

DTH Editorial Page

Opinions of the Daily Tar Heel are expressed in its editorials. Letters and columns, covering a wide range of views, reflect the personal opinions of their authors.

Cloud Easily Seeded — The Forum: NOT Guilty

By means of a NAACP "flyer" distributed in UNC residence halls early this week, and through public pronouncements of James Gardner, some local integrationist groups have cast a large cloud of doubt over the integrity of the Carolina Forum.

Like many charges voiced by such groups, however, these recent accusations create a cloud which can be seeded easily, and when the truth precipitates the only effect is a minor drizzle.

Gardner and his pals claim the Forum invited James Farmer, executive secretary of the Congress of Racial Equality, to speak at UNC and then withdrew the offer for reasons which the flyer calls "somewhat hazy."

The flyer also hints Bill Schwartz, chairman of the Forum, was motivated by his racist Southern background in making the decision. At the same time, the NAACP questions the effectiveness of the Forum, saying, "Quick now, can you name any speaker sponsored by the Carolina Forum this year?"

To answer the last point first, the Forum sponsored both Averell Harriman and Herbert Philbrick this year, and provided a public reception for Governor Terry Sanford to talk informally with students. All three men were well received by large audiences.

So, for the information of the NAACP and Gardner, the defense of the Carolina Forum and the enlightenment of the campus, we present the Farmer case as it actually happened, plus a few added points to insure you get your money's worth.

Just before fall semester exams, a young lady approached the Carolina Forum and said she could get James Farmer to come to UNC. Would the Forum co-sponsor the speech?

Certainly, said the Forum, but it's near examinations now and we are having trouble with our grades and can't we wait and discuss it when we all have some time on our hands?

All right, said the girl, but what about expense money?

Well, said the Forum, we will be happy to pay Mr. Farmer's expenses plus a \$100 honorarium.

Thus everyone parted friends.

Shortly after second semester began, the Forum received a letter from CORE's national office extending proper thanks for the invitation to Mr. Farmer, and adding that CORE understood that the Forum would make a \$100 contribution to CORE.

When Forum co-chairman Bill Schwartz

received the letter, he was, needless to say, somewhat angry. After all, no invitation had been extended to Farmer and no date had been discussed. Also, legal restrictions prevent groups such as the Forum from making contributions to special interest groups of any kind.

Furthermore, Farmer was just one of the possible speakers for the spring. Many invitations had been offered earlier, and several had been accepted. In this category are John Kenneth Galbraith (to speak April 8) and Hugh Hefner (May 10.) Tentative dates had been set for James Reston (early March), Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas (mid-April) and Ralph McGill.

Taking all these factors into account, Schwartz decided that further action on Farmer was not called for at that time, so the matter was dropped without a reply to CORE. It is on this slight error in judgment (i.e., the lack of a reply to CORE) that the local groups have based their violent accusations.

When the local CORE group inquired again about the situation, Schwartz patiently explained the matter and considered the matter dropped.

Thus, no invitation was ever offered to Farmer, nor did the Forum approach CORE as to his availability. Once again it appears that a simple situation has been blown totally out of proportion by a group angry without real reason.

The call from the local CORE representative was the last that Schwartz heard of the matter until he was attacked viciously by the midnight flyers.

The facts seem to prove that CORE has no case. If the basis for their complaint is the Forum's failure to invite Farmer, then the argument should be extended to include anyone who has not appeared on campus this year—that is, almost everyone.

As to the charge that Schwartz "dropped" Farmer because his Southern background prejudices him against Negro speakers, some facts speak for themselves:

—Schwartz is one of the most outspoken liberals on campus and has never given anyone cause to doubt his sincerity on civil rights issues.

—Schwartz's family has done a great deal of work in the field of racial harmony. His father organized the recent dinner for Martin Luther King in Atlanta, and is a trustee of a Negro college.

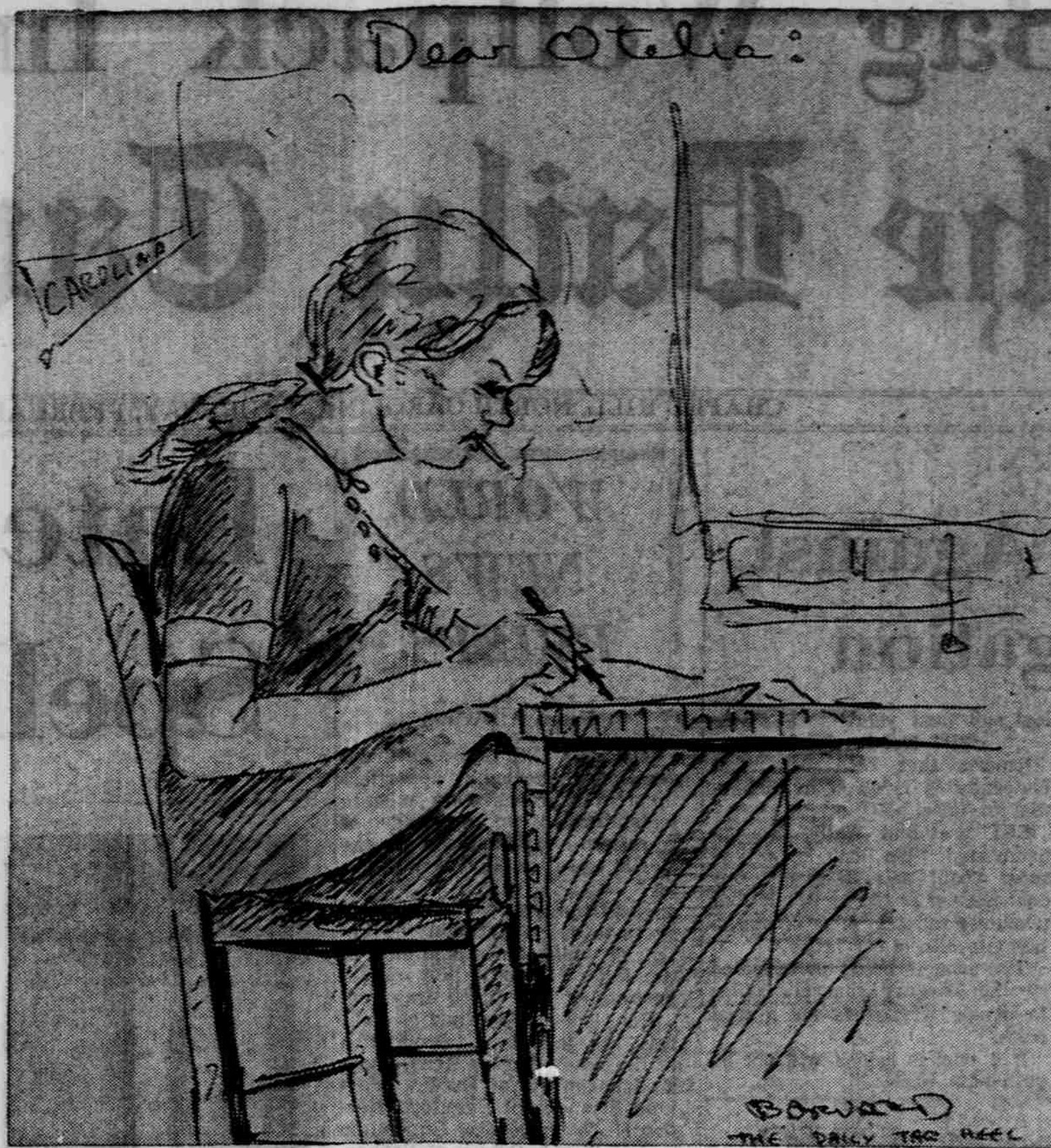
—Schwartz attempted throughout last year to obtain Farmer for a campus speech, only to have Farmer refuse even though he visited Chapel Hill.

—Schwartz has worked diligently to obtain the services of Dr. King as a campus speaker this year, but he has been unavailable.

Thus, to call Schwartz or Nicky Nicholson (who shares the Forum chairmanship) racists, or even to infer such, is as ridiculous as calling George Lincoln Rockwell an integrationist.

Charges loosely based and even more carelessly tossed about are not difficult to uncover as distortions. This is the case with just about everything the Free Speech Movement and the integrationist groups have produced in the past few days, and is the reason why practically everyone in the student body, the faculty and the administration holds them in ridicule.

It has been a case of too much accusation in too big a load, but the cloud has not been so thick as to obscure the truth—that there just aren't the facts to back the whole thing up.



British Plan Suggested

Admission Policies Outdated

(From The Smithfield Herald)

One of the pressing problems confronting young people and their parents today is the difficulty of "getting in" college. On the other side of the coin, there is the problem faced by colleges and universities in selecting students for admission to their classrooms and campus life. The problem on both sides of the coin seems to be growing worse.

Statistics show the enormity of the problem. Recently, 635,000 high school students all over the United States, including Johnston County students, took College Board aptitude tests. The total number taking these tests this year will reach 1,173,000. Twenty years ago, only 29,000 students were given these examinations. Two generations ago, from four to five per cent of the college age group entered college. Virtually every student who applied for admission was accepted. Today nearly half of the college age group seeks admission. The colleges and universities do not have room for all who apply. Many institutions reject more applicants than they admit. This remains true despite expansion of college facilities. In the past 13 years full-time enrollments in U. S.

institutions of higher learning have increased from two million to five million. By 1980, more than 10 million students will be enrolled — 60 per cent of the college age group.

In an article in the New York Times, Fred M. Hechinger says "these large numbers of students are being checked through the college gates by virtually the same academic customs procedures that existed when only a privileged few sought admission." He quotes Fred E. Crossland, former dean of admission at New York University and now an executive of the Ford Foundation, as saying, "We have come close to making access to our colleges and universities a shambles."

Mr. Crossland deplors inefficiency in the college admission system. He says that millions of dollars are wasted on application fees; that millions of man-hours in high schools are wasted on the shuffling of papers of "ghost" applicants who will not show up, if accepted; that millions of student hours are wasted on repeated testing and form-filing. All this because high school seniors must apply for admission at a number of colleges to strengthen their chances of "getting in."

Mr. Crossland urges colleges and universities to work out co-operative plans to reduce wasted time and energy in processing student applications for admission. The New York Times article cites a new system in Britain as a guide. Students seeking entry into a British university may submit one application, listing six institutions in the order of personal choice. What is known as the Universities Central Council on Admissions serves as "clearing house and traffic control center." A student still has freedom to choose. A university remains free to accept or reject. The New York Times article notes that "after rejection by the school of the candidate's first choice, institution number two gets a crack at the same form, and so on down the line."

The British system or some variation of it would be welcome in the United States. It apparently would save a great deal of time for students, high school administrators, and college admission officers. Such a co-operative plan would not, of course, solve all the problems of "getting in," nor would it relieve all the pressures felt by parents as well as by students. But it would help restore order to a situation that seems to be getting out of hand.

Johnson's Press Relations Failing

By DAVID ROTHMAN

President Johnson's relations with the press are deteriorating.

This is the impression given by a number of articles appearing in Newsweek, the Washington Post and other publications.

In a one and one-half page account of the President's difficulties, the Feb. 15 Newsweek bitterly commented: "Perhaps the most remarkable thing about President Johnson's honeymoon with the White House press corps is that it lasted as long as it did."

The Post, which is controlled by Newsweek's publishers, was equally disturbed. In fact, its front-page article covering a recent press conference read like an editorial.

"Yesterday's press conference," wrote Staff Writer Chalmers Roberts, "called with some 40 minutes notice, was held in the small White House movie theater in the East wing. Some 147 newsmen of whom 31 had chairs jammed the room, some of them standing behind TV and movie cameras."

According to Roberts, the newsmen had to resort to transistor radios to hear the President's remarks.

The conference was held shortly after Churchill's funeral. Roberts reported that Johnson had spoken to the journalists in "tones of acid irony" when asked to explain Vice President Humphrey's absence at the ceremonies.

The President's remarks seem to confirm Roberts' observations. Obviously perturbed, Mr. Johnson snapped: "I may have made a mistake by asking the Chief Jus-

tice to go and not asking the Vice President. I will bear in mind in connection with any future funerals my very strong feelings in the matter."

Ordinarily, the view of Roberts and his publisher would not be so significant but the Post in recent years has been a strong supporter of the Administration.

(The Post, for example was not as outspoken as the other Washington papers in sizing up Kennedy's controversial information policy during the Cuban missile crisis.)

Moreover, many political columnists shape the Post's present displeasure.

One of these columnists, AP News Analyst James Marlow, reported last week that an unusual form of speculation was making the rounds:

"That (Presidential Press Secretary) Reedy's office is bugged — meaning it is equipped with a listening device that enables Johnson to sit in his office and hear what goes on in Reedy's briefings."

Marlow, however, prudently wrote: "There is no evidence to support this kind of speculation."

Nevertheless, the rumor indicates a growing distrust involving President and press alike. Humphrey's failure to attend Churchill's funeral is not the only provocative topic. Another source of bitter antagonism is the Vietnamese question, on which Mr. Johnson has not been very informative.

After last week's stepped-up Viet Cong attacks, Johnson had only one immediate comment to make. He made it through Press Secretary Reedy: the sit-

uation in Viet Nam was "receiving the closest attention."

This is not information. Rather it is bureaucratic gobbledygook, the language usually used by administrators incompetent to deal with curious newsmen.

The Vietnamese question involves national security, and in order to protect military secrets, Mr. Johnson certainly had a right to say so. Why he did not remain to be answered. This approach would have been more honest than his evasive tactics.

A briefing held by Reedy last Thursday was just as sketchy as the previous one.

Two raids had been made against North Viet Nam. The President had justified the first raid by saying it had been made in response to a specific Viet Cong attack.

He had justified the second raid with the statement that an entire series of Communist actions had forced U. S. retaliation.

Thus, an obvious inconsistency was present: one which suggested a vacillating foreign policy. All Reedy would say, however, was that he would let the earlier statements "speak for themselves."

"They don't though," replied his questioner. The nervous Reedy then went on to say there would be no TV reports, as well as no Presidential press conferences.

Needless to say, the reporters were not impressed. They also were not impressed when Reedy would not give details regarding the sending of additional American troops to Viet Nam to guard against a

Honor Offenders Must Be Reported

Editors, The Tar Heel:

This is a difficult letter to write because it attempts to do a difficult thing: to persuade students who think otherwise that it is honorable to turn in academic cheats.

This is written because of indications in the DTH that many students do not understand this. The most recent indication was a letter by George Carson (Feb. 10) who thinks the only true honor system is that which puts each student on his own honor. If any responsible answer has been made to such statements I have not seen it.

It is important to remember that the honor system is a part of student government. Here at UNC, unlike the Air Force Academy, there is no attempt to combine a completely authoritarian system with an honor code imposed from above. The administration here genuinely wants student government (including the honor system) to work.

It would be ideal if it were possible to make it as simple as Mr. Carson implies and simply put every person on his own honor. It would be ideal in local, state, national, and international areas if we could put every person or nation on his honor to abide by the golden rule. Then we could abolish armies and police forces and all live in sweet harmony. But it is precisely because of rule- and law-breaking that the law-abiding majority must coerce those who will not conform to just and reasonable standards.

As St. Paul put it, "The law is not made for the righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient . . ." The honor system must somehow deal with those who have no honor.

In fact, this is the most important thing it must do.

The person who is already honorable does not need a kind of honor code to make him behave honorably. The honor code here does try to put everyone on his own honor, and no doubt the emphasis does stiffen some weak moral backbones and the effect is salutary. But, again, the true test of the honor system is how well it controls the cheat, the liar, and the thief.

We do, indeed, teach our children not to "snitch" or "rat" out. But there is a reason for this. Usually tattling by a child is an appeal to overwhelming (parental) authority for purely selfish motives. Moreover, the child does not understand the difference between what is trivial and what is important.

Among adults the immature, the fearful, or the criminal does not want to "sneak" or "rat" on his fellows. Mature persons realize that it is most important to cooperate with our (self) governmental agencies in all matters which seriously affect the whole community.

What kind of adult would fail to turn in police the information that a burglar was breaking into the house across the street? What sort of human being stands silent while the knifer or the rapist does his work?

Students are not children and at some point they have to make the adjustment in the di-

rection of mature behavior. (I am convinced most of them have, by the time they arrive here on campus.)

I seem to remember a great hullabaloo in the DTH last year on the question of whether the University stands in loco parentis to the student. The DTH thought not. I also think not — if — students demonstrate they can govern themselves.

Once again, that means if they are willing to handle fairly and decisively their own unethical members. Here at UNC it is both possible and necessary to develop mature, responsible behavior.

In short: (1) no system of rules (or law, Mr. Carson!) has long worked by putting each member of the group on his own good behavior, even though a great majority do actually keep their honor intact; (2) the chief criterion for evaluating such a system is by its effectiveness in controlling (by fair and just procedures) recalcitrant members; and therefore (3) it is honorable to turn in liars and cheats and it is dishonorable not to do so.

If the attitude that one should not turn in cheaters should spread to a majority of the student body, as I see it, the University would have no alternative but to impose some more authoritarian system, for student government would have failed and students will have demonstrated that they are not ready for the adult world.

I am confident, however, that this will not happen.

Henry C. Boren

SAE Incident Is Overdone

Editors, The Tar Heel:

At the risk of being termed an "ugly American," allow me to invite Wilmet P. K. Hage to grow up at his earliest possible convenience.

Like the vast majority of students at this University, I regret the insults which Mr. Hage suffered from a fringe group of dim-witted Carolina rednecks. But, as a potential government leader, this might be a propitious time for our Liberator to learn that national sentiments are not necessarily discovered at fraternity houses, that such incidents do not warrant police riot squads and that lack of a patronizing attitude on the part of University officials does not constitute "seeming indifference."

To this inchoate student of political science I recommend Henry Adams:

Perhaps some day . . . they might be allowed to return together for a holiday, to see the mistakes of their own lives made clear in the light of the mistakes of their successors; and, perhaps then, for the first time since man began his education among the carnivores, they would find a world that sensitive and timid natures could regard without a shudder.

Don Bruce Ardell
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The Daily Tar Heel

72 Years of Editorial Freedom

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