

# The Daily Tar Heel

In its sixty-eighth year of editorial freedom, unhampered by restrictions from either the administration or the student body.

THE DAILY TAR HEEL is the official student publication of the Publications Board of the University of North Carolina. Richard Overstreet, Chairman.

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## The Morbid Hour Now Is Near; We Meet It In Strange Ways

This is the morbid hour. This is the moment of total despair. This is the time of sorrow and hopelessness. This is the Apocalypse of the academic. This is the trial. This, in short, is examination week.

It is an interesting week. Animals that we have never seen before, furry little beasts, emerge from the lower catacombs of the library, scurry to the appointed place of examination, do their intellectual duty and hasten back to the dank, dark corners from which they emanated.

Late at night the dripping sound of a forlorn beer keg echoes through the halls of the fraternity house. In secretive places far above, the brothers, utilizing to the fullest possible degree their massive intellects, visit with their minds new and exciting places—places they should have visited months before.

Coeds drown themselves in torrents of dexadrine, hoping through some medicinal miracle to avoid

the inevitable—they are not prepared. With remarkable martyrdom they close the doors of their dwellings and plunge into the hypocrisy that is the last minute grind.

The faculty assumes the mien of a tiger about to close its yawning jaws on a lamb—a lamb who deserves to be eaten alive because of his sheer stupidity and ignorance. The last hours of class are marked by a cackling sound coming from the front of the room and a general moan elsewhere.

All over Chapel Hill students who never gave a second thought to books suddenly become self-righteous, self-centered scholars. When invited to a game of cards or a movie they gaze from their heights of brilliance and say no, they have more important things to do.

Everywhere the mood is one of bad tempers and intellectualism. This seems a little ridiculous, doesn't it, in light of all that has gone before?

"Oh, No, You Wouldn't — Would You?"



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### National Magazine Attacked

## Student Condemns War and Glory in Letter To 'Life'

(The following is an excerpt from a letter written by a UNC student to the editors of Life Magazine. The Editor)

Sirs: I am a veteran studying on the Korean G.I. Bill. I volunteered into the Marine Corps too late to see any action but I did see enough else around the world to make history come alive for me here in college. I cannot read articles: *Gallant Men in Deeds of Glory, A Life Bravely Lost For A Flag's Sake, Youngsters' Hour of Glory, Gallant Men in Deeds of Valor*, etc., without experiencing a certain feeling of revulsion.

We have recently completed two world wars and a "police action" costing the United States alone upwards of 378,588 killed in battle. This number does not even approach the countless millions of civilians who died in concentration camps, in gas chambers, and under bombing attack. Six million Jews in Axis dominated countries were simply exterminated during this period. So much death is staggering to the

imagination. There is no glory in it.

And yet, today I pick up your magazine, look at the cover and see the picture of a Confederate cavalryman swinging down his saber upon the head of a Union soldier. The stroke is not completed yet, and the soldier does not even see the sword coming. He is too busy firing his pistol, too busy trying to kill another man to notice that his own head may soon be rolling in the grass. At the top of the page there is the first title in a series reading: "I. Deeds of Glory, text by Bruce Catton." I wonder how glorious that Union soldier felt in the final fatal instant when the steel of that down-swinging saber came crashing into his brain? How do you think you would feel?

I cannot help feeling that there are better words to use today in description of this war. Curiously enough, I find them recorded on page one of Mr. Catton's own Pulitzer Prize winning book, *I Stillness at A Stillness at*

*Appomattox*. The name of the leading chapter is written here, and the name of this chapter is: "Glory Is Out of Date."

The year 1961 is no year for preaching pacifism any more than the year 1861 was. There are certain human principles that simply cannot be compromised, and appeasement is like a red flag before the eyes of a charging bull. But, let us not wave another flag, a bloody flag before the eyes of American youth. As a member of the Ready Reserve and a part of the generation that may have to fight the next world war I am afraid of the effect these articles might have on American thinking. Military preparedness is one thing, but military mindedness is quite another.

The Civil War was not a glorious thing, Mr. Editor, and one hundred years of perspective should not make it so. It was a dirty, filthy, four years filled with savage butchery, stupidity and senseless killing.

### Editorials Refuted

## Honor Council Initiates Defense of System

The members of the Men's Honor Council have read with interest Mr. Yardley's recent "attacks" on the Honor System. We have waited until the series was complete to answer the charges in the hope that he would offer some valid criticisms and workable suggestions; for we, as others, are always working to improve our means of self-government. Yet, we have been extremely disappointed in that he has shown in his analysis that he is partially acquainted with only a few of the cases this council has handled and seems to be quite unaware of the real problems involved in this very important area of our student government.

He has stated in a multiplicity of ways in his seven articles that students at this university are unable to govern themselves in this one area of student government. He seems to think that students here have no conception of honor and all that honor entails. The question is, however, whether the acts of being honest with one's fellow students are so difficult and complex that we must be led by the hand in judging those who prefer not to be straightforward and honest in their daily lives.

Why would it not be as equally as valid an argument to let the Dean of the Journalism Department or some other faculty mem-

ber of this department serve as Co-Editor of the Daily Tar Heel? To insure also that our student newspaper have an air of maturity it might be advisable to have a committee of faculty members serve as a group to rule on the advisability of the editorials that are published.

It is an invalid comparison to equate our Honor System with the criminal codes and courts of justice in our communities, states, and nation. It is not necessary that one have an extensive knowledge of criminal and civil laws in order to be able to judge whether he himself and his fellow students have been honest. The penalties given the council to impose on students are certainly not to be taken lightly and yet are not of such a complex nature that a trained legal mind is needed to determine their applicability to the particular situation. Those who have had a chance to be a part of the Honor System as members of the Council have repeatedly been impressed with the fact that the real issues and pertinent facts of the cases are more readily brought forward in our simple, direct system than would ever be possible if our courts had to be clouded in an aura of petty legalism.

Under our system a student is tried by a court of his peers. This should not be scorned but welcomed since one student is able

to realize the problems of another much better than would a faculty member, since a student is in the position to identify himself with the situation in which a fellow student might find himself. However, the faculty does have a part in our system since they have representatives on the Student-Faculty Judiciary Council which hears appeals from the student courts.

He has stated that our system does not work. He has said "we have refused to recognize the very restrictions and demands we have placed upon ourselves." He seems to lead us to believe here that the entire student body does not live up to the Honor System. It must be recognized, however, that this is not true. He is assuming something that he is unable to substantiate. The point is that any system will have a certain element of people who refuse to support it. This can be seen in the daily workings of any society. Yet, because every single person will not support a system, we cannot go on to reach the conclusion that the system is unworkable or ineffective.

This letter is only a very brief summary of our feelings that we wish to place before the student body and it is our intention to publish further articles in order that we might clear up the many misconceptions that Mr. Yardley has shown in his editorials.

## A Barbarian Takes A Look At Carolina Fraternities

Trite but true is the old adage (slightly revised): Where there is smoke there is probably fire. For this reason, it seems proper for a confirmed barbarian to tell the Greeks how they look from where he stands, as long as the barbarian and the Greeks realize that what the barbarian says is merely a description of a very distorted image.

The barbarian sees the social fraternity and describes it in this way: "Just a gang of snooty sots!" To the barbarian, the members of a social fraternity are, collectively and individually, rich kids who came to college to spend daddy's money on wine, women, and song, and are usually years ahead on the wine and women, and a little behind on the song. The fraternity house is the center of wild bacchanalian revels on the weekend, and a hospital for hungover heirs from Monday till Friday afternoon. The roistering rich naturally wish no contact with the proletariat who can contribute nothing to the festivities, so the poor and ordinary are politely ignored.

This picture of the snooty sots illustrates two aspects of the fraternity's public image. The fraternity is exclusive, and admits its exclusiveness, much as a housing development for whites only advertises that fact. The Greeks, of course, claim the right

to be exclusive, and emphasize that much of the campus leadership comes from their ranks. The barbarian realizes this, but suspects cynically that much of the campus participation of Greeks is "for the honor of the chapter." He sees propaganda for fraternities distributed to freshmen and alumni bragging that "1960—Seniors were Outstanding Group on Campus", "provided the two most important figures in the U. N. C. student government", "had in their ranks six Morehead Scholars, seven members of the Order of the Old Well, three members of the Order of the Golden Fleece, and three members of the Order of the Grail." To the barbarian this display of "leadership" is simply a well-set trap for naive young freshmen and doddering old alumni who have allowed their conscience to control their purse strings.

A sober Greek is non-existent, according to the barbarian. A fraternity man remains in a constant state of inebriation, fluctuating from "rotten drunk," to "dead drunk."

A big weekend for a Greek consists of taking a girl to a dance, or a football game, and extracting from the girl for this privilege his reward of sexual gratification. The Greek's sole dream is of someday finding a "live one." A live one is a member of the female sex who will respond satisfactorily after a few drinks to the fraternity man's advances. All women who are not live ones demand from the Greek either a promise of his fraternity pin, or an actual ceremonial pinning, before permitting to the brother the liberties he demands. A fraternity man's social progress may be measured by whether or not he has pinned any girls, and the number of girls pinned.

That the picture here presented is distorted has been stated. The distortion can best be removed by fraternity men. There must be a change in the picture if fraternities are to remain in the positions of leadership they now hold. Students must be shown that fraternities are selective of the finest sort of men, not exclusively for any particular group, but for the best of all groups. It would seem to be only proper for fraternities to open their doors to the scholarship students now barred from fraternity membership by offering free use of fraternity facilities to these gifted men. As for the apparent immorality of fraternities, fraternities must enforce within their ranks the code of gentlemanly behaviour. Public petting, bragging about sexual conquests, and public drunkenness are not within the campus code. As a final warning, from barbarian to Greek, "Remember, you may be better than we are, but there are more of us around."

—David W. Witherspoon

## Africa Again

With regard to the alleged failure of U.N.C. to provide a course on Africa, let me point out to Miss Cabbage and Mr. Turnip that there are more things in the catalog than they have dreamed of.

For the past twelve years I have taught a course on The Peoples of Africa. It deals with Africa south of the Sahara—ethnology of the native peoples, colonial policies, multiracial societies, and problems of current social change. During the present semester twenty students are enrolled.

Guy B. Johnson  
Professor of Sociology  
and Anthropology

The Daily Tar Heel solicits and is happy to print any letter to the editor written by a member of the University community, as long as it is within the accepted bounds of good taste. NO LETTERS WILL BE PRINTED IF THEY ARE OVER 300 WORDS LONG OR IF THEY ARE NOT TYPEWRITTEN OR DOUBLE SPACED. We make this requirement purely for the sake of space and time.

### The Daily Tar Heel

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Let's act—but discreetly.

Larry Smith