

# THE SKIRL

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## EDITOR'S EFFORT

Exams are in the air! As a result the campus is plagued with various confused and mingled feelings of apprehension, anxiety, worry, distress, fear, dread, and general tension which lurk about here and there in our minds due to the impending exam season. These are not new to us; we have had similar experiences with them many times before when exams approached. We have resolved as many times not to be submerged again by such feelings, but our resolutions were dissolved as easily as they were resolved—that is, they fell into nothingness.

Now why is it that we are tormented by this needless worry and apprehension about exams? Has it suddenly dawned on us that we are the world's greatest procrastinators? Procrastination—that is a weak point of a vast majority of us. In addition, it can account partially for the excessive anxiety we experience during exams. We cruise along lightly each semester, failing to make full use of each day's opportunities by taking the attitude of "why bother to do it today when I can do it tomorrow." A door placard on one hall aptly states it: "Do it tomorrow. You've made enough mistakes today." This strikes us at first for its element of humor, but simultaneously, for the real truth it reveals about many of us. Perhaps we have made many mistakes during the day, but one good reason we procrastinate is our lack of self-discipline and of desire to accomplish anything. As a consequence of this constant postponement, we at this late hour find ourselves frantically seeking to cover the required pages of parallel, to finish up the overdue term paper or project, to read the unread chapters of the textbook, and on it goes.

Then there are other reasons why we become tense about exams. What about outside interests which have been more attracting than any studies could ever be. Fear of failure to meet our standards for grades—good grades—plus fear of not passing at all enters into the creation of this anxiety. Perhaps basic to all these is the fact that we forget to regard exams as a challenge through which to find out what progress we have made.

Taking advantage of all today's opportunities and possibilities, keeping our outside indulgences subordinate to our school work, developing self-confidence and self-discipline, setting standards not too high (neither too low), putting the challenge back in exams—these may serve to remove or at least alleviate much of the tension we usually experience prior to and during this period of testing.

The Student Council has passed along the word that they intend to make a thorough study of the demerit system. They feel that it needs a rigorous evaluation after we've seen it operate. Most ideas must be modified as they are practiced. Give this evaluation your serious thought and consideration. Do you like living under the demerit system? Does it have weak points that can be improved? If we think the council has made a mistake, we ought to tell them so; and if we think the demerit system is a vast improvement, it wouldn't do a bit of harm to tell them that either.

\* \* \* \*

We noticed a new book on display in the library — **All the Birds of the Bible**. Wonder what characters are on that list?

\* \* \* \*

The students appreciate very much the improvements which were made during the holidays in the vicinity of the rotunda.

A.McL.

The Skirl exchanges with the following college newspapers:  
 The Twig, Meredith College, Raleigh, N.C.  
 The Clan-Call, Belhaven College, Jackson, Miss.  
 The Lantern, Limestone College, Gaffney, S.C.  
 The Collegiate, Atlantic Christian College, Wilson, N.C.  
 The Pfeiffer News, Pfeiffer College, Misenheimer, N.C.  
 The Appalachian, Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone, North Carolina.  
 Contact, Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, N. C.  
 The Sandspur, Presbyterian Junior College, Maxton, N.C.  
 The Davidsonian, Davidson College, Davidson, N.C.  
 The Dialecte, Montreal College, Montreal, N.C.

## Are Your Feelings About Exams Similar?

It's me again, Gloria Daughtry, and I have a problem. The other night a bunch of us freshmen were sitting around talking. Finally the subject got around to Judgment Day—or rather to exam week. We are all a little confused. Those thoughtful, considerate upperclassmen, who always give us such good advice, told us that exam time was their favorite time of the year. "Why," they say, "you get more sleep than you do any other time during the year." As for me, everytime I think about the dread subjects I get chills, I can hardly talk, my hands begin to shake, and I know I add at least four gray hairs to my head. We couldn't decide whether to go into shock or to be joyful because exams are approaching; so someone got the bright idea of conducting a survey.

Many people gave such choice comments as, "Ahhhhh! I hate them." One of our leading citizens said, "Well, we've got three weeks between Christmas and exams so there is no need to worry." She really was surprised when we informed her of the awful truth. We continued our survey among the freshmen. Most of them are just

plain scared to death. "Three hours is such a long time—How will I ever learn enough to fill up that much time" is the general thought of most of our class. But the upper classmen say, "Three hours isn't long enough to write everything down."

The comment that got me was, "Just give me a bottle of No-Doz. I'll sleep all day and study all night—I'm not worried at all about exams."

One of our more serious sophomores said, "I think we should be on the quarter system. It is stupid to go home for two weeks, forget what little you know, come back, and have to relearn it all." Also on the serious side, "I think exams are the best way to sum up the semester's work, but they should not count as much as they do. Suppose a student just does not feel quite up to par that day and makes a bad grade. I really think we should be on the quarter system.

My problem is still not solved. I just don't know what to do. Shall I sleep or study, cry or scream, go ahead or go home to Mom, and would it be best to quit before exams or wait and flunk out? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

## Taxes For Us May

### Be Even Higher

If you are troubled by a \$290 billion national debt and an \$80 billion federal budget, cheer up. It's going to get worse.

That debt of \$290 billion, Federal Budget Director Maurice Stans discloses, isn't the half of it. Laws passed in former sessions of Congress have obligated this country to pay out another \$350 billion in future years, over and above the expenses that will be incurred during those years.

As for that \$80 billion budget, Stans warns that "unless we hold the line now, the day is not too distant when the budget will rise to the \$90 billion or \$100 billion range." In the last session of Congress alone, 20 major spending bills were introduced in the House and 20 in the Senate, which, if passed, would add \$50 billion to \$60 billion a year to present spending.

As for economizing, nearly 85 per cent of the budget is "locked in" in commitments for national security, interest on the public debt, and mandatory benefits for agriculture, veterans and the needy. That leaves little room for discretion or for cutting expenses.

Those are mean facts. Here is another fact. This is an election year, and no legislator will want to say "no" to any spending proposal unless he is convinced completely that it will be worth more votes than saying "yes." Any citizen who expects Congress to be stingy in handing out federal funds this year had better let his Congressman know about it now, and in no uncertain terms.

united with Thomas and another sister, Mrs. Ann Chadwick, "I am so thankful that my dreams have come true — finding my relatives."

Bettie Lou will spend her Christmas vacation at her brother's home and then return to college. Her arrival here was delayed for two days because bad weather prevented her scheduled flight.

## This Meal Question

To the editor:

We would like to take this opportunity to state our position on a matter brought up at the student body meeting on January 13, 1960. An announcement was made concerning meals. No student may sign out in the meal book for lunch or dinner and remain in her room. She must be off campus.

We believe that if we are old enough to go off to college, we are certainly old enough to decide if we want to go to meals. After all, we do pay for our meals and the loss is really our's and not the school's if we sign in the meal book two hours before the meal.

We hope that the Student Council will consider revising this rule.

Bee Kemmerlin  
Sandra Adams

## Coming Events

### January 1960

Tues. 19, Reading Day  
 Wed. 20-27, Exam Week  
 Thurs. 28, Registration  
 Fri. 29, Classes Begin  
 Fri. 29, Concert Series — Carmen, 8:15

### February 1960

Wed. 3, Faculty Meeting, 7:15  
 Thurs. 4, Vespers, 6:40  
 Thurs. 4, Great Books, 7:30  
 Tues. 9-Thurs. 11, Spiritual Enrichment Week  
 Wed. 10, Faculty Coffee for Dr. Frye.  
 Sat. 13, A. A. Trip to Duke-Carolina Game  
 Mon. 15, Capsule Day, Party, 10:15  
 Thurs. 18, Convocation, 10:00  
 Thurs. 18, Vespers, 6:40

## Dream Comes True

The following article concerning one of our students appeared in the "Daily Tribune" in West Covina, California, on Tuesday, December 22, 1959. West Covina — "My dream has come true," Bettie Lou Blackwell beamed yesterday.

She was embracing her brother, Charles Barnes, smiling through tear-moistened eyes at Mrs. Barnes, and trying to catch glimpses of the Barnes' four children — all at once — at the Barnes' home, 1019 Morris Ave.

This was a reunion of a brother and sister, adopted by different families in North Carolina 21 years ago. And it culminated a long search by three members of an orphaned family to find their lost "baby" sister.

The search began early this year when an older brother, Thomas Barnes, visited the family home town. While there, he decided to try and find his "baby" sister, who had been adopted upon the death of their mother.

Keeping in touch with the rest of the family, Thomas made a trip to the adoption agency in Raleigh, where he learned Bettie Lou had been adopted by a Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell of Oxford. Upon arriving in Oxford he was told the Blackwells had been dead for several years, but he was directed to Bettie Lou's guardian, a foster uncle.

Bettie Lou, a senior at Flora Macdonald College in Red Springs, N. C., said, after being

Thurs. 18, Great Books, 7:30  
 Fri. 19, Williams' Recital, 8:15  
 Sat. 20, Classes Dance, 8:15  
 Sat. 27, WF Deputation from UTS-PSCE

## YDC Discusses

### Possibility Of

### Catholic President

The timely question, "Should a Catholic be President of the United States," was the subject under discussion at the Young Democrats Club meeting last week. Mr. Gustafson, who led the discussion, presented a paper on democracy and various points in relation to Senator John Kennedy (Mass.), who is a candidate for the Democratic presidential nominee.

It does make a difference if a Catholic is president of our nation. However, the greatest

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