

The Tar Heel

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE PUBLICATIONS UNION
SERVING CIVILIAN AND MILITARY STUDENTS AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

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To the STUDENT BODY...

... from the EDITOR

PRICE VIOLATIONS

Thanks to the special staff investigation committee, the Tar Heel has proven charges of ceiling price violations against the Campus Cafe. The conviction came only after many long hours of hard work by the members of the staff whose names are in the news story on the front page of this issue. A number of the staff members stayed awake late at night in an effort to uncover their evidence.

We wish to take this opportunity to make a statement which has been impossible up until now. We sincerely apologize to all merchants and all persons of Chapel Hill who have been unjustly harmed by the Tar Heel's full-scale attack on the deplorable eating conditions which we have seen in some places. We are now hearing everyday reports of improved service and of renewed effort of many food merchants to serve the students. We were interested in the comment made to us the other day by Edward Danziger who said that it looked to him that changes for the better were being made in the situation.

As we have stated in a previous editorial, we created more heat than light in many instances. We realize that some merchants have just reason to feel bitter toward all who have participated in the campaign, composing quite a large group of the student body.

After weeks of strained relations, we now solicit the friendship of all those who think that they were unjustly injured. We do this on grounds that we have proved (and have been supported by the OPA) that ceiling prices were being violated in Chapel Hill and the student body was thus being cheated, as we stated and refused to deny—either then or now. The fact that poisoning was occurring in Chapel Hill (another statement which was challenged) we now present as our only evidence the statements by students.

It was not the desire of the Tar Heel to see the student body's first gripe go neglected when we knew that certain substantial reason for such gripe existed.

Unlimited praise is due the University administration—particularly to Chancellor House—for the fine manner in which they have handled the problem. When downtown merchants were still condemning students and their publication for the brutal and dramatic expose, the University was making rapid efforts to clean up its own eating establishments such as the Graham Memorial Cafeteria. The improvement, particularly in the Cafeteria, has been tremendous.

We can do no more than say this in the way of a sincere apology to all of those who may have been hurt: all remarks were printed in the most sincere interests of the student body. We have now presented our positive evidence of ceiling price violations. We apologize completely for remarks which were too strong or too sweeping. A continued desire exists on the part of the Tar Heel to maintain a sense of co-operation with all persons living in the University community.

It is obviously true that many students face a real problem in their effort to meet food expenses. The cost of meals is high.

Until the end of the emergency, we will continue to search for violations of the laws. We only hope that everyone will understand that first of all we want better eating conditions. We are working on the assumption that public knowledge of bad conditions improves those conditions. Aside from the maintenance of this principle, we hope to never quarrel with anyone.

USE THE WASTEBASKETS!

The Order of the Grail is, as an experiment, installing wastebaskets in Saunders Hall. If the test case proves that the students will use them, they will be supplied by the Grail to all class buildings. Certainly the general appearance of the buildings will be improved if waste paper, cigarette butts, and other miscellaneous items are not strewn through the halls and in the rooms. If the students will co-operate with the Grail in this project simply by using the trashcans, it will be a great help in the beautification of the campus.

ATOMIC BOMB

Whatever can be said about the effects of the atomic bomb at this time is mere speculation; however it would be interesting to observe the possible effects of this bomb on the war, the peace, and the universe.

The course of the present war could be changed drastically due to the bomb. At present the war would have to be fought from island to island, requiring huge invasions and resulting in many deaths; the use of the atomic bomb could easily have such an effect on the enemy that they would sue for peace. The bomb could destroy so many of our enemy that they would see the uselessness of continuing the war and would comply with our unconditional surrender ultimatum. If they were not to comply with our demands, the bomb, if used in quantity, could destroy the enemy entirely. In either case, the war could be shortened immeasurably by the use of this deadly weapon.

It seems hard to believe that peace could be effected by the invention of so deadly a weapon; we think it is quite possible, after observing two obvious facts. If war-loving countries that do not know the secret of the atomic bomb were to be kept ignorant of it, they would develop a fear of destruction, and therefore would not consider waging war. Secondly, the principle of atomic bombs could be used by science to create new methods of power for peaceful living and not for destruction. The impetus would then be for developments in power, transportation, communication, and other scientific achievements.

The effect on the world, or even the universe, could be disastrous if the bomb were used for destructive purposes. If it can destroy a large city, why could it not destroy all civilization eventually? The answer is obviously, "It could." It is hardly imaginable, but an atomic bomb of great scope could also vaporize the world. It is dangerous for such an invention to be in the hands of man, but let us hope that it will be used to advantage by a world willing to forget minor differences, and a world which will strive for great scientific knowledge for the welfare of mankind.

CAMPUS CONSTITUTION

At last the legislature is well on the way to giving the students of Carolina a new constitution under which they may be governed. Much work is being put into this project by the various legislators who were appointed to the committee for the consideration of this problem by Speaker Hunt.

For a while it seemed as though the students would have to wait for a long while for a codified system of student government, but now it is fast becoming a reality. It must be understood that a project as difficult as this one takes considerable time to be brought to completion, and we must not expect a complete constitution the day after tomorrow.

A vote of thanks is due to the student legislature for the work it has done, the work it is doing, and the work it will accomplish in the near future. The legislature is at last realizing that something can be done with the aid of some good, honest sweat.

Smoker's Hack

By Banks Mebane

Last Monday, August 6, 1945, the city of Hiroshima saw a minute object detach itself from a super-fortress and drift lazily down on a parachute; shortly thereafter the strategically important spot became—the past city of Hiroshima. But not before its name became indelibly written in every history book ever to be printed in the future.

Mark the date well—August 6, 1945—for it signifies the first demonstration to the world at large of the greatest discovery of science since some super-ape or sub-man first found that fire was useful for something besides burning a forest. Since that day practically every source of power had been based either on fire (the combustion of oxidizable material in air) or on the energy of moving water; this first utilization of the energy that is inherent within all matter marks the passage of a landmark in scientific (and industrial) progress. What the future may hold in store is a long vista leading to two possible conclusions—complete destruction of civilization or new heights as yet incomprehensible.

Since there is no seer among us, no person who can peer "through a glass, darkly," to see which road the world will take, there is no way to determine what the outcome actually will be.

What we can evaluate to some extent now, however, is just what we have and just what might be done with it.

What we have can easily be stated in one concise sentence: a source of power has been tapped that may, for all practical purposes, be considered infinite. A simple statement, that, but one which has staggering implications. However, before we swirl too far from the realm of practicality into the Cloud-Cuckoo Land of wild speculation, let us consider some sobering implications of the above sentence. We HAVE tapped that power source, but only barely that. We know that every atom, of every kind of

matter contains untold energy, but we do NOT know how to get to all of that energy; what we do know is the fact that if an atom of the metal uranium (an atom of an isotope of uranium having a mass of 235) is bombarded with low-velocity neutrons, its nucleus will dissociate (generally into two particles) with the liberation of an enormous quantity of energy. However, U-235 is scarce and exceedingly difficult to extract from uranium ore; most of the world's uranium exists in a heavier isotope having a mass of 238 units, and useless for the purpose of atomic fission by known pre-war methods. Just what extensive wartime research may have uncovered is unknown, but certainly atomic energy will not be a cheap or practical power source for some time to come. We have, however, taken a step, a very important step, in the right direction.

Just what may be done in the immediate future is difficult to determine. Certainly the use of atomic energy in another war could result in the complete destruction of industrial civilization, which is not a particularly pleasant prospect in the least. All research and control of atomic power should be at least under the supervision of the governments of the various nations; President Truman has already asked Congress to set up a board for that purpose. Perhaps a better solution to the problem would be international control by the Security Council of the United Nations Organization. Certainly it would put a mammoth weapon in the hands of this body for the preservation of peace; but then of what avail would that be in the event of a disruption of the UNO by one of the major powers? That nation would also possess the secret, and the final holocaust would result. The situation seems to be an almost insoluble one—the greatest boon ever given to humanity may drive it inevitably to its armageddon.

IRC Forum

By Elmo Roberds

Despite the first public expression of disappointment over the fact that the Potsdam declaration of the Big Three did not bring the Pacific War nearer a definite conclusion, by this week the full repercussion of it began to be felt. Its most important "bombshell," the general terms of settlement for the defeated German Reich, soon filled the newspapers and airways with commentaries.

Typical American reactions to the decision on Germany were expressed in last Monday's IRC program. Generally speaking, one group thought it "adequate and just" and another, "superficial and unfair," with various shades of opinion between. The first claimed that the Germans must reap their whirlwind. By ten years of exploitation and destruction of other European people, they must now pay with this drastic economic and political restriction. Though the dismemberment of the Reich's economy and the transference of several of its large territorial entities may cause hardships in Europe for a few years, this program of decentralization in the long run will spread the benefits of the continent over all its nations. By the Potsdam terms it is made certain that Junker militarism will never keep Europe in turmoil as it has since the mid-nineteenth century.

On the other hand, the second

group saw the declaration as an over-simplification of the basic causes of the present conflict. Like Senator Robert A. Taft, who thinks that the abandonment of the self-determination of peoples who to appease Polish territorial demands (in turn, Russian also) "certainly sows seeds of future war," they believed that making Germany the "goat" does not solve the European problem. Their opinion is that this economic, political, and social upheaval planned by the Big Three cannot undo trends of two hundred years. Even if this program is tried, it will cause untold suffering in traditionally industrialized central Europe. Some of this group, also Administration foes, thought that President Truman, by making peace with an executive agreement instead of a regular treaty, was afraid to face American public opinion on this decision and would not dare submit it for a two-thirds approval of the Senate.

Whatever the pro and con arguments, all the IRC members agreed that the Potsdam declaration would be enforced. With the most powerful nations in the world in accordance with it and their respective administrative heads determined to carry it out, the Big Three plan for a new Germany will proceed unhindered.

I View The Campus

By Bette Anne Melcher

There are ways and ways of getting into the water, and the more I go swimming, the more ways I see. First, there are those brave souls who start off by getting their big toe wet and fifteen minutes later manage to become completely submerged. Then there is the vigorous outdoor type which runs and jumps with a big splash while holding fast to its nose in case a stray drop of water goes the wrong way.

I come under the heading of those who go in head first, gracefully, of course, except their feet flap and they land flat... but who knows, maybe they will learn some day!

I am inspired to greater achievements along that line, however, watching that tall dark-headed fellow with the gorgeous tan execute a graceful swim dive off the high board. Now that, my friends, is the ideal way of entering the water!

This same fellow gets into the water various other ways which, while they are less ideal, are a good deal more intriguing! They must be tricky to perform because I can't even describe them adequately, but he manages to do several different kinds of flips before actually coming in contact with the

water. However I'll be satisfied with the swan dive.

Even if you manage to get into the water with no mishaps, though, your troubles are not over—heavens no, they're just beginning! You want to swim, huh? A noble idea if ever I heard one. Let's be off, like a herd of turtles, no less!

Well, here we are hanging on to the side of the pool with one arm waiting for a few people to get out of the way. You're right arm tired? Well, try your left arm for awhile. Oh, there's a clean space all the way across the pool—so off you start.

It was a good idea, anyway. You got two feet before someone coming the other way bumped into you about the same time a submarine character came up from six feet under right in your face. You tread water until the excitement calms down and then try again. This time you'll be smart. When you see someone coming, you'll just go under him. Oh, oh, he had the same idea and does your head hurt!

Anyway, you've made it halfway across the pool, and with only three or four more collisions you pant up to the other side, fifteen minutes later, utterly exhausted, and ready to go home.

It was a nice swim, wasn't it?

From the Bell Tower

By Jim Sanford

While the cat is away the mice will play... and speaking of Graham Memorial we have a kick to make... why can't the University provide some place beside the Student Union Building as a meeting place for all of the various institutes held here? ... During the past week we have heard many students complain of the crowded condition of GM... from the Grill to all of the rooms on the second floor... we think the University should continue sponsoring such institutes as the TWUA, the English teachers, and any other, but do not think they should take over the only place the students have to spend their leisure moments... after all we pay a fee, \$1.50 per trimester, for the use of the building... why can't the University turn the Institute of Government Building over to the next meeting of outsiders... or Gerrard Hall... or Memorial Hall... if there are reasons I think the student body has the right to know them.

Pity the poor students who have sixteen-week classes... in case you don't know by now, all sixteen-week classes will meet during the short vacation period... Notwithstanding wartime conditions we think the University Laundry is getting worse... two weeks to get a bundle back, and minus one shirt which they can't find, which is still better than a friend of ours who sent his laundry off

over two weeks ago and it is still missing... Bet no one falls for this one: if you need any help on your exams call 5911 and ask for Frank... it made the rounds about 1933... Carolina students are going to have a chance to see some good football this fall... the Pre-Flight School has four Sunday games scheduled for Chapel Hill and the University will play four Saturday home games... we never could figure out why the Pre-Flight and the Tar Heels don't tangle... it ought to make a good game... the board of aldermen of the village of Chapel Hill is currently discussing rent control... the question is: should Chapel Hill request the Government to establish here a rent control system? ... speaking with two years of living in town behind us, we think rents are not too high... we don't know, however, about apartment houses, but we understand that their rents have not been raised since the war began... Arthur Budlong, business manager of the Tar Heel, has resigned his position because of pressing class work... the desk editor and the associate editor of the Tar Heel spend press night sitting in the campus taking B-C powders... be sure and catch the movie "Wilson" when it comes to town next week... it is one of the best movies to come from Hollywood in a long time...