

The Daily Tar Heel

In its sixty-ninth year of editorial freedom, unhampered by restrictions from either the administration or the student body.

THE DAILY TAR HEEL is the official student publication of the Publications Board of the University of North Carolina.

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American Press, I:

"There is less a disposition to accept what newspapers say than to try to estimate the probable truth on the basis of what they say, like aiming a rifle that you know has a deviation to the right."

This is A. J. Liebling's view of public acceptance of American newspapers, as presented in his book THE PRESS, published last fall. Liebling is a columnist for the New Yorker magazine and author of two previous books on the press.

He points out what everybody knows and few people worry about: the lack of newspaper competition, leading to a drastic reduction in "the number and variety of the voices speaking to the public through the press" (from England's Royal Commission named to investigate the condition of the press.)

In the United States this lack of competition has led to a condition where the press is overwhelmingly Republican, conservative, anti-labor, anti-foreigner, and often afraid to be outspoken, to take any risks at all.

This situation is a potential danger to American democracy, which is based on the education and awareness of the people. The press has a vital role in creating this awareness and improving the quality of the education.

Thomas Jefferson has been quoted (accurately) as saying he would prefer a nation to have newspapers without a government, than a government without newspapers. He was emphasizing the importance he placed on "the opinion of the people," on freedom of information and public awareness of the activities of government.

This public awareness now is threatened, not by a congressional act or presidential order, but by the willful self-censorship and partial news-editorial degeneracy of news-

papers themselves.

Most newspapers give adequate, often exceptional, coverage of local and national news events. Local news staffs have grown while international correspondents have become rarer. But editorially the U. S. press remains lopsidedly Republican (over 80 per cent of American dailies endorsed Richard Nixon for President in the 1960 election, according to the American Newspaper Publisher's Association) and overwhelmingly pro-business and anti-labor.

It is not unnatural that newspaper publishers, who are themselves big businessmen, should favor business in its fight with labor, but it is disturbing that the sentiment should be so one-sided.

"No newspaper anywhere in the nation," said Liebling, "has had a kind word for the working man since about 1936—on this point the press is not lopsided, but unilateral, monolithic, solidary and unanimous."

Concerning the Republican hold on the press Liebling said, "Mr. Nixon, after the last campaign, charged that reporters were telling the truth behind their bosses' backs, but this was so inherently improbable that nobody took him seriously."

Most newspapers are wary about whose feet get tread upon in other areas. "Civil rights" is a great rallying cry for Northern editors . . . a magnificent crusade—just as long as the crusade is in deepest darkest Alabama and not in New York City or Chicago.

These Northern editors remember that, as Liebling said, "The function of the press in society is to inform, but its role is to make money"—to make money by not making anyone mad. (jc)

(This is the first of a three-part editorial series on the American press.)

Religion 93

Too often we hear students moan about having to sit through uninteresting lectures in the heat of a Chapel Hill spring. Quite often we know exactly what they mean.

But the unjustifiable tendency is towards forgetting the number of good classes that we attend, and only mentioning those that habitually drag. There are those courses

in which a straight lecture and note-taking procedure is the only feasible means of covering the subject matter, but they are not, by definition, boring classes.

A good majority of the classes on the upper college level are made interesting by practiced and polished lecture presentations. But the stimulating lectures are often detracted from by the necessity of taking voluminous notes. And quite often the opportunities for class discussions are severely limited by the straight "lecture" procedure.

Yet, there are still those courses, which occasionally fit into your schedule, in which an actual open forum prevails.

In Religion 93, Christianity and Interpretations of History, such is the case. The material is interesting, and everyone has read up on all assignments, prior to attending the classes in which a particular topic is to be discussed. Usually everyone has some ideas about what he has read that he wants to hash over in the class when he's given the opportunity. And most often, he is given the opportunity, consequently, stimulating class discussion is the rule rather than the exception.

Any course that stimulates thought, welcomes questions, and furthers education through guided discussions deserves campus-wide recognition.

Dr. Hill's Religion 93 is such a course. (cw)

"It's All The Work Of The Communists — Who Don't Exist Under Our Regimes"



Letters To The Editor

Lenoir Hall And Liberals

Serving Girls Don't Care?

To the Editors:
Since controversy in the TAR HEEL has once again turned to Lenoir Hall, we would like to get in our two cents worth. The quality of the service is unbelievably poor, although we grant that one would not be too enthusiastic about rendering service while working slave wages and slave hours. But, since when does the paying customer not have the right to choose a good slice of meat over a burnt, gangrenous one piece? It's ridiculous!
Mr. Monroe, one of Lenoir's floorwalkers, frankly admitted that the serving girls couldn't care less whether the customer gets a shoe tongue or the slice of meat he orders. (Our wording is somewhat stronger than his.) But, since the girls are instructed to give the customer what he asks for, we can't understand why the slovenly ones aren't fired, as in most establishments would be the fate of recalcitrant employees.

Of course, everyone realizes that the reason for the unconcern about the customer lies in Lenoir Hall's near-monopoly on hamburger (one for 25c) a la gristle, fish patties a la sewer trout and "beef stew" a la blubber. Lenoir need not worry about the quality of the food either, for it is a matter of eat it or go broke at one of Chapel Hill's famous greasy spoons. The captive gourmet need not applaud.

Wouldn't it be nice if the serving girls really gave a damn and that we could count on their sentiments lying in this lyric:

A student dining said "pshaw"
At finding a large mouse in his stew.

The serving girls ran out,
Said, "Don't shout and wave it about,
Or the others will be wanting one too."

—WALTER DERRICK
WM. K. BAYLEY

Adding Insult To Injury . . .

To the Editors:
As a former employee of Lenoir Hall, I would like to confirm what W. M. Helmes and "THE PHANTOM" stated in Sunday's TAR HEEL about working conditions in Lenoir Hall. However, I would like to add an "eency-weensy" complaint of my own. The already under-paid busboys are paid in Lenoir's own meal tickets which can be redeemed nowhere else but Lenoir Hall. Isn't that adding insult to injury? Of course, the boys might be lucky enough, in redeeming their meal tickets for "food," to find some valuable treasure such as finger nails, Blackjack chewing gum, buttons, long black hairs, shoe strings, roaches, or cigarette butts beneath their rusted lettuce leaves. But still, even these fringe benefits are not adequate compensation.

—J. M. CLARK
"former kitchen knave"

Hall Is Weak, Insignificant

To the Editors:
One wonders what the hell other than professional envy is bothering campus guitarist Mike Hall who (Saturday in the Tar Heel) took issue with Joan Baez as a singer of songs of social protest. He doesn't like Pete Seeger playing the role of Daddy Warbucks to her.

What can one say to a cat with views like his? Nothing that would do any good. It's obvious that he rather missed the point in his study of folksinging through the years. What does he think to be his intent as folksinger? TO ENTERTAIN! Well, that may be. There have been some singers who did very well with that. But one can aim higher in their art and I am one of the many who are grateful to Miss Baez, and to Mr. Seeger, for picking up the tab that so many like Mr. Hall seem too weak and insignificant to carry.

—ROBT. LOUIS JORDAN

Reflections

Student Legislature is spending more money to tell people what it's doing . . . which is, spending more money to tell people what it's doing . . . which is, spending more money . . .

CONGRATULATIONS: On Sunday we were pleased to observe that Negroes were being served in the Bright Leaf Room of the Jack Tar Durham hotel. Congratulations to the management for providing equal service to all citizens. Possibly more Durham restaurants soon will follow this example . . .

' . . . Too Much Of Clotfelter'

To the Editors:
I looked forward to the prospect of having two co-editors for the DTH as it might be different and bring interesting results. However, after looking the result over for the first two weeks I find an unfortunate trend has developed, whether planned or not, in the area of the paper that brings the editors out most clearly: the editorials. Every editorial about national and international affairs is written by 'jc', the rest, mainly more trivial

JOE MASI

A Pixie Girl:

Afternoon of a pixie sweetheart. An interview with Joan Bayou:

Pretty pixie Joan Bayou stood in the lobby of the Carolina Inn, kicking her shoes into a basket set at the other end of the room.

"Hi" she chirped, winging a Wee-jun past the ear of the bell-captain.

"Hello Miss Bayou" we replied gruffly. (We had come for an interview and were all business.)

"What should a folk song do, Miss Bayou?"

"Well" she said, her pixie eyes lighting up, "that's a very good question, golly how smart the students here are. Wow that is a tough one but I think that a folk song should start quietly and continue until a wild orgy consumes the entire audience."

To emphasize this point she leaped high into the air sending her old mountain guitar crashing into a five thousand dollar Victorian chandelier.

One of us helped her up while the other restrained the manager of the Inn.

"We understand that your tour with the Greenbriar boys is getting rave notices," we chuckled.

"Well me," she squealed, elbows akimbo but always the pixie, "they like me!"

You had to love her for her sincerity. This was an artist!

"May we ask a few more questions?" we questioned squealing with delight.

"Dealers choice!" our pixie piped, but make it fast, time is money in professional folk singing."

"Who are your favorite performers Miss Bayou?"

"Well," she said in a serious tone, "I like the old mountain fiddle of Lester Lanin. Les played at my debutante ball. Great guy. Of course he can't touch me for authentic professional folk singing, but that's show biz."

What a Chick! There was nothing more to say.

"It was a lovely interview Miss Bayou" we called.

A hint of pixie charm came to her wonderful Waif eyes.

"So's your goddam old lady" was her reply. What a Chick!

Liberal Offers Books

(From the National Review:)

A Liberal, having read our "Liberal Bookshelf" (February 27), offers a rebuttal, a CONSERVATIVE BOOKSHELF.

"I Was an ADA for the FBI," by Herbert A. Goldbrick. One man's deadly masquerade as an agent of the Liberal Conspiracy, and how he lived to tell about it. And tell about it. And tell about it.

"Why We Are Losing in the Peloponnese," by the Old Oligarch, Skousen translation. A classic study of the No-Win Policy, especially significant in light of current events.

"Brainwashing in Our TB Sanitariums," by Dr. J. B. Johns. A daring expose of the One-Worlders in White Coats who actively seek to overthrow Conscious Consumption.

"From Joyce Jordan's Diary," a girl interne's revealing account of Communist cut-ups and government cover-ups in the Health, Education and Welfare Department during the disastrous Roosevelt years.

"A Businessman Looks at Liberalism," by Oliver ("Daddy") Warbucks. A simple Man of the People casts a damning light on the subversive bleeding-hearts who seek to destroy his six-billion-dollar munitions empire.

By Robert Luchs

—That Red China would have gladly "continued to press quietly for its interpretation" of the Indian border dispute, had it not been for the revolt in Tibet, which was a purely "internal" Chinese affair.

And last but certainly not least is a statement (contained in "The Liberal Papers") by noted Harvard sociologist, David Riesman that if you consider yourself a "decent American" who is "humane" enough to prefer peace to an "egocentric national honor," no doubt you find it "increasingly difficult to be genuinely anti-Communist."

"Extremism," we've been told, is a trait indigenous to the Right. Documents such as "The Liberal Papers" seem to belie such statements. And people who live in glass houses . . .

—SAMUAL S. JONES, JR.
FRANKLIN ADKINSON, JR.

About Letters

The Daily Tar Heel invites readers to use it for expressions of opinion on current topics regardless of viewpoint. Letters must be signed, contain a verifiable address, and be free of libelous material. Brevity and legibility increase the chance of publication. Lengthy letters may be edited or omitted. Absolutely no note will be returned.

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