

Youth Denied Rights

By Mark Langston

Without realizing or understanding it, government and society have repeatedly placed responsibilities on youth without recognizing the rights that go along with these duties.

The best example of this is in the justice system. A person is legally classified as an adult at age 18. However, he can be legally prosecuted as an adult for crimes committed at age 16. Such laws are meant to curb juvenile crime, but statistics indicate that the number of crimes is still rising at ten to twenty percent a year.

Liquor laws are another example. In North Carolina and other states, beer and unfortified wines can be bought at age 18. Fortified alcohol requires an age of 21. But in many other states, no alcohol may be bought until age 19, 20, or 21. The only plausible reason for this is that young adults often do not control their alcohol use. However, neither do older adults. The number of adult alcoholics in this country is now in the tens of millions. Further, the laws have not kept alcohol out of the hands of minors. Youth can get it from a number of sources, including the home.

Society, also, imposes responsibilities on youth without granting ensuing rights and privileges. The most ridiculous example of this is the price of theater tickets. A person must be 18 to see an "adult" movie, yet he must pay adult price at age 12. The easiest solution for this injustice is to price movies according to their ratings; children's movies could be cheapest and adult movies more expensive. The prices would balance out fairly, with theaters making approximately the same profit.

Adults often say that youth must prove itself before rights are granted. Perhaps these adults should take a closer look at both rights and responsibilities before passing judgment and making rules.

Carter To Travel Abroad The Experiment Way

Shaun Elizabeth Carter will be doing herself a favor this summer. Instead of staying in Greensboro all summer and sleeping and swimming, she will be living in Switzerland!

Shaun, a rising senior and daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Larry W. Carter of Greensboro, has been selected to participate in The Experiment in International Living.

Shaun is only in the third level of French at Grimsley, but when her teacher, Mrs. Oakley told the class about "The Experiment in International Living," she (Shaun) was immediately interested.

For two weeks before she goes to Switzerland she will attend a Language Training Camp in Vermont. The main purpose of the camp is to train the students in the social customs of the country where they will be living.

Four weeks, Shaun will be living with a family in Switzerland, speaking their language, participating in the life of their community. Experimenters travel in groups of eight to twelve, led by a qualified and trained young adult familiar with the culture and language of the host country.

At the conclusion of the home stay, the students regroup and, together with young members of host families, tour parts of the country. For 1979, Experimenters could choose from over sixty programs in thirty-one countries in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

In addition to its summer programs, the Experiment conducts semester programs for high school and college students.

Shaun says she is looking forward to the trip and thinks of it as "an experience that could be the most valued thing" she ever does.



"The China Syndrome"

Nightmare Becomes Reality

by Joe Morris

Two weeks ago, the failure of a cooling system at Three Mile Island nuclear power plant threatened Pennsylvania. The unanticipated hydrogen bubble, which formed in the reactor and prevented escape of heat and pressure, gradually shrunk, eliminating the potential of explosion. The threat was thus contained. But the danger did not abate without first rousing suspicions of this temperamental source of power.

"The China Syndrome," a suspenseful film which deals with this subject of ominous pertinence, also raises

doubts about the safety of nuclear energy. Starring real life anti-nuclear activists Jack Lemmon, Jane Fonda, and Michael Douglas, the plot has striking parallels to the real drama which took place in Pennsylvania. Faulty cooling systems are the culprits of both mishaps. And the public was misled regarding the hazards involved in each incident by deceptive euphemisms delivered by PR men. But ironically, the Three Mile Island accident was far more serious than the fictitious occurrence at Ventana Nuclear Plant in California. And, mysteriously, "an area

the size of Pennsylvania" was cited in the movie as what would be rendered permanently uninhabitable by a nuclear accident.

The accident takes place when TV reporter Kimberly Wells, effectively portrayed by Fonda, and her cameraman, played by Douglas (who also directs the movie), are filming an energy documentary at the Ventana plant. In spite of the panicked appearance of the control room crew, the reporters are assured that the vibration which shakes the plant is a routine "event." A hasty Nuclear Regulatory Commission investigation affirms this assertion, and the plant is given the go-ahead to resume operation. Control Room Operator Jack Goodell, however, movingly depicted by Lemmon, discovers cost-cutting defects in construction, and advises that operations cease. What follows is a chilling account of the power struggle between the press, Goodell, and the profit-hungry plant owners.

The movie's conclusion is packed with suspense, but the action building up to it is often slow. However, the objective behind "The China Syndrome" is obviously much more than captivation of an audience; it is a powerful political film which adds to the nation's spreading anti-nuclear sentiment.

Whirlie Pride

In each of the past three years, Grimsley's High I.Q. Team has qualified as one of the eight best in the state, and has twice reached the finals. Excellent instruction and facilities in music and drama compose yet another facet of academic excellence.

Grimsley also has the finest high school campus in North Carolina. The college-type landscape and well-kept grounds are for everyone to appreciate. A new gymnasium and science facilities, complete with a greenhouse, add to Grimsley's advantages. We should be proud to have the largest football and basketball facilities of any 4-A school in the state. John Dewey pool and eight tennis courts also contribute to the welfare of Grimsley students, as well as to the community.

All things considered, I can honestly say that I'm so proud to be a Whirlie!

Alison Pentz



EASTER BONNETS: Students in one of Mrs. Beamer's home economics classes prepare for an Easter parade! [Keith Miller photo]

REVIEW

Rizzo's Back In 'Just Friends'

Remember Rizzo, Sandy's rebellious foil in the movie "Grease?" She's back, but this time on the small screen as Susan Howard, a newly divorced health spa worker in Los Angeles.

The versatile Stockard Channing is now surrounded by four very stereo-typical characters. There is Gerrit Graham as Leonard Scribner, the looney neighbor,

Mimi Kennedy as Victoria, Susan's snooty Beverly Hills sister, Lou Crisculol as Milt D'Angelo, the owner of the "Fountain of Youth" Health Spa (and poster boy for athlete's foot) and Sydney Goldsmith as Susan's "dumb secretary" co-worker.

Although the lines are relatively predictable, Channing's "Groucho Marx" delivery of one-liners and smirky grin allow for some laughs.

While the characters seem a little too familiar, their insanity can create some interesting situations. Perhaps, if given more time, the writers will develop the now shallow characters into

some that are more realistic. The public will become more than "just friends" with the irrepressible Stockard Channing.