

by Rick Schwab

OLEAN — I'm torn today between an editor who has "requested" a column about an insignificant event just concluded here — namely the Miss New York State pageant — and my own inclination to try to say something significant about the lunar landing, since Walter Concrete and Eric Saiditall failed to.

So before I roll up my sleeves, let me say congratulations to Miss New York State, Linda Trybus, who is a fellow U.B. student. But enough on that, okay editor?

Esquire Magazine pointed out in a recent article that man's first utterances from the surface of the moon should be significant, and offered 50 or so helpful hints from some of the world's great minds — like Tiny Tim's — about what to say.

They also noted that most previous space feats have been marked with a kind of subtle advertising for Schlitz beer, in a word, "beautiful". One innovating astronaut was said to have described the view from his capsule as "very pretty." But things soon returned to "beautiful."

The lunar space age was entered with words about a great leap for mankind, followed by Buzz Aldrin's comment: "magnificent desolation!"

Lincoln was wrong at Gettysburg in his denial that what he said would be insignificant; what they did there important. Standing on this new frontier, I suspect that what the astronauts said and did will be well known and long-remembered.

So what is significant about stepping onto the moon?

In my estimation it's what the astronauts bring back home — and I'm talking about more than the rocks that cost \$24 billion to acquire. I've said it in poetry the best I could.

Why, the critics scoff, is it so easy to land now on the moon and so hard to eradicate poverty, disease, hunger, blighted cities, racism, hate and bigotry, plus all the other ills I've missed?

Surely we could do these things if mens' minds were turned to the task.

Surely we could.

The problem then is that we as a nation lack the resolve to provide within our boundaries food for the hungry, care for the sick and diseased, housing for the homeless and those with sub-standard housing, and better education.

Martin Luther King, Jr., were he alive today, would have joined Charles Evers in pleading for attention to the problems within our society, just as he appealed for a re-ordering of priorities at a speech in Buffalo only months before he was assassinated.

The will to resolve these problems will not come from one man even, "or especially" Mr. Nixon. It shall have to form in the minds of many men — more than those in Congress and in State Houses.

This is what the Apollo should bring back home to all of us — the realization that men can conquer the most impossible tasks. Otherwise, a trip to the moon is a lark, for naught. As I wrote:

This is the hope  
of Apollo  
The Vision  
A true revision of the rules  
Of mankind:  
his madness  
Can be harnessed.

## THE SPECTRUM

Vol. 20, No. 7

Friday, July 25, 1969

Editor-in-Chief — Linda T. Hanley  
Managing Editor — Peter N. Simon  
Asst. Managing Editor — James E. Brennan  
Business Manager — Daniel H. Lasser  
Advertising Manager — Stan Feldman

Arts . . . . .	Robert Mattern	Copy . . . . .	Susan Dick
Campus . . . . .	Rod Gere	Layout . . . . .	Midge Bork
City . . . . .	Corydon Ireland	Photo . . . . .	Bob Hsiang
Entertainment . . . . .	Alfred Dragone	Production . . . . .	David L. Sheedy
Feature . . . . .	Joseph J. Fernbacher	Sports . . . . .	Sharyn Rogers

The Spectrum is a member of the United States Student Press Association and is served by United Press International, College Press Service, the Los Angeles Free Press and the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Republication of all matter herein is forbidden without the express consent of the Editor-in-Chief.

Editorial policy is determined by the Editor-in-Chief.



We Come In Peace? — A Photo Editorial by Robert Hsiang and Sue Raichilson

## feedback

### Condescension robs the meaning from suffering

To the editor:

Last week's article on Mrs. Robinson (cutely titled "And now it's you, Mrs. Robinson") was a masterpiece of condescension.

A condescension which seems to have been shared by both the writer of the piece and by his quoted "Sostre Defense Committee source". According to the latter: "Geraldine is not 'political' like Mr. Sostre (why not call him 'Martin') . . . She is just a woman who is proud of being black." Does he mean, "she is just a woman?"

The source continues: "She just tried to get out and help her own people." Why "just"? And what is that if not a political act — being black and trying to

"help her people"? If she were not political, would the Defense Committee be so involved in her case? They should know better than to make such a statement.

Finally, why do "political issues seem small indeed," as the writer concludes, next to "a mother of five children"? If Martin Sostre had been the sole supporter of five children, would that have demeaned his politics any or made his treatment more inhuman?

The article has done a good job in robbing Mrs. Robinson of the personal dignity and political content that would make her suffering — and her children's suffering — worthwhile and meaningful.

A Reader

### Let's back up opinion with fact!

To the editor:

Your editorial concerning the armed guard at the Blues Festival was, to say the least, a bit juvenile and unfounded.

I am one of the people who worked at this concert and I feel that your misleading editorial should be complimented by the facts.

"The occasion was the Muddy Waters/Buddy Guy concert in Rotary Field and the armed guard was hired from an outside agency, ostensibly to guard the money at the ticket gate." This quotation from your editorial seems to imply that the armed security agent we hired was there for purposes other than that of protecting the girls in the ticket booths who had thousands of dollars next to them. To any realistic person the use of an armed security guard to protect both people and money being used for a student service is a sensible thing.

How would you like to be carrying \$2000-\$3000 from Norton Hall to Rotary Field unprotected?

You seem to claim that if someone decided to play a prank on the guard he would have been either pistol-whipped or shot in the head. Besides, I doubt if any sensible person, even if he were stoned or tripping, is going to rush over to an armed policeman and say "stick-em up." Be realistic.

Another statement you made was that an armed guard at an emotionally charged student concert is a very big risk. This is also utter nonsense for the simple fact that one guard even with a gun isn't going to confront hundreds of students in any situation. Also the guard with the gun was stationed outside the gates of the field and rarely was inside those gates. So this cannot be much of a risk to anyone sitting by the stage.

You also imply later on in your editorial that if a shot had been fired, a student-police confrontation would have developed. Again be realistic! At the first sign of a gun or any such instrument anyone with any sense knows enough to keep his cool. Apparently through your editorial you wish to bring up that whole fiasco of armed campus guards again.

This is only going to lead to confusion and grief. The Blues concerts held at Rotary Field were perhaps the best organized affairs of their type on this campus in a long time. The people working on it should be proud of the successful job they did in keeping the crowd under control so that all had a good time.

If ever you want to have such an affair as the Blues Festival, you have to learn not to look for all the little things that went wrong but to look for the good that such an affair as this has accomplished. Your editorial is of the type I would have expected to find in *The Buffalo Evening News* or *The Courier-Express*.

I feel that *The Spectrum* as a responsible paper, should know all the facts before jumping to dangerous and often misleading conclusions. And I would appreciate it if you could inform me of the shooting or numerous beatings that you implied have happened at other concerts of this type.

Joseph Fernbacher  
(Ass't. Festival Coordinator)

*Editor's note* There was no reference to "other concerts of this type" — the phrase used was "what has happened at other stadiums and other arenas could very well happen here." And we can offer you some examples of that — the CanAm at Watkins Glen and the Newport Folk Festival being two from this month alone.

NO SPECTRUM NEXT WEEK

*The Spectrum* will not be published next Friday, exam week of the second session of summer school. The next regular issue of *The Spectrum* will be published Friday, August 8.