

the possum could keep a civil tongue in his mind. (Kelly, 1959: 257)

He also noted, however, that while he had received a significant amount of mail over these particular strips, much of it had been positive, writing, “[T]here is something awry with the old newspaper maxim that the public responds only to find fault. The most heart-warming mail came from the South” (Kelly, 1959: 257).

A decade later, in 1968, *Pogo* once again stimulated censorship over the race issue. The strip was analyzing the presidential campaign of that year by introducing a number of new swamp characters. While the Vietnam War was the focus of many of these sequences, the problem of southern racial policies also surfaced, thanks to the candidacy of Governor George Wallace of Alabama. Kelly had all of the presidential primary hopefuls of both parties running around the swamp as wind-up toys. Governor Wallace was portrayed as “Chicken Little,” who, of course, kept claiming that the sky was falling. Wallace rode around on a white horse facing backwards, so that he could not see where he was going. *The Birmingham News* dropped *Pogo* for a week while the Wallace wind-up toy was present (Kelly, 1968: 67-71; Jarvis, 1998: 85-90; *New York Times*, 1968).

Despite these sorties into the American race problem, Kelly did not deal all that much with the increasingly galvanizing issue of black civil rights. It proved to be an uneasy concept to satirize within a strip set in Georgia and Kelly never appeared as surefooted with civil rights as he had with McCarthyism or Communism. Only when a spectacularly easy target arose, such as Faubus or Wallace, did *Pogo* take aim and fire. While Kelly appeared to be genuinely sympathetic towards much of the civil rights revolution, he was, at the same time, somewhat uncomfortable with the variety of tactics being employed to further its course (Jarvis, 1998: 85-90). He also experienced similar ambivalence when dealing with the Vietnam War. Thus, *Pogo* approached the war in gingerly fashion, using mild satire to probe the issues. Despite that, however, the strip still found itself being censored by some newspapers.