

Mrs. Brooks' firing brings bad memories

Mrs. Elizabeth Brooks, a leader of the food service strikes at UNC two years ago, has been released from her duties as supervisor of the Union Snack Bar.

Mrs. Brooks impressed us two years ago as being an honest and intelligent woman. She has given The Tar Heel her side of a dispute and we find cause to sympathize with her plight.

Robert Greer, director of the UNC food service, and Lawrence Joseph, director of personnel for Servomation-Mathias, Inc., have given us what appear to be legitimate reasons for the firing of Mrs. Brooks.

We cannot at the moment find reason to doubt the word of these two gentlemen. Although we will miss Mrs. Brooks, we feel that perhaps there were legitimate reasons for her release.

However, there have been indications given by the food service workers that they are unhappy with Servomation. There was talk this spring about the possibility of a strike.

That possibility remains. The firing of Mrs. Brooks, coupled with the earlier grievances of the food service workers, may result in a strike this fall.

We would hate to see that happen. The University has enough problems without having to hassle a food service strike like the one two years ago, which saw highway

patrolmen brought on campus to keep the peace.

This is not to say that perhaps the workers don't have legitimate grievances. This is not to say that perhaps there is something Servomation isn't telling us, and that Mrs. Brooks was wrongly fired.

We don't want to give too much coverage to an incident which perhaps doesn't warrant it, but we wish students to know that there

was talk this spring about a strike.

The firing of Mrs. Brooks may prove to be a catalyst for an unfortunate situation; we hope not but that possibility exists.

Servomation should move to gain their workers' opinions about possible improvements; the workers should not take physical action without first giving the art of argument and persuasion a try.

We don't want another strike.

We remember the last one.

Student conference holds great promise

A press conference today revealed plans of a student conference scheduled on the UNC campus this month.

The Student Action Conference holds great promise for the students of North Carolina. The purpose of the gathered student leaders will be to discuss mutual political and educational problems and to plan action to solve those problems.

Although the major focus of the conference will be to push voter registration among the students of this state, its significance is far greater than that.

There are many problems in this state and nation which concern students; the mass protest actions

of the past have done some good on many fronts but their accomplishments have never been good enough for students.

Now we have a chance as students to form a type of lobby; a lobby which we can use with great success if we all pull behind it.

The students of North Carolina have recognized the participants in the upcoming conference as their campus leaders. These campus leaders will now take on statewide importance and power.

Students should support that power. Perhaps a democracy can really work.

We now have a chance to find out.

In Our Opinion

The Raleigh News and Observer

Universities: need for realism

The problem that higher education presents for the General Assembly of 1971 differs little from that faced by the General Assembly of 1931. This is the urgent need to establish a single, state-supported university composed of a number of campuses governed by a single board and administered by one executive. The legislators of forty years ago succeeded and North Carolina's eminence in the field of higher education is a monument to that fact. Whether the

legislators who will reconvene in October can do likewise and thus preserve that eminence remains to be seen.

Even the opposition to the attempt at unification now is similar to that expressed then. A small group within the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill fought the creation of the Consolidated University. A similar group is fighting the move for reconsolidation. Certainly, no campus profited more from consolidation than Chapel Hill. And

perhaps none has a greater stake in reconsolidation.

A description of the competition, the empire-building and the wasteful duplication that marked the crisis of 1931 would fit that of today nicely. The public colleges and universities vied against each other in the legislature for funds and favors. Planning and coordination were left to the individual institutions. Each was an independent operator, pursuing its own conception of

the public interest and thereby charting its own course for the future. The difference today is that the competition has resolved itself into a game of the Consolidated University vs. everyone else. And, on occasion, even one of the presidents of the latter group shows up in the State House corridors to lobby for his school's favorite project.

The October session provides an opportunity to bring all of North Carolina's universities into one house and to free them of the corrosive effects of sectional politics. State Sen. Ralph Scott of Alamance County believes it could offer the last such chance. And few political leaders in North Carolina have closer ties to the universities and the people who foot their bill of \$167 million a year.

The Chapel Hill Weekly

Tongue-tied University

The University at Chapel Hill, which can be stunningly articulate on such matters as academic freedom, student-faculty-administration interaction, the need for State funds and the like, is downright tongue-tied when it comes to discussing its financial relationship with the Town of Chapel Hill.

Take the Universities reaction to the new Town budget.

Each year the University has made a contribution to the budget, as a voluntary payment for the services it receives from the Town. Since the University pays no Town taxes, the contribution seemed only fair.

As the University grew and the cost of Town services increased, the University's annual contribution to the Town budget increased accordingly, although there is reason to doubt the University ever paid its fair share.

This year, with the Town budget swelling as usual, the University was asked to increase its contribution by \$20,000.

The University said no, it would not toss in a dime more than last year, even though student enrollment will be up again this fall and the University's use of Town services will be greater than ever.

Asked why it would not increase its contribution, the University was silent in several languages. Vice-Chancellor for Business Affairs Joe Eagles met inquiries with a flat "no comment."

With hat in hand, so to speak, the Town had the dandy alternative of taking what the University condescended to give with no questions asked, or getting lost.

Unfortunately this arrogance of power is characteristic of the University in its dealings with the Town, and, sad to say, it is also characteristic of Joe Eagles in his official role.

Too bad.

Senator Scott feels that unless the universities accept a single-board administration and the coordination and efficiency this will bring they will be undercut by other branches of education. "We can't justify an oversupply of lawyers and professors when we don't have any kindergartens and vocational education is starved," he said in an interview last weekend. "These are the things that help the mass of the people and they will take the money." Given the growing public disenchantment with colleges and universities not only in this state but elsewhere, the senator's warning is timely.