

Editorial

Dulling the atom

By Brian Carey
Editor

In our media-bombarded world, there is a strong tendency for the mind to be deadened by repetition of important topics and decisive crises. This eventual dulling of the mind is a danger which is silent, coming unannounced and silencing any opposition that might be raised.

Before this becomes true of the facts concerning nuclear warfare and the unleashing of atomic forces, I'd like to take an opportunity to yell like hell.

It's almost crazy to imagine that the fears of the fifties can, in twenty years, mellow into complacent acceptance and tail-wagging acquiescence. People vowed never to let the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki scar our collective consciences again, but now news abounds of arms escalations of first strike capacities.

Battered by constant reports of Soviet build-up, American nuclear technology, pions, muons, and right-on's, we have become a race of the walking numb, intoning "Yes, Almighty Atom" with every step. We'll accept anything we're told.

A symptom of this malaise is the popularity of movies like "Dirty Harry." Our fragile senses are so brutalized by the constant gore and violence flashing by on the screen that they snap. We can only mutter, "Of course, it's all right."

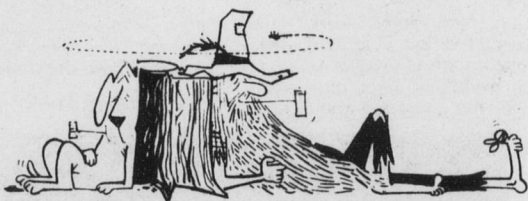
Well, I'm screaming it's not all right! Violence is still nasty, and nuclear explosions are still horrifying. There is no such thing as sustained nuclear casualties or any other fictional euphemisms for killing people. Instant disintegration, massive destruction, lingering death: these are still the results of nuclear explosions.

*Instant disintegration, massive destruction,
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these are still the results of nuclear explosions.*

Before we're fast talked and bludgeoned by media rationalizations, let's say stop. I don't want to live in constant fear of those men holding the buttons. I don't want my life to end in brilliant flames or in a cancer ward. I don't want my kids to inherit this crazy situation simply because I was too spineless to solve it now.

SALT II does nothing to alleviate the problem. Instead, its technical explanations and detailed prescriptions grind down our resistance even further. An international SALT II need only contain three words: no more nukes. Leave the fancy language to the diplomats.

This newspaper is also a member of the media, and there is the danger that this will be filed away in the anti-nuclear section of a dulled brain. Wake up! Take it as a slap in the face! Nuclear weapons are no joke and must be outlawed while there's still time.



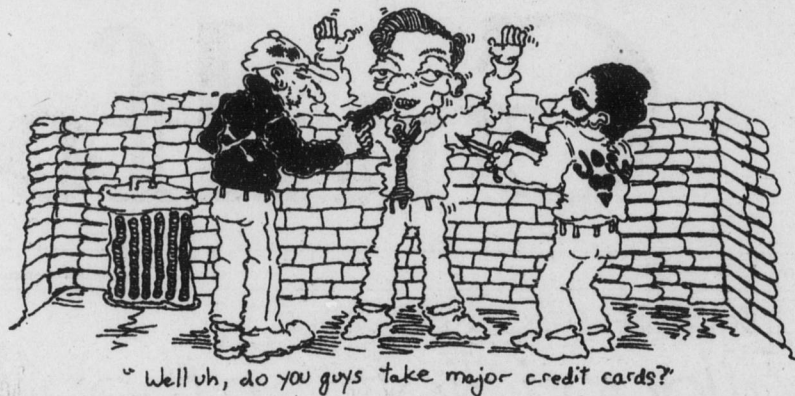
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The Guilfordian reserves the right to edit all articles, letters, and artwork for taste, veracity, and length. The deadline for all copy is midnight on the Friday preceding the Tuesday of publication. Articles may be left on the office door in upstairs Founders, or mailed to Box 17717. The opinions expressed by the staff are their own and not those of the paper or of Guilford College.



"Well uh, do you guys take major credit cards?"



Letters to the Editor

Keep these letters coming: it's better to debate an issue without settling it than to settle an issue without debating it. All letters must be submitted by Friday, and should be no longer 200 words in length. Letters can be left on the office door in upstairs Founders, or mailed to Box 17717.

Rotten here too

Dear Editor:
Let's all give the 1980's version of the fish cheer: Gimme a "K" ... Gimme an "I" ... Gimme a "C" ... Gimme a "K" ... What's that spell -- KICK ... what's that spell -- MAIM ...
"Come you Americans along with me
We'll kick those Iranians one, two, three
Let's all bind them to a tree
One for you and two for me.
In the past few weeks the media has done a commendable job in stirring up emotions within the American public, in veiv of the recent Iranian "crisis." You're mad, I'm mad, Exxon is mad, Billy Carter is MAD litterally, but, let's quit channeling all of our anger at Iran, let's save some for the U.S.

It's about time that the U.S. with its "Hey, we're the good guys" policy got an empty oil barrel caught in its craw! We've always been so insistent on being the worldwide savior and healer of heathens that we've finally been nailed to our own cross ... and we don't like it.

Don't get me wrong; I'm red-blooded, and I like apple pie and Russian made M-16s as much as the next guy, but let this be a lesson to those who don't leave anything alone.

Now what's this about the "Aya-Lost Out-Tullah" being as stupid as a fox? What about our man Henry Houdini Kissinger who is so sneaky that ... (fill in your own). Why is it that he was so interested in getting the Shah into New York's \$250/day hospital beds? Certainly not to show off our nurses, or his personalized bedpan collections!

You haven't heard much about the Egypt Israel issue lately, have you? I give Mr. Kissinger credit in manufacturing this whole Iranian "conflict" so as to take some of the heat off the smoldering E/I issue for awhile. Things getting a bit too hot with the Egyptian/Israeli talks, huh, Henry? In the meantime Begin and Sadat can go throw darts at each other's pictures for awhile.
Of course these are my own

conclusions, possibly rash, but don't fool yourself into thinking, that Henry isn't capable of this. I hope that my puppet strings don't break off in Henry's hands or I might fall onto the Golan Heights and feel kinda stupid!

Sincerely,
Rolf Dammann

Golden opportunity

Dear Editor:
I am writing to express my concern, displeasure and disappointment with the response to the Student Committee for Promotion and Tenure.

Many students have foregone their golden opportunity to state their views about their professors and have real input into a very important decision-making process that affects their education.

We are an independent and parallel committee to the Faculty Affairs Committee, designed especially to represent student views. Our report is supposed to carry the same impact that the faculty's report does.

Frankly, thus far your response has been pathetic. At best only one fourth of our letters were answered. How can we be reasonably expected to reflect your views on whether or not a given professor should be promoted or granted tenure?

With only twenty views or so, we cannot do our job as thoroughly as the importance of the report dictates we should. You have effectively tied our hands.

Our decisions, in the long run, affect the value of your sheepskin. With as much work as is invested in it, it is well worth your while to take fifteen minutes or so to help us protect your investment.

Enough time has been spent on talk, it is time to do something. If you receive a letter from us, please respond.

Thank you,
Karen Everett
Co-Chairperson

Jerry makes sense

Dear Editor:
I would like to take exception to the editorial of November 20th, "Was That Jerry?" Jerry Rubin would be the first person

to acknowledge your freedom to express your own opinions, but I believe that you are also guilty of some of the same "fuzzy contradictions" of which you accuse Rubin.

You accuse Jerry Rubin of being a hypocrite and a sell-out for demanding payment for his appearances, while at the same time "raving" about socialism and economic equality. There is no contradiction I can see between making a living and protesting against the economic injustices so evident in our society. There is really little similarity between the huge oil monopolies against which Rubin was "raving," and a man making a couple thousand dollars (or however much) from a speaking engagement.

Of the protesters -- their complaints may have seemed a bit more legitimate had they taken place in response to, rather than before, Rubin's lecture. And I wouldn't doubt that college administrators would feel that they have a bone to pick with Rubin -- times are a changin', but not so drastically that people in authority would appreciate a person known for attacking the powers that be.

Rubin's belief in "the Kennedy mystique" is hardly "irrational;" he did say that he recommended Kennedy despite serious instinctual reservations, and he had more than one reason for his preference. A man who recognizes that the Mafia is into everything is hardly "obsessed;" law enforcement agencies across the country would agree with him.

You lifted five quotes entirely away from their contexts. Didn't Rubin say that more than half of U.S. citizens believe that oil should be nationalized? Are all these people also "blind?" I think they're fed up.

Rubin's a convincing speaker -- he convinced me most of the time -- and I pride myself on my skepticism as much as he does. The man has strong opinions, just as you do, but his credos hardly seem "confused." I think part of the confusion on your part may have been the result of selective listening.

Sincerely,
Gwen Bikis