

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.

Saturday, March 12, 1927

Must Student Government Die?

The existence of student government at the University of North Carolina is at stake. On next Monday morning the student body will be faced with the question of saying whether it is ready to admit to the people of the state that it is incapable of governing itself through its properly constituted representatives.

Are University men willing to go back to the old system of faculty supervision and censure? We don't think so—not for one minute.

The University catalogue expressly states that gambling, drunkenness and cheating are offenses punishable by expulsion, under our form of student government. If we have reached the time when we think that we ought to do away with that code of conduct and adopt a new one, possibly one that holds that gambling is not wrong and ought to be tolerated on this campus, as Mr. Breard suggested in his letter to the TAR HEEL in Thursday's issue, then there will be plenty of opportunity to say so when the constitutional convention called by the student body convenes this spring. Meanwhile, in the name of a tradition of which we have a right to be proud and in the name of an honor system which we have built up here over a period of long years, let us stand by our present form of government.

This student body acted with rare judgment in chapel Friday morning when by a 2 to 1 decision it refused to be stamped into deciding the issues of a case without first being given the opportunity to study and understand those issues. The method of procedure that has been adopted is one that ought to appeal to the keenest sense of fair play on the part of everybody concerned. There is reason to believe that the committee to be chosen from the undergraduate classes and graduate schools will make a careful investigation into all the facts and render a report that will be acceptable to the student body.

It must be admitted that the Student Council was acting within its jurisdiction in suspending the thirteen men. As to the justification of the methods used—that is a matter that is yet to be settled, and the investigation by the committee should do much to throw light on the question.

The student body has failed to take

any cognizance of the fact that there are two separate issues to be settled; namely, the question of endorsing or condemning gambling, and the question of endorsing or condemning the methods pursued by the council. The issues must be sequestered and handled separately. If the students pleaded guilty of gambling, the Council had no alternative, regardless of how the matter was handled. The only question to be settled now is, was the Council justified in using the methods that are alleged to have been used? To answer this would require true knowledge of the methods pursued, of which we know nothing except that obtained from loose talk on the campus. The investigation by the committee should reveal the real truth of the whole affair at the meeting in chapel Monday, and until that is known, decisions should be held in abeyance.

Let us not become blinded to the real issues in the case. Are you willing to see student government at this University die? Will you hold a dagger before the heart that beats and yet dare it to beat?

OPEN FORUM

The TAR HEEL is in receipt of several other Open Forum letters which cannot be published on account of lack of space. Contributors to the Open Forum columns are requested to boil down their writing in order that as many people as possible will be given an opportunity to express an opinion. It is also required that the writer must sign his name to his work before it can be published, this does not mean that it is necessary that the name be published.

Editor of TAR HEEL: A PROCLAMATION TO THE STUDENT BODY:

Be it resolved: That in consideration of the present confused state of student government at the University of North Carolina and the lack of unity of opinion as to the honor system, we, the members of the committee, duly appointed to hear an appeal from a recent decision of the Student Council, do heartily feel that there is a phase of the honor system, mainly as to cheating, in regard to which the opinion of Carolina students is not confused, however lethargic its present state may be. And in pursuance of that idea we wish to present to the student body as students, firmly believing in the spirit of the honor system, that individual responsibility and cooperation are the keystones of such system, vital consciousness of which on the part of the individual student is essential to its proper functioning. In its application to classwork and examinations the Honor System is a self imposed obligation upon every student to rely entirely upon his own information and to see to it that all other students do the same. There is clearly no place for cheating on this campus. Our honor system is a code of conduct which is its application to cheating is clear to all. Student government has reached a real crisis at Carolina. Let us not fail in this unpleasant period to realize that the same obligation to live up to the HONOR SYSTEM in our classwork rest upon us as in the past.

Therefore if you see a student violate the HONOR SYSTEM in any of the coming examinations act upon your obligation to see to it that he does not get credit for his dishonest work. It means not only that he is injuring our curricula standards, but the high integrity and sense of honor of our student body.

THE COMMITTEE FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL'S RECENT ACTION

Editor of TAR HEEL:
For the past few days I've been hearing a lot of whining and squealing going on around the campus because of the student council coercing three students in order to obtain some desired information. It seems that our student representatives on the council are ungentlemanly and are brutes, and in order to obtain a confession—which was really given without much persuasion—from the three quaking and unprotected misfortunates, the council employed drastic measures.

Officials of the mighty and efficient police force of our great nation have special means by which they obtain information from suspects.—Why not the council of our student body, which is in reality a unit of police power, have the same privilege. Let them employ the third degree, if need be, to deprive information that will not be given voluntarily.

S. HARPER

Editor of TAR HEEL:

I have thoroughly gone over the minutes of the Student Council and the investigation has placed their act of shipping 14 men convicted of playing poker in a very unfavorable light. It was the first offense for all the men concerned, the evidence against them was either circumstantial or secured by coercion—yet they were expelled from the University for periods varying from 3 to 18 months.

Why should such harsh treatment be meted out to those found guilty of playing poker? The records of the Student Council show that only one man has been shipped for drink-

ing his year. Many have been summoned on this charge and have admitted their guilt. In all but the single case they have been let off easily with strict class probation and the drinking probation given to a first offender. If this treatment is accorded to drinkers why should it not be so with those who play poker? Is gambling so much greater a crime than getting drunk? Obviously not. Gambling is wrong, but it is usually carried on privately and quietly. Men who drink give a school the worst possible of reputations. Gambling is by far the more tolerable offense. Yet the drunks get off with the probation and the gamblers get expelled. This is manifestly unfair. The men deserved no more than strict probation and gambling probation for a first mistake. Instead, the fact that they were first offenders and they were simply given 48 hours to get out. It is hard to see how the Council can justify such harsh and unusual punishment.

This is discrimination of the rottenest sort. All the men needed was another chance—the same chance that has been given freely to numerous drinkers—and the chance was not forthcoming. The Student Council is supposed to hand out justice. If this is justice all definitions of the word are at fault. Mr. Chappell has stated that if his action is not approved he will resign his position. This is by all means to be desired. The sooner his influence is removed, the better it will be for this University.

R. K. FOWLER

Editor of the TAR HEEL:

The attitude of the student body toward the present administration of the student council should bring to our minds the fact that we have no way of forcing the council, in its actions, to conform to the will of the students. The "reign of Chappell" has been one in which the council, when given an inch, has taken a yard. Men have been shipped for throwing water and "dumping" beds, and yet we, the student body of this university, must sit back and calmly look upon these outrages.

As a remedy to such evils, I suggest that we adopt a form of government in which the council shall be responsible to the students as a whole. Let it be incorporated in the new constitution, that when five percent of the students (at present 120 men), by a written petition, request a meeting of the said student body, it shall be granted. And further that, should a resolution of "no confidence" be passed upon at this meeting, the council would be forced to resign and a new council elected by the student body. The office of President of Student Body should be separated from that of President of the Student Council, so that, regardless of the resignation of the council, the same man would lead the students throughout one continuous year.

In this way, and in this way only, can the student council be made to conform to the will of the student body.

A. S. C.

Editor of TAR HEEL:

The matter of the shipping of thirteen men for gambling by the Student Council as presented to the student body in mass meeting Friday morning was considerably clouded. In truth there are two separate and distinct issues involved which were presented as one.

DR. D. T. CARR
Dentist
Tankersley Building
Chapel Hill, N. C.

As the question now stands the student body is asked either to endorse gambling or to endorse the action of the Council. The question must be separated and taken up in two steps. First, does the student body and the honor code hold gambling an offense for which a man should be expelled. Second, does the student body condemn the methods used by the Council.

If, as the Council claims, the evidence is conclusive—no matter how gained—that the men were gambling, the student body has no line of action under the honor code except to stand back of the Council in suspending the men. To fail to do this would be to throw a challenge to the faculty. The trustees have directed that the faculty shall take cognizance of such offenses, and the faculty has delegated this authority to the students. If the students cast it aside, the faculty must take it up. This issue must be settled on the basis of the evidence against the men as it now stands. The guilt of the men does not depend upon the methods used by the Council in securing evidence.

However, with this issue settled the second issue—that of misuse of their office by Council members—must arise. Our system of government here depends for success on the character of the men who compose the Council. It is based on the trust of the student body that the men will act fairly and justly. If there is evidence that they have not so acted, that they do not deserve this trust, the student body should ask for their resignation. Under a code which recognizes friendship no man in trouble will "sneak"

on a companion. If the Student Council has attempted to force men to do this they have violated a code of common decency and should be ousted from office.

But in the mass meeting called to settle the matter the two issues must be kept separate. Endorsement of the Council's action in suspending the men must not carry endorsement of their methods of obtaining the evidence, nor should condemnation of gambling carry endorsement of the Council's entire action in the matter.

W. T. PEACOCK

Read the TAR HEEL ads.

Tar Heel Editorial Staff Meets Sunday

The editorial staff of the TAR HEEL will meet Sunday afternoon at five o'clock at the Publications offices in the basement of Alumni building. The election of the staff nominee for editor-in-chief for next year will be held.

Like begets like. How the Ford piled up the tin.—Wichita Eagle.

A Truly Exquisite Tea Shop

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MAYBE you know some old fogey who owns one of these ultra high-hat pipes... a blotto bimbo who broadcasts a line of "broad-A" lingo: "cawn't enjoy tobacco that costs less than two bucks the ounce"... Well, paste this bit of news in the old boy's stove-pipe:


In picking pipe-tobacco forget price ENTIRELY... draw your own conclusions through the stem of your trusty pipe. Draw deep from a bowlful of grand old Granger Rough Cut and learn that there's ONE truly fine tobacco that DOESN'T cost a fortune.

Here's tobacco as fine as any man ever packed in his pipe... Granger is made for pipes and cut for pipes—it smokes like a million dollars! But the pocket-package is a foil-pouch (instead of a costly tin) and so, it SELLS at just ten cents.

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