

IN RESEARCH TRIANGLE:

NO CIVIL WAR BOOM-BOOM

By Lester M. Carson

It is interesting to note that, in the Research Triangle area, there has been no pompous observance of the Congress-endorsed Civil War Centennial. Farther South, celebrations have ranged from mere acknowledgements by local Chambers of Commerce to the glittering, tragi-comical parade held in Montgomery, Alabama, during which a large number of the citizenry refused to take part, either because of indifference or scorn.

Perhaps North Carolinians have come to realize that nothing glorious or patriotic was connected with that conflict, and as a page of American history should be left to the cold objectiveness of historians. Should the greater North Carolina area continue to shun the Montgomery-type celebrations, then we shall have proof positive that, in the Research Triangle, "progress is our most important product."

The nature of the Montgomery "inaugural", and the firing of ante-bellum cannons at Charleston's Fort Fisher, is far from the didactic nature of the usual holiday routine. These and similar celebrations encompassed no pleas for the perpetuation of America, no hoisting of Old Glory, and for varying periods of time the Stars and Stripes was subordinated in preference to the Stars and Bars, an act almost as idiotic and ignominious as was the event it commemorated.

As several church and civic groups have already complained, such actions in such hot beds of bigotry as Charleston and Montgomery birthed no small amount of ill feeling. The people of North Carolina, duly aware of having been "first at Sumter, farthest at Gettysburg, and last at Appomattox", apparently prefer the continuance of community well-being to the resurrection of that dishonorable heritage.

The purpose of the aforementioned festivities is also vague. The traitors lost the war; is there anything else to commemorate? -One dedicated Southerner ignored the outcome but praised the "cause". So far, this "cause" is yet to be realized by the tradition-minded celebrants. A recent guest of NCC, Marion Wright, remarked that, in all the ceremonies, "there is no mention of the fact that the Confederacy was created to defend the institution of slavery." Wright, an official of the liberal Southern Regional Council, further stated, "that in the original "Confederate" constitution, there is no mention of slavery".

Slavery, to be sure, was the "cause" for which General Lee abandoned the Union which he had sworn to defend. Truthfully, if Montgomery or Richmond feel justified in commemorating that "cause", then Wall Street should feel equally patriotic in closing its booths on Benedict Arnold's birthday.

In the Durham-Greensboro-Raleigh tradition, the sire of hatred and bigotry, has given way to common sense. Doubtless to say, no Research Triangle can exist if the attitudes of the populace are unprepared to grasp the pen of Progress, for it writes only with the ink produced by a joined community.

Let's Kill Complacency

The waning support of the NCC students of the theater protest was no more pronounced than last Thursday when 91 students from the sister institutions of Durham walked in front of the Center and Carolina theaters as opposed to no NCC students. We have been accused of mass complacency. We have been accused of this all too familiar disease all too long. But when we are faced with a decision of whether to let others bear our cross of shame for us while we relax in the throes of segregated contentment, or whether to roll up our sleeves to the task and bear our own burdens, then we should 'give up the ghost' of complacency and die fighting.

It is not enough to render passive support to a movement that is so meaningful, that is so vital to every citizen of the United States and even more so to the entire Universe.

We must not let our support of the fight for civil rights lag. We must declare 'demonstra-

tion' days, if necessary for the entire college. On such a day, every student who is enrolled here must support some phase of the sit-in-for a designated period of time. Allowances must be made for the honest and sincere demonstrator, giving regards to such minor offenses as tardiness from class (for above mentioned reasons), students must make sacrifices of time—sometimes giving up the recreation hour entirely to walk the picket lines.

We do not advocate failure to do class assignments for this cause, but our SG president, Lacy Streeter, has answered this problem by saying: "Social action does not interfere with academic excellence, instead social action may interfere with SOCIALIZING."

And so, when there is a question of socializing or Social Action, we will not be accused of 'mass complacency'. On the other hand, we will take action immediately in resuming full force the fight for civil rights.

LETTERS...

Thanks For Hospitality

Dear Miss Jarman:

My visit to N.C.C. campus last week for the Religious Emphasis Programs was made so pleasant by the response and courtesy of all the students and faculty whom I met, that through the *Echo*, I want to express the gratitude I feel to the entire student body.

It seemed to me that most of you, with whom I had the privilege of speaking, were seeking more than grades and degrees—that you wanted to get from your courses and discussions as much knowledge of the "meaning of life" as possible. When this pre-eminent quality of seeking is present, then all fields, whether economics or English literature, the Baha's World Faith and Christianity or the dialogues of Socrates, become treasure-troves of insight into the significance of life into which we can help each other delve.

Being with you for a week was a bounty for me and an experience I deeply enjoyed.

Sincerely,

Allan L. Ward

Student Center Need

Editor's note:

This letter was written in behalf of the student body of North Carolina College at Durham by Mr. Watts Carr, Jr., President of the Durham Chamber of Commerce. We are very grateful to him for recognizing the need for writing such a letter.

Durham Chamber of Commerce
February 23, 1961

Honorable James Stickeleather,
Chairman Senate Appropriations Committee
North Carolina Senate
Raleigh, North Carolina
Dear Jim:

As president of the Durham Chamber of Commerce, I am very much interested in the continued growth of the fine State Institution we have here in the North Carolina College. Speaking for our organization, I strongly urge that your committee reconsider the omission of a Student Center by the Advisory Budget Commission. It is my understanding that one-half

the cost of this center has been guaranteed by the college. I certainly hope that you can see fit to reinstate the appropriation for this much needed facility.

Very truly yours,
Durham Chamber Of
Commerce
Watts Carr, Jr.
President
WC, Jr./Inc.

A similar letter was sent to the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

Better Editorials

Dear Editor:

As I compare your editorial in the September issue of the *Campus Echo* with your editorial in the March issue, I find a distinct and remarkable improvement in the two. It appears as if you have taken a stand on every issue and that you have followed your convictions in what you believe. As I evaluate you as an editor I find that you will speak your mind and will not try to play "politics" like some editors in the past.

I think very few students actually know the problems and

headaches of an editor. Besides facing the problems of trying to meet the dead line, he must try and find reliable and competent workers.

Although you may have received some criticisms as editor you should realize that no one can please everybody. As I see the duty of the editor, it is to present the news no matter who is involved. I think that you have tried to be objective in presenting the news.

I believe that the best or the most inspiring editorial that you have written so far this year, was the one in February issue of the *Campus Echo*. There is no doubt that every college should have and probably will require its students to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test that is now being administered by other colleges and universities in the state.

I must say that you have proven that even though a person may not know much about journalism, with a desire and hard work, anyone can become a good editor.

Lenwood G. Davis



Mr. Average College: A Dialogue

Joe: I'm , and am pleased to meet you.

Visitor: What's your classification?

Joe: Classification?

V. To which year do you belong?

J. Oh! I'm (any given year).

V. Did you transfer or have you been here all the time?

J. Oh, I've been here.

V. What's your major?

J. Haven't decided yet.

V. Will they let you stay here that long without choosing your major area?

J. Well, I decide, then I change each semester. That way I am safe from being sent home. Not that anyone is ever asked to leave, school isn't that well heeled financially.

V. Do you like it here?

J. Can't say as I do.

V. What do you like about your school?

J.

V. What do you wish were different?

J. Everything!

V. Like what?

J. First of all, the Dean. Not the dean of men, but, you know, the big "L." Looks like she would let the girls decide how

late to stay out. Pity that all those beautiful girls have to be in at sundown.

V. Is that the only improvement you hope for?

J. If "she" would take her hands off the ladies, things would be so much better. What are they to her anyway.

V. Over in the AM I remember seeing something about self-direction. How does that apply to you?

J. Doesn't.

V. Do you mean that as a student, you are not permitted to exist under this policy of self-direction? It sounds pretty ideal.

J. That what it is. An idea. Born and died the same day.

V. What do you say to that?

J. Well. Like I said before. The Dean won't let the girls be self-directed. All these laws. Freshmen in at 6:30 sophomores, yahhhh,; only the seniors can stay out at a pretty decent hour, and who wants to take a senior out.

V. So that's all self-direction applies to, the curfew hours?

J. Well, I can't think of anything else.

V. If the rules were waived,

the girls stayed out, would you be satisfied?

J. Sure If the girls could go to the night clubs, such as they have here. You see, I think drinking with moderation is quite all right. I mean, why be unrealistic. Everybody, even President Kennedy, takes at least one. Drinking is socially acceptable. In some cases, you have to be able to drink to mix with the group, so I think the girls oughta be able to go to the clubs and drink, socially.

V. Isn't it about time for class?

J. Yah, but I'm cutting today.

V. Cutting?

J. When I'm absent, they give me a cut, unless I can get the roll checker to let me slide. Three cuts and they start taking grade points.

V. That gives me an idea. If everyone were self-directed, and able to go to the nightclubs, do you think everyone would be able to go to class enough to pass if the cut system were taken away?

J. Better leave the cut system alone. It helps me to go to (continued on page 3)

Campus Echo
Member
ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS



The CAMPUS ECHO, official student publication at North Carolina College at Durham, is published monthly during the regular school year. Subscription rate, \$1.50 per school year. Second-class mail privilege authorized at Durham, N. C.

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