



One For The Birds

Not too enthralled over the prospect of being labeled either a hawk or a dove, one is faced with the possibility of being called anything from a screaming eagle to a yellow-chested chicken, comments the Colorado State University Collegian.

One humanoid bird that isn't receiving his due recognition these days, the Collegian says, is the owl. He needs more consideration, not because he is a symbol of wisdom, but because he runs around asking "Who?" Also, "What and Why."

The puzzled bird is asking many questions about everyone's favorite topic, the war in Vietnam. He starts out with the scholarly, historical approach: "How the hell did we get there?" Reply: "Well, we were sort of handed this seed and a few years of poor tending turned it into a sick and ugly growth." He asks, "Why us? Why not let someone else look after it?" And he learns that it is not only us, but also Australians, South Koreans, even South Vietnamese. Asking when we are getting out, he receives only grumbles and stares.

Puzzled by news reports, he asks about them. "Has there ever been a time when American casualties were anything but light? Is there any truth to the statements about bombing civilians?" To both questions, one reply: "Incredible."

He focuses his attention on the home front. Being an old bird, he remembers better days. "Isn't it customary here," he asks, "for a man to question national policy and politicians and to raise a note of dissent without being branded cowardly or anti-American? And isn't it possible for another man to support, for moral and legal reasons, military actions in another part of the world without being called a guileless follower or a butcher of children?"

His feathers are ruffled by a crossfire of shouts but he persists. "Do you mean that a man is wrong if he feels he has a strong obligation to oppose the draft and burns his draft card?"

"Right," answers a 19-year-old Marine.

"Do you mean that a man is wrong if he is convinced that this is the greatest nation in the world and he is privileged to serve in her armed forces?"

"Right," answers a 19-year-old pacifist.

DANNY BAILEY . . .

Fraternity Lodges

Featured this week are the lodges of Alpha Tau Omega and Sigma Nu, both buildings still under construction.

The exterior of the ATO lodge is constructed in Old South red brick on all four sides. Immediate plans include central heating, air-conditioning, a color T.V., patio, and barbecue pit, a crest on the face of the building, and bushes and shrubs arranged in the shape of an ATO pin. The pledges put their efforts into a donkey-basketball game in order to buy furniture for the new lodge. The Taus hope to move in in a few weeks. They wish to thank Jim Arnold for the job he has done helping to design the lodge.

The Sigma Nu Snakes are proud of their spacious new split-level building. By time of completion its features will include wall-to-wall carpeting, exposed wooden beams, and valence lighting. Two special rooms are the commander's office and the "snake pit". The "snake pit" will partially mask any extracurricular activities that necessitate concealment. The Snakes plan to move in in about two weeks.

A Critical Look At The Food Situation

By Tom Cauthorn

In response to student unrest concerning the meal tickets in the cafeteria, the CLUSTER has thus far remained remarkably tacit. Possibly we could have effectively taken out against the cafeteria but then this action would have considerably handicapped the virgin action of the SGA.

It is at this late date in the quarter that the CLUSTER must speak. Knowing that students this week have pre-registered and perhaps payed fees and that other students are thinking about paying fees it is timely to review the administrative position toward the often termed "lousy food" in the cafeteria.

In an interview with Vice-President Haywood this past week, several remarks were well worthy of passing on to the student body. — Mr. Haywood was asked to make some general remarks concerning the cafeteria. — He said that SGA President Steve Moody had told him that the reactions to the changes in the cafeteria were "favorable." Mr. Haywood said that since the problem over the cafeteria had arisen he has made it a point to eat lunch on the meal ticket line at least twice weekly and has found the food and food selection "greatly improved."

Mr. Haywood also pointed out that the conditions in the cafeteria were a result of various procedures which had been allowed to lapse and are today back into effect. He said that although the complaints were often valid they are many times the same ones that anyone would encounter when he ate at the same place three times daily seven days a week. But Mr. Haywood said that now the students should note that there are two choices of everything; whereas it had lapsed into one choice. It is also obvious that the food has improved, because as Mr. Haywood said, "They never know when I am going to pop in."

When asked about a Food Catering Service, Mr. Haywood did not seem to favor it. He said that the costs would fall on the student and a conservative increase would be from twenty-five to thirty-five per cent. He cited higher prices at various schools and also the contract problems between the food services and the universities involved. He stated further that the appreciable drop in the number of meal tickets from Fall to Winter quarter had been anticipated in the drawing of the budget. He said also that the less number of meal tickets, the less cost, so actually the University is not losing money.

Mr. Haywood suggested that the students should complain to Mr. Johnson when the food is poor but their complaints should be specific and not sweeping generalizations. He said that the cafeteria is actually helped when the student points out specific problems (i.e., too much soda in the corn bread). He made it clear that the cafeteria would not be changed for next quarter nor for next year. He said that no increase in cost is anticipated.

It seems that from the interviews it should be obvious to the students that the cafeteria will continue to make improvements as it has done but that there are going to be no major changes. We encourage students who have found the food unsatisfactory not to buy meal tickets next quarter. For as Mr. Haywood made clear, a decrease in meal tickets means a similar decrease in food bought and costs; therefore from the surface it is evident that the University will lose no money. Students should not feel that they are hurting or subverting the University by not buying meal tickets.

Freedom to Chose - Essential

By Charles C. Abbott

WASHINGTON — What is the role of the individual in today's planned society? Is his function merely to fit a pre-planned slot in the economic model — or is he free to fulfill some aspirations he himself chooses?

These questions recently were raised by Dean Charles C. Abbott of the University of Virginia Graduate School of Business Administration.

Dean Abbott asks: "If we do have the basis for an economically planned society — what kind of society should it be?"

Would there be a place in the planned society for the frontiersman of 200 years ago? Would the Mormons be allowed? What would be the role assigned to the '49ers, the plantation builders, the cowboys or wildcat oil drillers? Would there be a slot for the Henry Fords or the Wright brothers, or would they be confined to activities defined by an economic planning committee that channels effort only into those projects with proven usefulness?

Taking present-day planning situation as an indication, a candid answer has to be — probably not. A planned society could neither permit such groups, nor accommodate them within a preconceived plan.

How would a planned society motivate the du Ponts, the Daniel Boones, the Billy Sundays? In all probability these turbulent boatrockers would not be allowed.

Could any group of planners conceive and operate New York City? Compare the Post Office and its annual deficit with the privately owned and operated telephone system, paying a profit to its thousands of investors.

This is not to say that a society based on individual freedom and initiative is not within its faults; but, as Dean Abbott succinctly summed up in his remarks, reprinted in the Chamber of Commerce of the United States's Washington Report:

"Freedom to choose is the essential freedom, whether in politics, religion, management of one's personal affairs or the market place."

When we lose the freedom to choose — we have lost America.

Tatnall Square Church Has New Minister

It is with great apprehension that I begin this article. None the less, I shall continue.

Approximately three weeks ago (the exact date is irrelevant for my purposes) an event occurred on the Mercer campus which many people did not recognize. This event was the hiring of a new pastor at Tatnall Square Church, the Rev. Byron Wilkinson.

You may be wondering perhaps why the CLUSTER has not already publicized this event. It was not negligence on our part, to be sure. Rather we intended to interview Mr. Wilkinson before drawing any conclusions. However, many unforeseen occurrences have come to pass since that day.

I presume that you are all aware of the events leading up to Mr. Wilkinson's arrival. It was an ugly situation resulting in the "White Citizens for Jesus" Committee voting to adhere to a closed door policy for the Church. It is not my purpose to develop this argument to any event but rather to discuss only Mr. Wilkinson and his relation thus far to Mercer Students.

To begin with it might be wise to reveal the contents of a letter the CLUSTER received concerning Mr. Wilkinson. The letter said in summary that seven prominent Maconites (the mayor, the editor of the Telegraph, Dr. Harris, Dean Hendricks, Dr. Otto, Dean Taylor, and Mr. Posey) had received gift subscriptions from Hugh Hefner's magazine. The donor was reported to have signed the subscriptions with the name Byron Wilkinson. I presume that there are some Mercer students who are "yukking it up" at the moment but, here again I do not intend to go deeply into this aspect. I am merely leading up to a conclusion, which we shall get to in due time.

Having received this letter we decided to see Mr. Wilkinson as soon as possible, if not sooner. I chose to let the associate editor go by himself for reasons of my own. He made three attempts. All in vain. Now, we are getting to the heart of this writing . . . is that really a church that sits on the corner of this campus or isn't it? Is it a place to worship or a secularized social club? If they are really concerned with spreading the gospel (as the church is commanded to do in the Bible), why aren't they attempting to gather Mercerians on Sunday morning — even white ones? I do not know. I have a feeling that somewhere there has been a break in the ties between Tatnall Square Church and the Administration of this University.

It is the CLUSTER's duty to publish the news. Mr. Wilkinson's arrival was news. It has now been published. We also had hopes of doing something to bridge the gap between the Church on the campus and the students on the campus. Mr. Wilkinson did not respond. Perhaps he didn't get the message (from his secretary); or then again perhaps he chose to remain aloof from us.

If that pious body is content, then let it remain so, and if God is dead perhaps "Churches" like this one had something to do with his death. (As an after-thought let me say that it is not my belief that God is dead, the preceding statement was but a hypothetical supposition. OK, RHP?)

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