## The Daily Tar Heel

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By Henry Bowers

## **Presidential Memo**

Since Dick Murphy's letter to the editor appeared last Thursday in the Daily Tar Heel there has been much comment about the state of academic freedom on this campus by both faculty and students. The despictable activities of the Clark brothers were known to many, and many refused to take them seriously because they were so outrageous-their insinuations so far removed from truth. These men have been working for quite some time and have caused much undue bother for members of this University. It would seem that the time has come for the officials of the University to take a public stand against such tactics and those who employ such tactics.

It is very strange that such men as the Clark brothers were elected to the Boar I of Trustees, an honor, of which they have certainly shown themselves undeserving. Their actions since becoming members of the Board should prove to those who might have felt that this was a good way to make them more responsible that such a move is rarely wise.

We must not, however, let the activities of the Clark brothers obscure from our view the other and more important failures of the University to protect freedom of thought and expression.

One such failure is the political questionnaire used in employment of faculty, which is aninsidious thing and will continue to hurt the University as



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VILLAGE BARTE CHOP long as it is used.

Chancellor House has said in a statement released to the state press that no person has been fired from this University for political reasons since the Civil War, It would seem logical to suppose then that political beliefs are not the basis for firing personnel and that if this is so then political beliefs ought not be a factor in the hiring of personnel: Why then the political questionnaire? It is a strange waste of ink, I believe that it is unrealistic to assume that a person who is a member of a communist dominated organization is de facto an agent of a foreign power. It has become a truism to say that a communist would gladly perjure himself on such a question. He would have two motives for doing so: 1, He wished to spread propaganda to pervert the minds of his students and 2, He wished to teach. If he does perjure himself and is accepted as a teacher and his membership or former membership in a communist

cause he has lied, not because of his lack of ability as a teacher, or, strictly speaking, because of his political beliefs.

The great disadvantage, however, is the atmosphere of nondeviance which the questionnaire and the attitude that goes with it create. This amosphere urges the acceptance of the status quo, lets sleeping dogs hie and encourages complacency.

A student must, of necessity, approach questions of nation or statewide import in an academic manner. If the student sees his fellow student questioned in a rather peculiar manner by counter-intelligence men, attacked by members of the Board of Trustees and hears stories of job opportunities lost because of membership in certain organizations, then he is likely not to concern himself with problems which are presently or potenially controversial, thereby losing a valuable part of his education.

In a forward to a forthcoming book about Dr. Horace Williams, Dr. Frank Graham says of his former teacher, "It is good to hear the overtones of the selfreliant mind of him who would still inspire individuals to think for themselves; to stand, if necessary, alone for the right, as God gives to each individual in his consciousness of the universal to see the right-It was his teaching to generations of youth to place reason above prejudice, conscience above position and power, leadership above price, idealism above mechanisms, and religion and the most precious things of the human spirit beyond science and the things of the world."

Horace Williams is dead. Can it be that in Chapel Hill his spirit is dying too?

ganda to pervert the minds of his students and 2, He wished to teach. If he does perjure himself and is accepted as a teacher and his membership or former membership in a communist dominated group is discovered he supposedly will be fired be-

## "ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL PICTURES OF THIS YEAR!"

-N.Y. Post Home News



## Letters to the Editor

Madam Editor:

Your editorial on academic freedom at Carolina was long overdue, but its obvious truth is due compensation.

It will be interesting to observe the faculty response (if any) to such a challenge. Surely they cannot deny that the blight of McCarthyism has touched our campus. They must recognize the atmosphere of fear and doubt that is evident, but will they openly consider any solutions to this threat?

within the last year we have seen faculty members shy away from any position on the Negro admissions to Carolina. We have also noticed a marked decline of speakers on this campus in any sense controversial. Senator but he does work for the government and is a Republican, so he is cleared of doubt. Since the John Gates incident of 1948, we have been recruited by militarists such as Generals Mark Clark and Bradley. This year,

only the YMCA has stepped out and brought a controversial figure here and that was Oscar Ewig. He did not speak at the med school though, did he? Perhaps the legislature and American Medical Association would brand UNC as Socialist if he did.

'ligeral' administration have to say for instance, if we invited Owen Lattimore, Ralph Bunche, Norman Thomas, or even Frank Graham now, to speak here . . . I wender?

Maybe we had better stick to Billy Graham and Senator Taft. They are white, Anglo-Saxon, Protestants . . . or are they? Robert Johnson

but he does work for the government and is a Republican, so apparent physical handicaps, he is cleared of doubt. Since Children with speech, heart, vithe John Gates incident of 1948, sual and hearing impairments we have been recruited by miliare "crippled" too. Help make tarists such as Generals Mark them have full, productive lives, Clark and Bradley. This year, by giving to the Campus Chest.



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