

D. C. H. T.
Newell
1966

Along Route '66



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An attempt by members of three College fraternities and two dormitories to instigate "home rule," including residents' determination of the controversial issues of parietals, judicial penalties, and living conditions, has run afoul of the Committee on Administration, which rejected the idea in no uncertain terms. The Committee did offer to set up an "experiment" in home rule for one house and one dorm, but on the condition that a faculty member reside there. This idea was rejected by the students who "refuse to consider the issue of social regulation by home rule as closed." In a joint statement, representatives of DKE, SAE, Foley House, North Fayer and McLane promised further action; but as of March 8 and Winter Term exams, the Committee on Ad seemed to have the upper hand. However, with student government unanimously (!) in favor of pushing the issue, a student-administration confrontation may yet occur. The new militism among the "new generation" of Big Greeners promises both problems and hope for our once-conservative campus.

Student activism still claims the major headlines in the "Daily D" but there are other changes: the basketball team, perennial Ivy doormats, came through with a 8-18 season and a tie with Cornell for fourth place in the League. Included in the Green's late-season surge (from an 0-9 start) was a major upset of Princeton, 62-60. Four of five starters on this year's team are sophomores so even better things are expected from Coach Dave Gavitt's men next year. The freshman basketball and hockey teams had excellent seasons, while the varsity skiers won another Eastern title and the swimmers finished third (behind Yale and Princeton) in the EISA meet. Meanwhile, another old Dartmouth tradition has breathed its last, as Ray and Velda Dickinson announced their retirement and the end of Hanover's most famous eating establishment, The Midget Diner. We offer our best wishes to Ray and Velda, and our sympathy to those undergraduates thrown back upon the resources of Thayer Hall.

VIETNAM REVISITED

Since several of our Classmates have written me concerning my reporting of ERIC MULLER's death in Vietnam in the December issue of this Newsletter, and MIKE NADEL's comments in the last issue, I take this opportunity to publish them.

From Lt. BUCK SHINKMAN (Radio Plt., Co. A, 54th Sig. Bn. (c), APO, San Francisco 96350):

It seems a shame that in, of all things, a Class Newsletter, a Classmate who died honorably, in combat, for his country, cannot be given the common courtesy of a vote of sympathy and respect without resorting to political qualifications, which in the face of the death of a friend seem less important.

From JEFF ROGERS (7007 Glenbrook Rd., Bethesda, Md. 20014):

...Every man's death has meaning. To deny that any man's death has meaning is to deny that life has meaning. Eric's death had special meaning. He was willing to risk his life for a belief. That is more--much more--than most of us, peaceniks, vietniks, or confusedniks, are willing to do. Among other things, Eric's death means that he lived a courageous life. How many of us will be able to say the same at our deaths?

From Lt. SIMON HAINES ("B" Btry--1st 40th Arty; APO, San Francisco 96269):

.../Y/ our use of the word "tragic" and the value judgement you connoted was uncalled for. Subsequently, Mike Nadel followed your lead by offering a half-hearted justification of the American commitment in Vietnam. Both of you are concerned with the war, but respect for Eric Muller and what he died for appeared to have little to do with your comments.

...I do not really care what most of the Newsletter readers think, but I would like those who were close to Lt. Muller to know that there is another possible conclusion which can be reached about his death besides yours: that he made an honourable commitment to his country, himself, and his fellow soldiers. For this, he should be remembered without the addition of editorial comment.

From CHRIS SANGER (11A Hudson Harbour, Edgewater, N.J. 07020):

I don't believe it was Mike's intention to take issue with you on the substantive merits of the war in Vietnam. Most likely, he was trying to make amends for the extreme lack of taste you showed in turning the item concerning Eric Muller's tragic death into your personal vehicle for objecting to the war. The Newsletter was neither the time nor the place to do such editorializing.

I wish to add only a few words to these comments. I did not intend in my December comments to denigrate the personal self-sacrifice which Eric's death so evidently represents, nor to detract from the sympathy all of us must feel for Eric's family and friends. Certainly, Eric's commitment was an honorable one and his giving of the "last full measure of devotion" to the ideals all of us share deserves our respect. My comments reflect only the very deep sadness I feel in the face of what I feel was a misguided decision on the part of our foreign policy leaders to require the deaths of Eric and others of us in the search for an answer to a political mistake in judgment. I could not "glory" in Eric's death, nor take refuge in the idealistic phrases used by President Johnson and others to describe the value of our contemporaries' dying in Vietnam, but could only express the sorrow I felt in having to report the tragic death of a Classmate. Finally, I do not regard the Newsletter as a "personal vehicle" but as a vehicle for all of us to express our feelings, thoughts, and opinions on any issue. I will give space to any '66er who wants to share his comments with the Class. I apologize for any wrong impressions my words might have created.

THE DRAFT AND '66

Another kind of self-sacrifice is being made by at least one member of the Class of '66: DON "SKIP" PEASE and his wife Carol-Anne became immigrants to Canada last February. Skip, who was denied CO status by his local board, told reporters for the D: "I chose to leave because I could no longer in conscience cooperate with a law which is immoral. It seems ridiculous for anyone to have to prove that he shouldn't fight, rather than for the government to prove that he should." Skip left Dartmouth after his sophomore year to work in VISTA and later returned to graduate Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude. He was active at the College in the peace movement and had planned to attend divinity school.

MORE ON MILITARY SERVICE

Since so many of our Classmates are now in military service, both at home and in Vietnam, I especially welcome letters from '66ers in uniform. JON WHITE (HH & SB, 1/321 Arty., 101 Abn Div., APO, San Francisco 96383) writes to describe his experiences in Vietnam:

Thought maybe I'd better write and let you know that still another Classmate is participating in the US effort to save South Vietnam for democracy. Anyhow, here I am, currently an aerial artillery observer with the 1st Bn. 321 Arty, now involved in Operation Jeb Stuart about 30 miles north of Hue. To the best of my knowledge there are no Classmates in the vicinity, but I could be wrong.

Excitement is not lacking here. VC are all around us, and we're knocking the _____ our of them, taking villages that they've held for 25 years. Of course, there isn't much left of them after the artillery gets through. Could that be called an accomplishment?

Also, PETER HELWIG's parents wrote to say that Pete is stationed in the Central Highlands near Kontum and Pleiku where his unit is supporting the 173rd Airborne Brigade at Dak To. He would appreciate letters addressed to 1st Lt. Peter R. Helwig 05237041, S-3HHC 937th Engr. Group, Apo, San Francisco, Calif. 96318. Back in the States, GEOFFREY HUCK (29 N. Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80909) is a second lieutenant in the Army, while JAMIE STEWART (USS Springfield CLG-7, FPO, New York, N.Y. 09501) is an ensign in the Navy.

BACK ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT

The romantic news for the month is headed by a note from BEN DAY announcing his March 30 marriage to Miss Sharon Lee Holt (Westminster, Pa. College '67) in Butler, Pa. Ben and Sharon grew up together but didn't start dating until December of 1966--a sort of delayed "girl next door" romance. Ben is finishing his work on an M.S. in engineering at Thayer School (Box 231, Norwich, Vt. 05055). Also TRIPP MILLER was married to Jeanette Walker (Elmira '66) on December 23 (Tripp's at Stanford "B" School), and BILL WEGENER (also at Stanford) announced his engagement to Miss Jean Frances Henderson of Chatham, N.J. Jean is a Colby, Jr. graduate and is presently finishing her senior year at U.S.C.

WIN STUEBNER (2818 N. Sheridan, Chicago, Ill.) is a medical student at Northwestern, while TOM APPLEBY (425 So. 2nd St., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48103) is working on his Ph. D. in English while teaching freshman English at U. of Mich. RICHARD BROWN (116-25 12th Ave., Whitestone, N.Y.) is a sales representative for Denver Chemical and keeping "busy supporting a wife and 2 dogs." RICHARD KERNOCHAN (P.O. Box 923, Hanover, N.H.) is one of a number of '66ers finishing their degree requirements at the Big Green, while PAUL "BABO" BABCOCK picked up his diploma in December and now plans to attend grad school in hospital administration next fall (232 Edgehill Rd., Milton, Mass. 02186). Finally, RICHARD OLSEN welcomes San Francisco area visitors at 2315 Grant St., Berkeley, Calif. 94703, where he is a grad student in biochemistry at U. of Calif.

AND STILL MORE FROM THE MAILBAG

JOHN HARBAUGH (274 Mott St., Apt. 5-B, New York, N.Y. 10012) is working toward an M.A. in German at Queens College and then plans to acquire a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at C.C.N.Y. He wrote describing his experiences and I include the following:

I've been keeping myself busy studying German at Queens College in New York. I've made up my mind to be a teacher, though at what level I am not yet sure. If I can last out the trials of a Ph.D. program I'll be in college teaching somewhere in the East.

I like New York very much. I think it's the ideal place for a Dartmouth man to do graduate work. The Public Library is invaluable for research. The German professors here are much better than those at Dartmouth. Perhaps you remember Professor McCormick who was chairman of the German department at Dartmouth. He now teaches at Queens College and is one of the finest scholars I've met anywhere.

My thanks go out to prolific correspondents like AL RYAN (711 8th Avenue SE, Apt. 9, Minneapolis, Minn. 55414), and I share Al's most recent letter with all of you:

Minneapolis is coming out of what I gather is a sort of annual ice age, though the natives tell me this winter looks like Miami Beach in July compared to some more recent ones. Being late of New Orleans, even if only for one year, I was cold enough, thank you.

First year at Univ. of Minn. Law School is coming along well; and the contrast of a big midwestern state university to Dartmouth is an interesting one. Though the Law School is pretty much of a self-contained unit apart from the rest of the campus, I've seen enough of the rest to be appreciative of the experience of a small-college undergraduate education. ARNE ROVICK of our Class and Mike Wolff '67 and Mike Lynch '67 are also first-year students in an ever-shrinking class. I don't think anyone has actually been drafted out of the class, but the prospect of imminent induction and the slow but steady approach of June finals has squeezed out about 75 of the first year class of 250.

As for myself, I latched onto a very good opportunity in the Marines. It's their equivalent of a J.A.G. program--ten weeks at Quantico this summer, then three years of active duty as a lawyer after graduation. I'll get commissioned at the end of the summer, promoted to 1st. lieutenant after a year, then make captain six months after graduation. There aren't any classes or drills to go to after the summer, and no ready reserve obligation after the active duty, which makes the program more attractive. Since I've been 1-A since my teaching job ended last June, it was sure a relief, as you might imagine.

I've been keeping in touch with BUCK SHINKMAN, who as you might know is in Vietnam until August, in what they used to call a "safe city" before the recent offensive. His work has mainly been in the Armed Forces Radio Network, but he writes that recently he has been a defense officer in several courts-martial, which he finds very interesting.

Meanwhile life goes on; my wife Sally is working on her Ph.D. in Child Development, with the government keeping us both alive thru fellowship checks; nothing very exciting is happening, but then, I guess that must wait until school and service are past.

Many thanks to all who have written or sent postcards--I hope that enough mail fills my Yale Station box for another issue of Route '66 before vacation. Invest 6 cents and drop me a note on "what's happening, baby" in your area, and have your name immortalized in print. Until then, have a happy Easter....

----s.l.s.