

The Guilfordian

VOLUME LII

GREENSBORO, N. C. DECEMBER 14, 1967

NUMBER 9

The Relevancy of The Quaker Religion; Can Fox's Proteges Provide The Answers?

By Jim Garvin

In the mid 17th century, guided by faith, and nurtured by a love for mankind, George Fox and his indefatigable cronies set out on a course which would alter the minds of thousands and change the path of history. They, in those first wobbly but courageous steps, bucked the old order and ushered in a new religion - the Society of Friends.

Friends were, and always have been, a strange lot. Radicals to the last man, their faith became known as the "left-wing" of the Puritan movement. The epithet could not have fit more perfectly. Decrying war in an era when to do so was heresy, dismissing Calvin's then prevalent predestination with a calculated shirk, and believing in the equality of man in an age of rigid class distinction effectively worked to mark them as social outcasts, as freaks in the circus of life. But, with a difference - they were at least in the act, and they at least stood for something.

Their numbers expanded rapidly when they arrived on the shores of America in the second half of the 17th century. And, under the charismatic leadership of William Penn, the Quaker Faith reached its heyday.

With Penn's death, however, and with the heavy influx of other more comfortable Religions to America, the Quakers began to fade. Today, in fact, their number in the world is a mere 250,000. Even the most unperceptive observer can sense their dilemma as he slips into the quietly modern Meeting house on New Garden Road on Sunday morning.

Surrounded by a group of old people with one foot in the grave, anyone can see that the plain fact of the matter is that the Quakers are dying off and are failing to gain the badly needed converts.

Jack Kirk, the young, nattily dressed,

and highly active minister of the New Garden Meeting is also plagued by this problem.

"Why, did you know that we have only two families within the 21-32 year age group?" After brief reflection on this point, he added hopefully, "in a few years though, with the airport out there, you know, those people are going to be looking for a church. We'll probably take some of them in."

But, while Kirk's problems are near solution, the issue is still an urgent one for the Quakers.

The question of relevancy then logically crops up. Does the Quaker faith provide the answers to the problems facing Americans in the twentieth century? Or, are their solutions merely panaceas which can never be realistically concluded?

I found, in talking with Jack Kirk, that his whole personality is attuned to the "modern, pragmatic, approach." He admitted, with reluctant finality, that elimination of the "war-machine" is an unrealistic proposition. Then, he proposed sending out small "cadres, or clusters" of people to delve into such questions as poverty and illiteracy.

The Quakers are discovering, perhaps belatedly, that to maintain their virility in the sterile atmosphere of the United States, where making a buck and passing the buck is the order of the day, will require monumental efforts from people like Jack Kirk who have tinted their idealism with a healthy dosage of realism.

"Brainstorming" Retreat Held by Union Sparks Guilford Plans for Next Semester

Brainstorming, bargaining, planning, and recreating formed the program for the Leadership retreat, held this weekend in Reidsville, N. C., sponsored by the College Union.

The group of 20 students included the Executive Board, committee members plus interested students. Mr. Cliff Lowery, Director of the College Union, gave the opening address, in which he enumerated the qualities of leadership as applied to being Chairman of a Committee. Lowery explained that a good chairman should rely on his committee, call regular meetings, and use their ideas.

Following Lowery, Dennis Abramowitz, vice president of the Union, spoke on the principles of a good leader. After a short discussion, the group began the brainstorming session. Brainstorming involves throwing out wild ideas in answer to a given problem such as publicity or new kinds of entertainment. The ideas were written down to be referred to later and worked into a usable method.

Sunday morning, the committee chairman made plans for second semester. The Union will be offering a wide variety of activities which should provide something for everyone. In the plans are a beach weekend, a psychedelic band, a jazz concert, a kite day, and a hypnotist, to name just a few.

Plans were also made for two more retreats: one in March for an evaluation of second semester and one in April to plan for next year with the new officers. One of these may be held in conjunction with the Legislature for the purpose of developing more enthusiasm and getting fresh ideas.

In the final evaluation for the retreat, all agreed that it had been a success and that second semester Union activities were really groovier.

W. H. Auden's Christmas Poem Presented In The Hut By The Revelers

Last year at this time, the Reveler's Club presented a children's Christmas play entitled, "His Name is Santa Claus." This year the club will change the mood to a more serious tone when they present W. H. Auden's Christmas poem, "For the Time Being" Thursday night in the Hut. The club has chosen to read "The Nativity" section of the poem, which depicts the Christmas story in contemporary times. Speaking choruses will highlight the selection.

The club members participating will be Scott Parker, Sally Peterson, Marilyn McIntyre, Hank Hackett, Steve Wessells, and Chris Coan, all veterans of the club's recent production of "The Wild Duck."

The presentation will also feature outstanding local talent including Libba Hinkel, star of Romper Room, Limbo the Clown, and last year's Christmas play, Larry Lambeth of Radio Station WQMG, and William Patton, the Chaplain Lutheran of Duke University and UNC-G.

Mr. Patton was instrumental in bringing Duke's production of Pinter's "The Caretaker" to the Guilford campus.

The reading is being taped for radio broadcast and will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday evening.

Vietnam: Big Fervored Issue On College Campuses This Fall

No campus, however provincial ordinarily, has been able to shut itself off from the dialogue over the war in Viet Nam.

An issue of such force, such immediacy, has not hit the campus since the civil rights upheaval of 1964. And the campus is reacting, with a fervor.

While the dissenters are still relatively few, they seem to have given a war-and-peace orientation to the entire campus.

The forms of dissent are as diverse as the campuses themselves.

Near the University of North Carolina's Chapel Hill campus, students are exposed every Wednesday to a long line of silent protestors. Among them one day last month was an 84-year old retired Episcopal priest, who had been part of the vigil nearly every week since January because, he told a Daily Tar Heel reporter, "I want peace for my children."

"We don't want to push ourselves on anyone, that's why we're silent," he said. "We just want to make our views known."

At Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa., Students for a Democratic Society planned to spark the University's Founder's Day ceremonies by picketing one of the men scheduled to receive an honorary degree—Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara.

"Even though the president (of the University, W. Deming Lewis) said McNamara is not coming in any connection with the war," said SDS president Herb Ford, "we feel his position is too important in this filthy and dirty affair for us to pass up this chance to show our feelings."

Lehigh students were to be joined by others from six area colleges and the local high schools, the Brown and White reported.

At the University of Nebraska, the student senate's Ad Hoc Committee on Vietnam announced plans for a series of seminars on the war, followed by an all-campus referendum before Thanksgiving, according to the Daily Nebraskan.

At the University of California, Berkeley, the Stop the Draft Committee plann-

ed a week-long demonstration (Oct. 16-21) to halt operations at the Oakland Inductions Center. Some 116 demonstrators, including folk singer Joan Baez, were arrested on the first day of demonstrating.

Outgrowth of Vietnam Summer

Much of the protest is an outgrowth of Vietnam Summer, a nation-wide program, according to the Student Life, to "organize all opposition to the war in Vietnam into a constituency that can exert pressure to end the war."

It works to "provide educational material on the war itself, to encourage inclusion of the subject in classroom studies, to provide information on the draft and alternatives to the draft, and to conduct referenda in selected communities across the country."

Based on the precedent of the Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964, it "attracted over 26,000 volunteers and over \$200,000 in contributions at last

count this past summer," the newspaper reported. Many Volunteers returned to their campuses to speak local anti-war action.

Draft Decisions

While the anti-war movements is becoming more organizational in an effort to make the intensity and strength of anti-war sentiment known at the national level, the real dilemma concerning the war remains a personal one—because for the young American male, attitudes on the war must inevitably be translated into a decision on the draft—whether or not to accept a 2S deferment, whether to go if called.

October 16 brought the decisions of young men across the country into the open when they turned in their draft cards and pledged "total non-cooperation with the Selective Service System."

Before that, at a Lutheran Labor Day Conference on War and Peace, some 28

young Lutherans, among them graduate students, signed a "We Won't Go" statement, the Valparaiso University Torch reports. The statement declared that "under no circumstances" would they fight in Vietnam nor participate in the military "so long as the present war continues."

The 2S deferment, held by most college males, continues to be the target of campus liberals, who denounce the Selective Service System for giving the college student precedence over the poor, the non-white, the ungifted for whom college is an impossibility.

Spearheading the attack is the National Student Assn., which last summer pointed to the inequities of the system and called for the establishment of a volunteer national army. But failing that, NSA called for reforms of the current system, including the elimination of universities' participation in the Selective Service process.

The Wesley Foundation at the University of North Carolina has started a program called "The Alternative of Conscientious Objection" to explain how to become a CO, the Daily Tar Heel reported.

The problem of being officially recognized as a CO, the Tar Heel said, comes from the inconsistency of the inquiring boards. "The contact with local boards varies," said Jim Kahan, student CO and speaker at the first program. "Most boards have a lot of former military people and they are hostile to CO's."

While opposition to the draft seems to be on the increase, its still a fact that most students, even though they're not fond of the idea, would serve if called. The draft resisters hope to change all that.

And even though they may succeed in putting questions in many minds, there'll always be a few who remain undaunted—like the lone Kansas student who daily goes through the paces of a grueling physical fitness campaign.

His reason: He wants to be prepared if called to go to war.

