

In Our Opinion...

Full Set Of Facts Can Help ECC Gain Support Of Public

The Raleigh Times

One of the three consultants who prepared the finally released and controversial report on East Carolina College's bid for a two-year medical school is "disappointed" at publicity given critical portions of the consultants' report. Dr. John A. D. Cooper, dean of science at Northwestern University, said he believed release of the report without the background discussions and conversations used in making it was "an error." He also felt that their findings regarding the medical school proposal should have no bearing "on the competence of the college to present educational programs in areas outside of this."

Dr. Cooper's criticisms are well put, but they miss the major point of this whole controversy. That major point is simply this: Dr. Leo Jenkins, president of ECC, and State Senator Robert Morgan, chairman of the ECC Board of Trustees, withheld the critical portions of the report from other ECC trustees. And, the report was withheld from the State Board of Higher Education until the Board secured from the Attorney General a ruling that it was a public document and that the Board should have it.

Those facts give a hollow ring to this part of Dr. Cooper's criticism:

"It seems to me that Board of Higher Education and the State should be interested in helping develop ECC and its potentialities and its responsibilities. If they are lacking in numbers of faculty and so on, they should be provided with funds which permit them to hire and attract faculty."

How can the State Board of Higher Education help develop ECC and its potentialities if the Higher Board can't even find out what experts such as these consultants said about ECC and its needs? And, how can the State help ECC develop if the trustees, who represent the people of the State in the operation of the college, aren't even told of the needs discussed by the consultants?

A major point in the controversy which has swirled around ECC and its leaders in recent years has been the frantic effort by some of those leaders to secure university status for the institution regardless. That campaign has been conducted as much, or more, from the political stumps of the State as it has in the normal channels of such matters.

The fact that Dr. Jenkins was, in effect, finally forced to release to the public this report of some of the needs of ECC is the finest thing that could happen to the college and to the educational welfare of the students who now attend it and who will attend it in the years to come. The public report of those needs will help rally public support of the things the institution needs to do the job which the young people of North Carolina deserve.

The critical facts contained in this report may slow the frantic drive from the stump for immediate separate university status for ECC. But, those same facts should be of immeasurable help to the institution in securing from the public the support it deserves in building itself into a finer and finer college.



A Look At Sihanouk

By ELLIOTT WEST

Invaded from the north and harassed from within, South Viet Nam now faces an increasing threat from an angry Oriental prince to the west.

In the past year, Red China and North Viet Nam have found an increasingly active ally in Cambodia. Some informers report that as many as 40 trucks a day travel along the gravel "Sihanouk Trail" northeastward into South Viet Nam with supplies for guerrilla bands and Hanoi regiments.

Viet Cong often take refuge across the Cambodian boundary, and Prince Norodom Sihanouk has admitted openly that the communists use his border areas for "rest and recreation." These vacations, say the US, include such games as lob-the-mortar-shell and Red Rover, Red Rover, I'm Not Coming Over."

Red China recently announced aid in the other direction. Twenty thousand Cambodian troops are equipped with Chinese material, and soon they will train with Chinese boats, planes, and anti-aircraft guns.

Active help from Cambodia insures its increased involvement in the Viet Nam war. The US cannot ignore an alternative route to the Ho Chi Minh Trail, and shelter for the enemy can only become more aggravating with time.

Reasons for Cambodia's course and hints of its future should be sought in Prince, Chief of State, Prime Minister Sihanouk.

The small, pudgy man is his country's leading saxophonist, sportsman, songwriter, and is one of the most brilliant politicians in Asia.

Underestimation of Sihanouk comes easily. His appearance—he looks like a court jester with a pot belly—and his early years of coddling in an Oriental royal court have caused seasoned diplomats to smirk.

In 1953, however, Cambodia became the first Indochinese nation to gain independence when the young king outmaneuvered Parisian politicians, then busy with the Viet Minh.

He abdicated his title to his father in 1955 to devote more time to politics, and when the King died, Sihanouk made himself "chief of state." His Sangkum Party regularly polls 99 per cent of the vote, not because he permits no opposition but because of his towering popularity.

Sihanouk makes regular tours of tiny villages, passing out gifts from the trunk of his car. He chats with his constituents on frequent radio programs and holds open court to hear all grievances.

His popularity also can be attributed in part to something on which virtually all enemies and allies that have dealt with him agree: Sihanouk is totally dedicated to Cambodia and to its people.

He has developed an efficient education system, for example, and has engineered construction of the port of Sihanoukville.

Unlike many of its Asian neighbors, Cambodia is not a "poor" nation. Agricultural production is high and has not reached its potential. The population—5,000,000—is small enough to make its density one of the continent's most sparse. In these respects, Cambodia is far better off than India, for example.

But Cambodia is a dwarf among giants. It is about the size of Oklahoma, and only North Viet Nam is smaller in Asia.

The primary threat, therefore, is political and military, not economic, and Sihanouk's policies can be understood only in this context.

Facing tremendous pressure on the one hand from China and North Viet Nam and on the other from the US, South Viet Nam, and Thailand, Sihanouk has recognized one important goal for his government: preservation of Cambodian identity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

In deciding what policy step to take, what does Sihanouk consider? Much of the answer lies in Cambodia's history.

For hundreds of years, the Khmer race in Cambodia has fought or haggled with the Vietnamese to the east and the Thais to the west.

Cattle — stealing forays across the borders have been carried out for centuries. Now they are called "aggression" in official communications.

Sihanouk holds a mistrust for Viet Nam and Thailand common to his countrymen, and his relations with the two nations are colored by his feelings. Because Saigon is the ancient capital of the Vietnamese, Cambodians direct their antagonism more towards it than Hanoi.

The US, of course, is a close ally to both South Viet Nam and Thailand. But because we are stronger than these nations and supply them with arms, Sihanouk assumes that we also dictate their every move.

The chief of state, therefore, misunderstands the US and great powers in general in their roles with smaller nations, and he pronounces Americans guilty by association.

This blind spot led in December, 1964, to renunciation of all US aid programs, about \$10 million per year. The \$300 million already given to

Cambodia was roughly equal to a year's pay for each of the country's inhabitants. To many this seemed a drastic and irresponsible act, but Sihanouk's goal should clarify the break.

The people's economic well-being is considered by their prince as in less danger than their sovereignty. Sihanouk interpreted US action as dangerously aggressive, and he acted accordingly. Actual conditions had no bearing on the question: Prince Sihanouk acted on facts as he saw them, not as they were.

His antagonism toward the US, Thailand, and South Viet Nam is governed partly by another of the prince's opinions: China will be the one great power in Asia at the end of 15 years.

Again, influenced by his sense of history, Sihanouk considers Red China less of a threat than South Viet Nam or Thailand. If either China or the western-oriented countries must win in the present conflict, Sihanouk would prefer the northern giant to his ancient foes.

The prince, it should be noted, has never claimed to be a communist. He once led a campaign against several Red rebel bands from atop an elephant.

He has no illusions about a Chinese victory. If China should win tomorrow, he once told a diplomat, he would be greeted on his next trip to Peking with, "Sihanouk, on your knees!"

The Cambodian stance, therefore, is essentially one of neutralism. Its leader is trying to stand among the forces pressuring him and to strike a true balance, but his equilibrium is affected by certain considerations.

He distrusts and fears South Viet Nam and Thailand—and the US by association. And he has moved closer to the Peking-Hanoi axis both to offset this assumed vital threat and to be on what he considers the winning side.

The belief that only neutralism can accomplish Sihanouk's overall aim of Cambodia preservation coincides, incidentally, with the present French political philosophy. Paris and Cambodia have never been more harmonious, as the recent visit by De Gaulle illustrated.

The future diplomatic course of Cambodia, however, remains unpredictable. Sihanouk is notoriously erratic, and opposition to his pro-Chinese stand has increased in Cambodia.

Chinese aid has wed him to some extent to the communists. Reduction of Cambodia to a Chinese satellite would outflank the two warmest US allies in Asia and all but rule out a victory in Viet Nam.

The West nevertheless should remember and derive what comfort it can from Sihanouk's sense of national dignity and his dedication to a Cambodian Cambodia.

Military Injustice Must Be Stopped

From The Daily Iowan

Pvt. Edward T. Conners is a 6-foot 7-inch 220-pound chicken who deserted his army buddies under fire, was responsible for one of those buddies being killed, and who was dishonorably discharged from the Army and sentenced to two years of hard labor at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. At least that's how the military saw it.

That is the logic, or illogic of military justice, or military injustice, depending on whether you write the law or are subject to it.

Military life and its attempted grasp of justice does not take into account that some men are really men, even though they have uncontrollable tendencies of fear, possess sensitivity for fellow man be it enemy or friend, or suffer from a mental condition that prohibits a man from acting as orders dictate.

The military machine is composed of human parts that must respond mechanically to any given order and to place the anatomy in a secondary position to cogs and drive shafts. Among other things, military men are to have no minds, they are to be uniformed vegetables and conditioned animals. Some men metamorphose into this form, others cannot — Conners apparently did not.

Military injustice was negligent in not giving due consideration to a number of subtleties. Conners was trained to fire missiles, but when he came to Viet Nam he was handed a machine gun and told, "go shoot." He was a soldier who did scamper for the nearest foxhole when the bullets started flying, but nobody did anything to give Conners the help he needed.

Conners was also unfortunate in that he is among other men like him who would buckle under fire but luckily never get sent in for cannon fodder. Some of those men are probably sitting at a desk as part of the "chairborne" corps who write the military injustice that can turn a man into failure.

Fortunately for some of the authors, they are never given the opportunity to be tried under their own military fiction.

The guilt of people like Conners is determined by a fact — military law; the innocence of people like Conners can be determined not by what is, but what should be. The tragic drawback is that the "should be" is all too often defeated by "what is."

There is rank in the military that indicates a level of achievement and status; there is likewise a rank in military injustice that is noxious to the nasal passages.

Two Salem Girls Defend UNC Men

Editor, The Daily Tar Heel:

I received this letter today and was advised to relay this on to you; it was addressed to the editor of The Winston-Salem Journal, but I believe that Carolina men would definitely be interested as to what the reaction of some girls was who did not participate in the interview. If necessary, I will retype her letter for publication in the DTH and send it back to you.

I, as a "potential rapist," would like to set some people straight on the true character of North Carolina.

Jim Grey

(Editor's note — According to Mr. Grey's wishes, we are printing the aforementioned letter.)

Editor, The Daily Tar Heel:

In reference to your recent article published on September 25, 1966 dealing with how some of the N.C. girls' colleges rated the "Big Five" mens' colleges, we would like to make several statements in antithesis to those which you published.

As a result of our experience at the University of North Carolina, we believe that chivalry is not dead and the "Carolina gentleman" is not the superficial, "super cool," stereotyped person that your statistics showed him to be.

Your article does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the majority of Salem students. When you take only views of a small segment of students you cannot get a true picture of how the whole school feels.

Perhaps certain of the girls whom you questioned really were as bad a date as they pictured their own UNC date. As is often the case, bad behavior is a direct result of the girls' behavior. If a girl indicated to the boy that she has loose morals or scruples, it is a "come-on" for the boy and what might result is not entirely his fault.

The manner in which your article presented drinking at UNC, you would think wine flowed from the water fountains, that all the boys were sots, and every party was an orgy. Which is not the "norm."

Your article was right to try to present some of the derogatory comments about a small percentage of the UNC boys, to put a few of them on their toes; but there are responsible and irresponsible people on every college campus and the article would have been more effective if both sides of the story had been equally represented.

No matter where you go, Carolina or "Podunk U," there are always a minority of students who will break the rules, and ruin the reputation of the school. However, a valid criticism should be based on constructive as well as destructive comments.

Jane Cross
Janie Mebane
Salem College

Issues From Back Issues

(Issues that made the news in The Daily Tar Heel on this date five, 10 and 15, years ago.)

Sept. 29, 1961

A group of high school Negro sit-in demonstrators jailed in Mississippi under a ten thousand dollar bail received a helping hand Wednesday from a Carolina graduate, according to a letter received recently from Bob Kaiser of the Yale Daily News.

James Reginald Turner, class of '56 and now administrator of the Yale Freedom Fund for Southern Students, which was founded at Yale in 1960, announced that the fund's entire holding of \$700 would go to the bail fund set up for these students by SNCC.

Sept. 29, 1956

A near-record total of 6,971 students registered for UNC's fall semester, according to a report issued this week by the Central Records Office.

This is the highest enrollment of students since 1949, when 7,419 students were here.

Women students at UNC number 1,215, supporting a male-female ratio of five to one.

Briefly Editorial

The Ku Klux Klan has rented a booth at the North Carolina State Fair to be held in Raleigh Oct. 10-15. Grand Dragon J. Robert Jones has said he will be at the booth every day during the fair week to distribute literature and answer questions about the Klan.

We always thought those hooded crusaders belonged in a side show.

Thanks to the pointed sticks of the University's ground crew, our campus is usually remarkably free of litter. But wouldn't it be a big help to place a few more trash cans on the grounds and walkways?

The Daily Tar Heel

74 Years of Editorial Freedom

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