

# 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

## Don't Be Ridiculous

Time was when a protest was just a protest. These days it appears to be an invitation to become a fulltime nephew of Uncle Sam.

Four University of Michigan students took part in a sit-in at the office of the Ann Arbor draft board Oct. 15. All have been reclassified 1-A, "available for service," apparently because of that demonstration.

For one of the four, 22-year-old Eric Chester, it was his second "offense." He protested against the House Un-American Activities Committee in Chicago six months ago. When his Royal Oak, Mich., draft board heard of his conviction for trespassing after the incident, he was reclassified 1-Y. That means he was considered "mentally, morally or physically deficient."

Apparently he pushed his luck too far by taking part in the October demonstration, because now he is 1-A. At best, such action can only be described as paradoxical.

University of Michigan officials have told *The Daily Tar Heel* four students who have been reclassified are in good academic standing — one an honor student, two "safe and comfortable" and one an honor student, two "safe and comfortable" and one on temporary academic affairs, and Richard Cutler, vice president for student affairs at Michigan, have issued a statement condemning the possible drafting of students for any reason other than academic shortcomings.

"Satisfactory educational progress by the student is in our judgment the controlling, if not the sole factor, upon which deferment should be based," they said.

"This we understand to be the existing national policy. To introduce other factors into decisions makes possible either individual favoritism or individual punitive action, either of which is clearly unwise and potentially discriminatory."

Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, National Selective Service Director, has reportedly said, however, "The government would be committing suicide if it deferred students who defied selective service laws."

Apparently the law the protestors are violating in the eyes of the Selective Service is the Universal Military Training and Service Act. It provides that anyone who interferes "in any way" with the administration of the draft may be imprisoned or fined. Col. Arthur Holmes, Michigan Selective Service Director, has said punishment may also include drafting as delinquents. Hershey has supported such action.

There is today an obvious trend toward the elimination of dissent in America, and as it grows it becomes all the more disturbing. Everyone agrees that this is the land of freedom of action and attitude. To do otherwise would be an admission that we live in a dictatorship.

Our government is committed to a war in Viet Nam. We support the goals of that commitment, but we do not accept every decree from the District of Columbia as holy writ. May those who ridicule all protests remember that if our predecessors had not questioned the status quo we would still be British subjects.

We have no sympathy for the "leave Asia for the Communists" ideology, but we refuse to reject the right of those who do have such sympathy to say so — without fear of "disciplining" from an all-knowing government or know-it-all individuals.

Slap the "peaceniks" into the Army and ship them off to the war?

Don't be ridiculous.

What soldier would want one behind him with a gun?

Let those who expend great amounts of energy attacking card burners and the like remember that nothing is so frustrating and damaging to the protester's aim as to quietly consider his argument and then ignore it if it is found to be invalid.

Draft him? Send him to jail? Fine him?

Don't be ridiculous.



## The Student Speaks

### Best System: Laissez-Faire

By WILSON CLARK, JR.  
Having introduced this series on Dr. Ludwig von Mises with a quote from Lord John Maynard Keynes, I shall again indulge in the phraseology of the Left, with remarks from Norman Thomas' book *A Socialist's Faith*. But first, a brief review of Professor Mises' argument.

Dr. von Mises represents the Austrian school of economic thought, often characterized as laissez-faire economics, and rightly so. For Professor Mises is a liberal, in the truest and most noble sense of the term. The original meaning of this word is inextricably bound with laissez-faire capitalism, as the economic corollary of the free political state. Leftists of our age have twisted and mutilated the conception and substance of this epithet once applied to the advocates of liberty.

Although exasperating, the writings of Norman Thomas have one great virtue, clarity. One need not resort to the consensus to ascertain the position of Mr. Thomas, for he is quite frank. By the same token, von Mises represents the diametrically opposed conviction (in most cases). The following issue proposed by Norman Thomas should exemplify this:

"The uncompromising laissez-faire liberalism, the economic system so dear to a Hayek or a von Mises, never really existed, and its reign was limited. Its tenets were worked out of the great misery of the Industrial Revolution; its golden age was short."

Thomas is right in asserting that unhampered capitalism never really existed for any extended period of time, but in reply, what did limit its reign? The state, with its absolute monopoly on legalized coercion.

He wanders astray, however, with his historical supposition of the origin of economic liberalism, or laissez-faire capitalism. Dr. von Mises counters here with the obscured side of the picture of the Industrial Revolution, usually painted in emotional overtones. As Mises points out in *Human Action*:

"The laissez-faire ideology and its offshoot, the 'Industrial Revolution,' blasted the ideological and institutional barriers to progress and welfare. They demolished the social order in which a constantly increasing number of people were doomed to abject need and destitution...The outstanding fact about the Industrial Revolution is that it opened an age of mass production for the needs of the masses."

With numerous historical examples, von Mises obliterates the commonly propagated collectivist myths about the Industrial Revolution. Thomas' allusion to the "great misery of the Industrial Revolution" is a rather shallow value judgment, often used as the mainstay of leftist diatribes.

Flip the coin, however, thus exposing England without the benefits of this capitalist enlightenment, and the collectivists flee for cover, without benefit of their hyper-emotional pleas. To quote one example from Mises' survey, consider the following:

"But let us not forget that in 1770 (according to the estimate of Arthur Young) England had 8.5 million inhabitants, while in 1831 (according to the census) the figure was 16 million. This conspicuous increase was mainly conditioned by the Industrial Revolution."

The meticulous and rigorous scholarship which generally distinguishes Dr. von Mises' work is clearly demonstrated in his analysis of the Industrial Revolution. The glib cliches of the collectivists can hardly stand rational examination, especially that of an inquisitor of Professor von Mises' stature.

Norman Thomas continues in his description of economic liberalism with a listing of the prerequisites of the system, such as the laws of the market, its independent nature, the gold standard, free trade, and "the self regulating market between liberal (not totalitarian) states...Compared with the practices of totalitarian states, it had its virtues. But in its conception of the economic man and the supremacy of a pure and undiluted profit motive it was inhuman and contrary to age-long human experience under various civilizations." (emphasis mine)

It is noteworthy that Thomas chooses only the ethics of capitalism to dispute, and not its theoretical justification. Could it be that his logic is more fallible than his passion? Going beyond the basic utilitarian argument for capitalism, the modern intellectual, unfettered by primitive shibboleths, can and does challenge the simplistic reasoning girding such statements as Thomas's on the alleged inhumanity of the profit motive.

Although the profit motive is usually connected with capitalism, it is moreover, a distinguishing characteristic of man and his remarkable history on earth. To further his very existence, man must provide for his needs. The problem then shifts to the economic system that can provide for these needs best, and that system is unrestricted laissez-faire capitalism.

As Professor von Mises wisely reflects, "All those rejecting capitalism on moral grounds as an unfair system are deluded by their failure to comprehend what capital is...Capital is not a free gift of God or of nature. It is the outcome of a provident restriction of consumption on the part of man." (*The Anti-Capitalistic Mentality*, Princeton, 1956)

# Letters To The Editor

## Irony: Peace And Pearl

Editor, *The Daily Tar Heel*

While walking from the Post Office toward Graham Memorial, I couldn't help but notice the irony in front of me. To my left on the GM door, encircled by a wreath, was a sign saying "We wish you a Merry Christmas." To my right was Silent Sam, with a gun in hand and the words "Remember Pearl Harbor" hanging from the barrel, apparently alluding to Viet Nam.

At first glance, the two seem grossly inconsistent with each other. And yet, although we would like to be able to just say "...and on earth, peace, good will towards men." From the outside, man surely must appear as a totally incomprehensible creature.

Edwin Williams  
222 Maverick House

## They're No Gentlemen

Editor, *The Daily Tar Heel*:

I feel that the time has come to explode the myth of the "Carolina Gentleman". After attending my first UNC basketball game last Saturday night, I am convinced that the title "Carolina Gentleman" is a complete misnomer and has no basis of truth whatsoever.

There have been many instances throughout the year that have led me to this conclusion, but Saturday night convinced me. In all the college that I have been attending college basketball games, I have never seen a worse display of manners and alcoholism. There were enough flasks at the game to start a new ABC store here in Chapel Hill.

The "Carolina Gentlemen" didn't even bother to hide the flasks. I'm certainly not against booze, but I find it rather ridiculous that "Carolina Gentlemen" have to get their school spirit from a bottle.

Certain specific instances stand out in my mind that make the title "Carolina

Gentleman" even more ridiculous. For example, an old man came into the stands and was having trouble finding his seat. He asked a group of "Carolina Gentlemen" for help and these "Carolina Gentlemen" laughed at him and told him to bother someone else.

Another group of "Carolina Gentlemen" made themselves thoroughly obnoxious both before and during the game by hurling very individualistic and profane cheers at the referees, the opposing players, and everyone that asked them to shut up. Still another "Carolina Gentleman" tried to amuse and entertain the crowd by upchucking his "School Spirit" all over himself and the guy in front of him. His friends thought it was funny as hell. A lot of other people, particularly the guy in front of him, didn't.

After the game, still another group of "Carolina Gentlemen" were in such a hurry to get back to the dorm to watch dirty movies or whatever else they do in their dorms that they were practically knocking over anybody who got in their way.

These are but a few of the many examples of the behavior of the "Carolina Gentleman" that I have observed throughout the year. I hope that they are enough to put an end to the myth.

John J. Foley  
39 Oakwood Dr.

## 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 limited to about 250-300 words. The DTH reserves the right to edit for length or libel. Longer letters will be considered for "The Student Speaks" if they are of sufficient interest. However, the DTH reserves the right to use contributed materials as it sees fit.

## David Rothman

# A Nanny's-Eye View Of JFK Administration

Author's note: One of the aftermaths of the Kennedy assassination has been a series of excessively intimate biographies about the late president and his family. The column is a satire on these books, not on JFK.

The latest chronicle of JFK's administration is Miss Maude Shaw, the Kennedy children's English nanny.

I haven't seen Miss Shaw's book, but I can well imagine what it's like if it matches anything put out by Sorensen, Schlesinger, or Mrs. Lincoln (JFK's secretary). Here's a brief summary:

"When I first met John-John, I knew right away he would be going places. True—I had seen plenty of children come and go at the congressional kindergarten, but John-John seemed apart from the usual crowd."

"Maybe it was that special grace—the way he played with his toy helicopters. Never did he appear awkward, even while pulling Caroline's hair."

"And always, he was concerned about his image. He refused to be photographed when he played cowboys and Indians, and he wouldn't grant interviews with the press unless the newsmen praised the way he handled himself in the sandbox."

"Maybe it was that mysterious aura, that magnetic personality. Everybody, it seemed, insisted on seeing with him."

"All the girls dreamed of becoming part of John-John's life, but in the end I was chosen to be his nanny."

"Being the nanny of a famous person isn't the easiest job in the world, and there were times when I found the work excessively demanding, particularly after the Vaughn Meader record. It was then that John-John's prestige hit a new low. All over the country, people wondered if somebody so young and inexperienced could really play touch football."

"Not that John-John wasn't eager to learn. During his days in the White House nursery, he became expert in chess and Chinese checkers, though Victor Lasky wrote a book saying that the elder Kennedy had taught John-John to cheat at monopoly."

"He was a hard worker, and he expected just as much of his staff as he did of himself. I remember spending many long hours with John-John helping him clean his room. And the lights burned late at night while I picked up his toys during the Cuban missile crisis."

"But the work had its rewards. John-John even gave me an autographed portrait of himself he had crayoned at school, and he applauded the skill with which I handled the record player while he played "musical chairs."

"Nevertheless, at times his temper flared. Once he threatened to fire me after I accidentally stepped on his toy aircraft carrier."

"Still, the work meant a chance for travel and excitement. Every day I escorted him as he rode his tricycle around the White House driveway, and occasionally, he let me pull his wagon."

"John-John's reading was omnivorous, though he considered 'The Bobsey Twins' biased and disliked 'Dick and Jane' on the grounds that it had little news and less to report. Yet he read these and other publications regularly—even 'The Hardy Boys,' which was a source of special despair; for unlike 'The Bobsey Twins,' it was well-written."

"I sincerely hope my book will not cause unnecessary controversy within the present administration. But I think it proper to reveal that President Kennedy did not intend to keep Mrs. Lincoln in office after the next election."

# The Daily Tar Heel

72 Years of Editorial Freedom

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