

Editorials YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!

Ron Johnson
Assistant Editor

Well, we're all back from Fall Break, but are we all ready for the old grind? I certainly hope so, 'cause it's going to be all up-hill from here on in, suckers. It's the middle of the semester, time once again for a fit of the "Halfway There Doubts-and-Fears." Why are all you people busting your humps to get through college? Is it for the money? Nowadays a good craftsman makes more than most college graduates. Do you want to teach? Think back on your own high school days. Did your teachers, as a rule, seem happy, contented, inspired? Or are you in college for the same reason that water flows downhill? Are you just following the path of least resistance? Well, don't worry if you are. That's as good a reason as any.

Did you know that the average person doesn't make a final decision about a career until they are 26? It's true, just ask the people down at the Counseling Center. But here are all you 18-22 year-olds, blithely deciding what you are going to do for the rest of your lives. The rest of your lives! I still don't know whether to envy or pity you.

What college is good at is changing your values. You can pick up false standards so easily in the confusion of college life. A friend of mine recently de-pledged a fraternity. (No names, please). Not because he didn't believe in what the fraternity stood for, but because he had a non-fraternity-connected personal dispute with one of the members of the frat - who would have blacklisted him, both verbally and literally, of course. Some Brotherhood. My friend's primary mistake was not realizing that Greek-letter organizations, for all their high-flown ideals, are made up of people, who are all too human.

That's the whole thing about college. We're all still human, no matter how much we learn, how many sports we play, or how many little green alligators we have on our clothing. Going to college doesn't guarantee us a happy life, or make us any better than anyone else. What college basically does do is keep us out of circulation long enough to totally alienate us towards living in the real world, unless we're very careful or very lucky.

About now, someone is saying, so righteously, "If he doesn't like it here why doesn't he leave? Right?"

Don't tempt me.

THE 1980 VOTE

Keith Flynn
HILLTOP Reporter

As of late, I have been greatly encouraged by the majority of Americans trying to revive the time-worn axiom, "Be patriotic." In the past year, Americans and American values have been threatened by more challenges than at any time in the past decade, and yet instead of diminishing American spirit, these challenges have tempered American resolve. Americans seem to have banded together and have decided to rise from the apathetic doldrums which so encompassed the U.S. public in the 1970's. Aside from the general opinion I have heard and seen, the death of this apathy can now be seen in the obituary of concrete statistics. Voter turnout in Presidential primaries and caucuses is greater than at any time since 1960, when 62.8% of the voting public took to the polls. Public participation in the Maine Democratic caucuses increased almost fivefold over 1976, an incredible jump of 390%, and, in Vermont, primary voter numbers increased 43 percent. Yet this larger interest has not only taken place in the Democratic party. Republican National Chairman Bill Brock noted that this year's GOP primary attracted nearly 400,000 votes,

while only 190,000 people took part in 1976. It appears from the nature of these statistics that the "my vote doesn't count" syndrome may at long last be fading. When an American casts his vote he is, in essence defending the democratic process. The meaning of patriotism is simple; it means watching out for yourself by watching out for your country and by staking your voice in who should lead it. By protecting the vital interests of our great nation as a whole, and choosing the leaders who will represent this protection, we protect and defend the interests and security of every American individual. As citizens of a democracy, it is our duty and our responsibility to cast our vote and defend our right to our precious freedom of choice. Abraham Lincoln once said, "To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men." It is not the dignitary, but the common American who is charged with the defense of liberty, and he can defend only by exercising his right to vote and by vocally defending his choice. Our freedom to vote can transform an America uncertain of its present into an America unsurpassed with enthusiasm for the future and insuring that certain future with a simple choice at the ballot box.

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Historian.

The North Carolina Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Chi, founded in 1922 and installed at Mars Hill in 1971, represents the highest academic honor on the Mars Hill campus. Membership is awarded to regular students of junior or senior status who have a quality point ratio of at least 3.5 and who are in the top five percent of their class.

The official sponsor of the North Carolina Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Chi at Mars Hill is Miss Winona Bierbaum, who serves along with two other faculty sponsors who are elected by the Alpha Chi members, this year Mrs. Betty Hughes and Dr. Jim Lenburg.

Alpha Chi is a coeducational society whose purpose is to promote academic excellence and exemplary character

among college and university students and to honor those achieving such distinction.

This year, the National Council of Alpha Chi will choose possibly three members to be awarded the H. Y. Benedict Fellowship for graduate study during 1980-81 and possibly three members to be awarded the Alfred R. Nolle Scholarship for undergraduate study, also for 1980-81. This is just one of the benefits that are made possible for the members of Alpha Chi, along with other more practical ones like the positive influence it has on a job resume or a graduate school application.

Since 1969, Alpha Chi has enjoyed remarkable growth. Today it has 10 chapters in 40 states, and more than 90,000 active members on its rolls.

THE WORLD IS YOUR HOME, TOO

A GUEST EDITORIAL BY ANDREW YOUNG

I am always amazed at the real power college students have at their command, how much of it goes unused - wasted.

That is a shame. Because student power could provide that critical margin, that extra measure of push needed to channel our national policies, our energies and consciousness into new ways of meeting the very pressing needs of the people of the world.

No, I am not talking about the street demonstrations and the sit-ins that were a part of another decade. I am talking about the power you have - collectively - as citizens, voters, and shapers of opinion, and about the power you have as individuals to make things happen on your own.

I am told that the current generation of college students is more concerned with their own welfare than with making this planet a better place to live. I am told that. But I don't believe it. I suspect that today's college students are simply not aware of what is going on in the world.

Take the issue of world hunger. Think of thousands of people who will not live until tomorrow morning because they can't get enough to eat. Now what can you do?

I think it is really simple for a campus hunger committee to establish a registration booth where students pay their tuition and begin to talk about the problem - raise political consciousness. The problem with young people, and I've learned this from my own family, is that they all register to vote back home and then all forget until the last minute to write home for absentee ballots. You've got to get people to register on their campuses. I think this would revolutionize American politics.

If you have, for example, 55 thousand students on a campus like Ohio State, or a thousand at Michigan State, and they are registered, every candidate coming to the states would come through the campuses because there are so many votes there. At that point you get to ask the candidate about what he or she is going to do about world hunger. Then the candidate goes to another campus and gets the same question. That starts people in public life thinking, coming up with policies to solve things, to get action.

Let me talk for a moment about the other kind of power, the power students have as individuals. You have a decision to make: whether to use the knowledge and experience you are gaining to help only yourself or to share the fruits of your education with people who desperately need what you have to give.

You don't even have to re-invent the wheel. It's already been done. It's called Peace Corps. Some 80 thousand people, many of them fresh out of school, served as Peace Corps volunteers helping people in the developing world to improve themselves to a better life. The Peace Corps is celebrating its 20th Anniversary - still going strong, still attracting bright people who want to enrich their lives by helping others.

The nice thing about VISTA and Peace Corps is that they work. They get results. As an individual volunteer, you may even change world history, and you will certainly change the lives of the people you come in contact with. When you add up all the good touched by all the volunteers, think of the difference it makes.

The problems of this world are not going to go away overnight. A better world built just like a house, brick-by-brick, piece by piece.

Yes, college students will make a difference in how well, we, as a world community, meet the challenges of this decade.

Mr. Young is a former United States ambassador to the United Nations