

The Daily Tar Heel



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Sunday, October 13, 1929

A Deplorable Lack of Restraint

Friday night the students who remained on the Hill were in exuberant spirits, naturally. But even exultation over the brilliant victory at Atlanta was no excuse for the childish pranks engaged in by a mob of several hundred students who congregated at the Carolina theatre.

At first the crowd was peaceable enough and its antics were more asinine than dangerous, but the mob contagion took possession of it, as is nearly always the case, and childishness became viciousness. Aged and odiferous eggs were hurled with abandon; the usual "show rush" was staged, attended by frequent breaking of glasses and a large quota of cuts and bruises. The mob was assuming a dangerous attitude when Executive Secretary R. B. House persuaded the members to disperse in an admirable talk.

Nothing is quite so nauseating as the individual who is unable to celebrate victory without making an ass of himself. Especially disgusting is the spectacle of a college man, presumably above the average in intellect and in the niceties of social usage, descending to vicious imbecilities because his team has won an athletic contest.

It is apparent that the Tar Heel football team is slated for the greatest season in its history, and the student body will very likely have much cause for rejoicing in the remaining weeks of the season. With Georgia, Duke and Virginia games in the offing, it would be highly advisable for the student body, or at least a certain element of it which inclines toward rowdiness, to learn that the proper way to celebrate victory is not by conducting themselves in a manner befitting a brutalized race of morons.

To be sure, very few of the undergraduates here would intentionally give themselves up to senseless destruction of property or physical violence, but the mob urge frequently incites the most sane of men to idiotic deeds. We Carolina students would do well to restrain ourselves in the approbation which we express for the feats of our football team lest someone is killed or serious loss of property results from an over-enthusiastic celebration of victory.

Another Football Idol Emerges

Out of all the glory and enthusiasm of the Tech-Carolina game Friday there emerges one Lindbergh feat which will thrill the youth of the land as perhaps no football game has thrilled it; Johnnie Branch's fifty-five yard run will become legendary in the annals of football in this state. Every grammar grade

and high school boy will now aspire to be another "Shorty"; our plucky quarter will be the idol of the football worshipping youth of the country.

All the elements of a moving picture, a dime novel, a sophomore short story, or a great novel, if you will, were present in the game Saturday. With the regular quarter injured, the greatest opponents of the year facing the team, the dashing little quarter, outweighed many times by backs of the other side, stepped in and generated his team to a victory over the national champions, and then pulled the most spectacular play ever seen in Dixie; that we say is a story we often read in fiction, but rarely see happen.

Many morals could be drawn from the story of the game, and we dare say many Y uplifters, preachers, and professional good men will point out the triumph of "clean living"; many tributes will be paid to the "indomitable courage" of the team that defeated Tech; home folks, sweethearts, friends and alumni are showering the team with gifts and affection. If Shorty should never play another game, the triumph that is his will thrill the imagination of the land for a long time; the mere telling of the story appeals to our childish worship of the heroic and magnificent.—J. D. M.

Alma Mater 136 Years Young

Yesterday the University passed another milestone in an eventful career. Alma Mater, one hundred and thirty-six years of age is impressively young. Having drunk at the fountain of Youth which is Knowledge for so many years her jeunesse and vigor are precitable to the most impartial eye. The University of North Carolina has kept step!

Drawing back the curtain that has fallen on other birthdays, we lived again the colorful and varied fortunes that have become the history of the University of North Carolina. We trekked with Hinton James from the mouth of the Cape Fear to the site where William Davie had located the first University building, there to be the first of a long line of students. Then we saw the Goddess Fortuna invoked by the early fathers to preside over the destinies of the institution when it became necessary in 1801 to raise maintenance funds through the medium of a 2,000 pound lottery.

Living again the duels and brawls of a more demonstrative period, we saw Hopkins and Hawkins expelled for "dangerous display of deadly weapons." In 1805 we saw the birth of the Honor System, following the secession of a majority of the student body as a result of the harsh measures resorted to by the University officials, an Honor System that has never faltered in its one hundred and twenty-four years, but that has grown as the University has grown and remains today as an integral part of University life.

Yesterday we thought of Peter Dromgoole and his tragic love, of the pride that swelled within the breasts of the masters who taught and guided James K. Polk through his formative years at the University, the day of his inauguration as president of the United States, of the "terrible days" during the carpet-bag rule of the University, of the struggle to continue during the years that followed, of the fight against the evolution bill, and of many other things.

Singing in our ears were the names of William Rufus King, several times ambassador to foreign countries, president of the United States senate, and vice-president of the United States; Thomas Hart Benton, political genius of 1830; of Vance, Battle, Aycock, Branch, Swain, Pettigrew, and Mebane.

Vividly could we see Edward Kidder Graham meeting the students on the campus or in his office and of his interest in their life and affairs. Still fresh in our minds was the magnificent gesture of a remarkable and loyal man who in refusing to permit material gain lead him from an ideal last spring renounced a sinecure at twice his present salary. Becoming a president of the University as a result of a compromise by his wise administration and his intellect Dr. Chase has not only won the heart and fancy of the Old North State, but has become one of the ten most outstanding university presidents in the entire United States.

The birthdays of man are numbered, but those of the University of North Carolina will fall perpetually on each succeeding twelfth day of October, and Alma Mater will forever stand a beacon on a dark and stormy sea sending out "Lux et Libertas."—J. E. D.

Readers' Opinions

Meaningless Mexican Reforms

Editor The Daily Tar Heel:

The editorial in Saturday's Tar Heel regarding one of Mexico's latest "reforms" reminds me that the little nation continues to be successful in her aims.

It is now something over a dozen years since Luis Cabrera, at one time high functionary in the government of the late Venustiano Carranza, while speaking before a group of Mexican "patriots" at the McAlpin Hotel in New York City said, "Our biggest task is to fool the people and the government of the United States." Their success is notorious.

The recent AP dispatch announcing the abolition by the Portes Gil government of juries and the death penalty (except, of course, for offences in no way criminal) and the institution of trial of criminals by alienists means nothing to me but another step in the direction so frankly pointed out by Cabrera. "That such a seemingly backward and chaotic nation as Mexico should take such a forward and progressive step in handling criminals" is not so much "surprising" as inconceivable, for there is an inherent contradiction in the phrase.

That such a step is progressive has not yet been demonstrated, for though juries have been found most incompetent it does not seem to me that alienists have given us good reason to trust in their intelligence. Still, granting that in some places this reform would be a forward step it does not follow that such would be the case in Mexico. Whoever has heard a Mexican "scientist" commit himself must agree with me that Mexico is an unexplored field for the Ringling-Barnum clown hunting expedition.

Portes Gil and Elias Calles do what they please to an anathetic people, and the world looks on and at times applauds. The "reforms" must cause fanfare while the sore needs of the nation go unnoticed in the big noise.

Even assuming that the leaders are striving for the betterment of their country such reforms are meaningless when imposed on a nation in the state of culture in which Mexico finds itself today. Alienists and Temperance Unions are too formidable for any but the most "grown-up" commonwealths to grapple with.

J. J. SLADE, JR.

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North Carolina Passes Its 136th Anniversary

(Continued from page one) schools certain privileges. As a result of this confusion coming out of different interpretations of the provision no creative measures could be passed.

Davie Appears on the Scene

Many private institutions were chartered during this period, but the idea of a state university was unpopular among the majority. There were cries against any increase of taxes and that the establishment of such an institution was an attempt to set up an aristocracy. No leader appeared to champion the cause of the University. No one was willing to risk the sacrifice of his popularity to the movement until the fall of 1789 when the one man, perhaps, in the entire state whose ability assured success appeared and began the fight for a state university. That man was William Richardson Davie. His absolute faith in the advantages of such an institution and his consistent services, coupled with his popularity and ability, overcame the numerous obstacles and made the institution a success.

Davie was born in England, but as a youth came to America to live with an uncle in the Waxhaw settlement on the Catawba river. He was a graduate of Princeton, leaving that institution to contribute his ability to the American cause. His brilliant services as a cavalry officer in North Carolina was equalled after the war by his success in the practice of law and as a servant of the people. As one of North Carolina's representatives to the Constitutional convention at Philadelphia in 1789 he effected a compromise in which North Carolina, then one of the larger states, cast her vote with the smaller states for equal representation in the Senate and saved the convention from adjournment. His services to the state were many and great, but the greatest of all, perhaps, was his leadership in the movement for a state university.

Great Advocate of Education Having had no leader for 13 years the movement now gained by the neglect when Davie took

up its cause. He was a strong advocate of the education of youth. He looked with regret on the necessity of North Carolina's having to seek her leaders in foreign states. He wished the state to train her native sons so that they, in turn, might render their services to their state. Only a man of his calibre could have assured the success of the movement.

The North Carolina legislature of 1789 met in Fayetteville at the same time as did the convention elected to consider the ratification of the United States Constitution. Davie was the representative from Halifax to both bodies. He held the theory that the ratification of the Constitution and the establishment of a university went hand in hand. So, November 12, 1789, just nine days before he made the motion in the convention that led to the ratification of the United States Constitution by North Carolina, he introduced a bill in the legislature to establish a university. The bill passed and a charter was granted, Davie being the main instrument in the drawing up of this charter. A board of trustees was provided for as the governing body, and, lest Davie's services be lost at this moment of apparent success, he was among the first selected to guide the institution in its youth.

Charter Was Granted A charter had been granted, but that act alone could not make

the university a reality. Funds were necessary to erect buildings. An act was passed conferring to the trustees certain arrearages due from sheriffs and other officers which the state had been unable to collect. To this source was added escheats. Seven thousand three hundred and sixty-two dollars was collected, only the interest of which, according to provision, could be used. But in order to construct buildings provision for a larger income was necessary. In 1791 Davie brought a measure before the legislature asking for a loan of \$10,000 for the purpose of erecting buildings necessary for the opening of the institution. His speech in support of this measure is thus described by Judge Murphey in his address at the University in 1826: "I was present at the House of Commons when Davie addressed that body upon a bill granting a loan of money to the trustees for erecting the buildings of the University, and although more than 30 years have since elapsed, I have the most vivid recollection of the greatness of his eloquence on that occasion." The appeal was successful. The loan was later converted into a gift—the only appropriation made by the state in interest of the University until 1881.

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