

The Daily Tar Heel

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Sunday, March 27, 1932

Faculty Disdain of Student Intelligence

The last few years have witnessed a drifting apart of the student body from the faculty. Close and real contact between the instructor and the scholar is the backbone of higher education and no more regrettable trend could afflict our university. Faculty members and alumni tell us that but a few years ago professors and students were on the friendliest terms. We must return at once to that relationship though it will call for much effort and cooperation on both sides. It is rather difficult to ascertain completely and correctly the reasons for such a schism. Beside concrete facts there exists nebulous theories and intangible psychological reactions all tending to complicate the situation.

The growth of the University has made relationship between student and student, teacher and teacher, and teacher and student increasingly difficult; larger classes have cut down the teacher's time and have increased his work at the expense of contact with his classes as individuals. Furthermore the type of undergraduate has changed from the scholar intent upon the pursuit of his studies to the incipient Babbitt who takes his degree for economic reasons or because everyone has one. It is only between the genuine scholar and his professor that real and wholesome relations can exist and this type is an ever diminishing minority.

Hand in hand with this change in the character of the undergraduate there has developed within their ranks an infantile attitude which brands as "booting" any extra curricula bonds between student and instructor. This has had a deadly influence upon many who would otherwise seek such relationships. There is another side to the story. Partly justified by the calibre of the undergraduate mass many of the faculty entertain and do not attempt to conceal a feeling of contempt and disdain for the undergraduate mind. Whether they realize it or not this feeling is sensed and keenly resented by many of the undergraduates some of whom possess or believe themselves to possess potentialities as great or greater than the men who by virtue of

A. B.'s, M. A.'s, and Ph. D.'s despise the youth seeking to partake of their wisdom.

Essentially the condition is due to the changing function of the professor whose duty is now to force dull and lazy men and women through minimum requirements rather than to foster and cultivate what remains of the scholar element. This is lamentable and unavoidable—we can but make the best of a bad situation and cultivate the badly needed friendship under the most unfavorable of conditions. It can be done and for the good and glory of Carolina we must see that a rapprochement be effected. Who knows but that a sincere and zealous faculty might not impart to us enough of the spirit of learning to make scholars of us all.—J.F.A.

Personal Liberty—

A Farce in Kentucky

On Friday fifty college students in Kentucky to investigate conditions in the coal fields of Bell county were arrested without warrant, placed in busses, and driven, against their will, to Knoxville, Tennessee. The only excuse offered for this outrageous proceeding was that the county attorney had "information" that they had been sent into Kentucky by Communists. As a matter of fact, the group was probably no more revolutionary and violent than the group of North Carolina students who are planning to make a similar trip. Without doubt, all of them were economic liberals and some of them, possibly, were Communists; but the idea that they were sent into Kentucky to foment revolution is preposterous.

According to the Associated Press dispatches in the *News and Observer*, the county attorney told the students that he had information that Communists had sent them into Kentucky and said, "The people of Bell county won't tolerate having any of their rights violated by people representing Communists. You must put up \$1,000 peace bond each or leave the state. We know you won't be able to post this bond. We shall regard you as malicious intruders until you have proved you are not." This statement and the action with which it was followed violate openly the guarantees of personal liberty in the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Kentucky. The students, whether or not they were Communists, were in Kentucky to observe and study and were not violating nor, so far as can be known, contemplating the violation of the legal rights of the people of Bell county. The county attorney, with seemingly no judicial authority, ventured to place a bond upon citizens who were violating no law. Furthermore, he placed the bond with the admitted and deliberate intention of driving the citizens from the state because of their known inability to pay. And worst of all, an officer of the law of the state of Kentucky said that he would regard the students as guilty of being malicious intruders until they could prove themselves innocent! This is surely contrary to the whole scheme of law and individual rights under the common law and the Constitution of the United States.

When one hears of such an incident, he is inclined to cry, "But such a thing could not happen in America!" But it has happened. And the same sort of thing happens frequently. Last year a student of the University was imprisoned and kept incommunicado for thirty-six hours in Memphis because he asked the way to Communist headquarters. As long as such things happen, and go unredeemed, we cannot say that we have freedom in America. When

a group of university sociology and economics students cannot enter a territory to make studies without being arrested and summarily deported from the state, the guarantees of personal liberty in our laws and Constitution are worthless.

It is said that the students have consulted with a prominent attorney of Knoxville in an effort to secure protection of their rights and that an instructor in economics at Columbia university, at which most of the investigators are students, has telegraphed the Attorney General of the United States an appeal for the protection of the students' rights. It may be that by these steps the students may obtain some redress of their grievances. The county attorney should be removed from office, the students should be repaid for their sufferings and discomfort, and the way should be thrown open for any person who remains within the law to go where he likes and study social conditions as he pleases. All the liberal forces in the country, all true patriots to whom American liberty means something, will unite in demanding that these reparations for Kentucky's lawless deed be made.—D.M.L.

Playing Baseball

With Mittens

The decision of the intramural department to substitute the larger and softer baseball in the intramural game in place of the ball of regular size may prove, in the long run, to have been an act of wisdom. Nevertheless, it is, at least for the present generation of students, open to serious objection.

An expressed object of the change is to render the game more enjoyable. For those students who participate on account of their love of the game and their skill in its playing, it is probable that it will become easier but decidedly less enjoyable. It is true that, if the purpose of intramural baseball is simply that of providing some form of exercise for as many students as possible, the game may quite reasonably be simplified to the point of absurdity. If, on the other hand, its object is to provide real sport for non-varsity men who are anxious or willing to play real baseball, the change can hardly be justified at all. It is only just to leave baseball (both in the varsity and intramural fields) to lovers of baseball, and to allow those merely seeking exercise to indulge their desires in whatever manner they may wish; the tennis and golf courts and the gymnasium are available.

The intramural department hopes, however, to bring "more skilled players into competition." Such a hope can scarcely meet with success. It is obvious that more students will be enabled to play, and it is possible that the simpler game will appeal to a greater number of students, but the game they play will not be baseball. As far as genuine baseball, the ancient national sport, is concerned, the practical effect of the change will be not to popularize but to abolish it. Among intramural players, the amended game may become popular, but proper baseball will be eliminated.—K.P.Y.

It Is Worth Knowing That—

The month of July is named from Julius Caesar, the dictator of Rome, who was born in it.

There are more than 100,000,000 sheep in Australia which produce some 2,000,000 bales of wool every year.

About 2,891,000 foreigners live in France of whom half a million live in Paris.

THOSE NEW BOOKS

Call Home the Heart by Fielding Burke (Longman's Green, \$2.50) at the Book Market. Reviewed by Loreto Carroll Bailey.

Call Home the Heart is a book about North Carolina, written from the "inside." The first half of the book deals with mountain people, the second half with mill people—a return to the mountains furnishing an ending happy enough to suit the most exacting tastes. For Ishma, the heroine, having deserted her husband and the hopeless drudgery of her mountain existence for the glamor of a mill village, returns to the mountains and her first love, having acquired meanwhile a knowledge of Karl Marx and birth control. There she finds her mountain home prospering and blossoming, the husband waiting on the doorstep. He, she learns, has been given the start necessary to build up the farm by playing mountain ballads for phonograph recording. The two are reunited, and Ishma finds that home for her must forever be the mountains, although she realizes (as does the author in a fine phrased paragraph) that, when she deserts the struggling masses of the mills, who are trying to organize, she is running away from a larger life of service to humanity. Her cup is full, but it is not, she tells herself, the sea.

The first half of the book follows the heroine faithfully through her search in the mountains that are her home for some meaning and purpose in life, and the story is not marred even by the author's fearful determination to tell every mountain story and sing every ballad he knows. He knows his mountain people and draws them with fine humor and sympathy, so that one can readily forgive him if his story behaves sometimes like a musical-comedy movie, wherein the dramatic action pauses at any time to allow the hero to sing the theme song.

The second half of the book is a bewildering gallery of mill village pictures. Here is an account of a strike (strongly suggestive of that in Gastonia) with plenty of background for the trouble and with portraits of several prominent figures. A character whose original appears to have been Mary Heaton Vorse, author of *Strike*, relieves the author of a good bit of mental irritation.

The book is reminiscent of DuBose Heyward's *Angel*; like the leading characters of that mountain epic, Mr. Burke's hero and heroine often show movie influence—but Mr. Burke is far truer to his mountains than Mr. Heyward. As in Roberts' *The Time of Man*, the poor white is unforgettably pictured, but the author of *Call Home the Heart* has not the power to sustain his narrative, to build up the cumulative effects achieved by Elizabeth Madox Roberts. His interests are too diverse—he knows so much about what he writes that he cannot bear to throw anything away. Even as one's sympathies go out to his characters, one cannot help wishing that he had made not one book but several of his material. Sometimes the book achieves the lyric quality of Maristan Chapman's *The Happy Mountain*, but it does not, like that work, consistently idealize and romanticize the mountaineer. Burke's book, borrowing nothing from all of these books, is reminiscent of all of them.

Chapel Hill receives a three-line mention in the book and—shades of Thomas Wolfe!—is not censured.

In *Call Home the Heart* we have one more sincere interpretation of North Carolina that should interest any North Carolinian—and probably will inter-

SPEAKING the CAMPUS MIND

A Correction

In your issue of Saturday, front page, column three, under the heading "Twenty-Two Students Refused Readmission to University," the following sentence is found: "For the most part, the board was concerned with undergraduates who had failed to pass four courses in two quarters and those freshmen who had failed to pass two courses in a single quarter."

My purpose in writing you is to call attention to an error with reference to the requirements having to do with freshman readmission for the third, or spring, quarter. The sentence quoted above leads the reader, unavoidably I believe, to the conclusion that the requirements for freshmen are equally as rigid as those applying to upperclassmen, which is not at all the case. To have been correct, and to have conveyed the proper impression the sentence might have ended as follows: "...and those freshmen who had failed to pass two courses in two quarters."

For unconditional readmission in the spring quarter, a freshman, having been in residence during the fall and winter quarters, must have passed two full courses. He may have passed both during the fall quarter, or one during each quarter; but it is not required that he pass four courses, as might be inferred from the sentence quoted in paragraph one above.

BEN HUSBANDS,
Registrar's Office.

With Contemporaries

Capital Punishment

Will Not Stop Kidnaping . . .

During the present hysterical wave of resentment against kidnapers there is much talk of a new law making the offense a capital crime. High governmental officials have expressed themselves as favoring such a stringent law, and many lawmakers have enlisted themselves in the cause.

There is no doubt that a sterner law is necessary to prevent the rising tide of kidnaping. The offense has become one of the criminal's most lucrative sources of revenue. Some steps must be taken to curb it. But the solution does not lie in making capital punishment the penalty. Our present weakness is not so much the lack of punishment to give the kidnapers but the inability to bring them to court. A stricter punishment might be needed, but most emphasis should be placed on the other end of the line.

It has been proven that a strong punishment will not stop crime. During the period of English history when every conceivable offense was punished with hanging, crime rose to unprecedented heights. When pickpockets were publicly executed more pockets were picked during the macabre ceremony than at any other time. In our own United States we have found that capital punishment is not a preventative of murder. Those states that do not use the electric chair, gallows, or lethal chambers have no more murders than those which do employ such instruments of state execution.

Yes, there is no doubt that stricter laws are needed to prevent kidnaping. But in the excitement of the moment the mistake of making it a capital offense should not be made.—*Daily O'Collegian*.

Hanging

Ruth Judd

We need not be sentimental about the spring hanging of Mrs. Winnie Ruth Judd, the 27-year-old preacher's daughter, of Phoenix, Ariz., but we can be sensible.

While it seems more unchristian a few, since it has been praised by *The New York Times*. However much one might wish that sincerity and art were better friends in North Carolina, we must pay tribute to this book which sometimes moves, as the publishers describes it, with "savagely directness and rare beauty."

alrous, it is no more brutal to hang a woman than to hang a man. Mrs. Judd obviously is insane, or abnormal, but so have been most male murderers who have been hanged and electrocuted. And Ruth Judd is not the first woman to be hanged.

It is not only the inhumanity of this coming performance that shocks our sympathies: it is the hypocrisy and stupidity that shocks our reason.

Arizona does not advance that doctrine of revenge, and demand this woman's life for the two that she took. It argues that she must be killed as an example and a deterrent to other murder-minded citizens.

Since the beginning of the 19th century the states have executed some 13,000 men. They have executed only twenty-seven women. The records in twelve states between 1912 and 1919 show that for some 20,000 homicides there were only 336 executions. Thus, every killer had fifty-nine chances to one of escaping execution. The chances of a murderess escaping appear to be about 500 to one.

Murder is a crime of passion. Were execution a swift and certain retribution for every murder, it is doubtful if the gallows or the chair would deter. Since it is neither, the deterrent effect is almost nil.

The eight states that have abolished capital punishment are not necessarily more humane. They are more intelligent. For their juries will convict more readily. Hence with them punishment is more certain to follow crime. As a matter of fact in capital punishment states the murder death rate is fifty-seven per 1,000,000 of population as compared with forty-two per 1,000,000 in non-capital punishment states.

So the hanging of an abnormal woman in Arizona will be a worse than useless gesture. Far from making life in the United States more secure it will only help to cheapen life.—*Birmingham Post*.

Campus Political Machines Lead Sheep to Slaughter

The most insidious feature of the political life of our contemporary United States, the party machine, deriving its power from ignorance, its authority from its essential injustice, such a political instrument of a perverted democracy is duplicated with all of its barbarities on the campus of the great and liberal University of Wisconsin.

Witness the recent campus elections. Without knowing any more about a candidate than a list of his so-called "activities" (most of them spurious), without any more insight into his character than a mere photographic likeness, with all candidates being "recommended," Mr. Average Student is asked to vote intelligently for men and women who are supposed to represent him.

But such conditions would be tolerable at least were it not for the additional defection of the student vote by what has been called "fraternity machine politics." This is a process whereby all members of a certain fraternity, no matter what their individual likes or dislikes may be, are urged, even compelled, to vote for persons whom they do not know merely to assure the fraternity of such honors as assistant prom chairmanships, (Continued on last page)

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