

French Movie Tales False

The wild tales about French movies are not true. So contends Bob Heaton, a junior economics major at Texas A&M who spent the summer working in Switzerland and visiting in northern Europe. "The French censors are tougher than the United States as far as movies are concerned,"

Heaton noted. "For certain movies, young people have to prove they are at least 16 years old. Sometimes the minimum age is 18. Take 'How to Murder Your Wife'. It was censored severely in France, but very little, if any, in America. Heaton was mildly surprised that it is acceptable for girls

to go out in groups of two or three to discotheques and movies. The 20-year-old Aggies worked as an office boy in Geneva for eight weeks. His employer was George Commas, an A&M former student who is now president of Esso Mediterranean. He worked with other international students, including a boy from Italy, an Algerian and a Swiss.

In his off hours, Heaton spent much of the time talking with people, visiting ski resorts and water skiing.

"I often played tennis with an Esso economist, Ali Khan, from India," he recalled. "He was a member of a beautiful tennis club. His wife was German and they had a Brazilian maid. Their three children amazed me. They spoke English to their father, French to their mother, and German to the maid because their previous maid was German."

"I speak only a smattering of French, but mixed it with sign language well enough to get along," he chuckled.

Heaton also watched Jim Clark roar to victory in the Grand Prix auto race at Clermont-Ferrand, France.

"Most of the people attending the race were blue-collar workers," he commented. "Europeans generally are worried about the high cost of living. There is an anti-American feeling although Americans spend lots of money in their country. The Swiss seem to feel that their cost of living has been forced up by the Americans."

"They resent the way Americans buy items in antique shops, for instance. Americans say 'I want that item,' without asking about the price. The Swiss usually are more concerned about price."

Heaton was irritated by the French although he loved Paris.

"They are indignant," he said. "They think nothing of breaking in line, even if it's just to get a soft drink. No courtesies were shown anywhere."

In direct contrast, the Tyler resident liked the friendliness of the English in London although he didn't care for the city.

Viet Commoners Differ On American War Effort

EDITOR'S NOTE — What do the common people in South Viet Nam think about the war? Do they support the government? What of the U.S. buildup in their country? Associated Press reporters interviewed Vietnamese in cities and the countryside in an effort to get a sample of what the people think.

SAIGON (AP) — "I like Americans because they are here to help us win our freedom," said a merchant in Saigon.

In the Mekong River Delta south of the capital, a peasant said: "I have never seen an American and don't know what they are doing in Viet Nam."

The comments reflect a bewildering divergence of opinion among the Vietnamese people over the war and its impact on their lives. There appears to be no such thing as a consensus.

Many Vietnamese say they have no opinion on the government's fight against the Viet Cong. They show little inclination to discuss the war. Others assert they do not understand what the fighting is about and say they know nothing about democracy or communism.

Most support for the government is voiced in the cities. This is especially true in the capital where the government's influence is greatest. The presence of U.S. troops in expanding numbers also seems better understood in the cities, where the Vietnamese come into daily contact with Americans.

In Saigon, however, some Vietnamese acknowledge that they have no great love for Americans or their ways.

"How can I like them when I cannot understand them?" asked a 53-year-old taxi driver. "But if they were not here, we would lose the war."

A teen-age waitress who speaks English and serves U.S. military men at an officers' club had another view.

"I am curious about the ways of Americans, and I enjoy talking

to them," she said. The picture changes radically out of the city. Some Vietnamese who have had little contact with Americans think of them in terms of the French, who once ruled Indochina.

"They both look alike to me," said a 38-year-old woman in a hamlet 35 miles south of Saigon. Less than 10 miles from the capital many Vietnamese tend to lose all identification with the government.

Several persons interviewed in rural areas believed Ngo Dinh Diem was still in power. He was slain nearly two years ago in a coup. Few had heard of South Viet Nam's present premier, Nguyen Cao Ky.

The overriding concerns of the people in the countryside appear to be for their safety and to provide enough money for their families. Little else seems to matter to them.

The most sophisticated opinions seemed to be held by persons in Saigon's upper classes. Many were certain that the government would win the war but at the same time they contended that the government was not stable and lacked support among the peasants. Some expressed strong nationalist sentiments and seemed sensitive about the U.S. military buildup.


"It is in the interest of the United States to safeguard our freedom," said a civil servant. "You are fighting to protect Southeast Asia from communism as well as South Viet Nam, but this is our country and this is our war."

A poet in Saigon said: "You Americans have good intentions but much of your aid never reaches the people. You can only win with the support of the masses and the Viet Cong have shown they are better at winning the masses than you are."

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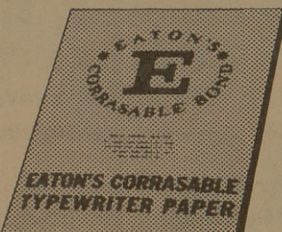
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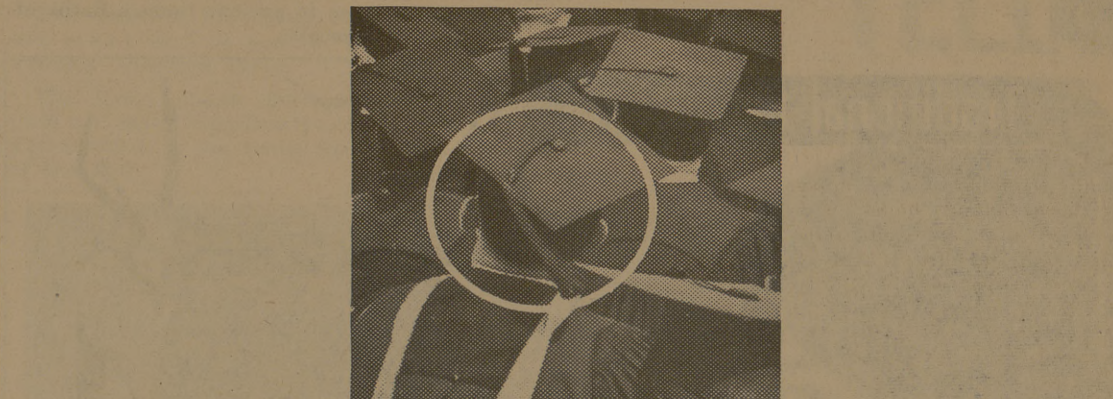


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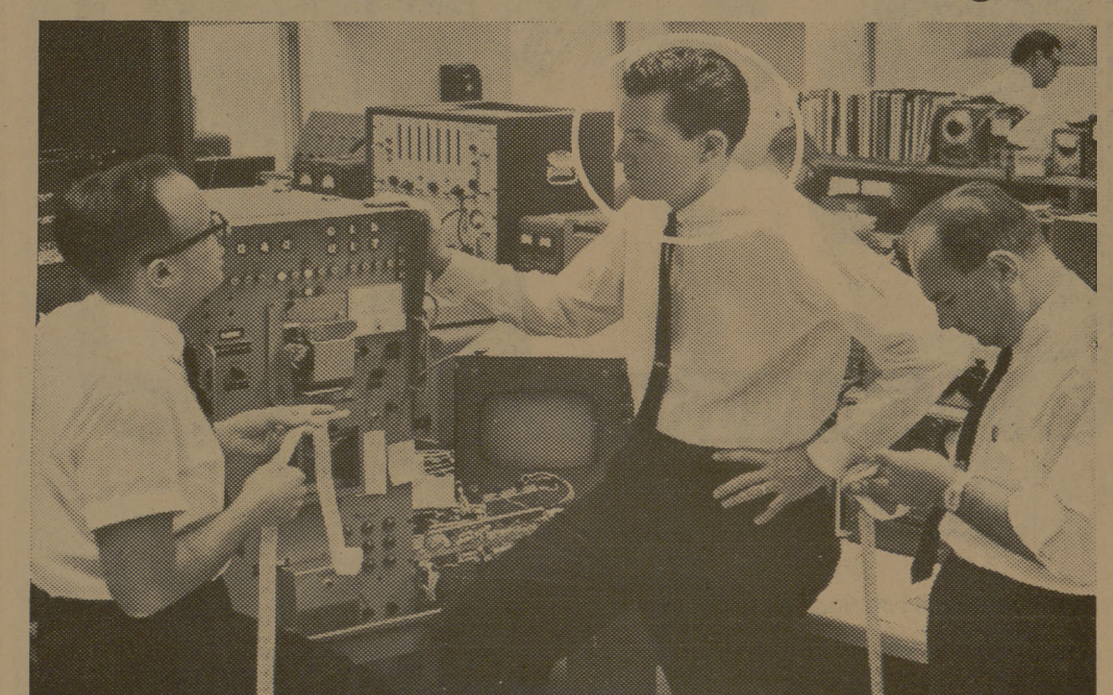
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