The Daily Tar Heel

70 Years of Editorial Freedom

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'But Everyone Already Knew That'

Of all the mumblings heard in the wake of our recent series on fraternity and sorority discriminatory clauses, the bulk has come from members of fraternities and sororities. Their consistent opinion has been that the stories were unnecessary. The typical argument runs, "Everybody already knew that the fraternities and sororities discriminated, so what good did it do to run the fact on the front page?"

In the first place, we have serious doubts as to whether "everybody" knew, since the Inter-Fraternity Council President last year didn't know. He went so far as to tell the whole Orientation class that only one fraternity on this campus had a restrictive clause. It turns out he missed the count by at least 10.

But the claim that Greek discriminatory policies are well known and therefore don't need to be publicized, aside from being incorrect, shows a basic contradiction. If these are the standards of admission they set, and they are proud of these standards, then it seems they should be delighted to see them printed on the front page of the DTH. Instead, the fraternities mutter weak and embarrassed defended

ses of their right to discriminate.

But let's examine that right which they claim as inalienable. Should a Jew or a Negro pay taxes in North Carolina to help support a university in which discrimination is practiced? We aren't saying that the fraternities get money from the University, but the University does regulate and grant recognition to them. So the claim of private social organization, with all the rights of discrimination attendant on it, is not a valid argument.

This argument does, however, bring us to the question of the University's position in the matter. The current administration policy is that no fraternity or sorority may establish a chapter on this campus if it has a discriminatory membership clause. This is fine, but what of the eleven houses already have these clauses? If the University says that these clauses are bad, and not in the best interest of the campus, as is certainly implicit in the rule, is it not then a compromise with morality to allow this discrimination to exist as it does now? This would certainly seem to be the case.

Then, too, we are often subjected to the rather strange argument from house members that fraternities and sororities are discriminatory by nature, and while discrimination may not be a good thing, it is the basis of the whole system. We agree with every point in that apologia. But what does it say? It tells us to accept something which is evil as the cornerstone of an institution, and then accept the institution as something good. The logic of this plea escapes us. But it brings to light another point which is even more important. Fraternities and sororities don't just discriminate against Jews or Negroes, they discriminate against everybody. So we arrive at another interesting question: Should a white protestant American pay taxes to support an institution which officially sanctions a system which might discriminate against his son or daughter on the basis of how he or she looks, speaks and dresses?

Many people are not bothered by a fraternity or sorority rejection, but many are cruelly hurt by the rejection. And who are these people who are hurt? In most cases they are the ones who most need the companionship and sense of belonging a fraternity or sorority can offer. They are dependent on this sort of attachment for their total assimilation into the University Community, and rejection is not something they take lightly.

So what is to be done?

Abolition of the whole fraternity-sorority system is often suggested, but arguments against this action are present on many of the campuses across the nation. At Brown, Amherst, Dartmouth and many more, the system is a vital and constructive force in the whole social pattern. Fraternities are open to anyone who wishes to join. While some may not get their first choice, all may join. While the homogeneity of the group may suffer slightly, the crippling insularity is also gone, and no one is hurt by rejection.

Should the University step in and open the fraternities and sororities up? Such action is obviously within its jurisdiction, and would get our administrators out of the position of allowing something to exist which they have ruled is wrong.

Another technique used to excellent effect on many campuses is a referendum of the student body. Usually the students get three choices: (1) Leave the system as it is, (2) Do away with discriminatory clauses and 'gentlemen's agreements,' (3) Open the system to anyone who wishes to join.

In all cases this referendum has been used, the administration has carried out the mandate of the student body.

This referendum idea seems to us to be the fairest and most representative method. The Student Legislature could authorize such a referendum to be presented to the student body in the Spring elections or could call a special election for that purpose.

The results would dictate whether the fraternity system is to become a truly effective community force, as it is elsewhere or whether it is to remain the artificial, ingrown order which currently prevails at Carolina.

Needed: Another WUNC-WCHL Hook-Up

An issue of great significance to Chapel Hill—desegregation—currently is being aired over WUNC Radio, but unfortunately the three-part series doesn't seem to have stimulated much interest.

This is undoubtedly because WUNC Radio is an FM station, and most peo-

Gary Blanchard, David Ethridge

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ple don't even own or have easy access to FM receivers.

In the interest of giving this series the audience it deserves, we suggest that the station manager check with Chapel Hill's AM radio station, WCHL, and see about getting it to cooperate in airing the remaining two parts of the show.

Tonight's show and the final one two weeks from now could be taped by WUNC Radio, then re-played over WCHL at that station's programming convenience. In addition, if the first show was taped, it too should be offered for re-broadcast over WCHL.

This would not be the first time that the two stations have worked together for a common end, and we think this would be a fine way for both stations to continue their traditions of public service.

This past summer was dramatic proof that Chapel Hill's desegregation problems are far from over, and the frank comments offered by the participants of WUNC's series could make a positive contribution to settling the problem. But those comments must be heard by the people of Chapel Hill for them to do any good.



THE PLANT WHI

Book Review

A Harvest Of Paperbacks

By STEVE DENNIS

One of the major American paperback lines, Dell, has come out with a very competent and stimulating list of new titles for this fall. Some of these are the inevitable reprints, now made available to a larger audience at a reduced price, but a few are originals, members of a new genre which the phenomenon of the paperback seems to be encouraging. More and more books are now being printed only in a

paperback version.

A good idea is the combination of all three parts to Shakespeare's Henry VI into one portable volume. This will be useful for readers interested in tracing the developing of ideas in the different parts of this historical trilogy. (95c).

For the Tolstoy fan to whom the great tomes of the master are at times forboding, there is now a Dell collection of six short stories and novels, including The Death of Ivan Hyich and The Kreutzer Sonata along with four other lesser - known selections. (75c).

Reprints of T. H. White's The Sword In The Stone and Katherine Anne Porter's The Leaning Tower have also been brought out by Dell. White's novel (50c) about Arthurian England is now being made into a movie by Walt Disney, and the Porter collection has been a minor American classic for many years now. (50c).

An almost excellent collection of short plays by ten Americans ranging from Sherwood Anderson to Gore Vidal is also in the new Dell line. Unfortunately, most of the selections, with the exception of Wilder's The Happy Journey To Trenton and Camden, are minor. Space limi-

Quotes
United Press International)

(United Press International)
NEW HAVEN—Yale Professor Frederick C. Barghoorn, telling newsmen of his arrest on spy charges:

"Behavior which we regard as completely innocent becomes an object of police suspicion . . . arrest, investigation and indictment on espionage charges is a deeply disturbing experience. It is true any place, but different in the Soviet Union, where law is the instrument of the state, not the individual.

POGO

by STEVE DENNIS
of the major American ack lines, Dell, has come tations dictated this unhappy fact, but it is still regrettable.

tations dictated this unhappy ering Heights, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Women in Love, The Portrait of a Lady,

A Dell original is The New Handbook of Modern Birth Control, by Dr. Paula Seiler. A straightforward, simple explanation of its subject, this book also considers religious and moral problems connected with birth control. The principal methods of birth control available today are explained and evaluated. (50c).

Elizabeth Drew, whose Poetry:

A Modern Guide To Its Understanding and Enjoyment has been a choice item in the Dell list now for several years, has just completed a work which is as skilufully and perceptively written as its predecessor. It is entitled The Novel: A Modern Guide To Fifteen English Masterpieces. Discussed are Moll Flanders, Clarissa, Tom Jones, Lord Jim, Vanity Fair, Emma, The Mill on The Floss, Tristram Shandy, Far from the Madding Crowd, Wuth-

ering Heights, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Women in Love, The Portrait of a Lady, To The Lighthouse and Great Expectations. This is obviously a very creditable sampling of over two hundred years of Eng-

lish fiction to be considered in

a one-volume paperback. (60c). Miss Drew makes her critical intent plain at the outset: "All kinds of creative artists flourish in the field of literature, but the only kind of criticism of literature which is of any value is that which makes us want to go and read or reread the books it discusses. This collection of essays is written in the hope that

it will do that."

This list seems to suffer from the usual faults found in paperbacks lines, such as overly sensational covers, but the books are at least reputable and cheap. This one economic consideration alone has made the paperback a force to be reckoned with in all the groves of Academe.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS



Spectator

Editors, The Tar Heel,
Enclosed pix of unidentified

student/friend/alumnus (?) taken Saturday (16) during Miami game. Most loyal and enthusiastic ever seen—bowed three times to the west at every great N. C. play, face mirrored every emotion that the play in progress deserved and fairly leapt out of the stands at a touchdown. The jacket under his arm was a brilliant red color which made his actions much more colorful until he got warmed up and took it off.

We nominate him for the UNC Spectator of the Week.

Sterling W. Wright WSOC-TV, Charlotte

Elimination

Editors, The Tar Heel

If as Sarah Watson Emery and Mrs. A. S. Nashe say, suicide, homosexuality and communism are all related, then anti-communists have nothing to fear. In a few years the world should be good again, by process of peaceful elimination.

Carl Weibel 113 Connor

Government For All The People Will Not Perish

By THE DAILY KANSAN

One-hundred years ago next Tuesday, Abraham Lincoln dedicated a battlefield cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and set a standard for American belief which has so gained in stature that now, a century later, it is probably better known and more beloved than even our Declaration of Independence itself. There is good reason for this durability.

Thousands of men had already given their lives in battle, and similar fields would become burial grounds in the weeks and months before the Civil War would end.

These men were fighting for what they believed was right, not only for the solidarity of the Union, but also for the "proposition that all men are created equal." They were simple, straight-forward beliefs, ennobled that day by an equally honest, heartfelt respect, laced with the confidence that "these dead shall not have died in vain."

Who does not recall the words:
"The world will little note nor long remember what we say here," but how many could complete the sentence to state what we were to recall instead: "but it can never forget what they did here."

What they were fighting about was the right of free men to be free.

That year, 1863, marked the application of the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all the slaves. It was an instance in which we had neither intended nor succeeded in beating the Russians to an opportunity. On the day before Lincoln was inaugurated, the czar's official decree was published setting all serfs free. Nor was Lincoln primarily concerned with the slaves as individuals.

In answering Horace Greeley's plea of freedom for the Negroes, Lincoln said, "What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union."

December of 1865 saw the ratification of the thirteenth amendment to the Constitution, declaring that neither "slavery nor involuntary servitude . . . shall exist within the United States.

At the time, William Lloyd Garrison's Boston Liberator proclaimed editorially that the amendment was the "final crowning and completion of the labors of the American abolitionists." But, in the same breath, the article added: "We are now to concentrate the whole power of American law, justice, conscience, sense of consistency and duty, and bring all to bear on the work of making the freedmen in every sense a free man and citizen."

Legally, slavery was abolished.
But Abraham Lincoln, assassinated eight months earlier, did not know of it. The editorial might as well have been written yesterday.

The first "Civil Rights" law was passed by Congress in March of 1866, guaranteeing the Negroes the rights and corresponding duties of citizenship. President Johnson vetoed this legislation on the basis that it overcompensated for the Negro and discriminated against the whites, but Congress overrode the veto.

Anticipating an inevitable attack on the constitutionality of the Civil Rights Act of 1866, a set of resolutions was formulated which ultimately became the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution. This amendment required the states to apply equal protection of the laws to all citizens, and has been construed to mean that a state cannot make unreasonable distinctions between different persons as to their rights and privileges.

For example, the Supreme Court has held that a state cannot arbitrarily deny some of its citizens the right to vote or to serve on juries. Nevertheless, the state remains free to make reasonable classifications. Thus, the Supreme Court has held that, under certain circumstances, a state may grant voting rights to the literate, but deny them to the illiterate.

deny them to the illiterate.

The fifteenth amendment is more explicit: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any

By Walt Kelly









state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servi-

But over the years it has become apparent that laws aren't what make the final difference, Even as fan back as 1835, Alexis de Tocqueville suggested that freedom for the Negro intensified rather than alleviated the prejudice on the part of the whites. Slavery might recede, said Tocqueville, "but the prejudice to which it has given birth is immovable."

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights pointed to a similar situation in noting that "the presence of qualified Negroes in ever increasing numbers often only heightened the unwillingness of many Americans to grant the Negro that equality to which the law said he was entitled, and which the Negro increasingly asserted he deserved."

This tendency was reflected in the recent testimony of Ralph E. Odum, the Assistant Attorney General of Florida, before a Senate committee studying voting rights. Said Odum, "We are fearful that if Congress should enact the bills you are considering here, the practical result will be a regressive trend in Negro registration. The reason for this is obvious: The exertion of outside pressure and coercion by the Central Government in local matters is regarded as a usurpation of authority which stimulates resentment rather than understanding, tolerance, and racial cooperation.'

Odum indicated the people of Florida would prefer to let discrimination end in its own good time. Said he, this "may be a longer road than some might like, but we believe it to be the best and most effective road leading to ultimate dignity, mutual respect, and equal opportunity for all our people."

The question has been, of course, whether the Negro will wait much longer. The Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., says no: "We have waited for more than 340 years for our constitutional and God-given rights. The nations of Asia and Africa are moving with jet-like speed toward gaining political independence, but we still creep at horse-and-buggy pace toward gaining a cup of coffee at a lunch counter."

lunch counter."

President Kennedy, in a recent address to the United Nations General Assembly, took account of this when he expressed his regret that some U.N. delegates have been discriminated against in this country. He made it clear the situation would not persist if he could help it.

"I ask you to believe me when I tell you," said Kennedy in apologizing, "that this is not the wish of most Americans—that we share your regret and resentment and that we intend to end sch practices for all time to come, not only for our visitors but for our own citizens as well."

And, speaking to the American people, the President has made it clear he feels the best solution "lies not in what we say today, but in what we do in the days and months ahead to complete the work begun by Abraham Lincoln. 'In giving freedom to the slaves,' President Lincoln said, 'we assure freedom to the free.' In giving rights to others which belong to them, we give rights to ourselves and to

our country."

Obviously, legislation, discussion, and even the most determined efforts of those who have been denied their rights have not been, nor will be enough to span the gap between white and black. Then, is there an answer?

We must legislate, each of us, in our own minds, the laws of human brotherhood. We must stand up in our own consciences and be counted among those willing to discard the shabby mask of social aloofness and come face to face with reality—that human dignity exists as much beneath black skin as white. We must stand behind Arnold Toynbee's reminder that "without freedom, men would no longer be hu-

And, thinking back over the years to Gettysburg, we must accept with renewed courage the challenge put forth by Abraham Lincoln—one man who took a stend and, without realizing the timelessness of his actions, gave to future generations the charge we remember today:

"It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before usthat from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that -government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."