

The Tar Heel

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Wednesday, November 12, 1924

PARAGRAPHS.

One dope on the V. M. I. game was not upset.

For proof of our prediction concerning the Cadet-Tar Heel game see the editorial column of the last Tar Heel.

We will not predict any more for fear that our already perfect record will be upset. You see we have only predicted once.

The newly acquired mascot of the campus, the full fledged, blue blooded, pedigreed ram, is probably the cause of the victory. His presence probably inspired the players to ram their way through the opposition.

Already Cheerleader Huggins is "politiking" to create a new office on the campus—that of royal high chamberlain of the Tar Heel ram. He gives out the prediction that this office will be the most desired honor on the campus in a few years.

Again the old cedar bird stunt of a catalogue exam has been pulled. It seems like a man would become slightly wise to the older cedar bird stunts after a short residence here, but such seems not to be the case. The last victim tried to answer the ancient questions such as "Why was David Poplar?"

The Playmakers leave this morning for their annual fall trip over the state. Students and townspeople will watch the trip with much interest. An excellent trio of plays is on the program this time and they should take well out in the state. The initial performance in the new Playhouse will be given here after Thanksgiving.

Postmaster Herndon is altogether right in his statement that students could help out the postal officials here greatly if their mail would be properly addressed. With the heavy mail that is received in Chapel Hill the post office is naturally rushed and when they have letters and packages to deliver with no address other than just the town it puts an extra hard task on them.

DECORUM vs. B. V. D. PARADES
Just how pep and enthusiasm can be worked up by means of a parade of yelling college boys scantily attired in shirts and underwear is more than we can see. Somehow we cannot connect pep and indecorous behavior under one head.

The so-called B. V. D. parade held last Friday night as a climax to the pep meeting to arouse enthusiasm for the V. M. I. game was at the best entirely uncalculated. We heard many remarks disgusting in their tone and words about the breach of appropriateness which occurred in the down town section of the Hill.

Although times have changed and with the changing times has gone a different attitude toward the display of the physique, the time has not yet arrived when a community such as this will give sanction to a display like that of Friday night. If a rule that would prohibit ladies from the campus and down town section after dark were in effect, even then such a parade

would be disgusting to those of us who believe in the maintenance of a certain decorum among students.

As to the other stunts of the week-end arousal of pep, we really praise them. The formation of the letters on the field during the half, the advertising of the pep meeting by the old stage coach, the pep meeting in Memorial hall and the carrying of the players off the field all looked mighty good to us and we give them their just deserts. The cheer leaders are to be congratulated on their fine work.

It is a pity that the human mind will note one mistake more than several successes, but that is human nature and we confess that we are human. Consequently the whole program was somewhat marred by the disgusting parade Friday night. Realizing that "to err is human" we hesitate to make mention of the event, but then we consider that if we have erred in so-doing, then we are but human.

OUR LECTURE SYSTEM

The first of the present year the president of Dartmouth College addressed a letter to ten undergraduates inviting them to contribute their views as to how Dartmouth might "approach as near as is humanly possible to those ideals which a privately endowed, historic, liberal college be justified in holding." The students accepted the invitation and several very interesting and thorough-going innovations were suggested by them in their report to the president.

One of the most interesting lights of the whole report to us was the proposal in regard to the lecture system that is employed by most American universities and colleges. To quote parts of the report will better suffice to give an insight into the proposals. The report says in part, "If we were asked what above all else accounts for the fact that studies are in disrepute and that the American undergraduate turns his superabundant energy elsewhere but upon them, we would point first of all to the way in which studies are administered. . . ."

"It is our belief that any system based on the assumption that a student is unwilling to work is almost sure to fail and that any real step forward in education must be preceded by its rejection and the adoption, at least tentatively, of the hypothesis that the student can and will work of his own volition. . . ."

"The chief indictment against the present method of teaching is that the student is forced into a passive rather than an active attitude. . . . The student is pitifully dependent upon the instructor for information or as to how to get it. He doesn't know how to investigate a subject, he only knows that if he reads with ordinary care certain designated pages of a certain book he will know enough about that particular subject to answer the questions he may be asked about it by the instructor who knows he has only read with ordinary care a certain designated book."

"Another undesirable result of the spoonfeeding system is that the student becomes uncritical of information offered him. This instructor tells him what is right and what books he may consider authoritative. When he no longer has an instructor to whom to turn, how is he going to find his way. . . ? What may he believe and why?"

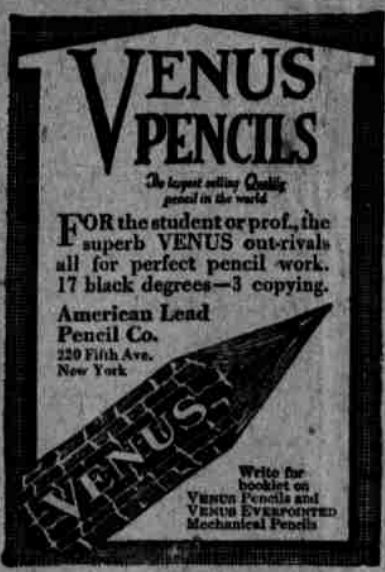
The majority of people today are closed absolutely to any suggestion of a change in the present conditions of things. If they can give no other reason for their opposition than the mere fact that it is a change, they are satisfied that such a reason is sufficient for their stand of disapproval. They close up their minds to a new idea just like an oyster closes its shell-mouth when a shadow passes over it.

This report of the Dartmouth College students contains many ideas which are pregnant with thought-provoking suggestions of change. There is something wrong with a system where college students become mere stenographers, busily engaged in talking notes of some dictating professor, which is all done without the student giving an instant's thought about what he writes down. Memory, although it is good and necessary, is not enough.

The conclusions drawn by the above mentioned students included such changes as follows: "Virtual abolition of lectures. Long time assignments by topic. Small classes meeting weekly. Office hours for consultation with instructors. Written work in the form of short assigned papers giving training in original thinking and organization of material."

We are not herein suggesting any such changes as suggested by the Dartmouth men, but we do believe that conditions on this campus as well as elsewhere do tend to be along the lines as pictured in the report. There are certain courses on the campus where a professor has absolutely no time for the student's own opinions and reflections. The whole line of study is laid out by the instructor and anything outside this line does not enter into his course in the least.

Probably no physical change will correct this tendency, but there should at least be a change in attitude. If it



It would be possible to correct such courses by means of such suggestions as these then it would be far better than to change the physical make-up of the university system. The development of the individual is the direct aim of education, and not the development of the people. The former will bring about the latter but the latter will not bring about the former.

"There is no reason why Chapel Hill should not have the best postal service in the state," stated Postmaster Herndon to a TAR HEEL reporter recently. He went on to explain that the presence of the University at Chapel Hill would give the service here the best of attention because the alumni of the institution and politicians in the state would do whatever they could to have good service here.

Mr. Herndon further explained that his force was handicapped because student mail was not addressed right. Pointing out that all mail that is not addressed to the room and dormitory required extra handling in looking up the address on the campus, the postmaster urged that all students inform all with whom they correspond of their room number and dormitory.

Here of late only one delivery has been possible a day, because of the heavy mails. Postal regulations prevent extra time work on the part of carriers and postal employees. The carriers' packs are limited to fifty pounds by postal regulation, according to the local postmaster. This regulation causes some delay in the delivery. Postal inspectors keep a close check on the offices in their districts so that no infractions of the postal regulations will get by.

The one thing stressed most of all by the postmaster was for students to have their mail properly addressed. He said that this should be done in order that the service might be bettered. It is not a petty local regulation, but a national postal regulation that mail properly addressed should receive first place in delivery, and before the addresses of the others are looked up.

Di Society Condemns Compulsory Attendance

The abolishment of compulsory class attendance was favored last Saturday night by the Di society, when a heated discussion on it was held. The society went on record as favoring the abolition of compulsory class attendance by a vote of twenty-three against thirteen.

The arguments used for abolition were: that it would be a step toward a bigger, freer, and better institution. Those against it were: that the Freshmen and Sophomores are not capable of being their own judge regarding class attendance.

Messrs. Jones, Head, and Jonas spoke on the affirmative. While Tallent and Wike upheld the negative. The society decided to invite Mr. Grady to come and give his opinions, regarding the K. K. K., in the near future.

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CALENDAR

Friday, 10:30 A. M.—Glee Club Concert, Memorial Hall.
8:30 P. M.—D. G. Mason in Illustrated Lecture, Memorial Hall

Saturday, 3:00 P. M.—Virginia Fresh vs. Tar Babies, Emerson Field.
7:00 P. M.—Phi and Di Societies, Phi and Di Halls.

Among the distinguished foreign professors who have recently visited the University are Professor Brihan, from Austria, and Professor Fehling, of Germany. Both of these men were very much interested in the institute of research in social science, and in the North Carolina way of doing things. The University usually has about five or six visitors of this kind every year. While in this country Professor Brihan and Professor Fehling will visit Yale, Harvard, University of Chicago, University of Wisconsin, and University of Iowa.

The following men were initiated into the Chi Phi fraternity last Sunday morning: C. B. Colton, Boston, Mass.; W. T. Peacock, Salisbury, and J. E. Calhoun, Rocky Mount.

Dr. Iver L. Peters, of Goucher College, will spend the week-end here giving talks before the seminar conferences, the school of public welfare, and the institute of research in social science.

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