

# The Tar Heel

LEADING SOUTHERN COLLEGE TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



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Thursday, January 12, 1928

## PARAGRAPHS

Add to startling news of the day: student directory for the year of 1927-1928 is just off the press.

Prodded for an estimate of his total wealth, Henry Ford said, "I don't know and I don't give a damn." Well, if your uncle Hank doesn't, we don't.

"The fire had spent most of its force," states the TAR HEEL reporter in writing of the Pickard Hotel fire. And it had also spent most of the property of the owner.

The TAR HEEL holds its own opinion as to who is the prettiest senior co-ed, but is afraid to make any announcement until after the senior superlatives election tonight.

Seeing as how about everybody is slated to speak at the Jackson Day dinner, we are at loss in remembering whether The Senator will orate on the "unavailability" of Al.

Says the favorite tri-weekly, "Florenz Ziegfeld, asked recently to act as judge for the Vanity Fair section of the *Yackety Yack*, has accepted the task." Poor diction, we call it.

"Marion Man Causes Uproar at Baltimore," headlines a daily. Possibly this Tar Heel was a member of the party that climbed Mount Mitchell with the mercury around 20 degrees below to shoot firecrackers.

## WELCOME NEWSPAPERMEN

It is peculiarly appropriate that the newspapermen of North Carolina should gather annually here at the state university for a three-day discussion of the profession.

The fourth Newspaper Institute, under the joint auspices of the North Carolina Press Association and the University Extension Division, has promise of being the most successful of the annual gatherings. With a large attendance, a varied and balanced program, and instructive entertainments, the Institute has every earmark of success. The program is quite balanced between the general, theoretical, practical and technical phases of newspapering and is spiced with a performance by the Carolina Playmakers.

As stated by President H. W. Chase in his welcoming address to the Institute two years ago, the press and the University have two vital things in common: the dissemination of information and the pursuit of truth. It is well that the newspapermen of the state should meet at the University to analyze the phases of their business, to study improvements, and for a general recapitulation of the duties and service of the newspaper. The University of North Carolina is one of the most important public utilities, if not the most important, of the state. Its duty is to serve the people of the state by supplying their

cultural, professional and technical needs, not alone to the small group composing its student body, but to the mass of the state's population as well. The University is the people's in every sense of the word.

Both being progressive leaders, there should exist between the press and the University the closest cooperation in their work. The gathering of the directors of the state press here offers the newspapermen an opportunity to become more intimately acquainted with the work and the program of the University.

## SENIOR SUPERLATIVES NOW POLITICAL PLUMS

It is with regret that the TAR HEEL learns that the choice of senior superlatives has descended to the mire of campus politics. A well-founded report and the work of zealous proponents lend credence to the rumor that these senior honors, representative of ability, accomplishments and reliance, are being bandied about among the politicians.

Whether there was a time when such honors carried weight and were accepted at their full worth, it is hard to say. Yet it is generally understood that the election of a senior superlative carries with it the mark that is symbolic of the method of procurement. If these positions are mere political plums and pawns, then god-speed and good luck to the politicians who pander in, and with, such. However, if the superlatives are to be representative of the various qualities and accomplishments that the name of each implies, then honor (if any under the present circumstances) should be conferred through spontaneous acknowledgement of those qualities that makes the member of the class the recipient of the position to which he, or she, is elected.

It may be said that this politicking and working for certain individuals for certain positions is not of the usual campus frame-up sort. A horse of a different color, as it were. That it is well for some men to look ahead, consider the most fitting senior for each superlative, and to lay plans for the election of the student, may be admitted. The TAR HEEL believes in the Boy Scout motto (Be Prepared).

Yet the TAR HEEL is not credulous to the extent that its hope will be realized to the extent that bartering and compromising will, and can, be eliminated from the drafting of a ticket, or a list of seniors who most logically meet the qualifications of the sought honor. Bartering and compromising go hand in hand with campus politics.

The honor of being chosen a senior superlative is decidedly dissipated when the bestowed glory comes through the efforts and machinations of political friends.

## THE AVERAGE NEWSPAPER: A PERVERSION

Dav Carol

Newspapers have always pronounced themselves agents of truth; but one may well trust that their claim is false, that their pictures of human activity are counterfeit.

With no view to arraignment journalism in this state especially, where readers are comparatively fortunate, we make bold to bring indictments against the great newspaper as it appears throughout the country.

For the greater part, the news pages are a hodge-podge of lurid exaggerations. In the presentation of cheap monstrosities, significant events are stifled. Freakish incidents properly discussed in grocery store anecdotes occupy seats of honor on the feature pages, whence they challenge the reader's credulity. Yet, the men who report these human antics, or sometimes even animal feats, profess to print important news.

What care we if a crazed man murders an entire family? Is the violence of his act, morbidly set forth on page one, exemplary of the times or the essence of his crime? Society can gain little by offering maniacs a wealth of publicity. Why not trace the degeneracy of the wretch, rather than gloat over his sudden emotional orgy? The story of every crime, if it is to be enlightening or beneficial, should be a miniature psychological novel.

Few editors would allow their reporters to present details of sex orgies; what moralistic sophistry permits them to dispatch every whiff of the latest gruesome murder?

The publicity given fiendish violence, such as Hickman's, has done much to obscure the true enemy of society. If an ordinary gunman slays any sort of human being, head-line writers seem to go on a dry drunk. But if hundreds of invalids and infants are poisoned by several years of milk grafters' corruption, we hear little of it.

If a rapist goes to life imprisonment, the newspapers set forth his fate in huge somber letters. (Often they follow him to his electrocution and dramatize a horrible death.) But if states like South Carolina elect to force a worse form of slavery upon

citizens whose only offenses are their marriage and incompatibility, reporters and editors alike pay little heed.

By glutting the reader with barbarities, the newspapers blind him to more malicious influences. And while public attention is fixated on spasmodic violence, less noisy but more dangerous criminals rise to the very administration of our government.

When blades were being whetted in 1917, who cried out for blood? Those guardians of the public welfare, the editors. At last in these days of peace, be it said, a few Daniels have come to judgment on our club-footed imperialism. But most of these writers compromise their peace program by tolerating or sanctioning militarism in their supposed refuges of idealism, the colleges.

On Armistice Day, who writes of peace? Maudlin patriotism is the vogue.

Companionate marriage, a startling and significant relationship of the sexes, has been gaining strength for years. Yet, the other day reporters "discovered" it, misinterpreted it, and editors made its appearance the occasion for puerile wit.

Hence, editors are little better than their charges. They pretend to lead the people, but they have precious little to say of birth control, political and criminal reform, marriage laws, and sociological movements of the day. They generalize about crime waves, but they know little of criminal psychology—and obstinately care less.

Instead of truths, reporters give us saucy or fantastic stories; instead of treating us to the soft, sad music of humanity, they assail us with verbal pyrotechnics. Editors are timid disciples of convention, pontiffs of the platitudes.

Yet, though the priesthood of letters be misrepresentative, we must follow it; for among the blind, a one-eyed man is king. But magazines are betwixt agents of public activity than are newspapers.

## PHI DISCUSSES MARRIAGE LAWS

Bill Tabled at Initial Meeting of Philanthropic Society.

The initial meeting of the Philanthropic Assembly for the winter quarter was held Tuesday at seven o'clock in the meeting rooms in New East. The question, Resolved, that companionate marriage would be better than our present marriage system, was briefly discussed.

Ralph Noe, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee introduced the resolution, giving the ideas and opinions of Judge Ben B. Lindsay of Juvenile Court fame, on companionate marriage to support his beliefs.

Fred Parker took issue with Mr. Noe on the grounds that such a form of marriage would only legalize prostitution. Mr. Parker declared emphatically that it was "the greatest fraud ever pulled over the nation's eyes." John Lewis questioned the speaker as to whether or not companionate marriage was already in existence. Parker replied that although it existed in a way that it was assuredly not legal, and that by keeping what we know covered we may lessen it.

At the conclusion of this speech a motion was made and passed that the bill be tabled until next meeting.

John Mewborn, president pro-tem, read the query for the Mary D. Wright debate which will be held in the last part of February. It reads: Resolved, that the governmental policies of Mussolini are for the best interests of Italy. The Philanthropic Assembly will debate the negative side of the query while the Di Senate will discuss the affirmative.

A constitutional committee of Ralph Noe, Nash Johnston, and John Mewborn, was appointed by the speaker to revise the present constitution of the Society, and to report at the next meeting.

Ralph Noe of the Ways and Means Committee stated that local campus questions will be discussed more during the present quarter than during the past. The meeting was adjourned early on account of the boxing match.

## JOHN MILLS TO SPEAK BEFORE ENGINEER MEET

Mr. John Mills, Director of Publications of the Bell Telephone Research Laboratories, will speak on the subject of "Telephone Research" in a public meeting of the local branch of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers on Friday night, January 13, at eight P. M. The meeting will be held in room 206, Phillips Hall.

In addition to the talk, Mr. Mills will interview the members of the Senior electrical class for the purpose of selecting men for research work. The Bell Telephone Company has for the past several years selected several of the University graduates in Electrical Engineering.

## TRY-OUTS FRIDAY FOR NEW PLAYS

Copies of Plays to Be Produced in Winter on Reserve at Library.

The three plays selected at the Playmaker reading Monday evening for production this quarter are *Spicy*, a mountain comedy by Mrs. Oscar Coffin, *Addie*, a mill story by Mrs. Osler Bailey, and *Day's End*, a play of the California Mountains by Alice Pierrat. The California play will be read this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock in the Theatre. Those wishing to try out for parts should hear the reading.

Tryouts will be held Friday afternoon at the Playmaker Theatre at 4:00 o'clock and at 7:30 o'clock. The plays are now on reserve at the library for those who wish to read them.

The plays were considered among the best read here for some time by the play committee which was composed of Professors W. E. Caldwell, G. L. Paine, Frederick H. Koch, Hubert Heffner, and Samuel Seiden. The plays read Monday night besides those selected were *Come in, Love*, by Mary Margaret Wray, *The Queen Has Her Face Lifted*, by Alvin Kahn, *Under a Hundred*, by William Cox.

## Chase Delivers Welcome Address

(Continued from page one) is about until the last paragraph, while the American reporter writes his whole story in the first sentence. The front pages of English newspapers are mostly made up of advertisements while the important news is crowded to other pages. The Englishman reads his newspaper as he drinks his tea—with his entire attention given over to it.

President Chase contrasted the European idea of education for the wealthy only with the American system of education for the masses. He cited the report of the University self-help committee to show that over 800 boys, or a third of the student body, is earning all or part of their expenses here. "Such a thing would be impossible in Europe," he declared.

The manner in which any system of education in any country is unified as a whole was stressed by Dr. Chase.

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Every unit—elementary schools, high schools, and colleges—depends upon the other units, and weakness in one produces weakness in all. There must be a complete circle.

In welcoming the delegates to the Institute, which is held under the auspices of the North Carolina Press Association and the University, Dr. Chase stated that the Institute was as much a part of the yearly calendar of events here as the Virginia-Carolina football game or Commencement.

A. L. Stockton, managing editor of the Greensboro *Daily News* and president of the North Carolina Press Association, officially opened the Institute and presided over the initial session last night.

Mr. Lowrance delivered an "Analysis of the Press," in which he surveyed newspaper conditions in the state. He predicted a banner year for the publishers.

Mr. Parham stated that "One of the outstanding developments in the field of American Journalism in the last few years has been the rapid increase in the number of syndicate features produced and used by the daily newspapers." He outlined the

causes back of this increase and analyzed the types of stories used as features.

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