

The Daily Tar Heel

76 Years of Editorial Freedom

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What do you think about hiring night watchmen for the girls' dorms?" one administrator asked the other.

"Well, you know," he answered, "the problem just isn't that serious for us to spend all that money. No one's been raped or murdered yet."

Brian Cummings

If People Really Drank In Dorms...

There is a state law that prohibits drinking on government property. The meaning is explicit: the University campus is government property, so dormitory drinking is legally and officially frowned upon. The enforcement of this law is a vital issue.

Just suppose, in your wildest imagination, that it were possible for a dorm resident to drink and still somehow escape punishment. This would mean, if it ever happened, that the law was not being enforced effectively.

If this were the case, then the state would outwardly condemn drinking for dormitory residents, but by failing to enforce its own rule, it would secretly condone it. This paradox of attitudes constitute what is known as hypocrisy. The results of such hypocrisy can be demoralizing to both the state and its citizens.

First, the state would be neglecting its own responsibility. The enactment of a law carries with it the state's obligation to enforce it now. If the state did not effectively enforce the law prohibiting dorm drinking, then the state would be choosing to ignore, escape, or somehow conceal its duty.

The inherent deception in this neglect would be a strong indication of corrup-

tion in administrative matters. At best, the state would be irresponsible.

It is essential for any voice of authority to enforce its rules. One may well wonder what purpose there is in a regulation if it is not enforced.

The state could not believe that a law would enforce itself. If it forgot its obligation, the government would be pursuing an unrealistic course. Moreover, if the students realize that they can get away with breaking the law, then they lose respect for their government.

Such failure of the state to cope with its realistic problems would lead beyond its own corruption. It would begin to affect the students. As the law would go unenforced, it would go unnoticed. Students would lose their awareness of what is legal and would depend more on their personal judgment. The law would become worse than useless and more undesirable than mere dead weight.

If the state enforced some laws and ignored others, people would hardly know when the government means what it says. It would seem that the state were unable to make up its mind. The real danger here would be the threat of inconsistent treatment of a single law — sometimes but not always enforcing it.

With such inconsistency, the law authorities could undertake a complete shift in attitudes without warning. The students would become frightened and bewildered by government decisions, and such capricious ethics would create not only a credibility gap but a morality gap as well.

Drinking is legal in private but not in public. Since dormitories at UNC are on government property, they are public. It seems strange, but the reason that you may drink at a local restaurant and not in your dorm is that the restaurant is private and your dorm is public property.

If a place of residence is considered private and a dorm is a place of residence, then the dorm drinking prohibition is not justified. However, the issue at hand here is not the legal justice but law enforcement.

If the laws were not enforced, the primary abuse by the state would be hypocrisy. The drastic effects of this irresponsible abuse would be corruption, confusion and demoralization to both students and the state. In short, the government would be grossly unfair.

As a relief to one and all, enforcement of the dormitory drinking law is nothing to worry about. It may not be the most

reasonable or comfortable of laws, but it is indeed enforced.

Don't kid yourself — nobody — just nobody — gets away with drinking in the dorm. And it's a pretty good thing, too. If the law were not enforced, you can see what a mess we would be in.

Total Isolation

To the Editor: President Johnson has waged a winless and costly war in Southeast Asia for over three-years and now he plans to help offset the resulting balance of payments deficit by taxing almost all Americans abroad.

There is an evident contradiction. The foreign policy of the United States has travelled the entire length of the continuum from the isolationist policy of the first decade of this century to the present policy of intervention. The contradiction lies in the new policy of cultural isolation at a period when foreign military intervention has almost reached its height.

Americans are rich, but they are not rich enough to pay the 15 per cent (on every dollar per day over \$7) and possibly 30 per cent (on every dollar per day over \$15) tax on all money spent abroad plus a 5 per cent steamship or airline tax on transportation to their foreign destination. Such will be the case if Congress passes the recent administration bill that hopes to encourage Americans to stay home for their vacations. Those abroad for more than 120 days for reasons of trade, business, or education will not be affected. The problem is that the bill affects not just the vacationers but anyone who remains abroad less than 120 days.

Foreign research is vital to the scholarly work of thousands of American professors. This research is necessary for many of them in order to maintain an appropriate level for continued academic instruction. Most of these professors are resident professors and in the past could not simply take a year off to do research abroad. Instead they have often found time to get the job done in the summer. Who now? Does the administration realize it may be responsible for a decrease in academic standards across the country?

What will happen to the thousands of students who complement their educations by a summer of study abroad? Also, no longer will students find they can afford to spend a summer in a European home — experiences that have been shown to do wonders for the promotion of understanding, toleration, and peace between individuals and countries.

With its many obvious loopholes, this tax could rival the present income tax. An example would be the facility with which one could conceal money or traveller's checks during departure. Because the tax will be paid on the difference in the money held by the traveller on departure and return this may prove to be an effective method of getting around the tax. The government will be rewarding the adventurous dishonest.

The administration has apparently overlooked the role played by cultural diffusion in the growth of the United States. Future growth will be impeded if such a bill restricting foreign travel and association is passed. We only hope Congress will see the light and kill this bill, remembering that in isolation are sown the seeds of intolerance. Jay Fleishman

Two Steps Forward, And One Step Back

Progress in women's rules around here doesn't gallop—it crawls.

We are thankful, however, that it is at last doing even that. For despite the present Women's Residence Council moving ahead on a two-steps-forward, one-step-back basis, it is indeed moving farther ahead than any of its predecessors.

An example was the way things went Monday night, when WRC decided to abolish the rule about coeds' not being allowed in a man's bedroom off-campus. Further, they extended visiting hours in fraternity houses to 3 a.m. for girls not under closing hours.

Both these steps were very well taken. And for a while there, you might have thought for sure that the 20th Century was beginning to be recognized as a reality at Carolina.

But fear not, timid readers. This editorial isn't going to shatter your long held beliefs that WRC stands for Conservatism, Purity and Restraint. It is not about to depict the solid, All-American girls of the WRC as a bunch of avant-garde miniskirters.

Neveh, suh.

Instead, it means to allay your fears of such things by relating to you the final—and redeemingly backward—step WRC took. That was to put in writing that men couldn't visit coeds in their dorm or sorority house rooms.

As one council member put it, this rule previously had been "only understood"—and Not Written Down In Black And White.

So fear not gentle reader, there

is not about to befall us soon that day when men and women at the University of North Carolina will be acting just like men and women anywhere else, visiting in each other's rooms and such.

No, that day was put off even farther when the WRC voted to put things in writing.

An Ounce, Er, Fifth, Of Proof

By JIM SHUMAKER

In The Chapel Hill Weekly

We don't know whether it is a sound comment on the drinking habits of newspapermen, Old Carolina Grads, or what, but the reunion here this weekend of former editors of the Daily Tar Heel seemed to be proof (ranging from 86 to 100) of something.

Hugh Stevens, a former editor now reading for the law at the University, was saddled with making many of the arrangements for the reunion. Among his chores was that of seeing that hard potables would be in good supply for the merrymaking at the Inn.

Mr. Stevens left the matter of quantity up to the fellows at the Inn who is knowledgeable about such things.

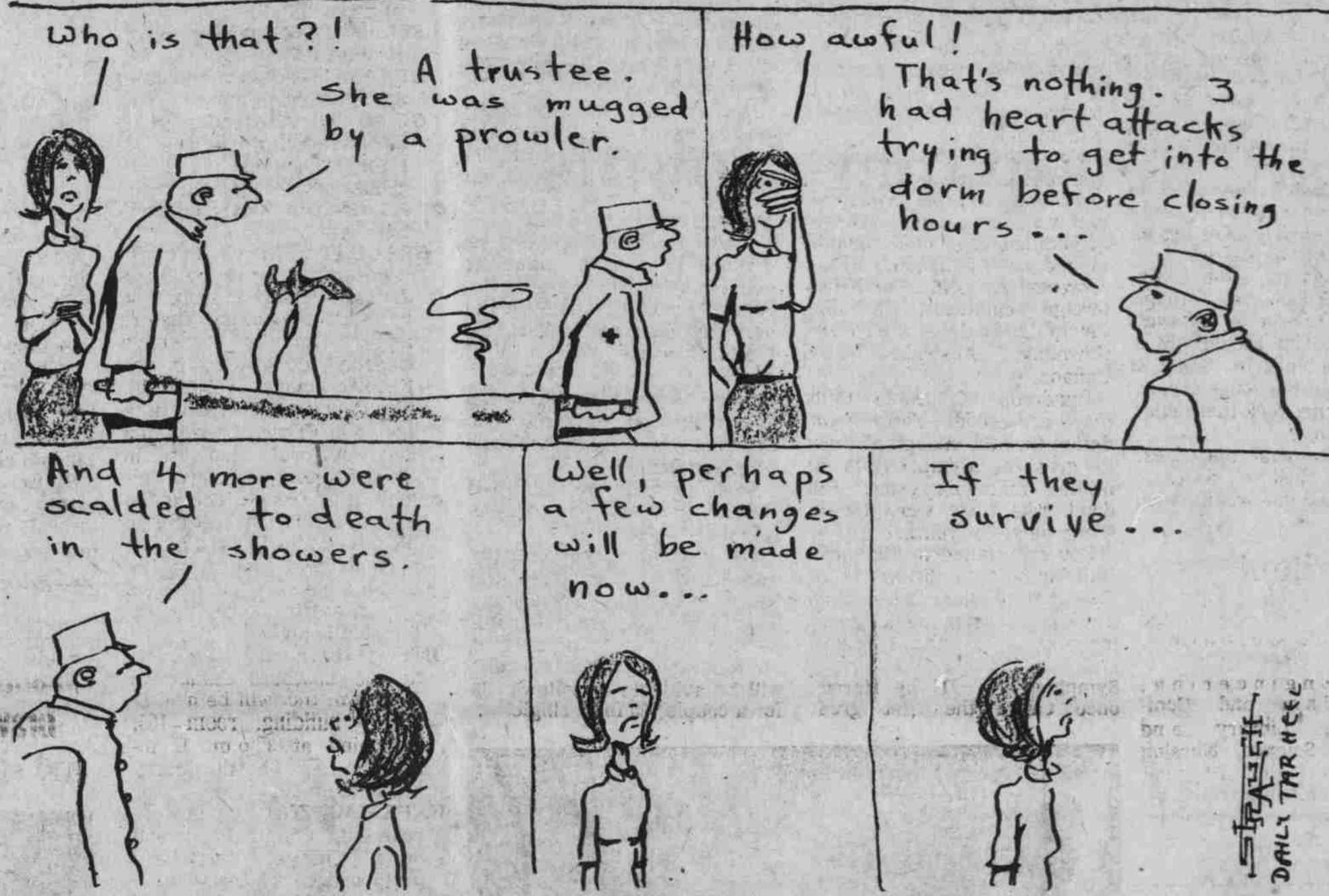
"I think twelve to fifteen cases ought to do nicely," the gent at the Inn suggested.

"Fine," Mr. Stevens said, and turned to go.

"Wait a minute," the Inn expert said. "Who did you say this was for?"

"Old editors of the Daily Tar Heel," Mr. Stevens replied.

"In that case," the expert said judiciously, "you'd better increase that by ten or fifteen per cent."



Letters To The Editor

Sad State Of Affairs In US

To The Editor:

In an article for the Feb. 25 Greensboro Daily News entitled "Students Upset, but Resigned to Draft Call," Fred Hechinger (a writer for the N.Y. Times news Service) reports the results of a series of interviews of students in the "leading graduate schools" in the country, from Yale to Stanford. Though there seems to be a diversity of opinion among those interviewed, as Mr. Hechinger allows, the general sentiment, or "What appears to be the majority view," is the following — a statement quoted from a first-year law student at Columbia: "Unfortunately, I believe the majority of the country supports the war and until my views against the war pre-dominate, I will follow the law of the land."

Of course, any critical person must realize the arbitrariness and error factor of such a random sampling as Mr. Hechinger apparently made. However, one important conclusion is reached and is represented in the statement quoted above. This is something every American male, between the ages of 18 and 26 (or perhaps 28), who is liable to be called by the draft, must face. If the "law of the land" dictates that you will serve a given period of time in the armed forces of this country, if public opinion seems to "support the war," then you will be asked to make a choice: do you follow the majority opinion and, like one of so many lemmings, march dutifully into the sea? Or do you opt for individual conscience and accept the penalties which the "law of the land" and public opinion dictate?

Several college newspaper editorials, including those in the Amherst Student, have chosen to look on the brighter side of the recent abolition of graduate student deferments. Perhaps, they say, this will force the apathetic or indifferent among us to make a decision and, I would hope, refuse to allow ourselves to be used to continue a military and political adventure in Southeast Asia which is completely without justification. And wouldn't it be ironic if, with thousands of students populating our federal prisons for refusing to be drafted, this nation were forced to recruit our older citizens and make of its Vietnam occupation force an army of old men and beardless youth, like the Viet-Cong?

When Johnson and his henchmen answer their critics — which begin to resemble something like a vox populi — by asking them to supply the answers to

their own questions, their own vacuity and despair is evident. Why not give them one decisive answer at the polls in November by refusing to give a mandate to either the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate, both of whom are incapable of compromise or new thinking on this tired issue? Perhaps, as Russell Baker suggests, in his prediction of what January 20, 1969 will bring (Post, March 9, 1968), this will happen and, for the first

time in almost 150 years, neither candidate of the two major parties will be able to achieve a majority. Perhaps, in another bit of irony, none other than George Wallace will be, by process of elimination, the "protest candidate" in November. What a sad state of affairs for America.

Peter C. Gerdine
Carrboro

Wrongs And Could-Be Rights Of UNC Student Government

To The Editor:

There is a social contract at UNC between the student body and student government. Student government is presently breaking its half of the contract.

What is the contract? Members of the student government receive powers and prestige in return for serving the student body.

How are they breaking the contract? They are not serving the student body.

The politicians have isolated themselves from the student body. They are not what the students think, feel, or want. They are too busy playing at being big-time politicians to care.

Politicians feel that the fact of their election gives them the right to do as they please. Election is used to create the myth of the justice of their position. After election they are not truly responsible or answerable to the student body.

The politico plays a role at the expense of the student body. His ideal is to create the image of a little Everette Dirksen or Bobby Kennedy. Publicity means more to him than service. Student wants are sacrificed to the game of "let's pretend."

When a bill comes before student legislature, politicians do not judge it on its merits. They judge it by their image. That image consists of being liberal or being conservative.

Another "sand box" game is called party politics. If the UP proposes a bill, then the SP must block it. Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck battle it out while the student is ignored.

The result of these child's games is not only ignorance of student wants, but also many spectacular fiascos.

The blunder of the Carolina Greek Sheet is a classic example of buffoonery. Student money was appropriated for a frat newspaper without any investigation. A staff had not even been organized. After two issues of regurgitated AP wire releases, the paper folded.

Each year at election time, politicians run frantically from room to room promising dorm refrigerators and South campus transportation. These promises are forgotten rapidly after election. Politicians have very short memories.

Once in office, politicians wish only a quiet year. They fear a smudge beside their name because they see their office as a stepping stone to a big job or a grad school scholarship. In their fear of making waves, student interests are sacrificed.

They diddle away their time in petty politics and thus break their half of the contract.

WHAT MUST BE DONE?

Why is endless debate necessary in student legislature? Why not substitute grass-roots democracy in its place?

Each dorm senator and representative has approximately 30 constituents. In less than 2 hours they could ask the opinions of the members of their dorms. The results would then be submitted to the dorm legislature representatives, who would vote according to the result, yea or

nay. Month-long debate in legislature would be cut to 15 minutes.

It can be argued that legislative debate gives voice to minority opinion and dissent. In place of the present system, the proponents and opponents of each bill would draw up arguments for and against the bill. These would be published and posted in public places. The students would be able to make an educated choice on each bill.

Official referendums would be held at the request of one-fourth of the legislature instead of the present two-thirds. Two hundred signatures on a petition coming from the student body could also necessitate an official referendum.

Why should a military tribunal be permitted to convict students? Why is there no jury system? A system of jury duty could be established so that each student would be required to serve on a jury at least once in his four-year stay at UNC. This would eliminate favoritism and railroad of innocent students.

Why are antiquated Women's rules permitted to exist? A referendum should be held among all women to determine female student opinion. If a majority voted against the disliked rules, then a Women's Attorney General and staff would be appointed which would not enforce those particular rules.

The honor system would not be destroyed. Rules against cheating, stealing, etc., would continue to be enforced. By this action, students would simply refuse to convict their peers for things which they do not believe are crimes.

Bruce Strauch

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