



## A Question To Consider

—Sobby Phillips—

Is Christianity relevant today? This is a question that I have considered many times before, but it seems much more pertinent now in view of the events of the past two weeks. I am sure that all of you are aware of what took place during that period of time; there was a sermon and there was a response. The tension that followed generally centered around one or two points: Either could Dr. Otto use such a word (i.e., freedom of speech) or is Mercer going to allow herself to be run by outsiders (i.e., freedom of an academic institution)? At the time these were the issues involved — or so it seemed.

Many of you may consider that the situation is closed, what with the Trustees' meeting and all; but it is not over yet. Only the first battle has been waged. It seems that there are among us students who will continue the assault on Dr. Otto, and some have even extended it to take issue at some of the remarks made by our good Dean Trimble. These students, who may or may not have been the ones who took a tape to Mr. Waters and WBML, have sent letters to such people as the Reverend Louie B. Newton, the Editor of *The Christian Index*, and the Editor of the *Baptist Index* among others. My purpose here is not to condemn these students (though they may be attempting "tyranny of the minority") but rather to point out that there may be a far more important issue at stake here; and this will lead me back to my first question: "Is Christianity relevant today?"

Reflect upon this for a minute. How many of you can truthfully say that your pastor at home speaks to you each Sunday morning? Does your pastor really try to get at the meat of the matter or does he preach around those awful "sins" of drinking, smoking, dancing, and so forth? Does he really seem to tell you anything? I am afraid that in most cases the answer would have to be "No, Christianity does not really seem relevant." Shocking perhaps, but true in a sense.

It seems that today we as Christians have a religion that is delicate rather than sturdy; reticent rather than forthright; withdrawn rather than outgoing. The main concern today appears to be in outward conformity. For instance I suppose that those good and pious judges of Dr. Otto would have at that moment pointed at any other person who had not publicly used such a word and said, "Here is a Christian, yonder the pagan." But then they are in a position to judge because they are the righteous. But not let me digress so close to the end of my article.

There have been many letters written, many editorials composed, and many statements issued. Some proclaim "freedom of speech", some have demanded Otto's dismissal. Some have shouted out to "let Mercer run her own affairs", some have said "get rid of Otto". Some have said "I am offended", some have replied, "you must be kidding". Few have really considered "was this relevant?"

Christianity is in no position to stop up her ears, nor close her eyes, nor turn her back on earthly matters. The truth comes in many, many forms.

## HERMAN TALMADGE REPORTS

With the arrival of warmer weather, we begin to hear increasing talk of the possibility of more rioting and violence in the streets, such as that which hit Los Angeles, Chicago, Cleveland, and a host of other cities in recent years.

And unfortunately, experience has shown that just about every time there have been warnings that rioting would occur unless demands for this or that were met, or unless militant elements were somehow appeased, rioting did in fact take place. It is time for these riots to cease.

It is almost as if people were told that if they are poor, unemployed, or live in substandard housing, they have a right to go into the streets and smash windows, set fires, loot and run amuck, and that this is virtually even expected of them, particularly when the weather is hot. And somehow all this falls under the heading of so-called civil disobedience.

At a recent conference in Washington of social workers and psychologists one of the speakers warned against "a state of national emergency" unless action is taken to reduce domestic tensions.

He called for a \$5 billion federal crash program to prevent what he said is the likelihood of "war in the streets," and for the creation of vast programs "to relieve physical and social distress."

This is of course an admirable goal, but money and big new spending programs are not the answer. Billions of dollars have been poured into cities for health programs, education, manpower training, and anti-poverty programs, and this has not prevented rioting and mob action. In fact, some of the rioting has occurred in localities which have received a lion's share of federal assistance.

As I see it, the problem runs much deeper than just the expenditure of more money.

To my way of thinking, it goes to a matter of individual responsibility and respect for law and order and the rights of others. There has been mounting evidence lately of an appalling lack of these qualities.

In a nation as free and prosperous as ours where opportunity abounds, I can think of no condition, neither poverty nor anything else, that justifies rioting and taking the law into one's own hands.

In a Republic such as ours every citizen is expected to recognize his individual responsibilities and comply with and support the law. Unfortunately, in recent years a cult has risen in America that advocates taking the law into one's own hands, if one thinks that law is immoral or unjust.

A philosophy such as that can and does create anarchy and we have had too much anarchy in America in recent years. It is my judgment that every official in positions of high authority, from the President on down, ought to sound out loud and clear that come what may, law and order shall prevail in these United States of America.

## Valuable Summer Experience May Be Gained As Camp Counselor

Are you a girl interested in a career that involves working with children? Perhaps you'll find a summer spent in a resident camp to be just the experience you're looking for! If you are interested in helping give young girls the opportunity to grow, to learn and to enjoy the values of good living in the out-of-doors, you may find an exciting summer waiting for you that will also benefit you beyond measure in preparation for your career.

Camp Betty Hastings, owned by the YWCA in Winston-Salem, N. C., is considering applications from college girls for counselor positions for the period June 15 - July 30, 1967. The camp offers three two-week camping sessions for girls 8-15 with eighty girls per session. It is located near Walkertown, in the beautiful wooded hills of Piedmont North Carolina.

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## A Guaranteed C At Colorado U.

(ACP) — A Colorado State University professor has his own ideas about grading — he would like to give his students a choice of receiving a guaranteed C or trying to achieve a higher grade, the *Collegian* reports.

Edward B. Reed, assistant professor of zoology, said he first proposed the system to his classes last quarter "partly in fun and partly because a number of students had complained they were too busy trying to make grades to learn anything."

The proposal met with mixed reactions from students in his limnology and freshwater invertebrates classes.

The arbitrary grade is based on Reed's impression, over the years, that a grade of C is about average for his classes. "I don't plan the grade distribution this way," he said. "That's just the way it happens." He added, however, that C is not a popular grade.

Reed pointed out that his proposal would imply a kind of honor system on the part of students.

## NBMT CLUB

Do not forget the NBMT Club. The original point of poor food and poor food choices has been made. Less than fifteen per cent of the Mercer students eat in the meal ticket cafeteria line this quarter. Support the SGA in its efforts to secure basic changes in the cafeteria.

No longer does one see the long lines of fall and winter quarters pictured at the left. No longer are Mercer students willing to pay more for poor food. No longer will the cafeteria serve as a social hour. No longer can the conditions remain stagnant. Please reply to the Cluster office if you believe a change to a food service would improve conditions. We have information on several food services and need to sound student opinion on this matter.

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