

EDITORIAL

If Is As If They Don't Trust Us

"Students at Montreat don't have any honor." Suddenly, I grasped my stomach with the hope that I might keep myself from being sick. Being told that I had no honor was like a four year old being told by an older brother that there was no Santa Claus.

"I want you to spread out so no one will cheat." I would have run for the bathroom but I was afraid I would be accused of going to consult my cheat sheet and that every innocent move would be recorded by the hidden microphone or filmed through the one way mirror.

I was one of the lucky ones because this had not happened to me until a couple of weeks before graduation. Other students had complained about this but I neglected to say anything about their cries for recognition of this problem.

One of the requirements for admission to Montreat-Anderson was to sign the honor pledge and attend the honor service. One of the things a student expects that a teacher will do is to prepare him for the future. One wonders what kind of basics of honor the instructor is giving when we are not given a fair chance to see if we possess a dominating sense of honor when under pressure.

Some feel that teachers have the attitude of "we don't care what you stated or signed before, forget all that. This is my class." In effect they are breaking away from one of the doctrines of our college.

We have previously dedicated ourselves to live with a high sense of honor at Montreat, so why is it necessary for a teacher to ask us or force us to reinstate our honor? It is as if they do not trust us.

SHOULD EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLDS VOTE?

Eighteen year olds and the ballot seems to appear together as often as Crosby and Hope once did. In this, a Presidential election year, the question of suffrage for the eighteen year old bracket occurs with regularity in newspapers and journals across the United States, whether this is because there isn't a shread of originality left in journalism or due to the fact sober-minded men considers it an issue, permit us to add to the bulk of material.

Politicians apparently recognize eighteen year olds according to their statue with the nation's youth. take the rather hirsute Mr. Kennedy, for example, a thorough-going liberal and spokesman for our century's oppressed (i. e., youth) says firmly to let them vote. Dean Rusk the Davidson graduate from Georgia apparently anticipates a time when they will go to the polls.

In a recent statement concerning the Pueblo crisis, Mr. Rusk, ever seeking for fresh rhetoric advised the

North Korenas to "cool it." Mr. Rusk isn't even running for anything, either, or is he? Other more conservative voices such as Senator Long of Louisiana and Baker of Tennessee are opposed to suffrage for the eighteens.

Chief among the arguments of the teenage cadre clamoring for the ballot is the axiom "if we're old enough to fight, we're old enough to vote." By that same reasoning, our senior citizens are too old to fight and therefore too old to vote, opposed to the teenage balloting if they are "not responsible, mature, or well-informed enough" to exercise an intelligent vote. The above adjectives seem murkey enough to turn against themselves.

Now, what can we say about this business of eighteen year olds getting the vote; only this, an issue presented in such cliché's as the above paragraph, will soon be as untimely as the hula hoop or Fabian records. We can not mourn its passing.

MAYBE...PERHAPS...WHO KNOWS?

"I may not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it." This famous quote was first made in reference to Voltaire-writer and philosopher, iconoclast and dissenter. It applied as much to a spirit he had as to an actual vocal or physical defense. It applied-and applies-to a spirit of questioning, and search, and openmindedness; a spirit that holds little or nothing as absolute and writers "truth" with a small "t".

If there is a "best of all possible worlds", perhaps this spirit reigns there. Many times it does not reign at Montreat. It is wounded each time a teacher says "give your own ideas", and then grades off because these ideas differ from her own. It is trampled upon whenever a student refuses to open his mind to an idea which conflicts with some he already holds. It is flagellated

each time one person, by word or attitude, damns another to Hell for daring to doubt and question. It is injured when one individual delivers an opinion as if it came from the mouth of God and admits no fallacy, allows no dissent. It is pierced each time one student calls another un-Christian for failing to adhere to his particular dogmas.

It is a lack of this spirit that produces dogmatism-that kills inquiry. In an extreme, it is a lack of this spirit which produced the Inquisition (which could have been propagated as easily by the Protestants as the Catholics) and caused the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is this intolerance that did consign or would have consigned, Voltaire to Hell or the guillotine for daring to think contrary to what the

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God Died Late Yesterday

ATLANTA, Ga.—God, creator of the universe, principal diety of the world's Jews, ultimate reality of Christians, and most eminent of all divinities, died late yesterday during major surgery undertaken to correct a massive diminishing influence. His exact age is not known, but close friends estimate that it greatly exceeded that of all other extant beings.

The cause of death could not immediately be determined, but the diety's surgeon Thomas J. J. Altizer, 38, of Emory University in Atlanta, indicated possible cardiac insufficiency.

Word of the death, long rumored, was officially disclosed to reporters at five minutes before midnight after a day of mounting anxiety and the comings and goings of ecclesiastical dignitaries.

In Johnson City, Texas, President Johnson was described as "profoundly shocked." He at once directed that all flags should be at half-staff until after the funeral. The First Lady and the two Presidential daughters, Luci and Lynda, were understood to have wept openly.

Both houses of Congress met in Washington at noon today and promptly adjourned after passing a joint resolution expressing "grief and great respect for the departed spiritual leader." Senator Wayne Morse, Democrat of Oregon, objected on the grounds that the resolution violated the principle of separation of church and state, but was overruled by Vice President Hubert Humphrey, who remarked that "this is not a time for partisan politics."

Plans for the diety's funeral are incomplete. Reliable sources suggested that extensive negotiations may be necessary in order to select a church for the services and an appropriate place of burial. Dr. William Pauck, theologian at Union Seminary in New York City, proposed this morning that it would be "fitting and seemly" to inter the remains in the ultimatic ground of all being. Funerals for divinities, common in ancient times, have been exceedingly rare in recent centuries.

Reaction from the world's great and from the man in the street was uniformly incredulous. "At least he's out of his misery," commented one

housewife in an Elmira, N. Y., supermarket. "I can't believe it," said the Right Rev. Horace W. B. Donegan, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Ohio. In Paris, President de Gaulle in a thirty second appearance on national television, proclaimed "God is dead! Long live the republic!"

News of the death was included in a one-sentence statement, without comment, on the third page of *Izvestia*, official organ of the Soviet Government. The passing of God has not been disclosed to the 800 million Chinese who live behind the Bamboo Curtain.

Public reaction in this country was perhaps summed up by an elderly retired streetcar conductor in Passaic, N. J., who said, "I never met him, of course. Never even saw him on the Johnny Carson Show. But from what I have heard, I guess he was a pretty nice fellow." From Independence, Mo. former President Harry S. Truman, who received the news in his Kansas City barbershop, said, "I'm always sorry to hear somebody is dead. It's a damn shame." In Gettysburg, Pa., former President Dwight D. Eisenhower released through a military aide the following statement: "Mrs. Eisenhower joins me in heartfelt sympathy to the family and many friends of the late God. He was, I felt, a force for moral good in the universe. Those of us who were privileged to know him, admired his character, the breadth of his compassion, the depth of his intellect. Generous almost to a fault, his many acts of kindness to America will never be forgotten. It is a very great loss indeed. He will be missed."

Dr. Altizer, God's surgeon, in an exclusive interview with the *Dialette*, stated that the death was, "not unexpected." "He had been declining for sometime and had actually lived much longer than expected." Dr. Altizer suggested, "God was an excellent patient, compliant, cheerful, alert. Every comfort modern science could provide was made available to him. He did not suffer—he just, as it were, slipped out of our grasp."

Editor's Note: The above story was adapted from a story by Anthony Towne in an article entitled, "God Is Dead In Georgia."

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