

Open Letter To Voters: Significance Of Recall

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE STUDENT BODY:

The implications of a recall election are so far-reaching they merit unlimited discussion.

Today, the moment of decision has arrived. The student body will decide today, not only my fate — for I matter little — but the fate of Daily Tar Heel editors for the duration of the paper's existence.

The basic issue involved—though clouded by personal ambitions, political manipulation and a sense of negativism on the part of many—is the freedom of any editor to speak his mind on pertinent issues. This right of editors to speak their minds is a priceless and integral part of American Democracy.

In addressing you as students in this personal way, I am not defending myself or my stand on any issue. Instead, I seek to defend, in my humble way, the right of future Daily Tar Heel editors to express opinions without fear of censorship and recall for disagreement's sake.

Recall is a valuable part of the American governmental system — if it is used correctly as a weapon against gross malfeasance and intentional misuse of a public office. But this weapon becomes perverted and tyrannical if it is incorrectly used to censor the thoughts of those who seek only to insure a fair shake for the electorate — the people.

As Dave Levy, Florida State Alligator editor, said in a letter addressed to myself:

"Any editor, elected to do his job, is bound to arouse criticism. No conscientious editor who speaks or writes as he feels can help but alienate some segment of the student body.

If this recall succeeds, and I pray that it does not, no future editor of The Daily Tar Heel will be free from the threat of being removed from office because his policies are disagreed with.

I earnestly hope that the student body will not take the chance of throwing away the editorial independence and integrity of The Daily Tar Heel by approving this recall movement.

"The eyes of all college newspapers all over the South will be on

the UNC student body to determine the outcome."

The eyes of the South are truly upon the UNC electorate as it goes to the polls today—we hope, in numbers.

The Raleigh News and Observer printed an editorial a week ago from which I take excerpts: "Over at Chapel Hill for the second time in a couple of years, there is a movement to recall — that is to eject — the editor of the student newspaper — The Daily Tar Heel.

"Apparently students, who find they don't agree with the editor they elected, want to give him the gate.

"... If the students believe in the democracy by which the young man was elected, they better also hold to the principle of free expression, too. They can recall him. But if they do they will be admitting both the failure of their own democracy and their unwillingness to tolerate opinions with which they disagree.

"They can't kick the editor without kicking themselves."

I do not agree with the News and Observer that a recall would be admission of democratic failure. Recall is a proper and justifiable method to correct gross malfeasance and intentional misuse of office.

But I must agree that recall, in this instance, would demonstrate "unwillingness to tolerate opinions" with which there is disagreement.

The student body does not want, I sincerely feel, a paper packed with pat platitudes — agreeable platitudes.

The student body does want, I sincerely feel, a lively and interesting newspaper — lively because there is no hesitation to speak out on controversial issues.

If the recall is successful, and I pray with Dave Levy and the Florida State Alligator that it is not, future Daily Tar Heel editors must live in perpetual fear, must hesitate to speak their minds, must hesitate to evoke lively and controversial discussions.

I sought editorship of this paper — earnestly and diligently — fully aware that it was an unpopular job, I have worked on this paper three years and it is my life. Therefore, if I felt there was a more capable and devoted candidate in the race, I would withdraw and give him my full support. I love the paper that much.

But I matter little in this race. It is the issue for which I must fight to the end.

This issue — editorship without fear or intimidation — I will support with all my God-given energies and through my every waking hour.

If I am re-elected, as I said on page one, I shall have two objectives:

(1) Complete casting aside of any ill feelings which might have resulted from the recall and renewed cooperation toward fulfillment of the purposes for which this University was created.

(2) Renewed determination to continually improve this paper through devotion of my every waking hour.

The matter lies in the hands of you as students. I am confident your choice will be wise and thoughtful.

I may be defeated but I will not be intimidated — scared away from speaking on controversial topics. Do not cast a ballot for me if you want an editor with whom the student body will always agree, an editor who will poll the students before he ever speaks on any issue, an editor who will not have incentive enough to formulate his own opinions and assert them strongly.

If you sincerely want such an editor, do not cast a ballot for me.

But, at any rate, cast a ballot and think carefully before you do so.

The eyes of the South are upon you.

Vote wisely and carefully. The paper's life and editorial independence depend on you.

CAROLINA CARROUSEL:

Male Ghosts? Male Boasts? Male Toasts?

Gail Godwin

I would like to acknowledge Mr. John M. Moore's letter of the 21st of November, and to reprint parts of it because it is much too good to be left unpublicized.

"Miss Godwin, your farce is ridiculously futile. If the DTH articles having your by-line are written by a member of the softer sex (which I doubt) then "it" is certainly not of the bobby-sox, loafer, bubble-gum set. No, Miss Godwin, one does not make the transition from comic books to Camus overnight, nor does one who was swooning over Elvis a few weeks ago write with the considerable wisdom and philosophical insight today.

"... Your readers have no alternative but to conclude that "your" stories are in reality "ghost stories". Even some of the top literary figures in the ranks of the fair sex, such as Gypsy Rose Lee are alleged to employ professional ghosts. Also I have it from reliable sources that a certain young French Miss, who is addicted to driving sport cars barefooted, signs the dotted line with an X. "Confidentially, her literary career was the brain child of a smart advertising man who devised the scheme to sell more turtle neck sweaters."

Thank you, Mr. Moore, for paying me the highest compliment I have ever had. For judging my articles to be such gems of philosophical insight that they seem to you much too good for a mere female to think up.

As for my ghost writer, I admit I have one. "She" would be quite invisible to you, but she drifts around in the inner-reservoir of my techie, bobby-sox and bubble gum mind quoting Camus and other great MALE masterminds. Her name is Gertrude Godwin Ghost.

The author of Carolina Carrousel and Gertrude Godwin Ghost extended a hearty invitation to the writer of his "Doubting Thomas" letter to come up to the DTH of office any day and see Gertrude and myself in action.

Poor Françoise Sagan and I. We have been found out. Another smart advertising man cajoled me into this "farce" in order to promote bubble gum and bobby sox.

Thank you again, Mr. Moore!

GM's Slate

The following activities are scheduled for Graham Memorial today:

- Debate Squad, 4-6 p. m., Grail Room;
- George Ragsdale 2-4 p. m., Grail Room; APO, 7:30-8:30 p. m., Roland Parker Lounge
- 1: University Party, 7-9 p. m., Roland Parker Lounge 2: Carboard, 7-8 p. m., Roland Parker Lounge 3: Symposium, 3-4 p. m., Woodhouse Conference Room; Honor System Committee, 7-8 p. m., Woodhouse Conference Room; Petite Dramatique Rehearsal, Game Room.

L'IL ABNER



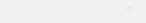
POGO



by Al Capp



by Walt Kelly



"Whew! At First I Thought It Was Sent Up By One Of The Other Services"



CAMPAIGN MANAGER:

Shuford Asserts For Eisele...

EDITOR:

The following editorial appeared in the Statesville Record and Landmark the day after Douglas Eisele resigned his job there in the summer of 1956 to enter the University of North Carolina.

The editorial, in full, follows: ON THE WAY UP—Only once before have we used this space to pay tribute to a parting employee. Today we want to make our manners to Douglas Eisele, who is entering the University of North Carolina.

Doug joined the Record and Landmark staff something over a year ago. He had finished high school and had found that he could not go on to college without first getting a job and saving some money.

He was employed in a local industrial plant when we called him and asked if he would like to come to work for us. He said he would. And he did.

Doug knew little about reporting, but he was willing to learn. He knew nothing about photography, but he learned that, too. In time, he became one of our most dependable and most valuable staff members. He never complained about the hours. He never balked at an assignment. He never asked for a raise, although earned several.

Meanwhile, we have seen several big-time operators come and go. Without exception, they felt they were being underpaid and overworked. The pastures looked greener elsewhere. They all want-

ed to be paid for "experience," but never had time to stay in one place long enough to get it. Not one of them could fill the reportorial shoes of Doug Eisele.

Doug will continue his journalism training at the University of

lege men already on the scene. Yesterday Doug came by to tell us he appreciated the opportunity we had given him to learn something about newspapering.

"What I have learned will pay my way through college," he said.



North Carolina. He will pay a part of his expenses by working with Pete Ivey in the University News Bureau, a job we helped him to land despite competition from col-

"and I want you to know I appreciate it."

A nice sentiment from a fellow who would have made it anyway. SYD SHUFORD

RECALL ELECTION:

Judicial Heads Give Opinions

(In accordance with a promise made to Chairman Patton of Zeta Psi Fraternity and Chairman Ragsdale, we print their views on the recall at the earliest date space would allow. The deluge of recent letters has prohibited earlier printing. The Editor)

TO THE STUDENT BODY:

The authors of this letter wish to make it clear from the outset that the statements made in the letter which follows are solely the opinions and beliefs of the undersigned, and do not, in any sense, reflect the opinion of any group, or any other persons. We have written the letter because of deep seated convictions held by us, and we feel compelled to make public matters which should be of individual concern to every student.

Concerning the pressing recall issue, it is our belief that the question of freedom of the press is not even remotely involved. Every man is entitled to speak freely at all times, and this applies to the editor of any newspaper at any time. The matter of freedom of the press should not even be discussed in reference to the recall, simply because it is not a matter under consideration, and does not, in any way, bear upon the subject. No one, including ourselves, has ever questioned the right of the editor to state his opinion on any subject.

Rather than being a question of freedom of the press, it is a question of student freedom. The Administration has exhibited its willingness to delegate huge chunks of freedom to the students. Chancellor Aycock has invited students to attend and participate in top-level Administrative Planning Conferences. Neil Bass is the only editor in the history of The Daily Tar Heel who has ever been invited to attend such conferences. He has refused to attend every conference held since the invitation was extended to him. How long will the Administration continue to invite students to such important functions if one of the most important and supposedly responsible members of the student body continues to ignore the invitation?

The charges against the editor are those of incompetence and irresponsibility. We hold that the charges are well founded. It is our conviction that the editor is irresponsible because he has, throughout the discussion of many issues exhibited immaturity, and a decided lack of devotion to the presentation of the facts. In his slurs against Dr. Hedgepeth, Coach Tatum, and Sam Magill he has presented opinions of his own. This, in itself, is permissible, and we repeat that he is within his rights to do so. But when these accusations are not based upon truth or fact, then the expression of such opinion becomes objectionable. He has, time and time again, gone beyond, or rather below, the issues involved and has condemned personalities who had little, or nothing, to do with the issues at hand. We believe that such unwarranted personal disparagement is not in keeping with the spirit of dignity which has pervaded the editorial page of The Daily Tar Heel and made it the outstanding college daily in the nation, until recently.

We believe that the editor is also incompetent. He has exhibited this trait through the handling of the Asian flu situation. The editor made many statements which were simply not true. It is an established fact that Editor Bass did not know the facts behind the Asian flu situation until well after the "epidemic" had passed. Consequently, you, the reader, did not know them either. If the editor had simply called the Chancellor, who ordered the vaccine, or Business Manager Branch, who bought it, or Dr. Hedgepeth, who administered it, and if he had gotten the facts from them, the resulting unfortunate situation, which the editor himself caused, which accompanied the "epidemic" was a direct result of the editor's ignorance of the facts and of the truth. In spite of the fact that he did not know the truth, he chose to present, as facts, a picture of extreme negligence on the part of the Administration, which, in fact did not exist.

To properly present the case of grounds of incompetence and irresponsibility would require many pages. This is only a basic summation. And it could not, in any way, be correctly construed as a personal attack on Neil Bass. We are speaking out against the things which he has stood for. We know that the editor has not consistently restricted his statements to the confines of truth. We believe that one who indulges in such statements is not qualified to assume the position of responsibility and high honor which an editor of The Daily Tar Heel should hold.

The situation is an extremely unfortunate one, particularly for the editor. It is almost pitiable. But something must be done. The question remains: What will you, the reader, do about it?

MACON G. PATTON, Chairman, Student Council
GEORGE R. RAGSDALE, Chairman, Men's Honor Council

P.S. If the editor comments on this letter by way of prefix, suffix or headline, or any way other than in his own column, he will exhibit the immaturity and irresponsibility with which he is charged. We expect he will.

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