The Madding Crowd Not To Far From He

THERE SEEMS to have been

CAROLINA FRONT.

William T. Polk

William T. Polk, whose death came Sunday in Washington, D. C., where he was attending a conference of the National Editorial Writers Association, was editor of the Tar Heel in its youth.

His tenure came in an early, but unquestionably golden, age. Within a few years before and after World War I, Polk, Thomas Wolfe and Jonathan Daniels, now editor of the Raleigh News and Observer, sat in the editor's chair. That was in the days when the editor often wrote the whole newspaper himself, and we recall that in one of our last conversations with Mr. Polk, he told us about his troubles with a picayunish shop-man who periodically tore the whole paper up and started again, just before press time.

As attorney, short-story writer and essayist, but particularly as a witty, erudite, searching editorial writer for The Greensboro Daily News (which he served as Associate Editor for a decade and a half), his name will not soon be lost to memory.

The thing we liked most about Mr. Polk was his fortunate, enlightening combination of journalism and scholarship. He knew classics, literature, history, and the lore of the South, which he dearly loved, and his native state, which he loved even more. He never saw passing events superficially; everything current was, for him, part of a continuum of history and the arts; and the fear (possessed by too many journalists, it seems to us) of appearing over-erudite never bothered him. If he wanted to quote from Buddha or Lucretius he quoted; and the fine thing about it was that the quotation was never strained or far-fetched.

He was never able to get far away from his love and understanding of the classics. At our last visit in his office he had been thumbing through a worn copy of Thucydides. Senator Knowland's gyrations over the Formosa issue were disturbing him; like others, he say a portentous historical parallel between Knowland and the Greek, Alcibiades, who finally led the Athenians to ruin in the ball diamonds, track field and Peloponnesian War.

Mr. Polk liked to quote the great words; but seldom did those great words have anything more pertinent than his own to add to a situation. He gained nationwide attention as a scholar and critic of the South, particularly of the Old South in conflict or complement with the New. His latest, and since 1954 perhaps his biggest, critorial project had been the Supreme Court Decision on public school education. He wrote soundly and lucidly, as always, on that crisis; and it was not necessary always to agree with what he said to know that he made a staggering contribution to the moderate cause in the great debate.

North Carolina has reason to be proud of her newspapers - and particularly of the enlightened and progressive attitudes which most of their editorial pages reflect. They are worthy mirrors of the best that is in her and hoped for her; and Mr. Polk's contribution to them was not a small one.

Athletics & Integrity

College athletics have not been overemphasized—but rather overrun by catering to spectators.

That's the basic theme developed by Yale University President Whitney Griswold in the Sports Illustrated article reprinted in the adjoining columns. And, it so happens, this is precisely what The Daily Tar Heel has been pointing out about the Carolina big-time athletic scene.

As the Yale President puts it: "To label it 'overemphasis' barely scratches 'its surface. Undue deference to spectators has led the colleges to default to a certain extent their professional competence, to forfeit a measure of their proper authority over their own affairs. This was tantamount to a surrender of academic freedom on the athletic field while this was being defended in the class-

Such a situation has developed here at the University, and if we are to maintain our academic integrity, it must cease.

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Time For Collegiate Athletics To Return To Amateur Standing

Whitney Griswold Sports Illustrated

(Yale University President Whitney Griswold is one of the nation's leading educators. In this article, reprinted in part from Sports Illustrated with permission, Griswold cites the hard facts about college athletics todaythat they have been professionalized by spectator pressure. After clearly drawing this accurate picture of the college athletic scene, Griswold offers a solution parted its object lessions and its to the problem.

(The Daily Tar Heel feels that the Yale President has an answer to this University's big-time athletic problem. And that is why we present this timely article.-Edi-

In some such fashion the ques-

tion of relationship between athletics and education enters the lives of most American university and college presidents. How did it gain such proportions as it has? How did a handful of liberal arts colleges, during the very time they were growing into universities and assuming the intellectual and moral responsibilities of that status become involved in an intercollegiate enterprise that today owns and manages some 100 major football stadiums, many of which would make their classical prototype, the Roman Colosseum, look like a teacup, with a total season's paid attendance of 15 million and aggregate receipts of over \$40 million-not to mention basketball arenas with an attendance of 8 million and baserowing facilities in proportion? College football attendance is roughly equal to major league baseball's, and exceeds professional football's by five times. How did all this start? What is it doing to our colleges and universities and what can they do

It started in the love of sport, which anthropology has traced to nearly every people and country in the world, and archaeologists have pushed far back into the pre-Christian era. As modern team sports developed in colleges of the undergraduates, which still occasionally spill over in campus riots, were channeled into organized athletics. English and American colleges, with their common attachment to the classics of ancient Greece, found in these specific sanction for physical training as part of the education process. The very fact that the new sports were organized



put a premium on organization to support them; and for this the colleges, with their highly organized and instinctively competitive societies of young men in the prime of athletic age, were made to order. Living together as well as studying together provided a well-nigh perfect environment for the growth of organized athletics as the monasteries once had done for religious medita-

... Football even more than baseball or rowing or other sports was a college original, and remains so notwithstanding the recent advent of the professional game. The colleges defined its rules, molded it into its modern form and gave it its character. More accurately, it was not the colleges that did these things, it was their undergraduates, acting largely upon their own initiative as the record shows, with litttle awareness, much less control, on the part of their academic officers. In this fashion by the turn of the century organized athletics had become a fixture in American higher education.

WHAT RESULTS? sults? Organized athletics gave

and exciting, enjoyable and much more healthful alternative to previous forms of student recreation. They released new energies, infused undergraduate life with new unity and zealwhich, if not prima facie assets to higher education, certainly strengthened the foundations of the colleges as residential communities. As long as organized athletics remained within the bounds of amateurism they imvalues to the whole community. In these ways they served the general interests of the colleges, educational as well as social. They have become so much a part of college life that it is hard to conceive of that life without

what might take their place. Wherein lies the evil? For a time some of it stemmed from playing rules, particularly those of football (which once resembled legalized mayhem); but these have been so much improved as virtually to eliminate this source of trouble. The real evil, the one that has been but scotched not yet killed, lay not in the actual playing or organized athletic sports but in the managing of them.

them, even harder to imagine

Managing them was a responsibility that reached out much more widely into other areas than drafting and supervising their playing rules did. Managing them meant, or soon came to mean, catering to spectators as well as to participants. It meant not merely providing players with proper instruction and equipment, scheduling trips and keeping the books on playing expenses, but calculating grand strategy, staging and producing contests that rapily asumed the character (and dimensions) of public spectacles, scouting, recruiting and fielding players equal to these public responsibilities-and at the same time ensuring that the academic life of each particular institution continued to prosper. The sheer weight of this problem fell heavily upon a group of institutions inexperienced in such matters and on the whole ill-equipped to deal with them. Most colleges and universities were conscientiously trying to improve their academic standards and many were succeeding in that effort. But as the standards rose, so did the demand for athletic victories and championships, and the two were not always consistent. It was as though the major league baseball teams were suddenly put under levy to win not only the pennants but also Rhodes Scholarships and Nobel Prizes.

To the solution of the problem, more over, organized athletics brought not cool heads and collected thoughts but the passions of tribal warfare. These were normal enough to the extent that they reflected the competitive spirit of players and their undergraduate supporters. But there ws something that gave them an abnormal force. This was the growing interest of spectators and the tendency of the colleges to cater to and commercialize that interest. To the colleges this meant a new source of revenue as well as (they hoped) a new focus of alumni loyalty and public support. To the spectators it meant excitement, thrills, broken records and victories.

THE PRESSURE MOUNTS

The bargain seemed like a natural one at the time it was struck. mutually profitable and beneficial. Yet it soon imposed on the colleges hidden costs and unforeseen consequences. To keep up revenue and, presumably, alumni loyalty, winning teams were necessary; to be sure of winning teams competent players had to be recruited. If such players required financial inducements, the inducements had to provided. If academic or amateur standards stood in the way, standards had to be com-

of revenue-producing sports were exploited, other sports, which meant virtually all save basketball, were budgeted against football. Each budgetary item thus added increased the pressure on coaches, players, athletic directions, presidents and governing boards to maintain the winning teams that ensured the gate receipts. As the game grew more specialized and the market for players more competitive, the col-What shall we say of the re- leges and universities found themselves in a managerial com-

the colleges a new lease on life, petition as intensive as their rivalry on the field and differing from professional basebll only in its pretensions of amateurism Competitive methods varied from outright awards of room, board, tuition and other prerequisites, such as automobiles and spending allowances, to disguised subsidies by alumni; from artificial majors in physical education and even false enrollments in college to individual favors and dispensations by boards of admission. and eligibility and scholarship

> This, I think, is the real evil organized athletics inflicted upon our colleges and universities. To label it "over-emphasis" barely scratches its surface. Undue deference to spectators has led the colleges to default to a certain extent on their professional competence, to forfeit a measure of their proper authority over their own affairs. This was tantamount to a surrender of academic freedom on the athletic field while this was being defended in the classroom. For some this caused no more than a time-consuming distraction. For others it created a satellite that became a sun. .

A WATERSHED WHERE?

From the standpoint of education the fact had logical consequences. The main purpose of an



educational institution is education. The main purposes of organized athletics are recreation and exercise. Both of these are essential to good work in education as in every other calling. Neither is a substitute for such work, much less its equal or its master. This suggests a line of demarcation, a watershed, on one side of which organized athletics serve the cause of education while on the other they hurt it; and it further suggests that it is the duty of each educational institution to draw that line and defend it. This, after all, is asking no more of educational institutions than the Pure Food and Drug Act requires of the manufacturers of those products or, for that matter than a major league manager might ask of his players if they keep skipping bat-

From the standpoint of athletics as well as education the fact has logical consequences. The aspiration of most American colleges has been to achieve the standing if not the shape and size of universities, and the aspiration of most American universities has been to do full justice to that status. In its original and proper meaning the word university signifies standardsthe highest standards of integrity and quality pertaining to their activities anywhere in society. Any trifling with those standards. however slight or for whatever expedient reason, is a contradiction in terms.

ting practice to study history.

Since these standards can apply to everything a university does, they apply to athletics as well as to education. The application of the standards to college and university athletics was twofold. In the first place, they were to be amateur athletics, a principle early laid down by the colleges and periodically reaffirmed by their presidents, governing Bit by bit, as the possibilities boards, athletic directors, coaches and team captains, as well as by their various rules committees and intercollegiate associations. The principle was first and last a players' concept. It said nothing about the entertainment of spectators or the raising of college revenue, and it expressly forbade participation for financial or other material remuneration.

The second standard is succinctly stated in the preamble to the revised Ivy Group Agreement of 1954 for organized athletic

In the total life of the cmpus

emphasis upon intercollegiate competition must be kept in harmony with the essential educational purposes of the institution.

This was no more than the application to intercollegiate competition of the line of demarcation or watershed that the colleges had adopted for all athletics.. It is worth noticing how congenial the first principle, i.e., the amateur, is to the second-so congenial as to suggest that if it were lived up to 100%, the seccond would be superfluous. For as we have seen, it was precisely in the terms and values of amateurism that organized athletics discovered their most congenial relationship and made their most direct and constructive contributions to "the essential educational purposes in the institution." In more ways than one the amateur principle in athletics was the corollary to liberal education in the classroom. These principles were not

foisted upon our colleges and universities. They grew out of their intrinsic character. Through them the colleges, in addition to devising and refining the techniques of so many of our athletic sports, contributed largely to their moral value to us as a nation. Moreover, the collegiate influence transcended its own sphere to make itself strongly felt through its code of sportsmanship in professional athletics. These, too, have a stake in its survival. When a professional team overcomes a handicap or comes from behind to win against seemingly impossible odds, sportswriters often call it "a Frank Merriwell finish" or "the old college try."

This is more than sentimental -or satiric-metaphor. It is professionalism at its best. earning its highest professional praise in the language and image of amateurism. The colleges have been seduced away from these principles by spectators who as parents and citizens are their ultimate beneficiaries.

Do I exaggerate the evil? I do not think so. Standards that should be pure have been compromised and corrupted, and this is common knowledge among our college students and their faculties. Deliberate departures from principle of this sort cannot fail to damage the reputation of an institution consecrated to truth and excellence by its very charter. Upholding one ideal of truth as applied to education and another as applied to athletics has already caused woeful moral and intellectual confusion in the minds of young men who found themselves subjected to such double standards, not to mention cynicism and disgust in the



minds and hearts of their fellow students. This is meager fare from higher education, scarce worth its salt on any pretext. It is hardly consistant with the mottoes of light and truth emblazoned in the arms of our colleges. It is disillusioning and damaging to their good name and to the integrity of their profes-

Are these defects not mitigated by the educational redemption of young men who would not otherwise have come to college? It is possible in individual cases. Yet these can be matched by wholesale departures from college upon the close of their last football season by young men who had absorbed so little of the college's essential purposes and held its educational opportunities in such low esteem that they did not care to complete their courses and graduate; and by other dases. probably more numerous, of bizarre studies that enabled their pursuers to qualify for football or basketball but are slim collateral for claims of educational

But could the colleges and universities afford to take the loss, the diminution of gate receipts that it is assumed would follow their universal adoption and enforcement of the amateur principle? I am not so sure that their student bodies could not produce teams of sufficient caliber, and that within their various leagues and conferences those teams could not engage in sufficiently keen and exciting competition to retain the interest of most of their present spectators. Teams of roughly equal size and strength playing according to the same amateur rules have repeatedly demonstrated their ability to thrill spectators, making up in drama all that they lack in technical finesse.

worst and a major refinancing of college athletics became necessary? I doubt that the cost would exceed or even equal the price the colleges ar now paying in the corruption of amateur and educational standards and the harm this is doing to both. Why, in any case, should football be taxed with the support of nearly all the other sports? Charging everything to football puts an egregiously unfair pressure upon that game to do just as it has done, to go professional in disguise: and whose fault was this, football's or the The whole concept of farming

athletics out to pay for them-

But suppose worse came to

selves is difficult to reconcile with the meaning and principles of a university. According to these, as we have seen, a single set of standards applied not only to education but to everything clean shirts from the laundry lary is that athletics and education belong on the same budget and under the same administrative direction; and the stronger the educational claims put forward by athletics, the greater the force of this corollary. The total annual expenditures of all American institutions of higher education is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$2.5 billion. Their total gross receipts from football, with a paid attendance of 15 million at an average charge of from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per ticket would be between \$37 million and \$45 million. Taking the larger figure for the sake of argument, it represents just about 2% of the income available for these expenditures-not, I should think, a sum so great that it could not be rebudgeted and administered in accordance with these principles.

What prospects are there that the step will be taken? The answer is beyond my province. I merely wish to record my belief that it can be done. For this belief I have two basic reasons. The first is that there is nothing inherent in organized athletics themselves to prevent it. I have said they brought the colleges some evil and I have identified the worst of that evil as the separation of academic responsibility under spectator pressure. But it was the spectators who drove the wedge, not the athletics. And the spectators are we ourselves, as a nation, as college alumni and as sports lovers. What we have done we can undo. The second reason for my faith

is that I happen to belong to a group of colleges among which these things are happening. These are not unrepresentative institutions. Most of them have run the whole gamut of experience recorded in these pages. All, including my own, have plenty of unfinished business on their hands that must take precedence over any claims to perfection. Yet all have set their course in this direction, as charted in the Ivy Group Agreement. I can think of no better fate for amateur athletics and higher education than that the members of the Ivy Group live up to those provisions and prove by so doing their universal practicability. To assist them in this they may count on strong allies from education. They will draw inner strength from thriving intramural programs, and their task will be lightened by the continued progress of professional athletics. But their strongest ally now as always will be the courage of their own con-

sometime over the weekend. A rume has been flying indiscriminately are ments, and since we are a gullible believe it. THE FIRST indication of an ima game we noticed was the sudden to cars. Everywhere we turned, someone figure out what to do with a car or know, ourself included as a matter of desperation, considering hanging the. on a wall and leaving it there. Anyway, there were a lot of care going at top speed where there ware

at top speed. Furthermore, everyone the gills and prancing around bright tailed. They pranced up and down R stared in the shop windows, crame rants to the leaking point, crowded the sidewalk, and bought. My God bo We overheard one middle-aged moth to an equally middle-aged father is little Olde World shop the sweeten he sure that ash tray he bought won the living room drapes but wasn't in what time did he say the game star Johnny said to meet him at his dorne was his dormitory anyway?

ELSEWHERE ON campus the infi mad swirling pace. Down by the ne Government building the cars were both sides of both intersecting street Scouts, carloads of parents, carloads their pre-college children, carloads children without their parents, a ca gas, a carload of souvenirs to be did ious selling points, six people inch eating lunch off the hood of a conver pel including two under-twelves eat of the trunk of a sedan. And the police. Do lawd, chile,

absolutely squirming with the consta corner of Cameron Avenue and Co aione there were four of the blight their white gloves and showing off. I went there was a state policeman corner. We went to Glen Lennox for a university did, including ath- state policemen on the road to Glan letics. The administrative corol- Chapel Hill police were out in force, or and looking as if they were earning knew it. Even the Orange County S had the ir uniforms on. This is som

> LATER IN the evening, the st fill up again. Immediately after the g everyone took his car out on the turned off the motor and sat still unt As it grew darker Chapel Hill night sparkle somewhat. The bistros filled ed; the wine flowed, the cash flower House filled as fast as it emplied same as saying that in order to get one practically had to hack up a door and nail together a stool on the spo

The fraternities bounced up and and down and (hic) up and thud. big fraternity court at one of the in hours through which it staggered du of the evening, and heard the following held magna voce between two rather tlemen who had nothing between the

ternal brotherhood and Columbia Str "I haven't got anything to drink!

"What?" "I haven't got anything else to drint "Oh, no!"

One Round To Stevenson

A political discussion of the farm being inevitable, we wish we could be more speeches like Adlai E. Stevenso sin, and fewer statements like Sect

Former Gov. Stevenson, addressing sin state Democratic convention er ministration's farm policy of flexible It is not working, he said, and should He then warned the Democrats of I we will advocate only the things vocated before, such as 90 per ports." He urged them: "Let us not we cannot perform." He called for an various ways of supplementing procluding production payments or dir

This was not a fire-eating poli was moderate, temperate and Stevenson tried to grapple with the instead of merely exploiting it. For retary Benson's reply, issued through lican National Committee, was espec-

Secretary Benson charged that has "flatly" rejected flexible price true-and has called for re-exam discredited Brannan plan with its

Is "Brannan plan," then, to be smear word? Is it impossible for to discuss rationally why it is not of certain farm products to pay a d the grower than to pay an indirect price supports which allow surpluses in Government hands?

Why is Mr. Benson applying this to wool, if it is so evil? Why does it would involve more "strangling" trols than do price supports?

Former Gov. Stevenson, in ou off far ahead in this exchange once again his unique talent discussion above the plane of torc hope he can prod both the Republi some of his Democratic colleagues in on the farm issue St. Louis Post Dur