

The Daily Tar Heel

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For This Issue

NEWS: RAY LOWERY SPORTS: C. B. MCGAUGHEY

THE OCTOBER CAROLINA MAGAZINE

By H. K. RUSSELL

The Carolina Magazine, which Thomas Wolfe once helped to edit, has fittingly devoted its current issue to a discussion of his personality and his work. In the month since Wolfe's death, John Creedy has assembled a balanced and authoritative group of essays; his success in drawing contributions from Wolfe's friends and editors and in securing the portrait and copyrighted material indicates not only the evident value of his project, but tact and intelligence in its execution.

Wolfe's two editors, Maxwell Perkins of Scribner's and Edward C. Aswell of Harper's, give the most valuable accounts we have yet had of his habits of composition. Mr. Perkins' record of the writing of *Of Time and the River* is, I think, as important as Wolfe's own *The Story of a Novel* in a study of his habits of composition. This article alone is sufficient to warrant inclusion of the October Carolina Magazine in whatever Thomas Wolfe bibliographies there may be.

Other Contributors

William Polk, a talented short story writer, tells of Wolfe as a personal friend. Paul Green and Phillips Russell write appreciations of Wolfe's significance for the environment out of which he came. Mary Johnson MacMillan, too, in her description of Wolfe's funeral has suggested (as Willa Cather did in "A Sculptor's Funeral") how unequal the exchange of gifts must be between a man like Thomas Wolfe and his surroundings. In George Stoney's "Eugene Returns to Pulpit Hill" we have a sensitive account of Wolfe's return to the campus and of the effect, confused and somewhat distressing, that the famous alumnus and the students had upon each other.

Thomas Meder ("Notes on Wolfe and the American Spirit") writes a sensible, brief criticism, closing with the notion that perhaps this generation is able to understand Wolfe only imperfectly—a notion that a reading of the complete issue reinforces. For out of these descriptions of Wolfe as "still a boy at thirty six," a "gifted genius," a "misshapen giant," "the most delightful of friends," "proud as Lucifer and yet utterly humble," I find it very difficult to construct any comprehensible or serviceable likeness of a human being or an author.

Picture of Wolfe?

I wonder if it is possible, without violence to this honest first-hand evidence and in spite of his nearness to us, to form a practicable picture of Thomas Wolfe as man and artist.

It is clear that Wolfe found life very difficult. His extraordinary height and his capacity for overstimulation (he has been described by one of his contemporaries as "caffeine-minded") set him apart. As Phillips Russell says (page 3), "to the unorthodox, the queer, the odd, the non-conformists among us we are merciless." (Wolfe has described some of his own difficulties in "Gulliver.") The inevitable loneliness is the dominant theme of Wolfe's writing, as Thomas Meder points out (page 22) the uncertainties of adolescence increased the loneliness and added a feeling of disintegration. The deaths of Ben and, later, of his father deepened the sense of loss into an agony of need: "Come to us, Father, in the watches of the night, . . . bringing to us the invincible sustenance of your strength. . . the tremendous structure of your life that will shape all lost and broken things on earth again into a golden pattern of exultancy and joy."

This personal loneliness became identified with the world ("this most weary unbright cinder"), but especially with America: ". . . we are lost, so naked, and so lonely in America. Immense and cruel skies bend over us, and all of us are driven on forever and we have no home." Never Say Die

And always there was "that driving, restless energy" (page 19) which suggests, with his periods of desperation and the sense of persecution, a manic-depressive condition. (His eyes appeared to "lose their focus and, dilating, would, like two great yellow floodlights, seem to cover the whole room at once"—page 14).

But he had the artist's right to

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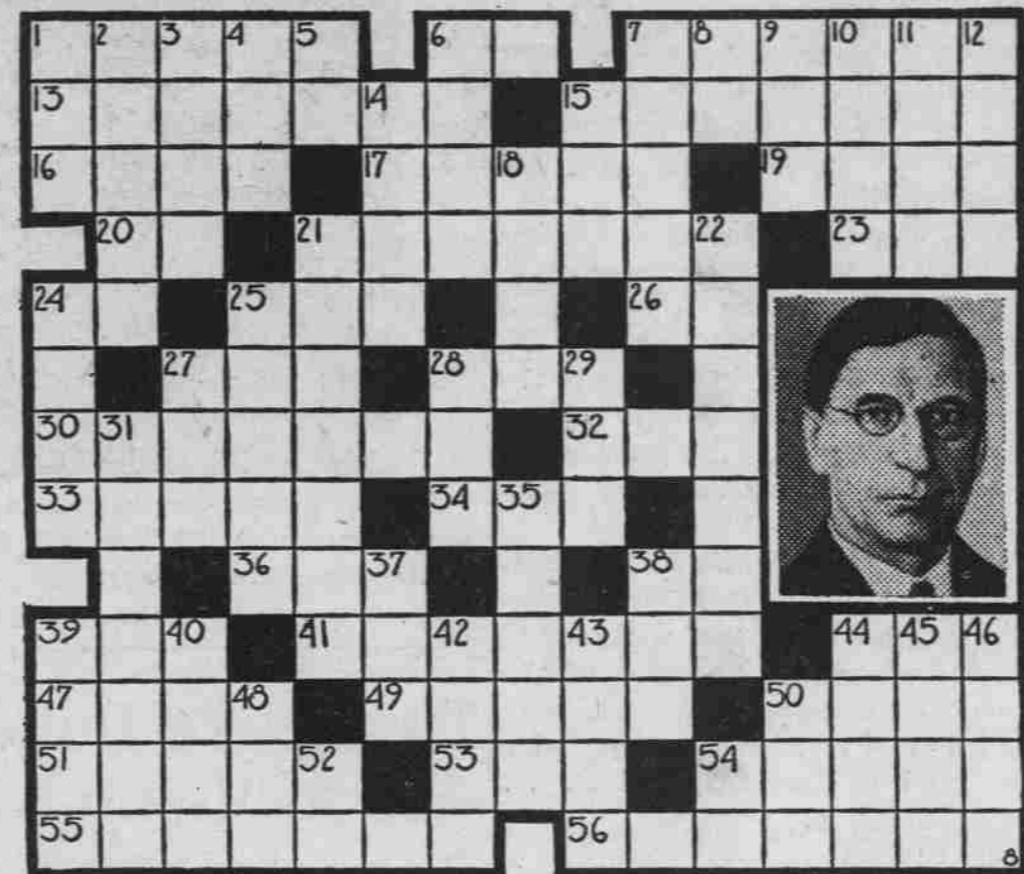
- 1,6,7 Modern Irish government official.
- 13 To make a surgical incision.
- 15 Marches in formal array.
- 16 Auction
- 17 Royal.
- 19 Broad
- 20 Right.
- 21 Women.
- 23 Afternoon meal.
- 24 And.
- 25 To deposit.
- 26 Street.
- 27 Heart.
- 28 Coffee pot.
- 30 Causes.
- 32 Ozone.
- 33 Lighted coal.
- 34 To recede
- 36 Thing.
- 38 Myself.
- 39 Female fowl
- 41 Zinc.
- 44 Feminine

Answer to Previous Puzzle

MARY PICKFORD
DECORATIONIAN
OTEO GHOST ESNE
PER WEALTHY TEA
US WEN EM SR
L LEET MARY LEA I
AMEND PATEN
RAND S PICKFORD TONG
LO GO G ME
SA PRODUCERS MA
TYCOON L REPAYS
E ALA HEM EARD
TORONTO ACTRESS

VERTICAL

- 1 Aurora.
- 2 Aside.
- 3 To liquefy.
- 4 Native metal.
- 5 North America.
- 6 To opine.
- 7 Valleys.
- 8 Measure of area.
- 9 Legal rule.
- 10 To redact.
- 11 Proverb.
- 12 Toward sea.
- 14 Weight
- 15 Constant companion.
- 18 Kind of wild cattle.
- 21 Furors.
- 22 Starting device.
- 24 His country is now called
- 25 Puzzler
- 27 Taxi.
- 28 Custom.
- 29 To arrest.
- 31 Ruler.
- 35 To misrepresent.
- 37 Mineral spring.
- 38 Males.
- 39 To assist.
- 40 Short letter.
- 42 Always.
- 43 Powder ingredient.
- 44 To stupefy.
- 45 To secrete.
- 46 Previously
- 48 Total.
- 50 Monkey
- 52 Musical note.
- 54 Pound



"Tar Heels" To High Schools

A few years ago the Publications Union Board sent DAILY TAR HEEL subscriptions to over 300 high schools and preparatory schools from which the University draws the bulk of its Freshman class. But the project was discontinued, and has fallen into oblivion.

In the past few years the University's enrollment has increased, but the proportion of boys from North Carolina has not increased with it. So there seems to be a definite need for some sort of stimulation for the North Carolina enrollment.

Not only would the stories of students now here who formerly attended these schools interest our prospective students, but the variety of activities on the campus as represented in our daily would catch the eye of those students interested in more than books alone.

The Alumni association hasn't the money for such an expenditure; the P. U. Board has a surplus of \$11,000, the investment of which seems to be a perpetual problem. The spending of a small part of the money in this way would be an investment in the University's future student body.—W. K.

Another Sorority

There has been an increase of coeds on the campus this year such as to necessitate the building of a new dormitory to house them. This enlarged coed population has led the Pan-Hellenic Council of campus sororities to consider the institution of a third sorority.

"There are enough coeds on the campus now," said Olive Cruikshank, president of Pi Beta Phi, "to justify the formation of another sorority." She went on to say that "A third sorority would break up the rather too close rivalry now existent between the two."

On a campus where the women are so outnumbered by men, sororities give coeds the chance for enjoying a feeling of unity and solidarity. A sorority acts as a useful lever for the coed minority to participate in social and extra-curricular life of this campus.—DeW. B.

Budgeting For Success?

Freshmen were given daily time budgets by the Freshman Friendship council yesterday and from one of the first year men was heard the comment that he must spend a little time during the afternoon deciding on a daily schedule as prescribed by the arbitrary figures of the budget, since "the whole success of his year" depended on the budget.

Apparently the freshman was sincere. Certainly there is great likelihood that the small budget card can be an inspiration for some new men to produce better work. But, almost as easily, the student can be led astray from a wholesome and well-rounded life if he follows too severely the dictates of his budget. For instance, six and a half hours are assigned to study daily, one hour to social life, and three hours to meals. Frequently it is necessary and advisable to make drastic alterations. For that reason, if the student attempts to adjust himself too strictly to the time allotments, he will find that, after all, a Utopia of Study has not yet been reached.

integrate and to shape life into a pattern, and after unsatisfactory experiments with the drama he found a medium in the novel. Here he had his days of achievement, when he could chant, "I wrote ten thousand words today. I wrote ten thousand words today" (page 17). Yet "he could not fit a book to the conventional length. *Of Time and the River* "was in great fragments, and they were not in order. Large parts were missing. It was all disproportioned" (page 15). Wolfe was still magnificently but unsuccessfully trying to "shape all lost and broken things on earth . . . into a golden pattern . . ." The relief of getting the thing well said, the catharsis of naming, he experienced richly and often—Wolfe is the only author besides Shakespeare who possesses so copiously and intensely this power to drug and exalt by the sounds and connotations of words. But the larger shaping power was beyond him.

Came To See Light

A clarification, however, seems to have been taking place. Just as for Maxwell Perkins he had to write the life of the doctor who attended Gant and a long passage about Eugene's sister Helen in Altamont before he could come to Gant's illness (page 16), so he had to write *Look Homeward, Angel* and *Of Time and the River* before he could come to material which was shapeable. After he had written out the pressing memories of his own youth, lonely and inchoate, he seems to have established contact with other lives. Mr. Perkins saw that what ". . . he wanted, or thought he did, was to be one of the regular people" (page 17). Eugene was lonely and contemptuous: "The yokels, of course, were in the saddle—they composed nine-tenths of the student body. . ." (page 21). But the man who wrote *The Web of Earth* was able to lose himself in the earthly reminiscences of Delia Hawkes, who is to be sure a remarkable woman, but one of "the regular people," at ease in the market-place. And Mr. Perkins rightly says there is a sense of form in *The Web of Earth*, though

it is on a subtle associational scheme. Thomas Wolfe wrote out Eugene Byron and discovered Delia Hawkes-Whitman (page 13). He came thus to his realization of the common man, but more naturally, more honestly, I think, that Whitman did. If the signs are trustworthy the next books will not be adolescent and lyric, but mature and dramatic. "For two years now, since I began to work on my new book, I have felt as if I were standing on the shore of a new land . . . The book belongs in kind with those books which have described the adventures of the average man . . ." (page 20). Mr. Aswell tells (page 19) of Wolfe's final preparation of the Harper manuscript: "Now and then he would decide that a chapter or section didn't belong in the book and he would discard it, throwing it on the floor. All around him the floor was littered with these discards." Here was a sight denied to Maxwell Perkins—a mature man and artist judging his own work and cutting it to the pattern chosen for the whole.

Judgment must of course wait for his posthumous novels; but in this autumn number of the *Carolina Magazine* we can trace the outlines of a big man who struggled through the native darkness of his soul from isolation into fellowship, and died, not in his springtime, young and unfulfilled, but near October, with his great arms full of fruit.

Grads Come Back

Madeline Haynesworth and Mary Glover, graduates of the University last June, have returned for the Duke game. Miss Glover is now a teacher in the grade school of Rutherfordton.

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Comer Speaks

Today at their college assembly students of Winston college at Winston-Salem will hear Harry Comer, secretary of the campus YMCA, speak on "Problems of Pacifism in a War Psychology." Older students on this campus will recognize this talk as an elaboration of Comer's speech made in Memorial hall two years ago at the special Peace Day demonstration.

Mitchell Speaks To Academy Group

(Continued from first page) able at which Albert F. Blakeslee of the Carnegie Institution of Washington gave the first paper.

Next came B. O. Dodge of the New York Botanical Garden, E. W. Sinnott of Columbia, J. N. Couch of Carolina, Kenneth B. Raper of Washington, Donald B. Anderson of State, F. A. Wolf of Duke, and W. C. Coker of Carolina.

Following these sessions the meeting adjourned to Duke for a luncheon and a tour of the campus, after which they returned to Carolina for a reception and subscription dinner at Carolina inn.

Today the fourth scientific session will be held in Venable auditorium, and at a 1 o'clock luncheon the academy will formally end its regular fall meeting.

High School Day To Be Held Here

(Continued from first page) rate plans have been made by many freshmen to receive students from the same high schools and towns.

From one to two o'clock before the football game, the combined bands from the high schools will present a concert, which will be organized collectively by Earl Slocum, the director of the University band. Invitations are now being given out to the bands of the schools to be represented.

BIRTHDAYS TODAY

(Please call by the ticket office of the Carolina theater for a complimentary pass.)

- G. S. Beatty.
- E. D. Dilworth.
- P. W. Haigh.
- Lillian Howell.
- Milton Kind.
- E. C. Lewis.
- R. J. Lovell.
- J. B. Neely.
- R. L. Ord, Jr.
- L. F. Smith.
- G. H. Stirnweiss.
- R. A. Urquhart.
- Elizabeth Warenberger.
- F. H. White.

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