

THE ENQUIRY is the weekly student newspaper of Southeastern Baptist Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. It is published on campus each Wednesday afternoon at various locations.

EDITORIAL

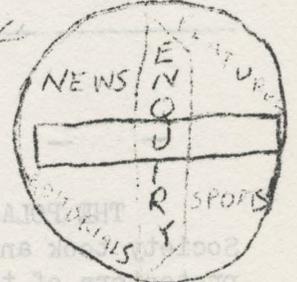
COMMENTARY



A STUDENT PUBLICATION OF

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY...WAKE FOREST, N.C.

VOL. VI, NO. 4, DECEMBER 3, 1969



AN EVENT CALLED A MORATORIUM...

(This account is given by a staff member of THE ENQUIRY who participated last month in the moratorium in Washington, D.C.)

By Doug Sturgill
Features Editor

Today.....Saturday, November 15... I participated in an event phrased as a moratorium.. It involved literally thousands of people, some older, many younger. The people were unusually friendly, especially considering the conditions.

These conditions involved cold weather, high winds, and extremely crowded accommodations. The friendliness was expressed by patience, a smile, an offer of a cookie or an apple that suddenly possessed the taste of warmth. They asked where you were from and actually wanted to hear your answer. Through all this, an even greater purpose was being set forth. Their actions reflected this purpose, but to finalize it they carried signs, wore buttons, chanted words, and sang songs.

This greater purpose was peace.

* * * * *

At 8:15 P.M. on Friday night I was walking across a long bridge. The weather was wet and cold. I had been walking for the past hour. Going in the opposite direction were a group of single-file people with the name of a soldier killed in Vietnam. The name could be seen by the soft flicker of a single candle. One person, one name, one lit can-

dle became a continuous procession three miles long. This line had been moving since 6:00 P.M. Thursday. There were many more names to be carried.

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I found the end of the line. I was asked if I had a specific name to carry. I did. So I lighted my candle and began the long walk from Arlington Cemetery, by the White House, past the Capitol, and finally to a wooden coffin where the name was placed. Such a sojourn lasted four hours.

As I left the coffin, stepping to the slow beat of a drum, someone inquired if I had a place to sleep. I did, but a couple behind me were sent to a bus, then to a reception area for food, and next to a place where they could sleep. Suddenly in a strange place they found a home.

The next morning it was Saturday. The rains had left, the sun was out, and the cold remained. I attempted to make my way to the Capitol. Suddenly I found myself engulfed by people. I couldn't move. We all stood there for some time. A voice came over a P.A. system, "If your feet are cold jump up and down." And we did, to the chant of "Peace," "Now."

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Finally, we began to move on to Pennsylvania Avenue for a long march to the Washington Monument. We sang, and we called for peace. There were no cross words, no fights, no complaint except

(Continued on Page 5)

-JOE COLTRANE-
A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM
THE S.C.C. PRESIDENT

In a theological seminary we are aware of the importance of signs and symbols. However, recently we have been introduced to new kinds of signs on our campus. These are signs by which the designers have anonymously made accusations or have taken to themselves authority which has not properly been delegated to them. As student representatives on this campus, your Student Coordinating Council does not intend to attempt to suppress dissent, nor do we intend to ignore the matters which have evidently prompted this type of activity. It is felt that where there are problems and concerns, these ought to be dealt with adequately. There is a place and a way for such matters to be expressed and heard and dealt with in a mature and responsible manner. At the meeting of the S.C.C. on November 19, 1969, it was made evident that matters of concern can be discussed openly and freely in a mature way.

Your S.C.C. would like to encourage every member of the student body to use the proper and established channels of expressing concerns, disagreements, or criticisms. As a member of this community, each individual has a right to be heard, and you have elected representatives through whom you might be heard. All of us have a responsibility to each other and to the welfare of this school, both now and future. Therefore, it seems only proper that our actions and criticisms be constructive. If there are issues which should be dealt with, no matter how painful, let us deal with them, if in so doing the effectiveness of the seminary will be enhanced. But, let us do it in a mature, responsible, and orderly manner.

At this point, we would offer some suggestions for the expression of concerns. First, contact your elected student representatives, or other members of the S.C.C. if you have a grievance or matter of concern. Second, if you wish to express your concern by means of a printed sign or poster, seek the proper authorization, either through the office of the Director of Counseling and Student Activities, or through the S.C.C. Third, attend the S.C.C. meetings and present your concerns to this body of students. If it is then felt that further investigation into matters about which you have raised questions is necessary, then allow your S.C.C. to work with you in structuring this further investigation.

Again, let it be emphasized that the S.C.C. is not asking for a cessation of constructive criticism, the raising of questions, or of responsible dissent. The Council is asking for maturity, responsibility, and the use of proper channels in raising these issues. We do not believe that this is asking too much.

Joe D. Coltrane
Gen. Chairman, S.C.C.

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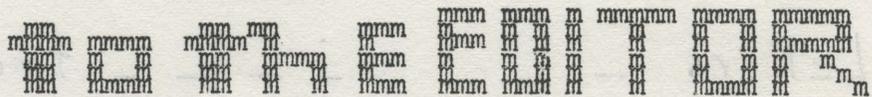
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Joe D. Coltrane
Gen. Chairman, S.C.C.

Letters



DR. SHRIVER REPLIES.....

IN ANSWER to Mr. Biggar's letter let me point out one error which resulted from the error of the Editor's Note the week preceding. I was approached briefly on the Criswell statement by Mr. Bass-briefly, because I was on my way to an appointment. I must underscore, however, that I never requested that any statement I made appear anonymously. In the press of time I simply referred Mr. Bass to a letter by Professor Robison James on the subject which appeared recently in the Biblical Recorder. I said that the letter would express my own feelings, approximately.

THE CENTRAL ISSUE, it seems to me is whether we will remain a confessional people (as we have been in the past), united for the purpose of mission, or a creedal people, perhaps fragmented and not as effective in mission. Doubtless, Dr. Criswell's suggestions imply an interest in creedalism. In any case, I find it hard to believe that anyone at SEBTS requested anonymity on this subject.

---George Shriver
Professor of Church History

(EDITOR'S NOTE---It is noted that Dr. Shriver was the only one of the faculty members interviewed by Mr. Bass who was willing to have his name published with his statement.)

ON FREEDOM TO SPEAK.....

The latest uproar in the Student Co-Ordinating Council of Southeastern Seminary during the meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 1969, displays the same critical ignorance and downright stupidity that envelops the entire Wake Forest area. The typical attitude of many students is that "persons who disagree with me are potential threats and thus ought to shut up or be made to shut

up, especially if the majority supports my position." Such an attitude is typical of a totalitarian regime and completely contrary to the democratic principle of freedom of speech.

PERHAPS some students of this Seminary ought to re-evaluate their thinking and realize that freedom to speak necessarily involved the right of dissent and disagreement.

---Philip Parker

PROTESTS ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING.....

THIS COUNTRY has just passed through another in a series of organized protests against the war in Vietnam.

AS A STUDENT at Southeastern Seminary, I ask the question: What has been accomplished by this series of protests? Absolutely nothing. The majority of the student and non-student protestors have little or no understanding of the involvement of the United States in Vietnam.

THERE EXISTS a small vocal minority who believes that the United States should withdraw from South Vietnam immediately. How can withdrawal come to pass when there are thousands of invading North Vietnamese all throughout South Vietnam? This is pure nonsense.

ALMOST THIRTY years ago, students rose up in a united front against the tyranny of Naziism which was seeking to dominate the world. This must be done by students in our day in the face of the tyranny of Communism.

IT IS now time for the silent majority to speak out. In this hour it does take courage to stand up for America.

---Jerry Stanley

THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY.....

BROTHER WILL ROGERS, graduate of the "Common-Sense" philosophical school and self-styled advocate of the underdog,

(Continued on Next Page)

Letters - - - - - from Page 3

alias the little man, in all of his rhetorical expulsions once made the comment that all he knew was what he read in the newspapers. Brother Chub Sewell, noted North Carolina farm-boy who made it big, took up where Rogers left off in regard to N.C. politics, business, and social life.

NGW, I SENSE a strong calling to take the remnant of Brother Rogers' and Sewell's teachings and extend them into the great untouched realm of religious life, Contemporary theology, and Southern Baptist Christianity (just so we might have a little zest added to what I'm doing); and likewise, take it upon myself to comment upon the more important issues of the day basing many of my observations on what I read in the newspapers, hear from my peers, and see with my impartial vision. I want to make it emphatically clear from the start that I hold to what Jesus said about "letting him who is without guilt cast the first stone..." and consequently, I want to be the first one on the Pitcher's mound.

WITH ALL THIS in mind, I would like to say that it appears that there is considerable opinion concerning W.A. Criswell's speech on the guidelines of true Baptistry and Baptist Christianiyt. I personally would not touch this subject with a ten-foot pole, but I would like to tell you what a fine gentleman once told me concerning opinions. He said, "Opinions are just like bad breath, and at some time or another everybody has one."

A SECOND seemingly major issue especially concerning the student leadership here at SEBTS appears to revolve around a touchy word, dissent, and all of its implications, ramifications, justifications, and ostensible declarations. Now here I am going to comment significantly. Dissent, as you aware, takes many forms and it may be constructive, destructive, or neither.

CONSTRUCTIVE DISSENT is also necessarily responsible and carries with it possiblilities for progress in maybe a right direction. Destructive dissent, on the other hand, is not always responsible, though it sometimes is and may cause you

to be sneered at, reviled, and persecuted, but take heart for great is your reward in heaven.

NOW DISSENT which is neither encompasses a diversity of thought and feeling of which probably the great majority of citizens in our Seminary community and in the larger communities to which we belong profess to be conscious and cognizant. I like to thing that this neither dissent serves as something of a stabilizing, modifying, but nonetheless poignant force in bringing about change.

AND FAR BE IT from me to ever be accused fo saying that moderation is not the best course to follow. Now what this all means is that we must take very seriously those things about which we are going to dissent and take it upon ourselves to become extremely well acquainted with all the view-points, opinions (there's that word again), and arguments concerning any issue of dissent; and furthermore, that we temper ourselves so as not to deny without serious consideration an opinion which is not our own.

NEXT WEEK, yours truly will have more to say about nothing, and in the meantime, I want you to remember that a bird in the hand is not as much as two in a burning bush.

---L. Alan Sasser

TOPIC FOR THE WEEK

Much of the editorial comment in this issue is centered around the moratorium last month, and about issues which have arisen as a result.

Accordingly, we are designating this as our Topic for the Week. Comments are invited from one and all.

In responding, try to analyze this issue from a Christian perspective as much as possible.

Replies should be turned in to THE ENQUIRY office by Thursday afternoon.

Next week--Information on Scholarships for summer study in Britain and Europe.

