

The Daily Tar Heel

75 Years of Editorial Freedom

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Letters To The Editor

A Moral Choice Is Needed

To the Editor

Mr. Douglas W. Baxley, in his letter of 10 December 1967, accuses Dr. William Wynn of God-knows-what horrible sin (I can't find a clear charge in his letter) in the course of which he makes some factual errors and perhaps philosophical sophomoricisms which deserve some comment. I will attempt to follow his arguments linearly as presented in his letter.

First, Mr. Baxley, if he does not like the position represented by the recent faculty petition, should state his objections and not conduct an ad hominem jehad against a person, who from Mr. Baxley's descriptions, he could not possibly know. To suggest that Dr. Wynn has set himself up as "the moral priest of our community and State" is an absurdity to anyone who knows him. While he did have a large hand in framing the petition, he was not its sole author, and well over 100 other faculty members agreed with the view presented on the petition strongly enough to sign it.

Second, if Mr. Baxley has questions to ask, such as the question of an unjust war and what it means, he should ask it, perhaps give his conclusions about it, and sit back and wait for responses. Instead he assumes in advance his question is unanswerable and again resorts to his ad hominem attack. As to the particular question of just and unjust wars, both Dr. Wynn and Rev. Harry Smith devoted time to discussion of that question at the recent teach-in, and if Mr. Baxley were really concerned about such questions, he could have been there and learned, and if he still was uneasy, asked questions of the speakers.

Third, Mr. Baxley seems to think it important that many (note his usage of many, not all) soldiers in Vietnam do not believe in what they are doing.

The point that those soldiers who do

not like the war cannot protest only serves to intensify the moral argument of the petition; here we have a case of a person being an unwilling member of an organization that is fascist in that it does not permit freedom of speech and dissent among its members. That this fascist organization is busy "protecting our rights" and does not grant those rights to its own members, and in fact inducts its members unwillingly from that society it is giving the rights to is ironic.

Fourth, we are accused of an "incredibly naive and narrow viewpoint of what is moral." By which he means that we are forcing our morality on others, as nearly as I can guess. This belies an incredibly naive and narrow viewpoint of our morality. If the farmer's son wants to go fight, that's his choice. But if he is forced to leave farm and go 10,000 miles from home to fight a war for at best a vague philosophical concept and at worst the profit motive, then, perhaps the society that forces him to go is immoral and in need of change. One does not have to live an ivory tower to see this. (Oh, by the way, those of us in a University are not as sheltered as Mr. Baxley would have us. Would that it were so.)

Fifth, Mr. Baxley, just what in the hell is "moralite under fire"? It is a meaningless concept. What is to be learned by grabbing a rifle and going off to kill people? The issue here rests on the belief that fighting a war should be the result of a moral decision, not the cause of one, and until that distinction is realized, we are in trouble. The true lesson of morality is acting as one believes, and that means carrying a gun or not, according to one's own choice.

I do not consider Mr. Baxley a dogmatic hawk or a redneck. But this belief is a bit shaken by statements such as "his brand of morality nauseates me."

If a person is sincere in his convictions, as Mr. Baxley concedes Dr. Wynn is, then that person's morality should be accepted and respected for what it is. Those who choose not to fight do not claim more possession of morality than those who choose to fight; on the other hand, they will not accept a lower moral status. The main point of the faculty petition, and of this letter, is that the individual should be given the moral choice.

James Kahan
352 Davie Hall

China Must Be Curbed For Asian Peace

To the Editor

I was taken by surprise to read Mr. Peter Kami's article "Is China An Aggressor Nation" published in your issue of December 7, 1967. In an attempt to advocate China's case for admission into United Nations, the author has really twisted the facts too much. Whether China is an aggressor nation or not is beside the point, but it was certainly not proper on the part of the author to make some extremely unjustified statements about the Indo-China border.

The border between any two countries is governed by the mutual treaties. MacMahan Line was the official boundary between India and China during British rule in India. There was no dispute at all over the area. The statement of Prof. Oliver M. Lee of the University of Hawaii that before 1914, the maps of British India showed this area in China is sheer misleading and out of context. Also before 1819 Florida was under Spain, before 1867 Alaska was under Russia and even Hawaii was not in U.S.A. until 1898 but to say that this has any bearing on their status now is hardly

sensible. Moreover, no one else before Mao-Tse-Tung made any such claim or tried to threaten India with all its Military Potential. What is surprising is the author's argument that because this country had to use force to settle its boundary disputes sometimes, so China also could skip being branded as an aggressor even after all its recent and current hazardous activities in the neighboring countries. Even after the China's aggression, Indian government has repeatedly invited it for negotiations to find a justified solution but with no proper response.

It is also utterly false to say that India ever recognized Tibet as being a part of China. Instead, India has given shelter to the Tibetan freedom fighters and has done everything at its command to support their cause.

Though the author has quoted Lin Piao saying that "Revolution or Peoples' war in any country is the business of that country," but China has never acted along these lines. Its activities in Indonesia, Hong Kong, Burma and recently in Thailand are only a few among the numerous examples which stand as bare testimony of her intentions to export revolution. Actually, hard pressed with its exploding population, China looks greedily towards every bit of land around it, has betrayed most of its neighbors and has looked for chances to rape them. Peace in Asia in particular and world at large is not safe unless the present hostile attitude of China is curbed.

Yours truly,
Damodar S. Ahran
Department of Environmental
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Golly-gee! Motherhood! Apple Pie! Gung-ho!

To the Editor:

This letter is in regard to a letter printed on Dec. 8 concerning the Raleigh draft protest.

Wow! Let's indeed go annihilate all of those atrocious Viet Cong, Katy Hill, they are not nice people! Apple pie! They are not nice people, and we have a "definite responsibility" to stamp out all not nice people. Motherhood! And let's ban the right to dissent, and to wear beards and long hair! Fourth of July! Let's draft everyone!! Gung-ho!! Let's all go crawling through the jungles and make the world safe for you, Katy Hill!! Golly-gee! I'm no coward, but you see I've got this bad back, and well... maybe YOU can go for me, MISS Katy Hill!!!

Fred F. Crouch, III
607 Morrison

More Disagreement With Mr. Byerly

To the editor:

Several points in Professor Byerly's recent letter (Dec. 13) seem rash:

1. In apparent displeasure at the recent petition signed by 140 of our faculty, he complains that too much is being said about the "rights of conscientious objectors" and too little about responsibilities to country. Does this mean that responsibility consists solely in a complete adherence to the requests of one's government? Also, does it discount the possibility that those who oppose the war are acting responsibly in attempting to discourage a war which is undeclared and, to many, a national disaster?

2. Professor Byerly says that "some" conscientious objectors may be sincere, but that "a great many" are only trying to avoid responsibility. The biased adjectives speak for themselves. Perhaps one should also speak of "some" who willingly give their lives in war in defense of their country, as opposed to "a great many" who only like the chance to kill. If such a formulation seems outrageous to Professor Byerly, he might consider that his statement appears equally so to those who oppose the war.

In addition, I'd like to see Professor Byerly's evidence that many men in World War II didn't become conscientious objectors "until they were headed for a port of embarkation."

3. He speaks also of a "vociferous" group of faculty and students who give a false impression of this university. Again, the choice of adjective is significant. Does Professor Byerly intend to heed his own call and provide a more accurate view of the university for those outside? Or is he merely expressing a wish that all those who differ from him would be quiet? I'm willing to give Professor Byerly the benefit of the doubt, but if I were betting I'd favor the latter alternative. I wait for further news from Professor Byerly.

Like him, I have a deep respect and admiration for those who defend our country. But is it so hard for him to see that in this war — undeclared, cumulated over a number of years in a series of blind decisions — there is a serious question about its justification, and that many Americans can sincerely refuse to participate in it because it seems unjust? One can completely disagree with them; but does such disagreement then require that they be cowards?

Charles Ruhl
213 Purefoy Road

Shifting Sands In SL: Let Well Enough Alone

Some things are worth waiting for.

That's how it was with the controversial appropriation for the Carolina Talent Search, a program to recruit Negro high school students to come to this University.

After much haggling, speech-making and general boon-doggling by some members of Student Legislature, \$640 was finally given the program by SL Thursday night.

The 31-13 vote to fund the recruitment program signalled what is undoubtedly the most worthwhile thing Student Legislature has done in 1967—and possibly the only one, too.

The appropriation of funds for the program shows clearly that Student Legislature can indeed serve a viable, useful function on this campus, considering significant pieces of legislation, instead of being a Members-Only Sandbox which exists solely for the great glory of the legislators.

There are those, however, who would like to reverse the trend that Student Legislature began Thursday night — those who want to even reverse the passage of the recruitment appropriation — by calling for a reconsideration of the funding bill at the first session after Christmas vacation.

And to do so, the opponents of the bill have dug deeply into their barrel of technicalities to find "reasons" why Student Legislature shouldn't give Phil Clay the money he needs to finance his recruiting program.

The latest "reason" was voiced Thursday night by Rep. George Krichbaum, SP-Lower Quad, who told the assembly the bill was illegal under the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Krichbaum told SL he even has spoken to three — count 'em, three — lawyers about the matter, and they have all drawn up briefs for him, supporting the position that the appropriation would be illegal because of Section 601 of the act, which states: "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Now while it does seem a bit ludicrous that Krichbaum, as a Student Legislator, should go running off to three attorneys to get their opinions on a bill before a student assembly, it seems even a bit more ludicrous that he would ask that assembly to consider them, in an attempt to prevent it from doing about the only good thing it has all year long.

But, then maybe it is all a part of the syndrome that says the way to be the best student politico is to build the biggest and most elaborate castles in the whole Student Government sand box.

However, Thursday night's action indicates that maybe this isn't

so anymore. It says that SL is beginning to shape up, to get some things done.

Hopefully, this trend will continue and will override the movement for reconsideration of the bill. If the bill is reconsidered, though, it would be wise for SL to seek a broader base of legal reasoning than Krichbaum's three briefs. There is, after all, at least an equally strong case to be made for the appropriation's being constitutional; Phil Clay, the head of Carolina Talent Search, for example, cited the Higher Education Act of 1965, which justifies the recruitment expenditure.

If SL can just continue the trend which it began Thursday, it will be a great way to start of 1968.

The Weekend: A Good Time To Have Left

Now what a sage person it must have been who picked Tuesday for the great escape day, the day when classes are supposed to end for Christmas vacation.

Tuesday really is a nice day to leave on, we suppose. But Friday just seemed to be oh so much nicer. So did Saturday.

Actually, there is nothing quite as tempting as rounding things off to the nearest whole number — and, regrettably it must be said that students do on occasion succumb to such temptation. And this temptation was just so BIG.

So it should come as no traumatic surprise to professors Monday and Tuesday that their classes are not overcrowded.

One fallacious assumption should be cleared up, however. This does not necessarily provide an accurate criteria for separating the good students from the bad.

The separation goes more along these lines—the ones who are staying are those who (1) have papers due either Monday or Tuesday which they were not able to complete during the barrage of quizzes that have smothered the days since Thanksgiving.

They might also be the ones who (2) could not find a ride home earlier, or those who (3) were not planning to fly home on student standby (because Tuesday would be too risky to try to get on standby with the next day being a holiday deadline for student fares.

Maybe those people staying are the ones who (4) have been home several times since September, or (5) are stuck with an uncuttable quiz during these next two days.

When it boils down to it, the people left are simply the ones who are pitifully stuck here.

'Cause after all, wasn't Friday a much nicer day to start a vacation on?

The Student Speaks

Objection To Draft: Poor Timing

By DICK LEVY

Past columns have defended, however sketchily, the necessity of the draft.

Today I shall examine a fundamental objection to the way our conscription system function: its timing.

It is this that makes the draft as we know it insidious: one never knows when it will get him. Like the sword of Damocles the draft hangs over our heads. Or perhaps more like the guillotine.

This uncertainty mars the entire college experience. It creates among male students a distortion of values which often cause him to miss the value of college life.

There is one fundamental feature of these four years that should make them the most valuable of our lives. Cloistered in our ivory tower we have no responsibilities and immense freedom. Optimally we are free to develop or destroy ourselves, to experiment with sex or even drugs, or just with each other. All of this with little or no social pressure. Each of us has his bag; each can do this thing. Mistakes are tolerated. It is like a return to childhood.

These four years should be our last respite, a breathing spell between the pressures of high school and the regimentation of a job and social pressures. Four years to "get it all out of your system."

Even the classroom experience assists in this. General College courses especially have little relevance. They do offer a certain discipline. But it matters little in the non-technical courses if a student deals with his courses lackadaisically. There are so many other things to do and experience. One is not the less for short-changing academia.

It must be borne in mind, however,

that college is viewed by society as a final preparation for participation in the world at-large. Thus, by the end of the four years the student is expected to have settled down.

But what about that student who rejects the need for more school right now, who is not ready to buckle down but who cannot take full advantage of the freedom of the university because of the serious effects upon his later life?

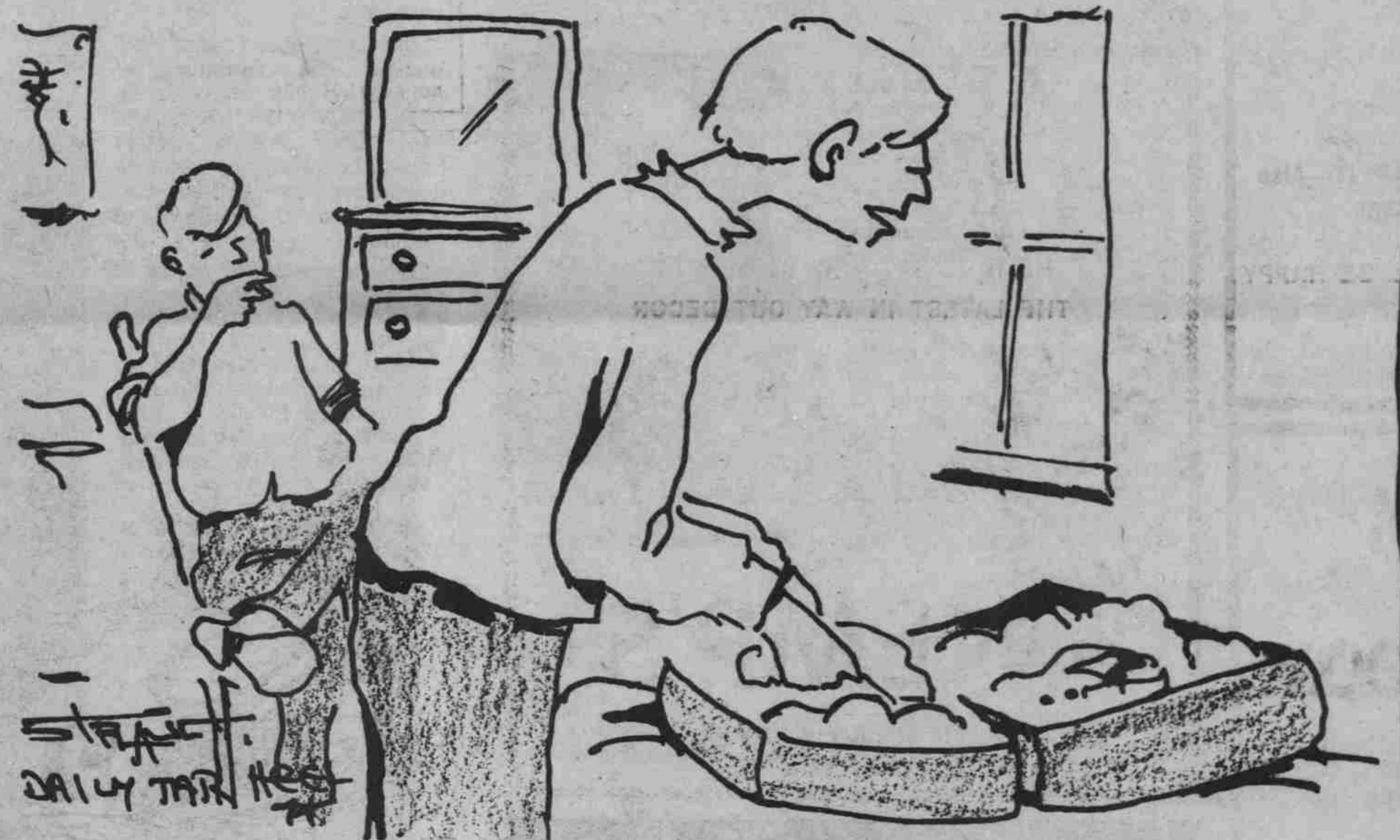
Traditionally he would quit school for a year, perhaps to travel, maybe to work as a Teamster or a member of the merchant marine. Having tired of twelve or fourteen years of schooling, he could get away until he was ready to buckle down.

No longer. To quit school means to be drafted, an alternative which defeats the purpose of rejecting the structured, pressure-filled existence of most of our lives. Thus the colleges are filled with poorly-motivated students whose minds are elsewhere. The college experience becomes merely an extension of high school, with attendant pressures to do well. There is no respite.

If the central problem is uncertainty, it can be alleviated by any of several methods. The first is Universal Military Service. The second is a lottery.

But if the IIS deferment seems unfair, it may be defended on military grounds of necessity and national interest because of evermore sophisticated weapons systems and demands for leadership. An increasingly complex military demands better educated individuals.

Still, uncertainty may be eliminated



Deliverance Comes At Last

Peace On Earth, Good Will To Men