



on second thought

—Peter Outhit

WHAT I LEARNED DURING THE VACATION

Christmas vacation tends to leave one with stark memories. In the first place it begins awkwardly, when one is forced to give up an exam paper the last two questions of which stand unanswered due among other things, to a lack of understanding of the first question, the impending elbow of one's righthand neighbour and a pen which emits blobs of irreparable consistency and quality.

But, irrespective of your objections it does begin, and eventually you are home and into the Christmas spirits. It is difficult to be bored during those next few busy days, but you are.

The only vacation job I am given freely and without undue interference is that of putting up the Outside Decorations. This can be done only if conditions are S.T.P.; Subzero Temperature and Precipitation. Also, I might advise others that the electricity ought to be turned off before wiring the outside lights (or else make sure your clothes aren't wet) and turned on again afterwards if there is a roast in the oven.

From the cheerful and satisfied faces around me I can see that everyone's vacation was probably more interesting than mine. So I shall simply outline a few of the more constructive nuggets remaining with me from my short-lived freedom. Most of them I hope to forget as soon as possible.

1. Six hours of sleep are not necessary.
2. You begin tuning a ukelele with D and tune the other strings from that.
4. Scotch and gin do not mix, unless you have nothing else.
5. Nine-tenths of the girls one meets on a blind date are prettier than the one he is with.
6. It is impossible to clean the top of a bongo without water.
7. You cannot buy less than 25 Christmas cards at one time.
8. Bicarbonate of soda taken before retiring makes you feel better the next day.
9. The best tinsel is at the back of the tree.
10. Middle age begins on Christmas afternoon.
11. My relatives do have a sense of humour.
12. "A claim job" is where the mechanic claims he has fixed your car when in reality he has transferred your distributor trouble to the electrical system without anyone knowing.
13. It gets cold when one is stalled four miles out of town at 3 a.m. in a snow storm.
14. All women are untrustworthy.
15. At one minute past midnight New Year's Eve one is not supposed to kiss other girls.
16. Freedom of choice occurs when Richard Diamond and Philip Marlowe are on at the same time.

The above moments are, in most cases, gone forever, and I should be constructive. It is January again; the handwriting is on the wall of the Arts & Administration basement.

Blank Thank You forms are this very moment in publication for Atwood distribution, new switchboard operators are joining the staff at Sheriff Hall, new decks are being christened in the East Common Room.

There will be a brief, albeit spectacular, explosion of dutifully worn ties, sweaters, perfume, and underwear. Then the old favourite clothes will once again appear; the old favourite girl friends will be taken on the old favourite dates.

In closing, I realize the cynicism of asserting that the 16 items listed above comprise the totality of my benefit from this year's vacation. Actually, I learned numerous other things, but I cannot remember them.

American Delegates At West Point Conference Fear Military Aggression

by DENIS STAIRS

The following article is intended to give only a few of the impressions this writer received while attending with George Martell, Associate Editor of the Gazette, a Student Conference on "The National Security Policy of the United States" held at West Point last term. It is concerned solely with what appeared to be the basic assumptions and attitudes of the Americans in their approach to international problems, to nuclear warfare, to relations with Canada, and so forth; it makes no attempt to outline any of the principles of American Foreign Policy itself, nor does it try to discuss policy-making conclusions arrived at by the Conference. Such a subject would be much too large for the scope of a short feature, and the Conference was divided into too many separate sections to permit overall summations of resolutions made.

(Moreover readers are asked to note that the following observations are not necessarily universally valid; during the three days of the Conference, this writer conversed with perhaps only 30 or 40 of the 200 delegates, excluding the 16 members of his own panel, and he did not hear every speaker in attendance. The following generalizations do, however, hold true for the views with which he did make contact.

Perhaps the most striking characteristic of the American approach as evidenced at the Conference was its virtually monolithic unity. Each American I met, consciously or unconsciously, made the following inalienable assumptions as he approached a policy issue: (1) The American way of life is the best in existence and as such must be preserved at any cost; (2) The Soviet or Communist way of life is the worst mode of living and, by implication, the most evil; (3) The U.S.S.R. and its Communist Allies are working toward the goal of world domination and universal communism, and will seize any opportunity to aggress militarily, as well as economically and psychologically; (4) The rest of the western world agrees, in the main, with these sentiments.

From these basic assumptions it is concluded further (1) that a strong national defense policy, which must perforce entail the defense of the democratic west as a whole, is essential to the survival of the United States, (2) that in the present age the only reasonably sure way of attaining military security is by nuclear armament, and (3) given the accepted extreme contrast between western virtue and eastern evil, the attempt to preserve our way of life should nuclear armament fail as a deterrent (by actually engaging in active atomic conflict,) would be entirely justified, however great might be the possibility of total destruction.

WHAT PRICE DEMOCRACY?

It must be emphasized that there was no hesitation over the problem of moral values. I asked several American delegates if they would prefer to see Europe and North America as areas of radioactive rubble rather than dominated by the U.S.S.R. and a communist economy; the answer was invariably and emphatically, "Yes." One American General and former member of the NATO executive pointed out in reassuring tones that the U. S. had sufficient nuclear arms in Europe to "obliterate" an attacker (i.e. the U.S.S.R.), while a student member of

my own panel, in discussing a nuclearly armed NATO, casually pointed out that "we can only plaster Russia so much." There was, in short, no question that the preservation of western democracy and what remains of laissez-faire was a cause virtuous enough to warrant the death of 200 million Slavs.

POLICY MINUS ETHICS

A concrete example of this approach in action during policy-making was offered within my own discussion group (The Atlantic Community). It had been suggested that the United States turn its nuclear stockpiles and delivery mechanisms in Europe over to NATO. The group eventually voted for the motion, but what is significant is that there was no discussion of the principle of nuclear deterrence itself (except by me, but I had to submit a minority report in order to be heard), either of its worth or justification. The only concern was whether or not it would be more effective in the hands of NATO instead of in the hands of the United States army as a means of preventing war, or of pursuing it should it break out.

Ideological Challenge Misunderstood

But it must be pointed out here that this general unity of view, and

the overwhelming interest in means, rather than in analysis of fundamentals and basic principles, did in no way lessen American concern for, or awareness of, the complex problems on the international scene. Most of the delegates I met were very much worried about eastern bloc advances. While they considered the field of military aggression to be the most vital scene of conflict, they realized the existence of an economic and ideological threat.

Both George Martell and myself, however, felt they undervalued the former and almost totally misconstrued the latter. Mr. Martell, who was a member of a group discussing the Communist Challenge, felt his American colleagues lacked real knowledge of the aims of Communism, its basis for appeal, and its moral values. American members of the Atlantic Community panel, however, seemed to me well informed on matters of statistics, geography, constitution of international groups such as OEEC, WEU, NATO, ECSC, EEC, Euratom, EFTA, Council of Europe, and so forth, of which I, confessedly, knew little in detail.

Canada - A Satellite of the U. S.

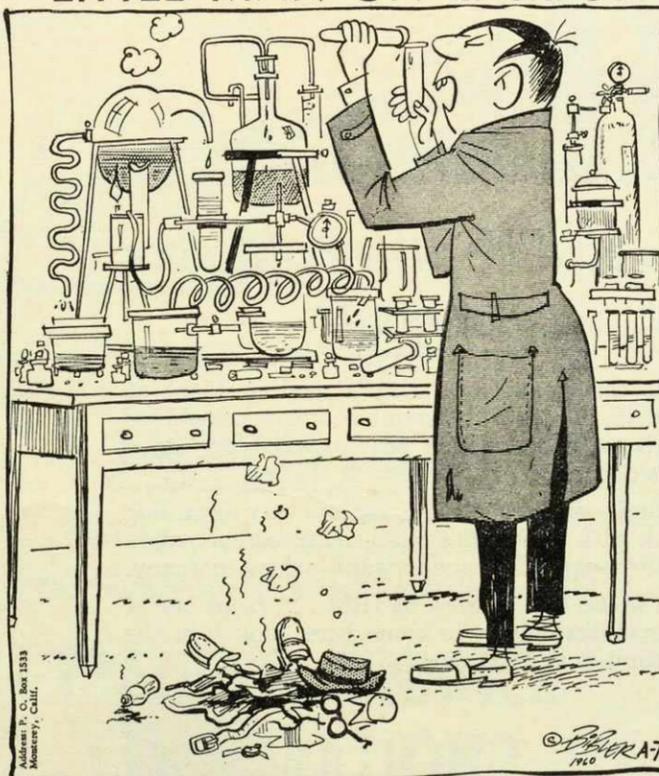
Of the topic of U. S. relations with Canada, on the other hand, most of the American delegates knew little. To them Canada is an inseparable ally of the United States, a smaller neighbour whose way of life, aims, philosophy, economy and very being are so much in accord with those of America that our mutual activities must do nothing but complement each other. Aware of anti-American feeling in other parts of the "western" world, they were nevertheless shocked to hear that some of the same existed in this country. Few had even heard of NORAD, and those who had could see no reason why it could be in any way a factor in Canadian discontent.

Surprise at Canadian Opinions

When I told them that the BOMARC issue had made headlines in this country, they were quite frankly amazed. I pointed out that some, although not necessarily all or most, Canadians are discussing the merits of neutralism, resent American inroads on the Canadian economy, wish to recognize Red China, feel the American foreign policies are naive, dislike being viewed as a "satellite" of the United States, disapprove of American influences on Canadian mass communication media, are shocked by the outlawing of the Communist Party in a country which considers itself a democracy, regard American anti-Russian prejudice as childish and dangerous, and so on. To most of the U. S. students all this came as a complete surprise.

(continued on page five)

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"BY TH' WAY, ED, THAT'S A HI-POWER ACID IN THAT COKE BOTTLE."

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