twin Rivers Mall at 9 a.m. and will return in the late afternoon.



The first ship to pass through the Panama Canal was the *Alex Lavalley* on January 7, 1914.

## Ash Wednesday March 7, 1984

By LELA BARROW

Ash Wednesday is our next Church Season which is the beginning of the Lenten Season, or the first day of Spring. Lent means spring. It is a time of house cleaning and body cleaning especially inside cleaning. Take spring house cleaning; makes me tired to even think of it. I used to look forward to it. Now to think of all those windows to wash inside and outside—all the woodwork to wash, floors to scrub, carpet to clean; well it has to be done.

But think of your own body, which is your house, you carry around every day of your life; which is more important than the house built of wood. You can build another house, but you cannot build another body. Don't neglect the one you have.

The world is full of evil, pain, and hatefulness that just passing through some of the sin gets off on you. It is very contagious. In the prayer for Ash Wednesday, we ask God to forgive us for our sins, create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness may obtain mercy and forgiveness.

Brokenness is the essence of Lent; Broken people-broken church-broken world. Divided: at odds - within, without, for or against. It is so easy to find fault with other people's ideas, their way of living - their denomination, the way they sing or pray, even the way they walk. First Corinthians Paul says "Be united again," assuming that wholeness and togetherness should be our nature.

Jesus found the people divided when he began His preaching mission on earth.

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## Wachovia Business Index

The level of business activity in North Carolina continued to expand in January, according to the Wachovia Business Index. The Index registered 126.0, up 1.5 percent from December.

The rise in the Index resulted from increases in building permits, new business starts, non-agricultural employment and a decline in initial claims for unemployment insurance.

The increase in non-agricultural employment was supported by gains in both manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors. Employment was up in furniture, textiles, apparel, construction, government, services and trade.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for North Carolina was 7.3 percent in January, unchanged from the revised December Level. The national rate for Jan. was 8.0 percent, down 0.2 percentage points from December. The unadjusted unemployment rate in North Carolina was 8.1 percent in January.

The Wachovia North Carolina Business Index measures the level of economic activity in North Carolina on a monthly basis. Using 1976 as a base of 100, it reflects indicators of employment, business expansion, production and construction activity in the state's economy. All data are seasonally adjusted for historic seasonal trends and are adjusted to smooth statistical aberrations.

## HIGHLIGHTS

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P.O. Box 404, Main St., Across from the Post Office  
Vanceboro, North Carolina, 28586  
Phone (919) 244-0780, (919) 244-0508

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

Second Class Postage Paid at Vanceboro, N.C.  
(Permit entered March 1, 1978)

### SUBSCRIPTION PRICES

Single Copy .....	20¢
1 Year Subscription .....	\$6.27
2 Years Subscription .....	\$10.45
3 Years Subscription .....	\$14.63

(UPSP 412-110)

(Payable in advance. Subscribers desiring their Highlights, terminated at expiration should notify us of this intention, otherwise we will consider it their wish to continue to receive the paper and they will be charged for it.)