

The Tar Heel.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

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It is our purpose to make the TAR HEEL a fair representative of our University life. We, as an editorial board, are working with this end in view, but many questions of importance doubtless escape our attention. In order to have these duly emphasized we will place at the disposal of the student-body one column of our space, for the discussion of any question in which they are interested. If you desire to institute any reform, remedy any abuse, or discuss any pertinent question don't hesitate to state your position and mail it to us.

* *

It is rather unfortunate we think, that the various Societies and Clubs of the University hold their regular monthly meetings during the same week, and in some instances on the same night of this week. The objections to this arrangement are many and easily stated. One is, that it crowds up our paper with too much club news for one issue. But the great reason is that it prevents men, who may be interested in work done by all, from getting the benefit of the excellent papers read before these societies.

When all the meetings occur on the same night, the student can obviously attend but one; and when they are all crowded into one week he cannot afford to lose so much time from his regular work, and consequently absents himself from one or more.

Now we suggest that the executive committees of the Societies or whoever has the proper power, get together and arrange a schedule of dates. Let the meetings be scattered throughout the month and in no case permit a conflict.

* *

We desire to call the attention of the students, who take their meals at the Commons to a prophecy that that is being made concerning them.

The enemies of this new enterprise tell us that the death of the Commons is near, and those who board there will be the direct cause of its death. They argue in this way: One hundred and fifty boys cannot assemble together without committing acts offensive to good taste, morality and common decency. There will be some black sheep in the crowd, they say, the offensive acts will increase and the time will come when Public Opinion, like an avenging angel, will arise in all its solemn and mighty power and blot the Commons from the face of the earth

for ever. Of course we don't subscribe to one word of this slanderous prophecy, for we know the men about whom it has been made. We felt it our duty, however, to let the student body know just what is being expected of them. We congratulate them upon their excellent conduct and would enjoin upon them the necessity of frowning upon everything that even savors of rowdyism. Keep in mind the fact that the dining room of the Commons is a public place, that the public eye is upon us, that every thoughtless act will be scattered abroad, and will be magnified and distorted.

* *

Our attention has frequently been directed to the amount of work required in the one and two hour courses offered by the various departments of the University. It seems to be the general opinion that the work in these courses is about equal to the work required in courses that count three and even four hours. This should certainly not be the case, and, if true, is due, we think, to the exalted opinion, the professor usually has of his own course. Suppose you meet a professor only once a week, when he assigns the lesson for the next meeting, he will use language something like this. "Well, you will have from now until this time next week on this lesson, and I will give you about fifty pages. You can certainly get up fifty pages in a week." Now this is about the same amount of work done in any three hour course and yet counts only one hour. The professor seems to think that the poor student is taking his course only and forgets that he has fourteen or fifteen hours under somebody else. The work done in any course should be directly as its value for a degree. Let the professors get rid of the idea that their departments are all important and apportion their work according to the numerical valuation of the course. We don't like to criticize the faculty but we grow weary when we think of the work required of us in some courses, and the little credit we get for doing the work.

We would recommend all those who have exalted opinions of University men never to go near the postoffice about the time when mails are opened. The behavior of these men, who assemble there is absolutely disgraceful and unworthy of men and gentlemen any where under any circumstances. Because there is some little delay is no reason why there should be pushing and crowding and a whole list of kindred performances.

A man who is not an expert football player, is in danger of sustaining some permanent injury. It is thoughtless, we are sure, and will be stopped when the men give it their serious attention. If there is no other remedy we suggest to postmaster Pritchard that he refuse to open the office when such conduct is commenced. This, we think, would act as a damper on their excessive animal spirit and thus cause them to reflect upon what they have been doing.

Handsome lot of imported briar pipes and tobaccos just opened at Spalding's.

N. C. LONG.

Literary Work Again.

For a long time it has been our pleasure to think that the University was making rapid strides forward.

There is no doubt of the fact that life here has been on the up-grade and has grown from that of the mere college and has widened into something larger.

In one direction, however, our growth has been dwarfed—yes, almost paralyzed. We refer to original literary development and work.

A short time ago reference was made to this, and attention was called to the appalling paradox of a University and no practical evidence of any literary spirit.

The truth, the bitter truth, is that it is not here.

The writer heard a gentleman give this parting advice to his son setting out for the University, "And whatever else you leave undone learn to use your own tongue."

How meagre are his opportunities for carrying out the injunction! In hot pursuit of all the various ologies we are drifting away from conscientious study of English and very little importance is attached to it in college.

Proof of the statement is not wanting. Why is it that we have no magazine here? You cannot point to a single college, even of second class grade, that has not something of the sort; and here is the University of North Carolina boasting of leadership even in higher education and offering no incentive or outlet at all to original literary work.

There seems to be food for thought and action along this line.

There is such a thing as "off years" in politics and the same thing is true in foot ball. We fear this will be the case with us this season unless somebody goes to work with more spirit than has yet been evidenced. Why is it that so much valuable time is spent on light men who have not the slightest shadow of a chance of making the team? Of course we want these men to play, but we do insist that those who coach the team should give their time to the heavy men, who will doubtless represent the Varsity in the various games this season. We have the material if we can get it trained, and we must accomplish this. Walk out on the field during a practice, and you will see some little one hundred and thirty pounder running with the ball and some big brawny fellow standing on the line doing nothing. This is simply suicidal and must be stopped if we are to win a single game this season.

Some of our friends have formed the habit of crowding into the Printing Office and securing their paper before it is mailed. Many who are guilty of this are not subscribers to the paper and take this means of reading the paper without paying for it. Now, we don't want to be discourteous to anybody, but we say to all, whether subscribers or not, stay away from the Office unless your business calls you there.

The printers cannot work, the editors cannot read proofs and perform the many duties that devolve upon them when the room is packed with a crowd of idlers and dead-beats.

Every person has two educations; one which he receives from others, and one, more important, which he gives himself.—Gibbon.

* *

Never be grandiloquent when you want to drive home a truth. Don't whip with a switch that has leaves on it if you want to tingle—Beecher.

How to Write a Column about Nothing in Particular.

Kind reader did you ever try to edit a newspaper? If you have you know something of my trouble at this moment. If you have not you can have no conception of the emotions that surge across one's soul when the foreman says, "We lack a column yet."

You have written about every conceivable subject, your brain is exhausted and absolutely refuses to work, but something must be done. The space is blank and must be filled.

You take your seat with the feeling that you are the most persecuted of mortals, but that isn't grinding out copy. So you grab a pen in one hand, a good-sized bunch of hair in the other and you wade in. You exclaim with whoever said it, "All is vanity and vexation of spirit," and you are heartily disgusted with life.

After talking in this vein for some time and spilling about three times as much ink as the writer has on this article you have your column. The foreman is satisfied and your task is done.

The Library Committee are very glad to get fair criticism from those who use the Library and the Reading Room. This is one of the ways by which the most may be done for the convenience of readers. The note in the TAR HEEL of a week ago calls up some abuses that can be corrected only by college sentiment. The Reading Room is not very attractive at its best, and can be made tolerable only by our consideration of others. The marking, or cutting, or carrying off papers is very selfish to say the least, and shows little appreciation for the efforts made to sustain the Room, and for the feelings of fellow readers. A little thoughtful unselfishness on our part will remove from the Room smoking, loud talking, anything else that may be obtrusive to those more sensitive than ourselves.

What impression does our Reading Room make on a stranger? What impression would we have it make.

The first regular meeting of the University Philosophical Club will be held Tuesday, October 6th, in the English room, at 8 p. m.

The subject for the evening will be: The nature of Mathematical Knowledge. Papers will be read by Messrs. S. Brown, Shepherd and Thos. L. Wright.

All members are requested to be present, come well armed to defend your opinions.

R. H. WRIGHT,
CHAIRMAN.

Y. M. C. A. Leaders.

Monday—J. T. Thorne.
Tuesday—R. H. Wright.
Wednesday—W. T. Ursy.
Thursday—W. McIver.

Best Thoughts of Best Thinkers

Purposes, like eggs, unless they are hatched into action, will run into decay.—Smiles.

* *

Absence destroys trifling intimacies, but inaugurates strong ones.—Rochefoucauld.

