

### DTH Editorial Page

Opinions of the Daily Tar Heel are expressed in its editorials. Letters and columns, covering a wide range of views, reflect the personal opinions of their authors.

## Selma: The World Waits

The confused and tense situation in Selma, Alabama grew even more hectic yesterday, leaving the world a little bewildered . . . and angry.

On Sunday, the Alabama state police apparently chose to interpret Gov. George Wallace's order to arrest violators as a license to attack them. His instructions "to use all the force necessary" were obviously overstepped, and the result was a deplorable spectacle of beatings, tear gas, whips, ropes and mounted officers being used against those who could have been quietly arrested, at most.

Yesterday, however, the troopers simply turned back a marching band of hundreds of Negroes without violence, demonstrating to the world that the brutality of Sunday was hardly "necessary."

Bad judgment has been the byword in Selma for weeks, since the very beginnings of the voter registration drive. On Sunday, it reached its zenith.

Now the world waits, its collective eyes focused on the small Alabama city. The question is an old one: Will justice prevail?

## Don't Complain If You Don't Show

One of the most disgusting campus campaign spectacles in years occurred Monday evening when a scheduled appearance by the campus candidates in Alexander Hall was canceled because no audience appeared.

Such an event is evidence of student apathy of the most repugnant variety. The candidates deserve the courtesy of an interested audience, and every student has a personal obligation to himself and his fellows to inform himself and

would meet "maybe three or four times this semester."

Everyone has a right to complain about things that displease him, of course; but we can't help feeling, after hearing the plight of many of our fellow students, that those who offer a sweeping condemnation of our Student Government just don't know what they are talking about.

## The Grass Is Always Greener . . .

An old and persistent complaint which originates annually from the ranks of the apathetic and uninformed on this campus is that "Student Government doesn't do anything." Nothing could be further from the truth, as the top-flight performance by our executive, legislative and judicial bodies during the recent years will attest.

As proof of the soundness and effectiveness of our Student Government, we offer a contrast with the University of Miami. A news item in this week's *Hurricane*, the campus newspaper, reports that "Student Government met for 12 minutes Monday." The story further says that the meeting was the first of the semester, that the president and treasurer of the Student Body gave reports totaling less than three minutes, and that the president announced that the group

would meet "maybe three or four times this semester."

One has only to compare this farce with the weekly sessions of our Student Legislature, or the comprehensive summary of Student Government presented last week by President Bob Spearman, to realize just how fortunate we are. While our representatives debate a \$200,000 budget or provide funds to remodel social rooms, hundreds of campuses across the country are faced with apathetic, ridiculous organizations almost as ludicrous as Miami's.

Everyone has a right to complain about things that displease him, of course; but we can't help feeling, after hearing the plight of many of our fellow students, that those who offer a sweeping condemnation of our Student Government just don't know what they are talking about.

## Speaker Ban's Taint Is Spreading

The Durham Herald

The mischief of North Carolina's ill-considered speaker ban is spreading beyond the ban's avowed targets — state-supported colleges and universities. The corrosive effects of this law are showing up in the General Assembly itself.

Reporters have found legislators loath to discuss amendment or repeal of the ban openly. They would prefer that any change in this law to protect the state from Communist hobgoblins come about like the ban, itself, through artful legislative maneuver.

Such an end to the speaker ban can be as bad in its way as the ban. It implies that we have so confused ourselves with the mere propaganda of freedom that respected men in the legislature dare not speak out on nit-picking anti-Communist legislation lest they risk being widely misunderstood. So far from ridding ourselves of the enfeebling fears manifested in the speaker ban law, repeal or amendment by stealth would manifest them in yet another time and place.

How can it be that this state, alone among the 50 states, is so frightened for its system of higher education that men of unquestioned honor and patriotism fear to label the speaker ban law as the humbug it is?

When this self-same meddlesome idea was suggested at the last session of the Virginia legislature, legislators and state officials answered with a quick "no thanks." Yet we in North Carolina go on implying that our hold on freedom is so precarious we dare not allow men or women to speak on any subject on state-supported campuses if those men or women are Communists or have even been suspect of a Communist taint under certain circumstances.

This is not a law for free men seeking to protect their vigorous free institutions. This is a law for cowards and those who believe they can only protect freedom by destroying aspects of freedom themselves.

Despite the pussyfooting on repeal and/or amendment of the speaker ban so far, we hope leadership will yet emerge with the courage to oppose openly the letter and the corrosive spirit of the speaker ban law. Then, and perhaps only then, can North Carolina hope to be done with both.



Letters To The Editors

## Viet Nam, Colombia Struck

### Rodriguez Wrong On Latin America

Editors, The Tar Heel: In response to a letter by Ivan Rodriguez published by you, I would like to make the following remarks.

His first reference to the "hundreds of strikes" which are suggested to happen in Latin American universities is grossly exaggerated, clearly misguided and suggestively malicious. If the remarks came from a casual visitor to Latin America it would be easier to understand his misconceptions. Coming from a Colombian student one cannot help but wonder about the reason for his confused and misguided letter.

The flexibility and freedom that the American students have in choosing their subjects are relative and debatable and not synonymous with precise specialization or cultural background that will be of some value to them in finding their places in society. At the same time "the mechanics of Aristotle, the Thomistic theory and the sociology of Saint Simon" seem to parallel more effectively a scientific search for democracy, than would the mechanics of analytic geometry.

I would suggest that any further comments from Mr. Ivan Rodriguez on Latin America will come from a more realistic, conscious, truthful and less prejudiced analysis, and I hope he realizes that his outburst has done more to add to the misconceptions that the American people have of Colombia and its people who, as a general rule, make an effective contribution to the betterment of Latin America and who I doubt would agree with Mr. Rodriguez in that what's good for Chicago is good for Antioquia.

Alvaro Saborio  
401 Connor

### Southeast Asia Issues Complex

Editors, The Tar Heel: The ever more violent news from Viet Nam and, by pointed contrast, the still deliberate silence from the White House, betoken, to my mind, a kind of quite connivance in disaster on the part of our officialdom in

Washington which ought to arouse even the most lethargic of us to question and appraise American policy in Southeast Asia. This would be an onerous task enough even were we given the precious and undiluted facts of our involvement there by the administration.

It is made terribly more trying and infinitely more necessary by virtue of our being given only the sparsest and most jingoistic explanations of why we are in Viet Nam and what we are doing there. My ire could as well be directed at our Washington policy-makers as at our Washington policy but perhaps the men will in time speak. Their policy has already spoken.

The issues in Viet Nam (and, indeed, in all of Asia) are, to my mind, far more complex than just Red China's threatening pose implicit in her militant concept of Communism. Of course, her message and influence are real enough for all to take just alarm, but I maintain that her revolutionary appeals and material support to those who heed them would not be so tellingly apparent and successful were it not that the majority of Asia's peoples see some validity and hope in their great neighbor's calls to disinherit the West and build anew their own society.

Communist promises conceal eventual enslavement, we may vainly argue to those who have known nothing but governmental tyranny and to whom Communism appeals as the far lessor of the evils they have experienced by Western hands and by the hands of their own scheming elites. The principle cause of our torments in South Vietnam is not the Viet Cong or North Vietnamese infiltration or Red Chinese support and encouragement of the insurgency effort.

The cause is the cowed and bewildered and frightened peasantry who allow the Communist guerrillas support and concealment. That the South Vietnamese leaders have failed their people and that we, in turn, have failed to do much about this since becoming involved there is, I feel, the unhappy precipitate cause of South Vietnam's collapse before Communism.

Other elements in the Vietnamese situation that vex and complicate our policy are the various relationships among and between the power groups with-

ing in South Viet Nam herself and impinging upon her from the outside.

To what extent can we fairly say that the Viet Cong are in all important ways subservient to Hanoi's control, and the same concerning Hanoi's relationship to Peking?

Furthermore, how vital in Viet Nam, nay, in all of Southeast Asia, is the traditional antipathy regarding Chinese attempts at domination in the area?

My feeling is that, concerning these perplexing questions and others, our policy has been dangerously myopic and uniformly crassly expedient. We have attempted to override with a singularly unsophisticated martial approach the subtle motivating impulses of the Vietnamese peoples and their Asian neighbors. This has proved, disastrous to them and extremely dangerous to us.

There is still time to manage our honorable disengagement from a dishonorable situation in which we have blundered with honest if not farseeing intentions. We can begin by halting our unjustified and crudely provocative air attacks on North Viet Nam. We can state our deep desire that the South Vietnamese and North Vietnamese, unforced and unmolested, be enabled to freely select the party and leaders more nearly responsive to their wishes and needs.

We can request that the International Control Commission for Indochina serve as a forum where the representatives of North and South Viet Nam and the United States can talk out their grievances and arrange, hopefully, for a peaceful integration of all Viet Nam under international guidance and protection. We can finally pledge whatever economic and technological assistance such a unified Viet Nam might request.

There is still time while the world waits and wonders what Far East agony is yet to come for the United States to faithfully and fully act as the leader among nations it pretends to be. There is still time. But will we act?

Phillip Podlish  
415 Connor

### Otelia, Cultivate Your Own Garden

Editors, The Tar Heel: I would like to comment briefly on Mrs. Connor's latest letter of criticism.

Who is Mrs. Connor to judge the manners of others? The correction of the manners of total strangers is a very serious breach of good etiquette, as a matter of fact, it is RUDE.

Today I was shocked to discover "Mrs. Connor's Undefinable Book of Etiquette" includes carrying a pencil behind the ear in its list of etiquette breaches.

Also, the word "kinder" puzzled me. I have never before seen it in print and my dictionary neglected to include it. Could Mrs. Connor have erred? Maybe Mrs. Connor could spend a little less time correcting the faults or others and concentrate on correcting those of her own.

Tony Gardiner  
14 Old East

## Scholarship Replaces Grades

The Tulane Hullabaloo California Institute of Technology is beginning a program of a type comparatively rare in American colleges and universities: it wants to emphasize scholarship instead of grades.

Freshmen will get regular letter grades on tests and papers but at the end of the semester will receive only a pass or fail mark for each course.

The purpose of this program is to relieve the freshman of the ever increasing pressure for a "good" scholastic average so he can "get ahead."

During his first year he will have the opportunity to possibly think about what he is doing, rather than just how well he is

doing it. Once adjusted to college life the student should be ready to enter the mad scramble for a sufficient average to impress Daddy, Mother, graduate school, prospective employers, and other students, but with one slight difference.

Perhaps in his year's sabbatical from the competition he will have the opportunity to develop a sincere interest in his studies. Then grades can be a product of scholarship instead of the all too frequent reverse.

At a school like Tulane with ever increasing standards of admission and equally increasing tuition this program might be of great value. At least it ought to be considered.

By PETE WALES  
Associate Editor

What really makes our highly specialized and centralized political system frightening is any kind of break-down or short-circuiting of communications.

The recent White Paper on Viet Nam and Johnson's general press policy on the war is a graphic example.

Through extensive exercise of Presidential powers, Johnson has created an attitude of total apathy and what James Reston calls fatalism among the American people toward our Viet Nam policy.

The situation is so complex, so constant, and so distant from us, that we are content to let Johnson slide along with what ever escalation he pleases.

Senator Strom Thurmond remarked the other day, and not without justification, that the next logical step would be use of nuclear weapons. A few short months ago, he might have been called trigger-happy and an extremist. Today, it may be expected almost any minute.

The recently published White Paper, the first substantial word to come out of the White House on Viet Nam in ages, is almost ludicrous in its superficial analysis and propagandistic tone.

The 75-page document attempted to "prove" that the Viet Cong were largely supported and bolstered by infiltration of north Vietnamese troops with Chinese weapons. This was to justify the recent series of "retaliatory" measures which in some cases lacked antecedents.

In fact, the vast majority of infiltrators from the North are South Vietnamese natives engaging in a civil war which Washington almost refuses to acknowledge.

The illusion created is that the war is being caused by the aggression of another power. The truth is that the problem is largely an internal one.

The main thing the Vietnamese would like is for everyone to go away: North Vietnamese, Viet Cong, General Khanh, the United States — everyone.

But nobody will, and even if they did, chaos would still reign. Johnson's political tactics have been to keep the press, the Congress and the country guessing.

He obtains Congressional approval for his air strikes after the fact when to oppose the action would be un-American.

The press is not given a chance to question the President in formal news conferences, but is given briefings instead. The men doing the briefing give selected facts only. They have no authority to give

the why's, or to comment on general policy.

The American people are led to believe that bombs don't kill women and children, they only blow up military installations. Anyone who has any idea of what a "military installation" in North Viet Nam looks like, knows there are a lot of people affected by the bombs. Just imagine North Viet Nam bombing the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

What's more, the State Department is put in the position of supporting virtually any kind of government, no matter how repressive or undemocratic, because it is operating under the illusion that this is a war of two countries rather than a civil war.

Congress is just beginning to react to the President's high-handedness. Several of the more liberal senators are joining old regular Wayne Morse in voicing their protest. But nothing concrete has been done. No committees, closed or open, are looking into matters themselves.

The questions at hand are the extent to which Johnson has actually declared war without Congressional action, and whether or not the President should in fact have more extensive authority in this age when security decisions must be made so quickly. These questions have no simple answers.

But the larger ethical question of communications is indeed answerable. This is the key to the smooth functioning of any highly specialized system.

Communication with the Congress and with the people must be far greater if the country is to be really involved in and concerned for its own future. It is the oil that keeps the complex machine running smoothly.

However much the campus looks down on peace marchers and critics of the consensus, it should at least acknowledge the central point made. We do not know enough of what our government is doing in South Viet Nam, and we don't know that it's right.

If democracy is to survive, if free thinking is to survive, we, as students, must make an effort to find out about ourselves and what we are doing.

We must do a little communicating of our own to keep the great machine working.

### LETTERS

The Daily Tar Heel solicits letters to the editors at any time and on any subject.

All letters must be typed DOUBLE SPACED and must be free of libel. The editors reserve the right to edit for length. Letters should be submitted at least two days prior to date of publication.

## For Those Who Side With Lewis Carroll - A Poem

This poem is for those members of our population who are politically inclined toward Lewis Carroll. It is a modification of Carroll's *JABBERWOcky* and is one of a forthcoming series entitled *Wonderland Revisited*.

"Demagogy"

Twas November and the slithy Reds,  
Did gyre and gimble in the Kremlin,  
All whimsy were the voters heads,  
And the Viet Cong outgrabe.

"Beware the Demagogue, my son!  
The tongue that bites, the plots that hatch!  
Beware the Lyndon bird, and slun  
The frumious Bakersnatch!"

He took forensic sword in hand;  
Long time the misnamed foe he sought—  
So rested he by the Liblib tree,  
And stood awhile in thought.

And as in realish thought he stood,  
The Demagogue, with words of corn,  
Came braying through the Fabian wood,  
And promised to yesterday's born!

And the Romans jumped the track.

One, two! One, two! And through and thru  
The forensic sword went snicker-snack!  
He proved it dead, it doled out bread  
"And has it won, the Demagogue?  
Take up your arms by GOPish chum  
One hopeful day! Callooh! Callay!!  
WE SHALL OVERCOME!!"

Twas November and the slithy Reds,  
Did gyre and gimble in the Kremlin,  
All whimsy were the voters heads,  
And the Viet Cong outgrabe.

Paul King  
411 Ruffin

## The Daily Tar Heel

72 Years of Editorial Freedom

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