

The Tar Heel

LEADING SOUTHERN COLLEGE TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



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Thursday, March 29, 1928

PARAGRAPHS

Latest reports have it that it is not known just when Graham Memorial building will be completed.

One good thing we would like to emphasize about this issue of the Carolina Magazine—it at least appears on time.

We are advised that the severe electrical storm which visited the state Monday night was not affected in any way by the presence of Senator Jim Reed.

It is to be hoped that Coach Dale Ranson doesn't set the pace for his European tourist party as fast as that of the track team Tuesday against the Duke team.

Those who understood, like us, that nominations were to be made today will please read the editorial in the Tuesday issue of this worthy journal and substitute the date "Tuesday" for that of Thursday.

With apologies to Editor Andy Anderson, we wish to request that anyone who has any old shoes for the editor will please call by the TAR HEEL office this afternoon between the hours of three and five.

SENATOR REED SCORES

The gratifying thing about Senator "Jim" Reed's speech in Memorial Hall Tuesday afternoon is that, aside from being here and speaking before the University audience, he paid his hearers a distinct compliment by delivering what is declared by the state press to be the best address of those he made in North Carolina this week. We would have been happy to see and hear the Missourian senator but when he, to quote one correspondent, came "to the climax of his North Carolina campaign" here the TAR HEEL feels that he has complimented his Chapel Hill hearers in a memorable manner.

Such a figure in the nation's public life does not often go out of his way to speak twice within a half dozen hours. Because of this the honor that Mr. Reed has paid the University is appreciated and felt more keenly. Being a man of much vigor great force and extraordinary effectiveness, the senator literally "won" his audience by the power of his speech and the magnetism of his personality. Memorial hall, crowded to capacity, held a gathering that heard one of the best addresses that has been made here in many a day.

Again the TAR HEEL wishes to state that it is proud of the compliment paid the University by Senator Jim Reed in delivering that excellent speech, and it is hoped that sometime the senator can come back, because the brief visit Tuesday assures him of a hearty welcome here in the future.

THESE POLITICAL PREACHERS

By Dav Carol

Elsewhere in this issue is an account of a political controversy started by the organization of an Al Smith club at Wake Forest.

Obviously the Charlotte ministers, alarmed by efforts to substitute independent thought for traditional bigotry, have loosened the venom of a false Christianity.

Those ministers who would thus tyrannize campus thought are worse than witch-doctors. They possess just enough education to be dangerous, just enough influence to make their extermination a benefit to public welfare.

One day they drool of brotherly love; the next finds them calling college boys "cat-brained" and "silly-minded."

Now if these Baptists were setting out to utter truisms, they might well remark that college students are generally "cat-brained" and "silly-minded." But ministers of the gospel are not sworn servants of manifested truth; they are merely agents of a moralistic philosophy which millions have found comforting and to which a fanciful few have ascribed a sort of divinity. Hence, as advocates of one ethical theory, they present a clownish exhibition when they quibble over rival doctrines like Catholicism and Protestantism.

But after all, ministers and college students should not cross swords. They are blood brothers in the great fraternity of ignorance.

In the Wake Forest case especially, there seems to be little cause for ministerial interference. Will the Baptists of this progressive state deny a college full of young men, some of whom are already of voting age and others of whom are destined for political office, the privilege of organizing partisan discussion groups? All worthwhile forums center attention on some individual man or issue. Surely men of God cannot prate of civil liberties one day and grant them only to anti-Smith movements the next. Let it be observed here that in politics a non-Smith club is simply an anti-Smith subterfuge.

It is strange that many students at Wake Forest have disclaimed membership in the Smith club as though it were a leper colony. We trust that a grasshopper has not stampeded a great herd.

This seems to be the tap-root and top-wig of the Wake Forest trouble: A growing school which hears and responds to the appeal for public enlightenment on a national problem finds itself saddled by a board of directors numbering not only the trustees but also the most intolerant graduates. The alumni of the institution, unfortunately dwarfed by unwholesome early training, turn to the younger crop of collegians and deny them the privileges which may lend color to their education, truth to their sermons. Dogma is in the saddle, and is riding hard.

The authorities at Wake Forest squelch the Smith club. Theirs the authority; theirs be the high duty of renouncing that power for pursuit of a nobler course. Humbly we suggest that they refuse obeisance to childish, pestiferous alumni. Surely there are in all Baptistry a Caleb and a Joshua who will not falter.

And yet, if Wake Forest officials are as glib and timid as most of their clan, they will bow to the bluster of alumni who threaten to withhold appropriations. They will accept Bigotry as their faculty, Ignorance as their creed. Like Essau, they will sell their souls for a mess of pottage.

CLIPPED

A STRIKING ACHIEVEMENT

Elsewhere on this page is reprinted today an editorial article from The Nation relative to the work of the University of North Carolina Press. It is one of those tributes which make additional impression on the native not only because of the fact that it comes from a journal of high standing but because it is the long distance view of those who having a somewhat comprehensive outlook on the whole country turn to North Carolina for an unusually interesting achievement. In any light it is evidence of the penetration already accomplished by the university press. Barely half a dozen years old, and with so little financial backing that less courageous souls would have been deterred from any effort whatsoever, the press has already become a national institution.

The tribute of The Nation deals chiefly with social studies which have other reason to know that the group come out of Chapel Hill; and there is of published works on the negro has played a valuable part stimulating real interest all over the country in that subject. In work of this kind the influence of Howard W. Odum has been steadily and increasingly recog-

nized as of the very first rank. The man's authority is unquestioned, his industry is amazing. His recent volume on the life of Left Wing Gordon, "Rainbow Round My Shoulder," although not itself bearing the imprint of the university press, is one of the most remarkable and stirring books of the year, and is, so far as the Daily News is aware, the sort of thing that has never been attempted before. Unless we are greatly mistaken it will be read and discussed.

What is not so clearly brought out by The Nation is the work of the whole press, which under the leadership of its director, Louis R. Wilson, has built up its present high standard. Its material seems unlimited, partly because of the spirit at Chapel Hill, where, Dr. Mims pointed out, everybody seems to be writing or to have completed another book, and partly because the press has drawn its authors from everywhere. The result, which is not always sung, is one of the most striking achievements of the state in recent years.

—Greensboro Daily News.

LIGHT FROM CHAPEL HILL

A university press would not be fulfilling its promise if it did not make possible the publication of special monographs for which there was no commercial call. But our academic literature as a whole is much less interesting event to specialists that it might be, and to the lay public it is dull. The universities need not popularize their knowledge or even translate it. But they could have a plan, a purpose, behind their books—an imaginative coordinated conception of certain fields to be expertly explored. The monographs are random and uninspired; they do not build up big enough structures of theory or fact.

Of the North Carolina Press at Chapel Hill this cannot be said. The university there—chiefly, we understand, under the direction of Howard W. Odum—has done a surprising amount of excellent and interesting research and report. Its publications are conceived as serial contributions to subjects in themselves of great general importance. And the subject of greatest importance is the education of North Carolina. That state has 230,000 native adult illiterates, 100,000 of whom are white. The university expects to reduce this number quickly through the circulation of Mrs. Elizabeth C. Morris's readers for grown-ups, which in Buncombe county have already brought 4,000 adults to the point of reading and writing.

But the literate population in North Carolina, as in any other state, needs educating, too. Mr. Odum has planned a social study series which will throw more light on the condition of the negro than has been thrown, we imagine, from any other source to date. Three volumes already issued, "The Negro and His Song," "Folk Beliefs of the southern Negro," and "Negro Workaday Songs," have given exciting promise of work to be done in the analysis of the negro imagination; and a recent monograph on "The North Carolina Chain Gang" ought to have been read, if it was not (and it probably was not), by a majority of the state legislature. Then there are to come a study of the negro woman in the south, following Mr. Odum's method in "Rainbow Round My Shoulder"; a full-length portrait by Guy Johnson of John Henry, the incredible Hammer Man who, with that Black Ulysses, "Left Wing" Gordon belongs now to all black America; a study, again by Guy Johnson, of musical ability in negroes; several collections of songs and superstitions; and at least two studies of the present relations, violent or otherwise, between blacks and whites in the south. White North Carolina—its folk-lore, its education, its industries, its social history, its politics, its reading habits, its culture as influenced by cotton and tobacco, its welfare and poor relief, and its labor problems in mill villages—will be examined with equal care.

Nor does the press stop there. There is to be an inter-American historical series consisting of 15 volumes of West Indian and South American history translated from the Spanish and the Portuguese, and to this series will be added an atlas—the first in existence—of Hispanic American history. There is also to be a library of southern history and biography; and we mentioned in a previous issue the projected "Bilingual Series" which when under way will present the best works of European literature in text and translation. For the enterprise and enlightenment of Mr. Odum and his associates there can scarcely be too much praise. Other universities cannot do precisely the same sort of thing that is being done by the University of North Carolina; but if its example were taken to heart in sections of the country which are commonly called more up-and-coming than the Carolinas, this would be a more civilized republic.—The Nation.

A man has little to do going around censoring all those "nifty looking" bathing suits.

Sidney Blackmer To Attend Conference

Word has been received here by Professor Frederick H. Koch, director of the Playmakers, that Sidney Blackmer will attend the Eastern Regional Conference on the Drama to be held here April 4 and 5.

Mr. Blackmer is a native of Salisbury and is perhaps the outstanding North Carolinian on the stage today. He graduated from the University in 1915.

"I am honored and happy to receive your invitation," the letter from Mr. Blackmer said. "The Playmakers have developed wonderfully and have become quite famous. I have seen many groups in all sections of the country and the Playmakers are surpassed by none. I take greater pride each day in my honorary membership."

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