

# Violence Lacks Logic

Violence in our nation and world is a cause for great concern not only because of its consequences, but for the underlying problems it poses. Violent action has always been a problem to society, but that does not justify its continuing presence in our "civilized" world. The problems which face the people of all societies can be solved but not through violent means. And those who presume that the end justifies any means used do not realize the lack of logic in such statements.

Not only is the logic distorted, but those who follow such a dogma generally deceive themselves that violence is correct only if it is used to perpetuate their ideologies and not those of their opposition. That is a common belief in our present society and one does not have to look far to find examples or such.

One recent and blatant example was in Chicago, Illinois at the Democratic convention. Many demonstrators came there with different purposes. Some came hoping to influence the delegates to institute both a change in policy and choice of candidates, while others came to show their disgust of the present situation and to disrupt the proceedings. Some came for other varied reasons, while a few came with no planned purpose whatsoever. A certain degree of those who came to protest in Chicago probably did intend to use violence if necessary to obtain their goals, but their numbers can only be speculated about.

The action which occurred between police and demonstrators illustrates how speculation on the protestors' desires was distorted to such a great degree that the events occurred. Many police were taunted and jeered at, spat upon, cursed, and hit by flying missiles. The atmosphere was such that when the first policeman (or policemen) began to beat and take the demonstrators into custody, it is natural to assume that the other police felt justified in using whatever means they deemed necessary in arresting the protestors.

The flurry of controversy following the Chicago melee illustrates how people are separated over the question of violence. There are many other examples of the violent conflicts which abound in our society, but they are far too numerous to recount here. The ques-

tion which should be pondered is, why should people be made to feel that violence is the only way to gain an end? Shouldn't instead, people be shown that intelligent and logical reasoning means more than violent action? Or is this a desire not to be fulfilled, a utopian concept?

It appears that although violence is on the rise, mass media is merely making us more aware of problems which have existed for centuries.

If we would only follow the examples set forth by such non-violent leaders as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, there would be a great drop in violent reaction. It can only be hoped that future generations will use the lessons from the past in order to formulate the future, a non-violent future.

## HIGH LIFE PRESENTS PLAN

As we begin a new school year here at Grimsley, we hope the coming year will be a profitable one for all of us. We on the staff of HIGH LIFE hope that the paper will serve the needs of the student body and will receive student support.

There is always talk of involvement in the school, and it is sometimes difficult to take an interest or give an opinion. Often we feel that our opinions are worthless or that we do not have as much to contribute as another. We hope to provide on the editorial page of HIGH LIFE, a place for everyone's opinions and expressions. These contributions do not necessarily have to be in the form of letters to the editor, but could include any type of creative writing. Few have the exact feelings about things, and surely we cannot hope to reflect the views of everyone. So we encourage differing views.

HIGH LIFE will try to fulfill its purpose as a high school newspaper by representing to the students campus news and activities. Yet, because of the times in which we are living, it is impossible to isolate ourselves from what is occurring outside of campus life. We therefore want to write about issues of concern, both local and on a wider scale which will hopefully give HIGH LIFE'S readers an opportunity to find out what is happening now.

## NEW FAD: POSTERS

The latest fad to hit Grimsley and other Greensboro High Schools is posters.

There are three main types of posters: psychedelic, star, and protest. In many larger cities, especially New York and San Francisco where hippies abound, there are poster shops. In Greensboro many stores that specialize in novelties have good selections of posters.

Psychedelic posters tend to be optical illusions. Some are black and white for sharp contrast, other hot pinks, oranges, fuschias, and yellows that usually fuse or clash. As you look into a spiral poster you seem drawn in, encompassed. This gives the sensation of continuation or eternity. Other mind-blowing posters are formed of checks and wavering lines.

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ALL-AMERICAN HUMOR?

## Some Thoughts About Youth

An article about college students last week stated that the four greatest influences on this generation have been the velocity of history, the electronic revolution, the affluent society, and chronic violence.

The velocity of history is the speeded-up happening of events. Changes occur so quickly and so drastically that things and ideas are obsolete almost as they appear. Today, it is nothing to hear of a heart transplant operation or of a plane crash or of another soldier killed in Vietnam. It is nothing in the sense that we are all prepared for change; have come to expect it. But our lives are so speeded up that we often lose our own identity in this rapid movement.

We all watch television and find it hard to imagine growing up without it. But we are the first children of the television age and the influence it has on our lives is tremendous. Events occurring around the world can be happening "right in our living rooms" via the mass media. Life is there, brought to us in living color and we cannot escape or avoid its realities.

Today, most of us are fairly affluent; that is we can have almost anything we need, within reason. Young people have grown up in affluence and accept it as convenient, but are not overly impressed by it. Affluence is seen not as something to strive for, but as something nice to have with striving for something more important.

The last, and perhaps most important fact, is the abundance of violence of which this generation has become keenly aware. We are the first generation of the nuclear age. We have been witness to, or fought in the war in Vietnam. Racial tension has often resulted in violence and hatred, and three extraordinary and visionary men have been murdered while seeking an end to violence.

A Radcliffe senior said in a commencement prayer, "We do not feel like a cool, swinging generation. We are eaten up by an intensity that we cannot name. Somehow this year, more than others, we have had to draw lines, to try to find an absolute right with which we could identify ourselves. First in the face of the daily killings and draft calls . . . then with the assassinations of Martin Luther King

and Senator Kennedy."

These are many broad generalizations about youth and surely not every young person feels this pressure or tension of living in the world as it is today. But it is obvious that "growing up" and maturing is more complicated today than ever before because of the changing in values, morals, ideals, etc. One can only hope that these problems will serve as challenges to this generation to improve the future for themselves and for everyone.

## School's Open . . . Use Your Head!

Ready for school?

Hopefully you are, because school is ready for you.

And these activities will prepare you for an education that will enable you to make a good living as well as a good life.

**SPEAK**—Express your ideas, but first learn enough to have some ideas. Join the debating club, present talks in class whenever possible, (even when you are scared), and discuss problems with those who know more than you.

**LISTEN**—The ear is as important as the mouth, for it takes two to converse. Be attentive to other speakers, for you want others to be polite and quiet when you speak.

**WRITE**—Anything you present on paper worth reading is worth re-writing. Good compositions are planned. Build with information, make an outline, watch your spelling and punctuation. Get the correspondence habit and themes become easy.

**RESEARCH**—Dig for facts and let them present your point of view. Learn how to use an encyclopedia, dictionary, thesaurus, and the tools of research available in every library.

**INVENT — CREATE — DO — BE — ACT**—Find something you really enjoy. Paint or play football or write stories or sculpt or hike or play an instrument. You are unique. Determine what you can do better than any other student and get ready to excel.

**RELAX**—Enjoy a movie, visit a best friend, go to a dance. Yes, have fun. That is part of attending school, too.

So use your head. Make the most of school, for you are your most important subject.

## HIGH LIFE

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