Fire

Take time to read the article in the next two columns. It has something to do with you-a matter of nine months pregnant with the risk of a disastrous fire anywhere in Chapel Hill between now and next July.

The fire could be in your dormitory or the private home where you live or at your fraternity house. It could be one of the Pre-Flight barracks or old Caldwell Hall. And unless a heavy downpour just happened to coincide with the blaze, nothing but a tincan of a fire engine, two paid firemen and 18 volunteers to stop the destruction of building and lives.

Ask the students here this summer how long it took a poorly constructed high school to disintegrate in flames that the fire department and its inadequate flivver tried to stop. Then think what a debacle might have occurred if the fire had waited two months later until one morning at 10.

Whatever procrastination and fumbling has preceded the high school blaze, apparently the University administration is working hard to get the necessary \$6000 from the state legislature in its new biennial budget for its half-share in purchasing a new fire engine.

But standing fiscal rules would permit the fire engine to be purchased with allocated funds no sooner than July.

The administration must make every possible attempt to secure permission for purchase immediately upon passage of the budget in February. That is absolutely necessary.

If at all possible, they must secure funds sooner.

The dire risk of a student body of 4800 students and cadets and the civilian population of Chapel Hill rests in their plans.

Words and Hot Air . . .

Editorials are the biggest waste of good words and hot air yet devised.

Most people don't read edits at all.

People who do read edits read them constantly, thoroughly. They waste their time.

The people who write them waste their time.

If you disagree with an editorial you get mad and the thing doesn't do a bit of good. If you agree with it, you think what it says anyway, and the space is wasted. When it presents a new subject entirely, you don't understand what it is talking about.

The best editorials are those in news stories.

This is strictly unethical.

But highly effective.

Such a method of presenting opinion is specially designed to warp the public mind one way or the other. Most Daily Tar HEEL edits, the opinions in Hill Review in the Carolina Mag, are so stated.

Consider this a warning. It is a challenge to your ability to think independently.

When you read a news story you may think that it is straight and factual. It is. But those facts are so arranged, diabolically arranged, to leave you with a definite prejudice concerning the topic at hand.

This is unavoidable on a college publication. The public itself is the cause. The public is flexible. Its mind bends like a reed in the wind of indoctrination. Student leaders despair because the public heeds not their pet ideas. This is why your news stories are really edits.

More people have been quoted in college papers that never opened their mouths on the subjects than those who are quoted from actual text.

Beware of statements such as-"administration officials said last night"; consensus of leaders was --. " Be on your guard. We can really change your mind.

Views expressed by the columnists in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the editors who restrict editorial opinion to the staff editorials. In matters of controversy or criticism, the Daily Tar Heel permits space to the individual columnist's opinion and for the opinion of readers so long as the articles submitted are, in the editor's opinion, sincere and factual.

The Daily Tar Heel

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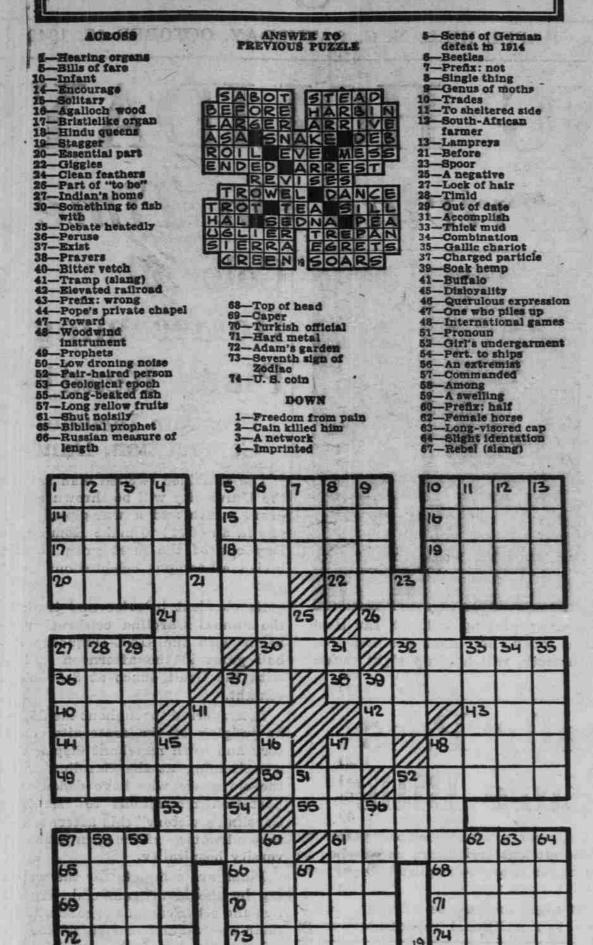
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Crossword Puzzle



Chapel Hill Needs Engine To Meet Threat of Fires

By Jimmy Wallace

Chapel Hill is threatened by fire. That threat, with the addition of new houses, the arrival of more students and the Pre-Flight school, has increased in recent years to the point where it cannot be overlooked in even a casual inspection.

For the second time in three years the University has included in its proposed budget to the legislature an item, "fire truck, \$6000." Since the first request for a fire truck, the Chapel Hill high school has burned, and \$125,000 has gone up in smoke. The local fire department was there, but its efforts hardly slowed the blaze. By the next morning it was all over. The total cost of fires in Chapel Hill during the past 30 years leaped across the \$500,000 mark.

The University, realizing an urgent need for a fire engine to cope with now disastrous flames, is including the truck in the regular maintenance fund for operating the school. Administration officials yesterday expressed the belief that there is a "fair" chance to get the engine this year.

When the last General Assembly met, the fire truck was being requested under the heading of "improvement fund." This fund is formed by authorization of bond sales. Since no bond sales were authorized two years ago, the improvement fund was tossed out, along with the fire engine.

But if the appropriation were made to purchase a fire truck for Chapel Hill it would be improbable that the truck could be put in use before July. Throughout the next nine months the danger of fire, assuming that the request goes through, will not be alleviated. The now hopelessly antiquated fire engine will have to suffice during this period UNLESS University and town officials can do something.

Any measure that can be taken to halt the current upswing in fires should be done with utmost haste. If the truck cannot be procured in less than nine months, town and University authorities should do everything to lessen fire hazards that now exist.

In Dubious Battle by Jack Dube

With spotlights gleaming, ermine and mink wraps dazzling the eyes of those already not blinded by the constant flash of the photographer's bulbs, an opening which submerged the brilliance of last year's Rose-Bowl game occurred on Franklin street last evening, E. Carrington Smith's emporium (better known as the new Carolina Theatre) made its debut. Everyone was there . . . jes' everyone. . . .

The first ticket was bought by Walter Klein who beat President Roosevelt to the box-office by a nose. The chief-executive (Roosevelt, of course) was accompanied on this rare occasion by Lou Harris's girl Ellie. Vice Commissar Molotoff stepped out of his drosky with a samovar on one hand, and Millicent Hosch on the other. All Hollywood turned out en masse-Ray Milland was there with Ginger Rogers (Susu), Bob Hope arrived with O. P. Charters (soso), and Lieut. Jimmy Stewart and Helen Webb (sisi). Other luminaries were Madame Curie with Curry Jones, Bert Bennett with Ann Corio, and Hobie Mc-Keever with Lois de Faye (all of her). Bucky Harward and Hedda Hopper were a two-some with their pencils working feverishly. The crowd spread out to allow Tiny Hutton and Mae West to enter, they were followed by a party of six

consisting of Lana Turner, Mike Beam, Carole Landis, Buck Dudley, Rita Hayworth and Henry Moll . . . suddenly the crowd became still. The two Weary-Wishers were giving last minute directions to their flock of squirrels who were to peddle magazines throughout the theatre. . . . Around the corner from Marley's came W. C. Fields and Joan Hill headed not for the theatre, but for Harry's (where the milk is also grade A). Everyone left the theater regretful that they must return to the far-flung points of the country, but all promised that they would soon return to the

Fordham Fortes: Roy Little (from N. Y.) walking into the Astor Bar in his derby and dungarees and saying in no uncertain terms, "Whar's my grits." . . . Fireman Frank Alspaugh saved a cab from conflagration. . . . The cheerleaders stopping en route to pick cotton . . . and everybody giving cider and cotton away down Park Avenue . . . and the game with pennants, raccoon coats, and collegiate cheers which was held in Kenan stadium. . . . Harry Shallett to a bartender in a N. Y. bistro, "Better give me a drink before the trouble starts, better give me two drinks before the trouble starts." "What trouble?" "I ain't got no money." . . .

Weary Wisher

Decentralization of Campus Looms as UNC's Big Problem

By Hayden Carruth and Sylvan Meyer matter, if it will.

A column or two ago, a hastilycomposed Weary Wisher attempted to present the problem that is facing this University, the problem of the disintegration of community spirit on this campus. The following morning colleague Ernie Frankel cracked the Wisher for bearing down too hard on student leaders, for accusing them of not worrying about the situation. Frankel misunderstood the column, I think, because it was intended primarily for a presentation of the problem in all its aspects, not as a criticism of student leaders or anybody else. Nevertheless, Frankel's punch was just. Not enough investigation had preceded the writing of the Wisher, an over-all flaw in most DTH copy. Since then I have tried to get further into the problem.

It is a problem, a big problem. This University cannot continue to exist as it has by any stretch of the imagination unless something is done to remedy the problem. More than most, the University of North Carolina depends for its success upon a spirit of integration and unity among the st dents.

Here is what has been done:

In Student Government the summer was a busy one. Never before in the history of the campus has a president been beset with so many detailed problems. Bert Bennet tore out more of his fading hair from June to September than he did during pre-election week last spring. Committees were appointed, sparked with good, hard working students who burned plenty of midnight oil during their meetings. The Student Planning Board with all its various ramifications (housing, eating, co-operatives, etc.), studied every detailed problem in connection with the upset of student life and presented reports and proposals to the faculty. Their reports were accurate; their proposals were on the whole correct.

Here's the rub. None of their reports or proposals were deep enough in scope. None of them touched the underlying problem of a disintegration of University sentiment; they all dealt with the immediate details of what to do with returning students. This is not a criticism of these committeemen. They worked hard on detailed problems that demanded immediate solution, and their work was invaluable. The closest they came to solving the larger aspects was the institution of the Social committee.

But the Social committee is not adequate. So far it has only been concerned with the presentation of dances and shows; its efforts have been entirely directed toward bringing students to the campus, not toward making the campus reach into the lives and homes of the scattered student body. The committee has been of purely social function, as its name denotes. Students from Hope Valley to Carrboro will come to a campus dance or a campus entertainment, but they will leave and take their interests with them as soon as

I have heard nothing proposed to change the Social committee so that it may better exercise its functions on a deeper plane or to instigate another, broader committee. The student legislature expects to consider the problem soon, but all legislature suggestions so far still deal only with the purely social aspects of the question: how the Social committee is conflicting with the Entertainment and Dance committees. Legislative action, as it appears now, is merely concerned with making the Social committee a clearing house for campus social and entertainment events and reducing the amount of red tape for this type of work to the mini-

That is worthwhile, of course. Red tape and co-existent functions among campus organizations should be cut to the bone wherever possible. But, no matter how much red tape the legislature cuts away from the Social committee, it still will not produce an organization that is other than social in its functions, that will reach to the heart of the situation. still has time to get to the root of the brary staff here.

The Administration, also busy this summer, unfortunately blanked most of the student effort. The reports and proposals presented by Bert Bennett's committees during the summer were read and shelved. The reports presented by the Student Planning Board definitely indicated that there were not enough rooms in Chapel Hill to house students as they should be housed. These reports were read by all Administration heads in South building, and all summer long Roy Armstrong continued to blithely inform prospective students that they had nothing to worry about when they got to Chapel Hill. The same board reported in writing that eating facilities in Chapel Hill were dangerously bad, and L. B. Rogerson read that report and ignored it. Almost all the proposals of the student committees are smoldering in South building pigeon-holes right now. House, Carmichael, and Rogerson all did nothing about these reports. Roland Parker, through whose hands the reports went, realized the seriousness of the situation and worried in the best Parkerian manner. He submitted reports and

trative meetings, got nowhere. This whole business is part of the short-sightedness and blunderingness of South building officials who have been inadequately prepared ever since the first negotiations with Washington for the Pre-Flight school here were begun.

proposals to the rest of South build-

ing, argued in faculty and adminis-

That, briefly, is the history. Here is the present situation. The problem still exists, as badly as ever. It is in imminent peril of being complicated even more seriously by the arrival of one half again as many new cadets, who will snare more dorms and again take over the whole dining hall. It will be impossible to open Swain hall as a dining hall by the middle of next month, when the cadets will arrive, if they do. In other words, the student body is badly decentralized now, is in danger of being even more badly decentralized, will become completely disunited when the old students, imbued with University traditions of community, are no longer here.

Roland Parker is the only man on the campus who realizes the real depth of the problem, the only man who is really scared. The Student legislature is on the fringe of realizing the real depth as it toys with increasing the efficiency of the Social committee, but it is still missing, the boat. Bennett and other student government executive officials are conscientiously trying to do a good job, and they are but they do, I think, fail to recognize the depth of the problem and the fact that it is impossible to solve it through dances and entertainments.

Something has to be done, and right now-before the problem grows out of hand, before the situation gathers too much momentum. The first meeting to really consider the problem will be held tomorrow, called among students by Roland Parker. Something may come out of it-but it's entirely unofficial.

That, I think, is an answer to Frankel's criticism. It is also a brief analysis of what is to come. Something's got to be done!

On the Hour ...

8:00 a.m.-All band members meet on coed field in front of Woollen gymnasium, with instruments.

2:30 p.m .- Football game in Kenan stadium, Carolina vs. Duquesne. 8:30 p.m.-Grail dance in Woollen gymnasium.

UNC Alumni Chosen To Represent School

W. P. Kellam and Clyde H. Cantrell, librarian and assistant librarian. respectively, of West Virginia university, have been designated as official delegates of Carolina to represent it at the dedication of the Mineral Industries building in Morgantown, W. The legislature has not yet consid- Va. Kellam and Cantrell are alumni ered the problem at a meeting, and and were former members of the li-

The Little Shop

Sport and Evening

Dresses