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Soviet space flight aweinspiring feat

If Russian astronaut Major Yuri Gagarin retires tomorrow and does nothing for the rest of his life except pinch himself occasionally to make sure he's still on earth, he has assured himself of a monumental place in history. Russia and its scientists can exhibit justifiable pride in their achievements in space travel and there should be no nation who would want to detract from the Soviet triumph.

Indeed, forgetting the forbidding political overtones of the Russian feat, all mankind must take pride in the gigantic strides made by man within the last 60 years. It was only on December 17, 1903 that Orville Wright made the first successful flight in a heavier-than-air mechanically-propelled airplane at Kill Devil Hill, not far from Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Orville flew 120 feet in 12 seconds. That same day progress was also made as brother Wilbur Wright flew 852 feet in 59 seconds. Fifty years later Major Gagarin travelled approximately 55,000 miles at a height of between 110 and 180 miles in just over 89 minutes, not counting the time it took him to go up into space, re-enter the atmosphere and land, a mere 19 minutes.

Russia's triumph is even greater when one considers that, even in the 1920s, during the Soviet Union's first and second "five-year plans," the revolutionary nation was still hiring British and American engineers to help them build the first major Russian factories which filled the country with a stockpile of useless machinery. The people, only a few years out of a feudal state, hardly knew how to operate them after they were perfected. Yet today they lead the world in space progress. Whatever methods of attaining this goal Russia has used, no one can take away from the Russian people the fact that they accomplished it before any other nation.

With the Russian people able to hear and see, through the medium of radio and television, Major Gagarin as he hurtled through space, it is no wonder there has been unconfined joy and dancing in the streets throughout the Soviet Union. Since the Russian people are not known for being a particularly hysterical race, it makes one wonder what would have happened if the United States had succeeded in being the first to put a manned spaceship into orbit.

Quit coddling the juveniles

Anyone who has ever worked for a newspaper in its editorial department knows how right J. Edgar Hoover, head of the federal bureau of investigation, is when he says one of the best cures against juvenile crime is the glaring light of publicity.

This belief was repeated here Wednesday noon when Harry G. Maynor, head of the information agency of the FBI, spoke at a businessman's meeting.

In desiring frank publication of the names of juvenile wrongdoers the FBI runs counter to most general thinking — which the FBI calls, in its blunt way, pampering the wrongfully bent youngsters.

A fair share of the states (Idaho included) have laws which shield young lawbreakers from publicity. The public is barred from juvenile hearings. The files of many juvenile cases are closed to inspection. Reporters are barred from hearings.

But as we said to start this discourse, anyone who has worked for a newspaper recognizes that one of the major punishments for wrongdoing is the publicity attendant to it.

This is not alone true with respect to juvenile offenders, but for adults as well.

Every reporter has been asked, time and time again, to "keep this out of the paper". Every editor has had relatives arrested or convicted persons appeal to him to hold out the story of the arrest or the conviction. Sometimes the appeals are in the form of threats — threats of bodily harm or threats of legal actions to be taken — threats that the person making them knows he will never carry through or knows that they have no foundation in law to take.

The reason these appeals are made, of course, is that they don't want their neighbors and friends to know of the slip from the straight and narrow. That's a greater punishment, in many cases, than anonymously serving a prison term — and if it were not for publication prison terms could be served anonymously with ease.

Newspapers have long recognized this. They have also recognized, in the main, that there always are extenuating circumstances when juveniles are concerned.

Few newspapers want to publish minor juvenile law violations. Few ever use the names of young first offenders. For there's a difference between the youngster of 13 or 14 who filches a 25-cent item from the dime store the first time, and gets caught, and the persistent petty thief of 17 who makes it a general practice to go through the clothes in the swimming pool dressing room for loose coins.

The Idahoinian followed the policy of not publishing the names of young first offenders long before Idaho statute provided a cloak of anonymity around these cases. But the Idahoinian also has long followed the policy of publishing the names of older juveniles, who should know better, who are arrested on felony charges or who have shown themselves to be persistent offenders. It has followed these dual policies as measures to protect youngsters (in the first instance) who are intrinsically good youngsters but who have not mature judgment and who may have slipped once. And, in the second instance, its policy is judged in the best interests of the public good.

It believes it endorses the policy of the FBI chief and his subordinates in both instances.

— The Moscow, Idaho, Daily Idahonian

Atlanta example

When the Negro student sit-in movement first started, Florida's thoughtful Governor LeRoy Collins observed that department stores had a legal right — but no moral right — to bar from their lunch counters the Negroes they were so avidly wooing to their merchandise counters.

On successive days the Supreme Court and the city of Atlanta have separtely indicated that he was probably right on both counts. The court refused on Monday to review a sit-in case. Merchants and civic leaders in Atlanta agreed on Tuesday to end local sit-ins by letting expected decisions on school integration set the pattern for lunch counter operation in that city's stores.

It is reassuring that the community leaders of Atlanta, commercial capital of the South, have been able to set relations between the races on the mend without outside interference. The solution arrived at its particularly useful because it gives people time to adjust to an expected change.

Because so much is at stake in so influential a city, there probably will be new crises created by impatient extremists on both sides of the integration question. But this agreement to end the sit-ins peaceably puts some solid ground under the feet of both white and Negro moderates. It does so by proving that they can negotiate their differences over how to bring about change. And where negotiation gains support, violence loses.

— The Christian Science Monitor

U.S. can't afford to mix in anti-Castro plots

By DAVID ROWNTREE
Canadian Press Staff Writer

No matter how strongly the United States feels about Fidel Castro, it cannot afford to get mixed up in plots to overthrow his government.

Increasingly there is talk — and not just from the lunatic fringe — that the U.S. should give military and financial support to exiled Cuban groups planning to unseat Castro.

The success of Castro's own revolution against the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista is taken as a precedent because much of the money and arms for the 26th of July movement was collected in the U.S. from Castro sympathizers.

But it is hardly the same thing for individuals as for governments to support a revolution in a foreign country — and least of all in a way that comes to public attention.

Reports of a dispute in high places in President Kennedy's administration indicate that the state department is urging sensible restraint while officials of some other departments are in favor of giving arms to the exiles.

The charter of the Organization of American States specifically forbids such assistance.

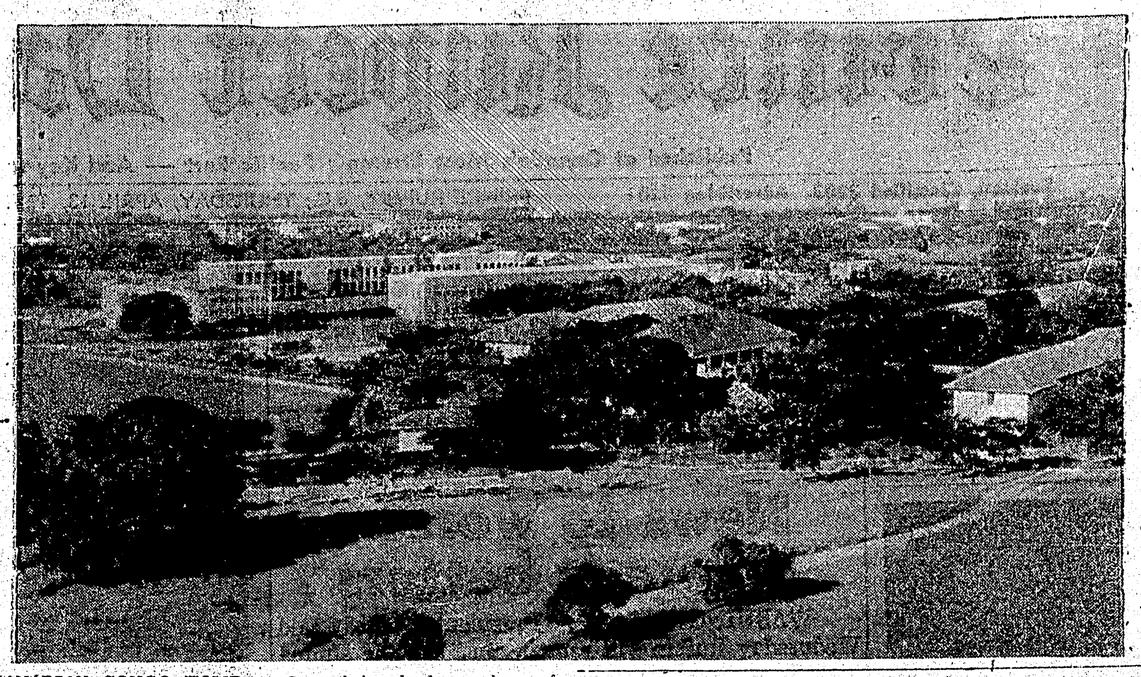
The legality of some activities by Cuban exiles in the U.S. is open to question. The justice department, said to be acting in the belief that the Neutrality Act was violated, obtained an indictment against Rolando Masferrer Rojas, one of Batista's chief lieutenants, for launching an invasion of Cuba from Florida.

One of the principal American charges against Castro is that he has made Cuba a Soviet satellite.

But in many Latin American eyes, a new Cuban government installed with active U.S. support would similarly be considered a puppet of Washington.

For this reason, the leader of the Cuban exiles, Dr. Jose Miro Cardona, is emphatic that the fate of Castro is in Cuban hands and must be decided within Cuba.

The U.S. which is still living down the use of a heavy hand in the removal of a Communist regime in Guatemala in 1954, can hardly complain of Castro exporting revolution throughout the Caribbean and Central America if it uses the same tactics against him.



CANADIAN CONGO HOME — Several hundred members of Canada's signal unit in Leopoldville live in the Internat, offices and dormitories attached to the Athenee Royal, a Belgian-built school now attended mostly by Congolese students. The Canadians may have to find new quarters next fall, however, because the Congolese government wants to use the Internat once again for students from outside the capital. The Internat offices are shown in foreground, almost hidden by the trees. One of the dormitories is at right. —CP Photo

All Aboard with G. E. Mortimore

There is a flowery smell when you open the top drawer of the desk. Old, sweet letters in there. No, it's just soap.

In fact the drawer contains a nest of household gear: razor shaving cream, toothbrush and tooth powder, shoeshine equipment, a spoon and (who knows why) one of those Jack Jarvis cards from Seattle, conferring membership in the "Since I Got Rich My Friends Seem Lots More Stupid" Association.

The lady visitor sits back in her chair and scans the desk and its contents with some amusement. "Do you live here?" she asks.

Well, what can you say? "Sure, I live here some of the time."

It's a surprise to see how much domestic stuff has collected. How did it all happen? One day you rush out of the house as fast as you can go, intent on making straight for town. Then you realize that you have forgotten to shave. Nothing for it but to buy a razor and shaving soap. Word gets around that you have a razor in the drawer.

After a while it becomes a sort of communal razor, often borrowed and put back by friends who have left home in a hurry or who—sometimes—have stayed out all night.

Why a toothbrush? Again, a hasty departure from the house, and a sudden rush of conscience about tooth decay. Nobody borrows this, at least.

There are similar reasons the other stuff is there, too. Is this collection of gear a symbol of disloyalty to your own house?

Well, it's foolish to jump to large psychological conclusions about these things. Numbers of men carry domestic stuff around with them. Some have razors in their cars. One well-known citizen used to have an electric razor plugged into his car, and often drove one-armed to work, while shaving.

And then there was Moriarity, who used to keep his toothbrush in a restaurant.

It takes only a few seconds for these thoughts to pass through your head. But the lady was asking you a question. What would be a good answer?

"Sure, I live anywhere," you say grandiloquently. "You know the old saying—home is where you hang your head."

But you just say that to yourself—not out loud. There is no use trying to be too smart.

Quote, unquote

Dr. Norman Ward, professor of economic and political science, University of Saskatchewan:

"I think I'm getting more good students than I used to get. But there isn't any improvement at the other end—the students who actually can't read or write properly."

✣ ✣ ✣

Prof. Ashley Montagu, Rutgers University:

"Marriage is not and should not be an interminable conversation.

"The man who comes home from work and sinks into a chair with his newspaper should not be misinterpreted as having tired of his wife. What he desires is to relax and rest in the presence of his wife."

✣ ✣ ✣

Time and Tide, London, Eng.:

"The American craze for British air hostesses is not based entirely on sentiment. Our girls tend to have shorter legs and smaller bosoms which makes it easier for them to move about in a crowded plane."

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

Copyright: Canada Wide

Nobody seems to be pointing out to science that it is leaving an awful lot of unfinished business. Here it is bamboozling not millions but billions of dollars annually out of the taxpayers to go haring off into wild attempts to put a man in orbit while it still hasn't found out how a small bird, weighing less than a cigarette, and less than half the size of a scientist's thumb, can brave the elements to travel from its birthplace in a grass nest on the tundra 500 miles north of Yellowknife, N.W.T., to Columbia on the far side of the Isthmus of Panama; and to return, in the next couple of weeks, an older and wiser bird by a matter of twenty weeks, from South America, all up through the Isthmus, all across Mexico, up through Texas, across the deserts and the Bad Lands, up through Idaho, across Saskatchewan, up into the Barren Lands, to a safe landing about 100 yards from the grass nest where it was born not quite 10 months before.

How magnificent is a man in orbit for a few minutes, hours or days, in contrast to the performance of that bird, one of countless millions? They have been doing it for centuries, aeons. They are doing it now.

Has science got an answer to the question: why don't they spend a couple of billion to understand how the bird does it?

Let science deal with first things first, and get off this Buck Rogers kick.

Young people are spending

From Le Nouvelliste of Three Rivers, Quebec

The young workers assert that they will be able to save only on the day when they are earning $50 or $60 a week, or more. But in reality, this is not the case, for those who have such wages are even more given to spending than the others. Furthermore, our young people are getting into the habit of being in debt. The higher the wages, the more their debts increase. And when they are married, they find themselves in the plight of so many others where married life is an existence of debts, of nothing saved for the future and of misery. This situation of our younger workers is characteristic of our society, but saving is the only means of assuring a life of happiness and good order. Today, credit has become so easy that, to make use of it appropriately and honestly, there is need of self-restraint and a careful appraisal of what is needed. The best method is to save some money and have a little nest-egg ready for the difficult times in life.

EDITOR'S NOTE—Signed articles and editorials credited to other newspapers do not necessarily reflect the views of The Daily News.

Expelling the laggards

From The Financial Post

Robert Warren, Calgary school superintendent, writes in Imperial Oil Review that failure in studies is, or used to be, a status symbol among boys and girls of his city. But other places, even in Scotland, the schoolboy grind has always been viewed with suspicion, as a sucker, by the anti-academic majority.

What's new in Warren's story is that he did something about it. Calgary schools expel or suspend high-IQ pupils who consistently fail in exams. They can be reinstated on appeal if the school board is convinced they are really doing the best they can or are "emotionally disturbed." But many of the dismissals stick.

According to Warren, this get-tough policy actually works. In eight years of it Calgary's school failure rate has fallen from 30% to 20% and academic success is now respectable among the young. Assuming the examinations remained at a consistently stiff level, this result certainly justifies the experiment.

Will Calgary's policy be adopted elsewhere? Seat-warmers in schoolrooms, especially if they are amiable and popular as they often are, can infect whole classes. But will anybody do anything about them?

With the classics

Gentle nymphs, be not refusing,
Love's neglect is time's abusing,
They and beauty are but lent you
Take the one and keep the other:
Love keeps fresh what age doth smother:
Beauty gone you will repent you. —William Browne.

A TOURIST attraction near the Rocky Mountain resort town of Banff, Alta., is the gondola lift up Sulphur Mountain. The gondolas, shown passing in the air during an eight-minute trip along 2,202 feet of rope track, are glass enclosed and seat four passengers. Below the gondolas is a panoramic view of Banff. Owner of the lift which started operation last year, now plans to build a revolving tea house on top of Sulphur Mountain, 7,486 feet above sea level. —CP Photo

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