

UH NEWS liberated press

much has been said....
this is the best.
j.s.h.

One View

In light of the current ferment over materials appearing in the U.H. LIBERATED PRESS I feel compelled to express to the Faculty Senate and the Administration my own deep personal concern that we, as an institution, not forfeit or contaminate the precious heritage of a real university. I should like to present to your deliberations the following four points:

1. The U.H. LIBERATED PRESS is clearly an outstanding student newspaper which far excels the average. It is concerned, socially aware, editorially provocative and vigorous. These are attributes which demand our support and encouragement; that we should be distracted from these and focus on the peripheral issues of vulgarity and obscenity is to our own discredit and there are a number of rather well substantiated psychological principles dealing with reinforcement and extinction of behaviors which we, as adult members of the community, might well reflect upon.

2. A primary responsibility of a University is fidelity to its philosophic bases. Our stance here has traditionally been one of trust and faith in the innate potential of our youth. This is our great achievement. Yet to expect that growth and development can be had without risk and pain is extremely naive. We cannot now because of pain change our belief system; again the burgeoning evidence about system expectations on individual behavior should cause us to pause and reflect. If we intend to operate on a Calvinistic-Jansinistic view of man let us say so and accept only those students and faculty who will be comfortable with the thought that man unless carefully controlled and adequately frightened will be depraved.

3. Another essential responsibility of a University is responsiveness to needs. I should like to urge the Senate to request the Administration to make available to the editorial staff of the LIBERATED PRESS the services of the University counsel. We are a family and our response to the rather anomalous behavior of the U.S. Department of Justice (incredible as it is that the confusion over priorities in the federal government can extend to the local level and to assistant U.S. attorneys) should be one of support for a family member in trouble. Surely we should be able to distinguish between support and approval (even if the community cannot) and we should be able to accept the assumption of innocence. A family that ignores a member in trouble will never have a sense of cohesion and unity.

4. A particularly alarming aspect of this issue has been the theme of risk of loss of fiscal support. My personal feeling is that we cannot afford to accept fiscal support from those who give it "on condition". Our allegiance is to growth, development, scholarship and exploration and these have since the twelfth century resulted in town-gown controversies - and they probably will continue to do so.

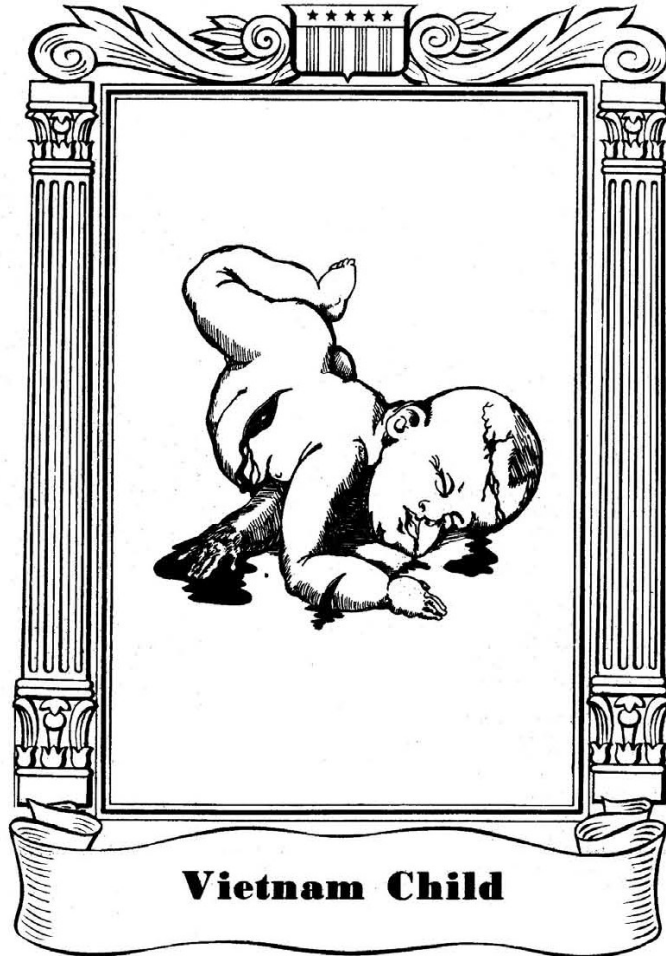
In summary, I am asking that we support the paper for its excellence and that we make known our feelings about what we feel is "poor taste", but not let this mislead us. I am not an advocate of total license for a student (or a faculty) activity, but the constraints should be substantive ones such as accuracy of reporting, willingness to print opposing views, etc. Certainly the reaction of the community ought to be of negligible concern since I assume that no one has ever believed that a campus paper was printed to be sent home to grandmother. For those of us who find certain phrases or pictures in poor taste there is no compulsion to read or view them. Perhaps most ironic is my belief that oft-used phrase "tricky Dick" is a much more serious slur on President-elect Nixon than is the cartoon, yet its appearance would probably cause little comment. The fact that an expression cloaked in sexual connotations can evoke such anguish is a clear demonstration of education's failure in the past; the question for us is: must this failure be perpetuated?

-Thomas W. Mahan,
Education

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Vietnam Child

(Drawing by John Zanzal)

America Is Obscene

One week ago, the long arm of official indignation reached out to shelter the community from the University of Hartford's depraved smut peddlers. A cartoon depicting the editorial response of the UH NEWS to Richard M. Nixon's election apparently caused a public outcry. Quickly reacting to the community's feeling that the cartoon was (1) abhorrent to morality and virtue, (2) designed to incite lust and depravity and (3) disgusting to the senses, the police arrested lascivious editor, Jack Hardy; deviant president of the Student Faculty Association, Benedict M. Holden III; and John Zanzal, pornographic artist.

Isn't it reassuring that our local government responds to community demands so promptly? Hundreds of families in Hartford's ghettos have no heat again this winter, but the police do not arrest the slumlords. It must be comforting to our outraged audience that the authorities protect their purity before ensuring that all Hartford citizens have a decent place to live.

We truly are a strange people. Vietnamese children are burned to death by napalm, but it goes on, virtually unnoticed. American cities have to be burning down before we even begin to think about the racism that creates ghettos. But publish an imaginative form of political expression and the police are directed (either by their superiors or the public) to arrest those "perverted purveyors of filth."

I guess the question is what is disgusting to the senses? The individual is not allowed to decide. Hypocrites in official roles tell us what films we may see, what books and magazines we can read, and what we can publish. If the tastes of those who originated and enforce obscenity laws had helped to create a sane and healthy society, then those laws might be legitimate. The reality is that we are a sick country where those who oppose war are imprisoned, where one-half of the marriages end in divorce and a man cannot live decently because of the color of his skin.

What do I suggest? Maybe we should all go to see how a black child has to grow up in the North End and then think about obscenity. Maybe we should all smell flesh burnt by napalm and then decide what is abhorrent to the senses. And maybe the police should come to our school to learn basic community relations, rather than to arrest concerned students.

-Dan Hazelton,
City Editor