

Point Blank by Larry Keith



University  
Emergency  
Case

Two white-jacketed Charlotte Ambulance Service attendants flung open the doors of their red and white vehicle of mercy. With practiced skill they had the stretcher wheeled into the emergency room of Charlotte Memorial Hospital in seconds.

"Worst case I've ever seen," said Wilson, who had been careening about the town's streets for four years as a CAS attendant. "Look at the poor guy," he continued. "He's still shaking. At least he's no longer in shock. What a terrible experience he must have gone through. His nerves are completely shattered." Meanwhile, at the reception desk...

"Name?"  
"John Andrews."  
"Occupation?"  
"Student."  
"Address?"  
"311 Cannon Boulevard."  
"Phone?"  
"234-5789."  
"Insurance?"  
"Blue cross."  
"Personal physician?"  
"Dr. Raymond Kingston."

"Now, Mr. Andrews, what seems to be the trouble? And please stop shaking. That's very annoying."

"It's my nerves, I guess. I must have suffered some kind of momentary breakdown. I feel a lot better now."

"You don't look very well, Mr. Andrews. We'll want to keep you here a few days for tests and observation. Why were you brought here? What happened?"

--'Please Get To The Point'

"Like I said, Ma'm, I just went all to pieces. I remember how it happened. Sociology had just ended. I have sociology from 10:30 to 11:20 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It's not a very hard course. You just have to read the text and attend class regularly. I'm doing okay. But like I said, the bell had run so it was 11:20."

"Please get to the point, Mr. Andrews. We must know what happened."

"Sure. It was 11:20 and I had an hour and a half before my next class, history. Now that's a tough course. The professor is really something. You wouldn't believe that..."

"Mr. Andrews!"  
"Sorry."  
"That's all right. Go on."

"So I had an hour and a half to kill, see. So I had to decide what to do. Book time in the library was absolutely out. I wanted something where I could just sit back and enjoy myself. You know, get a few laughs. So I decided to go to a lecture. We always have some kind of lecture on Wednesdays."

"I went down to the Union and saw that there was a poet speaking in the parquet room. I was about to go in when one of my friends said, 'Hey, John, you're not going to hear that stuffed-shirt are you. Come with us and listen to the campaign speeches.' Now I thought that was a pretty good idea, too. There I was trying to decide which one to go to when I remembered."

"I had promised Fenner that I would listen to his lecture in another part of the building. I told them that I was sorry but I couldn't go to either. I went to the room but didn't find anyone. 'Fine,' I thought, although I really had wanted to hear what he had to say. That leaves only the other two. Now I felt a little more relaxed."

"I thought I owed it to myself to hear the poet. I went in and sat down with the thirty faculty members and ten other students. I was sort of boring and my mind started to wander. 'Really,' I thought, 'I owe it to the candidates to listen to their speeches. They've worked hard and the least I can do is give'em a couple of minutes of my time.'

--'Couldn't Take It Much Longer'

"This really bothered me. I couldn't take it much longer so I got up right when the guy paused for a drink of water and walked out. I hid my face so my English professor wouldn't notice me. I got into the cafeteria just in time to hear Tim say 'Thank you for coming,' and I knew I was too late."

"I ran back upstairs to hear the poet but he was thanking me for coming too. On my way out I saw Mr. Fenner. He asked me where I had been and I tried to explain that I meant to hear him but I didn't find anyone in the room. He told me I went to the wrong one. I said 'Oh.'

"This is where I really began to worry. I get very little out of the poet's talk and nothing out of the campaign speeches. And I completely missed Fenner's talk and I knew it might show up on my final grade but maybe he's not like that. I hope not."

"One thing led to another and I started mumbling to myself. Next thing I knew I was being wheeled in here."

"Wait a minute. I do remember hearing someone say 'Poor guy, he spread himself too thin.' Anyway here I am. I guess it wouldn't have happened if I weren't so interested in what's going on. This isn't the first time they've done this to me. Another..."

"Done what?"  
"Put everything on the same day. You know, not much happens out there, but when it does, it starts at 11:30 on Wednesday."

"Look, Mr. Andrews. I think you'll recover without our help. It was quite an ordeal you went through. It's lucky you came out alive. We can let you go, but take it easy. Stay away from the University Union at 11:30 on Wednesdays and save yourself alot of trouble. I will have to prescribe group therapy, though."

"Group therapy? For who? I thought you said I'd be okay."  
"You will be. But someone has to get to those idiots who schedule everything at the same time before this same thing happens to someone else."

"Thanks nurse. You're really understanding."

Is 'Society' So Wrong?

Mr. Editor:

I must admit that I, too, was shocked by the advertisement of the Society of Friends-- for very different reasons, I was shocked because I never thought anyone would have the audacity to speak out in such a manner on the draft and its relation to the religious beliefs held by its imminent victims.

Mr. Petty says, "To be a conscientious objector requires that the person have irrevocable religious beliefs which prohibit him from any act of violence." Not quite so, Mr. Petty. Would you care to define for us your term "act of violence"? The draft board has done so quite nicely, and your modifier "any" rather puts your understanding of the term a step beyond what is really necessary. I know quite well what is required to be classified as a conscientious objector -- I am one, classified as such with Local Board No. 36.

Mr. Petty cites the war in Vietnam as insufficient grounds "for the status of conscientious objector." However, while he accuses so many (at least I suppose) of this inconsistency in aims, he continues his argument by preaching, "Would these same people not raise a hand if their home, person, or family were in danger?" (God, motherhood, and the flag -- the Commies are out to get us!) Obviously Mr. Petty's arguments are equally irrelevant to the matter at hand.

That great defender of the Con-

Bill Billups  
Answers Query

Mr. Editor:

Mr. McNeely made several good points in his article of April 26, 1967. I certainly agree that an individual's grades normally go up when they feel they are a part of the University. I also agree that there are many who complain about the lack of participation, and I think some people who want to serve are limited because of the 2.0 q. p. requirement. However, I challenge his ideas that this requirement is "blind tradition" or is the product of "idiots." Rather the rule was set to promote a protection for the students by setting up standards for the students' officers to live up to and maintain.

I question whether the requirement is fundamentally wrong as implied in Mr. McNeely's article. I am inclined to feel that any representative of the University in any capacity should meet certain standards. Truly the President of the United States may not need an elementary education, but his main obligation is to fulfill the duties of his office. Yet, a student and teacher must grow in common knowledge and academic knowledge seeking to advance the University's goals and also his abilities to be a better member of society.

In conclusion, I would like to say that if the students really feel that the requirement should be changed, then they should say so through their representatives. Possibly a review board is necessary to screen nominees. Yet if some students really want to serve now, 2.0 or not, there are many appointed positions available for the coming year. I challenge these students to contact Dwayne Spitzer who is Chairman of the University Union, John Gaither who is President of the Student Body, myself, or any other elected officer. We will be glad to help any and all students in any way possible, no matter what the problem, desire, or idea.

Bill Billups

stitution, Mr. Petty, is willing to forgive and forget these poor misguided fools for their sin of non-conformity: "There are those who wouldn't, but their numbers are small and they are to be respected for their great faith." Mr. Petty, the ever-changing moods of your mind!

He seems alarmed that religious affiliations are to be assumed upon the grounds of political differences and fear for one's life. I must ask if the usual pattern in ascertaining one's religious beliefs is of higher repute. In this case, the matter is at least thought out -- one finds that in most "normal" cases, the decision is made at birth, seldom to be changed, reaffirmed, or considered at all for any length of time. All this is assuming that all those persons having an interest in the advertisement do actually contact

the Society of Friends, that they are then accepted as members of the Society with no more than their statement of distaste for 1-A status, and that they never become anything more than "cowards in Quakers' clothing." It might appear almost as ridiculous as it is to assume all this.

What is the true meaning of this advertisement by the Society of Friends? For two hundred years Protestant Fundamentalist (and shall I add Evangelist?) preachers have "won souls for the Lord" preaching "hellfire and damnation." Today the Quakers are using gunfire and Vietnam to at least interest young men in an alternative. If they win a few lives for peace along the way, will our world of cowards regret the dirge of war itself? A "warmonger" is a coward in his own right.

L. Wayne Howard.

Harriers Stranded

Mr. Editor:

Coach Murphy strikes again! Once again out of the wild blue yonder, Coach Murphy helps the track team tremendously by leaving one-fourth of the track team behind Sunday. It seems evident that he is more dedicated to the minute and second hand of his watch than to the four athletes he left stranded.

The trip to Lynchburg was not just another track meet but the all - DIAC conference meet, the most important meet this year.

The facts: approximately 1:29 p. m. Sunday a call was made to the Union to inform the team that three very concerned team mates were on the way. At 1:30 p. m. Murphy insisted that the team leave.

To my dismay only one member

of the team refused to leave. So Coach Murphy did the only sensible thing to do, he left not only Ben, Harold, and Maurice, but Larry too! I do hereby say my last word on this issue to you Mr. Murphy: "Thanks".

Ben Chavis

Apology Made

Mr. Editor:

Any derogatory remarks made concerning the character or reputation of Chuck Prendergast have no foundation. The people responsible for these remarks are very sorry and wish to apologize for them.

Ellison Clary

Board Makes Appeal

Mr. Editor:

Within the next few weeks, most of the major events for next year will be planned by the Union Program board.

Members of the Program Board will work to get the attractions which they feel are most popular.

Unless you tell the Program board the things you want to see, they won't know.

Tell a member of the Program board your ideas for next year,

or better yet, join a committee and have a voice in the selection.

The union committees include: social, fine arts, lectures, recreation, special activities.

See Dwayne Spitzer, John Lafferty, Kay Watson, Ron Russell, Diana Clark, Jana Greene, Charlie Brown, Reggie Yaude, Bobbe Berry, Fred Jordan, or Terry Westerfield.

John Lafferty



"I UNDERSTAND TH' STUDENTS PRETTY WELL RUN THINGS ON THIS CAMPUS."