

The Daily Tar Heel

76 Years of Editorial Freedom

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Sis Boom Bah! Rah! Rah!

“Will It Happen Here?” —Wrong Question To Ask

Three thousand students are entering the University for the first time this fall at a crucial point in the University's history and in that of American higher education.

At the end of the last school year students at Columbia rebelled against the administration because they believed it to be playing a role supportive of racism in American society and supportive of illegitimate and immoral intervention in the Vietnamese war.

In France thousands of students across the country revolted against the inferior and irrelevant education they thought they were getting at the hands of their government.

At Fayetteville State College black students took over the administrative buildings because they were getting an inferior education and because they felt the school was too repressive for their development.

These events, and others, have administrators and students at most colleges across the country wondering, "can it happen here?"

Such questioning has very obviously been going on at Chapel Hill during the past few days. Chancellor J. Carlyle Sitterson proved that the administration is thinking about it, when he reads to the new students the North Carolina law against sit-ins. "Will it happen here?" is an interesting question, but not the crucial one that students or administrators should be asking.

The important question is whether the University is fulfilling the needs that a student has as he attempts to develop. The question is whether the individual can develop sufficiently in an

environment where he encounters many rules that he and other students consider a barrier to the educational process.

As student Body President Ken Day puts it, the question is whether "each individual has placed upon himself the responsibility of deciding his educational goals and whether he has a University which provides him opportunity and option in fulfilling his goal.

Many persons, particularly those in the Southern Student Organizing Committee, who are sponsoring a "Disorientation program" contend that the University is providing a stifling atmosphere in which the individual's development is prevented.

These are the questions to which students, and the Administration in particular, should address themselves.

The Administration needs to consider these, in particular, because it seems that it in the past, judging from the statements of some members of it, is not concerned with the students' problems as much as it is concerned with keeping a clean image across the state and preventing student disorders.

This is most evident in some Administrators' statements about lines of communications between students and the administration and about how open these lines are.

The way they describe the student-Administration dialogue, it seems like an invention by some analyst of student disorders as a means of preventing more riots.

Dean of Student Affairs C.O. Cathey, in an interview in the Chapel Hill Weekly last May, explained that he thought that the riots occurred at Columbia because there was no line of communications between the Administration and students there. He went on to say that he didn't think any student riots would break out at UNC because the Administration is always happy to listen to students.

That sounds nice but a question immediately comes to mind: Is the administration listening to the students because it believes that in doing so it can prevent student disruptions, or is it doing so because it is interested in the students' problems?

Likewise, Chancellor Sitterson told freshmen that students are members of various University committees that decide things like who can park where on campus, what the undergrad curriculum must be, or what dorms will be changed into offices. He spoke as if students represented a meaningful force on these committees but if one would check the list he would find that in most cases there are only one or two students on each of the committees that usually have 17 members. And these are committees that have immense influence over the students' lives.

Here again one must ask whether the administration is putting a token number of students on these committees so it can claim channels of communication are open or because it is really interested in students' problems.

What it seems the Administration needs to do is (1) quit worrying whether there will be student riots on campus this year and worry about whether the University is allowing each student to develop fully; and (2) realize that it doesn't have all the solutions to the problems that students face in adjusting to their environment.

The members of the Administration, having grown up in a different environment than that which students are developing in cannot claim to have learned what is best for the student because they have not had the same experiences that the students have faced.

That is why, in seeking to create a University that fulfills the needs of its student body, the University cannot rely solely on the judgement of its administration, it must also rely on the opinions of those who are to be effected by the University.

"Don't trust anyone over thirty."
—Proverbs

I didn't believe it either, but it did happen. There are even a few witnesses; ask them, if you wish.

We were sitting on one of the benches near Old East when an old Englishman walked up and asked for "some candid comments on the University community. My two friends, fearing the man was a Communist or at least a Fabian, ran away to call J. Edgar. But I, hoping to be helpful, courteous, and kind, told the gentleman that I would answer whatever questions he might have.

"First off," he began, "what's all this rubbish about 'orientation' and 'disorientation'?" "Well," I drawled, "it's like this: the orientation people are so dis-oriented from all matters of relevance that the dis-orientation folks thought they would orient everyone else to the hard facts of American society."

"Oh."
"But don't let that throw you. The official orientation is responsible to student government; that should explain their problems. And the dis-orientation is run by the SSOC, sort of establishment radicals. Both groups are dealing with the screwed-up freshmen anyway, and that only leaves freshmen twice as screwed-up as they were to start with."

"Perhaps. Who, though, constitutes student government?"

"That's Ken Day, the 'institutionalized radical,' and his crew. They're all looking for careers in state politics, so don't expect fireworks from them."

"I see."
By this time, we had moved through Y-Court and down onto Polk Place. This Englishman seemed genuinely interested in what I was telling him.

"Why, what are all those Negroes doing over there by the flagpole?"

"Oh, well, that's just the Black Student Movement," I replied. "They meet on occasion to orchestrate about how all whites are racists and other such pertinent, valid information."

"Curious lot! Let's move on before we're seen conversing with them." I could tell he was nervous, and his racism was beginning to show.

"Very Well." But before we could get ten feet, up marched a group of white liberals, trying to confront us with their racism. "Don't worry about them," I continued. "They're just a bunch of students and profs who haven't figured out yet that they don't belong in the Black Cultural Revolution."

"My, my. You blighters certainly have a dandy of a racial problem here. What a mess!"

"Oh, no!" I added. "It's really quite grand. Why, when the militants start giving speeches and threatening riots elsewhere in the nation, we get the same treatment here in Chapel Hill. So, you see, we don't get left out."

"Hmmm. Interesting way to look at it." Then, glancing towards a bunch of students who were dancing around the Bell Tower, he asked, "What's all that?"

"Just the Experimental College. They get together down here from 3:20 to 4:45

p.m. every Monday to be spontaneous."

"WHAAT?? Planned spontaneity?"

"Certainly. Just think what a ruckus you'd have if all these naturally creative people 'happened' anytime they wanted wherever they might be."

"But that's what spontaneity IS!" He was obviously confused.

So I just shrugged my shoulders, seeing that he couldn't understand the intelligent reasoning behind the Experimental College, and said, "You do have a good point there."

"Well, anyway, who are those two men standing nearby?"

"Dean Cansler and Rev. Smith. They work with residence colleges to bridge the administration gap."

"Residence colleges?"

"It's nothing really. Just a fancy name for 'dorms'. At one time, though, the administration had desires to use the residence college system to politicize the student body. But the students weren't interested; said they'd rather drink beer than be stooges. Can't say as I blame them."

"Sounds Zany. What about these characters with pointed heads and grey checked suits that keep walking by, looking up in the air?"

"You mean the frat-men. They're nothing either. Somehow they got the idea that they're the only people at the University, so they tend to ignore everybody else. Look there! See the big fellow with the scrawny blonde? He's president of ZooPie, and she's rush chairman for FooMaggaCrud."

"How impressive." Then, still confused and a bit flustered, the Englishman pointed to two groups of demonstrators who were involved in a mutual confrontation. "And who, pray, are they?"

"Well," I went on, "the crowd on the right is the Vote Wallace and Bomb North Vietnam Back to the Stone Age Committee, and the bunch on the left is Peace, Freedom, Love & Vote Dove Action Committee. They fight around here quite a bit, but nobody pays them any mind."

"Say, then, who would you

vote for this year, while we're on that subject?"

"Oh, I reckon I'd like to see Bob Dylan for president with Norm Mailer as vice president. But I'd make them pledge to make Ayn Rand the chief justice before I'd definitely vote their way."

"How clever! With your imagination, once would suppose that you could write for the student newspaper. Ever thought of that, old sport?"

Seeing that he didn't know who I was, I shuffled my feet a bit (trying to look modest) and said proudly, "Well, I do write for the Daily Tar Heel. I'm Simpson, the sensation-seeking columnist, didn't you know?"

He almost fell over backwards with excitement. "Astounding!" Then he whispered, "Certainly you should know what the plans are for achieving open visitation for coeds in male dormitories, er, residence colleges as well as the plans for getting rid of coed closing hours."

Showing off once again, I gave a subtle nod and said, "Sure. 1500 women are going to run out of their dorms nude just before closing hours all the way across campus to the men's dorms, as a mild protest against both of the old rules."

"When will all this happen?"

"As far as I know, it'll be October 3rd at 12:45 a.m." Then, to my utter surprise, the old man started jumping up and down, roaring with laughter and tearing at his hair and clothes. That's when I realized who he was. Beneath that disguise of the urbane, old Englishman was none other than Chancellor Sitterson!

"Thanks, Simpson," he shouted. "You're a great informer!"

He laughed some more, after which he stalked back to South Building with enough confidential information to smash every student rebellion for years to come.

I just sat down and cried, knowing that all the faculty and students would scorn me, the downtown merchants would spit at me and, on top of it all, I would probably always be a racist. Sob.

Then I'll never get into ZooPie, or any other frat, for that matter. Well, that's Carolina.

considered a hawk and is regarded as a potential hardliner although he has had no dealings abroad. He would give more power to the military in running the war, but cautions against the use of nuclear weapons.

So, Nixon and Wallace are given the advantage of second guessing in their bids to become President.

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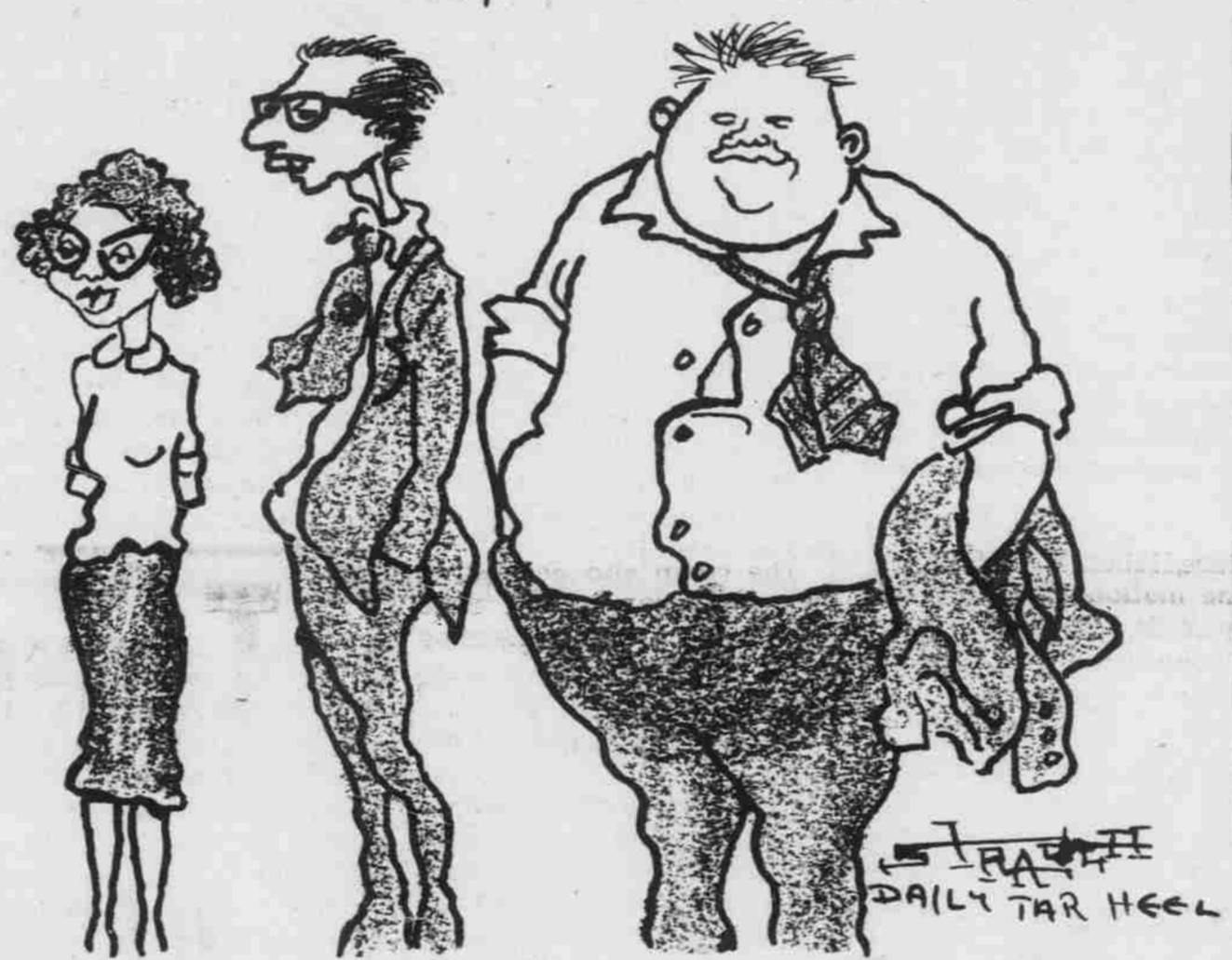
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Dale Gibson

Ta-Ra-Ra-Boom-Di-Yea... You All

The United States has just witnessed one of its most turbulent political years in history—and it's not over yet.

Thus far, it has been a summer marked by first time occurrences. The withdrawal of an incumbent president, the death of a candidate, the revival of an already defeated candidate and one of the bloodiest conventions of all time are all trademarks of this political year 1968.

To compound matters, a peppery former governor of Alabama threatens to send the election to the House of Representatives.

As far as the two major parties are concerned, they chose the two men the American electorate probably least desired to have run. The parties passed up opportunities to nominate the ever popular Nelson Rockefeller and the surging dove Gene McCarthy.

The Democratic part presents Hubert Humphrey as its choice. Humphrey has distinguished himself as one of the great liberal leaders of our time. Yet, he is unable now to receive the backing of those liberal forces he once led. He has been pulled from his position of leadership to one of alienation to the liberals because of his ties with the Johnson administration and his absolute servitude to it.

The Republicans again came up with Richard Nixon—the man who couldn't do it in 1960 against John Kennedy but who hopefully will be able to win against the less appealing Humphrey.

But the other force, that of George Wallace, is one which must be watched closely. Wallace has the unique ability to express his views candidly

without fear of "splitting the party" or angering certain factions of a party. He is his own man and as such is in the most enviable position of all candidates.

The third party movement of Wallace is not characteristic of similar quests in the past which usually appealed to a single issue idealism. Wallace has devised a complete program which, combined with his own Southern pragmatism, will lead him to great influence in the coming elections.

I had the opportunity to observe the local Wallace strategy—the technique which will swing more votes in his direction than any other. On the local level, Wallace campaign workers are able to appeal to the masses in the manner they best comprehend. They are able to tell those who gather for a local Wallace rally what they want to hear without fear of antagonizing any elements of a local party or the national foundation.

While spokesmen for Wallace are appealing to local voters with emotional anti-communist come-ons which would have rivaled those of Joseph McCarthy, the former Alabama governor is able to stand at the national level as an eminently appealing character to the conscientiously conservative elements of the nation.

The racial theme is being played down in the Wallace strategy. The candidate doesn't want to come on as a segregationist candidate or anti-black. He preaches his ideals of states rights and the belief that each state should be allowed to decide for itself whether or not it wishes to be integrated or segregated.

Despite the toning down of the race question among Wallacites, there remains the unrecurrent of thought among most Wallace supporters that their man, if elected, would once again be the one who cried out in his 1963 gubernatorial inaugural: "Segregation today, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever."

This rhetoric is now left to the Wallace leaders at the local level while Wallace himself carries on the crusade for states rights and law and order.

This is the basic Wallace strategy. It is one which will bring to this former bantam weight boxer more votes than any third party candidate in history. It is a movement which threatens to send our choice for president to the House of Representatives.

Law and order will be the most widely discussed of the issues. It will take second seat to Vietnam in the mind of a public which thinks of solutions in the short range, but it will be first on the lips of the candidates who for various reasons had rather talk law and order than the explosive Vietnam subject.

Humphrey is the product of a convention racked with disorder on the floor and violence in the streets—one that was obviously controlled from the machine level than any other in recent memory. Humphrey, who is increasingly trying to be his own man, is nonetheless the offspring of the Johnson Administration which is so obviously wretched with problems, it would have been difficult for Johnson himself to have carried the nation again.

The vice president finds himself today in the most unenviable position of either candidate. To begin with, Humphrey has very little appeal personality-wise. He cannot rely on a dynamic pull in votes.

Humphrey also finds himself flanked on one side by the liberal doves who tired to take the nomination for themselves and on the other by the Johnson policies on Vietnam which by all past reckoning would be alien to Humphrey.

Humphrey will be unable to draw support from McCarthy supporters and as McCarthy himself points out, the vice president is an unsure position in relation to the President himself. Just last week, Humphrey stated that troops could be pulled out of Vietnam by the end of 1968 or early 1969. Johnson, in a speech the following day, repudiated this statement so that the Vice President amended his statement to say that he "hopes" troops can be pulled out by that time.

"It's like a strange football game," McCarthy says. "Everytime Humphrey gets the ball, he is tackled by the coach." And that coach is Lyndon Johnson.

Although Nixon's strategy on Vietnam is not radically different from Humphrey's, he possesses a quality that might swing a substantial number of dove votes his way. Because of his past hard-line stands against communism, most Americans feel that Nixon would be better equipped to end the war now.

Wallace is in somewhat the same position. He has to be