

The Daily Tar Heel

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Thal Elliott

A Carolina Student Writes From Russia

(Thal Elliott is spending this year in Goettingen as one of the University's Goettingen Scholars. This letter was received by a friend of his upon his return to Goettingen from a vacation visit to Russia. The Editor.)

During the two month vacation which exists between the winter and summer semesters at the German Universities, sixteen other American students, a German student, and I took a private tour by way of Scandinavia to Leningrad and Moscow. All arrangements for the trip were made through a travel bureau in Stockholm and "Intourist," the Russian National Travel Bureau. The tour began on March 1, immediately after the end of a long winter semester.

I'm very aware of the cold and considerably warmer war or wars which have existed and continue to exist between the free world and Russia. Many books, articles, and pamphlets have been written about our neighbor and I've read many of these. When, however, I left for Russia, I didn't feel that I was going to spy on the enemy, but, on the contrary, to tour a couple of cities in a land that was to me virtually unknown and to enjoy the vacation I didn't enter Russia with lots of pre-occupations about what I would hear and see, and since my return I don't claim that I know Russia. My actual contact with Russia and her people was limited to a two day stay in Leningrad and six days in Moscow.

We lost one and one-half days of the stay in Leningrad because the thick ice between Stockholm and Abo, Finland, delayed our getting to Helsinki in time to catch the Russian train which leaves Helsinki once every day. Finally on March 5, we boarded the Russian train which was a very agreeable shade of green with hammers and axes decorating the cars. The inside was very nice, although there was a slightly closed-in feeling. Perhaps this was due to the fact that no windows could be opened and the doors were locked with a key.

After rolling past a few towers, many strands of barbed wire, guards, and a couple of boarder stations, we arrived in Leningrad. My first impressions were the masses of people that were always on the streets and the streets themselves, which were so broad. Their massiveness was only exceeded by the gigantic squares, which had the birthplace of revolutions and the deathplace of many Russians. In Leningrad, more so than in Moscow, I noticed hundreds of soldiers everywhere.

Neon signs or any type of advertising are on a very small scale, thus the streets, especially at night, have a dull and empty appearance. Empty doesn't apply when one considers the number of people in the streets, but dull does apply. We, of course made a general tour of the city, and on the first night, after the ballet, we went looking for a place to have refreshments and dance. We found about two in Moscow. These were always very crowded and they closed between 12 and 1 at night.

On Sunday, which is a big shopping day in Moscow for most people, most of us went to the Catholic, Baptist, or Russian Orthodox Churches. Two friends and I took a taxi to the Catholic Church. Upon informing the driver of our intended destination, he and the two drivers nearby responded as if we had just told a hilarious joke. They imitated, "The Praying Hands," made the "Sign of the Cross," and laughed among themselves, but the joke soon wore off and we were taken to the church. In spite of a beautiful service, I was astounded by the people there. The worshippers were almost all very old women and only a handful of men. I'd guess that the average age was 55 or more. From the approximately 300 people in the small church, I saw only one lady, whom I thought was as young as 40. A friend, who attended the Baptist Church, reported that the situation there was the same, with the exception that small children had been brought by their grandmothers.

Our Russian guide attempted to persuade us that we would be wasting our time to visit the Kazan Cathedral, since it only contained, "The Museum of the History of Religion" which is known to us as "The Antireligious Museum." Unfortunately, none of us knew Russian well enough to read what was written under the pic-

tures and displays, nevertheless, their "History of Religion Museum" has most of the space dedicated to the role of the church during the time of the Tsars. Most of the pictures depict the corruption and cruelty of the church and its collaboration with the Tsars. Near the entrance of the cathedral was a model of Sputnik.

One of the students, quite sarcastically, but quite justifiably, I think, asked if this represented the new religion. Our cute little guide told us that there is some religious group in Germany which thinks that the heavens and stars are for the gods and not meant for the contemplation of man. This exhibit was supposedly placed there to remove this feeling, but it was just too bad that we couldn't read for ourselves.

The Palace of Young Pioneers is an organization to which all of the school children belong. Within this indoctrination institution are clubs of many sorts — radio, sewing, dancing, chess, astronomy, etc. — some of which would interest all children. Here, the children are taught not to believe in God and their innocent credulous little minds are gradually filled with party-line propaganda and lies about the world outside of the Iron Curtain. We sang and danced with the kids, who were, as all kids, just delightful. Inside the palace was a large picture of Lenin with children all around. It had every striking resemblance to the picture of Christ with the children. "Suffer Little Children To Come Unto Me" could perhaps also be applied to the former picture as well as the latter, but I won't attempt to compare the rewards of the followers of Christ with those of Lenin.

If I were asked to describe in one word what I saw in Russia, I'd consider the question ridiculous, of course, but I'd undoubtedly answer, "Lenin." Lenin has been deified by the people. Many, among the masses, wear pins and medals with pictures of him. Big statues of him are in all of the train stations that I saw, and in many public buildings.

These are supplemented by huge paintings of him. Smaller paintings of him are everywhere, including every floor of our hotel in Russia. In factories, there are pictures of Lenin with the workers; in schools, Lenin with children, etc. In the Tretyakov Art Gallery in Moscow, there were three rooms with only pictures and statues of Lenin. "Lenin is with you" slogans accompanied many of his pictures in the city.

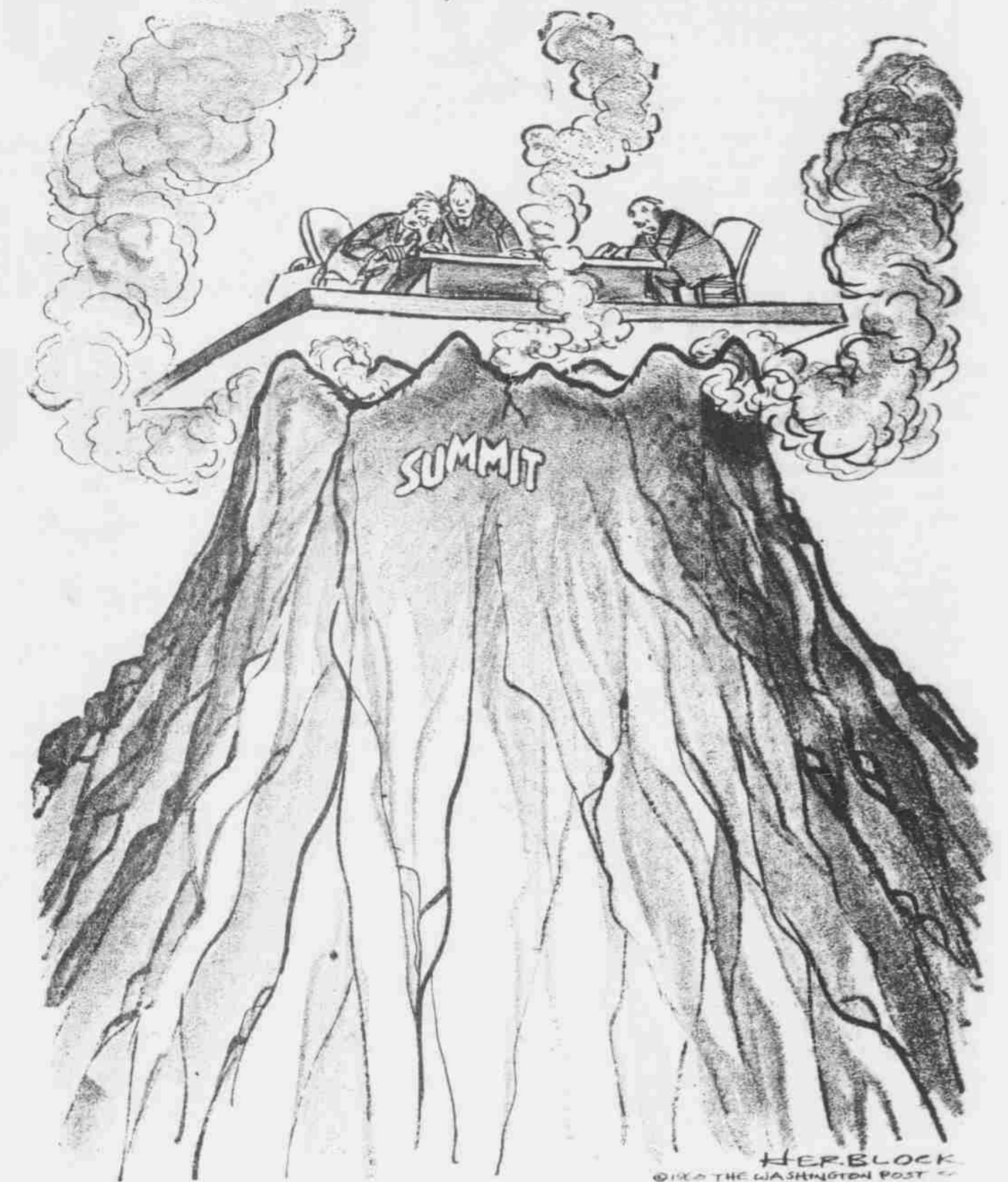
Moscow University is one of the several architectural show pieces in Moscow. It's one immense building which includes classrooms, laboratories, gym, auditorium, and living quarters for a part of the more than 23,000 enrolled students. All the students get aid from the state, if their parents earn less than one hundred dollars (Russian official exchange rate) a month. There exists also a large scholarship which is obtained only on the basis of excellence at the university. We were taken on a tour of the building and we ended the visit in a discussion with the students.

The chairman of the Young Communist League was the speaker for their group. His party-line answers to our questions were interesting and his technique in avoiding giving answers was effective, since he only flustered further in the event that dissatisfaction with an answer was expressed. They were not all, as shortsighted as the one gentleman that told us that their system was better because they have no unemployment.

To speak of employment, we were told that a graduate of the university can apply for work at any place he desires, but jobs are assigned, "In The Best Interest Of The State." Foreign students can enter the university only through their respective governments and there are some Americans enrolled there. We, however, couldn't talk with them, because there supposedly was no way to contact them at the university, although they live in the dormitories. We met one American student at the ballet and he gave us his phone number and told us when to call him, but we were never able to reach him by telephone.

The Hermitage in Leningrad, and the various other museums and art galleries in Moscow, are really terrific. The works of many Western artists are there and the "Impressionists" have been exhibited only since approximately 1953 or 1954. One must

"It's Not Quite The Way We Visualized It, But—"



A Few Good Reasons For Voting

Although there are still eleven days remaining before North Carolinians go to the polls in this all-important primary contest for gubernatorial and senatorial positions, it would be well to take a brief look at a few reasons why eligible U.N.C. students should take it upon themselves to participate in the voting.

The major race, as far as the University is concerned, is that for the governorship; for this is the position which will have great effect on the University's budget requests come the General Assembly meetings in the fall. While the new governor will not be in office at that point, his voice will be of considerable importance, and if he chooses to help us we will stand a good chance of getting some of the improvements that we feel to be most important.

The new governor, also, represents the state attitude toward the University. Being only thirty miles from Chapel Hill, he is in a

position to be of constant aid to the University as it struggles to readjust itself to the pressing problem of over-enrollment that is just around the corner.

The new Senator is of less immediate importance to us as an educational institution, but he will be in the position to advance federal aid, loans and support. Aid and federal support could be of great help to this University.

So far we have only mentioned financial aspects of the situation, but there is another that is equally important. If the new governor and Senator choose to conceive of this state as one which is leading the South in intellectual pursuits and in liberal, thoughtful progress, the University will feel the effect of their positions. And the University — and, consequently, all of its students — will stand to gain.

So don't forget to vote. If you are already registered, the process will take only a moment or two. And the rewards you reap may be endless.

How 4 Men Wasted Travel Expenses

For three hours and five minutes the four men sat in the Elysee Palace, while around them raged one of the greatest diplomatic storms in recent history.

Maybe it never could have succeeded in the first place. Khrushchev was not in a very amiable frame of mind when they gathered to confer, and the allies were singularly nervous.

Now the Soviet Premier, having decided that three and a little more hours are enough time to talk at one stretch, has suggested that the respective nations wait for six or eight months before they reconvene in Paris.

This is a cagey suggestion, for it may place the United States in a very uncomfortable position. After November, Eisenhower will be a lame duck President, and will not be able to speak for the incoming administration, be it Republican or Democrat.

And if they wait until next February, immediately after the new President has assumed office, the United States will have to bargain from a position of inexperience. For, no matter how qualified our next President may turn out to be, he will not have had the experience of international bickering a few weeks after he steps into the job for the first time.

So the conference was a failure. And it was a failure because international relations have turned into a bickering process rather than a united effort to arrive at some sort of peace which at least will preserve men's lives.

This summit conference, and its total failure, may turn out to be a turning point in the diplomatic history of the twentieth century. It may have proved what so many of us had hoped would not be true—that the leaders of the world cannot sit around a big table in a handsome, historic palace and solve their mutual differences through talk.

It may have proved that the leaders are not the men who are going to advance peace at all. Perhaps the only way peace will be attained is through cooperative study on the part of the lesser men on the totem poles, acting under higher orders — men who are willing to sit out the hours of petty

emotionalism and nationalism to eventually see the situations objectively and show a willingness to fight them.

National leaders are not in the proper position to do this. With the eyes of the world focused on them primary concern is the way that they will look to observers. Their is too much propaganda potential in a summit meeting as it is now conceived.

An observer recently noted that perhaps the best solution would be open covenants unopenly arrived at. If Mr. Khrushchev and Mr. Eisenhower realize that their words will not be reported to the public, only the results of their words, they will be much more concerned with arriving at peaceful solutions to dangerous problems than with making the world feel that one is the good boy and one the bad.

There is still a little hope that the conferences will be renewed. President de Gaulle has appointed himself the unofficial dove of peace, and has said that he will try to persuade the two offending parties Khrushchev and Eisenhower — that after a day or two of cooling off they will be ready to sit back down and hash things out in a more mature manner.

There is some question, however, as to whether a renewed conference at this time would produce anything more than further vituperation. The two angry gentlemen have their minds made up. Perhaps no one in their respective countries really thinks they did the right thing to fly off the handle the way they did, but as far as they are concerned they have had their say and are going to stick to them.

Meanwhile, the Berlin crisis is still unsolved and the cold war, which had shown temporary signs of warming up, has developed a new and rather unpleasant freeze.

Nothing will be solved by open bickering, but neither will we be more at peace if our leaders sulk in their respective houses. Some manner of effort must be made. The only remaining question is who is going to make it. And neither Premier Nikita Khrushchev nor President Dwight Eisenhower has shown any inclination to start things over again.

still get special permission to view the "Expressionists," or modern art.

The Moscow subway is incomparable to any other subway that I've seen (New York, Paris, Stockholm, Athens). Every station is like an art museum with mosaics, hammers and sickles, beautiful light fixtures, etc.

The Bolshoi theater is very plain looking from the outside, but is splendid — really done up in grand style. Hammers and sickles along with CCCP/USSR were the design for the curtain "Hammers and sickles" are the design for most things in Russia, since the state is the sole possessor of all. Nevertheless, the curtain was still gorgeous. The ballet, opera, and folk dancers that we saw at the Bolshoi and the other theaters were superb.

After seeing "Swan Lake," I felt like I was up in the clouds and had just seen the most artistic production ever. The resplendent beauty and gracefulness of the woman who danced the lead role kept me afloat until I left the hotel the next morning. I came down with a bang upon seeing Russian women shoveling snow on the streets. Later in the day, I saw women working on the railroad and carrying iron rails. To see these two extremes so close together made a lasting impression, and it supports the Russian claim of equal rights for all, regardless of sex, religion, or race, since all people in Russia are slaves of the state.

Houses are going up everywhere in Moscow, but the housing situation is still crowded, with as many as 15 people living in a two-room apartment. This, however, probably accounts for the fact that so many people are always in the streets.

State stores, which include all stores, are usually overflowing with shoppers who wished to purchase the limited choice of goods. To buy one loaf of bread could take an hour.

There were a few private and official cars, many taxis, and many buses which always had people hanging out of the doors.

They claim also to have only one class in Russia. This point I won't debate, but this one class definitely has sections A, B, C, etc. The biggest salaries go to the people in the highest positions and to those with special talents and of special value to the state. Section A can also acquire western clothes and other goods. The folks that are lower down on the totem pole dress very plainly and get along with the simple things of life.

I wish that every one of my fellow countrymen and the other members of the free world could travel to Russia and get a whiff — although it stinks — of Communism in action. Being no advocate of war, I hope that our government, of the people, by the people, and for the people, can continue to exist peacefully and resist the aggression of a country whose system exercises the government of the people, by the state, and for the state.

Letters To The Editor

Love Notes

To the Editor:
What do you mean, "The Mess In South Building?" There is no mess in South Building.
Your own editorial states it loud and clear that South Building is where the schedules are straitened out. There are some disappointments there, to be sure, but they are not the fault of South Building.
First, it is each student's own responsibility to figure out what he needs. With the information in the catalogue plus his course evaluation sheet, IT CAN BE DONE.

But hopeless hundreds of really intelligent people won't bother to do this, so we have the Departmental Advisor system. Here is where things go wrong. These are the people who mess up.
Departmental advisers have taken on this job to supplement their incomes. Hence, they are probably too short on time anyway, so they don't take the time or trouble to find out for themselves the basic facts.

The Administration makes little effort to tell them what they need to know. So they will mess up a student's credits as easily as not.

Thank goodness for South Building! The people up there know what a nondivisional course is, and how to fit 22 courses into two years. They have spent some time with the basic facts.

If the Administration requires Departmental Advisors to earn their pay, if they are told and made to learn their basic facts, students won't be bringing to South Building their eternal messes to be straightened out.

MARGARET GWATHMEY

To the Editor:
We, "The Daily Crossword Puzzle Workers," have worked the same puzzle for the past four days, excluding one: the one on the past Thursday, May 12. We did not work one at all on that day, because there was not one. We are inclined to agree with "The Letter To The Editor" on May 11, where it was brought out by some 160 students, that the new Editor of THE DAILY TAR HEEL is not doing his job. THE DAILY TAR HEEL is for the purpose of presenting the news and for the pleasure of the students. It is the job of the Editor to print what is expected of him by the students.

Therefore, it is our sincere wish that there be a change in the attitude and approach of the Editor towards his job. It is hoped that the change will come about very soon.

Respectfully,

The Daily Crossword Puzzle Workers



by WALT KELLY

by SCHULZ

Freshman Prayer

Twenty-third Qualm

Dr. Brauer is my math teacher,
I shall not wait.
He maketh me to lie down amongst derivatives;
he leadeth me into cubic curves.
He doubteth my proficiency; he leadeth me into the paths of semester exams.
Yea, though I walk in the shadow of failing, I will fear no evil for my Fisher and Ziebur is with me.
Thou decideth on a grade in the presence of my classmates and sendeth it home to my old man, who anointeth my head with a stick; the house runneth over with profanity.
Surely graphs and quadratics will follow me all the days of my life, and I will remain in Math 6 forever.

Anonymous