

The Daily Collegian



Barrier To Progress

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News Roundup: From the State, Nation & World

The World

Communist Troops Attack Supply Column

VIETNAM — Communist troops ambushed a U.S. supply column yesterday, leaving 24 enemy dead, while U.S. casualties were listed as 3 killed and 13 wounded. Communist troops opened up with bazooka-type rockets and machine guns on three armored personnel carriers of the U.S. 4th Infantry Division leading a convoy of trucks on Route 14 from Kontum to Dak To and forward American outposts. The personnel carriers were damaged lightly but none of the supply trucks was hit. In the air war over North Vietnam, a Communist MIG21 shot down the 36th American warplane of the war in aerial combat. An Air Force F105 Thunderchief fighter-bomber was downed Sunday during a radar-guided strike on the Yen Bai air base and storage area 78 miles northwest of Hanoi. The pilot was reported as missing. It was the 78th U.S. plane lost in combat over North Vietnam.

Earthquakes Strike Sicily; 300 Killed

PALERMO, Sicily — A shattering succession of earthquakes rumbled through the snowy and mountainous western tip of Sicily yesterday. Police estimated nearly 300 persons were killed. With many of the stricken communities still out of touch, officials feared the final death toll might go to 500 or even more. The injured were expected to exceed 1,000. About 10,000 persons were left without homes and spent the night outdoors or under tents pitched by the Italian army. The quakes toppled houses, hospitals, medieval castles and churches in the worst disaster to hit the island since 1908. A hospital at Montevago collapsed burying 200 persons. Police said most were killed. Spurred by police reports of almost 300 deaths in the rubble of half a dozen towns and villages, the Italian government mounted a massive rescue and relief operation. It was Italy's second successive winter tragedy. Only 14 months ago, the north and central regions were ravaged by the worst floods in the nation's history.

New Program to Stop Dollar Flow to France

PARIS—President Charles de Gaulle may have to dip into his gold hoard this year because of the Johnson administration's program to redress the American balance of payments. This is the opinion of business and diplomatic sources trying to evaluate the consequences of President Johnson's plans to bolster the dollar. Though financial experts emphasize the difficulty of arriving at a precise calculation, they concur that restrictive American measures will increase the probability France will run a balance of payments deficit in 1968. Another measure likely to hurt France will be the effect of the U.S. proposal to cut its losses from tourism by one quarter. If the administration succeeds, this could mean a further loss to France of perhaps \$25 million this year. Also to be accounted for, though it is not related to the recent U.S. measures, is the loss to France this year of the \$200 million once spent annually by the American military establishment. The effect of last year's U.S. troop departure will be felt in 1968 for the first full year.

The Nation

Powell Proposes That Negro Leaders Meet

MIAMI, Fla. — Adam Clayton Powell yesterday proposed a meeting with militant Negro leaders on his Bimini island retreat to "sweat out" a position paper on Black Power. "Black Power depends on how you define it," Powell said. "It's fragmented. One group says 'No whites.' Another group says 'Kill 'em,' and some just want equality and dignity." Powell said he would like to meet with Floyd McKissick, head of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE); H. Rap Brown, leader of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); and Stokely Carmichael, who preceded Brown in the SNCC leadership. "What we'll probably do is take Rap, Stokely and McKissick and spend a few days in Bimini and sit down and talk and compose a synthesis. We need to get together and sweat this thing out and do a position paper," he said.

Aid For Alaskan Flood Damage Partisan?

WASHINGTON — The government lent a prominent Alaska Democrat \$894,000—nearly all he asked for—and cut in half the request of the state's Republican governor after the Fairbanks flood damaged their rival motels last August. A low-level Budget Bureau lawyer, Robert M. Weinberg, 28, spotted the case in a routine check of the Small Business Administration's books. Although the \$894,000 loan for Pruh's Golden Nugget motel needed no higher approval than that of the SBA's San Francisco office, a government source said Pruh retained a Washington lawyer to help him get it. Just across the street from Pruh's Golden Nugget is Republican Gov. Walter J. Hickel's Travelers Inn, much larger, built on lower ground, and—by Pruh's own estimate—harder hit by the flood. Hickel asked the SBA for \$1.2 million; he got \$623,400. The SBA refinanced an earlier loan to the Golden Nugget, Pruh said. It would not refinance the Travelers Inn's two mortgages, said Hickel's brother, Vernon, who manages the inn.

The State

Rules Committee to Investigate Absenteeism

HARRISBURG — A Western Pennsylvania delegate gate way many of the 13 ex-officio legislative leaders have failed to attend more than one session. The delegate, Charles P. Henderson of Beaver County, said the legislative leaders have ignored a convention rule that requires any delegate to request a leave of absence if he cannot attend a session. "I am at a loss to see why the elected delegates must petition for leaves of absence," Henderson said, "while some legislators attend at will, and, in some instances, have not attended any of the sessions—with the exception of the first session." Lt. Gov. Raymond J. Broderick, convention president and an ex-officio delegate, said Henderson's proposal that the matter be investigated would be turned over to the convention's Rules Committee.

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Prexy Denies Charge

LSD Blindness at Edinboro?

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A 1966 incident in which six college students were permanently blinded by the sun while under the influence of the drug LSD occurred at Edinboro State College in Western Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported last night.

The Inquirer story, appearing in editions this morning attributed the information to extremely reliable sources in Harrisburg and Philadelphia.

Dr. Chester T. McNeerney, Edinboro president, denied the charge when asked, the Inquirer said.

"To the best of our knowledge, this is not true. . . . To the best of my knowledge we have had no drug problems here. We haven't even had a case of marijuana," the Inquirer quoted McNeerney.

Dr. McNeerney came to Edinboro, whose campus of some 4,000 students is located about 15 miles south of Erie, in September, 1966, several months after the blinding incident reportedly occurred.

In Harrisburg, Gov. Shafers' office confirmed yesterday that the six students were in fact blinded staring at the sun while in a psychedelic trance, at the same time defending their anonymity.

In a separate statement, Dr. Thomas W. Georges Jr., secretary of public welfare said: "Revealing the name of the institution where the in-

cident occurred would be tantamount to naming the students.

"These college students have already paid a terrible price—the total and permanent loss of their vision—for experimenting with LSD. Neither Dr. Yoder nor I can see any reason to harass them or their families any further."

The reference was to Dr. Norman Yoder, state commissioner for the blind, who first reported the incident to Washington authorities. Yoder said that about 18 months ago six Western Pennsylvania college students were blinded while staring at the sun after using the drug, LSD.

During the scramble to establish identities of the students, two college officials questioned whether the incident actually had occurred.

Their premise was lack of official reports to other agencies such as the division of drug control in the state Health Department.

Both state and federal drug control agents have denied any knowledge of the case.

Pennsylvania drug authorities contend that sale of LSD comes within the scope of a state law which regulates narcotic and hallucinatory drugs.

A spokesman for Gov. Shafers' office said: "The incident did take place. Six students did and are

receiving services from the Office of the Blind. This office is backing Dr. Georges and Dr. Yoder in their refusal to name either the school or the students."

In a related development, Sen. Benjamin R. Donolow, D-Philadelphia, who headed a drug investigation in 1965, called a news conference for this afternoon in Philadelphia on the case. Donolow has demanded that state officials disclose at least the identity of the school.

In a related development, Sen. Clarence D. Bell, R-Delaware, said he would ask his Judiciary Committee whether it wanted to investigate the effectiveness of state criminal law regarding the sale of LSD, marijuana, or other dangerous drugs.

"Something is radically wrong in Pennsylvania when six college students are blinded for life and no criminal investigation is undertaken," Bell said.

Georges declined to comment any further on either the Bell statement or the case as a whole.

While Yoder's original report identified the students as merely juniors at a Western Pennsylvania college, Georges said "federal law clearly prohibits the release of the names of those persons without their written consent." He added: "The six college students are undergoing rehabilitation and receiving other services from the Office for the Blind, an agency of this department. Our concern is centered on rebuilding their lives."



THE REV. ALAN R. CLEETON, director of the Wesley Foundation and secretary of the Centre County chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, discussed freedom of speech with international students at the year's first Advanced Seminar of American Language and Culture.

International Students Study American Civil Liberties

By KITTY PHILBIN and BILL STREIN
Collegian Staff Writers

The slim edge between free speech and slander may be quite clear to an American, but it is not as obvious to an international student, as the Rev. Alan R. Cleeton discovered last night at an Advanced Seminar in American Language and Culture.

The seminars meet at 7:30 p.m. every Monday night in 173 Willard for the benefit of those international students who wish to gain additional insight into American culture.

Last night's guest speaker, the Rev. Mr. Cleeton, Director of the Wesley Foundation and secretary of the Centre County chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, presented a discussion of American freedom of speech.

Cleeton took the 16 students on a short discussion of the American constitution, focusing on the freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. He cited many examples to show modern applications of these laws: the late George Lincoln Rockwell's right to advocate even Nazism in this country, or, at the other extreme, H. Rap Brown's right to advocate Negro militancy.

Cleeton stressed that while citizens may vocally support certain causes, they may not always have the right to carry them out. In connection with the ideal of free

speech and peaceful assembly, Cleeton explained the purpose of the American Civil Liberties Union; namely, the protection of the citizen's right to freedom of belief and expression.

The questioning period revealed that what may be so apparent to the average American is often quite puzzling to those who are unfamiliar with our judicial system.

A German student posed a legal question involving liability in a defamation of character case, illustrating the problem of the ambiguity of American slander law.

An inquiry about the legality of University professor Ernest C. Pollard's recent proposal that students who interrupt official activity be suspended revealed the international students' perceptive interest in University affairs.

Commenting on a question posed by the moderator, John Spielmann (graduate-speech-Bellefonte), Cleeton said, "The American Civil Liberties Union is a pressure group only in the sense of preventing anything that might be an injustice." Cleeton also commented on the ACLU's involvement in such controversial areas as the flag desecration case involving two University students.

Future seminars will cover topics ranging from the Civil War to the hippie culture. All international students and others who are interested are encouraged to attend the series.

Job Corps Leader

Kelly to Get Award

The national director of the Job Corps, William P. Kelly, will arrive on campus today to receive the first annual "Distinguished Service to Youth Award" from the College of Human Development.

The award will be presented to Kelly at a convocation of the college at 8 p.m. in the Hetzel Union ballroom. The public is invited to attend.

Kelly has been director of the Job Corps since December 1966, winning praise from Congressional and business sources for his efforts in administering the program.

Regarding Kelly, Sen. Charles E. Goodell has said, "Since you look over as Job Corps director, you have done a magnificent job in moving this program toward what many of us felt it should have been in the first place."

During Congressional hearings, Sen. Joseph S. Clark said: "I like your enthusiasm, Mr. Kelly. Keep it up!"

In Oct. 1967, Business Week magazine reported: "Corps Director Kelly, who has been on the job 11 months, is given credit by many for putting spine and direction into the organization."

Echoing similar sentiments, the Student Council of the College of Human Development has chosen Kelly as the recipient of its award, "occasioned by his outstanding ac-

complishments with the Job Corps program." Attending the convocation will be representatives from Job Corps centers in Drums and Marienville, Pa. The girls from Drums will present Kelly with a citation on behalf of all Pennsylvania youth who have benefited from Job Corps programs.

Kelly will then speak on "College Students and the Other War," namely that on poverty. The theme of the speech will be "Man, Help Me To Be Square." This idea is taken from the plea of a 17-year-old, slum-reared, unemployed school drop-out during his first Job Corps interview. The youth begged the interviewer to help him "be square," in other words, learn how to make his way in a world that demands a skill of some sort from everyone.

The director is also expected to discuss other experiences with disadvantaged youth, and to suggest ways for university students to help with the Job Corps work.

Prior to the convocation, Kelly will be honored at a dinner given by executives from some of the nation's private industry. Job Corps centers in urban areas are sponsored by private industry. One of these "contractors," Westinghouse Electric Corp., is the host for the dinner. Approximately 25 industrialists, Penn State administrators, and student representatives from the college will be guests.

U.S. Told To Avoid Peace Efforts Without Saigon's Full Consent

SAIGON (AP) — President Nguyen Van Thieu indirectly told the United States yesterday to avoid peace efforts in which it did not have the full consent of the South Vietnamese government.

A wide-ranging speech by Thieu amounted to a major hardening of South Vietnam's position on negotiations and a halt to the bombing of North Vietnam in the face of pressure for an easing of the air raids to test Hanoi's intentions.

"The Republic of Vietnam most naturally should have the central role in any developments relating to the events in Vietnam," Thieu said. "To overlook or to disregard this normal setup is to give leeway to the Communist, tendentious propaganda, and damage the success of the common cause."

"I regret to say that in the past our allies sometimes have not avoided these pitfalls, by placing themselves at the center of peace efforts on Vietnam, for instance by asking the United Nations or other governments to help solve the Vietnamese problems, while such a move should be made by the government of Vietnam, as the principal party, with the support of all allied and friendly countries."

However, he scored the United Nations for not taking a major part in the search for a peace settlement and suggested that Secretary-General U Thant visit South Vietnam. " . . . he owes it to himself, and to the United Nations, to have more complete information on this subject," Thieu said.

The detailed proposal calls for an end to the bombing of North Vietnam, among other things, to bring about a negotiated settlement of the war.

The purpose of negotiations under the plan would be to set up a coalition of the present government and the Communist National Liberation Front —NLF.

The authors of the proposal remained anonymous, expressing fear of government retaliation.

In his speech to the Society of Vietnamese Newspaper Editors, Thieu spelled out his government's reasons for opposing a bombing pause and peace negotiations without some definite sign of de-escalation from Hanoi.

He noted that the bombing of North Vietnam did not begin until February, 1965, more than three years after "Communist aggression had started."



NGUYEN VAN THIEU

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