

The Tar Heel

82nd Year Of Editorial Freedom

All unsigned editorials are the opinion of the editor. Letters and columns represent the opinions of others.

Elliott Warnock, Editor

Friday, July 12, 1974

We're only going to say it one time

So far this summer, I have avoided writing about impeachment because I feel most people have seen enough editorials written about the subject to last them through the next three presidents. Once in a while, just every so often, I change my mind. This time happens to be one of those occasions.

After all, college paper or not, every editor has to take a stand on important issues; so I'll say this once: if Nixon continues to flaunt the power of the Supreme Court, he should be impeached.

Contrary to what many people think of the presidency, the executive is elected to serve the people for a four-year term of office, elected to serve the citizens of the United States in the way he sees fit. This is the one of greatest achievements of the American constitution.

In many other countries, the executive is elected to follow the whims of citizens and the legislature. When a president is elected in America, he is given the power to follow through on his own initiative until he achieves the goals he has set. In doing this, we give the president the power to make unpopular, but necessary decisions.

For example, I find it hard to believe Lyndon Johnson would have worked so hard to push unpopular civil rights legislation through the

Congress if he had proceeded under the constant threat of removal from office.

But the constitution does not grant unlimited powers to the president; there is a limit to how unpopular a decision can be. A president, or any other member of the federal government, realizes that he may be removed from office at anytime through the process of impeachment and conviction.

Nixon probably believes he is doing the best thing in service of the citizens of the United States; he probably believes the presidency is in dire danger from the Congress; he probably believes the best thing to do is to stonewall the entire issue of the Watergate break-in.

But the more I see, hear and read about the whole issue, I become convinced that he is wrong.

Americans have an amazingly large capacity to forgive, but they cannot forgive until they are sure where fault lies. Nixon has seemingly made it his conviction to make sure the American people never do learn who is to blame. Nixon may be covering up for his friends or himself; it doesn't matter.

If the Supreme Court decides that Nixon must turn over the necessary information the Congress wants, then under the law of the United States, he must do so, or face certain impeachment.

Old Blue Eyes has pulled another boffo

Well, Old Blue Eyes is back, and the way things are going in Australia, it looks as though he's going to stay there.

Harry Reasoner, while making his nightly comment on the ABC News, said there is sometimes a story in the journalism trade that earns the name "natural" when it pops up. I bow to the knowledge of experience.

Frank Sinatra, on tour through the playful country-continent of Australia, seems to have insulted and offended everybody but the kangaroos. He started off by calling journalists "hookers" and

"parasites" who had never done a day of work in their lives, then finished up by punching and shoving a few television crews.

The trade unions enjoyed that so much, they said they would never let Sinatra leave the country until he apologized to the Australian Unions he offended. Sinatra has told them to stuff it.

The Australians have countered by not refueling his jet, or servicing his hotel suite.

One thing you gotta say about Sinatra, he never does anything half way.

Bob Jasinkiewicz

Score: Games 1, People 0

Ever get the feeling you're standing on the sidelines watching the game go by?

And you're raging inside because you can't get in, you can't play, and you're losing just by watching?

And you can't even tell what the game is without a scorecard?

Take a good hard look at the news, another hard look at what's going on around you, and then try to convince yourself that things aren't getting worse, they're just taking a break until they get better.

And time won't outrun the pack, it'll just set the pace while the pack takes a break to make up its mind.

Maybe you weren't old enough to remember the social revolution of the 1960s when, with the violence and chaos, arose birthpangs of ideas that might have closed the gap between time and reality. The baby giant was wiping away the placenta of its past.

Maybe you were, and are just sticking around for the death gasp.

If your eyes are on the sunrise of a new day, then you're missing the shadows creeping up your back because your eyes are on a sunrise that's a product not a cause of the shadows on your back, the shadows:

Of people eating dog food while their leaders dine on luxuries flown to Moscow because the world is being saved for the people eating dog food.

Of public officials facing treasonable charges of undermining a political system, the same officials in charge of the same system they are accused of undermining passing judgment on themselves, lightly, while the people see them as a cause and not a symptom of their troubles, and turn away to look for the sunrise of a new leadership when they haven't even gotten the old shadows off their backs.

Of people eating dog food (again) while farmers destroy millions of chicks (as they have other commodities in the past) to see if they can influence the price of roasting hens.

Bisbort and Chaltas

Atlanta buses speak their piece

The new buses are here. They came from Atlanta. Things happened to them down there that Chapel Hill could never even imagine. They can take anything Chapel Hill can dish out.

Through a very fortunate series of events, two students (of the world) managed to acquire an exclusive interview with a bus, a new Chapel Hill police car, a street and a knit hat.

First, the knit hat.
Reporter: Well, what do you think of the new bus-invasion?
Knit Hat: I don't know what you're talking about.

Reporter: Aren't you concerned with the good fortune of the city?
Knit Hat: You call this a city? I don't see any buildings.

Reporter: OK, thank you...
Knit Hat: Listen, I grew up in Belks, which is a tough place for a knit hat. Too many golf hats and helmets.

As you can tell, the knit hat was a bit confused over the buses. However, in an attempt to clear up our confusion, we (as good roving journalists are prone to do) sought a more reputable source of inquiry. In other words, we hit the streets.

Reporter: What do you think about the new buses in Chapel Hill?
At this point, we became totally and cosmically

Street: Dirty and obnoxious, just like you punks.
Reporter: Why are you insulting us? We believe in equal rights for streets and right on red. Besides that, when my wingtips click across your sweet surface singing that aluminum love song based on two thousand years of indisputable animal intelligence, do you really suffer?
Street: Talk, talk, talk. There's just too much of it. Go away, here comes a police car.

Reporter: How do you like your new home?
Bus 468: Just dandy, my wheels spin like candy; my clutch is tight, my seats are clean; I'm alright, you know what I mean?

Reporter: I probably know what you mean, but I'll never be sure...I hear they're going to charge people to ride you.
Bus 468: Really? And they can't come up with any better accommodations than this semi-prison camp. In Atlanta, we had air-conditioned garages.

Reporter: You realize that you're going to be travelling the same route day after day, don't you?
Bus 468: So, what else is new? Look at your shoes and wonder.
Reporter: Huh?

Reporters (in unison): not if we see you first.
At this point, we became totally and cosmically

Talk about coincidences. Talk about logic. Well, let's just talk about coincidences. The Police Car. Surely, it could clear things up. Maybe.

Reporter: Tell us, please sir, (we can be diplomatic when we want to be) what do you think when you hear the word "bus."
Police car: Drugs. Kids. Jail. Parole. Anything that pops in my mind. What are you driving at?

Reporter: No, that's not what we had in mind. We want to know what you think of all these buses that will invade us in a month.
Police car: I got a job to do fellahs. See you boys later.

Reporters (in unison): not if we see you first.
At this point, we became totally and cosmically

The bus refused to answer any further questions. We left that place. It was too real.

Operator?

Is anyone there?

Honestly now, folks...we stamp our feet, we beg, we cry, we cringe, we scream, but nobody out there is answering.

We'd like to say, "keep those cards and letters comin' in," but we can't until somebody writes something.

This is a college newspaper. We try to serve the students, faculty and citizens of this area, but sometimes we're not quite sure what you all want.

It's been said that in the profession of journalism, the highest accolade is silence. Whoever said it, I'm sure they were just kidding.

Not that we like to get roasted in our own paper all the time or anything like that, but we do welcome criticism, ideas, suggestions, and even maybe just once in a while, a compliment.

So next time you're awake late at

night, Johnny Carson's off the air and you can't stomach the CBS Late Movie, get out a pen and the back of some brown paper bag and write or scrawl a letter to the editor. And just in case you didn't know, it's *The Tar Heel*, Carolina Union, UNC.

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Jim Pate

First day in Lebanon: stillness and peace

Editor's Note: Jim Pate, a UNC student, spent two weeks touring the Middle East during June. This story and the five to follow are some of the interviews and recollections he has of those experiences.

Alextari El-Daye is a lawyer, columnist for the *Assiassa*, a Lebanese weekly, and a part-time guide. By previous arrangement, he was to meet Bob Terrell, an Associate Editor for the *Asheville Citizen*, and me to show us through Lebanon.

The three of us left Beirut June 24 driving

to Zahlah, directly east. Alextari was to meet a busload of sweet little old Baptist ladies there and shepherd them over the ruins of Balabaak. This sounded like a poor way to find out about the war but I trusted everything to Terrell.

As we crossed the mountains to Zahlah, Alextari briefly explained his law practice.

"The practice of law in Lebanon is more difficult than in your country. I have to follow a case from beginning to end, all on my own. Lebanese courts assume a man to be guilty until proven innocent."

"But our laws are much more flexible in their interpretation. They are like written codes. There is no common law in Lebanon. Defendants are heard by a Board of Judges, instead of a jury."

Alextari told us of one of his clients, a Syrian boy who was charged as an accessory to the fact of smuggling arms. Even though innocent, he has been in jail for 11 months.

"The Prosecutor General acquitted him but the plaintiff appealed the decision. So the boy is still in jail, despite the fact that no investigation has turned up evidence against him."

He went on to point out that anyone accused of a crime carrying a penalty of over three years cannot get bail. This is more stringent if the accused is a foreigner.

"We suffer from the length of time a case takes... I know of one case that has been awaiting trial for 10 years."

We switched to the front of an air-conditioned bus in Zahlah, joining the Baptists. The conversation gradually changed to politics. Between talking with his group, Alextari tried to explain the most recent conflict through the Arab eyes.

"Arab nations want the U.S. to assist them in a peaceful Mid-East settlement. Arabs feel Nixon is the first American President to approach us with genuine sincerity about peace... Kissinger is a man of great principle. Nixon had a security problem in the Arab countries. It was Israel where they feared so much for his life."

Alextari covered for the *Assiassa* Nixon's arrival in Cairo. "Sadat invited Nixon to ride in his open convertible instead of Nixon's armored car. Two million people greeted Nixon. This is amazing because most of Cairo were away at summer resorts in Alexandria. He was given a great salute and American flags were everywhere. People shouted, 'Keep it up Nixon' and 'We trust Nixon.'"

The bus speakers began to crackle, "On



your left, ladies, you see the monastery where French-Jesuit monks have grown grapes and made wine since 1857. The big dome in the center is their observatory. They drink the wine and see the stars. There is no business like monkey business!"

Looking into the near future, he told us, "Observers believe this is the beginning of a new era between Arab nations and the U.S., based on mutual respect and mutual understanding of the strategies and interests of both sides."

Alextari feels that steps will be taken toward a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli problems, "based on equity and justice." He pointed out that, above all, Nixon's visit and his hearty welcome in Egypt are proof of the desire and need of the Arabs to have a real friendship with the Americans... "taking a lesson from past misunderstandings and then avoiding them."

Nixon's visit was the first official one by an American President to the Arab world. "Arabs believe this new era is to put an end to the monopoly enjoyed by Israel of American relations, all at the expense of the Arabs. We want to share the friendship of America with Israel. We want to have correct relations and not have America looking at the situation only through the Israeli eye," he said.

American-Arab relations are not new relations. They have existed for more than a century. The Mid-East conflict has caused most of the misunderstanding between the Arabs and the U.S.

Alextari's eyes assumed a powerful gaze, his face glowing as he confided, "You can see something new, a new feeling, a new tendency, new horizons. The Arab now, talking with Americans, has no psychological complex. He feels he's on even terms. That doesn't mean it's at the expense of the Russians or anyone else. The Arabs feel free to talk to whomever they want and feel an independence from the superpowers."

"The Russians are launching a defamation campaign in Egypt and other Arab countries against Sadat, calling him an American agent. Sadat is recognized leader of the Arab world. People call him 'man of wisdom' and respect him deeply. Nassar is still our spiritual leader, though... a martyr of the Arab nations."

Terrell and I saw Nassar's picture everywhere we went throughout Lebanon, and later Syria. They were painted on sloganed walls, on highway billboards, and posters.

"Sadat is following in the steps of Nassar."

The Communists are trying to make trouble for Sadat. They are exploiting Nassar by explaining him in a Marxist way. Sadat is portrayed by the Russians as trying to get rid of everything Nassar did, in order to deprive Sadat of the popularity of the Arab masses. They have tried to turn a political plan into a strategy," he said.

This is evidenced by the cooling of Soviet-Arab ties. The Soviets are displeased with the Arab leader over his recent warmth toward the President.

Alextari continued, "Sadat underwent a big battle against the Marxists in Egypt, who pretend to be Nassarists. Sadat exposed them, however, and the Arab people understand that."

Realizing this sounded a little one-sided, I asked him, "Do you have any connections with the government?"

"No, but for two years I wrote a series of articles exposing how the Communists are trying to undermine Sadat before he gets any stronger. Russia now is playing a game officially against Egypt through the Communist party in Iraq, the Marxist element of the ruling party in Iraq, and through the Marxists in Libya, who pretend to be Nassarists. Lebanon is the scene of the battle because the newspapers of both sides are here."

We finally arrived at Balabaak and I asked Alextari for a personal summary.

"Relations will continue to improve between the Arab and American nations. It's not easy, but it's started and it's not going to stop. This does not set too well with Israel. She is creating an atmosphere of trouble in Lebanon by bombing the refugee campus. The Israelis want to convince the Arabs that the U.S. is not in its move towards new Arab-American relations... But the Arabs are not stupid. They will not let Israel destroy the chances for new relations."

"In the Arab world, we are free. Just look at our students now. When they choose to study, they choose America or Europe, not Russia or the Eastern Bloc countries. It runs 10-1."

Alextari wined and dined us that night on fresh Arab bread and a Lebanese shish-kebab, apricot jam, yogurt cream, olives, French wine, local beer and Turkish coffee. He agreed to guide us into Syria and to Palestinian campus in southern Lebanon.

While we slept that night, terrorists from one of these campus slipped into the Israeli sea resort of Nahariya. They killed a mother and two small children before being shot to death by the Israeli border militia. We would see the hellacious part yet.

(Next week: the journey in Syria.)