

Out of Our Mailbox:

Dear Editor:

After reading Mr. Howard's article, I am thoroughly convinced of two things, (1) There is an outlet for sophomoric humor in Western North Carolina and (2) My article was totally misread.

Mr. Howard proves once again that an undisciplined mind can only fall back on rampant, inane egoism.

ROBERT W. BELL

TO THE EDITOR:

The current debate over Cambodia is remiss in one important area: that of the draft. If there were no compulsory draft, how long could we continue to be the world's policeman? Not for too — long! The military machine would come to a grinding halt if there was not a continuous supply of manpower to feed it! To stop the stupid war in Southeast Asia, which for all practical purposes is an Indo China War, the draft must be knocked out.

The essential argument against the draft, from a libertarian point-of-view, is that the state has no right to require compulsory service from any one. If we accept the essence of the military-state — that of compulsory service, what remains of the values and the ideas of THE FREE MAN? Do we exist to serve the state — now a MILITARY-WELFARE STATE — or does man exist for his own sake and liberty? We should start to address ourselves to these essential and philoso-

phical questions.

Individual liberty in this country is now in danger from two institutions: the Military and the Welfare-State. The Welfare State with its parasitic bureaucracy and stagnating centralization is strangling us with red tape and bureaucracy and invasion of individual privacy; the Military State is killing off our young people, creating inflationary pressures and economic dislocations, and turning our Republic into a modern day Prussia. Only Congress, according to the Constitution, has the right to declare war. The Military State is grinding our Constitution below its boots, into the ground, covered with blood of Americans who have died to keep this country free. Do we now lose our freedom and individual liberty to a new Prussian State? Have we come this far in nearly two hundred years for this?

Let the Congress concern itself with enacting a law IMMEDIATELY to end the draft and go to an all volunteer army NOW! The draft is enforced slavery. The state has no business telling a citizen he must serve in the armed forces for little or no pay. Some of the same ageing Congressmen who are opposed to giving young people the vote are for keeping a system of enforced servitude. I personally find these Congressmen offensive; they should be retired from public life, for they have outlived any constructive value

they have for their country. To compound the offense they are kept in power by a system as liberal as feudalism: **THE SENIORITY SYSTEM.** Reform is long over due in the legislative branch of our government. Three things to be done **NOW: END THE DRAFT—END THE SENIORITY SYSTEM—GIVE THE VOTE TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHOSE RIGHTS ARE NOT BEING PROTECTED.** Let them vote, for the ballot is the best protection of rights and individual interests in this country. Maybe a certain Congressman from South Carolina who speaks for the Industrial-Military Complex wouldn't be in Congress after November if young people had the vote.

Rivers, Colmer, Mills, Passman, Dorn, Celler, and the rest must go.

LANE EDWARD COOK

THE RIDGERUNNER Financial Statement

Keeping in mind that students like to know where their money is going, THE RIDGERUNNER'S staff has compiled its complete financial statement for the year. Not included are the last two issues of the paper for this term.

TERM ONE: carried over from last year's account was a total of \$873.37. The student allotment (at .75 cents per student) totaled \$544.50. The cost for four issues was \$290.14, \$341.21, \$393.69 and \$466.84 — a grand total of \$1491.88. Advertisements brought in \$721.25.

TERM TWO: student allotment, \$532.50. Cost for four issues, \$321.39, \$258.52,

\$283.62 and \$214.19 — totaling \$1077.72. Advertisements, \$1024.75.

TERM THREE: student allotment, \$492.75. Cost for three papers, \$211.05, \$136.64, and \$171.70 — totaling \$519.39 (drastic reduction in cost due to intense efforts of the staff). Advertisements, \$528.00.

TERM FOUR: student allotment, \$473.25. Cost of two of the four issues, \$172.96 and \$257.96 — totaling \$430.92. Advertisements for two of four issues, \$297.00.

OVERALL YEAR'S STATEMENT: total student funds, \$2916.37. Total cost for 13 of 15 issues, \$3519.19. Total funds from advertisements for 13 of 15 issues, \$5487.91.

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Qualified previous Employees would have opportunity for Management.

All who would be interested fill in the next few lines and mail promptly in order to receive first consideration.

Mr. James R. Kirkman, Jr.
District Manager
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