

The F.S.T.C. Voice

Edited by the Student Body of Fayetteville State Teachers College, Fayetteville, North Carolina

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Dean MasRae gave a very timely and stimulating talk in chapel recently on Stuart Ches-es' book, *The Tyranny of Words*. He said that instead of permitting the English language to "use us" by improper use of it, we should master the meaning of words and learn to use them to create moods and impressions. This latter statement lingered in the mind of your editor to the extent that she decided to change the topic of her editorial comment. Several other factors to which I wish to call your attention had their influence in the decision to change the topic also.

In the first place, our constant misuse of English, both oral and written, is in a large measure responsible for the fact that you have had no copy of the *Voice* each month. (You will receive adequate reimbursement for this despite the fact that the reasons for this condition are far beyond the control of your staff.) By the time that two members of the English department plow through the poorly written news items handed in by our reporters (who, incidentally, were suggested by composition instructors) and pass them on to the typists, who have to literally wait in line to get access to a typewriter (your staff has never owned one), the item has become history and your staff, in order to try to give you news is faced with the necessity of a repeat performance of assignments and more correcting of the hurriedly written articles by these already overloaded instructors.

Secondly, Mr. Paker reported recently that though he explained to his classes that the better written compositions of the groups would be published, that not one of the writings warranted a second reading, so poorly constructed were they all. Misses Turner, and Travis and Mr. Smith say that the condition in their classes is similar and, at times, seems to become more deplorable.

Third, a most embarrassing and perplexing problem as to the publication of the year's remaining three editions of the *Voice* has arisen as a result (in part) of the grammatical errors that have somehow escaped the

scrutinizing eyes of our kind proof readers.

Ninety of every 100 students enrolled here have led someone to believe at some time or other that they want to become teachers in American public and private schools. Can we teach good English if we do not know and use it ourselves?

Why will we continue to be content to disagree ourselves by mumbled, half intelligible, slovenly speech habits accentuated by poor English when distinct, clear-cut, effective speech and proper use of English can be ours if we only care enough to make it so? And why will we be content to let anyone read writing of ours in which the flagrant disregard for all laws of spelling and grammar brand us as both careless and illiterate? Let us develop a little more self respect.

Too, too many of us do not seem to realize that the correction of this difficulty is wholly an individual matter. Each one of us must want to use better English and must undertake this tremendous task for the purpose of self-improvement. If we all should do this the whole tone of our institution would be improved.

You may say, "Why I won a Good English Medal upon graduation from high school." If you can make such a statement without committing grammatical errors, you need not tell of your medal, but if the opposite is true, then you should never mention your having seen a medal.

Forget not that poor English, improper use of words and slovenly speech habits brand us, comrades. Suppose we begin a personal campaign to think, speak and write better English!

STUDENTS' PSALM

By Willie "Kelly" Riddick

The teachers are my shepherds; they see that I shall not want.

They maketh me stay in the library doing research work,

They leadeth me through a path of encyclopedas and other reference books.

They try to restore my knowledge without result,

My brain is too shallow.

Yea though I walk through the halls and class-rooms, I fear my studies, for D's and E's do not comfort me.

At the end of each quarter they prepare an examination for me, in the absence of my class-mates and I.

They anoint my head with questions and my thoughts are double blank.

Surely memories of the "Student Life and Conduct Committee" shall follow me, all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in a state of ignorance forever.

Letters to Editor

DEAR EDITOR:—

We wish to thank you and your staff for the pictures and commendation of our dormitory activities presented in the January issue of the *Voice*. However, I would like to comment on one statement made concerning our Christmas Party.

I am sure that it was an oversight but what goes before the public creates an impression and we might not be properly understood. Our dormitory is desirous of presenting those things that are elevating and constructive in the campus life. Christmas to us is a season of happiness and pleasure but it is from the sacred angle that we view it. We did not quite agree with the sentence:

"Spirit of Christmas was really on display as the 109 occupants of Joyner Hall joined in a gay hilarious Christmas party—"

As is our custom we conducted our party in the true spirit of Christmas with well prepared programs and thereafter exchanged gifts with our Christmas sisters. Everything was done with form and reverence for the Christmas season but we did not engage in gay hilarity at the party.

DEAR READER:—

The news story on the Christmas Party given by the Matron and students of Joyner Hall was not reported to show a spirit of boisterousness or vulgarity. In the use of the word "hilarious," the writer meant to suggest mirth, merriment, glee and cheerfulness. Knowing the matron and students as we do, we could never think of there being anything countenanced if it violated the rules of dignity and reverence.

The Editor.

TO THE NEGRO SOLDIER

You fought for Freedom,
But that you never knew;
Since from Africa's shores you came

When the slaver's lash they drew
And bade you America claim.

You fought for Democracy—
The right to live, to work, to play

To aspire as any red-blooded man
And reap when future's day

Brought Victory to this land.
You fought for Liberty

In sight of the hang-man's rope
Amid the cries of the maddened

mob,
While stumbling in darkness

you grope
And from your heart uttered not

a sob.
Freedom! Democracy! Liberty!

Will these ever be denied?
Though black troops sang and

marched and fought,
And in Boston Crispus Attucks

died
To gain these right for which

America sought.
—George Holloway Jones.

THE INQUIRING REPORTER

The question for this month is: Which type of service is preferable in the dining hall—the home style or cafeteria style? Rosemarie Burwell, Oxford, N. C. Junior. "I like cafeteria style better because you get all of your food at once and will not have to wait."

Herbert Tatum, Durham, N. C. Junior. "It doesn't matter with me because it isn't the style, it is the service given."

Mr. Smith, New Jersey, Faculty member. "I prefer the cafeteria style because it is the style now predominant in most leading colleges, although it is more expensive."

Molly Boone, Woodland, N. C. Sophomore. "I like cafeteria style because it is most quick and easier."

William Weaver, Tarboro, N. C. Sophomore: "I prefer home style because it would be disadvantageous to have to line up in bad weather."

Julius Fulmore, Maxton, N. C. Junior. "I like cafeteria because it is much quicker than the system now used."

Christine Brown, Seaboard, N. C. Senior. "Cafeteria is much better because you get more food and get it quicker."

Fannie Hinton, Rocky Mount, N. C. Freshman. "I prefer cafeteria style because you get more food and it is served much quicker."

THE BATTLE OF EDUCATION

By Hugo Murchison

Dedicated to the Class of '47

We've ascended many a mountain top

To reach the goal we had sought
We've crossed many a desert plain;

By the means which God has wrought.

We've witnessed many a sleepless night

And dreaded the thought of dawn,
We've met our obstacles with new hope—

With the courage to carry on
We've gained in every conflict,
Our Spirit ever bright,
Taking advantage of every opportunity

By having the courage to fight.
We are gathered here together
To be rewarded for our deeds
Then out into the world we go
To serve our country's needs.
We are greatly indebted to those
Who placed in us their trust,
With confidence that we would fight

And to continue fight, We Must.
The battle is merely started—
The fighting has not begun.
Think not of rest my comrades
Until this job is done.
We'll set another goal in life,
And march on as before
To enrich the lives of followers

Making room at the top for more.