

The Daily Tar Heel



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Saturday, March 8, 1930

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY

One of the common causes of skepticism is the sight of Christian people saying one thing and doing another—Professor James Moffatt.

Locked Classrooms And Approaching Exams

Most of us are scurrying about the campus with harassed expressions upon our countenances these days. Exams are no joke to procrastinators—and what college student does not procrastinate as far as writing term papers and preparing for examinations are concerned? Most of us postpone the inevitable as long as possible, stifling the persistent complaints of an outraged sense of duty with vague, half-formed and highly implausible excuses; and during the last two weeks before exams we discover that we are in a bind. In a few days of feverish activity we attempt to redeem the mediocrity of three months of lethargic indifference to academic duties.

But the "swivet" before exams is inevitable. It is human nature to procrastinate in the performance of unpleasant tasks; unfortunately most of us are inclined to regard classroom assignments as necessary evils, to be postponed until the last possible moment. And all the good resolutions and intentions in the world cannot materially change human nature.

There are no valid reasons why conditions should not be made as favorable as possible for last-minute preparations for exams, however. The procrastinator is under tremendous psychological and physical handicaps when he finally begins his frantic efforts to retrieve his fast-diminishing chances of satisfying the scholastic requirements. He should be given the opportunity of studying under conditions most favorable to concentration and application. And the average dormitory or fraternity room most assuredly does not provide these conditions.

It is true that the library reading rooms offer excellent facilities for private study. But frequently two or more students wish to engage in "bull-sessions" on their courses, in order that they may express to their mutual benefit whatever knowledge they may have gleaned from them. In addition, there are many persons who cannot concentrate except in absolute privacy.

During the afternoons and evenings practically all of the University class-rooms are not in use. These rooms provide the only suitable places for group "bull-sessions" on courses, and frequently offer privacy for the student who wishes to study alone. Yet the powers that be have evidently issued a dictum that all class-rooms are to be locked when not in actual use for classes.

Very little damage would be done to furniture and woodwork by those who wish to utilize the class-rooms for afternoon and evening sessions of studying, in our opinion. But evidently the buildings department and administrative officials do not see it that way.

Possibilities of trivial damages to class-rooms are not sufficient justification for barring students when they wish to study in them, however. Especially is this true during the week or two preceding final exams. Quite a few failures might be averted if the class-room buildings are opened at all times to students from now until after examinations.

The Police Suppress Communist Parades

Communists throughout the world staged parades and celebrations Thursday as a protest against unemployment and in order to get more converts to communism. As was expected "red Thursday" was marked by many outbreaks of violence; there were riots in New York, Detroit, Washington, and several other larger cities of this country as well as more serious trouble in many of the cities of the state.

Trouble in Washington, New York, and Detroit was caused by the efforts of the police to stop the celebrations; this was a violation of President Hoover's declaration that the police should not interfere as long as things were peaceful and orderly. While very little serious damage was done by the skirmishes with the police, an untold amount of hard feeling and bitterness was aroused. If the parades had been allowed to go on peacefully and undisturbed, the effectiveness of the celebrations would have been diminished.

America can never successfully combat communism by violence and interference. Such tactics have been unsuccessful in fighting socialism in Germany and communism in Russia. Reactionary measures will do more to increase the communistic following than a quiet and passive non-interference. Communist agitators should have the right to organize and parade as much as they like; only when property is destroyed or violence done should the police step in. Suppression of any doctrine of belief is contrary to the basic principle of American liberty.

According to press reports many thousands of people followed the red flag Thursday, most of them ill-kept and poorly fed destitute men in the last straits of wretchedness, many of the unemployed joined the ranks in the blind hope of doing something for themselves. These people will follow any move that promises to bring relief. The demonstrations Thursday showed an enormous potential strength for the communists.

Much has been done to exag-

gerate the number of communists in America; the press has played every act of violence up in the light of communistic or bolsheviki influence. Even Secretary Kellogg once so lost his dignity and reason that he blamed the American trouble in Mexico on Russia and communism. All the talk and discussion over the strength of communism in this country is in part a press racket; the newspapers are overemphasizing the strength of the communists, and the authorities by their program of suppression are giving the small beginning an impetus for growth and development. —J. D. McN.

Readers' Opinions

ANENT THE DAILY TAR HEEL

Editor Daily Tar Heel:
That experiment known as the Daily Tar Heel has been in operation now a scant five months. Its local and intercollegiate acceptance, however, justify the writer in referring to it as a very successful experiment.

Several of the leading college papers of the country have of late reprinted a large number of editorials and news articles from this official organ of the Carolina student body. Among these are the University Daily Kansan, the McGill University Daily (Canada), The Parlez-Vous of Converse College, The Chronicle of Duke University, Michigan State News, and numerous others. One wall of the office in Alumni building is literally covered with clippings from college publications all over the nation. The greater part of these are editorials which have appeared in the Daily Tar Heel from time to time; a large number are news articles, however. In no spirit of boastfulness, we say that such popularity must be deserved. That the Daily Tar Heel is receiving much more recognition and comment than the old tri-weekly ever did is a factor which we cannot overlook when we consider the merits of the experiment in the field of daily collegiate publications, which the students of the University last Spring voted to launch.

Before the advent of the Daily Tar Heel there was not a daily paper published in Chapel Hill. The townspeople were, therefore, ill-informed concerning local news and local announcements. The daily student paper has alleviated this grievance to a very large degree, according to comments which the staff has received from citizens of the village and the surrounding neighborhood.

Numerous open forum letters and verbal discussions of the publication seem to indicate that the students of the University are, as a whole, deeply interested in it. To date the matter of the Daily Tar Heel has been discussed a number of times in the two campus literary societies. Both went on record recently as stating that the paper in its present form represented a successful undertaking in intercollegiate daily publications.

The change from the tri-weekly to the daily was merely a step commensurate with the great progressive strides of the University itself. We believe that the present attitude of the students toward the Daily Tar Heel is such as to assume its further development in future years.

INTERESTED OBSERVER.

Scientists now say that the human race is at least a million years old. If that is true, it is even more backward than we thought it was.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Arrow - Man



By J. C. (Red) Williams

Wandered we weary, silent, and quite alone by the site of old Memorial hall. One by one we thought of the pleasant memories associated with that venerable structure—the crumbled remnant of other days. But these thoughts we hastily dismissed. A new foundation we saw in process of hardening, a modern auditorium rose in our imagination—mute, stone testimony to the prowess of that arch enemy of tradition—Progress!

Old Timers on the Tar Heel staff would not recognize the neatly kept, comfortable office which we modern campus bull-slingers work in. The present quarters of this publication stand out in bold contrast to the dilapidated rendezvous of the campus literary artists of former years.

Typewriters that could not be very easily sold for junk once smeared pages of student literary effort. No tables, no desks, and no radiators, nothing but a time-worn cuspidor eased the eye from the utter barrenness and bleakness of the Tar Heel office of a decade ago.

The theory in vogue now is that of making the office so attractive that the members of the staff will be drawn to spend much of their time in it is the pursuit of pleasure and recreation. Now that the theory has been proven a good one by the wide recognition which has been accorded the Daily Tar Heel, we suggest that the same theory be applied to classroom situations.

We have of late noticed an ebb in the swirling eddies and trenchant tides of criticism that once poured in upon us, the student body, from all parts of the state. Time was when well-meaning religious leaders preached at, about, and to us—claiming that we were all agnostics or worse. Even this has calmed down a bit. It is distressingly monotonous—this unbroken cadence of peaceful, still, dull days. We, the student body, have been sublimated into conformity.

But 'twill not be ever thus. Campus politicians are now drinking the milk of human kindness through the same rye straw. Things are "getting right," in the political brogue. Yet the coming period of extreme campus activity, although it is certain to occur, will be brief. Sluggish tides of life, a standardized faculty, and a mechanical student body—these things train on, and on, and on.

THE REASON OF MAN

(By ourself)

Although our mental organ has never been known to penetrate very far into the realm of mystery, the only reason we have been able to find for man is—Woman. Let us elucidate a bit:

Be he the chief justice of the United States supreme court, or robber of the Twentieth Century mails, be he commander of the American army, or scavenger of his city's alleys, if a newspaper reporter questions man: "Why art thou whom thou art?" his answer will be "Woman."

The most constant, sensible, just, unjust, wise, fickle, foolish, incomparable,—the very acme of powerful weakness is man's "better half." A clinging vine that props the mighty oak and keeps it from falling! The weakness that is power! Woman; the inarticulate, and the voluble:

Man, the spindlike, if questioned, must reply with an enigma—"Woman."

We take great pleasure here in announcing that the next of our series of essays on pertinent topics, "The reason of woman," will appear in the next issue of this column.

The right honorable Atlanta Constitution made the startling discovery the other day that opera stars look somewhat like other human beings. The paper carried pictures of two of the sopranos that were performing in the city, and pointed out that they were very similar to the average housewife. There goes another illusion!

The biggest joke we've heard in a long time as that intercollegiate debating should be condemned because it is not amusing. Who is there among us that expects to get entertainment free on this campus? Debating was never intended to be a medium of gayety and frolic. The author of the above contention is a bit misinformed.



Moore Bryson
FOR AUNTIE'S SAKE
By JOHN PATRIC
HOLLYHOCKS
By JOSEPH PHILIP COX
SUSPENDED ANIMATION
By KENT CREUSER
DEATH VALLEY SCOTTY
By MILTON WOOD

Four new playwrights and a host of new actors made their debut at the Carolina Playmaker theatre Thursday evening before a partially filled house. The playwrights have come to the University from four different sections of the Union, and for the first time the curtains parted on a Playmaker production which had neither a native author nor a local folk play on the bill.

For Auntie's Sake is a playlet by John Patric which deals with the successful attempt of a clever college student to over-awe a feminine newcomer to the campus by a display of his remarkable power of telepathy. Unfortunately, the author had previously used the plot as the basis for a story in the Tar Heel and it lacked novelty to the majority of the audience. Miss Lottie Frances Mays gives a charming portrayal of the naive and gullible girl, although she over-emphasized all of her lines which showed any degree of astonishment. The author, Mr. Patric, failed to give a convincing interpretation of a sophisticated college man. His opening telephone conversation was more in the nature of a soliloquy since he recited in no way to the remarks coming from the other end of the line. However, he did in part redeem himself during the last few minutes of the play after the successful completion of his favorite trick had given him such advantage as to allow him to appear indifferent. This is the Playmakers' first attempt in the field of vaudeville, for the play is nothing more than a "skit," and the advisability of such a venture is strongly doubted.

It is to be regretted that the characters and underlying theme of Hollyhocks and Loretta Carroll Bailey's Job's Kinfolks are so basically similar. Mr. Fox has written a play dealing with the ideals and trials of a simple but honest New England family. It is oppressive in its tragic outlook, but sincere in its char-

WARNER BAXTER'S ROLES ARE REFORMING HIM

Warner Baxter is improving by degrees. In "In Old Arizona" as the "Cisco Kid," he was a genuine bad man, in "Thru Different Eyes" he betrayed his best friend, but in "Such Men Are Dangerous," Fox Movie-tone all talking drama based on Elinor Glyn's intriguing story, he is bad only in the early sequences of the picture, which is Monday's feature at the Carolina.

In "Such Men Are Dangerous," Baxter portrays the role of Ludwig Kranz, a multi-millionaire manufacturer who, because of his ugly face is deserted by his bride. His plans for revenge miscarry when, after employing plastic surgery, he again succumbs to her charms.

Catherine Dale Owen, described as the most beautiful blonde of the films, enacts the role of the wife and the supporting cast also includes such splendid artists as Hedda Hopper, Albert Conti, Claude Allister, Bela Lugosi and Lucy Lorraine.

acterization of real people. It is not a great play, but it has the elements necessary for a great play. It is to be hoped that the author will not let the thought behind it die in its infancy, but that he will develop it into a long play worthy of such a situation and such conflict. The acting throughout was only mediocre, showing the lack of careful, detailed direction. Bobby Koch, however, proved himself a worthy offspring of a theatrically inclined father in part of the devoted little boy.

Suspended Animation presented an interesting insight into the actual job of playwrighting. It is nothing more than an amusing incident in the life of three college boys. Among the followers of English 31 it will recall similar episodes when a play had to be written within a limited time. The play is unusual in that the stage characters are actually played by the same boys who served for the models of the written play. The impressionistic set was effective and the actors were very successful in appearing perfectly natural.

An appreciative applause was accorded Elmer Hall's set for Death Valley Scotty. Mr. Hall demonstrated his ability to overcome the limited space of the theatre's stage in designing a desert set which gave the effect of distance, although from the footlights to the back drop is scarcely over 15 feet. The play itself deals with a colorful character of Death Valley. Milton Wood, the author, played the title role with understanding, as well he might, since the character is well known to him. EVELAND DAVIES and ROBERT DAVIS were very good as the "tender-feet" who came in search of gold, although the latter over-acted his part in the more dramatic situations. Kent Creuser and B. C. Wilson gave their two grunts and an "Ugh" each with much finesse, their make-ups as Hopi Indians being especially good.

This is undoubtedly one of the weakest bills which the Playmakers have produced in recent years, due, in part, to the fact that most of the production staff was away on tour during the majority of the rehearsals. It is to be hoped that the future will find more time spent on the bills which are to be given for the entertainment of the local patrons of the theatre.