

## Campus Echo

North Carolina College at Durham

Member

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## THE POWER OF AN IDEA

MERRY CHRISTMAS to you. As I say these words to you, my friends, they are being said and sincerely meant by many millions of people throughout the world.

In wishing others a Merry Christmas, we do so with the idea in mind that they will be transformed into happier and healthier persons merely through the power of our desire for their well being. And, so they are, surprising as it may seem. Suddenly, before our eyes during the Christmas season the world is transformed into a better and more beautiful place in which to live through the power of an idea. Old enmities are partially if not totally put aside by the amazing force of this human desire to create an atmosphere of goodwill and brotherhood.

The people we see at Christmas are in most cases the same people that we have seen throughout the year; yet, in many ways they seem to be different. And they are different as long as the twinkle in their eyes continues to radiate their belief in the power of the idea of goodwill. If you should ask to be shown a miracle, there is one here before your eyes, ready made — the transformation of

the world at Christmas through the power of an idea.

"And suddenly there was with the angels a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

If we can make so great a change in the attitudes and behaviors of men at Christmas through a sincere belief in an idea, why do we not transform the world at other times through the power of ideas, such as the ideas of justice, honesty, equality of opportunity, and the respect for the dignity and worth of every individual? Perhaps people, with exception of a few extremists, believe that conditions are not really very bad and that it is wise or more comfortable to let conditions remain as they are. But, will they stay as they are? Doubtless not.

Ideas can change conditions for evil as well as for good. There are many ideas being disseminated and translated into action today that are evil.

It is a very good thing, we may conclude, that the idea of good will exists at Christmas and that its irresistible power to change our lives is so apparent. Knowing this miracle of Christmas, therefore, who can doubt the power of other ideas for good to transform the world.

Sincerely,  
A. Elder



Dr. Elder

## The Razor's Edge

By Flora Snipes

"Peace on earth; goodwill to men?"

It is about this time of year that men from all walks of life make the ancient plea for peace on earth and goodwill to men. Yet one wonders how much thought and sincerity is put into this plea. In retrospect, one can recall few efforts that have been made to bring about rapport among mankind.

Let us first look at the conditions on our own campus. Throughout the year (And this is not untrue of previous years.), there have been consistent factions of students against students, students against faculty, organization against organization, and principle against principle. We have not yet learned to band together and use our efforts and thoughts, diverse though they be, for the common good of our institution.

The national scene paints no prettier picture than the local. One moment a man bombs a school because he hates the members of the Negro race. The next moment, he prays for peace on earth and goodwill to men! One moment, a man worships in his church; the next moment, he bombs the temple of another religious sect. Yet he dares to pray to God for the peace and goodwill which he is unwilling to foster.

On the international level, each little nation is trying its best to produce a weapon superior to that of any other nation's weapon. Surely, these weapons will not be used to bring about peace or goodwill on earth. "These are the implements of war and subjugation!" How sincere is the world in its expressions of goodwill and peace?

Let us hope that the expression "Peace on earth; goodwill to men!" will cease to be a thoughtless phrase bereft of purpose or sincerity. Let us hope that men will learn to be considerate and tolerant in their dealings with one another. Let us hope that men will henceforth prefer the joy of giving to the joy of receiving. Most of all, let us hope that the New Year will bring "Peace on earth; goodwill to men!"

should make it their business to know about the affairs of the S. G. Therefore, if President Jerome Dudley expects his program to be supported, he will have to bring it before the student body often, so that they will be thoroughly familiar with it.

What happened to (1) the lockers in the women's gymnasium, (2) the book rental system, and (3) the redraft of the constitution? The majority of the students are uninformed about these projects of the S. G. There would be more support if the students were informed as to what they are expected to do.

I am cognizant of the problems confronting our present Student Government and with this in mind I suggest (1) having periodic business meetings between the entire student body and S. G., (2) using all of the bulletin boards on campus to publicize S. G. activities, and (3) attaining representatives from the various organizations who can do an effective job of reporting the affairs of the S. G.

I do not know if my suggestions will completely alleviate this problem of student non-support of the S. G., but I do know that the ultimatum Dudley gave is definitely not the solution to the problem.

Charles Thomas McNeil  
Sophomore

## Lost: Restraint, Dignity, Honor

At the risk of "killing dead snakes" and with the realization "what's done cannot be undone," the CAMPUS ECHO is compelled to call attention to the unfortunate ending of the 28th Carolina Classic game between this college and A. & T. College of Greensboro. The annual Thanksgiving Classic has been a friendly rivalry between the two schools for 28 years, and to the regret of the CAMPUS ECHO and sensitive people on both sides, it turned out this year to be a hot bed of strident animosity over a few collegiate pranks, some of which were too flagrant and damaging to be termed good natured.

The "abduction" of the A. & T. "Aggies" (mascot) was an occasion for mirth and a bit of chest swelling as long as the ultimate intent was to return the mascot to its owners. But marking up the A. & T. campus with paint and damaging one of the campus' buildings were deplorable acts, if not downright criminal ones. Certainly those students of A. & T. were justified in threatening to retaliate, though they are to be commended for not carrying out a threat which could have ended in much damaged relationships between the schools and possible personal injuries to individuals on both sides.

To say the least, the short fight which ended what had been a splendid athletic contest was expected, perhaps unavoidable, but senseless. Who started the fight is unimportant. But what was gained by it, other than a reputation for un-sportsmanlike behavior in the face of defeat or victory? Was this action representative of supposedly mature, educated individuals or of the self directed beasts of the mob?

Winning, in any contest, whether athletic or not, is important. But in some instances losing is even more important; one must consider what, why, and how one is losing. Losing all sense of restraint, dignity, honor, all or any of the traits that distinguish humans from lower animals becomes a much more important matter even for college students—even for Eagles and Aggies—than the outcome of athletic contests. Let's hope that we (both sides) are disgusted enough at the recent violence, to resolve and illustrate in future behavior, to not lose sight of the fact, that we are humans.

## Exit: Railroad Passengers

Earlier indications that the nation's railroad passengers would become insignificant numbers of a once-great body of travelers continue to gain a saddening strength as the year ends.

During this month, two companies, the Lehigh Valley and Lackawanna railroads, have resigned their efforts to accomplish the near-impossible. In the face of dwindling passenger revenues, the Lehigh Valley has abandoned passenger service, and the Lackawanna has announced its intention to do so. Thus, these systems have joined many of the nation's rail companies for whom an unprecedented use by Americans of air, bus, and automobile travel facilities has signalled the end of a proud tradition and profitable business.

Few observers can maintain that the nation's railroads have succumbed without a struggle. Several years ago, following the fat, prosperous period of war-time travel and its demands upon public carriers, danger signals cast by a sharp increase in air travel and in the use of automobiles for intercity travel sent rail executives into conference rooms and designers to their drawing boards. More attention to passengers and their wishes was urged and offered. Lightweight coaches, thought to be the answer to problems born of the need to replace outmoded passenger coaches, were proposed and debated. A trimming down of the production of Pullman cars and a sprucing up of the railroads' workhorse, the coach, were effected. Deferred pay plans, family fare days, and package vacations were instituted.

Still, passenger traffic continued to leave the railroads. Among the rail carriers' remedies for the contagious economic ailment which gripped the industry was the lopping off of 'secondary' routes in the companies' systems. Luxury extra-fare trains on east-west runs were sharply curtailed. The industry sought fare increases, which, granted, did not begin to balance the losses in income occasioned by fewer patrons.

Since the early 1950's, conditions have grown worse, and prospects have grown dimmer. During 1957, railroads sustained a drop of nearly 2½ per cent in their share of intercity passengers. Since 1920, moreover, revenue per passenger mile has increased only from 2.76 to 2.84 cents. In the same period, however, operating expenses have increased from 5.9 of 8.3 billion dollars. Nonetheless, efforts to bolster a sagging industry—especially through proposals involving federal subsidies—have been singularly unsuccessful. Nor has an intensive advertising campaign intended to gain the support of the public met with encouragement.

While the nation's railroads continue to carry much of the country's freight, therefore, an era of unique excitement and service passes. The businesslike, workaday freight cars which lumber across the land seem safe for a time. Their bellies carry the stuff and material of mountains of goods and products dumbly awaiting transportation. — R. F.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

### Roach Writes Timeless Thoughts

By Theodore Gilliam

"Something old, something new; something borrowed, something blue" could very well apply to an excellent little book for holiday reading fare: *the lives and times of Archy and mehitabel* by Don Marquis (latest copyright 1950, Doubleday & Co., Inc.) Really three books in one—*Archy and mehitabel*, *Archy does his part*, and *Archy's life of mehitabel*—which began as a newspaper column (Sun Dial), the series was first published in 1916, became popular and was reprinted several times up to 1950. Much of the philosophy is borrowed, but overcast with Marquis's special kind of blues and wit.

The book is the gay, sad, giddy, grim, witty, all these contradictions and more collection of the timeless thoughts, tales and reflections of Archy, a cockroach with some rather appealingly truthful observations of the world and its creatures. Add Archy's companion Mehitabel, a cat with a knack for shady escapades and you have a touch of gutter sophistication which runs like a spicy motif throughout the book.

Archy is a believer in the Pythagorean theory of the trans-who writes for art's sake. The peculiar thing about Archy is that he types out his pieces by jumping up and butting his head on the keys of the typewriter in the office of his "boss" Marquis. He does his work at night for bread crumbs and sandwich leavings left in the waste basket. In case you wondered why the office of his "boss", Marquis.

Archy is not strong enough to press the shift key for capitals.

Says Archy:  
*expression is the need of my soul  
i was once a vers libre bard  
but i died and my soul went into  
the body of a cockroach  
it has given me a new outlook  
upon life  
i see things from the under side  
now*

And, indeed, Archy's ruminations have the string of an insect but occasion a good natured smile or chuckle.

*a man thinks  
he amounts to a lot  
but to a mosquito  
a man is  
merely*

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## LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In an upperclassmen's assembly in November, Jerome Dudley, President of the Student Government, issued an ultimatum asserting that either you (student body) support us (Student Government), put us out of office, or we will resign. Throughout his speech Dudley emphasized the fact that the students of North Carolina College are not supporting the Student Government. According to Dudley, a meeting, called to reorganize the football team, was ignored by the student body, and the card-checking system used in the cafeteria went unsupported.

I think one of the most important reasons that the program of the Student Government is not supported is that the student body is uninformed. Students



Gilliam