



NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY
INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE OF THE ARMED FORCES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20319-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

ICAF-AR

January 30, 1990

Mr George Will
Editorial Page Columnist
% Washington Post
Washington, DC 20071

Dear Mr Will,

This is a fan letter with a twist. By way of introduction, I am the Dean of Administration and Resources, the Air Force Chief of Staff Chair, and a Professor of Systems Acquisition and Logistics in the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF), National Defense University, Eisenhower Hall, Fort L.J. McNair, Washington, DC.

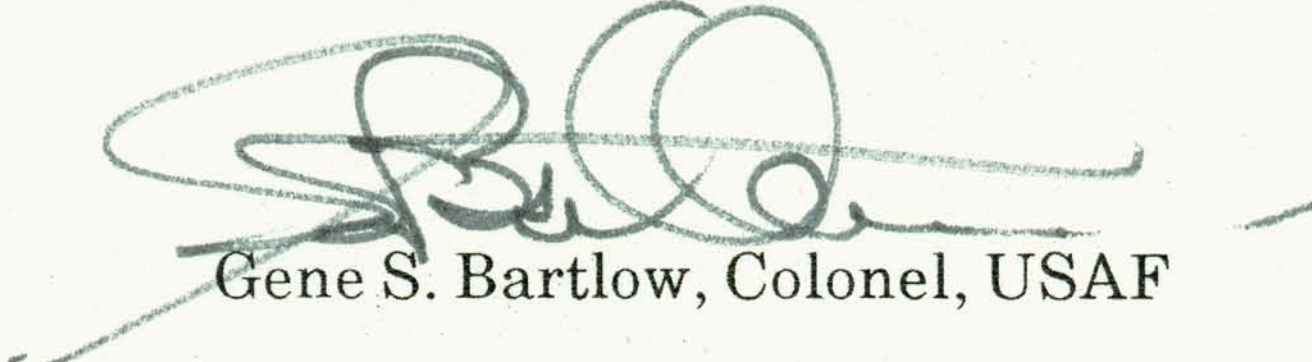
First, I wanted to express my admiration for your work both as a columnist and as a television commentator. I admire not only your communications abilities, but also your insight and perspective. I seem to find myself agreeing with most of what you say most of the time.

Second, I thought you might appreciate learning of a new word I have coined. It is somewhat humorous and quite descriptive of the foibles of some individuals in the public arena. The word is "**podiacide**," a verb describing the act of "shooting oneself in the foot" (podiatry and suicide). I created the word as a vehicle to describe an act of self-inflicted stupidity that is normally preventable. I saw such acts committed often in my years in the Pentagon and in working Congressional relations. I also sometimes refer to it in my lectures here at ICAF. One could use **podiacide** to describe Mayor Marion Barry's use of crack with Ms Rasheeda Moore in a DC hotel; Lt Colonel Oliver North's acceptance of the \$13,800 home security system from General Richard Secord; Speaker Jim Wright, Jr.'s money and ethical problems and his book deal that went sour; or the most significant act of **podiacide** yet--President Nixon's failure to burn the Oval Office tapes.

Please feel free to use **podiacide** in print or on television as you like. I would only ask that you provide a footnote that you heard it here first.

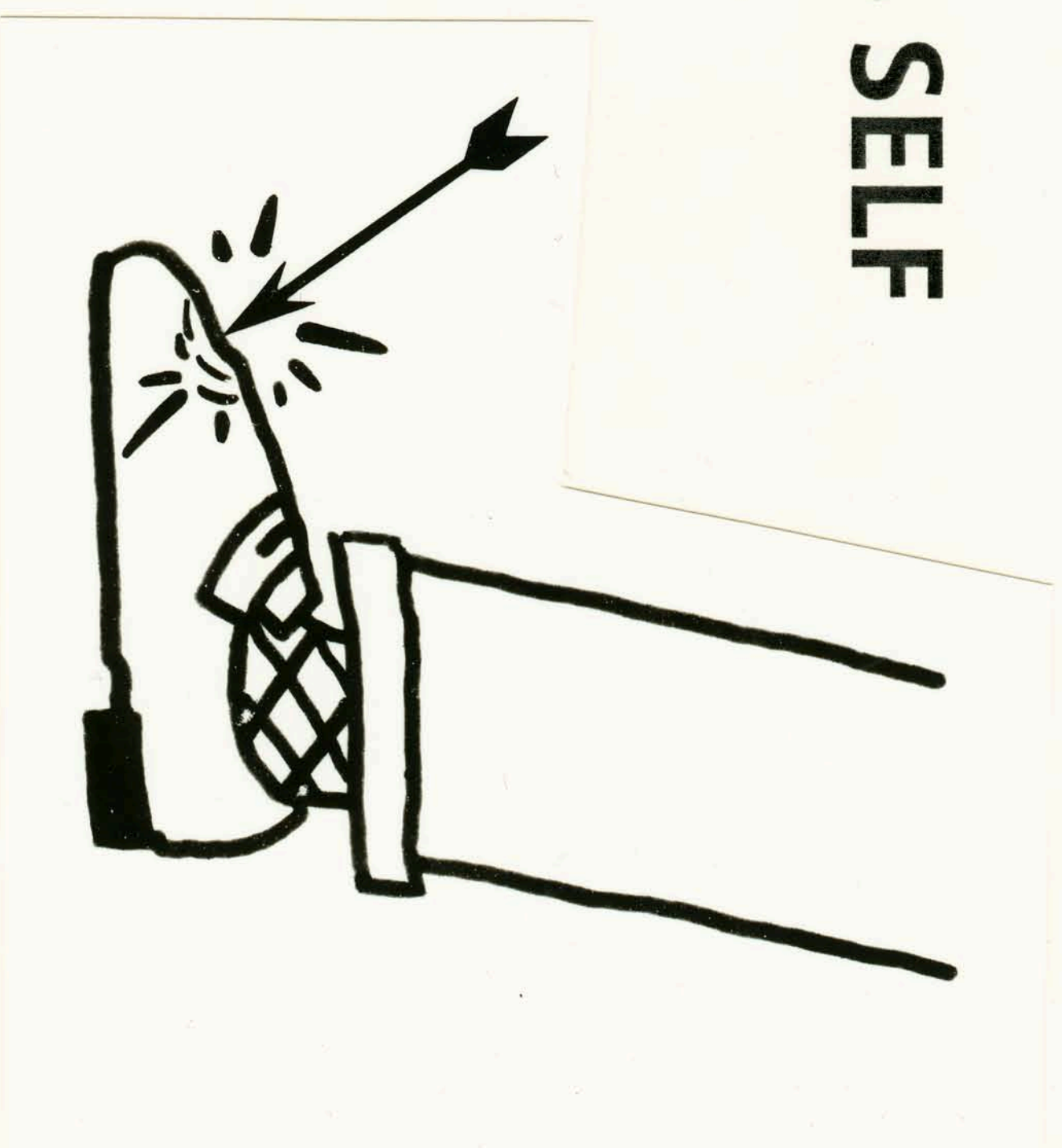
I hope I have brought you a smile for the day. All the best and continued success.

Sincerely,



Gene S. Bartlow, Colonel, USAF

**PODIACIDE:
SHOOTING ONES SELF
IN THE FOOT**



GEORGE F. WILL

6 February, 1990

Colonel Gene S. Bartlow
United States Air Force
National Defense University
Industrial College of the Armed Forces
Washington, D.C. 20319-6000

Dear Colonel Bartlow,

Thank you for your witty and incisive letter of 30 January concerning the word "podiacide."

I shall concern myself as much with the error of committing it as with the pleasure of saying it.

Sincerely,



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