

From the Editors-- To Carolina Student Body, For Whom Free Press Speaks, and Is the Voice

The immortal Jefferson is reported to have once made the statement that if he were forced into a choice between a country with a government and no newspapers, and a country with newspapers and no government, he would never hesitate to choose the latter.

A free press is the voice of a free people. And in the same relationship, a free and uncensored TAR HEEL, as it stands today and has stood since the moment the first copy was rolled off the great iron giant some fifty years ago, is the voice of our student body. It is the heartbeat of the University. It is you.

Criticism of these four overtaxed pages, and the stands we have held to in the past few months, have brought about a legislative investigation, and it is our sincere opinion that certain individuals among us would have this publication respond favorably to every campus whim, to condone all campus action, regardless of what that action is. To succumb to the expression of only these opinions through the display of news, or editorially, would make us at best a puppet, at worst, a quivering. It is our common understanding that as editors elected by you, directly or indirectly, we are faced with the responsibility of obtaining the news to the best of our abilities, of presenting it to you as honestly as possible, of interpreting it fearlessly, bowing to pressure and opposition from none; of moulding and reflecting student opinion, but not without devoted thought to arguments and theories as expressed by campus leaders. And even after considering these, as well as the myriad viewpoints of the mass of students, we do not necessarily fall in line because a majority does not always make a right.

Lengthy consideration has preceded our stands on all controversial subjects, and our reaction has been the one which we considered most just and the alternative which would best serve the University and its amalgamated student body.

Regardless of what stand is taken on any matter that arises, there will be dissenters—as in the past, some have questioned the thesis that there is such a thing as the absolute truth and that is as it should be. As for editorial dissentions, inevitable criticism comes because they are, by their very nature, controversial. And progress is measured by conflict.

The TAR HEEL has never claimed to have a single campus group that has backed it on every occasion, to do so would be to manifest mere blind and selfish loyalty. We believe that in most instances we have behind us a student majority, though our co-thinkers in one case may be those who have completely damned us in another. And we know there have been those times when we have stood alone. But even then we believed as firmly in ourselves as during the days when we voiced a majority opinion.

As for those times when we were aligned with the minority, therein is a comparison with the Congress of the United States. Members are elected to that body to represent the views of their respective districts or states, yet history is spiced with the names of those statesmen who cast off sectionalistic loyalty to follow conscience, reason, justice to all, to act as the honestness of their integrity dictated. Nor were these always the popular statesmen; but they were great men, great because they stood and fought for a belief, because they placed the long ranged good of the country as a whole above their petty differences.

At all times, as long as we remain as editors of this paper, we will express in our editorials our well-considered opinions and our display of news will follow the same policy, even if again we sometimes find ourselves standing alone. But as any societal organization we are predicated to the general welfare of the community within our jurisdiction, not only with the present state of that society—we who are here now—but with the maximum satisfaction of the student community as a permanent structure of the University.

We have made mistakes in the past. We will continue to make mistakes from time to time. But we do not apologize for our inadequacies, for we believe that greatness comes not with lethargic contentment to take the safe middle-of-the-road, self-satisfied hypocrisy, but with an honest and fearless search for the truth. We cannot fail until we have tried.

This is our stand, and a backward step has not made itself known. Our vocabulary carries no such word.

—THE EDITORS

"In relation to the principle that all men are created equal, let it be as nearly reached as we can. If we cannot give freedom to every creature, let us do nothing that will impose slavery upon any other creature."

—Abraham Lincoln

The Tar Heel

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Portia Patter

by M. E. Richter

The United States has been asked to join in the Allied War Guilt trials. The first one conducted under the aegis of the French Committee of Liberation has just resulted in death sentences for four former guards at the Vichy concentration camp of Hajerat Guil; and imprisonment of from 20 years to life for seven more.

The men were charged with unusual brutality to prisoners of war, acting in concert with Nazi authorities. The trial lasted for sixteen days and was conducted under the criminal code, although the accused men were political prisoners of the Free French, who sought to strike out at the Vichy men through trial of some of their gang.

This trial was not the type of war guilt trial that the Nazis and Fascist have been dealing out. Their trials do not permit defense and are a travesty on justice, a mere formality as a prelude to a foregone decision . . . death. The trial of Count Ciano and other members of the former council of Italy, was an example of this, for the trial resulted in the execution of Count Ciano with the full knowledge and consent of his father-in-law Mussolini. The fugitive Italian commission, set up in Germany, hoped to intimidate the rest of Italy so as to weaken the chances of the democratic push into the mainland. Instead it outraged them so that it stiffened their resistance to the Germans and caused thousands of them to flee their persecutors into the hills.

This background of spurious war guilt trials only serves to focus greater world attention on the present Algiers trials, for they were conducted in an orderly, concise and fair manner. It is the first step toward retaliation and an answer to the cruelties visited on the oppressed French prisoners.

Now with the trial and conviction of seven pug-uglies of the Nazi's the allies are beginning to take some steps toward punishment. The Free French trial is the first of these, although European commissions have been gathering evidence to be used later, for more than a year.

The next case, that of M. Pucheu, is expected to cause even more of a furore and should strike some terror into the hearts of the European quislings, for Pucheu was a member of the Vichy cabinet, and is to be tried for his actions in that official capacity.

In Congress this week a resolution was offered asking that the United

CWC Review

Original Full-Length Play Goes Into Final Performance Tonight

By William Shroder

Thursday night, the Playmakers presented the premiere performance of "Twilight Zone," which goes into its final performance tonight. The play takes place in the small village of St. Veronique near the coast of France on the night before the coming allied invasion.

The story revolves around a German Lieutenant, who in the beginning of the play admits to having been something of a writer in his youth, and in the end turns out to be a nice guy after all; and Annette, the village doctor's daughter who is in love with Karl, and the underground of the small village on the coast of France. The first act is decidedly the worst and the most awkward of all of the three acts.

Most of the first act is taken up by a dinner conversation between the village Doctor, Dr. Fraubert, the German Lieutenant, Karl Dreiser, and Dr. Fraubert's daughter, Annette. The purpose of the first act is probably to acquaint the audience with the characters of these three people, but after about ten minutes of petty and archaic philosophy and small talk, you begin to feel that you yourself are at a very boring dinner party, and would do anything to get away. One also gets the feeling that the actors, might after all, be lying, and one wishes that they would get into action and see if they are telling the truth.

The second act is far superior to the first one, and as a matter of fact, it is superior to the last one. In this act, you are introduced to the underground of the small village. These people prove to be amusing and realistic. Their lines are clever, their actions are well directed, and after the didactic first act, one feels that he has learned his lesson, and now he is being permitted to see the play.



"For our house president," chorused the residents of Archer House last Tuesday as they honored Harvey O'Neal White, short-termed house president of the coed residence, with a private and surprise luncheon at the Porthole, shortly after he had resigned his presidential duties with "I never knew girls had so many little personal problems." Adoring charges also presented President White, who was elected unanimously to office on a "A vote for White is a vote for White. We must maintain White supremacy" platform, with a small corsage in celebration of the occasion.

Political trends from the campus underground indicate, unofficially, that the real reason behind White's sudden resignation was word which reached him early Tuesday morning concerning the post of housemother, soon to be vacated, in the larger coed dormitories.

States join with the foreign groups and at least signify our intention now to take part in the eventual punishment of the men guilty of aggression and atrocities against our prisoners and civilians.

When we wonder what should be done with Hirohito, Tojo and their colleagues we must never forget that these men allowed the execution of American aviators, prisoners of war, and starved, beat and tortured the others. These quislings, dictators and fuehrers should be informed now that America intends to deal with them in a manner commensurate with their guilt if they become prisoners of war.

Some of these top figures have already sent emissaries to so-called neutral centers outside of Europe to purchase villas in out of the way havens and have planted former accomplices in new places of refuge with surplus funds, to be used for eventual escape.

America should take steps now to disillusion them as to the possibility of refuge anywhere on the face of this earth from the just deserts of their crimes against humanity, their outrageous violations of international law concerning prisoners of war and non-combatant civilians. Let us at least say to them now "THE PUNISHMENT WILL FIT THE CRIME."

Disaster Ahead If Top Post Goes To 'Babbit's Delight'

By Wesley Bagley

Chapel Hill was very fortunate in having such a close view of this man Bricker, Governor of Ohio. For he is not a man to be taken lightly—he is a very significant phenomenon on the American scene. And here at Chapel Hill he unburdened himself—at times passionately or if not quite at least with what passion a go-getting member of a Chamber of Commerce could summon.

Governor Bricker, we too discovered, is a real live man—he is not the product of the collective imagination of the National Manufacturers Association in one of their more dreamy moods. Nor is Governor Bricker a villain—the scheming tool of powerful interests. If he were, he would be much less dangerous. For Governor Bricker impresses one as a straightforward and somewhat honest man—a man of conviction, possessing admirable qualities that will appeal to the American voter. But his economic and political philosophy belongs to the age of the dinosaurs.

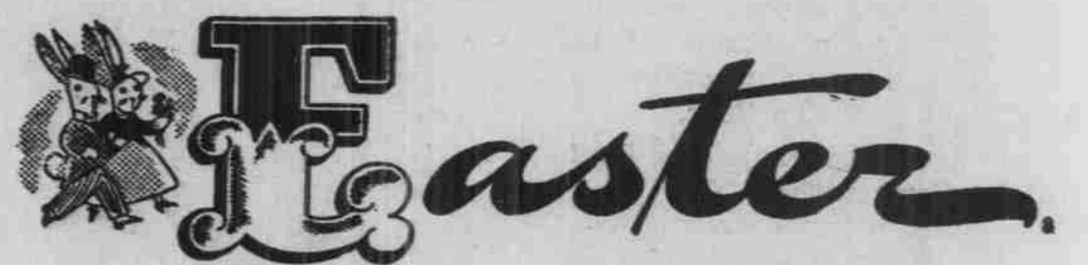
As we listened to his speech it seemed incredible that it could have been made in 1944. It would have sounded very familiar to Warren G. Harding—who might have mistaken most of it for his own product. William C. McKinley and Mark Hannah would have been delighted with it and Ulysses S. Grant would have pronounced it sound.

That such a man could even be considered as a Presidential possibility is a sad commentary on our times. It is indicative of a groundswell of reaction that bodes ill for the liberal movement in this country and threatens to destroy any hope which may have been entertained for any real progress as a result of this war. Following World War I there was a ten year blackout of liberalism during which the forces of reaction, seizing control during the critical period, renounced the progressive accomplishments and committed this country to a course that led steadily to depression and eventually to war. Will this process be repeated?

The capital-labor problem in wartime is simple to him—"never should it be permitted that any workers should strike while our boys are dying." The government is not without power, he hints, to suppress such strikes. He, however, has only kind words for the corporations who are becoming gorged with profits, and who are taking advantage of the situation to steadily strengthen their economic and political power, while "our boys are dying."

Thus Governor Bricker, of Ohio, fancying himself another Harding, looks and all, takes an ultra-conservative position and counts on the politicians and the rising tide of reaction to float him, as Harding, into the Presidency.

And it may well happen. Bricker is a Babbit's delight, chief angel in a N. A. M. dream of happy hunting grounds, and a professional politician's Mecca. Parties tend to nominate the worst candidate they think they can get elected. If the country continues to swing to the right and the Democratic Party continues to show signs of disunity and weakness politicians may take advantage of the Dewey-Willkie fight to foist him on the party and perhaps the country.



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