

These Days

Or - Behind The News
From Washington
By -
John Chamberlain

The sight of two U. S. astronauts driving a rover on the moon below 14,000-foot mountain peaks fills one with the wonder of America. But this is the culmination of something planned more than ten years ago, when we still had confidence. We reap as we sow — and what have we sown lately?

Let us cherish astronauts David Scott, James Irwin and Major Alfred Worden, for they could be among the last representatives of a vanishing breed. We are a nation in retreat. We fought clumsily in Southeast Asia, taking five years where it should have taken two and wasting many young lives. Still, we were the victors in the field. What is the excuse, then, for throwing it all away by our dissidence on the home front, as we are now doing?

After World War II, President Harry Truman made the decision to contain Communism. He faced Stalin down in the struggle for Greece and the eastern Mediterranean; he felled a bit in Korea, but still he preserved a line between the Communist world and our own. The policy continued to pay dividends when our responses in South Vietnam encouraged the Indonesians to turn back

When you think of prescriptions, think of VARNER'S, adv.

the Maoist attempt to seize Java and Sumatra and the rest of those rich and strategically placed islands.

The canker in the policy was our intellectual inconsistency: our leaders never faced up to the logical necessity of keeping Communism weak enough so that it could be contained. We let Moscow overtake and pass us in atomic armaments; we talked of building bridges to the East; we sought trade with the same enemy that we were opposing on the battlefields in Vietnam.

We were brave in Guatemala and in Lebanon, but we might have saved it, and we betrayed the true freedom-loving Cubans at the Bay of Pigs. Small wonder that our logical children rebelled at being drafted to fight against an enemy in Asia that got its guns, its ammunition, its trucks and its anti-aircraft missiles from the power we were seeking to placate by our bridge-building in Europe. If Communism was "all right" in Eastern Europe, why was it so terrible in Southeast Asia?

And what is wrong with the logic of the American mother who told me that she, thought an anti-Communist, would fight like a tiger to keep her son out of a war in which he might be killed by a bullet made in

"A Cry Of Players" Is Being Presented At The Playhouse

"A Cry of Players," the William Gibson play which the Vagabond Players are performing at Flat Rock Playhouse, August 17 through 21, is labeled "adult entertainment" by Managing Director Robroy Farquhar, who also appears in the play.

"I do not mean that it is X-rated, to use the current phrase of movie classification," Actor-Manager Farquhar added. "We have never presented a play that is simply dirty at Flat Rock Playhouse and we never will. We value our reputation as a 'playhouse of family enter-

tainment' and we mean to live up to it.

"When I say 'A Cry of Players' is 'adult entertainment' I am saying several things about the play. It is an intelligent and beautiful play. Our production, costumed by Actor Walter Williamson and staged by Designer Walter O'Rourke, is stunningly beautiful as a visual treat as well as beautiful in language.

"It is also robust in spirit and action. The play tells of the lusty life of the village in which Shakespeare was born and brought up and of the very lusty young Will Shakespeare himself. The spirit of the Elizabethan age was vigorous, often bowdy and filled with the diversions of drinking and wenching. The play reflects this age, as it must, but we believe we have kept our production in good taste.

"In frankness and fairness to our patrons — an attitude we strive to maintain," Farquhar continued, "we ask those who prefer lighter fare or less earthy life styles and language to wait until the following week when we will return to our customary 'comedy bill' — but 'A Cry of Players' is a strong, tender and often funny play which we are proud to present."

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Anita Grannis and Tom Campbell directed the spectacular production which opens Tuesday at Flat Rock Playhouse. Ralph Redpath, as young Shakespeare, Margarete Kilness, as his long-suffering wife Anne, and Walter Williamson, as a noble arm of 16th century law, head a cast of 30.

reconnaissance that was necessary to sustain our stands in foreign policy in the days before we had the robot spy. It should have been defended as a linchpin of the military-industrial complex that is needed to guarantee our peace. But who is defending the military-industrial complex these days?

The excuse for our growing retreat from global commitments is that we must take care of things at home. But where is the guarantee that our enemies will leave us alone to concentrate on an isolationist Eden? As we lose influence, we will lose our economic power. Why should foreigners sustain our dollar if they get no defense for their pains? We give up the supersonic jet to get mass transit, but then we get no mass transit. The taxes from a shrinking economy won't be enough to support all those brave welfare schemes.

We got to the moon, but that was because of a decision made in a vanished time. Nixon himself has warned that we may be on the verge of decadence. His new Far Eastern policy, which must end by throwing Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and the Philippines to the wolves, is surely part of the decadent drift.


Could it be that the President, in his heart of hearts, know that we aren't up to sustaining the role we accepted in 1945 and is trying to make the best of a bad situation? That is the only logical justification for his portentous shift.

IN APPRECIATION
Mere words cannot express our sincere thanks and appreciation extended to us in the loss of our son Mitchell's eye.
There are so many who remembered us with their prayers, telephone calls, cards, letters, visits and expressions of love.
We shall indeed be indebted to so many. Please accept our heartfelt thanks.
Gratefully,
Charles and Pansy Greene

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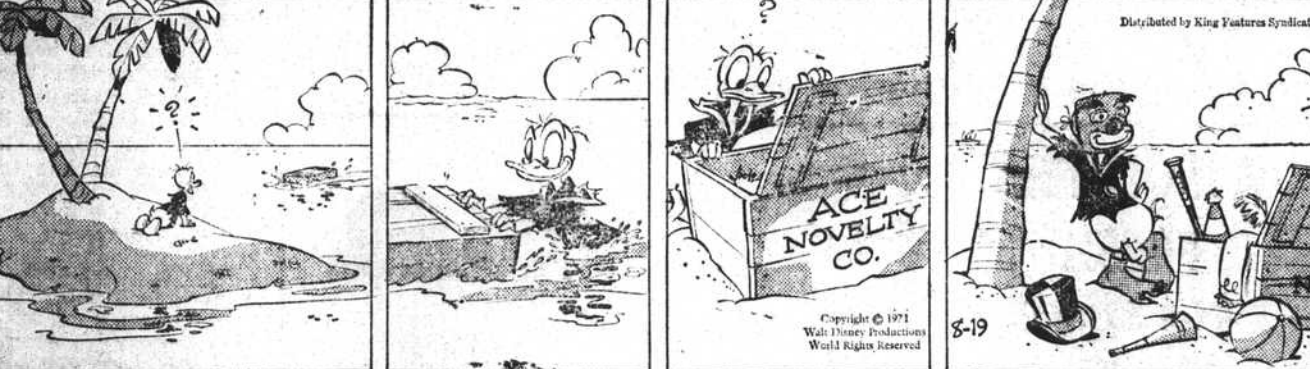
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