

Polishing The Pebbles, We Dim Diamonds

DEAN CARROLL was speaking: If a professor, he stated, conducts his course for the more advanced students in it, the rest of the class does not understand what is going on; if the instructor talks on a level low enough to reach the entire class, he bores the intellectually superior fellows.

How to separate the collegiate sheep from the collegiate goats, and do for the sheep what the sheep need and for the goats what the goats need—that was the question raised last Monday by students and Deans Bradshaw, Spruill, Hobbs, and Carroll, meeting to discuss mutual problems of education.

II

Each year the University admits over 200 students whom it knows beforehand are not intellectually able to do college work and remain in school. Clinging to a policy of non-selective admissions, this institution, without asking whether prospective students are capable of college work, allows every man with the proper number of high school units to enroll. It has been to meet the needs of these students of average ability (the sheep) that our present educational system has developed.

"This system," President Frank Aydelotte of Swarthmore points out, "does not assume on the student's part any high level of ability or any consuming interest in intellectual things. Careful direction is provided day by day. By an elaborate system of spoon-feeding even the idle and the ignorant are initiated into the elements of a large variety of subjects and are usually carried a little beyond the elementary stage in one. By frequent exercises and tests, by elaborate supervision of cuts, by constant examinations and marks, it is made certain that every individual does some work for his degree." For the mediocre student this conventional academic system is moderately successful.

III

But above-average students (the goats) also enroll in the University. For these advanced students the University provides an educational set-up no different than that for the average and mediocre.

Into a crowded classroom, which precludes the possibility of anything but depersonalized lectures from the professor, the exceptional student is massed along with the playboys, disinterested, and incapables. Instead of throwing him on his own responsibility and freeing him from herd routine to learn *how* to make discoveries and

choices for himself, the University tends to make him docile (like the others) by requiring him to waste 15 to 20 hours a week passively listening to a "teacher" ladle him out facts and tell him *what* to think.

If he shows too much interest in his work and asks too many questions, the dociles accuse him of "booting the prof." Artificial and insincere attitudes between student and instructor, stimulated by grades and exams, spring up and warp what would otherwise be an educational relationship.

With the professor in predominance as the thinker-for-the-class, there is little stimulus for the intellectually superior man to do independent work. Graded for the most part in relation to the rest of the fellows in the course, he is almost discouraged from going ahead of the class. There is little incentive to use his capacities to the fullest. Self-reliance, independence, and initiative — because too little opportunity for their exercise is offered—atrophy. The man who might really be capable of independent and self-education (conceded to be the best sort of education) is conditioned to the vicious ways of mass "education."

Under our lock-step process, the exceptional man finds his progress determined by the weakest students. Under a uniform and depersonalized method of instruction he is held back by a standard maintained by the average. It is a convoy system of education—a system dictated by the dunces!

The present educational set-up presupposes that students neither want an education nor possess the initiative to go after it. A set-up which presupposes a given spirit will usually get it. It does! And the advanced students suffer.

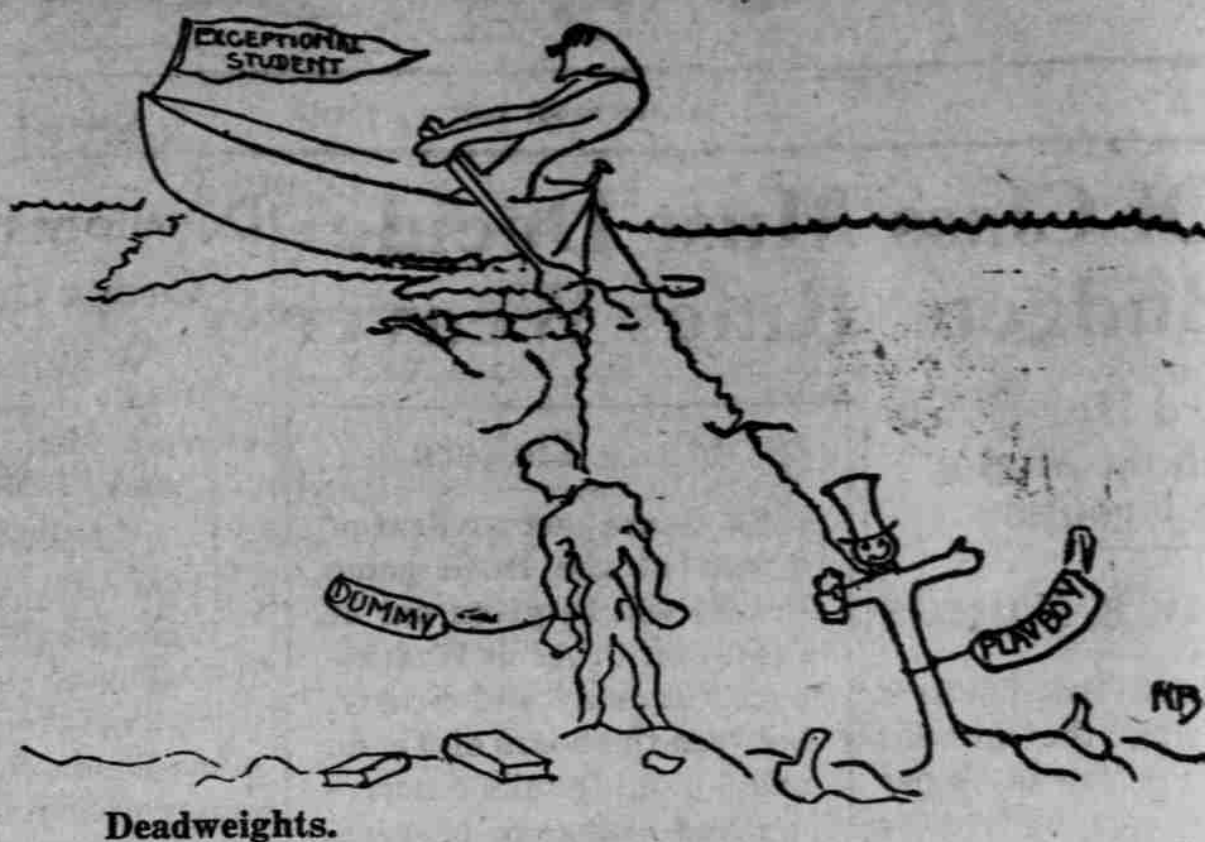
Our efforts have been expended more on those who are below average than with those above. Occupied with the mediocre, we are failing to stimulate our exceptional students to their best. To the superior intellects we have been unjust.

IV

If the University is going to continue admitting high school graduates without selection, it should provide education appropriate for both the mediocre and the best. When this institution finds a superior man, it must get out of his way and let him grow. We are not doing that now. That's the difficulty . . .

"The central problem of higher education in this country," says President Aydelotte, "is that of giving adequate stimulus and opportunity to students of more than average ability and ambition." The University of North Carolina must meet that challenge.

Our College Classroom



Deadweights.

Hit Of The Week

BETTY STEVENS

Acclaimed by those attending as the finest dance of the year was the Chi Omega's pledge - presenting party Friday night. Behind the scenes was Senior Betty Stevens of Haddenfield, N. J., pledge instructor for the 22 new Chi-O neophytes.



RADIO

By BUD KORNBELT

- WDNC—1500 KC.
- 3:00—New York Philharmonic Symphony (CBS).
- 6:30—Rubinoff, Peerce, and Rea (CBS).
- 7:00—Mobilization for Human Needs (CBS).
- 7:30—Phil Baker and Hal Kemp (CBS).
- 8:00—Twilight Singers.
- 8:15—Music You Remember.
- 8:30—Eddie Cantor's Show (CBS).
- 9:00—Ford Sunday Evening Hour (CBS).
- 10:00—Community Sing (CBS).
- 10:45—Kaltenborn Edits the News (CBS).
- 11:00—News; Artie Shaw's Orch.
- 11:30—Roger Pryor's Orch.
- 12:00—Vincent Lopez' Orch.

Denounces Coed Policy

To the Editor,
The DAILY TAR HEEL:

There is something fundamentally wrong with a system that denies itself those most easily attained resources. Can you imagine a man seeking employment, being forced to leave his home town and make his living in a strange community where life in general will not be as tasteful and expenses considerably increased? That such a condition should exist in this beautiful state of democracy is fantastic in the extreme, but we have at our door a case that closely parallels just those conditions.

There can be no possible basic good or accomplishment of purpose in the division of the Greater University's prevailing educational policy that provides for segregation of sexes in their pursuit of knowledge on living in general.

I have always understood that a university's principle function is, in a sense, to educate young men and women in the principles of life; to make them better able to take their places with some significance as to their value in an ever changing world.

Any form of education on such a subject that does not conform as closely as possible to prevailing conditions is absolutely false and this falsity is emphasized when such conditions can be met with no additional expenditures of time, money or trouble.

K. V. M.

Philosophy Of Life

(JOHN GALSWORTHY)

The uplifting part of religion is the beautiful expression of exalted feeling. The rest of religion is but superstition.

Campus Correspondence

Letters over 250 words subject to cutting by editor; author's name must be on manuscript.

★ DEFENSE

To the Editor,
The DAILY TAR HEEL:

In the Friday Charlotte Observer David Clark, editor of the Southern Textile Bulletin, reached a new low in his campaign against the University and in his personal persecution of Professor E. E. Ericson.

Discussing the exchange of professors between this University and Central China university of Nanking, Mr. Clark ends his letter thus:

"Professor Ericson instead of completing his year at the Central China university was back at Chapel Hill within less than four months.

"Why did Professor Ericson not complete his year? Did the Central China university release Ericson and if so, why?"

Assuming that Mr. Clark did not see the press releases explaining Dr. Ericson's return (though he seems to tend pretty well to Dr. Ericson's business) and that he did not take the trouble to inquire, the only decent thing Mr. Clark can now do is to make a public apology to Dr. Ericson. If Mr. Clark knew the answers to his own questions and wrote the letter only to score an insinuating point against a man he dislikes, then his letter is the meanest, lowest, dirtiest thing I have ever seen in public print.

Here are the facts. In November, 1935, Dr. Ericson received a message at Nanking, China, that his 16-year-old son, Ernest, was dying. Dr. Ericson returned 8,000 miles to Chapel Hill. Two months and a day after his father's return Ernest Ericson died.

Leonard Rapport

★ HOWLING LUNATICS

To the Editor,
The DAILY TAR HEEL:

So "J. B." is ashamed to be called a Carolina student is he? He asks what we are going to do about it? If he is really ashamed there is one thing which he can do about it. He needn't be seen sitting in that cheering section which causes him so much anguish.

This business of "do or die for dear old Siwash," it seems to me, is being a little overdone.

It is true that we owe much to our college and what it has done for us, but the primary purpose of college life, which is supposedly education, is defeated by exhibitions of vocal insanity. Loyalty is a fine thing, but it is nobler to serve faithfully and inconspicuously than to give one's all by shouting banal nonsense at a football game.

School spirit has a definite place in college life, but let us make something more constructive of it—something finer—than just noise.

Ralph Miller

★ "B" BASKETBALL TEAM

To the Editor,
The DAILY TAR HEEL:

It has been generally recognized that a "B" football team at the University of North Carolina is an impossibility because of the high initial cost of obtaining necessary uniforms, playing fields, and coaches. But there is nothing to prevent the University from following the example set by Duke university in football and having a "B" basketball team. There is a wealth of material on the campus for such a team. Many men could be taken from the intramural teams. Many other good players, who can not make the varsity, are available even though they do not wish to play in scrambling matches as the intramural games are.

Such an undertaking would require no great financial aid from the Athletic association. No special uniforms would be necessary. Ordinary sweat clothes like the varsity uses to practice in could be used. If it were necessary the team members could furnish their own shoes as such men as would play on this team would not be playing for glory or prestige or any of the other reasons the varsity men play for. This would reduce the cost of equipment tremendously as shoes are the most expensive part of the necessary equipment. cellent practice court.

Time is drawing short. The varsity has already started practice. All of you fellows, who are interested, voice your opinions by writing in the DAILY TAR HEEL or communicating with me. Maybe we can meet to form a committee to approach the Athletic association with the subject.

Bob Guarino



MOTHER GOOSE, G. O. P. VERSION

Oh, Franklin does blow and soon we shall know
Just who is secretary of what, poor things.

Humpty Farley sat on a wall
Humpty Farley doesn't feel small.
All of the Democrats, little and great,
Couldn't get him the governorship
Of New York State.

Miss Perkins, Miss Perkins,
Please pardon our smirkin's
But we understand
That there's no demand
For more of your snooping and lurkin's.

There's strange things done 'neath the marble dome
By the men who muck for office,
But give me a job in the cabinet
It is, of all, the softest.

The Daily Tar Heel

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