

**THE TAR HEEL**  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

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Published once a week by the General Athletic Association.

Entered in the Postoffice at Chapel Hill, N. C., as second-class matter.

Printed by The University Press, Chapel Hill.

Subscription Price, \$1.50 per Year

Payable IN ADVANCE or during first term.  
SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS.

Our public school system was established because the fathers of the commonwealth recognized it to be a fundamental duty of the State to educate its citizens. That education did not mean to them merely an elementary training in elementals is evidenced by the establishment of this University. It bears witness that the duty of the State has not been discharged until it makes adequate provision for the smaller number of those who seek and can profit by a higher training—provided for them by making possible the training of leaders in the work of upbuilding the State.

But glance at the system, as it exists today. We have a system of public schools which take a child at the age of six and train him until he is within three or perhaps two years of the point when he can enter college, and there it drops him.

We have a State University together with the other State institutions of higher learning, which are provided with costly equipment for the instruction of the State's youth. Institutions of learning, most of them are, which can give to him or her who is properly prepared as valuable training as can be secured anywhere.

A system of public grammar schools, a system of colleges—and between the two a yawning gulf.

What is the effect of this state of affairs? The would-be college students are forced to wander in the wilderness during the two or three years of preparation, scores give up the idea of coming to college, the others are forced to obtain such preparation as they can, much of which is inadequate. The result is not only a smaller enrollment in all our colleges, but less efficient work on the part of the students, many of whom barely squeeze by the entrance requirements and who, becoming discouraged, drop out before the completion of their course.

Now if it is right as a matter of principle that the State after providing for the education of the many should establish higher institutions for those desiring special training, it is certainly right as a matter of principle that the State should establish a system of high schools to bridge the gulf. It is certainly right as a matter of economy to

establish it, that the greatest returns may be secured from the investment in the higher institutions.

It may be said that so imperfect are our public schools that every cent should be lavished upon them. The demand of the common schools is undeniably great; their need is pressing. But though this fact is an argument against the unwise expenditure of funds upon high schools, it cannot be an argument against their establishment. If so, rather would it first demand the abolition of the entire system of higher education. Justice, reason and economy demand public high schools. They must come, and the sooner they come the better for the Old North State.

Dr. R. O. E. Davis, the brilliant young instructor in chemistry, who figured prominently in the Matthews case at Greensboro, and who is justly proud of his name, has a legitimate cause for action against the State press. It has persistently and consistently murdered his name for the past few days, robbing it of all its euphony. The Wilmington Messenger led off by making it Dr. O. E. Davis, the Charlotte Observer and the Winston Sentinel followed with R. E. O. each; whereupon the Industrial News, of Greensboro, added insult to injury by crediting him with R. H. O. E. These are merely a few cases typical of the rest, which are numberless. It is true that the constitution of the United States guarantees liberty of the press, but when that liberty is presumed upon to such an extent as this, it's time to call a halt.

This old world is a selfish thing, calmly appropriating to herself every good thing that comes along and giving credit when she feels like it. Just take, for instance, that serviceable word "stunt". What does it mean? You can't define it, because there is not a synonym for it in the whole English language. And yet never a day passes that you do not pause for the proper word to denote some feat or other, cast your eyes helplessly about you, and wind up by saying "stunt". It may mean any of fifty different things, but it always fills the bill.

The world owes a debt of gratitude to the genius who invented the term. He should be retired on a competency or be made a Fellow in Verbefaction instead of being forced to drift around the world in the darkness of utter oblivion unpensioned, "unhonored and unsung."

The faculty baseball team have challenged the Seniors to meet them on the diamond during Commencement week. And the Seniors have said that like Barkis they're willin'. That contest will put all others hopelessly in the shade. One of the most entertaining features of a game like that is to sit on the bleachers and try to recognize the different devotees of the sport "in facultate," as they appear sans coat, sans hat, sans collar, sans "dignitate." If you are versed in "finding the man" in daily picture puzzles you'll have the advantage of your seat-mate, but you'll find this requires a much higher degree of skill than that.

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The personal criticism of the members of the team expected for this issue has been indefinitely postponed on account of friction between the players and the University, concerning the interpretation of an eligibility rule. For the past two afternoons no teams have reported for practice. It was thought best, therefore, to defer the article until it became certain that Carolina would have a team.

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