

perspective

Wednesday, April 7, 1976

Honor code neglected

Each year freshmen entering UNC are required to attend a sober ceremony inducting them into the school's Honor System. Upperclassmen preach the virtues of the honor code, explain the punishments given for violations and stress the important role of students in enforcing the code.

The new students leave the ceremony burdened by the heavy responsibility which the honor code places upon them. This sense of responsibility lasts probably two to three days at most, then begins to fade. By the end of the semester the honor code exists only as a vague concept in the Carolina student's memory and is seldom referred to.

A recent survey indicated that 79 per cent of the UNC student body believes that "most students do not report violations of the honor code." The other 21 per cent are probably just misinformed. Even a large majority of the members of the Honor Court themselves, according to Chairman Rick Mazo, would not turn someone in for cheating.

Why, then, does the University maintain its commitment to an Honor System that is, in the words of former Student Body President Bill Bates, "at best, farcical?"

Apparently the Honor System has not always been the fantasy that it is today. It was established on two basic principles: first, that the vast majority of students are honest; and second, that students themselves can handle the responsibility of enforcing the code on those students who are not always so honest. In its early days, student enforcement was effective.

The general attitude toward cheating has changed since those early days. In 1954, 40 per cent of the Honor Court cases resulted in suspension, but this year only 2 per cent of those cases tried were suspended. The court in one case of flagrant cheating decided that an F was too harsh a sentence to give to the

offender because "he was a senior and needed high grades to get into law school." Certain faculty members complain that the court is even antagonistic toward instructors that turn students in for cheating, and often make it seem as if the accuser, rather than the defendant, is on trial.

When the court views its own responsibilities with this attitude, students have no reason to feel differently. No one really expects students to turn in others for cheating, and very few do.

Many reasons for the erosion of the honor system have been cited. Increased emphasis on grades, lack of public knowledge about the system and a general relaxing of judicial standards all over the country are all partial explanations of the problem. But explanations are much more readily available than solutions.

To continue the system as it now exists would be a terrible hypocrisy. Having recognized the Honor System's failure, the University must either restore its effectiveness or scrap it all together and adopt a new system to control violations of the honor code.

The Faculty Council recently voted to reaffirm its commitment to the Honor System—a purely symbolic gesture. Members of the Order of the Golden Fleece and the Order of the Grail are working with the Chancellor and various faculty members on a study of the system. Whether anything substantial will come from these efforts is yet to be seen.

Whatever direction these organizations take, they should remember that honor code violations are a symptom of deeper problems. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating often result from weaknesses in teaching, or from extraordinary pressures generated by the university system. Any permanent solution to the problem must also deal with these basic factors.

letters

Pennies overlooked

To the editor:

What happened to DTH coverage of the Mile of Pennies? My brothers and I at Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity were wondering how one of the largest fund raising drives of the year in Chapel Hill could be overlooked. In the past we have won awards for contributing the most money to the Campus Chest to be distributed to area charities. For the benefit of those who are interested and for the general knowledge of others, I'd like to tell a little about this year's Mile of Pennies.

The brothers assembled along Franklin St. last Saturday at nine o'clock in the morning to begin soliciting contributions to be donated to the Campus Chest. There were balloons for everyone and by mid-afternoon everyone walking down Franklin St. on this beautiful day could be seen

carrying one. By five o'clock that afternoon the brothers and pledges of ZBT had not only reached their goal of a mile of pennies, but had reached nearly two miles and had collected about \$1600! Imagine that, collecting almost \$1600 to donate to charity and the school newspaper doesn't even have a word about it in its next edition. Financial crisis or not, I think the paper could have made some room, if only a few lines, to tell the students and the people of Chapel Hill the results of our labors. The brothers would like to thank the people who generously gave to support our cause...and to the Tar Heel...thanks for nothing!

Harvey D. Aaron
Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity

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The Daily Tar Heel

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Editor

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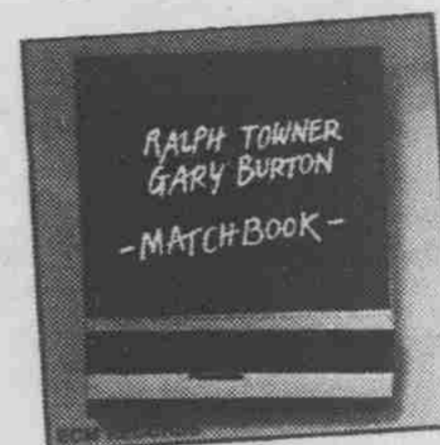
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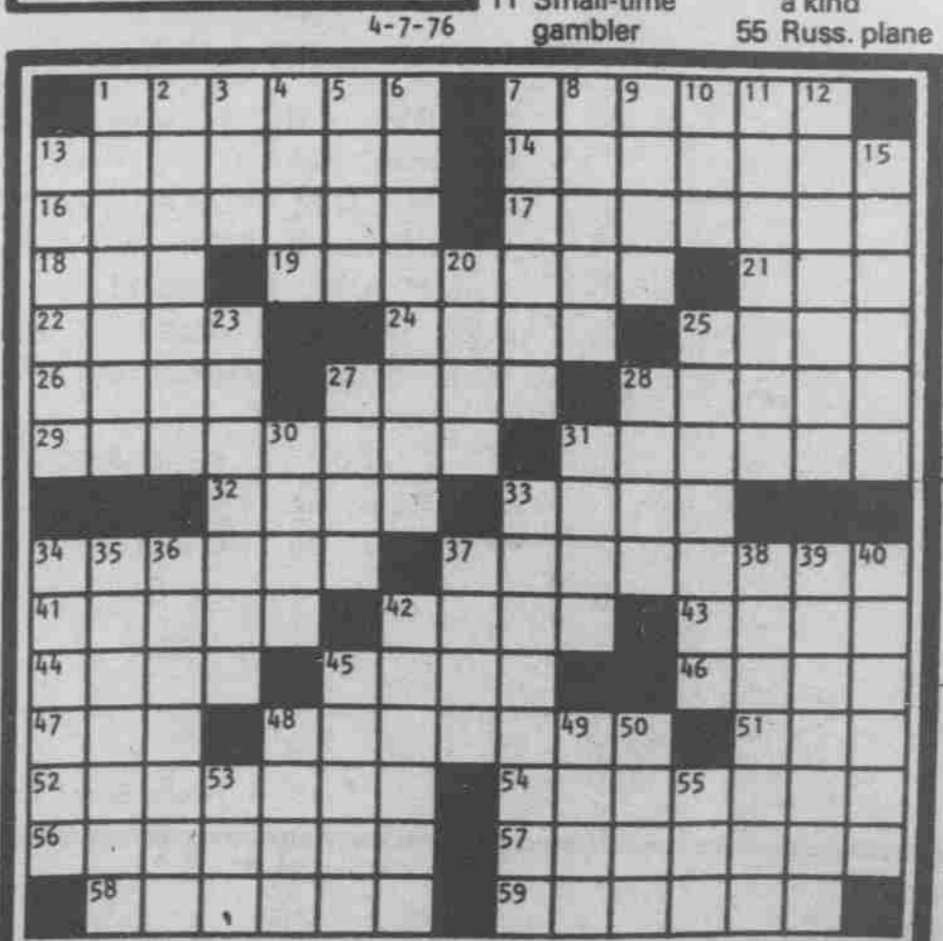
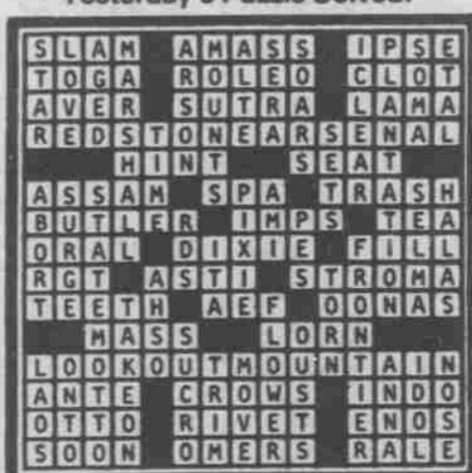
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THE Daily Crossword by Helen Fasulo

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ACROSS | 26 James of the stage | 46 Byron poem | 12 Give a right to |
| 1 Peerage | 27 Current | 47 Conceit | 13 Portray |
| 7 Chemical salt | 28 Blackbird | 48 Stableboy | 15 Assemble aimlessly |
| 13 Zealot | 29 Financial department | 51 Roam about | 20 Orderly |
| 14 Small convex molding | 31 Jacket or bell | 52 Showing emotional tension | 23 Unspecified one |
| 16 High spirits | 32 Scandinavian name | 54 Loner, of sorts | 25 Taken as a whole |
| 17 City of Sherman's march | 33 Pear-shaped instrument | 56 It, city | 27 Stubborn one |
| 18 Face value | 34 Rocking bed | 57 Ancient Italians | 28 Specialized glove |
| 19 Done by fits and starts | 37 Region | 58 Glossy cotton cloth | 30 Fodder storage |
| 21 Strike | 41 Ranch item | 59 Vehicles in Westerns | 31 Powder-earthy |
| 22 Wading bird | 42 Attic | | 33 Inanimate |
| 24 Piece of fired clay | 43 Manchurian border river | | 34 Customer wardens |
| 25 Barbarian | 44 Preposition | | 36 Seaport in Oregon |
| | 45 Gallic name | | 37 Word of admonition |
| | | | 38 Suppose |
| | | | 39 Clergymen's assistants |
| | | | 40 Crafts sign |
| | | | 42 Decrease |
| | | | 45 Course traveled |
| | | | 48 Fireman's equipment |
| | | | 49 He was: Lat. |
| | | | 50 Midianite king |
| | | | 53 Doctor, of a kind |
| | | | 55 Russ. plane |



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