

# Letters to the Editor

to The Editor:

Massing around the anti-war table last Friday was a screamingly hostile flock of campus Hawks. Their silly remarks, "Chickens - cowards - commies" were quickly dismissed, but a hodge-podge of Lyndon Johnson's favorite sayings remained in the air, notably: "you guys are helping the communists, the longer you guys protest the longer the communists will fight us, and the more of our men will be killed."

Now destroying patriotic syllogisms is great sport, but I'll limit myself to only one aspect of its invalidity, that is, the conclusion it begs. Which is, "therefore, don't dissent yo'll, it just isn't patriotic and freedom-loving to be against me." I'll concede that the Gospel according to Saint Lyndon occasionally has a bit of truth hanging about, so it is perhaps a fair statement to say that the evidence of wide-spread disagreement with Johnson's policy does stiffen Hanoi's will to press on. But that isn't important; it is the price that must be paid at all costs because this is a free country.

You Monmouth students who desired so fervently to bust our heads in last Friday did not realize that you were spectator to perhaps the greatest expression of democracy in action in this country today. Surely you cannot think that the First Amendment should be safely pigeon-holed to Bridge Club meetings when a member wishes to express a strongly dissenting opinion on the choice of crumpets? That scene in the Student Union was American ideals before your very eyes, perhaps for the first and last time!

The right to dissent is the most exciting and vital thing in this country today, and had it not been for a chance appearance of Mr. Smith, you might have been guilty of destroying in America the very democracy which you claim to be fighting for in Vietnam.

JAMES HIGGINS