

The Daily Tar Heel

77 Years of Editorial Freedom



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Rick Allen

Alteration Of Consciousness And The Law

During the brutal murders of a Fort Bragg mother and her two children, the killers are alleged to have chanted "Acid is great..."



For this reason, many people have concluded that the killings were induced by LSD, that the drug was responsible.

When this feeling is coupled with the arrest of 14 young men for selling drugs, we have the possibility that their trial will reflect the emotional reaction of the public to the "drug scene" as a whole, and not simply to the crimes of which they stand accused.

It is important for us to take a step backward and try to study the drug situation as dispassionately as we can.

To begin, let us avoid the easy assumption that drugs have been the CAUSE of either the Tate or the Fort

Bragg murders. People kill because they are sick. What is possible is that this sickness is brought out of aggravated by drugs. But, obviously, drugs do not force people into homicide.

It is also a mistake to lump all drugs together. Some are dangerous, some are harmless. A line must be drawn between those drugs that are injurious to the individual that uses them and drugs that make the user dangerous to society.

It is my opinion that in a "free" society, the individual has the right to kill himself in any manner he chooses. If he wants to deteriorate on speed, for instance, he should be allowed to.

On the other hand, addictive drugs, like heroin, often cause crimes and are therefore dangerous to society at large. If a user cannot afford his next fix, he will often steal the money he needs. These drugs must be made illegal. But at the same time, those who are already hooked must be cared for. We should set up a program similar to England's, where the addict can get his fix from the

government.

I have said that most drugs should be legal. However, there remains the problem of the very young, the junior high school kids who have not the judgment to decide whether or not they wish to use drugs—who may innocently injure or kill themselves without intending to or realizing what they are doing.

Obviously, the legalization of drugs must carry with it a stipulation as to age. It should be a serious felony to sell drugs to anyone under 18.

For the young who must seek their thrills (and this is the real reason for many of the drugs taken by the young), marijuana should be legal at any age. It may be that in some mysterious way pot is harmful, but we do not know for sure, and it is clear that kids are going to get their kicks with something—so it might as well be a drug as relatively safe as pot.

Once they have passed 18, the kids can mess themselves up freely on almost anything.

I realize that this is a dark picture, but

it is practical. The young are in trouble now with drugs, and the situation is getting worse. It is manifestly clear that our present programs are insufficient. When the kids want drugs, and people want to sell it to them, a few token arrests are not going to stop the trade.

In the years to come, many people will ruin their lives with the use of drugs. It is sad, but we must allow them to do it. Society itself is not in danger. It is not likely that so many will be drug users that our whole country grind to an apathetic halt.

In the meanwhile, it is high time we understood that people will send themselves to hell one way or another. The best we can do is protect the one-time users, the experimenters, and the innocent from laws that may ruin their lives.

It makes no sense to damn a young man or woman for the occasional use of drugs. Let us be practical. Let us be humane in dealing with a problem that has no simple or lasting solution.

Too, Too Dangerous

"I find the men in this trial too dangerous to be at large."

That was the way Julius Hoffman described the five men convicted Wednesday of going to Chicago to incite riots during the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

Hoffman's refusal to permit the five to go free on bond is but a symptom of his sickness, a sickness which has been evident in the travesty of his bench-work during the conspiracy trial.

He did not behave impartially. Rather, he played the role of an adversary. He engaged in the tactics which the defendants themselves used in an effort to taunt the judge. And regardless of the merits of the defendants tactics, it is not the function of a judge to step down from the bench and join the fight on the floor.

That kind of judicial behavior is no more than a virus which is a threat to the body of our entire political system.

Hoffman's behavior comprised an almost innumerable amount of atrocities: he had defendant Bobby Seale gagged and tied to his chair; he constantly overruled defense objections without even hearing them; he engaged in childish bickering with the defense counsel.

Simply, he permitted to himself (if, that is, he had any conscious control over his actions) to become a party to the argument, rather than as an objective observer of it.

He also cited the defendants and

their counsel to contempt after the proceedings, rather than during. And as if that weren't enough, he sentenced the defense counsel to an unprecedented hard jail term.

Hoffman's brand of justice is a sickening testimony to the American judicial system. The quick, intelligent response to his courtroom operation is at least gratifying. The responsible criticism expressed against his methods might perhaps lead to some kind of legal moves to insure that the Hoffman Tragedy does not recur.

However, it is important to remember that Hoffman is no strange phenomenon that exists apart from the rest of reality.

Rather, Hoffman is a sickening symptom of what this country is coming to. John Mitchell, who calls the Black Panthers the greatest threat to the security of America is such a symptom. Spiro Agnew, who talks about the crud of American radical youth is such a symptom.

Hoffman is the child of a society which seeks to destroy aberrations, without granting those aberrations the same rights as any other segment of the society.

And because people like Hoffman exist, and hold positions of power in our government, the threat to our system of law is more than can be overcome by mere criticism.

The answer to the next question is not a very easy one.

A Message From The Man

"Above all, let us inspire young Americans with a sense of excitement, a sense of destiny, a sense of involvement in meeting the challenges we face in this great period of our history. Only then are they going to have any sense of satisfaction in their lives."

—Richard Nixon
January 22, 1970

Editor Of The DTH

The race for the editorship of the Daily Tar Heel has begun and at first glance it seems that confusion is the sole synthesis of this rather confusing year of controversy concerning the Tar Heel.

Candidates, co-candidates, endorsed candidates, independent candidates.

Because the issue of the Tar Heel is such an important one on this campus, and because there are so many candidates running for editor, we are going to try to present the story of the campaign as fairly and clearly as we can.

Beginning next Tuesday, we will present a series of reports on the feelings of various editorial candidates on certain campus issues—political issues included.

The editor of the Tar Heel exerts a good deal of influence on the campus, and the question has arisen this year whether the students, who pay for the newspaper, should first of all have to pay, and second, if they do have to pay, should be able to control the political stands of

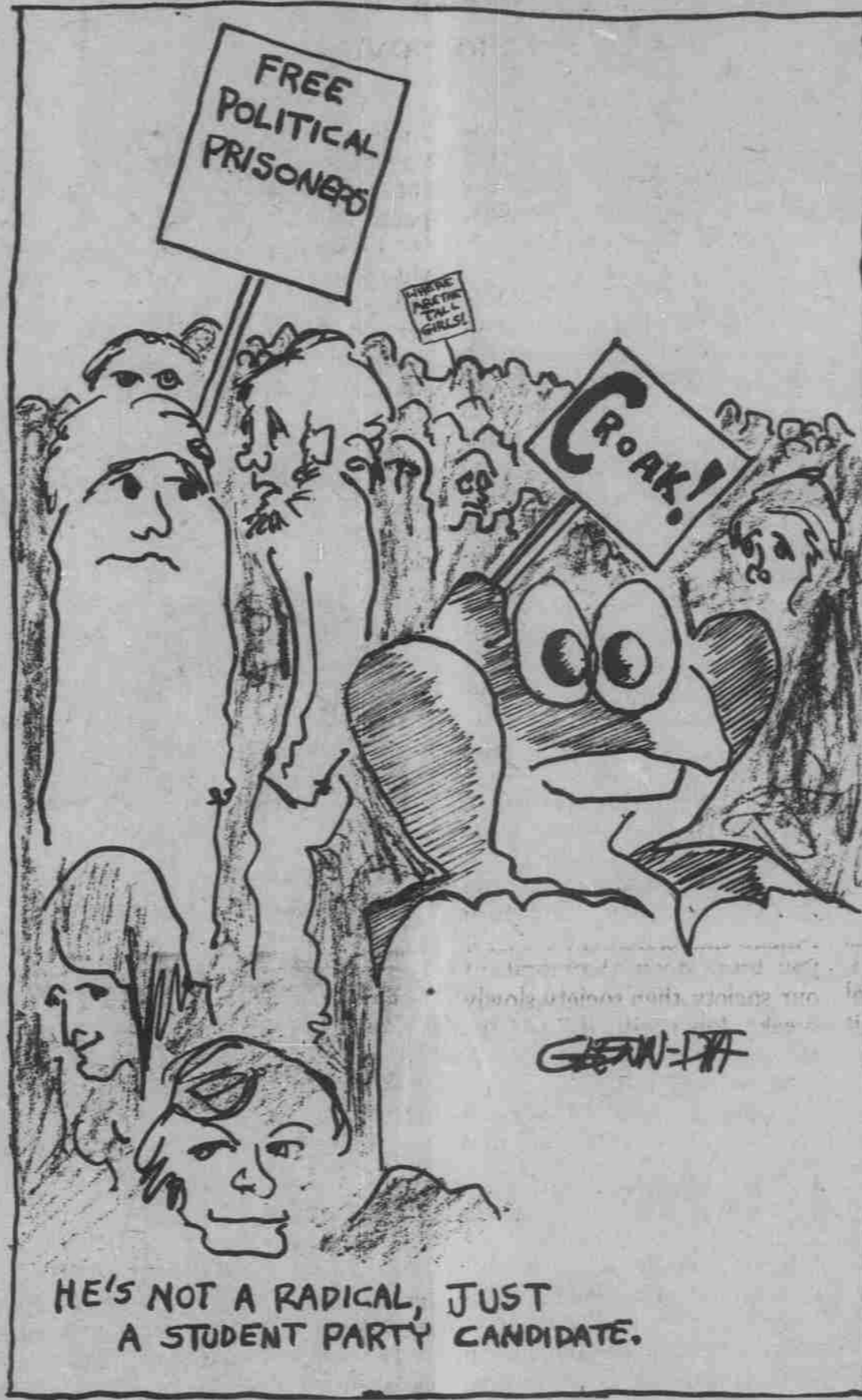
the editor.

The editorial election serves, in some respects, as a check on the direction which the Tar Heel will take. The students, therefore, should have some idea how the various candidates feel about certain issues.

Therefore, we are going to conduct a forum, asking the candidates how they feel. We will try to give an equal opportunity to each hopeful candidate.

As far as the readership of the newspaper is concerned, we might suggest that those to whom the issue of the Tar Heel is important, might pay careful attention to the editorial campaign. The lesson of the past teaches that very few (usually less than 25% of the students) vote in the election for editor.

However, as the system now exists, every student has the right to vote. In conjunction with that, we feel every student should have the right to know who and what he is voting for.



Jim Eldridge

Birds, Bees Struggle To Tell Their Tale In N. C.

Again North Carolina takes the lead in education.

Albert Wilkerson, a teacher for 24 years, is to be given a hearing in District Court in Lillington next month on charges of showing an obscene film to elementary children.

The obscene film was provided by the state, and its obscenity lay in the fact that it was on human reproduction.

It was a sex education film, and sex education is something children should not have, apparently. Except on the streets, or at drive-ins, or from a blushing parent stammering euphemisms.

Wilkerson said he was dismissed from his job. The Harnett County School Board contends that he resigned. Whatever the case, the school board said the film was designed for high school students, not for Mr. Wilkerson's eighth grade pupils, and that it was supposed to be shown to boys and girls separately.

Wonderful. We've come a long way since this writer was in elementary school (if the eighth grade—that's 13 and 14 years old—is to be considered "elementary"). My sex education in school (I'm speaking of what I learned in class) consisted of a session in the sixth grade where the boys and girls were separated and the teacher asked us boys if there was "anything you'd like to know."

"About what?" we thought, and then decided "No, man, let's go to recess." Junior high and high school biology books taught me that plants do it (in a weird sort of way) and wild animals do it, and (quote) "human reproduction is accomplished in much the same way."

My sex education, from the classroom, that is, was complete.

But now, we have FILMS! Although they appear to be rated, just like the REAL movies, and you have to be a certain age to learn that you've been doing all this time could lead to—yes! (Whisper) p-r-e-g-n-a-n-c-y.

But at least Harnett County has had? some form of sex education, unlike many other more "progressive" parts of the

state. Earl Warren is gone and the Birchers have found a new CAUSE CELEBRE. And the battle over the right to teach the birds and the bees is being fought by some of the most mule-headed people in existence. Tragically, the children are the ones who suffer. A recent case in Winston-Salem points this out.

Anti-sex education forces had set up a table, complete with petition, in the hall during registration at a local high school. They had a tape recording of a lecture given by a quite prominent sex education teacher to a class somewhere else in the country. Finding the section of the tape where the professor compared the medical terms for intercourse with those slang words employed by most people, the anti-sex forces played back to each passerby the four-letter words out of context and told already wary parents that this was what their children would

be taught.

Later on in the day, a group of pro-sex education parents set up a table on the other side of the hall with their own petition. A big beer truck driver (who had been indulging in his cargo) walked over to the pro table, slammed down a large wrench and demanded to know what these parents were doing.

"We felt that anyone who is for sex education should also have a chance to sign a petition," replied the pro leader.

"You can't do that!" stormed the truck driver. "Don't you understand?! It's gotten so bad now that I can't even take my kid to a movie, because when I do, it's not five minutes before some sonovabitch has said something dirty!" After realizing the incongruity of his statement, the driver walked off, blushing just a bit.

There is more sadness than humor to

that story. It is typical of the kind of unthinking prejudice that opposes sex education. But we cannot let our pity for this man and those like him stop us from moving forward. We must see that their children need not be pitied.

It is just an assumption, but one would think that with 24 years of teaching behind him, Mr. Wilkerson would know how "educated" his eighth grade class at Anderson Creek School is and whether the state-provided film on human reproduction was a little too "advanced" for their viewing.

One would also assume that parents who are either afraid or unwilling to teach their children about sex would realize the injustice being done these youngsters. Injustice which may lead to tragic mistakes.

Ignorance is not bliss when it comes to sex education. What the individual will not do, the state must. And that includes telling folks the facts of life.

'Malcolm X Day'

They say he died quickly brought on to be sure by the decisive and painless bullets of the gunshot wounds lodged in his limp body.

Death for him was grotesque as indeed, pitiless was his life. His eyes were opened and his mouth slightly ajar somewhat befitting the horrible and senseless deed of death by a brother's hand.

His life was one, long, uphill climb. He had championed many creeds and had tampered with many established rituals. His was an endless search for self-definition and the exegesis of the black man's role in relation to the white world.

Back then, his goal was radical and his tactics, revolutionary. He was what one can call the Martin Luther of the Civil Rights movement and the Calvin of the Black Revolution.

His life was also a lonely one. Emerged in dangerous intrigues and petty yet violent factions, he was robbed of his fame by the white man and denied the love and respect of black man. During his lifetime, his crusade was two-fold.

With his death came his glory. A book, a University, an endless series of monographs and posters, to the memory of the unsung and fallen hero.

His world contained only himself. A single man, weak, defenseless man, yet a veritable giant and the most deserving father of the Black Revolution.

His day is February 21st: honor it—and his name is Malcolm X and it DOES spell greatness.

Herman Mixon, Jr.
210 Carr Hall

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