

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.

An Ominous U.S. Cloud

President Johnson's statement that the United States is always open to an honorable settlement in Viet Nam—that is, one based on an end to Communist aggression—was a welcome, if not unexpected, re-statement of our basic policy in Southeast Asia.

Certainly, every peace-loving individual has long since become disgusted and appalled by certain aspects of the rice-paddy piddling which has gone on for so long, and a peaceable solution to the war would be met with a resound-

The Legislature Watches Baring

Some fun under the sun appears to be brewing in Tennessee, where the state legislature recently passed a bill outlawing nudism. Trouble is, nobody seems to know exactly who is covered by the law.

The state legislator who sponsored the bill has admitted that its content may be a bit obscure. But, he says, the statute is designed to put nudist colonies under wraps, and he doesn't know how many nudists make a colony. Thus the law is designed to cover almost any nude group larger than one.

That, say the nudists, is the trouble. A counsel for the American Sunbathing Association contends that the law is "so ambiguous that it makes it a crime to swim in a YMCA pool or for two or more people to disrobe even in their own homes."

Now, we've never been especially partial to nudists (we don't even know any). But they are not particularly offensive, especially as long as they keep their nudism private, and we fail to see why the Tennessee lawmakers should want to make their existence un-bearable.

Besides, there's a principle involved here. No one should be forced to stand in fear of the law just because he happens to be standing with his pants down, especially in his own home or the YMCA.

It is pretty obvious that the nudists—and the public — are getting a raw deal.

And The Weekly Awards Arrive . . .

MEN OF THE WEEK: The astronauts and cosmonauts who risked their lives this week for the advancement of science.

LIZARD OF THE WEEK: The person who stole a seeing-eye dog from a blind New York City magazine vendor, thus showing that not all the trouble in that fabled town is caused by hoodlums on subways.

HAPPIEST MAN OF THE WEEK: Bob Spearman, still President of the Student Body, who sees the end in sight.

ing "O. K." around the world.

But as the fighting continues, it becomes more and more obvious that a peaceable solution will not be easily obtained. The Communists are too confident of ultimate victory to capitulate at the negotiation table; history has shown that they make "peace" only when they are whipped. And even as the President voiced his hopeful statement this week, an ominous cloud of world opinion hung on the diplomatic horizon which gave impetus to the Communist drive and probably helped postpone any real victory.

The cloud was primarily the result of a tactical blunder by which U.S. forces in Viet Nam were allowed to use gas against the Viet Cong.

Granted, the gas is non-lethal and was used to "prevent injury to innocent civilians; it is gas, nevertheless. As such, it offers the Viet Cong and Red Chinese an excellent propaganda device and a jumping-off place for the use of more horrible gas, such as the so-called "nerve compound."

One of your editors received a dose of the mild gas being used by American forces during an Army training mission. It caused nausea and chills for several hours. No doubt, it is extremely effective where civilians may be too close to the fighting.

"Nerve compound," on the other hand, is deadly . . . 10 times as deadly as nuclear fallout. It will remain in the atmosphere for weeks, killing on contact. To provoke the use of even the smallest amount of the stuff would be to provoke man's most inhumane weapon.

To provoke unfavorable world opinion at this stage of the game is less dangerous, but hardly less foolish. The prospect of nerve gas warfare and anti-American sentiments should have been sufficient to cause our military leaders to keep the gas at home. Yet it turns out that the President himself was not even aware of its intended use.

President Johnson has spoken for Americans everywhere by extending the hope of peace to the world. But he has been forced to shout his message over the hullabaloo stirred up by some of our less astute military men.

HAPPIEST MEN OF THE WEEK: Us. Ditto.

MIDAS AWARD: To the San Francisco executive who insured himself for \$4,000,000 with the New York Life Insurance Co., who will take \$200,000 in annual premiums.

SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY OF THE WEEK: By two doctors in New York, who discovered that eating raw mushrooms and drinking beer is not good for one's health. They discovered this on a camping trip, when they became violently sick.

STOIC OF THE WEEK, or APATHETIC MOTHER CITATION: To the wife of a Vietnamese soldier who was being evacuated by helicopter from a distant village to Saigon. As the aircraft neared its half-way point, she told a medic she was about to have a baby. After he delivered the five-pound child, she informed him that although the birth was exciting, she was far more enthralled by the helicopter ride.

CRUELY JOKE OF THE WEEK: After the Secretary of the Air Force accepted the resignations of 105 Air Force Academy cadets who admitted cheating in the recent scandal, the following riddle spread about: "What's the new mascot at the Air Force Academy?" The answer: "A cheetah."

FACT OF THE WEEK: Outbreaks of the foot and mouth disease increased significantly in Europe during the latter half of 1964.

BONUS FACT OF THE WEEK: The most popular television channel in Sao Paulo, Brazil, is Channel 5. Its call letters are NOT WRAL-TV.

"Excuse Me, But I'm Saving My Cuts for Spring Vacation"



Letters To The Editors

Liquor Next To Baptists?

ABC Store Better Than Hamburgers

Editors, The Tar Heel:

Fighting the right cause with the wrong motivation is dramatically exemplified by the cries of opposition to the planned eatery adjacent to the downtown Baptist church. The opposition sings many verses to its main chorus, the further ruination of Chapel Hill's charming quaintness with garish architectural abominations.

This may be true. But opposition predicated on aesthetics is hardly an effective counter-move in a situation dominated by rational economics. The real problem is that Chapel Hill will be getting what it already has in sufficiency (just ask any downtown restaurant operator if this isn't so), and is not getting what it sorely needs, that is, a second ABC store with a central location.

An ABC store on the corner of Columbia and Franklin has many points in its favor. One, such stores are conservatively designed and could be built to look just like the other downtown establishments.

Two, the ABC store could be made to include service for customers in their cars, just like a drive-in bank window. Thus, cars could approach from W. Franklin and possibly drive out on S. Columbia, with no ensuing traffic jam as anticipated with the restaurant.

Three, the ABC store's location near the Greek and campus sectors would allow some students to walk to the store rather than highballing it back and forth to Eastgate in their fastbacks.

Four, such strategic placement of the ABC store would place it next to two major institutions, church and university, whose moral influence undoubtedly would encourage customer moderation and self-responsibility.

Five, such stores are closed on Sundays and other legal holidays, and so would not interfere with customary church services, as might a restaurant.

Six, an ABC store is a "clean" business with no charcoal smoke, greasy French-fry smell, or paper litter.

Thus, if there must be opposition to the proposed eatery, then let the opposition carry

a banner worthy of the fight. After all, why oppose an eatery just to maintain a barren corner? Fight FOR something, do not just be ag'in it!

Len Tompos
Miller Hall

Alabaman Speaks On Selma March

Editors, The Tar Heel:

As a proud citizen of the state of Alabama, I have painfully watched the recent events in Selma with mixed emotions. I sincerely sympathize with those individuals who are striving to obtain their unquestionable right to vote, and I have great love and understanding for the many good citizens of Alabama, both white and Negro, who have suffered through this long, long struggle. They have suffered and they will suffer more, often unnecessarily, before the sun rises on a calm day in Alabama.

At the same time I am sickened by the growing trend of thought, as exemplified by Selma, that misuse of our Constitution and our laws cannot be corrected within the political system that more than one Alabama boy has died to defend.

There is no place in our system for the practice of mob rule, yet our Nobel Prize winner violates a Federal Court order, urges thousands to flock to the streets, and pledges that he will, in fact, violate any Federal Court order that he feels is unjust.

The demonstration that Dr. King is leading is not, as he says, "America's cause." On the other hand, it is making a mockery out of America's cause by "demonstrating" that interests cannot be articulated and aggregated in our democracy without mob rule.

The Selma march does not serve to expose Alabama, for that state was fully exposed by the events in Selma of the past few weeks, and this march is anticlimactical. So much dirt has been shoveled over the name of Alabama that a little more dust will not expose it, and certainly will not help clean it up.

What the Selma march does expose is that Dr. King feels that our democracy is not able to answer the cries of the oppressed without going outside the system itself.

There is no place in our system for action such as this, and yet those who are charged with the preservation and defense of this system support these mob demonstrations and condone their destructive and degrading use. I have not reached any point where I will accept any means to obtain the proper ends.

There are many Americans who feel as I do that all qualified persons should be allowed to vote. But this does not mean that we have lost assurance that our political system is flexible enough in itself to grant the rights of all.

It was this assurance that prompted the Catholic archbishop of the Mobile-Birmingham Diocese to order all Priests and nuns to stay out of Selma even though this individual is a supporter of Negro voting rights. It was this same

insight that prompted the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama to take similar action. Both of these men have spoken out for the rights of the citizens of Alabama to vote, yet they have strong convictions and beliefs toward our democratic system and its ability to function for all men.

Dr. King has said, "We know we can work within the framework of our democracy to bring about a brighter day." If he really believes this, let him prove it to the people of the South, and to all America. Our nation cries out for courageous men to preach the causes of freedom and the rights of men.

I challenge Dr. King and his followers to be examples for all Americans, white and Negro, that we can maintain a pluralistic culture of different ideals without each group disregarding the rules of the system to make its wishes known.

Let us work together as Americans and through the American system, together we will evolve with a strengthened rather than a weakened society.

Nick Greenwood
Chi Psi Lodge

Press Is Erratic On Civil Rights

Editors, The Tar Heel:

It is to complain that I address my first letter to the Daily Tar Heel, to protest the hypocrisy of the news media as well as against our own hypocrisy; I refer to the recent death of Rev. Reeb, in Selma, Ala.

My intent is not to belittle in any way his sacrifice, but to place it in perspective of the situation. Thus let me ask but one question: Why were headlines made by his death, while near to nothing was written about the shooting to death of Jimmie Lee Jackson (having forgotten the name, I had to refer to the New York Times) who was the first person to give his life in the present protest movement, in Selma?

Such unfair and biased coverage is not an exception. I believe it to be mainly, if not solely, due to the different pigmentation of Reeb's and Jackson's skin. To prove my point, I will refer to two other recent events.

First of all, the murder of J. Chaney, A. Goodman and M. Schwerner was presented with banners and first page headlines, while only a keen look at last summer's New York Times has made me aware that they were far from being the only ones to die for their belief in human dignity in Mississippi last summer, the others having the "bad luck" to be black.

The other event I refer to is the coverage of the Congo crisis, where once more headlines were made by the death of a few whites, whereas little was said about the massacre of the Congolese, on either side.

Therefore I do ask everyone, including NAACP, CORE, . . . to weigh their actions, such as the march in Raleigh two weeks ago, more carefully, before professing their belief in human dignity and equality, regardless of race or color.

Alain de Fontenay
Dey Hall

Torture In Viet Nam Questioned

By DAVID ROTHMAN

"Our warmongering, fighting, murdering killers should be brought home immediately from Viet Nam," the student declared.

He was speaking — without sarcasm — to a Di-Phi audience (which later voted that the United States should stay in Viet Nam).

Probably, he had read "What Are We Tied to in Viet Nam?" a pamphlet distributed here by the SPU.

Published by the Massachusetts Political Action for Peace, the handout contained lurid accounts of the torture allegedly given prisoners of the Saigon government.

The pamphlet itself did not directly accuse Americans of the atrocities. But it suggested that the United States bears a heavy responsibility for the supposed barbarism.

"Hauling in Red Guerrilla," read the caption beneath the pamphlet's cover photograph, first published in the Boston Record American.

According to the caption, the photo showed government soldiers hitching a communist prisoner to an armored truck carrier before pulling him through a stream.

One must be wary when reading the publications of groups like the Massachusetts Political Action for Peace (captions can be made to confuse the eye). However, the photo's caption was written by the American staff — not by the pamphleteers.

There were also photographs and pieces of the accompanying accounts that had originally been published by other papers. One of these had appeared in the New York Times. South Vietnamese soldiers were shown lowering a guerrilla into a water pot.

"The ducking was one method of persuading men to talk," the Times candidly observed.

"Brought to Heel" went a caption from the New York Daily News. The caption's photograph showed a wretched creature with an arched neck and a soiled face.

It wasn't a dog; it was a

Vietnamese farmer, who had given government troops information about the Viet Cong.

A government soldier stood nearby. He held a dagger butt. Another photo showed the farmer lying stomach-down on a pile of bushes. His foot raised, the soldier appeared ready to kick in the unfortunate man's head.

Reportedly, war booty is sometimes returned. An AP account told how government troops had held a field tribunal for a V. C. infiltrator, had decapitated him, then had sent the body and the head back to his family.

A word of caution: At times, the Associated Press distributes Viet Cong photographs — being careful, of course, to indicate their origin.

Did the Massachusetts Political Action for Peace fail to exercise a similar form of caution? Apparently not — unless Life and other publications were deliberately misquoted.

Largely controlled by Henry Luce (the conservative publisher), the magazine supposedly reported that "in interrogating prisoners each side in the Vietnamese war occasionally resorts to torture."

Nevertheless, the reader should notice the use of the word "occasionally," which was not present in unquoted form. The pamphlet itself called the torture "commonplace."

Another important word is "each;" the pamphlet did not mention the atrocities committed by the Viet Cong.

It also did not mention the genocide of which the Communists are guilty in Tibet. Likewise, the pamphlet failed to mention the sadism of the Peking regime in China proper.

During the Korean conflict, for instance, two missionary girls were dragged into the street and soiled with urine. An entire company of soldiers did the urinating.

Apparently, the Viet Cong follow China's example. Last year, March 19 was an important date in Viet Nam it was frankly designated "Hate America Day."

Until recently, the Viet Cong had been waging a fullscale war against the American women and children of Saigon.

Gronouski Checks Up On President

By ART BUCHWALD
The New York Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Last week Russian Premier Aleksei N. Kosygin said he invited President Johnson to Moscow, but the President never answered his letter. The same day, George Reedy, White House press secretary, who is known to Washington correspondents as Dr. No, denied President Johnson ever received a written invitation from the Russian Premier.

A few weeks ago United Nations Secretary-General U Thant said he sent a peace plan for Viet Nam to the President. In this case Reedy also denied that President Johnson ever received such a plan.

The only thing that can be deduced from all this is that someone is fooling around with the President's mail. And if I were the President I'd be pretty mad about it.

"Get me the Postmaster-General on the Phone . . . Gronouski, this is the President. I do not seem to be getting all my mail."

"Have people been using your zip code correctly?"

"How should I know? But Premier Kosygin says he sent me an invitation to Moscow two months ago and, as far as I know, it hasn't arrived yet."

"If he didn't send it air mail, it could still be on a boat."

"I'm sure he sent it air mail or he wouldn't have made such a fuss about it."

"Well if he sent it air mail, it was probably routed to New York's Kennedy International Airport. We're having a little trouble getting the mail from the airport into town."

"But it couldn't have taken two months."

"Well, once it gets into town, it has to be re-routed to Washington and sent out to the airport again. That's probably where the hold up is."

"How long does that take?"

"The problem is we've just automated our New York post office and it's not working very smoothly at the moment. It could take anywhere from a day to six months, depending on which computer is working."

"Gronouski, I want to ask you a question and I want a direct answer. Do you have a mail cover on me?"

"Pardon me, Mr. President?"

"I said, is your department checking my mail?"

"I am not at liberty to say, sir. We can't give out any names of the 24,000 people we've had mail covers on because innocent people could be hurt."

"Don't give that Senate committee report, Gronouski. Are you watching my mail?"

"I can't say, sir."

"Why not?"

"I'm under an Executive Order not to reveal the names of any people whose mail we're watching."

"But I happened to sign the order, am I Executive?"

"Yes, that's true. Well, I guess I can tell you then. I'm afraid we do have a mail cover on you."

"What in the Pedernales for?"

"Well, you see, sir, one of our inspectors saw this letter postmarked Moscow, and then one of our translators noticed it had the return address of the Premier of the Soviet Union. So it got us to wondering what an American citizen would be doing getting a letter from the Russian Premier, and we figured we'd better check into it."

"It was nothing but an invitation to visit the Soviet Union."

"We know that, Mr. President."

"How do you know that?"

"We have this ultra-violet ray machine that can see right through envelopes."

"Well, you'd better send that letter right away."

"Yes, sir, Mr. President. Oh, by the way, do you want the U Thant letter, too?"

To All The Candidates Who Lost Last Tuesday

The Coming of Age or Lamentations of the Fallen

Campus Politician

Ah, the sweetness of life, the wonder of our struggle. When surrounded by little soldiers of one accord. Ah, the faithful friends around us, trudging hand in hand To the Zion of our dreams, to our common heaven. With the trust of our brother, our eyes to the front. We dwell in the happiness of our innocence. Ah, the hell of life, the verity of our struggle. When the road to Zion narrows and our friends depart To ambush old companions of the innocent days. Ah, the pain of our wounds, the hate for our brother. Trust was for the innocent, honor for the unaware. Only one eye to the front, our friends are behind us.

Jim Robinson, 411 Ruffin

The Daily Tar Heel

72 Years of Editorial Freedom

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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.