

'Self Restraint' In Handling News

When anyone in government calls upon newspapermen to withhold any part of the news, their immediate reaction is likely to be negative. It is a fair guess that when President Kennedy made such a request before the American Newspaper Publishers Association many of its members felt the tingling of that customary response.

This does not mean that publishers will fail to give Mr. Kennedy's plea the most careful consideration. They will soberly weigh all that he said in asking that they "heed the duty of self-restraint." They will analyze the dilemma he posed when he declared that there is a "need for far greater public information" and at the same time an apparently contradictory "need for far greater official secrecy." They will ponder the President's question whether "the tests of national security" should be applied more sternly to the news before it is published.

THIS IS NOT A MATTER to be taken lightly. Publishers will not take it so. They will think and act in full awareness that, as Mr. Kennedy acknowledged, the whole question of prior restraints on publication in time of peace is "both painful and without precedent."

Americans are fortunate that both the chief executive and the nation's publishers understand the dangers involved in such restraints, even though they are voluntary. Too much zeal in applying "the tests of national security" may hamper the flow of news and comment which a free people must have if they are to remain free. That, too, is an element in security. There can be no arbitrary rule. It is a matter of judgment—which must be exercised with both kinds of security in mind.

Women Reach Tops In 'Winks', Market

A tiddlywinks club at England's famous old Oxford University and a New York stock exchange have something in common. Both have for the first time put a woman on equal terms with men. At Oxford Caroline Mills now becomes Master of the Winks. This exalted title means that next year she will lead the university team in this manly sport.

On this side of the water, Mrs. Hilda Poulson has become the first woman to gain a seat as a member of a stock exchange. In college she majored in accounting, and after her husband's death worked for a brokerage house. Last year she bought a seat in the National Stock Exchange, a new organization devised especially for small and medium-sized companies.

Female success at tiddlywinks and finance should not amaze anyone. Given the opportunity, many women make good in fields once thought permanently male. What is astonishing is not that some women's ability in hitherto untrodden fields has now been discovered, but that it should occasion surprise.

The late movie actor Gary Cooper stood high, with or without his shoes on . . . for his height was measured in terms of character values. He was quiet, capable, possessed of humility, charitable, devoted to his family. He was to remain aloof from Hollywood's usual tinsel and superficiality. His record proves that his true worth could never be measured with an "Oscar," though he did receive them. "May," like Abou Ben Adhem, "this tribe increase."

This earth's two most prominent "K's"—Kennedy & Khrushchev—are going to meet in a few days in Vienna, Austria, to discuss a few important subjects. We pray that our President will be guided to present freedom's case most effectively—as well as to show Mister K that Uncle Sam and available allies mean business and will not be bludgeoned into submission by any more of the Soviet's demanding deviltries.

Right after that faulty "invasion of Cuba" happened, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Adlai Stevenson, joined with the U.S. State Dept. in disclaiming any official connection with the invasion. Later, you remember, President Kennedy at all did admit U.S. aid to the Cuban rebels . . . which placed Adlai in an unfortunate position. On the other hand, Soviet Russia's U.N. representatives could and do tell a thousand falsehoods at U.N. meetings, and still remain unembarrassed. "Truth is forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne," wrote an American poet years ago.

The Hand That Rocks the Cradle



Editorial Page • A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press Is Democracy's First Line of Defense

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From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

George S. Dixon is an American newspaper feature writer whose observations of people and things in Washington, D.C., contain lots of humorous twists. His stuff generally takes one's thoughts away from less happy situations . . . and a chuckle is his personal reward to the reader. Dixon recently commented on the traditional use of a stiff collar to accompany evening clothes. He pointed out that even Chief Justice Earl Warren of the U.S. Supreme Court is opposed to stiff collars, and so Dixon asks, "Why can't this high Court, by decision, outlaw the stiff collar from mankind's assortment of habiliments?" Indeed, why not? . . . certainly this might keep the Court away from offering so many new-fashioned decisions that outlaw old-fashioned decisions of former Justices of said Court.

Evidence plentifully exists in Africa's Congo area that its inhabitants are incapable of anything approaching ability to govern themselves like civilized beings. To be sure, they have the excuse of never having been taught how to live as a homogeneous self-governing unit. They consist of many native tribes, some of them still barbaric in behavior. Just why the United Nations gave them freedom from being controlled by Belgium at this time is incredible . . . certainly, it seems to us, that some previous-to-freedom-from-Belgian control period should have been allocated in order to teach at least some of their leaders how to operate in freedom. What would happen if you turned ignorant, barbaric people loose

at any time in any earthly area? Answer: just what has and is happening in the Congo.

Something we've been intending to say before this should be said now: applause for Birmingham's Mayor, Mrs. G. Howard (Florence "Twink") Willett, now in her second year as this city's chief municipal officer. She did well as a "mere" Commissioner, so her six gentlemen Commissioners over a year ago voted her the Mayor's chair. This she has used well. Her leadership in our municipal affairs has been reaffirmed when recently she was voted Mayor for the second successive time. (And all this . . . plus the fact that "Twink" is acknowledged by local citizens to be the best evidence of feminine pluckitude to grace a Mayor's chair anywhere on the North American continent!)

To be sure, it is a justifiable act of good sportsmanship to congratulate one who wins a contest or achieves signal success in pursuit of some scientific goal—so we join others in commenting thusly on Russia's sending a human being around the earth in a capsule, and bringing him back again. But to bring that heroic spaceman to the United States and give him a great Victory Reception, (as one of our Congressmen recently suggested) is, we think, unwarranted. After all, Russia still remains our mortal enemy. Let's refrain from falling for their insidious propaganda maneuvers.

One Thing or Another

BY GEORGE WM. AVERILL

Once upon a time in Birmingham there were two neighbors. Each was a vice president of rival companies. Both were intensely jealous of the other.

Whenever one bought a ride-around-on-power mower, the other went out and purchased a flasher model. One built a swimming pool. The other built a larger one.

One day the neighbor called "Joe" pulled into his driveway with an air-conditioned Cadillac. It had a phone.

The neighbor called "Harry" looked it over—and began bawling inside. Next day he bought an air-conditioned Cadillac. As he was driving away from the dealer's showroom, he phoned Joe.

"Say, Joe, guess where I'm phoning you from," he boasted. "I just took delivery on a new Cadillac, the biggest and best they make. It's—"

"Just a second, Harry," interrupted Joe. "I've got a call on my other phone."

What an unusual country this is. We devote a day to Mother (May 14), another day to Father (June 18).

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

J-Hops Help Guide Children

To the Editor:
Your editorial "Have Fun at the J-Hop—Fun To Recall Joyously" made me realize that you have indeed upheld the motto of The Birmingham Eccentric: A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press Is Democracy's First Line of Defense.

How can a democracy be strong if its future leaders (the high school students) are morally decadent or so intractable that they refuse to learn from elders' experience?

AS A MOTHER of three children in elementary school, I can't tell you how grateful I am to you for printing the letter from the Birmingham high school graduate who told us how the permissive social life in Birmingham almost ruined his life.

This letter spear-headed tremendous interest on the part of parents within reading distance of The Eccentric which culminated in the formation of the Parent-Com-

mittee of the Birmingham PTA Center.

AFTER MORE than a year of tabulating questionnaires from Birmingham junior and senior high school students and their parents, this committee has recently published a social guide for teenagers entitled "The Birmingham Eccentric for recognizing a problem in Birmingham is one of us and for giving impetus to the compilation of the Parent-Com-

This little booklet CAN contribute to better relations between parents and their teenagers.

THEN J-HOPS WILL be "fun to recall joyously" and both children and parents will have experienced the understanding and cooperation between them which IS democracy on the home-front.

MARGARET TAYLOR
(Mrs. Ralph W.)
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Need Active, Informed Citizenry to Stay Free

To the Editor:
The column "This and That" on May 11 was a hard hitting, realistic analysis of a serious situation—the circumventing of Congress and the dictatorial ruling of the Internal Revenue Service.

I pray that our citizens will wake up and put a stop to this by writing their congressmen and demanding it be stopped. An informed and ACTIVE citizenry will remain free.

I would like to share with you Congressman Gordon H. Scherer's feelings concerning the "Young American's for Freedom," letter from the April 18 Congressional Record.

"The Young American's for Freedom is a comparatively new organization of young people who have interested themselves in the problems of government."

"This organization has done much to promote sound, stable and responsible Government in the United States all levels."

In closing, let me urge you readers to become informed and act.

RICHARD L. ISBELL
723 Ridgeway
Birmingham

Girl's Dog Loses Life in Car Accident

To the Editor:
Why must there be so many careless drivers? Doesn't anyone care about the lives of innocent animals because of negligent drivers?

IT WAS ABOUT 10:15 I kept thinking to myself, why didn't she stop? If she had, Rusty would have come home safe and sound.

Why? Why must these things happen? If our dog had been a child, would the driver could be charged with manslaughter and negligent driving. But when it's a dog it's "I'm so sorry."

The point I'm trying to make is, life is life, no matter what form or being it is looked in, and surely we who can stop for a child to scamper across the street can surely pause for a dog.

ALL THAT is left to us now are memories, a happy, carefree memory. Time heals wounds, and soon the aching in our hearts will subside, but we will still remember.

For now we smile wistfully at those who have been wronged. "Goodbye Rusty, God Bless you and may you have a pleasant rest for you have truly earned one."

P.S. Won't you watch the road more closely now?
15-Year-Old Bham Girl

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

Two words. Honestly and integrity. You seldom hear them anymore. Probably because somewhere along the line somebody said they were trite.

While they are advising high school graduates of immense opportunities in this era of great technological advancement, commencement speakers could also remind them of the intense need for honesty and integrity.

There was a day when the people of the United States had a reputation for honesty and integrity. It was one of the chief reasons for the high prestige of the U.S.

BUT TODAY you seldom hear people speak of these qualities. In fact, the nation's prestige is questionable.

What happened? What took us away from these highly prized personal and national characteristics?

Reasons are too numerous, too complex to delve into here.

But probably one of them is the labor movement—but not because the movement is evil.

AN OUTGROWTH of the struggles for power for labor forces was a disrespect for authority—authority as represented by government.

Quite naturally there developed a disrespect for governmental authority, all too often because it was felt government favored employer.

Along with these came lack of respect for authority in the home, in the church, in the school. The take-it-easy-but-take-it philosophy.

A dangerous philosophy. Dangerous to democracy. To the United States of America type of democracy.

WITH MATERIAL wealth growing, quite naturally emphasis switched from high morals and principles to material gain.

Honesty and integrity became almost lost in a tremendous effort to gain material wealth.

People became more proud of their possessions than of their beliefs. Moral, spiritual values lessened in importance.

Being a little less than honest to achieve a desired end became a common practice because no one greatly disapproved. Conformity was the unwritten, unspoken rule.

DOES THIS mean we are on the road to decay? Not necessarily. Not if there is a return to emphasis of the meaning of those—

Two words: Honesty and integrity.

Talk of the Towns

Although the comparison hardly rates, it seems appropriate for the temporary "voice" in this column, that of Irma N. Davis, to mention another, more impressive "voice" which celebrates its first birthday, June 10.

A new literary quarterly, "Voices," created by Michigan writers and artists, is edited by Robert Basil. The newest selection appeared most suitably in time for Michigan Week.

Prose and poetry are used to pay contributors and improve the production and quality of the magazine, which is both non-advertising and non-profit-making.

The truly regional collection, by both famous and unknown writers, young and old, includes current articles by Russell E. Nye, Pulitzer prize-winner, historian and biographer; Russell Kirk, rated as one of America's top intellectuals; Elizabeth Gregg Patterson, O'Henry Award nominee; and Paul Roche, internationally known poet.

Among the 30 contributors to the current issue are an Albion College freshman, the poetry editor of MSU's new magazine, "Tarot," and a story and illustration by Edward Kucera of MacManus, John and Adams.

Contributions are needed from state writers and authors who believe, along with "Voices," that the "public is waiting for something human and liberating in all the arts."

Another voice worth attention is that of Walter P. Nickell, associate naturalist at Cranbrook's Institute of Science, who took the time to clarify a short item that appeared in the news some time ago. It stated that a bird can be hypnotized simply by painting a line lengthwise down its back.

"The actions of a bird in this situation are something like that of a human trying to look at the end of his nose," Nickell explained.

He mentioned a case where birds, evidently following their painted noses, ran squawking for some distance down the middle of a road and said it was doubtful whether such a condition could be called hypnosis, although having some of its aspects.

The problem may be physiological rather than psychological, the naturalist said. At any rate, it is doubtful whether the birds are entranced by the paint.

And finally, there are voices on the home front—which sometimes go on and on and especially when a teenage daughter is being urged to hang up her clothes.

A mother in Franklin, who would just as soon leave her name out of this, has found a sure-fire cure. An old steamer-trunk, to which a combination lock has been attached, does the trick.

Neatly located in a closet, it holds all the wrinkled, unwashed garments strewn about her daughter's room. Comes a big date and Mother conveniently forgets the combination until a fine is issued. It's noisy but works, this mother claims.

At least, the pile inside the trunk is getting progressively smaller.