

# 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.

## The Law And The Vote

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has announced an intensive Negro voter registration push for 120 Black Belt counties, all of which will be visited by volunteer workers for 10 - week periods during this summer. As expected, some North Carolina counties are on the list.

Although Dr. King failed to announce which Tar Heel counties will be included in the massive drive, speculation is that any of the 34 North Carolina counties which come under the provisions of the proposed voting rights bill might be targets.

Many of these counties have high Negro populations (40 per cent or more), and all had voter participation rates lower than 50 per cent for the 1964 elections. They are vulnerable points in the state's record of race relations, and Negro voting rights are, or have been, question marks in some of them.

But now a bigger question mark looms on the horizon of summer: what will happen if the proposed drive does take place?

The answer, hopefully, is that Negro

voter registration — indeed, all registration — will proceed in an orderly fashion.

North Carolina, like most of her Southern neighbors, has a history dotted with "grandfather clauses," white-only primaries, and similar discriminatory voting practices. Even so progressive a politician as Gov. Charles Aycock found disenfranchisement of the Negro expedient in launching the state over the threshold of the twentieth century.

But in recent years, scholars such as V. O. Key and UNC's own James Prothro have pointed out North Carolina's honest and straightforward extension of voting rights to Negro citizens — and the extension has come without agitation or the explosion of a Selma.

Thus, we neither expect nor encourage a Selma if the volunteers come this summer. North Carolina's citizens have a traditional respect for the law. The law says, as it has said for almost 100 years, that Negroes should be allowed to vote.

North Carolina is obeying, and will continue to obey, that law.

## Awards Of The Week That Was . . .

**MEN OF THE WEEK:** The organizers of the Fine Arts Festival, whose long hours of hard work have produced one of the finest programs in Carolina history.

**LIZARD OF THE WEEK:** Anybody too cheap to contribute to the Campus Chest.

**DICK STUART AWARD:** To the Colgate shortstop who managed to commit two errors on the same play during an 18 - 3 loss to the Tar Heels Tuesday.

**ZENO PONDER CITATION:** To the person who surreptitiously cast 10 extra votes for a legislative candidate after tions Board and the Constitutional Council into chaos.

**SIGNS OF THE TIMES CITATION:** To Indian handicraft stores in Santa Fe, N. M., which have most of their wares made in Japan.

**GIFT OF THE WEEK:** Gov. George Wallace of Alabama met with civil rights leaders this week, presumably said nothing of consequence, and then presented each with an autographed photo of himself on the way out.

**FACT OF THE WEEK:** The longest stretch of straight railroad track in the United States is on the Atlantic Coast Line between Warsaw and Wilmington, N. C. It is 39 miles in length.

**CRIME DOES NOT PAY REMINDER, or THAT'S NO BULL AWARD:** To Charlene Abernathy, 43, a lady bull-fighter, who was arrested Monday in Los Angeles and charged with stealing (you guessed it) a pair of tiorador pants.

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AWARD or the "IT AIN'T ABSTRACT" CITATION:** To WUNC-TV, which will air a course in basic concrete technology, presumably to help suburbanites build backyard patios.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** (by Jose Torres, newly - crowned light heavy-weight champion) "Jose Torres is a great fighter."

**SPRING IS HERE CITATION, or the "BUSTIN' OUT ALL OVER" AWARD:** To the courageous Carolina coed who stopped traffic in Chapel Hill by appearing on Franklin Street in a pair of Bermuda shorts so tight they must have been left from last year.

## Computerized Grading Rates An 'F'

In a day when students are rioting in California, picketing in Brooklyn and demonstrating in Kansas against the computer university and depersonalization of the teaching process, a professor at the University of Connecticut is figuring out a way to grade essays by computers.

One wonders if our distinguished scholars are reading the papers.

Professor Ellis B. Page, the wizard in question, feels that computer grading would free "teachers who would rather do research and smoke their pipes than correct endless exam papers."

While we would dare to admit that

such teachers may exist, we would question the desirability of encouraging the breed.

Page's method is to evaluate style from punctuation patterns, word length and frequency, sentence complexity and number of uncommon words.

Repetition of common words and cliches would be negative points while words like "moreover" and "however" are, according to Page, evidence of the "more mature writer." To us they sound like verbosity, but then we aren't PhD's

Page is presently trying to figure out a way to grade content. He feels that it will be relatively simple to get a computer to imitate a grader's standards after studying a number of his papers.

Again we would reluctantly admit the possibility of imitating certain graders' standards, and again we would question the desirability of doing so.

The obvious extension of the logic proposed by Neusweek is to have students start smoking pipes and program computers to take their exams.

Page does have a point. Exams are, in many cases, more trouble than they're worth, and grading of essay questions is often inconsistent and inaccurate.

The solution lies not with computers, but with a decrease in pipe-smoking and a corresponding increase in time and attention paid by professors to exam-giving and grading.

Exams are a serious business for the student in an increasingly grade-conscious world. There's no reason why they shouldn't be taken a little more seriously by professors as well.

—PETE WALES

# Editors Hit On Viet Nam, Rights

Editors, The Tar Heel:

The editorial comments in Thursday's DTH, beginning with Fred Seely's Notebook, and continuing through the remarks on the Ku Klux Klan and the Viet-Nam situation, were without exception misinformed, misguided, and irresponsible. That their authors may lack the information to form more responsible views is no excuse, since they are in a position to inform themselves and learn the proper use of logic, and indeed are under an obligation to do so, if they take seriously their positions as editors.

Putting aside the Notebook for a moment, let's consider the editorials on page two (Pete Wales, by the way, is exempted from this criticism, since he seems to have a well - trained and consistent sense of responsibility and objectivity).

The outseoin of whether HUAC "can prove its value to Congress," especially by investigating the KKK, is at best very doubtful. Did the author of that remark see Tuesday's New York Times editorial comment on this topic?

"We are equally dubious about the projected investigation of the Ku Klux Klan by the House Un - American Activities Committee. Everyone already knows all that it is necessary to know about the Klan,

which is that its racist notions are nonsense and its members are bigoted riffraff. Even if an inquiry were needed, the Committee, with its staff bloated by over - paid time - servers, has never demonstrated any investigative competence. It could only serve as a conduit for material developed by the F.B.I.

"If legislation is needed to control the Klan, the Justice Department can prepare it without the humbling intervention of this discredited committee, which should have been abolished long ago." (Times, march 30, 1965.)

It is significant, I think, that these comments (note the "equally") were the final paragraphs of a statement opposing Dr. Martin Luther King's proposed boycott of Alabama. The Times considered their attitude so self - evidently true that they gave it as an afterthought, I presume.

This, actually, is a minor issue. HUAC is not likely to do much harm in this case, even if it does not do much good.

But the statements at the bottom of the editorial column in Thursday's DTH demonstrate a truly deplorable lack of understanding or responsibility. They said:

"The bombing of our embassy in Saigon cannot go unanswered . . . If we get out of

Southeast Asia, we will lose face not only in the eyes of the world, but in the eyes of our own nation . . . If we must bomb Hanoi as a reply, let us make it a good bombing . . . The war in Viet Nam is truly a 'dirty war,' but America is on trial. We cannot let a small, backward nation stare us down."

Let us see again what the Times had to say on the topic.

"The problem that Viet Nam represents is not going to be solved by military means. The solution lies in the political, economic and social fields . . . Sooner or later, negotiation will again be feasible, if the ground is prepared with some other seed than bombs, and it should be prepared now.

" . . . to repay the Saigon atrocity with force . . . requires no thought, no skill, no diplomacy, no understanding — just power. It would not bring about Hanoi's unconditional surrender. A serious peace offensive might bring the desired results. Its preparation is urgent and essential and should take precedence over the planning, now evidently under way, for extension of the war." (Times, March 31.)

What seems to lie behind the Tar Heel's attitude that we "cannot let a small, backward

nation stare us down," is the assumption that it doesn't matter why we are in Viet Nam, or whether our presence there and our behavior in this war has been morally justifiable or humane; and that we must never admit our guilt, must never admit we've been wrong, must never back down.

Until this attitude is abandoned, by the editors of the DTH, by our government leaders, and by world leaders in general, until we dedicate ourselves to the active pursuit of peace and the adherence to uncontested moral truths, we will never be the great Christian nation we pretend to be. We will never be the rational world we pretend to be, and we will never be free of the spectre of atomic war and utter annihilation.

I have saved my remarks on Seely's Notebook for last, because it seems to me that, whereas the pieces on the KKK and Viet Nam were perhaps merely ill - informed and poorly reasoned, his remarks demonstrate what I can regard only as bigotry, a profound irresponsibility and lack of a sense of shame.

The technique of innuendo, misstatement, and indirect insult is not new in the pages of this year's DTH, but I must marvel at the gall of a man who will sign his name to such an attack as this one — for the article is an attack, of the most unscrupulous kind.

Seely begins by calling Quinton Baker and his party "latter-day carpetbaggers." The label is absurd, but serves the purpose of establishing the intended preconception of sinister motives for the project. He proceeds tamely enough for several paragraphs, but finally, having set up his target, closes in for the kill. Thus:

"However, we do have our doubts. For one thing, we suspect the 40 who show up will be top - heavy with people who believe the South is somewhere near the end of the world, and that whippings and lynchings occur, as regularly as barbecues

The bold type is mine, and it is solely his "suspicious" that Seely is concerned with communicating. It does credit at least to his common sense that he presents a few genuine facts about the project, since he apparently knows only what was reported in the Daily Cardinal.

The conclusion I draw from the summary of the Cardinal article is that the project (its name speaks well for it) will do a very good job of informing the students on conditions in this state. Even if it can't change the participants' personal convictions, it will at least provide them with a few facts, for example, what North Carolina's Negro students think

of the situation. That seems to irk Seely. But the stated goal of the project is to "see what effect this experience has on prevailing attitudes" — attitudes, I presume, towards the Negro, and towards his situation in North Carolina and the South.

Seely tells us that North Carolina is "a state which is proud of its progress in human understanding, a state which has moved with true 'deliberate speed' and which today can boast of excellent human understanding between the races."

Fine. If this is true, What better place for those Northern students to discover this than among Negro students, who are, after all, most vitally concerned?

If the Negro students can testify to North Carolina's progress and human understanding, then no further testimony will be necessary; and if they can not, then no government official will have one word worth listening to.

As for the implication that the group plans to "tomp" on farmers' lands, it is so absurd I can only hope Seely had to laugh at it himself. The problem of "human understanding between the races" has not been solved in North Carolina. We are in a period of deceptive calm, and can easily delude ourselves that we've resolved our differences.

But "understanding" is not enough, even if we had it, and this state will have to pass through severe trials before it can afford to boast of "progress in human understanding," and before the Negro has assumed his rightful place as a full citizen with equal rights and full respect from all his fellow Americans.

The civil rights movement here was effectively broken, to the disgrace of this town and University, and it will be months or years before it regains its vigor and power.

But the day will come, hopefully, when articles like Seely's will be only laughable, and true understanding and brotherhood has been achieved.

William M. Senkus  
510 E. Franklin St.

Note: I am a student of this University, a resident of this state, have never met Baker, and quote from the New York Times because it states what I believe and, at least among certain members of our intelligentsia, enjoys a reputation for being the most intelligent, well-informed, and responsible newspaper in this country.

I am also a citizen of the United States, and proud of it. It is primarily this pride, and the desire to see my country live up to its ideals, which prompts me to write so severe a letter. I apologize if I have offended anyone.

## Gas Is Humane But Nauseating

By ART BUCHWALD

WASHINGTON — I dropped over to the Pentagon last week and all seemed to be normal except everyone was wearing a gas mask. I proceeded to the office of a colonel I knew and found him on the phone saying, "But we're not calling it gas, George. We're calling it benevolent incapacitators. How the hell do I know how to spell it?" He hung up. "I guess you want to know about the gas, too."

I nodded my head. "Well, it's quite harmless. Every country has it, and it's been used in riots in some of the most civilized places on the globe."

"The publicity's been very bad on it," I said. "I tell you it's harmless. Look, I'll take some myself. He picked up an aerosol can and sprayed some in the room.

"There, you see!" But in a minute tears were rolling down his cheeks. "Nobody understands us," he sobbed. "All we're trying to do is prevent casualties and be as humane as possible and everyone criticizes."

"Would you like my handkerchief?" I asked. "Thank you," he said, trying to get control of himself. But the tears wouldn't stop. "This is a tough war," he cried, dabbing his eyes, "and we have to use whatever we can to win it. Isn't it better than strafing villages and dropping napalm on the natives?"

"Control yourself, Colonel," I said, as a few tears started rolling down my cheeks. "I'm not criticizing anybody. You guys know more than we do about the situation, but there's only one thing I've got to ask you."

"What's that?" he sniffled. "Can I have my handkerchief back?"

I started blubbering in earnest.

The colonel's secretary, hearing the noise, came into the office and immediately burst into tears. "Oh, Colonel, I'm so unhappy."

"It's all right, Elaine," the colonel said, his shoulders shaking. "Everything's going to be all right."

I placed the handkerchief in my mouth and then I said, "Was Washington aware that you were going to use the gas out in South Viet Nam on the Viet Cong?"

The colonel was about to answer when his face went green and he reached for the wastepaper basket.

"The colonel's sick," the secretary cried hysterically. "Oh, somebody give the colonel some water."

I was about to get some water when the nausea hit me. "I think I'm getting sick, too," I cried and grabbed the colonel's hat.

When the colonel saw what I was doing, he started crying again. "My new hat, my new hat, my new hat."

The secretary rushed out of the office to get water for both of us. By this time the colonel had his head hanging out the window and I was rolling on the floor holding my stomach.

The commotion caused a general to walk in. "Dammit, Colonel," he shouted. "Can't you brief these reporters without all this noise?"

But in 30 seconds the general was also crying and his aide came in and helped him out of the room as he said softly, "It's all right, General, it's going to be all right."

In about a half-hour everything was back to normal. The colonel was seated at his desk and I was sitting in a chair. "As I was saying," he said briskly, "this is a non-lethal type of gas and we have no reason to apologize for using it."



## Rothman, Fund Drive Hit

'Chest' Should Be Publicized

tell me how "idealistic" Americans are.

Chip Sharpe  
220 Ehringhaus

Editors' Note: The author apparently missed our editorial Wednesday explaining the work of the World University Service (WUS), one of the organizations Campus Chest raises funds for.

Cycles Target Of Discrimination

Jack Westall  
226 Craige

Satire On Reeb Lacked Humor

Editors, The Tar Heel:

Every "satirical" point which David Rothman makes in his article about Rev. Reeb has been seriously set forth by serious men. Doubtlessly the men who killed Reeb were a part of this group.

His steam - roller approach to such a delicate and dangerous problem is at best distasteful. He may have meant well, but his article was so poorly written that it was extremely negatively received in the Negro community.

His lack of experience in the civil rights movement has left him with little understanding of the problems facing the Negro. He may laugh at the men who killed Rev. Reeb, but I pray he laughs alone.

Charles Miller  
407 W. Franklin St.

Editors, The Tar Heel:

"Give Generously" proclaims the banner in Y-Court. But give to what? Should I give my dollar to run a "carnival"? Should I make my dollar one of 2,400 needed to pay for someone else's (probably) Buick?

Should I help pay for a number of the functions of the Campus Chest are varied but unknown.

(1) The Campus Chest should inform the campus of the work and the need of the institutions to which the money will go. I doubt that one per cent of the students know even the number or name of those institutions.

(2) The Campus Chest publicity should generate feelings of empathy and responsibility toward areas of true need. The only feelings I have noticed have been the rather dubious anticipation of winning a big blue Buick and the diligent anxiety of whether this year's campaign will "make a good showing."

(3) The money should be collected through an honest and sincere program of emotive education, not by the devious apologetic now being ineffectively employed.

Until the "Give Generously" banner ceases to be absurd and obscured by the hypocrisy of this campaign, don't expect my "contribution" and don't try to