

A Matter Of Opinion

By John H. Jennrich

In the May issue of Harper's magazine there is an excellent article titled "College Newspapers in Search of Their Own Voice." The author is Jeff Greenfield, former editor of the Wisconsin Daily Cardinal and currently an editor of the Yale Law Journal.

Greenfield notes that there is a student newspaper on almost all of the two thousand campuses in the United States. The student newspaper, he says, is "potentially the most important and powerful student voice on the campus. For most of the college papers, however, this power is potential only."

The author says there are two distinct schools of thought in the American college press. The first is a passive, timid adjunct of the university's press service. The second is an activist, critical, skeptical newspaper which reports and comments on issues that go beyond the limits of the campus.

The vast majority of college newspapers are the passive type. "Either by choice, by indifference, or by fear," Greenfield says, "they have chosen to publish only the inconsequential and the inoffensive in their news and editorial columns."

He says the typical editorial page "will call for support for the Blood Drive or for more student parking." And the editor can fill his paper "with easy - to - cover and pretend his paper is covering the real news on the campus." But what is missing is the "attempt to inform the campus about important educational and social programs of the college."

Greenfield says part of the blame for this passivity falls on the students themselves. It is easier to follow a pattern than it is to stir up controversy. Furthermore, both class work and newspaper work are enough of a burden without ad-

ding to the problem by "getting people angry at you." "In contrast to the tranquil and mediocre student press," says Greenfield, "a consistent minority of college papers have chosen to remain essentially independent sources of information, comment, and criticism on their campuses." He points out that page one of a typical activist paper would include, in addition to the usual stories, coverage of a major piece of international or national news by wire service (particularly where the college paper also serves as the community morning paper), a news story about an impending curriculum or academic policy change, an interpretive or analytical piece on that policy, and an investigative story on a key campus problem, such as housing shortages, student employment wages or community opposition to campus expansion.

"Editorials," Greenfield continues, "may cover a routine campus dispute, or the war in Viet Nam, or sexual morality, or communist speaker bans, or anything else which comes into the minds of an articulate writer who hasn't learned not to offend. The columns and letters are even more wide-ranging, a reflection of the ferment that is part of any lively campus community."

The author feels that one of the qualities that makes a paper good is the courage of its editors. An example of this is in the field of civil rights where "college newspapers in the South have frequently been far ahead of their commercial counterparts." Greenfield also admires the courage of one paper that challenged the school's "publish or perish" policy.

Greenfield says the effort necessary to produce a good newspaper is valuable. "The students, who work on college papers become accustomed to the feel of responsibility at an early age."

He concludes that "a free and active student press requires . . . a core of students willing to speak out about a large number of topics, some of them involving touchy and emotional issues. It requires a hard - working staff, willing

to give up the party - football circuit for a more difficult kind of life. And it requires, perhaps most of all, a school willing to let its students run the risk of making up their own minds, however mistakenly, however awkwardly, however immaturely, and to let them offer those opinions at large."

Greenfield's article is a good one. He emphasizes many of his suggestions for a better college press by examples taken from college newspapers. In fact, he cites 25 different college newspapers for their good deeds. And he mentions another 14, neither criticizing nor praising them.

Unfortunately, the Daily Tar Heel is not once mentioned. The Maryland Diamondback is. And so is the Mississippiian and the Alabama Crimson and White, along with the Columbia Spectator, the Harvard Crimson and the Daily Texan, to name only a few.

Within the past few weeks the Daily Tar Heel and its staff have racked up numerous awards. But this doesn't mean the DTH is the greatest. It still has a long way to go but, fortunately, no one knows that better than Fred Thomas, the present editor.

Former editor Ernie McCrary once said he wasn't much interested in the northern college press. He seemed content to let the DTH be a big frog in a little, provincial pond. We think it's time the DTH took a big jump and started practical, day - to - day competition with the best college newspapers in the country. If the Hollins College and the Charlotte Observer awards really mean anything, the DTH ought to be able to at least make a little splash in the ocean of national collegiate journalism.

We don't mean to suggest that the DTH is all potential and no production. Contrary to the opinion held by the Yack staff, we don't believe the DTH has been entirely "incompetent" for 72 years. We just think there's room for improvement.

Hopefully the current editor, like his fraternity's frog, will be a winner.



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DAILY CROSSWORD

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ACROSS | 4. Walking sticks | 22. Neighbor of 30 across |
| 1. Birthplace of Mohammed | 5. Pert. to malt drink | 24. Turkish weight |
| 6. Young salmon | 6. Philippine, for one area | 25. Plead |
| 11. Of an area | 7. Warlike | 27. Counterpart |
| 12. Anxious | 8. Moldings | 29. Paul, for one |
| 13. Bright but cheap | 9. Conrad's "Victory" heroine | 32. Hawaiian bird |
| 14. Bread-and-circuses setting | 10. British streetcar | 33. See 22 |
| 15. Facility | 18. Junior's | 34. Continent: word down |
| 16. Toke | 19. Glacial | 36. Rose family plants |
| 17. Porous process | 20. Senor's affirmative | 37. Thick |
| 21. Remote | 21. Exhaust | |
| 23. Vast area of the globe | | |
| 24. Siberian gulf | | |
| 26. Too | | |
| 28. Erie, for one | | |
| 30. Neighbor of Fla. | | |
| 31. Foreman | | |
| 33. Marker | | |
| 33. Tropical fruit | | |
| 35. Keep | | |
| 40. Detect | | |
| 43. Complete | | |
| 45. Cavities | | |
| 46. Taut | | |
| 47. Mohammedan religion | | |
| 48. Donkeys | | |
| 49. Regatta | | |
| DOWN | | |
| 1. Chess term | | |
| 2. Assam silkworm | | |
| 3. Anthony Comstock's, perhaps | | |



Yesterday's Answer

- | |
|------------------------|
| 38. Slender spine |
| 39. Birds |
| 41. Hyde Park stroller |
| 42. Sweet potatoes |
| 44. Affirmative |
| 45. Help |

Again I want to wholeheartedly endorse your course and method. I began at 100 wpm and finished—reading dynamically—at speeds as high as 3,000 wpm with no loss of comprehension.

Dick League
Law School
U.N.C.

It changed my concept of "Reading" from walking very slowly with my eyes on the ground to surveying whole landscapes and panoramas, allowing one to distinguish between "essential" and "non-essential." It makes reading an art employing varying speeds, intensities and inflections. I intend to use Reading Dynamics—For Pleasure; I have finally read one novel in 15 minutes! For Work: I have mountains of material to digest which would seem hopeless without my newly-acquired skill. I feel enriched!

Dr. Jorge Ferriz
N. C. Memorial Hospital

IN RALEIGH . . .

Part of A Letter Home

"Everything is going just fine here. My courses are all pretty tough but all very interesting. I'm really going to enjoy this semester. You'll be glad to know that my reading has helped me tremendously! It really is a time saver. I've been getting to bed around 11:00 to 11:30 . . . and it certainly is not because I don't have any homework because I always have plenty of it. That reading, though, has just cut my study time. It really is great! That's one of the most useful presents I have ever received. Thanks a million for it! Lots of love to you all.

from a student at State.