An Alumnus Writes

Letter To The Athletic Council

3 December, 1952

The Athletic Council University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Gentlemen:

It was without a great sense of elation that I read this morning of Carl Snavely's resignation as head football coach at UNC. I cannot know exactly how you feel about this matter but news reports don't indicate that any member of the Council was busting a trace to retain Snavely. On the contrary, there have been constant rumblings down Chapel Hill way for the past three years concerning Coach Snavely's handling of the Tar Heel football team.

Understand that I am not indicting the Athletic Council because of Snavely's resignation because I respect your decisions and look upon you as gentlemen of high character. In plain words, I do not think the Council is composed of little men who would force the resignation of a man of Snavely's ability.

However, the Council must have recognized immediately that the unqualified acceptance of the resignation placed it in a ticklish position and, at the same time, brought smug smiles of satisfaction to those big-mouthed, little-brained alumni and students who have howled, yelped and squealed so long and so loud for Snavely's scalp.

Two Fine Coaches Gone

In the past few months Carolina has stood quietly by while two of the finest men in the coaching profession stepped down from their positions for identical reasonsalumni grumbling and lack of cooperation on the part of alumni and University officials. The other gentleman to whom I refer is, of course, Tom Scott, our former basketball coach.

In my opinion, Tom Scott and Carl Snavely are gentlemen of the highest caliber and coaches who rank with the best in their field. And I'll stick by that despite hell, high water and a hundred and fifty consecutive losses!

Let's analyze the situation, if you please, Gentlemen.

First we'll consider briefly the resignation of Tom Scott. During his years as coach at Carolina, Scott never had the material to produce a top basketball team. Still he consistently strove to make the Tar Heels a winner and he threw plenty of scares into the finest teams in the conference. Our team, more often than not, was better than average during Scott's regime but certainly was not as good as the best.

Alumni And Students Howled

We played some of the nation's finest teams-Kentucky, Illinois, N. C. State, et al-during the past few years and never did too well in comparison. So the alumni and students howled. And you listened. Didn't you?

So now Scott is gone and to replace him you have brought in Frank McGuire, another of the nation's finest coaches and a man with a reputation built on success. Pardon my pessimism, gentlemen, but may I predict that five years hence McGuire's record will be no better than our record of the past five years—unless some changes are made.

In order to produce a basketball winner, Carolina can do one of two things, viz., play a "soft" schedule or bring in some top notch talent from the hinterlands. I believe we will bring in the talent. I hope we will bring in the talent. I want to win. I also want to know why Scott's continual pleas for better scholarships to offer top players were never heeded.

I know for a fact that we had several players on campus at one time or another who, being offered only a second or third rate scholarship, tipped their hats and slowly rode away—only to become all-conference, all-this-and-that and, in one or two instances, All-America at rival schools. Deny that if you will but I could name names were that necessary and could produce the most unimpeachable evidence to back up my

Well, in the end Scott took as much as he could stand and very humbly resigned in the face of overwhelming odds and growing dissension from without and from with-

Snavely Forced To Resign

And now we see Snavely, the once-proud leader of titans, humbled, disappointed and forced to the point of resignation by the thundering mob. And do my eyes deceive me or is that the Athletic Council standing grimly by the the background and nodding sage heads in silent agreement?

Yes, Gentlemen, Snavely was great in his younger years. Remember in 1933 when he came in and took a team that had won only seven games in two years and compiled a 15-2-1 record in the following two years? And how about '45 when the "Grey Fox" stepped in again, took a team that won only one game (from Cherry Point) the year before and two years later went to the Sugar Bowl?

Of course Snavely has lost his touch now and his usefulness is over. At least that's what a lot of folks tell me.

Maybe he has lost his touch but my belief is that it would be more accurate to say that he has lost his material. Show me a coach—any coach anywhere - who could take the material that Snavely has had for the past three seasons, play the schedule that he has played, withstand the mounting pressures and still produce a winner.

Gentlemen, I don't believe there is any such man. I know you're going to look long and hard but I don't believe you'll find one. I have a hunch that Carolinas next head football coach will be Art Guepe (if he's "available") and I hope he is your selection. He's a fine coach and a real gentleman. He's not the pop-off alibi expert that some coaches are and he's not the fussing, cussing practice field tyrant that others are.

Guepe, like Snavely, is a man who can bring out the best in a boy. He, like Snavely, can take a wild kid, polish him up a bit and send him out into the world a graduate any school would be proud of. He, like Snavely, builds men not football bums. And he, like Snavely, will never hit the .500 mark until talent is provided for him to work with.

What Does Carolina Need?

What does Carolina need? Here's my prescription:

1. A generous helping of beef, brawn, brains and know how to wear the blue and white. (This is not to be confused with hometown pets that run wild against a cow pasture eleven and capture the heart's and fancy of ever-loving alumni who send them away to be made into All-Americas).

2. Time to regroup, rebuild and counterattack.

3. A minimum of injuries to key players.

4. A rekindling of student and alumni support and interest.

5. Patience, fortitude, forebearance.

And so, Gentlemen, I rest my case but let me add one other thing, this having to do with the much ballyhooed de-emphasis

If we are to have real de-emphasis (and I see no reason for it) let's not pull such stunts as dropping Texas and adding Oklahoma, dropping South Carolina and adding Maryland and the like (this, of course, being mere conjecture on my part). If we're going to play big-time football and basketball (and I'm all for it) let's provide players equal to the schedule, lend whole-hearted support to the coaches, discourage alumni quarterbacks (no reflection on Spike Saunders), and string along with a good man when we

Is This De-emphasis?

And, just for the record, I wonder what Maryland and Clemson think about all this after our great crusade of last year. Does a school really fire two big name coaches only to hire two other big names in the interest of de-emphasis?

Let's clean our own kettles before we scold the pots!

What's done is, unfortunately, done, Gentlemen. But from now on, let's let our minds and not our emotions-or our disgruntled alumni-govern our actions, be they active or passive.

That's all, Gentlemen, and in closing may remind you that "When the One Great Scorer comes to write beside your name, He writes not that you won or lost, but how you played the game."

> Sincerely yours, Zane Robbins, '52

Note: Zane Robbins, a former Daily Tar Heel sports editor and Publications Board chairman, now serving in the Armed Forces, is "galled" over the forced resignation of Football Coach Carl Snavely, as are, undoubtebly, other alumni.

In a personal note to the editor Robbins explains that he's "not out to grind an are with anyone" and has "no hard feelings toward the Athletic Council since there is no need to cry over the proverbial spilt milk.

"I do think the Council was dead wrong in letting Snavely and Scott go," he adds. "I think they (the Council) will soon find themselves in an indefensible position when the rest of the conference starts crowing about the UNC-sponsored de-emphasis program of last year."

"My only objective (in writing the letter) is to assuage the wounds of a lot of students and faculty members-and alumni-who think, as I do, that Snavely and Scott got a raw deal," Rob-

We agree with many of the views he expresses above.

We, too, believe that the spactacle of a stillgreat football coach "forced to the point of resignation" is a saddening, event-especially when it happens in Chapel Hill.

And we shall have more to say on this matter later . . .

John Taylor .

Review

Playmakers presented their first performance of Gogol's "The Inspector General". The run will terminate with Sunday evening's performance.

Your reviewer was completely delighted with the first act of the Russian satire; it ran along at a merry pace and abounded with witty and pungent characterizations. Then two rather unfortunate things occurred—the second and third acts. There was a definite let-odwn. The pace dragged in many places, the characterizations lost much of their zip, and the entire production from that point on was disappointing. Although it was here too that two tremendously amusing cameos were delivered by Bill Trotman and Charles Hadley, for the most part, the less said about the second and third acts the better.

Appropriately enough to the traditions of the Moscow Art Theatre, it is in the ensemble playing that the most consistently high level of performing is achieved. As was mentioned earlier, there were some individual gems sprinkled throughout the play, but they were the exception, not the rule.

Fred Young's performance as Hlestakov was not quite up to his usual high standard, but

CROSSWORD -

52

elliptical

44. courteous

50. flies aloft

47. cited

51. sesame

52. shun

54. sever

55. bronze

56. lateral

boundaries

NEARED

57. observe

2. smooth

3. place of

entrance

5. New England

state (abbr.)

4. cry of the

6. auditory

ASSORT

TAPERS

7. shortly

Answer to yesterday's puzzle.

HERMON POPLAR ARISTA PLAICE

RID ACTED VIA GAEL KEA PEND ELDER ALIJASES NAB SON

RAVENED NIDES

ELIIS LOB CELT

ALE MARES RUE

SUNSET RESIDE

Average time of solution: 25 minutes.

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VERTICAL

1. wine vessels

HORIZONTAL 42. slightly

35

1. fourth

food

caliph

4. article of

9. female hog

12. adult males

13. climbing

plant

17. revolved

21. river in

19. continued

Russia

22. compound

27. derrick pole

29. waistcoats

31. hypothetical

railways

together

34. drinking cup

France

greenish finch

(abbr.)

ether

24. feel

32. street

33. comes

35. like

36. city in

37. auction

38. anguish

40. small

14. imitate

15. nook

On Wednesday evening, the nonetheless, he brought to the droll tongue-in-cheek quality, and an elegant appearance that sports Editor was a complete delight to those Night Editor for this issue: Louis Kraar who had never seen him before.

> In the arduous role of the mayor, Jim Pritchett was superb in the first act, but was not able to sustain this high level for the rest of the play. Nancy Green, playing the mayor's wife, turned in a wonderfully comic interpretation. Jan Carter was winning as the mayor's daughter, but played all her scenes on the same level and thus tended to become rather monotonous. Able performances were turned in by Don Wright, Milton Beyer, Bill Waddell, and the aforementioned Trotman and Hadley. But it is a shame that some of the performers were selected only because they looked their parts, for this was one of the factors that lowered the caliber of the overall produc-

Harry Davis' direction was sometimes inventive, sometimes repetitious. The costumes, by Irene Smart, were colorful and fitted well into the mood of the piece. While not one of his best, William Long's set was more than acceptable.

By Eugene Sheffer

25

2-23

8. abhors

9. lucifer

(poet.)

18, the birds

drunkenly

10. unclose

11. marry

16. careen

20. flat

23. sways

25. spirit

27. meadow

33. optical

37. fodder

34. madmen

tank

39. sprawls

45. faithful

46. Italian

47. Luzon

49. father

41. garden

36. tennis score

storage

flowers

43. son of Jacob

princely

Negrito

48. prevarication

53. prefix: down

house

(poetic)

. precipitous

28. in addition

26. rim

The Paily Tar Heel

nonetheless, he brought to the part his unique comic flair, complete with perfect timing, a delivered so and \$2.25 per quarter

JIM SCHENCK BIFF ROBERTS

-Louis Kraar -

Party Line

Is it going to happen? That's what students on campus ask when it comes to the Saturday class question. Most seem to think that it's a dead issue and the sixth class day is inevitable. But that's not true.

The wheels of student government, slow moving at the start like most intricate machines, have warmed up. An organized campaign against Saturday classes is being carried on every day by student government workers. Watching them at work, one can readily see that the fight isn't dead, but just moving into the second round.

Here's the latest work: Many students, the same ones that drink coffee in the Y court every morning and attend football games, went to see trustees over the holidays. President, Ham Horton and his crew of workers, who are just as energetic over this as they are about politicing, kept a file on the re-

The results were great. The trustees, who are not all bearded, stoic conservatives, reacted favorably at the interviews. Even those who formerly were advocates of Saturday classes. spoke encouragingly.

So the rest is up to students, backed by their government. But the thing's not over. Drop in Graham Memorial and see. And, most important of all, sound off to everyone you know . . . parents, friends, and profs. Then we WON'T have Saturday class-

ON THE FENCE: Politicians are screaming again. This time it's about money. Seems that some of the Student Party delegates to the State Student

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Legislature in Raleigh had to pay their own registration. They're shouting about it because Legislature appropriated them the funds. Prexy Ham Horton (UP) vetoed the bill, which was within his power. SP complainers say that he waited past the allowed time. Others say he didn't. At any rate, Horton reminds them-and they should be reminded-that they do not represent Carolina at the meeting. It is a worthy and wonderful liberal group though. But on my money and the rest of the student body's.

REMINDER: To all aspiring politicians-F. Scott Fizgerald, the poet of the twenties, once said. "To the spoils belongs the victor." That's a generous snack

for thought.

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