

# On Freedom

(From The Greensboro Daily News)

Davis B. Young, Daily Tar Heel editor who refused to republish the "obscene, sacrilegious" Christmas parody from the now defunct Duke Chronicle, disagreed with the Chronicle editor's judgment but opposed even more suppression of the Duke campus newspaper.

Editor Young deserves commendation for his own editorial judgment. An editor's job is to edit. "The Christmas Story" parody was an attack on the Christian religion, as scurrilous and prejudiced as the editorial retaliation by the Durham Sun against the author, of which the following is a paragraph:

"He is an Ishmael; one of the obnoxious who brings upon their people the sort of exclusion which so often has come to be their fate."

Would the Daily Tar Heel or Duke Chronicle publish a snickering parody on the birth of Moses? Then why publish or republish the same kind of offensive attack on the Christian faith? The issue is that simple. The matter does not exclusively concern freedom of the press. It concerns responsibility of the press. The two cannot be separated. Another point bears mentioning:

A campus newspaper does not operate in a vacuum. It represents an educational institution. In the market place a newspaper cannot survive if it insults public opinion or makes light of deeply held beliefs. Public support is the power which ultimately controls a newspaper's right to express its convictions and influence opinion. All the guaranteed freedom of press written into the U. S. Constitution cannot force the people to read and have confidence in an irresponsible newspaper.

Such public support is not a factor on the campus. The wise administration will try to install as much self-discipline (part of the education process) in its student body as it is capable of attaining. But the absorption point depends on many things — the traditions of freedom and responsibility bred into that campus and the caliber and character of students.

There comes a point, of course, where students fail to exercise sound judgment and turn freedom into license. This happened on Duke campus. (An intriguing sidelight: Student reaction to the tasteless parody was even stronger than faculty revulsion.)

At that point an administration should intervene — but reluctantly as President Hollis Edens did.

"We regret that we had to take this drastic action. I wish to make it clear that there is no disposition to throttle The Chronicle in the future; there has been none in the past. We do insist that intellectual activity cannot be separated from individual morality. While responsibility seems often to students to be the less attractive partner of freedom, it is nevertheless fundamental. Our student writers and editors must govern themselves by the same checks upon license employed by scholars and scientists on any reputable newspaper."

And then one final thought: Such editorial irresponsibility does immense harm to the cause of press freedom everywhere. On Tuesday Pope John called for laws to curb freedom of the press lest lust and criminality poison the religious and moral soundness of mankind.

We oppose Pope John's suggestion because we know the dangers accompanying a throttled press. But his belief will gain new converts if the press, in Pope John's words, is not guided by "love of knowledge, culture and truth" rather than by the "unhealthy fire of certain passions" and that "immoderate yearning for notoriety and profit that passes over the irresponsible appeals of the conscience."

## Merry Christmas

1. The nation is at war.
2. The nation is losing the war badly.
3. The nation must exert a vastly greater effort

## The Daily Tar Heel

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Editor — DAVIS B. YOUNG  
 Associate Editor — FRANK CROWTHER  
 Editorial Asst. — M'LOU REDDEN  
 Managing Editors — CHUCK ROSS, LARRY SMITH  
 Business Manager — WALKER BLANTON  
 Sports Editor — ELLIOTT COOPER  
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# A Report

THE CHRISTIAN STAND PART II

As we contemplate the awful destructive power which rests so uneasily in the hands of men we must ask ourselves "What does Christianity have to offer in this moment of bewilderment and peril?"

The answer of Christ to the age old problem of war and death is as clear today as it was 1900 years before Hiroshima. ICBA's with hydrogen war-heads and all the other paraphernalia of modern war have not altered the fact that this is God's world and that His will and His purpose in the world are the same and unchanging. This faith rests upon God's acts in history, above all, His resurrection of Christ from the dead. The empty tomb is the Christian's assurance that Christ has overcome all, evil, sin, death and war.

"But if God reigns, why can we not say that He will prevent a conflagration? . . . This is of course to raise an acute form of the problem of man's free will. Man can choose to participate in God's creative purpose, and he can also choose to destroy the present historical manifestations of that purpose. If he could not, he would not be free . . . God has given him this freedom. He has allowed Himself to be limited in order that man might be fully man. But whether the race chooses participation or destruction, God still reigns . . . whether man rebels or participates, God's will and purpose remain. No destruction of the world can destroy the free will of the faithful by which they believe in God and partake of His eternity. God's will is supreme, and those who serve Him need not be caught in any final emptiness."

Possessed with the certain knowledge that the ultimate victory is God's, men who choose to participate in God's creative purpose can propose certain practical goals which they can strive to achieve.

1. Christians the world over should work with every means at their disposal to prevent war. They must pray for the ultimate world-wide abolition of nuclear weapons, and, indeed, of all means of mass destruction. This is not to say, however, that Christians in the United States should not advocate that this nation abandon unilaterally its nuclear armaments. Given the present context of power, our nation has grave responsibilities to discharge in the protection of its allies and all free nations, and indeed, in the building of a just international order. Such unilateral action would constitute an abdication of these responsibilities. Christians can and should, however, do everything in their power to support the efforts of the leaders of this nation to conclude international agreements for the termination of nuclear weapons tests, and for the establishment of international controls over all aspects of the nuclear arms race.

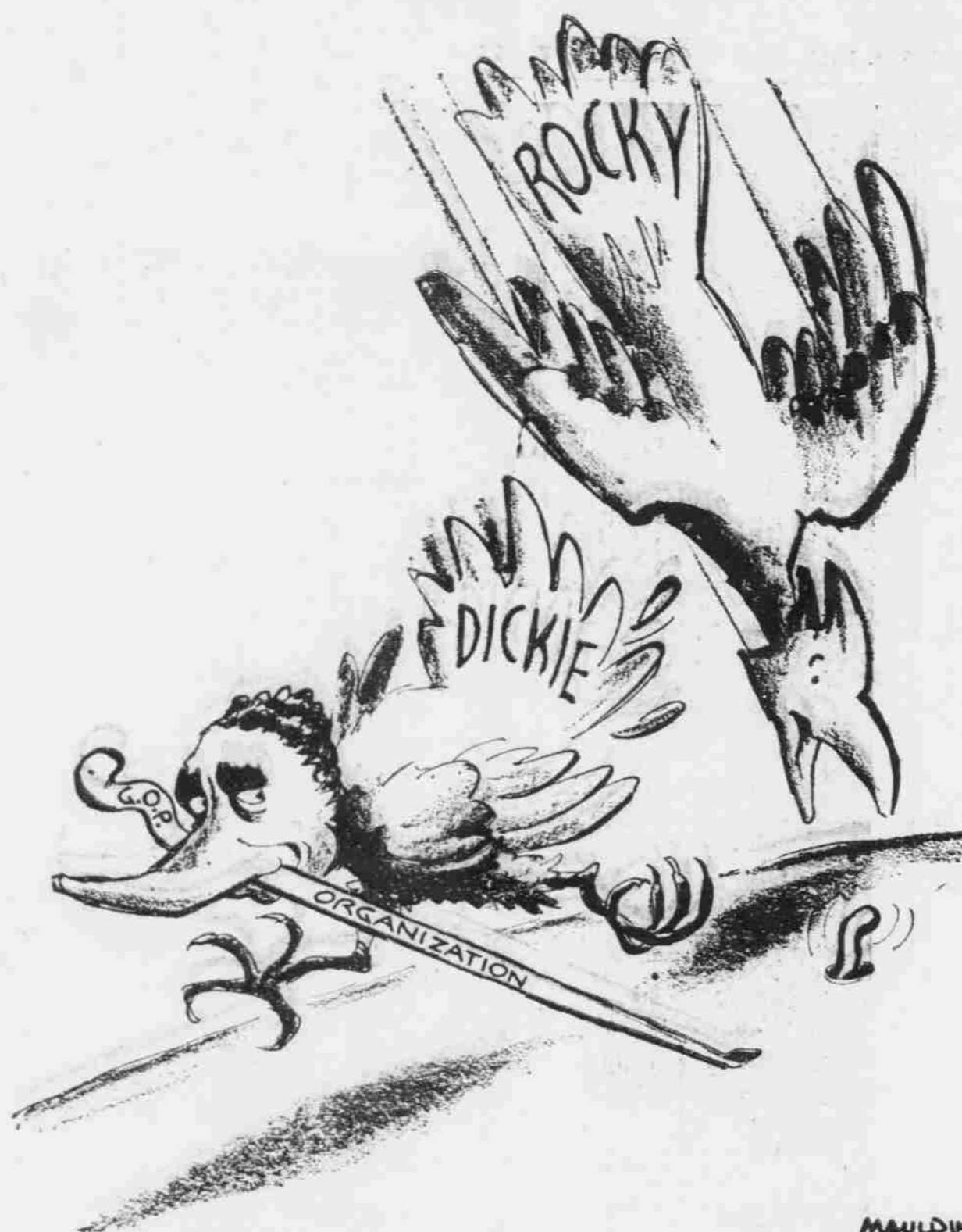
In the stalemate which now exists, however, the Christian has the opportunity to work unstintingly for the reconciliation of the nations to the ways of peace. His faith calls upon him to share with Jesus Christ the divine concern for mankind — for all peoples in all nations. His faith requires him to bear witness to God's love for all men. No opportunity to persuade the nations to forsake war should be missed. No chance should be passed by the negotiate in good faith. No sacrifice of material wealth should be too great for the establishment of a just peace and the preservation of freedom.

The mighty power of a unified Christendom could of itself be a great force in curbing international anarchy and promoting the rule of law and reason.

2. Christians should give their unqualified support to the United Nations in its efforts to establish the reign of law in international affairs. The existence of unbridled nationalism is incompatible with this objective. All nations must be prepared to surrender in part their individual sovereignties to international authority. The United Nations is not a perfect organization but it is at present the world's best hope for the peaceful settlement of international disputes. It deserves the enthusiastic endorsement of the Christian Church.

(Continued tomorrow)

## Early Bird



Herblock is away due to illness

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# Perspectives By Yardley

Jonathan Yardley

Recently America has become extremely interested in the old problem of birth control. Because of the government's opposition to offering advice to allies on handling the immense difficulties posed by rapidly expanding population, the nation and the world have become intensely aware of the population-food supply ration.

There are presently 2.3 billion people in the world, and the birth rate is 203 babies per minute. Population experts say that the world population may be 6 billion by the turn of the century. The death rate has declined remarkably. Two-thirds of the world's population live in areas that supply only one-third of the world's food. Between 7,000 and 9,000 people die of malnutrition every day.

President Dwight Eisenhower, who has come out against giving birth control information through government agencies, recently made a statement which would seem to contradict the very nature of his stand he has taken:

"I believe," the President said, "that the problem for the underdeveloped nations is more lasting, more important for Western civilization than the problem of Soviet-Western differences. There are 1,700,000,000 people today living without sufficient food, shelter, clothing and health facilities. Now they are not going to remain quiescent. They are just going to have an explosion if we don't help."

680 million of those people are living in Communist China. Although it is reasonably safe to say that the United States is in no hurry to help the Red Chinese, their case is an extreme, almost an exaggeration, of the problem many of our allies, particularly those in the Far East, are facing.

The population of Communist China is approximately one-fourth of that of the entire world. And it is growing at the fantastic rate of 3.5 per cent annually — and rising. The birth rate is 34 per thousand, the death rate down to 11. This is a startling difference for a country as backward as

Red China, and it is not a very encouraging difference for the rest of the world to see — 680 million people would be a formidable enemy.

In 1957, due to a food shortage and floods, China tried an extensive "Planned Birth" campaign. Guidance centers were opened; billboards were constructed; exhibitions were opened. The approach to the subject was singularly realistic; pictures and cartoons spelled out a message that even the most illiterate peasant could read.

But the Chinese did not take kindly to birth control. The idea was introduced when the nation was being collectivized and the government's popularity was at an ebb; its actions were distrusted. Chinese philosophy has always favored large families, particularly among peasants. Marxist doctrine, too, refutes the concept of over-population leading to poverty.

Currently China is in no hurry to re-introduce a Planned Birth program. Though information and material is still available, there is no governmental or institutional encouragement. The people seem proud of their great numbers, and seem in no hurry to slow down production. One note of warning from Peiping says that when the level reaches 800,000,000 Planned Birth will be reintroduced. It may be too late by then, unless farm productivity steps up.

Sooner or later Red China is going to reach the President's "explosion" point. Although China is a huge country, she will not be able to keep food production accelerating at the same rate as population. When the gap is crossed, nature will begin to take over the role of birth control, and her way is much crueler.

The problem lying in wait for China concerns India, Japan, and almost all our major allies. It may concern America before too many years are past. Man has advanced a great distance scientifically since birth control taboos were formed. It is no longer a sacrilege; it is a humane, sensible way to avoid death and starvation. If the world would rather starve to death than relinquish its taboos, it will have that opportunity rather soon.

# Holiday Message

Ted Crane Jr.

NAM LEONES EX GAUDIO CREDO ESSE PROCREATOS

Note: (not having had any heat since late yesterday) put nativity in Christmas the angel back under her dress (and I for one do not choose to live in a place without it) a fuzzy mitten white as snow is not the softest think I know (I hope that you will next time check with the other tenants) postquam ascenderit Maria (opening windows if the heat is excessive is better than no heat at all) with nine long-handled balloons baskets that wiggle by themselves three chinese tambourines twelve thirteen year old boys and one oak leaf crown all in the ablatives they found everything fine in the furnace but that the trouble was with your turning down the thermostat (also your big cat is again coming in my window) I would appreciate you leaving your own open or some arrangement. (she wouldn't be coming in here if she weren't funny)

## Yucca Flats

valley of the giant mushrooms desert graveyards for sterile suns womb of the gray ghost suspended from a blue cathedral Rosebud is in the air! sand is green glass where mushrooms grow (Farmer Geiger measures the vitamin potency) Rosebud is at 35,000 feet! two billion sharecroppers reap their harvest (the mushroom market distributes profits equally) Rosebud is making final run! seven miles down a furrow 100 yards in diameter a mushroom will be planted there Five-four-three-two-one! one lone cloud forms: a towering angry ghost of the fireball ethereal mushrooms violate Nevada skies Peter B. Young

## Gems of Thought

The only time you mustn't fail is the last time you try. —Charles Kettering Success in life depends upon persistent effort, upon the improvement of moments more than upon any other one thing. —Mary Baker Eddy When I was a young man I observed that nine out of ten things I did were failures. I didn't want to be a failure. So I did ten times more work. —George Bernard Shaw I believe the true road to pre-eminent success in any line is to make yourself master of that line. —Andrew Carnegie No life is wasted unless it ends in sloth, dishonesty and cowardice. Thomas Huxley To achieve success not by heritage but by individual effort is the greatest joy in life. John P. Morgan

# Three Steps To Religion

Sam Wilde

First and foremost, there is a God. Call Him what you will, worship Him in any way you please, picture Him in any form. But we all come eventually to the conclusion that there is a Supreme Being far above the intellectual and spiritual minds of men. To be sure, we cannot agree on what He teaches or how He acts or what part He plays in our lives. Our houses of worship are as different as man can make them. Our habits of worship take many forms. But the only logic at which a sane mind can arrive is the irrefutable fact that God exists.

If, then, this fact can be accepted, that God is, it is inconceivable for us to think that He can be reached only through other men; that is to say, through man made denominations. This does not mean that God and denominations are irreconcilable. This does not mean that denominations have no place in our religions. It simply means that a human organization, established by humans and maintained by humans, can make human mistakes. Denominations are a matter of convenience. Through them man can found a church, provide for the education of his children, strengthen his power through numbers, find those of his own kind and liking, and accomplish a host of other factors for his convenience.

But, by and large, and this is the third of our eternal truths, the relationship one has with his God is a purely personal and private affair. Some call this relationship peace of mind; some call it security; some call it religion. But whatever the name might be, it is the individual's spiritual right to find it in his own way. And it is ridiculous to suppose that another man or organization can find it for him.

It is true that hypocrisy exists in our churches and in our synagogues and in our temples. But the history of free thought and free worship is strewn with the bloody carcasses of those who would impose their religions upon the mind of man. The truly religious man is the man who can see above and beyond the petty failures of man and see the glories and truths of a divine scheme. The truly religious man, instead of mocking the attempts of other men to worship, tries to improve the relationship between God and man. In short, the religious man realizes the imperfections of himself and others, but he still seeks to find some common ground upon which he and God can meet.

Jan de Hartog in The Spiral Road has one of his characters explain the process whereby a Christian finds God. This character, the head of a jungle medical corps, says that all of us reach a crossroads in our lives. From this crossroads we can either go downhill, down the spiral road of evolution to various levels of the ape man, or we can take the road to Golgotha, traveled by Jesus of Nazareth, that leads to man's eventual relationship with God. We can assume that those of other faiths, other religions, may reach God but through a different process and along another road.

The really significant thing, then, is for any individual to find God in whatever place He can be found. Most men, especially as they grow older, find Him in the organization of some church. They find strength and security there. And they realize that, regardless of the mistakes that church may have made, there has been no other institution of the past that has withstood the batterings and onslaughts of evil forces so well as religious organizations.

"Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind." Emerson said. Perhaps this is what a truly religious person is: he has found his place in the sun; he has become one with the universe.



BY KELLY

BY SCHULZ