

Self-Direction Is Re-Affirmed In The Actions Of Last Week

The students of NCC are grateful that the program of Self-Direction encompasses the right of appeal. Although this basic tenet of any democratic society is usually taken for granted, it was the cause for much rejoicing last week. For had not the right of appeal existed on NCC's campus, a grave injustice might have been done a citizen of the college community.

This situation, which served as a compliment to the philosophy that everyone has the right to appeal, grew out of the refusal by the Dean of Women to endorse the sophomore's candidate for Miss Homecoming. When the members of the class learned of the action taken by the Dean, and the apparent reason motivating this action, they felt that their candidate had been done an injustice which could be rectified by an immediate but well-organized appeal.

Democratic processes can be sufficient when utilized in their most elementary form, but they are much more effective when coupled with the force of unified action. The campaign which was staged was not instituted in lieu of the accepted channels of appeal. Rather, it was used to give impetus and lend importance to the gravity of the situation. At no time was there an attempt to contradict the basic doctrine of the program of Student Self-Direction. The campaign merely indicated that there is so much faith in the NCC philosophy of appeal that the students have accepted its indispensability with sincerity and proceeded to give this doctrine teeth.

The net result of the action taken by the Student Welfare Committee is more important in this incident than the ramifications of this action. For although we do not totally agree with the rationalizations which accompanied the Student Welfare Committee's decision, it is fortunate that this decision did not thwart such an earnest attempt on the part of the students to exercise their right of appeal. It is commendable that the members of the Sophomore Class recognized and took advantage of this opportunity to be self directed.

The election results served to indicate that: (1) regardless of pre-election confusion, the student body did approve of Miss Sykes; (2) any injustice that might have been done was repudiated; and (3) the program of Student Self-Direction with its powerful right of appeal is our most precious heritage as NCC citizens.

Miss Sykes, whom the NCC students have chosen to represent them on Homecoming Day, is to be congratulated for remaining calm and dignified through the ordeal. Near the returning alumni can be satisfied that the program of Student Self-Direction is not only growing in age, but is also growing in strength and importance to the NCC students.

The Duty Of This Study Body

(Reprinted from The DAILY TAR HEEL, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C., October 8, 1954.)

Not a single graduate of a Negro high school in North Carolina applied for admission to the undergraduate schools of the University this year.

Some may have wanted to, some may have looked from their hometowns to this citadel of North Carolina learning and wanted to. But they did not apply. They turned instead to North Carolina College or Johnson C. Smith or A. and T. for their college educations.

And why is that? We believe it is because they thought they would not be welcome. Because they felt as all of us did upon leaving high school and choosing a college — anxious

lest the school of their choice be a formidable and unfriendly place.

That, we think, makes the duty of this student body remarkably clear. A legal injunction opening the undergraduate schools to Negroes is already in sight. Before it comes, we must find a way to say to the Negro high school graduates that we welcome them, that they will find on the campus of their University a place where in peace they may take up their books and become a part of Carolina.

It will be to the enduring credit of the students of 1954 if they do find a way to say that, before the courts force integration with sterner language.

Book Review

By C. L. GITTENS

The Moment Of The Rose

By LUCY KENNEDY

This is love, intermingled with a theme of bitter family relationship. It deals chiefly with two young people who have had their share of misfortune and are now seeking the peace and contentment that they feel is rightfully theirs. Tom Dorn is a young veteran, hurt by the war, who painfully realizes the futility of his desire to attend medical school; Cynthia Abel, caught in a web of circumstances woven by life's uncertainties, is living

an aimless and meaningless existence. Almost as soon as Tom and Cynthia meet, they fall in love with each other, but a dispute between their parents concerning property rights keeps them apart.

The situation is this: Glen

Abel owns half of a piece of property known as The Island, all of which formerly belonged to the Abel family. As a consequence of poor management, he lost the other half of the island, which now belongs to Nick and Agnes Dorn. Abel cannot reconcile himself to the fact that strangers are living on his island. Abel loves the land and is vitally concerned with what he considers to be an invasion of property that had been in his family for many years. The Island is of historical importance to him. On the other hand, the Dorns have few desires for ownership, other than establishing themselves in a homeplace and enjoying the security that comes with owning a piece of land.

Several incidents occur which aggravate the antagonism between Abel and Dorn, the worst of which is an involvement over an oil well on the property. Meanwhile, Tom and Cynthia can do nothing to alleviate the growing violence, and find themselves in a Romeo and Juliet relationship on the rim of a feud.

In a fit of uncontrollable anger, Abel shoots young Tom, and it is at this point that Lucy Kennedy's artistic ability reaches its pinnacle. Skillfully, the author maneuvers Tom into such a position that he easily can have Abel put out of the way by informing the authorities of Abel's assault against him. When the moment comes, out of his desire for peace of mind and happiness, Tom has the insight and the spirit to make what he considers to be the right decision. Although I have already recounted much too much of the story, I shall not ruin it entirely by telling what that decision is.

By no means is THE MOMENT OF THE ROSE a great novel. The plot is an old one with a few new twists. One may readily say that the author's style is at times uneven, but nevertheless, Miss Kennedy has written a novel of deep human interest — a story that is entirely plausible — which is well worth reading.



Gittens

Peering Through The Bird's Eye

By "BONNIE"

THE STAGNANT LINE

If something is not done about the atrociously long line in and outside of the Dining Hall each morning, the disciplinary personnel are going to be subjected to a stampede one of these cool, misty mornings. It is absolutely ridiculous for an individual to arrive at breakfast at 7:00

A. M., only to be confronted by a line, already long beyond any stretch of the ordinary imagination, to invite each student to "one solid hour of waiting for your breakfast pleasure." Since



Bonnie

the SG Prexy is a member of the Dining Hall staff, perhaps he will be able to establish enough rapport with the managers to arrive at a workable solution to this problem. I certainly hope so.

CITIZENS OF TOMORROW

The most tangible indication of progress toward a mature realization of our duties as citizens was evidenced in the unusual proportion of students participating in the Miss Homecoming election. If almost 75% of the students felt the need to exercise their franchise, then we are indeed becoming educated in our proper roles as adults. Here's hoping that this is just the beginning of an excellent practice.

AROUND NCC ON OCT. 23

Since there will be a great number of visitors on our campus during the Homecoming Festivities, it would be well that we again remind them, subtly, that North Carolina College is a pretty nice place to be. There is an adage which says: "What you do speaks so loud, I can't hear what you say." This is particularly important to those of us who will become involved in arguments concerning The school with THE student body, and THE student body with THE school. Perhaps if we show our visitors through respect, school spirit, interest, etc., they'd believe us without having to be convinced.

LUCK TO YOU

Perhaps it is fitting that we remind our football fellows that, although the Homecoming game is an important event in a way, we only expect that they do the best which they can, and beyond that is out of all of our provinces. If we win the game, . . . fine. If we lose, . . . "That's alright, boys we'll still remain with you." Put your best feet forward and good luck.

NOT ON BREAD ALONE

I don't think that it would prove too injurious to the majority of us if we considered the Vesper service as a part of, at least, our monthly diet. We have a new minister, and the choir is better than ever, as an occasional visit will prove. One hour is very little compared with 720 in each month.

THE SIMPLE GOSPEL

BY REV. P. N. WILLIAMS, College Minister

One of the misconceptions about religion is that it is something simple. It is just a few 'don'ts'. Don't drink, don't swear, don't engage in sexual intercourse, don't dance. Maybe a little more than this but not much more. And whatever else it is, it is not something that requires deep thinking and new learning. Any child could tell you what religion is.

This view, however, is a very false one. It is just as false as believing that all the knowledge of sex or politics is contained in bull sessions with the local pool hall gang. Thinking people would not accept this as being true. Yet, some of the very persons who would reject the view that all one needs to know about sex or politics can be gained in a bull session, often feel that the whole knowledge of religion can be secured from street conversations about religion. They are blind to the fact that religion, like sex and politics, involves a wealth of knowledge that comes only through the discipline of hard, concentrated study. As a consequence, they are apt to dismiss religion as something appropriate for children and fools but not for the educated man. In actuality, childishness and foolishness do not belong to religion but to their immature attitudes toward religion.

Paul once said, "When I was a child, I reasoned like a child: when I became a man I gave up childish ways." He applied this to his religion and the whole of his life. This is the attitude that all of us

should apply to our mature powers of reasoning, realizing that most of the great men of history have done this. As a result, some were led to reject religion, others to affirm it. But everybody, whether rejecting or affirming religion, should do so on sound grounds.

During college, one has a splendid opportunity to come upon this deeper knowledge of religion. One can do so through reading in English literature, and through inquiry into the sciences. Psychology and sociology are wonderful avenues to a profounder understanding of religion because they tell us so much concerning the reasons for our individual and social thinking and behavior.

A deeper knowledge of religion will lead inevitably to a desire for new ways of expressing our faith. We will want to fit religion into our life as serious students of English, the sciences, sociology, or psychology. The Sunday School will furnish us with new knowledge of the contents of the Bible. The YMCA and the YWCA will give us an opportunity to apply our faith to social problems, and the Vesper programs will give us insights into the significance of the entire religious enterprise.

Study, then, to understand all of life, including its religious aspect. Join a religious organization in order to make practical application of your new knowledge. If you do, you'll discover that religion is not as simple as some simple people think it is.

Campus Echo

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