

Blevins and Bigelow— two no longer with us

(continued from page 3)

The Greening of a campus is not easy. This is one chapter of a story that is repeated day-after-day. Charlie Sutton was one loss to the unreality of the Administration's viewpoint.

What of Charlie now? He has thought long and hard over his future and plans to announce his decision at a Student Assembly this week. All students should come to ask him about his situation, to hear his view for the future.

It is a great responsibility—sifting through the public statements, private conferences, and individual personalities of the System—and a great task to search for the truth concerning UNCC. You must be diligent, for not everything is as it first appears. The preparation of this story took the large part of an entire summer and it is, as much as possible, a reflective analysis and report of those events and the factors that caused them. As always, when dealing with human motivation and cause/effect questioning, you can only apply the best reason and intellect to considering why humans do what they do and trust that your ability to understand people is somewhat faithful.

The Charlie Sutton case is but one example where the appearance is not the reality; hopefully, this may have clarified the situation for many of you. There still are many unanswered questions, and they may remain so.

You must be the judge. You must keep your mind in working order and your thoughts clear. We must be prepared to fight for what we believe—and part of that belief is that the future of UNCC rests with its students.

There may be the day when you are the victim, like Charlie, of unspoken, unrealized mental genocide.

The topic of faculty rights came up and I asked him specifically about the Dave Blevins case. (Dave Blevins called off his classes at UNCC in November, 1969 while participating in an End-The-War Moratorium. He was subsequently fired by the University for violation of the Disruption Policy.) Dr. Vermillion answered quite readily:

"In the first place, myself, the AAUP, and a large part of the faculty were in opposition to the Disruption Policy originally and, therefore, were in opposition to the firing of Dave Blevins. I feel as though we (the faculty) had a duty to protect our rights as citizens and free moral agents and take action in support of Dave Blevins; however, the faculty found an 'out.' Dave was technically a member of the UNC-Chapel Hill faculty since he was teaching an extension course at UNCC. So, the faculty here just said, 'Let the Chapel Hill Faculty worry about it.' Again, I don't feel that the faculty (UNCC) did their duty."

Dr. Vermillion exhibited a display of subtlety when we talked about the dismissal (failure to renew contract) of Bill Bigelow. (Bill Bigelow, Instructor in Political Science, was dismissed

this year technically because he failed to complete his Ph.D. within the allotted time. However, it is widely known that he was politically active both locally and nationally and was considered by some to be a radical political scientist.) Vermillion commented:

"The question involved here is that of tenure and the interpretation of the rules governing it. Technically, the action taken against Bill Bigelow went by the 'letter of the law,' now, the 'spirit of the law' is something else. It boils down to this: a tenured instructor cannot be arbitrarily dismissed; an untenured instructor is subject to all kinds of arbitrary decisions. Of course, the inherent danger in this sort of system is that the body of tenured professors is very likely to become merely a group of 'yes-men' for the administration."

In concluding the interview, I asked Dr. Vermillion if he could foresee any major confrontations or crucial problems concerning academic freedom in UNCC's future: "No, not in the sense that there is a dictator on this campus, or anything like that; however, I do see much potential danger in Raleigh, concerning the proposed re-structuring of Higher Education. This is not to say that the effort toward re-structuring is not warranted; however, the state legislators must be very careful when considering these proposals that they do not make the mistake of allowing the N.C. Higher Education system to

become more susceptible to political control or influence. This must be avoided."

The Committee for Student Rights of the AAUP-UNCC exists in an effort to help protect the student and his rights at UNCC. Dr. John Robbins, Chairman of the committee, Dr. Vermillion, or Dr. Mays (current president of the AAUP-UNCC) can be contacted by any student who feels that his or her rights have been violated. Dr. Vermillion indicated that the committee would attempt to help in any way possible.

BITCH BOX

Dear Bitch Box:

So far I've only been to UNCC for two weeks and for each day I've been here I've got at least one new door-chip on the side of my car and a long scratch and dent from my right rear wheel to the bumper. Have the 49er's got no consideration for others cars? Did they get their licenses at K-Mart? Come-on people and try.

Depressed,
Joe Skipper

P.S.

If you work for Earl Schieb's disregard this letter.

campus

calendar

A Trip to Nassau during the semester break (January 3-7) has been planned for UNCC students and personnel. The cost is \$198.00. For more information, pick up an application blank at the University Center Info Desk.

Catholic Services will be held each Sunday beginning Sept. 12, at 1:00 p.m. in Room U-231 of the University Center

(Campus Calendar notices may be sent to the Journal, c/o University Center. Keep items brief. Items will be run once, space permitting, and may be edited for conciseness.)

... AND ALL THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE EAT AT HARY'S, AND THE PLACE TO GET YOUR CLOTHES IS THE GOOD WILL; THAT'S A GAS. NOW FOR CHIKS, AND YOU LISTEN TO ME BABY, 'CAUSE I'M HIP, YOU GO TO THE ART CLASSES. THOSE BIRDS BLOW THEIR MINDS ON THE POETRY-WINE-WOODS SCENE. NOW YOUR BEST MAJOR, SWEETIE, IS PSYCH 'CAUSE WITH ALL THAT INTER-RELATING AND ALL, THEY SWING MAN, I MEAN, THEY SWING! AND LOOK, KID, ABOUT BREAD: DON'T FOOL AROUND. KEEP A HUNDRED DOLLARS IN NCNB AND WRITE FREE CHECKS. NO SERVICE CHARGES AND ALL THAT JAZZ. IT GIVES YOU A FEW EXTRA BILLS A MONTH TO...



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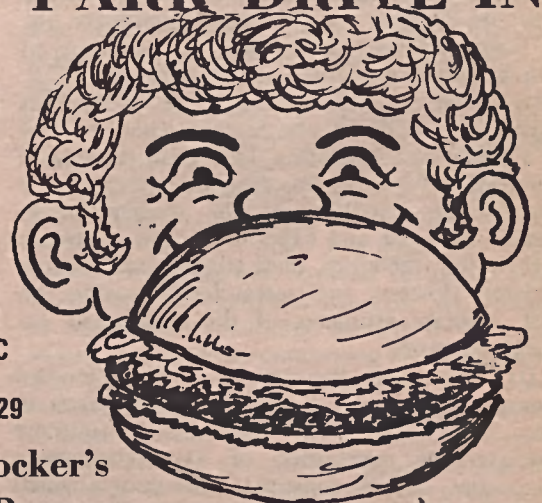
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