Optimism is Hard to Keep When Viewing World Affairs

By R. E. SCRUGGS

At this writing, it definitely appears that the international situation in regard to the U.S.S.R. is taking a turn for the worse. The headlines and the general world news contained in today's newspapers seem alarming, to say the least. I am wondering if the press is assuming a correct attitude in regard to the international situation, the U.S.S.R., the Communist International, and the apparent failure of the United Nations. I wonder if Russia's apparent and declared "diplomatic war" against the United Nations and the United States is actually as serious as it is pictured by the press. I speculate on whether the bellicose attitude of U. N. delegates toward Russia and the represented dismal outlook should be taken at face value.

Although I constantly strive for optimism and attempt to find the faint silver lining in every cloud, no matter how dark it may be, I found little to be optimistic or even casual about while reading tonight's paper. It has been my policy to be for international cooperation between two spheres of influence. I have believed that no war with Russia, should a war possibly settle the outstanding differences between government theories, could reconcile governmental theories as effectively and as painlessly as tolerant understanding and cooperation (or at least non-interference) in peace.

We would not believe that the defeat of the United States in a great war could completely abolish that way of thinking which we call "democracy". The conqueror might attempt to destroy those beliefs in democracy by stifling them where possible, but democracy is more than a form of government; it is a form of thinking, a viewpoint, and beliefs cannot be changed by force except over an extremely long period of time.

With the above in mind, could we defeat Communism, could we completely obliterate Communism by conquering Russia? How do we go about causing people or nations to change their beliefs? We do this by allowing those beliefs to prove themselves incorrect and fallacious in the minds of their holders.

Were a third World War, through its bloodshed, privations, and disrupted economies accomplish a desirable end, there might be a plausible excuse for it. I see no end which would be accomplished by bringing Russia to her knees by war.

Enough of the philosophy, but now let us look at the developments as they are shaping up in actuality, whether they be sound or not. It rather definitely appears that the slightest indiscretion on the part of either side may fan the sparks sufficiently to set off the powder keg. At the present rate of development, and with animosity and short tempers on both sides of the Atlantic, a war might be easily the result before this month is out.

This last statement is a far cry from the word "optimism" I used at the beginning of this letter; I am startled by the contrast myself. Let us hope that the succeeding days and weeks will encourage optimistic thinking.

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Radio Workshop To Elect Tonight

The WTAW Workshop will hold its second meeting of the year this evening at 7 p. m. in Studio A, Administration Building.

According to Richard Gottlieb, chief announcer of WTAW, officers will be elected and parts assigned for the pay "Camille" by Dumas.

This play was presented in Paris in 1855 when Matilda Heron, an American actress, saw it. She made a translation and presented the play for the first time in the United States in Cincinnati, with herself in the leading role. The play will be presented over the air by The Workshop, on Friday, October 17, at 4 p. m.

In the first meeting of the Workshop held last Thursday evening, fourteen people turned out. Initial try-outs, with each person given a part in a trial play, were made and recorded.

"It's expected that we will receive a much larger attendance for this next meeting," Gottlieb stated.

DeMolay Chevalier Holders to Meet

Holders of the Degree of Chevalier in the Order of DeMolay will meet with Bob Polson in the reading room of the YMCA after yell practice tonight, October 9.

Plans for the annual Obligatory Observance will be discussed in this short meeting.

Polson requests any Chevaliers who will be unable to attend the meeting to see him in F-15, Walton Hall, before noon, October 14.

Both faculty and student Chevalier-holders are invited to the meeting.

Denton Club to Elect Officers Tonight

The Denton County A. & M. Club will hold its first meeting of the year in Room 308, Goodwin Hall at 7:30 p. m. tonight. Officers will be elected, and the new intramural sports program being offered to clubs will be discussed.

Young, Baylor, Archer Club to Meet Tonight

The Young, Baylor, and Archer County Club will meet this evening at 7:30 in Room 127, Academic Building. The purpose of this meeting will be to elect officers and make plans for the year.

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Electric Motor Is Installed in Wind Tunnel at Airport

Installation of a 1000-horse power electric motor has been completed recently in the college wind tunnel located at the Easterwood Airport, H. W. Barlow, dean of engineering, announced yesterday.

Wiring and the power lines for the motor will be installed by the end of the month, according to information received from the contractor, Barlow said.

The next step toward completion of the wind tunnel project will be the mounting of the propellor and the designing and construction of balances, which will measure the force of model planes used in the tunnel. Plans have been made for the construction of a settling chamber on the intake side of the tunnel to eliminate dust. Dean Barlow stated that construction will be completed and the tunnel in operation by the end of the year.

Work is being done under the direction of Professor R. M. Pinkerton, aerodynamicist, and Professor E. E. Brush, head of the department of aeronautical engineering.

Architects Elect Peery President

At the first meeting of the Architectural Society held Tuesday evening, Allison Peery was elected president for the current year.

Other officers elected include Donald Jarvis vice-president, and W. R. Matthews secretary-treasurer. Ray Morse was chosen departmental representative to the Student Engineering Council, the other senior representative to be appointed by Dept. Head Ernest Langford. Since Peery is society president, he is automatically a member of the council.

Glen Brooks is the department's senior editor for the A. & M. Engineer magazine, with William Irvin as the junior editor. J. M. Huddleston, co-editor of the Engineer, is the society's public relations officer.

According to Huddleston, the outlook for the society this year looks prosperous as well as progressive, especially with the possible estabilshment of a student AIA chapter.

144-Foot Hangar Erected at Field

A 144-foot steel hangar has been erected at Easterwood Airport, according to Dean of Engineering Howard W. Barlow.

It will house several offices and repair and maintenance shops and will provide space for spare parts storage, Dean Barlow stated. One half of the east side will house an engine testing laboratory for aeronautical engineering students.

The contract for paving the 104 x204 foot main floor will be let next week.

Great Britain's dominions—Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa—fly their own flags as well as the Union Jack.

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Rose Elected To Head Abilene Club

Earl G. Rose was elected president of the Abilene A. & M. Club at its first meeting of the year last Thursday, October 2.

Other officers elected to assist Rose were: Fred L. Hughes, vice-president; Guy B. Daniels, secretary; Boyd Rogers, reporter; and Don P. Campbell, social chairman.

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Theses, approved by the head of the student's major department, should be presented to the Dean of the Graduate School on or before January 5, 1948.

P. B. Pearson,
Dean of the Graduate School

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Cadet Lt. Colonel Cliff Harris, Corps Chaplain, will direct Morning Watch services every morning from 7:30 to 7:45 in Kiest Lounge. These services are non-denominational with devotionals being given by different boys each morning.

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