

The Daily Tar Heel

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Letters

Madam Editor:

At the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society meeting Dr. H. D. Crockford explained how he and his associates are continuing researches to test whether or not certain data will graph into straight lines. He explained why he hoped it would and then he remarked, "Of course we have to be careful that we don't hope so much that we affect our experimental results." Everybody laughed. It is funny to thing that a reputable scientist might lose his devotion to truth and allow his wishes to prejudice evaluation of data even though there are cases in the history of science where that has happened.

However, people usually seem to miss the humorous aspect of analogous situations in non-scientific fields. Politicians who arbitrarily reject all evidence of error by their party as inconsequential or biased are not laughed into oblivion. Nor are proponents of certain type of architectural decoration, when they dismiss any expert who does not agree with them with the comment: "He is obviously prejudiced and doesn't understand." There are many other similar funny situations but the funniest of all is the pseudo-intellectual who makes great sport of harshly criticizing all such errors of bias and then falls into the same errors himself.

Such a man is Harry Snook. He criticizes organized religion for appealing to the masses with emotion-packed cliches; then he uses an emotion-packed cliché for his only reason for dismissing the authority of a complex collection of many books, the Bible. He doesn't refute evidence uncomplimentary to his ideas; he just does like the politician and rejects it as biased or inconsequential.

In short, Mr. Snook is just as laughable as the scientist who starts an experiment with a preconceived notion of the results and who rejects all data that does not substantiate his notions. Such a scientist might fortuitously be right despite the error in his methods. Mr. Snook might fortuitously be correct in his conception of God. However, a wise man wouldn't stake a bet on either one without a lot of further investigation.

If we have to continue to have "Nonplus" in our paper, couldn't it at least be labeled HUMOR. Some people are taking Mr. Snook much too seriously.

Homer A. Hartung
 Graduate School

faith do the same.

The ideas above are, to me, essential to the development of well-founded, strong, applicable faith in each individual while guaranteeing the same privilege to all others.

Once More

Following the unfortunate incident of Sunday's editorial page in The Daily Tar Heel, we find it necessary to make clear once again our stand on the issue of segregation.

We congratulate the administration on the far-sighted stand taken by them on Friday, in reversing the earlier position. We congratulate Chancellor House on the wisdom and integrity exhibited in the letter given the Negro students. In it, the administration demonstrated the same high-purposefulness of character and fairness shown on so many past occasions.

At the same time, we congratulate the leaders of student government, Henry Bowers in particular, on rapid and powerful stand taken by them in urging the policy change.

The change has been made. The Daily Tar Heel anticipates no further reversals of the traditional policy of the University, allowing just one class student—first class.

Once again, and still, a student is a student is a student.

Nonplus

by Harry Snook

Religion is a touchy subject in public print. That it is a touchy subject indicates great differences among people in their religious ideas.

Yet this is a big country of many people. We are one of the most fortunate people in the world because we may have our differences and still live, work and play together.

It is vitally important that our differences never destroy our unity.

Because religion is such a fundamentally important thing to all of us, there are certain things we must do as individuals and in our churches to insure continued harmony among all of us.

The very fact of our touchiness on religious issues shows vulnerability. Just think what might happen if the Communists were to try playing off one religious faith against another. Handled in the right manner, this could split our country into separate camps.

This is not what we want. What we do want is the kind of understanding that enables each of us to think what he wishes and do what he wants, as long as his fellowmen have their privilege of doing the same.

Perhaps it's time for you to reexamine your thinking on the connections between religion, freedom and democracy.

Here are some of my ideas in this respect. Remember that they are just my ideas. How good are they? What ideas do you have? How good are they?

I believe that religion is essentially an individual, personal thing. It is up to each person to decide what he chooses to believe. This is one of the most important freedoms we enjoy in this country.

Each person, of his own accord, ought to examine various faiths and either choose or develop one that meets his needs. He owes it to himself to learn something about more than just one faith. He will not only have a better appreciation of his own but he will be in a better posi-

tion to understand his fellow men who believe differently.

Once having decided which is to be his faith, each person should make it a vital part of his everyday life. Faith should not be allowed to degenerate into a vague, abstract state. If it does, then something's wrong.

No person should be censured for what he believes, nor should he censure or refuse to cooperate with those of other faiths.

But no one should be allowed to practice his belief in any manner that works against the best interests of the community at large. The polygamist, for example, should be free to believe in polygamy but not to practice it.

No church should be allowed to use its organized power in forcing its religious beliefs upon a majority of others. It is not right that powerful groups like the Catholics have, in some states, caused anti-birth control measures to be enacted into law that must be observed by non-Catholics.

No individual or church should be allowed to use the psychological persuasion and social pressure of faith to coerce the ignorant or the weak. As an extreme example, there have been churches that allow their members to prove their convictions by submitting to the bite of poisonous snakes.

Each person should be convinced that his faith is good and proper, yet be ready to fight to help a person of a different



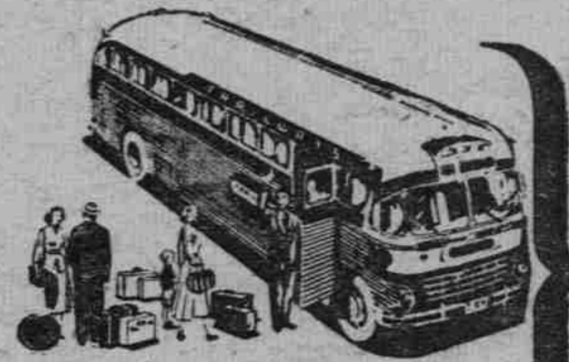
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ACROSS

- Juices of plants
- Source of hashish
- Piece of land
- Region
- Animal and plant life
- Short pamphlet
- Deduces
- Mix
- Snare
- Public notice
- Music note
- Kind of prickly pear
- Sloths
- Flower
- Timepiece
- Vein of a leaf
- Forbids
- Jewish month
- Ahead
- Astern
- Kind of apple
- Hang loosely
- Bird of prey
- Smoothed, as metal
- Regrets
- Toward the lee
- Coniferous trees
- Soaks flax DOWN

DOWN

- Crown of the head
- Asterisk
- Head covering
- Blunders
- Food
- Conciliatory
- Crib
- Rubbish
- River (Pol.)
- Break of day
- Toward
- Boss of a shield
- Close to
- A support
- Collection of books
- River (Sib.)
- Like
- Particle of addition
- Metal tag
- Runs away
- Spread grass to dry
- Chills and fever
- Moved, as air

10-16

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STAB	TAIL
PERIL	ARROW
ALAMO	USAGE
SLY	WAN
NEE	
KNITS	
ROME	DELTA
ABETS	RIATA
FENCES	DIAL
HEAVE	
OAF	DIE
MET	
ARIDE	NATIVE
REFER	UTTER
LEES	SEER

Yesterday's Answer
 41. At a distance
 42. River (Afr.)
 44. Large worm

