

# Is This Education Or A Side-Show?

(Address Taylor, Guest Editorialist)

There is an old legend about hurdling—the sport so dear to the heart of North Carolina College—which goes something as follows: a few centuries ago in Northern Ireland at the beginning of the Enclosure Movement, the landlords of that section began to fence in their pastures, their poultry and their other livestock, leaving the landless peasantry high, dry and hungry in the process. The fences that the landlords placed around their livestock, so the legend goes, were the original inspirers of the noble sport of hurdling; it arose among these peasants as a necessity if they were to relieve their landlords of enough chickens to keep themselves alive. When the landlords made their fences higher, pole-vaulting became the principal means of livelihood for these peasants. Thus it was that out of human necessity, the mother of invention and mischief, two noble pastimes were born.

In an essay entitled "Gate Receipts and Glory," Dr. Robert M. Hutchings, former President of the University of Chicago and now Director of the Ford Foundation's Fund for the Republic, implies that every college worth its salt is striving to become an institution of physical culture, to the neglect of nearly everything that a college is supposed to stand for. North Carolina College kept out of this race for a while simply because of a lack of funds. For past four years, however, "athleticism" has been steadily on the increase. It reached its climax, or its *reductio ad absurdum*, last December with the Calhoun Day nonsense. This so-called liberal arts college excused its seventh hour classes for the purpose of greeting a returning athlete. On the other hand, last winter Mr. Joseph Atwater, a magna cum laude graduate of the class of 1953 and winner of a Woodrow Wilson Foundation scholarship, visited the campus: not a murmur of welcome was uttered, nor was he extended the slightest gesture of courtesy by the college. From the way Mr. Atwater was treated last year and the way that the college went all-out to balley-hoo Mr. Calhoun's return from the Olympics, one might easily conclude that speed afoot is considered of more moment around here than speed of intellect.

Of the many strange things that will puzzle an intelligent observer about this college, which is liberal in everything except the arts, is the emphasis placed upon athletics. A man goes to Australia and jumps the fence—an art that the kangeroos have long since mastered—and on his return this scholarly institution goes into frenzy, dismisses classes and lines the sidewalks for blocks and blocks to wave at him. Yet when a brilliant alumnus returns, he is completely ignored. "O Education, what crimes have been committed in thy name."

It is often bemoaned around here that our students lack intellectual vigor and have no artistic appreciation. The conduct of the students at the Steinbeck performance is symptomatic of this, it is said. But if the student-body is fed a diet of football, basketball and balley-hoo, the college has little right to expect anything else from it. The college provides more sports for entertainment than anything else, and one must admit that the behavior at the Steinbeck performance was no worse than that of the average basketball audience. If the students have little else but sports for entertainment, how are they to know, on those rare occasions when a good lyceum performance is presented, that their conduct and gestures of approval must be different and more subdued? A student yells like a lone wolf at a basketball game and nothing is said, and if he has no other form of recreation, how is he to know that a dramatic group will not consider a good, loud yell as an appropriate sign of approval.

The college complains of its lack of funds: it cannot secure good lecturers for our vespers and assemblies because of this, it says. Yet it finds the money to field a championship football and basketball team. And last spring a special committee was formed in order to raise funds to see Mr. Calhoun to California so that his fence-jumping career might go on unimpeded. But Dr. Ralph Bunche's lecture is too high. A debating team is too expensive; we can get by without one. However, let us strain and pray to the Lord to spare us our football and basketball teams, because no self-respecting liberal arts college could possibly do without them. Still the college complains of the poor academic performance of our students and wonders why they do not do better work. The reason is simple: we preach scholarship and honor its opposite.

## Campus Echo

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

I have just finished reading a series of articles concerning the Davis subcommittee report on integration in the District of Columbia. It is my opinion that the Davis subcommittee has defamed the Negro in a dying effort to comfort Southern white supremacists who are resisting and violating the law against segregation. The Davis subcommittee report is definitely an instrument by which some southerners of low mentality hope to avoid integration. However, Mr. Davis and his group, excluding Representatives Miller and Hyde, intend to fight the oncoming integration movement to the bitter end.

The Davis subcommittee has blamed the integration of public schools for the increase in juvenile delinquency, illegitimate births, sex crimes, moral laxity, venereal diseases, and the exodus of the white population to the suburbs. These charges have no validity whatsoever, and are utterly stupefying. Since the close of the Second World War in 1945, illegitimate births and venereal diseases have been on the increase for the last ten years throughout the nation and are not a result of public school integration.

In actuality, the Davis Subcommittee has done nothing but waste their time and the taxpayer's money. The Davis Subcommittee has not supplied the public with any concrete evidence that the integration in the District's public schools has failed. Having attended a public (segregated) school in the District, I know that the Negro students' lag (often said to be because of mental inferiority—this is not true!) is due to the deprived and limited educational facilities. It is my opinion that the integration movement manifested the shortcomings of segregated institutions and the problems caused by inequality. Grady C. Bell

Dear Editor:

Now "57" has entered into its first month and many New Year's Resolutions are being made, it is my wish that each student will include this resolution in his or her list. Resolved: that I will attempt to take a more active part in the student activities on campus, and that I will do all that I can to boost the school spirit here at NCC. If each student would adopt this resolution and sincerely try to carry it out, perhaps there would be a tremendous change in the dull atmosphere that exists around here.

A second resolution might also be added. Resolved: that I will assume my full responsibility in all campus elections and that I will not forfeit my right to the ballot by not voting. This is really a serious problem here, for the students, actions indicate that they aren't interested in the outcome of any of the elections. The majority of the students seem not to care who wins the election. The question as to the qualifications of the candidate is not considered at all. Qualifications certainly did not enter in the election of our chief executive. Of course, any student has the right to run for an office if he or she is able to meet the academic requirement, which is so low that it keeps out nobody. The intelligence of the voters, however, is supposed to keep out the unfit.

In looking over the record and qualifications—I use the term with caution—of our pre-

# From The President's Desk

BY BENJAMIN PAGE

Somewhat belatedly, this is the season of resolutions. With this fact in mind, we are all sometimes prone to "resolve" about certain things and fail to "resolve" about, still other things which are not in themselves less important.

We say all this to lead up to the fact that while the NCC Student Government is not strongly advocated to "resolutions", that organization is at all times "resolving" to do more towards making NCC a more inviting place at which to pursue a wholesome program of academic studies.

The SGA, at the time of student elections, vowed to do all within its powers to make things much more compatible and inviting than they were during the past year. So, as we have said, "resolutions" are pretty much on the out and out with SGA. The SGA officers are too busy resolving to do what they said at election time last spring to spend much time making new resolutions.



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And since this is a new year, perhaps we as students at NCC would do well to look back and see what SGA has accomplished since last September. If you do look back, you will undoubtedly find some very constructive and timely activities which have been carried out to the best of the ability of SGA.

There still remains, however, a variety of activities and projects still to be completed. We look forward, with great anticipation, to the remainder of this school year because of the fact that we are steadily progressing towards the sort of government that is workable, practical, and agreeable to all the student body and faculty at large. There was a time, as we all know, when there was no student code, no constitution, and, practically no nothing for the benefit of protecting, informing and understanding the student. With this in mind, we can easily see what we have accomplished.

So, in regard to the "belated season of resolutions", if you must make resolutions, why not resolve to put your shoulder to the wheel and push the student government forward towards a more successful and active year in 1957?

## Book Review

# Bold Novel Recalls Main Street

BY THEODORE GILLIAM

*Peyton Place*, the new best seller in its third big printing by Grace Metalious is one of the most sensational and "sensational" books you can expect to read. Many have deplored the author's bold treatment of sex, but more have applauded *Peyton Place* and predicted for it a lasting place in the literature of America.



Gilliam Main Street

With a more acrid touch, *Peyton Place* lays bare the hidden vices, shams, drives, ambitions and emotions of its characters.

*Peyton Place* has not one plot but many, inextricably interwoven. Mrs. Metalious quite remarkably never loses the read-

er in her many deviations from one plot to another. She seems to gush forth with information about each of her characters, causing each one to emerge with a distinct personality. All the characters are divested of any pretense and the core of their inner selves laid open in raw, unmitigated reality.

The sensitive young Allison MacKenzie goes through the story like a pampered leitmotif with her mother, Constance MacKenzie, who held the secret of Allison's birth almost too long. Beautiful Selena Cross, a shack-dweller, once Allison's best friend, involuntarily becomes the victim of something very near incest and patricide with her depraved and sadistic stepfather, Lucas Cross. The town's wealthiest man, Leslie Harrington, finds succor in unscrupulous ambition while his son, Rodney, leads a happy-go-lucky, protected, girl-chasing life. Against these and sundry other personalities is thrust that of dynamic Tom Makris; the new principal with ideas too advanced for the small thought of a small town, especially Constance MacKenzie, whom he marries and completely changes into a new woman.

The total effect of the novel can be likened to the force of a highly melodramatic play. The summer of '39 as described becomes a crisis that is almost nerve shattering. With the result of Selena Cross's trial, *Peyton Place* reaches a climax that is at once monstrous in import. To reveal the result would spoil the pleasure of reading *Peyton Place*, which I guarantee will never give a moment of dullness.

*Peyton Place* is a potpourri of sexual intrigues, tragedy and slight drollery. Sex very often becomes a cynosure but never obscures the deeper value of the novel. The imaginary town of *Peyton Place*, like *Main Street*, could be anywhere. Its people could be anyone for they have

Jerome Dudley

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