

Tomorrow Will Be Better, Tomorrow Will Be Richer, But Tomorrow Never Comes

Battalion Interview

Editor's note: The following exclusive interview with Russian native Dimitri Kudriocov was recorded this week on the A&M campus. Kudriocov visited here as the guest of Everett Lindstrom, an A&M student who met him on board a ship en route to South Africa this summer. Kudriocov escaped from Russia in 1946 and is currently a radio officer on a cargo ship. This marks the first of a projected series of Battalion interviews.

Q. How did you escape?

A. I only escaped because of the hostility between Germany and the Soviet Union during World War II. The war made it possible for millions to escape. But, unfortunately, after the war, it was harder and they treated recaptured Russians much worse than they did German prisoners of war. Since the war I have done my best to stay away from Russia.

Q. What do the Russian people believe about the Americans?

A. Russians think this is the only safe place left in the world to live, the guardian of the free world. America has everything, no shortage of anything. Russia has rockets but rockets without trousers and shoes aren't much use to the ordinary man in the street.

Q. What do you like best about America?

A. I like everything about it. There's no way to compare it with Russia. All life turns into a beggar for people in communist country, nothing to wear, nothing to eat. The only strength is military strength. If they had free elections like you have in America, communism wouldn't last 24 hours, and that's after 50 years in power.

Q. Has the standard of living improved since 1946 in Russia?

A. It's gone a little that way but it will never be improved in the full sense of the word as long as communism is in existence.

Q. Do you think Radio Free Europe gets through and that people believe it?

A. When communist propaganda says something in writing, the people believe it. They say, "Tomorrow will be better, tomorrow will be richer, but tomorrow never comes."

Q. Are the Moscow fashion shows significant?

A. Like a drop in the ocean, for propaganda and nothing else.

Q. Do people in Russia gamble when they listen to Radio Free Europe?

A. They would listen more but it is jammed as everybody knows. But sometimes it gets through just the same and I'm sure that everybody in Russia who gets a chance listens to it. It's the only information many people in Russia get about the outside world.

Q. Recently there have been demonstrations on American campuses about Vietnam. What do you think about this?

A. I think those who are in favor of sending blood to communists should get a free ticket to North Vietnam and see how they like living there. They'll find out.

Q. What do you think about our stand in Vietnam?

A. It has to be done. Appeasement won't do any good. The spreading of communism should be stopped before it's too late. If something had been done earlier, China, even Russia might not be communist today. Since those fateful days of 1917

they have kept themselves in power by sheer brutality and terror by day and night. Who wants to see this repeated somewhere else? Russia should serve as an example to everyone else. There is only one way to stop force and that is with another force which is adequate to deal with it.

Q. Do you think the communists resigned Khrushchev for any special reason?

A. That's the old story of dictatorships. They got rid of him because he might have started to red rid of them. That's nothing unusual. Those who think Khrushchev was good should remember that he was a communist and once you're a communist you must follow the whole truth. It's like two spiders in a glass jar, they will eat each other if they stay there too long.

Q. Do you think Russia and Red China will openly split?

A. There is real trouble between them. It's a relief for the Free World. Imagine what would happen if they were in perfect harmony.

Q. Are you saying that the Russian people are so anti-communist that they would help someone who they knew was fighting against the communists?

A. Ninety-nine percent of the Russians are anti-communist.

Q. Is there any chance of a revolution in Russia?

A. Under the present conditions of dictatorship, there's not the slightest possibility. Because of the terror of the government. One accused of treason not only suffers but his family suffers also.

Q. Do you think Russian women are as pretty as say, American women?

A. Women are the same all over the world if they have a chance. But if she has to build roads, how can she look pretty? Russian women have to work just like men.

Q. What about Bertrand Russell's statement, I'd rather be Red than dead?

A. I'd rather be dead than Red! Let Russell go to Russia to live and say that. He lives in England, which is as free as America. Living under communism is like being buried alive.

Q. What were the circumstances of your life in Russia?

A. I was one of those haunted by Soviet power because one of my relations had been arrested. There's not a single family in Russia which doesn't have a relative under persecution. I was one of a family which had been disloyal to Soviets. My father was arrested in 1938. When I went to the police station they told me they didn't know where he was. I got my chance later to escape and like many others I took it.

Q. What about food shortages and famines in Russia?

A. They've existed since the formation of the U.S.S.R. But Lenin was very intelligent. He formed a 'new economy' policy, similar to America's. Individuals were allowed to run their own farms and even some factories. Russia had plenty after World War I but the true nature of communism prevented further development. As soon as they introduced collectivism, everything went upside down. When the government decided to just discard agriculture, there was much starvation and people died like flies in many places, including the area where I lived. And yet there was music being played on loudspeakers and people saying over them: "We are living, we are happy, and tomorrow we will be even happier." I have never seen such hypocrisy. If any outside power had come in then, it would have been simple to get rid of the Soviets but it didn't happen. We had some hope that when Hitler came to power he would help us because Germany was a civilized nation but that hope proved false.

Q. What about the Berlin Wall?

A. That's a good demonstration of the American and communist system. Those supporting the Viet Cong should look at that wall. A lot of blood has been shed there.

Mortimer's Notes

FOR THE RECORD: The big question Corps members are asking today is who left the water sprinklers on all day before yesterday's scheduled practice review on the Main Drill Field. . . .

The field was soaked Tuesday, forcing the Corps to wade through a practice review that didn't end 'til dark. . . .

So New Army has taken another step. Cadets, standing ankle deep in the Main Swamp, had to practice their maneuvers with only moonlight and street lamps to guide them. . . .

Perhaps it is just practical training for Viet Nam. . . .

Counter-insurgency maybe. . . .

The Class of '69 gets to elect their first class officers next month. . . .

Filing for the various positions opens Nov. 22 and closes Nov. 30. . . .

The election is Dec. 9. . . .

Remember, the panel discussion on Corps-civilian relations is at 8 p.m. tonight in the MSC Ballroom. . . .

Rotten tomatoes will not be sold at the door. . . . See 'Ya Round.—Mortimer.

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"In athletics, when th' team loses it's called poor coaching—but in th' classroom when th' whole class flunks, it's called academic excellence!"

Open Forum

United States Education Lacks Student Stimulation

Editor's Note: Open Forum is intended to air outside views on controversial topics. Articles printed in this column do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Battalion. Today's article is written by Bob Carl of the University of Oregon.

A professor from England, teaching in the U. S. for the first time last year, was astounded when he faced his first class of American students and found that several were missing. A pretty coed finally solved the mystery by telling him, "It's Friday and a lot of kids like to go home — so they skip class."

The following Monday, again facing his abbreviated class, the professor expressed surprise. However, when someone told him, "A lot of kids aren't back from

Short Snorts

Agriculture Commissioner John C. White proposes strict enforcement of egg laws aimed at off-quality eggs from out-of-state.

Attorney General Carr filed suit for injunction and \$3,900 in penalties against O. J. McCullough of Houston for building a dam across the San Jacinto River near Conroe.

Biggest library construction program in Texas under matching funds provision of the Library Services and Construction Act (\$175,000) got underway at Brownwood November 4.

Bowie, Carson, Crosby, Ector, Garza, Hill, Jackson and Midland counties received distinguished service awards of Texas State Historical Survey Committee for interest in local history and marking landmarks.

Texas Highway Commission will initiate a study of the Highway Beautification Act bill to determine the manner in which its provisions may be effected.

Governor Connally has approved Neighborhood Youth Corps projects in Olton, Orange, Slaton and Paducah.

their long weekend yet," he accepted this.

On his way to the Wednesday class, the professor thought to himself, "At last I'll get to see all my students."

However, when he stared out at the empty seats, he asked, "Where is everyone today; where is everybody?" and a cooperative student in a back seat happily answered, "Today's Wednesday, the middle of the week. You don't expect us to study all the time, do you?"

So, the professor still wonders what is wrong with higher education in America.

And this, the \$64 question, remains unanswered — despite obvious signs of student dissatisfaction with their education.

Students come to the campuses of America's colleges and universities seeking excitement and stimulation in their new-found academic environment. And, almost without fail, and even in the outstanding centers of learning in the country, they find disappointment and disillusionment.

This is not to say that all students, or even most of them, are interested in learning for its own sake; however, those students who are find themselves frustrated by the system which dominates American higher education.

As one Berkeley student has

Dairy Science Gets \$200 Scholarships

The Department of Animal Science will award two \$200 scholarships to students in Dairy Science to be selected soon.

The scholarships are being provided by Mr. and Mrs. Shannon E. Carpenter of Lindale. Carpenter, a graduate of Texas A&M, is an area dairy specialist at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in Tyler.

The scholarships will be awarded to sophomores majoring in dairy production. The recipients must be native Texans, of good character and in need of financial aid. They will be chosen by the Dairy Science staff.

The University of Texas football team isn't the only Longhorn institution taking its lumps these days.

Bevo VII has finally fallen prey to old age and arthritis and has been replaced by another Longhorn steer.

Darrell Royal's long stranglehold on the Southwest Conference has been broken this year and the whispers from across the Red River are becoming a little more vocal than usual.

But the most recent University aggregation to fall upon rough times has been the Daily Texan, the student newspaper.

The Texan, long characterized by its give-the-administration-and-everybody-else-hell attitude, has finally been called on the carpet by the University Board of Regents.

But hopefully the Texan will get off the hook, much to the chagrin and obvious displeasure of the Board.

The Texan editors and the Board of Regents have never exactly been sweethearts. The paper has repeatedly specialized in pointing its influential finger at the Board when it believes that body is engaging in under-the-table activities.

The Texan has also singled out legislators and state officials for criticism, and even Texas alum Gov. John Connally has not been immune to their needle.

Connally was lambasted last year for refusing to award a construction contract for Texas Western University to an El Paso firm headed by a Republican.

The Texan has hinted on oc-

casions that Connally and the Regents have been in cahoots. They have also blasted the governor for his actions regarding some of his appointees or prospective appointees to the Board.

Evidently the governor and the Board-or both-got fed up with the Texan last spring when they attempted to muzzle its voice by stopping free circulation and exchange of the paper.

Prior to the Regents' action the Texan had been distributed to various groups, including state legislators, without charge.

Economy reasons were given as the motive for the decision but it was apparent that the Regents were simply fed up with the Texan spouting off against them and then distributing the criticism to prominent groups in Austin and to college campuses throughout the state.

The Regents went a step farther after an editorial in the Oct. 24 Texan implied dissatisfaction with American policy in Viet Nam.

The editorial, discussing the rumor that the Viet Cong were sending booty-trapped dolls to the United States via American servicemen, ended with this comment:

"They're not likely to achieve any more by killing off innocent 'G.I. Brats' in our country than American forces will by continuing to fire on villages of women and children in theirs."

That editorial did it, as far as some Regents were concerned. They immediately assembled a group of 12 metropolitan newspaper editors and asked it to study the responsibilities and goals of the Texan.

The editors met in Dallas Saturday and heard Regent Fred Erwin angrily charge that the University's administration was at fault for failing to adequately "supervise" the Texan's editorial content.

Erwin also claimed the Texan has always been dominated by a small clique. His main beef were over the Viet Nam editorial and another last March which reprinted a Texas Observer attack on State Sen. William T. (Bill) Moore of Bryan.

He reminded that the Texas Student Publications handbook forbids the presentation of but one side of an issue and also outlaws attacks of a personal nature in the Texan. He also claimed both editorials violated the spirit of TSP regulations.

Kaye Northcott, editor of the Texan, countered that she was out of town when both editorials were printed, throwing the blame to the faculty advisors.

Erwin's main premise was the faculty advisors are at fault for allowing the Texan to flaunt TSP policy.

At the very least the Board is attempting to pass the buck to a group of professional journalists so that they can take the heat off themselves. In that way if the editors say the Texan should be left alone the Regents can say that in affect the matter is out of their hands.

But the Board of Regents probably had in mind for the committee to say the Texan was derelict in its duty and should be more strictly controlled. But they forgot to use their head and consider one simple fact:

No newspaperman in his right mind is going to recommend a paper he censored or restricted in any way.

"Each of us is involved everyday in the fight for freedom of expression. We're certainly not going to have any part in censoring anything," said Houston Chronicle Editor Clayte Binion, speaking for the committee.

Speaking from recent experience, the most important advantage of working on a school paper is that the young journalist is given the opportunity to think for himself when he writes. Thus if he makes a mistake he gets burned but is a little wiser.

By Charles M. Schulz



THE BATTALION

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EDITOR GLENN DROMGOOLE
Managing Editor Gerald Garcia
Sports Editor Larry Jorden
News Editor Tommy DeFrank
Photographers Ham McQueen,
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Amusements Writer Lani Presswood