

The Tar Heel

LEADING SOUTHERN COLLEGE TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



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Saturday, February 18, 1928

PARAGRAPHS

Senator Reed, discovering that he is not wanted, will not speak in Charlotte. And we can't blame the senator one bit.

Probably the Dynamite Senators had better limit their political discussions in the future to the choice of sub-assistant wrestling managers.

An Asheville editor eloquently demands that the good old U. S. pay more attention to its foreign policy. Who the devil, we demand, said we have a foreign policy?

Reports say that there is a religious cult in Southern Mecklenburg county that believes the end of the world is near. But nary a word was there to advise us if Tom Jimison was one of the leaders.

Defenders of the six N. C. C. W. girls who were suspended for buying a Ford at \$36, driving it towards Gibsonville and then bumping a telephone post, says that it was only a youthful escapade. And a good day's escapade at that.

Once the Greensboro Daily News writ and printed a piece about the coming and going of robin redbreasts in some section of the state. Numerous letters from various points have poured into the News, telling when the birds first roosted in such a spot. Which raises the question, when were the cedar-birds first seen around the arboretum?

FRATERNITY HOUSING

The board of trustees of Davidson College in session have voted to abolish fraternity houses at the Presbyterian institution. This does not mean that fraternities are banned at Davidson, but that hereafter students will room in the college dormitories, and "that unit houses will be built by the college at a nominal cost which will be either leased to the local organization or which can be purchased by the fraternities."

It is not known whether a recent abuse or an accumulative series of errors on the part of those occupying fraternity houses at Davidson have led the board of trustees to abolish the practice. There is no intention here to infer or to hint that irregular practices have been taking place in the fraternity houses of the institution. The board of trustees may have seen evils and errors in the future, and attempting to obviate these they set the foot down before the viper had time to grow into an age of perniciousness. But is there a viper?

Davidson's action on the matter of fraternity housing brings the question closer home. Here at the University the policy has been to let the fraternity house a large part of the student body. Offhand it might be

estimated that nearly a thousand students live in fraternity houses. This is something like two-fifths of the entire student body. Though there is at present a serenity and cordiality of conditions that verge on perfection, the question of fraternity housing and its abolition is not unknown here. Occasionally, there rises some stalwart—whose interest is equal to his delusions—and sees rack and ruin for the young generation if they be permitted to live free and apart from paternal supervision in fraternity houses.

Fraternity houses have gone a long way in helping to solve the housing problem here. With all of its facilities, the University could hardly summons more than seven or eight hundred room accommodations for its students. This may lead to the deduction that we have fraternity housing because it is a necessity. Granted in a manner to a certain extent. Why should the University invest its building appropriations in dormitories when students are being satisfactorily accommodated in other ways? Housing is but one of the problems of an educational institution. There is the faculty, classrooms, laboratories, research equipment and a multitude of other expensive necessities.

But the practice of fraternity housing—permitting the students to live independent of faculty supervision in groups to themselves—carries with it something more than the mere solution of a problem. There is above all the spirit of an university symbolized in the policy. The institution, recognizing that its primary purpose is to train intellectually and not morally, assumes that its students have passed the age when supervision and moral guidance should be taught be close oversight. There is something about this admission of trust that creates independence, self-reliance and teaches the student to be master of his own faith.

NOT THIS SURELY, ED.

One University student, Algernon L. Butler, has written to a state daily and asks that the fair world behold what is seen as a mild degree of conclusion, corruption—yea, indolence and dereliction—on the part of the faculty that in turn annually mulcts the students heavily, yet unnecessarily. Mr. Butler calls the attention to the fact that recently much has been said back and forth about the proposition of raising the cost of tuition. But here is a means of saving more to the student who pursues, or wishes to pursue, an education as cheaply as possible.

It is the proposition of changing text-books with the student bearing the expense. There is seen an annual expense that digs a healthy slice from the expense account of the students. And it is said that it is so unnecessary. Anyway, one gets the mental picture that a student leaves yearly with a veritable traveling library, which he neither wants nor needs. The cause for all this? There is the proposition of royalties, prejudices, laziness of the faculty, and general indifference to the welfare of the student—particularly his pocketbook.

There has been a lot said lately about beating rides, bumming. It might be that if the student did not have to pay out so much for books, he would not have to beg rides in going home week-ends to see his people. But don't get the TAR HEEL wrong here. We have a fair collection of books, their only utility being to serve as material evidence that culture and knowledge has been pursued, if not gained.

It naturally follows that there is a remedy suggested to effect a cure. A textbook commission would do the trick. Of this Mr. Butler writes:

"The remedy which immediately suggests itself is a textbook commission for the university similar to the one which now governs the adoption of textbooks for the public schools of the state. The purpose of the commission would be to investigate the books required for the various schools and colleges of the university, make appropriate selections and approvals, and then require the instructors and deans to show a valid and adequate cause why there should be any changes in the future.

"I say a textbook commission similar to the one which now governs the adoption of textbooks for the public schools of the state. The statement may be misleading. Let the commission for the University of North Carolina be composed of competent educators who will familiarize themselves with the books which they must pass upon, and who are capable of making appropriate selections, who are free from any outside influences, who have no aptitude for boot-licking, but are interested solely in providing the best books at the minimum cost."

This places the TAR HEEL in a very prosaic, if pleasing, position of defending. The suggested remedy brings back the conventional question and plea: In the pursuit of truth and knowledge may we not have freedom? Is it necessary to have a commission to map out the books that may be

bought for each and every course? Cannot we trust the common honesty and sincerity of the faculty to consider the student's welfare as well as his own wishes in selecting the materials to be bought for the study of his course?

In standardization there is stagnation. Forbid the day when a state commission will have control over the textbook selection of the University to save the students a few paltry pennies!

The Calf's Head

By H. J. Galland

A Weekly review of news of the Bull's Head, the University bookshop.

We've been rambling around among the books the past week or so, and we've come to the conclusion that this is one of the best ways to read. When you have nothing else to do and pick up a book at random and glance through it, you seem to come across many little items you would miss if you read seriously through, from beginning to end. Sounds strange, doesn't it? Well, blame it on the lateness of the hour this is being written.

Anyway, we'll give you a specimen without going any further into details of why and how we enjoy gathering these choice bits which tickle us. We discovered recently that Erasmus, that great scholar of the Ren—no, that great scholar of the Middle Ages, well, anyway, that great scholar, wasn't such a dry old boy after all. In fact, we've sort of adopted him as our patron saint.

Here's what he wrote: "Ye tenderness of my years hath so affused me that I have not applied me unto the letters as I ought to have done." Me too, kid, me too!

Looking around the Bull's Head the other day, we found a pleasing little poem in Louis Untermyer's "The Forms of Poetry." It is the shortest poem in the English, or any other, language, and was written by Strickland Gillilan:

LINES ON THE ANTIQUITY OF MICROBES

Adam

Had 'em.

There is, we seem to remember, another even shorter, but we can't seem to think of it. Yes, yes, we know it—that crack was entirely uncalled for. At any rate, if you know one that is shorter and really makes sense, send it in to this column, care of the Tar Heel, and if we can use it, we will donate a prize of two genuine and usable tickets to the Carolina.

Everybody these days is reading biography. A casual glance at the shelves shows the Bull's Head is not behind the times. Among others, the following people are represented: Voltaire, Bismarck, Brigham Young, Poe, Napoleon, Jackson, Disraeli, Woodrow Wilson, Stephen Crane, Roosevelt, Henry Ford, Heinrich Heine, U. S. Grant, and Cleopatra. Of them all, Napoleon and Bismarck by Emil Ludwig are the most popular, here as elsewhere.

Did you know that any fiction book in the shop can be rented for a nominal sum? Here's your chance to get the absolutely latest. If there is a reasonable demand for a certain book, it will be ordered.

Various poets are represented in pamphlets of their best work, well printed and beautifully arranged, which are on sale at the Head. The pamphlets are sold for the price of a Pick, otherwise known as two bits, and Edno St. Vincent Millay, Walt Whitman, Carl Sandburg, Witter Bynner, Hilaire Belloc, William Blake, and others are represented. In one, called the New York Wits, an anthology of poetry, we found this:

IN EXPLANATION

Her lips were so near
That—what else could I do?
You'll be angry, I fear,
But her lips were so near—
Well, I can't make it clear,
Or explain it to you,
But—her lips were so near
That—what else could I do?

The name of the writer of the poem is Walter Learned. But what Walter learned, we can't imagine. Can you?

The political ruckus being raised around the campus lately causes the name of Alfred E. Smith to be used quite a bit. If you want the inside dope on this most interesting man, don't miss Pringle's book about him, called, for some reason, "Alfred E. Smith."

Now that Mid-Terms are, as some one has put it, a Thing of the Past, our worries are over. Oh, yes, they are! We'd like to meet the man who invented term papers some dark night. Anyway, our smiling room-mate

cheerfully reminds us that the Finals are not so far away, and we'd better study. He is still alive.

We're beginning to learn this here new columnist trade. A lot of 'em, we find, fill up space by using dots, like this . . . We don't have to resort to such scurvy tricks . . . except once in a while.

Married students make the best grades according to a recent study made by two University of California professors. They have found that women Phi Beta Kappa's at the University from 1874 to 1910 were divided—the greater percentage married students.

By refusing the Rockefeller offer of \$1,250,000 to help build a medical school, the University of Minnesota was advised by the city council and the board of regents that it would have either to act independently with its own funds or ask a new gift.

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