

The Tar Heel

LEADING SOUTHERN COLLEGE TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



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Tuesday, May 15, 1928

THE COUNCIL ASSERTS ITSELF

In its attitude towards the Yellow Journal the Student Council has shown that it takes seriously the duties thrust upon it by responsibility. Any attempt to clear an ill-famed publication of obscenity, slander and unnecessarily injurious gossip should be commended as a step in upholding the "code of a gentleman"—the preservation of which code has been intrusted to student government.

The faculty has been incorrectly drawn into the situation as dominating reactionaries who have forced the council to take action. Several members of the faculty did meet unofficially and suggest to President Hudgins that the council make its attitude toward the Yellow Journal perfectly clear before the sheet appeared—just as any group of students might suggest to the council a course of action. The fact that the council did take a stand somewhat as suggested by the older heads from the faculty does not warrant the conclusion that action was "forced."

The letter from President Hudgins in the Saturday issue of the Tar Heel states clearly the attitude of the council toward the Yellow Journal and makes it plain that the publication was not prohibited or "suppressed." The council, as we see it, was not fundamentally opposed to the printing of a Journal, but definitely objected to the appearance of a sheet as indecent as former issues and as it had been led to believe this would be. The letter outlines the means used to achieve this result—to which we can find no valid objection.

The student council has asserted itself for decency.

J. R. B., Jr.

RED CROSS OFFERS FIRST AID COURSES NEXT INSTITUTE

Courses in First Aid to the injured, life saving and water safety, swimming and diving, boat work and canoeing and kindred subjects will be offered at an American Red Cross Institute to be held from June 18-28 at Camp Sapphire, Brevard. This is one of the ten institutes held every summer throughout the country, but it is the only one south of New Jersey.

There will be a fee which will include board and lodging, registration, textbooks, and the insignia that is earned at the institute.

It is to be hoped that many Carolina swimmers will partake of this opportunity to improve themselves.

Any further information may be had by writing the Headquarters of the American National Red Cross at Washington, D. C.

OPEN FORUM

CONCERNING STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Editor of TAR HEEL:

Can it be said that the University of North Carolina has student government?

If one consults the University catalogue or the Freshman handbook annually issued to incoming freshmen, he will get a glowing picture of complete student control.

If, on the other hand, he considers some recent happenings, such as the Yellow Journal fiasco, the history department's passing of a rule that an instructor be present on all history exams, and the fact that the faculty executive committee passed on twenty-four student cases during the winter quarter, he will revoke his former opinion and emphatically say that the University has student government only in name.

As such, it is a deplorable condition. University authorities give students a student council and "bamboozle" them into thinking they are governing themselves.

Complete student control, they advertise, and theoretically it may be that. In actual practice it is far removed from that. The faculty controls the student council just as efficiently as if it were not a council of students but one of faculty men.

We will pass over the fact that the faculty has its own executive committee for disciplining students and that this committee handled 24 cases during the winter quarter, which should never happen under student government; but we cannot pass over two other incidents which show the complete domination of the council by the faculty, namely, the recent ruling of the history department sanctioned by the recent outgoing council, and the Yellow Journal affair.

The history department decided that the honor system was not sufficient to meet the exigencies of crucial exams of the department and passed a rule that an instructor sit on every examination. This in itself was an insult to the Carolina campus, but worse still was the fact that the Student Council sanctioned such a rule.

Not a man on the outgoing council, which humbly submitted to the history department's ruling, it seems, had the "guts" to stand up and tell the faculty that Carolina students needed no such rule and that such a rule would be completely at variance with the practice of the system on the Carolina campus. The members were not men, but pieces of clay to be shaped at will by adroit faculty manipulation.

Then came the Yellow Journal affair. Honorable President Hudgins admitted that he himself did not believe the Carolina campus wished the suppression of the Journal and that personally he could not see why it should be suppressed. His only justification, it seems, was that faculty pressure forced him to take the action which he did.

We will say nothing of the merits or demerits of the censorship of publications, or of the right of the Student Council to take such steps. The fact is that the Council has absolute and dictatorial right to deal with any student offense. It might even ship a man for expectorating on the grass if it so willed.

All cases are subject utterly to the discretion of the council, and so, without a doubt, the Council had the right to take the stand it did.

The question is not one of right, according to power, but one of whether the Council deemed the issuance of the Journal desired by the students and whether it was really meritorious of censorship.

President Hudgins did not seem to think, personally, that it should be censored. Furthermore, he was convinced that the vast majority of the student body wanted it.

Three students, however, apparently fearful lest their names be innocently besmirched in an all-in-fun manner, and those two grand old reactionaries, Deans Hibbard and Bradshaw, decided that the Journal was vituperative, obscene, and scandalous, and should not be allowed publication.

President Hudgins had his convictions, but he had not the courage of carrying them out. He did not believe the publication injurious and he knew the student body wanted it. Furthermore, he held office from the student body, and it would seem, would be obligated to respect student wishes in the matter when he thought respecting these wishes would do the campus no harm.

Instead, he allowed himself, just as so many of his predecessors, to be but a dab of clay in the faculty's hands. Pressure by the faculty won the day, and our erstwhile president succumbed.

So we see, after all, that the stu-

dents do not govern themselves at all. The faculty is the masterful hand behind the screens. The faculty pulls the strings and a puppet council rushes to do its bidding and will, regardless of what it, as student representatives, thinks to be the proper course.

It is a question which involves the whole system of student government at Carolina. We proudly vaunt, or rather the University authorities vaunt, the fact that Carolina students govern themselves. The fact of the matter is that the faculty governs, through a student council, which is but the humble doer of the faculty's wishes. The Council is a mere vigilance committee to report offending students, a tool in the hands of a greater power behind. They bend on every side, cow humbly down, and do what the faculty desires.

Why then call it a student council? Would not the appellation "faculty vigilance committee" be much more appropriate to the functions it exercises?

If we are to have student government, let us have student government, in fact, not in name. Let us have a council which will have the force to carry out its convictions regarding student affairs, and not a council composed of "yes-yes men" of the faculty. It is high time that Carolina students awoke to what's what concerning student government here. The faculty has put over "the great deception" long enough, and it is now time to decide whether we will have student or faculty control.

If we decide for the former, let the faculty step off the scene. Let the Council govern, not merely reign. And above all let the President of the Council remember that he represents the students and that he should have the force to carry out his convictions regarding what he thinks is proper for the students.

M. R. A.

ARTS-ENGINEER BRAWL AGAIN

Editor of TAR HEEL:

In an editorial which appeared in last Thursday's Tar Heel the Associate Editor deploras the existence of a "widening rift" which he sees between the School of Engineering and the College of Arts. He attributes this incipient chasm in part to the difficulty or magnitude of the work required of the student engineer and in part to the fact that the distinguishing "E" is added to the few courses in English that the engineer student takes.

Can he suggest how we can make the work easier?

Can he tell us what would be the result of an "E"-less English course?—what an Arts sophomore English course would gain if augmented from thirty to forty members by the injection of ten engineering students?—what these ten would gain?

In a professional course there is something definite to be acquired and often the acquisition presents difficulties. Application to this work limits the activity of professional students, save those exceptional few who may somehow find time for something else. If activities are indispensable then the leisure of the College of Arts is indispensable. It is desirable for the man who expects to take engineering to first take a year or two in the College of Arts—most desirable if he can first get an A. B.—the department encourages this. But few students can do this.

A little study of the curriculum of the School of Engineering will reveal the surprising fact that there is no intensive specialization. This is left for the graduate who has begun to see which particular field best suits his capabilities. Engineering here is presented from a broad and cultural aspect. If this point is missed the fault lies largely with the student who is unwilling to see it thus, or perhaps incapable of doing so. For such a man the Arts School itself could do nothing.

But our Associate Editor remains unsatisfied for he senses something which he has called an impending chasm and somewhere in the fog persists. Well, there is something. Rather than a chasm between any two schools it is an obstacle which we share in common. Do we need a change of curricula?—how about our methods?—does our present system meet the exigencies of a rapidly changing society?

There are vital problems; and in the School of Engineering, under the leadership of our able Dean, we are giving the matter some thought, though we may be reaching no solution.

If the Associate Editor sees some incongruities he sees nothing that we have not known for some time. A few suggestions would be more to the point.

As for the "rift" and the past "warfare of sarcasm"—I see nothing alarming in that. It is a healthy, normal, and beneficial condition. We may all get together, for a short while, and, led by Sherwood Eddy, sing "Love Lifted Me," but so long as

Pen Points



By H. J. Galland

It was a pretty good game, according to those who were present. Need we say that we mean the Carolina-Virginia game? No? Then we won't say it. But it was a pretty good ball game anyway, according to information received from a confidential adviser. We were there, all right, and so were a couple of hundred other Carolina boys, but a few of us know much about the game. N. C. C. W. was out in force, augmented by Guilford and Greensboro College, and they all sat in the stands near the Carolina section. That's why we don't know so much about the game. And you wouldn't have either. If, however, you require any information about the girls

The poor warm-hearted N. C. C. W. girls were slightly restrained during the Open House after the game. There's no telling what the gals might have done if they could have done it. But we discovered a sign in one of the dormitories, now in our possession which reads: "The Carolina boys will serenade tonight about 11:30. DON'T TURN ON YOUR LIGHT NOR MAKE ANY DEMONSTRATION EXCEPT BY CLAPPING." They didn't.

The death mask of Napoleon, according to a newspaper story in Sunday's papers, reposes in a safe in South Building. It formerly had a place on the President's desk, but when it's importance was realized, it was removed to its present stronghold. Realizing that sophomores are present on the campus, University officials took proper precautions. Nobody, says the article, knows the combination of the safe into which they put the mask.

An unprecedented occurrence took place in Chapel Hill yesterday. In case you don't know it (and if so, where have you been?) we had a fire. Now, who ever heard of having a fire in Chapel Hill—more than four times a week. We don't blame the Tar Heel reporter for waxing prophetic in his report of the blaze in this issue. "This fire," he wrote, "is the first of the week and the fourth in the last ten days." What building is going to require the attention of the full-time fireman and his volunteer henchmen next? Place your bets here, gentle, place 'em here.

We were passing through the Duke University grounds Sunday afternoon when we were halted by strains of some mighty good band music. The Duke musicians were playing on a lawn in the open. The effect was fine. Now that summer weather is here, we think it would be a fine idea for our own orchestra to give a concert in the Forest Theatre. Any chance, Mr. McCorkle?

We are happy to report that the Whippoorwill whose neck we said last week, we were going to wring, now no longer bothers us. No, we didn't do the dirty deed,—the bird just departed. It all goes to show that the atmosphere of learning on the Hill is contagious. The bird must have learned to read while it was here. We're thinking of threatening dire things in this column to some flies we've seen buzzing around our room recently.

In the Tar Heel of February 22, 1924 we find the following, under the headline "Carolina Takes Trinity Contest." "Richardson, the Trinity scenter, ran wild and scored five field goals, in addition to putting up a splendid game at passing." A gay dog, that Trinity player—probably an Irish setter.

And in the same issue, which was a Graham Memorial number to celebrate the beginning of the campaign for the new building, in this ad: "It is a matter of Pride to us, that we can announce that we will do the Painting and Decorating for the Graham Memorial. D. C. May, Durham, N. C." If Mr. May has stuck to the job, we fear his beard will be getting tangled up in the paint pot.

These old issues are interesting. Here's a headline from the same paper: "The Di and Phi Not The Same. The Two Literary Societies Do Not Hold the Same Place on the Campus." No, sir, they don't. If they did, we'd have another room on the campus in the condition of the one in the Chemical Building, which, you may remember, exploded.

there are two schools, two Nations, two anything, there is going to be rivalry and, yes, warfare. Nature was not made by the Y. M. C. A. J. J. Slade, Jr.

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