

The Daily Tar Heel

70 Years of Editorial Freedom

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Shifting The Onus Of 'Gradualism'

Since we stopped publishing two weeks ago during final exams, the civil rights situation in Chapel Hill has deteriorated considerably.

Thanks to the cool-headed efforts of Police Chief William D. Blake and his firm police force, however, there appears to be little likelihood that things will get seriously out of hand.

Students, as well as townspeople and others, who think it might be cute to heckle or harass demonstrators, should remember this.

Now what about the situation? Where is all of this protest and resentment leading?

That's the million-dollar question. From here, things look rather bleak, and chances for any sort of honorable solution to our situation appear slim indeed.

One fact needs to be reported, however. It is that the civil rights movement here is gaining grass-roots

strength among local, older Negroes. This appears to be related to the fact that demonstration leaders are beginning to move into the areas of employment and housing discrimination...

Our own position remains the same as it has been. We subscribe to the ends of the demonstrators and we appreciate the fact that there has been little progress towards racial equality without prodding from demonstrators.

We think it is a position deserving of neither praise nor condemnation. It is the only honorable course open to us all as Americans and as human beings.

A Significant New Mood Of Desperation

The Rev. Mr. B. Elton Cox, a militant integration leader from High Point, N. C., has raised the ghastly spectre of the possibility of self-immolation in Chapel Hill.

Cox has brought to light a prospect too hideous to imagine, but one that

would surely generate reactions on both sides that would be unparalleled by the demonstrations to date. But what would be the effect of this threat if it were carried out?

Cox says he is advocating others to do the same thing. This is grossly irresponsible and unfair on his part.

But the fact that we must, at least emotionally, feel the prospect of a self-immolation to be remote should not hide from us what we must learn from what Cox said.

It is obvious we had best take note of this new note of desperation, and take note quickly.

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A Graduate Looks Back At UNC

Editors, The Tar Heel:

Since my graduation from the University in February of 1961, I have done my best to keep abreast of the University, its problems and accomplishments.

My subscription to The Daily Tar Heel has enabled me to keep up with these events. The Gag Law (and along with it the charge by some North Carolinians that Chapel Hill is infested with Communism), the racial demonstrations that have just recently encountered such baseless, the apartment rule last spring and the accompanying implication that the faculty and administration are removing some of the student autonomy, the "anti-fraternity movement," Otelia Conner, and the great UNC victory in the 1963 Gator Bowl, to name a few.

The Gag Law, to be sure, handcuffs us all—the state, the nation, and, of course, the University and its inherent right to impart the truth.

That Chapel Hill is infested with Communism is also a misdirected charge. Most any town that houses and is dependent upon a genuine university must reflect the somewhat liberal attitudes of that university.

in Chapel Hill. When I was a student most attempts were directed to the desegregation of the local theatres.

I wish to congratulate those of you who have fought for student autonomy. Certainly, it is one of UNC's virtues and bulwarks of strength as a University. For years the University administration has prided itself on the very fact that it has encouraged student autonomy and that it has complemented the well-being of the academic atmosphere.

Which? You can hit a man on the head with the butt of a gun and injure his brain. There are laws against this. You can hit a man's self-respect with a "WHITE ONLY" sign and injure both his personality and his spirit.

Which is the greater crime? Since the late '50's there have been civil rights demonstrations

while system or organization can stand criticism and constructive criticism can be helpful.

I feel that I can speak with some authority on fraternities as I was initiated at Miami University of Ohio (generally considered the "Mother of Fraternities") as Beta Theta Pi, Phi Delta and Sigma Chi were all founded there and transferred my membership to a UNC fraternity.

Face The Facts Editors, The Tar Heel: I have been impressed by the position of THE TAR HEEL on the racial situation in Chapel Hill.

I wish to be obvious by now that there will never be any peace until we stop trying to take refuge in legalities—whatever merit they may in themselves possess—and face the real issue.

Leaders? Editors, The Tar Heel, Chapel Hill has about as highly concentrated brains in that area as any comparable town of its size in the United States.

My great-grandfather, my grandfather, my father and I worked there, and my brother Ed Caldwell still serves there with the Dekes.

It is embarrassing to those who love the University and its traditions to read of the unfavorable publicity that the town is now getting because those who are able to lead are not assuming their responsibility in finding the solution to the racial problems that are facing Chapel Hill today.

E. B. Caldwell Asheville

Illusion Editors, The Tar Heel:

Many dictionaries define alcohol as a stimulant. Many advertisers would have us believe alcohol is uplifting.

However, medical science has proven alcohol is not a stimulant. It is a deterrent that makes a person dizzy first, then drowsy. Some become the life of the party, in their effort to overcome the drowsiness.

This false impressions has induced men to drink the stuff, often with tragic results. If people were told the truth about alcohol, there would be less alcoholics today.

J. L. Bulla Morehead City Karen Kemp

Compromise: The Solution

Editors, The Tar Heel:

"Come now, and let us reason saith the Lord..." (Isiah 1:18). "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace..." (1 Corinthians 14:33).

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." (Matthew 5:9).

The racial question in America today is one of such magnitude and complexity, especially with regard to its psychological nature and social aspects, that I have refrained from even mentioning the words "integration" and "segregation" in print, or orally, as often as possible.

My reluctance to discuss integration vs. segregation is not (I think) based upon fear or cowardice. It is based, rather, upon my ignorance, and lack of wisdom. I have no glib answers; nor can I suggest a long list of workable solutions.

My interest is in ALL people of the ENTIRE nation, and I am concerned, like uncounted millions, over the fact that this nation is torn asunder by internal strife. I am neither white nor Negro; my birth certificate bears the word "INDIAN." But I AM wise enough to know that no great problem was ever solved solely with emotion.

reasonable, it is now. Nor will threats and denunciations solve anything.

No matter what the cause is, either worthy or unworthy, its proponents should, first of all, determine who are its friends and who are its foes.

Speaking as one member of a minority group which is even smaller than that of the Negro, and basing my observation on two years actually spent in Chapel Hill, I can tell you in all sincerity that Chapel Hill is not the enemy of Negro progress.

Both Federal and State laws have been abused in the past; and whether they were abused by one side or another—or both sides—a continued disregard for the law can lead only to grief for ALL Americans.

Fortunately, Chapel Hill is a tolerant town; but that is not to say that it is a soft one. I seriously doubt that CORE will be able to threaten it into doing anything which, in the judgment of its duly installed Aldermen, is not in the interest of ALL the people of the town.

Law Barton

Jesse And The DTH: The WCHL Interview

Editors, The Tar Heel:

Since several references have been made to WCHL's October interview with Jesse Helms and the tape recording of it in our files, it seems appropriate to clear the air concerning just what we have recorded.

Because of an engineer's nightmare, a once-in-a-thousand-interviews technical problem caused a vital portion of Mr. Helms' comments to be lost. They were missed when an overheated tape recorder just decided to stop working.

Following is a transcript of the portion of the interview with WCHL's Flip Latham relating to the proposed debate. It begins with a discussion of the Tar Heel's invitation to Mr. Helms to come to Chapel Hill to debate the Communist speaker bar law.

HELMs: "...I would question your statement that the students are more affected than anyone else (referring to a statement earlier in the conversation by Latham) that is at least not res ipso loquitor... it's debatable. They (the DTH editors) say they cannot get anybody (to debate). They have invited Clarence Stone, I believe. They have invited Mr. Orange County Representative Phipps, but isn't it curious to you that they haven't invited even one of the legislators who signed the bill?"

LATHAM: Well, I think it is, yes. But...

HELMs: Would you want to explain that for me?

LATHAM: No, sir, I was just trying to get your opinions. I don't know too much about it.

I got back in the States just about the time that this thing went through the legislature.

HELMs: Well, I would think that it would, of course I'm not a college editor and I don't think like one obviously, but if I were going to get someone to defend a bill that had been passed by the legislative body, I would first think of the person who wrote the bill, who happens to be Secretary of State Thad Eure and the Attorney General of North Carolina. I would certainly invite the Attorney General who has defended it. I would consider inviting the Assistant Attorney General who wrote a very comprehensive brief on the subject. I don't know that I would first go to a legislator. I don't know whether Mr. Phipps signed the bill or not. I think he did not. I would not necessarily go to the presiding officer of the Senate. I would get somebody... and I certainly wouldn't go to an editor of a newspaper or of a television station, regardless of how emphatic anyone of these men had been. Now, secondly, are you aware of the nature of the invitation?

LATHAM: What do you mean exactly, sir?

HELMs: Have you read the letter which extended the invitation?

LATHAM: No, I understand from the editor that first of all an excerpt from the editorial was sent out to each of you, and then after that a formal request was made. Now, that's what the editor of the Daily Tar Heel says.

HELMs: Well, the first I knew of it I received a tear sheet from the editor with a terse note asking me to come to the campus. The letter in no way described the nature or the size of the suggested meeting, where or how it would be conducted, or under whose sponsorship it would be held. I'll tell you the truth. Even if I had been invited to defend mother-

hood or Christianity, I wouldn't do so under the invitation of two college editors who gave me no more facts than they did. I think it was a completely immature way of handling it. Of course, I think it is obvious that it was calculated to produce a rejection of the invitation, but I doubt that they could get anybody to accept an invitation under the circumstances.

LATHAM: You think that it was just in the nature of the request itself that was sort of disrespectful, in other words.

HELMs: Well, it was to me. They've got to show me some more planning on a meeting before I would even consider it. Now they come back with an editorial saying that I am afraid and make certain other personal statements, or implications, which are somewhat amusing because I've been called a lot of things, Mr. Latham, but I've never been called a coward...

LATHAM: Well, the editorial that I have before me now... HELMS: I have it before me. I got it since I got on the line. LATHAM: It says... he turned down our invitation with the irrelevant suggestion that we invite J. Edgar Hoover to express his views on the subject... HELMS: Well, of course it's a matter of opinion whether that's irrelevant. LATHAM: Yes. HELMS: Do you think that's a matter of opinion? Mr. Hoover has been very outspoken on this subject. He is very concerned about it. So are a great many people in government who I suspect are somewhat better informed than the editors of the Tar Heel. Now I would be curious as to the motivation behind this. Is this the idea of the editors of the Tar Heel, or is there some other group interested in this thing? If so, why did they deliberately avoid contacting the introducers of the bill? Why was Secretary of State

Eure left out of this thing? Why was Mister Burton left out of it? There are a lot of questions about it. Now I don't think that anybody is reluctant to discuss this thing. As a matter of fact we'll be glad to have a confrontation on this station and I hereby authorize you, sir, to say so on your radio program... (here the internal tape recorder chose to garble several seconds of the interview, but a kick or two made it begin again as Mr. Helms continued)...

LATHAM: Okay, well that's mighty fine.

HELMs: That's about all I have to say about it I think the editors of the Tar Heel need to approach this thing with a little more maturity than they have, and certainly if they expect to get an acceptance of their invitation. Sincerely, Jim Heavner WCHL RADIO