

The Daily Tar Heel



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Saturday, November 2, 1929

Is Football On The Wane?

Although southern newspapers are giving more space to college football this fall than ever before and attendance at the games will probably set a new all-time record, there are certain indications that the students and players themselves are not as interested in the game as they once were.

Even in the brief three years which we have spent on the University campus, there has been a noticeable decline in undergraduate interest in football—and that in the face of the fact that the record of the team itself has improved vastly each year. Gigantic pep meetings were held frequently until a year or so ago, and excitement was intense before every game. Bonfires and other exhibitions of the Rah-Rah spirit occurred every week-end. But pep meetings have been abandoned this fall because of lack of student interest.

A marked decline of organized cheering has been in evidence, especially this fall when the team is in the midst of the most successful season that it has had in years. Although the cheerleaders have steadily declined in performance since the days of Kike Kiser, responsibility for the gradual disappearance of organized cheering here cannot be entirely laid upon them.

"I don't enjoy playing college football half as much as I expected to," a regular on the Carolina varsity remarked recently. "During my high school days I secured a great deal of pleasure out of the game, but I have learned that college football is almost entirely a monotonous round of drudgery and physical discomfort." Such remarks would have been considered heresy a few years ago.

In the November issue of Harper's appears an article by John R. Tunis in which the conclusion is advanced that college football is definitely on the wane in the east. Mr. Tunis quotes a brilliant tackle on one of the most outstanding teams in the country as saying that "football is like war. It is a necessary evil."

Football in the south is definitely emerging from the Rah-Rah stage and entering the era of Big Business. Huge stadiums have been constructed throughout this section of the

country in the past year or two, and the game has been commercialized to a great extent. And with the coming of this new commercial stage, undergraduate interest seems to be gradually changing from an active personal enthusiasm for the game to a latent appreciation of the spectacle presented by the contests. A few years ago the campus was shrouded in gloom for several days after every major football reverse, but such has not been the case during the past year or two.

In all probability football games will continue to be an important phase of college life for many decades, but there are indications that undergraduate interest in the sport has reached its peak at the University. Because of the colorful spectacle afforded by a college football game, the outside public will probably continue to evince keen interest in the sport, but there are indications that the popularity of football is being undermined at its very core. There is some justification for the belief that intellectual and scholastic interests are gradually asserting their rightful place on the University campus, shunting athletics, including football, the king of them all, into a minor role.

Junior-Senior Class Attendance

Theoretically, rare privileges are granted to juniors and seniors of this university in the form of optional class attendance. Yet a defect in the system employed here continues to baffle and embarrass those upperclassmen who make use of it. We refer to the practice of daily roll-calling on junior and senior classes. This alone serves to nullify the aforesaid privilege of optional attendance.

It must be admitted that frequent and unexcused absences, if the attention of the professor be attracted to them, produce a psychological effect which is far from beneficial to the absentee concerned. Regardless of the kind and considerate attitude of an instructor, he cannot grade John Jones' examination paper fairly if he remembers that Jones has missed twenty of his lectures. The contention which the writer wishes to emphasize is that optional class attendance automatically banishes the practice of the daily roll call and, likewise, academic punishment for the mere fact of being absent. Those professors, therefore, who persist in calling the roll daily on junior and senior classes are overstepping the provisions of the system of optional class attendance employed here. As the matter now stands, upperclassmen often receive academic punishment for cutting a few classes, although they are entirely within the bounds of optional class attendance as defined by the dean of the college of liberal arts early in the collegiate year of 1927-28. The inconsistency of such a situation is without a parallel.

If our understanding of the principle of optional class attendance is correct, it recognizes the efficacy of a student's spending some of his classroom hours outside of the classroom. Although the faculty regulation granting optional attendance to upperclassmen recognizes this, there are still quite a number of professors who brand absences as offenses worthy of academic punishment and who persist in calling the roll daily in order to know which students to visit the aforesaid academic punishment on.

On the other hand, the students persist in abusing the privilege. Those juniors and seniors who "cut" an unreasonable number of classes nullify the whole system of optional attendance. Upon observing the habitual absence of a few men

day by day, the professor naturally assumes an attitude toward his whole class which is cause of good grades.

Although regular attendance is vital in the case of courses, there are others which soon become a grind. Why should an upperclassman who is surrounded by excellent lectures be forced to confine himself to one class? True it is that the theory of optional class attendance grants him the privilege of alternating courses. But can he do it without making a low grade on some other course because of the mere fact of his absence? The answer is NO.

If we're going to abide by the optional attendance principle for upperclassmen, why call the roll?—J. C. W.

Courteous Bums

Recently, bumming in the vicinity of Chapel Hill has begun to take on that aspect which was so deplored over the state last year. Students of this university have had the reputation of being "gentlemanly bummers" as contrasted with goodly numbers of those whose insolence and disrespect while bumming have called forth more than gentle reprimands. Yet, not so many days ago complaints were made by Chapel Hill citizens that university students, while riding with them to Durham, not only lacked courtesy but were actually insolent and insulting.

Various states have laws regarding bumming. The matter concerning its prohibition in this state was discussed in the newspapers of last year. It is not that all university students continually show disrespect to those with whom they are riding, but that some of them do; and those students who persist in their belief that Chapel Hill citizens and visitors are under obligations to their benefactors to take them wherever they wish to go, and who, consequently, see no necessity for displaying common courtesy, not only lower the chances of other students to obtain rides, but tend to lead people to believe that students of this university are lacking in manners and courtesy.

JOHN MEBANE

THE POINTER

By J. C. Williams

A Use For Everything

Rumor has it that "boots" are very fine things to have around midterm and final examination time. Be this as it may, experience has convinced us that boots are absolutely essential for slushy weather like Tuesday's and Wednesday's this week.

Athletics — Football and the Fair Sex

One of the prettiest girls that we chanced to see at the game last week-end made an amusing — and typically feminine — break. "Are you coming over to the game with Duke December 9?" she was asked. "Duke who?" she innocently demanded.

Well, I'll Be Blessed!

Some few weeks ago the Laundry Department sent out cards telling each student what his registration number was. One of our freshman acquaintances got a notice with the number 1935 on it. In great distress, he asked us if that was the date he would get his clothes back.

Initials

V. P. I. may indeed stand for Virginia Polytechnic Institute, but last Saturday there were, perhaps, a goodly number of Techmen who bemoaned the fact that these same initials might

just as well stand for "Virginia Pathetic Institute."

By the same process of reasoning in the case of Davidson College, D. C. might well stand for "Defeated by Carolina." Or will this prediction hold true for the coming game?

Our Political Friends

At this point we should like to suggest that some of our campus politicians who are expecting to run in the annual elections next spring get a bit of fall practice by going out for cross country. On rainy days they might get acquainted with dirty work.

A Matter of Importance

Tuesday night the time-honored Di Senate will meet to discuss a very vital issue: "Should co-eds be admitted to all classes?" The campus—and the entire town—awaits with unbounded suspense the sentiment-moulding decision of the senate.

Can You Beat It?

Which is the better example of wasted effort?

1. Telling a hair-raising story to a bald headed man
- or
2. Making love to a deaf and dumb woman.

What Manner of Thing Is This?

In the language of the Durham Herald . . . "Duke Students Acquitted On Charge Of Damaging Automobile." If the Blue Devils are getting so tough that automobiles can't hurt them, we suggest that the Tar Heels had better look to their laurels.

A Perpetual Thing

About as regularly as the sun rises comes this statement—"Graham Memorial Building Will Be Thrown Open This Quarter." Although no such notice has appeared this fall in the Daily, let us hope that the declaration will somehow come true—and this year, too.

Survival of the Fittest

When Darwin formulated his law of the Survival of the Fittest, he had no idea of the extent of its application. Now that the boxing aspirants are getting under way in the tin can the term might be applied with considerable meaning.

Road to Raleigh Closed

Second Tar Treatment Is Being Given To the Short Route

The road from here to Nelson, which forms a part of the short route to Raleigh, is closed to traffic and will remain closed about two weeks longer. This is to permit the state highway forces to make the second application of tar, supplementing and improving the initial surface treatment which the road received about a year ago.

"But we are going to arrange to let traffic through on days of football games at Chapel Hill," said an official of the highway commission Thursday. Which means that people coming from Raleigh and other points east to see the Carolina-State game today will be able to use the short cut. The method of spreading a new tar surface is such that, when the demand for passage is urgent, part of the width of the road can be left open while the other part is closed.

Detour signs have been posted at junctions here in Chapel Hill to inform travelers bound for the east that they must go the longer way through Durham.

The Cars Are Ready!

Don't forget that dance tonight. If you want to be sure to get there on time reserve a

U-DRIVE-IT.

Carolina U-Drive-It

"The Cheapest Way Anywhere"

SATURDAY and SUNDAY

3 Ships on Field Long Trips, \$3.00  
Short Trips, \$1.50 Durham Trips, \$5.00

FREE BUS FROM SMOKE SHOP TO FIELD

North State Aircraft Company

(Martindale Field)

ROOM FOR RENT

Very desirable room with all modern conveniences. Good location at 308 Pittsboro St. Phone 4081. Lady preferred. Mrs. John Foister.

After the GAME



Bring Your Films HERE!

We Also Have

The Best Collection of Pictures

Action and Stills

Of These Tar Heels

Who are Averaging 32

Points a Game.

See Them Beat State

Then Get Their Pictures

at

Students' Supply Store

"Everything in Stationery"

"Customed to Measure

for

Thanksgiving"



The Langrock STYLE EXPERT

will be here

MONDAY

WE HAVE been notified by the tailors of LANGROCK CLOTHING that their personal style expert will be at our store all day Monday. He is informed as to the popular fabrics and designs prevalent in the better colleges and universities.

This will be an excellent opportunity for you to select and be measured for your Thanksgiving suit and topcoat.

PRITCHARD-PATTERSON

INCORPORATED

"University Outfitters"