

The Daily Tar Heel

In its sixty-eighth year of editorial freedom, unbampered by restrictions from either the administration or the student body.

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An Appraisal Of The Honor System: Invalid, Ineffective And Unjust

The student body of the University of North Carolina cannot continue to subject itself to the vagaries and inconsistencies of the honor system, campus code and student judiciary. Despite proclamations of good intent and promises of more effective operation in the future, these entities have succeeded in only one respect: they have proved themselves totally inadequate to the job delegated to them.

The basic precept of the honor system is that students are capable of governing themselves, of determining the relative importance of moral and social offenses, and of determining the force of punishments. This is not a valid precept.

At the age of twenty years (which we may assume to be the average age of students on the judicial bodies) no individual is sufficiently prepared in the law or, and of far more importance, in knowledge and understanding of human nature to pass judgement on his fellow beings. No matter how fair his intentions, he simply is not ready for such a burden.

We elect the officers of the judicial bodies in popularity contests; the name and the face are of more importance to the student electorate than the capabilities. Fraternities and sororities vie among themselves to get members placed on one of the courts. Once elected, an individual assumes a mantle of respectability which derives not from personal factors but from the nature of the post. The glow of this mantle is transferred by association to his group, thereby making his membership an asset. It is a good rush gimmick.

We assume that we are capable of governing ourselves, yet patent-

ly refuse to take part in the governing process; in past years as much as ninety-five per cent of the infractions reported and acted upon have been turned in not by students but by members of the faculty and administration. There is a liaison between the Honor Council and the Office of Student Affairs which gives evidence that even the Council knows it cannot rely solely on student action and conscience.

We are asked by this system to report the violations of our fellows; yet we, like all human beings, have an innate distaste for any system which requires that we "rat" on our friends or even on people we do not know. No precept is valid which goes against human nature, and this one certainly does.

The honor system is ineffective. Despite the emphasis placed on trial, punishment and redemption, we have seen in the past and will continue to see in the future that honor system punishment is totally unable to arrest the crimes at which it is aimed. Cheating, lying and stealing still go on; those who have cheated before will cheat again; the campus is not rid of those who would cheat, lie or steal.

We do not believe that our honor system is a good system, or effective system, or a just system. We have not wanted to believe this; we had long hoped that we could continue to find faith in this system of self-government. We no longer can.

It is our belief that the system must be drastically changed or totally abolished. This editorial is only the beginning; there is more to be said.

Cuba: Tempest In A Teapot

Matters between the United States and Cuba are rushing with inexorable and frightening speed toward an Apocalypse of the Americas which may have the potential to shatter any illusion of hemispheric solidarity that remains.

This tiny little island, seething only ninety miles from the southernmost point of Key West, has displayed recently a most remarkable ability to disregard the rational and embrace the frenzied. Whipped to a fever pitch by Fidel Castro, master artist of the sham and halftruth, the Cuban people have fallen victim to the self-glori-

fication that embodied Nazi Germany.

Castro, puppet dictator of the Americas, has given vent to a series of irrational fantasies about United States warmongering that sound like a press release from Pravda; he has shown himself to be a venal, mendacious little man, capable of rousing other men's minds and sympathies by lies and expletives.

The severance of diplomatic relationships came too late; for too long we allowed ourselves to accept diplomatically the barbed insults hurled at us from across the narrow sea. We are now committed to those forces which oppose Castro and all that he aims to do in South America. We can only hope that this commitment has not come too late.

Now that he is free of the slightest pretense of friendly relationships with the United States, Castro may feel more justified in openly welcoming Russian missile bases and arms. This, he may say, will be necessary to thwart the "American invasion" that he claims is being planned for the eighteenth of this month.

We can be sure that whatever Castro aims to do will not be to the best interests of our people or our allies in this hemisphere. We must arm ourselves physically and mentally to meet the challenge of the puppet. It may be a strong and vital challenge.

"There Are Some Surpluses I Don't Mind"



Wade Wellman

Eichmann's Case: A Study In Vengeance

(Editor's Note: This is the second installment of a three-part article discussing the seizure, trial, and sentencing of Nazi Colonel Adolph Eichmann. Eichmann was illegally seized in Argentina by the Israeli government some time ago. He is to stand trial in an Israeli court on charges of "crimes against the Jewish people" during World War II. He is purportedly responsible for the slaughtering of some three million Jews under Hitler's Third Reich.

ALTHOUGH everyone concedes that the seizure of Eichmann was illegal, there is much dispute in this country as to the moral justice of the act, and perhaps some speculation over Israel's motive in putting off the trial until spring of 1961. On this campus, most people seem to approve the abduction. I asked a classmate last summer if he thought Israel was justified. He shot back, "Hell yes, and I hope they strangle him up from the highest scaffold in Palestine." A lady who runs one branch of the library admitted the breach of legality but added, "I'm glad they got him." The most frequent attitude is that the deed was unlawful but still, in light of Eichmann's crimes, justifiable. In other words: "It violated international law, but the motive was revenge, therefore it was proper."

MOST CHALLENGING, however, is the theory of "mental satisfaction" mentioned at the start of this article. When mental satisfaction is obtained at the expense of legality, its defenders are caught in a paradox. It is sometimes urged that the personal spitefulness of the Nazi murderers, coupled with the intimacy of the Jewish family and their long history of oppression from Nebuchadnezzar to Hitler, entitles them to special consideration. But the argument collapses when subjected to analogy.

For instance, the Vatican City

State is a sovereign principality, and holds ecclesiastical jurisdiction over the entire worldwide Catholic communion. If Eichmann had directed his massacres against European Catholics, would the Vatican now have the right to take him covertly from a foreign country and put him on trial before a high ecclesiastical tribunal? Does the now-sovereign Congo Republic have the right to take jurisdiction in the persecution of Negro minorities in the United States?

ANYONE WHO upholds Israel in the present controversy should logically answer both these questions in the affirmative—unless it is held that the usual standards of propriety do not apply to Israel. And it can't be seriously maintained that the Jewish state, in deference to the peculiar psychology of its people, should be exempt from the code of international law. By flouting the Argentine government, and by the calculated insolence of Ben-Gurion's response to Frondizi, the Israelis showed either that they feared a request for extradition would be rejected, or that their contempt for legality is such that the diplomatic rights of a sovereign nation mean nothing to them.

EICHMANN is to be tried for "crimes against the Jewish people," but this is an unrealistic wording of the charge. He was guilty of crimes on a monstrous scale against humanity; his specific targets were people of Jewish blood, but the overall design was to eliminate or reduce all population groups that did not meet Nazi race standards—hence the savage iniquities in Poland and Russia. One wonders, again, if a man who waged an annihilation war against European Catholics should be tried at once by an international court for crimes against humanity, or seized arbitrarily fifteen years later and tried in Rome for crimes against the Catholic communion.

Israel has been guilty of a

serious breach of propriety. What will be done with Eichmann is a matter of conjecture. People tell me that Israel can't execute him now without incurring much worldwide disapproval. Some say, also, that the humiliation of Eichmann has already satisfied the Jewish thirst for revenge. In that event, the Israelis can still make the gesture and return Eichmann to Buenos Aires, with due apologies to the Argentine state. Whether they will do this is problematical, but there is nothing impossible about it.

Bob Silliman

Playing With Fire: Nuclear Club Grows

SEVERAL YEARS AGO Author Neville Shute wrote a chilling novel called *On the Beach* which rather graphically related the events in the aftermath of a nuclear war between the United States and Russia. The book comes to mind with the announcement that France has exploded an atomic bomb in the Sahara, and that the small nation of Israel might also be in possession of a similar bomb, thus making them the two newest members of the "Nuclear Club."

According to Shute's fictional account, the US-USSR conflict was triggered by a small nation. Both large powers thought the other had set off the blast, and the resultant explosion finally climaxed in the extinction of the human race. Although *On the Beach* was a product of Shute's imagination, it came so close to what might happen—given the context of world events—that many Americans that read the book or saw the movie shuddered.

LAST SUMMER we were fortunate enough to talk with former Secretary of State Dean Acheson. In answer to a question on the use of nuclear weapons as an instrument of national policy, Acheson had a rather startling reply: "Let us say that there were a medium-sized nuclear attack on the United States," hypothesized the greying Secretary, "that would knock out about forty million people. That certainly isn't everyone." Acheson's point was that most Americans rule out the danger of such an attack on the grounds that it would mean the extinction of every person in every nation. His personal point of view is that the U.S. should embark on a program of building bomb shelters. This, according to Acheson, would decrease sharply the number of fatalities.

THERE IS, OF COURSE, another answer to the nuclear puzzle. The United Nations has sought for many years to control the use of atomic weapons, mostly in the form of moratoriums on

The plot of what Allen Lerner has called "America's best-loved operetta," *PORGY AND BESS* is almost as unfamiliar as the songs are popular. It is the story of the Negroes who live in Catfish Row. Porgy, a cripple who begs from a goat-cart, returns one night to find a crap game in session. On the outskirts of the crowd hang Sportin' Life, a dope peddler; Crown, a ruffian; and Bess, Crown's woman—the neighborhood outcasts.

A fight erupts between Crown and another man and ends in the man's death. The crowd scatters before the police arrive; Bess is forced to flee to Porgy's hut because nobody else will hide her. The two fall in love and she stays with him.

They are beginning to live happily ever-after when Porgy commits a fatal error by insisting that Bess attend a picnic without him. The entire neighborhood, minus Porgy, goes on the "scur-sion" to the picnic island. Crown, who is hiding there, grabs Bess as she is hurrying back to the boat.

Ill and exhausted, she finally makes her way back to Catfish Row where Porgy tenderly nurses her through the sickness. She has scarcely recovered when Crown comes back to reclaim her. Tragedy is averted for the moment when he vanishes into a hurricane which is raging outside. Early the following morning, however, he returns to kill Porgy, who somehow manages, however, to throttle his attacker.

Another police investigation ensues; Porgy is forced to go to the station and identify Crown's body. While he is gone, Bess runs away to New York with Sportin'

Life, the dope peddler. Porgy returns from the station and sets out in hopelessly following her.

The movie version of George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* is a celebration in stereophonic sound. The six-speaker sound system enhances not only the presentation of the music but also the drama of the spoken lines. The choreography is as vivid and colorful as the sets, especially in the show's most outstanding number, "It Ain't Necessarily So." The acting does not always match the excellence of these features. Dorothy Dandridge performs her lead role with her usual competence, but Sidney Poitier, her costar, is slightly disappointing as Porgy. Perhaps the standards he set for himself in *Something of Value* and *The Defiant Ones* are too high for even an actor of Mr. Poitier's caliber to equal consistently. Sammy Davis, Jr., portrays Sportin' Life, the sinister and conniving Mephistopheles, to perfection; while in another supporting role Pearl Bailey almost steals the show as the sympathetic, strong-charactered cook Maria. Equally at ease in lines or lyrics, these two exhibit better acting and more stage presence than any other members of the cast.

On the other hand, however, *Porgy and Bess* has some of the most execrable bit acting seen since the days of Tom Mix westerns. Another consistent distraction is the remarkably wretched dubbing. Although Diahann Carroll plays the part of Lisa, she is not permitted to sing "Summertime." Anyone who has heard her recording of this song will agree that to dub in someone else's voice on "Summertime" constitutes disrespect for both the number and her talent. Perhaps the major objection to this production would be that it is done as a stage show instead of as a movie. This misfortune makes it necessary for many characters to be standing around unnaturally and rather self-consciously a good deal of the time and makes the whole movie less realistic than it could be.

All things considered, however, *Porgy and Bess* remains a must for those who enjoy good musicals.

Norwood Pratt

The Daily Tar Heel solicits and is happy to print any letter to the editor written by a member of the University community, as long as it is within the accepted bounds of good taste. NO LETTERS WILL BE PRINTED IF THEY ARE OVER 300 WORDS LONG OR IF THEY ARE NOT TYPEWRITTEN OR DOUBLE SPACED. We make this requirement purely for the sake of space and time.

the testing of bombs. Although there are many loopholes in the program, it is at least a first step in the control of nuclear armaments.

Until there are definite "rules" on the use of nuclear energy, however, we shall continue to live with the fear that somebody—somewhere—might push the wrong button, and modern civilization would, in a blinding flash, become history. We recall with a chill that the Strategic Air Command was set on red alert by a flock of birds that showed up as "blips" on a radar screen. This, admitted Dean Acheson, is the greatest fear of our top military—that World War Three would be started because someone in an insignificant radar post made a mistake.

STRANGELY ENOUGH, a planned nuclear attack would

most likely come from a nation in a stage of rapid mobilization—such as Communist China—and not an established power such as the Soviet Union. Russia has a vested interest in her industrial accomplishments, and would be reluctant to risk her gains in an all-out war. On the other hand, Red China, a "have not" nation, would have much to gain from defeating her capitalist enemies, while putting very little on the line insofar as her achievements are concerned. It is nations in the building process that must be feared, and not nations that are reaching the apex of their influence.

And we are left with the impression that we are all little children, playing with matches that may burn bright into the night.

UPI Foreign News Commentary

Arabs Cry For Retaliation

The shrill cries of Arab women urging their men to violence echoed across cabash rooftops in Oran, Bone and Algiers this week.

Algerian Rebel Premier Ferhat Abbas called on Algerian Arabs to "thwart the designs of the enemy" in the "sham referendum" called by President Charles de Gaulle to start Algeria on the way to independence or continued ties with France.

Reinforced French troops moved up in reply to reports that Arab extremists were stockpiling bottles, stones, clubs and knives in anticipation of violence.

This was the far from peaceful setting as De Gaulle moved into the climactic stage of his plan to close the wound which annually costs France one billion dollars, drains it of its young manhood in a war which has dragged on for more than six years and prevents France from carrying out its NATO pledges for the defense of Europe.

Some 30 million Frenchmen and Algerians are being asked to vote yes or no this weekend on De Gaulle's two-stage plan to restore Algerian peace.

The first step would be to "Algerianize" local Algerian governments to remove them from European domination. The second would be a plebiscite in which the Algerians would vote for total independence, for a continuation of their present role as a province of metropolitan France or for semi-independence inside the French African community.

At home, De Gaulle has thrown the entire weight of his own immense prestige behind his plan which he says is the only road to peace.

He has issued a thinly-veiled warning that failure to accept his plan or to approve it by only a lukewarm margin could lead to his resignation, leaving France to its own fate as he did in 1946.

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