

# The Tar Heel



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Thursday, November 1, 1928

### Forward and Upward

Some criticism has been aroused by the announcement in the Tuesday Tar Heel that The Playmakers were tentatively considering several ambitious projects. Most lamentable of all, in this connection, is the fact that Professor Koch and his associate, Hubert Heffner, have been the object of this censorship and that the story, intended as an independent effort to aid The Playmakers in their aim for continued progress toward improvement, has been misconstrued.

Friends are, as the adage runs, very frequently the worst enemies. I wish to state at the outset of this article, however, that I know of no individual who can justifiably question the motives and the sincerity that were behind the story.

I have no quarrel with the tenets of Scholasticism but it strikes me that the power of good for the University that lies in the Playmakers is underestimated. I agree that the artistic, or Little Theatre, can be hurt by overpublicity within a restricted area but the idea presented in the story of The Playmakers on a national scope is new. And the organization has advertised the University unknowingly as a school where initiative and originality are encouraged.

I came from the state of South Dakota with no other recommendation of the fine University I have found than the name of The Playmakers. I am certain that there are a considerable number here because of the same reason.

I came here, moreover, not as a stage struck youth attracted by the work of The Playmakers, nor did I come to college to prepare for a scintillating career behind the footlights. If my interests are theatrical or literary it is entirely due to such men as Prof. Koch.

I assume full responsibility for my commercial journalism in presenting the story in its freshness. My small background of commercial journalism I hope always to retain, and in a larger sense to keep faith eternally with the profession I have chosen.

Youth always attempts to advance through the medium of Energy and Speed, and until I shall be tempered by greater maturity I shall continue to hold as my watchword—Progress.

J. ELWIN DUNGAN

### Faculty Indifference

An inference that most of the Uni-

versity professors have little or no interest in student affairs and even in the students themselves may be drawn from the fact that only twenty out of the more than two hundred faculty members are regular subscribers to the Tar Heel.

We don't want to impart the impression of attaching an over-great amount of importance to the Tar Heel, but whatever may be its shortcomings the fact remains that the publication is the clearing house for all campus happenings of moment, and it is impossible to keep in close touch with the student life here without reading the campus newspaper regularly. Too much censure should not be attached to the faculty men, however, as the circulation system of the Tar Heel is at present admittedly poor. This still does not constitute a totally valid excuse, since a great majority of the faculty men have made no effort whatsoever to have a copy of the Tar Heel delivered to them every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings.

An effort is being made to improve the delivery of all of the campus publications, and if the expected improvements are forthcoming there will remain no shred of excuse for faculty failure to read the student tri-weekly. Not that faculty subscriptions mean anything to the financial life of the paper—it is simply failing to fulfill that part of its duty which has to do with bringing about a lessening of the lamentable breach which exists between student and professor. It is certainly a discouraging indication of an unwillingness on the part of the faculty members to keep in close contact with their students that only about nine percent of them subscribe to the publication that is probably the greatest single unifying factor on the campus.

—GLENN HOLDER

### Permitting Political Activities

During this last week before the presidential election the very air is fraught with political propaganda and keen campaign interest. Democrats laud Governor Al Smith, while Republicans and Anti-Smithites shout the praises of Herbert Hoover—and a few scattered but enthusiastic Socialists do not forget Norman Thomas.

Although set apart from the rest of the state in semi-seclusion, the campus of the University, however, has by no means escaped from a heavy dose of politics. The two political clubs have been successful in bringing before this college audience speakers who have expounded long and earnestly—and sometimes even intelligently—upon the major issues involved. Anxious that the students should hear all sides of the present situation, the Tar Heel was instrumental in securing a visit from the presidential candidate of a third party.

This political activity on the part of the students was not hampered in any way by University authorities. Although the officials of the University could not extend invitations to pleaders for any political party, they wisely saw fit to allow the student body to take necessary steps in securing political speakers whom they might listen to in connection with the present campaign.

Permitting the students to follow their own inclinations and wishes in an effort to inform themselves more thoroughly as to the political situation, the University merely showed one more manifestation of its policy of student responsibility. What a contrast this attitude presents to those colleges which forbid even the slightest demonstration of political permission to hold a political rally at the school. And we have not forgotten the experience of a school in this very state which last spring forbade the existence of a political club among the student body.

When a college is attempting to train its student members to take their places in the state as intelligent and useful citizens, it is a strange method pursued by denying them the right of political activity. Denial of political participation in college does not train for intelligent citizenship in later years.

## Discovery Is Made Early College Boy No Angelic Youth

What angelic, straight-laced, dignified little men we college boys have degenerated into, since ye good old days when Cotton Mather used to hold up his hands in holy horror at the doings of the Harvard boys. The collegians of three hundred years ago would have snickered in scorn at such asininely trivial things as shirt-tail parades past the co-ed house, walking on the grass, giving bad checks, or playing cards at church. Those Puritan boys really had it on us for fair.

Brawls, hazing, wrangling with the faculty, extreme dress, excess smoking, the reading of pornography, the holding of senseless and disorderly commencements, religious negligence, free thinking, waywardness—all such portentous outbreaks and disrespectful conduct, which, we are told, mark the spirit of the 20th century collegiate, played a larger part in the lives of the college student 300 years ago.

Dr. Henry W. Lawrence, Professor of History at Connecticut College has revealed these facts in his new book, "The Not-Quite Puritans," the material for which has been gathered from such authentic sources as contemporary church records, diaries, and histories.

"We commonly think of the American college man of the 17th and 18th centuries as so incurably addicted to studious piety that he found little time and none for dissipation," writes Lawrence. "It is hard to reconcile with this view such an incident as the following, recorded by one Ezra Clapp, in 1738.

"Last night," this earnest Yale student has recorded, "some of the freshmen got six quarts of Rhum and about two payls fool of Sydar and about eight pounds of sugar and made it into 'Samson,' and envited every scholar in college into Churtis's room, and we made such prodigious Rought that we raised the Tutor, and he ordered us all to our rooms and some went and some tarried and they gathered again and went up to old father Monsher and drumed against the dore and yeled and screamed so that a bodey would have thought they were killing dogs there. . . ."

Students of Harvard at an earlier date took a strong dislike to the president of the time, who was Harvard's third, and forced him to resign by turning "cud-weeds," as the Rev. Mather writes in his diary, and, by violating the fifth Commandment, "set themselves to travestie whatever he did or said."

Ministers' sons began to get their reputation as early as 1644, we learn by the following account:

"Two of our ministers' sons being students in the college, robbed two dwelling houses in the night of some 15 pounds. Being found out, they were ordered by the governors of the college to be there whipped, which was performed by the President himself—Yet they were about twenty years of age; and after they were brought into court and ordered to, two-fold satisfaction, or to serve so long for it. We have yet no particular punishment for burglary."

In the diary of Nathaniel Ames, a Harvard student who entered college in 1758 and completed his course in 1761, we get some amusing accounts of college life, and note as well a marked similarity between 18th and 20th century youths:

"March 13, 1758 Came to College, began Logick.

"March 18 fit with the Sophomores about Customs.

"March 20 had another fight with the Sophomores.

"June 13, 1760 acted Tancred and Sigismunda for which we were like to be prosecuted.

"Oct. 1, president sick, wherefore much Deviltry carried on in college.

"Oct. 10, 1 scholar degraded this morning, 2 admonished, 1 punished.

"Oct. 10, Kneeland's and Thayer's windows broke last night.

"Dec. 22, Gardner and Barnard admonished for stealing wood.

"Feb. 26, 1761 lost two pistareens at cards last evening.

"March 26, first game of bat and ball.

"April 15, Dependants on the Favours of the President and the Tutors sign an agreement to inform of any scholar that is guilty of profanity.

"May 19, Joseph Cabot rusticated. As soon as the President said he was rusticated, he took his hat and went out of the chapel without staying to hear the President's speech out.

"Tutors he bulrags the Tutors at a high rate and leaves college. His parents at the news.

"May 20. Chapel robbed of the

Cushings and Bible Cloths.

"July 15. Commencement.

"July 16. A dance in Town House, Cambridge."

"Petting," Lawrence tells us, was quite as much, if not more, of a problem 300 years ago than now, although it did not play as large a part in the college boy's life, there being no co-eds and few girls' schools in college vicinities. But despite the immediate absence of the fairer sex, the college fop abounded; to such an extent, in fact, that laws had to be made to regulate the clothing worn.



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For instance, in 1754 the undergraduates of Harvard College were forbidden to wear silk "nightgowns." These were a sort of dressing gown of silk or damask, "suitable for printers or importers perhaps, but luxurious for college students," writes Lawrence, for "plain thinking and high living was not to be tolerated by day or night, it might seem."

UP TO DATE  
Girlie, toss your nose in air,  
You've not got my goat,  
You've my last year's love, but there,  
I've a new fur coat!  
—Peter Gray.

FREUD WILL OUT  
Although I love you every hour  
And see you every day,  
I sometimes call you by his name  
And dream of him when you're away.  
Of course he never writes to me—  
You know, dear, I've been true.  
Of course he never told me but  
I think he loves me more than you.  
—Peter Gray.

One of the largest colleges is sending its football team 10,000 miles this year. A football player has to get an education some way.—Greenville Piedmont.

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