

# Comment .....

There is not much that can be added to all that has been said about Lyndon Johnson.

He was a President of the United States who served during a time of external as well as internal conflict. And his service showed. He tried the methods he thought best to avoid the external conflict but when it appeared inevitable he entered into it with the promise that the trouble would be resolved as soon as possible. There were few believers of this promise, though, and the pressure of their doubts weighed heavily on the man. He carried the faded hope of settlement and peace throughout his career as president, the hope of a dream he did not live to see fulfilled.

And he was bothered by internal trouble. Dutifully he worked on ways to quell the rising internal friction and, in some cases, violence. It was he who took the first major steps toward helping the poor and the black. The war on poverty became action, not just an idea. In attempts to ease the racial tension felt all over the country, the Chief Executive worked on helping blacks, and helping whites understand them. He was responsible for the "strongest civil rights legislation since reconstruction." It was Johnson who pushed radical reforms through Congress and carried through most of Kennedy's unsettled legislation, including the medicare program.

What's more, he did it out of true concern for the poor, the sick, and the weak. Johnson was a man - who cared for others and did not forget his friends or family. Even after becoming president he maintained the old down-home friendships he had known before he took the highest office. Though besieged by the nation's problems, he still found time to enjoy the simple things in life, especially things from his life back on the ranch in Texas. He could sympathize with the small problems dealt with by his family and friends. Upon the death of someone close he was touched by grief just as others might be.

Though he was not a favorite by any means. Lyndon Johnson was a president and, because of his achievements while holding that title, will be remembered as a great one in the years to come. But he was also a man - subject to all the glories and failures of any man. For this reason, as much as the other, we mourn his passing.



## Tributes have begun

by Cliff Mitchell  
Staff Writer

Today is a national day of mourning for Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th President of the United States, who died Monday afternoon of a heart attack at his Texas Ranch. He was praised both in and out of office as the man who had done more for blacks than any man since Abraham Lincoln, but was harshly criticized by anti-war figures for his part in the escalation of the Viet Nam War.

Poetess  
visiting UNC-G  
this semester

Visiting the English Department this term is poetess Louise Gluck. Miss Gluck published a volume of poetry in 1968 entitled *First Born* and many of her poems have appeared in such periodicals as *Poetry Magazine*, the *New Yorker*, *Atlantic*, and *Yale Review*. She has received several grants and awards, including a *Rockefeller Foundation* grant and a grant from the *National Endowment for the Arts*.

During her semester here she will teach "Approach to Poetry" a 100 level course, and a graduate workshop on the writing of poetry in the MFA program.

Johnson, a former school teacher in the dirt poor hills of Texas, rose to the highest office in the land, but never forgot his beginnings, his friends, nor state he loved so much. Johnson spent 31 years in public service.

Johnson brought to America the Great Society, but his dreams of wiping out poverty and social injustice were destroyed when the Viet Nam War was stuck securely in his side. Many of the policies that Johnson had hoped to enact had to be cut down in scope or totally left out to finance a war, when at times he wasn't even sure he was doing the right thing. It was also Johnson that pushed through Congress radical reforms and most of John Kennedy's unfinished legislation. These included the strongest civil rights legislation since reconstruction, medicare, and the war on poverty.

The widespread support that Johnson received against Goldwater, the largest mandate ever given to a President,

topped under the strain of the growing controversy over the Viet Nam War. It was the intense pressure put on by the "doves" combined with his poor health that led him to announce in March 1968 after the New Hampshire primary that he would "neither seek nor accept the nomination of my party for another term as your President."

Tributes have already begun to come from every corner of the world, and the praise of Johnson in the United States continues to mount. Nixon addressed Johnson as a man of "great ability and unshakable courage." Humphrey, who was Johnson's Vice President said Johnson was "a strong man who cared for the sick and weak."

Johnson will ultimately be remembered as one of the greatest Presidents, but his death does come at a time where peace in Viet Nam is as close as it has been since the start of the war. Johnson died ironically without knowing of an end of the war that became his torment.

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