

## Letters And Apathy *In Letters -*

We appreciate all the concern that has been shown in letters about the pictures we ran of luxury cars in the slums of Durham. Of course, most of the letters didn't deal with the plight of the Negro sympathetically.

The fact of the matter is that most of the cars are not "\$4,000 cars" as alleged by one correspondent. They are cars with motors which burn oil, in various states of depreciation, which the slum dweller buys from some less-than-honest used-car dealer. The slum dweller gets stuck with his piece of junk, and the car ends up junked beside the dilapidated home of its owner.

There is not a single resident in the slums who could possibly afford a \$4,000 car. That is obvious.

One writer went on to say that if the slum dweller could keep up a luxury car, he could keep up his house. That statement might bring comfort to the slum lords, but it is nonsensical. It is not the responsibility of the tenant to replace a broken window, it is the responsibility of the landlord.

Not only is the landlord derelict, but also public officials of Durham. When slum residents complained that cockroaches were taking over their "houses", the Health Department replied that roaches were only a "nuisance", not a health problem.

We don't really understand why people will argue about cars in the slums in Durham, when there are so many things here in Chapel Hill that need their attention. We are not minimizing the importance of slum conditions in Durham, and we urge students to be concerned about them. But we wish that people would be concerned about "slum conditions" in Chapel Hill, about the parking problem, about hikes in student insurance rates at the discretion of three individuals.

People get concerned and write letters about the war protest march and rally. They get inflamed — and rightly so — about a war on the other side of the world. Yet they don't give a hoot that they have to pay \$5 not to park on campus, or three more dollars for insurance than is necessary, or that women live under Victorian rules.

If we were the activists that some people on this campus are, we'd like to hold an apathy-vigil, and see just how many people wouldn't bother to show up.

## Public Transport System?

### FROM THE CHAPEL HILL WEEKLY

Sometime soon, with luck, there is a chance the Town Board of Aldermen will take another look at the possibilities of a public transportation system for Chapel Hill.

The preliminary report of a traffic and parking study, made by a professional firm in Raleigh, already has suggested a mini-bus transportation system here. And there are reports the University is considering a modest mini-bus system to transport students free from some of the far reaches of the campus.

With student and faculty cars in super-abundance and campus parking spaces in critically short supply, the University needs to come up with some innovation. A mini-bus system seems as likely as anything to offer relief.

In our opinion, however, any lasting relief in the traffic and parking situation here will have to come from the University and Town moving together.

The campus and Town traffic problems are so inter-related that action by the one without supplementary action by the other will be sadly inadequate.

If the University is planning a campus transportation system it should be a part of a community system. That, of course, would have to depend on action by the Town Board.

We would like to see the Aldermen do something on the recommended bus system — either accept the idea and begin working on it, or junk it and begin seeking other possible solutions.

In the meantime, the traffic situation can only get worse.

## The Tar Heel

Don Campbell, Lytt Stamps  
Editors  
Reggie Graves  
Business Manager

## Slum Cars Still Chugging; Pro And Con On Protest

### To the Editors:

After reading the letter by Messrs. Wood and Brown in the August 8th issue of The Tar Heel in reply to an earlier letter by Mr. Fields, I am at a loss to determine exactly what they wish to advocate — the status quo?

Messrs. Wood and Brown indicated that if slum dwellers invest the money which they apparently allocate for a car in home improvements, the money is ill spent. They say it is better to spend the money on a car (which certainly depreciates rapidly) and "at least ride instead of walk to a new slum area, WHERE THE PROCESS WOULD BEGIN ALL OVER". They apparently advocate a vicious circle of slumism and ignore the basic cause of poor and condemned housing (no maintenance and overcrowding), rat infested areas (filth and exposed garbage), and unpaved streets (property owners must pay most of paving costs).

As for the implication that slum dwellers better know how to allocate their money than Mr. Fields, it is ridiculous!

Robert L. Bryan, Jr.

### March Cowardice

#### To the Editors:

What is it that causes students to march in protest to the war in Vietnam. Some say that it is because of brotherly love toward their neighbors all over the world. I, too, am an advocate of brotherly love and peace. We are not going to attain peace by being the little boy who gets picked on. You may say that we are not being picked on, but I say that when our values are being attacked, we are being picked on.

I feel that there is another reason for such behavior. That reason is cowardice. It is much easier for our long-haired, shaggy-faced friends to carry signs than it is to carry rifles. I think that if this "dirty dozen times ten" were to go to Vietnam the

mere sight of them would drive the Viet Cong back to Hanoi.

I have friends in Vietnam who have seen their buddies killed who still want to fight for their country. In light of this I cannot understand the motives of our Monday morning quarterbacks who want to hide behind signs and call the plays.

I am quite confident that the majority of the boys my age do not want to go to Vietnam, but if called upon will have enough intestinal fortitude to heed their country's call. I am quite sure that you will find more than 120 boys on the U.N.C. campus who feel this way.

Also, I would like to contend that the ones who went to the program without participating in the march went only to see a circus.

Henry Funderburk

### March Courage

#### To the Editors:

As the anti-war demonstrators marched down Franklin St. last Saturday, I was walking along the sidewalk and was amused to notice a member of some veterans' organization holding up a sign which declared that although he hated war, he also hated Communists and "cowards." What amused me was the charge that the marchers were cowards because, somehow, despite the displays of two-fisted bravery that I've seen all my life in the movies and on TV, raw physical courage is not something I particularly admire. My middle-class upbringing has led me to believe that brawling is not the sort of activity which a civilized man engages in. Although I suspect that I am less aggressive than the average American male, I also suspect that most men of my social class would agree with me that pugnacious drunks and sailors should be dealt with by turning them over to the police rather than by fighting it out with them on the street.

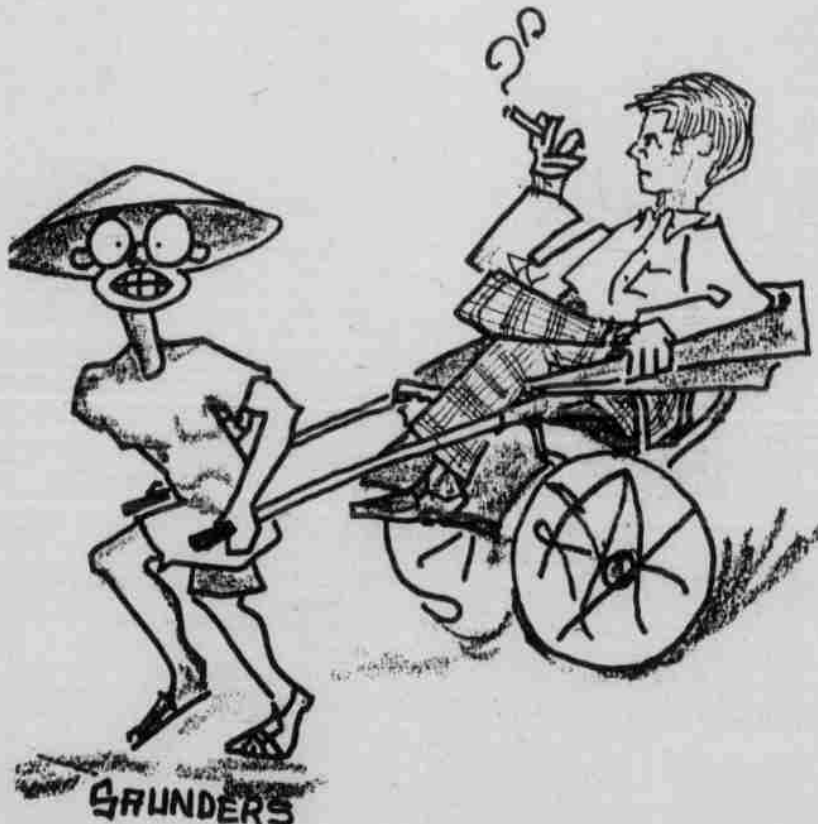
On the other hand, "coward"

that I am, I don't think I would "chicken out" in battle. Mainly because the Army is careful to see that one never gets the feeling he is facing the enemy alone; the fighting man is part of a "team," surrounded by "buddies" he can count on to support him when the going gets rough. Under these circumstances, I feel sure that even I, a "coward," would fight — just like that Veteran I saw holding the sign.

But what about the marchers? Frankly, it takes quite a bit of courage to march down the middle of the street to demonstrate in favor of an unpopular cause in a conservative town like Chapel Hill. If anyone thinks those people were making any friends by what they were doing, he didn't see the looks of disgust and undisguised hatred on the faces of some of the townspeople, and even on the faces of some of the students, that I did. I, for one, didn't have the courage to join them, despite the fact that I would like to see the war in Viet Nam ended as quickly as possible by a negotiated settlement. The marchers were not facing much threat of physical violence, but they did display a great deal of moral courage in daring to speak out for what they believed before an audience of townspeople, many of whom are simple-minded enough to equate disagreement with the government's war policy with treason.

It takes tremendous courage, it seems to me, to stand up and say what you think when you know that many of those who hear you are incapable of responding rationally to what you say. I keep thinking of the young lady who took up a collection at the end of the rally to help pay the rental on the sound system. She looked a bit nervous and I can understand why: Just after she passed me, she passed a young man who I think was a student. He gave her a look of fierce hatred the likes of which I have never seen before except in pictures of the faces of people in angry mobs. I don't know whether or not she saw that look, which unnerved me, but she may have seen others like it. To be willing, like that girl, to face the unreasoning hatred of your fellow men to support a cause you believe in takes a great deal of moral courage. I just wish that Veteran had been standing beside me last Saturday: it would be comforting to think that after seeing that look he might perhaps have changed his mind about the courage of the marchers.

Tom Cabarga



"You ask Challie how solve plaking ploblem.  
Challie tell. Import No. 1 lickshaw service."

## Letters

The Tar Heel welcomes letters to the editor. Please type and double space all letters. Only those letters signed will be printed.