

EDITORIALS

A Solution?

For the past few years now literally thousands of airline passengers have found their lives in serious danger as radicals, revolutionaries and a varied assortment of mental cases have hijacked the planes in which they were traveling.

Various methods have been tried to curb the skyjacking, as they have come to be known, but none have accomplished very much and the overall situation grows steadily worse. We have to ask ourselves the inevitable question: where will it all end? The answer is very obvious. The end will come—or more appropriately, the solution will be found—when a plane carrying several dozen passengers is skyjacked to Cuba, and goes plummeting instead into the ocean with all lost on board. As is usually the case, unfortunately, there will be no concrete solution until a plane-load of innocent passengers lose their lives. And it is one of the major miracles of our time how such a disaster has been averted so long. It is bound to happen and it will happen unless skyjacking halts soon.

The majority of skyjackings occurring these days are for profit. The planes are taken over by fanatics with plans to get rich fast by either demanding fabulous sums from the airlines or government, using the innocent passengers as pawns, or hostages, in their plots.

During the 1920's and early 1930's kidnapping was a very common crime in the United States. It took a major tragedy to curb it. In 1932, the kidnapping and tragic murder of the son of American aviation hero Charles A. Lindbergh brought about the so-called Lindbergh Law, which made kidnapping a Federal crime, punishable by life imprisonment. This law was amended in 1934 to make conspiracy to commit kidnapping likewise a Federal crime. The law, in effect, took the profit out of kidnapping. Up until that point, kidnapers were able to profit by their crime. However, the Lindbergh Law brought the F.B.I. into cases of kidnapping or conspiracy to commit kidnapping and such public attention was focused on the crime that very few kidnappings made the crime simply too costly for the risks involved of being caught. Thus, kidnapping in the United States dropped considerably.

There appears to be a solution, at least a possible solution, to the skyjacking problem, but one that few legislators in this country today have the courage to suggest. Capital punishment in the past several years has become extremely unpopular in certain quarters, and remains so in spite of the fact that the people of California last November 7 voted to return capital punishment to their state. We are not advocates of capital punishment, unless it serves the purpose for which it was intended. Any punishment, whether capital or imprisonment, is for the specific purpose of curbing some type of crime. In all but one specific instance, we are against capital punishment and would suggest as an alternative life imprisonment WITH NO CHANCE FOR PAROLE for all crimes which have or could call for the death sentence. This includes murder, treason, peddling heroin, etc. However, finding nothing else practical in curbing skyjacking, we find capital punishment a solution—perhaps not THE solution but a solution.

We would suggest that legislation be enacted immediately to make capital punishment mandatory in cases of skyjacking or attempted skyjacking. We say mandatory because the United States Supreme Court recently outlawed the death sentence as a punishment for all crimes which do not specifically make it the mandatory sentence.

We believe that if a man is out to make a fast buck by skyjacking an airliner full of passengers he can do so as a hostager, he will think twice if he knows that if he is caught and convicted, he will automatically forfeit his life. And quite obviously, a prosecuting attorney would have little difficulty in getting a conviction in such a case, the evidence being, among other things, the eyewitness accounts of a plane-full of passengers.

As we said, there is no THE solution but a solution. And, admittedly, it is a harsh solution. But it seems that skyjacking has reached a point where harsh solutions might be the only solutions. And to further the effectiveness of such a solution, we would suggest immediate steps be taken to bring about some type of international agreement to which all nations adopt similar laws and agree to returning skyjacking to the nation in which the crime was committed so that the defendant can stand trial and face the consequences of his act. After all, skyjacking is an international problem, affecting all nations of the world. As long as people of all nations of the world travel by air, the problem will be worldwide in scope. — Michael J. Blair

A Good Film . . .

Go, by all means, to see *The Emigrants*, a Swedish-made movie about the pre-Civil War migration from rural Scandinavia to Minnesota. Those who do — or those who already have — may wish to join me in lamenting that once again foreign film makers are doing us a service in portraying the great historical pageant of America with our own cinemogul churn out the likes of *Shaft*, *Superfly* and *Blacula*.

Six months ago, when Public Television showed the excellent eight-part serialization of James Fenimore Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans*, describing the exploits of New York French and Indian War adventures of Hawkeye, Chingachgook, and the family of Scots Colonel Munro, the films were produced in Britain and shot on location in Scotland. Now we have *New Sweden* on the Mississippi brought to us through the good offices of Stockholm. It's downright embarrassing.

Actually, it's exciting that you might think for European producers to film the sagas of their ex-nationals in the New World. By and large, European emigrants — be they Scots or Swedes — sought our familiar commerce, culture and landscapes. The Scots often headed for upcountry hills and dales, the Swedes for Northern lakes and harbors, and the Germans (as you can still hear mentioned enthusiastically from Pennsylvania to Minnesota) for the best rolling farmland.

The *Emigrants* chronicles the mid-19th Century outpouring from Smoaland and other central Swedish provinces to the upper Midwest of the United States. Two years ago I visited Chicago County, Minnesota, the place where the movie's emigrants wind up. Although better land can be had farther south, it's easy to see how the transplanted Swedes zeroed in on the country around the Chicago lakes. They might as well be back in the lake district of Smoaland.

Today, along the main streets of Chicago City, Center City and Lindstrom, there is little obvious evidence of Swedish culture save for store window names like Johnson and Anderson and a Swedish bakery that beats the local Taster Freeze by a country mile. But there is an old redbrick Swedish Lutheran church on a peninsula sticking out into one of the lakes that makes one look for a roadmarker giving the kilometers to Jonkopping or Stockholm.

While Minnesota is the generally recognized center of Swedish America, there are other large concentrations in and around Worcester, Mass., Brooklyn, N.Y., Jamestown, N.Y., and nearby areas of Pennsylvania; Rockford, Ill.; western Wisconsin; north-eastern Iowa; and the Pacific Northwest, especially San Francisco and Puget Sound. Other Swedes spread to less ancestral climes; there are small concentrations of Swedish-Americans in Nebraska, Kansas, and even in Texas.

At the risk of over-projecting one of my own ethnic fascinations, public interest in this sort of historic Americana seems to be growing. Here in suburban Maryland, a lot of kids were queued up outside our local theatre for a Sunday afternoon showing of *The Emigrants*.

This, I suppose, accounts for my anger that the American media are not getting into our ethnic heritage. Dozens of congressmen are racing to express "ethnic awareness" by introducing bills to aid this or that blood or muscular disease, but serious cultural attention (apart from musty academic tomes and liberal arts articles lamenting lost Democratic votes) is basically lacking.

Only a few weeks ago a Swedish television representative called me for my reactionary assessment of George McGovern's political circumstances, and, once those were disposed of, we turned to the subject of Swedish-Americans. Last year, it seems, Swedish television had done a program on where the emigrants are today, and I was surprised to hear that even in Worcester, Mass., a sizable number of the older people interviewed were still able to understand Swedish and speak it, albeit haltingly.

Why is it that our American media can't produce more of these programs? Our national Bicentennial is just four years away. How long must we wait? — Kevin P. Phillips in Human Events

PHAVE-IT: We think Thee, our Father, for this new day, We resolve it with joy and by Thy help determine to make it a good day. In the name of HIM who taught us to say when we pray, "Our Father who art in heaven. . . Amen."

Like Now

by Terry Oakes



"Enjoy yourself while you're in school, they're the best years of your life." Over the past few years, I have been offered this bit of advice by many different people. After having spent two and a half months in college, I have come to a more complete understanding of this favorite cliché of the adult generation. And no truer words were ever spoken! Aside from the obvious advantages of attending college—achieving a higher education and the benefits that go with this—college life is a unique experience and a most enjoyable one. In college, one is afforded the opportunity of meeting hundreds of people his own age from as many different places. One becomes aware that there is more to the world than his family and his own little circle of friends. He learns to be considerate of others and respect their attitudes and ideas. He learns to accept other people as they are because he has been accepted for what he is. All this happens matter-of-factly because when one is living with about fifty others on a floor in a dorm, this is necessary in order to maintain a pleasant atmosphere in which all can live in peace and harmony.

Many adjustments must be made upon entering college. Some of these, although not particularly enjoyable, can become quite humorous. Unfortunately, training the body to accommodate and digest cafeteria food three times a day, seven days a week, is a perfect example of this. Actually, some of the meals prove to be quite interesting, and colorful: rolls speckled with curious patches of green, blended coffee—yesterday's and today's, drinkable jello, soup that should not be stirred, and many more such appetizers. One really learns to appreciate the quality of homecooked meals after being deprived of them for such a length of time. Perhaps the most difficult transition to make at college is living away from family and friends. One is immediately confronted with the situation of not being able to seek family advice in times of decision making. Fortunately, this is offset by the many friends one makes who are more than willing to help each other out in difficult times. The lack of parental supervision offers the student unlimited freedom, a novelty for many. But accompanying this new-found liberty is the often of responsibility for one's actions. When a student gets into trouble or fails, he has no one to blame but himself. Most students, however, adjust quickly to their new environment and become quite content with their surroundings. When one is not studying, there is never a dull moment. Unlike in a small town, there is always something going on around campus — dances, movies, card games that extend into the early hours of the morning, "ball" seasons, and of course everyone's favorite, the ever-present party.

More than anything else, college life influences students to grow into well-rounded individuals. One makes many new friends, learns how to live with other people, and from being exposed to countless new and differing ideas, he is made aware of the fact that he is not the only thing in this world that is of any importance. This education is in some ways even more important than the formal schooling which one receives at college. It is through experiences such as these that people come to the realization of the true worth of the individual, a lesson that will be of more consequence in building the oft-dreamed of world in which all men view each other as equals; accept each other for what they are, not who they are; and conduct their lives accordingly in a society of peace and harmony.

Dear Uncle Elmer: Who is going to be in charge of all of this new money the county is going to receive under federal revenue sharing? Tristie

Dear Tristie: Perhaps the same fellow who is in charge of the receipts at the stone quarry, Uncle Elmer

Dear Uncle Elmer: I was standing in line next to you at the supermarket. In your cart, you must tell you that your breath was simply terrible. Have you tried Scope? Velma

Dear Velma: No, at my age I am lucky to have breath, bad smelling or otherwise. Uncle Elmer

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Dear Jasper: When you have to date them with your bank book instead of from your black book, Uncle Elmer

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Dear Concerned: Sit down and talk with your father. Tell him that you can understand and appreciate his feelings. Show him you really care how he feels. But explain to him that a man his age should not have his hair so long. Uncle Elmer

Dear Uncle Elmer: Did I see you the other night with all of those ladies at that Tupperware party? Tina Mae

Dear Tina Mae: No, darn it! Uncle Elmer

Dear Uncle Elmer: Every month when my Playboy magazine arrives it's all crumpled and soiled. I have written the publisher, but they can offer no explanation. Can you tell me the reason? Tobie

Dear Tobie: Postmen read more than addresses, you know. Uncle Elmer

Times ain't what they used to be. My oh my. This dang ol' snow makes me feel that winter is finally here. I been dreadin this for a long time cuz I just hates ter be cooped up fer so many months. Walls, I got ter think about sum good ole games ter play while I wait out the winter. I found my playin cards—the ones with the reel purple design on them in blue an green. I really like ter play euker with 'em of my pals. Every Friday night we done wait ter somebodys house — we changed places every week. And we all pitched in with the foods. Boys, did I ever look forward to those Friday nights. We done changed partners (Ooops, not that way!) after every game and we even changed tables. I remember the reel nice present and prizes we used ter get fer winnin. Sometimes we gals would give away our por-serves and condiments we done made in the summer and fall. Oh, what a swell time we done had. I used ter really look forward ter every Friday night. The good times is all over, but then . . .

Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, who may decide to run for a fifth term, has also apparently read the election returns. The governor, who has begun a series of "town meetings" to listen to taxpayers throughout New York, has promised that the state will have an "extremely tight budget next year."

Angela Davis has complained of "blatant hostility" encountered at Atlanta University where black students refused to pay \$1 to hear her speech and who charged she was being "used and manipulated" by Communists. Purred Comrade Davlin: "Nowhere have I found such blatant hostility. . . These questions are the same as I've gotten from hostile journalists and the bourgeois media who use everything in their power to disrupt my movement."

Karen's Korner

By Karen Young



The convicts on death row in many prisons had reason enough to rejoice last June, the U.S. Supreme Court declared, by a 5-4 vote in the Furman vs. Georgia case, that capital punishment is unconstitutional. Each judge wrote his own opinion and two justices based their anti-death decision on the "arbitrary" and " freakish" choice of those on whom the penalty had been imposed. "The Supreme Court ruled that it was unconstitutional when, in a case, a jury or court had discretion to impose a lesser penalty. "The death penalty is not in itself necessarily cruel and unusual, but to impose it arbitrarily and capriciously is impermissible."

Whether or not the death penalty will be reinstated to its full extent is questionable — especially in the State of California. Voters in California passed Proposition Seventeen — The Restoration of the death penalty. Californians chose to over-rule their own Supreme Court. However, they have no power to over-rule the Federal Supreme Court. So the death penalty can be imposed only when the law makes it mandatory.

Before the California court ruling last February, which declared the death penalty unconstitutional, only four crimes had death as mandatory punishment. They were train wrecking, perjury in a capital case, treason against the state and murder of a prison guard or any non-inmate by a lifer-term prisoner. So, in effect, only these four crimes could be punished by death. The last case was the rallying point for the voters for proponents of Proposition Seventeen. Why would a prisoner hesitate killing a guard when his only punishment would be another life term on top of the first?

The remaining question is whether the California Legislature will make the death sentence mandatory for other crimes—such as rape, first degree murder or selling heroin. If this is considered — making the death penalty mandatory in such crimes—many cases will carry an outrageous and inappropriate penalty.

Since the people voted to overrule the court, Proposition Seventeen could prevent judicial review of legislation pertaining to capital punishment. This raises the question about the separation of powers.

The case is not far from what the Nixon Administration is asking congress to do — decide, what the courts may and may not do, through legislation.

This action has had its effect on the rest of the nation already. A group of 19 state attorneys general are now drafting proposals with a mandatory death sentence for crimes such as murder by contract or killing a policeman. Governor Reuben Askew of Florida named a commission that recently recommended the death penalty be required for anyone convicted of premeditated murder, murder connected with rape, kidnapping, bombing, hijacking, or arson.

To me, the question of the punishment fitting the crime is senseless. If the courts are impaired, they could no longer protect unpopular principles, unpopular people or unconforming activities. Some people are still screaming, "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth," and don't realize how hypocritical they're being.

For fully a decade American intellectuals and academics of the liberal to — left persuasion have articulated, sustained and justified a decided anti-Americanism because of U.S. involvement in Viet Nam.

With the war winding down and a negotiated settlement in sight, what issue will U.S. intellectuals seize upon to further indict America?

The question is important to the American people and their political leadership for two fundamental reasons. First, the discontent and despair of a sizable segment of American intellectuals and academics during the last decade produced a hostile and angry educated class. The Viet Nam war and Sen. George McGovern's seizure of the Democratic party provided a

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"What's the use of laying down . . . when we can sprightly walk . . . for in a larger sense we know . . . when someone says what's true . . . the Master of all mankind . . . smiles from out the blue . . . God knows that truth is everything . . . in this borrowed life . . . and in the end it will prevail . . . though interim may mean strife . . . God knows this and in the end . . . they will have to pay . . . so we'll use the freedom . . . God meant for us all . . . we'll write and say what's in our hearts . . . though it will not please all."



A CLOSER LOOK

Did you watch "Patton" last week on television? If you did, you were no doubt amazed, as I was, about a cut which had been made in the film portraying the World War II activities of General George S. "Old Blood and Guts" Patton, to many one of the greatest military men of our times and to others one of the worst scoundrels to ever wear the Army uniform.

In any case, having seen the film in the theatre, I was extremely surprised that so little was cut from the TV version, certainly a break with the customary practices of TV editors. Most of it was there—the blood, the guts and, of course, the General's "colorful" vocabulary. But there was a very obvious cut made in the film, which seems to speak no small of the illness that our society is suffering. I am referring to the part in the movie where General Patton pulls out his ivory — handled pistol and quickly dispatches two rather obstinate mules which were holding up the progress of his advance through Sicily by blocking a vital bridge. The mules were then unceremoniously dumped over the railings into the gorge and water beneath the span.

This was cut from the film by ABC, as I understand it, because they were afraid of the reaction they would receive from the millions of animal lovers throughout the United States. In other words, the viewer is entitled to witness the gory slaughter of all of the human beings that can speak in the animal kingdom — try to see the necessary slaying of two animals that were causing, by blocking the bridge, the deaths of hundreds of men in the advancing military column, which was at the time under heavy artillery and aircraft attack. We're still the sight of spilling the blood

ready outlet for the angry and alienated intellectual and academic. The defeat of the McGovern forces at the polls and the prospect of an end to the war leaves such false intellectual fury without a cause or an outlet.

Second, the history of an intellectual class devoted to political power has often provided the premier cord for the explosion of vengeful violence, revealing an anti-democratic and totalitarian turn of mind.

Dr. Lewis Feuer, formerly at the University of California at Berkeley, and now professor of sociology at the University of Toronto, contends that the 1972 Democratic convention "was the first in American history that could be called the 'convention of the intellectuals.'"

Feuer contends, moreover, that the McGovern intellectuals tend to speak and act "in non-democratic terms," reinforcing their rhetoric with threats of violence by vowing to produce another "Chicago 1968" if McGovern was not nominated.

So, a sizable element of McGovern's intellectual and academic support in this country opposes violence overseas, but is fully prepared to employ violence as a means to achieve political ends at home.

It will be difficult for the radical McGovern intellectuals to claim that the defeat of McGovern was the product of a "rigged election." Therefore, the issue they are likely to substitute for the Viet Nam war is the U.S. economic and political system itself.

The basis for this transition by intellectuals from a foreign to a domestic issue has already been laid by the environmental and consumer movements in the late 1960s and early 1970s. — Richard J. Barnet spelled out

of our fellow man by the barrel, but we cannot stand to see the sight of an animal being slain. What hypocrites we are!

Did you ever notice the pet food section in your local supermarket? It usually consists of row after row of all kinds of goodies for the dog and cat, including such "delicious" names as Gravy Train, Special Cuts, Prime, etc.

No, I do not hate animals! I have had pets all of my life. I now own a German shepherd and, from time to time, I am wondering if he isn't better fed than I am. He is pampered, catered to, etc. And he is "man's best friend," as they say. But . . . Well, to put it bluntly, why do the animal lovers among us have to be so damn silly?

Mr. Marsh asked that we bring this matter to the public's attention, which we do most happy to do in an effort to help. At the same time, we ask that if anyone has any information regarding the vandals, no matter how insignificant it might believe it to be, to call the Lewis County Sheriff's Department, which is investigating. If they prefer, they may call Mr. Marsh simply by dialing "00" for the operator and asking that they be put in touch with him, or they may call me at the Journal (376-3523). Both Mr. Marsh and myself will protect their identity if that is their desire.

Talked with Larry Marsh the other day about a most serious problem he is encountering at General Telephone. It seems that some individuals or individuals have been getting their kicks by blasting with a .22 caliber

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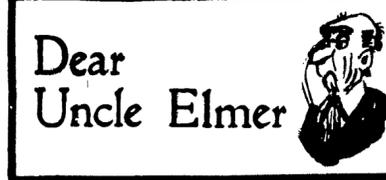
(4) At a service stop buy a Coke or a cup of coffee for the attendant. Don't be surprised if this terrifies him at first. But the pennies you spend will keep you both whistling for hours. Even off key, whistling isn't boring.

cause of this absence of opposition, many well-meaning and old-line liberals slowly accepted the doctrine of denunciation and adoration when it came to the United States.

One is Amherst Professor of History Henry Steele Commager. "We have grown increasingly callous to crimes against humanity," writes Prof. Commager of America in reviewing Barnett's "Roots of War."

Dr. Henry Kissinger, when acknowledging the tentative agreement with the North Vietnamese expressed to the presidential election, expressed the belief that the end of the war would bring about national unity which our "Viet Nam involvement has made impossible."

Tragically, this will not bring about national unity, because the intellectual and academic class in American society will show the seeds of distrust and disunity over the last decade has a vested interest in keeping America in a state of turmoil and despair. — Jeffrey St. John



Dear Uncle Elmer

Dear Uncle Elmer: Who is going to be in charge of all of this new money the county is going to receive under federal revenue sharing? Tristie

Dear Tristie: Perhaps the same fellow who is in charge of the receipts at the stone quarry, Uncle Elmer

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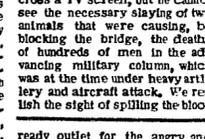
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JABBERWOCK

by Jay Addison
A New York Press Association Service

The Thruway is nifty for getting where you want to go but it's boring. So are most Interstate highways. Now, when I'm bored, I get drowsy and the safety people tell us that Drowsy and Ale. aren't compatible. So I've road-tested some super-highway anti-boredom tips of my own.

(1) For exactly ten minutes — so long as it's safe to do so — driving at EXACTLY the posted speed limit. It's not as easy as you might think.

(2) Here's an old one you may have forgotten. Wave at the kids in the car in front of you. Give yourself extra points if you wave before they do.

(3) Save the one for trips that run over three hours "Shun pike" from one interchange to the next it's not far to do it between the same two interchanges more than once incidentally, when you get off the highway onto the old roads, you'll appreciate the limited access highway all over again.

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