

# THE TAR HEEL

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

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To hold up a certain clearly defined standard of attainment for others to reach in any line of endeavor, without providing a means by which it may be attained is useless, because it serves no end. To set up the standard, to provide the means which shall test the skill of the candidates for approval, then to delegate the right to apply the test, and to place the stamp of approval or disapproval upon the contestants to others whose standard is different from the one held up may not be useless; it is unjust.

This, as we see it, is a patent inconsistency in our debating system. The standard of debate and even of oratory which this University has erected is, in the opinion of those who have studied it, unequalled by that of any other institution of learning. Yale and Harvard train their men to speak extemporaneously, to compile arguments on one's own side and anticipate those of one's opponents. But their speeches (so far as one may judge from reading them) have none of the warmth and inspiring flavor of Southern oratory, born with every Southerner, craved alike by Southern and Northern ears. Their debating logic is more of a study in the effective massing of static facts and "points" than in the presentation of a natural development of a process of thought leading irresistibly to a given conclusion. Other institutions specialize in word painting, some in oratory, while still others boast that their speeches are delivered "in an unimpassioned tone of voice." None of these is perfect of course. Ours, while we believe it the most nearly perfect, is not perfect. It cannot be, so long as it permits the delivery of memorized speeches and often of memorized rejoinders. But, even though it be wholly wrong, whether it is perfect or not is irrelevant to our point, which is this: "the rules of the game" whatever they are, should not be changed after it begins. The standard should be the same throughout.

It is impossible in all cases to conform to this. When we meet a sister institution on the platform of debate we must submit that an outsider play the role of critic and render judgment. But in absolutely no other case is such procedure

necessary. It may be said that the outsider's view point is best; and that by objecting to it we betray lack of confidence in ourselves. Our reply is that if this be true "Long Bill" should grade the papers in Greek, or be asked to award the Worth prize. The illustration is extreme, but the principle is the same when, for instance, the faculty having raised its standard and perhaps coached the contestants, stands aloof while the Mangum Medal or some other contest is decided by those whose only claim to consideration is that way back, some time in the long ago the dean of the academic department handed them a sheepskin and a Bible which they hugged to their bosoms as they went their way.

We believe not only that all contests in debate and in oratory between University students should be decided by a committee of the faculty of the University but that committee carefully selected, should be a standing one. Today the half cynical watchword among debaters is: "Get your committee and your debate's half won." To this end all their powers of shrewd diplomacy, all their knowledge of human nature, is brought to bear. "This man believes in our side. We want him. That one is a good man but—the other fellow has two courses under him"—and a blue pencil mark ruthlessly settles his fate. This is a glimpse behind the scenes, but the picture is a true one.

Surely such a process of selecting as this cannot prove beneficial to the cause. In theory it is illogical, in practice, it must fall short of the mark.

### The Baseball Situation.

The past week saw much development in the baseball material. Coach Lawson has had three diamonds loaded every afternoon from 3 o'clock to 6 with eager candidates, all of whom, it is hoped, will make good. The first team, composed of Stem at first, Patterson at second, Holt at Short, James, B., at third, with Thompson, Story, Calder and Hanes alternating in the outfield, lined up against the scrubs Saturday afternoon for a short practice game.

Holt, in sliding to second, wrenched his ankle, and had to be assisted from the field. He will be back in the game again in a few days. The season is too early to have accidents yet.

Captain Stem received a letter from Harris last week in which he stated that he might turn up any day. Harris is just the man who is needed to strengthen our infield and with his hitting ability will add much needed strength to the team.

Much interest is being taken in the scramble for outfield positions. Thompson, Story, Calder, Hanes and Whitaker are the most promising Varsity material, while Sutton, Lloyd, Willis, Thomas, Raper, and Orr are fighting it out for positions in the scrub gardens.

Coach Lawson has promised THE TAR HEEL to write for its next issue a criticism of the individual candidates for positions on the teams, so that each man can see what kind of a baseball player he is in the coach's estimation.

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### "A Most Interesting Sheet"

Winston-Salem Daily Journal, 23rd.

THE TAR HEEL, the official organ of the University of North Carolina Athletic Association, for the 22d, is a most interesting sheet, crammed full of newsy stories.

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