

The Daily Tar Heel

In its seventieth year of editorial freedom, unhampered by restrictions from either the University administration or the student body.

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Does Failure To Act Mean Abdication?

The "Beat Dook parade" resolution, passed Thursday by a 31-1 vote in Student Legislature, was intelligently written, presented and debated. The spirit of the resolution was responsible — we hope action following from it, will be equally responsible.

The resolution protested the administration's unilateral establishment of an administrative-faculty board to review future parades and similar student programs, such as the Sigma Chi Derby and Homecoming Weekend displays. The administration's course of action, the resolution said, was "in bad faith with the concept of our government by compact." The student legislators asked for the abolition of the review board.

This legislative action, we feel, correctly expresses a widespread and genuine student concern.

Students have acknowledged the bad taste of several of this year's parade floats. They have acknowledged that students have waited too long to do something about the parade and similar displays. Nevertheless, the administration's unilateral action brought resentment. A review board is one thing — but an administrative-faculty board imposed from above (even with the sizable provocation which South Building had in this instance) is quite another thing. The legislative resolution verbalizes student discontent.

THERE ARE dual issues involved here — the practical question of what to do about "bad taste" and the broader question of student responsibility for student action.

For future parades, the PIKA fraternity has established its own review board composed of two students and a faculty member. This group probably could serve adequately to ensure responsible student action — although it could function better if representatives were added from student government, the IFC, the IDC and the Pan-Hellenic Council.

Such a group could perform its job easier and more effectively than an administrative-faculty board, which would have to depend on fear of punishment to deter "bad taste" — and this would give birth to more daring than good taste, and certain-

Negro Actors, Not Roles

"Manchurian Candidate" was, to say the least, an interesting movie. Director Frankenheimer made skillful use of numerous technical and psychological devices to grab up the viewers and carry them through a twisted narrative. The acting was nothing out of the ordinary, nor yet did it need to be, it was sufficient for an hour's entertainment.

But one small thing within the movie that was significantly out of the ordinary was the casting of a Negro actor in a role that obviously did not demand that the part be played by a Negro. It was certainly not a large part; nor was it a difficult part, but it was a part, and it was well done.

The role was that of a consultant Psychiatrist, and obviously could have been played by a member of any race. But we find the fact that the Frankenheimer gave the opportunity to a Negro significant and heartening. Many of the leading Negro entertainers have expressed regret that directors have

would not insure what the administration wants.

More important, however, than this near-term problem is the question of student self-responsibility. In whose domain are such purely student functions as the "Beat Dook parade"?

The students say, "The students." The administration, we are sure, similarly would answer, "The students. . . . But — when the students fail to assume this responsibility, then we must step in."

Agreed. Now this gets into the question of time — how long is too long? After how long can failure to assume proper responsibility be considered an abdication of that responsibility?

The administration gave the students exactly one school day before springing their decision on student government. Is this sufficient time?

The administration said students had failed to assume responsibility in previous years. This was true, but it did not therefore necessitate unilateral administrative action this year.

Student responsibility is student responsibility. That students temporarily may fail to live up to their system and tradition is no reason why that system should be circumvented and that tradition ignored.

THE SITUATION now pits two opponents who basically agree with each other. The administration probably would like to give students the responsibility for reviewing parades. (We doubt if the Office of Student Affairs really wants to be responsible for every student float and display.) As it is, however, the administration feels it has committed itself and should not "back down."

Public opinion, which was a major cause of the administration's action, has now subsided. It is time when the administration can acknowledge in public, once again, what it would like to believe — that the students are capable, in most cases, of handling their own affairs.

We hope the students soon will regain direction and control of policy in this small but significant area of student activity. (JC)

been reluctant to cast qualified Negro actors in roles that do not absolutely demand specific races.

Their complaint seems justified. Indeed, if one were to judge the ratio of the races in this country on the evidence of our films, he would be led to believe that there just weren't too many Negroes in America, and that those who were here were of a specific type — that which seems best to accommodate itself to Hollywood.

We do not know if directors have been discriminating against Negroes in the rationing of roles, but we do know that we seldom see a Negro in a role that does not demand a member of that race. And when there are Negroes in this country, there are colored actors in Hollywood, and when there are roles that do not require a specific racial quality, we see no reason for not giving the parts to qualified Negro actors who have been suffering from an unjust "type-casting." We hope the snowball is gaining momentum. (CW)

"Shut Mah Mouth"



Reaction To 'Fascism'

Students View U.S. Democracy

A professor recently asked his political science 41 Seminar classes to write their reactions to comments made by Wade Wellman in a three-part series in the DTH. Wellman defended the Fascist form of government and said, "Democracy has failed because it insists that society should be organized on a basis of equality, without visible classes." The Pol. Sci. 41 text says, "The most fundamental belief of democratic theory . . . is the concept of equality."

(Below are short excerpts taken from the written reactions of the students.—JC.)

"Democracy is a way of all persons having the opportunity and right to express and carry out their opinions and beliefs."

"I am not surprised that someone has spoken out against democracy in favor of a more efficient form of government. Perhaps there are other forms of government which are more efficient but I believe that the freedoms given in a democracy are the most important things to consider."

"I believe that dictatorships can have certain merits . . . the Democratic process, in determining and carrying out an action, is not as efficient as (dictatorship)."

"Under our (democratic) system, there will always be economic classes. When we cease to have economic classes, we will no longer have a democratic government."

"Our democratic government has not yet crumpled and even though it appears defeated in the eyes of some, I believe it is still the best."

REFLECTIONS

The Cavalier Christmas Fund has begun its annual charity drive at the University of Virginia. The fund is similar in nature to UNC's Campus Chest; it is run by the student union and has a monopoly on campus-wide charity collection.

This year's inspiring and patriotic theme for the fund is "Fight Communism." All recipients of Fund money are "actively engaged in winning friends for the U.S. and leveling the rising tide of communism," the Fund says.

It's encouraging to see that UVA has risen above such bleeding-heart, sissy stuff as giving their money to the American Cancer Society or similar health organizations. UVA has charged into the charity area of stopping them dirty Reds, with truth from Radio Free Europe and all that.

system . . . In any democratic government . . . the right to dissent is an extremely important right.

"Democracy more than any other system stresses freedom, equality and individualism."

"Democracy . . . has more check and balance than fascism . . ."

"A highly nationalistic movement such as fascism seems to be a fly-by-night operation . . . Democracy can cite as proof of its success the multiparty system."

"If Fascism is due for a return, it is only because in democracy, we are allowed and often become sluggish and lazy and do not think as much of the freedom we have. Fascism and Communism are for lazy people."

"Democracy will soon have to give way to a much stronger, unified form of government. Sometimes the things the people think are best for them are not always best, and I think this would be the weakest point of democracy, which may bring its downfall."

"Equality as far as economic or class distinction is concerned, is impossible. Democracy has provided a system whereby the inequality of man is for the most part determined by each man's own worth . . . some men will be more successful than others."

"America is now more democratic . . . and the American people now play an increased role in government . . . Fascism can exist, but cannot flourish in America."

"I believe that today equality is becoming, if it has not already become, the most fundamental democratic belief—unfortunately. I believe that this is wrong. Man is created equal before God and the law—but equality ends there and should end there. To equality we owe many of our present troubles in government. . . . I believe that a dictatorship is much more efficient than a democracy."

. . . This concept of equality is the grass roots of our constitution, our breaking away from England, our laws, etc . . . If we (take it away), we become a nation without beliefs."

"Fascism is indeed more efficient

and stable than democracy . . . The masses can be many times more tyrannical than a single leader . . . Limited democracy is the only answer."

"One particular problem we face in our democratic system of equality is that of the Negro. We have not achieved true equality in this area, but in the past few years we have made progress."

"I feel that Fascism may be half way between democracy and Communism and might be better if we could stay half way. However, I do believe a half way mark can be maintained and I do not believe that ending equality in any way will help the human being."

"Our form of democracy is itself becoming "middle ground." There no longer exist major differences between political parties. This is not to deny that radicals are not among them, but ideas are becoming more consistent."

"In America . . . the individual achieves certain class distinctions

Letters To The Editors

Wade And Otelia And Billy

Wellman On Miss Connor

To the Editors,

Recently someone remarked to me, "Most women should be confined safely in harems or in nurseries." After reading Otelia Connor's latest gospel, I would like to change this epigram and say, "Most women over fifty . . ."

—Wade Wellman

Equality Was Misunderstood

To the Editors,

(Dear Mr. Wellman.)

Though myself no formidable student of history, I venture to think that you express a superficial idea of democracy—democracy, not in its extreme form of anarchical egalitarianism which is condemned by Plato in his Republic and by the profounder thinkers of all ages, but in the republican form in which it was instituted in this country. The

Every school boy worth his ball-point knows that Christmas was discovered by Macy's, despite what the storybooks tell us. Deck the halls with deposit slips, Santa's on his way.

December is the nicest month
Breeding bargain hunters in the basement

Mixing eggnogg with delight
Stirring the bourbon in . . .

An interesting month, this one—the Farmer's Almanac tells us right off that on the first, in 1881, the last spike of the Southern Pacific was driven into frozen ground. It's a sure bet somebody's hands got cold, and what about that poor slob holding the spike.

On December 10, 1817, Mississippi entered the Union, and now 145 years later, they still can't make up their mind whether or not to stay. Come on in, Ross, the water's fine, but you'll have to ride in the back of the bus.

A scant three days before in 1941, the Japanese Imperial Forces fired the shot heard round the world and back again. Men went out to fight for freedom and democracy, and some didn't make it. It was supposed to have been the last war, the war to decide all things and end all wars. Sorry.

On the fifteenth of this month in the year 1791, Congress adopted the

ron levin

Out Of The Fryin' Pan . . .

Bill of Rights, and citizens have been slugging it out ever since. A day earlier, in 1773, the Boston Tea Party took place with a good deal of whooping and hollering—another blow for freedom struck by a group of courageous colonists before the time of the tailfin.

On the next day, December 17, 1903, two boys from a bicycle shop in Akron, Ohio, finally coaxed an unlikely looking contraption off the sand dunes at Kitty Hawk, and the airplane was born. We bet no stewardesses rode on anybody's lap in that flight.

December 22—Winter begins, Asian Flu and aching back, fruit cake and frostbite, carry the Yule Log in and the drunks out, snowballs and icy falls, stuck cars and crowded bars and where in the hell are my mittens?

On the first day of Christmas, ye gads, what a hangover. Yes, Virginia, there really is a Santa Claus, but I wouldn't want to marry his sister. (She's far too old for me.) Children screaming with glee in the morning and drunks singing their hearts out that night, and a long time ago a mother quietly nursed her child in a stable.

The twenty-eighth day marks Woodrow Wilson's birthday, as it also does that of Louis Pasteur. We leave the "late twenties" behind on this date, as your dear columnist turns thirty—begrudgingly, irrevocably and nearsighted as ever in one eye, the other focused sharply on a fifth.

December 31 . . . New Year's Eve, 180 million Americans solemnly making resolutions while the band is playing "Auld Lang Syne," these same promises to be forgotten in the horrible hangover to follow. But we're getting ahead of ourselves. It's not '63 yet, but you can't blame us for wanting to rush things up a bit. After Cuba, the Congo, Laos, Thailand, Mississippi and twelve nasty months of the Twist, we're a little anxious to see it end. Merry Christmas, Mr. Nixon . . . and you, too, Ross. Come see what Jack and Bobby have brought you. Surprise! Surprise!

Two Poems

To the Editors,

EPITAPH

Where are the panty raids of yesterday?
Where is the mob's raucous cheer?
Fallen beneath the pall of tears,
. . . these are the "long" years.

RENAISSANCE

They've fallen now as have the tears,
But Hark! there are some cheers,
Ah-ha, they're replaced by the gay charades,
Of the gross Carolina Duke parades.

—Douglas Freeman, Jr.

the Italian Fascist experiment. I submit my conjecture to the correction of a more accomplished historian.

—John McCurdy

JC 'Praised' Billy Graham?

To the Editors,

I'm afraid the editor was a little carried away in his praise of Billy Graham. It would be as easy to prove that Dr. Graham is not infallible as it would be difficult to find anyone beside an editor who would make such a claim.

On the other hand, "Billy" could well claim an honesty in expressing his beliefs that is sometimes lacking in others. He would never assert, as our editor has written that "there are not even a few young people who are upright and right-thinking." However, he may well say that many young people have embraced rather low standards of behavior—but then this wouldn't surprise anyone who hasn't given up newspapers . . . or parades.

—Frank Steele