

In Our Opinion...

Silent Vigil: Responsible Way To Ask Vietnam Peace

The silent peace vigils which started yesterday and are planned for every Wednesday until the Viet Nam war ends might turn out to be a fairly accurate indicator of the sincerity and dedication—and above all the endurance—of those who oppose the war in Viet Nam.

A crowd of 120 protesters gathered in front of the Post Office. The group says it plans to keep up the demonstrations "until Americans stop killing and being killed in Viet Nam."

The question in the minds of a great many people now is whether, as the weeks roll on, the number of participants will increase or decrease. It strikes us that the number should grow, for we do not foresee any of yesterday's group changing their minds about the war, and we feel certain that not everyone who opposes the war was at the peace vigil.

This was a unique type of anti-war demonstration. Although it was organized by Quakers, the invitation to participate was extended to people who do not necessarily oppose all wars. In effect it was not a demonstration by "pacifists", but, rather, by people who desire peace in none specific instance where they feel there is no justification reason to continue fighting.

No one during the vigil suggested that we drop everything where we are and bring out fighting men

home from Southeast Asia. No one criticized the military as a brutal organization. The hope was expressed, however, that such peace vigils throughout the country might "help to provide a stepping stone . . . to which our policy makers can gracefully move."

We are convinced there are many people within the University community who believe we should not be fighting in Vietnam. But many of them are reluctant to engage in Y-Court cat-and-dog fights between pacifists and military sympathizers. Many of them realize that the United States cannot conceivably stop fighting at a moment's notice. So they stay away from all kinds of demonstrations and public expressions of anti-war sentiment. And, in the minds of the public, their silence betokens their acquiescence with our stand in Viet-

But here is an opportunity for everyone who has learned about and been displeased with our engagement in Vietnam to make their feelings known in a quite civilized fashion.

We doubt that the heart of Ho Chi Minh will be touched by the vigils. And we don't expect an over-night change in the direction of American policy. But it can't hurt to let the powers that be realize that there is responsible opposition to the Vietnam war.

'Those UNC Students Certainly Are A Sincere Bunch Of Americans. Let's Stop The War Right Now!'



Otelia Connor

Random Reflections

I have just returned from a meeting of the Chapel Hill Historical Society. Program — The North Carolina Collection in the Wilson Library.

Mr. Powell, head of the Collection, gave a most interesting and informative account of the History of the North Carolina Historical Society, beginning under the administration of Pres. Swain, back in the 1830s.

He also mentioned the stack rooms, which I didn't know existed, and the huge number of books, manuscripts, etc., in the collection.

At the close of Dr. Powell's talk, I said I was surprised that Pres. Swain should have

been active in securing books, etc., on the history of North Carolina, for Dr. Battle's History states that Pres. Swain never bought a book for the UNC library in twenty years.

Answer — Swain bought manuscripts.

It was a very delightful occasion — coffee and cookies served by his charming wife, Mrs. Powell, and chats with other attendants.

I was talking with a member of the administration today on the campus. He happened to mention that he had heard that it was in the plans to make the large lounge room in Graham Memorial in-

office rooms, when the new Student Union was built.

I was shocked! I said, "That is the most beautiful room on the campus, and built as a memorial to Pres. Edward Kidder Graham, by the alumni, who so loved him, and honored his memory."

"Anyone who has such an idea, ought to have his head operated on."

It makes no difference how many Student Unions are built on the campuses at UNC, this lounge should be kept exactly as it is — a place where people can go to read, to chat, to play games, and to hold receptions and teas.

There are plenty of offices upstairs and in the basement. Leave the lounge alone!

My daughter and her husband from California were here for the Charlie Justice football reunion in November. He said, "Every college in the country ought to have a course on manners which would be compulsory."

I told him I agreed with him. I reach as many as I can, but the evidence is clear, that there are many that I don't reach.

The many things that I see every day are a reflection on the student's home training.

However, I will say that the majority of students are sweet and lovely, and that I will be proud to have them represent the University when they go out into the world.

Most of them take Otelia with a sense of good humor. President Friday always comes up with the right answers at the right time.

Of course the cost of living is going up, but if the Legislature doesn't stop passing the buck to the students, there will be many students who will be denied an education because they don't have the money.

North Carolina is already at the bottom of the list in illiteracy. The State should be moving ahead to correct this situation.

This is no time to be cutting taxes, rather the surplus money in the State Treasury should be poured into the public school system, right on thru the colleges and the Consolidated University.

We are just cutting off our nose to spite our face when we think we can economize on education.

Chancellor Sitterson has been criticized for not exercising the decision himself on the Paul affair.

I think he was exactly right to let the pros and the cons fight it out. In my opinion, the best man won, because my side won. But that's neither here nor there.

The important thing was that it was fought out. "Freedom of speech — Long may she wave, o'er the land of the free, and the campus of UNC!"

John Greenbacker

World Leaders Are Deluding Themselves

In the wake of the public reaction to New York Times Assistant Managing Editor Harrison Salisbury's reports from North Viet Nam, that nation and Communist China have stepped up their propaganda campaigns against the U. S. role in the war.

A clear example of this was sent in the mail to the Daily Tar Heel late in December from the China Features Agency in Peking. It was a set of three photographs and a story about the air war over North Viet Nam.

The report claimed that the North Vietnamese have downed 1,500 U. S. aircraft over their territory and that all the pilots of these craft have either been killed or captured.

It went on to quote North Vietnamese officials and newspaper accounts which maintained the morale of the North Vietnamese people remains at a very high level, the bombings have proven ineffectual in advancing the designs of "Washington war planners," and that the escalated war in the South is not succeeding.

The photographs were obviously staged. One showed a group of smiling peasants standing around the wreckage of a fighter plane. One such plane, they claimed, had been downed with 10 rifle bullets.

Another photo showed a batch of North Vietnamese cheesecake in helmets defending a gun emplacement while the regular male crew stood by with fond gazes of admiration.

The third picture was the most fraudulent of all. It showed three peasants running up to a pilot who had just parachuted to safety. The peasants had sticks in their hands, and were about to mutilate the fellow, who had his hands raised above his head in a manner that reminded the American observer of ev-

ery Bad Bart he had seen in the grade B westerns of the thirties.

The Chinese wanted us to print this stuff, and we almost did for laughs or its slight academic value.

The interesting thing about these releases is that it illustrates fully how much the North Vietnamese and the Chinese communists would like to see a widespread and general opposition to the U. S. Viet Nam involvement assert itself in this country.

Regrettably, the vast bulk of the opposition to the war has now diminished significantly. The public may not like the war, but the President has taught them to live with it, for better or for worse.

The Chinese would do better to save their paper at this point, and for the sake of the Vietnamese and the American peoples they would do well to stop deluding themselves about getting the U. S. out on their terms.

This just isn't going to happen.

Now, more than ever, both sides must address themselves to seeking a settlement of the conflict. The Soviet and North Vietnamese leaders must now deal with practicalities and not hopes, and President Johnson must conscientiously seek out any opportunity for negotiations even if it must be preceded with a letup in the bombing of the North.

The ramifications of the Communist Chinese purge, which has shocked the world with its intent and scope, are clearly an indication that China will not be of any help in the search for a lasting peace.

But thoughtful persons, whether of eastern or western origin, have an opportunity now to end the killing and the confusion. They must stop dreaming now, and act.

A Signature Well Placed

We strongly support Student Body President Bob Powell in his signing of the letter recently sent to President Lyndon B. Johnson questioning the war in Viet Nam.

Earlier this fall we printed the letter in the editorial column of the DTH, and it is reprinted today on page six. If you will read the letter carefully we feel you will agree with us that it is a well-thought-out expression of genuine concern about the conduct of a war that is becoming increasingly unpopular among U.S. citizens.

Some students have challenged Powell's right to sign the letter as president of our student body since they do not think the letter should have been sent.

We can only reiterate for these people the statement from Powell that appears in today's paper—his signature was not meant to be, nor will it be taken as representing the mass of students at UNC. The purpose of having 100 student body

presidents sign the letter seems quite obvious.

It is easy for those who would discredit all opposition to the war to say that student disagreement with U. S. policy rests only with a far-out beat generation student element. The office of student body president carries with it a great deal of prestige. The public can realize the respect in which a student must be held by his peers to be elected to this office. And while his every action is not taken to be representative of his constituents' feeling and beliefs, his words are given added weight because of his accomplishment in the student community.

No one can justly criticize Powell for taking advantage of his position to sign a letter which many of his constituents would not support.

People can, however, applaud him for his action. And we will gladly join that number.

Raleigh Newspaper Praises Planetarium

From The Raleigh Times

One of the good gifts which North Carolina enjoys and one for which we can be particularly thankful at this time of the year is Morehead Planetarium on the campus of the University of North Carolina.

One of the foremost planetariums in the country, the Chapel Hill facility last year drew an attendance of 108,220 people, four times the population of the town in which it is located. Don Hall, assistant director, said 54,220 were school children. Some, he said, come as far as Richmond, Va. or Columbia, S. C.

One of the favorites of the eight programs presented each year is "Star of Bethlehem" which played at the planetarium during Christmas. Hall said people return year after year to see this particular program and that in some cases the trip back is a family tradition.

The planetarium, a gift of the Morehead Foundation and the Morehead family which has done so much for the University, offers a quiet haven of peace, of learning and of adventure into the once-mysterious skies which now are being invaded by spacemen but which first were invaded by astronomers. Morehead Planetarium, as a training station for astronauts and as a classroom for the young and old, serves the state and her people well.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Outlaw N.C. Liquor? We'll Drink To That

(Editor's note — The following letter appeared in the Dec. 31 issue of the Greensboro Daily News.)

Never have I been more proud of North Carolina than when the Supreme Court issued the "brown-bagging" edict. All the money of the nefarious liquor interests could not shake these courageous justices.

I was ashamed of North Carolina when the noble speaker ban law was repealed. While our boys are dying on the other side of the world to fight godless communism, North Carolina gave vicious Communists the green light. The entire country knows how vigorously Dan Moore campaigned for this law when he was running for election. Yet after he was elected our compromising pussy-footing Governor with his jellyfish backbone used his influence to repeal the law proving his promise is worthless.

I was ashamed of North Carolina when I saw with my own eyes the bearded long-haired punks and pinks at Chapel Hill demonstrating for the Communists. I was ashamed of North Carolina when our colleges invited to their platforms those who are dedicated to the evil communistic doctrine that is out to bury us.

Again I was ashamed of North Carolina when its university would permit its professor to teach the filthiest smut in his class. I was ashamed of North Carolina when it returned the weak-kneed Jordan to the Senate.

Here was a man who could have gone down in history as one of America's greatest statesmen. Instead he sold his soul for a mess of pottage — the political favor of LBJ. Beyond any shadow of doubt Jordan whitewashed and covered up the ties of LBJ with Bobby Baker.

However, in the Supreme Court decision at last righteousness was to prevail even if only for a few months. Everyone knows the vast majority of highway accidents is caused by liquor. Only eternity will tell how many innocent victims were spared death because of this decision.

Because of this decision in many Carolina homes the Christmas lights could glow instead of a white funeral wreath. At the night clubs and honky tonks folk will tank up on rum and then drive home under the influence to deal their deadly blows.

No doubt Bowles, Kemp, Hunt and all the special liquor interests will repeal the law. Yet the plain fact remains that the liquor business is the most diabolical scum ever poured out on earth.

It is worse than war or pestilence. It is the sum of all villainies. It is the parent of crime and the mother of sins. It is the appalling source of misery and crime in the land and the principal cause of crime.

It is the source of three-fourths of the crime and the source of three-fourths of the taxes to support that crime. And to give aid to such an incarnate fiend of hell is the dirtiest, low-down, damnable business on top of this old earth.

If all the combined forces of hell should assemble in conclave, and with them all that hate and despise God and purity and virtue — if all the scum of the earth could mingle with the denizens of hell to try to think of the deadliest institution to home, to church, and state, I tell you, sir, that combined hellish intelligence could not conceive of or bring an institution that could touch the hem of the garment of the liquor business to damn the home and manhood and womanhood and business and every other good thing on God's earth.

DOUGLAS WINN
Greensboro

Santa Claus Turns Off American Kids

From The Kinston Daily Free Press

Once upon a time Santa Claus sat in his big, sunlit toy shop and despaired.

He despaired because he was disturbed.

He was disturbed because all the children — tykes worldwide — all wanted things for Christmas like guns, and sabres, and GI Joe Kills the Jap, and missile launchers, and brass knucks, and Man-from-UNCLE guns, disguises and pulverize-the-world and unidentifiable poison kits.

It gave old Santa Claus the whips and jangles.

What, he said, ever happened to red Midnight Flyer wagons with shiny black handles that you pulled? Whatever, for that matter, happened to Raggedy Ann dolls and tops, to skates and tea sets, to scooters and electric trains, to My-Own-Little-Rocking-Chairs and rocking horses?

It used to be that Santa could get through Christmas in jig time. That was before Variety and child Guidance and Rocketry and Space Ships and Killing became so popular.

It was when Santa Claus, himself, was so popular is what.

Nowadays Santa Claus had to send half way around the world and back again for some of the toys the little children requested for Christmas.

And then, sometimes, he couldn't get them through customs.

The nuclear disarmament treaty, you know.

While Santa Claus sat there in despair because he was disturbed and all but out of his red-and-green-and-festooned-with-tinsel-mind, he had a thought. It was a kind of old-fashioned thought.

"Don't give 'em what they say they want, give 'em what you want 'em to have."

Feeling much better and somewhat clearer in his mind, that's what Santa Claus did.

And the little children canceled his program.

—Mirian Maynard