

The Tar Heel

LEADING SOUTHERN COLLEGE TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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Thursday, December 8, 1927

PARAGRAPHS

Forty-five years ago—Christmas holidays were approaching.

"Cornell Discovers Calf Liver Cure For Pernicious Anemia," headlines favorite tri-weekly. We suspected all along that these calves were worth something.

And another thing about his winter; wool supersedes silk much to our sorrow.

Well, we wish these murders were all over since examinations must come so soon.

"Find Fourth Victim of Storm In State," headlines a state daily. Meaning the storm or politics.

Add to latest news: Action taken to suspend regulation concerning optional class attendance.

They say the President no longer regards himself in the 1928 picture. His announcement appears so late that we must appeal to Editor Allison and Bus. Mgr. Cone as to whether we can get the announcement in the 1928 announcements since the engraving discount is at stake.

"Executive's message Did Not Electrify Congress," runs the headline of a state daily. Coolidge seems to need more Polmanism according to our latest bulletin.

Ready for fall term examinations? CAN THE TIN CAN BE MADE ACCESSIBLE?

The Tin Can, which sprawls and squats in the midst of the most notorious sea of Saharian mud in a fifty mile radius is almost inaccessible to the student body of the University of North Carolina on a night like that of last Saturday.

The Can is the scene of the basketball meets of the University and visiting teams. The desire for college spirit must be met by witnessing the game between the home team and the visiting five. Granted, how can such an exhibition be watched if the weather condition paralleled those of last week? Imagine the poor spectator plying his way through the mud and mire to watch the Carolina quintet in action; mud; splashes of browned shme, and the cold, wet chocolate cakes of turbid Chapel Hillian earth meeting his expectant strides.

In the last three of four years the students have accepted the Tin Can as the best the University has to offer in the way of a gymnasium. The hue and cry raised when the Woman's building contract was let, which sapped the appropriation of the gym building, is still reverberating in distant quarters. Although a new and uninformed student body misses the facilities of a gymnasium but little when it is unaccustomed to it, yet the student body that has been here

through the years past feels the necessity of a place for winter and inside sports of this University as never before.

The Tin Can is an improvised gymnasium. But does it meet its full need when it is almost out of reach on a night and rendered unfavorable by the condition of the weather?

If the Tin Can is to continue to be the scenes of the major winter sport, it should be made accessible by a walk way.

OPEN FORUM

NEEDS FOR CONSTITUTION

Editor of TAR HEEL:

If I may consider myself to be so permitted, I will attempt to show forth a few of the needs of a constitutional convention.

Beginning with what now is history, the student body has a constitutional convention coming to it by virtue of its last year's request.

In showing why we should have a constitutional convention it is necessary to know what a convention is. Since, as everybody knows, the student body cannot draft a worthy constitution in mass meeting, it is necessary to elect a constitutional committee. Now it is a hard matter to get a body that is justly representative of the whole student body to consider so big a thing as it must tackle. I have heard a plan that such a committee should be elected from the professional schools and the four classes as such. Since a committee of this kind must be truly representative, it should be comparatively large, possibly as many as twenty-five. If five of these were elected by each of the classes there would be two for the law school and one each for each of the other professional schools. I have heard another suggestion that such a committee should be elected from each dormitory quota.

Election from classes and schools appears to be the better proposal.

That some such committee should meet and consider is all that I contend. The student body is fully competent of deciding on the rest.

At the end of their deliberations the committee will submit its report. Surely this can be no harm, for the student body is the judge whether or not it wants this particular constitution, the committee's product will only be a recommendation that may be either voted "up" or "down" at the pleasure of the campus.

None can say with justification that a convention will be either harmful or unnecessary when they with the ballot of final decision decide upon the worth and necessity of the constitution.

The convention will merely change the advocacy of the abstract into the advocacy of the concrete which is capable of receiving decision. The average student with his little political concern will not and cannot decide upon the general principal and theory of a constitution, but he can and will decide either one way or the other on a proposition set down in black and white.

PUBLIUS.

MORE ABOUT IT

Ignorance is the enemy of a constitution for the student body. This is said with no intentional sophistical meaning. My reason for this contention is that the general definition of a constitution is wrongly construed. I find that the proposed constitution is by some thought to mean a set of by laws. May I say here that nothing could be further removed from the true conception of a constitution than a criminal code for the student body, nor could anything be more inexpedient. It is impossible that a criminal code will be inserted in any thing so simple as the campus may adopt. It is said again that the proposed constitution would set up a system of student government that would be very complex. It is not doubted that such might be possible, but its probability is very slim. The system that we now have is complex, when considered in detail. There is the president, student council, central administration committee, and the activities group. All this machinery with nothing to fall back on, with no description of its functions and powers. It is inconceivable that there could be a system more complex. It may be just an incompetent opinion of mine, but I believe that a constitution will set up a much simpler and more responsible system which with description of its powers, function, and organization would be much to be preferred to our present system. If this may be called an attack it is on our system and not on the administration.

To verify my assertion that it is possible to have a simpler system of student government than we now have may I make a demonstration. Suppose some representative body called, for the sake of argument, a Student

Senate was elected say five from each class, two from Law school and one each from each of the other professional schools. The constitution providing for two permanent committees elected from this Senate, the executive and the judiciary, to perform the major duties as their names indicate. Would some such system as this backed up by a simple constitution not be more expedient and even simpler than our present system?

A constitution is a limitation upon officers and not upon the individual. Rather it is a guarantee of the individual prerogative.

PUBLIUS

HIGHER EDUCATION SHOULD STIPULATE PREPAREDNESS

E. B. Jeffries, Greensboro's combination mayor, newspaper publisher and University Alumnus, took strong ground at the meeting of the Alumni Association at Chapel Hill against any suggestion looking to a limitation of the student body. In fact, he emphasized the public part of his dual role by becoming positively eloquent in the speaker's sense:

"We must solve our problems of the future by various types of minds bent energetically on such problems, and these can be obtained only by drawing from all walks of life students to such an institution as this where in mingling together the East meets West and North meets South, where the rich meet the poor, where the self-help student mingles with the spendthrift, with the result that here—on this state wide campus—we get a state wide point of view, state wide estimate of our common problems," he declared. The speaker scored the "suggestion from certain sources that the enrollment be limited, that the tuition be raised so that the student may come nearer paying his instruction cost and thereby relieve the state as a whole of additional burdens of taxation. The past record of the university shows clearly that the state cannot afford to do this. This institution must always remain a place where the poor boy will have a chance to get an education.

"If North Carolina is to be a great, free and independent state performing its functions to the fullest extent as a commonwealth, it must keep its university free in the fullest meaning of the word. The state will make such progress materially, socially and spiritually as it is led by its educational institutions to do.

One may grant Mr. Jeffries' contention that the University, so far as possible, should be free to the youth of the state. The matter of the cost of the education provided in comparison with the amount of tuition paid is one to be dealt with by privately endowed institutions, perhaps, but it is not applicable to a state which has a University as a part and culmination of a general system of public education. But these facts do not do away with the idea, proved every year to the hilt in the character of the Freshman class, of some saner standard for the limitation of students to those who are capable of absorbing and profiting by the facilities the state affords at ever-increasing expense per student.

It is, in other words, a University that the state is trying to operate, and not a sublimated High School. Whatever the trouble—the inefficiency of the high schools from which the majority of the students are graduated, or something else—the fact is that there is poured into Chapel Hill every year a Freshman class of whom the majority have meagre preparation and the slightest ability in the way of educational power of digestion. They get in their own way, they hamper others, they represent a tremendous waste to the state in a particular in which economy is an absolute essential. The fault is not confined to the University. It obtains in other state institutions. It is fine to say, "Do not limit the opportunities for higher education." But it is a different thing to suggest saving higher education from the demoralizing effect of those seeking it, who know next to nothing as to what they want, and could have no hope of getting it if they had any reasonable population collegeward.—The Raleigh Times.

WHAT? A DRINK?

Minneapolis, Minn.—(IP)—The photographer who is taking pictures for the university annual here has refused to take the pictures directly after football game week-ends, because, as he says, the students invariably have dark rings under their eyes.

NEW TYPE COLLEGE HAS NO EXAMINATIONS

Chicago, Ill.—(IP)—A college without examinations; no credits obtained by present stereotyped methods, routine banished excepting that which is self-imposed; a place where the student may get the most fun out of life—such is the university of the future proposed by President Max Mason, of Chicago.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Today

4:00 p.m. 215 Murphey Hall. Bull's Head Reading. Mr. Willis Posey will read from "Congaree Sketches."

Friday, December 9

8:00 p. m. Episcopal Parish House. Meeting of Spanish Club. Mr. Jerry Slade will speak in Spanish on Mexico. Light refreshments will be served.

8:30 p. m. Playmaker Theatre. Presentation of "Ten Nights in a Barroom" with scenery, songs, and special features appropriate to the period of the original production of the play.

ALUMNI CHEMIST RECEIVES HONOR FROM EMPLOYERS

Jas. A. Struthers, With Hercules Power Co., Recognized in Company Organ.

James A. Struthers, Assistant Superintendent of the Hercules Power Plant at Bacchus, Utah, is honored with an inside cover portrait in the "Mixer," specialty journal of the Hercules Power company. In the November issue this whole page picture of Mr. Struthers appears, accompanied by another page write-up.

Leaving the University of North Carolina in 1914 as a graduated chemical engineer, he went with the Union Seed and Fertilizer company of Atlanta, Ga., staying with them only a few months. In September, 1915, he made a change in his work and went with the Hercules Power Company. They installed him at their plant in Kenville, New Jersey, as "works" chemist. Mr. Struthers, or "Strut" as he was known on the University campus, continued his work in his chosen profession at Kenville. For approximately one year he was busy in the laboratory there. In January, 1916, he was transferred to the Acid Line Department as assistant supervisor. The World War came on, and during these critical years "Strut" contented himself with his work at Kenville. However, shortly after the Armistice was signed he was transferred to experimental nitroglycerin work. He remained with the experimental nitroglycerin department for only a few months, to be returned to the Acid department with a new position as assistant supervisor. "Strut" stuck to this position for several years. In September, 1922, he was promoted to the Dynamite Department, in which he had charge of the dynamite manufacture. This was his final promotion at the Kenville Plant.

However, the Hercules people recognized "Strut's" ability and transferred him to their Bacchus Plant in Utah, where he was made assistant superintendent. He is now filling this position exceptionally well, according to the write-up that was given him in the November "Mixer."

"Strut's" boyhood days were spent in Wilmington, N. C. He is very proud of his birthplace and the Old North State. Although several states have claimed him as a resident, the state of the long-leaf pine and the Land of the Sky is his home. Be-

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fore coming to the University he received his prep-work at Horner Military School at Oxford, North Carolina.

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