


UNC's Co-Ed Problems: Part III



The Daily Tar Heel
71 Years of Editorial Freedom

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Sophomore Tests And The Human Element

The mechanized, standardized, automated, IBM age in which we live is often fascinating, but it is often bewildering as well. Occasionally, in the press for higher standards, success in the face of growing competition, or a "better way" of dealing with our problems, we tend to sacrifice the human element to the cause of the standard or the machine. A case in point is the recent treatment of several hundred UNC sophomores.

These numerous sophomores, apparently chosen by some "scientific sampling method" were informed a week or so ago that they would be required to take several tests, over a period of two evenings (May 5 and 6), in order to set up norms for College Board Tests that will be administered to transfer applicants in the future.

Now certainly we cannot quibble with the administration over the value of such participation. As the letter to the sophomores stated, "the number of students applying to the University after completing two years of college work elsewhere has been growing very rapidly and will soon be far greater than the number of such transfers (the University) can accept." This situation almost demands a standard test which can be administered to transfer applicants in much the same manner that College Board Tests are given to high school applicants. That a group of our own sophomores, who presumably have an educational level equivalent to that of the transfers, should be called in to help make the tests more effective also seems to be a most reasonable approach. Yet there are certain aspects of the situation which indicate that the human element may have been sorely neglected.

For example, it seems that someone made a rather poor choice of dates on which to administer the tests. May 5 and 6 are entirely too close to May 20, the date on which final exams begin, for most students. Granted, those students who took the tests were excused from quizzes given in their regular classes on the days immediately follow-

ing the tests. But even this is not enough. Two nights lost are two nights lost, especially during a week already filled with term papers, quizzes, lab assignments, and all the other academic trials which commonly logjam near the end of the semester. All this work must eventually be done, immediate excuses or no, and two nights without studying can only be injurious to those who are conscientiously trying to wrap up their work in preparation for final exams. And even if some unexplained phenomenon made it absolutely necessary for the tests to be given this week, a week's notice is hardly sufficient for the proper adjustment of one's entire schedule to the two nights given over to the tests.

Finally, we question how valuable the results will be to the administration, now that the tests have been administered in such an offhand manner. Many students openly admit to all who care to listen that they did not give an honest effort ("All I wanted to do was get out of that hot room as quick as I could"). In retrospect, it is apparent that they had no real reason to give more than a going-through-the-motions stab at the many questions and hurry to avail themselves of the smoking break. The students were told that their scores would have no effect on their own records, indicating that the administration will not use the results to find out anything important about its sophomores, either. Besides, many of students were sufficiently angered by the mere fact of having to take the tests at all that they deliberately made no more than a token effort to turn in high scores.

The results of all this may well be (1) a group of highly irate students, and (2) a set of "norms" for the tests which might, to the surprise of almost no one, turn out to be exceedingly unreliable. It seems obvious that those who administered the tests could have avoided both these problems if only someone, somewhere had taken into account one thing that is more important than any "norms"—the human element.

Lake-Stronger Than You Think?

The resurgence of support for I. Beverly Lake in his gubernatorial bid is a fact, albeit an unfortunate one.

Lake has run a good campaign. He kept in the background for the first half, spending his money wisely, meeting people and staying out of the fight between Richardson Preyer and Dan Moore. Lately he has stepped up the tempo.

Banners hang across the streets of small eastern North Carolina towns. Lake buttons are everywhere, as are Lake bumper stickers. His campaigning

has gotten far more intense. In short, the Lake campaign resembles the professional jobs being done for Moore and Preyer.

He is making a pitch for all the votes, not just the vote of the "red-necks." He has avoided the integration question except to denounce the Civil Rights Bill, and it is no secret that, amazingly enough, he is strong even in Negro districts in the eastern part of the state.

For instance, we heard, and later confirmed, that photographs of Dr. Lake shaking hands with a Negro were being circulated about the eastern section. In 1960, when he was opposed by Terry Sanford, one of the little "hate sheets" which some of his supporters circulated included pictures of Terry Sanford shaking hands with a Negro.

If Dr. Lake is elected, and the possibility is not as far off as it once seemed, North Carolina may well go down the road of shame, following Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana. Lake is not a George Wallace or a Ross Barnett, but his ideas are much in the same pattern as those of the two Southern governors.

We once were certain that the people of this state would never send Beverly Lake to the Governor's Mansion, but now we are wavering. It is our hope the voters will consider all parts of the campaign and the issues (however non-existent they may be) before selecting their choice for governor.

By PETER RANGE
(Last in a Series of Three)
The rules system for women at Carolina exists to help the girls. If, however, we are to judge by the end product, as pointed out in this column before, the system has at least one very harmful effect: it perpetuates high school-level maturity

by keeping the girls under a patriarchal system for four vital years of their lives, thus making them dependent on the System for their decisions rather than on themselves.
A basic feature of the University's attitude towards the women student is the principle of in loco parentis, of substitute

parents. I find this a fundamental error in the American system. The University should concern itself with the provision of faculty, books, academic facilities first; only secondly is it their job to house and feed us; and only thirdly should they try to direct the private behavior of the individual student, if at all.

The European girl (I'm thinking mainly of Germany) has less freedom in high school than does the American. Yet when she reaches the university, where there are no rules at all regarding her personal behavior, she takes this big step in stride. All the young women I met at the university there demonstrate amazing maturity; very few mis-use their broad freedom. I suggest that it is this very freedom which inspires the maturity among the girls.

From the time they begin thinking about a university education onwards, those girls are prepared by their parents for the total freedom they receive at the age of 19. Higher education is taken rather seriously—it is not anticipated as a four-year play period as many an American high school student sees it. Because of the expectation involved, the European co-ed is able to assume and enjoy great freedom responsibly when she finishes high school.

But because our girls are prepared not for freedom, but for a broad system of control and a parent-type relationship with their schools, they do not prepare themselves psychologically for freedom and responsibility. Because they are then treated like high schoolers and immature, naive girls unable to make a simple decision, that is exactly how they act when they get here.

If, however, they were treated as young women ready to receive responsibility for their own conduct, I feel sure they would rise to this challenge. We give our women far too little credit for maturation potential. The immature, non-intellectual, silly sweet lass I have criticized here is, I think, the product of our out-dated, motherly system more than the product of her own nature. Our women could be as responsible and grown up as European if given a chance and a challenge.

On top of this, however, the American male must begin to put a higher premium on the well-informed, responsible, independent young woman. If he does, she will surely move in that direction. And the converse of this applies as well.

Accepting the fact of the in loco parentis attitude of the University, the Administration's responsibility as good parents is to cultivate the maturation of the girls here.

I propose a staggered system of rules: Let most of the fresh-

man rules stand as they are now. For the sophomores, and then the juniors, progressively more freedom should be given. Those more informed than I in this area could work out the specifics, such as setting closing hours later, dropping the apartment rule for sophomores and above, etc. The girls, at any rate, should be forced to make more of their own decisions each year. The seniors, then, should have total freedom. They should be allowed to live on or off campus, come and go as they see fit, dress as they please, and leave Chapel Hill at will. In short, they should be living under the very conditions they will be under the day after they graduate in order to have at least some practice in total independence before severing ties with formal education.

As it stands, our girls enter the outside world with absolutely no experience in the complete self-government they must exercise when they depart from Chapel Hill. Would it not be better to give them a start in total freedom in the Chapel Hill community where there is at least an atmosphere, an elan, a set of attitudes to give them guidelines, rather than let them start off in some totally unstructured, uninhibited community on the outside?

In denying them this sorely-needed practice, the University does its women students great injury. Our system would well fit a time when no women worked, when all become wives and homemakers and good Southern hostesses. But that time ended about 99 years ago.

I am not pleading for more two-piece bathing suits, for more girls to stay out all night, for girls to go to men's apartments alone, for trips to country motels, or any such extreme behavior. If anything, I find many girls' behavior already out of keeping with the demands of being a good student. Instead I am pleading for the right of the women to decide for themselves not to stay out all night, not to get into that apartment, or not to get drunk on weekends and with this the right to grow up.

The Dean of Women and the University have a great responsibility here; thus far they are not meeting up to it. With good feelings on all sides, can they not address themselves to the problem in a forward manner and produce a policy in keeping with the needs of the times?

"As A Matter Of Fact, I Have Several Ideas On The Subject"



Letters To The Editors

Dresden, Statesville Upheld

Bombing Forced On Allies In War

Editors, The Daily Tar Heel:

Louis Schmier and Wade Wellman have been supplying the readers of the DTH with some interesting and unique controversy (unique as DTH controversy goes) over the last several days. It seems that Mr. Wellman is rather upset at the fact that the Allies bombed the city of Dresden, which he continually maintains was of no military significance at such a late date in the war. Before going any further, let me assure Mr. Wellman that I am not taking issue with him on the strategic importance of Dresden. As a matter of fact, I could care less.

What I am taking issue with is his apparent purpose in condemning the United States and Britain for the bombing. Granted that any kind of bombing is horrible, but to coin an old, worn-out cliché, "War is Hell!" Mr. Wellman, this is World War II we are speaking of, not a backyard jubilee drunk. The Allies did a lot of things which were horrible, and very likely unnecessary, but we were not having a shadow boxing match with Cassius You-know-who.

May I take the liberty to refer Mr. Wellman to "A Torch To The Enemy" and "The Night

Hamburg Died" by Martin Cailin. If you want to read something as horrible as humanly imaginable, read these two books. I am sure you will enjoy them Mr. Wellman, because the good old, pure, never-do-wrong U.S.A. was responsible for both actions described.

Mr. Wellman, I was under the impression that we were in World War II to win, and it would have been pretty hard to do it without bombing. If the only thing you have to do is sit around and point your "holier-than-thou" finger at us for something in a World War that YOU think was wrong, then go right ahead.

We bombed Dresden, Toyko, Hamburg, Berlin and, yes even Hiroshima and Nagasaki, because we felt it necessary to end a war that no one wanted in the first place. But, Mr. Wellman, before doing any more accusing, stop and think on Pearl Harbor; the rape of Poland; the needless bombing of London; the useless murder of pilots parachuting to safety; the sinking of defenseless American vessels by the Germans; and the remains of an Auschwitz, Dachau, or Belsen concentration camps. Remember all of these things first, remember who started the killing, and then try to figure out who had to stop it—any way possible.

Gary Lowe
115 Parker

Letter In Error On Negro's Death

Editors, The Daily Tar Heel:

A letter which was printed in The Daily Tar Heel last week under the caption "Negro Murdered in Statesville" has prompted me to point out that you were in error on two counts. First, the facts were wrong. The letter and your caption were based on assumption. Second, a newspaper should not permit individuals to comment publicly on a case pending before a jury.

On April 29, after a three-hour hearing at which testimony was offered by the State Bureau of Investigation and by local law enforcement officers, a six-man coroner's jury, composed entirely of Negro men, reached a unanimous verdict of suicide. Their deliberation lasted six minutes.

I would also like to point out that besides the deceased, one other Negro man filed for candidacy to the Iredell County Board of Commissioners, and a Negro woman has filed for election to the Iredell County Board of Education. This constitutes legal and peaceful progress.

Mrs. Charles Benbow
Statesville, N. C.

(Ed. Note: You're right. We apologize.)

Paperback Covers Are Disillusioning

By ART BUCHWALD
WASHINGTON—There was a time when the only way you could get a pornographic book was to smuggle it in from Paris. But in recent years the paperback book industry in the United States has been outdoing anything you could bring in from Paris. We feel everyone has a right to make a dollar under our free enterprise system and if people want to buy pornographic literature that is their business.

What we object to is the publishers making non-pornographic books pornographic by putting half-naked women on the covers of good books and printing descriptions of the contents which give an entirely different idea of the plot.

If the trend continues, here is how our paperback publishers will soon describe some books familiar to all of us:
"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"—The story of a ravishing blonde virgin who was held captive by seven deformed men, all with different lusts.
"Cinderella"—A beautiful, passionate woman bares her naked foot to the man she loves while her stepmother and stepsisters plot to cheat her out of the one memorable night of her life.
"Alice in Wonderland"—A young girl's search for happiness in a weird, depraved world of animal desires. Can she ever return to a normal, happy life after falling so far?
"Huckleberry Finn"—A wild youth runs away from his home

to help a Negro slave escape from the ravishing Miss Watson.
"Little Women"—Four teenagers, wise beyond their years, are caught up in the throbbing tumult of the Civil War. Read what happens to them when a rich old gentleman and his greedy grandson take rooms as boarders in a house without men.
"Tom Brown's Schooldays"—For the first time we look beyond the locked doors of an English boarding school to reveal the truth about a life that no one talks about and only a few will whisper.
"Treasure Island"—The crew of a ship bent on rape and plunder land on an island inhabited by sex-crazed cannibals. An innocent boy finds the secret of growing up.

Atmosphere For Youth Is Enemy Of Our Society

(From The Christian Science Monitor)

It is easy to say all the wrong things about the drunken bash at a Long Island debutante party which has just been excruciatingly reviewed at court.

The host wanted to be compensated for \$6,000 worth of damages to a rented guesthouse. The Associated Press reported that he supplied 20 cases of whiskey and gin for a two-day orgy. What did he expect? The boys mostly blamed the liquor. Who but they chose to drink it?

The older generations, those who are not amused or merely frustrated, fit this into the general decline of moral standards. Many of them try to talk of the moral code, with the sinking feeling that the old powerful words don't reach those who need to be reached and often go right past their own children. They wonder what their own guilt has to do with this and it weakens their ability to help.

There was a little more insight from Eaton Brooks, one of the boys who were all ultimately acquitted of any actual crime. Obviously defensive, he was reported by the New York Herald Tribune as saying:

"I'm not ashamed of anything I did. . . If you had been there inside the house you would have understood the spirit of that party. Consider the fact that we were drinking for two days and nights without sleeping and without eating and we kept that up for 36 hours, out in the hot sun half the time, so when we got

to the Ladd house we weren't the same people.

"There's too much drinking going on today," Brooks said. "I know that. Everybody knows it. But what are you going to do about it? Your own New York State allows people to start drinking at 18. They would sell me drinks when I was 14 because they are all out to make a buck. Everybody knows the morals of this country are going down the drain."

That same issue of the Herald Tribune reported from Albany the final collapse of what might have been a reform of the liquor laws. A series of scandals had been followed by one effort after another to sidetrack the real issue. The liquor lobbies rode high at Albany. "Reform" finally came down to the degree of competition with which package stores were free to pursue their customers. The decision was for more.

Returning to Brooks, "A certain atmosphere," he said, "caused it all. The atmosphere prevailed." He seemed to be groping for something beyond this one small if irritating incident.

We could say many things about that atmosphere. It is the enemy. It is the animal nature that humans inherit from the jungle. It brings self-indulgence and riot but much more serious than these, it is the enemy of the mind and of character in all our society, and ultimately of human life itself. We, too, would like to do battle against it, and thunder forth the moral code because we believe in it utterly and in its power to reshape society. But this may be a better time, faced with boys like Brooks who will decide for themselves, for a little humility.

We would like to ask them in all candor: What kind of society and world do they want? What effort are they willing to put forth to achieve it? This is not just a challenge. We are eager to have them talk. We would like to listen.

Letters

The Daily Tar Heel invites comments on current topics from its readers regardless of viewpoint. All letters to the editors should be typewritten, double spaced and of reasonable length. All letters must be signed, with the address of the author. No letter considered libelous or in poor taste will be printed.

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