

The Daily Tar Heel



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Thursday, October 23, 1930

Reckoning Time

A University of North Carolina professor struck a prevalent note the other morning when he addressed his class on this wise, "Gentlemen, the reckoning time is almost here. Although I have only a hazy idea of what you have accomplished thus far in this course, University ruling demands that I give you a mid-term grade."

The professor in question went on to say that he personally hated the idea of examinations, and that he would never give one if left to his own convictions. This attitude, which is rather prevalent among the younger element of the faculty, affords abundant room for speculation. All students hate examinations, and a considerable number of the faculty concur with them. This being the case, it is high time that we inquire into the grading system which is built upon the principle of the periodical, written examination.

One encounters no difficulty in finding professors who admit that they place no reliance whatever in examinations. Such teachers hand in their grades without allowing examination marks to enter the tabulation. Mid-term and final examinations are rapidly coming to be considered mere nuisances which are demanded by university ruling.

Students taking examinations can be divided into three groups: those who have maintained high scholastic attainment throughout the course and who, for this reason, don't need to be given an examination; mediocre students

whose examination grades are almost identical with previous standing in the course (in this case tests are a waste of time); and stragglers who are apt to fail. If such persons do pass, they do so by means of "cramming"—a process which results in temporary learning only.

We are forced to conclude that examinations are a nuisance to all concerned. There can be little doubt that men experienced enough to be college professors are capable of evaluating a student's efforts and acquisitions without employing the method of the written examination.

—J. C. W.

An Equalizing Chorus

The faculty and townspeople would be too polite to admit it voluntarily, but if they could be caught off guard and given no time to plan an answer, they would probably confess that they find the students a scatter-brained lot—some of them lovable, some of them vastly irritating, but all of them scatter-brained. And maybe they would be more or less justified. Not altogether. If the professors could know us as anything but students, and the townspeople as anything but idlers, they might overlook the natural inclinations of youth. Youth would be still slightly scatterbrained, but more flattering adjectives might be applied.

Anything that can bring together faculty members, townspeople, and students on an equal footing will make the students far more acceptable. One can judge an inferior, or a superior. It is possible to judge a peer. It would be inadvisable for the students to spend twenty-four hours a day seven days a week being the peers of the faculty and citizenry. That would be a new and rank form of socialism. To our minds, the community chorus, beginning its second year on the campus, is an equalizer, a sane and sufficiently conservative equalizer that should be made a tradition. And there is a real pleasure in establishing a tradition that is far more delightful than the self-righteous satisfaction of preserving the same tradition.

Use Your Stationery

One of the best ways to spend your spare time is in writing letters. We realize how hard it is to make oneself write them, but in the end you will be fully repaid for your trouble, even if you have to miss a few hands of bridge. We always get a big kick out of a letter from some friend. As for the females, all our Romeos will tell you that nothing causes Juliet to look for another boy friend quicker than a mail-box that's always empty. Of course, the better the letter is, the more you enjoy it. Since in letter-writing, as in everything else, practice makes perfect, why not write a few letters? More than likely you will soon find out that letter-writing is really a lot of fun.

If you have the idea that you cannot write an interesting letter, get it out of your head at once. Your letters will not be graded, so don't write them in the same spirit that you write themes. If you can carry on an interesting conversation, you can write an interesting letter. Simply write as you would talk. Your friends are the most valuable possessions that you have, and you are taking a big chance on losing them if you let your stationery become covered with cobwebs.

—C. A. P.

Spare Time And Reading

How many of us think of the library as a place to spend spare time? Probably not many. A most profitable and entertaining practice is that of browsing

in a desultory manner in the library, reading whatever catches our eye. One need not necessarily read anything word for word in order to derive benefit from this practice. He may merely look around with a view to finding where certain books are that will serve for reference later.

It is likely that one following this practice will run across some bit of information which he would not have been able to find under a classified list. Often we have found, after it was too late to profit by it, some book containing information which could have been used to advantage, but which was not listed under any given kind of material, and so was lost to us.

Especially profitable is such a practice of desultory browsing in the reference room. It requires only a comparatively short time to look over the reference shelves and to find what type of information can be obtained there. Material on almost any subject can be found by consulting the reference catalogs. It is not necessary that one remember where the various reference books are. Merely the knowledge that certain facts are listed is sufficient to justify the time spent in looking around.

It is rare that one does not find something entertaining as well as instructive in casually looking over the reading shelves. One may nearly always find a book that he has heard much about and wanted to read, but for which he would hardly have thought of making a special trip to the library.

W. S.

OPEN FORUM

HASN'T HE DONE THAT?

To the Editor:

It seems rather odd having so many reserve men from last year that were apparently of all-southern brand to turn out to be all state second string. After viewing several shots from the N. C.—Georgia game, I still think that it is more than an accidental occurrence.

We cannot figure whether it was an alumnus in the tobacco business, one in the liquid dispensing business, or both, that got hold of the football squad. At any rate it has always been an old Spanish custom that the mighty warriors of the grid keep up the appearance of training. Of course we recognize that we have an exceptional team and that they can do exceptional things, but we were not under the impression that breaking training was among the wonders to be performed.

We suggest that since we cannot win the Southern Conference with a team that will not train, the worthy mentor kick several lower anatomies—in fact the majority—off the squad, and start bringing the understudies into good habits. Of course one can see the bind that Collins will be thrown into by letting the varsity drift off, but he also has next year to look out for. So we suggest that he take the red headed center and start building a team around it that can refrain from breaking training. What say?

—J. A. R. S. L. M. B.

Box 309, Chapel Hill, N. C., Oct. 20, 1930

To the Sports Editor, Daily Tar Heel

Sir: Please tell us why Coach Collins doesn't put this guy Ransom off the squad, so our opponents will quit running through the line at him?

Y Sinnit.

A glider club, membership of which will be limited to about 24 undergraduates, has been formed on the campus of Carleton College at Northfield, Minn.

Student Government

Catawba Will Make Aims of the System More Effective.

In the Catawba College newspaper, The Pioneer, there appeared last week in "Facts," an editorial column, the following quotation on student government, which is particularly pertinent in view of the recent visit of E. R. Murrow, president of the National Student Federation, of this campus:

"Word has come to us that the 'powers that be' in student government are working upon a tangible, and we hope, practicable plan whereby student government aims can become effective. The framers of the scheme propose to make provision for joint meetings between members of the student senate and the presidents of the important organizations on the campus, including class presidents. The purpose of the plan is to knit the student body together through the cooperation of the various student leaders.

"This is the best plan for securing student sentiment consolidation that has yet come to our notice. Its final effect would be the promotion of school spirit; a more creditable aim could hardly be found for our present governing body."

The University student council, the faculty executive committee and other official groups on the campus are intending to inaugurate some similar plan of education in student government here at an early date. As yet, the idea has not taken tangible form.

Outstanding Pictures Scheduled For Theatre

Manager Smith, of the Carolina theatre, has announced the following pictures as among the list of attractions forthcoming for the month of November: "DuBarry, Woman of Passion" starring Norma Talmadge, "Laughter" with Nancy Carroll, Amos an' Andy in "Check and Double Check," William Haines in "Remote Control," Robert Montgomery in "War Nurse," Rube Goldberg's "Soup To Nuts," "Tom Sawyer" with Jackie Coogan, "Feet First" with Harold Lloyd, "The Way of a Sailor" with Jack Gilbert, Jack Oakie's two latest pictures "Kid Boots" and "Only Saps Work," Gary Cooper in "Morocco," and Joan Crawford's latest release "Her Fortune" and "Big Trail."

Burch Makes Furniture

Mahogany from the Philippines coming into Chapel Hill to be made into furniture—here is an example of the many new activities in the village.

In the low brick building down behind Phillips hall P. L. Burch, the University's superintendent of buildings, has a well-equipped wood-working shop where expert cabinet-makers construct tables, shelves, wall-cabinets, and desks for the buildings on the campus and occasionally turn out articles of furniture for people's homes.

In these columns last spring was described a walnut suite fashioned by Mr. Burch's men and displayed at the flower show in the Tin Can. Only a month or so ago he sent an old-fashioned three-cornered walnut cupboard to Mrs. Charles Coolidge (the former Miss Jane Toy), and he produced pieces of the same sort for D. E. Schreffler and S. H. Hobbs, Jr. For somebody else he made a mahogany bed and a mahogany highboy.

This construction of domestic furniture is incidental to the work done for the University. At odd times, when the force is not busy at its main job, somebody will come in with a sketch of a table or a cupboard or a

desk, and a week or so later the object will be ready for him to install in his home.

Once half a carload of Philippine mahogany was brought here from New York after having come across the Pacific ocean and through the Panama Canal. Sometimes Honduras mahogany is procured through Atlanta. On one or two occasions shipments of white maple have been received from the North. Of course a great deal of the wood used by the University comes from North Carolina and nearby states, but frequently there is need for a material not obtainable in this region. The seats for the Kenan stadium came from the state of Washington on the Pacific coast.

The furniture for the geology department in the New East was made in the building department's shop, and so was the equipment for J. F. Dashiell's and English Bagby's psychological laboratories in the New West. Things of wood are constantly being fashioned for the various other departments scattered around the campus. When we called at his office a few days ago Mr. Burch was studying the plans for the great double doors for the lobby of the new auditorium and was preparing to pass them on to the shop foreman.

One of the recent achievements of the wood-working force is the fitting-out of the new hall where Harold S. Dyer is soon to have the dedicatory organ recital. The white pine for the grill at the back of the stage and for the sash and windows came from California.

FOR RENT

Single room for girls in girls' apt. Steam heat, tile bath and shower. \$17 per month. 306 McCauley. Phone 3321.

LOST

A pair of tortoise shell glasses. Finder please return to Y office.

WANTED

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COUNT their qualities. Each an all-round man. Leaders in campus life. Keen and alert in the classroom. Each with a thoroughly engaging personality. Each a dynamo of energy.

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