

Today revisited

Orangeburg

By JOHN GASH
Columnist

A crowd of South Carolina State students were protesting the policies of a segregated bowling alley. Shots rang out from a group of South Carolina Highway Patrolmen, who were manning both pistols and shotguns. The shots felled numerous students, all of them black. Three of those shot never got up.

This was the "Orangeburg Massacre", a term used as the title of a recent book published by Jack Bass of the Charlotte Observer and Jack Nelson of the Los Angeles Times. Massacre is a strong word. But according to the authors, who conducted a thorough investigation of the events surrounding the shooting, the term "Massacre" is justified.

Nelson and Bass state that the police fired into an unarmed crowd of students. Many students had shared this opinion from the start but now the facts have been firmly presented.

The truth has prevailed. But let us not dwell on the book—which, by the way, should be

required reading for those of us who are perplexed by the racial situation in America today. Let us look at the incident itself, the catastrophic event that should have rocked both out state and racial unity, but didn't.

Here were students who really cared about change. They had been denied their right to civilly enjoy the facilities of a public bowling alley. Thus, they turned to publicly present their grievances by demonstrating in front of the bowling alley. The first Amendment of our Constitution provided them that right. However, apparently the first Amendment was only applicable to certain segments of our land at the time.

While carrying through their attempt at realizing their rights under the law, the students were greeted by a spray of gunfire. As the victims went down, so went down another chance for justice in South Carolina.

That day gave us another reason for the need of change. It marked a time in which apathetic America's should have been opened. But, most of all, that day showed us the evil we must destroy.

Futhermore, let us remember those who died while trying to attain a status of equality, an equality we who are White take for granted. Let us remember those who died giving a damn: Samuel Hammond, Relano Middleton and Henry Smith.

Let us remember that date. It was the eighth of February—that's three years ago today.



Change beneficial

This Wednesday the Faculty Senate will be considering a calendar change that will move final exams from after Christmas to before. To say the least, we are in dire need of this change.

The benefits from this change can be put into two categories: academic and economic.

Academically, the thought of being able to enjoy your Christmas vacation without having exams

hanging over you is very appealing. We are not naive enough to believe that everybody studies over vacation, but, for those who do this would leave the holidays for what they are intended to be: a time for relaxation. The holidays should be greeted with welcome, not anxiety.

This change would put us on the same time schedule as most other universities. It would make it much easier for students who are transferring to other schools.

In an economic sense, USC students could achieve a better chance at obtaining summer jobs because this system will allow for students getting out earlier.

The chances for this proposal passing are good, according to one faculty senator. A recent straw vote taken in the Senate revealed that the proposal has heavy support. If these assertions are indeed correct, then, we shall realize a change that has been long in coming.

This change is not a product of any one certain group; it is the desire of a majority of students. We hope the meeting Wednesday won't be a cop out.

South Carolina — justice?

Well, it appears that the UFO Coffeehouse has lost its fight to retain control of its property on Main Street.

However this is not the end of the UFO saga: the three operators are taking their convictions to the State Supreme Court. As one may recall, the trio—William, Balk, Duane Ferre and Lenny Cohen—were convicted of running a public nuisance and thus sentenced to six-years each.

Most people, pro-UFO and otherwise, gasped, when these sentences were dished out. Of course, this verdict is evidence of politics controlling justice.

To say the least, this illustrates that some of South Carolina justice leaves much to be desired. But a recent case even deepened this need.

When the white citizens of Lamar attacked young black students with axe handles and bricks, all of us assumed that in this case justice would soon be in coming.

Not so. The law dragged its feet and the reflection of South Carolina justice has become even clearer. About thirty people were indicted but have not as of yet been taken to court. Even if they are convicted, the maximum sentence they could receive would be five years and a \$1000 fine.

So much for South Carolina justice.

Marches or protests
'lead to trouble'by CHARLES BEEBE
Editor-in-Chief

The weekend peace demonstrations sponsored by SMC, Women's Lib, Progressive Students for Change, the GI Movement and God knows who else was an exercise of antiquity.

Marches, sit-ins, pickets and other forms of physical demonstration only lead to trouble. Alienation, injury, destruction of property and in some cases death are the end results.

The Orangeburg Massacre, Kent State, Jackson State, and the riots on campus last spring have shown us the power of the state and its ability to crush opposition. All the state of South Carolina needs is a semi-official reason to arrest, harass or even shoot a protestor.

The leaders of this weekend's demonstrations are hard core radicals whose ultimate aim is anarchy and the overthrow of the United States Government. The sacrifice of a student or two would only aid their mania and induce others to blindly join their cause for peace. For those of us who are sincere in seeing the war ended,

who want an end to discrimination, poverty and ignorance, our ideals and emotions are being subverted by a small elite.

As a follower, don't be used. Manipulation of the masses is an old tactic which does not rely on reason as a means of motivation, but emotion. Create a situation that causes hostility -- bring in the pigs -- bash a few heads -- and low and behold all hell breaks loose.

The resurgence of anti-war activity across the country should be welcomed and it is needed to impress the Nixon administration, but past mistakes need not be repeated.

The war has got to be stopped. public opinion is the most effective means of combating the escalation in Indochina.

Ring a few doorbells--seek out the hard hats and grits--educate the community through fact, reason and dialogue. Don't alienate them with the screaming rhetoric that we have heard for the past three years. It is empty and hollow.

In the eyes of many you are expendable--don't become a sacrificial lamb at the hands of the inflammatory few.

