

More Trained Military Manpower Needed Despite Atomic Developments

ASSISTANT Secretary of Defense Carter to Burgess says it would be a mistake to call the new military reserve program...

On top of this, Defense Secretary Wilson announced yesterday that the armed forces will be reduced by the amount of 400,000, down to 2,815,000, by June, 1956.

UMT proposals have had a dismal history. Former Presidents Roosevelt and Truman urged legislation setting up UMT. So did the House Select Committee on National Military Policy...

UMT was sidetracked in favor of Selective Service in 1948, and no congressional action was taken on UMT in 1949. After the Korean War broke out...

In 1951 Congress did pass, and the President signed, a law setting up UMT procedure. All able-bodied men between 18 1/2 and 28 were to be liable for two years of service...

It seems clear that so long as we are forced to employ the draft, because of actual combat requirements, we cannot at the same time establish any form of training for our young men.

The Korean War—the chief obstacle to UMT because of its demands for draftees—was ended and so another commission looked into military manpower...

Wanted: An Antibiotic For The Slum

CHARLOTTE City Council should waste no time in acting on the City-County Planning Commission's request for early consideration of proposed urban redevelopment legislation.

There is a genuine need for an effective urban redevelopment program in Charlotte as a part of the Queen City's overall plan for a better tomorrow.

Urging a revival of the movement in Charlotte, Vice Chairman W. W. Hanks of the City-County Planning Commission

Britain's Intellectuals Still View America With Alarm

By REGINALD REYNOLDS In The American Scholar

WHAT WITH BILL Graham having been riled here in England and with H-bomb just around the corner, there's not a Henry Doble in this country who can forget America for long.

Even the New Yorker is now assumed to be sufficiently familiar to the visitor's wife (not to mention the dental deficients in the waiting rooms of the welfare

state) for Punch to have risked a heavy satire on its American contemporary.

Add to this, McCarthy as a front page sensation and the un-falling celluloid of Hollywood—and you have the whole garb in one acid drop.

If you are looking for tones and reflections, of course, there are enough to confuse the most avid intellectual. Somewhere in the

thirties, Beaverbrook's Evening Standard discovered Damon Runyon, who is still widely read. Saroyan came to town about the same time. Thurston has an English press, and E. B. White, a late starter, may yet catch up with him.

Not only have some American humorists, since the time of Mark

Twin, been the best social critics in America, but they have been the best humorists in the English language. The two facts are connected, and the reading public here may dimly realize it.

Outside the theatre, real creative writing is becoming rare. Those who strained after originality in the thirties have succumbed to literary hysteria and now earn a base living as critics. Even reviewing can be a lively—fact of mind.

The characteristic peevishness of our literary criticism is naturally to be found in most reviews of American books. Though it is complicated by a mixture of fear, jealousy and complete lack of understanding, the solution is frequently to be found in a pedantic form of amiable patronage...

FOR INSTANCE In a search of an illustration I had had to pick up the May, 1954, number of the London Magazine, edited by John Lehmann. Three American novels are reviewed in one article by Francis Wyndham. Most of the article reads like an end-term school report, a pedantic and halfhearted old schoolman on the work of children in their early teens.

However, it's Saroyan who receives the full blast of the old critical malice. Just listen to this from the school report. William seems, has perpetrated his "latest perversion of a technique he has learned to organize, while making a series of short sentences, portentously casual, pretends to disguise a sentimentality at the same time archly and almost indifferently."

My brief is not to defend American writers from the criticism that would be as pretentious as the patronage or defamation handed out by our highbrow books. Criticism—as my own article doubtless illustrates—always tells the reader at least as much about the critic as about the writer.



1954, The Register and Tribune Syndicate

"Who needs you... my father can get it wholesale..."

Horrified Admiration Behind The Bamboo Curtain

By JOSEPH ALSOP

FOR AN SAIGON, Indochina the Bamboo Curtain area is far harder to pass than the Iron Curtain of Europe.

COMPLACENT BOAST When the late Gen. A. Lachner took command in Indochina with the complacent boast that he would destroy the Viet Minh in a few months, French troops entered the plain of Camau and established 13 fortified posts.

But there was never a moment when the Viet Minh did not run throughout the region. And as time went on, the Committee of the South, from its mobile palm hut capital in the Camau plain, came to rule other large regions...

Here, after all, was a huge region with a population of close to three million with no local war resources except its rice production, with no hope of serious outside aid, situated at the southern extremity of Indochina as far as possible from the main Communist base in the north.

But they had a political asset too. This delta of the Mekong had French drilled it, and divided it into great landed estates. The

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THE question of exchanging Chinese students for Americans has been discussed several times in the headlines. The amazing fact is that the State Department sent nine Chinese students back to China even after the U. S. army were convicted of trumped-up spy charges.

Insider facts is that the United States is dickering, not merely for release of 11 prisoners, but for a larger group of American hostages—including 28 civilians in jail, 11 others not in jail but unable to leave China, and three priests under house arrest.

present in their palm huts had always lived in bitter poverty and without hope and the Communists have given them the land.

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Meanwhile the 35 Chinese specialists are not held under arrest, as is the case with most of the Red-head Americans, but are free to where they please within the U. S. A.

People's Platform

Please keep letters brief, and give name and address. Names will be withheld. The News reserves the right to condense.

It's More Like 2,300 Years Since Alexander

ALEXANDER THE NEWS: I EDITS days ago I foolishly stuck my neck out and advised you of an error in How's book on Alexander the Great...

Quote, Unquote

A dollar is a sum of money which, when you buy something worth one, you find it takes two of — Stewart-Webster (G.S.) Journal.

U. S. Gesture Of Good Faith Failed

U. S. gesture of good faith toward the Chinese specialists is not held under arrest, as is the case with most of the Red-head Americans, but are free to where they please within the U. S. A.

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