The Daily Tar Heel

76 Years of Editorial Freedom

Bill Amlong, *Editor*

Don Walton, *Business Manager*

Duke Vigil Reaffirmed Non-Violence As Tactic

Out of all the arguments put forth recently on behalf of non-violence, perhaps the most effective one was that one articulated by the Duke University students who maintained nearly a two week vigil in support of striking non-academic workers there.

The reason it was effective is simple: it showed that non-violence can indeed work.

The Duke trustees have agreed to meet the demands made by the workers for a pay hike. Further, they have agreed to grant them collective bargaining rights.

This victory, however, was not only one for the striking workers and sympathetic students, but more importantly for the principle of non-violence.

What it did was to reaffirm non-violence as a useful tactic in dealing with the power structure—whichever power structure demonstrators might be dealing with.

And now is a time when non-violence needs reaffirming.

The late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was assassinated in Memphis as he was about to lead a non-violent protest there, began using non-violence as a tactic in the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott, and carried on with it through the Civil Rights struggles of the early 1960's.

The principle took a beating, persons—especially those in big city ghettoes—began to feel that it wouldn't pay off quickly enough, and turned to rioting, burning and looting as an outlet for their frustrations.

It was especially forsaken during the bloody aftermath of King's assassination.

But the students and workers at Duke showed by their patience and perserverance that determined demonstrators can effectively make their point, and also bring the status quo to a screeching halt.

Hopefully this method of massive, non-violent resistance will catch on enough so that it will become the predominant mode of protest.

And if it keeps working as well as it has at Duke, there's no reason why it shouldn't.

Dr. Hawkins And Truth

Dr. Reginald Hawkins, the Negro dentist from Charlotte who isn't supposed to have a snowball's chance in his campaign for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, is opening an office here today.

Presumably he'll have a lot to say—a lot more than any of his opponents have had.

But's that's how it's been throughout this whole primary campaign, for candidates within both parties: while the Big Four (meaning the four candidates who have the undisputed advantage of being white) have neatly sidestepped most the issues, Dr. Hawkins has been the only one to speak out honestly and sincerely about what this state needs.

And when he opens his campaign office at Rosemary and Sunset today at noon, chances are he'll come right out and answer questions about poverty, open housing, education and other issues which need to be dealt with by North Carolina.

He will tell it like it is—instead of spouting forth a mouthful of political rhetoric that carefully says nothing to offend anybody.

But how can Dr. Hawkins be like this when all the political rule books say that vagueness and half-truths are the basis of North Carolina gubernatorial campaigns?

Maybe it's his political naivete.

Or maybe he figures he doesn't have a chance to win—since he's black—and simply wants to use his candidacy to bring the issues to the attention of the voters, to be a thorn in the side of his glib opponents.

Or maybe he's just an honest politician.

In any case, if you want to hear the nitty-gritty about North Carolina, come down to the Hawkins' headquarters today.

At least it will be a change from the normal pap.

Prison Problems

Students from Carolina and Duke will join with poor people of both races today to protest conditions at Central Prison in Raleigh, where guards shot into a crowd of demonstrating inmates last Wednesday, killing six and wounding 80 others.

As usual, people will ask: "Why are students getting involved in this?"

The answer, of course, is that students are people, and people should care and should get involved when things are wrong.

But why should students—or any people—get involved with a drive to reform conditions at Central Prison?

Part of that the answer was given in an editorial in the Raleigh News and Observer Monday. It quoted the state Commissioner of Corrections as saying that Central Prison is "one of the worst designed maximum custody units in the country—but the only one we have."

Here is that editorial:

Tragedy and Antique

Following the tragic riot at the Central Prison here commissioner of Corrections Lee Bounds made a statement which may have been overlooked in the more exciting aspects of the situation. Central Prison, he said, is "one of the worst designed maximum custody units in the country—but the only one we have."

Under Commissioner Bounds and his immediate predecessors much has been done to improve prison conditions as a basis for the rehabilitation of human beings. Work has also been underway to provide better maximum security for irreclaimable prisoners. Mr. Bounds' remark, however, emphasizes the antiquated quality of the prison system's central unit.

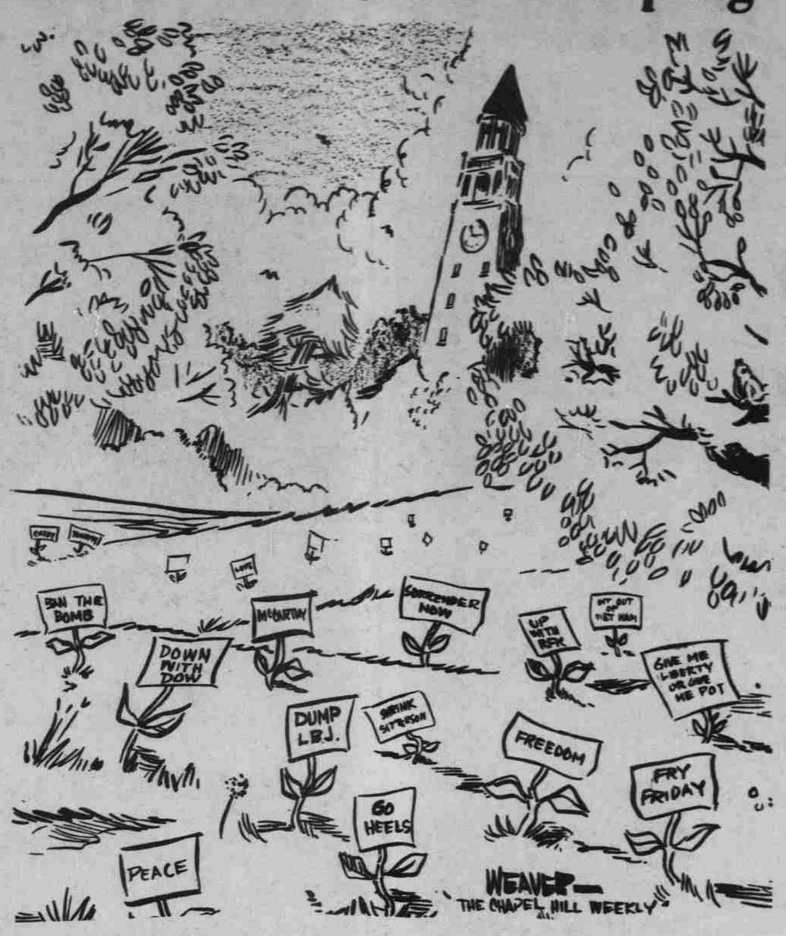
One of Raleigh's most striking—and certainly its most austere—landmarks, this prison was authorized by the legislature in 1869. It took fourteen years to build its battlemented complex. Of course, it has been much remodeled since. Buildings have been added. But it remains a prison designed with the prison ideas of men a century ago.

Obviously the State needs a better structure for its central operations. It requires in concrete and steel a building designed in terms of all the best that man has learned about penology and prison management since those days of Reconstruction when the gray granite fortress was begun.

This State at this time, despite the recent trouble, has every reason for faith in its prison management. But the best men cannot do the best job with worn out tools.

Central Prison has seen its best days, if any,—and its worst ones. It is time to discard a relic and build the best designed such prison in the nation.

Flowers That Bloom In The Spring



Billing Objectionable At Memorial Hospital

To the Editor:

Four months ago, North Carolina Memorial Hospital changed its charging system for outpatient department lab tests. Uner the old system bills were graded so that poorer staff patients were charged less than private patients. Now all patients, private and staff alike, are charged the same lab fees — which fees incidentally have recently been raised.

A hospital administrator discussed this new system with the house staff and attending physicians in my specialty. He assured us that provisions were made for the grading of bills so that poorer patients would not have to pay the full amount of lab fees. He admited though that the only way a patient could have his bill reduced was by complaining about it. He also assured us that the outpatient secretaries would inform each patient of his right to complain and thus to have his bill lowered.

This new system has not worked. In practice there has been no grading of bills. One reason for the failure of this system has been a complete lack of communication between the admniistration of the hospital and the outpatient clinic. My conversation with three members of the Outpatient collections department revealed that these men were not even aware that bills could be lowered for needy patients.

In addition, the secretaries have not been informing the patients of their right to complain. The reason for this is unclear, but apparently a breakdown of communications has occurred in this area as well.

This new billing system is objectionable. Even if it were working according to plan, it would select out those patients either too timid or too proud to complain. It also would give certain offices great power in deciding who should and who should not have to pay. But it is clear that it is not working according to plan, and, unless covered by welfare, the poorer staff patients pay the same high lab fees as private patients. A hospital must be run as a business, but when it seeks to make its money by victimizing those least able to pay, it is time for reappraisal of the situation.

John T. Benjamin, MD.
Resident
N.C. Memorial Hospital

Issues Weren't Cured By LBJ's Withdrawal

To the Editor:

Now that the haze of euphoria after the President's dramatic announcement of last week has dissipiated somewhat, if only because of the tragic death of Dr. King and its diversion of the mass media and the public conscience, perhaps we have a more sober perspective on the war in Vietnam and, particularly, the import of Mr. Johnson's withdrawal from the 1968 presidential race.

It is true that Mr. Johnson's action has, as one writer said, "cleared the air" and allowed more free discussion of the issues and not merely personalities. However, despite this, despite the fact that we are closer to peace than six months ago, the war goes on and, needless to say, men are killed, lives are disrupted and destroyed among the innocent. Perhaps it is too early to say, with any degree of certainty, what precisely the effect of Mr. Johnson's "magnanimous" act will be. It is not, I believe, too early to suggest what are the immediate, political consequences of this act. By withdrawing from what he termed the sordid arena of "partisan politics," Mr. Johnson has deliberately created a vacuum in his own party, a vacuum which he hopes Mr. Humphrey will fill. He has thus. . .

"stolen away the savior images of the dissenting insurgents, McCarthy and Kennedy. Now it is they who appear to be the ambitious politicans, not LBJ. They can no longer capitalize on massive anti-Johnson sentiments; we must now listen to and accept what Kennedy has implied and what McCarthy has stated: the U.S. has made a mistake; we must accept a coalition in the South, and we must not be afraid of "losing." (AMHERST STUDENT, Apr. 4)

The talk of a "moratorium" on dissent and serious discussion of our Vietnam policy is just as irrelevant as responses, such as Rep. Gardner's to the looting and burning in many of our large cities. What is the good of allowing our spokesmen to negotiate, armed with the same, old mistaken assumptions and misconceptions concerning Vietnam and our involvement in a land war in Asia? What is the good of invoking that old shibboleth of "law and order," as Messrs. Gardner and Broughton and others are doing, while choosing to ignore the Kerner Report on Civil Disorders? What kind of response is it to say, as did Rep. Gardner, that no civil rights bill will or should be passed until the effects of "white racism," i.e. rioting, butrning, etc. are treated by military force?

Fortunately, Rep. Gardner and those who think as he does, are in a minority at least insofar as the present civil rights legislation is concerned. Fortunately, Senators McCarthy and Kennedy have not, and will not, I hope, cease talking about the issues of the unjust war in Vietnam, merely to show respect for the "magnanimity" of their nominal party leader.

Peter C. Gerdine
Carrboro

South Could Rise If It Would Break From Racial Past

To the Editor:

Although this attempt at eloquence has been inspired by the visage of Silent Sam, I hope it will convey some meaning to those who still may speak and act. When I walked through the Quad on Palm Sunday, I immediately noticed the paint job bestowed on Sam the night before. My reaction was mixed. To the extent that Sam memorializes men who died defending an ideal of republican government or their homes, I wish Sam to stand bright and brave. To the extent that Sam commemorates those who chose bloodshed in order to preserve slavery or selfish economic interest, I would see him trampled in the dust.

To most of us today, Sam represents not the reality of what happened from 1861 to 1865, but the attitudes of Southerners since. In the minds of most whites, the memorial at the courthouse, the Confederate flag, and "Dixie" represent the same things: domination and superiority of white over black, a fierce sectional pride which tells outsiders they cannot understand and better not meddle, a martyred pose of having lost something noble, a justification for remaining economically, politically, and socially isolated.

To the Negro, these same symbols represent a heritage of oppression, a present of intimidation or at best patronizing by whites, countless years of spiritual emasculation. In this last sense, I can understand the feeling of defiance and of self-fulfillment which must have come as black students dared burn a Confederate flag in public and befoul a Confederate memorial. White stand while the band plays "Dixie"; blacks desecrate memorials to dead men (presuming, in lack of evidence, that the obvious parties painted Sam). Thus we both stand in the shadow of the past and try to humiliate the other.

It would be easy to blame the workings of history, the mistakes of past generations for the bitterness and anger of today. We of this generation are stuck with the problem accumulated from the past, we are stuck with a backward and divided region, we are stuck, for the most part, with each other. Neither black nor white today asked to have it this way. It is up to us to seek some constructive solution or let hesitation and anger determine events. Shall we continue to look to a romanticized past? burn down every city? shoot every person of the other color? continue a system of government which has come ultimately to depend on bayonets and armored cars rather than the consent of the governed?

On a level which speaks more immediatly to the white Southerner, shall we continue a system whch has create a "New South," which can still boast of the lowest per capita incomes, the lowest hourly wages, the longest working hours, the highest infant mortality, the least money spent per child in public schools, the highest percentages of men unfir for Selective service? Certainly progress has been made, but judging from a simple material standpoint, we have too little to be proud of, too little to stand up and cheer for. Make no mistake: treating so many of our people as second class, deliberately deadening their talents by wretched education, stifling their spirit in lonely tenant farms or filthy slums, consigning them to jobs which exhaust both body and mind, keeping them on the bottom of the economic ladder has hurt us all. Obviously the Negro and the poor white have suffered most, but everyone in the South suffers.

What, then, is to be done? If I were addressing a professing Christian audience, I would urge that a new spirit and course of action be founded upon the belief that we must respect and love every man for wom Christ also died. Since students are not known for their devoutness, perhaps I should stress the practical side. Southerners, it is time to "secede" again, to abandon the wys of the past and even of our parents' generation. Make the present worth living for and we will no longer need the emotional crutch of white superiority, the easy excuse and bittersweet cherishing of a military defeat a century ago. Oncw e have really determined to create a home worthy of every man's support, we will quickly find the concrete means to do so. If the South does not "rise again", our lives are in vain.

Sharon E. Brown
History Department

The 'Law And Order' Choral Club

Raleigh News and Observer

After rehearsing for months, North Carolina's political choral club burst forth during the recent disorders with a concert at which the major work performed was "We Love Law and Order."

In a way, it wasn't a bad program. The audience certainly had no trouble hearing what went on. The tempo was lively the enunciation superb. We would have preferred a few more verses, however.

Each sang in his own key. J. Melville Broughton Jr., Democratic gubernatorial candidate, urged a special legislative session "to deal with special needs arising out of the riot conditions in our State." (He had warmed up a bit earlier with this measure: "The circumstances of one's up-bringing should not be an excuse for lawlessness.")

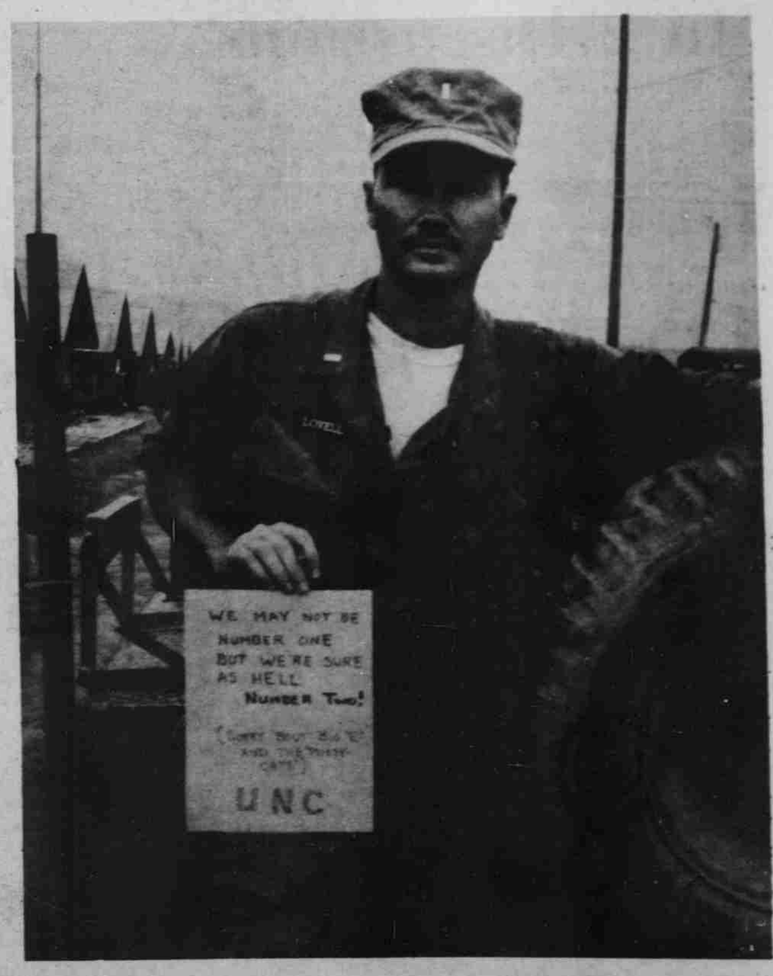
Lt. Gov. Robert Scott, Broughton's major primary foe, unrolled once again his law-and-order platform and from it sang that law and order must be maintained "if we are to have a peaceful, a progressive and a prosperous North Carolina."

Congressman James Gardner, GOP candidate for governor, displayed a bold voice. "When I become governor," he intoned, "I will not have any rioting or looting in North Carolina. Those who think they can riot and loot will be jailed and prosecuted by the law."

No sensible citizen of this State would really disagree with the central theme of the performance. We all favor strengthening and improving local law enforcement. We all think rioters and looters deserve to be punished. We all abhor the way hoodlums take advantage of the sightest excuse to hit the streets. We all would prefer that our lovely Tar Heel spring not be marred by burning and brick throwing.

But there came a disturbing coda from Dr. Reginald Hawkins, the Negro candidate for Democratic nomination to the State's highest office. It went like this: "I still believe in nonviolence—I am a Christian minister. But the only reason progress is being made in Detroit is because of the fires there last summer."

"We Love Law and Order" seems to be in danger of becoming as overperformed as "We Love God and Motherhood" or "We Hate Sin." What we would really like to hear is another verse or two—proposing things that could be done to combat the conditions which seem to breed unrest in the first place. Singers, can you find the right chord?



Once a Tar Heel, always a Tar Heel. And so the rah-rah spirit goes—all the way from Chapel Hill to Phu Bai, South Vietnam, where Marine First Lt. John Lovell posed with this sign 30 minutes after listening to the Carolina vs. UCLA game of the NCAA finals in Los Angeles via Armed Forces Radio. Lovell, who was president of Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity during his undergraduate days here, graduated in 1966. The sign reads: "We may not be number one, but we're sure as hell number two."