

Duck Tracks

By Phil Johnson

A cold war is not restricted to military moves and diplomatic developments. It extends into every fiber of a nation's social structure.

The Soviet Union has developed the art of the Cold War to a fine point. Every Russian composer, every poet, every novelist, actor, architect, train conductor, doctor, garbage collector, and athlete has one major purpose in the Kremlin's design for conquest.

Russia has applied for admission to the 1952 Olympic Games scheduled for Helsinki, Finland.

Undoubtedly, the Russians hope to win a great victory in those Olympic contests. Then their already-overworked propagandists could assert that the peoples of Communist "workers' paradises" are superior to the "decadent capitalists" of America and Western Europe.

Of course, the United States, on the basis of past performances, should take another easy victory in the 1952 Olympics. However, there is a good chance that the Russians will take title honors if they are admitted.

The Soviets now wish to open a new offensive on the athletic front.

There are several reasons for this unfortunate possibility. First, the limited budget of the United States Olympic Association will be strained by the burden of travel costs all of the way to Helsinki.

It is unlikely, therefore, that American athletes will compete in all of the minor events. Such events as the basketball throw or the women's shot put are not very popular in the United States and are not regularly practiced in this country.

There are dozens and dozens of insignificant events, but all of them count in the final team scoring tabulations. Russia might run wild in this department. It is well known that the Soviet Union has large numbers of unglamorous but heavy females who can jump over hurdles or toss a discus.

American women, with the exception of those who participate in the water events, have never performed with any notable success in the Olympic Games.

Another handicap facing the United States is the rule that Olympic athletes must be amateurs. This rule mainly affects our nation because many of our outstanding athletes are professionals. In foreign countries, athletes are almost always subsidized. This means, in effect, that they "play for pay."

However, they are listed as amateurs. Consequently, international contests frequently feature the best athletes of European nations against America's second-best or third-best, the first line being listed as professionals.

This is ridiculous. In several Asiatic nations, the standard of living is so low that an athlete receiving free food and lodging is richer than an American "professional" who draws \$5000 per year.

The two handicaps listed above would be enough to defeat any nation other than the United States before the Olympic Games begin.

Nevertheless, America's Olympic Association has added additional obstructions to the path of United States athletic success. It was decided that no track and field performer could represent the United States in the Olympics unless he placed in the American tryouts held before the ship sailed with our representatives.

If an athlete had a "bad day," caused by sickness or temporary psychological difficulties, he failed to qualify. His record for the entire year was ignored. A brilliant hurdler could set a new world's record and then break his own mark ten times, but if he tripped and fell in the Olympic tryouts, the United States would be represented by a second-rate hurdler in the big games.

Fortunately, our second-raters are superior to Europe's champions in many track and field events. In the 1948 Olympics at London, the United States took first place in the total team score.



Old Joe Task Farce '52, Comrades, Com-Rats, too. ing division with 662 points. Runner-up Sweden scored 353.

Hungary concentrated upon the minor events and picked up 201½ points for fourth place, which demonstrates how far a totalitarian nation can go when it organizes effectively.

The Soviet Union should be able to wage a bitter fight for first place in the 1952 Olympics. If they enter enough minor events, and if enough American track stars have "off days" in the Olympic tryouts, Russia will win the 1952 games.

That would mean quite a propaganda victory for the Commies. Of course, under the circumstances, the triumph would be meaningless, but sports fans have a habit of looking at the final scores and ignoring the circumstances.

America never really wins in these international contests. If our athletes take several triumphs, Europeans complain (as they did in 1948) that the Americans are better fed. If we lose, they loudly crow that Americans are spoiled by luxurious living, and they expound the virtues of regimentation.

The latest farce was the 1951 American Games in Argentina last March. The United States could afford to send only 125 athletes. They ran wild in the important events—discus, sprints, etc.

Argentina entered over 500, took many firsts, seconds, and thirds in insignificant events, and "won" the team championship with 1071½ points. The Americans placed second with 734½. If Argentina can do that, what will the Russians do?

Anyone knows that Argentina is not athletically superior to its North American neighbor. It might be noted that the State of California scored more points than any foreign nation in the 1948 Olympics—and all of the Golden State's outstanding athletes were not represented.

There is no point in jumping up and down, waving a flag, and proclaiming that American athletes are better than any others. If every foreign dictator thinks that his boys (or "comrades") are better, let no one derail his train of "thought."

However, we must remember that every American defeat in an international event adds to the flames of the Soviet propaganda bonfire respecting "capitalistic decadence."

Every time that a few hockey players band together, call themselves the United State's official team, enter world competition, and lose badly, our nation surrenders a few inches of ground in the Cold War.

When we take two teams, Phillips Oilers and the Kentucky Wildcats (as we did in 1948), choose a "United States" team from their ranks, and send the quintet against the best that a foreign nation can offer, we are asking a ridiculous defeat. Such farces are welcomed by Stalin's eager propagandists.

Deadline Nears For Ticket Sales

Deadline for ticket reservations for the joint Matrix-Table-Gridiron Banquet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Student Union is Friday. Reservations may be made in the journalism school office.

Invitations have been sent for the banquet. Only limited tickets are available.

The banquet is jointly sponsored by Theta Sigma Phi and Sigma Delta Chi, women's and men's journalism fraternities.

IVCF Selects Lidtke President

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship has selected Vernon Lidtke, junior in history, as president for the coming year.

Other new officers include Anna Marie Blickenstaff, sophomore in music, vice-president; Shirley Shupe, freshman in English, secretary; Ray Steed, sophomore in Liberal Arts, treasurer; Jim Kehoe, junior in business, program chairman; Barbara Freeman, junior in architecture and allied arts, devotional chairman; Roseda Adkins, junior in Liberal Arts, publicity chairman; Dorothy Govig, sophomore in music, publication chairman; and Pat Pickett, freshman in Liberal Arts, missions chairman.

The Rev. Mr. Robert Nicholas from the Westminster Orthodox Presbyterian Church of Bend, discussed "The Right Basis" during the regular weekly session Tuesday. Marjorie and Dorothy Carlson presented a chorus medley on the cello and piano. A report of the Silver Creek Retreat attended by 15 University students last weekend was given by Ruby Page.

The Rev. Mr. Arthur Van De Zande of Junction City will address the group at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Student Union. Any interested student may attend the weekly gatherings.

S. F. Ad Man Will Speak

Roy Bradt, Pacific Coast retail manager of the Bureau of Advertising, from San Francisco, will speak to the advertising copywriting class at 11 a.m. Tuesday in 105 Journalism.

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