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The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Page

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Letters To The Editor

To the Editor:

Confronted by the most stupendous crisis our country has faced since its founding the psychology of a small community like Chapel Hill would be relatively unimportant did it not typify the larger communities of the state and nation. This it does in a special sense, for here are aggregated a segment of the national citizenship, a segment of the leadership in national thought, and a segment of the youth of the land. This being true it becomes a matter of transcendent importance as to what this community thinks, what it feels, how it reacts.

As an oldster who has given a lifetime of study to the history of the past, and still retains the keenest sensitiveness to history in the making, I am, at whatever danger of personal isolation, here and now stating that our popular attitude and our reactions to the country's situation are largely maudlin and fraught with the greatest danger to our survival as a country fit to survive.

We have brought over to the war period the muddled currents of our pre-war thinking and acting. True, since Pearl Harbor, our weaknesses are not quite so obvious as before. The loud chatter of isolationists and pacifists, the idle and vague patter of isolationists have been in some degree hushed. The selfishness and shortsightedness of supposed group interests have in some degree been forced underground. But all these weakening factors still exist and continue to contribute to complacency and obscurantism. Some of our departments, some of our personnel, are still infected with these pre-war diseases, and they are by no means absent in the citizenship and in the student body.

Most forms of public expression give lip-service to the claim that our sense of security has been wiped out, that the realities of the war have created within us a new sense of unity, that this unity is purposeful enough to make security real. But this is as yet very far from being truth. The majority, in insistence upon feeling secure, fell back upon another reliance with the opening of war. This reliance is the conviction, or boast, that as a nation, as a people, we possess the resources and the genius to create the implements of war that no enemy or combination of enemies can rival. To create war-vessels, bomber and fighter planes, tanks, cannon and guns, tonnage of merchant carriers, an army of so many millions, food to supply ourselves and allies, and vote billion of dollars to finance all—this, they think, will win the war! That is our great delusion. It is the skillful use of materials, not the materials themselves, that win wars, and the skillful and effective use of power is wholly dependent upon unity of purpose, upon a coherent national spirit, a spirit that will accept no defeat, will brook no denial short of victory over enemies.

As yet there is no spirit for war within us. Complacency accruing from hope of what the British may do, what the Russians may accomplish, what our geographical position has been supposed to mean, what armaments we can pile up, what billions Congress can vote, is still thick all around. The rush of the literates to join the forces, a laggard rush to be sure, is predicted upon the inevitability of the draft and a hope of securing a more favorable situation than that of a mere man in the ranks. No zest for the fight appears anywhere. Even the suggestion that there should be a burning patriotism sounds like strange and obsolete doctrine. A militant spirit is out of fashion. "All out" is a new catch phrase from the lips, but to it our spirit is immune. We have allowed ourselves to become soft-headed, soft-bodied, and soft-willed. We are about to prove that democracy is incapable of protecting itself. We have prated about ideals of peace and justice, without and within our country, until we have obscured the fundamental law of life for nations—which is the law of survival.

Already the mental energy of the pre-war obstructionists has turned to vague disputations and speculations about the "Peace." Their meaning of peace is the matter of internal relationships and programs of in-

ternal adjustments when war is concluded. Prepare the mind of the country for after-the-war problems is their thought.

Only purblind fatuousness could fail to see the present imperative need to prepare the mind of the country for successful war. Surely if we arrive at an international peace not dictated to us by Germans and Japanese there will thereafter be tremendous problems of an internal sort. But why dissipate our spiritual energies now and weaken and confuse by foolish theorizing over problems whose shape in a post-war world no man can possibly foretell.

There is now but one issue with which a sane America can concern itself. That issue is victory or defeat.

Sincerely yours,
H. M. Wagstaff

To The Editor:

In recent conversations with different members of the student body, I have found that there is strong feeling against the enormous amount expended for dance weekends.

In a time of national crisis each individual should strive to help in every way possible and it seems to me that this is a vital service which the students of UNC could render their country. Certainly, \$3000, the usual sum spent for one dance weekend, is an unnecessarily large amount. It is very easy to say, "What's a little thing like \$3000?" because many of us don't really know exactly what it is and therefore are willing to squander it on dances.

I am sure also, that the average boy who attends these dances will admit that the accessments leave quite a hole in already worn pockets. From the standpoint of the coeds I can say that we can have an equal amount of fun at a dance regardless of the orchestra.

Therefore, I advocate a drastic cut in the appropriations for dances and suggest that the amount which would formerly have been spent on orchestras be given to some worthy cause, such as the Red Cross or national defense to help keep this great land of ours where we can still dance. Many other schools have already taken similar measures and I trust that Carolina will not fail to take her place in leading America's colleges and universities to the greatest service in an all out war.

Regards,
Pete Munroe

To The Editor:

Most of us are agreed that War has penetrated even Chapel Hill. We are doing everything possible to awaken the student body to the realization that a deadly war is in progress and that it affects every person at Carolina. We have black-out concerts, air-raid shelters, ISS drives, OSCD work, first-aid courses. We are sending countless of our students into the armed services each month.

More jealously, perhaps, than we guard the buildings on our campus, we guard the "liberalism" that is tradition at the University. We are proud of our freedom. We realize its novelty on college campuses. Carolina has a reputation to uphold as being superbly well-rounded, as being not only an institution of learning and culture, but as a gay and delightful place to play.

There is not a student at Carolina now who does not take this War seriously. There is not a student who does not realize the immediate and absolute necessity for sane curtailing of waste and expenditure in every possible field. The success of a dance set depends not upon the name of the orchestra leader who presides over it. The success of any dance depends upon the people who go to that dance. The Carolina student body is made no better and no more fun by a big-name band and a three thousand dollar outlay. Almost any one of us can have three thousand dollars worth of fun with a nickelodeon and a coke—if we really want to have fun.

Most of the colleges and universities in the country have cut out their big dances entirely. Is it too much to ask that Carolina, traditionally maintaining its balance of work

and play, should save thousands of dollars annually on its dance weekends, give its local bands a chance, and show that there is a spirit other than frivolity at UNC?

Sincerely,
Ann Seelye

To The Editor:

The person or persons responsible for the editorial "Business as Usual" which appears in last Saturday's Tar Heel deserve to be commended for pointing out again the still existent apathetic attitude of a good many students toward the war and our important part in prosecuting it.

In the current issue of Time magazine, it is clearly stated and shown that we have a good chance to lose this war. Certainly the present situation and outlook for this country is a dark one, and we are definitely faced with the most serious of all crises. A crisis which all of us must be constantly aware of, and one which we must encounter effectively by acting now. We students in this peaceful village must truly awaken to the import of this grave period.

After we realize the sacrifices which all of us will have to make before we can be justified in saying that this student body is doing all it can for the Nation's victory effort, we must draw up a schedule of war period living and follow and abide by it completely.

It is gratifying to see a step taken in the right direction by the announcement in Sunday's Tar Heel that the Legislature is to hear a bill Wednesday which would cut dance expenses. An action such as this shows that some students are concerned over our responsibility and duty here at the University in the great war project before us.

Sincerely,
Tom B. Bladen

To The Editor:

I am glad to see that your recent editorials on spending money for "name" bands is bearing fruit in the new bill coming before the Student Legislature Wednesday. I would like to add my say-so before the bill goes up before the legislature.

We are feeling the results of this war much more each day and needless to say we have greater hardships ahead. There are so many causes that are asking for money now—all needing more than we are giving. Are we going to give only \$1000 to the Red Cross in its drive for aid to the distressed students out in the war torn world and then turn around and spend 2 to thousand dollars on a name band. As it has been estimated before, the students spend around \$10,000 on one dance week end, yet we are planning to give only \$1000 to the Red Cross. We spend \$10,000 on one week end—the Red Cross could help thousands of students many weeks on this "Carolina Week-end spending."

We all love a good dance and to cut them out would bring most of us—where we should be—closer to the realization of WAR. Some argue that cutting out the dances would be a great harm to morale. Cutting them out entirely would harm morale, but why not use our local bands and give the difference to some of the causes that are striving to aid the war torn Allies—building the morale of those who are bearing the brunt of the fight, and of those who are doing the fighting for US. We would be giving to those who are fighting, and we would be helping, truly, in beating the Axis. Every Carolina man would be putting that Carolina Spirit behind the greatest team on earth, our Allied Forces. We would be helping the local bands and we would be helping ourselves by spending less money. The cost of living is rising every day and it's hard for many of us to stay in school, many dropping out as each quarter passes.

We have got a War to win, a long war; and the more we put into it now, the shorter that war will be and the fewer of us will have to go. And it means we will be able to go back to that good ole American way of life—with our "name" bands.

Sincerely,
Mott Blair

SACRIFICE...

To the Editor:

The junior class of Windsor High School, Windsor, N. C., has decided to sacrifice their annual Junior-Senior Banquet and give the \$60 already made for that purpose to worthy organizations.

The class has decided to give \$30 to the Red Cross and \$30 to the Salvation Army because of the benefit these organizations can render during the war.

Members of the class feel that they should make sacrifices during the war and that by donating this money to worthy causes they can be doing their share in our national emergency. They realize that it will take many more sacrifices like this to win the war.

The purpose of writing this letter is in the hope that other junior classes in other schools may read this and perhaps realize that Junior-Senior banquets are not half so important as winning the war and that such sacrifices among high school students will help.

Members of Junior Class,
Windsor High School.

(Editor's Note: Need we say more.)

BUY DEFENSE BONDS

MAG KEEPS PROMISE...

Strangely enough, it's still February. February the short month, the clipped one-twelfth, the month of the short 28 days. And more strange and pleasing than this, the February issue of the Carolina Magazine is being distributed tonight and tomorrow, a good week before the end of the month and its rival, Tar an' Feathers.

There is no more need to check with our calendars, an amusing yet instructive publication has now been made possible as Editor Henry Moll steals the march over the humor magazine and advances still another step in trying to give the students an ideal type of "campus magazine." One that is achieving the purpose of being entertaining and yet one that also deals with the more serious aspects of campus life.

Moll's "Greater University Issue" for February finds itself liberally sprinkled with new innovations of sparkling satire, humorous cartoons, and new features besides the usual pertinent and timely articles that have characterized the Carolina Magazine all this year.

Those of us who have been rightfully doubtful of how feasible a new type of "Campus Magazine" would be, might be reassured by the beginning of a successful integration to all kinds of campus material. Curious and expectant, we look forward to Hunt Hobbs' super "Tar an' Feathers" for March and Moll's prospective New Campus Magazine for that same month.

BUY DEFENSE BONDS

IN PASSING...

St. Patrick's Day and green lottery capsules March 17 will herald another selective service draft drawing at Washington. Nine million men's names will be locked in gelatin capsules, to be broken open en masse in the venerable World War fish bowl.

Here again the draft will envelope thousands of college students, scores of Carolina men. An army of 9,000,000 men is a big army. This time, the United States isn't fooling.

BUY DEFENSE BONDS

In a recent questionnaire, students at the Arizona State College (Tempe) were asked to give their ideas of the most difficult position to play on a football team.

Here are some of the answers:
Quarterback, guard, center, "because he always sees things upside down," coach "because he never knows just what's going to happen," water-boy, bench-warmer, flat-on-your-back, and season-ticket holders.

A STATESMAN SPEAKS...

Dr. Frank spoke in Charlotte Sunday and he told the good people of that town that isolation is dead, dead as the soldiers it has killed on the battlefields of the world.

"We cannot be geographically isolated from the oceans around or the air above of the technological framework girdling the globe and encircling all the continents and peoples of the world," he said.

The thought arises that it is rather late to preach isolation now that its evils have come home to roost. Isolation is a thing of the past—why now does Frank Graham waste his time and Charlotte's expounding a dead philosophy?

Here's why. Dr. Frank is a farsighted man. A visionary of his ability and knowledge realizes that after this war is over there is the chance of a reaction so strong that isolation once more will be salient in the nation's policies. The nation will want to withdraw into itself and forget the bloody mess, the "foreign entanglements."

Frank Graham realizes that after this war the only opportunity for continuance of world peace and the perpetuation of world happiness lies in cooperation and unity and inter-dependence among the nations and the peoples of the earth. He condemns isolation now so that after the war Americans will remember its fallacious vacillations and not be again misled, again withdrawn from their obligations toward other citizens of the world.

That is why Dr. Frank said in Charlotte, "... it is the personal and social responsibility of American men and women ... to defeat totalitarian aggression and ultimately to organize peace among the nations."

BUY DEFENSE BONDS

PAJAMA CLASSES...

The "pajama classes" initiated by the OSCD have two really worthwhile purposes. First, and most important, is that by getting faculty members down to the dorm rooms to add their knowledge and experience to the student bull-sessions, basic issues and events of the international, and now national, situation are brought to clearer focus. These are the opportunities for students who have fallen behind in their periodical reading to check up on world affairs and have a chance to talk informally about their theories and in this way, straighten out their own thinking. The other good reason for these dormitory forums is that it helps the improvement of student-faculty relationships. With the pedantry of the classroom gone, instructors become merely more mature people-doing their best to start us thinking about philosophies we have previously not bothered too much about in a war-torn world which affects them just as much as us.

BUY DEFENSE BONDS

IN PASSING...

Thirteen million dollars would go into the United States treasury every day if each of the country's 130,000,000 people would buy one 10-cent defense stamp daily.

Your 10-cent stamp won't win this war by itself, but 130,000,000 purchases daily would do a quick job of cooling off the heat of the Rising Sun. It's buying a share in America, today the most valuable thing we possess. Buy more and more defense stamps and bonds. War needs money!

BUY DEFENSE BONDS

It's not patriotism alone that causes the early riser these February mornings to start humming, "O" say, can you see by the dawn's early light?"—Roanoke Times.

BUY DEFENSE BONDS

The Japanese have decided that they want the whole earth. Let's all follow the example set by the Marines at Wake Island and give it to them one shovelful at a time.—Toby Reed.

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