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# The Fixer, November 19, 1972

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# THE FIXER

NOV  
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1972

## THE RETURN OF THE FIXER

The Fixer is back. For how long I'm not sure. It all depends on the people. When our special Political Issue came out last week we got many comments from people saying how much they had missed it, how happy they were to see it again, and how they hoped we would continue to publish. This naturally made us feel good since it told us that all our work last year was appreciated and we are looking forward to continuing that work. But we can't do it on praises alone, unfortunately it takes money. We are not out to make a profit but we can't work at a loss either. If you are truly happy to see the Fixer back please help us stay around. Something like 5 to 10¢ from each reader would do it, that's all. We also need people to distribute in the dorms, all that takes is an hour on a Sunday night. If you would like to type or help us print that's great. We need and want all interested people. Contact us through box 4255 or come to our meetings, Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:00, in Jackson. Just look around, and you'll find us. Thanks for bringing us back, keep us here.

LG

AN OPEN LETTER TO MR. BIGLER

Dear Mr. Bigler,

During the recent campaign you spoke, or rather, wrote on the subject of amnesty several times. You indicated that you felt that draft evaders were criminals and should be punished for their failure to perform their duty. The punishment that you felt appropriate would be their eternal banishment from this country. If I recall correctly, the words you used were, "great country." Now that the campaign is over, I was wondering, Mr. Bigler when

are you going to fulfill your duty to this great country? You stated that you felt that men should do their duty and go to Vietnam when called. When does your boat leave? Surely your words are not empty. If you really feel that our Vietnam war is so noble, why don't you put your own life on the line for it?

Granted that your joining the military would not necessarily guarantee your assignment to Vietnam, may I offer an alternative? It appears that the United States is going to replace military personnel with civilian operatives over the next few months. I don't know where your talents lie, however, I am sure that you could find some way to serve your country in Vietnam. If the thought frightens you--don't worry. Some of us who have already been there will gladly give you a few tips and a quick course in the Vietnamese language ("Toi Viet?").

If you have the courage of your convictions I would welcome your comments on amnesty once you return from Vietnam. If you lack that courage, would you do us all a favor and cease commenting on that which you know so little of.

Butch Bincock  
Captain USA Army

## THE HARBEE MOVIE\*\*

Harabee will be showing the following movies on Friday Dec 1 at 8 pm in Wilson- "The Earth belongs to the People", "The Selling of the Pentagon", "The Woman's Film", and "Hole Out". These four movies will provide you with two hours of a variety of stimulating and enjoyable entertainment. They deal with ecology, government and the suppression of women in society, so there is something here for everyone.

The Fixer is part of Harabee\*\*\*\*



### Technology and Specialization

The year 1972 is drawing to a close. The past year, the past decade, the past century have seen the greatest technological advances in history. Mankind has reached the moon, harnessed the power of the atom, developed vaccines and surgical techniques to rid and otherwise control organic malfunctions of the human organism. Here in the United States, the society with the highest standard of living, we may attest to these tremendous advancements. In the field of communications we have color T.V., push-button telephoning anywhere in the country and thousands of different magazines to read. In the field of transportation we see jet air travel making the farthest corners of the world only hours away and the average American family has 1.3 automobiles. We have complex highway systems and plans for urban public transportation. For our defense we possess nuclear powered Polaris submarines, abn's, ICBM's, B-1's, B-16's, smart bombs, and laser guns. Technology and the resulting specialization it requires lie all about us. But only at great expense - the expense of personal freedom, individuality and, therefore, at the expense of political and social consciousness.

In reflecting upon the American system of Public Education we note that mass education was originally established to ensure that each voter in our elections was able to cast a well-informed, educated vote. One hundred years ago our governmental structure was relatively easy to understand, the bureaucratic structure almost beyond the individual's realm of comprehension. But why? Technology and specialization are part of the answer.

In our society the need to specialize has become imperative if the individual is to achieve financial success. Everywhere we look we find specialization. In medicine, the general practitioner has all but disappeared in favor of the specialist. In industry, the assembly line is composed of many different specialists, each performing

one small skill. The computer programmer must specialize in one line of computers, and the student must elect a major area of concentration early in his educational career. Even in high school we see the need for specialization in industrial arts curriculum, secretarial or automotive repair courses. The faculties of our universities are one-discipline specialists and are usually authorities on only one small area of their disciplines. For example, the sociologist may concentrate on race relations, the experimental psychologist studies imprinting for ten years, the English professor is an authority on Shakespeare. Specialization is everywhere and everywhere the broader understanding of life itself is sacrificed a little more. Specialization is the price we pay for a highly advanced society. Is the price too high?

Political and social consciousness denotes awareness of American society and its political structure. Exactly how many people in our society have a solid understanding of the government or society? Who, among the electorate, truly understands the national budget, Defense Department appropriations, inflation or unemployment percentages, or current US foreign policy? Who among the electorate is knowledgeable about our complex welfare system, social movements, race relations or urban ecology. The answers to the above questions are frightening because taken objectively, we realize that the vast majority of our electorate are ignorant to the complexities of government and society.

Does a bricklayer understand national economic trends? Is a truckdriver able to vote intelligently on Defense appropriations? Is an insurance agent qualified to objectively evaluate US foreign policy? Is a housewife fully able to understand the corporate tax structure? By raising these questions it is felt that perhaps, some degree of awareness (continued 6)



ture. In other words, about 12% of the electorate. These 12% could be called the intellectuals. The university professors, or the serious students who have begun to understand the relationship of each of the academic disciplines to a firm understanding of society and life itself. Yet intellectuals are generally frowned upon. Adlai Stevenson was an intellectual and he was defeated in two successive presidential elections, not by an Army General, but by an ignorant electorate. Spiro Agnew, the Vice President of the United States speaks against intellectuals, labeling them elites, adding to his popularity and thus, demonstrating how truly anti-intellectual our society is.

But what constitutes intellectuality? How can it be defined? In our age of technology and individual specialization, the intellectual may be defined in a traditional sense- as one who possesses a high degree of understanding of society and political structures owing to high achievement in advanced education in the liberal arts as well as possessing extensive personal experience, empathy or sympathy with all stratum of our social structure. The intellectual adheres to the principles of science, i.e., the objective method to arriving at conclusions and maintains that knowledge must come from reason.

I cannot apologize if I have offended or shocked you with my contention that 88% of the electorate is unable to cast an intelligent vote. I would hope that when confronted with the realities of a highly specialized and technologically advanced society, you would now understand the difficulties involved in an intelligent execution by the franchised voter of his right to vote. Mike Borash

### Coming Out of the Shadows

With the plague of conservatism sweeping over the country this election year it is more important than ever to fight the government and to educate the people about the havoc that they have brought upon themselves. My reason for coming back to the Fixer is the hope that my token effort can help start people looking at and examining issues, rather than just thinking in slogans. Too many people have given up the hard process of analyzing political & social problems for the simple ride with the status quo.

The second reason that I've come back to work on the Fixer is to try to get better education for the students, in & out of class. Madison College has failed to educate the students to ask questions or to analyze any problem or how to solve problems. In short Madison has failed to educate students in how to think for themselves. Madison has made a start in the right direction by having more outside speakers come to this campus. But this should only be looked at as a start. This campus needs more academic input than it is getting.

What is needed now is your thoughts, your effort and your love. There is much to be done. Start thinking. Then start doing! And send some money to the Fixer. Box 4255

Spirit of '76

Thomas R. Earl

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TO THE FIXER STAFF:

I just finished reading your special edition and just want to say that it was one of the best publications I've seen on Campus.

I take my hat off to your staff for all their hard work. The paper added a lot to the political atmosphere on campus.

I hope we will see the fixer again.

A Reader

Letters like this helped to inspire us to publish again. If the person who wrote it would like to join us we'd be glad to have him.



AMERICAN CITIZEN

I am an American citizen. I have been a veteran of the U.S. Navy and the Vietnam War. I have been a college student for the past three years.

Since my freshman year, I have been extremely interested in the social sciences: political sciences, sociology and psychology, in particular. My study in these disciplines has been aided immeasurably by my military service background and my first hand encounter with the realities of war and the brutality, destruction, death and misery that are the consequences of war.

It is with this background that I began my study of the social sciences. I was quickly exposed to the scientific method of arriving at conclusions, the necessity of maintaining objectivity in experimentation, and above all, the need for a questioning mind as opposed to an unquestioning, all-accepting chauvinist attitude, that Eric Hoffer so adequately described in his book The True Believer. It is here, in the academic environment, that I found the opportunity to objectively study world and American History, American Political and social structures as well as Psychological theory. As my studies progressed, so, too, did my questioning mind.

The study of sociology made me aware of the class structure that is present in the United States. The study of Political Science made me realize just how destructive extreme feeling of nationalism and patriotism can be. My studies in communist theory revealed some quite valid criticisms of the corporate state and capitalism in general, and Psychology made me realize the importance of environmental stimuli in the maturation and value-attitude formation in the human organism. My final example is U.S. History and the

Study of the Constitution; significance here being in the emphasis placed upon the right to dissent by the founding fathers, with Thomas Jefferson expounding upon the right of citizens to revolt if a government is not doing what it was established to do or it is doing too much, which ever the case may be.

All things considered, I have arrived at the conclusion that a definitive change is needed in American Political and social structures. During the sixties, many college students shared my view that political and social change is urgently needed. They manifested their discontent in demonstrations, sit-ins, teach-ins, etc. Students were disillusioned with the "American Dream". They were appalled at the absurdity of the Vietnam War, racism, hunger, and malnutrition in the "one nation under god". They were socially aware and politically conscious. The leadership of the student rebellion came for the faculties as well as the students themselves. The best schools seem to have been the most violent; Columbia, Harvard, Barnard, Cornell, Berkeley, San Francisco State, and Chicago University. There can be little doubt as to the academic excellence of these schools with their students possessing a high degree of motivation and intelligence. It was here, in these veritable hotbeds of intellectuality, that the questioning mind which characterizes the true intellectual was most prevalent.

In looking at today's campus, one may become disgusted with the apathy and lack of intellectuality present. It seems as if students have come to accept racial injustice, bigotry, war and malnutrition as things to be lived with rather than changed. The questioning mind no longer questions but accepts. The empathy and sympathy that characterize social awareness remain. Vietnam is still

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These questions will be answered in my next essay entitled "the controlling media".

Mike Borash

#### VOTING- HARRISONBURG STYLE

Last Tuesday two friends and I went down to Spotswood Elem. School in Harrisonburg to vote. Because our parents all live in Germany, Harrisonburg, somewhat reluctantly, decided to let us vote in Harrisonburg on temporary registration which means only for the President and VP. When we arrived it seems we caught the ladies by surprise because they had absolutely no idea how to work the temporary ballots. Since there was a large pile of such ballots it is curious that they didn't bother to find out how to use them. Maybe they were hoping we would not come. While they were debating on how to let me vote, I casually asked if I could look at the voting booth since I had not seen one before. They almost had a stroke (simultaneously and unanimously) and practically leaped in front of the booth, shouting "No, no you can't go in there!" I tried to explain that I wouldn't go in but I must have looked too radical to be trusted near the booth (could it have been my McGovern button). After a quick phone call they decided they knew their business and I was sat down with my ballot in hand, while they retreated to a safe distance (to insure I had privacy but also close enough to stop any mad dash I might make towards the voting booth). One of my friends voted after me with little hassle but when the third member of our party went to fill out his ballot an old lady accused him of already voting. "You were here this morning!" she yelled. He denied it but she hurried over to her friends to tell them that the young radicals were trying to pull something. Since they check off names when you vote, he could only vote twice if they weren't doing their job. It was just more hassles.

I wouldn't be too surprised if a poll came out soon saying the 18-20 year olds didn't get out and vote but the poll wouldn't say why. It

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won't explain how the establishment in small towns is afraid of youth's power. A young man in Mass. voting on a temporary ballot said it was unconstitutional and won. I wish I had thought of that. Giving the establishment in Harrisonburg a swift stunning kick in the ass would have been fun.

PG

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#### FINAL PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS

The Chicom mines the VC and Nva use are plastic. They hold ten pounds of explosive charge and three pounds of fragments. They can be pressure-detonated, and the explosive charge can be set for whatever pressure is wanted- a tank, a jeep, a truck, or a person. If the mines are placed right they can blow an engine block through the hood or turn an APC over. Since the bombing halt though, there have been enough to waste on a few recon patrols.

This one must have been a pull-release. It blew up after he stepped off it- throwing him ten feet into the air. When the medic finally reached him, his left leg was already gone, and his right leg was shredded up to his thigh. The blast had seared through the bottoms of his fatigues, burning his penis and scrotum as well as the lower part of his abdomen and anus. The medic gave him morphine and started albumin. A Dust Off was called in, which took him to the twenty-seventh surgical hospital near Quang Tri, where they took off his testicles and penis, explored his abdomen, took out his left kidney and four inches of large bowel sewed up his liver and did a colostomy and right ureterostomy. During the procedure he was given 20 units of uncrossed positive blood. After three days at the twenty-seventh, he was evacuated to Japan via the Yokota Air Force Base. From Yokota he was taken by chopper to the U.S. army hos- (cont on p.6)

WITH A LITTLE HELP.....  
PANDY, PATTI, RICH BERT, JOYCE,  
MIKE, BILL, GERRY, DENNIS, BETTY,  
AND OTHERS. SEND CONTRIBUTIONS  
OR ARTICLES TO BOX 4255.



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 pital at Camp Zama. His left leg was removed by a left-hip disarticulation, and his right thumb and left index finger were sutured. There was not enough skin left to close his surgical wounds completely, so his stumps were left open. Despite antibiotics, his wounds became infected. The fourth night in the ward he tried to kill himself. On the sixth day his urinary output began to diminish, and the laboratory began culturing bacteria out of his blood stream. On the seventh day his fever hit 106 Fahrenheit; he became unconscious, and seven days following his injuries, he expired. His body was then transferred to the morgue at Yokota airbase for shipment back to the continental United States.

#### FINAL PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS

1. Death, eight days after stepping on a land mine.
2. Multiple blast injuries.
3. a. Traumatic amputation of lower extremities, distal right thumb distal left index finger.  
 b. Blast injury of anus and scrotum.  
 c. Avulsion of testicles.  
 d. Fragment wounds of abdomen.  
 e. Laceration of kidney and liver, transection of left ureter.
3. Focal interstitial myocarditis and right heart failure.  
 a. Left and right ventricular dilation.  
 b. Marked pulmonary edema, bilateral.  
 c. Marked pulmonary effusion, bilateral (3000 cc in the left, 1500 in the right).  
 d. Congestion of lungs and liver.
4. Patchy acute pneumonia (Klebsiella-Aerobacter organism).
5. Gram negative septicemia.
6. Extensive acute renal tubular necrosis, bilateral.
7. Status post multiple recent surgical procedures.  
 a. Hip disarticulation with debridement of stumps, bilateral.  
 b. Testicular removal bilaterally.  
 c. Exploration of abdomen, suturing of lacerated liver.  
 d. Removal of left kidney and ureter.

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 e. Multiple blood transfusion.

#### EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The body is that of a well-developed, well-nourished, though thin, Negro male in his late teens or early twenties, showing absence of both layers extremities and extensive blast injuries on the perineum. There is a large eight inch surgical incision running from the chest wall to the pubis. There is a previous amputation of the distal right thumb and left thumb.....

\*365 Days, by Ronald J. Glasser M.D., Former Major, United States Army Medical Corps. Published by George Braziller (hard cover), New York, 1971, pp 57-59.

This book is required if you want to know what Vietnam is really like for those who have been there and those who must live there. The bookstore has it in Pocketbook edition.

B.S.

(cont. from 2) technology will be gained as to the amount of specialization involved in our political and social structure.

The next question posed is quite problematical. Who is qualified to cast an educated, intelligent vote? Indeed, the answer is shocking. The only people technically qualified to objectively and intelligently cast a ballot are those individuals with a sound understanding of government and it's struc--(continued on page 3.....)

(continued from page 4) American fact, racism continues and welfare rolls steadily increase. Where has the questioning mind gone? Where was it lost? Has the political structure successfully repressed campus dissent?(continued 5)

Special Thanks to—  
 to Mrs O'GORMON, DR.  
 SMITH, MIKE HOLIDAY  
 AND ARCHIE DEPEPE  
 FOR THEIR GENEROUS  
 CONTRIBUTIONS.\*