

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Express Yourself



Editor:

Few things would prompt me to write a letter to the Editor (no personal feelings involved, Barry) but one such matter has bothered me so that I seek satisfaction through this medium.

The momentous problem concerns the Merchants Association of Chapel Hill, and more specifically their part in the issue of Saturday classes. Perhaps your policy is to let "sleeping dogs lie" in the hope that it will "fade away." (If it fades away to the tune that our illustrious General MacArthur did, we might as well set our alarm for the bugle call at seven on Saturday mornings.)

In the first few hours of my arrival at Carolina a few "wise ones" gave me the word on the drinking rule. They informed me that coeds could not drink in the fraternity houses because the Merchants Association of Chapel Hill applied so much pressure upon the administration that they were afraid to abolish the rule. The Merchants Association didn't want drinking in the fraternity houses because it would take business away from them.

I also understood that this association rose up in wrath at the proposition of free movies for the student body sponsored by Graham Memorial. Some say this group of business men even set the time of our exams.

The authority and validity of these gems of information I can not vouch for. They do seem to hold some weight with a good portion of students on our campus though.

And now in the final hours of my year at Carolina I face more rumors about the Merchants Association. These come at me from all sides and touch the problem most dear to my heart—Saturday classes. I have been led to believe that the Merchants Association has reared its ugly head again and is in the same vein, applying pressure upon the administration to push through Saturday classes in order to keep students here on weekends.

It seems rather unlikely to me that such a group should wield so much influence and power over our activities. One could hardly imagine the town of New Haven, dictating to Yale when and how they should run their affairs so why should shopkeepers of Chapel Hill exert such power? If they do, the weakness in our administration should be taken care of—if not, now is the opportunity for them to prove themselves innocent. And if innocent are the Merchants, why are Saturday classes being contemplated?

As the "mass exodus" theory has been tackled and refuted I hope the Daily Tar Heel will try to answer this theory and clear up the matter.

Barbara Reed

Secretary of the Merchants' Association, Mildred Cartee, says: "At no time during my three and a half years with the Merchants' Association has the issue of Saturday classes been discussed. The power of the Association appears to be exaggerated out of all proportions by certain members of the student body. Actually, the Merchants' Association has very little power. We are only interested in merchant's affairs and ethical business practices. The accusations levelled at the Merchants' Association in the above letter are eminently and amusingly divorced from reality."—Editor.

Dear Miss and/or Mr. B. B.:

May I take exception to your editorial and/or sentiment that students participating in the dorm and/or sorority raid should bow their heads and/or chastise themselves.

The exhibition was probably one of the few extra-curricula and/or volitional activities that many have participated in. It is good and/or encouraging to see the protoplasm at least quiver. It is better to do something that is misdirected and/or superfluous than nothing at all. Perhaps there is hope that the mass, once in motion, might move in the right direction in the confusion and/or novelty.

Name Withheld by Request

## Pre-Flight Anniversary Is Tomorrow

The 10th anniversary of the commissioning of the Pre-Flight School at the University will be celebrated tomorrow and continue through noon Saturday.

Dr. Oliver K. Cornwell, chairman of the Department of Physical Education and Athletics, is in charge of the program. Assisting Dr. Cornwell is Commodore O. O. (Scrappy) Kessing who was the first commanding officer of the school.

Activities will include an informal reception tomorrow afternoon at the Country Club; a dinner at 7:30 at the Carolina Inn, a memorial service at 11 a. m. Saturday at Kessing outdoor pool and a luncheon in the Morehead Building at 12:30 Saturday.

by Joe Raff

## Riff . . . By Raff

It was after midnight and a group of Carolina students were returning to Chapel Hill from Durham. It had been misty all week and aside from not having good visibility for driving the roads were damp and slippery. The boys were singing and jovial coming into town, but this was soon to be changed.

From another part of Chapel Hill somewhere near the gym another bunch of boys was heading toward town to get a bite to eat. They were coming down Raleigh Street at a faster than usual rate because it was late and since there were no cars about, they felt they had somewhat of a right-away.

The boys coming in from Durham along Franklin Street saw the amber light flick on and off. The light was not red so the driver thought he could take preference over cars coming along Raleigh Street. This, however, was also the case with the boys driving down Raleigh Street as the flicker light was amber for them too. It is needless to say what the rest of the story could have been—dark night, poor visibility, and slippery roads.

This narrative did not take place, but what is to keep it from taking place soon to you or to some of your friends? The light at the corner of Franklin and Raleigh is not the only one in town which flickers amber on all four sides. The light at the corner of Cameron Avenue and Raleigh Street is the same way.

It always seems like there has to first be an accident before the city engineers put their heads together and make a few life saving improvements in the lay out of a town. I have therefore provided that primary necessity for action and I hope that their response is immediate. Perhaps there are other lights in town which are the flickering "Forever Amber" type. I have only seen the ones in the Raleigh Street district. If there are others they certainly need correction.

## Motorist's Prayer

Grant me a steady hand and watchful eye  
That no man will be hurt when I pass by.  
Give me a sturdy will while driving,  
To refrain from alcohol of any kind  
Which will distort my vision and befog my mind.  
Thou gave us life and I pray no act of mine  
Will take away or mar that gift of Thine.  
Shelter those, Dear Lord, who bear me company  
From the evils of fire and all calamity.  
Teach me to use my car for others' need  
Nor miss through love of speed the beauties of The world—  
That thus I may with joy and courtesy go on my way.—Lt. Commander A. E. Mennell, U.S.N.

by John Clews

## I Knew Bill Oatis

In yesterday's installment Clews told how Oatis was denounced by the Czech communists for "intimidating progressive Americans" and was expelled from the International Student Congress.

I returned to England after the Congress and the next thing I saw was Bill Oatis had not had his credentials renewed by the Czechs when they were due in September. In January, 1951, I was in Prague again.

During that period Oatis had lived in Prague as a private citizen, although he knew he was no longer *persona grata* with the authorities. In January, just before I arrived, his credentials were mysteriously renewed.

I was there again the following April and happened to bump into Bill. By a coincidence I found we were both on the same floor of the Ambassadors Hotel

on the Vaclavske Namesti (Wenceslaus Square.)

This was on the evening of Wednesday, April 18. The follow-up visit from certain gentlemen and that night marked his move to lowering Monday Bill received a the somewhat less sumptuous confines of the Pankrac prison.

The rest is history. But why did Oatis not leave Czechoslovakia back in September? (When it became obvious the Czech authorities were deliberately maneuvering to trap him in a "squeeze play.") Why didn't he take notice of the red light when it was blinding everyone else? If he had done this, then there would probably have never been an Oatis Trial.

The remainder of this series by John Clews, personal friend and associate of Bill Oatis, will not arrive from London in time for spring publication. Future installments will be made available to the Associated Press and possibly recapitulated next fall.

W. M. Peterson

## The Tempest

Shakespeare's *The Tempest* was given the first of three scheduled performances by the Carolina Playmakers on Friday evening in the Forest Theater. The production is colorful and imaginative as well as unified and coherent. The atmosphere created by the play is, consequently, vivid, fanciful and pervasive.

An impressionistic production sacrifices variety for conformity and congruity of effect. Unity of color, sound and movement are achieved in *The Tempest* only by endangering the structure, which is compounded of contrasts, of idyllic romance, of realistic and comic intrigue.

The beauty and magic of the Prospero - Miranda - Ferdinand scenes certainly do determine the complexion of the piece, but Prospero's humanity finally prevails over his magic. His renunciation of his art is wisely recognized by transferring to the end of the play the speech beginning "Our revels now are ended."

The plotting of Sebastian and Antonio is, perhaps, the most ineffective element in the Playmakers' performance. The low comedy scenes are amusing, but it is somewhat disturbing to watch a Caliban converted into a kind of reptilian counterpart of Ariel. He may be fishlike, in bad odor, but he also wears a "gaberdine" under which Trinculo may creep, a costume essential to the four-legged monster scene. Edgar Daniels' costume and movement made Caliban a nervous version of the frog footman in *Through the Looking Glass*.

John Miller plays Prospero with dignity and careful projection, seldom succumbing to the temptation to declaim his magnificent speeches. Miranda is beautifully realized, by Saravette Trotter, who delivers all her lines with clear understanding. Virginia Young is enchanting and sprightly as Ariel; one would perhaps wish to hear the famous lyrics sung rather than recited, but consistency is gained by using a musical background

entirely in one style.

The masque scene is remarkably successful. It is a set piece, resembling both Jonson's masques and Spenser's eclogues, and is decorative but irrelevant by modern standards. Louisa Cartledge, Jean Hillman and Janet Green speak and dance it with exceptional poise and grace.

Robert Thomas and Lloyd Borstelmann are lustily comic as Trinculo and Stephano; John Bonitz makes Ferdinand a handsome consort to Miranda. Both the costumes & sets contribute handsomely total effect of the play, which is glittering, elegant and stately.

## Off Campus

Hal Boyle, New York correspondent for the Associated Press thinks the "nation-wide rash of raids by college boys on coed dormitories strikes a cheerful zany note in a mad and angry world."

Boyle says "college boys have to erupt sometimes" and "... it might lighten up the international tension if world leaders and diplomats would quit making faces back and forth and join in a bit of innocent skylarking."

## University Women Will Meet Today

The Chapel Hill branch of the American Association of University Women will hold its annual meeting at 5:30 p.m. today at the home of Mrs. Bruce Stroud.

All members are requested to notify Mrs. Gerald R. McCarthy, 604 Coolidge street, whether or not they will attend.

Delegates to the regional meeting in Washington, June 12-14, will be appointed. Mrs. Harry Truman will entertain the delegations and the State Department will hold a special session for international relations chairmen of the various chapters. Dr. Guion Johnson of Chapel Hill, first vice-president of the state association, will represent the local branch.