

Political process hollow, infirm

President Nixon used to be a millionaire. That is, until the Internal Revenue Service demanded \$467,431 in back taxes, a blow to the most solvent of Republicans. In a society in which a man stands as tall as his bank account, or at least his credit rating, the public has instinctively (and unintentionally) cut to the quick.

It was not the first blow to Nixon's pocketbook pride. After Watergate he was questioned on the \$10 million San Clemente and Key Biscayne expenses, on Pat's million-dollar room rearrangement on the presidential jet, and on the \$60 million Republican campaign expenses in 1972.

Two billion dollar cost over-runs in the defense industry are ignored while the value of old vice presidential papers is discussed.

Strangely enough until Watergate broke out the public wasn't concerned about Nixon's expenses. In fact, they rather enjoyed them. Two years ago *Life* magazine ran a special series of color photos of San Clemente. Now the same pictures of swimming pools and palm trees are the subject of derision. What once was viewed with vicarious pleasure is now viewed with scorn.

Michael Davis

Travesty of a tribute

The genius shuffled toward the podium at centerstage.

With a laborious, non-rhythmical gait he approached the maze of tuxedoed bodies.

Although the moist California winds have managed to preserve the lines of the unforgettable face, the eyes were visibly weary.

The moustache was gray—an aged remnant of the greasepaint smear that hung under his nose in the days of two-bit movies and five-cent cigars.

His fingers gripped the slack in the sides of his trousers.

The audience rose from their seats. The producers, directors, technicians and actors. Their ovation was curiously automatic. Was it cued?

Groucho's voice was hushed and throaty. "Thank you," he repeated. He seemed frightened. Sad. Overcome.

Gone was the snap and spark of his banter. His knife-edge, witty ramblings are nothing more than a memory. But on this evening, what was there for him to say?

It was to have been a special Academy

The same thing happened to Eisenhower and his Gettysburg farm after he was hit by the vicuna coat scandal. Johnson managed to escape much criticism of his ranch house because he also managed to escape any major scandals. Kennedy didn't need to feather his own nest while in office, he was too well-to-do.

Crimes and misdeeds do not always strike the fancy or the indignation of the public, but, once they do, Americans become angry landlords and expect an exact accounting. And once the public is driven to close scrutiny, even more outrages are found.

People enjoy the excesses of their leaders (the English even admired the debaucheries of its kings) up to a certain indefinable limit, and then the process is reversed. Even moderation becomes suspect.

The most distressing thing is that once crimes are recognized and explored, the dry-rot is found to have spread farther than was thought. Such is the case with Nixon. One crime leads to another, to his brother and to his own back taxes. The entire political process seems hollow and infirm.

Award presentation to Groucho Marx and his deceased brothers. Last year, the Academy paid homage to Charlie Chaplin with all the splendor of a freaking coronation.

The Groucho tribute was a travesty. A disgrace. A slipshod, tacky, meaningless smattering of horseshit—Hollywood style. All the holy Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences could afford for America's comic genius was a few awkward minutes of mindless teevie dribble.

But somehow, Groucho rose above the plastic and false.

It seems that you really can't maim a genius. You can't camouflage a presence. You don't brighten the shine of a star by tossing tinsel at it.

Groucho's tribute was not paid Monday evening amidst the superficiality of the Academy Awards.

The Marx Brothers have been enshrined for the past 40 years at the box office. The laughter that to this day resounds throughout a screening of one of their films is the true measure and tribute of their greatness.

Jean Swallow

North Carolina Scenes: a dean in disguise

Suddenly the sky fills with sweeping clouds and in the sweat of an overcast sky, the rains come down, flooding the campus and pushing the students in the heavy winds.

I watch from my office, and I know Lang must be disappointed. The rains mean she will have to cancel her plans for the afternoon.

But then again, maybe she won't. Maybe she will go out in the rain. Maybe there will be a kid out there, walking around in the rain, lost and lonely and angry. And knowing Lang, she will probably stand out in the rain with the kid and talk with him.

This is a little stupid, I say to myself. Damn fool not only won't come in out of the rain, but she'll go out in it. Let the kid take care of himself. A lot of the rest of us had to make it alone. I am a little angry by this time.

But then, I know what Lang would say to that. "Yeah, so you had to make it alone? So did I. And I remember what it was like. And I remember the pain. So I stand out in the rain. So what? I get paid for it y'know."

Then she would grin. And I would grin, because I know she would be out there even if she didn't get paid for it.

Nanci Lang is one of the assistant deans of Student Life. She is, remarkably enough, not so bogged down with paper work that she can't stand out in the rain if need be.

"It's no damn wonder kids leave the school," she says. "They come in here as freshmen and what are they? A number, one in thousands and who cares? Who cares if

they have had an extra mattress in their room for 10 days and can't get it moved out? Who cares if they get a Dear John letter? Who cares if they are lonely, or if they don't know what they are doing?

"Listen to me, Jean, if I make one kid feel better, even only once a week, then I've earned my pay. People look at me and say, you couldn't possibly know how it feels to be rejected. But they are wrong. Not only that but I remember how it feels, I remember it well."

I look at her and I think to myself, I can't believe that. I say, "I can't imagine you ever having to eat alone."

She explodes in emotion. "I know it. Nobody ever does. But there was a time. And now that it's over..."

"What happened," I say, still dubious.

And so she tells me the story of going to a school nobody ever heard of, a school that didn't even have a football team, when all of her friends were going to Vassar and Radcliffe. She tells me about nearly flunking out and her parents cutting her off financially. She tells me about the months of eating alone, being alone and lonely.

And then the story changes. She tells me about spending a lot of time with prison inmates and their families. She tells me about reading for the blind. She tells me about traveling for a national sorority, sweeping into a town and three days later leaving again, having fixed the troubles there.

Grape boycott

Show solidarity: Support UFW

Speakers for the United Farm Workers Union will be in the Pit at noon today to tell you their plight and to ask you for a small inconvenience on your part—namely, supporting the new boycott.

The boycott is new in the sense that it just started last year and so far has received almost no publicity here in Chapel Hill; and also in the sense that this is the second big boycott, the first one being in 1968-1969.

Grapes and wines are the mainstock of this boycott, although iceberg lettuce is still being boycotted.

The grape boycott of 1968-1969 was quite successful, as it reduced significantly the prices of grapes,

Gerry Cohen

Primary race notes

Voters in this year's Democratic primary in Orange County will face nine races, Republicans, three. Many of the races provide difficult choices—but three are easy.

For state House of Representatives, Trish Stanford Hunt and Edward Holmes clearly lead the field for the two seats. For Sheriff, C.D. "Buck" Knight should be re-elected. And for State Supreme Court, James Exum can provide a more progressive judiciary.

Hunt and Holmes are just completing their first term in Raleigh. Hunt has been strongly committed to progressive issues, voting for tax reform and special interests, for better schools and against the death penalty, for the Equal Rights Amendment and against lowering taxes for big business.

Holmes has built a cautious and moderate record. A Chatham County resident (the district is Orange and Chatham), he has done well in representing all people. Two years ago, Hunt got the bulk of the student vote, while Holmes did not, at least in the primary.

The opposition to Hunt and Holmes comes from Douglas Holmes, who might be best known for running twice for mayor of Chapel Hill against Howard Lee.

In 1971, Doug Holmes refused to campaign. In 1973, he ran the kind of campaign that makes one ashamed to be involved in politics. In the guise of offering voters a choice, Holmes took positions that were ludicrous. He made unresearched and untrue statements time and time again, statements that hurt conscientious people. He has not shown the commitment or capability, in my mind, to be state representative. His platform now is a lot more progressive than just last fall. If he is suddenly so different, are we to take this platform seriously?

For Sheriff, C.D. Knight has opposition from former County Commissioner Bill Ray. Knight has run a conservative department, and, of course, looks like a southern sheriff. But in the last 15 years he has been sheriff, he has kept his office out of scandal and reasonably unpolitical. He could have run the sheriff's department better, but he seems to be interested in the welfare of the prisoners, which is one of the main functions of his department.

He also has the technical knowledge and ability to be the sheriff in what is essentially a small and rural county.

Knight is also campaigning for support for building a new \$750,000 jail, a county facility that is sorely needed. The present jail is in need of replacement.

Bill Ray did a good job as county commissioner. But he does not have the

thereby dealing an economic blow to the growers—which is the whole purpose of the boycott.

By putting economic pressure on the growers, the boycott hopes to force them to sign contracts with the UFW rather than with the Teamster's Union.

From 1970-1973, the growers had signed contracts with the UFW, but these were not renegotiated even though most of the field workers wanted the UFW and Cesar Chavez, not the Teamster's Union, as their collective bargaining agent.

A lengthy discussion of the strike, the arrests and the living conditions of the migrant workers is not needed here. You can hear that today in the

Pit. But here's a list of what the UFW is asking you to boycott:

Table grapes from California, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado, Iceberg lettuce, Gallo wines (Gallo, Paisano, Thunderbird, Ripple, Boones Farm, Carlo Rossi, Eden Roc, Red Mountain, and Triple Jack), Franzia Brothers wines and Guild wines.

You may take the attitude, "Well, it won't make any difference one way or another what I do," but that defeatist approach never changed anything.

Boycotting is like voting. One individual's action isn't all that significant, but what is important is

the action of a group made up of individuals.

And, really, boycotting isn't that much of a personal sacrifice at all. It simply involves buying one product instead of another. There are plenty of wines to choose from.

What is more worth it to yourself? Ensuring a lack of some personal inconvenience or helping out in something you believe is right?

You can bring about a change. But only if you take action yourself and don't rely on everyone else's participation.

Why not show some solidarity and positive action as a community and support the boycott.



Letters to the editors

Food co-op complications

To the editors:

I am pleased that the idea of a student food co-op did not die aborning. Yet, I wonder if the idea's initiators are not more sanguine than is warranted about problems involved in organizing and running a co-op.

It was stated in DTH article (April 2, 1974) that prices charged to co-op members will be wholesale cost plus 10 per cent. This mark-up in itself is realistic; assumptions about what costs this mark-up can cover are not.

It seems the 10 per cent mark-up is to cover operating expenses and loan repayment. Will it also cover sales tax? The "N.C. Department of revenue has determined that a co-op is a retail merchant. Therefore, it must collect 4 per cent sales tax on the amounts members pay for food. I doubt that a CGC-supported co-op can afford to

run afoul of state law.

How will the food get to Battle House? Are transportation costs covered by the mark-up? Or are drivers who bring the food to Battle House expected to provide the use of their vehicles gratis? The round trip distance to the Raleigh Farmer's Market is 60 miles. If drivers are paid 10 cents per mile (government rate), \$6 must be paid for each buying trip. With a 10 per cent mark-up, the co-op would have to buy \$60 worth of food to cover transportation alone. Too, the co-op will have to buy scales, bags, etc., before there can be any talk of paying back the \$1600 loan.

Furthermore, I question the advisability of starting the co-op this close to the end of the semester. Co-ops need some measure of continuity, not only in leadership, but also in membership. Most students will leave shortly for the summer; thus, it will be difficult to get continuity.

I raise these questions because some of them apparently have not been fully thought through. These problems will have to be solved if the money is not to be frittered away. Nor are the questions frivolous; I have worked closely with one of the local food co-ops since its founding; these were some problems we had to solve.

I would like to see the proposed co-op come into being, but not at the cost of wasting any part of the \$1,600 contributed by all students on this campus.

Jan Westerik
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Philosophy can broaden world

To the editors:

As a graduating senior I would like to offer an important suggestion to all the sophomores and juniors who are trying to plan their course schedules for next semester: Take a philosophy course.

I am not a philosophy major but this semester I am in my sixth course in that department. Like most of the students I know my initial impression of philosophy was that of a specialized, esoteric discipline, both inaccessible and irrelevant to normal people. However, as an educational viewpoint, this opinion is a relatively recent American development. Throughout most of Western educational history, philosophy has been viewed in the same way as art or music—an area in which some initial work and study would result in great life long enjoyment.

It's important to know how to think. The ultimate nature of space and time, for

example, has little if any practical relevance to anything you will ever do; but having to think through problems in such an area will result in an improved ability to think logically (always helpful in other subjects), and in an increased appreciation of the interesting puzzles involved in being a person in this world. Think about it.

Tom Morris
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Health services found creditable

To the editors:

I've heard several people complain about the student infirmary. I've complained about it before myself. It seems that the lines are endless and that the doctors are interested more in getting you out of the office than in helping you.

For some doctors and maybe in some instances, these complaints are well founded. A little while back, however, I was sick. I stayed in the infirmary for about two weeks, I believe. The doctors and nurses were busy, or course, but they took time out to talk with me as well as perform all their necessary hospital tasks.

I was happy to leave because I was well, not because I hated the infirmary, or the doctors and nurses. This time and in this instance they were good—good professionals and good people.

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The Daily Tar Heel

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