

The Tar Heel

LEADING SOUTHERN COLLEGE TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



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Thursday, January 26, 1928

PARAGRAPHS

"Can't Borrow from One Loan Fund and Study Greek," headlines the favorite tri-weekly. Probably the gent doesn't want to start any more Greek cafes.

Add to startling news of the day: "Hefin Fires Verbal Cannon at Catholics."

"Coolidge Only Hope of G. O. P.," headlines a daily. Now who will be so rash as to rejoice with "Al Only Hope of Democrats?"

Duke university professor suggests a peace cabinet for the government. Why not one for the Democratic party?

Admiral Tom Hefin now launches an attack against the newspapermen, about which we may observe that turn about is fair play.

Business of agreeing with President Chase in his belief that faculty members here are underpaid, but couldn't the students come in for some condolences, too?

Now that the cocky sports editor of the Durham Herald has thoroughly convinced himself that he is in perfect agreement with himself, we suppose the question of referees is satisfactorily settled for the next century.

CURBING HONOR VIOLATIONS BY PUBLICITY

It is reported that the Duke Chronicle, student newspaper of Duke university, which is presumably traveling in a season of honor system violations, advocates the publication of the name of offenders as a means to curb the growing disrespect for the honor system on the neighboring university's campus. In a short statement, the editor of the N. C. State Technician approves the proposal as one that would bring constructive results.

Such a method to intimidate offenders and would-be offenders from violating the honor system here has been seriously discussed by groups and individuals for sometime. The underlying principle is that the would-be offender, through fear of publicity and public ruin, would be deterred from committing certain acts that are expressly or are presumed violations of the honor system.

Is such an assumption, that through fear the potential culprit will desist, practical? Hardly. It is acceptable at once that the severity of the penalty will do much to temper the recidivism of the criminal. However, how many offenders and near-violators go so far as to assume that they will be caught in the act, and ponder on the severity of resulting punishment for acts committed? Few, indeed, give the matter of punishment very much thought, since it is generally assumed

that the act will be committed without his, or her, being apprehended.

Turning from the frankly practical side of the proposition, the TAR HEEL does not believe that morality and law observance should be encouraged and taught by fear of the severity of the penalty for violations. Why should the publications of the names of honor violators in the college newspapers be considered severe punishment? Let us see.

The college student is usually a minor, an adolescent whose life is just beginning, in the broad sense of the word. One lacking the maturity of judgment, balance of relative values, and the proper conception of what is injurious to the moral character—yes, an unmatured boy or girl so often deviates without full realization of the seriousness of the act that has been committed. The publication of such moral aberrations—though the penal offense be expulsion and the penalty is enforced—brings the offender under a play of public spotlight that more often does graver harm to his moral character than it has value to deter or serve as a corrective.

Must he who would stoop once to err by filching an apple from an honor box, peeping over the shoulder of the student at hand to learn a French verb, or imbibe intoxicants be held up to the curious eyes of all and be branded with the stigma of a thief, a cheater or a drunkard so that by solemn example he may serve to deter other potential violators?

NEED FOR SOMETHING BESIDES BOOK-LEARNING

Dav Carol

Ours the name of leader in the South; ours the trophy for progress of all kinds; ours the art of bluff.

For the University, bedecked with a few laurels, bids fair to inure herself in dogma; her contact with the day's culture is dependent on her faculty alone.

Particular reference is made to our entertainments features. Our rostrums present few visitors of distinction; our concerts, despite an ambitious music department lacking only in money, are neither of the frequency nor of the quality appropriate to a real university.

Candidly, to an institution so well heralded as ours, the situation is disgraceful. By rights, the University should be above comparison with any other college in the state, and few in the South; but a glance at the lecture and concert program of N. C. C. W. will put our flaunted progress to shame.

Yet, it is not impossible for the University to institute a program of attractions compatible with its dignity. Why, we suggest, would it be inconsistent with enlightenment to require every student to pay a small "entertainment fee?" This plan for financing worthwhile innovations has been adopted with signal success at other institutions.

If every student were assessed about seventy cents each quarter, the University might realize five thousand dollars as a yearly budget for scientific and aesthetic attractions painfully needed in this tall-timber state. Moreover, the students, their season tickets once purchased, would naturally develop an interest in matters which are indispensable to modern education. And not only would visiting artists and lecturers never suffer humiliation form poorly filled halls, but the various departments could afford negotiations for a splendid selection of attractions.

At present, students pay fees to athletics and publications. Student government may be added to the list. Now, we submit that these activities are not half so synonymous with the educations for which parents supposedly are paying as are concerts and lectures of national significance. Students come here for an education; are they to be denied an acquaintanceship with the arts and sciences of their day? The University should welcome controversialists and bellwethers of thought; instead we hear militarists, "inspirational" philosophers, and platitudinous evangelists.

Luz, libertas.

Students in English Classes Become "Department Strollers"

(By New Student Service)

Visits of "department strollers," students in English classes who have special dramatic ability, assist in visualizing English work in Boys' High School, Brooklyn, N. Y. The boys pass from one English section to another, giving short performances of scenes selected from great masterpieces which they have previously studied and rehearsed. Other methods of visualization in English work are used, including talks in "picture form" by pupils on assigned topics, in connection with a stereopticon lantern operated by a fellow pupil.

Misses Rachel Davis and Marietta Napier have been quite ill at the Woman's Building this week.

CLIPPED

ON DEFINING A ROTTEN LECTURE

Mr. Allan Latham's letter to Professor Leacock, published in Saturday's issue of the Daily, contained an indirect compliment to the professors of this university. In it he said that most German lectures were absolutely rotten.

He had evidently been trained, (in McGill) to expect a high standard of lecturing technique. Whatever their material might be in comparison to that offered by the German professors, their method of delivery was far better.

The few who do not read their lectures are extremely good, thinks Mr. Latham. So one definition of a rotten lecture might be "A lecture that is read."

We shall have to modify this, however, or put a large percentage of McGill lecturers down as "rotten," and this would be unfair, because we know many professors who read their lectures, but who make them very interesting nevertheless.

But professors who do this usually put expression into their reading. We can imagine the German lecturer's voice—a sleepy monotone, with a few sustained "hrrrrchs," here and there, which might sound like a consumptive invalid clearing his throat, and exemplified in the similar sound made by the Scots—when they sing about the "braw bricht moonlight night."

We might amend our definition now and say that a rotten lecture is one that is delivered monotonously.

But that doesn't exclude the lecturer who says what he says in a truly bray style, but says very little worth saying. And college students are like the general public in that they appreciate really good material providing the relater does not violate the rule contained in our amended definition.

A rotten lecture, now, is "poor material delivered monotonously."

Of course, there are a good many other opinions about rotten lectures. To some students, rotten lectures are those that begin at five past the hour and last for fifty minutes, as contrasted with those that begin at quarter past one hour and end at a quarter to the next.

Cynical definitions such as that, however, we cannot consider. Our definition at present remains as stated two paragraphs back, and is quite vague enough to suit the majority.

We wish it was as easy for us to define a rotten lecture, as for the lecturers to define a rotten student. A rotten student is merely one who fails to pass his examinations. Of course, we doubt whether any student has failed in every exam, but it is equally doubtful whether any deliverer of rotten lectures gives rotten lectures in every subject.—The McGill Daily.

LAST IN THEATER-GOING

It appears from another of Paul Wager's tables in the News Letter that the state department of conservation and development can chalk up another first. By close study of the federal taxes that indefatigable statistician has discovered that in respect to the per capita expenditures for theater admissions in excess of 50 cents, North Carolina stands supreme. The 50 cent limit has to be put in because the government puts it in. But it automatically knocks out all admissions of 50 cents and less, which means knocking out a large number—perhaps a large majority—of tickets bought for moving pictures. Mr. Wager is not dealing with that class. He is not dealing with admissions to "athletic contests, cabarets and social clubs," either.

What he is dealing with would appear to be theater tickets of all kinds which cost more than 50 cents, whether for moving pictures, dramatic performances and (presumably) musical concerts of any sort.

The state's supremacy lies in the fact that it spends less per capita for this purpose than any other state in the union.

It might have been guessed. We should not have guessed that North Carolinians either have less opportunity for enjoying, or care less about enjoying, this form of entertainment than, say the people of South Carolina, or Alabama or New Mexico, which are near the bottom, or even less than Arizona or Vermont or Utah, which spend many times more. But it is certainly no secret that the opportunity for such entertainment in North Carolina is not to be compared with the opportunities in many other states. It is perhaps almost as true that the great mass of North Carolinians would not partake of such enjoyment if they had the opportunity.

The first is a fact which has been noted many times. Greensboro notes it often, and yet Greensboro has per-

haps as much—probably more—in such entertainment as any other town in the state. The second is more difficult to demonstrate, but the high percentage of illiteracy, the low average income and the large negro population all point to the probability that it is correct. Hard business points to it, too. If the desire was evident, or even reasonably present although not easily visible, business would find it out.

The truth, of course, is that North Carolina has now, and has always had, precious little experience in this form of entertainment. It is plain to anyone who looks a second time at the state. But perhaps the state department of development and conservation can show that we conserve our cash and develop our ability to seek amusement elsewhere, if any.—Greensboro Daily News.

NO MORE CIRCUS CLOTHES?

American college students, according to the writer of an article in the Vermont university newspaper, are abandoning coarse home-spun suits, pants, socks and ties of many and loud colors and artistically embellished raincoats, for plainer gray or navy blue suits, white shirts and camel's hair coats. Certainly the newer styles will justify to a greater extent the appellation "college man" so often used in place of the possibly better "college boy."

At McGill extravagant fashions have always been held in disfavor. A few students have, from time to time, dared to amble around the campus decked in Oxford bags, loud sleeveless sweaters and golf stockings decorated with long ribbons, but these have been in such a minority as to call forth laudatory remarks from visiting students of other colleges.

McGill has been accused of lack of interest in dressy affairs. And we do think this criticism is a severe one, for clothes and studies are not always related, and shoddy old clothes are generally preferred by all students when they study at their leisure anyway.

The freshman class at McGill, as we have remarked previously, are a particularly well-dressed lot of men, and perhaps they will stick to the college's conservative ideals, but be a little more particular.

The converse to the old proverb "Clothes make the man" may be true, but we think that the old proverb itself is scarcely true. Several wise and venerable men we know don't worry about style, but prefer comfort, and we believe they are truly wise men, even though they do set examinations for us.

But it is hoped that the conservative movement started in American colleges will continue there, and that it will have a profound intellectual effect, and raise the ordinary public opinion of the fifty thousand freshmen so wittily satirized recently. After all, several of these old proverbs are quite influential, even such matter-of-fact minds as those of big business men.—The McGill Daily.

UNIVERSITY FACULTY SHOULD GET FLEXIBLE SALARY SCALE

Dr. Harry Chase, president of the University, will not be seriously antagonized in his statement that the salaries of the faculty are too low, notably in special cases. A man distinguishes himself in his line. He gains a reputation that reflects credit on the University. He develops there an outstanding ability. His words begin to carry weight. Somebody else takes him off the Chapel Hill campus for good. It all has to be done over again.

Dr. Chase says that the way to meet this matter is to have a flexible salary scale. If a man is exceptionally valuable to the University, why should not the University recognize his value? There is no room in this equation for a formula such as might be applied to the pay of janitors. Yet that is what the University has very largely been compelled to rely upon.

Man after man in the last decade has left the University to earn a salary anywhere from fifty to a hundred per cent higher than he was getting and admittedly worth, simply because of an automatic scale that denied the University the privilege of making a good bargain. It may be said in this connection that man after man of the University faculty has made a sacrifice and stayed on in the teeth of better offers simply out of loyalty and sentiment. That last circumstance is a tribute to the spirit of the University management, but is a disgrace to the state.

We hope that Doctor Chase is given in this matter a free hand. Something of the sort ought to be extended to the heads of State Departments. The notion that a Salary and Wage Commission can standardize services to the state outside the duties of a purely clerical forces is the biggest folly ever perpetrated on a supposedly rational commonwealth. Men grow in most cases by the incentive they see ahead of them. Exceptionally, they go forward and

get the spot-light without it. If the incentive fail, in one case they relapse into mediocrity and job-holding; in the other, they are lost to the employment that does not appreciate them.

The University is a good place to reform the well-meant but stultifying and stupefying effect of the Salary and Wage Commission as it has been conducted.—Raleigh Times.

NO HIGHER TUITION FEES

Despite the fact that it may be possible by some sort of legal interpretation for the University of North Carolina to increase its tuition fees as proposed without doing violence to the letter of the constitution, it is very clear that the framers of this constitution set up free tuition as the ultimate goal.

The phraseology does not permit of any double meaning. But even if it did, the better practice and the present tendency to make education less expensive rather than more expensive, ought to prevail. The day ought to come when it will be possible for the State to remove all charges for tuition. The cost of a college education as it is involved in the general cost of living may be counted on to increase anyhow as standards of living for college students and people generally are raised. There is no reason why the State of North Carolina arbitrarily should make the burden heavier.

The linking of the proposal with the possibility of establishing a State Loan Fund does not do credit to its origin. If it is within legal bounds the State should establish a loan fund for worthy young men and young women seeking a college education. But North Carolina ought not to say encouragingly to its young men and young women: "I'm going to lend you money for your college education," adding as a dampening afterthought, "but I'm going to increase the fees on you."—Raleigh News and Observer.

LET'S ARBITRATE

(By New Student Service)

Ithaca, N. Y.—Regular faculty-student conferences for discussion of faculty legislation pertaining to students is suggested by the Cornell Sun to "promote greater understanding and insure complete cooperation in questions directly concerning the undergraduate body." The Sun believes a representative group of students meeting with the faculty would do much to remove mutual irritation. The proposal is not new. Elsewhere it has been presented in student attempts to gain access to faculty meetings. These efforts generally have been fruitless, presumably on the ground that the students are not sufficiently mature to be of aid to the administrators. However, some of the kinder teachers have let it be known that the faculties are not so much afraid of student immaturity as they are of the danger that the inane character of most faculty meetings may become too generally known.

Miss Dorothy Stearnes of Long Island, N. Y. whose engagement to Thomas J. Wilson, Jr., has been announced is visiting near Greensboro this week. Miss Stearnes attended the Carolina-Virginia basketball game in Chapel Hill Monday night.

Miss Lillian Pearson has gone to her home in Greensboro for several days. She expects to attend the Paderewski concert Friday night.

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