

The Tar Heel

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How to Lose Friends

The Fourth of July historically has been the date for a paroxysm of the patriotic fever among average Americans.

The Flag will burst into full bloom on street corners and front stoops. Businesses will be closed, beaches will be crowded, and much booze will be drunk. The United States, yet a chronological fledgling among nations of the world, will be 194 years old.

And it is an unpopular kid.

It isn't likely to receive birthday greetings from many of its elder neighboring nations.

The U.S. at present is like the unpopular kid on the block who is allowed to pitch every game for the Little League team because his family owns all the equipment and uniforms.

Only a few years ago, the U.S. was highly regarded among its teammates (collectively called "The Free World")—even though the country owned all the equipment and uniforms. The other members of the team thought the U.S. was a fine fellow for giving them bats, balls, bases, and caps, as well as the opportunity to play.

Then one day U.S. chased a batted baseball into a backyard called Indochina.

The U.S. had no business entering the yard in the first place. (It was an old ball, with the seams split.) There the U.S. found two brothers, North and South Vietnam, fighting. It seemed that North had wanted South to go with him to play basketball with their friend Red China, but South had balked because the U.S. had told him one day never to go anywhere unless U.S. went along.

Because it wanted to defend the integrity of its instruction, U.S. jumped on North Vietnam and started pummeling it with rocks. All the Free World team stopped the game to look on. Red China and Russia, who didn't like U.S. anyway, also watched from their rooftops.

Meanwhile, South Vietnam slipped into the house to get a glass of lemonade.

The Free World players were shocked at the U.S., which was much bigger and stronger than North Vietnam. But the spunky Vietnam kid refused to be knocked out and prevented the U.S. from leaving its yard and resuming the game.

This went on for a long time. In fact, the two combatants are still fighting. The U.S. has, almost imperceptibly, managed to get a little closer to the gate. South Vietnam still hasn't been heard from.

The Free World players have done some deep thinking. They enjoy playing U.S.'s game and using U.S.'s equipment—it's all free. In return, they allow him to pitch.

But what if one of the other team members should want to pitch a game? Or if one or more of the players decided they disliked baseball and wanted to play for someone else?

Would they receive the same treatment as North Vietnam, who thinks baseball is stupid?

That is why U.S. is unpopular today. That is why President Nixon says things like, "It's time to start talking again about the good things in this country." That is why superpatriots feel the urgency to hold a mass rally in D.C. this weekend, paying homage to a tri-colored piece of cloth and a splintered dream.

And you know what?

The Free World members are thinking about taking up tennis.



Tommy Bello

Life Style Clash Will Highlight DC Festivities

About a month ago I went to Washington with a group of UNC students and faculty from main campus and the law school. Dressed in coats and ties and prepared with reasoned arguments to present the North Carolina Congressional Delegation, we lobbied politically for anti-war legislation.

That meeting was a political confrontation.

In Washington July 4, there will be another confrontation, a confrontation of life styles, religious beliefs, and cultures.

Bob Hope calls it "Honor America Day," a day of good, clean fun with inspiration from Billy Graham and stage arrangements by Walt Disney Productions. Hope has estimated that about a million "straights" will be at the Washington Monument for the activities.

Abbie Hoffman (alias A.H. Free or, more simply, Free) calls it "Dump on America Day," also a day of good, clean fun featuring a massive "smoke-in" and music by Sly and the Family Stone and Country Joe and the Fish. People are saying that about one million "freaks" will be in attendance at the same Washington memorial at the same time.

When the students went to lobby, many comprised

personal behavioral patterns in order to work for needed change. This weekend, I think, both life styles—"America, love it or leave it" and "Hell no, I won't go"—will be out in full bloom.

The possibilities in such a situation are unbelievable, and if I over-simplify or over-dramatize, it is because the symbolic overtones are too much to pass up.

Seldom have "sin" and "salvation," hardhat and Easy Rider, American culture and American counter-culture been drawn together for a face-to-face encounter of two very different belief systems: one finding its God listening to the evangelism of Billy Graham and contemplating the "Grand Old Flag", the other grokking its God in each other, in the music, and through drugs.

Such a confrontation strikes at the very chords polarizing this country: not only differences in political perspective, but more radical differences in each's basic beliefs, life styles, and "Weltanschauungen."

As Congressman Al Lowenstein said several weeks ago, there are two revolutions presently underway in young America. The first is one of political philosophy, where war makes little or no sense, where

political parties mean very little, where faith in the system is diminishing, and where the "Great Devil Communism" just ain't so. Students brought this revolution to Washington a month ago.

Occurring simultaneously, the second revolution is one much more radical and encompassing, one of life style, where money is irrelevant, where sexual taboos and personal appearance make little sense, and where the "Horatio Alger" ideal of rags-to-riches might just as well have died with Horatio himself. Students will bring this revolution to Washington on Saturday.

I would agree with Lowenstein when he asserted that what scares white "middle America" most is not so much of the political differences but the incredible discrepancies in life style. More specifically, if you wear a coat and tie and have short hair, many will listen to your ideas; but when you have dirty blue jeans and long hair, the light bulb of tolerance and understanding goes out all too quickly.

And because the people in control feel threatened, the success of the first revolution in changing people's political biases is in many ways inhibited by the second revolution.

Yet both revolutions are underway and the need to communicate both is growing steadily. This country has a dim future if its controlling segment fears its youth to the point of hatred. Our student generation has little chance of re-modeling America if we do not accept some societal limitations and admit political realities.

July Fourth. Independence Day.

Will it be a day when middle America declares itself independent of the "Woodstock generation" in an effort to see that generation's termination by any means possible?

Will it be a day when young America declares itself independent of American society in an effort to bring that society to its knees?

Will it more than likely be a day when both sides declare their independence from any responsibility for each's misunderstanding of the other in an effort to avoid all the trouble of trying to communicate?

Or will it be a day when each side declares itself independent of its prejudices and biases in an effort to understand one another, learn from each other, and work toward building a more credible, unified America?

See you in Washington?

I'M PACKIN'
FOR D.C.

