

# The Chapel Hill Weekly

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

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### The Overlapping of Consolidations

Should the present University consolidation be continued now that the Legislature has created the State Board of Higher Education as the supreme authority over all of the state's 12 institutions of higher learning?

This was asked of Major L. P. McLendon, a member of the board, when he spoke here last Friday night. Naturally, with the Board just beginning its work of studying all aspects of higher education in the state, Major McLendon was not prepared to express, in reply, a definite yes or no opinion. But he said that question came within the province of the Board and would be carefully studied.

Acting President Purks, in his talk at the same meeting, quoted a statement of President Gordon Gray's in a recent report to the University Trustees, that the question of continuing consolidation was a suitable one for "re-examination."

When University consolidation was established 22 years ago in the administration of the late Governor O. Max Gardner, the principal purpose of it was declared to be the prevention of "overlapping"—that is, the duplication of functions. That was in the depression when the state's revenues had undergone a disastrous decline, and a powerful argument for consolidation was that it would save money. The saving effected by consolidation, if there was any at all, did not amount to much. It was swallowed up by the expansion and the higher level of operating costs in the following years. The total operating expense of the three institutions (in Chapel Hill, Raleigh, and Greens-

boro) was \$1,333,000 in the year before consolidation went into effect. For the last year, 1954-55, the total for the three was \$14,582,000. In view of this increase, it would take a magician to figure out how much saving, if any, resulted from consolidation.

As the prevention of the overlapping of functions in the state institutions was a purpose of the consolidation of 22 years ago, so it is now a purpose of the new Board of Higher Education. But the creation of the Board has brought a new form of overlapping—the overlapping of consolidations. The New Board, itself a consolidation, is superimposed on an existing consolidation. The logical, sensible thing for the Legislature to do, now that it has created a Board with supreme power over all the institutions, would be to abolish the present University consolidation and turn each of the three allied institutions back to its board of trustees. I hope that this action will be recommended to the Legislature by the Board of Higher Education.—L.G.

### For a Merrier Christmas

Residents of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Glen Lennox and the rest of Orange County have the opportunity to participate in something which will make their own Christmas merrier as well as bring joy into homes that have little to be happy about during this holiday season.

The opportunity is the Empty Stocking Fund campaign, which is in full swing now in its program to fill the empty stockings of more needy families than ever before. About 1,400 people in the county, including all members of the families involved, have applied for Empty Stocking assistance. The Welfare Department has certified that need exists in each case, and the Junior Service League is directing the mammoth campaign to bring some Christmas cheer to these families.

In many cases, the people need good food and warm clothing. They ask nothing more. In other cases, they would like the little "extras" such as a doll for a child that otherwise will receive no Christmas toy.

Everyone who can help, even in a very small way, is needed to make the Empty Stocking a success. If you are able to "adopt" an entire family and take care of their Christmas needs, that is wonderful. If you are only able to contribute a few cans of food, a boy's wool sweater, or a dollar to go toward the purchase of food, that is wonderful, too.

Your help is urgently needed. The number to call is 3656.

### Passages from McLendon's Talk

(Here are passages from the talk of Major L. P. McLendon, a member of the State Board of Higher Education, at the meeting of the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors last Friday night).

It is not difficult to ascertain from the language of the Act of the 1955 General Assembly, creating the North Carolina Board of Higher Education, what the General Assembly itself considered to be the major task assigned to the Board. It is described in Section 5, Subsection (e) in the following language:

"The Board shall make plans for the development of a system of higher education and shall have power to require such institutions to conform to such plans."

The term "such institutions" refers, of course, to the institutions and only those placed under the jurisdiction of the Board and these are defined to be institutions furnishing educational and instructional curricula beyond the twelfth grade and supported in whole or in part by State appropriations.

Other language of the Act, it seems to me, makes it clear that the word "system" is to be given its usual connotation. It means a system of higher education for the State as a whole. It means a planned, organized and correlated group of institutions—now 12 in number—in which each has a place to fill, a job to do, and an objective to pursue, so that, when all are put together, they will serve the higher educational needs of the State. It is clear that this "system" is not limited to the 12 existing institutions of higher education but on the contrary it is to be flexible and must permit the effective and efficient growth and expansion of these existing institutions and the creation and addition of others as they are needed.

This authority to systematize our institutions of higher education is not, however, unlimited. The Act makes it clear that the authority of the Board shall not override the authority of the Boards of Trustees of the individual institutions in the management and control of their internal affairs. This is as it should be. There is immeasurable value in the affection and devotion of the Trustees to their respective institutions and to the traditions that have grown up around them.

The authority of the Board in budgetary affairs is subject to the higher authority of the Budget Director and the Advisory Budget Commission and finally of the General Assembly. This also is as it should be. Only the General Assembly can appropriate the people's tax money and the Governor, as Budget Director, should be responsible and accountable for its proper expenditure. So then, it will be the duty of the Board, charged with knowledge of the educational requirements of the State's system of higher education, to recommend budgets for each of the institutions.

The Legislature has charged the Board with the responsibility for the original examination and scrutiny of institutional budgets and the recommendation of sound and adequate budgets.

The Board has ample authority for obtaining all necessary information about institutional requests for operating expenses, permanent improvements and all other expenditures.

We anticipate that we will have no difficulty in establishing the highest degree of cooperation between the Board and the individual institutions on the one hand and the Board and the Advisory Budget Commission on the other. This conviction is being confirmed as we visit and confer with administrative heads and the financial officers of each of the present institutions.

While the Board of Higher Education is concerned directly with the planning, maintenance, and operation of a system of higher education to meet all reasonable educational needs, it is enjoined to give primary consideration to the importance of training persons for the teaching profession.

The educational demands upon our public school system and our institutions of higher education, due to increased student enrollment during the next ten to fifteen years, are reasonably free from serious doubt. You will note that I use the word "demands"—meaning the demand of students for ad-

mission. There is unanimity, among all of those who have studied the problem, that college enrollment will progressively increase at approximately the present rate of 2,000 per year until 1960 and then it will take a precipitous climb to 1970 when the present college enrollment will be doubled. This estimate is based on the assumption that our private colleges will continue to enroll approximately 45 to 50 per cent of the total. This assumption is probably over-optimistic because the growth of the private colleges is limited by their financial resources.

The national average of college teachers is one for a little more than 13 students. On that basis, we now have employed in the 12 North Carolina institutions of higher education about 2,000 teachers and on the same basis we will need by 1970 an additional 3,000. The fund for the advancement of education established by the Ford Foundation estimates that it will require one-half of all the college graduates in the United States during the next ten years to fill the demand for teachers in the nation's colleges and public schools, whereas at the present time only one-fifth of the total number of graduates are going into the teaching profession.

In the year 1953-54 the total number of qualified teachers graduated from our North Carolina colleges was 3,040; but only about one-half actually taught. The Advisory Budget Bureau in its analysis of the 1955-57 budget for public schools estimated that the North Carolina colleges would turn out only 2,120 teachers in the school year 1955-57, consisting of 1,425 whites, 695 Negroes, and 20 Indians.

Our State Department of Education has estimated that the cost of providing buildings, land, and equipment to meet the contemporaneous increased enrollment in the public schools for the period ending in 1960 will be 395 million dollars. I know of no estimate for the following 10 years, 1960-70. We can get some idea of the cost of expanding the facilities for higher education by recalling that from 1947 to 1952, North Carolina appropriated 96 1/2 million dollars for permanent improvements at our 12 institutions of higher learning, and that the present State appropriation for the operation of the 12 institutions is 19 1/2 million dollars per year. Without any attempt to reduce the estimate to dollars, it is apparent that the cost of providing physical facilities for twice the present college enrollment between now and 1970 plus the cost of doing the same thing for the public school system will amount to staggering and unprecedented sums. The figures become so large one wonders

whether it will be possible to provide the money without substantial aid from the Federal Government.

The Commission on Higher Education reported to the 1955 Session of the General Assembly that in our 12 institutions the student-faculty ratio was 16.5 students per teacher.

This background of facts suggests a number of things which are vital to the planning of a satisfactory system of higher education. First of all, each one of the 12 institutions and our Board must survey and inventory all of the existing facilities and ascertain with accuracy the extent to which they are being used and the extent to which they can accommodate a larger student enrollment. As a part of this survey and inventory, we need to give a most careful consideration to the student load per teacher. Whether it is desirable or not, the statistics which I have briefly reviewed would indicate that we are going to be compelled somehow to teach larger classes and to find some way to make a greater time-use of buildings, laboratories and other facilities. The taxpayers are entitled to know whether the existing facilities are being used to their maximum capacity before they are asked to pay more taxes for enlargements and extensions.

The planning of enlargements and extensions of existing institutions must be a part of the overall system and for the next few years, at least, there must be a concentrated effort to spend money for enlargements and extensions where it is really most needed. Haphazard construction of buildings and other facilities must be eliminated from all our thinking and planning.

The rapidly increasing cost of higher education has attracted attention to the possibilities for economy provided by the operation of community and junior two-year colleges. Already, many states have adopted such a program. I need not advance the arguments in favor of such institutions other than to comment that the nearer you bring such institutions to the students the more you reduce the necessity for expensive dormitories and boarding facilities.

As members of the teaching profession I invite you to give serious thought to how we are to maintain high standards of educational excellence under the pressures that are certain to result from the huge increase in student enrollment. There is much dissatisfaction with the present high fatality rate among students in their first year at our present institutions. This fact plus the pressures of greater enrollment have already led some institutions in other states to adopt selective methods designed to eliminate the poorly prepared students and

### On the Town

By Chuck Hauser

**NORTH CAROLINA'S RECORD WEEKEND** for bloodshed in 1955 produced one of the most violence-filled front pages I have seen on a newspaper in years. It was the Durham Herald on Monday, December 5, and it probably contained more deaths per square inch than the obituary page.

The main headline read "At least 20 Highway Deaths Listed for Tar Heel Weekend." Two pictures prominently displayed on Page 1 showed what was left of automobiles after high speed wrecks (one was spread over four columns, the other across three columns). Other headlines on the same page: "Road Patrol Says Toll Is Worst for This Year," "Local Man Killed As Car Overturns," "Father, Daughter Killed in Chatham as Car Hits Bridge."

I turned to Page 2. There was another three-column picture of a wrecked car, displaying the driver's body alongside the vehicle. Headlines on the page: "Timberlake Man Killed as Car Overturns," "Survivor of Wreck at Enfield Remains on Critical List," "Farmer Is Killed as Auto Turns Over."

The round-up story on the front page revealed that the weekend was one of the deadliest in history on North Carolina's highways, and by far the worst for 1955. This article listed the ages of all but two of the 20 people killed over the weekend. The statistics are fascinating, and perhaps a little horrifying:

The average age of the people killed was only 25. There were one infant, seven teen-agers, four people in their 20's, three in their 30's, and three more over 40. The exact ages were 1, 15, 16 (two), 17 (two), 19 (two), 22, 23 (two), 27, 31 (two), 35, 42, 44, and 59.

The thought of so many young people meeting death just as they really began to enjoy life is numbing to me. Fifty per cent of the fatalities involved people under the age of 23.

The slaughter going on every day on the highways of this nation is sickening. Why won't people slow down? Why do they have to prove their 200-horsepower engines will actually propel their automobiles at the 110 miles an hour indicated as the maximum capability of the speedometer? Do we have to divert the bulk of our tax money away from public schools and into an enlarged highway patrol to keep our citizens from murdering each other and committing suicide themselves with their cars?

The situation not only angers and appalls me, it makes me scared to drive my own car farther than from here to Carrboro.

A NEWS STORY informs us that plans are in the works for erecting a "Merry Christmas" banner in lights to be strung over one of our streets. As far as I am concerned, the proponents of these fancy lights can take their banner and go jump in the lake with it. I would also not mourn the loss of those gaudy lights strung over the roadway on North Columbia street. For my money, they can take all their colored lights (with the exception of those on the Christmas trees here and there) and trade them in on some more of our streetlight Christmas candles which are dignified, restrained, and typically Chapel Hillian.

WHAT A RELIEF IT WILL BE when Governor Hodges wins his second term and can start talking like a chief executive instead of a politician.

LATEST FORECAST from Paris: Faure and warmer.

those not adaptable to college education. It is argued that junior colleges with two-year terminal programs will also tend to reduce the economic waste resulting from high percentage of failures in first year classes. These are the sorts of questions which you men as experienced teachers should be best qualified to discuss and solve.

### I Like Chapel Hill

By Billy Arthur

The telephone rang, I answered, and the voice on the other end said:

"This is Dr. Patterson. That you, Billy? You got a telephone beside your bed?"

"No, sir."

"Well, I thought I told you to stay in bed. Get back there and let someone else answer the phone."

So, we—the pneumonia and I—went back to bed, and that's the reason you were relieved of this bit in the Friday edition. Certainly I should have had a standby column prepared, knowing as far back as December 1 that I wasn't feeling well and had to go to Charlotte for the Shrine Bowl football game. But I didn't, and that's that. Now, to keep from getting fired, I'm violating orders and infecting you with this.

Might as well do that, because I've infected the entire family, the Missus, Annis Lillian, and Bill Jr. Regardless of who brings home the germ, it'll go through our house with the speed of a truck on a limited access highway.

Just wait and see what happens when one of the children brings home the mumps. The Missus has never had them and I have had them on only one side, and already I'm practising talking out of the side of my mouth. And not talking. But whoever heard of a woman practising not talking?

A complete case of the mumps was about all I missed while growing up. Beg pardon, aging and growing wide. Everything in the Board of Health book came my way, and our house had so many varicolex quarantine signs on it that it must have resembled the UN building.

"Aunt Tildy," the colored woman who kept me, used to say, "That Billy catches everything. He's just built so low to the ground that everything what comes along he gets."

(But there may be some consolation in that. Tennessee Ernie Ford on television last week said that a New York doctor had found in a survey that short legged men make better husbands than the long legged variety. I haven't discussed that with the Missus yet, because the same doctor also reported finding that baldheaded men had more virility than bushy headed males. Long hair I got also.)

Getting back, thanks for all the phone calls and cards, even the call from Zeb Council.

"What's wrong with you?" he asked.

"Pneumonia," I replied.

"Huh, I thought you were sick. Why don't you

### Chapel Hill Chaff

(Continued from page 1) about Mr. Phipps's unbroken 34-year string of games.

Hubert Neville, who was seated next to me at the banquet, said Mr. Graves's recent remarks in the Weekly about having seen Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in New York soon after the turn of the century reminded him that he had seen the same show in Durham in 1910.

Mr. Neville was ten years old then. "I'll never forget it," he said. "Buffalo Bill rode and shot and there were a lot of Indians riding bareback and yelling and carrying on. They had some real buffalo with them. The program even included a chariot race. The show was in a field on the outskirts of Durham."

Mr. Neville, who was born and raised here and is now manager of the Carrboro branch of the Bank of Chapel Hill, said he went over to Durham to the show with his uncle, the late W. E. Lindsay of Chapel Hill.

You never know what you'll find next in the dictionary, an inexhaustible font of surprises.

I had heard of cow-cousins (unrelated children raised on the milk of the same cow), but not till yesterday had I heard of cousin-german. I ran across it when looking up some other word. The definition described cousin-german as a first cousin and said turn to the adjective german for more information.

Under german was the following definition: "Literally, near of kin; specif.: (a) of the same parentage; own (brother or sister);—in brother-german and sister-german. (b) Being the child of one's parent's own brother or sister; own, or first (cousin);—in cousin-german." This is news to me, and may be to some of my readers.

get something serious?"

Well, I have had a relapse. I took advantage of an hour of feeling quite chipper to make out the checks for the November debts we incurred. Then I totaled them up, and went back to bed.

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