

The Tar Heel

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Saturday, October 22, 1927

PARAGRAPHS

Howmanymendidyoullget?

How the mighty are fallen. The Greeks once worshipped gods, but now they worship gawky freshmen.

Says that literary incorrigible, H. L. Mencken: The cosmos is a gigantic flywheel making 10,000 revolutions a minute. Man is a sick fly taking a ride on it. . . Religion is the theory that the wheel was designed and set spinning to give him the ride.

King George says that bobbed hair reminds him of horses' tails. No wonder the Prince of Wales falls. . . And long hair the queen!

The student body has begun to corrupt the beasts. The other day I saw a big ole dog stealing candy out of an honor box. . . This year's student council ain't worth a damn.

A member of the staff foolishly went to N. C. C. W. while that handsome Lindbergh boy was there. Now he's sore against the whole United States army, aviation in p'tickler.

The state association of bootleggers is petitioning the legislature to establish another college somewhere.

OPTIONAL CLASS ATTENDANCE: IS IT?

(D. D. C.)

The college of liberal arts, under the leadership of a liberal dean, has extended bountiful privileges to juniors and seniors. But a defect in optional class attendance remains to embarrass those upperclassmen who make use of it. We have in mind the practice of daily roll-calling.

It should be obvious to all that frequent absences, if the attention of the professor be attracted daily to them, have a psychological effect none too beneficial to the absentees. No matter how kindly an instructor may strive to forget that John Smith has missed twenty classes, he cannot put Satan behind him on the day when he grades John Smith's term of work.

What necessitates the tallying of absences for any classes is unknown to us. That professors are justified in visiting "pop" quizzes on their students is clear. But if the University feels that it should know how many collegians attended Math 40 on October the tenth, it should be willing to allow the members of that class to submit their own absence slips. This honor system plan is followed by professors at several large Northern universities. Indeed, instructors gladly transfer this task to their wards.

As we understand the privilege of optional class attendance, it recognizes the efficacy of a student's spending some class hours elsewhere than in a numbered room. However, there are professors who still openly or inwardly brand absences as offenses worthy of academic punishment. Since they cast baleful glances at each junior or senior who misses their all-important lectures, it becomes evident to the student that the unfairness of

a few men nullifies optional class attendance for him. Few upperclassmen can face a grumpy taskmaster and be so reckless as to continue to arouse his choler.

Though it is true that there are some classes which are always vital, there are others whose day by day grind is deadly wearisome. Juniors and seniors learn only to bite their nails, drum with nervous fingers, or squirm about during such bores. Professors might be sued for the bad habits which their forced oratory provokes in some students!

Others wish to alternate Math 40 with History 21 or with some other study in which they are interested. Why should an upperclassman surrounded by excellent lectures be compelled to confine his attendance to one class? Surely one who faithfully sits on a diversity of classes is worthy of consideration.

Hence we appeal, not to the dean, who has already contributed his share, but to those professors who, cognizant of their power to do so, jealously guard the roll. No doubt many have continued to mark upperclassmen absent simply from force of habit. At any rate, roll or no roll, it is to be hoped that liberality in the A.B. school will remain unswayed.

FRATERNITIES AND FRESHMEN

(D. D. C.)

Fraternity men may make higher grades on their college work than do unaffiliated students, but their system of rushing on this campus is an indictment of fraternity intelligence.

We believe that the rushing season is far too short. It is almost impossible for rational groups to choose desirable men during the feverish campaigning which now prevails. They are compelled to rely unwisely on the unctuous letters of recommendation sent them by alumni. The writer ventures to say that 99.44% of all alumni are pure ivory and the rest are liars.

On the other hand, the freshmen are incapable of penetrating the superficiality of these social groups within the time allotted them. Before Red Riding Hood has a chance to discover the huge teeth in her Greek wolf, she is gobbled up. With feminine logic, ambitious mothers (and fathers) who would not think of sanctioning their son's attempt to select a four-years' wife in one scant month send that same son to college to embrace entangling friendships equally as long and perhaps more seductive.

The present system here makes impassioned rushing so urgent that freshmen and upperclassmen alike are compelled to neglect their studies. The first term of every fraternized American college has become a lark for football games and club-life. Professors lecture to sleepy, unhearing freshmen, agonizing upperclassmen, or empty seats.

Again, scions of wealthy or select families are given to understand that their college careers—in fact, their earthly and celestial destinies—are determined by the bids which they receive from social organizations. Nothing remains to provoke enterprise in young Joe College; for his reputation is made by his election to membership in almighty Gamma Tau.

If the season of mutual inspection were a year in length, fraternities might discover, before the mistake is made, that their protegee was unfit for them. He, in turn, might have time in which to perceive the nigger in their woodpile. Surely when fraternity brothers room and dine together, and such is often the case here, this intimacy makes a careful selection of members especially imperative.

Further, a prolonged rushing season would make unnecessary this frantic repudiation of classroom duties. And there are some upperclassmen with whom entertainment of freshmen is no excuse for mere academic laziness; to them a longer season would be a god-send.

First-year men who customarily feel that their success is made on pledge day might not change their simple minds, but sheer common-sense would force them to realize that a deferred bid-day would enable the fraternities to watch them loaf or work. Hence, they would have a stimulus to maintain a good scholastic appearance certainly until the great day had passed. And worthwhile habits once formed are invaluable.

If pledge-day were farther removed from the period of brawn-worship, football heroes would be less over-estimated by fraternities. At present, athletes are lords among the freshman prospects; their unjustified superiority, early assumed, subsequently exalts them to campus office. Chapters "push" them from the start. More time is needed for cool deliberation.

The Interfraternity Council has inaugurated some good rules. Let it speak now.

NEW STUDENT OFFICERS

(D. D. C.)

The presidents of the dormitories and their constituents have done much to insure a comfortable year for the University dormitory residents.

These leaders, having called and advertised a pow-wow in the respective buildings, broached the subject of obnoxious noises after nine o'clock. After some profound cogitation, the members of these dormitories decided to elect silence monitors. These men, subsequently chosen, act in conjunction with their different presidents. The composite group is empowered to expel from the building any resident who becomes unruly after 9 P. M. on all nights except Friday and Saturday. Expulsion, of course, is the most drastic measure.

The president of the student body and the duly elected council have wisely endorsed the action of the dormitory residents. In fact, it takes no discerning eye to perceive that the measure originated in extra-dormitory circles. The inauguration of silence monitors is a distinct advance from the barbaric bedlam which once prevailed in university residence halls.

However, there may be objections to this new disciplinary agency. Some intimate that it is undemocratic, having no origin in the student body. With these quibblers we disagree.

In the first place, the new student officers were democratically elected. The meetings at which their selection was made were bill-boarded several days ahead of time. Every member of each hall was given the opportunity to vote; of course outsiders were not invited to meddle in internal affairs of this nature. So these monitors are duly constituted dormitory officers, directly elected.

Further, even if the student council had seen fit to appoint these men, or if the elected hall presidents had made such choices, there would have been nothing undemocratic about the business. In our national government the executive department is allowed to select administrators of its will. Since the central council and the individual presidents, who represent the policy-making executive phase of our government, are empowered to select subordinates to enforce student laws. Such a law is the regulation of unnecessary noise.

But must the new dormitory tribunals tacitly admit that there are times, namely Friday and Saturday nights, when unnecessary noise after 9 P. M. is permissible? Surely such laxity would defeat the ends of the measure, for it is on these very nights that rowdies are bibulously unbearable.

Late hour racket is characteristic of tipplers. What then, is our good old campus going wet on Friday and Saturday nights?

Dr. Patterson Tells Brass Plate History

Applied Science Dean Shows Chapel Students Historical Brass Plate.

In an address on "The Spiritual Values of the University," Dr. A. H. Patterson, Dean of the School of Applied Science, exhibited to chapel students Thursday morning a brass plate which had a peculiar history. According to Dr. Patterson, the plate was one which was placed in the cornerstone of Old East, when it was laid in 1793. It was lost when the building was remodeled, and turned up fifteen years later at a foundry in Clarksville, Ohio. The foundry was under the management of an alumnus of the University, who recognized the plate, and sent it back to its home.

Dr. Patterson then dealt interestingly with the history of the University after 1875, dwelling especially upon the life and work of President Kemp Plummer Battle, and the stone seat which has recently been dedicated to his memory as a student of nature and a lover of the out of doors.

Dr. Patterson's lecture will be followed by addresses from Professors Frank Graham, Albert Coates, and Horace Williams, who will present further traditions of the University and tell something of its alumni.

Reviewer Finds Magazine Has Only Meagre Literary Merit; Material Yet to Be Unearthed

(Continued from page one)

see two translations of the Odes of Horace by the editor who, quite modestly, has placed them about the center of the book. The first, "in the manner of a pedant," reads delightfully like a poetical paraphrase of the prose translation. The second, "in the manner of a Sophomore," is a little out of date. Don Marquis and Heywood Brown made translations of Horace, Ovid and others into slang about three years ago. Dirl Blethers,

a pseudonym for one of our eminent journalists, has his first bit of poetry accepted. Though the poem probably came out like a ribbon, it lies flat in the slush. Joe Mitchell's contribution more nearly measures up to that standard set by poets. His Romanticist and Realist at least conveys a definite idea and the idea is rather well put.

Hell's Bells!

A Catalogue Examination by Tom Capel is noble. The author must have spent many weary hours searching for the needed information which was necessary for his endeavor. We consign these questions and answers to the editor of the University catalogue. We might remark in passing that it would, perhaps, be an excellent innovation to require all freshmen entering the University to know the answers to the questions set forth by Mr. Capel. This might be incorporated in the intelligence tests.

After reading Hell's Bells we loudly exclaim "Hell's bells, how that boy can write." The "true confessions of a bell hop" ranks equally with A Catalogue Examination in literary value. Part of the article consists of buzzes and room numbers but the rest purveys genuine humor. Mr. Spearman excels himself in this story. We learn how a German speaks broken English, how comical a drunk can be, how bold some women are and how condemning humanity is in general. The author chose a very appropriate line with which to loose the story. "And so on, far into the night," originated by Briggs who draws the comic sheet Mr. and Mrs., cleverly finishes Mr. Spearman's work.

Book Reviews Slump

Tom Quickel has been working for about two years on The Geisha, a story of the Philippines, and has at last beaten it into shape. The plot, that of a man torn between love and duty, shows that the author has read Berta Ruck.

Mr. Harden's article, Three Chinese Maidens, has no place in a literary magazine. For newspaper consumption, it might do very well. In fact, it did enjoy quite a bit of publicity

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in the state papers this summer but that should not provoke its appearance in the Magazine. Above all, the photo of the Chinese maidens is out of its element. Newspaper stories and photos should be confined to newspapers alone.

In the Pasture, the editor tells of the books that he had read and also tells some mythical person to "keep those cigarette ashes off my pillow." He defines literature and tells people how to write stories.

The Book Bazaar slumps a trifle. William Burton, in reviewing Marching On, uses many words and is over-

enthusiastic about the book. Mr. Gardner reviews Brother Saul but also becomes too vivacious, consequently missing the book entirely. H. A. Breard gives a good review of a good book. Contributors tell who the writers are and what they are doing as if such information mattered. Selah!

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