Dude Rancher Ropes A Calf—The boots look a bit oversize but in spite of that this young "dude" seems to be having plenty of fun with the whiteface calf.

WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD

by Norman Blair

Indonesia

It isn't very often that this space swipes material, holusbolus and without attempt to disguise, from contemporaries. Or, if you insist, it's not very often that it admits doing so.

However, this piece from the New Yorker magazine, seems to me such an unusual piece of writing—one that so ruthlessly pulls off the hypocritical mask that veils most of the world's international dealings—that, without apology, I'm quoting it 'as is.'

* * *

"A couple of weeks ago, a few days before Christmas, Dutch parachutists landed on Jogjakarta, the Indonesian capital. They seized first the airfields, then the government buildings. The operation went well and the Dutch managed to bag the Indonesian government, proving that there is always something to be learned from history by students who approach it in the proper spirit.

"It is interesting to compare the recent Dutch opinion of the Indonesian government with the earlier Nazi opinion of the Dutch government. Dr. van Kleffens, the former Dutch Foreign Minister, said that the Indoesian government had lost all authority and existed only as a radio station. We recall that when the Dutch government was in exile in London, the Germans said the same thing—said it was a shadow government existing only as a program on the BBC. So much depends on where you sit."

Personally, I would name that as one of the pithiest chunks of writing of the year—any year. The only possible criticism I could make would be to suggest that the final sentence might be printed in capital letters. SO MUCH DEPENDS ON WHERE YOU SIT. It does indeed!

United States

Citizens of New York are considerably stirred up these days by recent revelations of waterfront conditions that can hardly be described as anything less than "deplorable." City authorities are now making moves designed to rescue that district from continued physical breakdown, crime and corruption which are seriously threatening its role as the nation's chief port.

New Yorkers have long taken pride in their port with its 650 miles of piers and dockside warehouses spreading along the New York and New Jersey shores — an area through which pass almost half the exports of the entire nation.

But now they are learning that there is much that is rotten along that famed waterfront—that men have been murdered, that gangsters control the lives and destinies of thousands of workers, and that racketeering regularly adds a heavy toll to practically all shipments in or out of the port.

These conditions, plus the physical blight that has grown along the shores, are the result of years of neglect, on the whole problem of the port. If these conditions continue, New York's position as the chief gateway to the new world, will be seriously endangered. Many big industrialists are already diverting overseas shipments to other ports.

At all events, as said before, New Yorkers are seriously disturbed, and threaten a real "clean-up." But whether anything really practical will come out of all the agitation—well, that remains to be seen. The racketeers, at least, don't appear to be greatly agitated, as yet.

Yugoslavia

The Russian-run Cominform has just ridiculed and scoffed at the part played by the Yugoslav Partisans, under Marshal Tito, in the war against Germany. Some observers think that this may turn out to be one of the most serious mistakes the Cominform has ever made.

For if there was one sure way of strengthening the Yugoslav determination not to take orders from Moscow, it was to play down the heroic role of Yugoslavia in overthrowing Hitler's Naziism.

The latest attempt to discredit the present Communist leaders in Yugoslavia—many of whom were also Partisan leaders in the mountains during the war — appeared in the latest issue of the official Cominform journal, published in Romania. Written by Golubovic, until recently Yugoslav ambassador to Romania, the article declares that the Partisans played but an unimportant part in the liberation of their country.

"The Partisans"—one passage in the article says— "occupied Yugoslav territory only after the advance of the Russian Army had driven away the Germans."

Quite naturally, the majority of Yugoslavs are enraged—and if the Russian idea, in publishing such an article, was to weaken Marshal Tito's hold on his country, it looks as though the Reds have been guilty of a very clumsy error—one that is likely to have exactly the opposite effect to that intended.

Berlin Love Triangle—Former paratrooper, Edward Lada of Newark, hitchhiked through Berlin's blockade to see his German fiancee and their illegitimate child, Nancy, two. On his arrival U.S. authorities locked him up for illegal entry of occupied zone. To further complicate matters another German fraulein laid claim to Lada's affections.

SPORTS-&c

by A SIXBIT CRITIC

"Interesting—very interesting—if true" just about sums up the reaction among harness-horse fans to the announcement that a new track, to be devoted to floodlight racing, will be built not far from Toronto. Most of those who like to watch the trotters and side-wheelers in action would undoubtedly welcome such a move. But such a track has been mooted so often in the past — and never got any further than mere talk — that the fans just won't get hotted up until it is a bit nearer reality.

* * *

While floodlit harness horse racing has been a huge success south of the line—with record-breaking attendance and mutuel play at each succeeding meet — there's some doubt as to whether it would go over in a financially profitable manner at the site proposed. For many years Toronto has been known as just about the biggest sucker town there is anywhere, so far as the running horse racket is concerned; but "Hogtown" has never taken to the harness horse game—yet it is from there that the bulk of patronage for a track at Thornhill would have to come.

* * *

The chief promoter of the proposed track is a man who has been trying — unsuccessfully — to get Thoroughbred racing dates for the same location; so it can hardly be any really deep love for the pacers and trotters which prompts the present move. The idea would be to include Toronto in the flourishing night harness racing circuit now operating in the Eastern States, and to have pari-mutuel betting.

* * *

Well, maybe it will go through. Stranger things than that have happened. But, speaking strictly personally, we'll believe it when we see it—or rather, we'll believe that it has actually come to pass right after we've torn up our first mutuel ticket on a trotter or pacer which failed to justify the confidence we placed in it. And, just while we're on the subject, before things go too far, we trust that the powers-that-be make certain that Canadian-bred-or-owned harness horses get a fair shake in the way of races for which only they are eligible.

* * *

One of these evenings some hockey player, possessed of more heat than brains, is going to raise his warclub and whack an opponent over the noggin so lustily that the latter will fail to respond to treatment. Then there will be a huge outcry about the brutality of the rising generation and hockey will get the biggest black eye it has ever received — one from which it may not recover for a long, long time.

* * *

Now there are many who will testify that, so far as we are personally concerned, a certain amount of strenuosity, even roughness, has never kept us away from any athletic event. So long as we are safely out of harm's way, we enjoy seeing the lads mix it up with vim, vigor also vehemence.

But there's a limit to all things. In the hands of a sturdy, free-swinging forward or defense-man a hockey stick can become just as deadly a weapon as any of the "blunt instruments" you read about in the mystery-murder stories. Also, hockey is a personal-contact sport, where tempers are liable to become frayed at the edges far more quickly than in games such as—say—baseball or tennis.

* * *

That is why — in our humble opinion — hockey referees should keep much tighter control over what goes on, and be freer from interference from club managements, than the officials in charge of other sports. And that's just what they aren't. Hockey managers and coaches argue with officials — even threaten them with the loss of their jobs — in a manner which makes, for instance, baseball folks wonder just what's going on.

* * *

Hockey players also take liberties with the officials with far too great freedom — probably knowing that the worst that can happen to them is a small fine, which in all probability some team supporter with more money than brains will defray, or a one or two-game rest on the sidelines.

* * *

In recent weeks we have had the sorry spectacle of one manager, of a major league hockey team, hurling charges that the paid officials of the loop were deliberately giving his club the worst of it; of a coach accusing rival teams of being out to beat his club by deliberate and illegal roughness; and of two players —Cal Gardner of Toronto and Kenny Reardon of Montreal — swinging clubs in a manner which, had their aim been as good as their intentions, might well have ended in a tragedy, either single or double.

* * *

And to top it off, the Montreal coach—when one of the erring athletes was headed for the showers—faised the latter's hand in the style of a fight referee announcing a winner—as silly a move, probably, as was ever seen in organized hockey. "Quis custodiet ipsos custodes" is about all the Latin we can recall from our stretch—many long years ago—at Harbord Collegiate. Freely translated it might read, "If the managements can't keep from making fools of themselves, what can you expect of their players?

* * *

And in case you think we're making much ado over nothing, those of you with long enough memories might think back and recall the days when "Ace" Bailey lay, between life and death, from an injury received during a hockey match. It was touch and go for the world's fastest sport, so-called, then. It could happen again; and if it does, it won't be the players who are to blame. It will be those who put "action" — the sort that pays off at the box-office, before any other consideration whatsoever and who — when their team is in a slump—make the excuse that "they're not hitting hard enough."

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