

Editorial Opinion

A Peaceful Solution

On Sunday afternoon a boy sat in the almost deserted lounge of the Hetzel Union Building. He was reading a newspaper, his fingers tightly clutching its edges. His face gradually lost its color and his eyes widened into a frightened stare. Suddenly he gasped, "Why should I be sent to fight a war in Laos?"

The idea of fighting in Laos is not far fetched since the Communists are always alert to spread their influence and the West is always on the alert to guard against it.

Thus, the tug of war between the two ideologies could start in any uncommitted country with the threat of a full-scale war always in the background.

Britain and France, fellow SEATO members also pledged to the defense of the area against foreign intervention, have made the U.S. take a calmer view in Laos.

However, if the pro-Western Laos government can prove that North Vietnamese, Russian or Red Chinese troops are fighting with the pro-Communists, students might have to drop their studies to fight and perhaps die in the Laotian jungles.

If Laos falls to the Communists it could serve as a point of further Communist intervention into Cambodia and South Vietnam. The West cannot tolerate this.

However, Moscow has said that they recognize as the official Laotian head of government Souvanna Phouma, the neutralist who was overthrown by pro-Western leaders last month.

Yet it is encouraging that Moscow has said it is willing to negotiate and has called for a conference of the participants in the 1954 Geneva meeting that ended the fighting in Indo-China including Laos and divided Vietnam into two parts.

Boun Oum, Laos pro-Western leader is in favor of negotiating and has said he would let the International Control Commission set up after the armistice settles the fighting—but only if the commission composed of India, Canada and Red Poland would recognize his government as the legal authority in Laos.

The commission stopped functioning in 1958 and then Laos was once again split over fighting over which regime—neutralist, Communists or pro-Western—should be the official government.

Many political experts say that negotiations lead nowhere. However, this is only true in a situation in which neither side wishes to negotiate. In this case the West and the East seem willing to do so.

We realize that a war on any scale can no longer be used as a way to settle disputes. A total war could wipe out mankind. A limited action war results in many deaths and in the end, the peace negotiators must settle it anyway.

We see negotiations as the way to settle disputes and it is our hope that someday all international disputes will be settled in this way.

Today's college students have had two major wars occur in their lifetime. They have been taught that war is horrible and futile.

We say that the Laotian crisis must be settled by negotiation for a coalition government. This could serve as a symbol that the nations of the world can settle their disputes peacefully, and in the future will use the conference table as the battleground with words as the only weapons.

Bargain to Europe

While it may seem unseasonal to think about summer vacation now, any students or University personnel who are planning to go to Europe this summer must act quickly if they don't want to miss out on the best transportation bargain available to them.

For the second year, Student Government Association plans to charter a flight to Europe so that Penn Staters can travel at the lowest possible expense. The round trip cost of \$260 is \$15 lower than the cost last year.

The fare on the charter flight allows a considerable savings over regular commercial flights, but Feb. 1 is the deadline for applications.

University students and employees will have to act fast to take advantage of this bargain.

Letters

Men In West Get Sympathy

TO THE EDITOR: As a member of the North Halls area I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to the West Halls Area Council and the men they represent.

All of us in North Halls are profoundly touched by the fact that there is a ratio of only one girl to every three boys in the West Halls area.

We know that when the Dean of Women hears of your plight she will undoubtedly come to the rescue. After all, she wouldn't want her charges to be shy because they are in the minority.

When you receive the 400 coeds you desire for Thompson (this will no doubt make all the girls less shy) would you be willing to let us borrow a few here and there. These imports would be a welcome change to say the least.

As members of an 1150 to 0 ratio, the North Halls area men sympathize with you and are forced to admit that a 3 to 1 ratio is deplorable.

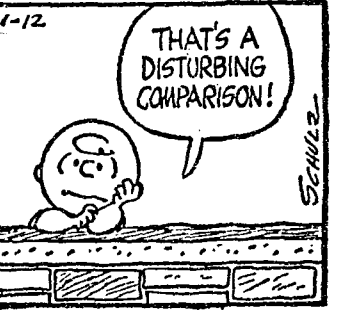
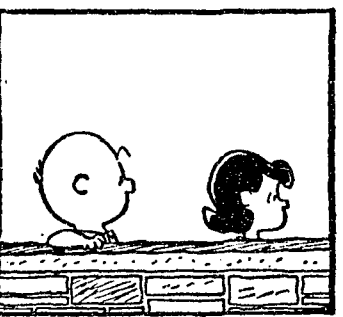
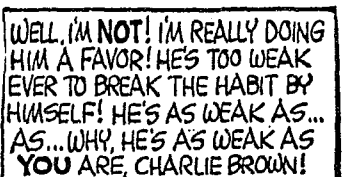
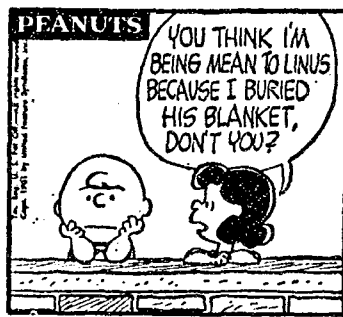
—E. J. Dowling, '62

Gazette

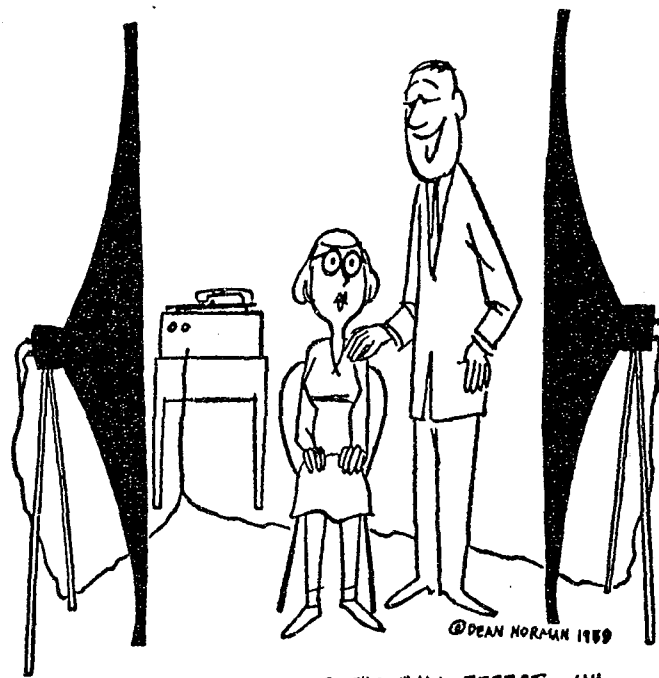
- TODAY**
- AF Glee Club, 3 p.m., HUB assembly room.
 - AFROTIC Band, 3:15 p.m., 117 Carnegie
 - Basketball Officials Club, 7:30 p.m., 2 White Hall
 - Campus Party, 6 p.m., 212 HUB
 - Charter Flight Committee, 4 p.m., 216 HUB
 - Gamma Sigma Sigma, 6:30 p.m., HUB assembly room
 - IV Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., 215 HUB
 - Jazz Club, 6:45 p.m., 217 HUB
 - PI Omega Pi, 2:15 p.m., 204 Boucke
 - Pollock Community Triad, 3:30 p.m., 218 HUB
 - Sigma Delta Epsilon, 8:30 p.m., 213 HUB
 - Ski Division of Outing Club, 7 p.m., 112 Buckhout
 - University Party, 7 p.m., 213 HUB
 - West Halls Community Council, 4 p.m., 1B Irvin

WDFM Schedule

- THURSDAY**
- 3:30 Stock Market Report
 - 3:50 News and Weather
 - 4:00 Critic's Choice
 - 5:00 Three at Five
 - 6:00 Studio X
 - 6:55 WeatherScope
 - 7:00 Obelisk
 - 7:30 The Jazz Sound
 - 7:55 News Roundup
 - 8:00 This is The Subject
 - 9:00 Folk Music
 - 9:30 Opinion 15
 - 9:45 News, Sports, Weather
 - 10:00 Chamber Concert
 - 12:00 Sign Off



CAMPUS COMEDY



"NOW SIT RIGHT HERE TO GET THE FULL EFFECT. UH..... YOU'D BETTER GIVE ME YOUR GLASSES."

Interpreting

Solution Failures Fill Laos History

By J. M. ROBERTS
Associated Press News Analyst

A proposal for a new large-scale international conference to seek a solution of the civil war in Laos reminds that twice before—when the pro-Communist forces were weaker than now, and when the Communist bloc was not supplying arms—such solutions have been reached and failed.

Both failures have accompanied acceptance by Western negotiators of the false premise that Communists can take part, instead of just trying to take over, in a government.

In 1954 the Laos Communists, occupying a border area adjoining the Communist sphere, haggled and haggled over terms of the Geneva agreement to prevent integration of the country, finally came to terms in 1958, but only temporarily. Fighting broke out almost as soon as the commission decided its work was finished.



ROBERTS

After the 1954 agreement, a part of measures taken to end the Indochina war between France and Communists, the Soviet Union, co-chairman of the Geneva conference, let things simmer in Southeast Asia. Now she is actively supporting the rebels with supplies, and Red forces in North Viet Nam and Red China are on hand for intervention at any time.

This United States says she will not countenance.

To divert activity toward negotiation and away from the field of threats, Britain sug-

gested revival of the International Control Commission—India, Poland and Canada.

The United States said yes, provided King Savang Vathana's government agreed, but the Soviet Union said no because a neutralist government is her choice. Now Cambodia has suggested a 14-nation conference, including Red China, and first signs suggested the idea might prevail.

Such a conference could hardly produce a solution, in a situation where the Communists are determined that there shall be no solution except one that gives them the country.

It just might, however, gain enough time to let the Communists escape from a situation threatening a large-scale war which Red China might want but which the Soviet Union does not.

Observers are pretty much agreed that the Pathet Lao, the local Communist organization, is stronger than ever, due partly to organizational efforts and partly to the split between the neutralists and the pro-Western faction of the king. This puts them in just the position that the Communists want, for internal conquest without international war.

Unkept agreements have kept the pot simmering for six years, and a West divided on policy seems unable to produce anything better.

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56 Years of Editorial Freedom

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