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Editorial

'In The Name Of Freedom'

Many of the events hashed over in the following letter have been long hidden from the public eye. Other incidents have been virtually hidden by insignificant mention in the public press.

For these reasons, and for the reason that the ideas expressed are of such great significance to all agencies of the University and to the state, and indeed, to the nation, we are publishing this letter as a front page editorial, expressing the official policy of this newspaper.—Editor
Madam Editor:

I wish to take this opportunity to comment on your editorial of Tuesday morning and the dangers to which it called attention.

For the past few years I have viewed with the greatest alarm a creeping intellectual paralysis that has come to grip the American educational community. This paralysis finds its roots in fear and conformity generated by the nature of the cold war. In our efforts to combat the grave menace posed by the actions of Soviet Russia, we have allowed ourselves to become the prisoners of a doctrine of negativism, which has led us to repudiate the historic principles for which we claim to be fighting.

Under the guise of anti-communism we have allowed professional patriots and opportunistic politicians to equate change with communism, and dissent with disloyalty. Paradoxically, this nation, which was once known because of its belief in freedom, as the country where a permanent peaceful revolution was continually taking place, to extend the benefits of the "good life" to more and more, has abandoned its historic role in favor of becoming a nation in which a premium is placed upon conformity and advocacy of the status quo. No segment of American life has managed to remain untouched by the growing notion that to conform is the proper—and safe—thing to do.

Our schools and colleges have manifested the most serious case of this illness—the very place where it can be least tolerated.

INTIMIDATION PREVAILS

During the past few years, through my association with the U.S. National Students Association and the National Commission for UNESCO, I have seen at close range the disastrous effects of such practices as loyalty oaths, bans on speakers, the outlawing of student political groups, the prohibition of text books, the political phenomenon known as "McCarthyism," and the intimidation of students and faculty members who did not conform to the majority view.

The effect has been to stifle free thought and discussion—to make people afraid to think on their own and doubly afraid to act on their own. Political curiosity of mature men has been seriously reduced through fear of joining political organizations or of signing petitions, and we have come to parrot, as would children, the majority view.

In short, our generation has come to be known as "the generation of jelly fish" (in the Wisconsin Cardinal), or the "silent generation" (Time Magazine), or the "fearful generation" (NY Times.)

For a long time, I used to compliment myself that the University of North Carolina, with its long-standing tradition of freedom and Tar Heel common sense, had been able to weather this storm relatively unscathed. Gradually, however, I came to see that such was not the case. On the contrary, what has been taking place here in the last few years is in many ways much more insidious than that which has been happening at other colleges—more insidious because it operates largely under-cover and in silence.

INSIDIOUS PRACTICES

I think the time has come to make public many of the insidious practices that have so cleverly laid low our once-cherished intellectual independence in the hope that we can better understand and combat these forces by first identifying them. I offer the following observations to which I have given serious thought during the last several months.

(1) The post-war years have seen a marked and shocking decline in the political interest and consciousness of the student body. Much of this is due to what can be termed "normal" apathy, but this apathy has grown to such huge proportions that one must look elsewhere in order to understand and ascertain the significance of the decline of such organizations as the Carolina Political Union, the International Relations Club, the Collegiate Council of the United Nations, and the Students for Democratic Action.

Several National organizations have looked into this problem extensively and have found a direct correlation between the growing apathy and the tendency toward fear and conformity. Students whose views are substantially to the left of Robert A. Taft or Joe McCarthy are strongly reticent to identify themselves with organizations which may later turn up on the lists of an SBI or an FBI agent—and several non-partisan organizations have appeared on such lists.

(See "IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM", page 2)

Two State Department Officials To Speak Today At International Relations Meet

Dr. Richard H. Heindel, deputy director, UNESCO Relations staff, U.S. State Department, and John A. Hamilton, Office of Public Affairs, State Department, will be among principal speakers at the one-day Conference on International Relations to be held here today.

Dr. Heindel will give and ad-

dress on "Learning and World Peace" at the opening morning session at 11 o'clock in Gerrard hall, and Hamilton will discuss "Freedom and Security—Aims of U.S. Foreign Policy" at an 8 p.m. session.

Also addressing the evening session will be Dr. R. J. McMollen, Chapel Hill, former president of

Hangchow Christian College, China, and Centre College in Kentucky, who will discuss "American Imperialism in the Far East?"

President Gordon Gray will extend a welcome, and Mrs. Grady E. Kirkman, Greensboro, chairman of the Department of International Relations of the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs, will preside.

Group discussions on U. S. foreign policy throughout the world will be held during the afternoon, beginning at 2 p. m., with the following moderators and topics: Lt. Col. Mark T. Orr, professor of air science in the AF ROTC unit, the Far East; Claude T. Shotts, University YMCA Secretary, Near East; Dr. Eugene E. Pfaff, Woman's College, Greensboro, Western Europe; Dr. S. E. Leavitt, UNC professor of Spanish, the Americas; and Russell M. Grumman, director, University Extension Division, who will preside over a panel to summarize the Conference and make recommendations.

Preceding the evening session, there will be a demonstration of the first in a series of film forums on world affairs to be held at 7 p. m., with Dwight C. Rhyne, University Extension Division, as moderator.

The Conference, second to be held, is arranged by the University Extension Division, with the following organizations participating; N. C. Federation of Women's Clubs, State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs, Southern Council on International Relations, State Division of the American Association of University Women, N. C. Congress of Parents and Teachers, N. C. Diocese of the Episcopal Women's Auxiliary, State Baptist Women's Missionary Union, second district of Altrusa International, State Nurses Association, and the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the North Carolina Methodist Conference.

Greater Religious Emphasis Needed Says Prof Fairchild

A noted English scholar told a group of faculty members and students last night that he believed "the only final solution for the predicament of modern man" lies in a greater emphasis on religion.

Dr. Noxie Neale Fairchild, professor of English in Hunter College, N. Y., declared, in an address in Gerrard hall, that "bad as the present situation certainly is, there is reason to believe that American higher education has already begun to rediscover the fact that the only way to preserve human values is to affirm religious values.

"From year to year the progress may seem to be very slow," he said, "but those of you who can look back with me over a considerable time will agree that some astonishing changes have taken place, and that the rate of change has grown more rapid of recent years."

Dr. Fairchild, who was introduced by Dr. A. F. Hudson of the University English department, was sponsored by the Inter-Faith Council, student organi-

zation, and the English department.

Referring to the joint sponsorship, Dr. Fairchild said "30 or even 15 years ago, nobody would have been invited to the University of North Carolina or anywhere else through the cooperation of the Inter-Faith Council and the Department of English. In the old days the Council would not have known what to do with a scholar, and the Department would have shrunk with horror from anyone who would have been acceptable to the Council."

Taking "Religion and the College Teacher" as his subject, Dr. Fairchild, who described his specialty as the impact of religious ideas upon English poetry, said he believed the changes towards more religious emphasis in the colleges "indicate a trend in the direction of positive supernaturalistic religion. This trend, of course, is the academic phase of the general religious revival which has recently become so marked in the western world as a whole. And I emphasize that the university not only moulds but reflects its environment."

He said that the task of the free American institutions of higher learning "is to foster all that is genuine in this religious trend and at the same time resist all that is spurious in it.

"I do not advocate the transformation of college teaching into an aggressively evangelistic campaign of indoctrination," Dr. Fairchild said. "I merely urge, on behalf of the rapidly increasing number of scholars who desire a fair hearing for Christianity in higher education, that the right to teach from a religious point of view stands on exactly the same footing as the right to teach non-religiously or anti-religiously. It is wholly legitimate for the teacher to give religion all the importance which it actually possesses for the study of a given subject, to engage freely but temperately in classroom discussion of pertinent religious questions, to make it plain that he possesses a religion, and to state what that religion is."

A luncheon meeting will be held for Prof. Fairchild today at one o'clock in the club room of the Carolina Inn. Reservations for this meeting may be made at the YWCA office today. Places for 150 persons will be accepted.

Tonight he will lead a seminar on the religious aspects of English literature at the Lutheran church social room.

Team Departs For Debates

Ken Myers, Bob Clampitt and Bob Evans leave this afternoon for Boston, Mass. to participate in an invitational debate tournament.

Evans will represent the University as an extemporaneous speaker, while Myers and Clampitt will debate both sides of the question: Resolved that the federal government should adopt a permanent program of wage and price control.

James M. Parrish of the University's school of economics will act as judge at the debate.

The University debate team will meet with 30 other major teams from all sections of the nation. North Carolina placed fourth in the last tournament in Boston.

Want Your Room?

Today is the last opportunity for men wishing to retain their dormitory room for the spring quarter to sign the lists now in the hands of dormitory advisors.

Residents failing to initial the lists today will lose their room assignment for next quarter, according to Housing Director James E. Wadsworth.

It is the responsibility of each dormitory resident to contact the advisor and initial the list, Wadsworth said.

Wallenborn Recital Set For Tonight

One of the world's leading accompanists, Robert Wallenborn, will give a recital in Hill hall tonight at 8:30.

Wallenborn, American pianist and lecturer on music, has assisted Mary Garden, Richard Bonelli, and Helen Jepson. He is noted for his interpretations of the works of modern composers.

The program will include compositions by Debussy, Ravel, and Stravinsky.

A graduate of the American Conservatory of Music, Chicago, and the University of Chicago, Wallenborn studied in Leipzig under Max Pauer and in Berlin with George Bertram. After World War II, he served with the American Army of Occupation in Vienna and also gave many concerts.

The public is invited.