

## Dodd Tripping

The great My Lai cover-up is now beginning to be the My Lai rationalization. In Senate testimony Tuesday, Sgt. Charles West said troops at My Lai had used marijuana at least once and some were "chronic users." He said some may have used the drug the night before the alleged massacre.

West's testimony was backed up by Dr. Joel H. Kaplan, a civilian psychiatrist who has been in Vietnam. Kaplan said Vietnam marijuana is stronger than that found in the United States, and that the drug "could cause people to become fearful, paranoid, extremely angry and led, in a number of cases, to acts of murder, rape and aggravated assault." Soldiers in time of war don't need marijuana to help them perpetrate such acts.

That the Army could blame the murder of woman and children on marijuana, and that at least one U.S. senator could accept that argument in so incredibly ludicrous it would be funny were it not for the deaths involved. Everyone knows that "our boys in Vietnam" would never commit an atrocity unless influenced by evil drugs.

After all, soldiers are not trained to kill, are they? The possibility doesn't exist that officers and men in battle situations could be naturally paranoids, does it? And what could be a better scapegoat for American military failings than drugs? Condemned by government, outlawed, considered by much of society as destructive, corruptive and immoral, drugs provide Sen. Thomas Dodd and the Army with an acceptable rationalization for an unacceptable act. Sen. Dodd should definitely explore the situation and circumstances further before making anymore intelligent statements. Have a nice trip, Senator.

Jim Pedersen

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When Julian Bond spoke at the East Campus Union last April, he chided students for their lack of participation in organized politics: "Why should legislatures be responsive to students? Do you vote? No. Your political apathy is notorious. You are a political non-entity."

It is easy to point to the 1968 presidential non-choice between Richard Nixon and Hubert Humphrey as an example of political futility. It is easy to ridicule one-man one-vote. What large election has ever been won by a single vote? Nevertheless, it is not impossible for students to have a significant influence on the outcome of elections.

Bond's remarks were not addressed to student action for national candidates. McCarthy and Kennedy received massive support from students and young people in 1968. His reference was to the lack of effort by students to see that Senate, House, state-house and regents candidates acceptable to them were elected.

When you go home for Easter break, register to vote in the spring primary in the county of your permanent residence. The deadline for registering is May 5. Do it now. Then work for the candidate or candidates you want to represent you in public office.

If you don't want to see Nebraska placed in the hands of Uncle Scrooge, do something about it. If you want a student or young progressive on the Board of Regents, the candidates are available. If you want an anti-war senator who doesn't consider mediocrity an admirable quality, work for him. Although established politics and government is frustrating, the least students can do is try to fill public office with intelligent, sensitive people of acceptable political persuasion.

Jim Pedersen



"... ME LIE? ... An officer and a gentleman? ..."

## our man hoppe

by ARTHUR HOPPE

I know a young man named Irwin who heard about the Cambodian Coup and went down to join the Marines.

It was a quiet day at the recruiting office. The Sergeant and the Corporal were playing penny-ante, one-eyed queens wild.

"I have come to answer my country's call to the colors," said Irwin, saluting. "I want to fight to stem the tide of Communism in Cambodia."

"Where?" said the Sergeant. "Up you a nickle, Jack."

"Cambodia," said Irwin. "It's west of Vietnam, east of Thailand and South of Vietnam. It's clearly the key to Southeast Asia."

"I don't know," said the Sergeant to the Corporal. "We fighting any war in Cambodia?"

"I could look it up," said the Corporal. "I call."

"We'll be fighting one by the time you get me there," said Irwin confidently, now that Prince Sihanouk's been deposed.

"Who?" said the Sergeant. "Three treys."

"Prince Sihanouk," said Irwin. "He was a neutralist." "Isn't he that guy in Laos?" said the Sergeant. "Your deal, Jack."

"No, that's Prince Souvanna Phouma," said Irwin. "He's a neutralist, too. He's fighting left-wing Prince Souphanouvong. But President Nixon doesn't want to send me there to fight. He said so."

"The President wants to send you to Cambodia instead, kid?" asked the Sergeant, putting down his cards.

"Oh, he will," said Irwin. "You see, Prince Sihanouk, being a neutralist, let the North Vietnamese infiltrate his territory. This angered the freedom-loving Cambodians. So now he's been constitutionally deposed by the Parliament, led by the First Deputy Premier, Prince Sisowath Sirik Matak."

"Who?" said the Corporal.

"And General Lon Nol," said Irwin. Now they'll try to drive out the North Vietnamese troops. But they'll need my help. Under the SEATO Treaty the President and I will have to give it to them."

"The which treaty?" asked the Sergeant.

"SEATO," said Irwin. "The

reason we're fighting in Vietnam is to honor our commitments to SEATO. And the violation in Cambodia is far more clear-cut."

"Look, kid," said the Sergeant, scratching his head. "How'd you like a ticket to go fight in Vietnam?"

"I'd love it," said Irwin. "But the President doesn't want me to. He's trying to withdraw troops from there. I'd just add to his problems. So now where do I sign up to go fight for Prince Sisowath Sirik Matak, General Lon Nol and the freedom-loving Cambodian peoples?"

The Sergeant and the Corporal retired to the back room, held a brief conference and emerged to inform Irwin that they had reluctantly rejected him as mentally unstable.

They so informed his draft board which promptly reclassified him 4-F. Oddly enough, Irwin didn't seem too displeased by the news.

"In a way though it's a shame," he said, shaking his head. "It would have been nice to have one American soldier in Southeast Asia who knew what he was fighting for."

## VeND eTtA by Fred Schmidt

Look at that gal shake that thing—  
We can't all be Martin Luther King

Julian Bond

The affectionate glee of this couplet has taken a tragic turn in the two years since Dr. Martin Luther King's death. Julian Bond's lines gently mock Dr. King's moral fervor; most men, it is assumed, cannot overcome their emotions as Dr. King desired. King's strong character won him scorn and eventually death.

Jealous entities in the black community scoffingly referred to him as "De Lawd" and many whites regarded him as a self-righteous trouble maker.

WE CAN'T all be Martin Luther King. That fault lies in ourselves, in our unwillingness to accept the idea that man can be so much better than he is, in our suspicions that any spokesman for love and reconciliation must be an imposter, in our derision of anyone who refuses to accept as fact the notion that any evil now existing always has and always will exist.

The anniversary of King's death comes during the same time of year as that of Christ. Just as Jerusalem did in ancient times, America has foreshaken its principles; life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness have given way to paranoia and the search for a scapegoat.

DR. KING like Christ and the great Hebrew prophets, asked only that men love one another, that our demons of fear and hatred, of hunger and poverty, of greed and betrayal be cast out. He was resolute yet sensitive, tough but never hard, and always seeking ways to bring men together. We murdered him.

We can't all be Martin Luther King. Let's not even try. The world has survived this long and our efforts will not make much difference. Martin Luther King was all right, and now that he's dead we have one more great American to praise while we install our ABM systems, fight in Vietnam, and police the corridors of our high schools.

AS THE nation pauses in the coming days to honor Martin Luther King, don't weep for him. Look around long enough to notice that the fire this time is here to stay, and then weep for yourselves. Beseech the hills to all and curse your own fertility. Envy the barren and the dead. For if these things have happened to a green tree, what shall happen to the dry?

## Carswell approval: national morality?

by Frank Mankiewicz and Tom Braden

The practical test of how the country feels about its race problem will be made in the next few weeks. Senators opposed to the Supreme Court nomination of G. Harrold Carswell plan — in effect — to test the national morality.

So far, Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) and his investigators have been able to find no instance in which Carswell engaged if any of the business practices that enabled the Senate to make Clement Haynsworth a test of ethics. The Carswell vote thus turns on a larger question.

The strategy is to talk about Carswell for at least two weeks, to make it absolutely clear that Richard Nixon has appointed an out-and-out segregationist to the highest court in the land and to see whether the country cares.

The Haynsworth controversy was largely within the Senate, but bar associations, prestigious firms and the leading law schools — including those at many state universities — are cranking up to oppose Carswell. The anti-Carswell forces will keep the nomination on the floor beyond the Easter recess with the thought that these groups will begin to influence senators.

If the country doesn't care, Carswell is in, with perhaps 40 votes against him from senators who make equality of race a matter of personal morality. In putting the Carswell issue before the nation, they are not so much asking others to adopt their view as they are saying in effect, "Do you want a man of the extreme opposite view so dignified as to participate in the deliberations of the nation's highest court?"

If Mr. Nixon is right in his earlier suggestion that those who want permanent segregation of the races constitute an acceptable part of the spectrum of public opinion, there is no reason why Carswell shouldn't make the court.

On the other hand, if the nation really believes that the law is color blind and that black citizens are entitled to the

privileges and immunities of the Constitution, it cannot have a Carswell in the position of interpreting that Constitution. The strategy of the opposition is to ask the country to decide.

"A lot of people" says Sen. Bayh, "who can recognize racism in their own hearts don't want to see it as the national standard. They want a standard higher than their own."

Those are the people Bayh is counting on to help switch what now appear to be wavering votes by Democrats who stood up to Haynsworth, took a lot of hate mail as a result and don't want to go through the whole process again.

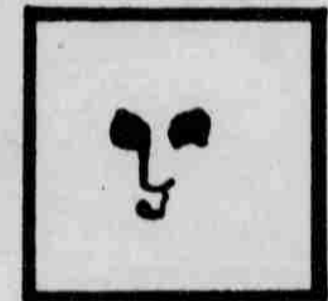
Among them are Albert Gore of Tennessee, Frank Moss of Utah, Quentin Burdick of North Dakota, Alan Bible and Howard Cannon of Nevada, Stuart Symington of Missouri, Thomas McIntyre of New Hampshire, Ralph Yarborough of Texas, Mike Mansfield of Montana and Joseph Montoya of New Mexico.

Forty Democrats is the most the anti-Carswell forces can hope for. They will have to find the rest from among Republicans whose courage on Haynsworth will now be tested anew. John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky will cast a persuasive vote, for he has a lifetime record as a civil libertarian, and he does not intend to run again. If he votes his conscience, others may take heart.

In other years and in other times it might have been thought that a President was asking too much of his party to go down the line for a man who helped to re-segregate a public golf course after the Supreme Court had ruled it was unconstitutional, who did not repudiate his statement that "segregation of the races is the only proper and correct way of life" until he was nominated and who bullied civil rights attorneys in his court.

But after the events of the last few months, Carswell's views on segregation may reflect an emerging national standard. The debate — and the public reaction to it — will tell.

# EDIT ORIAL



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