

# America Finally Admitting To Education Shortcomings

While back, an American scientist told a group of editors: "Until the time comes when the Phi Beta Kappa has the same social standing as the football player, we are going to fall behind U.S.S.R."

While the scientist's point may be a bit overstated, it does focus on a basic problem in our whole educational system. Running with a football or tossing a basketball through a hoop always has been a surer route to campus status than turning out a superlative report card.

Too often, good grades have called as much for apology as for pride.

It's still that way to an extent, but there are signs that a gradual change is taking place. A national magazine reported recently that the athlete whose brains can't keep pace with his brawn has lost considerable prestige on college campuses.

There are more academic scholarships available than ever before. Parents, eyeing rising college ex-

penses, are increasingly eager to see their youngsters pass up an extra-curricular activity or two for a bout with the books.

Some newspapers are making a special effort to recognize leadership and scholastic merit. The Observer's "Top Teens" features are a case in point.

The widely publicized need for brainpower to insure our national survival is gradually altering attitudes toward eggheads in general.

This is all to the good. For too long adults and adolescents alike have contributed to an unrealistic standard of values on high school and college campuses.

We're not knocking halfbacks and forwards. We cheer for them with the rest of the crowd and will continue to. It's just that we believe that fellow who racks up an A in physics has done something even more important than scoring a touchdown or a field goal.

He deserves some cheers, too.—The Charlotte Observer

## J. Y.'S JAZZ Church, Jazz Said To Have Lot In Common

The subject of jazz and Christianity has been attacked by many different people and in many different ways. Because I would like to develop the matter to a moderately full extent, I intend to take a couple of columns to explore things, and in the process of doing so will be making a great many observations which are of a purely personal nature. I would appreciate comment on this problem very much, as one person can hardly begin to develop its dimensions.

The Kai Winding Septet recently made a recording for Columbia called *Trombone Panorama* (CL 998) on which the Horace Silver composition "The Preacher" is featured. I had never been given the opportunity of hearing this tune in a really definitive setting, so hearing this was a major revelation.

There is more pure religion in this recording than many church services I have attended. I can't really explain why; the effect is one of many aspects. The most immediately striking of these is the simplicity of the tune itself. There is a marked resemblance to the old gospel hymns—the essence being of course simplicity and rhythm. There is more than the tune, though; there is the performance itself. It is the fervor of the performance with which I am primarily concerned.

The Septet starts "The Preacher" quietly, rather reverently. The melody is exploited purely for its simplicity, without unnecessary embellishment. The coda, however, is entirely different.

suddenly all four trombones, with drummer Jack Franklin applying a rocking two beat, burst into an exhilarating finish, which matches any hymn I have ever heard. It is this which brings jazz into the realm of Christianity.

Historically, jazz arose from many roots. Perhaps most important were African rhythms, plantation field blues and chants, and gospel singing. Gospel singing is the most spirited, emotional form of worship. Despite its emotionality, it is as legitimately Christian as the High Episcopal Church or the Holy Rollers. Poor logic would lead one to say that since gospel singing is a form of Christian worship, and jazz arose from gospel singing, jazz is Christian in essence. Although this assumption has a certain amount of validity, there is one primary fault; jazz has come a long way in the past sixty years, and with the rise has come a change in values and approach.

The essence of jazz, therefore, is what we must examine in order to make any conclusions about its relationship to Christianity. I shall do this on Saturday, bearing in mind the comments which I have made upon the Kai Winding Septet's recording of "The Preacher."



VIEW FROM THE HILL

## Arab Merger Presents Problem

What's in a name? The name of the new state that is the combination of the two former states of Syria and Egypt is the United Arab State. The head of this state in all probability is General Gamal Abdel Nasser, current head of Egypt.

The name of the state simply suggests to the people of the Arab world a rallying point, a possible medium for the uniting of the entire Middle East area, with the exception of Israel. It represents to Israel the first step by the Arab world to form a united opposition to the Israeli state. The union itself is the first fruit of the seeds of militant nationalism in the area, and according to Nasser, one of the basic things that this union will bring about is the purgation of outside influences from the countries involved. When one realizes that these words come from Nasser, one realizes that he means the purgation of Western influences.

Already the seed of nationalism is bearing fruit, when ministers of Jordan, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia, announced Saturday that they would try to seek union.

Geographically the Egyptian-Syrian combine wedges Israel in, and controls much of the Western oil pipelines as well as the Suez Canal. It must be remembered also that this union is now profoundly anti-Western.

Politically this union has a strong selling point, since it can offer allegiance of the Arab states against Israel, known to be the

Arab common enemy. The next step could be the uniting of the new alliance with the proposed alliance of Jordan, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. The result of this would be disastrous to the Baghdad Pact, and since the make-up of the current United Arab State is firmly anti-Western, the Soviets would stand a good chance of having the bridge to Africa that they want, as well as the wedge against Israel in the promoting of a limited war. What is more the Russians may get control of Middle East oil, which is so vital to the West.

The picture in the Middle East is anything but bright, and although the U. S. has scientific problems to worry about at home, the problem of American foreign policy still remains acute.

What is necessary here is the realization that something must be done to combat the United Arab State idea from spreading so far that the U. S. loses any semblance of an alliance system in the Middle East. If the U. S. can get the other countries of the Middle East to unite as they hope to do, but to keep themselves separate from the new Arab state, there remains a chance that the Middle East tinder box will not be touched off into a blazing limited war, which most experts feel the U. S. would lose at the present time.

What is also necessary is that U. S. aid to the countries of the Middle East, exclusive of the new Arab state, be continued and increased so that the U. S. might

start meeting the economic offensive of the Russians. One way to do this would be to cut the interest rate on loans to foreign countries to 2½%, or on a par with the Russians, rather than trying to compete with the Russians while charging a full percent more interest.

Moreover, the nations of the Arab world that are part of the U. S. alliance system must be aided to defend themselves against the possible onslaught by the new Arab state. This requires not only arms, but also education, for in the majority of cases communist penetration in countries has been achieved by one method. This method has been the invasion of a department of government which had the closest control over the police and economic forces of the country. If the communists attain that critical step, their victory in the battle for supremacy of that state is almost assured, since they have control of both the police power as well as the purse strings.

Another thing that the U. S. must do is try to solve the Arab-Israeli refugee problem as speedily as possible through the U.N., for as long as that problem exists, the better chance the Soviet Union has of driving a wedge into the Middle East and consummating all the possible gains it is after, including the partitioning of Asia and Europe.

The time for alert foreign policy and clear-headed statesmanship is now.

## Investigators Should Probe Prior To Wrecks, Not After

It's becoming almost routine to read of midair plane collisions which claim not only the lives of persons travelling through the skies, but of innocent people on ground as well.

And a classic example of what occurs after each such accident appears in a wire story from Norwalk, Calif., over the weekend.

"Investigating teams from the Air Force and the Navy poked through scorched wreckage at two crash sites today to learn what caused the awesome, midair collision of two big military planes over this Los Angeles suburb last night," it reads.

The collision claimed 48 lives. One of the total was a 23-year-old housewife who was decapitated as she ran from her home to see what had happened. She was cut down by flying wreckage.

Whatever the "investigating teams" uncover at the crash sites will probably be used to explain away the horrible tragedy seen in the collision. But it's just cold fact that, as in previous cases, the whole cause lies in the two planes' passing through the same point at the same time—with resulting collision.

The Air Force and the Navy would do better to make their investigations before crashes, and not after them, in order that future tragedies could be averted. Indeed, it would be better to examine flight orders and airways than wreckage of twisted steel and mutilated bodies.

It was not long ago that the Civil Aeronautics Board conducted extensive surveys and hearings to determine just how crowded the skies are, and how air traffic could be controlled to prevent awesome collisions. Perhaps more money should be spent to arrive at a uni-

form, workable plan to correct what the board found.

### GUEST EDITORIAL

## Scholars Deserve Some Cheers, Too

If proposals of Secretary of Welfare Folsom are any yardstick, America is finally getting around to admitting the real cause of apathy within her vast educational system.

Urging a speed-up in scientific training, the Secretary has proposed that science and math on the high school level be bolstered by a program estimated to cost 605 million dollars. And how will it be spent?

"Of the total, 550 million would be for grants on a 50-50 matching basis to encourage the states and local school systems to expand and improve such teaching," the announcement read. "The other 55 million would go on a matching basis to state education departments to help strengthen their own staffs for supervising math and science."

Underlying those proposals is the much-too-late admission by the top man in our educational system that America's teachers, and programs set down for them, are the real cause for the nation's relapse in scientific preparation. Teachers, themselves, are not sufficiently trained to instruct others.

What our school teachers need to do is quit baby handling teenage youths, come to realize that there is more in life than conformity to society, and demand sweat and blood of students who now look upon high school diplomas as records of attendance.

Too, the educational system should be geared to offer new knowledge and ideas to the better-than-average student, rather than providing minimum requirements so that the least intellectual of all the class will find promotion an easy route.

Perhaps 605 million dollars will bring about these revisions. If it doesn't, then it's time for more money to be allotted so that American education will one day recover the respect which it long since has lost.

## Where Credit Due

Last Saturday The Daily Tar Heel ran an editorial, "UNC must Reassert Her Leadership In A New Age," reprinted verbatim from The Charlotte News.

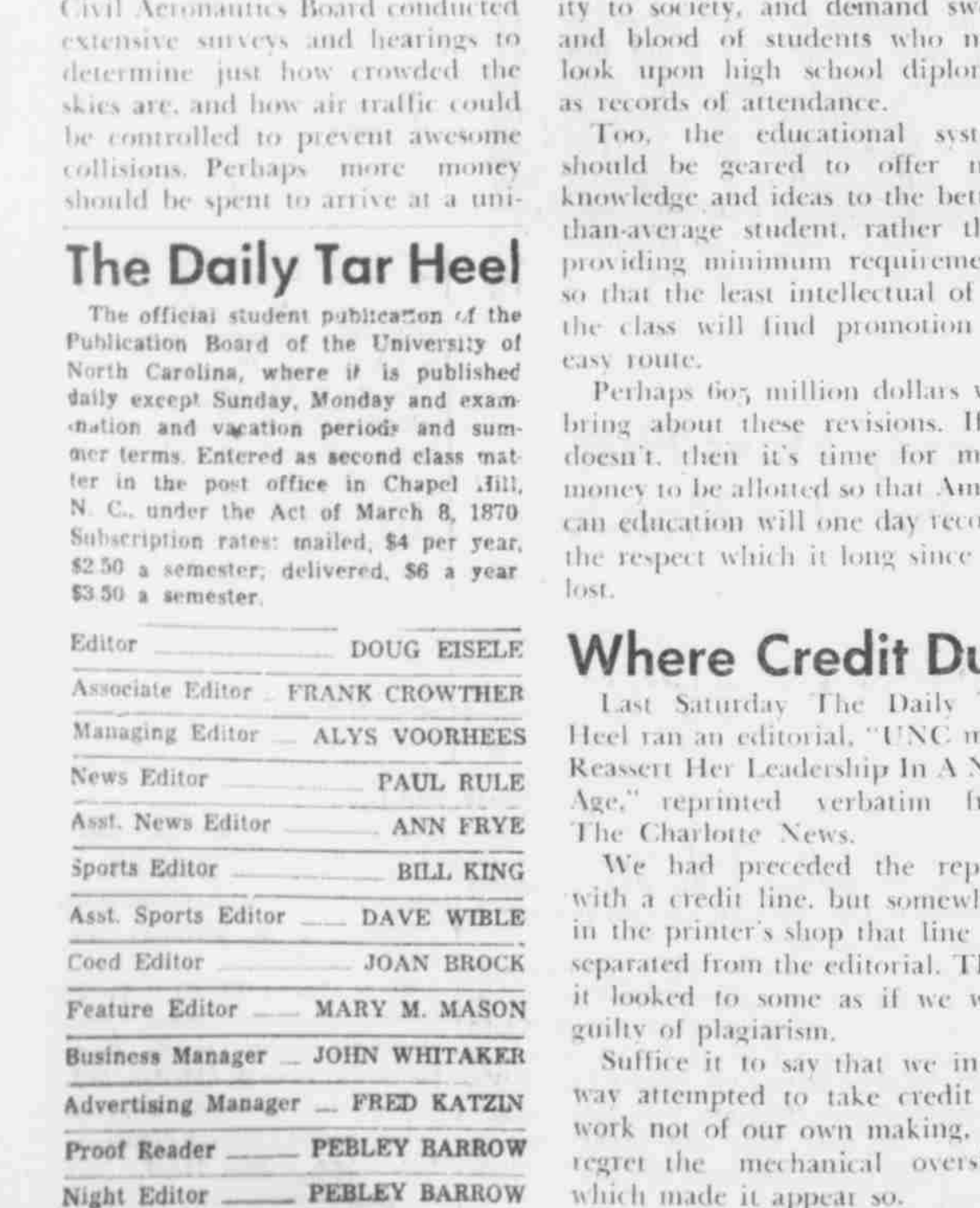
We had preceded the reprint with a credit line, but somewhere in the printer's shop that line was separated from the editorial. Thus, it looked to some as if we were guilty of plagiarism.

Suffice it to say that we in no way attempted to take credit for work not of our own making, and regret the mechanical oversight which made it appear so.

## The Daily Tar Heel

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## 'COLOR OF DARKNESS' J. Purdy Is Promising Author, Book Reveals

by Frank Crowther

In the past several years, the American literary scene has welcomed very few young writers of obvious exceptional talent. In fact, there has been a paucity of writers who have even mastered the stylistic and structural forms of the short story—after all, there are so many markets today, that one only has to have enough money for postage and a reasonably competent talent for reeling off a yarn and, *voilà*, he's in print.

In this context, we have more short story writers than ever before; on the other hand, however, we have only occasionally encountered a new artist, a man well versed in his profession and who possesses the rare talent of communicating his depth of feeling and insight through the short story. We may have just heard from one of those rare birds in the volume of short stories recently published by New Directions Books entitled "Color Of Darkness," by James Purdy.

This collection will undoubtedly become the subject of considerable discussion, even controversy. Already, many of the writers in this country as well as in England have commented favorably on Purdy's style of writing and the subject matter with which he has concerned himself.

The volume contains 11 short stories and a novella; the latter, 63: Dream Palace, is a near miss at a minor masterpiece.

In the novella the author treats the strange relationship between two brothers who, though apparently situated in New York City, inhabit some subterranean house on "Sixty-three Street." The allegory is further emphasized when one of the brothers describes their house as "a not-right-kind of place at all" which is "alive with something, I don't know what...."

Our main criticism is that the novella lacks the demonstrated continuity of thought and concentration shown in the previous short stories in the book. There are actually two stories in the one and, although this may have been the author's intent, we feel that the main theme is delayed too long and thereby lacks some of the intensity it very well could have.

The subtle softness of James Purdy's style, however, is really something to experience. His combination of a storm of horror with the calm of a child-like tenderness will arouse even the most insensible reader's emotions, as when he relates the feelings of brother for brother as "too terrible and closed in for the rest of the world to know or care about." His descriptive artistry is quite impressive: "He stood in the immense vacant attic with its suffocating smell of rotting wood, its soft but tickling clammy caresses of cobwebs, the feeling of small animal eyes upon him and the imperceptible sounds of disintegration and rot."

Mr. Purdy has presented a most moving association in these two brothers whom we find in an alien, dark-sided existence. We are almost forced to try to escape with them from some monstrous dungeon, a dungeon strangely familiar to us all, a dungeon which lurks in the allegorical world of darkness and gloom, sickness and despair. As we recover from this delirious journey, we wonder how much of an allegory it really was. We seem to have been there before.

In the short stories, the themes are varied but the anxiety and the "color of darkness" prevail.

Almost all of the stories are acutely concerned with the "other side" of the relationships between love and hate. We find a paralytic and his wife striving for a glimpse of love in an intolerable situation which breeds only anguish; we participate in one of the most unusual reunions of college child who is brooding over some pictures of his roommates; and, most pathetically and almost unbearably, we read of the passions between a sick dead father and his mother who forces the boy to burn the photos.

With this book, James Purdy has made an impressive, if somber and awesome, arrival.

Of course one volume does not rank him with the best nor does it assure us that Mr. Purdy will continue as honestly in his pursuits as he seems to in "Color Of Darkness." We hope, however, that he survives his first publication and the sudden concern shown him.

by Charles Schulz

by Al Capp

by Walt Kelly

## THE NEW REPUBLIC

## Sketches In The Sand

That is what kills political writing, this absurd pretence you are delivering a great utterance. You never do. You are just a puzzled man making notes about what you think. You are not building the Pantheon, then why act like a graven image? You are drawing sketches in the sand which the sea will wash away. What more is your book but your timidity by frowning learnedly on anyone are you to be grandiloquent and impersonal? The truth is you're afraid to be wrong. And so you put on these airs and use the established phrases, knowing that they will sound familiar and be respected.

But this fear of being wrong is a disease. You cover and qualify and elucidate, you speak vaguely, you mumble because you are afraid of the sound of your own voice. And then you apologize for your timidity by frowning learnedly on anyone who honestly regards thought as an adventure, who strikes ahead and takes his chances. You are like a man trying to be happy, like a man trying too hard to make a good masonic shot in golf. It can't be done by trying so hard to do it. Whatever truth you contribute to the world will be one lucky shot in a thousand misses. You cannot be right by holding your breath and taking precautions.—Walter Lippmann