

The Chapel Hill Weekly

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

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A Question: Will the Present University Consolidation System Be Abandoned as a Result of the New Law Creating the Board of Higher Education?

There have been so many burning questions demanding attention, in international and national and state affairs, that the people of North Carolina have not given as much thought as they would have given in a quieter period to the creation of the State Board of Higher Education. As time goes on they will become more aware of the importance of this new agency. For, its assignment, to supervise state-supported institutions of learning, gives it a power that may have a revolutionary effect on the State's system of higher education.

Governor Hodges' appointments to the Board give assurance that its work will be carried on with a high degree of intelligence and with fidelity to the public interest. The nine members are D. Hiden Ramsey of Asheville, former member of the State Board of Education; Major L. P. McLendon of Greensboro, Robert Lassiter, jr., of Charlotte, Charles H. Reynolds of Rutherfordton, textile manufacturer and State Senator; William F. Womble of Winston-Salem, and Representative in the Legislature; Reginald L. Harris, Roxboro banker and former Lieutenant-Governor; W. J. Kennedy, jr., of Durham, Negro business leader; Sanford Martin, who will represent the State Board of Education; and Mrs. Thomas R. Easterling of Rocky Mount, former president of the North Carolina Congress of Parent-Teacher Associations.

The Legislature of 1953 provided for a Commission on Higher Education and directed it: (1) to study the state-supported institutions of higher education; (2) to study their interrelationships; and (3) to "make recommendations to achieve maximum educational benefits for the people of the State." The Commission was headed by Victor S. Bryant of Durham. Its report, submitted to this year's Legislature, formed the basis of the law creating the State Board of Higher Education.

The best way of telling what the Board is assigned to do is to quote these passages from the Commission's recommendations:

"That the Board serve as a coordinating agency for state-supported institutions of higher education.

"That the Board determine the general functions and activities of such institutions and the types of degrees to be granted to the end that uneconomical practices may be eliminated.

"That the Board, after holding hearings on the budget requests of such institutions, make such recommendations to the Director of the Budget and the Advisory Budget Commission as it deems necessary for the most efficient operation of each institution.

"That the Board have the power to grant approval of the quarterly requisitions of allotments from appropriations, or such modifications of them as it may deem necessary to make, subject to the approval of the Director of the Budget who is to be notified of any such action.

"That the Board have the power to adopt a revised budget for each institution, after consultation with the officers of that institution, so as to adjust such budgets to any reduction of appropriations by the Director of the Budget in order to prevent an overdraft or deficit as is now permitted by law.

"That the Board have the power to grant approval of requests from each institution for transfers and changes as between objects and items in the budget

of the institution making the request, subject to the approval of the Director of the Budget who is to be notified of any such action.

"That the Board prescribe practices and policies for the institutions.

"That the Board engage in study and planning directed toward the development of a unified program of State-supported higher education.

"That the board of trustees of the respective institutions continue to control such institutions as at present, subject to the action of the State Board of Higher Education within the limits of its jurisdiction."

These passages show what extensive powers are possessed by the new Board, what a vast influence it is capable of exerting upon the development of our educational system.

The creation of such an agency naturally leads to speculation as to how, if at all, it will affect the present University Consolidation plan. Including the three institutions in the Consolidated University, there are twelve state-supported institutions of higher learning in North Carolina. The question has already been asked: Why should only three, not all twelve, of the state-supported institutions be embraced in a single University? This question becomes more pertinent now that the State has a coordinating Board with powers superior to those of any existing board of trustees.

I have heard it suggested that the studies of the new Board may bring about the expansion of the Consolidated University to embrace all twelve institutions. I have also heard it suggested that maybe Consolidation on the present plan will be abandoned because the new Board, whose chief task is to be the coordination of the activities of all institutions, will render useless a Consolidated University board of trustees.

It would be a good idea, it seems to me, for every one of the institutions to have its own separate board of trustees, a plan that makes for concentrated attention and good morale, while the new Board would determine the scope of the institution's activities in relation to those of other institutions in the State system. The new Board would thus be supreme in the direction of general State policy with respect to higher education, but it would leave to every institution's board of trustees control over the operations of that institution.

There is no reason why the new Board, with the great powers for coordination that it possesses, cannot prevent duplication and overlapping without mingling the institutions.—L. G.

Extracts from the Report

Here are some extracts from the report of the Commission on Higher Education: "North Carolina is not getting the results in higher education which might be expected in view of the amount of money being spent. One reason for this is the duplication of programs and functions by the institutions."

"The many problems which the increased college enrollment in the next fifteen years will precipitate furnish eloquent argument in support of the need for long-range planning."

"The size, length of terms, and organizations of the boards of trustees of the institutions vary widely. There is no agency, short of the General Assembly, empowered to exercise any over-all coordination of the programs of all the institutions."

"Some duplication is not wasteful, for example freshman and sophomore English must be taught at all institutions. When competing programs at a higher level, however, attract only small groups of students or produce more graduates than can be absorbed in the fields for which preparation is given, then it is highly questionable whether the financial resources devoted to higher education by the State are being wisely used. Competition among institutions encourages an over-extension of offerings and activities beyond the real needs of the State."

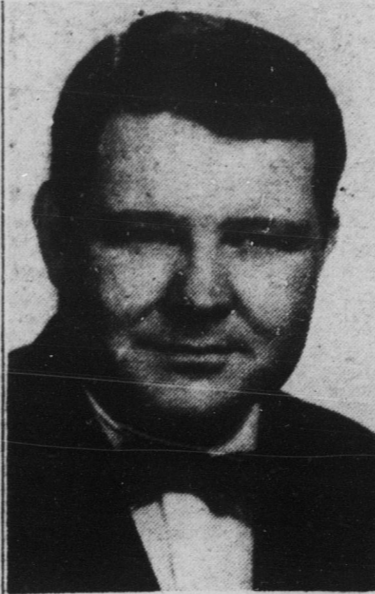
"The recruiting of students for State institutions of higher education might be removed from the control of separate institutions and be performed by a central information agency for all of them. The employment of personnel for field work in soliciting students and the use of other such devices to induce students to attend one institution instead of another are hardly in the over-all public interest. In some states a central agency provides a publication to inform high school seniors what the state colleges have to offer. This is far less expensive than making a catalog or other literature from every institu-

Santa Claus in the Fishbowl . . .

The Story of William Alexander: From Air Corps Sergeant To Actor to Restaurateur to Radio Announcer to Alderman

By J. A. C. Dunn

When we walked into WCHL the other day we expected Alderman William Alexander to be slender. We were mistaken. He is short and plump; with a white beard and a red Siberia suit instead of argyles and a green sport shirt he would make a good Santa Claus. As a matter of fact, he probably does, since he has two small children. He led us into the small office from which he directs WCHL's advertising, waved a strong, fat hand at a chair and asked us what we wanted to know.



—Photo by Leverne

WILLIAM ALEXANDER

We understood, we said, that he had won his seat as a Chapel Hill alderman by Rogers Wade's default last month after the question was raised as to Mr. Wade's ability to qualify as a candidate for alderman.

Mr. Alexander said this was true, and that he regretted the controversy, but that by the letter of the law he was elected—though it was officially said that he was appointed—and wasn't there something else we wanted to know?

We said we wanted to know anything he thought it worth our while that we know—about him—and that whatever he thought was important, was important.

On this trifling provocation Mr. Alexander started talking. He continued to talk for about ten minutes without cessation, during which time we broke our pencil three times and filled six notebook pages.

"Born 1921 in Atlanta," said Mr. Alexander. He leaned way back in his chair, wrapped his gigantic hands around his head in a thoughtful kind of way, decided, apparently, that his birthday was really a pretty good beginning, and took himself on-ward step by step through the following 34 years of his life.

He went to a very progressive Quaker prep school in Philadelphia where the students worked much on their own ("I got my interest in politics there"), and came to UNC in 1939. The day the war broke out he left the University and went to State to take a short defense course in engineering, was subsequently drafted, and spent 41 months in the Air Corps as a Staff Sergeant in charge of a ground crew responsible for the maintenance of one plane. During this time he was in England, France, and Belgium ("I got to Germany on a sightseeing trip"). After the war he returned to UNC and in the summer of 1946 opened a summer stock company in Flat Rock composed of college students; the company performed nine shows in nine weeks. After that he worked for Emmett Robinson of the Footlight Players in Charleston, S. C., for two years, touring South Carolina with a PTA children's theatre as a sideline. He then returned to Chapel Hill and was married in the summer of 1948 (his wife is the former Margaret Newell of Bronston, Ky.), and went to work for WTK in Durham. After the merger of WTK and WDUK he ran the "Fishbowl," a Chapel Hill radio program broadcast from the lobby of the Stroud Motor Company and, incidentally, the first regular radio program originating in Chapel Hill.

In 1951 he and his wife went into several small businesses, he and Ted Danziger started the Ranch House. The Ranch House soon turned out to be not the sideline it was originally conceived as, but a full-time job, so Mr. Alexander quit his other businesses and stuck to shish-kebab and old wines until he went to work as advertising manager for WCHL, where, he says, he is much more contented.

We were about to shoot in a word or two of tactful journalistic prodding at this point, thinking that Mr. Alexander's autobiographical mixer had probably run down. Not so. He switched to politics, Chapel Hill brand.

"In a town like this we should have a model civic government. We have the resources and advice and knowledge of the best people available on questions of government, but there's still a good deal to be desired.

"One thing: I have observed the dividing line between the town and the University community becoming less and less visible as the town grows."

Chapel Hill's problem, said Mr. Alexander, is money. We tried

to remember where we had heard that word before. Mr. Alexander pointed out that the town's biggest income is a tax-exempt business—the University—and there for the town hasn't the money to have a model government.

"There are only two ways of getting money," Mr. Alexander said through a small piece of notepaper he was chewing. "Either get it from the state or raise the town tax. Neither can be done, so there you are."

We asked if the town's growth and the subsequent increase of taxes did not cancel each other out. We were not quite sure what we meant by this, since we have trouble adding five and five, but it sounded pretty knowledgeable. Mr. Alexander evidently thought so too, because he said no, it didn't.

"No," he said, "most of the town's growth is outside the city limits, and therefore those people are exempt from town taxes." Perhaps it would be a good idea to just quietly, one night, extend the city limits so as to include such hotbeds of potential revenue as Glen Lennox. "That, of course, is what should be done," said Mr. A. And did he have any other thoughts on politics?

"The lack of interest people have in local government frightens me to death," he said earnestly.

Chapel Hill Chaff

(Continued from page 1)

got rid of. It made a vexing problem for C. E. McIntosh, manager of the colony. He had to listen to both sides and make decisions that were sure to displease one side or the other.

Now and then he issues a bulletin containing information, directions, and requests for the occupants of the four hundred apartments in the colony. In the latest bulletin he says: "We have explained that for over a year we issued permits for all dogs, cats, etc., which residents wished to keep in their apartments (46 permits, all told), but after some people disregarded their pledges to keep their pets at home, and after we had an alarming rabies scare, we had to cease altogether to issue pet permits. That was in the spring of 1951. We stated that anyone then possessing a pet permit might keep his pet so long as he lived in a Glen Lennox apartment, provided he did not allow his pet to disturb any other resident. Now there is only one of these pets remaining. When it leaves there will be no more pets here whatsoever."

Mr. McIntosh says his action on pets has given general satisfaction because the people in Glen Lennox who don't want pets around outnumber by far the people who want to keep them. Pets whose owners live in detached houses with ample yards can be kept fairly well under control, but where apartments are crowded close together pets are apt to give neighbors a good deal of trouble.

tion available to every senior."

"It seems clear that the determination of what curricula, degrees, and programs of study are to be offered at each institution should not be left entirely to the administration and controlling board of that institution. That is about where it is left today in North Carolina. As presidents

and trustees change, an institution may re-cast its whole character in a very few years under the impact of a forceful executive or board. Such a shift may or may not be in the State's best interest. No agency is now charged with the responsibility for determining this fact in reviewing such a proposed change."

estly. "People scream and yell when they find a hole in the street in front of their house, but when it comes to taking part in civic matters they won't participate."

"I think a person who has the time and inclination should be obligated to take part."

Mr. Alexander breathed a minute after this, and then quickly added that he had been President of the Jaycees for two years and had received a commendation for instigating the Jaycees' fight against the Ku Klux Klan, had been co-chairman of the county cancer crusade, two among many other positions, and was there anything else we wanted to know?

Yes, we wanted to see a radio station.

He took us into a side room and pointed through a huge glass plate in the wall, and there before our very eyes was a real live disc jockey spinning platters and telling people the time of day with cool aplomb and a pipe in his mouth. Discs weren't all he was jockeying. We asked what the alarming rows of little knobs and flashing red lights were arranged on a panel in front of this god of the microphone, and Mr. Alexander said in an offhand way, "Oh, he's his own engineer." We clutched a table edge in fascination while the god informed Chapel Hill that it was 3:14 and here was a nice little tune they might remember from some time ago, put the record on and sat back puffing at his pipe. We asked how long it took to learn to be one's own engineer for one's own program. "Not very long," replied Mr. Alexander, like a mysterious ancient Roman priest telling an inquirer that it wasn't hard to be a Vestal Virgin—all you had to be was good.

As we left, Mr. Alexander reiterated how much he was appalled at the lack of interest people showed in local government, and added in an almost gouty and definitely mournful voice that "tomorrow is my birthday." We wished him a happy one, and departed wondering how long it really did take to become a knob-god and a disc-spinner too.

On the Town

By Chuck Hauser

LOST AND FOUND DEPARTMENT: The little boy who was holding the cow's tail for Carrboro Mayor R. B. Todd in the milking contest is named Bob Massengale, age 9, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Massengale of Cobb Terrace.

DAVY CROCKETT NONSENSE to end all Davy Crockett nonsense: Homer and Jethro's just-released recording of "Davy Crewcut—the Cat with the Coonskin Cap." Final line of the chorus: "He has the only crewcut coonskin cap in town."

REAL ESTATE MAN BOB WINDSOR, on the subject of walking shorts, reports that one day recently when he was in the yard of his home, dressed in shorts, he was whistled at by a Duke Power Company lineman who was engaged in running a power line across his property.

Now this business of Bermuda shorts is dear to my heart, because I am a firm believer in comfort. The purpose of the shorts, as far as I am concerned, is comfort, and anyone who dons those knee-length sox which are supposed to be fashionable is defeating that purpose.

Charlie Craven, the underworld expert for the News and Observer, penned a communique from Rusty's the other day chronicling what happened when a State College student came into that infamous bistro (dressed in walking shorts) to get a pack of cigarettes. After the student had bought his cigarettes and departed, one of Rusty's steady clientele—I believe it was "Shaky Jake," although I can't be sure—made the classic comment: "That's the ugliest pair of knees I've ever seen on a woman."

O. T. Watkins, the Weekly's advertising manager, who doesn't have the most beautiful set of knees in the world himself, disclosed a week or so ago that he secretly wanted to wear Bermudas to work, but he wasn't going to do it unless someone else did, too, to give him moral support.

"I've got some walking shorts," I told him, "and the only reason I haven't been wearing them so far this summer is that the weather has been so cool they aren't necessary. But if that's what it takes to get you in them, I'll wear mine to work tomorrow."

And I did. O. T. left the office as soon as he had checked my garb, went downtown and purchased himself a pair. Not only purchased them, but wore them out of the store. He agreed that they certainly were comfortable, but he reported later that he was darned uncomfortable when he went home and his wife saw the things.

KIDD BREWER, RALEIGH INSURANCE MAN and former star athlete at Duke, is in the race for lieutenant governor of the state, and Jake Trexler, secretary of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Merchants Association, is already one of his ardent supporters.

Mr. Brewer and Mr. Trexler went to school together at Duke, and the latter says of the former: "Anytime, anywhere, Kidd Brewer's slogan through life has been to help others."

Another Brewer slogan, "You'll be glad you did," is on signs which Mr. Trexler has posted around the Merchants Association office. This is a teaser. The next set of Brewer signs will say "When you vote for Kidd." And a little later, a third set to be issued by the Brewer campaign headquarters will read "Be Sure with Brewer."

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7:30	Music in the Air
7:45	Schools Today
8:00	Astronomy for the Layman
8:30	Let's Listen to Opera
10:00	AP News
10:05	Program Preview
10:10	Evening Masterwork
11:30	Sign Off

Saturday

7:00	Music in the Air
7:15	Vistas of Israel
7:30	Paris Star Time
8:00	Musical
9:00	AP News
9:05	Program Preview
9:10	Evening Masterwork
11:30	Sign Off

Sunday

7:00	Sunday Show Time
7:30	Masterworks from France
8:00	Symphony Hour
9:00	AP News
9:05	Program Preview
9:10	Evening Masterwork
11:30	Sign Off

Monday

7:00	Stories 'N' Stuff
7:30	Over the Back Fence
7:45	Let There Be Light
8:00	A Box at the Paris Opera
9:00	AP News
9:05	Program Preview
9:10	Evening Masterwork
11:30	Sign Off

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