

In The Mail

Honor Code Survey Is Attacked

To the Editor:
I am writing with regard to yesterday's lead article by Joe Coltrane about a poll of students on the Honor Code. The results of his poll showed that twenty-four per cent of the students interviewed had violated the Code at one time or another. I do not wish to argue with Mr. Coltrane about whether his percentages seem too high or too low, but rather what he means by "a survey taken at random."

The Communications Committee of Student Government has taken several polls this year on a variety of subjects from campus politics to coed visiting agreements. We take a random sample of undergraduates by using a table of random numbers and a list of the entire student body. Then, we look up the address of the respondent and one of the Committee members goes to interview him. By choosing names in a scientifically random fashion, we hope to eliminate all bias in our sample. In that way, the results of the survey may be extended to the entire undergraduate student body with a knowledge of the amount of probable error.

Mr. Coltrane's article gives no indication as to how his sample was chosen, and he may have caused a bias in his survey without knowing it. Nevertheless, I question his use of the headline, "Poll Shows 24 Per Cent Violate Code," which seems to apply to the entire student body. He has no justification for writing this misleading headline until he states specifically how his sample was chosen.

I look forward to the remainder of Mr. Coltrane's series on the Honor Code, but I wish he would clear up this matter about his survey techniques.

Bill Bowman
Chairman,
Communications
Committee

To the Editor:

In the DTH of March 3 an article on the Honor Code reports the following: "One reform (Bill) Miller would like to inaugurate is a 'closed study' rule for students on probation. Under this plan the student would be required to report to the library at a certain time on Monday through Thursday nights. The plan is designed to 'bridge the gap' between the extreme punishment of suspension, and the relatively ineffective punishment of probation."

I would urge that the chairman of the Men's Honor Council think again. This is no reform; it is a retrogressive

step which confuses dishonesty, an ethical problem, with insufficient study, a problem of motivation, of self-discipline, of simple maturity. Closed study halls for Honor Code violations are unlikely to reduce the number of offenders or to rehabilitate them. The punishment does not fit the crime. More disturbing, the proposal adds a new element of opprobrium, of disgrace, to the already discounted concept of study. Even now there is far too much of the idea of punishment in the image of studying: many fraternities impose study halls on their academically weak members; freshmen women are restricted and implicitly pushed toward the books on weekday nights. I would submit that equal to the privilege of attending college is the privilege of flunking out for the student who fails to appreciate the former. We are not contributing to his appreciation of the value in college if we load the necessary but inevitably distasteful duty of studying with the pejorative value of an Honor Code violation and punishment just because an intermediate degree of sentence between suspension and probation seems required. Surely more appropriate instruments can be found.

Herbert L. Bodman, Jr.
Associate Professor of
History

To the Editor:

I ask the author of "Obscenity, No!" (March 4; the Tar Heel omitted his signature) to reassess his opinions of the Peace Vigil. I applaud his dislike for public obscenity, but when he generalizes from an alleged isolated incident during the Humphrey visit, to the quiet group of citizens in the Vigil, his letter degenerates into mere emotional display and name-calling. The Peace Vigilers are, he says, "unreasonable, irrational": has he ever talked with any of them (after the hour of silence)? Obviously not, or he would have discovered that this group is quite alert and thoughtful about world affairs. He protests the Vigil's "monosyllabic, sloganized posters" (benignly overlooking the simplistic, purely negative "I hate Communism" stance of many of the hawks): would he have the Vigil display lengthy detailed arguments that no one would take the time to read? A protest such as the Vigil is contemptible only if it is nothing but a front, with no arguments anywhere to back it up: read Drew Pearson, read Bernard Fall,

read Schlesinger, Fulbright, Morgenthau, Emmet Hughes, Lippmann, or Howard Zinn, to mention only a few, to see whether such arguments exist. The Vigil posters must be concise precisely because the Vigilers are independent thinkers: each comes individually to the Vigil, each for reasons uniquely his own. The Vigil serves as a rallying point for many people of diverse backgrounds and philosophies to express solidarity on one very important issue: the Bombing. The Vigil presents no specific arguments for its stand, and therefore will never, by itself, convince anyone of the rightness or wrongness of its position: that is not its purpose. Its purpose is to stimulate

reading and thinking on our policy in Vietnam, to remind us that there is more than one side to that immense question, and to suggest that a stubborn tenacity to a specific policy in foreign affairs is extremely dangerous in this constantly changing world. If the Vigil can stimulate a careful, open-minded consideration of all points of view, it will have rendered a vital service to democracy.

David L. Straley
53 Davis Circle

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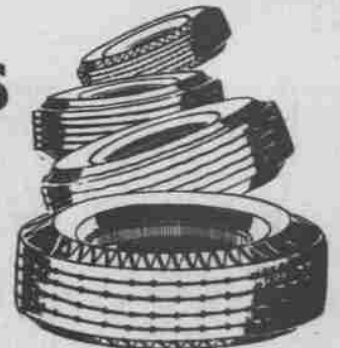
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ACROSS	DOWN	15. What Nero allegedly did as Rome burned?	Yesterday's Answer
1. Native of Yemen	1. Timber tree of Brazil	15. Nero allegedly did as Rome burned?	31. Devastation
5. Cheers	2. To cover again, as a tire	18. Diplomacy	32. Put forth effort
9. Pronunciation mark	3. Rosary head	19. Soft drink	33. Notch
10. Long heroic poem	4. God of pleasure	20. Metallic rock	35. Greatest in degree
12. Shoe ties	5. Substance used on violin strings	22. Cal's cry	38. Biblical name
13. S. Pacific island group	6. Armadillo	23. Language perfectionist	40. Brazil tree
14. South American tuber	7. Pronoun	24. Ragtime round dance	
15. Coniferous tree	8. Zodiac sign	25. Pinch	
16. Football position: abbr.	9. Political group	26. Ever: poet.	
17. Military officer	11. Fabric simulating satin	30. Large bundles	
20. Unclose			
21. Affix			
22. Kind of cheese			
23. He sought the Fountain of Youth			
27. Single thing			
28. Marshy meadow			
29. Ribbed fabric			
30. Moored			
34. Part of "to be"			
35. Insane			
36. Chop			
37. Kind of "pigeon"			
39. Poe poem			
41. Taut			
42. On the left side: naut.			
43. — and pens			
44. Agreement			

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