

Press-Herald

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Golf Course Dilemma

Talk of developing a municipal golf course in Torrance has advanced to the point that a Citizen's Steering Committee has met, officers of a leading municipal finance consulting firm have visited the city, and money has been allocated to prepare a preliminary golf course layout.

Everybody apparently is in favor of a municipal golf course—at least the opposition which may exist has been sitting on its hands.

However, all is not a bed of roses. While development of an 18-hole golf course in the city appears desirable on all fronts, the plan has some serious problems to solve. One problem which outweighs all others, however, is that of financing.

Several suggestions have been offered—including a lease option plan, revenue bond, general fund obligations, and others.

Among the plans put forward, and given serious consideration, is the suggestion that the city seek matching federal funds.

To this the Press-Herald stands unalterably opposed.

We, too, believe the golf course is desirable and that a means of acquiring the land and developing the course should be sought.

But, we do not believe Torrance taxpayers can afford the questionable benefit of having federal funds made available for the project.

Developing such a recreation facility is expensive. Means of financing the venture must be found at home, however, not in Washington, D.C.

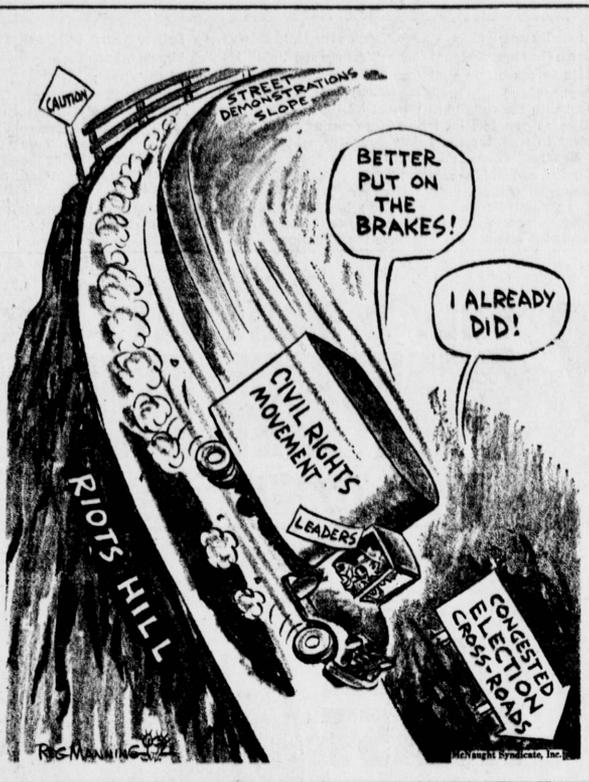
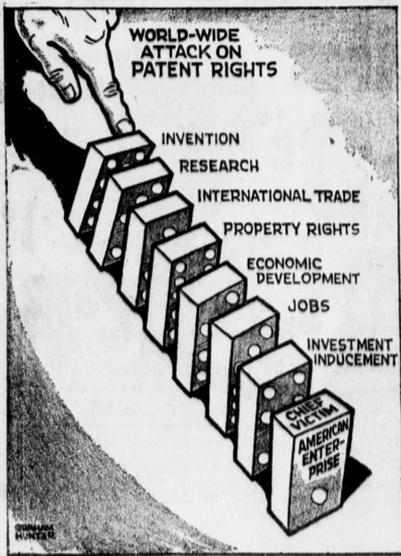
Opinions of Others

Senator John J. Williams, the Delaware Republican who first opened the Bobby Baker scandal, charges that the Farmers Home Administration has been lending more than \$1,000 an acre to convert croplands into golf courses, country clubs and hunting preserves—a far cry from their farm purposes. . . . There is a recreation program and it is going through the legislative mill now. The House has approved it and it is heading for the Senate. This is a 25-year land and water conservation program to meet the needs for outdoor recreation facilities. It would be largely a pay-as-you-go project, with funds advanced on a sharing basis with the states, to be repaid from receipts after 10 years. Thus the taxpayer will have recreation lending where it belongs, and it will not be used by the Agriculture Department to perpetuate a bureaucratic agency which has evidently run out of legitimate places where it can get rid of our money.—*Corvallis (Ore.) Gazette-Times.*

When we sit back and do not express our viewpoint or raise objection to ideas that we do not believe in, we are hastening the time when we will not have the privilege of expressing our views. If we fall into the habit of taking the path of least resistance or if we fail to say no when we feel no is the right answer—even if it is not the popular one, then we are saying that the ideals that our forefathers died for were not important. . . . Express yourself! Whatever the results, whether they go for the moment more in the direction of extremism or away from it, we will know in our own hearts that our own attitudes and actions contributed to the results. A nation gets the kind of government it deserves! Let us deserve government "by the people."—*Giddings (Tex.) Star.*

Recent tabulations show a record number of foreign tourists are visiting the United States in 1964. One reason for the influx is the New York World's Fair but there are others. The biggest is probably lower fares of trans-Atlantic airliners. The airlines are carrying record numbers of passengers over the Atlantic, proving those who argued that lower fares would greatly increase volume were right.—*Thayer (Mo.) News.*

CHAIN-REACTION THREAT



HERE AND THERE by Royce Brier

There Is Ample Reason To Negotiate Asia Truce

The surprising thing about the Central Intelligence Agency's estimate that the war in Vietnam probably cannot be won, is that it was drawn up in the first place, and became public in the second place.

There is nothing surprising in the estimate itself, for it is only what close observers without an ax to grind have been saying for the better part of a year.

Unfortunately the Administration, including the President, the Defense Secretary, and some ranking generals, have an ax to grind. There is no chicanery in this, as Mr. Johnson's antagonists aver. It is simply natural that leaders of military operations are going to put the best face possible on it, and cannot concede failure until it overtakes them. General Washington didn't and Mr. Lincoln didn't, though this is not to compare old frustrations with Vietnam.

The Vietnam war may not

be as complicated as it is made to appear by the criss-cross estimates and pronouncements, official and unofficial, which have been cluttering recent weeks and months.

The United States could win in Vietnam fairly easily, provided there was no Red Chinese intervention. Just put a few divisions of Marines in there and move along, and without nuclear weapons, either. This is what Mr. Johnson's opponents say they would do if they were in his place, but it is to be doubted.

They would not do it if the American people didn't want it, and there is no indication whatever the American people are hankering for the several thousand casualties such a solution would entail.

Moreover, if the Red Chinese elected to throw in hordes of infantry, as they did in Korea, then all bets are off. And it's the kind of all-bets-off situation the American people want least of all.

So if the politicians of both parties would cease talking nonsense about how to get out of the Vietnam mess, we might get out of it in time, though not with any whooping victory.

President Johnson has to be practical, and he has to have the support of the people. He is still stuck with an optimism uncalculated for the situation, but his optimism is preferable to acting on impulse and wrecking the southeast Asian, if not the world, peace.

You will note that hundreds of students rioted against the Khanh government and have taken a side swipe at some American installations. "Oh was some power the giftie give us," etc. We are not loved by the Asian masses when we try to save them from a Communist takeover. We are loved (while it lasts) by some leaders whom we cement in our power because they are on our side.

It's as coldly pragmatic as that, and ample reason to negotiate ourselves out of a conflict we can't win.

BOOKS by William Hogan

Screen Writer Describes Life of Rome's Film Set

Rare indeed is the writer who essays a minor novel, shapes and polishes it like a gem, brightens it with sparkling dialogue, irony and compassion, and then realizes a happy triumph. This is what Leonardo Bercovici, an American screen writer living in Rome, accomplishes in "The Satyr and the Saint" which is described as "a novel of the Roman film colony." The title, suggesting a struggle between a man and a virtuous woman, is deceptive, for what this brief and highly entertaining story reveals is an urbane discussion by two intelligent men, both good friends, on how life, particularly life as far as women are concerned, is best approached.

The first man is Randolpho, a suave and worldly director who has three concurrent families, replete with wives and children, and at least one little stray, an illegitimate son in Madrid who is also a source of pride to this active romantic.

The other, Eduardo, a fresh and sharp young writer, is a virgin, determined to marry a girl of similar chastity. Their adventures including courtships and wedding bells for Eduardo,

and three Christmas dinners consumed by Randolpho with his families, suggest that often the Puritan is far more destructive than the Pagan. The story opens with Randolpho acknowledging that his latest picture is a disaster. When in the audience he observed Vittoria De Sica smiling quizzically, Roberto Rossellini wearing a gentle, forgiving expression, and Federico Fellini leaning forward too attentively, he agrees there is no hope for it.

Following his failure, he searches for a new writer, and meets Eduardo, a young Sicilian who has just published a novel "of rollicking despair." One of the most engaging aspects of this book is while both men insist the other is wrong, each recognizes his friend as an individual to be regarded with respect.

Bercovici's style is crisp and graceful. Observe this conversation: "It's bad enough," says Randolpho, "that you're so unoriginal to want to marry a virgin—after all, it's a national disease, a result of illiteracy and superstition. You should know better. And then, in addition, for a 28-year-old man to crucify his flesh . . ."

"That's going rather far, don't you think?"

"It certainly is."

There is no unseemly haste about the story, nor does the sympathetic amusement with which Bercovici regards his two protagonists flag. Various parts of Italy are visited, several types of women are introduced, but all with so polite a discipline and so warm an enthusiasm that this small novel glistens with appeal not only of the satyr and the saint, but of the author as well.

My Neighbors



AFTER HOURS by John Morley

Containment Not Enough For Vietnam War Victory

RENO—Upon our return from Vietnam again early this year, we reported in these columns and in our talks that the Communist Viet Cong were winning and that the administration reports to the contrary were not in accordance with the facts we saw on the spot and with those we have been covering in the Vietnam war on previous news trips.

We again warned of the religious crisis between Catholics and Buddhists which the Communists are exploiting, the apathy among 14 million South Vietnamese in the war against communism, our lack of will to win, the antiquated military hardware available to our troops, the low morale all around and the inability to rally united support.

We reported the lack of enthusiasm among the Vietnamese for our "hamlet," or guarded village, program, for it dislocates their normal farm life.

These conclusions were based on what we saw, on talks with former Ambassador Lodge, United States and Vietnamese military and government officials, Catholic and Buddhist religious leaders, and personal Rotarian friends of long residence in Saigon.

As a result of this eyewitness report, we were assailed by a Democratic Congressman on the floor of the House of Representatives as being devoid of adequate qualifications, and in the process he impugned our integrity and intentions. This is in contrast with repeated approvals of our reporting by other Congressmen over the years, on the same House floor and by insertion of this column, "After Hours," several times in the Congressional Record.

This kind of personal political vindictive against newsmen is not uncommon on Capitol Hill . . . and occasionally it even flows from the White House. But newsmen generally cannot be intimidated and consider it a "hazard of the trade" and only hope, as in this instance, that while we may be wrong in some of our conclusions, we are not at least of wrong intention.

Democratic Congressmen obviously, for the most part, support administration policies. It's true on Vietnam. So it is only natural that when the administration says that "conditions in Vietnam are improving," that our defeats are disguised as "strategic retreats," and Secretary McNamara, returning from five Vietnam junkets, announces that "we are winning and will be out of Vietnam by 1965," it appears that we and other newsmen are both misguided and mischievous.

While administration spokesmen were telling the American people that "conditions were improving," six South Vietnamese governments toppled in the past 10 months alone, the Maddox was brazenly attacked in the Gulf of Tonkin, which forced President Johnson to commit an overt act of war by bombing North Vietnam for the first time, and the Communists were murdering Vietnamese and U. S. personnel closer and closer to Saigon.

Our margin of safety is vanishing fast in Vietnam, and nothing but a major commitment now, with all

its dangerous implications, can extricate us from past unfortunate miscalculations.

President Johnson inherited a mess inside South Vietnam and a fanatical, united enemy from without. Vietnamese officials welcome our aid to save their own necks, but have proved incapable of rallying their people to the treachery of communism. The Catholics are indeed militant against the Viet Cong, but represent less than five per cent of the population . . . while the Buddhists, with 75 per cent, lack the will to fight and win.

This is no affront to the thousands of South Vietnamese who have fought and died. Over 75,000 of them have been killed in battle, or murdered in the villages, with some 200,000 wounded. In the United States military mission nearly 390 have been killed, 1,500 wounded, 18 missing to date.

Our military officials are gravely concerned at the moment with the crumbling Vietnamese Army, which in recent months lost more troops by desertion than by casualties. The record of murders, kidnaping, rapes and tortures at the hands of the Viet Cong, is appalling and has frightened citizens, village elders, religious leaders and government

functionaries out of their wits.

This reported learned some lessons the hard way in covering the Vietnam and Korean wars.

The United States soldier is not cut out by temperament or training to fight a protracted jungle and rice paddy war. Our military hardware is unsuitable. Mentally we are not guerrilla fighters and the insects and filth affect the GI as much as the blood.

Any employment of United States troops abroad in the defense of freedom must be accompanied by manpower and material support of our allies. In the event of unilateral action, we must be certain that the people involved want to fight, too.

We must also make certain that any United States military commitment will include our will to win—not just a holding action—and the use of all necessary weapons, conventional, nuclear, tactical, that will do the job in the fastest possible time.

We must vow not to commit again a single American life, thousands of miles from home, to a policy of containment as in Korea and Vietnam, and no price must be too high, once committed, to win the final victory.

Our Man Hoppe No-Draft Stand Wins Approval

By Arthur Hoppe

Good heavens! Mr. Goldwater opened his 1964 Presidential campaign with a firm pledge to end the draft. And I, for one, wish to rush to his defense. Before he clarifies his position.

For, personally, I've always been inalterably opposed to the draft. In peacetime or wartime. Not only is it out and out involuntary servitude, but it promotes dishonest speech-making. How would it be, I ask you, if our politicians started making honest speeches on Veterans Day.

"Friends, we are gathered here to pay tribute to our brave young servicemen who chose to defend the cause of liberty on the far-flung ramparts of the free world. Rather than go to jail."

No sir, to force men to go out and kill other men is basically immoral. And to hail them as heroes for getting out of going to jail is basically ridiculous. So my hat's off to Mr. Goldwater. Indeed, my heart leaps up to realize that at long last in the history of American politics, we have a true Peace Candidate.

You can tell that Mr. Goldwater wishes to be known as the true Peace Candidate by the text of his opening campaign address. In which he mentioned peace, I would conservatively estimate, 47½ times.

Moreover, the political courage he showed in calling for an end to the draft could only stem from a true dedication to pacifism. For, as you know, Congress spiritedly debated this issue every couple of years. And the vote's always roughly the same: 437 patriotic Americans to 3 peace nuts.

But now that Mr. Goldwater has irrevocably committed himself to the side of the peace nuts, there is but one direction in which his campaign can go. And by the time he hits Boise, I assume he'll take the rostrum waving a placard saying: "Ban the Bomb!"

Across the country, little old ladies will begin swapping in their tennis shoes for leather sandals. Young Republicans will grow beards. And one by one, dedicated members of "The Society to Wake Up America!" will go limp.

The campaign, as I see it, will climax with a huge Peace March on the Pentagon, co-sponsored by SANE and the John Birch Society. Mr. Goldwater leading the thousands of peace-minded lie-ins in the soul-stirring strains of "We Shall Overcome."

Of course, as the true Peace Candidate, Mr. Goldwater faces a rough time ahead. The Democrats will undoubtedly attack him viciously. "Pacifist!" they'll call him. "Peacemonger! Chicken! Would you vote for a lily-livered coward who won't stand up to the Commies?"

And there'll be pressure on him to strike back. But if I know our true Peace Candidate, he'll merely raise his hand, palm outward, and say: "Lordy, fellows, you know I believe in the Chandian principles of non-violence. We'll just have to turn the other cheek."

Yes sir. A true Peace Candidate sticks by his position, come what may. Of course, Mr. Goldwater did have to clarify this a little further down on his speech. For after pledging to abolish the draft, he also pledged to beef up our armed services and turn "the ebbing tide" of our military strength.

But what the heck, I say. The way things are going, let's not look a gift Peace Candidate in the doctrines.

Quote

President Johnson's order to the Navy to shoot to kill in the USS Maddox case was, as I interpret it, "extremism in the defense of Liberty." —T. S. Harris, M. D., Los Angeles.

The earth seen from the moon is a pretty lonely little object; but it is all we have and we who live on it had better learn to get along together. —Gilbert Wright, Malibu.

Personal achievement should be the aim of everyone. Therein lies true happiness.—Cress K. Grier, Hollywood.