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Optimist Gets Too Much Credit; Grouch Not Enough

BY HAL BOYLE
NEW YORK (AP) — The optimist gets too much credit in this world — and the grouch doesn't get enough.
When the going gets really rough, who wants a companion the fellow who always chirps, "There's a bright side to everything." He's downright depressing. Give me the guy who insists no cloud ever had a silver lining. He's more fun to be with in a long haul.
Nobody really trusts a man who has a smile that won't rub off, no matter how bad his troubles. You begin to feel that he just doesn't have common sense. He is like a punch-drunk fighter jumping up and down in a brain-fog saying, "Look, Ma, he didn't hurt me."
It is foolish to praise these pseudo-optimists who greet every disaster with a cheery, "Well, everything happens for the best." They are actually not optimists at all. They are stupid fatalists warring a death's-head grin.
Far better is the man who refuses to take everything in stride.



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It is the true-blue grouch who provides the saving touch of sanity in our time of woes. He gives us a sense of perspective in our most dismal moments.
To the true-blue grouch nothing ever can be right. God, Nature and the hand of man are ever raised against him and those with him. The entire universe is in a gigantic and endless conspiracy to defeat him and his buddies.
Such chronic grippers serve a wholesome purpose. In an Army outfit often the most popular soldier is "the artful complainer." He is sure that everything is absolutely wrong — the food, the ammunition, the officers, the com-

Taft Proposes Law Amendments

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Taft (R-O) proposed Monday a series of changes in the Taft-Hartley labor law which he was reported to have discussed briefly with President Eisenhower.
Taft said at the capital he was offering five bills, to make a total of about 15 changes in the law, adding that he does not believe any of the proposals are particularly controversial.
Among other things, his proposals would extend the anti-Communist oath requirement to employers, as well as employees; permit replaced strikers to vote in union representation elections; increase the Labor Relations Board membership from five to seven members; and permit union contracts in advance of actual work in the building trades industry.
Taft, the Senate majority leader, said his amendments "do not cover the whole field" of possible amendment of the law. He said he might propose other changes later.

ACTRESS ROBBED
BEVERLY HILLS (AP) — Actress Arlene Judge reported to police that her home was ransacked yesterday by five robbers, a girl, and that they took diamonds and jewelry she valued at \$10,000.
"But I talked them out of taking \$30,000 worth of furs and a \$6,000 sapphire ring," Miss Judge told officers.

bat mission, and the scoundrel in the rear zone who is holding up his mail so he can open it and read it himself.

If a cloud even shadows the horizon, he announces dolefully, "When it rains, it pours." His favorite phrase is a gloomy, "I knew this would happen."
The artful complainer is a safety valve. He is the articulate spokesman of the self-pity everyone secretly feels. There is a majestic poetry in the way in which he grumbles the smallest molehill into a big mountain of injustice.
His boot strap snaps, and he holds it aloft, muttering disgustedly:

"That's the Army for you. They expect a man to win a war with a broken boot strap."
The troops break out in a belly laugh. The artful complainer has done something for them: no every-ready optimist ever could — given them a comic insight into their own self-pity. They know that, bad as their plight is, it couldn't be as bad as the chronic gripper describes it.
In civilian life the true-blue grouch plays the same healthy role. His vast sense of personal injury over trifles lets us laugh at ourselves. His acid attitude is a needed tonic against the hyper-

Scottsburg Sailor On Formosa Patrol

FAR EAST (FHTNC) — Serving aboard the Fleet Oiler USS Passumpsic, engaged at a replenishment unit for the Formosa Straits patrol, is William G. Borst, seaman, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Borst of Scottsburg, Ore.

Magnuson Will Press Alaska Statehood Plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Magnuson (D-Wash.) said Friday supporters of statehood for Alaska will try for congressional action simultaneously with consideration of any Republican move to admit Hawaii to the union.
"There are many of us," he told a newsman, "who feels that Alaska is just as well qualified for statehood as Hawaii. Any Republican effort to get statehood for Hawaii and not Alaska will be met by an effort on our part to tack the Alaskan legislation to the bill as an amendment."

Chinese Would Send Her Troops

SAIGON, Indochina (AP) — Official French sources claimed Tuesday that Red China has promised to send troops to support Indochina's Communist-led Vietminh rebels if French union forces appear near victory in the long civil war.
The sources said details of an agreement signed by Moscow-trained Ho Chi Minh, leader of the Vietminh, with Red China and Russia were disclosed by Pham Le Bong, identified as a former high officer with Ho's rebels. Pham recently came over to the side of Bao Dai, chief of state of French-supported Vietnam.
The French said Pham told them that the pact provided:

Red China would furnish the Vietminh with technical instruction, equipment, transport, armaments and industrial equipment to start their own war industries. The French have said previously that the rebels have been receiving such aid from the Chinese Reds for some months.

East German Purge Including Diplomats

BERLIN (AP) — The East German Communist purge was reported Tuesday sweeping through the entire foreign ministry including the diplomatic corps assigned to Moscow and the satellites.
West Berlin political circles heard from sources in the Soviet sector that Anton Ackermann, successor to the imprisoned Foreign Minister Georg Dertinger, has ordered a complete shakeup.
Principal targets of the purge were said to be those representatives who were endorsed by Dertinger for their assignments.

Republic Of Korea To Honor Van Fleet

SEOUL (AP) — The Republic of Korea will present a silver tea pot to the retiring U. S. Eighth Army commander, Gen. James A. Van Fleet.
The tea pot is inscribed in Korean with Van Fleet's name and the words: "Friend, Defender, Brother in Arms."
Van Fleet yesterday received Korea's highest decoration, the Medal of National Service.

'Life Begins At 40' Author Dies At Age 74

PALO ALTO, CALIF. (AP) — Walter B. Pitkin, author of the best-selling "Life Begins at Forty," died from a heart attack Sunday in a hospital here. He was 74.
He had been an editor, teacher and author throughout a vigorous life. His "Life Begins at Forty" was so popular the title phrase became a part of the language.

Wed., Jan. 28, 1953 — The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore. 1

Youth Admits He Burned School

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) — A 19-year old youth, who was an eighth grader at the time, has admitted setting a \$50,000 fire that destroyed an elementary school here in 1948. Police Chief Harry W. Strock said Monday.
He identified the youth as James E. Mainella, now of Portland, Ore., and said he had submitted an essay to his eighth grade teacher on "How to Start a Fire" a few days before the blaze razed his school.
Strock said Mainella has long been a suspect and admitted the arson in oral statements to two Richland officers.
The local police questioned him after reading newspaper accounts of his arrest at Portland Jan. 17 in connection with a burglary and a \$14,000 fire.

British Say Grounded Air Fleet Soon Ready

LONDON (AP) — The British Overseas Airways Corporation says its grounded fleet of 10 stratojets will be flying again in a few days.
BOAC announced American aircraft experts, flown here to inspect the liners' Pratt and Whitney engines, had determined faulty lubrication caused the 15 engine failures which resulted in grounding of the planes Jan. 22.

WORK HALTED

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. (AP) — Construction work on an addition to the gaseous diffusion atomic plant here came to a halt last night following Monday's walkout of some 300 AFL operating engineers. The project employs about 3,000 workers.

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