

Cats Open Ambitious Season

BY RICK LOWERY
Davidsonian Sports Editor

In what is fast becoming a one-sport town, the moment of truth is here. This year's basketball season is under way and the show is bigger and better than ever. Having rolled over Hampden-Sydney last Saturday night, the 'Cats play Wake Forest in the Charlotte Coliseum tomorrow night at 8.

Last year saw a surprising break into the big time as Davidson beat Duke, finished second in the Southern Conference and compiled a 20-7 record. Coach Driesell was named outstanding Southern Conference coach, and Fred Hetzel was named outstanding Southern Conference player, leading Conference scorer, and first team all-tournament. This year's club is under a lot of pressure to produce.

Gone from last year's team is center Bill Jarman, holder of several Davidson records and a man surely to be missed. But Jarman's departure is also the occasion for Dick Snyder's appearance as a varsity performer.

Snyder, a 6'5" sophomore labeled as "can't miss," led the freshman team last year with a 25.9 scoring average and was also the top rebounder. Snyder

has already moved into the year's line-up.

In addition to the untried Snyder, the remainder of last year's team returns. Led by Fred Hetzel, probably the most outstanding Davidson athlete to have put on a uniform in recent history, the 'Cats hope to send a team on the floor which will surpass last year's.

Hetzel, who last year re-wrote practically all of the Davidson individual single game and season's scoring records plus nabbing several conference honors, has put on several good pounds and his early season practice sessions can best be summed up in the words of an expert but neutral observer (who shall go unnamed), "I don't think I've ever seen him work so hard before. I don't know; something just seems different from last year. He's just unbelievable."

Perhaps these words seem to glow but somehow a ball player like Hetzel often carries an image of effortless ease with him, an image that seems to say, "It's so easy, I'm not really trying."

Holding up the big end along with Hetzel is captain Terry Holland. Holland suffered a broken nose in early practices

but has fully recovered. In fact as another observer commented, "More than fully recovered."

Holland this year will move to the pivot to team with Hetzel. Although this move will probably rob Holland of some of his previous court sureness, he's already demonstrated an amazing tapping and rebounding touch. And can he run!

Filling the guard-forward slot will be last year's almost forgotten man, Don Davidson. Perhaps forgotten isn't the right word—under-rated. For in Davidson, the 'Cats had a ballplayer who could rebound, play defense and drive. "Had," because something must be added; this year he can shoot and has done so all fall.

The guard spot belongs to Barry Teague. Teague last year made the all-tournament second team and proved to be a steady ballhandler and a top competitor. This year is no different. Teague is still the heads-up scrumbler who although not a big scorer will have to be the man who makes the team go.

Back up and perhaps replacing these line starters are three experienced men.

Charlie Maroon, who plays guard, forward, shoot, well, and rebounds exceptionally for a

guard, has provided and will provide a hot scoring punch and an exciting brand of ball.

Bill Boermann, one of two seniors on the team, also plays either guard or forward. A former winner of the foul shooting trophy and one of the finest shots on the team, Boermann should give the 'Cats excellent depth, and valuable experience.

The biggest surprise this year could be Paul Briggs. Briggs, who has seen only limited action in the past, has developed into a good ball player. He's 6'5", can rebound, shoot, and from all appearances has learned his way around the court.

Cam Harkness and Ronnie Stone round out this year's team. Both of these boys are sophomores and at this stage only time will tell.

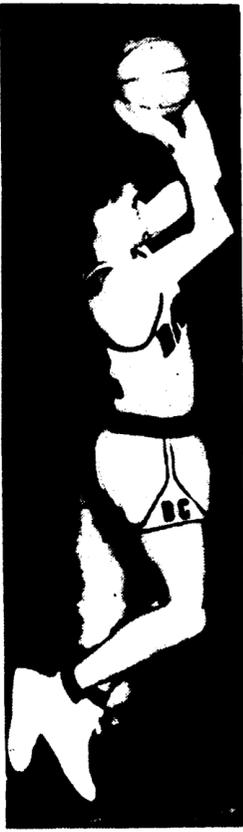
Perhaps with this short recap, a word is necessary on Coach Driesell. This is his third year at Davidson and his record up until now has been 43 and 31. This year's team is the first that he has exclusively recruited. He comes to work.

This year's team is very similar to last year's but there will be some real differences. This year's team will run unlike any Davidson team. This year's team will shoot better and play

defense better, but most important of all, this year's team has matured.

And just what are the weaknesses that this team must overcome? The biggest problem will be rebounding. Although this year's team will be big, they will not be exceptionally tall. Some of this year's opponents will be taller and bigger. The second problem is the schedule. It's tough. This year's opponents include Ohio State, Big Ten champions; Southwest Conference champion Texas; Princeton, Ivy League titlist; West Virginia, Southern Conference champion and Duke, ranked number three in the nation and heavy favorite to repeat in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Add to this schedule St. Joseph's and Wake Forest and subtract the fact that the Cinderella team is no longer an unknown princess and it will be a long, rough schedule.

A lot of people expect an awful lot from this year's team. For some people any defeat will be a disappointment. But all the student and alumni disappointment shouldn't match that of the players of this team if they fail to use the ability that they possess. Ability they have.



BARRY TEAGUE
"Still the heads-up scumbler"



LEFTY DRIESELL
"He comes to win."

SPECIAL
THANKSGIVING
EDITION

The Davidsonian

The News and Editorial Voice of Davidson College

ASSASSINATION:
A SOBER RESPONSE
(See Page Two)

VOL. LII

DAVIDSON COLLEGE, DAVIDSON, N. C. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1963

NUMBER TWELVE

New Faculty Rule Triples Number Of 'AP' Students

BY PAUL SIMPSON

In the wake of the release of mid-semester grades, 50 Davidson students now find themselves on the precarious status of being on academic probation. Broken down by classes, this number includes 17 freshmen, seven sophomores, 14 juniors, and 16 seniors.

In order to be placed on probation this year, a student must fail to earn grades representing at least 12 semester hours and nine quality points. The 12-9 requirement was adopted this fall to replace the nine-six requirement in effect last year.

Much pressure was exerted on the faculty before their meeting on Nov. 5 of this year to go back to the nine-six standard; however, the majority felt that this was unrealistic.

Last year at this time there were only 16 men in all four classes on AP. But, also, last year under the nine-six rule, a student could receive two C's, a D, and two F's and still be considered in good standing, i.e., not on AP.

In commenting on the rather large number of seniors on AP, Dean of Students Richard C. Burts suggested that some may have already earned their required 124 quality points for graduation and now feel free to "coast."

At that same faculty meeting on Nov. 5, three other significant changes were adopted in regard to AP:

1. A student can go on or off AP at either mid- or end of semester. Under the change that would have gone into effect, a student could go on AP,

but not off at mid-semester.

2. The six-weeks freshman grade reports will be completely unofficial. Last year, these reports placed many freshmen on AP.

3. A student on AP can now represent the college in off-campus school-sponsored activities, as long as he does not miss any classes. Thus the major consequence of being placed on AP is being prohibited from cutting any classes.

The results of the first two of these changes have already been seen. Of 24 freshmen placed on AP at the end of the first six-weeks (before the faculty approved the most recent changes), 13 of them are no longer on AP at the mid-semester report. Of the three seniors carried over on AP from last year, two have been dropped from probation at mid-semester, instead of waiting until the end of the semester.

In an interview before Thanksgiving, Dean Burts also answered questions concerning the "underachievement" program. In August a letter was sent to 93 of Davidson's 500 rising sophomores and juniors informing them that they were producing grades far below their expected capacities.

In discussing both the programs of underachievement and

academic probation, Dean Burts emphasized that neither was intended as a student harassment. Nor is either based particularly on a field study of similar programs at other colleges. Rather, both are products of Davidson's own situation and the selective admissions program in effect since 1956.

With better student and improving faculty and curriculum the college is now more concerned with academic achievement than was ever necessary. These two programs are expressions of this concern, said Dean Burts, as means of prodigal students to improve; or else to make way for perhaps more able and ambitious ones.

Also, these two programs serve as forceful reminders to students of the requirements for class promotion. Dean Burts commented that he has had experience in the past with students, after failing to have the hours required for graduation or promotion, complaining to the college for not warning and pushing them. This warning and pushing is now being done at Davidson "before it is too late," states Burts.

A committee to study the entire scope of the academic question at Davidson was authorized at the last faculty meeting.

Knowles Will Discuss His 'Separate Peace'



JOHN KNOWLES
"from Exeter to Davidson"

John Knowles, noted author and world traveler and with a residence at the University of North Carolina, will be on campus next Tuesday, Dec. 2, to discuss his first and most famous novel, *A Separate Peace*, which was chosen the YMCAs Book-of-the-Semester.

Knowles will speak in chapel Tuesday morning on the subject, "Aggression" in light of former President Kennedy's assassination and *A Separate Peace*. He will speak that night at 8 p.m. in the Morrison Room of the College Union. His subject there will be "Why Read Novels? Why Write Novels?"

After living three years as a world itinerant, Knowles has ceased travelling for a year to become the first writer in residence at UNC, where he conducts one small writing class, lectures and confers with individuals about their writing.

"I write out of feeling. I don't write thoughtfully," stated Knowles in a recent conversation. "I start with environment and work out a story—a plot and characters which seem to capture the essence of the environment," he continued.

Knowles' first novel, the current Book-of-the-Semester, is unusual in that as the first work of an author, it elevated him to national fame. Hailed by critics as forming with Golding's *Lord of the Flies* and Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye* a triad of the most-read college material, the work is similar in background and setting to *Catcher in the Rye*.

A Separate Peace is set in a New England boys' preparatory school. It captured the 1960 Rosenthal Award of the National Institute of Arts and Letters, as well as the William Faulkner Foundation for a writer's first novel.

Knowles attended Phillips Exeter Academy and graduated from Yale University. His second novel, *Morning in Antibes*, was published in 1962. He is working on a third during his year as writer-in-residence at UNC.

He has just completed his first non-fiction work, *Double Vision: American Thoughts Abroad*. It concerns life in the

Near East, where Knowles spent his last two years, as seen from "Others" in the Book-of-the-Semester committee are Dr. West of the book are currently appearing in *Holiday* and *Horizon* magazines; the entire book will be published next June.

Moore is already planning for next semester's feature book. They are hoping to have either *The Making of a President, 1960*, by Theodore White, or *A Nation of Sheep*, by William Leach and its popularity with col-

Red China Visitor Speaks To Students Tomorrow

Serge Lentz, the most recent Western journalist to penetrate the interior of Communist China, will relate his experiences during a recent three-week stay there in chapel tomorrow.

Posing as a textile buyer, he got a literal Red carpet treatment as he toured the cities of Shanghai, Canton and Peking and made side trips to the rural regions of the Peoples Republic.

One night as Lentz was sleeping in a Canton hotel, two secret service agents woke him and took him to another room in the



SERGE LENTZ
"Burns hot trail after grilling"

Assassination Cuts Grid Season Short

BY RICK LOWERY
Davidsonian Sports Editor

On a Saturday when few people cared about football, Davidson's season ended—no contest.

This year's final record was 1-5-2. It was a year characterized by bad breaks, bad football, grumbles and a great deal of disappointment. Probably as no other dismal football season, this one was the most disappointing. Early season practice and scrimmages had pointed to a fine year. In fact, I believe this team was the best Davidson team I have seen in five years. I said, "was," because at season's end, it was not.

What happened on the way? This is a question that escapes any simple answer. Some will say psychology; some will say the breaks; some will say too little too often and too much; and some

will just shake their heads. Now that the year is over, almost anyone can have a guess. I doubt if there is any simple answer.

The season was not without its high spots. Unfortunately perhaps the highest was pre-season and didn't even count, but several people saw a Davidson team that looked pretty good. Certainly the season's high must have been reached, however, in the VMI game. But ties just aren't like wins; they leave a funny taste.

Neither was the season without its low moments. A rainy afternoon with The Citadel; a ninety yard (plus) runback of a blocked field goal; a missed field goal in the last seconds of the PC game; and a Friday night in Charlotte.

Football season is over and so is football for twelve seniors. Billy Mills, who came from the flickerball fields to become quite an end both offensively and defensively,

Bill Dole, who lettered three years as a varsity lineman and had the toughest time for that.

Jim Fuller, halfback, fullback, end, tackle, linebacker and punter but never runner like at Furman a long time ago.

Britt Smith, top center and outstanding linebacker, whose defensive skills were prohibited by an auto accident.

Barry Billington, a halfback hampered by injuries.

Dave Lopp, another back perhaps just too small to withstand injury who never saw his best game.

Morris Williams, who after the whistle blew wanted to win most of all.

Benny Coxton, probably the finest natural football player to ever show at Davidson and yet no one can say how good he could have been.

Dick Fulp, probably the one man who can say he did so much and got so little.

Joe Jones, another three year performer who battled his way into the number one backfield.

Earl Cole, who proved to be an outstanding defensive, as well as offensive, standout and was recently elected co-captain.

Russell Walls, the other co-captain has made the all academic Southern Conference team, was recently tapped into Omicron Delta Kappa, received the Earl Blaik award, and was a fine football player.

This season's record looms prominently as a dark disappointment. I think it all started on a bitter night against Furman, a night in which Davidson was beaten but not really outplayed. That team and the team that tied VMI could have put together a winning season; they didn't. And because they didn't it was a long autumn for about 40 boys and some very long Saturdays for some of the student body.

Just one last word. Several of the 12 departing seniors came to Davidson and loved the

game of football. They were paid for playing. But they worked for their money. A small trip to any of many practice sessions will make this quite clear. The only thing I'd like to know is how many still love football?

The National Football Foundation this week awarded two scholarship grants to senior guard Russell Walls.

Walls was one of nine college football players in the country selected for the Earl Blaik Fellowship, a \$500 grant to go toward advance study which is awarded on the basis of scholastic standing, football ability, and leadership.

He was the only player selected for the Medical Economic Inc. grant, a \$2,500 scholarship presented to a pre-med student.

(Letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor.)

A Tribute And A Task

Students here are often cited as being unusually hard, cynical, apathetic, sophisticated, etc., and usually such charges have a substantial basis.

Friday afternoon we saw these same students wandering aimlessly in the halls or sitting on the edge of a bed, staring at the floor.

Then Sunday afternoon over 150 students spontaneously got up from watching television and headed to Washington to pay a first-hand tribute to the only President our generation has ever really identified with.

Professors were unanimous in excusing them from reviews, and in an unprecedented spontaneous ges-

ture of their own, the administration called off Monday classes and even encouraged students who could go to Washington.

No doubt some saw the cancellation of Monday's classes as something students would take advantage of, but the student reaction in that respect made it seem to us that a genuine tribute was intended rather than mere curiosity.

None who went to Washington will soon forget what they saw there. We hope that the feeling of tragedy and sadness that surrounded and lingers after the Washington burial will carry over into an awareness that more than ever before, our generation faces a tremendous fight to overcome the hatred that exists between races and between fanatic extremists on both left and right.

Table with staff names and titles: EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, BUSINESS MANAGER, Associate Editors, Managing Editors, Assistant Editor, Feature Editor, Sports Editor, Assistant Sports Editor, News Editor, Photography Editor, Photographers, Cartoonists, Assistant Bus. Manager, Advertising Manager, Circulation Manager.

Vietnam: Catholics, Reds Irrelevant To Its Situation

BY PAUL A. MARROTTE, Associate Professor of History

Whatever else it might be, Vietnam is a study in irrelevancy. And the sad history since 1945 of that former French colony has only pointed up the dilemma of irrelevant domestic relationships and irrelevant solutions to serious and pressing problems.

Take, for example, the emergence of a communist state of North Vietnam. The real issue which brought communism into a position of power in 1964 was definitely not economic difficulties but the strong emotion of native nationalism against the long-time foreign oppression maintained by the French.

Actually, communism, with a theoretical "internationalism" of its own, was irrelevant to the political and economic problems facing the Vietnamese in their struggle against the French from 1945 to 1954.

Today, communism has completely irrelevant answers to South Vietnam's political and economic problems.

Or take the example of the Diem family regime in South Vietnam since 1955. Here we see a newly-independent state (South Vietnam) being directed, and increasingly so, by a bureaucracy largely controlled by a family clan of much wealth.

control by a clan of wealth in a newly-independent Asian state is entirely irrelevant to practical, successful national government.

No one doubts that in times of government crises, democratic procedures are irrelevant. But, the point which the American critics of the Diem regime made during the past six months was that clan government which rejected policies designed to encourage popular support was doomed.

Clan government almost by definition is irrelevant in Southeast Asia today, but to alienate popular support was stupidity as its utmost. The scoundrel of Indonesia, President Sukarno, has learned this lesson well, and the least type of protection which he needs is an armed fortress against his people for a palace.

One can also claim that as the religion of the Diem government, Catholicism was entirely irrelevant to the religious setting of South Vietnam. While it is true that militarized Buddhist sects seriously impaired the domestic peace and security of South Vietnam in the mid-1950's, government by persons favoring Catholicism over Budd-

him in this predominantly Buddhist country was openly asking for trouble.

Without doubt, if President Diem had been a Buddhist he would still be in power in Saigon today.

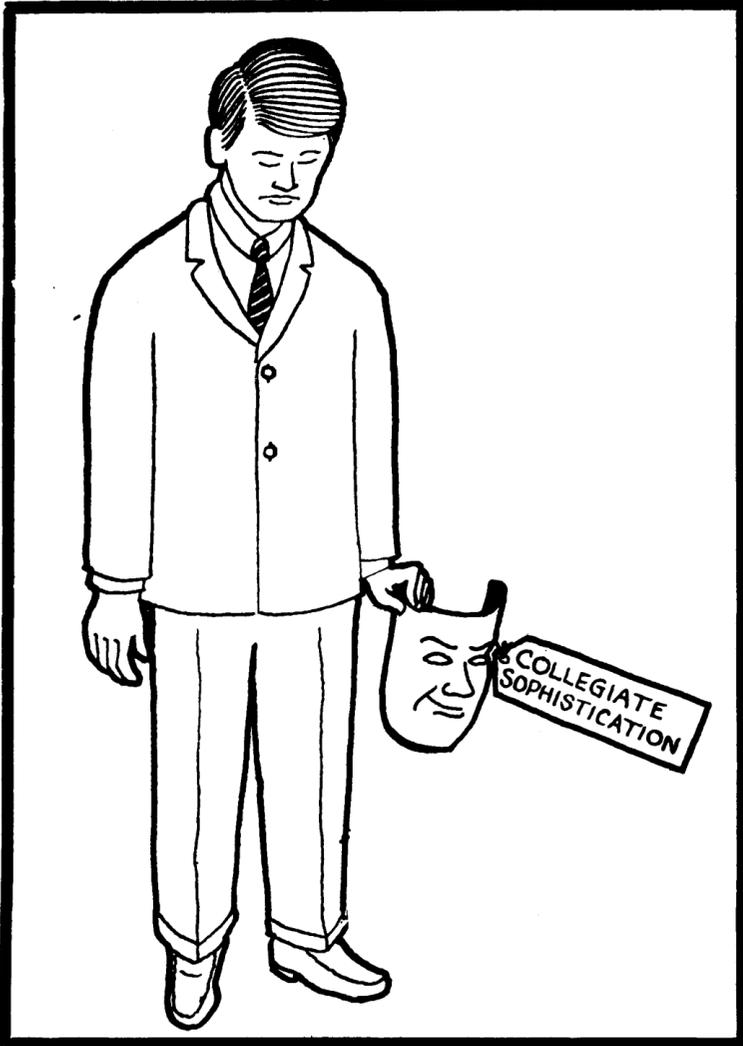
Perhaps the most glamorous irrelevancy to appear on the world political scene in quite some time is Madame Nhu herself. In terms of what she represented, and particularly, what she said, she was irrelevant.

She had just one theme: "those dirty communists and small-time Americans are trying to kick us out." The relevant questions, such as, how does one fight a successful war against communist guerrillas in South Vietnam, she refused to face. This refusal reveals her lack of any real political acumen, and must have heightened for her the shock of the news of the military coup.

Perhaps the most dangerous irrelevancy of all is the possibility that the crisis in South Vietnam will become an issue in the American presidential campaign of 1964. If the new military government in Saigon fails to pursue the war more successfully than Diem's government, the result will be an important campaign issue next summer. As one reporter commented, "The military government had better win the war, for the sake of the present Administration."

The only answer is that, if the present military government cannot defeat the communists, they are not going to be defeated by anyone, with or without American aid. It is that irrelevant to an American presidential campaign.

At this point, the reader might well ask, "Is it really this involved to get at the basic issues of contemporary affairs, such as the crisis in South Vietnam?" The answer is that the basic issues stand clearly for all to see, once you willingly cast aside the mass of irrelevant.



Y BOOK OF YEAR

Critics Present Views On 'A Separate Peace'

BY WILLIAM WALKER The agonizing process of a boy's maturing is the theme of John Knowles' first novel, A Separate Peace.

The setting is the microcosm of a New England prep school during World War II. The title alludes to the fact that the protagonist, Gene Forrester, "makes his peace" with the world. For Gene and his pal Phineas, the war is far removed—and likely a fake. A farce conjured up by "fat old men" as Phineas puts it.

By using such a microcosm, Knowles is saying that each man's environment contains all the possibilities for good and evil.

Gene hates Phineas, a superb athlete, because Phineas has an uncanny power over him; he goads Gene into committing acts, which while they are not bad, are not the things Gene would do if left to himself.

Gene can't endure the thought that he's relinquishing his independence to Phineas, and that Phineas has indeed become a necessary part of him. When he suspects Phineas of trying to hurt his grades, the one thing he can be unexcelled in, his situation becomes unendurable.

He hurts Phineas in the worst way he can be hurt—physically, as an athlete—by pushing him out of a tree, crippling him for life. Phineas still maintains an influence over Gene, however. Not until Phineas dies does Gene seem to find release.

Unlike the hero of The Catcher in the Rye, whose problems seem insoluble, Gene concludes that he conquered his enemy. But does this mean that he overcame whatever in him made him push Phineas out of the tree, or does it mean that Phineas himself represented an enemy that had to be conquered before Gene could be himself? Knowles' answer is not clear.

A Separate Peace, while it cannot match Catcher in the Rye for acidity and force of expression, is a compact and polished narrative.

BY BILL FERRIS It has been said that great men both open and close doors to those who follow them. When a great artist deals with a subject it is often done so well that efforts by others on the same subject appear sick in contrast to his.

Peace is a very weak attempt to capture the prep-school atmosphere Salinger describes so well in A Catcher in the Rye.

Knowles manages to break his silent sea of words occasionally with scenes like Brinker's trial of Phineas. Unfortunately these scenes lose their effect as soon as the narrator reenters with his cold, clinical descriptions. The above scene, for instance, ends with a sentence beginning, "The excellent exterior acoustics recorded his rushing steps . . . then these separate sounds collided into the general tumult of his body falling clumsily down the white marble steps."

So what? Who gives a damn about "excellent acoustics?" The reader is concerned with the emotions of Phineas who has just stormed out of the room. Knowles tries to describe these and other emotions and in doing so he explains them away. His entire novel is too filled with dry descriptions. It lacks the action and emotion necessary for the reader to associate himself with the work. The suggested suffering and despair of two youths is never made clear to the reader. They lie buried beneath Knowles' descriptions and lack of feeling for his subject.

BY W. H. TILLEY A Separate Peace concerns a young man who at a New England school during the second world war struggles with and kills his roommate and best friend. He does not kill him directly. He jars him from the limb of a tree, breaking his leg; later the leg is broken again and the friend dies while

it is being set. We understand that the friend dies because he has been made to see that he was injured deliberately, that his roommate has crippled him for life. The young man responsible for this injury and death, having learned from the friend he feared and hated how to conquer fear and hate is at last ready to take a man's place in the world.

Events of the novel—possibly excepting the death of a young man from the operation of setting his broken leg—are plausible enough. The characters are, if not compelling, convincing. The one weakness of the novel—or at least the salient one—lies in the idea that someone can conquer hatred and fear by contact with someone whom he has deliberately killed.

Neither this nor any other idea in the novel is new. But familiarity does not make them more persuasive. However smoothly the story is told, however well its incidents are put together, however its main characters convince us—we must return to the same problem: is it possible for a young man to gain tranquility of spirit from someone whose "harmonious and natural unity" he has personally destroyed? It hardly seems likely. Nor can any way of looking at the novel—metaphorically, symbolically, allegorically, or whatever—make this problem seem any less important.

TASTEE-FREEZ Wishes the Wildcat basketball team the best of luck in the coming season.

To The Wildcat Basketball Team Good Luck Rush Wilson, Ltd.

Kennedy Dead: Students Reflect

BY BILL FERRIS

"All ah could do was cry when they told me the news," whispered the colored cook. I nodded and walked out of the kitchen, understanding the twisted empty look of her face. He is gone. Her tribute to him was a few tears wept in a dark corner.

These years seem filled to bursting with the hatred and death of such innocent people. We have seen the nightmare of riots at Ole Miss; the death of innocent children worshipping in Birmingham; and now the death of our president. What is happening to our country?

With the president's death our Dream of Democracy has slumped a little lower. He stood for the goals our forefathers dreamed of when they wrote "liberty and justice for all." He stood for the innocents slain in Mississippi and Alabama. And now he lies dead.

Our hearts are growing old and hard with so much hatred. Who among us has the softness left in his heart to weep at this tragic death? We want to scream that the world is too much with us but lack the strength.

Where do we go from here? We cannot surrender the dream for which he died. It is time we cease our loud words of hate and look within ourselves for a gentle love that will let us live together in peace.

BY JOE HOWELL

Last week many Davidson students experienced the greatest tragedy in their lifetime. The president could not have been shot. He could not have died. It just was not possible. The confusion, doubts, and despair sent pangs of fear, hate, and insecurity running through the insides of many of us, causing us to look bewildered at each other and ask Why, why did it happen? What is our world coming to?

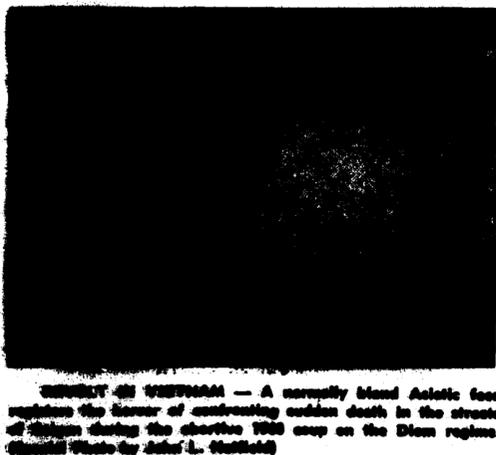
We drifted to the church at 8 o'clock on a gray, drizzly morning. We tried to pray, but somehow there weren't any words. We tried to sing the hymns, but somehow our voices would not behave. We tried to smile, and we did, but we knew the hollowness inside. We tried to justify the act. We looked for causes, for answers. We talked until late at night. Yet somehow the pain would not leave.

We drifted to class. Certainly the professors would share our grief. Perhaps they would have some insight, some consolation. They are men of learning, men of wisdom, Christian men of commitment. If they would not give us answers, they would share with us our doubts, despair, and frustration. Yet, in the classroom, we experienced even more frustration; for most professors lectured as always, as if nothing had happened. Sure, they were hurt. They must have been, but now was not the time to talk about such a thing. The material must be studied, and the class must proceed as usual.

Yes, the class must proceed—but isn't there some relation between history and the murder of the president, between Christianity and the chaotic world of which we are a part, between economics and the results which such a tragedy will have on our country. We should not let such a tragedy effect our classes we are told, it really isn't that bad. But, we scream hopelessly, it is that bad. There is something wrong with our society. The shooting of the president is only a symptom of the insecurity and despair that all of us feel. If history, English, economics, and psychology have nothing to say about our world, then why waste our time in class? Christianity has nothing to say then why go on pretending any longer? If men have commitment, if they feel any relation between their subject, between Christianity and the world in which we live, now is the time to express their commitment.

Best of luck to The Wildcats in the coming basketball season. The Hub

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