

Editorial: Commentary

trexler to speak

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Frank Parrish, Editor

Treatises, briefs, and sundry other literary offerings have explored the "generation gap." Does it really create unsolvable problems? Will young and old Americans bury each other before any outside agents have the opportunity? We don't think so.

A "gap" has always existed. Only today we are more conscious of it. America's youth are more interested than ever before in reshaping their country and the world. They're such an active force in national affairs, that even Time magazine, the Establishment handbook, saw fit to make people between 18 and 25 "man of the year" in '66. Quite strange and somehow impossible, isn't it?

In actuality, it is no stranger than the weirdly incongruent manner in which "privileges" are awarded to young people. One can drive as soon as he reaches the steering wheel and fight for his country at age eighteen. Liquor and voting which sometimes fit well together, are reserved until the age of majority.

In 1980, four years before Orwell's imagined apocalypse, our country will have a young constituency. Fresh approaches to old Socialist obsessions like poverty and war may reflect the change.

Meanwhile, are those already in adolescence and early manhood supposed to continue quarreling with their elders and among themselves? It's conceivable but can be prevented. A renaissance of the lost art of listening could change the course of events. Not just "pointy-headed intellectuals," but anyone could profit by occasionally opening his ears and closing his mouth.

Otherwise, the din and the decibals will grow. It seems fruitless to contest who can shout louder or loudest, but, this seems to be a rapidly growing sport. In the hubbub, each of the speakers catches only fragments of the other's statements. Misunderstanding is the frequent consequence. Two people conducting monologues in a conversational "interchange" is an amusing spectacle.

We are reminded of the recent hearing held by the House Un-American Activities Committee (a pleasant anomaly) concerning the Chicago Convention disturbances. The hearing was essentially a war between the young and old. Friction, of this sort, could at least be reduced if "gapologists" would give each other a chance to speak without competing. Dialogues, we believe, can be fruitful and constructive. As we've said, this involves the aural capacities.

Now, every schoolboy knows the futility of talking things over. Yet, there's still time. Maybe, we even have the possibility of rapprochement between generations. Otherwise, we should merely relax in front of the TV and continue grumbling to ourselves.



A controversial figure in Race Relations, the Rev. Floyd Trexler, will be guest on our campus this Sunday evening, Nov. 24, speaking in Gaither Chapel at 7:00 p.m. under the sponsorship of the Student Christian Association.

A dynamic and sometimes explosive speaker, Mr. Trexler is a white Lutheran pastor of an all white Lutheran congregation in Hickory, N. C. who has challenged the status quo and pioneered in seeking equal opportunities for Negroes in his community.

Recently the Church Council of his local parish voted to dismiss him but the Lutheran Synod of North Carolina after a trial of his case reinstated him with an overwhelming vote of confidence.

Mr. Trexler's case is significant because it is believed to be the first test case in the giant Lutheran Church of America where a pastor's job was in jeopardy because he espoused equal opportunities for all people and sought to do something about it in his local community.

A popular speaker to youth, Mr. Trexler is the author of several newspaper columns, one of which is syndicated in twenty-two states.

Mr. Trexler was educated at Catawba College and the Lutheran Southern Seminary.

Remember, 7:00 p.m. Sunday in Gaither.

GIVE

The Student Loyalty Fund begins its drive for money on Monday, November 25. A student-faculty-administration group, the organization makes its appeal to MAC students, persons interested in Montreat-Anderson, and people in the surrounding area.

Contributions can be made between November 25 and December 2. Miss Hoyt is serving as faculty sponsor of the SLF. Dr. Stafford heads the administrative side and twenty-three students represent the student body.

The Manderin Cast will play at our Homecoming, which will be a semi-formal at 9:00 p.m. This group is from Hendersonville and they played at our Homecoming last year. They are known for a light show and a psychedelic sound. They played for the ACU I Conference dance, Monday, October 15.