

Thursday, April 27, 1967

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

That's The Way It Is

A letter, appearing elsewhere on this page today, very adequately expresses the feelings of those members of the Louisburg College faculty involved in the damaging fire here last Saturday. It is also a most outstanding document on the caliber of local people.

It is in this light, that we wish to bring it to your attention. Too often, even those of us living here are too fast in criticizing our own community. It is in a time of crisis, when help is most needed that this community shines the brightest.

All of us are proud of our college faculty for what they are doing for

our own and other young people coming here to school. We are equally proud of them as citizens of this community, whether they have lived here for a long time or moved just recently.

The community responded not so much because they were college people but because they were community people. They did so because each knew that had things been reversed, members of the college faculty would have done the same for them and their neighbors.

That's the way it is here. That's why so many of us cannot find it in our hearts to leave.

And Now It's Measles

Most of us can remember well the fear which prevailed each summer a few years ago. Parents were afraid to allow their youngsters to go swimming or to a picture show. Avoid crowds, we were told and each sneeze or fever was cause for intense worry on the part of a parent. Polio was a most dangerous thing.

Today, hardly anyone ever thinks of this dread disease. Science has conquered it. Parents rest easy. Children go about the business of being themselves. How wonderful it is.

The climax to the majority of worry attributed to polio came on a series of Sunday afternoons here in the county. The Medical Society held clinics in a number of schools and

passed out serum coated sugar cubes. Children and their parents came in great numbers. The end was at last, in sight.

Now there is another disease. Measles. Not as fear invoking as polio, but nevertheless a most serious problem. Again the Medical Society will offer a vaccine this Sunday in many of the same schools. Parents are urged to take their youngsters ages 1 to 10 who have not had either measles or the vaccine.

If Franklin citizens respond to this campaign as they did to the polio clinics, the end to measles will also be in sight.

We can't see how anyone could do less than visit these clinics this Sunday. We owe it to our children.

NATIONAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Pearson Says Rockefeller

Drew Pearson, one of the nation's leading columnists, recently predicted next summer's Republican National Convention would nominate Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York.

Pearson thus joins a growing number of political experts who have recently swung over to the opinion that Rockefeller is the Republican most likely to defeat President Lyndon Johnson in 1968.

Rockefeller's boosters feel he would carry populous New York

State and the northeast overwhelmingly and that his demonstrated administrative ability and experience,

and the image of sophistication so admired in the late President Kennedy, make him the proper contrast against the President.

Pearson's prediction is another of signs appearing regularly now indicating the 1968 Republican convention is certain to be a hair-raiser, the more exciting of the two major party conventions next year.

Classroom Grades

Columbia University recently announced it would abolish class rankings in four of its undergraduate schools. In other words, students will either pass or fail and no grades will be issued. Columbia is following the lead of several other eastern colleges in adopting this policy.

The Columbia action could be the forerunner of a further step, a step which would bring American colleges and universities into harmony with most European universities—ending the requirement for classroom attendance. There are those who believe students should develop the responsibility within themselves to attend or not attend classes. Smarter students can in some instances successfully acquit themselves in examination after minimum attendance under this system.

The traditional American concept has been one of compulsory attendance and grading, and one of the justifications for this system is the fact that a larger percentage of American youngsters attend colleges and universities. In Europe most university students have decided upon their professions, are often older and are the elite of the lower schools academically.

Since this is not true in America, where many attend college having little idea of their future or choice of a profession, and since social activities at American colleges are far more widespread and detracting, and since students are often quite young, it would seem the traditional American concepts are still practical and contain considerable merit.

WIDENING



Sharing

TOO OFTEN AN INDIVIDUAL'S success is judged by his accumulation of wealth . . . the house he lives in; the amount of money he has; the fact that he can boast of two automobiles; or the expensive parties he gives, etc. But is this the 'fruitage' that is spoken of in the Bible?

What better spiritual awareness could one have or demonstrate as fruitage than for others to say: "He is certainly a man of principle." . . . "He's kind, loving and considerate." . . . "I like the way he treats his help." . . . "He's a man of character and good-will." . . . "He's lots of fun and good cheer." . . . "He's a real friend."

Here we have the real fruitage. Not so much his 'dollar' value—but the spiritual qualities that shine forth in his treatment and interest in others—his willingness to share his cheer and joy—and to 'love his neighbor as himself.'

There is no mistaking such an individual . . . his greatness or his success. And the path he follows is open to all who see their fruitage, not in 'dollars' but in the more substantial things of Spirit.

On Wake School Situation

BY JESSE HELMS

It is now apparent that Wake County's School Superintendent Fred A. Smith is held in a degree of unanimous disaffection by the members of the elected school board to which he has supposedly been answerable in connection with the operation of his office. As Mr. Smith undoubtedly knows, this is no condition created overnight or prompted by impulsive tempers. It is, as much as anything else, a measurement of public frustration with respect to the stormy trends of education in America today.

The public is fed up with paying more and more only to be told they're getting less and less in educational quality for their children. And federal pressures, ever aimed at more integration instead of better education, have drenched the whole confused pattern with resentment and hostility. And from it all has emerged, among many school administrators, an attitude of absolute dominion; they are not to be questioned, much less restrained, by the public which pays the bill. Elected school boards, meanwhile, have too often abdicated their responsibility to make and set policy; instead, they have meekly followed policies advanced by sometimes cajoling, and often threatening, administrators who are not di-

rectly accountable to the public.

It is not for us to say precisely where Superintendent Smith suffered his professional Dunkirk. Unquestionably the man possesses ability. But through the years he has become something of a monarch, as well. School board members frankly say that he has overplayed his hand: a pair of deuces, in a showdown, has never beat a full house.

If there is a certain spark of vitality left in this republic, which some call a democracy, it is in the people's certainty to rebel once they have been pushed over the line of their endurance. Superintendent Smith may correctly complain that the rebellion in his system, or against it, was sparked by the dictatorial conduct of bureaucrats beyond the Potomac. But he has not always himself been persuasive that he is considerably less Napoleonic in his own methods. So when the winds began to blow, his own house began to collapse.

There is some who, in the aftermath of all of this, will cast dark glances at the people of Cary for their uprising against Mr. Smith. But the truth of the matter is that Cary citizens were merely exercising their right of free assembly and reasonable protest. For once, it was a citizens' group speaking its mind, having its say—protesting a school policy advanced by Mr. Smith and accepted by his school board without advance study or serious question. Weeks after the policy was adopted, a member of the school board candidly confessed that he voted for it without a full explanation of its implications.

So who will contend that the people of Cary had recourse other than to raise their voices in protest against not merely an astonishingly drastic policy itself, but the like-it-or-lump-it manner in which it was instituted? It was a public outcry that crystallized the image which Fred Smith had created for himself.

The lesson in all of this is not one for Superintendent Smith alone to learn. Nor is it one addressed merely to school administrators, school boards and school teachers. Hopefully, it may serve as a warning to all in public life who drift into a comfortable haze of personal omnipotence to the point of disregarding the will of the people.

For there is, of course, a breaking point, a point beyond which the people will not be pushed, one that cannot be blunted by threats of sanctions, or by demands, or by warnings of pretended disaster.

There may yet be a way, and a reason, to salvage Fred Smith's usefulness and experience. This will largely depend upon him, and his own willingness to accept the constitutional processes which are supposed to dictate the operations of the schools of this county. It was never intended that Wake County endure a dictator of education. It is possible that Mr. Smith never intended to be one. But whether he goes or how long he stays, the elected members of the school board have a duty now to take charge and keep control—and surrender it again neither to domination from Washington nor to the whims of any hired administrator. The public schools in Wake County have reached a fork in the road. The public will be watching with interest which direction they will travel.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Speed Takes Issue

Letter To The Editor

The mention, in your front page news article, on April 18, 1967, of discrimination in the proposed salary for the Franklin County Register of Deeds, really tops it all. You even tried further to get the point across in an editorial, in the same issue of your paper, which was also based on lack of facts. Mr. Alex Wood, the Register of Deeds, must have been pleased with the proposal. He wrote me a letter expressing his thanks for the proposed raise for him and the members of his staff and thanked me for going by his office to discuss the matter with him.

The salary schedule was prepared after being discussed with the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, the County governing body, and approved unanimously by that body. Further, the schedule was discussed with each of the affected department heads to obtain their views. None of them appeared to feel that there was discrimination in the schedule.

Your cry of discrimination because, under the proposed bill, the Sheriff of Franklin County would get \$200.00 per year more than the Register of Deeds would have been unjustified if it were true. I was attempting to consider the sheriff's extra work and responsibilities—seven days a week, subject to call 24 hours every day. The Register of

Deeds, Mr. Alex Wood, would have received more salary from the County tax funds than Sheriff Dement just as he is now doing.

My proposed salary schedule would have provided \$6,400 annually for Sheriff Dement and \$6,200 for Mr. Alex Wood, which in addition to the amount paid Mr. Wood by the Board of County Commissioners (\$10.00 for each meeting) for serving as Clerk to the Board, would have made his annual salary between \$100.00 and \$200.00 more than the salary of the sheriff.

As you already know, all of our County Departments are important. We have attempted to do the best possible for each of them in the light of the amount of tax dollars available. Of course, we owe a duty to all of the people of Franklin County to see that their tax dollars are spent wisely. We think these proposed salaries compare favorably with comparable positions in business and in secretarial positions in Franklin County.

In order to correct the impression of your article and editorial concerning the salary schedule, I hope that you will give this letter the same recognition as you did the original story on the front page of your newspaper.

Very truly yours,
James D. Speed
State Legislative Building
Raleigh, N. C.

Faculty Offers Thanks

Letter to the Editor:

The saying that emergencies can reveal some of the best qualities in human beings was abundantly verified on the Louisburg College campus Saturday afternoon, April 22. Following a downpour of long-awaited rain, accompanied by severe lightning strokes on the campus, a visiting Chowan College tennis player discovered smoke rising from the faculty apartments. With the prompt arrival of the Louisburg Fire Department and the intrepid and efficient work of the firemen, the fire was brought under control within the end of the building where the lightning had struck and with a minimum of damage to personal belongings.

The purpose of this letter is to express something of the deep appreciation of the friendly, effective and faithful attitude and aid during the fire scare.

It is with deep humility and appreciation that we, of the faculty apartments, say "thank you everyone for the kindness shown to us during our crisis." Such a heart warming experience we can never forget: the firemen and their wonderful and efficient work; the people of the community with their offers of open hearts and homes in providing mealtime, nighttime and all-day-time hospitality, and for use of trucks in providing transportation in moving personal possessions. The college students also came to the rescue in giving such or-

ganized help in moving out the occupants' belongings and offering to take care of the children. There came numberless and varied other evidences of helpful attitudes, from the salvaging of a stack of discarded newspapers by a little six year old to the generous offer of complimentary meals in the college cafeteria by the director of Slater Food Service.

How far the damage went to the building is undetermined at this writing, but how far the image of overflowing friendliness and helpfulness by unnamed and unnumbered citizens of Louisburg and the students of Louisburg College went illustrated and reconfirms a Christian image of brotherhood and concern of which we can be justly proud and for which we, the occupants of the faculty apartments then, affirm our gratefulness in words inadequate to express all, but words written with the warmth of deep and abiding sincerity. You reflected the best in a community for which we are thankful to be a part. The remark of one of us can be borrowed to help express the feeling of all of us: "The fire was almost worth the event to experience the real warmth and friendliness of the people of Louisburg."

Sincerely,

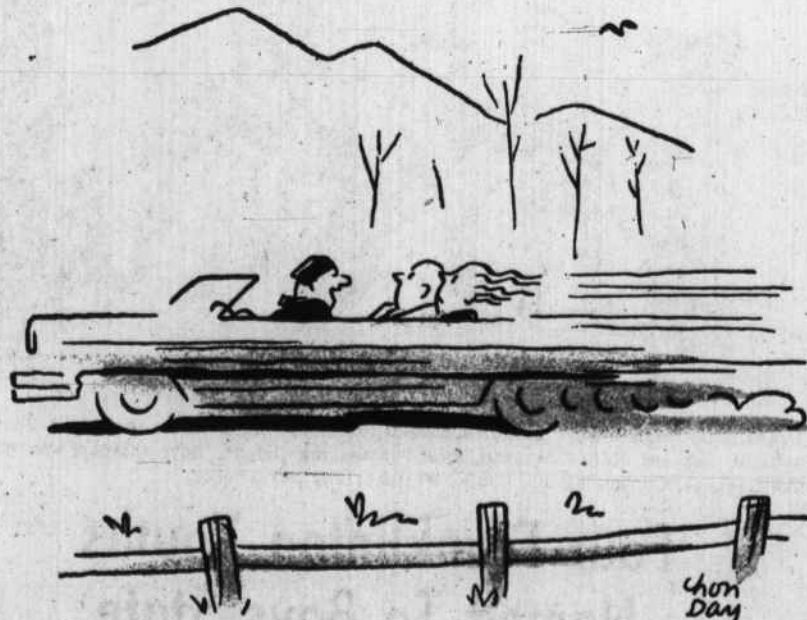
Shelton and Velma Brown
Zelda Coor
Ruth Merritt
Rachael Modlin
Billy and Judy Parrish
Grady and Tootsie Snyder.

News Briefs Survey

In a final survey for 1966, the Agriculture Department has estimated corn for grain production at 4,103,323 bushels and wheat at 1,310,642,000 bushels. Both crops were grown under a department stabilization program.

Surprised Bandits

Los Angeles—After locking up the proprietors of a liquor store, two youths rang up a sale for a customer using the no sale button which set off a silent burglar alarm. Police met them at the door as they left with \$850.



"Used to worry before I got the safety belts."

The Franklin Times

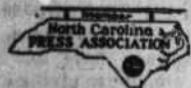
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