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# Areopagus

Hilltop

the Mars Hill College

Vol. XLVI, No. 9, Mars Hill, N. C., Tuesday, Feb. 22, 1972

In This Issue . . .



Hello,  
In the last Areopagus edition we covered the wonderful world of prejudice. In this issue we hit upon what could be considered one of the inevitable outputs of prejudice--revolution.  
Is revolution a viable solution to the procurement of justice? And when does revolution become "illegal" in a society that claims to be founded on the principle of democracy--especially when democracy means freedom. Can revolution be considered an integral part of that historic phrase. . . "the pursuit of happiness"?

Given the situation of dissatisfaction on the part of students with the college curriculum, they pay good money for an education they have no say about. At that institution they are taught what will be their "trade" for the rest of their life. In the eyes of some administrators, students are not capable of determining the value of valuable/nonvaluable learning. So students continue to learn what the faculty and administrators consider worthwhile. Students are programmed to respond to the system. And this conditioning began in most of us even left grammar school. I am aware of this college campus we have what we consider a radical approach to education, i.e. classrooms without desks. And that's neat, but we will never be able to fully appreciate this concept of learning because we were raised in a restricted educational atmosphere. The idea of "teacher-student, roll-call, perfect attendance, weekly tests, I will now seat you in alphabetical order for the purpose of organization" is ingrained in our skulls. For some, any deviation from the traditional norm is frightening. We were lucky, we didn't have to do a thing. The 4-1-4 was adopted at a faculty workshop (pre-school 1970) and on September that year the curriculum was introduced to the student body through the student newspaper. It was a case of. . .okay, for the next two years we were going to experiment with the educational process, you students like it because it is a good thing. The curriculum was to offer us a more flexible and individualized system instead of the traditional "authoritarian specialized curriculum" we were used to. But who revolutionized the curriculum? The same people usually who teach what goes on in a classroom, the teachers. And in this sense we aren't so revolutionary after all. Has Mars Hill College ever had a sit-in, rally, or anything you want to call a revolutionary act of this kind? Yes. Last year some students literally demanded something be done about the cafeteria service. The year before that there was a sit-in on the

steps of the Administration Building concerning the Kent State killings. But these were minor incidents that more or less went unnoticed.

Some people might classify this break with tradition that the newspaper has made as revolution. And it is in a sense. We weren't happy and so we pursued something we thought was better. Our dream is to make this paper a field of action and if we had to commit "revolution" to achieve this goal, we would and still will. Because we believe in the dream.

We must also remember that revolution doesn't necessarily denote violence. Everyone goes through momentous changes in their lives and that in itself is revolution. Our society has defined revolution as takeover, threat; we have an all-around bad interpretation of the word.

Tell me--what is the difference in saying that the condition of black people has been revolutionized through integration as opposed to the condition of someone's life being revolutionized through Jesus Christ? Both deal with the betterment of humanity, though one does encompass something a little larger.

Our heritage is soaked in violence. Our society began by killing the red man and then eventually enslaving the black man. But is there any good in violence? According to Arthur Schlesinger there is. "Violence secured American independence, freed slaves, and stopped Hitler." But Schlesinger does not advocate violence, but rather scorns it. "Among the great powers in this decade, only America--like Russia, Germany, Italy and Japan of the thirties has made murder a major instrument of politics. . .what kind of people are we, we Americans? The most frightening people on this planet." Peaceful revolution, can it be done? Perhaps if we hammer our swords into plowshares.

*Laine Calloway*

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