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University News Bureau Director Pete Ivey Hits Visit Of Russian Students In A Statewide Release

Gans Answers Ivey's Story

(The following is a statement in comment on a news article released by Director of the University of North Carolina News Bureau "Pete" Ivey about the recent tour of ten Russian students to Chapel Hill. The statement is by Curtis Gans, Editor of The Daily Tar Heel and Acting President of the UNC Student Body.)

Throughout the tour of the ten Soviet students through the United States, there has been a great deal of trouble with poor quality press coverage.

It is unfortunate that one of the worst examples of press representation of the Russian tour should come from the head of the News Bureau of the University of North Carolina.

Somewhere in Mr. Ivey's article the purpose of the Russian visit was lost. Somewhere in the article Mr. Ivey forgot that there were some nine other Russians along on the trip. Somewhere in the article he forgot his responsibility to the facts.

The purpose of the Russian visit was not that the Russians meet with the Press at every available opportunity. Their mission, as indeed was the mission of American students in Russia, was to meet with American students and to survey as thoroughly as possible in the short space of thirty days the United States program of education.

What was learned was by far more than press relations are difficult when Russians are involved. What was learned above all was that Russians are human—that some of them are fine people, as fine as any American. What was received were somewhat abortive friendships that may be carried on into the future.

What was learned further was the inadequacy of American education when it came to dealing with modern Russia or even somewhat-less-than modern Russia. What was pointed out was the Americans are not as good dialecticians as the Russian students. What was shown was that for a person of intelligence in Russia an education is easier and cheaper than it is in the United States.

What was shown also was that the supposed class-less society in Russia was not so class-less. What was shown was that intellectual freedom means two vastly different things in the Soviet Union and the United States.

This was at least in part the purpose of the trip. It was an INTERCULTURAL STUDENT exchange. The Press figured in, but it was a minor part, and it is perhaps understandable that the Russians would prefer to meet with the Press at one time rather than at different times, thus taking up time which might be more usefully put someplace else.

It must be pointed out further that Evgenii Bugrov, although not always the most pleasant person to get along with, once having agreed on an itinerary for the Chapel Hill trip followed it to the letter and moreover, unlike the Russian editor group which preceded this group, was on time to every meeting.

It could hardly be called Bugrov's fault that the Governor of North Carolina decided to call a Press Conference at the time that a Chapel Hill Press Conference for the Russians was scheduled.

Bugrov can hardly be blamed for wanting a Press Conference at a convenient time for him, especially as he was considering

(See GANS, Page 4)



PETE IVEY

... Bugrov was rude



CURTIS GANS

... named in story



CHANCELLOR AYCOCK

... backs Pete Ivey

Chancellor's Statement

As Director of the News Bureau, Mr. Pete Ivey, had the right to report his appraisal of the recent visit of ten Russian Students to the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Mr. Ivey properly released the story under his own by-line and he did not purport to speak for anyone else in the University.

Mr. Ivey is regarded by me as a fair and impartial reporter of the news.—William Aycock

More

For more on the Ivey story, see page two and the lead editorial and the column Anything Goes. On page three there is a statement by Ivey, a continuation of his front page story and the column Follow The Crowd. Curtis Gans' statement which appears on page one is jumped to page four.

Local Journalist Is Irked By Behavior

By PETE IVEY

Director of the News Bureau
University of North Carolina

A Russian student named Bugrov created a minor uproar in Chapel Hill last week.

One of a touring party of ten Russian students, he exhibited all the earmarks of one destined to go far in Communist cold war diplomacy.

He was a model of modern Soviet double talk and tricky footwork.

Khrushchev would have been proud of the tactics Bugrov used at Chapel Hill.

Bugrov was two-faced. He spoke half truths. He told at least one lie that can be proved on him. He was smiling and courteous at one instant. He could be rude and contemptuous the next moment.

Bugrov was the spokesman for the Soviet students. He kept a chip on his shoulder.

What delighted him more than anything else was his ability to bait the newspapermen and TV and radio men—to show his scorn for the American free press.

Count Ten

These are harsh words. I hesitate to say them. In fact, I have already counted ten before writing it. It has been ten days since the Russian students left the campus.

The reason I write this attempt at an interpretation of the actions by the Russian students (mainly the actions of their leader, Evgenii Bugrov, 32-years-old economics student of the University of Moscow) is because it appears to me that the art Mr. Bugrov played in Chapel Hill was a carefully planned and diligently rehearsed role of deceit, propagandism and hostility.

In my opinion, he followed the same pattern of conduct which characterizes other Soviet envoys we have read about in cold war negotiations.

Getting along with the Russians is said to be a puzzle, a frustrating experience. A guileless person of good-will is likely to be baffled, because the outstretched hand of friendship may be returned by the Russians with a symbolic slap in the face.

Bugrov was especially agile in switching from smiling affability to sneering contempt combined with belligerent indignation.

He seemed to take a special delight in directing last-minute changes in plans. He requested retractions of articles which displeased him. If arrangements were not running smoothly, he demanded explanations and apologies. What is more he got the apologies from the younger American student guides who were eager to please and to play the

proper role of hospitality.

I became interested in the visit of the ten Russians, and wary at the same time, because I had had a brush with a party of Russian student editors who came through Chapel Hill in May. At that time, the newspapermen and television and radio people who tried to speak with the Soviet editors were treated rather brusquely.

Since it is my job as Director of the News Bureau in the University to maintain good relationships with the press, I wanted to forestall any similar treatment of the press when the second group of Russians came through.

OBFUSCATION

The preparations for the press conference was an omen of the rat race to come.

A TV news man telephoned and asked if the time for the press conference could be changed from 3:30 Friday morning to 3:30 Friday afternoon. He explained that Governor Hodges' press conference was being held that morning.

I told Curtis Gans of the conflict. In a few minutes he called and said Bugrov had agreed to hold the press conference in the afternoon. I notified the AP of the change.

Later that night (Wednesday) the phone rang at my home. I got up, switched on the light, and picked up the phone. It was Gans.

"The spokesman for the Russians (Bugrov) wants to hold the press conference tomorrow afternoon (Thursday) at 5:45," he said. "He doesn't want to hold it at 3:30 on Friday."

"But I've already notified the wire services and the newspapers of the new time," I said.

"Hold the phone, and let me talk with them," said Gans.

There was silence for about 5 (See IVEY'S Story, Page 3)

Biography

Alfred Guy (Pete) Ivey, 42, Director of the News Bureau at the University of North Carolina, is a veteran newspaperman and publicist for 20 years standing; a former editor in Winston-Salem and Shelby, a past chairman of the N. C. Conference of Editorial Writers, Nieman Fellow in Journalism at Harvard University, and war-time publications officer for the Army in Washington and New York City. Until he returned to Chapel Hill in September, 1955, to become Director of the News Bureau, he had been Executive Editor of the Shelby Daily Star and prior to that Associate Editor of the Winston-Salem Journal and Sentinel.

Anne Catlette Of The IRC Hits The Release

As acting IRC chairman, I was with Mr. Bugrov and the rest of the Soviet students for most of their stay in Chapel Hill. I saw Bugrov as amiable and as rude as he could have been. However, I saw him throw no "tantrums" as you stated, nor did I once hear him slam the American free press.

We had expected Bugrov to be difficult. However, once he had agreed on the groups' itinerary, it wasn't changed, and they were on time for every appointment.

After meeting Bugrov, it was generally agreed that we were facing a man well indoctrinated as to his mission, and that he had complete charge of his group. Also we realized during the three day visit here, that the problem with Bugrov was not only with Bugrov, the leader, but with Bugrov, the individual. His personality in general did not lend itself to being too agreeable.

This is not to excuse Bugrov nor to condone his actions. It's just to point out I do not believe you were qualified to write 62 inches about a man with whom you had little contact as you openly admit.