

The Daily Tar Heel

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Wednesday, April 13, 1932

The Home of The Free

From Northwestern, Minnesota, Columbia, and other universities comes news of the dismissal of college editors, of the establishment of faculty censorship over student publications. Faculty intervention in journalistic and literary expression by undergraduates is apparently becoming very common, and is not confined to any one section of the country.

The cause of the outbreak of this particular type of activity on the part of administrative officials is not clear, but there can be little doubt that it exists in a very real and threatening form. Such being the case, both students and professors of this institution may have occasion to rejoice, and to take a just pride in the as yet unblemished record of their University in this respect. The various undergraduate publications on this campus can hardly make strong pretensions to outstanding modesty, or to a dignified restraint, or to a strict observance of the little rules conducive to absolute propriety in style and meaning. Freedom in thought and frankness in expression, even to an unnecessary or undesirable extent, more adequately characterize the situation here. Yet there has been no move, nor the open suggestion of such a move, toward the suppression of student opinion or the establishment of authoritative censorship over it.

When Columbia University, with its reputation for liberalism, is subjected to action of this sort by its reputedly liberal president, we may rightly prize our freedom of expression. This possession has undoubtedly been abused in the past, and it will probably always be misused to a degree. License too often inspires folly and extravagance, rather than a sense of responsibility and maturity. In contrast, nevertheless, restraint and tolerance on the part of those in authority is all the more admirable.—K.P.Y.

Out of Lethargy

For the past several years the college student has been forced to defend himself against innumerable articles attacking his indifference to all matters beyond the realm of athletic and social activities. His lack of interest in politics has been contrasted unfavorably with the demonstrative interest in current events

shown in student centers elsewhere. The fact that the average college man in the United States does not cast himself into the whole-hearted support of a blatant orgy of soap box libel because he fails to agree with the present system of government has been duly noted and condemned by dozens of perspiring writers, and his refusal to goad his interest to feverish heights over affairs of even campus importance has roused his assailants to the utmost in caustic criticism. Yet at the time when such adverse criticism reaches its scathing best, the indifferent collegian usually does something to refute the assertions of his critics.

Reed Harris, student editor of the Columbia Spectator, was dropped from the rolls of Columbia University because of his newspaper attack on certain existing conditions at that university. The press campaign that he waged could scarcely be labeled indifferent, and the subsequent action of his student supporters was as rapid and demonstrative as a Latin-American revolution. Petitions demanding his reinstatement were drawn up and circulated among the students and faculty. A strike was declared, with the usual oratory and rioting as a result. These campus demonstrations were of sufficient proportions to gain the recognition of a sympathetic press, which added its voice to that of the student body in demanding the reinstatement of Editor Harris on the grounds that his dismissal is a violation of the constitutional right of free speech. Student newspapers everywhere have rallied to the support of the suspended editor. He has not been reinstated yet, but the interest of the indifferent college man has been aroused, and unlike the fiery student revolters of other countries, the American student is not satisfied to present a good show; he must have results that are successful.

Even though these student strikers at Columbia have yet to win the cause for which they are fighting, they have won the first round in a battle of much longer standing than the one at present. If they but realize it, they have vindicated to a great extent the charges of indifference that have for so long been pressed against the modern college man.—K.S.

It Is Worth Knowing That—

More than half of the nation's farms are estimated by the department of agriculture to be free of all debts.

Lake Superior is 602.23 feet above sea level.

At the close of the year 1930, United States air mail was carried over twenty-seven established routes, covering a distance of 17,960,495 miles.

The total area of North Carolina is 52,426 square miles.

In the twenty-three famines occurring in India, between 1769 and 1900, 25,000,000 natives perished.

A class in television has been added to the extension course of the University of California.

American tanners are the largest producers of kid leather in the world.

The dreadful sounds we sometimes hear over the radio are caused by sun-spots, an astronomer believes. I heard one sun-spot last night that was a soprano, and one that was a tenor.—Detroit News.

With Contemporaries On Harris

Listed below is a symposium of editorial opinion gathered in reference to the expulsion of Reed Harris, editor of the Columbia Spectator from Columbia College several weeks ago as a result of criticism of Columbia institutions in the columns of his publication:

For

"It cannot be doubted that a matter of this nature presents a definite threat to the freedom of the Collegiate Press, and it behooves every college man interested in editorial work to somehow voice his disapproval of the action taken by Columbia. . . . It would appear that Columbia University is guilty of a direct attempt to prevent the execution of one of the principal purposes of a newspaper. . . . the authorities do not realize the seriousness of their decision and in the absence of other charges than that of merely pointing out certain maladjustments in the affairs of his college; the editor of the Spectator has become the object of over-enthusiastic discipline"—The Pennsylvania.

"Butler yelps vigorously against prohibition, expressing disapproval of its coercive feature. 'Education, not legislation,' he roars before Rotary and Kiwanis clubs. But when Reed Harris (former player himself) raps football as professionalized and asks for a quizz of the lunch room, Nick throws a fit and cans him. I dunno about the charges. But who the devil said, 'They never get sore unless the charges are true?'—Columnist in Oregon Emerald.

"It appears that Reed Harris lacked tact and exercised faulty judgment, in some cases at least. However that may be, it does not appear that the officers of Columbia University had any right to expel him for his acts as editor of the Spectator, unless they deny the paper its freedom to express undergraduate opinion."—Yale Daily News.

In connecting the duties of the editor of his publication with the Harris case: . . . "Consider four qualities necessary in the discharge of the student editor's duties; insistence upon common decency, accuracy, scrupulous fairness, and the advocacy solely of constructive measures. The three main duties should be encouragement of the most rational attitude toward current general questions, sane evaluations of concrete issues, and the suggestion of original changes to better the existing situation."—Princetonian.

The Philippines wound up 1931 with a treasury surplus of \$500,000. Is any further proof needed that the islands are not yet ready for independence?—Dunbar's Weekly (Phoenix).

Against

"The press of the nation and especially the collegiate press, has been aroused over the expulsion of Reed Harris, militant editor of the Columbia Spectator, for alleged discourtesy, innuendoes, and misinterpretation' in the conduct of his paper during the past year. . . . we are inclined to trust the judgment of Dean Hawkes and President Nicholas Murray Butler a good deal farther than that of Editor Harris and the student body. . . . unusual as it may seem for a college editor to hold this view, we believe that the administration of this University or of Columbia University are likely to be wiser men than the editors of the college dailies here or there; and that if these men take the view that the editors have shown such consistently bad taste as to be considered no longer candidates for a degree, this is a sad circumstance but one little to be questioned by youths who are only beginning to have to shave once a day."—Chicago Daily Maroon.

"He would probably have done more good to the cause of independence in college journalism had his own attitude been more intelligent. The mistakes of amateurs in such a case are held against them more than are the mistakes of professionals. . . . we are inclined to believe, however, that Harris wanted so badly to make exposes that he often made too much of his openings, and wasn't always pertinent."—Southern California Daily Trojan.

VANDERBILT CONSIDERS COLLEGES UNNECESSARY

"My opinion of the value of college? Well, frankly, I think it's pure poppycock from start to finish," stated Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., in an interview with the Denver Clarion. "Except for the social contacts made, does the student really accomplish anything worth while? I've learned that an A.B. degree hurts more in co-operating with the world than anything else. The fellow who hasn't got one is constantly trying for your job," he stated.

Mr. Vanderbilt didn't go to college because, he says, "It simply isn't essential in the struggle for success." He is in Colorado at present, making a political survey to "feel out" the sentiment of the nation in the coming national election.

With Contemporaries

Back From Jazz

Is the age of jazz passing? Recent reports from the music publishing field indicate that it may be. An official of a publishing house the other day let it be known that sales of "classical" music are exceeding those of the type called popular.

Many will cast about for explanations of this shift of interest from sizzling syncopation and bleating blues to the quiet gentility of Beethoven's "Minuet in G," Chopin's "Waltz in D Flat" and Bach's Bourree from the second violin sonata, which are now listed among the best sellers.

One explanation is the radio. Producers of jazz could testify to the effectiveness of radio as a medium for popularizing their product. The recent vogue of a song that had lain for years almost forgotten on publishers' shelves was a tribute to that effectiveness. Likewise, radio has introduced classical music to thousands who never before knew they could like it.

There is another service that radio may have done the better type of music. That is, it has done much to wear out the popularity of jazz. For jazz is one of those things of which one can have too much. It is a proverb among musicians that popular music is merely familiar music and that the best music would become popular if it were made familiar to enough people. Perhaps the "jazz boys" have counted too much on the exactness of their proverb, forgetting the other one about familiarity and contempt.

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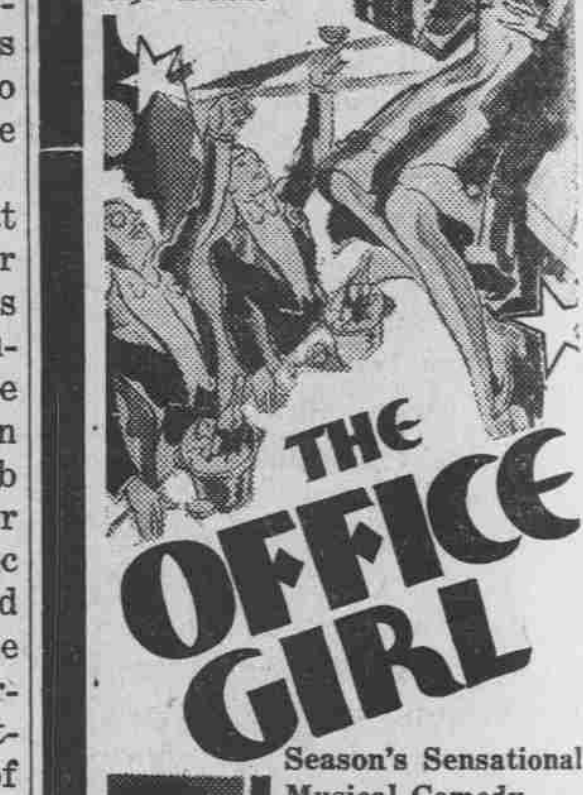
Leroy M. S. Minor, D.M.D., H.D., Dean, Dept. 22, 188 Longwood Ave., Boston, Mass.

The radio, of course, cannot be given all the credit. The jazz has gone out of many things besides music the last two years. It is easy to remember the days when too many persons were trying to make their dollars dance to a financial jazz and tuning their thoughts to jazz ideas in literature, art and conduct. Now they are getting down to fundamentals, disciplining their thinking as a musician does his fingers, and hoping to accomplish something more like an enduring sonata than like an evanescent crooner's delight.—Christian Science Monitor.

The Democrats have one good idea. They hold their "victory dinners" before the election instead of after it.—Judge.

The Leap-Year Girl goes out for her man

... She Had One Eye on the Type-writer... and the Other on the Boss.



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