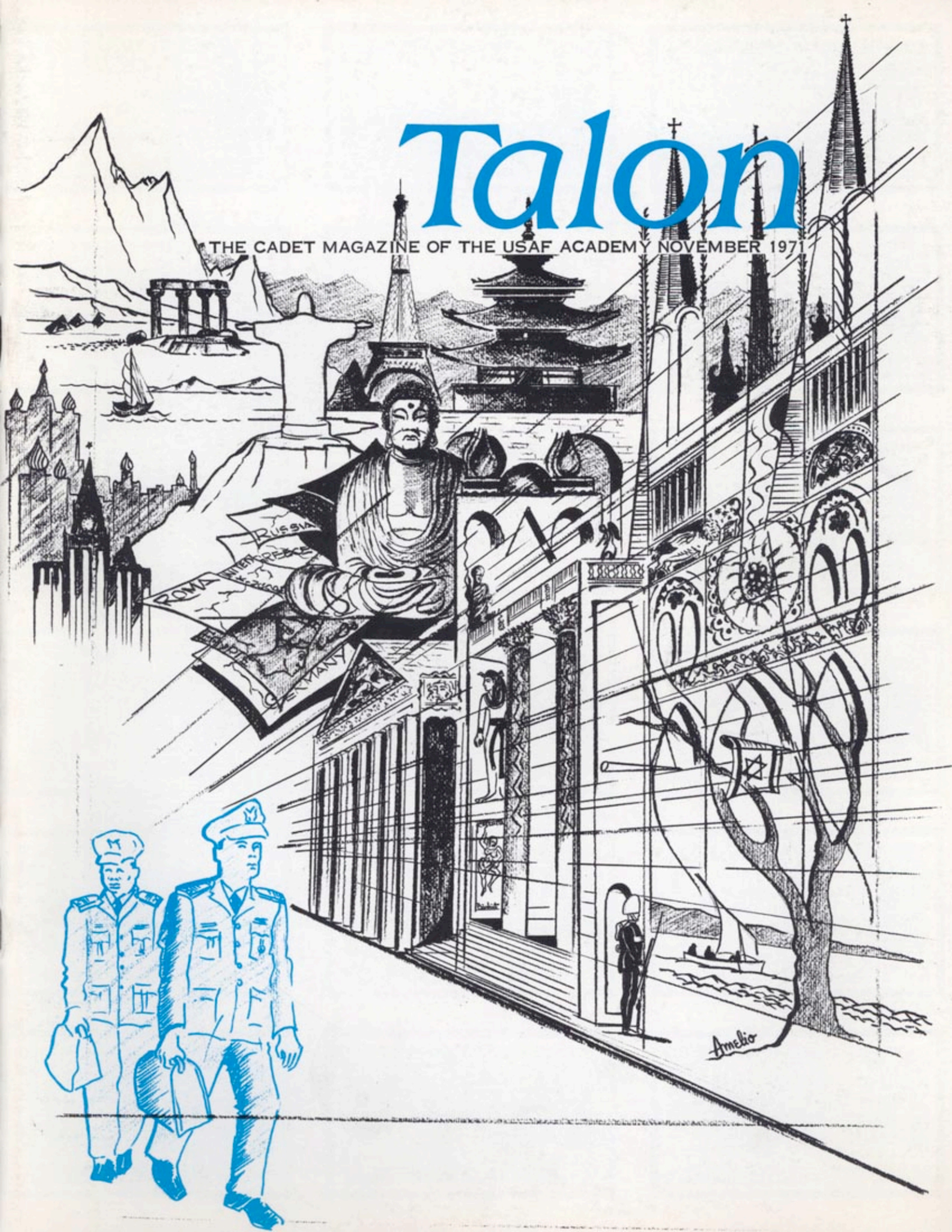


Talon

THE CADET MAGAZINE OF THE USAF ACADEMY NOVEMBER 1971





SILENT NIGHTS
1964-1971
"lest we forget"
POW → MIA



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The cover – This month's cover was done for the Talon by Lt. Col. Gilbert N. Amelio and shows the worldwide involvement of cadets. Col. Amelio, director of the Academy's art properties program, will be featured in a forthcoming Talon.

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Charley Baby

Hello again. Well I hope you all have survived the first onslaught of ORIs, SAMIs, GRs, CDBs, BORs, NLTs, AOCs, ASAPs and all other letter combinations thereof. I have a few (?) complaints about the service around this place. I still have not figured out the new linen service. I sent out 3 towels, 2 sheets, 1 pillow case and 1 wash cloth. The next week I got back 14 handkerchiefs with the letter 'S' embroidered on them. I also sent out my A-jacket to the dry cleaners and it came back looking like they dry cleaned it with a hammer. The zipper only goes one direction and the squadron patch is on the right shoulder.

Academics are beginning to take its toll. Slowly but surely the Omnipresent Curve will eat up the Wing. I asked one of my instructors why we have to have a curve at all. He said, "Because." At first I didn't quite understand and now I don't understand at all. I was talking to a cadet and he was telling me that he was having trouble with his Physics. I couldn't possibly understand why, and he proceeded to explain. It seems that when he was little, everything was made of Fire, Water, Earth, and Air. By the sixth grade everything was electrons, protons, and neutrons. Now everything is Alpha particles, fermions, neutrinos, and pions. We figured that a few years from now scientists will discover that

letters to the editor

In planning for possible speakers for the Cadet Forum, I spoke with many fellow cadets and officers. Most crucial to the Forum and its survival as an organization is that we insure that the maximum number of cadets will attend our Distinguished Speakers presentations. Hence, one of our primary considerations in selecting speakers has been how well that would "draw" cadet audiences. Among the speakers we selected are Admiral Zumwalt, Art Buchwald, William O. Douglas, Dick Gregory and William F. Buckley, Jr.

One of the outstanding and striking, if not horrifying propositions that emerged from our selection of these speakers was that speakers who would address themselves to the topic of Vietnam and Southeast Asia would not attract cadets. I have been disturbed by this conclusion for many days and I was forced to conclude that, indeed, Vietnam seemed to be a "dead issue," at least as far as the general public is concerned.

all those particles are composed of Fire, Water, Earth, and Air.

The weather is at it again. One day it is sunny and warm and everyone is wearing Sea and Ski. The next day it is snowing and the Dools are playing Peggy Fleming on the marble strips. Security Flight has a problem. Why don't they cancel intramurals when it is snowing? Having to play tennis with ice cleats on your shoes is not my idea of fun.

My roomo and I were wondering what was under the Terrazzo. Why, for instance, is that big mound of dirt there? What does it conceal? If you have ever noticed there are no tunnels (what tunnels?) that go UNDER the Terrazzo, just around it. For all we know T.H.R.U.S.H. could be there and planning to poison



This attitude is understandable in the populace at large. Citizens are simply tired of hearing about it. *The Pentagon Papers* seemed to sound the death knell for the Vietnam issue. Immediately after the furor about the right to publish, and after the debates on the "meanings" of the papers, the public sighed and shrugged with indifference. What relevance do extraneous after-the-fact revelations have for us? Certainly, with "Vietnamization" proceeding at its constant pace, and the numbers of draftees decreasing every month, it seems logical that such an indifferent attitude should prevail.

But for us, as members of the Air Force Cadet Wing, future fliers and officers of the Air Force, the issue is all *but* dead. "Vietnamization" implies that, as far as the American effort in Vietnam is concerned, the role of the Air Force will become paramount. The Vietnamese simply cannot Vietnamize the air warfare and transport business,
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the food in Mitchell Hall.

There are so many new clubs this year that I have decided to start my own. My club is the Alpha-Roster Club. Just initial to join. Fourth Classmen may not join until next semester. There are no dues and every cadet gets all the benefits of being a member of the Wing. If you are one of the first 327 to join, you will get a free year's supply of laundry slips.

Yesterday I wanted to get a coke from the Monster Machines. Before it would accept my dime I had to offer a sacrifice by melting 19 Uncola pop-top cans into a door stop. The machine accepted my dime but would not let go of anything but a warm grape soda. It is time to post away silently. Don't do anything I wouldn't do.

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Talon Talks With

Lt. Col. Mike Dugan

4th Group A.O.C.,



TALON:

Sir, we'd appreciate hearing something of your background.

DUGAN:

I spent the years from 1954-58 at West Point. I didn't do anything special while I was there; my PFT scores never scared anybody and nobody had to worry about my becoming an All-American chin-upper or push-upper. I went on aptitude probation because I really didn't enjoy 4th class year. I got out of that predicament during the spring semester, when I was nominated for the company boxing team. I made the Brigade finals and beat my Beast Barracks squad leader. After that some of the upperclassmen in the company

decided that I wasn't all bad. The number of tours I walked is well above the mean in the Wing now, and I have some empathy for cadets out on the pad for I recognize that it is just pure punishment. I never made the Commandant's list, but first class year I made the esteemed rank of Supply Sergeant. There were five officers in a company plus a 1st sergeant, a supply sergeant, and a training sergeant. Those three sergeants got to carry sabers instead of rifles, which was just as good a deal then as now. I went into the Air Force after graduation because I was convinced that it is the most decisive military force. I had considered becoming an infantryman but

from my exposure to army training, it seemed that an infantry officer's horizon was limited to the distance he could walk in a day. I went to pilot training, flying T-34's and T-28's at Moore Air Base in southern Texas and T-33's at Laredo. I didn't know whether or not I'd like flying. I went to UPT because I wanted my wings, I wanted to perform the Air Force mission and because decisive jobs in the Air Force seemed to be held by flying leaders. I got my wings on 1 September 59 and within a year I knew that I had made the correct decision. After getting checked out in the F100, I was assigned to the 20th Tactical Fighter Wing, at RAF Wood-

bridge in England. I spent 4 years at Woodbridge, and visited many places in Europe. I really enjoyed that tour and I would certainly recommend an overseas TAC fighter assignment as an outstanding first assignment for any new officer. I spent these years as an A-1 instructor and in December, 1967 I went to Southeast Asia for a year and had a very interesting, if not enjoyable tour at Pleiku. I flew about 300 missions over the Ho Chi Minh Trail in A1E's with the 1st Air Commando Squadron. Of the 300, about 250 were routine, but the other 50 were really exciting. For example, on one mission, we were testing some experimental munitions but the experiment didn't work. The munitions blew my left wing off and I spent the night on the ground. I returned from Southeast Asia on Thanksgiving Day 1968, and reported to the Academy the next day, for an assignment with the Military Training division. I spent a year and a half in MT, first in the summer training plans section, and then as an instructor of MT 220. They are both important jobs, but I was really pleased when the opportunity came, in the summer of 1969, to become the AOC for 17th squadron. This had been my goal all along, for I've always thought that, for my personality, it is the most interesting and critical job at the Academy. The AOC has a decisive role at the Academy, this is where the "flak" is.

TALON:

Sir, what type of reputation do you think you have in the wing?

DUGAN:

I'm not sure what reputation travels in the wing, but I wouldn't be surprised if my image with cadets was one of being a very demanding fellow. I don't take any nonsense from anybody, and I like to think that I don't give a lot to anyone. I don't go looking for trouble, but if trouble develops and I happen to be present, I won't turn my back on it.

TALON:

Sir, what problem areas, if any, do you see here at the Academy?

DUGAN:

I would like to suggest that one of the problems here at the Academy is the lack of good communications. In examining this problem, I've decided that we have so much information being transmitted from one echelon to the next, that there is a tendency to water down and cover up important items, because there is just too much in the transmission lines. Another important problem is that we, officers and cadets, don't listen very well. Whoever is on the receiving end, doesn't sit there and listen aggressively. So I'm making a special effort to get myself and those who work with me to listen better. Listen to your subordinates, and their problems, and then do something about it. I firmly believe that subordinates look at superiors in the same fashion that superiors look at subordinates. If I give a task to you, all I want to see tomorrow is results. I don't want any sad stories of why it wasn't done. Likewise, if in doing your job, you find you need something, and you come to me for assistance, you don't want any stories about why I couldn't produce either. In keeping with the same line of thought, all military personnel evaluate and are evaluated regularly. I get to evaluate the cadets and officers who work for me, and I recognize that those same people are also evaluating me. They've picked out things which are effective and ineffective. The only difference is that I get to write my evaluations down on paper. I get called on regularly to write evaluations on cadets who are trying to earn scholarships as well as those who aren't doing too well. For those doing well, it is a pleasure, for those who are not it is difficult, for I have to be honest with the man, the Air Force and the country. The evaluation must be honest and factual without being emotional. I would hope that cadets,

in making their evaluations of both officers and each other are doing the same thing.

TALON:

Can you draw any comparisons between USAFA and West Point?

DUGAN:

I returned to West Point about a year and a half ago, to examine the 4th class system. At that time I was slightly displeased with some of our military training. I had these romantic ideas of how things were always done perfectly at the Point, but these were quickly dispelled. Among the things I noticed were that cadets there saluted and said "good morning, sir" when it was convenient. It seemed they didn't recognize Red China or Air Force blue. I nearly got trampled in the halls and stairwells several times. I came back a lot more appreciative of the Cadet Wing and the way it handles itself.

TALON:

Sir, what is your opinion of the changes occurring here lately?

DUGAN:

I think a lot of the changes we see this year are of attitude. When I was a squadron AOC last year, I had a very strong squadron commander who had 95-98% of the same authority that squadron commanders have today. He had that authority because he told me he was the squadron *commander* and if he needed my help he'd ask me. All I had to do was sit back, observe and coach him *IF* he needed help, which was seldom.

TALON:

Sir, what is your philosophy of the function of an AOC?

DUGAN:

While things go well, an AOC should be an advisor, but when things go awry, he should become a little more forceful advisor. My policy is to see that things go well to begin with and

then to stay ahead. The Fourth Group Staff is ready this week for next week's potential problems. If we can keep the potential problems on people's minds before they happen, then perhaps we can avoid them. So far the leaders of Fourth Group have been positive and active—ahead of the problems as opposed to being responsive and reactive.

TALON:

Sir, what is your opinion of the Academy's training function?

DUGAN:

Although it's much better to make our errors here than in the operational Air Force, we should not train to make errors at the Academy. For example, if you're a squadron commander and you're to carry a saber tomorrow, we don't have to wait until tomorrow to determine whether your manual needs some work. Following this philosophy, as soon as the fourth Group first classmen got their sabers, we went out and practiced, and our first class manual is quite adequate. On the other hand, if we had practiced our errors for a few weeks, in parades and marching to meals, the problem would have been much more difficult to correct.

I believe people should have the opportunity to try various ways of doing things; therefore, any instructions I give will be in the general direction from which success will result. I will leave a man with as much leeway as he can handle, but some people can handle more than others. If I know somebody is going to make a fool of himself, I'm going to try and stop him. For example, there may be half a dozen ways to get to Denver, but going south is wrong, and if I see somebody pointed south I won't let him go that way. Likewise, my cadet group commander should not be put in a position where he makes a fool of himself in front of his squadron commanders. My job is to prepare him to do the job right so he can realize from his success, not his failure, the proper method.

TALON:

Sir, what are your feelings on having cadets run CDB's?

DUGAN:

I think having cadets running CDB's is just dandy. If cadets run things like the honor code, running CDB's ought to be easy. I would hope that there is both stability and rationality in the decisions they make. It's very easy to become incensed about something and give out 12 and 240 and then because it's two months later and we're in the middle of football season, all of a sudden it's only 2 and 40. In that case we're not being fair to the Wing or the individuals involved.

TALON:

Sir, is there anything you would like to see brought from the Point here?

DUGAN:

No, nothing. In comparing us to the Military Academy, both our academic and athletic programs are clearly superior. However a military training program is much more difficult to evaluate. Whether or not the Air Force Academy has produced open-minded, decisive, self-confident leaders capable of handling military problems 5-20 years from now, can only be determined by results.

TALON:

Sir, at this time we would like you to speak freely on any subject you wish

DUGAN:

I've interviewed several cadets about resigning recently. Their main complaint was that they had to study things which didn't interest them. They couldn't understand why they had to cover such a broad range of "extraneous topics." In my 13 years of service, the Air Force officers I've known who are successes and those who will be successes are generalists, not specialists. These men know what is going on in the world, have an understanding of basic psychological principles, are interested in computers

and how they can make one's job easier; they are comfortable discussing national and local politics, technology, ecology, economics and history. We need generalists, not specialists from the Academy. If the Air Force needs a physicist to solve a laser problem, we can buy his services from a major university a lot cheaper than we can produce one here. In view of recent cost overages, we need graduates with broad backgrounds so that years from now, when some engineer speaks to you in technical terms, you will remember some of the vocabulary, and having a feeling for whether or not you're getting a snow job. Afterwards, you can call that university technician and get the information you need, so you can make a sound decision on the basis of technical knowledge and the needs of the Air Force. A young, 17-year-old doolie can easily miss this point when he considers some of the core subjects.

TALON:

Sir, where is your career going to lead after you finish your tour here at the Academy?

DUGAN:

I've been selected to go to the War College between now and 1974, but I'd like to do some flying before then.



A Cadet Visits



BY
Jack McCalmont
Editor-in-Chief

The moment it became known we were going to the Soviet Union we were bombarded with advice, with admonitions and with warnings, it must be said, mostly from people who had never been there.

An elderly woman told us in accents of dread, "Why, you'll disappear, you'll disappear as soon as you cross the border!"

And we replied, in the interest of accurate reporting, "Do you know anyone who has disappeared?"

"No," she said, "I don't personally know anyone, but plenty of people have disappeared."

We were smothered in advice. We were told the food to take, otherwise we would starve; what lines of communications to leave open; secret methods of getting our stuff out. And the hardest thing in the world to explain was that all we wanted to do was report what Russian people were like, and what they wore, and how they acted, what the farmers talked

about, and what they were doing about rebuilding the destroyed parts of their country. This was the hardest thing in the world to explain. We found that thousands of people were suffering from acute Moscowitis – a state which permits the belief of any absurdity and the shoving away of any facts. Eventually, of course, we found that the Russians are suffering from Washingtonitis, the same disease. We discovered that just as we are growing horns and tails on the Russians, so the Russians are growing horns and tails on us.

A cab driver said, "Them Russians, they bathe together, men and women, without no clothes on."

"Do they?"

"Sure they do," he said. "That ain't moral."

It developed on questioning that he had read an account of a Finnish steam bath. But he was pretty upset at the Russians about it.

*—From John Steinbeck's
A Russian Journal*

Like Steinbeck we were deluged with advice, comments on our radicalism, and warnings; most of which came from those least likely to know what they were talking about. Actually when one considers the animosity that has existed between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. since 1917, these prejudicial attitudes can certainly be understood. Both countries have developed their cultural filters which, being partly composed of the Marxist dialectic and American naivete in foreign and power politics, have produced many myths and misunderstandings. In an attempt to break down my 21 years of "education" on the supposed Communist monolithic conspiracies and jagermuts, I suppose I developed an overly open-minded attitude, an attitude destined for some disappointment when I faced the Soviet bureaucracy. Thus it was I entered the U.S.S.R. armed with my Marxist ideology expecting to find a revolutionary government espousing the ideals of Marxism-Leninism. Instead, I found a bureaucracy founded upon the status quo and far from Marxist, Communist, or revolutionary.

When one first looks at the Soviet Union, he should consider that it is the third largest country in terms of population and it is the largest country area-wise in the world. It is so expansive that when the sun is setting in Vladovostok, it is rising in Moscow on the previous day. In essence Russia is vast in its ethnic and cultural diversities (there are over a 100 different peoples) and its geographical manifestations. Historically it has vacillated between the East and the West. It has produced some of the world's greatest authors, poets and artists. And, it has shown an ability to rapidly develop from a relatively unindustrialized nation to the second most powerful nation in the world, in 50 years.

Ken and I began our excursion into this vast country in Leningrad. As a "window to the West" Leningrad is one of the world's most beautiful cities — certainly Peter the Great built it to be so. By American standards, she is an old city, founded in 1703 and her major buildings date from the Tsarist period. We spent our free time walking the streets and the first observation we made was that Russian streets lack the scurry and chromatic panorama of a western city. The streets there are exceptionally clean and do not suffer from the masses of signs and advertisements of the West. Likewise however, they lack the beauty of a western neon skyline. The people all live in apartments and hence one does not find the neat little bourgeois "boxes in a row" typical of American cities. Instead one sees bigger boxes in a row.

The morning we rode from Leningrad to Moscow I watched from the window as the forests and fields rushed by. In the small towns people were hurrying along for work. At points where the roads crossed the tracks, a person — generally a woman dressed in muddied black pants, boots and grey-black coat with her hair scarf-covered — held a small yellow flag flapping in the breeze. There were men using scythes to cut the grass growing along the tracks and in the fields between the trees and bushes. It was a case of one anachronism after another — things that one would scarcely expect of the number two country in the world.

Although older than Leningrad, Moscow (12th Century) lacks the beauty of Leningrad. The Cathedral spires inside the Kremlin produce a beauty that is juxtaposed with the rather hideous, massive, wedding-cake architecture of Stalin's Socialist Realism.

Moscow is the cross-roads of the country. There people from all over the country come engaged in business, studies or small capitalistic enterprises. The farmers from the South find it profitable to pack their fresh produce grown on the private plots and fly it to Moscow for sale.

The people are friendly, and fascinated by Americans. A typical group of people on the street contains mostly older or mostly younger people than would a comparable group of Americans. This, I suppose, is because of the 40 million persons of the middle generation who were killed by the war. Their countenances tell of physical strain followed by relief — a strain perhaps from the realities of building the Soviet society which lacks in consumer goods and has been oriented towards the future; and a relief as the quality of life has improved.

The styles of clothing do not vary greatly. Even the colored clothing often has a certain dull tone. A professor of microbiology from Mexico University told us that when she had been in the USSR five years ago, all the women wore dresses with the same pattern: blue flowers on white or red flowers on white. Today things are much improved — though far from the variety of western cosmetic goods.

We immediately noticed the large number of uniformed men on the streets. They ranged from militia to Navy and from new basics to Podpakovniks (Colonels). We did not notice many pretty Russian girls and the few we did were always coyishly at the arms of the military men.

In this regard, an interesting aspect of Soviet society is its almost puritanical moralism. This is perhaps best shown by an experience I had later on our ship to Japan. A rich American, capitalist girl of about 19 was smoking on the deck. A Russian girl made a comment to me about the dirty nature of a girl smoking. In Russia, it is not socially acceptable for girls to smoke and certainly never so in public. I made the comment that 20 years ago the same attitude had been prevalent in the U.S. and that it had changed. I also ventured to guess that in that time from now the same would be true of Russia. She retorted with "Never, it is dirty. I would never do such a thing, and it will not be accepted in my country." I suppose her comment is indicative of the general Soviet attitude

Cadet Ted Wurm also visited Russia with Jack McCalmont. His story provides an interesting sidebar.

One fine day last May I was sitting in the CQ shack when Jack McCalmont came up to me and said "Hey Ken, wanna go to Russia this summer?" I looked up and said "Sure, why not." Never in my wildest dreams did I believe that two months later I would be in a Russian 12-18 Aircraft on my way to Leningrad.

We landed at 5:45 in the afternoon on the 9th of July. Needless to say, going through Leningrad customs was tense. We had to declare all our money, items that contained gold such as rings or watches, and any other valuables which we were carrying. While going through my bag, the customs officer found a copy of my leave orders. Because he didn't speak English, we had a hard time explaining to him what the piece of paper was. He finally took the orders into a back room and didn't come back for about an hour — a long hour.

Actually, we had nothing to worry about because the trip was previously authorized by the American and Soviet governments by the issuance of our passports and visas. When he finally came back he told us in broken English that everything was ok, and we were on our way!

In order to get into Russia we had to have all our transportation, lodging, and meals paid in advance. In Leningrad, we stayed in the Leningrad Hotel. From our room on the sixth floor we had a spectacular view of the city. That first night in Leningrad was interesting because the city is so far north that during July it doesn't get dark. Dusk came about nine in the evening and lasted all night. In the "morning" we took a three hour tour of the city. This tour gave us the layout of the city, and for the rest of the day and all of the next day, we hoofed it to the places of interest. As far as taking photographs went we were allowed to shoot historical structures and monuments, and that was about it. In Leningrad we visited such

places as Decembrists Square, Palace Square, Winter Palace, and the Hermitage. The history behind these places impressed us beyond words. The Decembrist Revolution in 1825, Bloody Sunday in 1905, and the storming of the Winter Palace, are all landmarks in Russian and world history. The Hermitage, a treasure house of world art, contained primitive and antique sculptures, ancient oriental art, sculptures and canvases by Leonardo Da Vinci, Titian, Rembrandt, Picasso, and more. Jack and I spent about three hours in the Hermitage, and it is said that if one spends one second at each exhibit, it would take him nine years to see everything.

We left Leningrad at midnight on the 11th of July by rail on the "Red Arrow Express." The next morning at 8:30 we arrived in Moscow. Our hotel in Moscow was not as impressive as the one in Leningrad, but it was very clean. We started by taking a bus down to the middle of the city. It cost us five kopecks (five cents), and was quite an experience. It was so crowded, we had to start making our way to the door ten minutes before our stop.

At one in the morning on July 14th, we boarded an ILIA-62 Aircraft for our flight across the continent. We landed in Khabarousk, Siberia at six in the afternoon on the same day.

The same day we departed by rail for the east coast and then on to Nakhodka, where we would catch our boat for Japan.

When underway, I stood on deck watching Russia fade into the horizon. I was wondering if I would ever have the opportunity to return to this land of history.

My mind went back to just an hour or so ago, when, while watching the mooring lines being pulled on board, a young man in a Soviet Army uniform looked up at me from the dock and raised his hand in what looked like half a salute and half a wave good-bye. I couldn't help wondering if he was thinking the same thing I was. If and when we see each other again, will it be under the same friendly conditions?

toward what they view as the decadent West.

All the businesses and stores are government-owned and hence are usually named something like Fruit Shop No. 5 or Vegetable Store No. 465. The method of shopping is strange to the westerner used to merchandizing. In the store the customer decides what articles he wants by looking at them over the counter. He gets a slip of paper with the price of the articles which he takes to a cash register and pays for the articles. He then takes his receipt back to the original counter and presents it in return for his package.

The inefficiency, caused by having everyone work for the government, was present in Intourist, the official travel agency which handled our account (as it does travelers in the Soviet Union). Basically the agency suffered from a lack of competition that would have served to keep it more efficient. In trying to straighten out plans and mistakes, I would go from desk to desk constantly knowing that somewhere there was someone who could resolve my problems. But never did I find anyone responsible for much of anything. The general comment was either "You must pay more money" or "We will be leaving in *some* minutes" – four hours later the plane took off. Based on my own frustrating experiences with the bureaucracy, I had little difficulty understanding why drinking is the major social problem in the Soviet Union.

Perhaps the aspect that impressed me the most was the positive Russian attitude toward cultural activities. Generally, every television channel had ballet, folk music or educational programs. The Bolshoi Theater is sold out almost every night and the Hermitage Art Gallery is packed daily. At any rate the average Russian certainly surpasses the average American in his knowledge of literature, art, history, and foreign language.

The trip south along the Chinese border was magnificent in its visual splendor. Siberia is frontierish with its old wooden houses, coniferous trees, mountains and rain puddles. During the evening the train stopped at a station. The amber lights of the station and the noises inside when coupled with the night sky and Siberian smells were like a scene from Dr. Zhivago. Inside the station the men were dressed in black wool coats – old, worn and dulled in color. Their boots were muddy and they drank a dark red wine which a Russian told me was very poor quality.

The people in Siberia are different from the uptight bureaucrats of Moscow. They are more efficient. Such efficiency is logical if one considers that those people are in Siberia for one of two reasons: political exile or to settle the frontier – either reason denotes a degree of intelligence. I developed a rather lengthy discussion with a young Ukrainian woman about the differences in the educational systems of the U.S., England and the U.S.S.R. She had asked me to babysit her young Valya (my honest face happily paid off with a bottle of fine Russian vodka). We stayed up late on the train engrossed in conversation. It was then that I felt the oppressiveness of not being able to speak with complete freedom.

The last night on the ship to Yokohama was spent in the forward lounge dancing and singing. The combination of the Volga Boat Song with the Ventures is a rather unique and not an unpleasing medley. There is something universal about the mixture of music and dancing with a pretty girl – whether she be German, Ukrainian, Swedish, Russian or Japanese. That mixture tends to break down ideologies and make one think more of how things could and perhaps should be – rather than what they are. Reality here being both that which is and that which is perceived or imagined.

Thus in such a mood and with a desire to return less as tourists and more as visitors we arrived in Japan. Japan, an example of capitalism run rampant and as such perhaps a topic for later discussion.



Contemporary

Soviet Politics

In writing an essay about the current Soviet political scene, one has a myriad of topics available for discussion. Some of these alternatives are familiar to the general reader of our daily papers and news magazines, while others have not received such journalistic attention. In this article I have chosen to analyze two issues from each of these categories:*

POLITICS AT THE TOP

The most common object of Western speculation in the coverage of Communist affairs is the crucial question of leadership politics, that is "who's on first?" Recently, Western attention in this area has been focused not upon the relative primacy of the Kremlin politicians but rather on the mysterious comings and goings in Peking. Nevertheless, despite its less spectacular dimensions, this remains an important consideration in Moscow as well.

Since the fall of the flamboyant Khrushchev over seven years ago, the Soviet system has been run by a collective leadership of approximately fifteen men. This group, ranging in age from 53 to 69, can be identified by their common membership in the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party. Led by the troika of Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Party, Nikolai Podgorny, the Soviet President and Alexei Kosygin, Premier of the Soviet government, this elite have been frequently characterized as a strongly conservative, drab and businesslike collective with a supposed aversion to innovative initiatives and a tendency toward internal conflict and policy stalemate.

Brezhnev is clearly the "first among equals" within this leadership group. The Twenty-Fourth Party Congress of last spring strongly reflected this fact in that both the role he played and the attention paid to him was markedly greater than that accorded to any other leader. While Brezhnev has appeared to outrank his colleagues, throughout the post Khrushchev period, his primacy is a very conditional one. He has failed to accumulate the dominating power of Khrushchev, let alone that of the dictatorial Stalin.

The curbs on Brezhnev's influence seem to emerge from the shared interests and concerted efforts of his fellow Politburo members. Among these men there have been some shufflings of relative precedence, the most recent being the quiet reversal of the number two and three positions, with Kosygin giving way to Podgorny. Another more substantial movement is that of the conservative "young Turk," Alexander Shelepin, 53, former head of the Communist Youth

* "Politics at the Top" and the "Intellectual Protest Movement" from the frequently discussed questions and General Citizens Attitudes and Current Regime Performance from the less studied issues.

BY
CAPT. EDWARD WARNER III
Department of Political Science

League and the Secret Police (KGB) who has been demoted to the lower rungs of Politburo over the past five years. Despite this obvious decline, Shelepin has remained within the top leadership, and given his relative youth, he remains a major political contender particularly for the future.

The clues used by Western journalists and academics as the basis for such ranking estimations are often more fascinating than the analyses themselves. A variety of indicators, including the number and nature of public appearances, the patterns of reference contained in the speeches and articles of others, and the protocol ordering as evidenced in official announcements and diplomatic activity, are carefully scrutinized as the basis for such speculations. Kremlinology is used not only to estimate relative ranking among the leaders, but also to decipher the apparent policy preferences of these men. It is study of this second type that has convinced informed observers of the continuing conflicts within the Politburo on a variety of domestic and foreign policy issues.

The study of top level Soviet policy-making has come to include a great deal more than the detailed examination of the maneuvers and viewpoints of the topmost leadership. A number of case studies have demonstrated a notable pluralization of the political process. This has involved the significant widening of the circle of participation in the framing of policy alternatives. These newly active spokesmen and expert consultants are drawn from the major institutions within the system.

Frequently labelled as interest group analysis, these studies have indicated the growth of active policy advocacy from such diverse groups as the military, academic economists, industrial managers, and professional educators. These groups tend to involve themselves in specific questions which impinge upon their institutional interests and domains. It is generally argued that such manifestations are the natural outgrowth of the growing complexity of the Soviet system. In such a political environment, the individual Politburo members may become spokesmen for or mediators between the competing bureaucratic interests. (For further discussion of these trends see H. G. Skelling and F. Griffiths (eds) *Interest Groups in Soviet Politics*, Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1971.)

INTELLECTUAL PROTEST AND REGIME REPRESSION

Since 1966 a much publicized aspect of the Soviet political scene, has been the continuing conflict between a small but vocal minority of Russian intellectuals and the Soviet government, in particular its security arm, the Committee of State Security, (KGB). The intellectual opposition includes a variety of identifiable subgroups. It can count among its ranks such literary figures as Alexander Solzhenitsyn and Andrei Sinyavsky, such prominent scientists as Andrei Sakharov, Piotr Kapitsa and the late Lev Landau, as well as a few hundred less well known scientific and professional figures.

The issues at stake are many. For the scientific opposition they center around the right to pursue scientific investigations without the unnecessary and harmful influence of ideological restrictions or interference. On the artistic side, the protests are directed against the stultifying impact of official censorship and the resultant impoverishment of Russian literature and the arts, witness Solzhenitsyn's inability to secure official publication of any of his Nobel prize winning work since 1962. For the political opposition, the issues have included the grounds and procedures involved in the arrest and trial of literary figures and subsequently the protesters themselves, as well as such openly political questions as the rights of national minorities within the Soviet Union and the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

These outspoken and often martyred voices of protest, predominantly centered in Leningrad and Moscow, have attracted great attention and

widespread sympathy in the West. This is quite natural in that these men and women self-consciously represent a congenial ideological viewpoint that opposes the arbitrary power of the Party and State and presses for increased individual freedom. Yet it is crucial to note the limited currency of these views with respect to the great masses of Soviet citizens. These dissidents represent a definite subculture within the society. Additionally, even the most outspoken opposition figures have frequently expressed a deep attachment to the Soviet state in general, even when voicing implacable opposition to specific policies of the current regime.

The reaction of the Soviet state to these manifestations of dissent has been harsh, so harsh as to be identified as neostalinism. This label must be carefully scrutinized. While the KGB has become increasingly active in its investigations, intimidations and persecutions, thus driving many members of the intelligentsia into bitter and deep despair, it has not unleashed the pervasive terrorism which characterized the darkest days of the Stalinist period. While some protesters have suffered the administrative fate of commitment to insane asylums, a tactic for punishing deviant political behavior that has survived from the Tsarist period, most have been granted public trials. Although the defendants have been uniformly found guilty and the trials themselves have often produced a new series of arrests among those who publicly protested them or smuggled out underground (and illegal) accounts of the proceedings, the very process of holding such trials represents a significant departure from the practices of the Stalin era.

The conservative commitments of the current leadership do not bode well for the idealistic protesters or for the much broader group of liberally-inclined intellectuals. The scientific elites may well be afforded some protection from excessive unscientific interference and the rise of dogmatic mediocrities such as Trofim D. Lysenko, who literally ruined Soviet genetics under the patronage of both Stalin and Khrushchev. Their desires in this area seem to correspond with those of the leadership in that such interference serves no useful purposes for the regime. However, the literary and political protesters do not appear so fortunate. Their objectives are directly contrary to the predilections of the ruling oligarchy and if granted, they would represent fundamental challenges to the existing political order. Consequently one can expect to witness continuing skirmishes between the bravest protesters and the authorities, with little hope for the insurgents beyond a continuing battle against difficult odds. (For further information on these questions, see the July-August and September-October, 1968, issues of *Problems of Communism*, "In Quest of Justice.")

THE MASSES AND THE SOVIET SYSTEM

While most reporting focuses upon activities at the pinnacle of the political process or such human interest concerns as the protest movement among the intelligentsia, a question of basic importance is the attitude and feelings of the average Soviet citizen with respect to his government. Reliable hard data for such analysis is not available. The Soviet government, despite a recent interest in empirical sociological research, has yet to commission a public opinion poll surveying the political attitudes of its populace.

Nevertheless, there are a number of bases for informed speculation on this question. Interview materials collected from Soviet emigres after World War II by the U.S. Air Force-sponsored Harvard Research Project indicated that even in the wake of the horrors of collectivization, the Purges of the 1930's and the hardships of the war with Germany, the vast majority of those interviewed generally acknowledged the legitimacy of the Soviet regime. Since that time, the obvious accomplishments of the government in bringing about a very gradual but nonetheless steady improvement of living conditions may be presumed to have further consolidated general governmental support among the masses. A number

of first hand observers share this evaluation.

As was noted above, the masses remain generally unaffected by and unconcerned with the continuing conflicts between the intellectual dissidents and the regime. The questions of political and intellectual freedom are simply not salient to the vast majority of Soviet citizens. Their expectations with regard to meaningful political participation are not high. Contrary to the beliefs of the citizens of Czechoslovakia for example, no tradition of democratic political activism or freedom of expression has ever been widespread within the Soviet Union. Thus while the Western observer and some members of the Russian intellectual community may be horrified by the illiberal nature of the current regime, the average Soviet citizen feels no such deprivation.

This is not to say that he is unconcerned with the performance of the Soviet system. Rather it is to note that the issues most important to him are those which directly affect his daily life; questions of employment, education, health care, leisure and general welfare. Should the system fail to meet the collective demands in these areas, the potential for mass opposition and even violence is significantly greater.

Even in these areas however, the general level of expectation is fairly low by Western standards. It must be remembered that individual wants and expectations are formed within a specific historical and cultural context. One need only recall that feeling of relative freedom often experienced by the third class cadet, a feeling contingent upon some comparison with the previous doolie year, *not* with his sophomore contemporaries in civilian institutions. In a similar manner, welfare expectations held by the Soviet populace have been formed in the context of their actual life experience and thus they are substantially lower than those of the average American or Western European. In any case, Soviet performance in these areas over the past two decades has been marked by slow but generally steady progress. The result has been a substantial basis for national support and adherence to the regime by the mass of its citizens. Such reciprocal support is reinforced by the more general attitudes of allegiance and identification fostered by the comprehensive efforts of the regime within the general education process, and through their continuous political indoctrination efforts.*

The Current Regime: Its Performance

THE CURRENT REGIME: ITS PERFORMANCE

Many Western studies of the Brezhnev-Kosygin regime have been harshly critical of its conservative and allegedly mediocre nature. Some of these judgments are heavily colored by a severe moral distaste for the leadership due to its historical involvement in the Purges of the 1930's. Such involvement and personal survival is presumed to imply a kind of moral degeneracy and cowardice which is in turn supposed to be manifestly evident in their current pattern of rule.

While the ruling elite has failed to exhibit a flashy political style, to say the very least, it has not been as stagnant as some of these depictions have implied. In both the foreign and domestic arenas, decisions have been made and a variety of programs undertaken.

Internationally, some of the more obvious policy activities have included the significant growth of Soviet commitment and presence in the Middle East, dynamic moves in the direct arms competition with the United States including both a substantial build-up in strategic and selected conventional capabilities and major arms control initiatives via the SALT talks, and a complex series of diplomatic and military measures in their troubled dealings with China.

On the domestic front, definite actions have been taken as well. A number of

the bold reforms undertaken by Khrushchev in the economic and political areas were rapidly abandoned. Nevertheless, positive programs have emerged as well. These have frequently been nationalistic and conservative in their nature, for example, the sponsorship of an extensive military-patriotic indoctrination campaign among youth, the repressive measures taken against intellectual and political dissidents as discussed above, and the stress upon labor discipline and ideological commitment as the basis for increased economic productivity.

The programs have often been delayed in their appearance as was the case of the new Model Charter for Collective Farms and the very convening of the Twenty-Fourth Party Congress, which was postponed at the last minute from the fall of 1970 until the spring of 1971. Yet despite these delays, commonly attributed to policy stalemate within the leadership, programs and policies have appeared and "progress" has been made.

New agricultural policies have brought higher investment in the rural sector, improved living conditions for the peasants and notable success in farm production. While most external observers agree that much more substantial gains could be achieved with the abandonment of collectivized agriculture, the regime's ideological and political commitments rule out this option. As long as adequate performance can be maintained, the Soviet leaders are clearly willing to accept these systemic deficiencies.

The industrial economy remains a major problem. The reform movement of the mid 60's which hinged upon a major restructuring of relations within the economy appears to have quietly expired. Rather than encouraging increased managerial autonomy, the regime appears to be relying upon investment shifts and repeated exhortations about tightened labor discipline as the basis for desired improvements in performance. The past year has witnessed particular verbal attention to the needs of the consumer and the elaboration of corresponding planning indices. It remains to be seen whether these objectives will be achieved.

Discussion of the multitude of other governmental concerns ranging from educational and welfare policies to ecological protection and restoration is beyond the scope of this article.

The Soviet Union stands as a major actor in the world today. Domestically she faces many of the difficulties shared by other industrialized nations. Despite the existence of significant problems in a variety of vocal protest movements and within the economy, she commands the loyalty and support of the masses of her citizens. Her internal prospects in my opinion, are excellent. Despite these problems, I fail to perceive the basis for a major crisis in regime legitimacy, barring major international crisis or a catastrophic downturn in the economy.

*For further information see An Observer, *Message From Moscow*, New York: Vintage Books, 1971.

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*Miss Mary Petrevich
Homecoming Queen 1971
Savannah, Georgia*



*Miss Wendy Oss
Second Group
Burke, Virginia*



*Miss Lane Smith
Third Group
Denver, Colorado*



*Miss Diana Aberson
Fourth Group
Colorado Springs, Colorado*

1971 HOMECOMING QUEEN CANDIDATES



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'Butch' Metcalf-Line Coach



Success seems to follow Offensive Line Coach Lawrence A. (Butch) Metcalf wherever he goes. It all began in Garland, Texas, where Butch attended high school. There he was twice elected to the All State Football Team, and, following graduation, was awarded an athletic scholarship to the University of Oklahoma.

From 1962 through 1964, Butch played tackle for Oklahoma under the tutelage of Head Coach Bud Wilkinson. During those years, the Sooners were among the nation's best, and along with Butch, produced such pros as Glen Coudren, Ralph Neely, Carl McAdams, Lance Rentzel, and Eddie MacQuarters. In 1963, Butch and his teammates played the Orange Bowl, and two years later, the Gator Bowl. In his senior year, Butch was elected to several All-Big Eight Teams, including the Big Eight Scholastic Team, and was mentioned on the Academic All-American Team.

His coaching career also began at Oklahoma U., where Butch was an Assistant Coach of the Freshman

Team, while working on his Masters Degree. In 1966, he was commissioned into the Air Force and sent to the USAFA Prep School. During the three years that Butch served as Assistant Coach there, the Prep School turned out an enviable record of 17-6-1. In 1969, he was promoted to Head Coach and led the Huskies to a 6-0 season, his second undefeated season in four years.

Following his discharge from the Air Force in 1970, he was hired by Coach Ben Martin to assist with the Varsity Offensive Line. It was one of the Falcons' finest seasons, concluding with an invitation to meet Tennessee in the 1971 Sugar Bowl.

TALON:

Coach Metcalf, as an offensive line coach, I'm sure the offensive linemen would appreciate some publicity because they're usually not too well publicized. What differences do you find coaching Falcon linemen, who are smaller overall, as compared to their larger peers on other college teams?

METCALF:

It really doesn't restrict them that much, the biggest problem seems to be as you said with the size. We have a definite barrier there that we have to overcome and the kids are very good about this because they have a lot of weapons that they can use. Different types of blocking patterns that we can get into that sort of balance the keel, so to speak. We can eliminate some of the disadvantages we have by having a lot of weapons and a real smart, intelligent kid. We try not to give them too much so that they'll have too much to think about before the ball is snapped. The only problem we have is that we spend most of our time and approximately two thirds of our sea-



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son scrimmaging against ourselves. When you scrimmage against the AFA you have to pick up so many stunts, so much more than against anyone else that I think our kids get down in the dumps or we get excited at our kids because they don't look as good as they probably should. But the biggest thing is that we're not going to face anybody like the AFA, that stunts as much as we do. Our men, by the number of weapons that we give our offensive linemen, will be able to handle just about anything that they face on Saturday.

TALON:

Does the intelligence of the Air Force football players really enhance their ability that much?

METCALF:

Yes, it does from the fact that we don't make a lot of mental errors. We have a great deal of weapons that we can use offensively and defensively and our kids study what they're supposed to do and know what to do. I use the example last year of Al Fischer, Tommy McKeirnan, Gordy Herrick, "O" Mitchell, and John Bierie, who is one of our coaches now. Those people as an offensive line, as a unit, would have their opponent before the ball was even snapped, because they'd know what they're going to do, and how they were going to do it. A lot of teams would be completely confused by the defensive linemen. This really adds to our athletic ability around here, our ability to win when we're out-manned, so to speak, by professional football players.

TALON:

What do you think are "O" Mitchell's chances for All-American honors?

METCALF:

Well, it's just up to him, I think that he got the recognition as a sophomore that very few individuals in the country get. I think he's very fortunate that we had a good season last year and he got a great deal of

publicity last year. As a junior I think it's strictly up to him, what he wants to do, and how bad he wants it. I know that he can be an All-American. He's one of the finest offensive linemen that I've ever seen or ever been around. I feel he's a great one if he wants to be. I think that he's a great individual, a great man and if he can be the type of leader that he has been in the past he'll definitely fill a spot on the All-American team come December.

TALON:

The Falcons will give up a lot in size to their opponents this season, despite the fact that this is one of our largest lines ever, how do you plan to overcome the size disadvantage?

METCALF:

We don't try to make an apple out of an orange so to speak. We know that when we play Colorado we're up against probably the largest team in college football and the NCAA. They're very physical. They're not as fast as a team like Tennessee. Tennessee is a team that got a hot hand early and made us go to a pure pass offense because they were 24 points ahead. We just hope that by not making mistakes early in the game we can avoid playing catch-up football. If we can get into a situation where in the first quarter we're pretty even with the opponent, and in the second quarter like against Stanford we're not far behind, we know it's within our reach to win the football game in the second half. And in the fourth quarter, our kids with their superior mental ability and good physical condition will make up for the size and speed that we're missing.

TALON:

Who can we look for, to be the offensive line standouts for this season?

METCALF:

"O" Mitchell is really the backbone of the offensive line. At the guard positions we feel we have a couple of really good boys in Billy Stanton from

Mesquite, Texas, and Gordy Herrick from Brecksville, Ohio. These two boys are really fine football players and we are really looking for a great effort from them. On the other side we have Glyn Ottofy, a part-time starter last year. He played behind Gordy last year and we really don't know who's going to start right now because Bill Stanton is hurt and Gordy and Glyn are trying to flip-flop both sides. They're trying to take up the slack but it will probably be Ottofy and Herrick starting at the guard positions.

TALON:

What do you think are Air Force's chances in the near future for another bowl bid?

METCALF:

Well, I think a lot depends upon of course our success. I think everybody in the Air Force approaches everything they do on a first class basis and if we have a first class football team, I'm sure everybody will want us to go to a bowl game. I think that our people last year had a great time and enjoyed themselves which you should do at a bowl game. If we hadn't been as thin as we were last year, and we had scrimmaged more while we were in New Orleans, and prepared our people a little bit more for what they were going to see I'm sure everybody would have a much better taste in their

mouth right now as far as post-season bowl games. I feel that if we're successful that Air Force will surely let us go to another bowl game.

LETTER (Contd from page 2)

fraught with all the technological difficulties and requirements for skilled personnel, as easily as they could Vietnamize the ground component of the war. We will be involved in SEA for a considerable time in an air support role for the South Vietnamese.

In his article "Precision Bombing Not Very Precise" (*Crimes of War*), Richard Gott points out some things I think we should consider:

The result of the bombing in this southern area of North Vietnam must throw serious doubts on the advantages of air superiority, and by implication, on the effectiveness of the continuing air war in the South and in Laos. From what I have seen, there is clearly no such thing as precision bombing. Even against very lightly defended targets, a vast quantity of bombs had to be dropped over a very wide area.

This is not to deny that the bombing of the North has done very great damage. Vietnam has not been bombed back into the Stone Age, but a promising underdeveloped country that was pushing its way through the middle of the

nineteenth century has been forcibly smashed back into the eighteenth. The only result of this unpleasant experiment has been to prove the very definite limitations in warfare of air superiority. They were known already.

Or, consider the implications of the trials of Lt. Calley, et al. True, it appears that this, too, is passe, and indeed, nothing will come of these trials as far as any kind of administration of justice is concerned. Nevertheless, the very fact that the trial did occur may have implications for the airpower enthusiast as well. According to J. Glenn Gray in his *The Warriors*:

With every foot of distance there is a corresponding decrease in reality. Imagination flags and fails altogether when distances become too great. So it is that much of the mindless cruelty of recent wars has been perpetrated by warriors at a distance, who could not guess what havoc their powerful weapons were occasioning.

Indeed, in speaking with fliers returned from Vietnam, I was informed that, contrary to popular belief, fliers did not compulsively frequent the O-Club bars because of anguish over the possible consequences of their acts or anxiety over the strains of combat, but simply out of BOREDOM! I would contend, however, that this bored attitude is not very safe, wise or responsible, let alone morally defen-

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sible. In his opening statements at Nuremberg, Justice Robert Jackson said:

We must never forget that the record on which we judge these defendants today is the record on which history will judge us tomorrow. To pass these defendants a poisoned chalice is to put it to our own lips as well. . .

In an article on the Henderson Trial in the New York Times, testimony of a flier, a helicopter pilot, now a Captain Jerry Culverson, was revealed. He helped evacuate frightened peasants from My Lai during the massacre. When he returned to his base after evacuating these people, he testified, "Something was said that if nothing was done, we had no desire to further support this mission." The commander then permitted the men to remain on the base, and another unit flew support. The matter was to be investigated later (most superficially, as it turned out.)

I thought, at first, that Culverson's actions were commendable. But, upon further reflection, I thought about the helplessness he must have felt, with the knowledge he possessed, having seen the naked bloody bodies of women and children, only to have his testimony received with a cursory nod from a superficial "investigating committee," a few days after the event.

Daniel Berrigan, S.J. in *Night Flight to Hanoi*, wrote about one of the

pilots he repatriated on his mission to the North, an Ensign Methany. He was young, bright and sensitive, but said Father Berrigan:

Methany also was an obedient man. And that is nearly everything there remains to be said about him. It is his obituary. . .

I am not making a partisan statement or judgment at this time. I am only calling for a little consideration, a little responsibility. If you read the newspapers, (beyond the FRONT page, to be sure), you will, even today, read about Vietnam. It hasn't yet been Vietnamized out of existence. For some of us, it may be all too real in only two or three short years. But, when and if we go, when we step into the cockpits, for our own sake of everything over which we "fly and fight," let us go with our eyes open and our decisions already made.

Vaughn Clauson

(Ed. Note: We think you have several points worthy of consideration. However, a letter-to-the editor is hardly the place to analyze U.S. tactical operations in Southeast Asia, morally or otherwise. We think vehicles of dissertation-size are probably more appropriate. Nonetheless, one rebuttal should be made, to your quotation from Richard Gott. Ours comes from Adm. U.S. Grant Sharp, then Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, when he said in his article "Airpower Could Have Won in Vietnam," published in the

September issue of Air Force Magazine:

"The severe restrictions under which our air operated resulted in markedly decreased effectiveness of the tremendous power we had available and has resulted in wide misunderstanding of the effectiveness of airpower when properly used. . .

"...Our air raids against North Vietnam started with miniscule doses of airpower, applied to targets which hardly were worth the effort. From the beginning to the end, the air campaign was characterized by pleas for effective use of airpower by the military, which largely fell on deaf ears. Our air was never used to its full effectiveness. . .

"There is at least one lesson that we should learn from this war. That lesson is that we should never commit the Armed Forces of the United States to combat unless we have decided at the same time to use the non-nuclear power that we have available to win in the shortest possible time.")

Letters to the Editor are solicited. It is requested that all letters be double spaced and typed. All letters must be signed. Send your letters to: Talon, Box 6066, USAFA, Colo. 80840.

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CAFPOW Aids Area Families

CAFPOW (Cadets for the Aid of Families of Prisoners of War) was started at the Air Force Academy in the Spring of 1970, for the sole purpose of helping the families of American P.O.W.'s in the local area.

Acting in coordination with national movements expressing concern for the treatment of American prisoners of war, the members of CAFPOW show their concern to local families by helping with chores like cutting grass and running errands and also by escorting families to events like football games and Allied Arts performances at the Academy.

CAFPOW does not operate by an expression of pity — such an attitude would be self defeating. Rather, members of CAFPOW donate their time gladly, on the premise that they can be of help in easing the burden of families of men being held by the enemy. There are no material rewards for the cadet's efforts, but the sense of pride is evident when one sees a cadet with several small children at his side, or hears another talk about "his family." At present there are about fifty cadets involved in the organization.

CAFPOW is now working with the

Colorado Springs chapter of the National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia. It has helped in the letter writing campaign to Hanoi, protesting the treatment of American P.O.W.'s and it has also contributed to helping send several women to Paris for talks with the North Vietnamese delegation to the Paris Peace Talks. At the present time, CAFPOW is also involved with the ordering of MIA-POW bracelets, for members of the Cadet Wing. These bracelets being distributed by a national organization contain the name of an American that is a POW or is MIA. They are worn with the vow that they will not be removed until the Red Cross is allowed into Hanoi and can assure his family of his status and that he receives the humane treatment due all men.

CAFPOW is one organization that would like to end its existence because it was no longer needed. Perhaps soon the fate of the 1600 men that are MIA or POW's will be settled and their families will be united. But as long as it is needed, CAFPOW will continue to show its concern for those families of American P.O.W.'s in Southeast Asia.

BLUEBARDS PLANS TWO PLAYS

The Bluebards is the Academy drama club. Once each semester they perform for the cadets and their guests in Arnold Hall. For each hour on stage another 50 to 60 hours of work and preparation has occurred behind the stage. A great deal of time and effort goes into each production.

The club can boast a membership of over 70 cadets. Twenty of these members are currently involved in this semester's production. The president is CIC Mark Williams and the faculty advisor is Captain Murawski.

A play begins many months ahead of curtain time. After the last performance of a play, a committee is established. This committee is responsible for the selection of the next play, the selection of the director and the casting of the play. Many criteria are used in the decision of the play. Cast size, audience appeal and play type are the main deciding factors. A play is chosen that has a large cast so that all members of the club can eventually participate. The decision concerning type, drama or comedy, is essentially club preference. After play selection the work begins. It is the job of the director to establish the various staffs involved with the production, back stage crew included. The director must schedule the performance for a future date and must also supply the production with the required materials, costumes, props, etc. The club is allocated only 40 hours of excusal time from Call to Quarters. This is the time allowed for practices and rehearsals. It is a relatively short time and each cast member must be ready to work hard to follow the tight schedule. There are two to three full dress rehearsals and technical rehearsals for each production.

The next performance is on the 12th and 13th of November. The play production began September 1st and dress rehearsals began the 18th of October. Unlike previous productions, there will be two short act plays so that more club members may participate.

The first play is by a French author, Jean Paul Sartre, and is entitled "No Exit." The story is about three people in Hell and their eventual discovery of what Hell really is. This particular play proved to be of great difficulty to produce because the characters required are extremely serious and it is difficult for an actor or actress to mentally play such a part. This play will set a precedent with the use of special lighting effects. Two male and two female parts are required. The female parts are cast by auditions held at Colorado College. The two main male characters will be filled by Brian Jones and Bob Bains. "No Exit" is a one act play.

The second play is a light comedy written by a French author named Anatole France. The play, entitled "A Man Who Married a Dumb Wife" is an hilarious satire on the legal and medical systems of the 1700's. This will be a fully costumed play and will consist of two acts. The content concerns a judge who marries a woman who cannot speak and for status reasons has an operation performed that permits her to talk. The judge then finds it impossible to shut her up.

These plays will be given at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday night, the 12th and 13th of November. A great deal of time and effort have gone into each play and they prove to be very excellent productions. Any cadet interested in joining the Bluebards or just wanting to help is encouraged to contact CIC Mark Williams in CS-03.



FORUM



Art Buchwald

November 15, 1971

***your
picture***



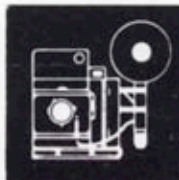
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