

### Editorials

## A Sinking Ship

It is a sad commentary on the state of human affairs when any legislative body becomes corrupt or apathetic towards its primary function of serving the constituents. Yet, one cannot in the same phrase of condemnation accuse the entire body of such immoralities when in fact only a simple majority may be guilty. This is the cancer of the present Student Senate.

Stagnant is the maxim which best describes the Senate. It is a rotting ship on a turbulent sea of political idealisms. The experienced crew left her upon graduation and now she flounders at the hands of cabin boys whose lack of skill has dashed her upon the rocks of corruption and torn her sails with apathy. Even the rats abandoned her this fall at the first signs of her weakening beams.

From this exterior view the scene presents little hope, but when observed from within, the stench is of despair and decay. The cabin boy senate is divided into two factions and each disagrees with the other on all topics brought to its attention. Decisions are made on issues before each meeting and, regardless of arguments, all votes are cast before the gavel opens each session. Those chosen as officials are incapable of performing their jobs; policies and procedures are dictated by those without the authority to do so; rules of order are misinterpreted and oftentimes not followed; trivia is debated longer than is necessary and than are important issues; living mannequins speak words written by their "bosses"; and absences are met with excuses of "I'm too tired" and "tell them where they can shove it."

Such atrocities should not be allowed to exist in this cancerous state of dissention and malfunction, but the cure seemingly cannot come from within. At present the Senate cannot make its own decisions because it lacks leadership, experience, and determination. The remedy must be distilled within the conscience of the interested student. He must tell his representatives exactly how he feels about each pressing issue in order to homogenize ideas and tie the factions together. Only by the conscientious efforts of every constituent can the floundering ship of senate wash upon friendly shores and exist in harmony.

## Oct. 15 Protest

This nation saw the largest war protests in its history Oct. 15 and Elon participated in the event. The day's activities not only included protests against the war and demands for peace but also there were ceremonies in memory of the war dead, such as the silent vigil and the memorial service in the Community Church.

It was exciting to see that many Elon students and faculty joining at one time or another in the day's activities. It was, however, disappointing that this number of participants was small compared to the number of students and faculty on campus.

It seems that many were more concerned with eating at the chicken feast than joining in the group to listen and perhaps discuss something that deeply affects us all. Apathy is the rule of the day for most students at Elon as well as the faculty and administration.

There was one point stated by Dr. W. W. Sloan which was something we all should think about seriously. Dr. Sloan said, "I don't think we can be Christian and advocate war."

Every one of us should take the time to stop and think about this war. There has to be a time for us to make a decision about it and take a stand since this war overshadows our lives so much. What will it take to wake some people up? What price must one pay before one realizes what is happening?

As Bill Comminaki stated, "We have the great commission to find peace." This should be our goal. We must set an example to the world that we can have peace not only with other countries but among ourselves.

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\*The Technician from N. C. State University. The Student Senate at State voted modified participation in the Oct. 15 Vietnam Moratorium.

\*The Commonwealth Times from Virginia Commonwealth University. In response to requests from students last spring, VCU has set up several courses in Afro-American history.

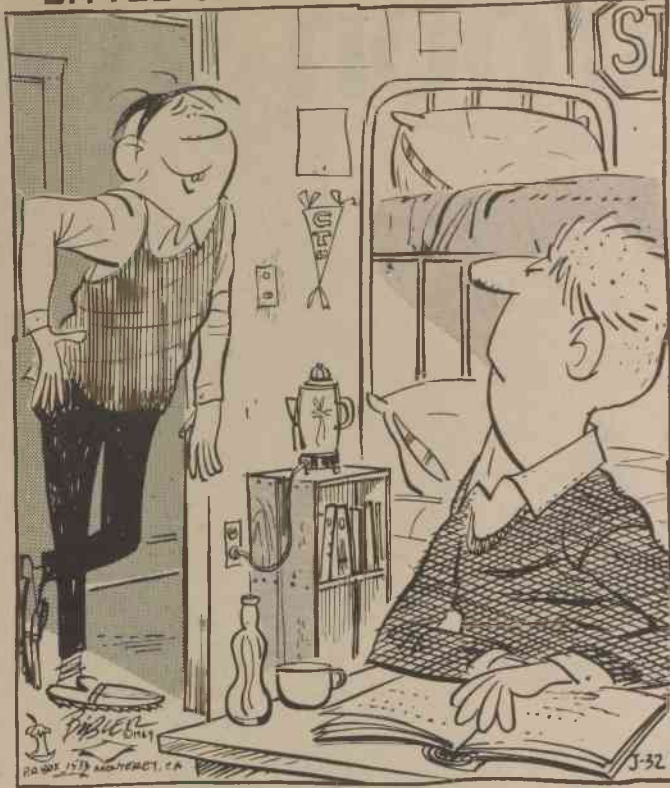
\*The Pfeiffer News from Pfeiffer College. Commenting on the death

of Sen. Everett Dirksen the News said, "We are always quick to judge the dead but nonetheless Everett M. Dirksen was great. He was a king-maker, a mold of politics and politicians. It was he who dared tell presidents no."

\*The Carolinian from UNC at Greensboro. Students at UNC-G can rent a refrigerator from the SGA for only \$35 a year.

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## LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"WELL, IN SPITE OF MISSING TH' FINAL I TALKED HIM INTO PASSING ME ON CONDITION - - - THAT HELL FREEZES OVER!"

## The Time Will Come

By Carl Reynolds

Passive resistance has seemed to be an unattainable idea to many who have been oppressed by outside forces and wish to see change. The best known revolutions in history have been the bloodiest. One revolution obtained its ideals with no bloodshed resulting from actions taken by the revolutionaries; though their ideals were radical and feared great opposition and the means of revolution were absolutely passive. This was the revolution where India obtained independence from Great Britain, led by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.

Ghandi first realized the power of passive resistance when he was put off a train in Africa af-

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## Letters to the Editor

On Oct. 15

I want to express my deep appreciation to all of our students for the mature and responsible manner in which Oct. 15 was observed on our campus. Those who chose to protest the war did so in a quiet, peaceful manner without disturbing those who chose to attend classes. This is highly commendable and I am grateful to all, both the protesters and the non-protesters, for the fact that there was no attempt to stifle personal expression and no attempt to interfere with the regular, orderly operation of the College.

I was tremendously impressed with the fact that most of our students attended classes as scheduled. There should be no conflict between doing our regularly assigned duties and making an expression of our opinion on important issues. That most of our students agree with that position is very heartening to me.

The evening worship service was a period of great inspiration for me. To know that those of us who hold widely differing views regarding national policy can meet in prayer for the peace which we all so strongly desire is wonderful. I am grateful that I had the privilege of being present and having a part in this important service.

J. E. Danieley, President

### Unpatriotic Move

Our college made headlines across the country in regards to its position on the Oct. 15 demonstration. My father, upon reading about this in the local newspaper, was compelled to write me a very interesting and seldom noticed side to this question. Being professor of retiring Army person-

nel who sometimes have rank as high as major and even colonel, he has had a great opportunity to learn much about the Vietnam War first-hand from veterans "in-the-know". This is the letter from my father, an alumnus of Elon College (1934) and N. C. State (1935):

"We read in the newspaper that the President of the S.G.A. has requested that classes be suspended for that demonstration on Oct. 15th. Think real carefully before you get involved in such a stupid undertaking. First - you are at Elon College to learn and to prepare you for life after school - you can't do either when you stay away from class - even psychology. Second - let's face it! The objectives of this demonstration are not patriotic and could ultimately lead to the downfall of our nation. You should read the article in "Reader's Digest" about the S.D.S. and Black Panthers. Both are dedicated to the destruction of our society and neither really has a substitute.

You should hear some of the men I have had in my classes talk about the kind of government and conditions under the Communists, which they have observed first hand. You would never have anything to do with such movements. You have had a small taste of what life is like when you had to work last semester and know how hard it is to save a little money to go back to school, but you can't imagine what it is like to have so little. You wonder if there is going to be another meal and where it will come from. We have experienced it and have shielded this generation from such an experience. Maybe we were wrong in protecting you but we would like to think that you will take our word for what it is

and try to protect the society that has been so generous with us, that made it possible for us to come back and provide.

Life can be hard but the fellow who is willing to set his goals high and work hard for them still has a chance of achieving his goals. Remember that as long as you protect the other fellow's rights, you are also protecting your own rights. Freedom is privilege as well as a right and it has been won for us with the blood, sweat, and tears of our ancestors who were willing to fight for themselves and us. Unfortunately, the fight for freedom must always be fought or someone will erode our rights and try to make slaves of us.

Get some of the old history books and books on economics before our society was invaded by so much of the communistic philosophy and began trying to brainwash us through our schools and find out what made our country great. Then I believe you will be strong in doing all you can to protect your society from its detractors."

## Maroon & Gold

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