

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

'Insult' Controversy Sparks Hot Comment

Discrimination OK For Greeks

Editors, The Tar Heel: Frankly, I am getting tired of hearing about the "so-called" racial discrimination policy of the fraternities here on campus.

It is ridiculous for a system whose basis for selection is discrimination "in the raw" so to speak, to be criticized because some of its qualifications run along racial lines. A fraternity house is not a public accommodation, is not subsidized by the government, and does not in any way fall within the bounds of the broadest interpretation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Therefore, to question the right of a fraternity to select discriminantly its members, based on any quirk, whim, or prejudice of any member, would, in essence destroy the entire fraternity system.

When a student goes through rush and pledges a certain fraternity, there has been a selection process by both the pledge and the members of the houses that he visited. Perhaps, at a certain number of houses, he was politely "gotten rid of" so to speak; at others, he was patted on the back, given too much punch, and invited back again and again.

In each of these examples decisions based on discriminations of the highest order have been made by both the rushee and the house rushed.

If the rushee has green hair and the ABC fraternity doesn't particularly care for green heads, chances are good that our odd friend will not get a bid to that house.

On the other hand, the XYZ's may think this guy is really sharp and pledge him up immediately.

Everybody we meet we judge according to our political, economical, social, physical, geographical, and racial orientations. This is human nature!

A man who has grown up with a dislike for all wealthy people, is not going to invite such a person to live with him. A man orientated to very conservative political beliefs is not going to agree with a person from the liberal end of the spectrum.

Do not think that I am a staunch Southern, come-hell-or-high-water segregationist - I am not. I am merely stating my beliefs in a small area of this question of racial discrimination.

I do not think that the school administration nor any other organization of power can make this student body or any other group of people socially color blind.

David Owen

Relevant Matters Said Overlooked

Editors, The Tar Heel: I am completely appalled by your vituperative outburst against Mr. James Gardner in your Tuesday issue. But it is not my purpose to defend the personality of Mr. Gardner in any way.

Such a subject should not be the basis for a meaningful discussion of issues in the first place. I would like to ask you to please think on a higher plane in future editorials.

Personal abuse against Mr. Gardner will accomplish nothing towards fulfilling the purpose of an editorial, which is to state informed and relevant opinion on issues and events.

What you did say about relevant matters, such as the FSM demonstrations in Berkeley and the idea of open community agitation itself, was ridiculously ignorant and immature. Apparently, even the thinking members of this University are almost completely isolated from the true meaning

of what happened in Berkeley and of what is happening even now all over the United States. I would ask you to become informed of the true results of the Berkeley demonstrations. I would also ask you to then take a hard, mature and loving look at the meaning of the University, at what its place in society ought to be.

Then see how Chapel Hill measures up. See then if just a little anger, a little spark of life, does not come.

Did it never occur to you gentlemen that somewhere there may exist human beings with deeper motivations than grudges and desire for publicity?

Are you so blind that you do not know that public demonstrations are often acts of love and not of hate? And do you not realize that they are not acts of love against hate, but most often against indifference, insensitivity and stupidity that can no longer be tolerated?

If you ever become sensitive and loving enough to realize what I am saying, you too might someday be man enough, be human enough, to find it necessary to protest in the way Martin Luther King protests, in the way Mario Savio protests.

I am afraid that when it comes to issues as deep, emotional and complicated as civil rights and academic freedom, little has ever been accomplished through vested channels of power until there was open and sometimes violent community agitation.

Not an inch was ever gained towards full civil rights for Negroes in North Carolina except as a result of public demonstrations in the streets. And if you will look at the history of civil rights in Chapel Hill you will see that it has been true here also.

George Andrew Glahn 188 Daniels Rd.

No Legal Wrong Said Committed

Editors, The Tar Heel: The absurdities of complaints surrounding the alleged incident near big fraternity court over the weekend are made apparent by the catch-all demonstrations which the offended student announced in the Daily Tar Heel Tuesday.

For on the one hand, we are

against restrictions preventing a Red man from speaking on against restrictions preventing the UNC campus, while on the other the complaint is that a white man was permitted to speak his peace as he saw it.

Of course, no one believes that college students, or others, should refer to anyone as "nigger lovers." But to foment a crisis out of such an occurrence is all out of proportion to any harm that is done, and it brings more into question the motives of the one purportedly offended than the propriety of the comment itself.

The fact is that no "legal" wrong has been done. The books are full of cases involving personal insult, humiliation and embarrassment. None has gone so far as to permit redress where the facts are similar - even more upsetting - than these.

Moreover, the complaints of the student involved logically fall victim to the very constitutional provision upon which his Free Speech Movement is founded - for in fact the First Amendment permits anyone to speak at any time anywhere, then its protection is extended to the fraternity boy on a Saturday afternoon just as it is extended to a man of black skin or a Communist who champions a cause.

There is yet another consideration which must be made along with our condemnation of public epithets heaped upon our fellow. And that is the seriousness of steps which would prevent a man from saying, or punish him for having said, what he personally thinks about another within, of course, the bound of legal sanction.

In so dramatically displaying the incident, the Daily Tar Heel has of course given to the student the sounding board which he, by the paper's account, sought over the weekend. It is doubtful that your excellent editorial comment will pull many props from under his effort.

The fact is that, once reported, the incident should never have been investigated - and having been investigated it should not have become a public issue.

For humiliation is really sort of personal - at least to most

of us who care not an iota what the bearded ones in Berkeley and all the Mario Savios in the world think about the University of North Carolina.

Doug Eisele Law School

Rights Movement 'Hideous Parody'

Editors, The Tar Heel: Well, it has finally happened - just as all my segregationist friends swore it would.

How many times have they looked at me with all the frustration of a prophet crying in the wilderness and foretold of the day when integrationists would be making impossible, "more-than-equal" demands - when the movement for Negro equality would develop into a hideous parody.

That day arrived in Chapel Hill last Friday.

The cause for freedom has arisen in the form of James Gardner with all the righteous indignation of a Ku Klux Klan Grand Dragon.

Mr. Gardner's blood and thunder demands and accusations over an incident that must be found inconsequential by all but the most paranoiac reasoning leave me stunned.

What happened in front of the SAE house was not slander; it was a simple heckling such as all of us have experienced many times, and most of us adjusted to in childhood.

My alarm, however, is not over the incident itself, but over the magnitude it has reached. Even if all this is nothing but a selfish gambit for attention on

the part of Mr. Gardner, as the DTH's Tuesday editorial claimed, the problem is not changed. Why has our society reached the condition that such trivia can cause such a great reaction?

Why are not the other students, the administration, and the townspeople joining me in laughing Mr. Gardner out of sight? I am afraid I shall have to admit that my segregationist friends foretold the future correctly.

George F. Taylor, Jr. 308 Ruffin

Irresponsibility Charge Levelled

Editors, The Tar Heel: There is an old saying among debaters: "If you can't attack the facts, attack the man."

Apparently the editors of the Tar Heel have also heard this proverb to judge by Tuesday's editorial. The UNC - NAACP, Chapel Hill CORE and the UNC branch of the Free Speech Movement have planned a rally Friday to protest four issues.

The first of these is the insult to Mr. Gardner and Mr. Hague last week and the University's handling (sic) of it. The Tar Heel's answer to this problem is to imply that Mr. Gardner and Mr. Hague (sic) are lying and that they have plotted the entire incident in order to gain publicity for James Gardner.

This entails quite a high degree of complicity for two gentlemen who met only a few days ago, but no doubt anything is possible for such a thoroughly

(sic) evil man as Mr. Gardner. The second item of protest is the speaker ban. The DTH considers this issue by suggesting that we all keep quiet and let daddy handle the matter for he knows best.

This is reminiscent of their attitude last semester when they editorially chastized (sic) the Student Peace Union for circulating petitions against the gag law. They explained that petitions would only anger the legislators.

Somehow this semester when Student government (sic) decided to circulate petitions against the speaker ban, the Tar Heel felt that it was a good idea and used its news columns to help coordinate the project.

Apparently the DTH holds firm to the view that the important thing is not what you are doing, but who you are.

The third point of protest was the cancellation by the Carolina Forum of James Farmer's speech. And the fourth area of protest was the University's chartering of organizations with

racial discrimination written in to their charter (sic).

Neither of the above two issues were discussed at all, the Tar Heel preferring (sic) to use the slace (sic) to throw more mud at James Gardner.

The entire editorial was one of the more remarkable exercises in journalistic irresponsibility that I have read recent-

ly, even in the DTH.

With four items of interest and importance to say nothing (sic) of being controversial, the Tar Heel chose to ignore them all and attempt instead to see how close to the laws of libel it could approach in vilifying James Gardner.

Frank Anshen 407 W. Franklin St.



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