

Editorial Comment:

Depends on the Yardstick

A group of governors from the United States who visited in Russia the past summer recently told Norman Cousins, editor of Saturday Review, that conditions they had found there were far better than they had expected. They expressed surprise at evidence of progress in "construction, transportation, production, distribution and living standards in general."

Another American, who has been identified as an enthusiastic Soviet supporter, during his first visit to that country gave restrained answers to questions fired at him by Cousins concerning his impressions of the Soviet.

Two reactions from two different sources—one of reserve from an advocate of the country and its ways and one of surprise from politicians who were measuring preconceptions against visible achievement.

"This disparity in judgment is the result not so much of a lack of objective standards as it is of the profusion of subjective yardsticks being applied," Cousins said.

The editor then comments that Marxist Utopians expected the Soviet Union after 40 years would have been able to fashion an equalitarian society. "Instead they found considerable inequality. The total society is not without its distinctions in status."

Looking at Soviet conditions from the viewpoint of the conservative politicians, the governors expected to "find a people struggling for bare subsistence, worshipping in secret, and waiting only for the opening or signal that would cause them to revolt against their oppressors."

But that is not what they found.

This all points out that the situation in the Soviet Union is not as glorious as diehard supporters might observe at a dis-

tance but it also is not as dismal as Americans have come to believe. How situations look in Russia depends on whose scale their standards are being measured. We cannot be the judges of good or bad standards for any people merely on the basis that in some way their standards differ from ours.

"Measured by most European standards, the living conditions (in the Soviet) are not too far out of line. Measured by Asian or African standards, however, the living conditions and economic achievements are solidly impressive," he points out.

It is not a question, then, of who has the better conditions. But rather it is a question of what is happening and what will continue to happen in the next few years if the living standards of Russia go on at their present pace. On this subject Cousins says:

"Here, we face the bulging fact that the Soviet government is embarking on a high-production program that will raise the average standard of living in from seven to nine years. Soviet leaders believe that in a decade they can come before the world and point to the superiority of their system by doing better than the United States those things that the United States has always believed it was uniquely qualified to do."

This is, in a sense, a challenge to the United States. It would mean that the Soviet Union will measure its progress by our yardstick.

"At the same time, we can make clear that we intend to measure the worth of our society not just by our standard of living but by our ability to contribute to the cause of a durable peace, to the cause of the fullest possible development of the world's resources for the world's good and to the cause of sane society among men."

Kosmet Klub and the Mystics

As one small columnist has commented, jitters time for juniors seems to be coming early this year, and with it the usual tales of mystic intrigue.

For the freshmen who haven't heard the tale yet, this is rather how it goes:

On Ivy Day (always a Saturday, always after Spring Day—usually a rainy day) the 13 red-hooded Innocents tackle their thirteen successors. Mortar Board, which may be composed of from five to 25 members (12 this year) mask the juniors who will carry on this tradition.

Before this fateful day on which the ambitions of some activity jocks are forever dashed on the cold cement of the coliseum floor, tales spin across the campus of how to become a mystic—i.e. what organizations one must belong to, and who must be backing. Last year the rumor was that in the Innocents selections, the more politically minded of our two

banned fraternities convinced the less-politically minded group that if they would work together (not combine, just co-operate), they could effectively control all campus organizations—presumably in order that they could completely control the composition of Innocents.

This year the rumor is Kosmet Klub—i.e., in order to wear the hood one must be a mover in the entertainment business. Present Innocent membership reveals six Kosmet Klubbers—nearly half of the total. The 1958 group had four (one-third). In 1957, the Rag listing showed only one member.

This small sampling may show one of two things. Either influence of Kosmet Klub membership on tackling is growing, or this year's high ratio of membership was an accidental occurrence, and KK membership is not (as one junior recently mused) a requisite for mystic consideration.

M. E. Speaking

By Carroll Kraus

Back from vacation, another edition of the paper published—and, boom, again come violent screams of staffers of "Where's my story?" or if it was published, "How come not on front page?"

Although most of us let the comments slide past (we've been taught by old Rag editors and journalism professors to have tough skins) we can't ignore them completely and still feel justified that we are performing a service to the students.

Therewith comes the problem of the campus newspaper—or most any paper, for that matter—of serving as an organ for legitimate, timely news happenings of general concern or as a public announcement form for publicity releases.

Not that this publicity isn't worthy of coverage since the success of many activities depends largely on the number of students who turn out for whatever they have planned.

Thus some news stories are relegated to other than the front page in favor of some campus activity that is publicized much in excess of its actual value.

And in a university community especially, and with the setup of distribution that this paper must use, often the word has to be printed several times to get around.

Publicity chairmen of various activi-

ties have to realize that the front page of the paper is only so big. And, really, fourth page isn't just a place for "junk" news.

If it is, then a great deal of effort has been expended for naught.

Further, there are mechanical problems connected with publishing a paper, believe it or not. A page is seven columns wide and 21½ inches deep. We must have ads to keep in the dollars (even the Reader's Digest has 'em) and they take up space, too.

So the staff takes the various releases, writes them up in a fashion that conforms to our journalistic style, puts on headlines and has them set in cold, hard type.

Type is made of lead and won't squeeze. So if there's a three-inch "hole" on back page, we'll try to find a story that will fit, that's worthy of publication and that must go into that issue or be "dead."

And for people who do want stories in the Rag, we'd appreciate it if you'd type out the releases you bring in. That way we'd have an easier time re-writing them and feel less like throwing them in the general file.

Another thing that publicity agents might think about is a thing they call establishing rapport. It's kind of nice to see a person willing to support his organization by explaining why his news is important rather than face the scribbles of a too-busy activity general who'd rather write out his info during a class on a 5 by 7 sheet of paper. And, yes, they usually want those "black-type" articles, too.



Kraus

By George!

By George Moyer

When Nebraska beat down a desperation barrage by Colorado's Gale Weidner in the closing seconds to win over the Buffs, 14-12. I thought, "That's it: 5-5. Nebraska can't miss winding up 5-5. They'll beat Kansas State."



Moyer

Then for the fifth time in the last seven years Kansas State triumphed.

It disappointed me. It disappointed a lot of people. It left the evil feeling hanging in the air that Nebraska had been gyped out of something rightfully theirs.

In the Columns This feeling begin to pop up in the columns of some of the state's sports writers. In most of them it was vague and unexpressed—more was implied than said.

Of course, the grand old man of Nebraska sports, Gregg McBride, said his piece, as always, in no uncertain terms. Wally Provost, World Herald sports editor, took a lefthanded dig at hired teams, referring to the days when home-state talent made the Huskers great. Even the Rag's own Hal Brown beat his usual careful tack around that controversial bush and then had to take a poetic tongue lashing from an outraged reader.

But the real reason for all this to-do was the loss to Kansas State. If the Huskers had taken that one, I venture to say the state would be stifled with pundit's plaudits patting Bill Jennings on the back for a job well done.

Back in 1955, Bill Glassford's team finished 5-5, the last Nebraska squad to do so. But that year, the Huskers lost to Hawaii which occasioned such a hue and cry that the hounds not only treed Glassford, but ran him right out of the top-most branches.

Inferiority Complex The reason is obvious. Nebraskans are stuck with an inferiority complex. They run down their state and its opportunities constantly in the presence of others, then expect the University's football team to get them off the hook.

Like little children, they are thwarted when this doesn't happen immediately, the day they demand it.

Or they square their shoulders, wipe the tears of frustration from their eyes, and say (sometimes in poems yet) that we will just have to spend more money buying Bill Cannons, Bobby Boyds, Dale Hackbarts and the like.

To both these types, football is no longer a game. It is a fetish the triumph of which will destroy all the inferiorities, real or imagined, they ascribe to the state and to themselves.

Craziest Team The glory and pride of the University football team is its station as a representative of the school. There is a satisfaction to be gained

