

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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Local Or Partisan

Almost all newspaper cities today are monopolies. One-third of all U. S. dailies are owned by newspaper chains. Deals between chain-owners—made explicitly (as in the case of the Chandler-Hearst arrangement in Los Angeles) or by an understanding—are diminishing the number of independent papers still further.

According to the Journalism Quarterly, published by the Association for Education in Journalism, there were 689 American cities with competing daily papers in 1910.

Today there are less than 60.

There are 1,733 dailies today—but 560 of those are owned by the 109 newspaper "groups", such as the Hearst and Scripps-Howard chains.

The most recent example of "arrangements" between newspaper chains occurred in Los Angeles several months ago. This major American city now has only two newspapers in place of four—the Hearst chain has ceased publishing its morning Examiner and the Chandler group has stopped its afternoon Mirror. (Both groups announced their decision the same morning, coincidentally.) The Hearst paper, Herald-Express, now has an afternoon monopoly and the Chandler-owned Times has a morning monopoly, eliminating the need for any serious competition between the two organizations.

In North Carolina there are 47 daily papers in 40 cities. Combinations own 14 of these papers and the other 33 have complete monopolies in their cities. There is not a single newspaper-competition city in the state.

Only ten cities in eleven Southern states have competitive newspapers—and there are none in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Virginia and South Carolina.

The American newspaper situation, already a public liability, will get worse before it gets better, un-

less something substantive is done.

The theory of "freedom of the press" has been used too often as a shield behind which publishers hide from anti-trust suits.

It is ridiculous that no group can own more than four TV stations and seven radio stations, yet it can own any number of newspapers. The Hearst chain has 14 papers with a daily circulation of more than four million; The Chicago Tribune chain has three papers with nearly three-and-a-half million circulation. Scripps-Howard owns 21 papers with 3.3 million circulation. Also in the Scripps family are two more chains with 22 additional newspapers.

Several solutions have been suggested for America's non-competitive newspaper situation. Anti-trust legislation probably would be in effectual because the monopolies are local rather than national.

A. J. Lieblich, author of THE PRESS, has suggested to the AFL-CIO that it consider subsidizing newspapers in areas where the existing paper is strictly anti-labor. This would be a reversion to a former situation where political organizations and other power groups owned newspapers.

Citizens of Lima, Ohio, created a paper, the Citizen, which competes with the absentee-owned News. The Citizen still survives and has a circulation equal that of the News.

But a similar attempt in Jackson, Miss., by townspeople dissatisfied with the low-quality Jackson News, failed after seven years of pump-priming by the community. In January of this year the community paper sold out to the News.

Either Lieblich's suggestion or the Lima, Ohio plan appear to be the only realistic ways of meeting the problem of monopoly without infringing on real "freedom of the press." (jc)

(This is the third and final part of an editorial series on the American press.)

Thefts

For numerous reasons the incidence of petty thievery increases drastically at the end of each semester, and particularly towards the close of the spring semester. Individuals finding themselves

short of cash and long on debts must find some way to meet the increased demands of pressuring merchants. Merchants who were overly eager to extend credit, to insure sales, during the school year, are now bucking at an extension for the summer months.

With increasing pressure and confusion of exams, students are more likely to yield to temptations that would normally be resisted.

Since approximately 95 per cent of all thefts are from rooms with unlocked doors, the most appropriate and effective remedy would be the simple turning of a key occasionally. At any rate, extra caution with all valuables will eliminate the wholesale cleansing that sweeps through the dorms and fraternities every spring.

Don't close the barn door, after the horse . . .

A very practical suggestion, certainly worthy of consideration by the orientation committees, has been made by Mr. Beaumont, Chief of the Campus Police. He thinks that a definite program on the management of school finances would be beneficial for most incoming freshmen.

A pretty good idea. (cw)

"I'm Eight. I Was Born On The Day Of The Supreme Court Decision"



HERB BLOCK
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On SG, Party Tradition, Seeger

World Welfare Concerns SG

To the Student Government and Mr. Alan Goldsmith:

On the front page of the May 15 News and Observer there was a picture. In this picture was a 19-year-old Communist Chinese refugee girl who was crying because the British authorities had arbitrarily decided that she was one of the refugees to be sent back to the mainland. We are not condemning the Hong Kong authorities, for it is quite understandable that a city the size of Hong Kong cannot provide for all of China, or even a small part. They are crowded to the limit now and a stream of refugees of such enormous proportions cannot be handled by a single city. Still, it seems to us that some other suitable alternative can, and for that matter, must be found. It is very easy to see the mainland of China as a huge block of humanity hell-bent on our destruction, but, after seeing a picture of a girl our age crying in the street because she must return to her "motherland," we find it much harder to look at it that way. To be sure, Communist China is our enemy, but, are the people of China, especially the one who have fled to "freedom," synonymous with the country. It is our opinion that, if the free world continues to send them back to what, from all reports we have read, seems to be a living hell, they soon will be. Communism is not working in China, and, as long as it continues to fail, there is still a chance of a people's revolt. Leaving political considerations out of it, however, the free world seems quite out of character when it sends back those who have fled starving, from their homes to freedom. These refugees have made their sacrifice. They have left their families, their friends, and their homes behind. Cannot we, too, sacrifice?

We, as individuals, can do nothing. The Student Legislature, representing the student body, can do something. It is true that the Student Government should be concerned with the welfare of the student, but it is also true that this august body should be concerned with the welfare of people in other sections of the country and the world. What happens in Hong Kong, half-way around the world, affects us as individual students and as a country. We submit that student government is not dead, but is just beginning to live. We submit that a hungry girl crying in a Hong Kong street is just as important as a stu-

dent in this University. We submit that Student Government can do something about this hungry girl without betraying its obligation to the Student Body. We believe that there is an alternative to sending starving people back into a totalitarian state where, at the worst, they will be liquidated, and at the least they will continue to starve. We further believe that Student Government is obligated to do what it can, be it in the form of a mere resolution or in the more concrete form of money, to, in some small way, help alleviate the Hong Kong refugee situation. We, the so-called leaders of tomorrow, have a chance to help someone beside ourselves. It is up to Student Government.

—WILLIAM N. HICKS

Party Should Not Be Liberal

To the Editor:

"In the past year . . . there has been a gradual change in the complexion of the (Student Party), a change away from the dormitory, away from liberalism," wrote Jim Clotfelter in a recent editorial which was reprinted for party members by Haynes McFadden.

Mr. Clotfelter's first "change"

has not materialized. The SP is still the party that gives the dormitory resident political opportunity and voice. Not one of its spring Big Four candidates was a member of a fraternity or a sorority. Furthermore, the records of Legislature of the past year clearly show that the SP is still a strong supporter, indeed the strongest supporter, of dormitory life improvement.

The change "away from liberalism," on the other hand, certainly has become manifest. Mr. Clotfelter recognizes this trend in the fact that the majority of party officers are not particularly liberal, that "they do not seem to be part of the Student Party's ideological tradition." Obviously this "liberal tradition" has broken down.

But why not? Why must the Student Party be tied to tradition? Its membership is not tradition; its membership is constantly growing and changing. The SP is far larger and stronger now than in past years. And this larger and stronger party does not exist through any hypothetical traditions; it exists through its members—almost 250 of them—all of whom were given the opportunity to choose liberal or non-liberal officers. Do not condemn the SP, Mr. Clotfelter, if your liberal element, prevalent for so long, now takes a back seat. This is a new Student Party; almost every semes-

ter at UNC sees a new SP. The old ones were not necessarily the best ones; they lost their share of elections.

"The duty of the Student Party is to set forth a platform committed to liberal values on and off campus," says Mr. Clotfelter, a liberal party member. As one of the conservative party members and officers, I say that this platform should be committed to such values as the majority of party members at any particular time believe in and support—not necessarily liberal. The Editor and I have in compatible convictions. The members of the party should take whatever stands they wish, but should disregard the myth of SP tradition. When we, the Student Party, have something to say, it will be us speaking, and not the SP of 1948.

—DAVE WILLIAMS

Clark Foreman Corrects Facts

To the Editor:

Your fine editorial "Very Rare Thing" would have been excellent had you not been misinformed about the details of Pete Seeger's case.

I have checked my memory with Pete's attorneys and can assure you: (a) that Pete did not answer the questions of the committee with respect to any organization whatsoever; (b) he has not been in jail, although was held a couple of hours on April 4th by the Federal Marshall in New York pending the arrival of bail. That would not justify your statement that he has become a "sometimes-convict."

I would like to go on record as predicting that Pete's conviction in the District Court will be thrown out either by the Circuit Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court. Two other witnesses at the same hearing, who took similar positions, were acquitted when their cases came before a more enlightened District judge than the one who heard Pete's case.

All the good things you said about Pete Seeger and Joan Baez are true, and I commend you for the spirit of your editorial—also very rare.

—CLARK FOREMAN
Director, Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, New York

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 none will be returned.

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