

THE ONLY COLLEGE DAILY IN THE SOUTH

The Daily Tar Heel

"TO CREATE
A CAMPUS
PERSONALITY"

A JOURNAL OF
THE ACTIVITIES
OF CAROLINIANS

VOLUME XLIV

EDITORIAL PHONE 4351

CHAPEL HILL, N. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1936

BUSINESS PHONE 4356

NUMBER 94

COMPLETE STORY OF CHEATING RING REVEALED

Foreword: The following story is the first official history of the successive student efforts to uncover a large ring of organized cheating which has been operating for over three years on the University campus.

It was purposely withheld from publication until this morning so that all evidence which students uncovered could be presented to the student council. This has been done.

It is urged that every student read the story completely in order to get the true facts instead of relying on the hundreds of false rumors and misrepresentations which are current on the campus.

The Boy heard about the cheating ring before we went home for the Christmas holidays. He told his father and his father made him promise to go back to Chapel Hill and assist in getting to the bottom of it and in wiping it from the campus.

The Boy came back and told the Student, a friend of his. The Student went to the room of A and told him what the Boy had said. A told the Student to ask the Boy to come over to see him and the Boy came.

By that time, rumors which had been unnoticed were picked up and they added weight to what the Boy had to tell. Pieced together, the story sounded like something.

Discussing the matter, the little group decided that the best thing to do would be to run the leader of the ring out of town. The leader was named X and the Boy knew it and had told the Student and A.

Many Involved

Then it was found out, through rumors and other words, that X had a number of assistants who would possibly carry on the work if X had to leave. And there would still be the assistants to be attended to. Furthermore, there would be about 200 students (so they thought) who were involved in the cheating activity of X and knew about his program. The only way to get rid of X and his assistants and to prosecute for violation of the honor system the 200 students supposed to be involved would be through the student council.

A had told his room-mate, and together they went to President Frank Graham and told him of what they had heard and of what they felt certain was true. They asked him if a prosecution following an investigation would, at that time, hurt Dr. Graham and the University in its position of indefiniteness about the future.

Graham Behind Them

Dr. Graham replied, as always, that if what they had told him was true, then they should not stop until it was completely cleaned up. They must go to the bottom of it. They must be careful and make sure of their facts, but they must not stop until the

Pool's Statement

Student Council President Jack Pool issued the following statement last night:

"The Student Council is judging each case as fairly as it can. Every possible thread of evidence has been and will be investigated, even so far as members of the council themselves are involved."

The statement was approved by the council.

Board of Trustees

The board of trustees, meeting yesterday in Raleigh, passed what might be regarded as a vote of confidence in President Graham by referring the consideration of athletic eligibility back to the president and faculty of the University and of State College.

The student council request, presented by Dr. Graham, which asked that the word "dismiss" in the trustee ruling on drinking, hazing and gambling be changed to "discipline," was granted.

The out-of-state tuition rate was raised by vote of the board.

Consolidation and its issues were deferred until the June meeting, at which time it will be made a special order.

The board ratified changes in student government and publications fee. More information on all these issues will appear in tomorrow's issue of this newspaper.

job is done.

And, more important, Dr. Graham emphasized that it was a matter to be done entirely by the students. He said that the administration left the operation of the honor principle to them. It would like to be kept advised of all progress, but it would not interfere with student work in uncovering this breach of honor.

That night half of the later student group which uncovered the cheating ring was organized. First it was necessary to find out if they had a right to enter the premises of X and seize his papers to procure evidence of his dishonorable work. The State Attorney-General and Assistant-Attorney-General were contacted and, after a good deal of investigation, they advised the students that they were legally right in conducting their investigation in that manner.

Conduct Scored

So about 5:30 in the afternoon of Saturday, January 25, A and the president of the student body, who had been notified of the group's intended program, and Chief of Police Sloan and Officer Wright of the local force, with a search warrant which had been sworn out by the Justice of the Peace and the Chief, entered the room of X.

X was there and he submitted to a search of the room. Then he was questioned and as the conversation went on, A took down every word on X's typewriter. A and the president of the student body questioned X for five hours. The two officers were present for a part of the time, and, at the beginning of the second hour, Dean Bradshaw was called down by the president of the student body. Following the questioning, the interviewers left with all the papers seized in X's room and the first confession which A had copied down.

It must be noted here that X was not promised by the students or by Dean Bradshaw immunity from prosecution in the courts if he would give information against the students involved. He began his confession approximately one hour before any representative of the University was present. During his confession he expressed the fear

We Face A Crisis

The honor system is in the balance, and with it, our very student government.

Upon the student body rests their fate. If we fail to support our student council in its present deliberations, if we fail to rally to answer the challenge which this disgraceful episode has produced, then we have dug the grave of the honor system and we have built the coffin of the student government. For we will have been responsible, we, the student body.

If we hesitate, if we have not the courage to stand with our council at its most trying hour, we will cause this, the University's most precious treasure to be trampled in the dust and forgotten.

This cheating imbroglio has been uncovered by students. That is of utmost significance. And it is being removed, its cancerous self is being cut completely away, by the students. That is even more significant.

This proves that the honor system is working. But it does not prove that it has worked well or that it will continue to work.

THE RESPONSIBILITY IS THE STUDENT BODY'S. IF WE HAVE ALLOWED THIS NASTY SITUATION TO OCCUR, IF WE HAVE SLUMBERED WHILE OUR VERY FOUNDATION OF STUDENT LIFE HAS BEEN ATTACKED, WE ARE TO BLAME FOR THE UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR NEGLIGENCE.

AND IF THE HONOR SYSTEM IS TO BE MAINTAINED IN THE FUTURE ON THE HIGHEST LEVEL, THEN EVERY STUDENT MUST ANSWER THIS CHALLENGE WITH A VOW AND PLEDGE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

There must be a realization that we have failed and not the honor principle. And realizing this, we must swear by all things sacred, that it will not happen again, this failure. IT CAN'T HAPPEN.

Among us have been those hypocritical students who have preached the merits of the very principle which they seek to destroy. Many of them have gone or are leaving. But the rest cannot be allowed to stay, either. We must be for the honor principle to a man, or not at all. We have seen what happens when this is not the case.

This tremendous cheating activity has been broken up. The students themselves have done it. The administration has left it up to us and we have succeeded. But that is not all; we must continue to succeed.

That we have done what we have done, that we have asserted our faith and our devout belief in this principle of honor, that we have been able to place it before personal vanity and in spite of personal anguish—these are proof that we can and will maintain forever this heritage, which, through our unforgivable negligence, we have allowed to be besmirked by fellow students whom we trusted.

The student council is faced with a crisis and they are bearing up. The most difficult test that any student government has ever before met is theirs and they are succeeding by meeting it and carrying on.

Those students who uncovered the activities of cheaters suffered pain and disillusion when they realized with whom and with what they were dealing. Friends, respected leaders, acquaintances, fellow students—all these were on the list of the untrue and it was this student group's duty, prosecuting those whom they knew and respected and loved, to proceed unflinchingly.

If they had not done so, the honor system would have fallen and the name of the University been eternally sullied.

The council must have proof of a man's guilt. They are not convicting for mere knowledge of the cheating activity. This is important.

It has been hectic for the past few days. Lies and slander and gross misrepresentations have been flung across the campus and into the state.

Yet we must think clearly. There is much to be done. We have only started.

WE MUST NOT STOP NOW. EVERY PIECE OF EVIDENCE MUST BE UNCOVERED. EVERY LAST VESTIGE OF THIS DISHONORABLE ACTIVITY MUST BE TRACED DOWN AND DESTROYED. THERE IS NO HALF-WAY POINT. THERE IS NO SHORT CUT TO HONOR.

We are going to have to "take it on the chin" during the ensuing week. Many issues have been involved in what has happened, and many personalities. It will not be pleasant, this business of getting to the bottom of so disgraceful a thing.

But we must above all things remember that we ourselves are the honor principle and as we fight for its glory, so do we, as a student body, a self-governing student body, fight for our existence here.

We must show our faith in the honor system by living and practicing, instead of by preaching and being wilfully blind to its principles.

that the facts against him would be used to prosecute him in the courts. He was told at that time that the University as a matter of policy did not prosecute its students or former students in the courts and would not prosecute him unless it were absolutely necessary to do so to break up his selling aid in cheating.

Furthermore, prosecution at court would mean publicity as witnesses for all students involved.

No Job Promised

Furthermore, no representative of the University promised him a job if he would testify against the students. Still later in the prolonged examination X

Student Council

The student council, hearing nine more cases, suspended seven students for violation of the honor principle in sessions running yesterday afternoon and last night.

Eight other cases which were considered involved students who are not in school and who consequently cannot testify in their own favor at present.

In the cases which did not merit suspension, one student was acquitted and the other's case was deferred.

Further hearings will continue today.

wandered into a semi-hysterical worrying about what would happen to his mother whose sole support he was. To quiet his fears about his mother and to bring his mind back to the business at hand he was told that he would be helped to rebuild his shattered career (as many other boys have been helped) provided his repentance and reformation were genuine and he were to frankly confess to any prospective employer this blot on his record.

He was not told that if he would give the names of those involved the student council would deal leniently with them. He asked several times what would happen to the students and was told that he would have to leave that matter to the council.

Urged to Confess

In all the discussion with him he was urged to give all the facts concerning his activities for the following reasons:

He owed it to the University to do everything in his power to clean up a terrible situation that he had helped to create;

He owed it to the hundreds of innocent students to clear their names of the suspicion that would attach to every student, every grade and every diploma until the guilty were known from the innocent;

He owed it to the student council to give them freely all the facts without which intelligent and fair action on the partial facts already known would be impossible;

He owed it to himself and his mother to begin a straight legitimate career by confession, restitution and reformation as complete as possible.

Following the incident of the first confession, A made copies of the testimony with the help of the others in the group.

Routine Begun

On the morning of Sunday, January 26, the papers which had been placed in the University vaults were taken to A's room and the group began to assort them. They included letters from students who had had correspondence courses done for them by X, books left there by students for whom X was doing work, papers being written, account books and many other pieces of evidence.

That afternoon A and the president of the student body went down to see X. With X this time was Y, who was X's helper and whom X had told completely of the proceedings of the night before. Y had agreed with X that the best thing to do in the matter was to turn over all the information which they

had. Y, on being questioned, corroborated many of X's statements and added a number of his own. And at that time, as a result of that afternoon's conversation, A and the student body president found definitely that there had been a helper in the University mimeographing department who had turned over quizzes to X and Y, and that the pass key to Bingham hall was in their possession. Many other such disclosures were made in the hours of conversation.

Y, when asked for his papers, told the two students that he would get them and while A and the student body president questioned X, Y went away for 20 minutes, presumably to get the papers.

Gives Excuses

He returned, however, without them and the pass key, which had been demanded of him. He said, first of all, that he had moved the papers the night before to the room of a friend of his, although it later turned out to be the basement of a certain fraternity house. He said that he was unable to get the papers at that time as the friend was at the moving picture show.

Following further questioning (the whole conversation was again copied down completely by A on the typewriter), Y accompanied the two students to Y's room and made arrangements to meet the next day. At that moment A and the president realized that they must secure Y's papers that night, before Y had a chance to destroy them and their valuable evidence.

Although Y was unwilling at first to go immediately to get the papers, he finally consented and the three walked over to the fraternity house. The student body president, because of his position in student government, stayed outside while A and Y entered the house and in the basement gathered the papers in a satchel. The three then went directly to the University Y. M. C. A.

There Y asked that a few of his personal belongings be removed from the bag and when they opened the bag, A and the president found that the key to Bingham hall was not to be found among the papers. Y, however, insisted that it was, and in a crudely-concealed gesture

(Continued on page two)

Bradshaw's Statement

Dean of Students Francis F. Bradshaw last night issued the following statement:

"The students testifying and the council members acting in behalf of honest grades and diplomas are doing the only possible thing to save the standing of this University.

"Every dishonest grade or diploma casts suspicion on all grades and diplomas, subtly poisons the spirit of the University and corrodes the confidence between students and teachers, alumni and Administration, graduate and employer.

"This confidence is the only possible basis of loyalty to the University. The loyalty of those who believe in the integrity of her work and the sincerity of all who represent her is this University's one great endowment."