

The Daily Tar Heel

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Letters to the Editor

Outgoing File

The following is reprinted from *The Daily Tar Heel*, May 13, 1949, on the occasion of the presentation of the Morehead Planetarium.

To that old correspondence file, we add the following note:

May 12, 1949
 Chapel Hill, N. C.

Dear Uncle John,

We got your present Tuesday and we don't know how to thank you enough for it. We've never had anything like it before, and it's making quite a hit here in town. We've had friends and kinfolks over to the house we haven't seen in years.

Of course, the neighbors have known it was coming, and some of them couldn't see much sense in it—they wanted to know what use it was and how we're going to keep it dusted and all, but now they've seen it, they're crazy about it. And that sure is a nice fellow you got down here from Philadelphia to show us how to run it—we get along with him fine.

It's a wonderful present, anyhow, and after some of the shine wears off, it'll look like it's always been here. Thanks again, Uncle John, it sure is a pretty thing, and we appreciate it.

Love,
 The Family

To that old correspondence file, we add the following note:

February 6, 1952
 Chapel Hill, N. C.

Dear Uncle John,

We are still enjoying the gift you sent us a while back. The man you sent down from Philadelphia to work it at first was a big hit with all the family. After he left, we got a nice young man to come over to the house and operate it for us, and everybody likes him too.

For a while we kept it out in the middle of everything where all the visitors could admire it, but Uncle Dee, (you know how he is) took it over and no one else had much of a crack at it for a while.

Then it seemed to get in the way and all, and we put it up on the shelf. Everyone got so used to having it around that we didn't even miss the sylvan scene that used to be there.

The neighbors' kids still come in and admire it, more than any of the other knickknacks around, but no one else drops in anymore. You know how our house is, Uncle John, there are so many things we really need and all. Wonder if you have any advice about how we can make more use of your expensive and lovely gift of 1949?

Love,
 The Family

P.S. We're still grateful for the music box, too.

By Rollo Taylor

Rameses

It's amazing how difficult it is to find such necessary things as garden rakes around this University. Got one today with about six yards of red tape hanging on the handle but I had to sweat blood.

It all started at the beginning of the quarter. It snowed on Sunday afternoon and I had a some kinda hot date in Raleigh. We hopped into a friend's car but the snow had covered the rear windshield. I hopped out again, scooped it off and made the first snow ball of the season (always a thrill). I heaved back and threw the snowball across the parking lot at Alexander dorm and then a noisy "tingle, tingle" registered thru the gale. "Snow balls don't usually tingle," says I. What does? Metal! Ring! Ouch, my class ring, two weeks old and orphaned already.

The blizzard prevented a thorough search and this babe in Raleigh kept beckoning. I cut out. Come back next afternoon to find that the snow had gone and my ring too.

All my afternoons are full up

except Wednesdays so every week I use that free time to grope into the underbrush down there with a hope that springs eternal within this human breast.

So today I decided to mechanize. Went to the building department all full of adolescent glee over utilizing tools to aid in my safari. Asked the secretary first. Nope. Went over her head to somebody else, who asked someone else, who had to get it officially approved by another guy. Then I got a lecture on how Gov. Scott disapproved of such goings on. I promised to write a thank-you note to Kerr and they let me have it.

Back to Alexander parking lot feeling like I got the spring plowing to do. I grubbed for about two hours but did nothing but landscape the area. Two acres were raked clean of leaves, broken bottles and sardine cans. One more was completely redistributed and the gravel in the drainage ditch was smoothed over for effect. No ring.

Oh, hell, it was too big any-

Madam Editor:

In reply to your editorial of February 6, the undersigned, who are members of the Planetarium staff wish to refute certain statements made in that issue of the Tar Heel. It is our most earnest intent to present "both" sides of the picture; something your editorial seemingly overlooked.

The Planetarium a playtoy for University bigwigs? Where would you suggest University officials entertain prominent visiting friends of the University? Consider that these people have endowed scholarships and otherwise aided in the promotion of the Greater University. Also consider that Graham Memorial provides student meetings facilities. In the past as now, the Morehead Building has provided facilities for student functions when needed.

The Planetarium a focal point for visits to the campus by North Carolina school children? Again, where do you suggest—Harry's? What's wrong with providing facilities for educating and entertaining the school children of North Carolina? In addition it should be remembered that these school children are potential Carolina students. Also, the Planetarium attracts visitors not only from this area, but from all the surrounding states and helps advertise North Carolina as the most advanced, culturally, of the Southern states, Virginia not excepted.

But perhaps you think we digress, because you seem to feel rather emphatically that the Planetarium is failing to serve the town, University and state. You claim this failure is due to:

1) "No attempt made to attract scholars by programs above the third grade level." We question your ability to decide upon the level to which the programs are directed and wonder what standards you used for this estimation. We question any such generalization. As a matter of fact the astronomical principles demonstrated in the school shows are very much the same as those demonstrated for the General College astronomy laboratory sessions, except that an attempt is made to simplify the terminology and in general make the demonstrations easier to grasp when playing to audiences of children. A college student that comprehends all the material brought out in a Planetarium demonstration is to be congratulated. We suggest he or she enroll in an astronomy course, (in which the instrument is employed for the laboratories) to further amplify a very high degree of native intelligence. One of last fall's demonstrations, "Music of the Spheres" was not well received because the findings and theories of Kepler, Tycho Bahe, Copernicus, Ptolemy, and others, went over the heads of the public.

2) "Cultural opportunities not brought to the attention of the campus". The Planetarium attractions are advertised daily in the Tar Heel and Durham and Raleigh newspapers; posters are placed in downtown windows, and other conspicuous places. The Knapp collection, on display in the Planetarium, received a six column feature in the New York Times as well as most North Carolina newspapers.

3) "Cultural opportunities which could be offered are not offered". What cultural oppor-

tunities in particular? This point is just another generalized statement which must, to be of any significance, be accompanied by constructive suggestions, which we fail to find in your editorial.

The Morehead Building was a gift to the state, the University, and the people at large. The yearly schedule of shows is indicative of an attempt to reach out to all these beneficiaries. Last year two religious presentations, three or four dramatic productions, and a wide range of more intellectually inclined shows were presented. Some single performances played to houses of four, eight, and 16 people, as you were eager to point out. Other single performances played to houses of 500.

We suggest that you re-examine your causal factors for the Planetarium's "failure" to fulfill its function. We challenge you to publish another editorial after you examine our arguments, providing you have some constructive suggestions to offer. The question of what is wrong with the Planetarium yet remains unanswered, don't you think?

Jim Smith
 Bill Hood

Editors Notes

We do indeed.—Editor

Open Letter to The Honorable Henry Bowers, president of the Student Body:

Your Excellency:

For many months now I have listened patiently to the ravings of you and your political and non-political cohorts on the subject of non-segregation of negroes at the University of North Carolina and other southern institutions. Likewise for many months my ears and peace of mind have been beat to a pulp by a bombardment of similar propaganda insuing forth from the religious groups, negro groups, communist groups, fascist groups, Dialectic and Philanthropic senates and societies, etc. Minority groups, posing as majority groups, loudly and proudly carry the banner of non-segregation across our campus. I have never been consulted by any of these groups; and yet these self-appointed **Voces Populi** are constantly threatening University officials with the "Sword of the Majority." Should they fail to comply with the majority's wishes. (You Mister President, were elected to carry out the wishes of the student body. What measures have you taken to ascertain what their wishes may be?)

Furthermore, all the arguments thus far expanded by you, the supporters of non-segregation, have been based solely on the moral issue, i.e., is segregation right or wrong. It would indeed be fortunate if all of mankind's many problems could be solved on that basis. Unfortunately, however, such is not the case. I am willing to end all arguments on this question by admitting that morally segregation is wrong. However, as I have said, the problems of the world cannot be solved by pious and idealistic daydreamers.

Most of us will readily admit that excessive drinking is morally wrong. Yet prohibition is not the answer, though probably it is morally right. Likewise poverty is neither morally right nor is it just. Yet communism is not the answer. Prohibition and communism fail

because of the human element and neither will succeed because of human reaction. In dealing with the problems of humanity one must not forget and ignore humanity itself. In dealing with segregation one must not forget that the average Southerner is prejudiced toward the average Negro.

Forcing the will of the supposed unprejudiced Yankee (or more properly the will of the unprincipled politician) down the already irritated throat of the admittedly prejudiced Southerner can only cause trouble—for the white Southerner, true, but principally for the Negro.

A. J. Garvelle

Dear Mr. Rollo Taylor

If ever the devil was born with a pair of ears it was you. As I was thumbing through the pages (all two of them) of Wednesday's Tar Heel, I noticed a column entitled Rameses. Now this title should be enough to interest any Carolina man and so I proceeded to devour eagerly the contents of this column as I do any other readable material that by chance I might find in the Tar Heel. About half way through I lost my appetite and let the furnace devour the other half. From the roars coming from the furnace I am sure that it found your column quite humorous. Humorous indeed... the work of a mad man!!

May I quote you? Thank you. I quote, "then some scrounge like Johnny Ray or Frankie Lane has to come along and set music back two thousand years." Because these two artists express their feelings through music in a way that only a true music lover can understand and appreciate, you associate them with the word scrounge. God Save The Tar Heel!!! To condemn these two artists who have a style all their own is to condemn any other artist with a particular style in his or her singing. I might name a few. June Christy bopping "How High the Moon," Louis Armstrong with "I Get Ideas," Ella Fitzgerald with "Smooth Sailing." Are each of these artists scrounges because they do not sing nice and peaceful as you so aptly put it? I think not!!!

Mr. Taylor, your statement and I quote, "I ain't an expert on nothing nohow about music," should prove a serious contender for the understatement of the year. You may write of football, canasta, or even a running commentary on a "six day bike race" but leave music to those few who appreciate and understand the meaning of the word itself.

Ronny Levin

Off Campus

LOS ANGELES—People have more interest in local affairs than in national and international events, says Loren Hays, general manager of the Home-Town Daily Newspapers of the West.

He said readership studies among 25 western daily newspapers of circulations ranging from 3,500 to 35,000 bear this out. "Local columns of comment and chatter consistently outpull the syndicated Washington columnists," Hays told an Advertising Club meeting. "The latter seldom exceed 25 per cent readership, while many instances of 60 and 70 per cent readership on local columns have been found."—JG