

The Daily Tar Heel

Opinions of The Daily Tar Heel are expressed in its editorials. All unsigned editorials are written by the editor. Letters and columns reflect only the personal views of their contributors.

FRED THOMAS, EDITOR

A Poor Showing

What part of twenty is three? Not a very large part when that's how many Student Government committee chairmen show up to hold interviews for their committees. Interviews for positions on SG's twenty odd committees started Tuesday. And what a start they got. There were plenty of interviewees — but only one committee chairman. Yesterday's turnout was quite an improvement. Three were there. Student Government gets criticized day in and day out for being a Mickey Mouse organization that does nothing. Well, chairmen, you've made your contribution to the maintenance of this fine reputation. We suggest that President Bob Powell get a little life into his appointed chairmen. He picked them, and they're hurting his organization.

Where Will They Park?

Do you walk to the student union or carry your lunch? Silly question? It may not be if someone doesn't begin to think about parking facilities for the proposed structure to replace Graham Memorial. And they should begin pretty soon. Right now plans seem to be decorated with profuse confusion. One "informed source" says that provisions have been made to include seven parking spaces around the building. But, in looking at the blueprints, we couldn't find that many. In fact, we couldn't find one. This seems to be the present train of thought among those who should be attending to the problem: "Well, of course, all of what is now Emerson Field will be available for parking when the building is completed."

Are there any plans to pave this area, or for that matter, to definitely use it for parking, paved or not. "No, there aren't any definite plans, but the land will be empty. And it is already level enough for parking. Of course, sometime in the future that space will be used for building."

What will happen then? "Well, like I said, there aren't any definite plans yet, but they could remove the Tin Can — it will have to be replaced in the future anyway — and park in that area. That will be just across the street from the student union. And if they wanted to build a parking garage, the natural lay of the land would make it ideal."

That could be done. A lot of things could be done. The State of North Carolina could legalize the sale of liquor by the drink. Chapel Hill trees could bear ten-dollar bills. And based on the amount of positive planning that has been done — or at least the amount that anyone in the know is willing to disclose — either of these is about as likely to happen as is the inclusion of a reasonable amount of parking space around the new student union.

It appears to us that this is in contradiction of the basic principle of having a student union. This is supposed to be a place for the students to use. Anyone who has ever darkened the door of GM knows that the present facilities — cramped though they be — seldom are flooded with students.

The main reason for this, of course, is the out-of-the-way location of GM. When the building was erected, it was the center of attraction. All the students lived right around it. An equally desirable location has been appointed for the new union building. Most students will pass by it every day going to and from classes.

But what about students living on south campus who would like to use the building at night? And even more painful, what about the 4,000 students who live off campus? Are they to be given no consideration?

If the parking situation as a whole is serious, it seems to us that this specific problem is critical. We hope that someone will give this matter a great deal of serious reconsideration.

Some people are quite concerned about this. We'd like to pass on to you an analogy that we got from one such interested party:

There are a lot of people around the University who would like to see no student cars at all. That was the situation 100 years ago. But this is 1966 — students do have cars now.

Of course, even in horse and buggy days, I think they would have made arrangements for a few hitching posts outside the student union.

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Fred Thomas, editor; Scott Goodfellow, managing editor; John Greenbacker, associate editor; Ron Shinn, news editor; Barry Jacobs, sports editor; Ernest Robl, assistant news editor; Bill Hass, assistant sports editor; John Jennrich, wire editor; Mike Wiggin, night editor; Jack Lauterer, Jerry Lambert, photographers; Chip Barnard, art editor; Andy Myers, Steve Bennett, Steve Lackey, Peyton Fearrington, Carol Gallant, Lytt Stamps, Alan Banov, Bill Amlong, staff writers; Bill Rollins, Sandy Treadwell, Drummond Bell, Jim Fields, sports writers; Jeff MacNelly, Bruce Strauch, cartoonists.

George Kennan

Involvement In Viet Nam Unfortunate

(Editor's note — This is the second in a series reprinting the remarks on US Viet Nam involvement made by former ambassador George Kennan before the Senate Forcing Relations Committee.)

From the long-term standpoint, therefore, and on principle, I think our military involvement in Viet Nam has to be recognized as unfortunate, as something we would not choose deliberately, if the choice

were ours to make all over again today. And by the same token, I think it should be our government's aim to liquidate this involvement just as soon as this can be done without inordinate damage to our own prestige or to stability of conditions in that area.

It is obvious on the other hand that this involvement is today a fact. It creates a new situation. It raises new questions ulterior to the long-term problem which have to be taken into account; a precipitated and disorderly withdrawal could represent in present circumstances a disservice to our own interests, and even to world peace greater than any that might have been involved by our failure to engage ourselves there in the first place.

This is a reality which, if there is to be any peaceful resolution of this conflict, is going to have to be recognized both by the more critical of our friends and by our adversaries.

But at the same time, I have great misgivings about any deliberate expansion of hostilities on our part directed to the achievement of something called "victory," if by the use of that term we envisage the complete disappearance of the recalcitrance with which we are now faced, the formal submission by the adversary to our will, and the complete realization of our present stated political aims.

I doubt that these things can be achieved even by the most formidable military successes.

There seems to be an impression about that if we bring sufficient military pressure to bear there will occur at some point something in the nature of a political capitulation on the other side. I think this is a most dangerous assumption. I don't say that it is absolutely impossible, but it is a dangerous assumption in the light of the experience we have had with communist elements in the past.

The North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong have between them a great deal of space and manpower to give up if they have to, and the Chinese can give them more if they need it. Fidelity to the communist tradition would dictate that if really pressed to extremity on the military level, these people should disappear entirely from the open scene and fall back exclusively on an underground political and military existence rather than to accept terms that would be openly humiliating and would represent in their eyes the betrayal of the future political prospects of the cause to which they are dedicated.

Any total rooting out of the Viet Cong from the territory of South Viet Nam could be achieved, if it could be achieved at all, only at the cost of a degree of damage to civilian life and of civilian suffering generally, for which I would not like to see the country responsible.

And to attempt to crush North Vietnamese strength to a point where Hanoi could no longer give any support for Viet Cong political activity in the South, would

almost certainly, it seems to me, have the effect of bringing in Chinese forces at some point, whether formally or in the guise of volunteers, thus involving us in a military conflict with communist China on one of the most unfavorable theaters of hostility that we could possibly choose.

This is not the only reason why I think we should do everything possible to avoid the escalation of this conflict. There is another one which is no less weighty, and this is the effect the conflict is already having on our policies and interests further afield. This involvement seems to me to represent a grievous misplacement of emphasis on our foreign policies as a whole.

Not only are great and potentially more important questions of world affairs not receiving, as a consequence of our involvement in Viet Nam, the attention they should be receiving, but in some instances assets we already enjoy and, hopefully, possibilities we should be developing, are being sacrificed to this unpromising involvement in a remote and secondary theater. Our relations with the Soviet Union have suffered grievously as was to be expected, and this at a time when far more important things were involved in those relations than what is ultimately involved in Viet Nam and when we had special reason, I think, to cultivate those relations.

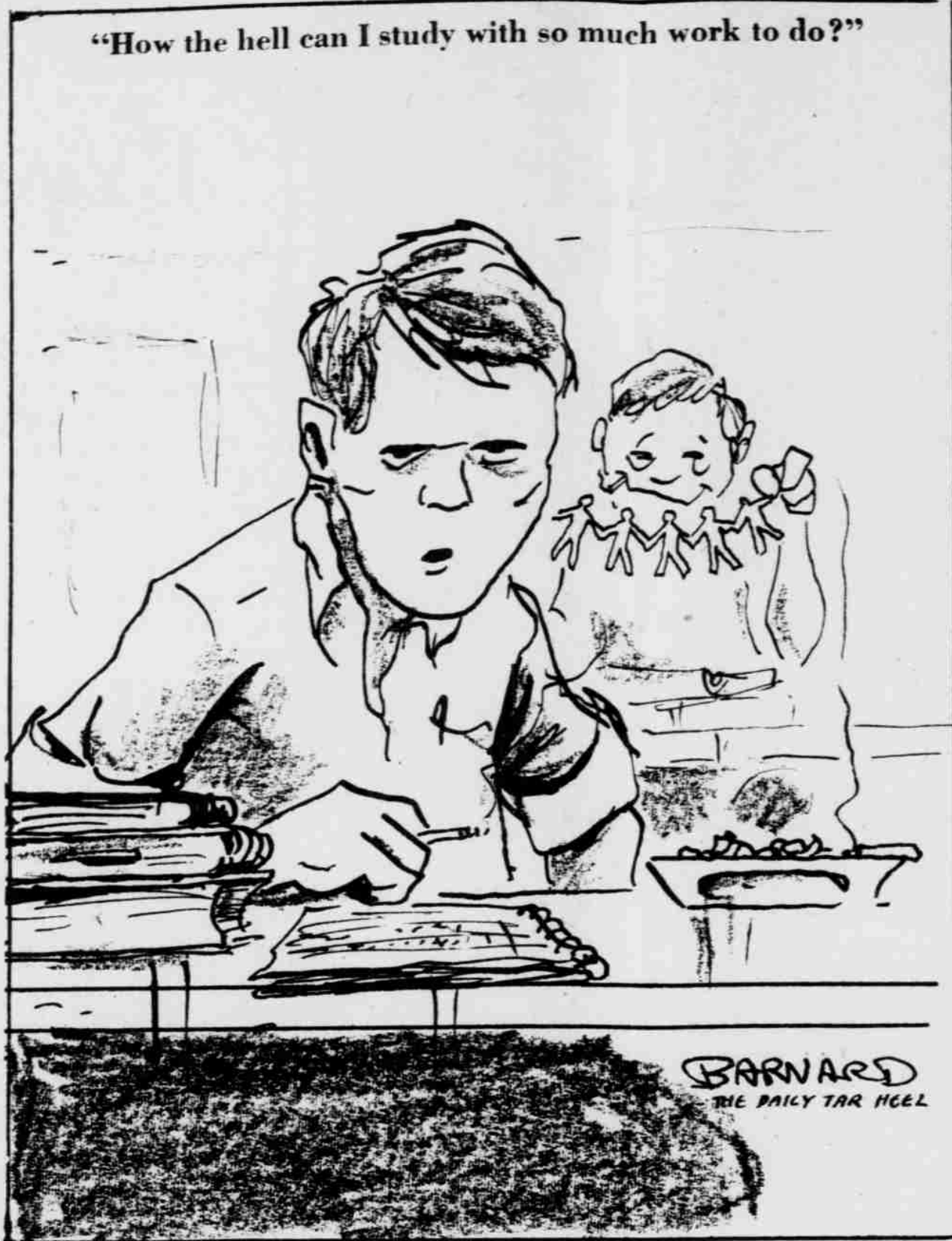
And more unfortunate still, in my opinion, is the damage being done to the feelings entertained for us by the Japanese people. The confidence and the good disposition of the Japanese is the greatest asset we have had and the greatest asset we could have in East Asia. As the greatest industrial complex in the entire Far East, and the only place where the sinews of modern war can be produced on a formidable scale there, Japan is of vital importance to us and indeed to the prospects generally of peace and stability in East Asia.

There is no success we could have in Viet Nam that would conceivably warrant, in my opinion, the sacrifice by us of the confidence of the Japanese people.

Yet, I fear that we abuse that confidence and good will in the most serious way when we press the military struggle in Viet Nam, and particularly when we press it by means of strategic bombing, a process to which the Japanese for historical reasons are peculiarly sensitive and averse.

I mention Japan particularly because it is an outstanding example, both in importance and in the intensity of the feelings aroused, of the psychological damage that is being done in many parts of the world by the prosecution of this conflict, and that will be done in even greater measure if the hostilities become still more bloody and tragic as a result of our deliberate effort.

It is clear that however justified our action may be in our own eyes, it has failed to win either enthusiasm or confidence even among peoples normally friendly to us.



David Rothman

Investigation Of Bathtubs Needed For Public Welfare

"We have come to recognize needed improvements in automobiles," the head of a Cornell University research team gravely proclaimed this week. Now, he said, we must accept the fact that the American bathroom also "needs a drastic overhaul."

According to Theodore Kira, this country's bathtubs are simply too dangerous to get into. In fact, he says, "No tub made today permits a person to relax unless he happens to be a contortionist."

Frankly, I'm worried. Americans have long trusted the bathtub makers to provide us with safe, reliable equipment; now, we find the bathtub industry is clearly avoiding its public responsibilities.

Could it be that what this country desperately needs is a thorough investigation of the bathtub industry? I think so. Congress, in my opinion, should wrap up its expose of Detroit and get to work on a far more urgent matter: slippery bathtubs.

Unlike Ralph Nader, I don't have any impressive files of statistics, but I do know this: Hundreds of Americans daily suffer loss of life and limb when stepping in and out of their tubs.

Formerly, people believed the bathtub makers' claims that their products were safe. Now, however, the public can no longer be sure. Could it be, for instance, that the tub industry is emphasizing looks ahead of safety? Could the American public be paying billions of dollars for gleaming, modernistic tub designs when it instead should have good, solid, foolproof equipment which will not fail anybody when he spins the faucet after a hard day at the office? And speaking of the faucets, are they being plated with too much chrome?

Should Congress pass a law requiring that all tubs be equipped with anti-slip devices at no extra cost to the consumer in the interest of safety? And what about the faulty tubs that have already been sold to thousands of customers throughout the nation? Should such tubs be recalled to dealers for maintenance work to wrinkle out the slippery spots? Are imported tubs even more hazardous than the domestic variety? These questions need to be answered urgently.

After Ralph Nader wrote his famous auto safety book, he found himself the target of some sexy blondes, apparently sent out by the auto makers' detective agencies who were intent on blackmail. I do not know whether the bathtub makers will also hire the girls upon reading this column, but if any are sent, I can tell them exactly where they'll find me after a hard day's work. In the shower.

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.

Reader Defends Berkeley In Letter To The Editor

Editor, Daily Tar Heel:

The "star of the West" located in Berkeley, California, known as "Cal" to those who live and work there, has recently come under all sorts of attack which has somewhat exaggerated any fair image of the University of California at Berkeley. It is a place where ideas flow the way beer does in other places. It is the "great marketplace" facilitating the interchange of opinions and philosophies. Granted the existence of a number of "protestors"; however, this is only a part of the idea market. In perspective, one must realize the existence of almost 12,000 graduate students — plus there are students from practically every foreign nation who attend classes at UC. This is not to say anything of the prestige and capability of its faculty.

The university's president has been criticized repeatedly for his defense of a university's role within a society. The California Legislature and Senate have threatened to revamp the system of regency — i.e. more political control, a situation well known in other areas.

California is not a region easy to describe. The existence of veritable cosmopolitanism with the newer strain of conservatism, all immersed in the pepsi-type generation which increases more than 1,500 persons a day produces ample social and political tensions.

Cal reflects this diversity and it also benefits from it. This does not mean that there are no disadvantages — mainly size. Lecture classes for undergraduates can number up to 1,000 students which effectively prevents any but superficial contact with some professors.

Academic pressure is high at Cal, and work loads run heavy. Only the top eight per cent of high school classes are eligible to enter the freshman class.

Overriding any disadvantages which do exist are the contributions that Cal makes to society by enabling the development of thinking citizens, and preserving that environment which is necessary for the generation of new thought.

James A. Morris
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Heelprints

A Yugoslavian baby doctor becomes one of the first communists to speak at UNC. At last — somebody whose profession enables him to understand the motives behind the speaker ban's passage.

Because he was an acting chancellor to begin with, J. Carlyle's becoming permanent chancellor doesn't seem so dramatic.

Pranksters place a 75mm cannon in front of the offices of Michigan State University officials. Too bad the pranksters didn't do this several years ago when Michigan professors were participating in their controversial Viet Nam aid program with the CIA — then, they could have sent the weapon to Diem. — David Rothman

