

Pole believes young lack enthusiasm

A Polish engineer injured at age 10 from the blast of a marauding Russian soldier's hand grenade believes most American youth lack enthusiasm for life.

Dr. George Jerzy Raczkowski was wounded 26 years ago when the Communists were "liberating" Eastern Europe.

His mother was killed in the grenade blast.

Raczkowski joined the A&M

engineering faculty this semester as an associate professor in the Engineering Graphics Department.

The former Politechnika Gdanska engineering professor came to America in 1966 to visit a friend—his roommate at the Polish university—in Kenosha, Wis.

He was later granted a permanent visa as an immigrant to the U. S. and will apply for U. S. citizenship in October, 1972, when the prerequisite five years U. S. residence is completed.

Raczkowski has paid a high price for freedom. His wife and six-year-old daughter are still being kept hostage by the Polish regime.

"I hope they will be able to join me here when I become an American citizen," the 36-year-old engineer says fervently.

"I would never go back," Raczkowski declared. "I know the Communist system and I'm learn-

ing the American way. If it came to that, I would rather be poor and hungry here than there."

An enthusiastic individual who admits he is rapidly becoming Americanized, George earned the M.S. in engineering and doctor of technical sciences at the Danzig Polytechnic Institute.

He came to the U. S. after two years with a Gdynia-Elblag firm and eight years teaching at Politechnika Gdanska. He taught three years at the Milwaukee School of Engineering and two years at California State College in Fullerton.

Raczkowski teaches engineering graphics and a mechanical engineering course at A&M.

From a somewhat detached viewpoint that is being modified by his deep and now vested interest in the American way of life, Raczkowski made a few observations, based on his experiences in Poland, Wisconsin, California and Texas.

"I think young people need more enthusiasm," the slender, brown-haired engineer said. "Some have it, but too many are too concerned with niceties and luxuries."

"Texas has a spirit, an enthusiasm that's not found in California," Raczkowski evaluated.

He feels there is a definite lack of concern in American society for "the strength of the nation, both militarily and technologically."

"Russia has the equipment and spirit because the people are different. They have been in a long period of oppression and can be controlled," he pointed out.

"Americans shouldn't worry about Russia, but be extremely aware of him and don't give him an inch. They are very persistent," Raczkowski said.

Russia has its problems and world losses too, the former Polish Academy of Science student claimed, citing the Cuban missile crisis and Vietnam, among others.

"Russia has gained nothing in Vietnam," the prof stated. "They've sacrificed their own people by the hundreds of thousands and invested a lot of money and material."

The same applies in China, Raczkowski added. "The Soviets are very determined in their objective of world domination, but they have their problems too."

"What really worries me is the well-being of society and the non-responsible attitudes of people," he said.

Raczkowski says if he could he would change a few things, such

as the "clogged-up judicial system which is too liberal, too much waste and a too-formal student-professor relationship."

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Biochemist says El Paso water contains sedative

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—A University of Texas biochemist has reported that the drinking water in El Paso, Tex., contains enough of a chemical element, lithium, to give residents a cheerful, tranquil outlook on life. An expert on lithium says he doubts it.

Dr. Earl B. Dawson of Texas said lithium is used by doctors as therapy in treating mental illness at institutions throughout the country.

Dawson told a meeting of the American Medical Association's Western Hemisphere Nutrition Congress here Tuesday he found a "mathematically proven" relationship between lithium levels and mental hospital admissions in dozens of Texas cities.

In El Paso, he said, lithium levels are among the highest in Texas because "they have deep supply wells. They hardly have any admissions at all. It claims people in El Paso, makes them more cheerful and gives them a more tranquil attitude toward life. As a result, they're less apt to have a psychogenic episode

that would require mental hospital admission."

Dallas, on the other hand, has low lithium levels because it obtains drinking water from surface supplies and "Dallas has about seven times the admission to state hospitals as the people from El Paso."

Dr. Frederick Goodwin, principal investigator for lithium studies at the National Institute of Mental Health, disagreed Wednesday: "It is unlikely that lithium has these magical properties in a population," he said.

Goodwin, asked to comment, said lithium is used only in the treatment of mania and depression, a very limited area of mental illness, perhaps less than 1 per cent of the general population. In some illness, such as schizophrenia, lithium could make the patient worse, he said.

While high levels of lithium conceivably could result in fewer cases of manic-depression coming to light, Goodwin continued, it remains unlikely there could be a measurable effect in a total population.

Nader accuses federal government of bungling automobile investigation

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ralph Nader made public Wednesday a list of automobile brake failures, window explosions, engine dislocations and fires and accused the federal government of bungling and burying its investigations of the problems.

Nader's list of 13 problems covering scores of domestic and imported models produced from 1967 was taken mostly from government files of investigations closed or shelved because officials did not consider the defects to be safety-related or widespread.

The list was contained in a letter to Douglas Toms, director of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). An agency spokesman said Toms is on vacation and NHTSA had no immediate comment.

"The number of cars potentially affected by the specific design defects listed in this letter is well into the millions," said Nader. "For example, there are perhaps four million Chevrolets on the roads today with potentially dangerous motor mounts. And at least as many General Motors cars are equipped with power-assisted brakes that may fail without notice."

Nader accused the NHTSA of ending in 1968 its test for compliance with collapsible steering assembly requirements and listed 24 cases where the assembly had failed to collapse in a collision. The cases covered 20 models of cars produced since 1968, and were known to the agency, he said.

Nader listed a series of complaints of the NHTSA citing failures of the standard drum brakes on a wide range of Chrysler Corp. models since 1967 and called the cases an apparent violation of federal standards.

He said he has received 12 letters recently describing cases where the tempered side windows of 1970 and 1971 cars from all four American producers had splintered into dangerous shards, not only in collisions but while cars were moving along highways or parked. He said he agency had received several other complaints.

Nader said that in all the problems he cited, the complaints filed with him and with NHTSA appeared to be only a glimpse of a general defect which would be uncovered by further investigation.

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