

General College Adviser System Needs Revamping

It only takes a little arithmetic to uphold a statement by General College Dean Cecil Johnson Monday night that advisers in General College are handicapped by the large number of students with whom they deal.

Speaking at a Student Party meeting, the Dean pointed out that 12 advisers and the Dean of the General College now work with some 2,400 students during time out of the class room. For that service each adviser receives an \$800 stipend.

What this adds up to is an average of around 187 students per adviser, or more than nine times the number per adviser which was asked here several years ago. The results of the test for 20 students per adviser were, however, "quite discouraging," Dean Johnson said.

Perhaps 20 students per adviser is an undesirable number for a satisfactory adviser system at the University. Nevertheless, it appears evident that to thrust over 180 students upon each adviser is also undesirable—not only for the adviser but primarily for the student's sake.

Each adviser spends from two hours a day to 10 hours a week, on the average, in performance of his extra job. That adds up to about

160 hours a semester, or little less than one hour per student per semester under the current system.

Obviously, that's not much time for counselling when figured on an individual basis. It seems doubtful that any close relation — one which would be an incentive to the student through a close association with his adviser—could develop under these circumstances.

These overburdening conditions could go a long way toward support of a dormitory counselling system conceived by Student Body President Sonny Evans as a boost to the education process at the University.

Thus, not only would demands of General College advisers be relaxed, but the plan also would contribute to the concept of residence halls' playing a significant role out of the class room, other than a place to sleep and dress, by becoming the centers of study which they should be.

Whatever is done at the University, it is obvious that some steps must soon be taken to assure that the potential of every student is more fully realized. That this is not being done today is one of the major problems of the education system.

Laws Should Be Rewritten If Doerfer Testimony True

If FCC Chairman John C. Doerfer has the right, as he says, to collect from government and private enterprises for the same expenses, then it's high time the laws be rewritten to read otherwise.

Testifying before a House subcommittee, the Eisenhower Republican acknowledged private groups in the radio and television broadcasting industry picked up the check for a Western trip in 1954 for which Doerfer also charged the government.

"But," the story read, "he claimed he had a right under law to do so."

Perhaps, under law, Doerfer does have the right to collect from private sources and the federal government at the same time for the same expenses. But the American public cannot be blinded into endorsing such practices.

Nor do we go along with Doerfer's comments when Subcommittee counsel Bernard Schwartz asked the FCC chairman whether the law allowed him (Doerfer) to make a profit on a speech made at government expense.

"That's a very nasty way of putting it," Doerfer said, claiming that \$500 paid to him by the National Association of Broadcasters was an "honorarium" — or fee — for making the speech.

Well, we believe that Subcommittee hearings have uncovered a "very nasty way" of behaving on the part of the top man on the Federal Communications Commission. Put it like you want to, it's hot complementary in the end.

Apparently, Doerfer himself is taking stock of his behavior on the FCC since his appointment by President Eisenhower. It hardly seems coincidental that he reim-

bursed two weeks ago an Oklahoma television station for plane fare for which the federal government was also charged.

But, then, perhaps he just now remembered to reimburse the Oklahoma firm — days before House Subcommittee hearings were scheduled to open in Washington.

West's Challenge Is Foolish Again

Melvin West, the Jacksonville, N. C. disc jockey who got lost at sea last fall on a motor boat trip to Bermuda, is back at it again.

This time, the papers say, West has been gone five days in the "Empress of North Carolina" without word from his 16-foot boat. He had estimated the 620-mile sea trip would take him 12 days to complete.

According to news accounts, West undertook the trip to prove that motorboating had "come of age."

Well, you'd think that a man who cost the taxpayers thousands of dollars by his first futile attempt, besides time and effort by the Coast Guard spent at sea, would himself have "come of age" to refrain from such ridiculous challenges of the ocean.

Football, too, has come of age as a modern sport, but it has certain places and seasons to limit its play. And so with ice skating; but no fool would attempt to skate across Lake Michigan in the summer time.

Residences Need New Telephones

Now that the University-owned Chapel Hill Telephone Company is expanding its physical facilities on Rosemary Street, maybe funds also could be supplied to replace seemingly ancient telephones in local residence halls, fraternity and sorority houses.

Most of the telephones work all the time. But we have known cases where money dropped in a phone cash box was not heard by the operator, producing over-the-telephone arguments before a long distance conversation can begin.

Not only are mechanical disorders a bother to the subscriber, but they also bring about embarrassment for the Carolina gentleman who calls out from a date—when the operator keeps asking where his money is!

Such conditions should be corrected forthwith.

Talking Liquor Stores Would Tell Sad Story

Editor:

Thirty years ago, in 1927, I graduated from the University of North Carolina. I have my letter as cheer leader, my letter as basketball manager, and I have a Glee Club key. They called me Boo Loo. I don't know whether you have such a club there now.

I am a Methodist minister and recently I sent the enclosed tract to a few of the liquor stores and the enclosed came back unsigned. Knowing the Tar Heel is a fair and objective newspaper, I am sending this tract on to you and ask you to put it before the student body in print.

After you have experienced 30 years of dealing with your own classmates and people you will find that many go down under the pull of self indulgence. Many of my classmates have fallen by the wayside because of drink.

I take my stand with what I said in the enclosed folder and we will let time decide who is the Boo Loo, me a total abstainer and a fighter of liquor, or the alcoholic who becomes his own victim and becomes one of the four million to be pitted in the United States. I send this at the request of an unsigned request.

Robert M. Hardee, Pastor
First Methodist Church
Troutman, N. C.

The 'tract':

"If a liquor store could speak, I wonder what it would say. If the store spoke the truth, it would say 'I am a North Carolina liquor store. I was brought into existence because people became mightily concerned over the revenue I would produce. They forgot that I produce alcoholics. An alcoholic is my finished product. He has the highest degree that my state institution can give him. I am a part of a legislative program of the state; therefore, every citizen in North Carolina has a part in my purposes and functions.

"I am considered popular. I am visited by all classes of people, especially those who should be spending their money on milk, food, and clothing for their children. I am the enemy for soft drinks for claim is that I have more kick.

"When people drink my products, they get foolish. They get mad. They get silly. They want to fight. They get careless and I am responsible for more crime than anything else.

"I appeal to gentlemen of distinction by my false advertising. I wreck homes. I am the cause of divorces. Preachers fight me but I expect that.

"I make all types of promises that are misleading. I was Christmas decoration during the Christmas season. I have never been able to see my connection between real Christmas cheer and the headaches that I produce.

"Most of my customers, the ones who have patronized me the longest, have ended up in hospitals, in automobile wrecks, in the jail, or on the road. I will ruin

"I'll Let You Know What You Ought To Look Into"



Is Mandatory Attendance Good?

(Following is a copy of a letter addressed to the President, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.)

Dear Sir:

With some surprise I read recent newspaper articles about a scandal involving class attendance permits for absence at the university. I am less surprised about the abuse of permits than about mandatory attendance in which a student is "automatically" dropped when he has three unexcused absences.

Is mandatory class attendance good?

Some universities and colleges of my acquaintances have found that the PASSING student himself is an excellent judge of whether he can make more valuable use of his time in LEARNING the required information by (1) studying in an informal seminar with fellow students (2) library research (3) obtaining tutoring from advanced student or instructor, or a practitioner of the trade or science being taught (example: now in a college physics course, I have obtained tutoring from a master's graduate in engineering from N. C. State College (so he says) who is a practicing mechanical engineer.) (4) working assigned problems and preparing required reports (5) or in case the student understands the topic of the day's lesson thoroughly, he goes ahead or does additional work.

You will notice none of these procedures covers the student who has to be MADE TO ATTEND CLASS. I am not too much worried about him, and I am wondering why anyone else should be? If we must wipe his nose for him, then make class attendance mandatory in any course for which the student has a C average or less during that term.

I am surprised to hear of - and UNC - mandatory class attendance and irresponsibility to students to attend to business on their own initiative.

If you must change by degrees rather than outright; then give to honor students the option of using their own judgment, with regard to class attendance. You may be sure they will be in class if that is the most profitable course in each instance.

Thanks for your consideration of these points.

A second point: I am appalled by the lack of CLASSROOM SUPERVISION over instructors at the college level (certainly was not true in grade school and high school I attended, where classes were occasionally monitored by supervisors), and the LACK FOR

FORMAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE and education courses including practice teaching, in many of our college instructors. THEY WOULD NOT BE QUALIFIED TO TEACH IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Why should this be so? Having all kinds of degrees cannot make a teacher of a non-teacher. If an instructor at the university has not had teaching background and formal education sufficient to deserve a public school teacher's certificate, let's make it part of his training at the university to get a teacher's certificate.

I have had some extremely bad instructors in college, the like of which I never recognized in public schools. I feel that the hiring of scholars who are NOT teachers at all, is a national disgrace and a tremendous waste and imposition upon the students.

And then, not to have supervision over these instructors in their classroom presentation—for their supervisors not to enter the classroom once over a period of years, is another disgrace. How can you call that "supervision?"

A basic principle of management being that the supervisor knows the performance of the subordinate, and that he be active in improving performance, conditions, and so on; don't we have a wonderful opportunity for real progress?

Ronald Ennis Ware
Durham, N. C.

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LETTERS TO EDITOR

Is UNC's Leadership In Education Waning?

To the editor:

Editorials in three North Carolina Dailies raise a timely question: Is the university maintaining the leadership in education now that it exerted in the 30s and 40s?

Well, there has certainly been plenty of money spent at the university since I first came here in 1911 or 1912. The transformation at Smith Dormitory is typical of what has taken place on the whole campus. Smith dormitory then, save for crude beds, dressers and chairs, was bare as a stable. The same went for Old East, where I also stayed. Now, the new dormitories, with their beautiful living rooms, attractively furnished bedrooms, tile bathrooms and showers, make one rejoice at the transformation that has taken place. It is all to the good that our girls can come to UNC and live in esthetically pleasing surroundings. The seemingly unending painting and remodeling that goes on in all the buildings—dormitories, class rooms, administration buildings—is very impressive. Is there any real reason why we should have to live or work in dirty, unattractive surroundings? There is always a crew of men in evidence whenever you walk through the campus, raking, scraping, planting and fertilizing, to keep the campus something you love and are proud to return to.

What about food? When I first came to Chapel Hill we ate at Swain Hall, more aptly termed Swine Hall by those unfortunate enough to have to eat there. It is a far cry from Swain Hall to Lenoir Hall today where I eat my lunch. Suffice it to say that the food at Lenoir Hall compares very favorably with the food at the commercial cafeterias and restaurants in North Carolina. And the price is most reasonable.

Teaching: How does the university compare academically with the 1910 to 1930 period?

Of course I can speak from my own very limited experience. At one time I sat in on Dr. Howard W. Odum's class; at another, on Dr. Horace Williams class, both outstanding men in their field. I remember Dr. Odum asked me in class one day if I were prejudiced. I answered almost indignantly that I was not. Then by a few adroit questions I realized that I was full of prejudices where the Negro was concerned. I may still cherish some of my prejudices, but thanks to Dr. Odum I am not very proud of them. I didn't sit under Dr. Williams long enough to become, like his distinguished pupil, Judge Winston, an accomplished writer after the age of sixty.

My art education had been neglected, so last June I enrolled in Dr. Sommer's class, 'The History of Art and Painting in the Western World,' followed by the 'Renaissance History in Italy,' a wonderful background for the art course. These two courses broadened my horizons and opened up new worlds to me.

Last Fall I decided, since I knew almost nothing about the history of my own state, to try to remedy that situation. Through the courtesy of Dr. Lefler I had the privilege of sitting in on his class in North Carolina history. I am perfectly astonished that the university of 7,000 students offers only one course in North Carolina history. This one professor was simply beaten down by an enormous class of 115 students. When I went back to the second semester and found a class of 125 students I gave up and quit. A class of this size is simply overpowering. There is no personal contact or communication between teacher and student, no time for questions, no time for discussion. It is an intolerable situation for the professor, and it is unfair to the students who have no where else to go.

This state of affairs leads one to ponder along with the Charlotte Observer, The News and Observer, and the Greensboro Daily News the question: Who makes the decisions and forms the policy at the university? No university is greater than its faculty. No faculty is strong that is worked to death by overloaded classes.

The university occupies a peculiar place in my affections. My grandfather graduated here in 1849. He was for many years a trustee of the University and a State Senator. In the latter capacity he voted for the reopening of the university after the Civil War. He was among those Senators who voted to give \$5,000 to the university when some of the Senators thought the State was too poor to give \$5,000 to the University. He also contributed to a \$20,000 fund for the University in days when money was scarce in North Carolina. My father attended the University. He was for many years a trustee, and a devoted and loyal son of Carolina. My brother graduated here in 1920, and my son in June, 1957.

This year of grace, 1958, North Carolina can afford a first class university. We cannot afford to require one teacher to do the work of three. Let us set on with the business of maintaining an adequate teaching staff to teach our boys and girls. We must not be satisfied with anything less than the best.

Mrs. Otelia C. Connor
Chapel Hill

RELAXATION

By R. P. LISTER
In The Atlantic

The moment that a man relaxes, Smoothing the furrows round his eyes, A hungry host of rates and taxes Lights on his shoulders with hoarse cries.

The grisly specter of inflation Beats at his head with loathsome wings; The voices of A Certain Nation Bellow uncomplimentary things.

Systems and creeds and dread diseases Wrinkle his nose with fresh disgust, And from reverberating breezes Trickle the radioactive dust.

Better grip what we lay a hand on, Stuff a stiff ramrod up our backs, Someone will steal the ground we stand on, If for a moment we relax.