

The D. A. R. And The U. N.

In a recent meeting in Washington, the Daughters of the American Revolution showed their true colors. In two lightning moves, that group passed resolutions calling for American withdrawal from the United Nations and for U.N. withdrawal from U.S. soil. Really ladies isn't this a little absurd?

The irritating and nauseating aspect of these resolutions is not necessarily that they were passed, but that they were passed by a supposedly responsible organization, representing millions of American women. For women, who are leaders in communities around the country to take action such as this, represents a most ominous trend.

This female contingent need only read a daily newspaper or a simple history text to realize that the era of the Monroe Doctrine, the Roosevelt Corollary and general American isolationism is dead. In the year 1959, in a world of strife and tension, there is a greater need for understanding and arbitration on the international level. And the only chance for this, is through the United Nations.

Honestly girls, if this is the best proposal that you can come up with in your national meeting, perhaps you ought to dissolve and the D.A.R. should get off of American soil.

More On Quarterly

LETTER TO DENNIS PARKS:

First of all, let's admit that the Quarterly is a dead horse here on campus, which makes all this beating you're doing kind of silly. But the Spectrum is not exactly alive either. The success of your first issue was not all you would like to think. We might run through your formula for success once, just to make sure that everyone understands.

First, play upon the hostility that is widespread on campus against the Quarterly; put yourself in opposition to what the Quarterly stands for: publication of student writers only when they measure up against the outside contributions. Run a few articles in The Daily Tar Heel. State that many professors both here and at Duke are interested and are eagerly awaiting the first issue. (Why shouldn't they be interested? Professors are put, perhaps against their will, into the position of being interested in all kinds of things that students do. It becomes almost a reflex action.)

Next, find a staff. The campus is full of the artsy-craftsy set. Then get a backer to put up enough money to publish an issue.

Then publish yourself. Be a sort of vanity press. There is always an excuse. You didn't receive anything from the campus that was better than the contributions of the staff.

Finally . . . and this is the most important part . . . pray that some young politico will issue a statement that the magazine is obscene. Then sit back and watch the student apathy disappear. . . A sell out. You can now say that you have interest in and for the campus.

Now back to our talk of horses. I think on the tracks they call this doping the horses. It is a strange kind of success, based upon an outside element which has nothing to do with the merit of the horse.

Then you send out issues and get comments. If there are comments, perhaps you can't be blamed for taking them seriously. Take the quotation from Donald Hall, which I assume is either the best thing he had to say or the only thing. When he says that on the whole Spectrum is of low quality he is probably telling the living truth. Any comment he makes after this is undoubtedly tempered by the realization that this is a student-published, student-edited, student-written magazine. The pattern is this: the truth and then a softening of it. Student publications are not judged in the same way that adults ones are.

So what do we have left? If, as I think, the Spectrum's success was based upon sensationalism rather than merit, perhaps you'd better turn in your Savior of Campus Literary Scene Button. It could get to be an embarrassing pose.

To your proposal that the Quarterly be given \$200 and one year to prove itself, I'd like to make a few comments. The answer to the Quarterly's problems is not less money but more. There's no reason that the University shouldn't have a literary magazine that matches up to the Virginia Quarterly or the Kansas City Review. I have no doubt that both these magazines are subsidized by their universities or their states. They have paid permanent editors. The Virginia Quarterly has enough money to make some minimum payment for contributions. The Kansas City Review does not pay, except in prestige.

Both these magazines reflect their universities' interest in literature without resorting to sensationalism, without being an outlet for the alphabetical publication of student writing (Alphabetical: the publication of all the student writers who names begin with "A" this month, "B" next month).

The solution, as I see it, is a state legislative grant or money from some rich angel, which will enable the University to set up a paid, permanent editor with enough money to compete in the little quarterly field. It might take a new Quarterly ten years to rival the Virginia Quarterly Review. As a show of culture from the University it might be worthwhile.

Of course, at the same time, there could be a student magazine where all the writers-this-year, businessmen-next-year could go about busily, happily, publishing themselves.

Ralph Dennis

"You Know, I Don't Think The U. N. Ever Replied To Our Ultimatum Last Year"



HERBLOCK
DIPPED THE WASHINGTON POST CO.

Letter On Henderson

Editor:

You ask your readers to write letters pro and con on the Henderson lock-out.

First, let me congratulate you on your outstandingly good reportorial assistant, your editorials, and articles based on truth and understanding, and the courage you have shown in getting through the fog of misinformation in order to publish facts.

At the University of Chicago, where I taught for ten years, after many years of experience in the field of industrial relations, there was always a group of informed and spineful faculty members to take up cudgels for the underdog if the pressure was myopic in cases of labor disputes. Here, we have informed and intelligent faculty members in our School of Business Administration; but, I suppose we must withhold censure of their spines in view of that body of august politicians in Raleigh. One of our most experienced arbitrators in the United States told me the other day that the reason given by management for not wishing to continue the 14 year-old clause in the annual labor contract was that cases were usually decided against management when the Harriet Henderson Mills submitted them to arbitration.

Considering the careful gleaning of men before they go on the national list of arbitrators, to confirm their ability to examine and judge evidence impartially, we agreed this was proof that management might well have examined its practices instead of blaming judges. Even Hodges said this present situation at Henderson shows evidence of long-existing bad feeling between management and workers.

You are quite right in reminding us that situations like that existing in the Harriet Henderson Mills are evidence that "war is just around the corner." But, generally speaking, we Chapel Hillians don't like being jolted out of our comfortable routine.

So we side-step making any effort to get the truth behind superficial accounts of industrial disputes which appear so often in the press. We are therefore quite satisfied to be unacquainted with both overt and covert practices both in the world of industry. Because there is no adequate machinery for handling grievances in many textile mills they cause increasing irritation in the minds and hearts of workers.

We just love to sleep comfortably and think management is always right.

Mary B. Gilson

(Mary Barnett Gilson, Phi Beta Kappa, Guggenheim Fellow, and L.L.D., is one of the few women pioneers in the field of industry. She has been an employment superintendent in factories, government worker in munition plants, research worker here and in Europe, mediator and consultant. For 12 years, Miss Gilson was in charge of the Employment and Service Department of a large midwest factory employing 2,000 workers. From 1932-42, she was a member of the Department of Economics at the University of Chicago. She has conducted courses in Industrial Relations at Webber College, University of Hawaii, and Cornell University.—Ed.)

Don Dotson

Unrealistic & Impractical

Crownover's Meeting Bill

Editor:

For a member of legislature who has made the charge of "unrealistic" and "impractical" as many times as has Rep. Crownover, I am surprised at his indignation over the defeat of his bill. I would also be very glad to tell you, and anyone else who wants to know, why I voted against the bill. (Although I wonder whether the paper is really very interested in hearing the other side, since it saw fit to print the names of the legislators who defeated the bill without asking any of them to make a statement defending their stand to be printed along with the charge of "laziness" and the chastizements of Rep. Crownover and the editor.)

The reasons for voting against the bill are simple: 1) As Rep. Blanton pointed out, the bill which was written to make the meetings compulsory had no provision for compelling except to have the names of the representatives who did not hold meetings read in legislature and perhaps printed in the paper. Regardless of how you feel about the bill, it would simply be unsound legislation as it was presented.

2) The meetings which the legislators were to have with their districts were to be, possibly, dormitory meetings, and "more informal" meetings in fraternities and sororities. To see inconsistencies of this one only needs to compare a meeting in a men's dormitory with one in a women's dormitory. There is a considerable difference in the percentage of the residents attending, since women, unfortunately, are "required" to attend their meetings. Perhaps Rep. Crownover can write a bill to make attendance at the compulsory meetings compulsory. I am inclined to believe that the people I represent would oppose such a measure.

3) The bill contained a special provision for districts such as town men's IV where these meetings would be "impractical." (I maintain that they would be impractical in any district.) This provision provided for the representative's writing up a list of his accomplishments on behalf of his district to be mimeographed and distributed or place at convenient spots.

The implication of this seemed to be that a "good" representative would be one who had presented a goodly number of bills and filled the legislature with a goodly amount of hot air. I maintain

that it is possible to be a "good" legislator without presenting a single bill and without uttering a word in legislature. Besides, what goes on in legislature is printed in The Daily Tar Heel with varying degrees of accuracy and if anyone wants to keep closer tabs on their representative they are free to attend any and all of the meetings of the legislature. So not only is this impractical from the point of view of the intention of the bill, it would also be a waste of the representative's time and the student body's money in having these "accomplishments" mimeographed.

Residents of other districts have equal facilities for keeping track of their representatives in legislature. They are also free to propose and discuss ideas with their representatives on an individual basis, a far more effective method of getting and examining ideas, as many have done with me and I assume other members of the legislature.

I agree that the actions of some members of the legislature may not always represent the feelings of the people they represent. I am not in a position to say for sure. I would only like to remind Rep. Crownover and all the other members of legislature who have so often made the charge that something is "too idealistic" that the representative system under which we operate is a most idealistic system. That is why it is a great system. It is a great system despite all the failings it might have.

I believe there is a difference between being idealistic and being impractical. There is no such thing as being "too idealistic." So you see, an idealistic system will work, in which case you might call it "practical." So I am not saying that what you want to accomplish with your bill in the maintenance of democracy is so idealistic that it won't work.

Being idealistic has nothing to do with it. It just won't do what you want it to do. I do not believe this is a pessimistic view and I would be willing to submit it to the people I represent and to the campus, so it does not disturb me that you print my name in The Daily Tar Heel. I cannot speak for the other twenty-five who voted against the bill, but my guess would be that they feel the same way.

Shades Of Emmett Till

The word lynching is believed to have derived from the name of Judge Charles Lynch, a Virginia justice of the peace, who during the Revolution caused British loyalists to be flogged without recourse to due process of law. Lynchings have taken the lives of 1,203 whites and 3,437 Negroes since 1882. Among the States — there have been 182 lynchings in forty-two — Mississippi is first with 574. In recent years lynchings have been relatively rare — one case in 1951, three in 1956.

On Saturday morning in Poplarville, Miss., a gang of vicious race haters broke into "the unguarded courthouse cell of a Negro accused of raping a 24-year-old woman." He was dragged by his abductors from the cell, splattered with his own blood and badly beaten. He has not been seen since. Officials in the Poplarville area have given up hope for his recovery, and fear that he has been lynched by the kidnapping mob.

This sort of mob violence can never be condoned in a country which preaches judicial equality for all. It is probable that there will be arrests made in conjunction with this violent incident. It is even more probable that those arrested will be acquitted by a jury similar to the one which tried those people connected with the brutal and fatal beating of Emmett Till in that same state a few years ago.

And pretty soon, Poplarville will go back to being a lazy 'til of Mississippi town. People will forget that this lynching has taken place. And the good white people of that area will go back to muttering "that ya gotta keep them people in their place."

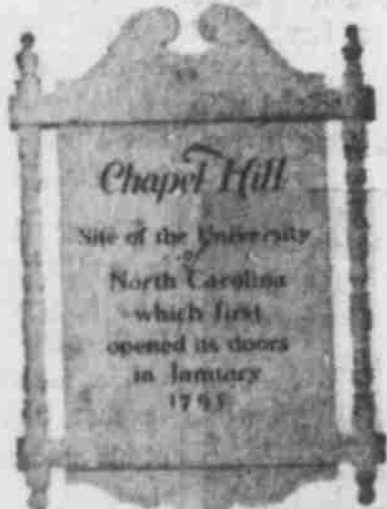
But, those of us who are interested in statistics won't forget. We'll remember that Mississippi now has 575 lynchings to be proud of, instead of 574.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if a judge and twelve jurors put a few white people in THEIR place once in awhile.

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By SCHULZ



By Walt Kelly



Last Of The Provincials

Frank Crowther

THE LAST OF THE PROVINCIALS. The American Novel, 1915-1925. By Maxwell Geismar. New York: Hill and Wang. Cloth, \$4.50; Paper \$2.45.

Rather than restrict myself to a review of Maxwell Geismar's THE LAST OF THE PROVINCIALS, I would like, in addition, to discuss Mr. Geismar's attempt to record the endeavors of our American novelists over the past century. Thus far, the critic's books include: (1) REBELS AND ANCESTORS: The American Novel, 1890-1915; (2) The above mentioned novel; (3) WRITERS IN CRISIS: The American Novel 1925-1940; and (4) AMERICAN MODERNS: From Rebellion to Conformity, A Mid-Century View of Contemporary Fiction.

I have not read REBELS AND ANCESTORS and have only briefly scanned WRITERS IN CRISIS (since I do not have a copy). The latter work concerns itself basically with the young writers whose formative years were during the first World War but chronologically is centered in the nineteenth-thirties, their most productive years.

The fourth volume of Mr. Geismar's "definitive history of American fiction" (AMERICAN MODERNS is not a part of this history) is in preparation and will treat Henry James, Edith Wharton and William Dean Howells.

The five novelists discussed in THE LAST OF THE PROVINCIALS are H. L. Mencken, Sinclair Lewis, Willa Cather, Sherwood Anderson and F. Scott Fitzgerald. All of the essays are extremely literate and demonstrative of Geismar's stature as a distinguished critic. And by God he is able to fulfill his role as critic without pedantry or snobbery. He isn't a pure semanticist, or an analyst of technique, or a theory-of-the-novel-ist, and does not need radiologist to discover what a novel is about. Besides that he writes well, being both incisive and interesting . . . even though one doesn't always agree with what he writes (as of Hemingway and Bellow in AMERICAN MODERNS).

The essays on Mencken and Anderson are probably the best, with that of Fitzgerald bringing up the rear (no pun intended).

Mencken was the stay-at-home expatriate, whose escapes were limited to literary gatherings in New York City but who always returned to Baltimore, pistols blazing and sword slashing. . . . from the ballot-box and from Lohengrin, from women and democracy, the good Lord had already delivered H. L. Mencken. — But not them from Mencken." He believes that the most dangerous animal was woman, but he would agree that man has let her become so. And democracy was probably a noble idea that should returned painlessly to moth balls. "A great nation," wrote Mencken, "is any mob of people which produces at least one honest man a century." Happiness entailed "a good bank account, a negative Wassermann, a clear conscience . . . A

courtroom is a place where Jesus Christ and Judas Iscariot would be equals, with the odds in favor of Judas." Mencken, writes Geismar, allowed himself to become the ringmaster of the American circus, and then was forced to play Mencken as Mencken. "His value . . . lies as much in his profound and unwilling reflection of a period as in his brilliant reporting of it. If he helped to mould the spirit of the post-war epoch, he also betrayed its underlying pressures. (Have they changed in character, lessened in their intensity?)"

Today we think of WINESBURG, OHIO first, then of Sherwood Anderson. In a way, this is parallel to Geismar's observation that the author "became an ancestor before he became mature." Anderson on reflection appears to have been eclectic in himself in which stratum of society he associated himself with. He championed the downtrodden, lived with the aristocrats and probably thought of himself as a wandering gypsy. He (and Hemingway) probably precipitated the vogue of the mid-western dialect, not only in "proper" writing but in speaking as well. (You cannot get an announcer's job with any of the major radio-television networks without this form of diction.)

He was invoked by the post-war generation as a pioneer and prophet, writes Geismar. "He became a protagonist of the New Realism, with his resolute and even grim insistence upon the fundamentals of life, and especially the unpleasant fundamentals, and especially of American life." So he bore the standard of his time, wrote lyrical eulogies which so often deteriorated into lamentations and never quite knew whom to blame. This, however, does not detract from his prolific achievement as a writer.

While we're at it, a brief note about AMERICAN MODERNS is in order. This book contains, for the most part, previously published essays on eighteen contemporary novelists — from Dreiser, Dos Passos and Steinbeck to Cozzens, Salinger, Styron and Bellow. Geismar is saddened that we are "by Cozzens possessed," suggests that Faulkner possibly doesn't understand the South and hopes that Salinger will eventually emerge from "the nursery of life and art." He believes that James Jones, William Styron and John Howard Griffin are the bright lights of fiction in the 1950's. I agree with him in Styron's case, but will wait and see with regard to Jones and Griffin. (I'd be interested in knowing how many readers have heard of John Howard Griffin. Probably not one in ten.)

In conclusion: if you are interested in literary criticism at its best, study all of Geismar; if you are concerned with the revival of interest in the 20's, read THE LAST OF THE PROVINCIALS; if you are interested in the contemporary novelists, read AMERICAN MODERNS; if you are interested in none of these, go back to your Westerns and pounce upon you.