



Allied troops retreat as N. Viets advance

SAIGON—U.S. forces left their Lang Vei armored base two miles from the Laotian border Thursday and started pulling back deeper inside South Vietnam, their withdrawal covered by U.S. B52 bombers that struck in waves across the frontier into Laos.

Signs were growing that the North Vietnamese counteroffensive that cut short the South Vietnamese invasion of Laos was still moving into South Vietnam.

A 10-man U.S. infantry patrol operating northeast of the big American supply base at Khe Sanh, 12 miles within South Vietnam, ran into a platoon of Communist sappers probing toward the base, according to field reports.

Four Americans were killed and one wounded in the fight that followed. U.S. helicopter gunships were called in.

In Washington, the Pentagon said U.S. aerial reconnaissance showed that North Vietnam had moved big guns and rockets inside the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Vietnam in the biggest buildup there in years.

The Pentagon indicated this posed a possible threat to Khe Sanh, which is 20 miles south of the DMZ.

American soldiers were pulling out of the Khe Sanh base Thursday for the second time in two years. U.S. Marines withstood a 77-day siege in 1968 and later dismantled the base.

The Pentagon conceded Wednesday that the Laos campaign was broken off early by the ferocity of the North Vietnamese counter-attack.

U.S. may sell SST program

WASHINGTON—As the federal government and the Boeing Co. took steps Thursday to dismantle the U.S. supersonic transport program, the State Department acknowledged that a Japanese trading company had expressed interest in buying America's SST assets.

The White House said that "no firm offer has been received," but other officials said the possibility of a Japanese bid to acquire the U.S. government's interest in the abandoned program was "one of the things that is in the wind."

The State Department received a telegram from the Ataka Trading Co. of Tokyo expressing interest in the SST program a few hours before the Senate voted 51-46 to halt federal subsidies for SST development.

One White House official said the Japanese had signaled an interest in obtaining government-owned SST technology—tools, drawings, research and development data, titanium and the like—for about 10 cents on the dollar.

White House Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler said that "if no way is found to proceed with the SST, in the termination process, the Department of Transportation would try some way to get a portion of the taxpayer's dollars back."

Government officials said Thursday it is legally free to try to recoup its losses in a sale of assets once penalties and other closing out costs have been paid—costs totalling \$145 million in penalties and refunds to investors.

Black wins USC presidency

COLUMBIA, S.C.—Harry Walker, the first black Student Body President at the University of South Carolina, says he never doubted that he would be elected.

"When I finally decided to run for office," said the 21-year-old Greenville native, "I just concentrated on winning. If I had lost, a lot of people who campaigned for me would have been destroyed."

Walker, a political science major at USC whose father is a Greenville auto mechanic, received some 54 per cent of the votes cast in Wednesday's election.

Walker said he realized the vote did not represent a majority of the 14,000 students on the campus.

Walker said race was never an issue in his campaign. He said the only thing he promised students in his campaign was a change.

Quarterly editor answers review

'Leaven' ignores magazine's best'

(Editor's note: A DTH reviewer recently wrote a review severely criticizing the Carolina Quarterly. The DTH is providing an opportunity for a representative of the Quarterly to answer that review. Jack Hicks, poetry editor of the Quarterly, wrote the following story.)

I would like to comment on the "review" of the Carolina Quarterly which appeared in Tuesday's Tar Heel, signed by a "Mr. Leaven." I use quotation marks because it is in no sense a review of the contents of the magazine, ignoring all of the fiction (4 stories), the artwork and design (layout, cover and graphics), and three long book reviews. He ignores as well, six of the twelve poets, and of those six he does treat, three are assigned to a single sentence each. His "review," our second in the Tar Heel, is based on about ten per cent of the magazine's contents.

I set "Mr. Leaven" in quotation marks because there is no "Leaven" in the University—faculty, staff or student—according to any of the records currently available. I assume "Leaven" is a pen name, one taken, sadly enough, not as a basis for the creation of a critical persona, but as a curtain, behind which to hide, out of fear, for purposes of protection.

"Mr. Leaven" takes us all to school, reader and Quarterly staff alike, and does so in the most imperious of tones. This is a review delivered from great height, written against the backdrop of all literature—a scar slashed across the face of history (gasp!) Reader and staff are both willing to take education where they find it, this being the American way, though perhaps not to the full urgency of "Mr. Leaven's" relentless didactic needs. His tone is doughy, pedantic, and becomes downright annoying when one discovers the absence of critical standards or knowledge behind his olympic displays.

(1) "Leaven's" attack on the Quarterly is because the writing shows a "solipsistic...almost mannered self-consciousness, caters to tastes rather too refined; or perhaps rarefied is the word." His choice of words leads one to conclude that he has not read much of the poetry, or chooses to ignore most of it: Tom Walters' poem on a popular film classic; Geof Hewitt's brutal confessions of a bachelor; Judith Greenberg's "Agreement," which speaks of an experience common to all of "Leaven's" straw "average readers"—marital and social separation; Mike Culross' poem about King Kong and his white mistress, reconsidered as a racial-sexual relationship, and his shorter poem considering fellatio as

an act of love; and the comic basis of Rush Rankin's two poems, which "Leaven" misreads, but likes anyway. These are many things, but not—ever—"mannered...refined" or "rarefied." "Mr. Leaven" later implicitly links the poetry with that of T. S. Eliot, contrasted to his own ideal of the public poet, Lord Byron. This has no basis in the evidence of the magazine.

(2) We are told, early, as "Mr. Leaven" speaks for his "average reader," that the poetry is too "introspective," and later, that "the best poetry has almost invariably been communication on a large scale." As to what this means exactly, I have no clear idea, and I must assume "Mr. Leaven" shares my confusion. The only contemporary poets I can think of who communicate on any sort of large scale are Rod McKuen and Kahlil Gibran. While I have on occasion listened to the warm, I am hard-pressed to raise them above other less-public modern poets: Stevens, Eliot, Pound, Yeats, Cummings, Roethke, Thomas. "Leaven's" argument is difficult to pursue, especially in view of the evidence, and the evidence is that the story of modern literature is pretty much one of introspection and social disengagement. I take "Leaven's" admission that "Perhaps modern poetry disproves my assertion (of 'communication on a large scale'), as a confession that his dictates have no basis in what is. He attacks the Quarterly out of his own private notion of what poetry ought to be (and that is never very clear). When he is forced to dispatch all of modern poetry because it will not learn the lesson he has come to teach, it makes me—well, it makes me wonder a little. I mean, gee, "Mr. Leaven."

(3) As for his criticism of the poets' "faith in the efficacy of concrete description," this is bound to his criticism of the introspective element. For most modern poetry, the way OUT, toward society, will come only after a move inward, toward the self and small things: small gestures and concrete objects. Like William Carlos Williams says: "no ideas but in things." What you demand, "Mr. Leaven," and let me repeat this, grows out of your own private judgments of what poetry ought to be. And your sense of what it ought to be either ignores or is ignorant of most recent American poetry. Go read Williams, or Roethke, or more recently, Charles Simic's fine book of poems, or read our most public poet—Allen Ginsberg—and discover the import and meaning of what you term "faith in the efficacy of concrete description."

(4) While our reviewer grandly judges us on the stage

of all of literature, our own hopes are much less lofty. A literary magazine, at least as I see it, is not an eternal act on the stage of history. Rather, the little magazine's real value is in the very fact that it is ephemeral. History is cluttered enough, filled with pretenders, and once one accepts this, the function of a little magazine is clearer. We are inexpensive, appear often, and disappear often, as well. As to whether or not the Quarterly's poetry acquires itself on "Mr. Leaven's" little historical stage is not of immediate concern. More important, we are a journal of contemporary writing, and while it is flattering to think that "history will absolve us," who cares? I insist on our right to perish, to be a "botched job," as "Leaven" terms it. My own sense of obligation is to help edit a magazine with a distinct personality, an "angle of vision," if you like, one that serves as a forum for a variety of styles and ideas of writing, especially by young writers. Publishing in this tormented country is difficult enough for a young writer, unless he is willing to be a new literary fad, and if little magazines can help at all, they can do so by offering space for a wide variety of younger writers, making their work available to a sympathetic, educated audience. I suggest that your "Mr. Leaven's" review places him in the strange position of denying the reality of the history of modern poetry and little magazines as well. Given these limitations, can one expect anything more than a hatchet job?

I would conclude by saying that "Leaven's" little sally against the Quarterly is like nothing so much as a rejected suitor's frantic attempts to claw her ex-lover's eyes. Surely the ravages of emotion account for "Mr. Leaven's" many and varied critical lapses. Hysteria and a desire for revenge are negative, restrict the mind's powers, and I ask readers to consider his review in the light of my observations. Unlike "Mr. Leaven," I can advise people to buy the Quarterly. I certainly hope they'll look over the current issue, available on and off-campus.

I ask the editors of the Tar Heel to consider carefully the assignment of all future reviews, particularly those possibly untaken with base motivations. Your "Mr. Leaven," assuming this is not all a horrible put-on, is distracted, or worse, tormented, and thus driven to reject most of his own time. "Mr. Leaven" strikes me as a pedant and an hysteric, and worse, he is utterly ill-informed as to his subjects. Is it any wonder his words cannot possibly appear under his own name?

Switchboard loses house; searching for new home

The Switchboard house was torn down by city officials Thursday and the Drug Action Committee is looking for a new home.

The house had been scheduled for demolition for several weeks. Switchboard officials have been unsuccessfully looking for a new location.

Switchboard is an organization which helps those with drug problems, problem pregnancies and any other problem which people bring to the group.

Anyone knowing of a house the organization may use are asked to call Rev. Banks Godfrey at 929-1560.

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