

# The Daily Tar Heel

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. ERNIE McCRARY, EDITOR

## The Woes Of Elections

Confusion, complications and mistakes are to be expected in the handling of almost any election. The mechanics of the process are complex and extremely difficult to coordinate.

The problems encountered in Tuesday's voting for freshman, sophomore and junior class officers and other issues re-emphasize a recurring awareness that something needs to be done. The problems are not new, and we have tolerated them long enough.

Some students have charged that there was no ballot box at the Carolina Inn polling place until noon Tuesday. Elections Board Chairman Alvin Tyndall said the box was indeed delivered, but the students who had agreed to man it did not appear. Of course the chairman of the Elections Board cannot control the actions of these individuals — if they promise to be there, he can do little but accept their word and scramble for replacements if they break it.

His position is frustrating because he has no real power in this matter. Tyndall said the Elections Board will meet today to discuss these and other problems, and he wants a recommendation that a law be passed making it an Honor Code offense to fail to keep an obligation to tend a poll.

We agree with the intent, but find the approach so oppressively negative that most potential poll sitters will be scared away by this system. We suggest that our well-heeled Student Legislature increase the Election Board's budget enough to allow at least token payment to poll attendants. Polls are required by law to be open seven hours during election day. If the attendants were paid perhaps 50 cents an hour their increased enthusiasm and dependability would be well worth the rather moderate cost. If there is just one careless person, no matter how conscientious the others are, the outcome of an election can be seriously affected.

Tyndall said a training program for poll tenders is also being considered. We heartily endorse this after watching this scene Tuesday:

A student came to a ballot box, pulled out his ID card and asked the attendant which issues he could vote for as a senior. The attendant did not know, so the student checked over the available ballots and decided for himself which he should take.

The system of registration is ineffective and almost worthless. Now students sign a slip of paper at the poll saying, "I have not voted previously in today's Student Government election, and am voting at the polling station provided for residents of my election district. I realize that to falsify this statement is a violation of the Honor Code."

If it were enforceable, this would be satisfactory. But the plain fact is that sometimes these forms are lost, not filled out properly or deliberately falsified. If they are falsified there is almost no way of catching the culprit.

Pre-voting registration might be the answer, so that a person's name and residence could be checked before he is allowed to vote. With just one polling place per district, his name could be marked off the master registration list and there would be no chance of his voting again.

Increased use of computer card voting will eliminate most of the problems which regularly arise concerning counting room security, but the problem remains because all elections will not be handled by IBM. The disappearance of ballots during or just after counting is a common occurrence. Such a large group is needed to count votes by hand that it is almost unavoidable unless many more monitors are used.

In the interest of electoral fairness, accuracy, speed and efficiency, we hope these and other suggestions will be considered and approved — soon.

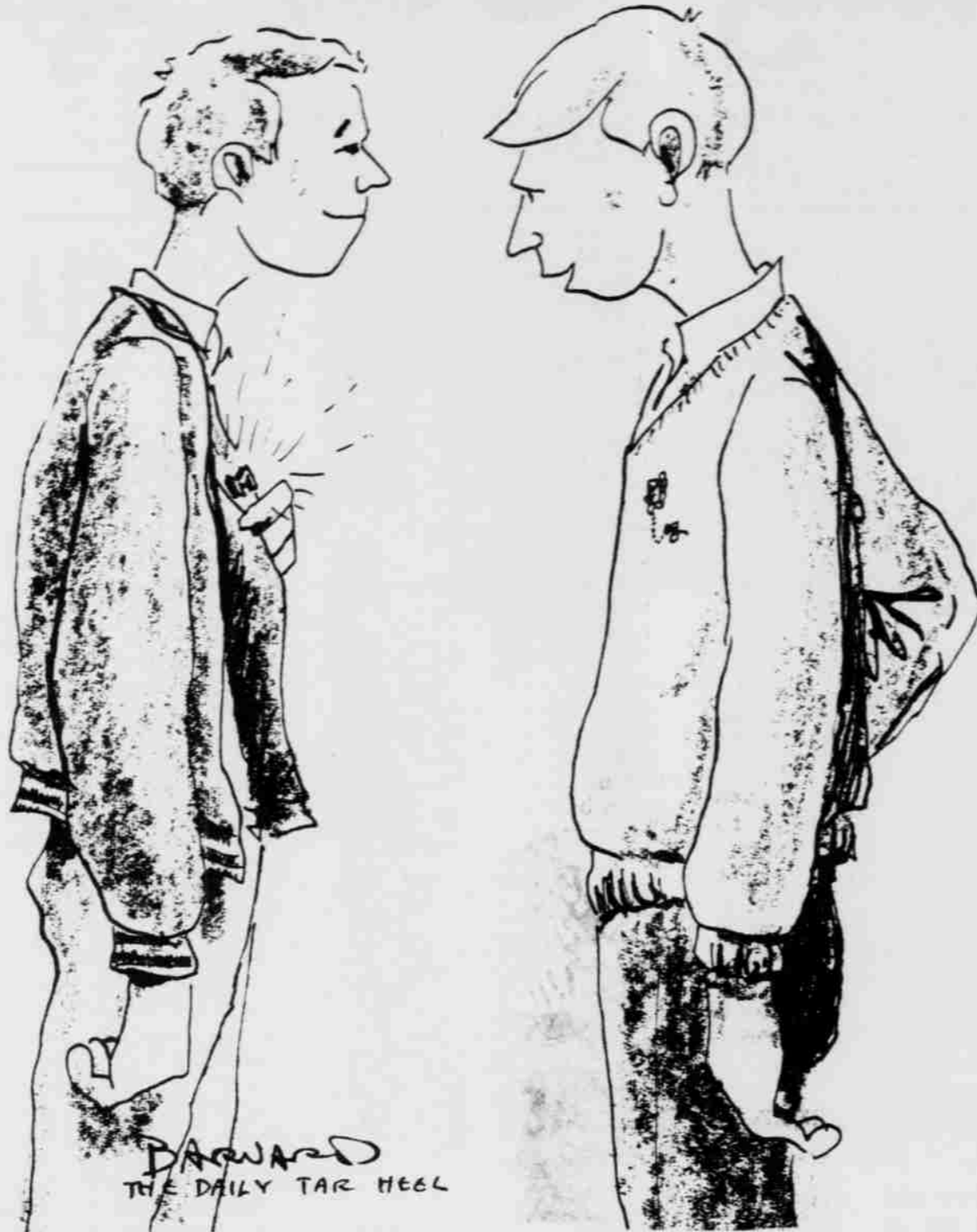
# The Daily Tar Heel

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The Daily Tar Heel is the official news publication of the University of North Carolina and is published by students daily except Mondays, examination periods and vacations.

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"But Mine's Got A Chain!"



## Letters To The Editor

# Criticism Of Inking Criticism

Editor, The Daily Tar Heel:

All literary criticisms are a matter of personal opinion. Therefore, different people will often view the same work in a different light.

In an article in the Oct. 31 DTH, Mary Richard Vester gave her adverse opinions of Fred Chappell's new novel *The Inking*. In defense of Mr. Chappell's book and in answer to Miss Vester's article, I would now like to express my own opinion of Fred Chappell and *The Inking*.

First, Miss Vester doesn't give any real description of the nature of the main characters. It isn't enough to describe Jan as a "weird boy with piercing eyes" who "likes being his sister's protector." No mention is made of his fierce self-will, which is in a sense the core of the story.

It is also implied in this article that the "inking" belongs only to Timmie. Each character, not just Timmie, as an "inking" — an inking of his own fate.

She also says that this book is short enough to be "easily read in one sitting" and feels that to spend more than a small amount of time on it would be worthless.

The fact that this book contains only 153 pages has not much to do with the value of its contents. Had Miss Vester spent more time trying to appreciate the imagery and perception of the author and more time trying to understand the relationship between characters in the book with real people involved in the day-to-day struggle for sanity and survival, perhaps she would not consider *The Inking* so complex and incredulous.

The complexity of *The Inking* is not so

much in Chappell's writing, but in the minds of the characters into which he is able to see so vividly.

Chappell has a true gift of being able to see in the seemingly ordinary person the complexity and "perversity" that has always been in humans.

Chappell's use of "rare words" is not from a "desire to impress;" he is impressive. These are the same type of words one occasionally hears when talking to Fred Chappell. More frequently, however, his speech is casually peppered with "ain't," "he don't," and other choice expressions which leads this North Carolinian to believe he would have no trouble communicating with another.

It is the opinion of this reader that not only does Chappell communicate with those of us from North Carolina, but to people everywhere who are willing to accept a book which turns the reader to himself and compels him to question his own complex nature.

Chappell "managed to have" his work published because he possesses what an author needs in order to publish — talent and extraordinary insight into matters which we see as ordinary.

Miss Vester seems to feel that Fred Chappell would be serving a greater purpose if he returned to farming or selling furniture. I will agree that we would probably have another pretty good farmer or furniture dealer in our midst, but we would be without one of our most talented, potentially great young authors.

Kitty Umstead  
251 West Cobb

## Letters To The Editor

# SPU Activities: Right Or Wrong?

Editor, The Daily Tar Heel:

Here come the bravest and most patriotic young men in the country. They have beards and long hair and carry signs reading "Peace" and "Ban the Bomb." They want to know why our men are in Viet Nam when they should be at home with their families, happy, safe and contented. These intelligent young men wonder if the people of the United States do not realize that the presence of our men over there will only encourage hatred and promote violent death. They want to know what the government of the United States is trying to do. "Are they trying to get us in an atomic war?", the pacifist wonder. "What about the bomb?", they ask in a low whisper. They only want peace. The price does not matter.

What would the forefathers of our country say if they could hear, much less see, these insipient and outrageous acts of cowardliness and treason. Never would this nation have grown to such proportions and possess such integrity if such dastardly people had had any more influence. It is people like the "stupid little boys with the beards" that ruin a country. What would the men who died at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Verdun, Pearl Harbor, Pork Chop Hill, and even more recently, the Mann Yann Pass in Viet Nam say to those who are so willing to forfeit everything just so long as they can have peace? These people do not realize what they are proposing.

What good is peace if one cannot enjoy the happiness and comfort of freedom and the knowledge that no matter what may happen there is and there always shall be a country like the United States that is willing to take a position and stand by it? We did not ask the men who died fighting for the United States whether they wanted to fight or if they wanted to die. There would have been no need to have asked because no one wants to fight and no one wants to die, but there are some things in this life that are more important than one's own happiness and desires. Some things like determination, love and sheer "guts" make a man a man and a coward a damned soul.

May the United States never back down in the face of her enemies. May she never lose her self-respect and integrity. And may God see to it that the dastardly scum such as the Student Peace Union and other such pacifist organizations never receive anything but rebuttal and scorn from courageous, upright and intelligent people. My one prayer is that never shall the dastardly spirit of Americans lower itself to such a low and prostituted state as that of the pacifist organizations.

Charles Stephen Myers  
318 Parker

Editor, The Daily Tar Heel:

The SPU-niks are stepping way out of line. I believe in free speech, but I also believe in God: there is a difference between freedom and license. We are a nation at war. We can no longer afford to coddle irresponsible demonstrators whose every word and action casts doubt on their loyalty and our national resolve.

One of the most unprincipled assertions Lenin ever made was when he said "morality is what will advance the cause of Communism." It is worth noting that the SPU-niks are saying exactly the same thing when they equate morality with abandoning South Viet Nam to the NLF (Viet Cong). Holy-Joe pacifist slogans inscribed on crosses and raised like haloes over

Christ-like, hidden-persuader beards prove only the SPU-nik's contempt for the intelligence of his would-be brainwashes, for the SPU-nik "argument" flouts one of the cornerstone precepts of our Judeo-Christian moral heritage: the means can never justify the end. The abandonment of millions of Vietnamese peasants to the unhappiness of life under Communism would be wrong no matter how "christianly" we went about it. Living from day to day, one may forget how happy people are when they live in freedom. We should remind ourselves religiously, for it is the freedom of the people of South Viet Nam that we are fighting and dying and bombing for.

We should remember as well that Christian moral concepts were developed long before the nation-state system and the rise of communism. Hence they are designed more for interpersonal than for modern international relations, whose labyrinthine complexities the church fathers could have had no inkling of. To follow Christian ideals unswervingly in the very unideal world of power politics would be to jeopardize our hopes for the just and lasting peace which is essential for the ultimate triumph of these very ideals. If Jesus reincarnated himself tomorrow, he would understand that our actions in Viet Nam are an expression of our dedication to freedom. It would not surprise me if He entertained our troops! SPU-niks, then, should be drafted. All talk aside, a man who won't fight when his country calls is no man. This is bedrock reality no rationalization can conceal. If anything can make a man out of a draft-dodger, though, it's getting drafted! Especially if my grandmother gets hold of him. She's a sergeant in the Marines.

Bill Michaux

Editor, The Daily Tar Heel:

UNC has had a tradition that divergent points of view could be openly expressed without fear of unfair recrimination or character assassination. Through many world and national crises this rule has been honored. Now, with the Viet Nam problem, the student body is being subjected to an exhibition of democracy at its worst.

Implications have been made that liberals are communists; that conservatives are fascists; that certain groups do not bathe enough; that the political science department is subversive; ad nauseum. Any rational persons knows that none of these charges are true, and consequently it is doubtful whether they have too much influence upon the student body.

The sad thing is that these mud-slinging tactics are denying to the students a wholesome discussion of the legitimate issues.

The real issues are diverse and numerous. Both sides should have an opportunity to discuss them in a relaxed atmosphere.

Liberals have raised honest questions about the morality and logic of our role in Viet Nam. Is it our duty to oppose communism everywhere? Are we aiding in the suppression of the desires of the great mass of the Vietnamese people? The questions of where obedience to law ends and responsibility to one's conscience begins is crucially important.

Likewise, conservatives have raised several legitimate questions. Are the tactics used by Viet Nam policy protestors irresponsible? Are draft-card burning and draft-dodging methods of protest which can be allowed by our society? Are protestors destroying the morale of American servicemen and giving a false impression to Hanoi and Peking?

And most important of all is a question which should be of primary importance to conservatives and liberals alike: Is the majority so endangered that the right of minority dissent should be crushed?

All of these, plus many others, are important questions which should be the subject of public discussion. Indeed, it is a sad state of affairs when people need to be reminded of this basic precept of democracy.

Marshall Lichtenstein  
ZBT House

Editor, The Daily Tar Heel:

Discussions on peace by its advocates—liberal and conservative—have been both asinine and immature. As a result, the whole dialogue has been centered around "odor," eccentricity and rhetorical finesse.

The SPU is judged more on the eccentricity of some of its members than on the profundity of its ideas. Maupin's editorials of Oct. 15 are the epitome of this immature and irrational credo. The motive or at least the effect of Maupin's criticism of the dress of some SPU members has been to exploit the immense intolerance we Southerners share for non-conformity.

The SPU is not without blame for much of the senselessness that has surrounded the protests. Their naive and immature pronouncements are not good pacifism, to say nothing of good sense. The tragedy of "SPUism" is that it sees peace as a goal

to be attained by the mere cessation of hostilities and by the rule of "love." To think that peace is this simple is to engage in fantasy and dream. The SPU misses the point on another issue also. Some are naive about the Communist role in Southeast Asia. When one SPUer was asked, "What if the Viet Cong take over South Viet Nam?" His reply was, "So what!" This worries me. Peace and freedom walk together and where freedom is incomplete, peace is insecure. If they fail to see that a Communist Viet Nam will not be peaceful and that to surrender freedom for "peace" will not bring lasting peace, then I would agree that they are either intellectual eggheads or "impenetrably stupid."

Anti-SPUers and protagonists of war decried urgings of negotiation as appeasement and "pacifism" as treasons. We must maintain a human perspective. War is not progressive or productive. We must constantly ask ourselves if there are not other ways to hasten the evolutionary process of peace. We can't put all the blame for the world's problems on the Communists. Let us be willing always to criticize our policy and examine our attitudes.

Not a single person on this campus is unconcerned with the problems in Viet Nam. Thousands of us may be called to fight a war we did not start in a world we did not make. We must be able to discuss and evaluate our attitudes in a sane manner. I hope that the SPU or other groups that plan discussions will hit at the central issues in a more effective manner. A low-level dialogue in Y-Court inevitably led to immature dialogue. Unless we can save honest debate, then free speech and criticism may be strangled on this campus by intolerance and emotionalism — bans more "odorous" even ban the speaker ban.

Phil Clay

## LETTERS

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes letters to the editor on any subject, particularly on matters of local or University interest. Letters must be typed, double spaced and must include the name and address of the author or authors. Names will not be omitted in publication. Letters should be kept as brief as possible. The DTH reserves the right to edit for length or libel.

