

# The Daily Tar Heel

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Saturday, April 1, 1933

## The Folk Play Is the Thing

This week-end Chapel Hill is host to the state-wide dramatic festival in which are participating schools, colleges, and community players from the mountains to the sea. Within the next few days the Playmakers Theatre will see the presentation of plays by professional writers and more important still the efforts of North Carolina folks who have already contributed such writers as Paul Green, Ann Bridges, and Loretto Carroll Bailey.

While the University of North Carolina is a leader in southern education in the field of the drama we stand with the leaders of the nation. The Carolina Playmakers are known throughout the country as one of the most eminent of collegiate dramatic organizations and the plays of some of our young writers are the equal of any in the collegiate field.

Not content with the fostering of the drama merely in Chapel Hill the University's dramatic department under the leadership of Professor Koch have sounded the note of a new and vital interest in the folk play that has reached every hamlet and village of North Carolina and has extended its influence through all the south.

American culture though at present puny is striving vigorously to equalize the great handicap of its recent origin. For years American writers were content to ape the European, but gradually our literary output acquired a genuine American style and tone. The drama, however, has lagged behind in this Americanization and it may almost be said that our only great American playwrights are living ones so late has come our development in this line.

America looks to the folk play as her hope for a drama that is purely native and able to place our stage on a par with that of the old world. Here in North Carolina the movement has acquired its greatest impetus and the University which has already done much bids fair to become a major influence in the creation of a truly American theatre.

Many of us here tend to overlook what is in our midst and are not cognizant of the mighty happenings here in Chapel Hill. Perhaps these few days will serve to interest the student body in a force among us that is attracting the attention and praise of the nation.

The student body should be proud of the part we are playing in this great field of national literature and proud of the men and women who are directing the great movement. And the University is proud and happy to play host to the eager folks, young and old, who under the inspiration of our leaders are doing a great share to instill the vital stream of the folk drama into a national theatre inferior to none.—J.F.A.

## Flies in the Ointment

This University boasts a campus unexcelled for natural beauty in the entire nation, yet the visitor is likely to leave Chapel Hill with something of a feeling of aesthetic disappointment, for, if we have pensive buildings, mantled in ivy and softened by age; if over these grounds stately oaks, ancient as the institution itself, stand sentinel, and if these greenswards, with their park-like dimensions, and bordering stone walls and walkways, form a picture to delight the soul of the most discriminating connoisseur, there are also eyesores which would do credit to the most abominable slum scenes in our most backward cities.

As one walks from Gerrard hall to the Library, his eye is distracted by a heap of rusty rails, mangled bricks, rotting logs and fragments of useless building materials, which the feeble hedge bordering the walk can not obscure from view. Further to the right will be seen a mass of decrepit sheds with caving roofs and dangling walls, surrounded by dirty oil drums and a veritable junk-yard of obsolete machinery and tools. Forming a disgusting background for Patterson-Morehead tower is another line of shabby sheds which passing motorists can not but notice, and which can scarcely add to the aesthetic impression of the University grounds.

In these days of depression, these eyesores can readily be excused on the grounds of insufficient revenue; but with almost no outlay of money and with small effort on the part of the buildings department, these charnel houses could be cleared away; cheap sheds could be removed to less conspicuous places, and much of the junk could be consigned to the dumping grounds with no great loss to the University. It seems that Federal money for relief might be obtained sufficient to effect these changes, and the flies which have for so long infested the aesthetic ointment of the University grounds could be temporarily picked out.—W.A.S.

## Hark to The Bell

For quite a number of years it has been customary for a class period to last only fifty-three minutes out of the hour and for the students at the University to have a seven-minute interval in which they may go from class to class. This is not only a custom in use by the students but a schedule laid down by members of the faculty.

Occasionally, however, there are a few members of the teaching staff who have the regrettable habit of keeping the pupils after the fifty-three minutes allowed for the class. Sometimes this is due to the fact that the professor has already outlined a lecture which is to be given during the period and persists in finishing it although it may mean that the student is late to his next class and may have to take an unexcused absence for his tardiness, even though he is late through no fault of his own. More often this overtime lecture is the result of the professor not having heard the bell. In either case it is the student who has to take the blame for not reaching his next class in time.

The student has the right to leave the class at the appointed time but hesitates usually to take advantage of this because in so doing he may incur the wrath of the professor for thus leaving the class so unceremoniously in spite of the fact that the teacher is encroaching upon the time of another faculty member. Whether the student is late for his next class and receives an absence or whether he leaves before the preceding class before the conclusion of the lecture, he is forced to take the blame regardless of the fact that he has no choice in the matter.

There are only a few professors on the campus who have this lamentable habit, but their conscious or unconscious violation of the prescribed schedule may cause a disruption of this schedule for many others throughout most of the day. If these few professors would be a little more careful in the preparation of their lectures or in listening for the bell, there would be a much smoother routine during the day, fully as much could be told in a lecture, and there would be much less inconvenience caused to others.—F.P.G.

## With Contemporaries

### That Old Custom Of Saying "Hello"

Several years ago, all the freshmen were required to say "Hello" to upperclassmen whether they had been formally introduced to each other or not. Also the upperclassmen were required to address the freshmen in a similar manner. Moreover this same spirit was supposed to prevail between the upperclassmen.

This school year found the upperclassmen giving a brief, occasionally hearty greeting to the incoming freshmen until rushing season was terminated. Then, all semblance of cordiality was dropped. The average student, instead of greeting his college mates as formerly, is in many cases cloaked with an impenetrable mantle of reserve. The University that was once distinguished by a typical geniality once cheerily pervading the campus atmosphere, has slowly begun to change.

The whole-hearted custom of saying "Hello" to fellow collegians was one which, in the course of the year, enabled the average freshman to become acquainted not only with his peers but upperclassmen as well. It permitted the upperclassmen an opportunity to recognize and become friendly with newly matriculated students. It also gave the experienced ones a chance to welcome the green freshmen to the brotherhood of the students at the University of Vermont.

Let us consider the results of a self-contained student body. There are many colleges where the student is intent only in his own thoughts.

## Our Times

By Don Shoemaker

### Fireworks

The boys over in the House, and we don't mean the Big House or the Housepital, but the House of Representatives, are still laboring along with that same sense of humor we described here several weeks back. Since it is apparent that the General Assembly will occupy Raleigh until July, a conservative estimate, the House has to act up a little now and then to keep everyone in good spirits.

Several weeks ago an enterprising representative got hold of some boxes of trick matches—the kind that crack when you light one of them. He distributed them around on the desks of the legislators, and every time somebody gets up to speak, all the boys pull out their matches and crack 'em. They're also got some exploding cigarettes, reserved for appropriation bill amendments. When somebody cracks a match or explodes a cigarette, everybody jumps, and then they all grin and slap one another on the back. Just to sorta' keep courage up.

### Mistake

The search light story by Mr. Berryman, who columns for this publication, reminded us of a little skit down south campus way the other night. It seems that three or four gentlemen set out last week-end for Spencer hall. It was rather late in the evening, a Saturday evening. Arriving at what they thought was Spencer, they hallowed up at a light in a second floor window.

A head appeared in the window. It was a lady, and she remarked derisively, "Scram."

The gentlemen persisted. The window opened again and the fair one's head emerged. "Listen, this is Bingham hall, not Spencer. This is not room 20—, it's Dr. \_\_\_\_\_'s office. And I'm not Nelly, but Dr. \_\_\_\_\_'s secretary."

He hurries madly here and there, an insignificant iota in the hectic scramble for existence at that institution. He is cold and aloof to outsiders; his personality fails to invite the warm fellowship that a smile and a welcome word will so easily do. The college becomes more of a factory, its students, cogs of an inhuman machine. There are a great many colleges in the United States in which hypocrites, sophisticates and snobs reign, but it has been the laudable custom at Vermont to avoid any tendency towards such a condition.

And so, let us not forget that the convivial "Hello" should always be kept on the Vermont campus. This slight gesture of friendship, which will bind together all Vermont men in the ties of friendship and college spirit, is something that should be retained at this University—an institution which is advancing steadily year by year. A struggling young graduate is always thankful for a familiar face in the business world. A friend of college days means much in these times of economic distress, with that thought in mind that we take the opportunity to recommend to all men of Vermont that the custom of saying "Hello" to each other whether formally introduced or not should never become a dead custom.

And so it is, with that with a thought for the present and a glance at the future that we recommend the complete resurrection of this amiable greeting between college mates.—Vermont Cynic.

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## United States Would Be Foolish To Fight, Declares Dr. Beard

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trend of the future will not be towards a world state, but towards such "tending to their own garden."

Asked if the hegemony of France in Europe would not be as bad as the hegemony of the Central Powers prevented by their defeat in 1918, Beard declared emphatically that it would not, that France has a small population and would not be dangerous.

### Who Is Lying?

Asked "who is lying, the newspaper correspondents in Germany or the minister who denied their reports?" Dr. Beard said, whimsically, that he should not like to have to fix a numerical percentage, but that probably ninety-five per cent of the newspaper reports leave an erroneous impression. He did not lay such an erroneous impression at the door of out-and-out falsehood but drew the analogy that, if there were a half-dozen lynchings in the south in the same month and all crowded on the front page of a newspaper, that, too, would leave a false impression. He pointed out that there have been killings in Germany since the war.

### Economic Regulation Coming

Declaring that the world had already moved far away from the old economic policy of *laissez-faire*, Dr. Beard foresaw an increasing tendency towards socialization, "Perhaps a swing in one direction, and then another swing back." The problem of obtaining the benefits of group ownership while at the same time retaining individualism "is for you youngsters to solve."

Dr. Beard speaks in his home with the same delightful manner that he carries to the public rostrum. Every now and then one corner of his mouth will be wrinkled into a whimsical smile, while at the same time one of his bushy eyebrows will rise. He is deaf, finding it necessary to rely on an earphone when holding a conversation.

At the present time, Dr. Beard is working on a book in which he will try to indicate what "national interest" is. It will be remembered that this was the thesis of the three Weil lectures he delivered last month. Dr. Beard expects the volume to be published within the next few years.

## Frosh Tremble As "Hell Week" Comes

(Continued from first page)

note which is hidden at that spot directs them to a second place, equally as distant. The search goes on indefinitely, and the last mission usually leads to a place where a tadpole, a crayfish, a chaste cat, or a nanny goat is the adventurer's reward.

The guiding genius of one house conceived the ingenious idea of rousing all the pledges in the dead of night to lead them out on the front lawn for a thorough dousing with a convenient hose. Another result of heavy cogitation was requiring the freshmen to walk upstairs backwards for a number of days and to make appropriate exotic obeisances upon entering the house.

One unfortunate lad was hoisted into a tree with only an alarm clock, two eggs, and a paddle for company. In addition to making himself comfortable up there, he had to shout the reliable "Cuckoo" at every passerby. Breackage of the eggs speedily brought the paddles into play.

Not among the least well-known diversions of embarrassment is dressing the initiate in some outlandish costume and

forcing him to parade Franklin street. In addition to several crude imitations of Mahatma Gandhi, students have been noted with automobile tires around their bodies, attired as members of the opposite sex, and laden with dogs and kittens on their arms.

When "Hell Week" finally closes, sighs of relief come from every quarter. But not even the harried pledges will have better right to feel relieved than will Mrs. Lee, because most of the performers are obliged to visit her establishment at least once, and Dr. Archibald Henderson who has lost count of the number of times he has attempted to explain the Einstein theory to initiates.

## WOMEN'S CHORUS TO GIVE CONCERT

Singers to Appear in Hill Music Hall Monday Night; Group Numbers Twenty-Five.

Women's chorus of the music department of the local community club will appear Monday evening, April 3, in Hill Music hall. Professor Harold S. Dyer will conduct the group.

This organization was formed in January for the purpose of participation in the state choral festival in Raleigh next week. It is composed of twenty-five voices.

Monday evening's concert will present a variety of classical and secular songs including those which will be sung by the chorus in Raleigh. Lamar Stringfield, Adeline McCall, and Ralph Weatherford will play the *Mountain Sketches* of Stringfield. Harry Lee Knox, pianist, will offer a group of Debussy compositions. Mrs. L. C. MacKinney, Mrs. R. H. Wettsack, and Miss Virginia Hufty will soloists with the chorus.

The program will include *A Summer's Morn* by Gilchrist, *Daybreak* by Harris, *Who Is Sylvia* by Schubert, *River, River* a Chilean folk-song, *Senorita* by Dessauer-Houseley, *Danza*, *Danza* by Durante. In Joseph's *Lovely Garden* arranged by Dickinson, *To The Children* by Rachmaninoff-Kramer, *A Song of India* by Rimsky-Korsakoff, and *It Was a Lover and His Lass* by James Dunn.

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