

**THE TAR HEEL**  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

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SELDOM it happens that an event in the larger world is of such universal importance as to become the subject of general interest at a place necessarily so self-centered in its academic life as is the University. Such an event is the Thaw trial, the progress of which is watched with consuming interest by practically every man on the Hill.

The general opinion of the students in regard to the trial seems to be that while Thaw ought not to go to the electric chair he is not worth the sacrifice that his wife is making for him. They judge that the man who permits the woman whom he loves to be subjected to the shame of such an ordeal before the court and, what is worse, before the people of the United States, simply for the sake of saving his own life, must be too gelatinous in character to be really worth saving.

It speaks well for the soundness of student thought that the students of the University condemn the publication of the details of this trial as a two-fold outrage. It is harrowing enough for the woman who is making this confession, if she be innocent, to have to make it to the court, without seeing it marketed as public property through the press of the country. Aside from this, though, the publication of these details outrages the moral standards of the United States. The story is not fit to be sent indiscriminately into American homes. Thus the publication of the details of the Thaw trial stands as a double outrage in the eyes of the students of the University.

WHILE the real baseball season has not opened yet it is not too early to talk a little athletics, even class athletics. It is hardly necessary to call attention to the fact that the class baseball teams need a diamond. Last year they had absolutely no place for practice, the Varsity always occupying both of the diamonds in the athletic field, and all batting being forbidden on the diamond in the rear of the gymnasium lest the windows in the gymnasium be broken. Consequently it was impossible for any

team save the Varsity to play a game of ball.

It seems to us that this is not giving the class teams due consideration. They have no opportunity for training, and yet the men are urged to go out and practice hard on them in order that candidates may be developed for future Varsities. How can the class teams be expected to develop players when they have no practice grounds? The necessary grounds could be given them at very little expense, merely by covering all of the windows in the gymnasium with wire net. This would leave the diamond in the rear of the gymnasium for the use of the class teams, and while it is not by any means an ideal ground it would be far better than none.

WE ARE not so far behind the times as to believe that all athletic sports should be indulged in only for the purpose of exercise, but we have not gone so far on the other extreme as to believe that only the man who can play Varsity ball has the right to swing a bat. Every student who enters the University, no matter whether he can play baseball or not, has the right to amuse himself by trying to become a player if he choose. Under the present conditions at the University it is a recognized fact that only the men who have attained a degree of skill attainable by few have any chance at all on the diamond. That is running the matter of athletics to an extreme, and any criticism of the athletic standards of any institution that puts its sports on this basis is bound to be more or less just. To view athletics in this light is to believe in them only so far as they pay financially and as an advertisement. These things athletics ought to do, but they should do more—they should develop the physical standard and through this the moral standard of the whole University, and such they cannot do until they become the property of the whole college. That is the way to eliminate the hiring of "ringers" and playing of dirty ball. Athletes developed in the college will be straight, and when there is a sufficiency of good material that has been developed at home the student body will not permit the professional to step in and take the position on the Varsity away from the man who has earned it. Such a basis would be worth more than a whole encyclopedia full of rules in bringing about pure athletics.

OUR brother-at-arms, the editor of the Magazine, allows himself to grow gloomy in his January issue over the dearth of freaks now to be found at Carolina. According to him their number is decreasing each year at a rapid rate. Evidently our brother editor allows his many arduous duties to prevent his keeping in touch with college life. Our memory runs almost as far back as his, and never yet has the University boasted a more incongruous crop of freaks than 1906-7 has produced. Why there are—but we will refrain from naming them. The Maxim rapid-fire gun has not yet arrived to complete the furnishing of our office. Nevertheless the

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editor of the Magazine has only to open his eyes to see that his quotation from Artemus Ward, "They will not was" is not likely to prove applicable. As a matter of fact "They was not is."

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