

On Bynum-Parson 'House Of Straw'

Editors, The Tar Heel:

In deference to the very able academic gymnastics Richard Bynum-Parsons III has set forth for my benefit, laboring under my "burthen" compels me to believe, with no little difficulty, that a final effort can be made to help him see the point. Patiently maintaining a tradition of mutual respect found in the old "Sam and Henry Letters," admired by the editors of The Daily Tar Heel, would be the reasonable way to do this, were it not for the feeling that my adversary's recent journalistic handspings smack of those learned, and better left, in certain College courses. His ideas spring here and there and wear themselves out in inevitable fallacy. They are reminiscent of those of a minor figure in The Republic who, when asked if he saw the issue, replied that he refused to understand. Nothing new in 505 Ehringhaus.

Mr. Bynum-Parsons has come up with a worthy idea, a Monument Formula, so to speak, deserving close attention. It is unique because it is built on straw. "Would John Kennedy have gotten such a memorial had he died a more prosaic death? Is assassination sufficient reason for such a memorial?" Accordingly, on the basis of Kennedy's largely undetermined "actual greatness" or upon his record of strikes and errors in legislation, Mr. Bynum-Parsons would replace what is in reality a six inch flame, supported by a bronze plate little larger than a coffee saucer, with a broken oar. Had Kennedy been elected by more than a "tiny margin" and better satisfied some of our political views, Mr. Bynum-Parsons would replace the oar with a crutch. Eventually, the "inappropriate markers" chosen by The First Lady would begin to assume their proper meaning. At the risk that some may think I too write for financial gain, I would ask of Mr. Bynum-Parsons what he conceives to be the reason for such a monument? In its nature to be determined

by the Gallup Poll, its design solely dependent upon Official Success or Manner of Death, or is there meaning in a memorial that some of us have not grasped? In his article, Wainwright observes of the cemetery in Arlington that "a hierarchy was evident, reflected in the greater size and varying shapes of the stones which marked the graves of generals and admirals." Near the summit of the hill is the small flame, which Mr. Bynum-Parsons has compared to the smudge pots on Cameron Street. That flame is no more or less than a symbol to remind man again that he is still so weak as to believe he has the right to take life and law into his own puny hands. Saturday morning at 11:30 in Dallas twelve men and women added fuel to that flame. Petty grievances won't put it out. We are asked to accept only this.

It is time for some of us, who use unwieldy terms, to realize how vital were "Lower-Class Emotions" in building the values of this or any free land. For such commemoration can, conceivably, be carried too far. It is to be noted—for those of slippery memory—that Kennedy died in a Lincoln automobile, once viewed the Lincoln Memorial at the end of the Memorial Bridge, once campaigned near Garfield, Ohio. The flame is not out of place nor does it stand alone.

True, there is no justification for apathy; yet I fear that were Mr. Bynum-Parsons' policy of "journalistic discrimination" tenable, many similar well-meant though faulty ideas would stand uncondemned even by faint praise. It is discrimination of the same breed that permits a handful of men, clinging to the past, to delay one of the "obscure accomplishments" of the late President, begun by Lincoln, now in the Senate. Preferable always will be the policy which tolerates Jabberwock in all its guises, which leaves straw houses to the wind. Nothing new in 505 Ehringhaus.

William M. Garnett
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Charles McDowell Jr.

Organizations To Keep An Eye On

We live in a time of proliferating organizations dedicated to saving us from various things, including ourselves. Some of us have a hard time keeping all these saviors straight in our minds.

Only the other day we heard of some new organization or other that is compiling a guide to patriotic and political-action groups so that we will be able to tell who is saving us from what, and whether it is a good idea.

Pending that clarification, let us try to get ahead of the game. Below is a list of organizations that have not even been formed yet, as far as we know, but probably will be coming along any day now.

Association of Patriotic Americans to Defend the Constitution of Our Forefathers from Further Erosion—This group advocates prompt and orderly repeal of the Constitution.

Free Americans for Free Access to Literature—Demands access to the stacks of public libraries to throw out the dangerous books.

Shame-on-the-Soviet Society—

Wants to shame the Soviet Union and reassure world opinion by dismantling the United States Army, Navy and Air Force, and beating all nuclear weapons into plow-shares.

Federated Council of Freedom-Lovers Determined to Free Cuba from Communism—Suggests blowing up Cuba with nuclear bombs.

Committee for Free Speech in the Cinema—Insists that the American subtitles on foreign films be at least as smutty as the original dialogue.

Free Fighters for the Extension of Educational Opportunity—Demands government-subsidized home tutors for children whose parents will not allow them to attend integrated schools.

National Mobility Committee for Absolute Balance of Education Opportunity—Advocates equipping school buses with desks and blackboards so that the children of minority groups will not lose classroom time while being transferred from neighborhood to neighborhood to provide racial balance.

American Federation to Preserve the Fundamentals of Americanism—Wants to require the playing of the National Anthem prior to sit-down strikes, lie-down strikes, street riots, indignation meetings, stonings, and bombings.

Committee for Fuller Participation in Public Affairs—Awards medals annually to the citizens of each state who have signed the most petitions.

Patriots' Index Rating Bureau—Issues monthly ratings evaluating organizations that evaluate the records of members of Congress.

Council to Provide Counsel for Dissenters—Provides legal aid to persons arrested for disturbing the peace by booing speakers, and for persons arrested for disturbing the peace by booing persons who boo speakers.

Nuts Unlimited—Provides temporary sponsorship for any nutty idea that has not found a permanent sponsoring organization.

"That's The Trouble Dealing With People That Can Write"



Over 1964 Campaign

John Kennedy's Shadow

By DOUGLAS KIKER
N. Y. Herald Tribune

If the New Hampshire primary proved nothing else—and an awful lot of people are claiming it proved an awful lot of different things—it did confirm what everybody knew in his private heart all along:

The nation's voters still have not recovered from the political trauma they suffered on Nov. 22, when President John F. Kennedy was killed.

Why is it that 1964 is the year when so far, at least, the future seems to lie in the past? Where is the natural excitement, the quickening of the national pulse and that wonderful fever which a Presidential election gives?

When Americans elect a President they like to keep him for awhile, because the fact is that they do more than elect a President; they create him in their own minds.

Mr. Kennedy had become such an image, and his abrupt, tragic departure left a boiling wake of confusion, fear and doubt, overcast by a prevailing atmosphere of unreality.

Nothing is politically clear, and already it is mid-March. Republicans still are casting around for hard issues and an acceptable candidate to meet the emotional as well as the practical problems caused by the assassination.

The Democrats have their man whether they like him or not, but even he seems to realize that he cannot lay full claim on the office until the whole nation elects him.

Puzzling Parade

Politicking, so far, seems almost like a charade, because of this.

Here are the handful of men to whom luck, ambition and circumstance have given the chance to run for office, and

LETTERS

The Daily Tar Heel encourages its readers to express their views on any subject of interest, but reminds them that space requirements place certain restrictions on length.

Letters should be typed, double-spaced, and not longer than two pages in length. As the editorial page is made up one or two days in advance, and the volume of correspondence is often quite large, letters may not appear until several days after they are submitted. We will make every effort, however, to print ALL letters that do not violate standards of good taste, and which bear the name and address of the sender. Names can be withheld only under most unusual circumstances.

they are performing now in the nation's living rooms—making speeches, taking stands, maneuvering, posturing.

But there is little real excitement among the voters as they sit and watch and identify them. "I've got it, you're Scranton, the reluctant candidate. You're Nixon, quiet and purposeful. You're Rockefeller, hot for the job. You're Goldwater, frustrated and beginning to get mad. You, the one standing on the chair, you're Lyndon Johnson, above it all. And you, the one holding Johnson's hand, you're Lodge."

And then someone says, "Enough of this. We're all bored and sleepy. Let's break this up and go home."

This will change in time, no doubt. Once the Republicans settle on a candidate and each party has a major spokesman, issues will naturally sharpen, the necessities of the future will preempt dreams of the past, and some sort of a national debate, resulting ultimately in a November decision, will get under way.

Last week the Republicans finished in New Hampshire and transferred their party struggle west, but the confusion left behind was causing all the comment.

Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge won and can prove it on paper. But he is the Republican equivalent of the late Sen. Estes Kefauver, it seems, because party leaders consider him a lackadaisical campaigner and an inept politician. And besides, he works for President Johnson.

Both Sen. Goldwater and Gov. Rockefeller spent hundreds of thousands of dollars and hundreds of man-hours pursuing the elusive Yankee loyalty, but then claimed the results didn't mean a thing, and struck out for the West.

California Republicans, not allowed write-ins, must choose between them on June 15, and the early polls favor the New Yorker, hands down. If he does win, that may spell the end of Sen. Goldwater.

But a Rockefeller victory in California might not do him any more good than the New Hampshire win will do Mr. Lodge.

The final beneficiary appears to be Richard M. Nixon, whose Gallup poll ratings are on the rise.

The Brighter Side

Mr. Nixon's political image was further brightened by a poll, conducted by research analyst Lou Harris, and released yesterday in a copyrighted story by the Rochester, N.Y. Democrat and Chronicle. Based on a scientifically-selected cross section of 1,000 homes, it showed that 37 per cent of the Republicans and independents in the

area favor Mr. Nixon for President; while 23 per cent would vote for Ambassador Lodge.

The other results gave Gov. George Romney 9 per cent of the GOP and independent vote; Sen. Goldwater 8 per cent; Gov. Rockefeller 6 per cent; and Gov. William Scranton 6 per cent. Mr. Harris said the outcome was "dismal" for Gov. Rockefeller. If Nixon or Lodge fail to run, "Scranton is the bright new face GOP voters would turn to," Mr. Harris added.

At a deadlocked Republican convention, Sen. Goldwater—who couldn't win it—certainly would have a major voice in deciding who was to win. At this point, Mr. Nixon appears to be the only natural and apparent heir to the Goldwater delegate vote.

Gov. Scranton polled only 70 votes in New Hampshire, and to call this a victory is unrealistic, but to call it a defeat is equally so.

He stands now about where he stood before New Hampshire, but he can't continue there much longer if he is to have any chance.

They Question Why

The biggest question of all is not which Republican will get the nomination, but why anyone would want it this year.

Mr. Johnson has moved with dazzling speed to preempt the middle political ground; he has dug in firmly, has good logistical support, and it is difficult to see how any Republican could dislodge him.

The national outlook is good. Employment is up. The tax cut has given every wage-earner an increase in take-home pay. The chances for the civil rights bill look bare, and the President will go down fighting for it in any event. He is "heppin' the po' folks" while he placates the rich. And besides, the average American just doesn't like to have three different Presidents in so short a time.

Heelprints

We notice that I. Beverly Lake lost his voice over the weekend. So it finally caught up with his mind, huh?

Definition: Procrastination — the next quiz.

Add five persons to the official attendance at the Eastern Regionals Saturday night. The U-coms were spectators, too.

High-school librarian Columbus M. Tart has entered the governor's race. But we thought he was booked up for the next

four years.

Governor Sanford's wife is now a Chi Omega. Does that mean she has to eat at The Pines?

Then there are those clods who never drink at the fountain of knowledge, only gargle.

Quote of the Week (concerning that mess on Cameron Avenue): "I knew we were Tar Heels, but this is ridiculous."

Then there's the UNC coed doll—you wind it up and it breaks the Apartment Rule.

The Daily Tar Heel

71 Years of Editorial Freedom

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Contradictions As A Way Of Life

The white Southerner is a strange breed of individual, possessing many contradictions, a negative approach to most issues and a regional psyche that is unfathomable except to the most astute observers.

Given an issue in which the arguments for and against are evenly balanced, the Southerner will vote it down 3 to 1 in almost every case. He would also much prefer to think of himself as black-balling one candidate than as voting for another.

All these qualities are, as might be expected, manifested most clearly in the current civil rights fight. The ardent and bitter foes of integration say that the Negro is ignorant and that until he makes some effort on his own to educate himself and earn a place in society, we, the white, have no obligation to accept him as a human being.

This seems to be a reasonable and at least easy answer for many segregationists, but then there comes that little contradiction. James Meredith wants to go to school at the University of Mississippi, and the roof falls in. A Negro coed is denied a library card in Cheraw, South Carolina because the public library is, and as far as many South Carolina whites are concerned

always should be, segregated. They don't consider the job of the librarian to be getting as many people as possible interested in books and reading. The job is just to get as many whites as possible interested in books.

And now, the new governor of Mississippi, Paul B. Johnson (who said in his inaugural address in January, "Hate or ignorance will not lead Mississippi while I sit in the governor's chair.") is trying to close a Negro college near Jackson. Johnson is supporting a state senate bill that seeks to revoke the 1871 charter of Tougaloo Southern Christian College. The problem revolves around the fact that the 522 students at Tougaloo have been active in the civil rights movement. As in many cases, Chapel Hill being an example, this is directly equated with Communism and, as Mississippi's lieutenant governor put it, "queers, quacks and quirks."

Governor Johnson's inaugural promises may sound hollow, but the arguments of the segregationists seem completely empty in comparison. Any educational institution is vital to us, and even more vital in the South. To close, or attempt to close one because the student body agitates for what it has been denied is one of the most callous acts of political ignorance and vindictiveness.

A Gratifying Trend In The University

The Chapel Hill Weekly

The appointment of two new vice presidents of the Consolidated University is gratifying in two important respects.

Particularly gratifying is the fact that Arnold King and Fred Weaver were chosen for the posts. Both have toiled long and faithfully for the University and each richly deserves the sort of recognition the vice presidencies represent.

Among other things, Dr. King has been largely responsible for transforming the Summer Session from a sort of casual interlude into a thriving, integral part of the University's basic program.

Mr. Weaver has risen steadily through the administrative ranks, and in recent years has been particularly effective in dealings with the Trustees and the Legislature.

The Consolidated University has done well by itself in entrusting to them these new and important responsibilities.

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Before New Hampshire, But . . .

By WALTER LIPPMAN

Writing this piece after the New Hampshire campaign has ended but before the returns are in, I am struck by the very low estimate placed on the American voter by practicing politicians. The outstanding fact about the New Hampshire primary is that no one of the candidates, declared or undeclared, has thought it necessary to make even one considered speech addressed to an adult and informed audience.

The two leading declared candidates—Governor Rockefeller and Senator Goldwater—mentioned most of the topics, domestic and foreign, which are of vital interest to the country. Not even once has either of them discussed any of these topics with any thoroughness or with the recognition of complexity which enables a voter to judge what the candidate would do if he were responsible for action. They have mentioned Cuba, Viet Nam, NATO, inflation, the budget, taxes, and civil rights. Neither of them saw fit to treat any part of the New Hampshire electorate as fully adult and genuinely concerned. It is no exaggeration to say that the intellectual and moral level

of this primary campaign reflected the degradation of the democratic process.

It is a significant comment on the quality of the primary that while the two declared candidates were traipsing all over the state like mountebanks trying to beguile the boobies, the undeclared candidates seemed to be gaining strength. I do not know how large a write-in vote Mr. Lodge will obtain. But each vote for a man who has made no speeches at all will be a reflection on the candidates who have been making speeches a dozen times a day.

What about the Rockefeller and Goldwater estimates of the intellectual and moral level of the citizens of New Hampshire? Are the people as dumb as all that? If they are, the outlook for popular government is pretty dismal.

My own view is that Senator Goldwater was just being natural and was on the level to which he belongs. But in the case of Governor Rockefeller what we have been witnessing is a man acting on the prime fallacy of the public relations business. These students of human nature have found through elaborate investigations what is really quite

obvious and indeed a truism. It is that most of the people can and do pay only a little attention to public affairs. Most men are quickly bored with public affairs, they are easily distracted, they are too busy, and they are interested in other things. The commercialized mass media cater to this condition of the public mind. They keep their sights down to that level.

But in public life, and indeed, I would say, in journalism and the arts, it is essential to aim higher than the average of the mass audience. For while the men and women who are informed and concerned are only a part of the people, they are a leading part. They have influence far beyond their numbers, not because they are any better than anyone else but because they are believed to have taken the trouble to earn the right to speak on some subject.

It is these influential people who are neglected and ignored in the kind of campaigning which Governor Rockefeller has stooped down to. Incidentally, this may have given a considerable advantage to the non-candidates, who are assumed to have more to say than the candidates are saying.