

The Tar Heel

LEADING SOUTHERN COLLEGE TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



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Tuesday, January 29, 1929

PARAGRAPHS.

"To Give Illustrated Lecture On Brick"—headlines our favorite campus newspaper. Sounds like a very restricted speaker's platform!

Another objection to these airplane weddings like the one just celebrated in Chapel Hill is the difficulty the audience experiences in trying to throw rice and shoes at the newly married couple.

Judging from the number of Open Forum letters coming in about this daily TAR HEEL proposition, it will be easy enough to fill a daily newspaper.

Seventeen University of Missouri students are going abroad this summer as mule tenders—just another example of what some members of this generation will do to get a kick.

We haven't heard anything new about the next Wigwag and Masque production in several days—the members must be living up to the title: "Mum's The Word."

With the installation of complex machinery in the new library, it is rumored that books will be dished up and served cafeteria style. No doubt business will be increased.

Physical Follow-Up

One of the first contacts a freshman makes with the actual workings of the University is his physical examination in the gym. There his eyes, ears, lungs, heart, knees, fingers and all the rest are tested under the direction of Dr. Lawson and student assistants. Figures are set down upon papers and cards, row after row of them attesting to the physical condition of each new student. But what, we ask, is done with these statistics after that day? So far as one can see, they are relegated to the obscurity of some office or else to the gymnasium attic or cellar.

True, if a man's eyes are too weak for him to study, he is usually advised to go home rather than try to enter the work of the University. But what if his eyes, his heart, or his lungs need constant attention? What if his stooped shoulders need regular directed exercise? Of course, if he happens to be the sort of man who goes out for varsity athletics, he will be cared for. Unfortunately, however, those men whose physiques most need attention are those who fail to get it.

While the mental side of education is being stressed, the physical side remains neglected. The system of

roll call, quizzes, examinations, and grades sees to it that at least a certain amount of mental discipline is inculcated. In the meantime, nothing is being done for the body. Compulsory gym for freshmen is, perhaps, one way of going about the problem.

That at least provides for one year of systematic exercise. It should also serve as a habit former for later years; but, in actuality, it seems to work the other way—in rebellion from compulsory freshman gym most sophomores and may upper classmen shun the gymnasium as they would a classroom. The recent substitution of track and field events for ordinary gym work is an excellent plan, and is no doubt proving successful.

There still remains much to be done in this line, however, and the attempts should no longer be postponed to the future. The severest handicap at present is probably the absence of a gymnasium with sufficient space and equipment to provide for extensive physical education and also the lack of enough funds for a much more thorough check-up on the physical condition of each student as he goes through college.

Two things are necessary before any marked improvement in this state of affairs can come about: first, it is essential to the welfare of the University that funds be set aside by the legislature of North Carolina for the construction of an adequate gymnasium and for the carrying out of a thoughtful, consistent plan of physical education; and second, that more attention be paid by the University officials to physical needs of students and more time be spent in consideration of this phase of student life and development.

To Pass, Or To Learn?

Routine classwork, as assigned by a majority of professors here, generally effectively gets a class through the work specified in the catalog. Gets them through the exam, that is. After that, no man can say how much of the knowledge handed out by the professor is retained. But we can guess, and the guess makes it very, very little.

The system in effect now makes cramming for exams a very necessary evil. A certain amount of work is assigned each day, and generally perfunctorily looked over or allowed to slide until two days before the examination, when the entire course is surveyed. Sufficient information sticks for three hours to enable the student to pass the exam and receive the satisfactory information at the Registrar's office that he has "gotten another one off." Beyond that, little of value is retained.

By the time a college student has reached his Junior year, he ought to be somewhat interested in his education. Without someone to stand over him to see that he does his work, he ought to be willing to dig for himself a bit—or even merely pick up the information he sees spread out before him, if it will be of value.

Few, very few, professors believe that the average college student will do this if given the chance. When they do have a little faith in the seriousness of purpose of their students, however, they cautiously try the plan of allowing the students to read for exams. A certain number of books on a particular subject is assigned to be read during the week. The class is told to read them for themselves and is not required to attend class during the period of reading. There is opportunity for developing a little original and genuine interest in the work, and the necessity for cramming is minimized. One is not required to give back only the opinions of the professor in the quiz book. And the change makes the work more interesting to all concerned.

Modified systems of reading for exams have been going on successfully at Oxford for generations. Here and there in this university a professor is trying out the plan. Will it be successful with a majority of Seniors and Juniors? Try us, Professor, and see.—H. J. G.

The great principle of human satisfaction is engagement.—Paley.

Open Forum

TAKES ISSUE WITH A. M.

To the Editor:

We should like to take issue with the long-winded "A. M." who on Saturday took a perfectly good column and a quarter of TAR HEEL space to give obviously inadequate and faulty reasons for not having a daily paper on the campus.

We take up his major objections in order.

There is a bountiful supply of news on the campus for a daily paper. Mr. A. M. never having worked on the TAR HEEL speaks whereof he knows not. Whole galleys of copy are left out every printing night—news which should be run for which there is no room. Every story has to be cut short to the minimum. Still other news has to be left out, because in the interim of a non-publishing day this news grows old and is supplanted by newer stuff. Still other news in the form of worthwhile feature stories is never written because the writers know there will be no room for it. Professor Oscar Coffin, head and foot of the Journalism department, has expressed the opinion that there is plenty of news on the campus for a daily paper; Professor Coffin is a conservative of long experience as a managing editor; and we would consider him much more an authority on whether there is news enough than Mr. A. M.

We will pass over Mr. M.'s attacks on the journalistic quality of the TAR HEEL. We will say that Mr. M. could never be a fair judge in the light of his rejection experiences with the TAR HEEL. It must be remembered that a student paper can not be expected to maintain the standards of a professionally edited daily, but the TAR HEEL stands out as one of the best tri-weeklies in the country. Making it a daily would be a boon to drawing out more and better reporters and would be the beginning of a new and better TAR HEEL.

Chapel Hill news, national highlights, and feature cuts from other colleges would be of interest to the vast majority of students. Certainly students are not so narrow in their interests as to confine themselves solely to their University news.

Finally Mr. M. does not understand the proposed financing plan at all. Circulation is to be extended to the town in proportions large enough to open new fields of advertising—local stores, garages, building establishments, etc., which draw their patronage not from students but from townspeople, which would be glad to advertise in the TAR HEEL if it had a material circulation in town. National advertising will automatically be increased by the college agencies, and by having a town circulation new lucrative fields of national advertising will be opened up, as the profitable automobile advertising. Despite all respect for Mr. M.'s superior knowledge, we say once again "He speaks whereof he knows not. A daily will work no extra burden on local advertisers, because new advertising fields will be opened up. There will be no increased student fees. Giving students a daily will merely mean giving them more for the publications fee they now pay.

The plan is highly practical for the present. It will mean great things for the future. Let's have a daily TAR HEEL.

M. R. ALEXANDER.

CRITICIZES PRESENT TAR HEEL

The advocates of a daily Tar Heel would have us believe that we would have a mixture of the New York Times and the Daily Mirror with a dash of the Police Gazette thrown in for good measure. The real question, however, is: Would the quality of the campus news be improved? For that is what the students are primarily interested in. Most of the other articles are more or less fillers. I am especially interested in sports and sport news, and have asked myself how a daily Tar Heel would improve sports reports. As far as I can see, there would be no improvement. The Tar Heel has been very mysterious about its plans for a daily, but it is natural to suspect that no staff is going to stay up half the night getting out the morning paper, and that the deadline would be, as now, late in the afternoon. At any rate it would come too early to allow reports of sports events of one evening to be written up in the next morning's paper. The situation is obvious. We would be getting stale news six times a week instead of three as at present.

As a matter of fact, it is unnecessary to abolish the Buccaneer or change the Magazine to get "clip service." Many of the reports of sports events at present are either partially or wholly copied from state

newspapers. Nor is this custom restricted to sport events alone. Last Saturday's paper was just full of clipped fillers. I refer especially to the back page. Will a daily Tar Heel mean that we will have more "Flu Situation Causes Changes in Ventilation" and "Splendid Work in Planting of Trees" type of stories? The report of the Carolina-Georgia game is plainly a desiccated account of an article in some other paper. From all reports that game should have been written up for the excitement that it contained, if for no other reason.

The most elementary training in journalism would teach reporters to put the four W's, who-where-when and what, in the first paragraph and then amplify and explain in the following paragraphs. How many sports articles really written by Tar Heel reporters—or other than sports editors—observe this first principle? Are six poorly written articles better than three? Let the present paper be first improved as to quality and then there might be a possible excuse for wanting more quantity.

K. S.

AN ANSWER TO A. M.

To the Editor:

I saw in the Open Forum columns of this paper Saturday a letter signed A. M. '29 dis-favoring a daily TAR HEEL. The writer of that letter made a number of apparently good points. But an analysis of these points will show the fallacy of A. M.'s reasoning. Evidently the writer of that letter has not investigated the situation with any degree of profundity.

A. M.'s first point is that a daily TAR HEEL could not be filled with legitimate campus news. He further states that the paper is "hard up" for material now. To enlighten A. M. I might state that at the time this letter is being written there are five galleys of copy set up at the Orange Printshop for the next Tar Heel which comes out in two days. Moreover, there is an abundance of copy on the hook in the office of this publication. Further, there is seldom a day that some copy for the paper is not left over.

A. M. wants us to consider next the inanity of some of the feature stories, "columns" (I presume he means "columns") and dramatic criticisms that "clutter up" the present journal. He describes them as "tawdry pure and simple." "And the columns!" he cries out, "Lord deliver us from an increased number of Hash and Mothballs type." He then continues: "As for Merely Meandering just take a look at Tuesday's TAR HEEL. Has anyone ever seen punker puns and less humorous attempts at humor?" In answer to this last question I can say that I have truly seen a number of "punker puns" (which is clever alliteration, by the way) than have appeared in these columns. And I saw all of them in a "column" which Mr. A. Metz '29 submitted to the Tar Heel and which happened to be rejected.

A. M.'s second point is that students are not interested in Chapel Hill news and that Mr. Grave's paper covers that field better than the TAR HEEL could. I take issue with this argument and contend that there is quite a bit of Chapel Hill news in which students are interested. Take, for example, the recent decree which the mayor of Chapel Hill made concerning bumming, or the arrest of a favorite bootlegger. Furthermore, these bits of village news will be included in the TAR HEEL without additional cost, and the Chapel Hill Weekly is not given away.

The third point that A. M. lists is that the promised picture service would be out of place and that one could see it much better in a news reel.

His fourth point is that there is no necessity for a "clip" service, and that one may get such news more cheaply and more quickly by going to the library. May I ask A. M. how he proposes to get it more "cheaply" at the library? And if this service were offered in the TAR HEEL, there would be no necessity for going to the library for news every day.

His fifth point is that he is just as strongly for economy in the newspaper as he is for it in the year book. May I ask him if he knows exactly what he meant to say?

He argues in the sixth place that it would be hard on the advertisers, and that the TAR HEEL could not increase local advertising enough to justify a daily paper. I wish A. M. would glance again over the four plans submitted. If two of the plans are adopted, the TAR HEEL will greatly increase advertising. And I believe that A. M. has forgotten to take into account national advertising.

A. M.'s final point is that there are only eight or ten men who are majoring in journalism in the Arts school. Consequently, A. M. believes that there would be only a few men connected with the staff who would know anything about news principles. Another fallacy. The majority of reporters on the present staff are men who have had sufficient high

school experience to justify their being placed on the staff. Further, it is not necessary that a student major in journalism in order to be able to write a news story.

A. M. is in favor of simplifying the Yackety Yack whether any other change is made or not. If the year book is simplified, we have the solution to our financial problems. Evidently A. M. wants to do himself out of something. Personally, this simplification of the Yackety Yack seems the best plan to vote for. We would then still have all of our publications, and we might continue to use them as laboratories in which interested students may experiment.

JON.

A BULL TALKS

To the Editor:

I've never paid three dollars for the permission of having a chance to go to Durham, but I have heard of those who have, and seen those that forced them to pay. What a marvelous ordinance it is, because you see, it deprives lots of the poor, broke college boys of some of their psychic income as well as others of their real income. It also lifts the immortal strain which has caused many of poor Chapel Hill drivers to become utterly exhausted from shell-shocked nerves received in keeping from hitting some dastardly bum that stood in front of all the cars to beg a ride to Durham.

Well, these Chapel Hillians aren't satisfied with the laws provided by the Sovereign State of North Carolina to protect our morals. After the state says that we shall not see a good vaudeville act; that we shall not have a social game of pool, etc. in Chapel Hill, then it is ruled that we shall not leave our good city to indulge in such, unless you pay a dollar uncover charge to get out and get back to Chapel Hill again. Take it from me, boys, we have the people on our side, and that's that. Prohibition! oh how we love it!

There is a rumor afloat that Chapel Hill, N. C. is going to petition the state of Tennessee for permission to write "Tenn." after Chapel Hill instead of writing N. C. They tell me that the reason the city wants to change its name to Chapel Hill, Tenn., is that there is a coincidence in the laws of both places. Then, even if the Charlotte ministerial band did fail to adopt the Tennessee anti-evolution laws in this state, we may have them in our school. Mayor Council may call the city court together and pass an ordinance to that effect. Wouldn't that make us outstanding, though?

Therefore, dear children, desist from the nefarious practice of soliciting transportation to uncivilized lands.

A BULL

EXCESSIVE VOLUNTARY CLASS DISCUSSION

To the Editor:

Some weeks ago there appeared in the columns of the "Open Forum" an article by a student, protesting the excessive voluntary class discussion on the part of some few members of a class. The gentleman's argument was promptly rebutted in the following issue, the context of the rebuttal being arguments based on the fact that the average student asks questions of the instructor in class in a sincere manner and not for the possible favorable results of a good impression made.

I hope I may be pardoned for stirring up the fire again, but I offer no apology for protesting against the intolerable classroom boredom caused by the persistent "discusser." This type of student will enter the classroom, conspicuously place himself on a front row, make certain to greet the instructor with a pleasant, "good morning," and endeavor to engage the instructor's attention for the large remaining part of the period. It does not seem to matter so much how the professor's attention is gained. Many of the questions asked are foolish; the rest, obvious. The discussions may range anywhere from material relating to the general topic, to inconsequential personal experiences.

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SOL LIPMAN'S

The reader knows the type I mention. The class is bored. The instructor, if he isn't fooled, is likewise irritated by such conduct.

But perhaps this drivel is justifiable if a favorable psychological impression can be made on the professor. Yes that may be true; but I believe if the psychological interests of the class be considered by the offenders, we will hear less from them.

FRANKLIN LITTLE.

OVERCAME HARD LUCK

Playing in the Philadelphia sectional qualifying round for the national public links championship, Ted Reilly sliced his drive into a thorn tree. The ball landed in a crotch formed by three limbs and stuck there. He had to climb about fifteen feet up the tree and tap the ball out with a putter. He made it up on the first attempt and eventually got a four for the hole, only one over par.—Boston Globe.

People are warned against green apples; but they eat all other kinds of green fruit.

A place ought to be set aside for roysters to make a noise in instead of the streets.

This Smoke Aids Artist To Nab Ideas

Independence, Mo. June 24, 1928.

Larus & Brother Co., Richmond, Va.

Dear Sirs:
Perhaps you would like to know in just a word or so how I am in partnership with Edgeworth in a business way. By profession I am a cartoonist, who you probably know is called upon to create new ideas. While this is ranked as the hardest part of the profession, I have proved it may easily be mastered, if a person will but recline in any easy chair, light a pipe, and live with imaginative persons in the aromatic smoke clouds that will soon fill the room. Edgeworth has given me more ideas than any other brand of tobacco, so I "married" my pipe to it quite a while ago. The result has been wonderful. The more you use Edgeworth, the more you crave it—not as a drug, but as a wholesome pleasure.

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