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Space Shot

By all odds, the best television program of the week was Friday morning's early, early show, broadcast live from Cape Canaveral.

It had everything but sex, and who wants sex on TV anyway?

It had drama, suspense, excitement, stretches of boredom which only heightened the thrill and the pride when the big rocket blasted off successfully, and when Navy Cmdr. Alan Shepard Jr. was fished from the Atlantic by a helicopter a quarter-hour later.

Even the fact that one couldn't see the last part, but could only hear the excited reports of the reporter on board the aircraft carrier in the target area, seemed to heighten the effect.

SO WE did it.

America sighed a huge, collective sigh of relief, and walked a little prouder and straighter to know that American science, technology and courage had licked the problems of spatial blast-off and re-entry.

It was a time for pride and pleasure. But it was also a time for some sober background thoughts about our relative position in the race for space, not only about our positive achievement.

ONE of the reasons the suspense was so great as we watched television the other morning was the knowledge that many of our space shots have gone awry; that Commander Shepard was, indeed, taking a chance; and that the slightest mis-cue could have killed this courageous man, right in the view of millions.

Another was the knowledge that, great as the feat was, this downrange flight of a few hundred miles, at a speed of some 4,500 miles per hour, isn't in the same class with the flight of the Russian cosmonaut, around the globe at speeds of some 17,000 miles per hour.

And still another was that, no matter how much money, effort and sweat is put into America's space program, the chances against our "catching up" within the next several years are pretty slim.

BUT let these sobering second-thoughts remain in the background, and let our pride of the moment mingle with a determination that this shall not be the last of American accomplishments in this vital field of the future.

While Russia, our competitor in this race, has more brute power for lifting space craft, and thus a tremendous initial advantage, American technology has created far more sophisticated instrumentation, and the fact that Commander Shepard had a small degree of control over his vehicle is also of some significance.

Many things will be required of the American people if this great achievement is not to go down in history as an also-ran.

IT WILL require money—vast sums of it.

It will require educational excellence, for Commander Shepard's courage and training actually were only one tiny fraction of the basic research, the practical application of scientific theory, the technical know-how to fit the million different factors together, which made the flight possible.

It will require patriotic and dedicated work—hard work.

And most of all it will require the support of the American people, determined that a nation of free men shall not be outstripped in the race to the new frontier of space by men whose life is pledged to a philosophy of slavery, repression, and the denial of the worth of the individual human being.—E.A.

Ecology

Our desk dictionary defines the word "ecology" thus:

"Biology dealing with the mutual relations between organisms and their environment."

The word is a relatively new one, and not too widely known. But we're going to hear more about it in the future, for mankind is an "organism," and his relationship to his environment is complex, deteriorating, and potentially appalling, if not actually dangerous to the survival of the race of man as we know it.

HERE are a few paragraphs by Robert C. Cook, writing in the Population Bulletin, and reprinted by the Washington (D.C.) Post:

Consider four basic factors in the ecological complex: space, air, water and people. Air and water have always been considered "free," and the great open spaces inviolable. The multiplication of people is already changing this, and for the worse. Space, air and water will become priceless should the population of this country double to 360 million, as expected, in only 40 years.

The air is becoming increasingly polluted with waste which, in smog-infested areas, eats holes in nylon stockings, makes the eyes smart, increases respiratory illnesses and may even cause cancer.

Man has shown the most reckless disregard for ecology in his misuse of water resources. When Lewis and Clark took off from St. Louis to explore the Northwest territories, the water of the Missouri river could be drunk neat, without fear of infection. A recent public health report . . . implies that to wash one's hands in the Missouri is dangerous; to be dunked in this devil's brew of topsoil, sewage and industrial wastes could be fatal.

Will mankind learn to treat his environment as a vital, living and conservable and preservable home? Or will he continue to treat it as an expendable, unlimited resource, to be exploited until it's all gone and eroded mankind withers in a sea of asphalt, breathing dirt and drinking sewage?

The choice is ours. And it is now.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



"WE BALLET DANCERS LIKE TO ROSE STANDING ON OUR TIPPI-TOES!"

"LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!"

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

(c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

By STEWART ALSOP

Joseph Alsop is on a brief vacation. During his absence his brother Stewart will write the Alsop column.

KHRUSHCHEV REALLY MEANS IT

Washington — The rather special circumstance of a brother's demanding a couple of weeks of column-writing as a wedding present is hardly likely to be repeated. So this is doubtless the last column under the above byline that will ever appear in this space.

This reporter therefore feels a bit like a dying man who wants to be remembered for his famous last words, but can't think of any.

The best I can do is: KHRUSHCHEV REALLY MEANS WHAT HE SAYS.

The British could never quite bring themselves to believe that Hitler really meant the crazy things he said in "Mein Kampf." But Hitler did mean them, because he was crazy too.

Nikita Khrushchev is not crazy. Unlike Hitler, he has no irrational impulse to play Samson in the temple. But it is important to realize that Khrushchev and those around him are rational within the limits imposed by the essentially irrational doctrine of Marxism-Leninism. This doctrine makes it possible for Khrushchev, like the White Queen, to "believe six impossible things before breakfast," as when he remarked, in Mr. Walter Lippmann's fascinating interview with him, that he considered President Kennedy merely an agent of the Rockefeller interests.

NO DOUBT Khrushchev really believes this. More important, there is no doubt at all that he really believes that what his idol Lenin called "the cause of creating a worldwide Soviet republic" is just to triumph, and rather soon now. Indeed, in recent months he has been predicting that triumph ever more confidently than ever before.

He has been quite explicit, moreover, about how the triumph is to be achieved. He announced gloatingly more than a year ago that "the world balance of power has now turned sharply in favor of the Socialist countries." In his dispute with the Chinese Communists, he has ruled out the use of this power in a global nuclear war in order to insure the triumph of the "world-wide Soviet republic." But, he says, "we shall make the imperialists jump like fishes in a saucer, even without war."

By "imperialists" he means us, and in Southeast Asia, Cuba, and elsewhere, we have indeed been jumping like fishes in a saucer. More over, Khrushchev has also been quite explicit about what he means by "without war." He means without the kind of war which might destroy the Soviet Union. Other wars are dandy. "We support wholeheartedly and without reservation all national liberation wars," he said a few weeks ago.

THIS is the kind of war Khrushchev and the Chinese and Indo-Chinese Communists have been promoting in Southeast Asia. It is wholly predictable that there will be more such wars, not only because Khrushchev means what he says, but because he must prove to the Chinese that he is, as a Communist, more royalist than the king.

Once you assume that Khrushchev means what he says,

certain things become clear. One is that the cold war will go on, perhaps for generations. When the Kennedy administration took office, there were those in the Kennedy inner circle who talked hopelessly of negotiating a "package deal," which would include arms control and a mutual agreement to "call off the cold war." These hopes have now, of course, turned to ashes.

The reason they have turned to ashes is simple. To ask the Communist leaders to forbear to thrust for Communist power in any area they deem vulnerable is to ask them to cease to be Communists. This is from their point of view non-negotiable. The alternative is an agreement by our side not to respond to Communist thrusts, and to await meekly the destruction of our system. From our point of view, this also is surely non-negotiable.

AS in the Korean truce or the first Berlin blockade, it is possible to negotiate with the Soviets temporary accommodations which reflect the current realities of power. Unfortunately, the current realities of power are suggested by the fact that, if President Kennedy had intervened in either Cuba or Laos — let alone both — he would have had to commit just about the entire pathetic corporal's guard of conventional forces at his disposal. It is not surprising that Khrushchev was not much frightened by the President's bold words about Laos.

Kennedy's first job is thus to right the real power balance. If the job is done, there is no reason to despair, despite the recent disasters. For the other side has grave weaknesses which are less visible than ours, and the President, although he has blundered badly, is still capable of offering the leadership the West so desperately needs.

But the job will be expensive and painful, and it will not be done unless we recognize that when Khrushchev predicts that our system will be destroyed by his, he means just that. If all this seems a bit obvious and unsavory, so are most last words.

In-Service Institute Stated at University

Eugene—An In-Service Institute for high school mathematics teachers will be held by the University of Oregon's mathematics department during 1961-62. It will be financed by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

The Institute will be conducted through a series of evening seminars with members of the mathematics department lecturing. Those on the staff will include Dr. A. F. Moursund, head of the mathematics department; Dr. Ivan M. Niven, professor; Dr. Kenneth S. Ghent, associate professor; and Dr. Donald R. Truax, assistant professor.

This is the fourth such institute conducted by the Oregon mathematics department. The grant will include funds for payment of fees and travel for 30 high school teachers who live within a 125 mile radius of Eugene.

Free World Leads in Production Capacity

New York —(UPI)—As of 1959, the five leading steel-producing nations in the free world had a combined capacity to produce 1,113 pounds of steel per person.

Their counterparts in the Communist bloc had a combined steelmaking capacity to produce only 180 pounds per person, according to the American Iron & Steel Institute.

Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

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THE REAPPRAISAL

Even with a cease-fire in Laos, our prospects in Indo-China are bleak. The best we can hope for now is that Prince Souvanna Phouma, whose fall we engineered, will return to power, presiding over a quasi-neutralist government.

This government will be more heavily mortgaged to the Communists than was his first government. In Laos, the State Department gambled and lost on the policy that a pro-American government based on the American military presence could be pushed right up against Communist China and Communist Vietnam.

In South Vietnam, which adjoins Laos, the government which we brought into power and which we support, is in great peril. It still holds the cities but it has all but lost control of the countryside to the Communist guerrillas. Why is our friend and client, Ngo Dinh Diem, losing this civil war? Mr. Stewart Alsop, writing on Wednesday, has supplied the answer. Citing Mao Tse-tung on guerrilla warfare, Mr. Alsop points out that guerrillas must have support from within the country. The great majority must be convinced that the guerrillas will win. But first of all, the guerrillas must have popular support within the country.

Now the truth is, as so many correspondents have reported, that our man is extremely unpopular. His government being both reactionary and corrupt, it follows that if we are going to build up a resistance to the Communists, we cannot do it by dropping in our paratroopers and expecting them to win a guerrilla war. We shall have first of all to reform drastically the Vietnamese government which we support. For unless we can support a popular government, we are certain to lose in Vietnam.

WITH variations, conditions in Laos and South Vietnam exist elsewhere, and unless this situation can be explained to our people, the President faces a series of inglorious and unpopular rear-guard actions. Here he can find the first answer to the famous question in his inaugural address of what we can do for our country. What we can do for our country is first of all to give up being too proud to go through that truly agonizing reappraisal which is needed so that we can see the realities.

This country has never yet had a leader who has dared to explain candidly the consequences of the change in the world balance of power since the Soviet Union broke the American nuclear monopoly in 1949.

Until about the middle 'fifties, until the Soviet Union began to develop missiles to carry nuclear weapons, our military pre-eminence was still so great that we were able with impunity to encircle the Soviet Union with military bases extending from Japan and South Korea through Southeast and South

Asia to the Middle East. We were strong enough to order the Red Army out of northern Iran, which is on the Soviet frontier. We were able to thwart the blockade of West Berlin by an airlift. These things were possible because we had military supremacy.

WHEN the Soviet Union became a nuclear power, when our supremacy was reduced to parity, the wiser men of the West, those with long memories and long experience and long heads, realized that military outposts could not be maintained on the frontiers of the Communist world. Just as Cuba is not now, and will never be allowed to become, a Soviet military outpost, so in reverse for peripheral positions like Laos, South Vietnam, Quemoy and Matsu, and some others.

The change in the world balance of power demanded a change in our policy. It demanded that we scrap the policy of American satellite states and promote instead a policy of neutralism for the weak and vulnerable peripheral states. That is the best, indeed that is the only, hope of their not being engulfed by Communism. In some measure, the Kennedy administration has recognized this truth—for example in accepting the idea of neutral Laos.

But the President has never explained it to the country, and therefore he has no reliable public opinion on which to lean. Furthermore, there are strong bureaucratic interests in the State Department, the C. I. A., and the Pentagon which are as opposed to a change of policy by President Kennedy as were the French generals in Algeria to a change by Gen. de Gaulle.

UNTIL the country understands that the basic conception of our policy has to be changed, Mr. Kennedy will be a harried man. He will have a series of crisis in which he has to be on the defensive and always trying to see how little he can lose. Moreover, the energies of the country and his energies will be dispersed, and the attention of the country and his attention will be distracted from the great tasks.

In Asia the great task is to consolidate the key countries which are India, Pakistan, and Japan.

In Latin America the future will be determined in the key countries—not in Cuba but in Brazil, the Argentine, Chile, Venezuela, and Mexico.

In the Middle East the future depends not on the northern military alliance, which is mere paper, but on the capacity of the key countries: Egypt, Iraq, Turkey, and Iran, to adapt their policies to the realities of the strategic position.

The whole future, whether it is to be war or peace, depends on the consolidation of the Atlantic Alliance, and upon the rise within it of new, fresh, military and political leadership.

THERE is a lot to be done and the fate of mankind does not depend upon what happened in the Bay of Pigs. It would be a good thing if this could be realized by those whom H. G. Wells once described as the "Gawdsakers," that is to say, those who are running about and wringing

POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

This, friends, is National Frozen Food Week, National Music Week and Goodwill Week.

It is also Be Kind to Animals Week, National Rascal Week, National Hospital Week, and Christian Family Week.

All of these objectives are, we suppose, admirable. But we wonder, always, just what good most of them do.

All of which gives point to a story (corrected before it got into print) about the Jackson county budget committee hearings, in which "Week control" was under consideration. Typewriting mistake or not, we're in favor of it. As long as it doesn't cost any taxpayer's money, of course.

The Communications editor, whose desk we sometimes share, has a number of pet peeves.

Among them are unsigned letters, letters without return addresses, letters too long to fit the space limits, single-spaced letters, badly-written letters, and various other lesser ones.

One of his pettest of pet peeves, however, is the letter which has a line down below which says: "I hope you have the courage to print this. (If you do, please don't use my name.)"

News item submitted by the Ne-Wa-Kan-Tanda group of Camp Fire Girls: "We went on a hike on a Saturday. . . . We took along a well-balanced sack lunch."

There was a fire downtown the other day, and we had a reporter and photographer in attendance, who, as instructed, conducted themselves in a manner designed to be as helpful as possible.

Others in attendance included a well-behaved crowd of spectators, and a large crew of radio and television reporters, who were swarming all over the place, lugging equipment around, and generally whooping things up. A friend of ours watched the scene, then went home to hear an excited voice over the radio report on how the firemen were "hampered in their work by the crowds."

"Huh," our friend snorted to us the next day. "The only ones that were doing any hampering were those radio and TV guys."

Only one person, so far as is known, reacted to an editorial on this page the other day entitled "Down With Parking Meters!" He reacted thus:

A parking meter is a Machiavellian joke. You put money in to save our collective skin

ing their hands over the Cuban mess and crying, "For Gawd's sake, let's do something." They need to cool off.

They might ponder the wisest remark which was uttered during the debates about Cuba—that Castro is a thorn in our flesh, but he is not a dagger in our hearts. Having gotten things in perspective again, the country could turn its attention to those regions of the globe where great and inspiring things are waiting to be done.

And keep the town from going broke. So let's lift the cup till we taste the dregs. And cheer the days now so long passed by. Catch the fleet feet of memory's boast. When the price of time cost less than a dime. At our fair village's hitching post.

There is a bare possibility that no reaction at all would be better than that one. Sooooo. . . . The rest of the column will be by courtesy of our contemporaries, the Portland Reporter, the Salem Capital Journal, and the Klamath Falls Herald and News, respectively.

There was a political philosopher, Uncle Zeke, who was interviewed by a newsmen on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

"I suppose you've seen a lot of changes in our town in your time," the reporter said. "Yep, I shore have," the impeccably Republican Uncle Zeke replied. "And I've been agin every damn one of 'em."

Our Horrible Pun for Today is a fish story. Of sorts. It seems that it is fellow was out fishing for carp when his billfold fell out of his pocket. As he leaned over in an attempt to grab it, he saw a fish rise up under the billfold and flip it with its nose to another fish, which flipped it on to another, etc., and so on. It was the first recorded instance of carp-to-carp waltzing.

Newsroom telephone conversation: "Hello, is this the reporter?"

"This is one of the reporters."

"Well, I want the reporter who writes the articles for the paper."

"This is the reporter who writes news for the paper."

"Are you the reporter who puts in all those articles?"

"I am one of them. What can I do for you?"

"Well, I want to put an article in the paper. Have you got paper and pencil ready?"

"Yes, I'm all ready."

"Well, here it is. Take it down just as I give it to you. Mrs. J. H. Whuzziz and her charming daughter Euphrasia