

The Daily Tar Heel

75 Years of Editorial Freedom

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Women's Closing Hours: Why They're Important?

The Women's Residence Council has finally gotten a report from one of its committees suggesting the abolition of dormitory closing hours for seniors or women 21 or older next year.

That's nice. Unfortunately, it is also what is commonly known as "too little, too late."

Although it is commendable that WRC has finally come around far enough into the 20th Century to even entertain the idea of senior women not having any closing hours, it is at the same time lamentable that the proposed revision is not both broader and sooner.

Broader, because WRC should eliminate closing hours not only for seniors, but for all upperclassmen (as the University of North Carolina at Greensboro did last week through its student legislature.)

Sooner because there is simply no rationale for putting this off until next year, especially when a magnetic card-key system could be installed by early next semester. After all, nearly a full 67 years of the 20th Century have already passed by without Carolina's women's rules getting in step with it.

THERE ARE ARGUMENTS against abolishing closing hours, even for seniors, however. They were listed by opponents of the rules change at Tuesday's WRC meeting.

One of the staunchest opponents of the measure was Miss Carol Ann Peters, the representative from the Kappa Delta Sorority house, who asked:

"But what would women be without the double standard? . . ."

"Just suppose no closing hours was extended all the way to the bottom (to include freshmen)?" she asked. "How would this affect girls without (the experience of) closing hours behind them? How would this affect their femininity?"

The answer to these questions would seem to have already been given — when suffrage was extended to the fairer sex to those many years ago. Since then, a great many women have escaped the wife-and-mother-period shackles to become rather worthwhile contributors to the entire human race — while remaining ladies.

If Miss Peters and her comrades-in-viewpoint are so concerned with protecting the moonlight-and-white-lace concept of Southern femininity, why aren't they back on the plantation, sitting at their mothers' knees and learning how to better bake and sew?

A SECOND ARGUMENT against abolishing closing hours is that it will destroy what is lovingly called "dorm spirit."

The reasoning behind this is that girls will feel closer and more unified if they are all herded into the dorm together at the magically appointed hour, instead of being allowed to come and go as they please.

There is strong logic behind this. It is a tried and true method, really — just ask any sheep herder, and he'll tell you how much easier it is to handle a flock of little white woolies if they're all kept together. Or ask any chain gang "boss" how much better for morale it is if prisoners take their exercise periods together, instead of separately.

The main hang-up about applying this argument to support a closing hours policy, however, is that Carolina coeds are — supposedly — neither sheep nor prisoners.

In short, "dorm spirit" should be made of stronger stuff than enforced-togetherness.

THERE ARE OTHER arguments posted against abolishing closing hours, too, of course.

One of the main ones is that security would be greatly hampered. This was undermined, however, by the WRC Senior Hours Committee's report which recommended a magnetic card-key system — inexpensive, safe and easy-to-come-by.

AND SO GO the arguments against abolishing closing hours for seniors — and, indeed, for abolishing them for the rest of the upper class coeds here, too.

Obviously, the rules changes opponents say, such a radical move would destroy the Carolina Coed's femininity, completely wreck "dorm spirit," make every woman on this campus subject to pre-dawn attacks by card-key wielding invaders and undermine the Honor System.

But would it really, now?

Clay Bill: Round 2

Student Legislature gets another chance tonight to vote on a bill appropriating money for the recruitment of Negroes for this university.

A similar bill — for a larger appropriation — was defeated by Legislature last month. The second bill calls for \$640—a reduction of \$180.

It is a tribute to Phil Clay and the Carolina Talent Search that a second bill has made it to the floor of Legislature.

Opposition to the first bill, and again, the promised opposition to the pending bill falls into two categories:

RECRUITING NEGROES is not the responsibility of students;

IT COSTS too much, anyway.

But those excuses are hard to support. In the first place, recruitment of Negroes is the responsibility of students — if they want to make it their responsibility.

Secondly, the case for Student Legislature's inability to pay for the recruitment sounds a little weak after Legislature saw fit to appropriate \$2500 for the Carolina Greek, of which only two issues have been distributed, at least where the students could find them.

We would suggest that enough has been said about the recruitment bill, and that now is the time for it to be passed.

Its passage would go a long way in swelling the "accomplishments" column of Student Legislature, a column that presently doesn't have much on Mother Hubbard's cupboard.

Letters To The Editor

Professor Questions Adam's Conclusions

To The Editor:

One must be grateful for Professor Adams' letter giving his views on the implications of the "Statement in support of students conscientiously refusing military service" because of its contribution to the dialogue concerning our draft laws. But one can surely question his implied conclusion that the signers are lacking in logic and in the awareness of a permanent tension between moral conscience and constituted authority. At least he does not accuse us of being radical or subversive which, however, might be the unfortunate conclusion of those people who read his letter without also reading the statement.

Professor Adams' argument appears to be based on his reaction to the first sentence of the statement. One even feels that the first sentence was the last to be approached with a completely open mind because the rest of the statement says or implies what Professor Adams admits. The statement begins with the sentence, "We are shocked and dismayed that young men of conscience must either serve in a war they believe is unjust or face jail." Adams apparently has seized on only one of the definitions of the verb, to shock: "to strike with surprise." With

this definition, he can then argue that the signers, surprised by jail terms for those who break the law, are unaware of the necessity for respect of constituted law and authority. But none of the signers that I know is the least surprised that the young men involved face jail terms. The theme of the statement comes explicit in the fourth paragraph: "We shall work to change a law that is neither compatible with individual conscience nor shows sufficient respect for it."

Professor Adams is very close to the intent of the complete statement when he writes "I have nothing but admiration for the young man who goes to jail rather than fight in order to call the society's attention to what he believes to be the injustice of the war. This, it seems to me, is just as proper as violating a law in order to get a court case to test the constitutionality of the law." But then Mr. Adams shows his dependence on his chosen definition of "to shock" by saying "but in either case one must be prepared to accept the penalty under the law. No one can with reason expect the law or its penalty to be withheld from him because of his personal moral judgments." But the signers do accept the penalty under the present law, and no one is asking for

exemption. One of the involved students talked to me before going to Washington, and it was obvious that he was contemplating some sort of civil disobedience with the full knowledge that he would suffer the consequences. To my mind he was accepting the line of action which Mr. Adams says he admires—going to jail "to call society's attention to what he believes to be the injustice of the war."

Now if we look at another possible definition of "to shock," namely "to strike with disgust," then the first sentence becomes part of an introduction to a rather logical statement of moral indignation. If the statement is read in this light, there is nothing to be found of disrespect for law and authority. There is most definitely dissatisfaction with the law as it now stands and a determination to "work to change" the law.

I consider the statement moderate, hopeful, and pragmatic. Why do we believe that there should be provisions for conscientious objection to a "particular war as unjust, illegal, or inhumane"? In my own case because I stress the social value of individual conscience and doubt the military value of a soldier who believes in the depths of his

being that his country's cause is unjust, illegal, or inhumane.

What has Mr. Adams accomplished by overlooking the moderate tone of the whole statement and emphasizing a logical analysis of the first sentence? Since his misreading might lead the superficial reader to think that he is accusing us of disrespect towards the lawful authority of our country, my own view is that he has accomplished nothing constructive.

I regret very much that there are many people in Chapel Hill, including leaders in the University, who have accepted the subversive interpretation without bothering to read the statement. Some of these people have introduced the extraneous question of whether the signers have served in the armed forces—as if only veterans had the ability, right, or duty to be concerned morally with the country's international activities or as if the signers were probably too cowardly to serve their country.

Ironically I would probably not have signed the statement nor have written this letter of protest if I had not served in the army, because it was only as an infantry lieutenant that I became aware of the pervasive timorousness of human beings. I was so disgusted with the cowardly junior officers around me who never gave the battalion or regimental commander any unwelcome advice that I made a pledge that for the rest of my life I would give voice to my conscience. This has not proved to be a very practical pledge, but I am not about to forsake it, and I shall ever be grateful to the army for leading me to it. The statement is very close to my position when it quotes from Robert Lowell: "I would not undertake to advise any young man to resist the draft—that's too terrible a responsibility. But if he did, I would feel a coward if I didn't support him."

Yours sincerely,
Paul J. Pinckney
Assistant Professor
Department of History

Writer Disagrees With Miss Hill

To The Editor:

I would like to comment on the letter by Katy Hill which appeared in the December 8th DTH under the title "They Refuse What Comrades Face Up To." Miss Hill feels that the young men who refuse induction fall to "face up to their responsibility as American citizens." Presumably Miss Hill believes that it is the responsibility of American citizens to complacently accept and fight in a war they do not believe in. I contend that these young men are accepting their responsibility, the responsibility to exercise the right of dissent. Many of these men are students who could obtain deferments, but their consciences will not allow them to support the war and the draft by accepting the Selective Service System's reward for their silence.

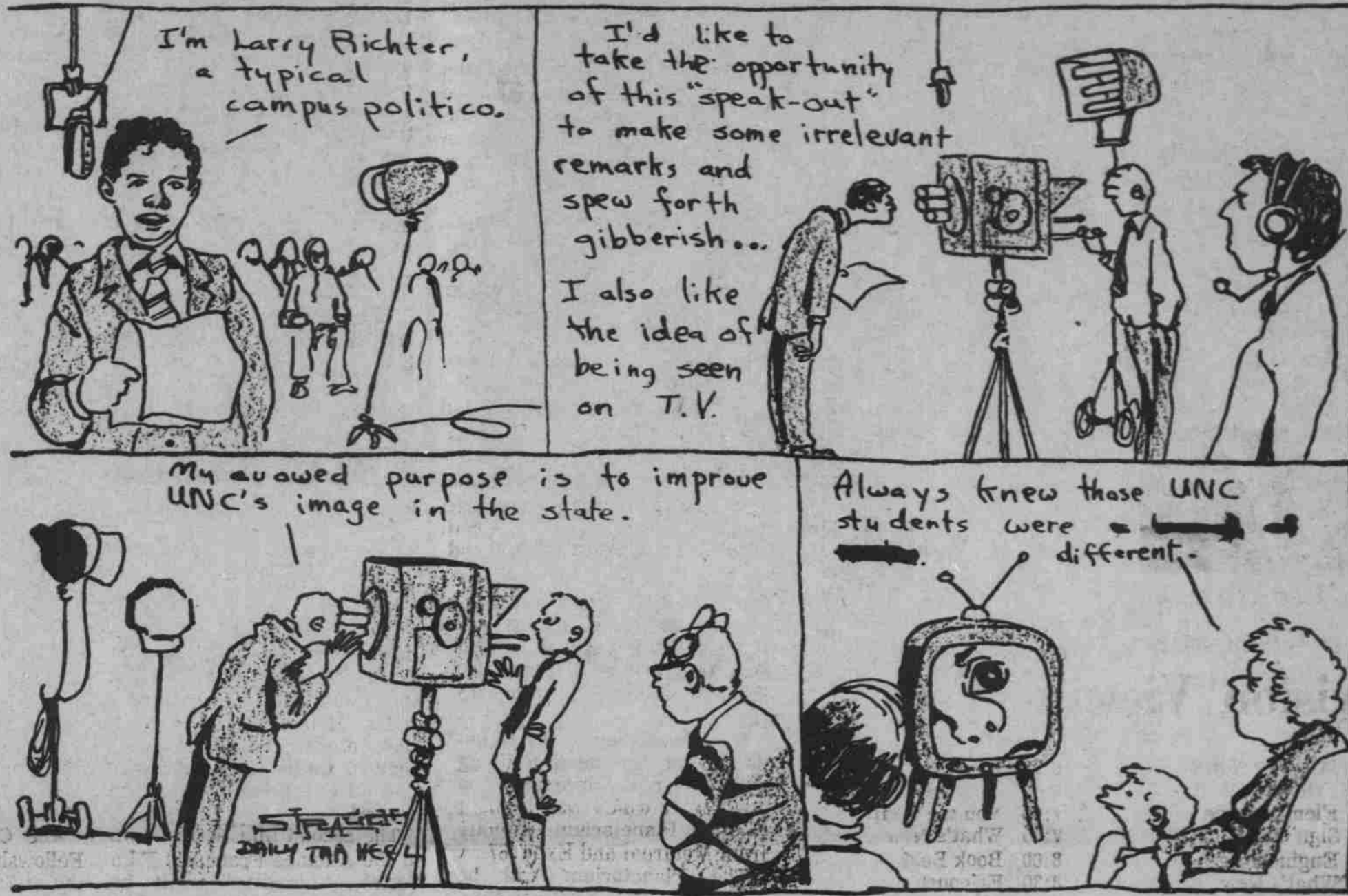
Miss Hill goes on to argue that these protestors are cowards. I contend that it takes some courage to face a prison sentence and the stigma that goes along with it. Then she says that she is no more in favor of the war than the next person, yet she is opposed to someone registering dissent in a meaningful and possibly effective way. These people are calling attention to the injustice of the draft in a way no academic discussion can; they are risking a great deal for their beliefs, yet Miss Hill wishes to repress their dissent.

Next she says that some of her friends have died in Vietnam, and so she wants no one to talk to her about ending the war. Miss Hill, it is precisely this reason that the war should be ended now! Too many of our young men have died in this rotten war already. You wish to reject all rational arguments about the war, but too many people are doing that already.

Miss Hill ends her letter with a completely irrational statement, saying that the Army should give the protestors a haircut, shave, and bath. She generalizes that all or most protestors are dirty, unshaven, and long-haired; this tends to destroy any credence I might have placed in her arguments.

Finally, I contend that Miss Hill might not feel the way she does if she were eligible to be drafted. No matter how many of her friends come back in wooden boxes, she cannot have the experience of being forced to fight and kill in a war she does not believe in.

Michael Searles
1716 Granville



The Student Speaks

Draft Is Practical Necessity

By DICK LEVY

Twice last week students demonstrated in Raleigh against the draft.

Most were there either because they object to the war in Viet Nam or because they object to the draft in principle.

Today and tomorrow I shall attempt to analyze the validity of these objections. On Saturday my column will propose an alternative to the present system.

The first group's views seem more legitimate than those of the second. Bearing in mind the Nurnburg Convention, which placed (perhaps unrealistically) individual responsibility upon a nation's citizens for the actions of their government, these students' consciences rebel against a war that may be, or seems to them, immoral.

We can disagree on several grounds. Foremost is the fear of allowing 200,000,000 Americans to serve as Chiefs of State, determining inexpertly the rightness of American foreign policy.

Such a policy might undermine our democratic values and institutions, which provide for proper redress through the election process.

Unfortunately, raw power is at the center of international politics. The rest of the world does not yet wrestle with the agonies suffered by an American conscience which demands a higher standard of behavior and morality.

As Dr. Andrew Scott points out in THE REVOLUTION IN STATESCRAFT, the American dilemma consists of having developed two contradictory strands of policy: "the use of power and the abhorrence of power." Living in a world of pragmatism forces actions at once necessary and despicable.

Foreign policy and the possession of immense power thus have a great effect on our national behavior. Yet one cannot condemn those whose consciences lead them to oppose, within our democratic framework, actions of government. Such vigilance may someday be proved wrong. But then, it may also save our national

integrity. And it must never be forgotten that "honor," used so often today in a national sense, is an intensely personal concept.

Still, to demonstrate against the draft of an arm of foreign policy is to confuse the practical considerations of nationhood with the moral responsibilities felt by each citizen.

Let those who feel so strongly about the war remember the necessities of a conscription army and national security, internal and external. Let them focus their attentions on the war, and then enlist in respect for not having been able to dissent to persuade the majority to alter our policy. Or, if they feel they cannot do this, let them accept the consequences of their refusal to be inducted.

Bear in mind that the draft is based upon practical necessities, not upon ideology. As such, protest against it because of objection to Viet Nam is misdirected.

Tomorrow: The case for the draft

Editorial Based On Misinformation

To The Editor:

With respect to the editorial in the December 8th DTH, entitled "Victory Village Grocery: How Can They Get One?," thank you for your interest in the situation of Village residents. However, the editorial seems to have been based on a certain amount of misinformation. I presume that your references to the Village were meant to apply only to Victory Village proper, as it is hard to see how anyone could consider the brick apartments of Odum Village as "slum-type housing." But it is not appropriate to treat Victory Village as an independent entity. The Odum-Victory Village Board

of Aldermen represents the entire Village, and as such, is primarily concerned with the needs of the Village as a whole. Furthermore, Victory Village is in the process of being torn down to make room for the expansion of N.C. Memorial Hospital. The Future of the Village lies with Odum Village and with such new housing units as the University will some day build. Consequently it is somewhat pointless to make a great deal of the admittedly inadequate facilities of Victory

Village. It is on the way out, and might have departed the scene before now had not so many students preferred the cheap rents on the old Village units.

As to the comments on a possible laundromat and grocery store for the Village, the University presently has plans to build a service building in the Village which will contain a laundromat, a snack area, and other facilities not yet determined. The Board of Aldermen has consulted with the Planning Office of the University with regard to the nature and contents of the proposed building, and one of the suggestions under consideration was for a small pick-up store. However, it is not clear from the results of a recent survey of all the Village residents, taken by the Board of Aldermen, that there would be sufficient interest among Villagers to justify such a store. However this may turn out, it does seem that the DTH might have consulted with the proper University officials, or at least spoken to someone on the Village Board of Aldermen to determine just what is being done to remedy the lack of facilities in the Village prior to editorializing on the subject.

One final observation. The Village Board of Aldermen elected this Fall has been concerned with the needs of Village residents on many levels. We have consulted with the Planning Office on the new service facility, and we are presently working to obtain more sidewalks and more playground space. We have endeavored, through considerable revisions of the Board's Constitution to improve the representative character of the Board. We have conducted a survey of all Village residents to determine needs, interests and the exact composition of Village families. We are working to improve the already excellent Village Day Care Center, and we are attempting to overcome the lack of communication among Village residents. In summary, if you want to sound the cry for Village causes, we will greatly appreciate your help. Only try checking with those whose elected task it is to prosecute those causes, with vigah!

Yours sincerely,
R. Robert Basham, Jr.,
Chairman,
Odum-Victory Village
Board of Aldermen.

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