

# Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

One of the most important weapons in the arsenal of today's contest for knowledge and liberty is words. One of the biggest problems is not only using words, but also abusing our use of words.

The Lord's prayer has only 56 words. Lincoln's Gettysburg Address contains 266 words. The ten commandments are made up of 297 words. The preamble to the Declaration of Independence has less than 411 words but a government order setting up the price of cabbage was found to contain 26,911 words.

The more decent minded among us are offended when beatniks, peaceniks and hippies paint filthy four letter words on signs to be carried in demonstrations. We object to the so-called 'filthy speech' campaign on college campuses. These expressions and terms are generally thought of as "dirty words" by the majority of every community. Nevertheless, proponents of free and open use of profanity and obscenity expend tremendous energy and vast hours advocating the merits of such language. The worst among them insist that words not even fit for alley fences ought to be freely used in public society including religious services. Somehow, I have never been able to understand how words that conjure up the filthiest, lowest and basest of human behaviors can add dignity or conversation, song or sermon.

To the revolutionist, "work" is a dirty word. He sees no justification for his having to earn a subsistence since he is busy turning the world upside down. As a consequence the world ought to take care of his needs, preferably by some federal tax, while he goes about destroying the very means that pay the tax in the first place.

To growing numbers of Americans, the words "soap", "honor", "patriot", "moral" and "law" are dirty words. These are words nobody uses unless he is totally out of step with the modern times.

The list is endless. Our modern rebels feel no loyalty or respect for such words as "flag" or "respect", or "profit" or "talent" and on and on!

Perhaps that is why so many people in this nation are only mildly shocked when a prominent young social rebel, Stokely Carmichael, stands before college students in Birmingham Alabama and cries out: "To hell with the laws of the United States." He advised his audience. "If a white man tries to walk over you, kill him." He also predicted that "your brothers in the ghettos are going to wake up with matches. One match and you can retaliate. Burn, baby, burn!"

Dr. Martin Luther King stood boldly before a large audience and proclaimed the United States "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today" he said he ought to confess "that we have been wrong from the beginning of our adventures in Viet Nam."

"These are revolutionary times," he said. "All over the globe men are revolting against old systems of exploitation and oppression and out of the womb of a frail world, new systems of justice and equality are being born. We in the west must support these revolutions.

It is a sad fact that western

Nations that initiated so much of the revolutionary spirit of a modern world have now become the arch anti-revolutionaries.

These two residents of America find new and strange ways to distort and twist the meaning of some of our most important and reliable words.

Every time they speak them, a few more misdirected citizens swallow this irresponsible difference in the meaning of great words.

LOWELL DEAN JOHNSON

Dear Editor,

A portion of my letter (RIDGERUNNER, Sept. 15, 1967) which relates to my scholarship, was a 'little unclear' and was brought to my notice by Dean Dula. I do not want to give wrong impression to the readers and so I would like to clear that now. I mentioned what I knew and was told by the president of the student body, Mr. Jim Day, last year. After my letter published I was told by Dean Dula that the story was different.

The story goes something like this: First I would like to mention that I never had, nor do I have now, a scholarship to Asheville-Biltmore College. In the second term of the year 1960, I requested Dean Dula for some help and told him my situation (that I was and unable to get the money from my parents in India due to foreign exchange troubles and I can't work since I have to have permission to work from the United States Department of Justice, which is also a trouble and headache). Dean Dula understood my problem and arranged me some help. Few days later he called me and told me that the scholarship has to be canceled since I drive an automobile and I was sent to Mr. Day to help me through student body. (I wasn't aware of the fact until now.) I thought Mr. Day has to recommend me for the help and I talked to him and also, proved that I wasn't the owner of the car. (The car was the result of an American friend's kindness). Mr. Day's reply was still negative. However, Dean Dula did arrange me some money through Asheville - Biltmore Foundation with the help of president of the college, Dr. Highsmith. (I only know this now and am grateful to Dean Dula, Dr. Highsmith and to the college.) I think this clear the 'unclear' portion of my letter.

I would like to quote Mr. Day's reply to Dean Dula's request: "We feel that we couldn't give help to a student who was driving a car when most of those students who were going to be called upon to contribute to Mr. Shadman's assistance were not themselves the owners of an automobile." My comment is that I can't accept help from the students who most likely are in the same situation I am. As a matter of fact, I know few students here who doesn't even get enough money to eat, how could possibly they provide me (or anyone in my situation) help in one way or the other.

I would also like to express my thanks to Dean Dula and pay regards to this thought, "I find no argument with anyone who wishes to discuss any aspect of college life so long as they keep their facts in order."

Haroon K. Shadman



Bob Bell

# WHIFFLERY

## A Beginning

One of my favorite quotations from Mark Twain reads thus, "I have no special regard for Satan; but I can at least claim that I have no prejudice against him. It may even be that I lean a little his way, on account of his not having a fair show. All religions issue bibles against him, and say the most injurious things about him, but we never hear his side. We have none but the evidence for the prosecution, and yet we have rendered the verdict. To my mind, this is irregular. It is un-English; it is un-American; it is French . . ."

Of course Satan has some kind of case, it goes without saying. It may be a poor one, but that is nothing; that can be said about any of us." Thus this column will be the last will and testament of Satan himself. Unlike Christianity, however, I will give anyone ample opportunity to give the other side of the picture.

The free exchange of ideas is a very important part of college life and any comments for or against what I have to say will be greatly appreciated although probably hated at the same time. Comment there will be, I assure you; for most of my opinions are "grey" rather than "black or white" and I tend to see everything this way - that is the good with the bad. As a result I am usually disliked by both sides, this means two things: (1) I am usually left out in the cold as the only one believing what I do and (2) being hated by both sides is a sure sign of neutrality. When I do swing my opinions to either "black or white" I begin by breathing fire. Anyone will be able to tell when I do have a "black" or a "white" opinion.

I feel that I must repeat what I have said many times in many different ways to that my over all concept of what education is all about comes through for this influences about all I have to say on any subject. I am talking about 'the search.' We are all here in search of something, I cannot say what it is for you because I don't know you. However, there are certain basic things that education will give you that can be "searched out" while in college, among the many concepts that you can search for with the tools of education are meaning - for yourself and the world you live in; your role in this particular society and how it should be accomplished and why; how to meet the every day needs of yourself as well as the everyday needs of those you hold closely. The list is endless but I think by now you get the general idea.

Let me say here that this is the most exciting and vital part of your life - I know for I'm still searching. The "search" should be exciting and invigorating and meaningful to you and you alone. It will influence others but the special meaning will be

yours and yours alone. Education provides the tools by which you conduct the "search" and the use of education is important. Therefore, the more one learns the more clear cut the "search" becomes but in a way special to that individual alone.

This is the very special meaning that education has in my own life and more often than not this is what gets me through a day. So let us not be afraid to "search" - right? Meaning is an often relative term because it "means" so many things to so many different people. This column is simply a personal expression of my "search" and I am willing to share it with you and it is just as easy for you to share your "search" with me, particularly if it differs from mine because both of us learn something in the end.

There's plenty of time to go into this later but for right now I think this is enough.

A short biographical sketch of myself is in order to allow you to get the full impact of the column. I am 24, over-weight, balding and married - the first three being the result of the fourth. I have gone to school here forever and probably will keep going until some catastrophic happening occurs like graduation. I have served my country in the Armed Forces (Army) where I made PFC the hard way - PFC, Corporal, PFC. You see I had this slight disagreement with this First John and, well . . . why bore you with the details?

I have the mentality just above that of an imbecile so that makes me one step above the vast majority of people who write columns in newspapers nowadays. I don't pull punches, either, so that makes me valn - nowadays. Keeping this in mind I will say one more thing: From time to time this year I will have a guest writer - Norman Whiffer - who is the inspiration for this

column. His first correspondence with me should occur sometime next month. I know that you are all awaiting his first piece as anxiously as I am.

Some of the topics that I plan to cover in this column are Viet Nam, the Great Society, campus life, student government, sports and life in general. All the subjects will be topical and known to everyone. My opinion, however, will probably not be known even after you've read the column - that of course will be my fault. Letters to the column will be printed in the column itself subject as I am to the scrutiny of the editor. Comments from everyone are, of course, most welcome stopping short of bodily harm.

I had planned to say something this time but it seems that space is running out so I will cut out for now. Next week: A Look At the New Left.

### Panty Raids

### Good Release

(ACP)-- Panty raids, often denounced as a sign of immaturity are actually a healthy way to relieve tensions, according to a Northern Illinois University professor, the Northern Stars reports.

Dae H. Chang, sociology and anthropology professor, said that at the end of a long winter students want to take advantage of the warm weather to get rid of "cooped up" feelings and that panty raids are "among the more desirable means" of doing it. Alternatives are drinking, stealing, and using narcotics, he said.

"As long as the activity is in the context of the campus, and society is not disturbed, then the raids should be tolerated," Chang said. "Actually, I'm glad the students around here are developing esprit de corps to stage these raids.

"As long as the raids are kept under control by the police, I don't think student behavior will go outside the tolerable range."

## The Ridgerunner

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### Our Letter Policy

Letters to the Editor and submissions for guest editorials should be left at the office of The Ridgerunner or put in the intracampus box in the Student Union Building. All submissions must be signed.

We welcome both letters and longer more comprehensive articles of opinion from students, faculty, administration, and from any citizens of the community whose contribution is directed toward the educational interests of the college. All submissions should be typed and double-spaced.