

Other Opinions

Sen. East's aide curses anti-apartheid group

Editor's note: On Oct. 11 members of the Virginia-North Carolina United Church of Christ went to Washington to join a protest against South Africa's policy of apartheid. Included in the group were Carole Chase, a religion professor at Elon and an ordained Presbyterian minister, and Linda Dunn, staff director at the Elon Home for Children and a member of the Peace Task Force of the UCC's Southern Conference.

Seven members of the group went to the office of Republican Sen. John East of North Carolina, intending to present a UCC petition against apartheid and to urge East to support sanctions against South Africa.

The group did not see East, but instead was received by Sam Francis, a history professor at Johns Hopkins University who serves East as a foreign policy adviser. The following account of the meeting was written by Chase and Dunn.

Last Thursday Sen. East apologized to Chase and promised to investigate her allegations about Francis' behavior at the meeting. In an interview with *The Greensboro News & Record* published last Friday, Francis himself refused to apologize. According to East's press spokesman Jerry Woodruff, Francis remains a member in good standing of East's staff.

We went to Washington to participate in the anti-apartheid protest outside of the South African embassy. Upon arrival, we were briefed by two members of the UCC Washington Office of Church in Society. Seven of our North Carolina delegation went to the Dirksen Building at 2:30 p.m. for a meeting with a Mr. Sam Francis, adviser to Sen. John East on foreign affairs.

When Mr. Francis entered the room, we told him we were glad that Sen. East was feeling better and we introduced ourselves to

him. Mr. Francis leaned back in his chair and said to us with noticeable hostility even in this his first remark: "Now, what do you people want?" Cy King, the only male in our group, said that we had brought Sen. East a copy of The Resolution on Apartheid in South Africa which the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ had recently passed. He also told Mr. Francis that we wanted to urge Sen. East to support the implementation of the president's recent executive order on South Africa.

Mr. Francis asked us why we weren't protesting all the wrong things that Russia and other communist nations were doing. We explained that South Africa was a special case since South Africa is an ally which lays claim to Western values and traditions. This explanation seemed to further fuel Mr. Francis' defensiveness and hostility. He asked his question again about why we

were focusing on South Africa. He never heard our concern or honored our views.

The half-hour interview went from bad to worse, during which time Francis stated that he believed integration was more successful in Johannesburg than in Washington, D.C., that he did not think we represented the majority view of our churches and that he thought we were ignorant with regard to the situation in South Africa. He also called us enemies of the United States of America and told Cy King that if he "had my way, I'd stomp people like you into the earth." He said anyone with "common sense" would see things his way

with regard to South Africa and that he disagrees with President Reagan's executive order regarding South African sanctions. By this time, a black woman from our group had left.

When asked how he had come to his conclusions about South Africa, Francis told us that he had visited that country several times and written several papers on South Africa for the Heritage Foundation. He stated that he did not consider himself an expert on South Africa.

Another individual asked Francis if he was concerned about the killing of black South Africans by whites. This angered him further.

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Student urges involvement

By Dan Evory
Special to The Pendulum

An anti-apartheid conference on the campus of N.C. State this past Saturday devoted a large part of its program to the role and responsibility of students. The importance of an international link among students of all colors, nationalities and backgrounds was stressed.

A general humanitarian student movement can be formed by those who are concerned with the different problems throughout the world.

The reality of such a goal could fall to the wayside because of student apathy. The failure of students to become involved with the issues at home and in the rest of the world results in the loss of a true education. Whether the issues are domestic or international, political or non-partisan, it is the role of the student to question "what is" as well as "what should be."

The answers to our questions cannot be obtained through the media. Too often our minds are processed by the onslaught of news programs and tabloids with the result that verification of the facts is never attempted. It is not unthinkable to believe that the major media corporations are not bringing the public the complete and unbiased truth. It is the students' responsibility to seek out the reality that lies behind the media's "truth."

The tools that can be used for

this interrogation are at our fingertips. Teach-ins, symposiums, travel, plays and a mind open to new ideas are means by which a student can expand his or her knowledge and begin to question society's accepted views and standards.

Questions must be asked if changes are to occur. Humanitarianism should not be lost due to a lack of concern, nor should it founder because of an unwavering faith in the godlike stance of our government. It is

easy to depend upon others to do our work and then accept a belief. Students cannot hide behind someone else's rhetoric. We must find the answers ourselves.

The problems throughout the world cannot be ignored. It is the duty of students to question all sides of an issue, including those in South Africa, Central America, and any others on the horizon. As students we are responsible for the future and in this role we must question authority.

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