

The Daily Tar Heel

76 Years of Editorial Freedom

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November 22, 1963

By ERICA MEYER

Anyone who had passed age 5 in 1963, remembers exactly where they were and what they were doing at 1:45 p.m. five years ago, today.

I was sitting in a freshman English class led by a bald, jovial high school instructor. I was bored and semi-sleeping.

The loudspeaker mounted above the dusty green blackboard crackled. One of the girls giggled...

Then we heard a radio saying, "The President has been critically shot in Dallas."

...the giggle echoed. A bell clanged. Classes changed with everyone moving as if they were underwater. The halls were unnaturally quiet as we strained to hear and to comprehend the incomprehensible.

I entered the back door of the large gym for Physical Education. As I sat woodenly on an empty bleacher, the announcer's voice broke.

"John Fitzgerald Kennedy is dead."

If I close my eyes, I can see every detail in stark silhouette... the teacher's red sweater, the other girls huddled on the floor, the hollow gym and the sudden blur of tears.

Each of us has such a story.

Remember. If you are now a student, you were between 14 and 18 then. That was before cynicism and bitterness. That was when "President of the United States" was a phrase you said with respect, not scorn. Your political knowledge was on a neat shelf somewhere among your local newspaper's editorials, your parent's opinions and your high school civics class.

Good and bad has a clear line between them. Then, suddenly, everyone's shelves fused into a bullet which splintered violently into a man's brain and all over a fashionable pink suit.

Never again could America invest such emotion in a leader. Two recent assassinations have had almost the same impact. There was only one difference. When Martin Luther King, Jr. slumped over a Memphis motel balcony, when Senator Robert F. Kennedy sank to the floor in a California hotel kitchen, people were saddened, horrified and frightened for America... but no one was surprised.

The air of disbelief which permeated every action five years ago was not there at all. In our maturing, we had left innocence, naive expectation of "things coming out all right" and any surprise at people's inhumanity behind us.

A war generation, we entered the age of awareness with the death of our President. We resigned ourselves to it with the murder of his brother.

There are many reading this who felt no love for the Kennedys. But surely, even they, cannot deny the implications of these tragedies.

Those of us who sat before inhuman television sets and cried that gray, rainy November weekend could not predict, and would not have believed, that our tears were going to be assimilated in a wave of glossy books, society columns and everything from JFK piggybanks to JFK beachtowels.

"I am sick of hearing about it," several of my friends protested when I planned this editorial.

It is devastating to realize that exploitative book publishers, merchandising and privacy invading

publicity has almost obscured and hardened the actual impact and emotion surrounding the events in Dallas.

I am not surprised. We have all grown weary of hearing every bit of news on every member of a large family, weary of being kept on top of every minute discovery leading to the conviction of the guilty.

Lee Harvey Oswald has taken his place in infamy. He stands with John Wilkes Booth and others, including perhaps James Earl Ray and Sirhan Bishara Sirhan. We will know when they have been justly tried and not before.

In The Making of the President: 1960, Theodore H. White states, "(Kennedy) won on this sense of purpose in a year of malaise; a sense of confidence, in a future that darkened..."

"He always acted as if men were masters of forces, as if all things were possible for men determined in purpose and clear in thought..."

As individuals President Kennedy and his brother were blasts of breathable air in the stale cynicism of American government.

Kennedy, more than any other president of modern times, united this country. Given a natural conclusion to his work, I cannot help but feel that today's United States would be a better place in which to live.

But each of us must step over the temptation to ask "what if?" and ask instead "what now?" As individuals, we must move on, our remaining idealism tempered only with honest recognition of reality.

Perhaps we will find out, if we can ever bring ourselves to give the right man sufficient chance.

Remembering...

"Dallas loves you,"
Then Three shots,
A dying president,
Shock and disbelief:
NO! NO! NO!
A hand pounded
A speeding car
The sixth floor,
The open window
A frantic search,
A likely suspect,
A cop murdered,
The movie theater,
A cold denial,
A devout Marxist,
A known pro-castroite:
HATE! HATE! HATE!
Twelve competent doctors,
Time one p.m.,
Has history repeated?
Every twenty years.
Blood stained dress,
A somber silence.
Is it true?

II

The black cars,
A black caisson,
A black horse,
His name Blackjack,
Two black boots,
Two black soldiers,
The black house,
The black capital,
The black rounda,
The black night
The next day,
The clouds gathered,
The clouds cried,
The people cried,
The assassin smiled,
The clouds dispersed,
The people increased,
The people looked.
Is it true?

III

The second day
Another vicious death,
The marxist died,
Time one p.m.
A self-appointed executioner
I am someone!
Hail to the Chief,
The slow cortege,
Dignitaries are walking,
A requiem mass,
A Cardinal says:
"Accept this mortal,"
Small child cried,
The mother cried,
The brothers cried,
The parents cried,
The black-men cried,
Foreigners also cried,
I myself cried:
CRIED! CRIED! CRIED!
Is it real?

IV

Taps are blown.
It can't exist?
The eternal flame.
Am I dreaming?
The casket sank.
I must awaken!
It is over
WE CARRY ON.

By Roman Scharf

University Should Grant Credit For EC Courses

The Experimental College is asking the Administration to allow students taking certain Experimental College courses to get academic credit for the course.

Rodger Thompson and Buck Goldstein, the initiators of the request, want the course credit in an attempt to accomplish three objectives:

- "To reward students for initiative, responsibility, and creativity;"

- "enable students to personally reward instructors for their concern for students and their teaching efforts" through token payments to them to be paid by the Experimental College;

- enable students to design their own courses and pick their instructors.

The request for credit for courses designed by students about subjects usually not included in the curriculum is radical; but in our opinion radical steps need to be taken to set the purpose of college back in its proper place; the credit for these courses is one of the radical steps that need to be taken in order to improve education here at UNC.

The emphasis on quality point averages and accumulation of credits merely in order to get a diploma has prevailed to long at UNC. In the last two years this outlook has been somewhat shaken with the establishment of the Experimental College, the permitting of students to design their own course last year, the holding of classes in dormitories, and the establishment of the Merzbacher committee this year to investigate General College reform.

Education at UNC, as it affects the majority of students is merely a system of throwing chunks of information at students for them to memorize and in return they are rewarded with course credits and qpa's that move them on to the glorious day when they get their diploma.

Instead, education here should seek to accomplish four functions mentioned in the first report on the

Experimental College by David Kiel and Terry Fowler:

- "Education at its best will develop the individual's inner resources to the point where he can learn and will want to learn on his own; (John Gardner)"

- "The teacher should be a study in self-elimination (J. Donald Butler);"

- "The ultimate responsibility of winning an education rests with the pupil (H.H. Horne);"

- "In existential educational philosophy, a student takes on a curriculum and is personally responsible for it rather than accepting a curriculum handed to him by another (Van Cleve Morris)."

Unless you've been a very fortunate student you don't recognize any of the above mentioned phenomena as having occurred in your courses.

Part of the blame for this rests with the structure of the University with its demand for so many hours, a certain quality point average, certain courses to make you allegedly well-rounded, etc.

Part of the blame rests with students for not having taken advantage in the past of those few unique professors who try to withdraw themselves from the scene to leave the emphasis on the student or who try to get the students in the class to help design the courses. This type behavior is understandable to a degree, however, because students are so used to the opposite of what an education is to be like that when they face the opportunity for an education they do nothing.

Now however, some students aren't just standing still. They are asking for credit for some courses that seem to fulfill, more than most courses in this University, the prerequisites for a beneficial learning experience.

We hope that the Administration will accept the radical proposals of these students and begin giving credit for selected Experimental College courses.

Spanish Americans Seek Entry Into Mainstream

From The Christian Science Monitor

Today's ferment among the Spanish-speaking inhabitants of the United States bears remarkable witness to America's ability to quicken and heighten men's ambitions. Among the Spanish-speaking inhabitants of the East Coast, of southwest Texas, of California and New Mexico there is a rising demand for a better life.

What they are seeking, of course, is integration into the mainstream of American opportunity and reward. This demand has a push and a fervor far greater than would have been felt had such Spanish-speakers as have come from Puerto Rico and Old Mexico never migrated. But, touched by the sights and sounds of American prosperity, they are responding with broadened outlook and aspiration.

In California this has led to the now famous grape pickers' strike, popularly known by the Spanish phrase "La Huelga." Basically, the effort is for union contracts with the grape growers and for higher wages for their largely seasonal work. In short, behind the strike lies the search for security and compensation won by so many

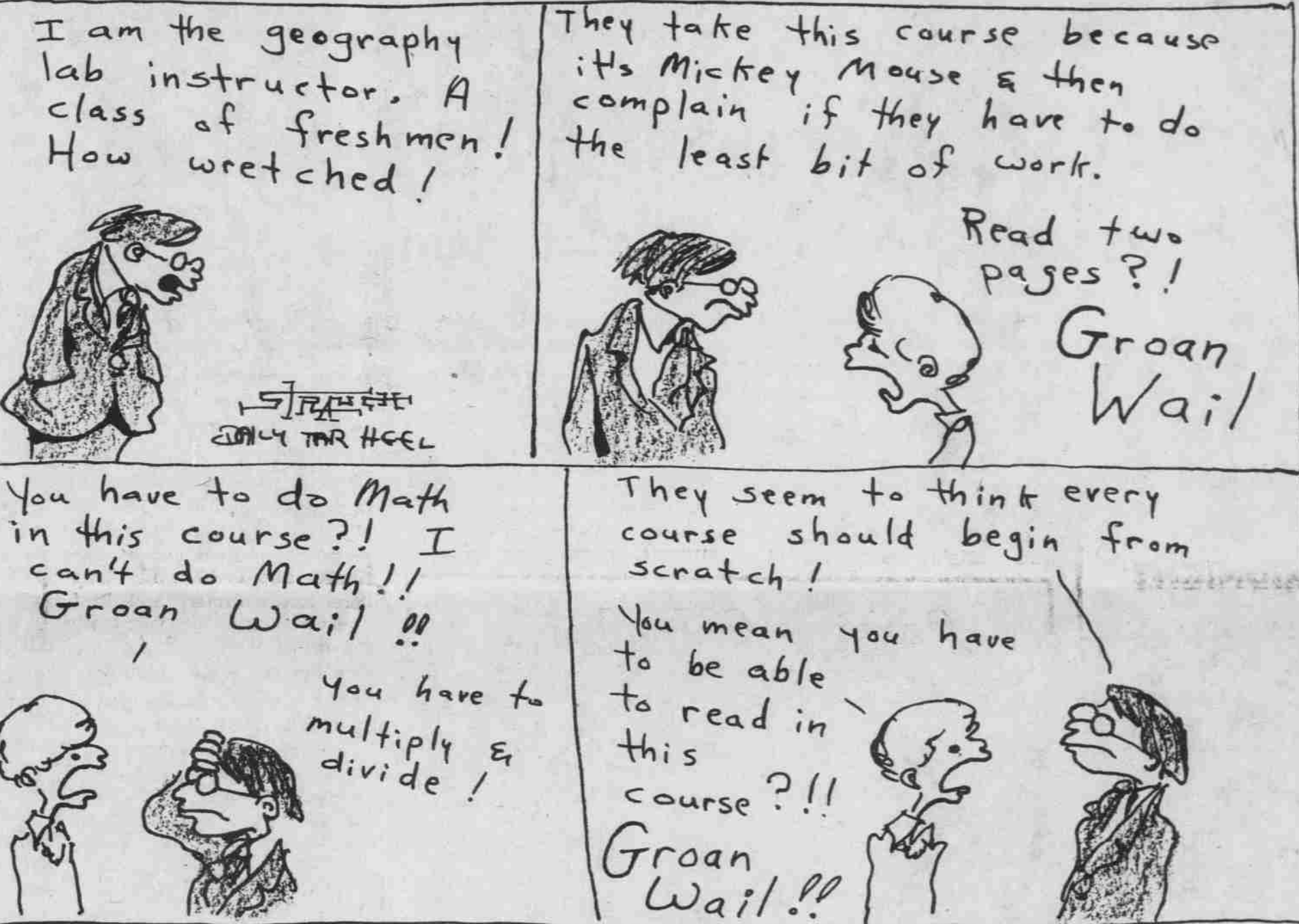
other American workers.

Among the Puerto Ricans of the East Coast, the effort is more diversified. It is for better education, better housing, better jobs and, at heart, for a kindlier reaction from the more fortunately placed old-comers to America.

In Texas the demand is primarily for greater political influence, which the Spanish-Americans are now well on the way towards getting.

Most interesting—and complex—of all is the situation in New Mexico. Last week there opened in Albuquerque the trial of ten Spanish-American defendants charged with raiding a county courthouse, with assault and holding hostages. This was part of an effort to undo what many Spanish-Americans there feel was their forebears' unlawful loss of land to the "Anglos." While this movement will not win back land, it can, if conducted legally, obtain other improvements.

Happily, America arouses ambitions because of the fact that it also has the power to fulfill most of them. Like the blacks, and like all who preceded them, the Spanish-Americans will find that fulfillment.



Letters To The Editor

Conservatives Flood DTH Mailbag

Dear Editor:

A few days ago I was approached in the men's room in the basement of Saunder's Hall by "Tiny Tim" Knownothing and his fiancée.

I would, however, like to reply to the particulars which he questioned in my letter. Argumentum ad hominum: At Time Out Day Mr. Ashland, when expressing his opinion that he disagreed with some parts of U.S. foreign policy, was asked why he didn't resign. Very few citizens agree with every government policy, but democracy works this way. Personal attacks were clearly irrelevant. Mr. Ashland, who has an 18-year-old son, said he had advised his son to serve his country if asked. He was questioned by some dupe as to whether he would have advised his son to join Hitler's forces if they had lived in Germany. In addition to being an Argumentum ad hominum, this propaganda device is called hypothesis contrary to fact. The comparison of U.S. Vietnam policy to Union of South African apartheid. This is an imperfect analogy. Even my letter was maligned. I did not say that I think most students agree with Vietnam policy (I don't), but that most students don't go out to heckle a representative of our government. Reference to the Vietnam referendum is appeal to the Band Wagon effect. Vietnam referendum is appeal to the Band Wagon effect.

My reference to art history, music, and sociology courses was not meant as a criticism of these departments. I might have used RTVMP, PE, or drama. Neither was my allusion to the Tempo Crowd meant derogatorily toward the bar. I was referring to an opinion, widely held, that there are many people in school here not primarily concerned with obtaining an education. They take easy courses. There

seems to be a high correlation between the hippie element of leftwingers and those taking easy courses and a low correlation between the bearded pacifists and those taking natural science curricula. At a recent Vietnam Vigil of ten interviewed: 3 sociology, 2 philosophy, 2 English, 1 drama, 1 French, 1 music majors. In addition 3 bearded "social workers" were present. It's just a shame that this University gets a bad name from a few (as evidenced by the small turn out to hear Mr. Ashland) misguided, immature, deviate wierdos who attract attention to themselves. I have no figures to reflect the crowd composition at Time Out Day against Mr. Ashland but perhaps similar group precipitated the Dow Chemical demonstration last spring. Well over half those arrested weren't even students here. The feelings of the UNC student body were not expressed at Y-Court to Mr. Ashland and the bulk of conscientious students takes the blame for this outrage. Time and again a few of a group I call "hippies" bring disgrace on the educational community by their irresponsible actions. I am tired of being identified with these degenerates.

Sincerely,
Arlan P. Garvey
University Gardens

Conservative Trend Called 'Vindicated'

To the Editor:

Well, friends after all those wonderful letters I've been receiving (most of which were anonymous), and those oratorically superior notes published in the Daily Tar Heel, I and my colleagues, feel that it is high time for a little retaliation. About my article, which was published

in the DTH in late October, hordes of people have contacted me in order to flatly inform me that I am nuts—without a doubt. And I must add that I expected some rather blunt statements—but most of what I received I had to immediately hide from my two-year old daughter.

First off the bat, let me refresh your memory somewhat in regard to my article of late October. I had generally inferred that the United States was now sick and tired of the school of thought; i.e., liberalism, which was responsible for the rather catastrophic state which we as Americans find ourselves in today. And I further went on to predict that as a result of this "liberal ulcer," we would follow a course a little more to the right on election day. In short, I predicted that conservatism would triumph, Richard Nixon would be elected president, and I implied that George Wallace would make a rather strong showing (pulling most of the extreme right conservative vote—for which I must admit, I underestimated his power!).

Well, I'm not one to say, "I told you so!" But I think that some liberals still have not come to face the reality that Hubert Humphrey, Eugene McCarthy and "general dove-ism" (as exhibited by Wayne Morse) have finally met their fate; i.e., the "trash can."

Yet these seemingly invincible bulwarks were found not to be so "invincible" after all. As a matter of fact, they were toppled with a little finger—a split conservative vote. Yes, these strange and rather vague representations of that "yippie utopia" which all components of same seem to envision when they indulge in the dangerous use of drugs—whether marijuana, or liberalism—went out with the last ostensibly desperate puff of Hubert Horatio on November 5. But let us not hold him, or those who followed him, in vain. For they served to remind us of a lesson which we from time to time

forget: "united we stand, divided we fall."

And let me say in conclusion, that I am proud that North Carolina played a major role in this great American conservative victory, and that I, and I hope others, will pray for our new president and our "United" States!

Sincerely,
Roger Schiller
Univ. Gardens

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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