

# The Daily Tar Heel

77 Years of Editorial Freedom



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## Proud Americans ...

Americans are proud. According to a report Thursday by the Associated Press, "America is being draped in flags and bunting in a surge of patriotism that has flagmakers flying high."

Yes, Americans are proud. And they have a lot to be proud of.

For a starter, there's the war in Vietnam, in which, we recall, over 50,000 Americans have died. That's something to be proud of.

Perhaps we could be proud of our stance in Vietnam, were it flawless. Flawless in the sense of being the best stance we could take. But it doesn't appear to be so.

The American mistake in Vietnam was pointed out Thursday by two significantly related events.

The first was Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield's statement urging President Nixon to seriously consider an immediate cease fire by U.S. forces and proposing that the United States step up troop withdrawals from Vietnam to put pressure on Saigon to accept a coalition government to prepare for new elections.

The second event was the rumor circulating here Thursday that Chancellor Sitterson would speak at the October 15 moratorium to express his personal opposition to Nixon's Vietnam policy.

The two events are clearly related, for both signify the profound disapproval of the war and the way Mr. Nixon has handled, and continues to handle, it.

Americans continue to die in this thing which we call The War, and America continues to demonstrate its willingness to let Saigon call the shots.

## ... Local Pride, Maybe

It was gratifying to learn Thursday that Chancellor Sitterson will speak at the October 15 moratorium here to protest President Nixon's war policy.

It is uncertain, though, why Mr. Sitterson took his seemingly inconsistent stance last week on the matter of faculty participation in the moratorium.

In a joint statement on September 25, the chancellors of the six branches of the Consolidated University maintained that according to the Trustees' disruption policy of July 7, "inciting or organizing attempts to prevent student attendance at classes" is punishable by trial.

According to the Trustees, the interpretation of the policy is left to the discretion of each chancellor.

When the six chancellors issued their statement, Mr. Sitterson issued a personal statement to the Tar Heel, which read in full:

"I am pleased that University students are going to give serious and thoughtful attention to the

It seems to be the time for Mr. Nixon to begin calling the shots. It also might be in order for him to start conforming the American policy in Vietnam to our alleged objective, that of allowing the South Vietnamese to determine for themselves what kind of government they want.

But ideals and realities do not appear to conform in the American way of doing things. Which makes us wonder why Americans are so proud of their country.

Perhaps Americans are proud of their ideal of democracy, which is not such a bad ideal. But constitutions and laws are meaningless if they are preserved in glass cases and fail to be manifested in the everyday workings of a society, a society for which they were created.

The majesty of our ideals is fast becoming a tragic commentary on our way of life.

Those among us with the urge to fly high the American flag might start doing something for the reality which is the United States, for the hunger, the poverty, the hate, the tragic lack of equity, and maybe even the war, before they start proclaiming the glory of our proud, but absent, ideals.

But the loud proud patriots don't seem to want to admit we are failing fast. They seem to pre-judge quite a bit of what goes on, seem to know ahead of time what is good and what is bad.

Patriotism, it seems, is good; dissent and intelligent, well-grounded criticism is bad.

And the times aren't really a-changing, are they, Mr. Nixon?

problem of the Vietnam War, presently a matter of deep concern to every American. This thoughtful and critical examination of the issue is in the best tradition of the University. It is my view that students and indeed all University personnel can address themselves to this vital question without neglect of their ongoing academic responsibilities. The influence on national policy is likely to be the greater for its being responsibly exercised."

Under the statement of the six chancellors, students were, in effect, permitted to honor the proposed class boycott; faculty members were not given such permission.

Which is somewhat inconsistent, considering the wide-spread faculty opposition to the war, as well, of course, as Mr. Sitterson's own personal feelings.

We would hope Mr. Sitterson might, in conformity with his own feelings, use the discretion which is legally his to allow faculty members to participate in the October 15 moratorium.

## Rick Allen

# Nixon Perpetuates The 'Credibility Gap'

It would appear that the 1960's will go down in history as the decade of the "credibility gap". A whole nation is coming to its knees to plead for the leader who keeps his promises and tells the truth.

The War in Vietnam has destroyed the lives of thousands, the faith of a whole generation, the countryside of an agricultural land and the world leadership of the United States. Now it threatens to destroy Richard Nixon.

Nixon promised eight long months ago that he had a plan to end the war. We haven't seen it yet. Last week he stated that protest against the war would have no effect on his decisions.

A president cannot turn his back on the people. We, the citizens of the United States have called for an end to the war. But what has he done?

He has recalled a limited number of troops. This reduction has not decreased in the slightest our military commitment in Vietnam. It is a mere show, a sop to the doves and a matter of political bargaining.

He has lowered the draft call for November and December. But the total number of men drafted this year will still be as high as last year.

He has called for a bombing halt that lasted a mere 36 hours. This is hardly what you could call a major show of peaceful intentions.

He has stated that our only demand is "free" elections in South Vietnam. But free elections mean something entirely different to Hanoi than they mean to us. A "free" election in Southeast Asia is a victory for the government in power because they count the ballots.

Imagine if you can the British helping the Confederacy during our own Civil War. "We will hold elections in

John Agar

## Chancellor 'Bumps' Along With Law

... the University did not feel the bumps had been accorded a "fair trial" ...

-Chapel Hill Weekly

Exactly how the bumps became a cause celebre on campus still is not clear. What we do know is largely pieced together from reports of informants and rumors. There remain many holes in the

### Letters To The Editor

## Student Wants To Burn Yack

I am writing this letter in answer to a letter to you from one Miss Holladay Worth. I would like to support Mr. Gross' view. However, I feel that I must restrict myself since my "Yack" has only 544 pages. (Miss Worth claims that hers has 584 pages).

I would like to call Miss Worth's attention to the top picture on page 56 (or is it 96 since hers has 40 more pages?) and inform her that the keg of Schlitz tends to have intoxicating qualities, but Hell, nobody gets drunk at a beer blast. I would also like her to note the bottom picture on page 57. (or was that 97?) I think we can assume that Miss Worth has never been to a beer chugging contest. How could anyone get drunk chugging 8 to 10 beers?

She also states that "... most people turn to the sweetheart section first. They enjoy looking at the pictures of these very lovely young ladies." This, I am sure, is done with no less in mind than one who turns to the foldout in "Playboy" first.

If Miss Worth will kindly pay Mr. Gross' dime, stamp his I.D., and give him a "Yack", I am sure that Mr. Gross and I can have a good time burning ours together.

Doug Hill

2411 Granville South

### Student Offers Criticism Of DTH

To The Editor

After reading the Daily Tar Heel for about two weeks and reading about the objections raised earlier to the paper by your conservative critics, I would like to offer a personal criticism of the fact of your newspaper. I call attention to the standard of writing found on the editorial page. I am not singling out any person in particular, nor any particular examples of what seems to be consistently tedious and painful writing, produced with all the subtlety, finesse, and diversity of a jackhammer. Nor is it a matter of agreement or disagreement over campus issues or politics. I am only asking that you and your staff write like people who do, in fact, have the advantage of a university education, and therefore, the

Richmond," they say, "and honor the results even if they mean rejoining the Union government." The North would not have accepted this anymore than Hanoi will.

And then, why should they? All Hanoi has to do is read the front page of the New York Times to know that we cannot fight this war much longer. They will keep fighting until we pull out, even if we do show "outward unity".

It is abject folly for Nixon to prolong the agony. We must accept the political black eye and get the soldiers out.

Even if you don't agree that the war is morally wrong, it is obviously a political blunder. But what of this united front Nixon wants to present to Hanoi? It is really a cynical attempt at having his cake and eating it too. He would like to buy more time, to appease the hawks and

conservatives by saving U.S. face, while keeping everyone else off his back.

This is why the carrots of a reduced draft call, a restriction to nineteen-year-olds and "maybe" a mercenary army are being dangled in front of us.

We will not be bought off. Too many people are beginning to see the light. The sooner we get out, the better.

People are coming to understand that the regime of Thieu and Ky is corrupt. People are learning that the peasants of Vietnam may be better off under communism, that to them "better dead than red" is a meaningless slogan that is costing them their lives.

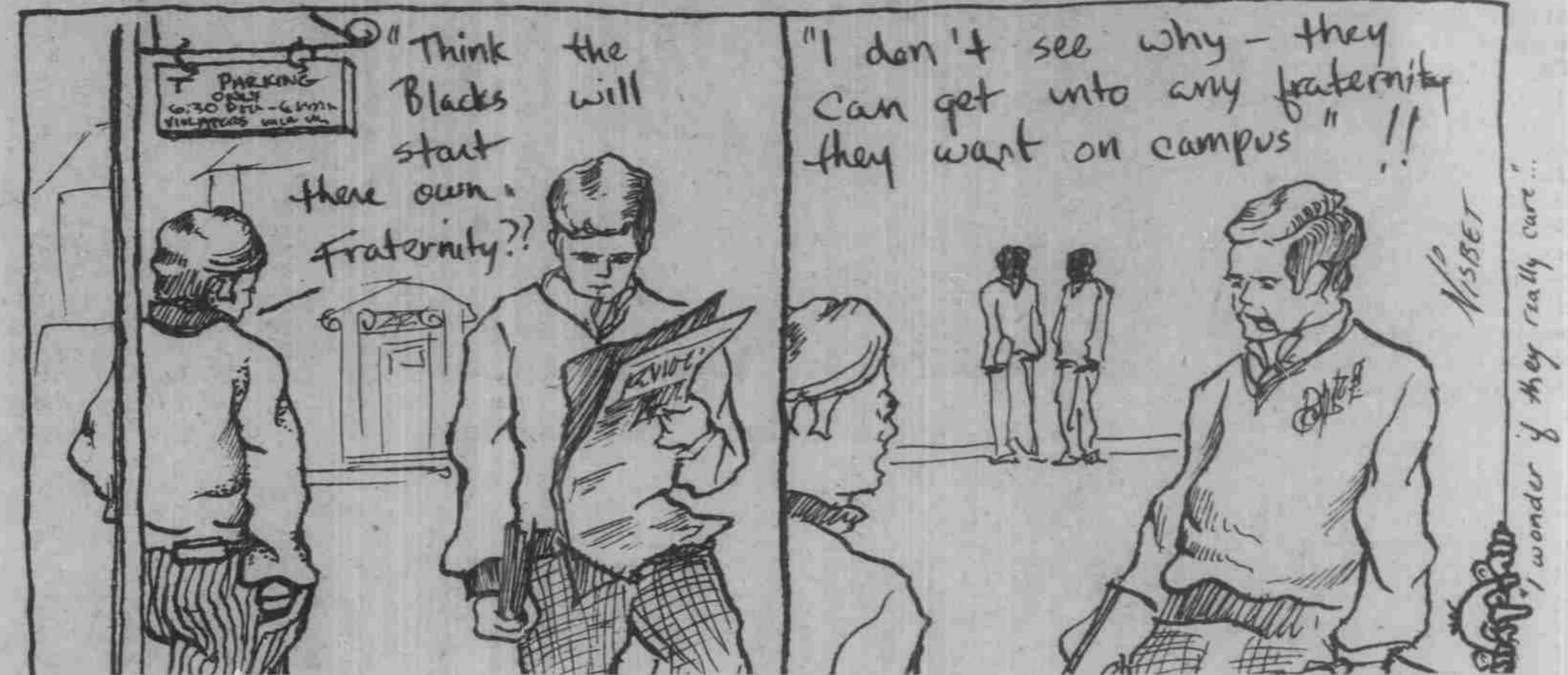
It is better for us to admit our fatal mistake and restrict our interference to

our own sphere of influence. While we are blowing our cool and losing our lives in a land thousands of miles away, we have ignored the interests of our neighbors in South America.

While we have allowed the image of America to be dragged through the rice paddies of Vietnam, the harried democracies of our own hemisphere are weakening.

Our energies must be directed toward the troubled people in our own land. If we must have a foreign policy, let us do more for South America than send Rockefeller on a bogus "good-will" mission.

President Nixon, we implore you to wake up to your responsibilities, not in '72, not at the end of 1970, but now. Your time has run out.



story.

When the Chancellor was informed that bumps along Cameron Avenue were violating the Trustees' Disruption Rules, "blocking normal vehicular traffic" on the campus, he knew he was in for trouble.

For one thing, when he sought to get a bump or two to investigate the charge on

the University Hearings Committee, no self-respecting bump would comply. The president of the student body refused to recommend any bumps, and the editor of the daily paper wrote that neither the Chancellor nor the Trustees had "the slightest respect for us, either as students or as bumps."

When the Chancellor finally did dig up some bumps to serve on the Committee, the paper accused him of driving the

student body to depression and despair. "He's no bump!" the editor stormed, but later retracted the dig, because everyone knew the Chancellor was.

The editor continued: "The Chancellor and the Trustees have repeatedly failed to accord us treatment as bumps. When will they come down from their eminences, when will they realize that we are made of the same stuff as they are?—that we eat, breathe, eat—that we are all born and that someday we are going to die. And when we do, it will be the end of us as bumps—period. Death is the Great Leveler, and he comes for all of us. No one escapes him! In fact, I think I just saw him pass the window—he's looking in at me—he's going to the door—he's in the office ...!"

The Chancellor was unmoved. "This kind of talk," he said, "doesn't amount to a hill 'o beans. And even if it did ..." His voice trailed off. Talking was beneath him.

As the day of the hearing approached, information concerning the investigation was hushed up. The most prominent bumps below the Chancellor refused to comment. The Chancellor remained aloof.

Nevertheless, there were leaks, and the most significant was that the bumps had been ordered to Cameron Avenue by the Chancellor himself. Now, information on this point is scanty at best, especially because of the secrecy with which administration business is transacted. But what seems to have happened is this:

Someone leaked the rumor even to the Chancellor, who checked and found it was true; he had indeed ordered the bumps into the street. This, at least, explains why the investigation was suddenly halted and never resumed, and why there was never any official elucidation of the administration action, except for the remark quoted above from the Chapel Hill Weekly.

There are other theories, of course, but none of them accounts for events, as we understand them, half so well. Many of them are highly improbable.

The Chancellor, naturally, never commented on the matter beyond the rather cryptic remark that he "got his bumps in that affair." In private, though, he is reported to have asked, "If the Green Berets can do it, why can't we?" "Anyhow," he added, "I was out of town at the time."

Sincerely yours,

Ronald R. Benson

### Benton Replies To Accusations

To the Editor:

(1) Mr. Al Thomas' accusations of September 27 concerning my columns written one and one half years ago are pusillanimous, frivolous, and without foundation. (2) Ad hominem arguments in no way weaken our position which is (3) no student should have to pay for a newspaper he does not want. (4) Why are Todd Cohen and his courageous crusaders afraid to admit in print that they favor forcing students to support their publication?

Your servant,

Tom Benton

Editors Note: If Mr. Benton has forgotten the contents of his column he may come to the DTH office and read it.

The Daily Tar Heel is published by the University of North Carolina Student Publication's Board, daily except Monday, examination periods and vacations and during summer periods.

Offices are at the Student Union Bldg., Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514. Telephone numbers: editorial, sports, news—933-1011; business, circulation, advertising—933-1163. Address: Carolina Union, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

Subscription rates: \$10 per year; \$5 per semester. We regret that we can accept only prepaid subscriptions.

Second class postage paid at U.S. Post Office in Chapel Hill, N.C.