

Editor's Corner

# Chessman And Death

David B. Young

This is a column written about Cecil Chessman and the cruel concept of capital punishment. I am writing this column on Thursday afternoon, at a time when Chessman has little more than 19 hours left to live. I do not know if Chessman's life will be spared again, as it has been so many times in the past 12 years. I do not believe, and according to the news releases have every right to do so, that Chessman will have been dead for a number of days by the time you ever read this. I hope that he won't. Regardless of what happens on Friday morning, I am sure he will not be affected in the least by the lack of news and feelings behind him. I never hear of him.

Thus, I'm in the long list of those who have thought the 1958 protest of the death of one man to take another's life. I protest that murder but just as vehemently against society's right to take the murderer's life. For as long as capital punishment is what we use for our most serious crimes, as despite the fact as a murder itself.

The case of Cecil Chessman is one which did not involve murder. He did not kill anybody. He was convicted on 17 counts including robbery and attempted rape. So even if the reader can honestly condone an execution in any case, he cannot in this particular instance support the taking of Chessman's life. Chessman himself did not take a life. Since 1948, he has lived on death row awaiting, as all men must, but not in this manner, his eventual death. During this time, he has never altered his testimony, still denying his guilt. He has written three outstanding books. He has convinced thousands, even millions, not of his innocence, but his right to live.

He has convinced me. Even if he had murdered, I would still believe that society has no right to take his life in return. For just as Chessman must eventually answer for those crimes he has committed, so must each of us seek salvation from a higher being. And the death of Chessman, should he be taken to the gas chamber, is a crime by society for which we all must answer. No one of us may wash our hands of guilt, for it is our society of which we are an integral part, which is responsible for permitting capital punishment.

I cannot conclude without commenting on the repulsive manner with which our American newspapers have handled the Chessman case. The news pages have been filled with illiterate garbage about his last hours. They have made a curiosity of him, a public spectacle, just as they did when John Foster Dulles was approaching his last days. They have seemingly forgotten that Chessman is a human being, and as such is deserving of human kindness. When I read some of the stories of Chessman, I am sorry that I am a newsman.

We have forgotten the great teachings of our various religions. The purpose of our penal institutions should be corrective not punitive. He who has made a mistake should be taught otherwise, not killed as if he were an animal. We talk of the wonderful and advanced American society. In reality it is the greatest collection of worthless gadgets man has ever invented. It has forgotten love, understanding and compassion. And until it finds them again, it will never be great.

THOU SHALT NOT KILL.

## Be My Valentine

1. The nation is at war.
2. The nation is losing the war badly.
3. The nation must exert a vastly greater effort.

## The Daily Tar Heel

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## Reader's Repository

Editor:  
 The ridiculous nonsense in Wednesday's D.H. by P. W. Carlton "The Campus Is A War" is the sort of logic, assembly I have come to expect of this individual. He carried this newspaper to depths never before fathomed, even by the Daily Tarheel, in his latest display of abominable foul language as an insult, not only to our intelligence, but also to the purity of the Carolina Creed, as something, a thing ends.

Now is this diet the only a lot more or less successful to alienate the world? Personally, he alienated his girl, a sweet thing, by referring to "dang-colored eyes with face-on-collars." She owns a copy of this description. Now he writes "Things are bad all over" while looking at a picture of her in a bathing suit. "The noble Carolina gentleman is here with the prime pupae in mind of eating, drinking and savoring women." How does one finish a woman?

"You're dealing with green young man," I, for one, am not green, not even a pale chartreuse. "Fish to be hooked." A fine way to talk about Carolina gentlemen: "The large male population breeds..." Dangerous words, Mr. Carlton.

"Marriage is necessary for propagation and..." That's ridiculous and I can prove it!

And how can we steal their panties under the circumstances?

It's all right to run down the Creeds, Mr. Carlton, but let's not get carried away and slight the men too.

Joe Vann

Editor,  
 The Daily Tarheel  
 Editor:

Mr. P. W. Carlton is bitter and guilty as sin.

A Smiling Creed

Dear Mr. Young,

Students here at the University are under the impression that they live under an honor system, one in which they are placed upon their honor not to lie, cheat, or steal. They are expected to live by the rules drawn up by the students themselves and not have to be watched and proctored everywhere they go. This, I fear, is not the case at all in some places on this campus. It has come to the point that in Wilson Library students have to submit, to inspection of all books that they are carrying before they can get from one room to another in the library... the attendants give one that calculating, cold look as if you are trying to steal the entire library. If you don't submit to their inspection, they tell you that they are violating the Honor System! This has actually happened. As if one's word is not enough in a place in which the individual is supposed to be respected.

If we are not going to take another student's word, then let us be honest with ourselves and admit that the Honor System only works in some buildings on this campus and not in all of them. Perhaps it doesn't work in any of them. If it doesn't, then we would be more honest and truthful and do away with such a system. To live under a system that bases itself on honesty and then not to be honest under that system is an even greater sin than having the system that doesn't base its benefits on honesty. The line should be drawn somewhere.

Kendall

## Gems of Thought

Anyone is entitled to an opinion, but no one has a right to be wrong in relation to the facts.  
 —Bernard Baruch

The opinions of men cannot be substituted for God's revelation.  
 —Mary Baker Eddy

Public opinion, though often formed upon a wrong basis, yet generally has a strong underlying sense of justice.  
 —Abraham Lincoln

Stay at home in your mind. Don't recite other people's opinions.  
 —Ralph Waldo Emerson

To force opinion is like pushing the magnetized needle round until it points to where we wish the North Star stood.  
 Dorothy C. Fisher

## "But This I Will Tell You — The Fellow Who Lived Here Eight Years Ago Is To Blame"



## Perspectives By Yardley

Jonathan Yardley

Perhaps the most disturbing factor in student-administration relations at U.N.C. is the advisor system. Seemingly based on the fundamental precept that the student is aware of the workings of the University and is able to conduct his own curriculum within their framework, this system allows for a minimal amount of higher level guidance for the student.

The University schedule is an incredibly complicated mass of hours, numbers and courses which could only be deciphered by a trained expert in microfilm or early Egyptian symbols. Nevertheless the student is expected to be able to find his way through this morass of confusion and come out with a schedule of courses suited to his intellectual and departmental requirements. This is not possible without some form of advisory help which offers more than mere lip service.

The fault for this mess cannot be laid to the advisors themselves. Although there are a number of men serving in an advisory capacity who obviously have little concern for the individual student, there are more who give the impression that they are harassed by this impossible situation as the students themselves.

The fault must be placed within the administration of the University for seemingly failing to realize that thoughtful and considerate guidance is as important to a college student as to a high schooler. The system, which places the number of advisees per advisor at a fantastic ratio, does not allow positive counseling; it gives the individual advisor room only to approach the student's problem from a negative point of view: "This is what you cannot do and this is what, by the Grace of God, you can do."

Princeton University has an admirable system of advising wherein individual faculty members have no more than seven or eight students under their personal surveillance. These men are more than academic signposts to the student, telling him where he may and may not go; they are friends, willing to suggest, counsel and mediate. They pro-

vide mature moderation for the sometimes bewildered collegian.

There are disadvantages to this system, and they would be particularly difficult to overcome. The primary one is that every faculty member would have to participate in the program so that it might be effective. The student-faculty ratio here is eight to one, and a good advisor cannot establish a close rapport with many more than eight students. At the same time, few teachers here live very near the campus, which makes it difficult for the student to contact them in emergency situations or for quick consultation. A family man cannot be expected to devote an abnormal amount of time to matters out of the home, and teachers are in positions which require a great amount of away from the office work anyway.

Despite these disadvantages, the above-mentioned system is one which goes to make a better University. Princeton and its students have undoubtedly benefited from the program, and there can be little doubt that the same would be true at Chapel Hill. A student who is given fifteen minutes a semester with a busy man who cannot devote the time to learn his name is not going to feel close to the University's administration, and he is probably going to end up taking a curriculum which does not suit his basic interests because no one has had the time to sit down with him and give him a realistic view of the courses themselves and their relationship to him.

It is not going to be easy to devise a program which will satisfactorily replace the present one, but it must be done. We cannot continue to exist in a vacuum which separates us from the University and the faculty. Some students have been fortunate enough to establish friendships with individual instructors who have helped them with their academic planning, but far less than the majority are included in this group. If we expect to get the full benefit of a University education we must ask the University to give us a little more help in learning the ways to get those all-important benefits.

## More Sit-Down

(UPS) — "If we can stand up and be served, why can't we sit down and be served?" asked one Negro coed at North Carolina College Durham, verbalizing the thought that had first stirred action in a Greensboro, N. C. variety store two weeks ago, and by last Friday had sparked a movement which had spread to 9 cities in 4 states.

It all began at 4:45 p.m., February 1, when four freshmen from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College in Greensboro entered an F. W. Woolworth store in the heart of Greensboro. They bought a few articles, then sat down at the lunch counter for a snack.

According to New York Times dispatches, the following conversation ensued. The students said they were approached by a Negro kitchen woman who said, "You know you're not supposed to be in here." She later called them "ignorant" and a "disgrace" to their race.

The students then asked a white waitress for coffee.

"I'm sorry but we don't serve colored here," they quoted her. "I beg your pardon," said Franklin McCain, 18, of Washington, "you just served me at a counter two feet away. Why is it that you serve me at one counter and deny me at another. Why not stop serving me at all the counters?"

The four students sat, coffeeless, until the store closed at 5:30 p.m. Then, hearing that they might be prosecuted, they went to the executive committee of the Greensboro NAACP to ask advice. NAACP President, George C. Simpkins contacted the New York office of Congress on Racial Equality (CORE); since he had heard of their successful attempt to desegregate a Baltimore restaurant, and CORE's field secretary Gordon R. Garey arrived in Greensboro the next day.

The Greensboro demonstration triggered off a number of similar demonstrations throughout the South. The movement's chief targets were two national variety chains, S. H. Kress and Co. and the F. W. Woolworth & Co. stores. Other chains were effected too, however, and in some cities the students demonstrated at local stores.

According to New York Times reporters, protests followed similar patterns. Students entered the stores and requested food service. They met refusals in all cases and remained at the lunch counters in silent protest.

The reaction of store managers in such instances was to close down lunch counters and, when trouble developed or bomb threats were received, the entire store. Both Greensboro variety stores received bomb threats and closed down last Saturday.

Hastily painted signs, posted on the counters read: "Temporarily Closed," "Closed for Repairs," "Closed in the Interest of Public Safety," "No Trespassing," and "We Reserve the Right to Service the Public As We See Fit."

After a number of establishments had shut down in High Point, N. C., the S. H. Kress & Co. store remained open, its lunch counter desegregated. The secret? No stools.

The demonstrations attracted crowds of whites. At first the hecklers were youths with duck-tailed haircuts. Some carried small Confederate battle flags. Later they were joined by older men in faded khakis and overalls.

## Larkin And The Issues

Editor:  
 (The following letter is written by University student John Alley in answer to the Jim Crowover letter which appeared in the Daily Tar Heel Editor's Corner on February 16, 1960.)

As one who respects Mr. Crowover a great deal, I hesitate to write a reply of this nature, but I realize that the public record must speak for itself, and this is my sole purpose so that University students will not be confused.

Mr. Crowover writes: "The discussion of money and the need thereof is a mere hazing of the issue which can accomplish nothing beyond clouding the goals of the state and confusing us, the voters." My reply, as distasteful as it may be, is that it takes money to provide governmental services for the people, whether we like it or not. Mr. Larkins has said: "Nothing is more important than raising the income level of our people."

It may be true that most Governors have had a "pet project"; however it is also true that all appropriations for "pet projects" or other projects must be approved by the General Assembly of North Carolina as is provided for in Article II, Section 14 of the North Carolina State Constitution. As a veteran of 18 years in the N. C. State Senate, Mr. Larkins would most likely be able to work closely with that branch of government in which he has served so well. Working closely with the State Assembly of North Carolina is most important due to the fact that the Governor of North Carolina does not have the veto power over legislation as do the Governors of the other states.

Mr. Crowover said: "Mr. Larkins has not declared any issue or issues and has not spoken out either in favor or against anything as yet."

To set the record straight, I would like to quote from the Greensboro Daily News of January 21, 1960, under the title — "Larkins Favors Race For Governor of North Carolina — Program Outlined."

It said, "Larkins' radio-TV speech reviewed many of the comments he has made in recent appearances around the state. He said his platform would include these planks and possibly additional items."

It went on to quote Larkins as saying the following things about some of our problems:

"Consider the recent cut in welfare aid to our aged and sick. Consider the needs of our schools and the very pressing need for increasing the pay of our teachers and highway and state employees. Consider the very great need to improve our highway system and to help our farmers increase their income. Consider the need to help our cities and towns with their slum clearance problems. These are money problems and they must be met by raising the income level of the people of this state. Of all the states in the United States, North Carolina ranks fourth in the percentage of the tax dollar spent on education. However, the average expenditure per pupil among the states is \$325. North Carolina is spending about \$240 per pupil. To me that indicates that the will is there, but the money isn't."

WELFARE — "Recently the state was forced to make a cut in the money it paid to our aged and to our sick under the welfare program. This was a heartbreaking experience to everybody concerned. I pledge myself to the job of procuring an adequate welfare program in North Carolina."

PRISONS — "Our prisons are no stronger than their guards and our real shortcomings are reflected in the fact that our guards are badly underpaid and badly overworked."

SLUM CLEARANCE — "Slums can effectively kill a city... The State of North Carolina can render a valuable service to all of its citizens by establishing an agency that can guide the cities along the path of slum clearance."

AGRICULTURE — "Improved roads would help us attract food processing industries... I think we can take a lesson from our industrial education centers, using existing personnel and existing buildings to acquire larger numbers of our farmers with modern marketing methods, business practices and production techniques."

I would like to conclude by saying John D. Larkins Jr. has been gaining practical experience in North Carolina for the last quarter of a century. Among his positions have been President Pro Tempore of the State Senate, member of all standing Senate Committees. He was chairman of the State Democratic Party from 1954-1958 and has been the Democratic National Committeeman since 1958. He was Chairman of the Advisory Budget Commission and Board of Awards for two terms.

In my opinion, Mr. Larkins knows the potential of our state, and above all, he knows the need of every section of North Carolina.

John G. Alley  
 Member of "Students Good Government"  
 Advocating John D. Larkins for Governor



by SCHULZ

by KELLY