

# The Chapel Hill Weekly

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LOUIS GRAVES Contributing Editor  
 JOE JONES Managing Editor  
 BILLY ARTHUR Associate Editor  
 CHUCK HAUSER Associate Editor  
 ORVILLE CAMPBELL General Manager  
 O. T. WATKINS Advertising Director  
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## Federal Aid for Schools Is Specially Important to North Carolina

The proposed program of federal aid for public schools calls for far greater appropriations than the one proposed by the President a year ago. That was an emergency measure. The plan he has now laid before Congress grows out of the careful analysis by the country's foremost experts in public school education, of the information gathered at nation-wide conferences. Four thousand such conferences were held in 1955, culminating in November in the White House Conference on Education.

Acting President Purks of the University was one of North Carolina's delegates to that gathering and he gave an illuminating report on it at this month's meeting of the Chapel Hill Parent-Teachers Association.

Mr. Purks said he did not feel sure that the White House Conference was conducted in the best way, since the discussion group procedure seemed to result in a sifting out of adverser criticisms of the present system of public school education. He said, however, that the conference was valuable in that it offered an excellent opportunity for an exchange of ideas from all over the country.

These are the principal features of the federal aid program proposed by the president:

1. Federal grants amounting to \$1-250,000,000 at a rate of \$250,000,000 annually for five years. This would be matched with state funds, to supplement local construction efforts.
- (2) A program to authorize \$750,000,000 over five years for Federal purchase of local school construction bonds when school districts cannot sell them in private markets at reasonable interest rates.
- (3) A five-year program of advances to help provide reserves for bonds issued by state school financing agencies. These bonds would finance local construction of schools to be rented and eventually owned by the local school systems.
- (4) A five-year \$20,000,000 program of matching grants to states for planning to help communities and states overcome obstacles to their financing of school construction.

"The key to this program," says Benjamin Fine, education editor of the New York Times, is the first item—the direct grants-in-aid of \$250,000,000 annually for five years. This would mean, since the loans would be almost matched by the states, a total of close to \$2,500,000,000 over the five years. It was estimated that about 60,000 classrooms could be constructed with this amount (at the prevailing cost of some \$40,000 for each classroom). The additional classrooms may be just enough to meet the needs of a growing school population, providing the present rate of 60,000 or more classrooms a year is maintained, aside from the federal program."

The President says in his message: "The first broad principle is that federal grants must not reduce the incentive for state and local efforts—but rather should stimulate an increase in such efforts. If federal funds are used merely to replace funds which otherwise would or could be provided at state and local levels, there is no net gain of schools for our children. I propose, therefore, that federal grants be matched by state appropriations. "Another fundamental principle is that federal funds, under this type of program, should be distributed according to relative need. We must recognize that some states have more financial resources than others." This second requirement stated by

the President is specially important to North Carolina because, combined with a relatively low level of wealth, we have a school population that is much larger in proportion to the total population than it is in most other states. The reason for the large school population is, of course, the state's exceptionally high birth rate, which ranks toward the top in the nation. All North Carolinians ought to support with their pleas to Congress and their prayers to God the enactment of the legislation recommended by the President. It will certainly be nice if the federal government will help to finance our state's fecundity. —L.G.

### About Names That End With S

"There it is again," I said to myself with a peevish thought. I was looking at a name I had just typed, Hobbes, meaning members of one of our Chapel Hill Hobbs families. Of course it wasn't anybody by that name that I was peevish about. It was the fact that here again was a name ending with an s, and compelling me, when I wanted to paralyze it, to add another syllable with another s.

I have one of those names, too, and so has my colleague Joe Jones, and so have many people I know and millions I don't know. Hobbs, Adams, Andrews, Lewis, Graves, Jones, Williams, Dobbins, Burns, Douglas—these names in the singular look as good as any others. But when you turn them into plurals—Hobbeses, Adamases, Andrewses, Lewiseses, Graveseses, Joneseses, Williamses, Dobbinses, Burnses, Douglases—they have an awkward sound and an awkward look.

I never heard of anybody's changing his or her name to escape from this predicament. It is hardly enough of a curse for that, but it is a big nuisance.

The French get around it by preceding a name with the plural of the word meaning the. Where we say the Adamases, the Joneses, the Douglases, they would say les Adams, les Jones, les Douglas. But in English the plural for the word the is the same as the singular. If I should want to designate a couple or the members of a family and should say the Douglas, or the Adams, or the Hobbs, that wouldn't convey my meaning. In fact, it wouldn't convey any meaning at all. Nobody would know which Douglas or which Adams or which Hobbs I was talking about. The listeners might think I was trying to talk in the archaic language of the Scots of centuries ago who spoke of "the Bruce."

If I said that the Andrews gave a talk on the chemistry of foods and what sort of diet is good for you, or that the Adams delivered a lecture on Thoreau, people who knew these two men's specialties would know whom I meant, but if I said I had met the Andrews or the Adams on Franklin Street it might be any one of many Chapel Hillians named Andrews or Adams. People would wonder what crazy notion had seized me.

Well, we ess-enders will just have to bear our cross with as much fortitude as possible. We ought not to be censured if we indulge in the sin of envy—envy of people who have, for example, names like Cobb and Hamilton and Kyser and Dey and Warren. See how simple and easy, and good-sounding and good-looking, are the plurals: Cobbs and Hamiltons and Kysers and Deys and Warrens.—L.G.

### A Recommendation About Franklin

Tuesday of this week was Benjamin Franklin's 250th birthday. He was born in Boston January 17, 1706.

If ever there was a man who deserved the admiration and the gratitude of posterity, it was Franklin. History presents no figure possessed of a more remarkable combination of practical sense, idealism, imagination, and ardent patriotism. He was colossal in intellect and goodwill toward his fellow man.

The celebrations of his birthday took the form of gatherings at which tributes were paid to his genius and achievements. But the greatest tribute to him is just beginning and will go on for several years. That is, the editing and publication, jointly by the American Philosophical Society, which he founded, and Yale University, which gave him an honorary degree, of "The Papers of Benjamin Franklin." The first of the planned twenty-five volumes will appear in 1959, the last about a dozen years later.

The best way anybody can celebrate

the birthday of Benjamin Franklin is to read what he has written and what has been written about him. But of course the ordinary citizen, by which term I mean a person outside the ranks of historians and other scholars, can't read twenty-five volumes, even assuming he is here when they all come out, which many of us won't be. The thing for him to do is to read, or re-read, the famous Autobiography—I read it for about the third or fourth time recently and again found it fascinating—and also to read a biography.

It so happens that there is an excellent one-volume biography by our fellow Chapel Hillian, Phillips Russell, entitled "Benjamin Franklin, the First Civilized American." When it was published it was reviewed on the front page of the New York Times Book Review and was acclaimed in many other newspapers and in the literary periodicals. It contains all the most important information about Franklin and is written in a lively, pungent style worthy of its subject. There is not a dull page in it.—L.G.

### Academic Freedom

(Greensboro Daily News)

There has always been more than a geographical dividing line between North Carolina and South Carolina. The difference has been one of spirit. Observers, in apportioning credit for this difference, have often pointed to the University of North Carolina as a leader in intellectual development as well as the state's material progress.

We bring up this subject because of two recent news stories concerning the state universities of the two Carolinas.

A University of North Carolina trustee, speaking at Oxford, said that he is "more fearful that teachers will not use their academic freedom than that they will abuse it."

Very interesting was another sentence from the talk by Victor Bryant of Durham:

"It must be anticipated that the results of his (the faculty member's) search will collide at times with orthodox beliefs, and it might be further expected that, not infrequently, unortho-

dox beliefs will emerge. These may be highly unpalatable to both the university administrative officials and the trustees. However, it must be remembered that the heresies of one age frequently become the accepted standards of the next."

Mr. Bryant, of course, is not authorized to speak for the University of North Carolina. But he is an influential Tar Heel citizen and, besides being a trustee of the University, heads the committee to select a new president for the University.

Now sadly we turn our attention to the University of South Carolina, where Dean Chester C. Travelstead of the school of education was fired for expressing his conviction that enforced segregation can no longer be justified in public schools.

Dr. Travelstead's trouble began when he penned a letter to Governor George Bell Timmerman, Jr., disagreeing with the Governor's views on the Supreme Court's desegregation decision. For this, Dean Travelstead was called into the office of University President Donald Russell and there told that "such controversial matters make politicians mad."

Still, Dr. Travelstead's contract was renewed and simultaneously he received a salary increase. A few days later he made a talk at the university, expressing his belief that segregation could no longer be justified, even though, he said, "as a white Southerner I have since my early childhood taken for granted the practice of segregation . . ." About two weeks later he was dismissed.

Granted a hearing some two months later, Dr. Travelstead was told by an executive committee of the board of trustees that: (1) Persons employed by the university should not engage in discussion of controversial issues, and (2) it is not necessary for the board to issue a statement of its policy with respect to academic freedom and free discussion on the university campus.

The contrast between Victor Bryant's words and those of the South Carolina committee carries its own editorial comment.

## I Like Chapel Hill

By Billy Arthur

A new version of "I ran into a door in the dark" was being given here this week by a local business man. He was trying to explain the bruise on his forehead.

"You'd never guess how I got that," he declared, as if he figured those who listened would believe him. "My son got one of those gadget—with a suction cup on the end, and I put it on my forehead last night and let him try to knock it off."

Members of the Chapel Hill Athletic Club were beset with a problem of finding table silver for the forthcoming party for the football players.

"I'll tell you how we can get it free," spoke up one member. "If we'll all eat out at least one meal a day and if we each pick up a knife or a fork at each meal, we'll have enough silver and it won't cost us a cent. Besides, the canteen never misses it."

We've commented in the summer how nice it is to walk through the air-conditioned Bank of Chapel Hill while en route from the Weekly to East Franklin Street. Therefore, in this cold weather another compliment is in order. The bank is well-heated and keeps us comfortably warm while on the same journey.

That's not the only reason I go through there so often. The other is that I like to make certain they're keeping in good condition the insurance policies they hold as securities for my notes.

This is Leap Year. That's the year that girls who had hoped to be June brides don't care which month it happens.

The N. C. Press Association should pass a resolution binding its members to do all they can to abolish all the special days and special weeks, which are nothing more than illegitimate brainchildren of promoters. Look at some of the events which will be served up to us in 1956:

National Break a Cold Month. Louisiana Yam Supper Season. Odorous Decoration Week. Take Tea and See Week—Cherry-Vanilla. Sell-A-Bration. National Kraut and Frankfurter Week. Return the Borrowed Books Week. International Wheat Bread for Toast Week. National Mother-in-Law-Day. National Dents out of Fenders Month. National Fun Day. Better Bedding Time. National Expectant Father's Day. American Comedy Week. National Correct Posture Week. National Domestic Rabbit Week. International Rye Bread for Variety Week. Save the Horse Week. Pass the Laugh Week.

Since important dates in North Carolina history are memorialized on the State Flag, let's add another: January 8, 1956—University signs Jim Tatum as football coach.

Television is said to be killing be-bop music. The trouble is that the remains are not being carried away.

### Trash on the Streets

(From Chatham Record)

We here in Pittsboro have not got to do something about the trash on the streets in the downtown area.

In this day and time just about every item purchased in a store comes in a paper container, and most of us are in the habit of tossing these empty wrappings or containers on the street.

The practice of tossing trash on the sidewalks and streets is so prevalent that even if the City Fathers had a crew continuously cleaning the streets, they would still be inefficient.

We need a campaign "to clean up Pittsboro" and get everybody in the habit of putting the trash containers on the streets. And may we suggest that a few more trash containers be placed on the streets here to help us get into the habit of using them.

Pittsboro is the hub of two main highways, and as a result, we have thousands of "visitors" passing through every day and it should be embarrassing to all of us for these folks to see the streets in this condition.

Last year the Garden Clubs and the Girl Scouts did a great job with their "Litterbug" campaigns in keeping the problem before us, but since then we have been backsliders, and are sorely in need of their help once again.

### Gauge of Ages

"In the central place of every heart there is a recording chamber; so long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer, and courage, so long are you young. When the wires are all down and your heart is covered with the snows of pessimism and the ice of cynicism, then, and then only, are you grown old."—Gen. Douglas MacArthur on his 75th birthday.

"On the national average, women live six years longer than their husbands and are about three years younger, making a nine-year difference in the life expectancies of average couples. Thus 13 per cent of women are widows while only four per cent of men are widowers. Add this to the fact that men leave their estates, large and small, to their widows and you see why so much of the nation's wealth is in the hands of women."—From Kiplinger Letter

## On the Town

By Chuck Hauser

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED a letter from Charlie Kurait, staff writer for the Charlotte News and last year's editor of the Daily Tar Heel, in which he takes issue with my recent column (Friday, Jan. 13) on Big Time sports at the University. Because his remarks on the matter are so interesting, and because the subject itself is so important, I am reprinting his letter here in full:

Chuck— You ain't fighting fair. Your column on the Big Time is an exercise in setting up straw men and knocking hell out of them. At least, you didn't do what you apparently started out to do: argue with the excerpt from the Daily Tar Heel editorial.

"They (these statements) won't hold up under a close examination," you said. But you didn't examine them. You examined your own assertion—that the Big Time's critics claim a school must play in the minor leagues or lose most of its games in order to claim amateur status.

Well, here's one seed in the pseudo-intellectual core who doesn't claim any such thing, and I don't think Ed (Yoder) and Louis (Kraar) do, either. You did a fine job of demolishing that argument; but I haven't heard anybody advance it but you.

To claim true amateur status, of course, a school would have to do away with athletic scholarships and put intercollegiate sports on a "Come out and let's have a little fun" basis without regard to box office. Scheduling would then be simply a matter of finding other schools with the same viewpoint toward intercollegiate sports.

As for supporting lacrosse and soccer and cross-country, I don't understand why such worthwhile activities (at least as worthwhile as football, in my view) couldn't be supported the same way English and History and Physics are supported. Those "hundreds of students who would not otherwise get a chance to participate in sports" could simply be provided for in the budget.

Look at Ed's statement again: "Professionalism has come home to roost in Chapel Hill." How can you deny it? I think that one stands up under the closest kind of examination, since, presumably, the University had a choice when Barclay's contract ran out.

It could stay where it was (and maybe rehire Barclay), or it could move toward amateur status (and maybe announce there would be no more scholarships given on the basis of physical prowess alone, that the University was getting out of the Big Time, that the football craze was not properly a part of the function of a university), or it could move the other way, toward "professionalism" (which it did with the hiring of Tatum with all the things that implies: a move toward competition on the Top Level, toward extensive recruiting, and—the Big Criterion of the Big Time—the Big Money).

If the University should find it hard to locate truly "amateur" teams to play, it would, under an amateur program, drop out of intercollegiate football. I'd hate to see it happen, since football on Saturday afternoon is a fine old diversion. But it wouldn't be exactly the death knell of the school as a great state university. It isn't likely to happen anyway, Lord knows.

Because now the trail is well blazed, and your own high sentiments about "heartfelt appreciation" for a game well-played will add up to no more than a row of yard markers.

"Playing a good game—showing that they are doing their best"? Nonsense. AMATEURS can do their best. Jim Tatum was brought to Carolina to WIN. That's not the essence of amateurism, which takes into account "how they played the game." Professionalism, in short, has come home to roost.

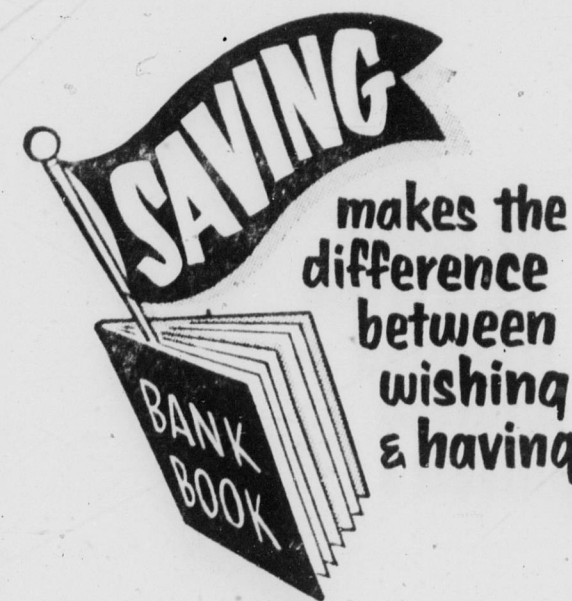
I suppose there are a lot of good arguments for professionalism. But leave us not kid the readers.

Yours,  
Charlie

In my reply to the above letter, I told Charlie that he was correct in calling me down for stating that I was going to answer the Daily Tar Heel editorial.

My column did not deny or attempt to refute all the things Ed Yoder and Louis Kraar wrote. My column was, in effect, a defense of what has come to be called "professionalism" in intercollegiate sports. It was also a defense of the University's academic intentions and integrity in relation to the hiring of Jim Tatum.

The University has weathered a lot of crises since 1795, and if it can't weather a little Big Time football, I'll be very much surprised.



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