

The Tar Heel

LEADING SOUTHERN COLLEGE TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Member of North Carolina Collegiate Press Association

Published three times every week of the college year, and is the official newspaper of the Publications Union of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C. Subscription price, \$2.00 local and \$3.00 out of town, for the college year.

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Entered as second-class mail matter at the Post Office, Chapel Hill, N. C.

Tuesday, January 11, 1927

BEAUTY AND CULTURE

If the attendance at the concert by Marie Sundelius last Friday night is a criterion of the musical appreciation on this campus, then the University of North Carolina is suffering from a lack of culture and beauty. The visiting artist indubitably carried away a negative impression of the place. A guess at the number of people who composed the audience would place the figure below the hundred mark.

No reasonable excuse can be given for the small audience. The concert had been well advertised. Miss Sundelius had been heralded as being among the first or second principal sopranos of the Metropolitan Opera Company. Advance stories had announced that the program would be a varied one, beginning with several operatic arias and running through a number of modern compositions to a brilliant waltz, which closed the entertainment. Still there was only a "hand-full" of people to greet the "possessor of a wonderful voice and a charming artist with a pleasing stage appearance." Numbered in the crowd were about a dozen students and a dozen faculty men, the rest being townsfolk—mostly ladies.

The price of admission to the concert might be given as one reason for the small student attendance, though we refuse to believe that students do not squander as much as a dollar for less worthy objects. But this reason will not hold for faculty men. The attendance of twelve instructors and professors out of a total of nearly two hundred does not speak so well for the faculty of "the greatest University in the South."

The night before the concert

there was a poor exhibition of basketball given in the "Tin Can" before a crowd of more than a thousand people. The admission to those other than students was half the price charged for the concert. The attendance at the game was ten times as large as that at the concert. Probably at least a half-dozen more basketball games will be played here this winter, but Marie Sundelius has probably made her only appearance before local concert-goers for several years, if not for all time. The writer spent about ten minutes at the game and nearly two hours at the concert, and values the two in about that ratio. Further comment is unnecessary.

How long a time the University Music Department can keep bringing cultural entertainments here at financial losses is a matter that is baffling.

The whole affair calls to our minds the address that Dr. Douglas Freeman made here last June at the Commencement. He talked about beauty and culture. He asserted that "Southern industrial progress and education have reached the stage where the South should begin to consider how they can be used for cultural development."

The South, he said, must continue to hold fast to religion and education as its cardinal creeds, but there ought to be added to those creeds "a third article, namely, a wider diffusion of sane culture." He would "seek the beautiful along with the practical."

"College graduates need no longer go out with the feeling that their first obligation is to create wealth for the upbuilding of the South," Dr. Freeman said in part. "The industrial battle is being won as these young men come on the field. The South still needs hundreds of millions of dollars of capital, but she probably can accumulate this before many years by more intelligent production and enlarged thrift. For the first time since the war between the states, the question is not whether the victory over poverty and adversity can be won, but how it can be used."

"There is a deal of twaddle about culture and no little misconception both as to what it is and as to how it may be attained. Culture of the kind that brightens and softens the life of a people is not superimposed and it cannot be ordered, f.o.b. university, for delivery at a specified point on a given date. Culture is the tangible, yet indefinable expression of a long-continued attitude toward life. The element that dominates the intellectual life of a state or of a city takes that attitude, and uses a part of its wealth for the things that reflect that attitude. In the course of time—it may be a decade, but it is more likely to be five—men begin to put in great books or great music or great pictures the ideals others have been cultivating. This is one fruition of culture. It cannot be divorced from an attitude of life. It cannot be attained without a background, a certain high enthusiasm and, speaking generally, without the basic wealth that gives men leisure.

"What is this 'attitude toward life' that would seem to be the source of the culture that is, after faith itself, the most blessed spiritual possession of man?"

"Is it not, fundamentally, a belief in beauty? That belief is not and should not be exclusively the credo of artists, and if it is to help the life of the South, it must not be allied solely to those things that are called 'the fine arts.' A belief in beauty is a conviction that every act, every object, has at least two aspects, that there is a better

and a worse way of doing everything, and that one of the chief ends of life is to seek the better, the more beautiful way. It is a belief in the beauty of individual thought as well as in the beauty of that thought's expression in written or spoken words. It is belief in the beauty of a life as surely as in the beauty of a landscape.

"The appeal is not that the young men of this university go out as esthetes, rather than as industrialists. The very word 'esthete,' though it has a precise and noble meaning, has itself become discredited since Oscar Wilde's day. Ruskin's devotees have made it ridiculous. The appeal is for a belief in beauty along with a belief in industrialism and in popular education. The young man who will come back to Chapel Hill twenty years from now, with the surest record of service to the South and with the largest measure of soul content, will be the man who has made the conquest of ugliness a part of his life's work along with the conquest of his economic problem. He will be the man who has sought beauty along with a living. He will be the man who has found that religion itself is spiritualized beauty.

"A belief in beauty, cherished through the years, is one of the few ways any society can make permanent contribution to civilization."

"My Idea of God" is Theme of Dr. Francis Venable (Continued from page one)

oeba come from? I do not believe that life could come entirely from the earth or any of the lesser planets.

"Some scientists say that everything evolved but I can't believe it. The amoeba does not appear to be the final solution. The only solution I have is that it came from some outside life—from a source abundant in wisdom, power and love.

"Evolution offers only an explanation of the 'how.' It has not settled the question of 'where'."

Dr. Venable believes that "love is the greatest moving force in the world. All about me I see evidence of love and wisdom, and I search no further for a creator. Love made the world and God is love. All about me I see evidence of His handiwork. To me He is divine, the highest authority of life.

"I know of no better definition of the creator than that given centuries ago: 'God is a spirit, infinite, eternal, unchangeable, wisdom, truth, justice, power, mercy, love, and the greatest of these is love.'"

CREDITS FOR STUDENTS IN HIGH INSTITUTIONS

When the credits for students in American colleges and universities are properly arranged they will be about as follows, says the New York World:

"It now looks as though we have neither colleges nor universities, but simply rival football clubs. Many will deny this. They will point out that classes still go on, that the Greek department has more students than it ever had, that a graduate of the dramatic school recently had a play produced on Broadway. That much we may grant them. But they will hardly deny that football is now the chief campus activity; that its coaches are paid more than professors; that its budget is larger than the budget for anything else; that it is almost the sole interest of the alumni, and that any president who dared flout that interest would lose his job so quickly he would not know what happened to him."

OPEN FORUM

Editor of TAR HEEL:

When I picked up the TAR HEEL this morning I was sorry to note that the controversy between the Golden Fleece and certain members of Sigma Upsilon had been reopened. I had hoped that the recent bad feeling would die out during the holidays. But as there seems to be some who are still interested in the matter, I would like to call to their attention the story of the two old Presbyterian preachers who were engaged in a heated argument over theological matters. The more illustrious of the two ended a rather lengthy address with the words: "There is nothing, gentlemen, more pitiful than to see a little man try to be big and fail." "Except," was the immediate reply, "to see a big man try to be little and succeed."

J. B. BULLITT, JR.

Editor of TAR HEEL:

If there be worthy arguments on either side of the so-called Golden Fleece controversy, the student body is entitled to, and should, hear them. Neither party should let the truth remain hidden, one because it is afraid that its dignity might be destroyed and the other because it fears that interest has been lost in its cause. Truth should stand, and a few students, at least, are interested in our search for it.

NORMAN BLOCK

Editor of TAR HEEL:

Faith is a wonderful thing to have—both faith in one's own ability to accomplish a certain result, and faith in different theories. "Faith hath power to move mountains, build sky-scrapers and to dig tunnels." But faith, in order to do things—accomplish results—should have certain tools and use certain methods. Faith, alone, will not build sky-scrapers.

Theories are also very wonderful, and many theories are beautiful things—though some are not thoroughly worked out, and some do not work at all.

There is a theory that "history repeats itself." Some have faith in this theory and some do not. It was through faith that the Israelites, by marching around the walls of Jericho and blowing their horns, caused these walls to crumble and fall. But these men had the right kind of tools and used the proper methods to accomplish the desired result.

The instigator and perpetrator of the recent attack on the Golden Fleece seems to have faith in the theory that "History repeats itself," and seems to believe that, if he "toots his



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horn" long enough, the Golden Fleece will waste away and vanish from our campus. It is doubtful whether his faith is great enough, his tools are of the right kind, or he is using the right methods to do what he has set out to do. Faith carried too far, or in the wrong direction, is liable to be foolish. "Further comment is reserved for subsequent issues."

R. L. DULA.

Le Cercle Francais Recently Revived; Will Meet Friday

Le Cercle Francais has been revived. At a recent meeting of members of the French department, research fellows and advanced students of French amid much enthusiasm Le Cercle, which had lapsed into inactivity, since the days of Bob Linker, was reorganized with John A. Downs, the only undergraduate present, as president and George W. Fenley, graduate student, as secretary-treasurer.

Le Cercle is organized with the purpose of stimulating interest in the French language, popularizing the department, aiding those who are specializing in the field, and bringing together those with a common interest in the language, the literature and the people of France. The success of the French play, Le Malade Imaginaire, produced last year by Dr. Urban Holmes and spoken throughout in French was so encouraging that the need of a medium of some sort whereby those interested in French might meet together was immediately apparent. For this reason the French drama will receive especial attention.

The meetings, at which only French is spoken, will be held monthly, and Le Cercle extends a cordial invitation to those who are interested in French. The next meeting will be at the Episcopal Parish House, next Friday evening at 8:30 o'clock.

DR. R. R. CLARK
DENTIST
Office Over Bank of Chapel Hill
Telephone 385

WHAT'S HAPPENING

4:30 p. m.—A. A. U. W. Meeting, at the home of Mrs. Odum: Mr. English Bagby on "Personality Training."

7:15 p. m.—Phi Assembly, Manning Hall.

7:30 p. m.—Di Senate, Di Hall.

7:30 p. m.—Authors Reading, Playmaker Theatre.

8:30 p. m.—Philological Club, Episcopal Parish House. Professor Adams "The Employment of the Grotesque in the Spanish Romantic Drama."

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12
7:30 p. m.—Venable Hall, Moving Picture, "World's Struggle for Oil."

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13
4:00 p. m.—Playmaker Theatre, tryouts.

6:00 p. m.—Methodist Church, Chicken Pie Dinner.

6:00 p. m.—Dinner for Religious Workers Council, Episcopal Parish House.

Worth Chosen to Conduct Durham Sewage Survey

A. M. Worth has been selected to conduct during the next twelve months the investigation of sewage and industrial waste for the city of Durham, for which purpose the city has given two thousand five hundred dollars to the University of North Carolina.

Mr. Worth received his Civil Engineering degree from State College in 1922. Since that time he has been connected with North Carolina municipalities in Sanitary Engineering work and the United States Public Health Service. He started his new work at the beginning of the winter quarter.

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