

The Daily Tar Heel

75 Years of Editorial Freedom

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Continuum

"The University should educate the student to function in a society, not just in an academic environment."—Dershie McDevitt, assistant dean of women, presenting Administration viewpoint at Forum on the Honor System.

"A code of academic integrity would be the best possible system"—William Miller, chairman of the Men's Honor Council, presenting student viewpoint.

"As long as apathy prevails, they (the students) will get exactly what they deserve."—Earl Hadden, past president of Di-Phi and one of the prime movers of the Attitudinal Survey on the Honor System.

"There is no peaceful way for a group who holds power to be forced to abdicate its power"—Michael Katz, professor of law.

WRC Ruling Commendable But Why Not This Year?

WRC's move to change the present policy of campusments for any fraction of a minute accumulated over ten can be hailed as a final recognition of a ridiculous situation.

Under the existing rule, if a coed happened to be a half minute late one night, after she has already been campusped for using up her ten late minutes, she is subject to a second campus.

And so it proceeds throughout the semester—campusments for seconds, over and over again. The punishment is ridiculously stingy for such a petty offense.

The new policy, which will operate on the basis of accumulated 10 minute blocks constituting a weekend night campus, provides a more reasonable and workable system.

The only regrettable facet of the decision is that it will not be initiated until next year. There would appear to be no justifiable argument for delay of such an innovation. The system has proven to be an unfair and absurd in its picky basis for punishment, and more than once it is only the honest coeds who are punished.

Many girls just rush up the stairs and do not bother to sign the house offense slips while the desk girl has her back turned relocking the front door.

Those who do stick around to sign the slips listing their late minutes are at the mercy of an often imprecise clock.

WRC has obviously acknowledged the fact that the present system is faulty by their action Tuesday night. They are penalizing themselves and the other coeds who are subject to the current system, however, by not making the change effective as of now.

Is the red tape so strong that an improvement cannot be immediately initiated without having to wait for the printed decree to appear in the WRC rulebook?

Changes for the future are fine when it is understandable that the change must of necessity accompany other time consuming alterations.

But in this case, the only alteration would be informing the coeds of the change.

Simple, isn't it? Then, why not?

Letters To The Editor

Viet Nam: A War Gone Wrong?

To The Editor: Recent events in Viet Nam are likely to bring out the worst in many people who are firmly committed to an opinion of the war. To those who feel the war is just, any question of its justness in the present emergency will seem like capitulation to the enemy; and any attempt made by us to negotiate now would appear only as a reward for the enemy's ruthlessness—a reward that would inevitably lead to more ruthlessness in the future and an endless string of humiliating concessions. To some, therefore, the present events are the pretext for a denial of debate and an insistence that all loyal Americans recognize the victories being won, no matter how hard they are to see.

In addition, these events, confirming so well the moral outrage of those who oppose the war, are sure to provoke new civil disobedience and violence, with the result that both sides will become even

more hardened and unwilling for rational discussion. To those in the middle—those many who for various reasons hope desperately or indifferently for an end to the war without any effort from them or disruption of their lives—these events mean, if one faces their implications, that any such hope is now almost completely gone. Those who have refused to take sides and who have supported the President—because, perhaps only because, he is the President—must again ask themselves about the worth of this war.

We have wavered between two goals in Viet Nam: one, to establish a stable, democratic country there; and, second, to prevent the territory from becoming Communist. Yet, if the people do not care who wins—and the evidence for this is almost incontrovertible—then, in the present situation, we can not achieve the first goal. To make them care seems beyond our abilities; we do not even have

the ability to make large numbers of our own people care about this country. In addition, our sporadic attempts to make the Vietnamese care is constantly undermined by a government which is, beyond question, pitiful. And to make matters worse, we fight against a man who is, however much we may regret it, a symbol of real Vietnamese aspirations: Ho Chi Minh.

So we are left with the second goal. But if the second goal assumes priority, then the most efficient—and perhaps the only possible—path to victory is one in which the people become expendable. If it is the territory that is our main concern, then the methods used in this war—the delayed bombs which may go off when children have returned to a vicinity; the bombing of villages on the strength of a rumor that Viet Cong may be in the area; the recent bombing of cities—all become understandable. All such actions

ignore the inevitable reactions of the people, since the people—never having been enthusiastically for us—are merely another obstacle in our path. Or perhaps not an obstacle—such a description revolts us, and clouds our good intentions—but merely a present irrelevancy, suffering, forgiving, enduring all with patience, with the knowledge that they will be the theoretical beneficiaries of American abundance after the war is won.

But we have seen a number of desperate reactions recently which tell us that even this second goal is elusive. In the past two weeks, we have seen our President publicly announcing victory at the very beginning of the battle. We have seen bled casualty figures for the enemy which can be, with gentleness, described as a hoax. We have been given reassurances that our government was aware—and, therefore, indisputably in control—of the coming general uprising; yet the penetration of the enemy into the cities was unhampered, and leaders of the South Vietnamese were calmly away on vacation.

We have seen air strikes in the cities, in an attempt to wipe out the enemy's presence as quickly as possible, lest someone notice what he had done, or realize how he did it. (We bear also of the latest administrative tactic in New Hampshire, where registered Democrats are being mailed "pledge cards" to declare themselves for Johnson.) Nor can we deny that the reputed progress in pacification—estimated to be two-thirds of the population as recently as last November—has been a delusion. And the constant reiterations that Khe Sanh will not be another Dien Bien Phu are numerous enough to make one's blood turn cold.

Not even the most ardent pro-war advocate can deny that this war has continually worsened, and its effects continually poison our own society. To recognize this is not to blame ourselves completely for the failure, nor to immediately lapse into gloom about the possible fate of our civilization. But it is to recognize our limitations, and to see that persistence in a hopeless enterprise, where a needed cooperation has not been forthcoming, is to risk the very civilization we hope to defend. If Communism is a rampant force which must be stopped, then it would be better to stop it somewhere else, where the people are dedicated to the same goals and the enemy has not preempted the hope for the future. In 1954, in the wake of the Communist triumph in China, such a conclusion was almost unthinkable; but it is thinkable now.

It is also better to make our stand when we have cured our own society. In spite of our convictions that our way of life is best, we still lay bare to the world an obvious array of injustices, including a terrifying attitude that continually depicts the aspirations of people as a manufactured thing. And how can we when we do not understand, nor want to understand, our own hopelessness and lethargy?

As the war worsens, greater dangers lie in the future, especially concerning Khe Sanh and the threat it raises: that nuclear weapons may be used.

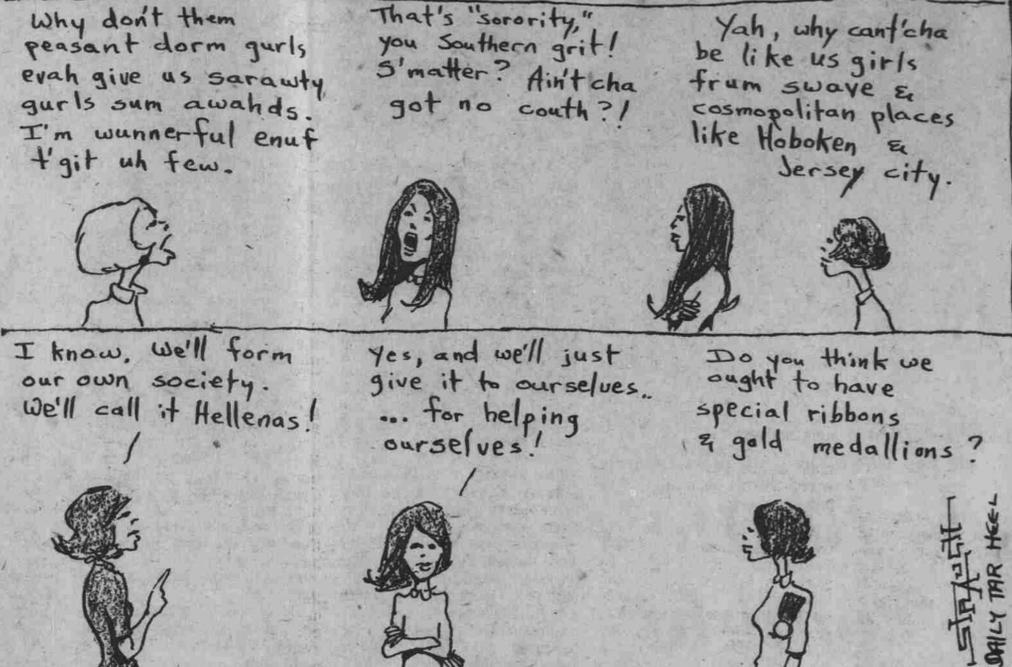
Dien Bien Phu was under siege for 56 days. In spite of our government's denials that Khe Sanh may suffer the same fate, it is likely that our only hope there is a stalemate, barring any reckless and desperate move by the North Vietnamese. But the ease with which Lang Vei fell suggests that even a stalemate is a frantic hope. Air power causes only superficial enemy losses; and other than air power, all offensive moves now seem to lie with the enemy.

So one might speculate: suppose, after 40 days of inconclusive siege, after the American position has suffered through slow attrition, that the only recourse, other than accepting defeat, would be a sudden massive airlift of those left at Khe Sanh and a nuclear strike against an enemy which would be unable to withdraw as fast. Such a possibility seems unthinkable—but surely no more unthinkable than the thought, several months ago, that the Viet Cong would seriously threaten almost every major city in the country.

The logic which leads to bombing in the cities, as a substitute for inadequate ground forces, can lead also to the use of nuclear weapons at Khe Sanh, to recompense the privileged sanctuary enjoyed by the North Vietnamese, and the inability of conventional bombing to seriously deplete their ranks. That logic could become irresistible if a worsened American position coincided with substantial Viet Cong accomplishments in the cities or an outbreak of war in Korea.

In this merely a bad dream? The latest rumors concerning nuclear weapons seem to indicate that Washington is in a pessimistic mood. The realization that nuclear weapons are in the area, at least as close as Korea, is hardly reassuring. A war gone wrong—lacking the essential ingredient of the loyalty of the people we hope to defend—must sometime resort to desperate measures which once were unimaginable. And for all Americans the questions posed so often in these last few years become even more demanding: is this war really just, really in our national interest? And more: has our government lost control of the realities of its power?

Charles Ruhl
213 Purefoy Road



Letters To The Editor

DTH's Drug Stand Correct

To the Editor: I want to publicly express my support for the stand taken by the Editor of The Daily Tar Heel with regard to the administration's new drug policy proposal. To me, the particular issue, drugs, is less important than the fact that the administration is interfering with the private lives of the students again. Behind the new proposal is Dean Cansler's "theory of education and the role of the University, which is that the character and the quality of a man should be counted along with his academic capabilities." This statement is simply another expression of the in loco parentis idea, but since the Dean is no doubt sincere in his belief that the University should stand in the place of a parent with regard to the students, his views deserve a serious attempt at a rebuttal.

The parent-child relationship is founded on the love which the parent has for his offspring; the parent has authority to discipline the child, not because the child is his "property," but because he loves him and, therefore, has his best interests at heart. A University is a soulless corporate entity and is, by definition, incapable of love. It follows that the University cannot possibly assume the role of parent with respect to its students.

There have been times in the past when a teacher had only a handful of students and could take an interest in each of them individually. Such a teacher, a human being, could stand in loco parentis to his students. He knew each of them well enough that he could make their welfare, and discipline, his personal concern. Needless to say, teachers and students don't share this kind of relationship at a modern University.

The impersonality of the University is a cliché: what kind of relationship can one have with a computer—a numerical one. Yet Dean Cansler and others in the administration persist in claiming that they have the right to assume a parent's

disciplinary powers over thousands of human beings they have never even smiled at, let alone loved. It's one thing for Otelia Connor to claim that she has 14,000 children; has at least recognizes that, at best, she can only hope to set a good example; her umbrella symbolizes a threat of punishment which is never carried out.

The administrators, on the other hand, are presumptuous enough to think they have the right to thrust their moral and social values on all the students, at all times, on or off campus, and to punish those who don't live up to their standards, even if that means usurping the state's judicial role and trampling on the students' civil rights.

Were it not for the fact that Dean Cansler is probably sincere in believing that his office, or the administration, has the right to stand in loco parentis with respect to the students, his unfounded claims of authority over the lives and conduct of thousands of people he has never seen would be arrogant, to say the least. It must be recognized that the only possible relationship between the student and the University is an impersonal one, and because of this fact The Daily Tar Heel's stand on the drug policy issue is correct.

T. A. Cabarga,
Chapel Hill, N. C.

Campus, Community and Nation', yet they are above a realization that with leadership goes responsibility.

I doubt the APO Service Fraternity would accomplish many of their services without first securing permission from those to be helped, but they cannot waste their time by securing permission to park a car up beside the Old Well for a Photograph. Too bad, because unless my sense of direction is badly askew, the Old Well is just across the street from South Building, the main administrative office of this campus.

It is also just across the street from the Campus Police office in the YMCA. But these men, so dedicated to leadership, friendship, and service cannot be credited with any effort to secure official permission. No other organization on campus would consider itself so independent, or so privileged as the glorious APO.

Ben Lamm
60 Maxwell Road

Ode To Mary

To The Editor: The February 9 issue of the TAR HEEL included an article by MARY Righton in which she suggests that; "someone poetically inclined could write something tritely inspirational of how I walked in the gym totally apathetic and walked out feeling after two weeks I had become a part of the school."

I would like to submit an attempt in the "Higgledy-Piggledy" form of poetry, a recent innovation, popularized in TIME magazine, with the following rules:

THE BASIC meter must be double dactyls
LINE 2 must be a proper name, in double dactyls
LINE 6 must be a single word
LINES 7 & 8 must be a pun, joke, insight, paradox, etc."

This is the result:

WELCOME MARY RIGHTON
Hippity Hopity
N.C. University
Throws open its gate
And welcomes you in.

With all of its gaiety,
one asks
Superciliously,
How could you spend
Two weeks in the gym?
Thomas R. Gnau
Pharmacy Grad.

APO Sanctity?

To The Editor: Be it known to all persons, all major and minor deities, and all creatures of the earth that the APO Fraternity is beyond all campus law. By virtue of their admitted good works, APO does not have to ask anyone's permission to do anything on this campus. In their letter to the Tar Heel of February 9, they acknowledge considering themselves to be "men who adhere to the principles of Leadership, Friendship, and Service to

Letters

The Daily Tar Heel accepts all letters for publication provided they are typed, double-spaced and signed. Letters should be no longer than 300 words in length. We reserve the right to edit for libelous statements.

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