

Old edits never die; the newsprint just fades away

Appearing on this page are excerpts from editorials which have appeared in the *Daily Tar Heel* during the 85 years of its existence. We begin with a "Love Letter to a Newspaper," in which 1959-1960 editor Jonathan Yardley expressed his feelings concerning a topic dear to every editor's heart — the *Daily Tar Heel* itself.

Your spirit belies your age. When most men and women reach 68 years their salad days have long since receded into the musty past of their youth. Such intemperance has not affected you; time has left no scars to blemish you; time has left no scars to blemish you.

You have weathered the storms of the ages with a sense of humor; you smile as well now as you did on that wintry day in 1893 when you first emerged, blushing black and white, onto the consciousness of Chapel Hill.

Boys and girls who read your first words grew to be men and women; they left Chapel Hill to live and die. You have lived on, growing not old and senile but ever younger and more gay. You laugh at the ages and dry with mankind; with a crocodile tear you watch the passage of time and man, knowing that there is a kind of permanence in your blustering bravado that no man can achieve.

It is so strange that the artifacts of man find

in their sympathetic being a timelessness that transcends the lives of their creators; perhaps this is why you laugh at our pompous seriousness and self-satisfaction. Often, to be sure, you are cruel to those who have loved you and given themselves to your betterment; you demand from them much and give little in return, always holding forth the promise of a goal yet to be gained, a prize yet to be won. No woman, be she as capricious as a kitten, can hold forth the promise of such unrealized desires as you daily offer to those who serve you.

For generations you have served a community of people and you have served it well; occasionally, in a moment of whimsical folly, you poke the sanctimony of those who regard you with such solemnity. The tricks you play are, when you come right down to it, cruel and unwarranted. The words you childishly misspell, the paragraphs gleefully deleted, the phrases left uncompleted — what foolish games are these you play on those who love you so?

But if your whims are often cruel and senseless, how wonderful can be the pleasures, glories and vanities you carefully bestow on those who please your inconsistently dotting fancy. A well-turned phrase, a perfectly

selected word, a handsome page — these, when placed upon you, assume a dignity and grace difficult to find.

For all your foolish ways we love you. For all your rare delights we serve you. For all you pains, we bless you. Live long, and live well. Protest when you must, laugh when you will; praise when praise is due, damn when damnation is required. But never lose your grace, dignity, charm or, most of all, that mysterious appeal that holds those who make you — like it or not, damn you — what you are. **Jonathan Yardley, Feb. 23, 1961**

We don't want the facts, sir — we want the truth.

statement to Dean of Men William Long by Wayne King, 1962

It now seems obvious that no agreement can be reached while student leaders must deal with Dean Henderson, Dean Long and Dean Carmichael. Unfortunately, none of them are to be trusted by the student representatives.

We will not call names or throw insults... **David Ehrtride and Gary Blanchard, 1963**
Something is rotten in South Building.

Rolfe Neill, 1953

The purpose of this University is to get people to think, to ask questions about their environment, to doubt their former Gods, and

in short to find themselves. Once having found this self they ought to have the opportunity to pursue that self, in terms of its principles and beliefs in an atmosphere of freedom and tolerance.

Curtis Gans, 1959

An endless string of morning classes and afternoon labs does not make a University. Nor does golf in the afternoon, nor the late show at the Carolina, nor architecture, however quaint, nor administration, however efficient.

It takes teachers and students — both willing to involve themselves in learning. This is the historic work of the world, the grasping for a greater truth.

A rebirth of this spirit is clearly needed by the University, where the high ideal of education is so often reduced to the dimensions of ennui and meaninglessness. And it is not the University alone which requires new dedication.

For today, amid darker shadows than have ever before been perceived by men, the spirit of liberal learning becomes the ascendant, essential work, the world's hope, the world's requisite if life is to continue apace.

Charles Kuralt's farewell editorial, 1955

Our leader is dead and we, momentarily, are lost. Just now we cannot perceive, as did he, that fine ideals can never be shackled to the finiteness of one man, nor to the finiteness of his people and their epoch in transient history. And so our present state of mind presages naught but fear, and melancholy, and darkness. We need but to remember an essential truth spoken most eloquently in his own words: We have nothing to fear but fear itself.

Robert Morrison, in the only "Extra" edition ever printed by the DTH, on the death of Franklin Roosevelt, 1945.

This morning's *Tar Heel* is an average one. Someone's notice has been left out. The night editor let three errors by on the back page. Some of the news hasn't gotten enough play. Students will raise hell if their name was forgotten; faculty members will wonder why their meetings weren't announced; meticulous readers will find fault.

But that will be no different from usual. This is the last issue, the journalistic swan song, but it is still from nameplate to margin the *Tar Heel*.

Vernon J. "Bucky" Harward, on cessation of publication "for the duration," 1943.

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