

From Cuba with love

Time magazine wins no Gramma award

It's nice to see Time magazine spreading to all corners of the world. It's even nicer to see it getting the recognition it richly deserves.

The following article, entitled Time 'Forgot' a Few Important Details, appeared in late February in Gramma, the weekly review of Havana, Cuba, in a column dubbed "The press in the United States".

The author is Alfonso Naciancano.

Time is one of the many putrid magazines that infest the United States.

The characters featured on its cover range from President Ford and singer Stevie Wonder to a prize-

winning dog, and when nothing more appropriate is at hand, there's a dazzling picture of no-longer-so-impressive gold bars, of the bullion that's supposed to be stashed away in the vaults of the banks owned by the fathers of inflation.

In its search for an eye-catching style, in its constant barrage of misinformation and distortion, the U.S. press loses perspective in a number of questions including the field of sports. Take, for example, the case of Soviet star gymnast Olga Korbut. The following is quoted from Time:

"The 16-member Soviet gymnastic team is now touring the U.S... The star of the team Olga Korbut prefers apples. Said Olga's special bodyguard, 'She eats them by the

dozen. In fact, she eats everything in sight.' None of the French fries, hamburgers, pancakes and cases of syrup, however, makes the slightest bulge on Olga's 82-lb. frame...."

A good look at the above lines will reveal the evident intention of presenting the image of an athlete driven by an uncontrollable urge to devour everything that comes within her reach. The general idea is to ridicule, to lampoon the subject in question.

Did Time by any chance forget that 19-year-old Olga is a student of the School of History of the Institute of Pedagogy of the USSR? Isn't there the slightest trace in Time's morgue of the report that Olga became the world's most famous

athlete in the Munich Olympics?

Does Time ignore that there is an exercise in the parallel bars that is known as "the Korbut loop"? Don't tell me that the editors of Time don't even know that there are a number of gymnastics clubs in the U.S. named after Olga Korbut!

It's deplorable indeed that these gentlemen don't remember these things.

But, getting back to the article, here's some more of the same stuff:

"Last week, when the team arrived in San Francisco, plates of pears, mangoes, bananas and pineapples (all unavailable in Moscow) were awaiting them..." and so on, ad nauseam.

Not a single word about sports — and the article is all about a gymnast. Naturally, their job is to spread lies, to divert the attention of the readers from reality, to give a distorted image of the Soviet Union.

Time's reporter wasted a lot of time — and a lot of words — writing about things that nobody is interested in. The truth? Well... it wouldn't pay for Time to reveal the truth.

This is why, when it comes to who's going to appear on the cover they have to fall back on the old standbys: the corrupt political figure, the more-or-less-known singer, the prize-winning pup and — as a last resort — the bars of gold.

Opinion

The politics of rape and racism

By BROMME WHARTON

Heading up the list of urban problems are the constantly rising crime statistics of North American cities.

One of the offences that are increasing rapidly is rape.

Criminologists, sociologists, and psychiatrists are all losing sleep trying to determine the causes of the increase in rape. I seriously question whether there is an actual increase in the offense itself, or whether the victims have merely become less disposed to silence.

One thing is certain — the number of reported rapes has increased continuously since the mid-60s.

At the same time, crime and punishment in North America have become increasingly politicized, as shown by the way in which a criminal offence is viewed by the police and the courts, and the way in which punishment is determined by the race of the offender.

It has been known for a long time that the police in many U.S. and Canadian cities treat Indians and blacks differently from whites.

Early this year, a white high school student in Olean (Buffalo suburb) killed three people. This student was released on bail, and the police investigating the case stated that the accused did not seem to have criminal intent.

Two months earlier, in late November, a black youth from Buffalo shot and wounded a girl.

He was arrested, charged with

attempted murder, and was not allowed bail. The entire white community in Buffalo was disturbed by the incident, and the usual talk about 'savages' running loose with guns was heard.

A strange case was reported recently from Greensboro, North Carolina. A (white) guard at a county jail was found dead with his pants off. Evidence of recent sexual activity was found during a post mortem.

The cell in which he was found had been occupied by a young black woman, arrested for petty theft on the night before his death.

The young woman surrendered herself on the advice of her attorney. She reported that the guard had crept into her cell and raped her while holding an ice pick at her throat. During the course of the attack she was able to snatch the ice pick away from the guard and defend herself.

For defending herself against rape, she was charged with murder.

In another recent incident a black man was arrested in Chicago for the rape of a young white woman. It was one of the shortest rape trials on record. Even though some of the evidence was conflicting, the accused was convicted and sentenced to eight years in jail.

Clearly, what we have is a double standard of justice in North America, what I have referred to as the politicization of rape.

Politics and power dictate that if

the victim is black, little or nothing is done. If the rapist is black, the wheels of 'justice' turn swiftly helped by a generous supply of political greasing (racism).

But if the rapist is white, the entire process is a lengthy and painful one for the victim.

Power in North America is wielded by the white male. It seems that this established power group is quite willing to play politics with the bodies of women.

The incidence of reported rape in British Columbia has tripled in the past few years. The authorities continue to blame this rise on short skirts and female immorality.

They continue to ignore the fact that a rapist is a sick member of our society, who needs to exercise power over another human being. So he picks on women, since it will be much easier for him, in a contest of sheer physical force.

My contention is that many white rapists are not sufficiently discouraged by the structure of the legal system and the operation of justice.



C. T. Squassero photo

"Extinct is forever."

As crowds passed by the bearpit last Thursday, they found Helen Rainnie, a member of PAWS (People's Animal Welfare Society), sitting behind a display of films and posters.

For the aurally sensitive, Rainnie played a soundtrack of wolf howls; for the literary, she offered sheafs of newspaper clippings on the new movement of animal liberation.

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