

## Editorial Opinion

### East-West Touchstone

As Premier Khrushchev's December 31 showdown date on West Berlin creeps closer it is quite evident that both East and West intend to make this free city a doctrinal touchstone.

It is here that the West can achieve a tremendous boost for democracy, but it is here also where the West comes closest to entering another war.

Khrushchev says he wants a "peace treaty" with East and West Germany and the withdrawal of all military forces from West Berlin. If this does not come about, he says, he will sign a treaty with East Germany and turn over to it the fragile access routes that connect the city with Western Germany.

The Kennedy Administration is making it quite clear that no matter who controls these routes, the Allies expect to continue having free access to Berlin.

As the situation is intensified by proposed control measures by the East and defense increases by both East and West, two issues are emerging upon which the West can gain much psychological and political advantage.

The first of these is the plight of the East German. Extreme food shortages and lack of acceptance of collectivized farming have caused much resentment behind the city's Iron Curtain.

Berlin is the only chink in the Kremlin's iron armor. Here, for little more than a nickel, dissatisfied Easterners can take a subway to the West section. Last week more than 7,000 East Germans decided to move to the city's more prosperous half.

These immigrants are a drain to the economy of the Eastern Sector and a thorn in the side of Communism. A half million unfilled jobs await these people, a cost of living that is almost 30 per cent lower awaits them and most of all, a freedom that is all too conspicuous by its absence in the Eastern half.

By encouraging people to move to West Berlin the Allies can slowly suck the blood out of the Communist movement in Germany. A concerted effort should be made to draw these people out. Khrushchev is so worried that he has strengthened restrictions on travel to the West Sector, to consumer purchasing and to currency exchange.

The other issue which the West must employ to its own advantage is the self-determination issue, the right of East Germans to have free elections. Stalin agreed to it at Yalta and Potsdam and Khrushchev, himself, agreed to it at Geneva. What happened to these promises?

By pressing this issue the West might easily turn the tables on the chubby Premier. This just might be the trick to get the non-committed neutral nations to sanction the Kremlin. But the issue will have to be much harder pressed than it has been.

So far the neutral nations have not expressed any concern over East German self-determination. They have remained conspicuously quiet on this explosive question.

It is obvious that they are fence-sitting and afraid of losing their neutral standing by being labeled pro-West or pro-East. But this situation can be altered by convincing them of the injustice of the situation and stressing Russia's failure to live up to its promises.

By a concentrated effort using The Voice of America, Radio Free Europe and other propaganda organs and by repeatedly bringing this issue before the United Nations, the West might not only be able to swing the neutral nations but may also spark a self-determination movement in East Germany, itself.

The neutral nations could, in effect, be made to side with the West on this topic and yet not lose their neutrality. They would not become pro-West, but pro-self-determination—and this would be a sizable blow to Communist practices in not only Germany but in many of the satellite countries.

If these two issues can be turned to our advantage, the showdown in December will be far from what Khrushchev planned for. The West will have out-manuevered him and his position will be far from solid.

He, of course, could push the situation over the brink and into war, but evidence seems to indicate that he is not quite ready for that yet. And if the present East Berlin situation can be used as an index, he may be busy plugging the dike from his side of the Curtain.

A Student-Operated Newspaper

## Summer Collegian

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## Dateline Washington

Attempting to extract specific information from a busy politician can be a painful yet educational process.

Last summer, for example, this reporter was told a story she wrote would be worthwhile for the United Press International news wire only if some Congressman would say what she was illustrating.

The exact topic of the story has long since been forgotten but the trials involved and the mistakes made proved valuable training.

First mistake: picking the senator to try to quote for name rather than political outlook. Barry Goldwater's conservatism was making news at post-convention time, but this intrepid novice was lured by the man's prominence, rather than what he might say.

She traveled from the UPI office to the Capitol. Flying much too far above ground, she kept her appointment outside the Senate chamber with the Arizona Republican.

She made several unsuccessful attempts to ease Goldwater around to saying something she could quote to start her story. And after even more unsuccessful attempts to keep her mind on the story in the first place, she came to earth with a thud—figuratively, that is.

Only then did the young dreamer realize her two fundamental errors. First of all, Goldwater was much more adept at dealing with the press than she with him, and, more important, he wasn't about to agree with her in the first place.

Still undaunted, she tried to build a story on his comments. Not startling enough—not even mildly so, the editor said.

So she switched strategy, revised the interview questions and selected another target—more carefully this time. She choose a more liberal Republican. (Vaguely speaking, the story was about southern Democrats and their roles in Congress.)

Congress had just closed up shop for the summer. So at home that evening, the reporter called several senators who were clearing up last minute office work before evacuating Washington to mend political fences at home.

These men, too, were equally skillful at avoiding the issue while sounding like they weren't. Through with her telephone calls, the reporter had a page full of notes "full of the sound and the fury, signifying nothing."

One last ditch try at a work-  
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accents

## Going to the Dogs

dick leighton

The Great Dane-Beagle battle is half over now. The Senate has sent the House a bill designating the Great Dane as the official dog of the Commonwealth.

Whether or not the bill passes the House becomes immaterial when you consider the fact that this very important issue actually was pressed into a winning vote in the Senate by one industrious lobbyist.

Mrs. Henry Peirsol, self-styled Great Dane Lobbyist, put up quite a battle in the Senate. She came up against some formidable competition from many sportsmen's groups (and, lest we not forget, even from this columnist).



LEIGHTON

But her flamboyant tactics won out. Her introduction of three dogs (Great Dane, Poodle and Beagle) to the Senate chamber was an unprecedented success. She evidently impressed the stoic Senators by parading this canine entourage before them. Soon after this dog walk the Senate passed the Dane bill. When the vote was announced, Mrs. Peirsol got up and planted a kiss on one of her ardent supporters, Sen. Martin Silvert, D-Phila., much to the enjoyment of his colleagues.

Now Mrs. Peirsol is a crowd pleaser and evidently capable of influencing the legislators. Why don't we hire her? She couldn't do much worse than our lobbyists, and, besides, it might make our budget a fun-thing for the Harrisburg set.

Can't you picture the legislators waiting expectantly every two years to see what she will do. They would be assured of a show, and if they passed a reasonable allocation, they could all line up and be kissed by the lovely lobbyist.

She might try a variation of her dog walk. She could lead into the chamber a professor dressed in his shabbiest suit, a senior who will have to quit if there is a tuition raise and a high school student who was refused admittance because there just isn't room for him.

Why, the lobbying possibilities are infinite. She could sprint gaily down the aisles waving a Back the Budget Banner and lightly tossing firecrackers at sleeping legislators.

Yes, I say hire her. If we can get her enthused enough I'm sure she will be able to impress the State with the importance of our cause. She has what it takes to get attention

focused on important issues.

We might even be able to succeed in getting legislators to think that our budget is just as important as having a State dog.

## Letters

### Parking Lots Disillusioning

TO THE EDITOR: Being a new student from Ogontz this summer, I was quite disillusioned by the fact that a student living in West Halls must travel cross-country to a distant parking lot somewhere near the animal barns.

But to add insult to injury I was appalled by the condition of lot No. 53. Not only is this lot corroded with pot holes ranging from three to six inches in depth, but the surface is such that any dark colored car exposed to this dust-filled atmosphere for more than a day is in dire need washing.

My inquiry here is why are not some of the fees collected from the students, faculty, etc., for the privilege of parking on campus used to make this and other lots safe and usable.

Also concerning lot No. 11 which is located off Borrowers Road, this lot has unrestricted parking after 5:30 p.m. daily and on various times on weekends. Since this lot is never filled in the summer by those assigned to it I see no reason why a limited number of students are not allowed to park there.

However, upon retrospection perhaps the reason for this is that this lot is probably deemed unsafe for student parking; for a few nights ago I suddenly found myself getting off the ground and checking my leg to see if it was still intact.

It seems that there are several holes (probably used for drainage) big enough to catch an unwary foot and holding it for what might be a serious accident. Again I ask what are these parking fees we must pay being used for?

I, as a group of one, am taking it upon myself to inform the administration that these problems I have presented are not unreal and can be seen any day of the year—if one cares.

—Francis R. Georgell, '62

•Letter cut

## A Bad Book Thought Good

By STEPHEN R. BLUM  
Contributing Writer

The book reviewers are, for a change, almost unanimous. They all seem to feel Henry Miller's "Tropic of Cancer" is a great book, a contribution to American literature. I should like to offer a considered disagreement for, you see, not only do I feel it is a bad book, but I also think that it is full of obscenity of a rather non-literary sort.

Tropic is another in the growing line of literary efforts which, along with trying to be a good piece of creative writing, is trying to rid this country of its Neo-Victorian prudishness that so well manifests itself in what we call the "double standard" of morality.

We have the "say" standard, and then there is the often altogether "do" standard. This is about the only message that I can get out of Miller's Kerouac-like sentences.

Let there be no mistake; if this be the message than I fully agree with it. I just don't think that the way which Mill-

er's book makes this point is anything other than a sensational usage of lewdness.

The book is almost a moment by moment autobiography of the trials and troubles of the fledgling artist in Paris. The garishness, the ugliness, and the impersonality of this man's Paris are all there, along with a rather phenomenal occupation with what is politely called the carnal.

George Orwell in his "Down and Out in Paris and London" did a far more skillful job of portraying the not-so-young artist who has become an expatriate and who is seeking, in city of the Lost Generation, to both become lost and to find value and identification which the world so far has not offered.

Miller's main point seems to be that things can be ugly and still a person can find happiness. This message is brought to the reader in multivarious forms, most of which seem to indicate that happiness is just a synonym for sexual intercourse.

Miller goes almost as far as advocating ugliness as value, which gets dangerously close to

the theological doctrine of redemption through total suffusion in suffering.

There is just no end to the episodes that Miller experienced. Some of these episodes are guaranteed to give any 16 year old erotic dreams, but I doubt that the episodes will impress anyone other than an adolescent.

Style is something that apparently Miller is not familiar with, he at one and the same time tries to imitate, with dismal failure, it seems to me, the interior monologue and then, without any transition, jumps to the passionate prose that reminds one of Walt Whitman.

Too many things about this book suggest that it has to have a legal battle, a glib introduction from Karl Shapiro, and a very high price even for a hardback, in order to insure popularity.

The fact that the book had been banned, its publishers, Grove Press, never gave up, and all comers, as if this, in itself were enough to warrant sales.

Censorship is one thing, and we are not concerned with that  
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