

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.

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.

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 reasons—alumni grumbling and lack of cooperation on the part of alumni and University officials.

In my opinion, Tom Scott and Carl Snavely are gentlemen of the highest caliber and coaches who rank with the best in their field.

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.

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 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.

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 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.

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 within.

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.

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?

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.

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.

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.
2. Time to regroup, rebuild and counter-attack.
3. A minimum of injuries to key players.
4. A rekindling of student and alumni support and interest.
5. Patience, fortitude, forbearance.

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

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).

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.

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 I 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, undoubtedly, other alumni.

In a personal note to the editor Robbins explains that he's "not out to grind an axe 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," Robbins asserted.

We agree with many of the views he expresses above.

We, too, believe that the spectacle of a still-great 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

On Wednesday evening, the Playmakers presented their first performance of Gogol's "The Inspector General".

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.

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.

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

nonetheless, he brought to the part his unique comic flair, complete with perfect timing, a droll tongue-in-cheek quality, and an elegant appearance that was a complete delight to those 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.

Harry Davis' direction was sometimes inventive, sometimes repetitious. The costumes, by Irene Smart, were colorful and fitted well into the mood of the piece.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Editor: Louis Kraar
Sports Editor: [Name]
Night Editor for this issue: Louis Kraar

Party Line

Is it going to happen? That's what students on campus ask when it comes to the Saturday class question.

The wheels of student government, slow moving at the start like most intricate machines, have warmed up.

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.

The results were great. The trustees, who are not all bearded, stoic conservatives, reacted favorably at the interviews.

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.

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

Legislature in Raleigh had to pay their own registration. They're shouting about it because Legislature appropriated them the funds.

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

CROSSWORD - - - By Eugene Sheffer. Grid with numbers 1-57 and 2-23.

ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE. HORIZONTAL: 1. fourth caliph, 4. article of food, 9. female hog, 12. adult males, 13. climbing plant, 14. imitate, 15. nook, 17. revolved, 19. continued story, 21. river in Russia, 22. compound ether, 27. derrick pole, 29. waistcoats, 31. hypothetical force, 32. street railways (abbr.), 33. comes together, 34. drinking cup, 35. like, 36. city in France, 37. auction, 38. anguish, 40. small greenish fish, 42. slightly elliptical, 44. courteous, 47. cited, 50. flies aloft, 51. sesame, 52. shun, 54. sever, 55. bronze money, 56. lateral boundaries, 57. observe, VERTICAL: 1. wine vessels, 2. smooth, 3. place of entrance, 4. cry of the sheep, 5. New England state (abbr.), 6. auditory organ, 7. shortly, 8. abhors, 9. lucifer, 10. unclose (poet.), 11. marry, 16. career, 18. the birds, 20. flat, 23. sways drunkenly, 25. spirit, 26. rim, 27. meadow (poetic), 28. in addition, 30. precipitous, 33. optical illusions, 34. madmen, 35. tennis score, 37. fodder storage tank, 39. spraws, 41. garden flowers, 43. son of Jacob, 45. faithful, 46. Italian princely house, 47. Luzon Negrito, 48. prevarication, 49. father, 53. prefix: down

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