

THE TAR HEEL

"The Leading College Newspaper in the State"

Official Organ of the Athletic Association of the University of North Carolina. Published Twice Every Week. Subscription Price \$2.00 local, and \$2.50 Out of Town, for the College Year.

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PROFESSIONALISM

Never was an issue more beclouded than that of "professionalism in athletics" by the few half-baked enthusiasts who have been propagating its discussion here on the campus during the last few days. Not during this college generation has the student body as consistently refused to think straight as it has this fall which is only epitomized in the stand that some men have taken on this question of professionalism.

As it has come to the "Tar Heel," those who are supporting professionalism in our athletics are rallying about a statement that some alumnus has written to his son here in college, "How do you expect the state to give the University great support when you can't even win a football game?" On its face, it would seem that this man is standing where college athletics stood when he was in college a quarter of a century ago. But the significant thing is not where he got it, but that he is wrong.

The University rests its case on what it is doing for the educational life of the state. Its purpose is not to propagate athletics, for athletics is merely a cog in the great life of the University, and in which there is no justification for the slightest tinge of professionalism. What would the students say if we were to hire some orator to win our debates for us? But it seems to us that some of our students and alumni would lay the whole stress on athletics and let them ultimately absorb the University—truly a case of the part swallowing the whole. They have lost sight of the real question. Students have forgotten what they came to college for.

If the state is going to support the University according as it wins or loses athletic contests, then there is no question but that we should center our efforts solely about athletic activities. But North Carolina established this University "to educate the youth of the state," and it is going to support it with money and equipment just in proportion as it measures up to its purpose. And it stood here and functioned as an educational institution for a century before a single football game was played.

And athletics were begun because physical vigor contributes to a man's success as a student. In a quarter of a century this sideline has so swept over the University that students are no longer certain why they are here. And they measure the success or failure of their college life in accordance as we win or lose athletic contests.

The Phi Assembly was right when it recorded itself as opposed to any professionalism. But it was not certain it was right; because a great number of men voted against it.

English 21 has voted unanimously against professionalism, and yet, at the same meeting passes a resolution saying "that the University have a well-organized scouting system to look up good players, that they shall receive an 'official' invitation to a banquet and dance to be held at Commencement," etc. The stench is still upon its hands. Such a suggestion is farcical when we remember what such a thing would mean. That boy back yonder in the woods who has never seen a football, but who has fought his way up through poverty and the high school in order to get a

college education has just as much claim on the attention of the University as has the best high school athlete in the state. And ordinarily more, because his interest is the real purpose of the University—an educational interest. The University knows no high school athletes; it is interested in the pedigree of no particular prospect; it knows only its responsibilities "to the youth of the state." And if it shows interest in the high school youth, it must be on an educational basis.

And yet, this resolution says that on the basis of high school athletic record the University shall extend an "official" invitation to a banquet and dance. Can anyone conceive of a greater blunder? Can the function of the University be worse distorted? Never.

ABOUT OURSELVES

Some have attacked us bitterly because we said that "We hope that the Student Council will hang at break of day, without benefit of clergy or trial by jury, anyone (man or co-ed) who uses the phrase 'Carolina spirit.'" That may sound a bit militant, and we are glad that it has incited the ire of some students. The only change that we would suggest now is that it may be necessary to hang two at a time in order to handle the job neatly.

Men have been tortured by being placed in a brake and having their body torn in twain; by being allowed to slowly starve to death; and the Indians have killed some by tying them to stakes and slowly inserting lighted splinters between their ribs. Women have been hanged up by the hair of the head and allowed to die. But never has any body or thing been more mangled and emaciated than the "Carolina spirit." It has been bent over all sorts of situations, and applied to everything in the environs of Chapel Hill that is not something to eat, drink, or wear. To a few of the students and faculty it has content, but apparently to the vast majority of both groups it means nothing. And it is to preserve the sanctity of this phrase for those to whom it means something, that we recommend such drastic means.

We have manifestations of class spirit; of fraternity spirit; of society spirit; of athletic spirit (sometimes); and perhaps some have imbibed the spirit of learning. All of these are good, but neither one is the real spirit of Carolina as they are referred to.

But the biggest problem this campus is up against is no spirit, and no interest; and of continuous outbursts of the mob spirit. Not during this college generation has the student body run rife as it has during this fall. This has evidenced itself as "lack of spirit and no interest" in:

The student mass meeting in Memorial Hall. The spirit and attitude of those present was fine. But what of the 900—two-thirds of the student body who never attended. And yet it was thoroughly advertised as having to deal with THE MOST IMPORTANT STUDENT PROBLEM IN THE WHOLE LIFE OF THE UNIVERSITY. Those advertisements were put out by the Campus Cabinet—supposedly the constructively interested student brain. And only one-third of the students were out. What's the matter with the man who went to the "Pick"; or who sat and conducted a bullsession in his room; or smoked his pipe about a victrola, instead of going. He is a dead beat; a parasite on the student body. Can it be that there are men on this campus—potentially the greatest and freest place in the world, with interest and consciousness so dead that he will not respond to what is authoritatively called a "discussion of the most significant student problem in the history of the University." It is possible that some were compelled to be away; but it is hardly probable that two-thirds of the student body were forced to stay away. They were evidently consumed with the spirit of indifference.

We see other manifestations of this sort of spirit in the elaborate posters that adorn the campus; and the rusty nails that open the way for rot and decay in our trees that it requires a century to grow. We see it in the library where rogues have removed vast sections from the daily papers placed there for the public. We see it more strikingly again in the Armistice Day celebration. The University gave a class hour off, provided an excellent program and about four hundred and fifty came out.

These "indifferents" may be only exercising their liberties. If so, it is liberty without license; and indifference and recklessness without parallel in the whole life of the University. A liberty that both these men and the University would be better off without.

But the greater pity is that when the students are stirred from this state of lethargy; they are usually dominated by a mob spirit that is equally disheartening: as instanced in the rotten-egging of the Republican

celebration in the streets of Chapel Hill, and using as a target a man who came to the University with financial assistance when it was in a great stringency. But whether the man had befriended the University or not, there was no justification for what the students did. Only another blot on their record; and blots can't be erased.

But perhaps the dirtiest thing of the year was the premeditated, forced entrance of a group of students to the stadium to witness the Chapel Hill-Camp Bragg football game, displaying an absolute lack of honor; and disregard for the welfare of others. A typical mob action where intelligence and right dare not trend.

If the spirit of Carolina includes anything, it is a sense of responsibility, of fair play, and of honor; and along with these a thousand other less vital things. And even in these vital things we as a group fail hopelessly to measure up. We lack even the spirit of athletics (as we shall point out later).

We conceive of perhaps a dozen people in Chapel Hill having the real spirit of Carolina. We can't define what it is, because its definition would be its undoing. But we know it means something. And nothing here is more thoroughly misunderstood, misapplied, and mis-nomered than "the Carolina spirit."

FACTS AND COMMENTS

The Mathematical Club will hold its second meeting of the year Thursday night at seven thirty in Phillips 206. Two papers will be presented: "The Contribution of Descartes," by Dr. J. W. Lasley and "An Interesting Maximal Case," by Mr. H. G. Baity.

At the opening meeting of the club, held recently, Dr. William Cain gave an address: "The Spirit of Scientific Research" and Dr. Archibald Henderson read a paper: "Does Minus Three Times Minus Three Give Plus Nine"

Debaters were selected for the annual freshman inter-society debate in the Dialectic Society at a preliminary Friday night. The successful candidates on the affirmative were L. L. Andrews and W. E. White, with H. D. Deels as alternate, while E. H. Hartsel and C. B. Yarley were selected, with W. W. Gwynn as alternate. Thirteen speakers entered the contest this year. In addition to the successful candidates, the speakers were as follows: S. M. Turner, A. D. Butler, L. V. Huggins, A. L. Dowd, J. C. McGillard, H. S. Capps, and J. H. Crichton.

Mr. Stephen Cole, a student at the University last year, who has been critically ill at his home near Chapel Hill with pneumonia, is improving rapidly.

During the week the following initiations were held:

Delta Kappa Epsilon—Samuel Jenkins.
Theta Chi—John L. Rendlman.
Delta Psi Delta—S. R. McClurd, W. B. Smott, T. C. Taylor, C. L. Nichols, J. S. Newbern, Forest G. Miles, D. G. Caldwell, Daniel L. Grant, J. D. Dorsette, and W. L. Holding.

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