

...Studies Will Be Interrupted

By **STEPHEN R. BLUM**
Contributing Writer

President Kennedy's speech to the nation on Tuesday evening was frightening. What he told this country was, in essence, not only are we willing to fight over Berlin, but we are preparing to do so.

There are several varied thoughts that passed through my mind as I listened to the speech. Perhaps the most poignant phrase to me, personally, as a student, was the phrase that this article is headlined with.

We were as much as told that, barring misjudgment, Moscow would not see this country retreat before the huge hand of communism. This is all very fine, but an important phrase, I think, is that crucial "barring misjudgment."

"Studies will be interrupted," but my WHOM. As Norman Cousins and others have repeatedly pointed out the chance of accidental nuclear conflict increases daily. Cousins has told us that there is a lock on all our retaliatory missiles in England, and that the key to that lock, which will turn it from the "peace" to the "war" side, is held by two officers, one British and one American.

Now imagine, he says, that these two men, jokingly start to drink and play cards, betting the one key against the other... This situation, and the possible holocaust of its outcome is one that is duplicated wherever there is a key, a button, or a bell to be rung on any of the world's "hotlines" which will, instantaneously, send out our retaliatory forces.

"Studies will be interrupted," but by WHAT? By a huge misjudgment such as the Cuban farce? By one man trying to see if another man is bluffing about the city of Berlin? By one military mind getting so carried away with the idea of a "prepared peace" that he decides that the only alternative is to launch a "small" preventative war?

If the United States government could be so fantastically misinformed over the strategy of an island only ninety miles from our shores is not the possibility just as great or greater that a miscalculation could result in unwanted war in Berlin too?

"Studies will be interrupted," but WHEN? The President told the people that this crisis

should come to a head within the next few months. Yet, as he himself said, he has been steadily working on a long-range military buildup of troops and material.

Does this mean that we are now in a position which requires constant military vigilance, and, if so, does this not mean that this country shall eventually be committed to becoming more dictated by its military ("defense") needs than it already is?

"Studies will be interrupted," but to PRESERVE. WHAT? The President tells us that we shall be guarding the peace, guarding freedom with the ominous power of the NATO shield.

Yet is this quite true, or shall we, consciously or accidentally, be guarding only our own doom in the wasteland that our cities shall become in a nuclear war?

Let us not forget other aspects of that speech. Remember how the President glossed over disarmament? He had to—in the position that this country is in, regardless of how we got there and who put us there, it does seem silly to talk about peace without its seemingly necessary corollary: stockpiles of men to kill, weapons to kill, and monies to be used in killing.

Let there be no underestimation of what Kennedy said. Underestimation is easy, for I

think it proper to assume that we were not told the whole situation, as, indeed, we could not be.

Assume then, (and I think that this is only probable), that the Berlin situation is more dangerous than we were told. Assume, then, that every male student reading this paper has a decent chance of completing his graduate work in the field of battle, with service field manuals for "textbooks."

We must not let this happen to us. But, and here is the most important question, how are we to avoid the future which seems to be damning us to purposeful or accidental destruction?

Christianity's turning the other cheek seems unrealistic, diplomatic discussion seems a useless perpetration of paradoxes and fake goodwill, and the third alternative is eventual total destruction — which I can't believe that any sane person really wants. But is the political arena characterized by sanity?

Nevil Shute's frightening novel "On The Beach" ends with a Salvation Army banner flying over a devastated beach where the last humans died from the radioactivity of an "accidental war." The banner says "There Is Still Time, Brother." Is there?

The views of columnists are not necessarily the views of *The Summer Collegian*.

Letters

Subversion by Implication

TO THE EDITOR: This summer is truly becoming an exciting one for me. For the first time in my life (although I am still young) I have been declared by implication a subversive to our government (Coeds Hit Sigman Sarcasm).

The implication was made because I discussed such "intellectual stimulants as Physical Education..."

The essence of my argument realizes the need for Physical Education and chipmunk watching but only as a speck in the sea of knowledge. Knowledge and education (mental

that is) are the mainstay of power in our present world situation.

I was completely confused by the statement made by Bailey et al which said that ROTC and Physical Education requirements are state laws and so therefore by implication unarguable and unassailable.

This retort sounds strikingly similar to the premises used by Nazi Germany. I had no idea that the State had passed Seditious acts declaring criticism of legislative action unlawful.

—David Sigman, 81

•Letter cut

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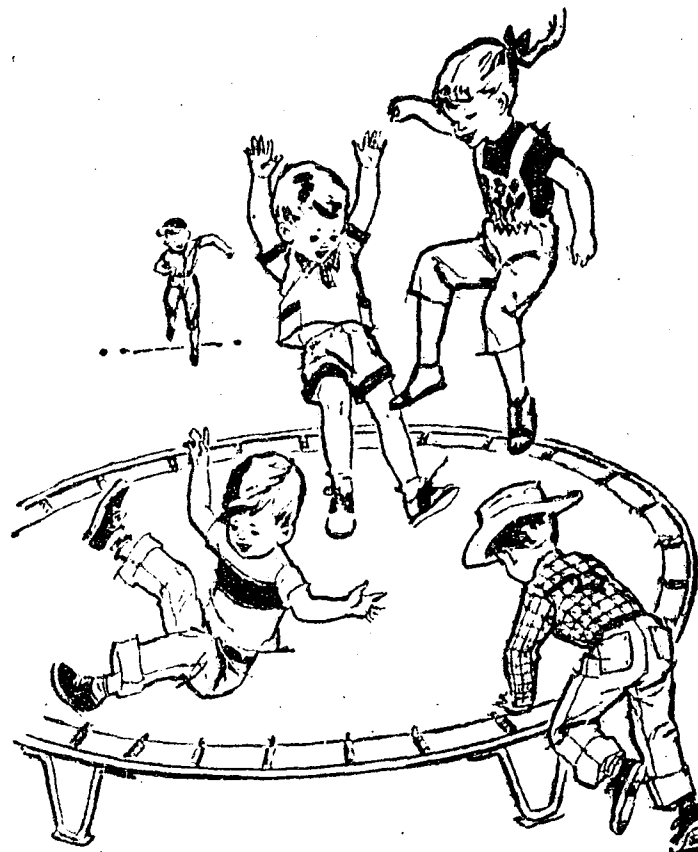
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