

### To The Abyss

America is dying. Its disease is intellectual at- government down through the echelons of society. trition. Its symptoms are manifest throughout its government down through the echelons of society.

Politically it has been on the decline for many years now. It has lost its propaganda advantage in the world. It has been a failure in seeing the realities of the world situation and meeting this with a consistent policy toward other nations.

It has set itself up as the spokesman of democracy and retained within its bounds such undemocratic institutions as segregation and infringement of the right of speech and press.

It pleads with the world for law and order and backs its plea up with bomb tests in Nevada. It supports the United Nations, but when the United Nations is not meeting, America resorts to its own devices in contradiction to what the United Nations would have done.

It asks for rational talk, but forces decisions down the throats of allies and enemies alike.

It is the representative nation which has determined its own destiny, but denies the principle of self-determination to other nations.

It will take up arms to protect its territorial integrity so that individual freedom may exist, but will not take up the same fight in the case of other nations.

It demands good faith on the part of the other nations of the world, but more than three times during the past several years has acted in contradiction to its policies.

This is speaking on the purely political level, and answers many questions as to the leanings of the Middle Eastern and Far Eastern nations' leanings at the present time. It shows lack of foresight, courage, honesty, principle, and character.

These are manifest in the United States itself. It took a McCarthy to wake the people to the dangers of their individual liberties, and many did not know that they had such liberties until McCarthy brought them to their senses in a howl of outrage and pain. It took a Sputnik to make the people of the United States painfully aware of the deficiencies of its educational system, but it also touched off a reaction that was not healthy.

The people of the United States are controlled. They are controlled by their own ignorance and lack of understanding. They, who have not read Marx, will be the first to rebel at socialism.

Those who have not thought are the first to deny thought to others. They, who do not speak and act, are the first to deny free speech and action to so many.

They, if they thought, would not do this, but they do not think. They react. There has not been any price tag put on thinking and for many it takes effort. They see price tags on wealth, on property, on social acceptance, but they see none in thought.

It is a curious paradox that what the people see price tags on are things material. It is funny in the fact that this is the fundamental doctrine of Karl Marx. The thinkers they so quickly label Communist, are the very people that make Communism impossible.

They do not realize this as they do not realize so many things.

They do not realize that the primary thing a democracy can bring them is freedom of choice, and they have let others make the choice for them. They let advertisers select their breakfast cereal. They let demagogues control their point of view. They let the Joneses govern their economic aspirations, and they let the church that they were brought up into determine their values.

They move in a void. They think not. They act not. They inquire not. They accept. They are to this world dead.

They want to hear none of the poverty in India or the sickness in Malaya. They listen not to the harbingers of doom, who predict correctly that the United States will cease to exist if something is not done quickly. They have shut their eyes. Somewhere in their development, the thinking process stopped and they allowed other people to think for them.

This is reflected in their leadership, for at no time in the history of this country has there been less emphasis on brains in any area of public life.

The artist is looked on as homosexual. The writer is pictured as starving. The philosopher is cloistered behind a book in the average mind's eye, and his philosophizing has no meaning.

In government the picture is more abysmal. The popular hero has replaced the educated man of principle, who perhaps never existed, but should exist if this country is to survive.

It is reflected in the temporary expedients which the government tries to use to solve something and which ends up solving nothing. Heroic efforts are rewarded, but cool-headed, far-seeing programs are not.

America is dying, and unless the people of the United States arrest its dizzy descent into the abyss of forgotten nations with high ideals and hopes, which were tarnished at one point and fell into disuse, death will be soon.

There is hope, but it has dimmed to a flicker, as the clamor education rose with Sputnik and sank with Explorer.

American democracy cannot survive, unless it rests upon a thinking populace and unless it can bring about a thinking populace it will die.

Democracy depends on an intelligent electorate. Without this necessary qualification, democracy will not survive. A totalitarian system can concentrate its brains at the highest level and pour its orders down to the lower echelons via a pyramid of people of descending degrees on intelligence. It thrives on ignorance, for with ignorance people will be willing to accept dictates more easily, for people will not know any better.

A totalitarian system can be brilliant in its maneuvers and in its propaganda, for it depends on the consent of the few not of the whole.

Democracy depends on the whole. If the standards of the whole are low, then its policies and message will be delivered at as low a level as Elvis Presley shows America in comparison to Tchaikovsky.

The cause of American survival is bound up in the cause of education. It is bound up in the potential intelligence of all people and in the possible realization of man's individuality.

(Continued on Column 7)

# The Meaning Of Education At UNC

(The following is the first part of a speech made by Dean of Student Affairs Fred Weaver, at the YWCA Freshman Camp. Although directed at freshmen, it has merit on a larger scale.)

"The Meaning of Education at Carolina" is not a topic that I would choose for myself. But since it was given to me as an assignment, I accept it willingly. There is an element of presumption, perhaps even of vanity, in attempting to speak about the meaning of education; because there is the suggestion, in the first place, that the speaker considers himself educated, and, in the second place, that he thinks he can tell someone how to become educated. Actually there is no such presumption here. We realize that we cannot tell someone how to educate himself.

Nevertheless I do not think you will find University people especially hesitant about sounding their opinions on the subject of education. Manifestly someone among us has, or ought to have, some definite ideas about this. The University has been going for 163 years. The number of living alumni of the University is close to fifty thousand. At the mention of "living alumni" the question occurs, how many of them are dead? I just asked Mr. Saunders that question a minute ago. The answer was ten thousand. Sixty thousand students, then, have come here before you seeking an education. There are more than five hundred full-time faculty members whose work it is to teach—to educate. In addition, there are several hundred. I think you will find also that most of your seven thousand or so fellow students have views on the subject. And they are an especially fruitful source of information and advice. We are all in it together, seeking to help one another to become educated.

Everything you do, everything that happens to you is a part of your education. The latest thing in your education is this retreat, Mr. Lanier's statement a few minutes ago. What was the earliest thing in your education? Did it occur the day you were born? Was it going to the first grade? Was it



Staff Photo by Buddy Spoon

kindergarten? Was it 1795 when the University first opened its doors, or 1776 when the clause providing for a state university was written into the North Carolina Constitution? Was it in Greece or Rome? We already know even if we did not have the "space age" to remind us that we comprehend beginnings and endings very vaguely.

Education is books, lectures and laboratories. It is literary societies and fraternities. It is football games and pep rallies. It is also the church and solitude and meditation.

Following this meeting you are to have group discussions in the cabins. Accordingly, I shall endeavor to lay before you a few quite concrete points which may serve as a basis for your discussions. There will be four.

My number one point will not come as a surprise to you. The text for it could come from many sources. The one I have chosen is Adlai Stevenson Jr., son of the presidential candidate, Adlai Stevenson of Illinois, Governor Stevenson of Princeton. His son was turned down by Princeton so he had to go to Harvard. During one of Mr. Stevenson's campaigns a reporter for The New Yorker interviewed Adlai Jr., the Harvard student. The reporter asked the boy whether his father ever gave him and his brothers any advice about

education. The boy replied that he did. "Father often advised us about our education," he said, "but it always consisted of only three words. They were: read, read, read!"

Read, read, read! I have recently said facetiously to some of my friends that the next time I addressed a group of entering students I was going to stand up before them and say, "Let's all go to the Library right now. That is where we should be. That is where we can accomplish the most of what we have come here to do." And that would be all. That would be the best advice I could give.

The other day I read in the newspaper the report of an inter-

view of Elfrida von Nordhoff. She was explaining what it was that enabled her to answer all those questions. She said she had from childhood been surrounded with books. Her mother and father saw to it that her appetite for reading did not go unquenchable. She said she read not only Shakespeare and the Bible but many things: Hemmingway, Faulkner, Restoration plays, novels, dramas, poetry—everything! I think we can say to Elfrida that she is not the book-worm type. She is not only phenomenally well-read and intelligent. She is a charming, attractive, and I may be forgiven if I say a winning person!

(To Be Continued)

## Letters

Dear Mr. Edwards:

I have just read your "Radical" article of September 24 and may I say that I, for one, find it extremely distasteful and disgusting. I feel, when I say this, that I speak for the majority of the coeds on this campus. I do not know for what reason you wrote this little journalistic gem—perhaps you hoped to stir up the reactions of the readers of The Daily Tar Heel. If this is the case, you have succeeded. If, on the other hand, you were attempting to be humorous, this misguided pseudo-intellectual effort proves unworthy as amusement. You are no Max Shulman. For whatever reason the article was written, it was indeed out-of-place and in poor taste.

I wonder, Mr. Edwards, in what strange and radical area of the world you have spent the past year. Perhaps the young ladies in that locality fit the loose description you have attempted to make of the Carolina coed. If so, I am hopeful that they will remain outside the confines of our University of North Carolina dormitories, sorority houses, arboretum and Kenan Woods. It is obvious that the primary interest of those young women is indeed men and sex. They would be sadly out-of-place in this academic community. I heartily doubt their ability to understand such integral parts of a Carolina coed's life as an Honor Code and Campus Code—they are just the "arty, intellectuals" who would likely poke fun at anything concerning honor. They would not understand the work of our YWCA or that of the thirteen church groups in this vicinity. They would have little time for study and academic endeavors. No, I dare say, the main part of their time would be spent "keeping the pad" as you put it.

You, Mr. Edwards, have closed your eyes to the truth. You apparently see only one side of life and that is twisted. Sex is not a thing to be dragged about in the mire of minds such as yours. Thank you for this article enlightening us as to your opinion of the

## —Five Years, Eight Months And Two Days—Five Years, Eight Months And Three Days—



Carolina coed. I hope you will not find life too lonely here in Chapel Hill without the companionship their presence near you might afford.

Nancy E. Turner

Editor,

I have just finished reading the latest epic by Jonathan Yardley. It is number two in a series of columns written by Mr. Yardley while dead drunk? If my memory serves me right, last year this

golden boy wrote a piece concerning the eating of afterbirth. When is number three in the series to be published? What will it be entitled? I'm sure there are a few pseudo-intellectuals, including Mr. Yardley who can't wait to find out.

Mr. Yardley's articles have continually been of low moral and intellectual fibre. His profound thoughts may impress Mr. Yardley and a few low-brows on the Tar Heel staff, but I'm sure that the majority of the student body is not fooled into thinking that any-

thing our boy might have to say is worth the time it takes to open to page two. Any one of the entering freshmen could have filled Mr. Yardley's space with dirty jokes that would have made much more sense than this last fiasco.

I am by no means a staunch Eisenhower supporter, and I am even less a Republican, but may I suggest that the next time one of your columnists undertakes to write a political criticism that he either be sober or funny.

Roger W. Koonce

## On Leaders

Why do comedians so often mimic the way Southerners talk? It would appear that there is a deep and important reason for this, and at the heart of it we find the demagoguery of Dixie Senators and Representatives. Time and again Congressmen from the South have appeared on national radio and television programs and refused to give intelligent answers when asked why they favor segregation of White and Negro students. This reflects back at every Southerner. Even worst, though, is the appeal this has. Any person who considers an answer like, "White birds and black birds don't stay in the same tree" will realize this has no practical application to the segregation issue. It may appeal to some Southerners, but it also tends to cause Northerners to consider their Southern neighbors as being rather naive.

Perhaps we may excuse those in the South who rejoice at answers that show little intelligence. However, we may never excuse the apathy of educated people living below the Mason-Dixon line who show no concern about statements made by our Congressmen. An informed and active South would never elect people who gave this region a black eye. If Congressmen believed they would incur strong opposition from their demagogic statements they would never make them. If these statements were rare there would be little cause for concern, but as things now stand they are frequent, and have a serious impact. If we Southerners awake we can stop this. If not, Northerners will continue laughing at you and me due to our Representatives noxious remarks.

### Heard In Passing

Two people were discussing the national political situation. One commented that the worst thing that could happen to the United States would be if President Eisenhower were to die and Vice-President Nixon assume office.

The other agreed commenting that the second worst thing that could happen was for Eisenhower to remain in office, on which the two struck agreement.

## Station's Story

Around New York there are three radio stations that can be called noted. These are WQXR, WNYC, and WPAT. They are noted in that they have a special type of programming.

They do no program, the westerners the children love to watch, the mysteries the adults sit on the edge of their seats listening to, or the soap operas that women cry with. Indeed, there are no great cash giveaways for factual knowledge of minute details.

They have survived a trend in programming that has put what the people want on an inane level. They have survived for they thought that people are better than how the average station depicts them.

The communications industry as a whole can provide an educational force. It can do this through the very power it has to channel people's tastes. It is abdicating its responsibility in this area to the detriment of all America.

It is hoped that more people have the wisdom of those who built and manage WPAT, WQXR, and WNYC. America might be a healthier nation for it.

## The Daily Tar Heel

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