

Alice

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printing so after
you read this
please pass it on.

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Vol II No. 1 June 24, 1968

Blacksburg Free Press

SOLIDARITY DAY

by SAM PATTERSON

Approximately 85,000 people

THE DRAFT or baby, it's got you!

participated in the Solidarity Day demonstration as part of the Poor People's Campaign in Washington, D.C. Wednesday. This part of the campaign, sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was free of incident as far as this reporter observed at the scene.

The demonstrators were made up of even numbers of Negroes and whites. Many families were present and the kids ran in and out of the crowd everywhere. The entire occasion was more than a march, it was a celebration, a drama. A carnival air pervaded, established at the beginning by entertainers like Pete Seeger, Peter, Paul and Mary, Ertha Kitt, and Bill Cosby. Any middle-class suburbanite present that day would have been amazed by the obvious stability of the participants.

Fifteen speakers addressed the crowd; among them were: Mrs. Martin Luther King, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Walter Ruther, and delegated representatives of the poor people. All of the speakers were adamant in voicing their demands for economic and social aid to give the nation's poor a chance to break society's bonds of poverty. Many of the speakers demanded an end to the American intervention in the Viet Nam war. The leaders of the Poor People's Campaign reaffirmed their intention to remain at Resurrection City until significant steps are taken by the government to provide both jobs and income for the poor people in the United States.

Rev. Ralph Abernathy announced that Solidarity Day was so successful that they were considering another march on August 28, the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's civil rights march on Washington in 1963.

A few observations from this reporter: many clergymen, Catholic nuns and social workers were present; the speeches were obviously aimed to include the American Indians, the Spanish-speaking poor, and the Southern white poor as well as the poor Negroes; the large number of police and national guard looked somewhat out of place and self-conscious by the end of the day; McCarthy received a long sustained applause, Humphrey a sustained boo.

Solidarity Day was a success. Let's hope Dr. King's prediction is wrong, that the possibility of effective non-violent demonstration will be possible in the future.

If you are having a problem or expect to be having a problem soon, I will be more than glad to talk with you and give you any advice and information that I have available (a sufficient amount for most cases) which might apply to your problem.

I urge you not to postpone your doubts for by the time you get around to getting help it may already be too late. There are a multitude of answers and alternatives to the draft and you should find out now what your rights are under the law.

I may be reached at:
514 Progress St., Apt. B or through the "Alice" post office box.

DON'T WAIT! GET HELP NOW WHILE YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO ACT.

My Noncooperation

I understand that by refusing to comply with the Selective Service System I will be breaking the law. I understand that the penalties imposed by the government on "non-cooperation" have not been light and for a long time this knowledge had prevented me from severing my connection with the Selective Service. For a long time I thought that I could rest with an easy conscience if only I could get a student or conscientious objector deferment. I thought that as long as I was not compelled to participate directly in a system that has been established to do violence to human beings, like most violence, done in the name of freedom, justice, and self-defense, that as long as I could be assured of exemption from this system, I need not resist the Selective Service System.

It must be difficult for people who are reading this statement to understand why a man chooses to take a position in relation to the
(continued on page 4)

UNIVERSITY PLAYERS AUDITIONS

Auditions for the first summer production by the University Players will be held in room 105 Williams Hall at 7:00 P.M. on June 24. The production will consist of readings selected from Edwin Arlington Robinson. Anyone who cannot attend the auditions may have a private reading by contacting:

Dave Murphy
P.O. Box 104 town

DEAR DR. HAHN: +1/1
1965

ALL THE PRETTY CHILDREN

I have read your statements given at the Chamber luncheon on June 11 concerning students and their demands and have been appalled at your response. You seem to believe that students' constitutional rights of assembly and freedom of speech are only applicable if students do not transgress school regulations. Is this a tacit admission that those regulations are unconstitutional?

Where are all the pretty children?
Children of the lonely world.
Gone are they to the meadow, . . .
Fled are they the lands of harm.
Yesterday's people are here
and gone,
With knowledge of a kingdom come.
John Wood

Forgive me for my political naivete but I assured that this nation created the laws and regulations of its communities for the protection and

HAHN'S STATEMENTS SUPPORTING THE LETTER

fostering of these rights. Your considered opinion is that the students could have gone elsewhere and since they came to this institution they will have to put up or get out. Excuse me again Dr. Hahn, but amongst all that propaganda you sent me when I applied to this model institution did you send me an itemized list of my rights that I would necessarily renounce? I recall no information saying that my dorm room would be subject to search and seizure without a warrant or that I could only organize, assemble and speak at the beck and call of Dr. Dean or a hodge-podge committee that gives an aura of respectability to authoritarian control. And why should I leave this institution in order to obtain my rights? Am I not able to live as an American citizen here on the campus? I do not recall that the Supreme Court upheld Virginia's segregation policies and leaving the Negro citizen the choice of moving or else remaining second class. If you were black Dr. Hahn, would you move to Canada in order to become an American citizen?

Such a riot as has marred other universities, Dr. Hahn didn't seem to think was likely as Tech has, he said, strong student policies that are understood by the students. Undoubtedly, one reason that Virginia hasn't had any more trouble than it has had with street demonstrations is the firm stand that Gov. Mills E. Godwin, Jr. has taken in connection with riots and the threats of such.

He took a firm stand when it was suggested that the capitol grounds in Richmond might be used for a camp site. A firm stand and the realization that Gov. Godwin meant what he said, has been enough, so far, to keep the grounds around the capitol beautiful and free of squatters.

The assertions made by some rabble rousing students at universities that have had trouble that students should be permitted to decide what courses should be offered and how they should be taught is too ridiculous even for comment. Students advocating such extreme educational policies should be promptly dismissed so their places may be taken by the hundreds of qualified students who couldn't be admitted.

You may have the power to promulgate decrees that limit the rights of the students, and the administrative structure may still be able to punish the students, but note the strange currents alive in the air, note the tension, feel the anger, and learn.

Dr. T. Marshall Hahn Jr.
as quoted in the June 13
News Messenger

Rather than suppress this expression of discontent, give it voice. Violence is only used as a final means when students have come to realize their powerlessness in affecting their lives and education. You cannot suppress this movement, and you will not halt it. The suppression by rules and punishment that you advocate led to the violence at Columbia. Listen to the students and grant them a democratic voice rather than the false trappings.

Killing is evil... All countries are different and progress should be achieved by peaceful means whenever possible.
Che Guevara

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CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads will be accepted at the rate of 35¢ per line or \$1.00 for three lines. Contact Mark Haber, Box 104, (town)

Dr. Hahn, the students are politely knocking at your door. Will you wait until they kick it down?

Respectfully,

Thomas J. Saunders

"Alice's" deadline for articles is 1:00, Thursday afternoon. We invite your opinions and commentary.

UP-tight?

So now you're uptight. Why? If you aren't clean by now you deserve to be busted. If you are clean and they plant you, any lawyer in the world, court-appointed or not, can get you off. Cross examination. The cop has to remember where he put the stuff or something like that. So don't worry about a plant — get clean and relax.

And put your mind to work on how you're going to help the people who've already been busted.

Don't worry about all the rumors you've been hearing. Just get clean, real honest-to-God clean, and stay that way. If you are going to smoke, don't do it at home.

Help those people that took the fall. They need it. But you can't help if you're busted too.

The summary task of a humanist is to describe and help to realize those political acts which the power of the central authoritarian monolith can be broken and the political life of men reconstituted on the base of the associative, democratic, nonexclusive community.

Carl Oglesby

SCIENCE *Friction*?

Once upon a time there was a great and powerful society that thought only of work. The good people of this society said that work had gotten it where it was and that work was going to greater and better things. But in this society there was a group of people that wasn't interested in doing, but in being. They were criticized for their slothful ways, their dirty clothes, and especially for their use of an evil drug that did nothing for the body but bring pleasure.

And then one day a great and glorious scientist (the priest cult of this civilization) found that if one took the evil drug all of the time one could develop mental-telepathy. Then everyone started to use the drug so that they could communicate better and work more efficiently, and after a time it became unlawful not to use the drug because it would slow down the wheels of progress and put the GOAL (what this was exactly was never stated) out of reach. But there was still a group in the society that was often criticized for their slothful ways, their dirty clothes, and their refusal to take the good drug, thus dropping out of communication with the rest of society.

Moral: If one wishes to solve the unrest in a society one should look for the cause of the unrest, not the result.

U.F.S.

RAFFLE JULY 24

BUCARUS HALL MEMORIAL GYM

\$ 75 A CHANGE

WIN A COURSE

(Not open to CO-op students)

Registration for this term proved to be more confused and the courses offered less than adequate than even a confirmed student would expect. There seemed to be a shortage in quantity and quality of electives. Some students discovered this before they registered, before they paid their fees, and perhaps before it was too late to find summer employment. Others did not.

Regretfully the university holds rigidly to a policy of cancelling any class with fewer than twelve students. From a bureaucratic point of view this position could be interpreted as mere practicality. But for an institution truly interested in the education of its students problems arise. The most serious of those is that the university neglects its responsibility to motivate students. Instead the university molds its curriculum to the average student by teaching only those courses in which large numbers will enroll. This policy thwarts the ambitions of the more motivated students by restricting the range of course offerings. Even if the bureaucrats must have their day, compensations should be made for the motivated student. One such compensation would be the establishment of a procedure where a student could obtain credit by examination for any course taught here. This measure would at least eliminate bureaucratic interference with the motivated student. It might possibly motivate some students. And it wouldn't even take the funds needed to advertise this institute as a university. Who knows, it might even help it become one.

"Alice" is a non-profit organization serving as a free press to the V.P.I. university community. The summer editions are being micrographed and the circulation cut to 500; however, the paper will be continuing on a weekly basis.

In order to finance "Alice" we are calling for support. Everyone who agrees with the purpose of paper is asked to contribute. Send what you will to "Alice", Box 104 Blacksburg, Va. 24060 (town box). Please include your name for recognition or else state "anonymous!"

Realistically, all wars have been fought for economic reasons. To make them politically and socially palatable, ideological issues have always been involved.

Noncooperation is the nation's notice that it is no longer satisfied to be in tutelage. Gandhi

My Noncooperation

continued

Selective Service system and the military that will result in his prosecution and imprisonment for violating the law, I would like to take this opportunity to try to give you an idea of the thinking that has led me to take this position.

My thinking is idealistic, religious, political, and very practical. The aspects of human existence that make life meaningful and fulfilling are psychological, social, and religious, and stem from the nature of man's relationships with each other. More existence is empty and barren, but human existence gains meaning and value through the development of loving human relationships. Material things have no intrinsic worth, they bring no satisfaction except in a social context. A rich man in isolation is miserable, but a poor man in love is filled with joy.

These observations led me to conclude that the quality of human relationships is always more important than the quantity of material things. And when we must choose between material things or human relationships we are wisest and happiest when we choose the latter.

This is also true in relation to politics, economics and other spheres of human activity....

A man's first commitment must be to human values and not to material things. Armies, war, and violence are the means of achieving material not spiritual or material ends, and they must be rejected. Any contribution that one may make to supporting or cooperating with the system of organized violence we call the "military", will be directly opposing the human values, relationships and social structures that men hope to develop in the world.

The implications of this kind of thinking relate directly to the problems of determining what kinds of activities are in "the national interest". From this orientation for example, we see that it is not in the interests of this nation to place a higher value on material things than on human lives. It is not in the national interest to spend human lives in order to save dollars. It is not in the national interest to maintain "the balance of power" or to protect the interests of the West by sacrificing the prior claim of human values.

It is the development of better human relationships and social structures that is in the "national interest. This goal can only be achieved by bringing about conditions that will directly develop and enhance a creative human environment. I believe that ends and means are inseparable; that as Gandhi said, "the means is the end in the making." For this reason violence can never be successful

in bringing about peace: coercion and tyranny will never work successfully in the defense of freedom. The weapons that one must use in the defense of freedom or with which to build a better world are the weapons that are commensurate with the ends they are used to achieve. These are the weapons of truth, of love, of charity, of equality, of understanding, of community. They are used to create rather than destroy, to build a world devoted to developing the community of humanity rather than defending the divisive and limited interests of this or that individual, group or nation.

The best place to begin creating a better world is in my own behavior and way of life.... It would seem that it should be easy for me to accept one of a number of possible deferments in lieu of military service. Why then must I refuse to cooperate with my fellow citizens? Why do I insist on making myself difficult?

The man who lives their lives according to principles believes that they can most fully lend their support to the development of freedom and love by setting a living example of those qualities for their fellow citizens. They know of no better way of developing a social climate in which man will be free and equal than by treating all men honestly and equally; they know of no better way of helping men to learn to love than by treating them lovingly. They know in short, of no better way of helping men learn to love or making the world a better place than by leading better lives themselves. And this they must do whether the law permit it or not. For they realize as Thoreau pointed out, the "law never makes men a whit more just; and, by means of their respect for it, even the well disposed or daily make the agents of injustice."

I hope that my refusal to cooperate with the Selective Service will be seen as an effort to continue in the tradition of the individuals I have spoken of here. I have come to see that the law asks me to be less than just, less than honest, less than human. It has indeed made me an agent of injustice and I think that I must resist such a law with the full force not only of my words, but also my actions. I hope that you will recognize the faith I have in the power of my example for helping others to work to make the world a better place. For this was the spirit in which my non-cooperation was taken.

Peace, Love, Resistance,
Ron Meyer

The rebel is someone for whom injustices and society are only different words for the same thing.