

# The Chapel Hill Weekly

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**LOUIS GRAVES** ..... Contributing Editor  
**JOE JONES** ..... Managing Editor  
**BILLY ARTHUR** ..... Associate Editor  
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## What Inflation Means to the Individual

No matter how much is published about inflation, and is spoken about in Congress and other public gatherings and over the radio, it is hard for most of us to realize its meaning to the individual. Even though it bites you cruelly by driving prices up, you do not become readily aware of its full depressing effect on the value of your money. Out of long habit, unconsciously, you are apt to keep on looking upon a dollar as something that's the same at one time as at another, something stable and dependable. It takes a considerable effort for a person who is not unusually finance-minded to grasp the simple truth that the dollar has no meaning at all except in terms of what it will buy. It is merely a measuring unit for the amount of food or meat or clothing or anything else that you can get in exchange for it.

If you bought fifteen years ago a bond, or placed your money in a savings bank or in life insurance, your investment may show today an increase of 25 per cent in face value—that is, in the number of dollars it is worth; but in real value, by the measure of what it will buy in the stores, it has actually decreased.

There are some people—clever speculators, producers who benefit from rising prices, working men who are able to get their wages raised—who do not lose, or may even gain, from inflation, but it bears down heavily upon a vast number of men and women who are unable to increase their income.

Almost everybody prefers not to think of anything disagreeable, even to the extent, a good part of the time, of pretending it doesn't exist. Just as, for example, you ignore the need of going to the doctor or the dentist for an examination and won't go until you are in pain. So with inflation. You like to ignore it by not reading about it or by moving away, when anybody begins talking about it, to a more cheerful segment of the company. But sometimes your attention is re-drawn to it in such a way that you find yourself getting interested in it again.

So it was with me today when I was reading a bulletin from the American Institute for Economic Research announcing its latest book, "What Will Deflation or More Inflation Mean to You?"

Here are some lines from the bulletin's introduction:

"Lost: 160 billion dollars in purchasing power by you and others who have put money in savings banks, life insurance, U. S. Savings bonds, and other supposedly safe investments since 1939. This is the actual cost to people in the United States of the great tidal wave of inflation that has been re-arded but not by any means stopped is yet . . . If inflation continues in coming months by means of rapidly increasing real estate and installment loans, the cyclical recovery of business may become a major boom. Invariably in the nation's experience the aftermath of such a boom has been a deflationary dust."

The American Institute for Economic Research is plainly pessimistic about the financial situation, and it may be assumed that anything it punishes has the same slant. I have no sympathy with that point of view; but neither do I have any sympathy with the opposite one. I don't know enough about the subject to have any opinion on one way or the other. I am not even a guesser about what's going to happen.

But the book commends itself to

me because, as I read the table of contents, I find that several chapters are devoted to explanations of financial procedures and to the history of inflations in the United States, France, Germany, and elsewhere. Here is factual material that I would like to explore. The author, Edward C. Harwood, is an economist of good repute, who, whatever conclusions he may draw, can be trusted to give an honest presentation of the facts. I am about to send for a copy of the book. The price is \$1, postpaid, and the order is to be mailed to the American Institute for Economic Research, Great Barrington, Massachusetts.—L.G.

## The Past of Tuscaloosa

Tuscaloosa, Alabama, has a past, a present, and a future.  
The future is shrouded in mystery. Nobody can say anything certain about it except that it is dreaded.  
About the present, beginning with the mob action four weeks ago, there is nothing new to be revealed. The story of bitterness and violence has been told to the public through millions of words printed and spoken and through pictures in magazines and newspapers and on television screens.  
But of the past of Tuscaloosa, in respect to the relations of the races, the only comprehensive review has been the one in an article by Wayne Phillips in last Sunday's New York Times Magazine. Here are some of the historical passages from that article:

Tuscaloosa is a city of 56,000 persons at the headwaters of the Warrior River. It is in country first seen by white explorers in 1810, settled in 1816. Until the Civil War it was little more than a trading center for the surrounding cotton plantations, and it was 1920 before its population passed 10,000.

In Tuscaloosa, the Negroes and whites have lived side by side in peace. Here the Negro may register and vote as freely as the white man. Here "separate but equal" means just that—in education, transportation, recreation, and housing. Here, Negroes and whites work side by side, sit down to talk together, occasionally worship together, take part in programs in each other's schools and, until recently, respected each other.

In part, that has been because of the presence here of the University of Alabama, a 125-year-old all-white institution with a magnificent campus, good professors, and an academic standing better than its reputation as the country club of the South would indicate. The university has done much through the classroom to break down blind prejudice, and it has brought into the community a leavening influence of Northerners who have made this their adopted home.

Between them, the educated Southerner and the transplanted Northerner have worked cautiously and diligently in years past toward harmonious relations between the races, breathing life into Christian platitudes about brotherhood and respect for man.

Much of this was done through the Interracial Committee of the town's Religious Council, a small but potent group of Negro and white leaders organized eleven years ago by J. T. McKee, a retired educator. Its chairman today is Dr. R. E. Tidwell, who was from 1927 to 1931 the State Superintendent of Education. He retired in August, 1954, as dean of the University of Alabama's important extension division and immediately moved to the other side of Tuscaloosa, to become the assistant to the president of Stillman College, an institution for Negroes supported by the Presbyterian Church of the U. S.

Among the white members of the council are the president of Stillman College, the Young Men's Christian Association secretary, a hardware store owner, ministers, a rabbi and university professors. Among the Negroes are a newspaper publisher, an important property owner, the high school principal, ministers and educators.

Through the efforts of this council, its members and those sympathetic to it, a quiet revolution was going on.

White staff members of the University of Alabama became part-time members of the Stillman College faculty. Negroes became members of the directing boards of the Red Cross and the United Community Fund. A Negro recreation center was set up under the United Fund. Negro recreation was given a share of the city's recreation funds, proportionate to the population. The Chamber of Commerce sponsored an annual dinner for the best Negro farmer. A completely modern \$2,000,000 high school was built for Negroes.

Similar things were going on in areas unreached by the council. In the C. I. O. unions Negroes and whites belonged together, met together, sat

## I Like Chapel Hill

By Billy Arthur

"Clowns are funny, and Undertakers, solemn; A pet pig is lousy And so is your column."

We plead nolo contendere. This column is placed in the paper for good reason. Because The Weekly long has been noted for excellent reporting and writing, it was deemed wise to have just one little teeny bit of output with which the usual good writing and reporting could be compared. Contrast, mind you.

Therefore, were it not for the quality of other materials which appear on this page, I'd suggest that the first thing one do upon receipt of this issue would be to rip off this page.

And another thing: The Weekly appeals principally to a high class of readership. There are some readers of The Weekly, however, to whom such poetic drivel as that above appeals. And if they can go for that, they certainly ought to be able to digest what I type.

The freshest of intelligence: When you phone Sears Roebuck in Durham and ask for the typewriter department, you are connected with the lingerie department.

Hap Perry is a smart one. He's started playing it safe at the coffee club. He moves from table to table and asks, "Is anyone saying anything worth hearing?" He sits only at tables where he gets an affirmative answer.

Joe Jones is a man to be envied, especially by newspapermen. He wears a white shirt daily, pulls and corrects galley proofs, oftentimes puts type in the paper, and never gets ink on the shirt.

If I were to wear one to work and never get within 30 yards of ink, the shirt would be blotched by 11 a. m.

## An Open Letter to Mayor Cornwell

Dear Mayor Cornwell: I believe that everyone who attended the hearing Monday night on the proposed annexation agrees with you that it was characterized by intelligence, good faith and good humor. If I have some second thoughts on the proposal, it is because the meeting was so well-informed as to leave food for thought.

I believe that most of the residents of the area proposed for annexation feel themselves to be Chapel Hillians, and want to assume the rights and responsibilities of full citizenship. The proposals outlined by Mr. Rose seemed well thought out and fair to the area proposed for annexation. I may add that enlargements in the police and fire forces, while intended primarily to service the new area, would be beneficial to the present town as well, since they would be better able to handle calamities anywhere in the enlarged town. And I take in good faith Mr. Rose's estimate that the town could maintain its enlarged services without any increase in the present town tax rate.

Nevertheless, the carrying out of Mr. Rose's proposals hinges upon the approval, by a vote of the enlarged town, of a large bond issue. Without the bond issue, most of the advantages of annexation would disappear for those in the area proposed for annexation. Even the enlarged fire force would be of greatly reduced value without the investment in a new fire house and new equipment. Since several probable immediate capital expenditures were mentioned at the meeting that were not listed in Mr. Rose's figures, it seems likely that the amount of the needed bond issue would be even larger than Mr. Rose's estimate. This, I am sure, the largest increase in the town's debt ever proposed, just as the annexation is much the largest in area ever proposed, dwarfing the annexations of the past few years. This is not another cautious step forward, but a full broad jump.

Speaking as an advocate of annexation, I am not certain that the citizens of the present town are as aware as they should be of the implications of annexation in the approval of the bond issue that would be needed to implement it if it is to be fair to the new area. I would like to feel that the annexation is approved by the citizens of the present town with a full understanding of all that it involves.

I would therefore urge that the Council submit the proposal

down together at the bargaining table. In the A. F. L. unions there were Negro locals and white locals—but the representatives of each sat together in the Tuscaloosa Central Labor Union and were equally vocal. Pay for Negroes and whites was equal. White local members respected the picket lines of Negro locals. And white workers went out on strike to preserve the jobs of Negro employees.

There are Negro and white Roman Catholic Churches in Tuscaloosa. But isolated Negroes can worship unnoticed at the white church. And a few whites, for convenience, will go to mass at the Negro church. The white priest at the Negro church is also the chaplain of the all-white Knights of Columbus. By working conscientiously and diplomatically he has persuaded the Knights to make the Negro parochial school their meeting place.

That school, at the edge of a Negro section, is across the street from a row of expensive, upper middle-class homes. The close proximity, which has bothered neither the whites nor the Negroes, is typical of the mixed-up racial pattern in Tuscaloosa housing.

## The Annexation Question

John LeGrand, 13-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Q. LeGrand, discusses the proposed municipal annexation in the following talk he made recently before the Rotary Club and the Kiwanis Club as one of a series of talks on community problems made before the civic clubs by boys in Mrs. Louise Lamont's public speaking class: "Mr. Chairman, and members of Chapel Hill's civic organizations: "You men, I know, are vitally interested in the growth and development

## Chapel Hill Chaff

(Continued from page 1)

the announcements was the title of his Sunday sermon topic. Whereupon we exchanged a few remarks upon how his profession and mine resembled each other in one respect: that many people thought a clergyman could write off his sermon easily and rapidly the day before it was to be delivered, without having had to bother to think about it before, just as they thought a newspaper writer could dash off any sort of job, an editorial or essay or anything else, on demand, in a few minutes before going to press time.

An article by Don Bishop about the success of Eugenia Rawls (Mrs. Don Seawell) as a member of the cast supporting Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne in "The Great Sebastians" in New York was published in the newspapers last Sunday. Toward the end of the article was a paragraph about Brook, the Seawells' eight-year-old daughter. She is well known as a child actress and has a regular engagement on television.

Reading about her, I remembered that a year or so ago I had heard of Brook's coming here sometimes to visit her grandmother, Mrs. A. F. Seawell. I telephoned and asked when she would be coming again.

"I am hoping she will be here on her birthday, March 31st," said Mrs. Seawell.

When she mentioned her granddaughter's television engagement she said that the parents were careful to see that Brook's acting was not allowed to interfere with her school work. This recalled to me the discussions I used to hear and read, in New York fifty-odd years ago, about children's pursuing a life on the stage without proper regard for their health and their schooling. The New York State Legislature enacted laws to prevent such neglect and these afford good protection. But no laws take the place of watchful parents.

Mrs. Seawell's two sons, Malcolm, a judge, and A. A. F., a lawyer in one of the military departments in the Pentagon in Washington, were here on a visit to her a few days ago. She hopes Don will be able to come when his daughter comes.

—As I believe it has the power to do—to the voters of the present town as well as the voters of the area proposed for annexation with full publicity as to all the costs involved. A favorable vote in both areas could then be taken in good faith as assurance that annexation would be followed by approval of the bond issue.

We would like to come in, but would also like to be sure that we are welcome.

Faithfully yours,  
Lambert Davis  
761 Greenwood Road

of Chapel Hill. One of the most important questions now facing the Board of Aldermen is whether to enlarge the town's limits to include the Glen Lennox area, the Greenwood section, and the Country Club-Laurel Hill Road area. Only twice since the town was incorporated has its limits been extended, the last time being in 1953. The present population is 7,500, with a taxable property valuation of \$16,000,000, covering 1,190 acres. The suggested extension would increase the population by 1,520 persons, the tax value by \$6,000,000, and its area by 528 acres. The increase in tax money would equal the rise in operating costs.

"It is impossible to extend the town's limits to the west without joining with the Town of Carrboro. The areas to the north and south of the present limits have not developed as rapidly as the area to the east. It would be a calamity as far as Chapel Hill is concerned if the continual growth in the Glen Lennox and surrounding areas should result in the incorporation of that section into another town. Chapel Hill would be land-locked both to the east and west, with no room for expansion in either direction.

"Now there are those who would prefer that Chapel Hill remain a small village as it did for many years, but that is now impossible. It has grown tremendously in the last ten years, and the surrounding area will continue to grow.

"Careful consideration should be given now to the proper solution of this problem. Delay may prove costly. I earnestly urge you to give immediate thought to this question and to give the Board of Aldermen the benefit of your fine judgment."

## On the Town

By Chuck Hauser

THE UNIVERSITY DEAN OF Student Affairs, Fred Weaver, would profit, I think, from a careful reading of the report of the Visiting Committee of the Board of Trustees. That report, turned over to the full board in Raleigh on Monday, included the following comments, as quoted by the Daily Tar Heel:

"The most annoying matter affecting student life, and, indeed, the entire campus and community, is that of the increasing number of automobiles . . . The problem is one rather of traffic than of the effect of automobiles upon student morale and scholastic standing. Except in isolated instances, whether or not a student possesses a car does not seem to affect his college career. In Chapel Hill, through the cooperation of the office of the Dean of Student Affairs, the town officials, and the students themselves, genuine and sincere efforts are being made to handle the whole problem . . ."

The second sentence in the excerpt above is the one to which I would particularly like to call Dean Weaver's attention.

Now let me say at the beginning that Dean Weaver's position on one facet of the automobile problem is quite clear: he has gone on record as firmly opposing any restriction on student ownership of automobiles. I appreciate his candor, but I am not in sympathy with the lofty and unrealistic reason Dean Weaver gives for his position: that any such restriction on ownership would violate traditional principles of student freedom.

The important thing here—and I wish to again point to the second sentence of the excerpt from the report—is that the automobile problem is a traffic problem. High-sounding ideals about student freedom haven't got a cotton-picking thing to do with the fact that Chapel Hill's streets are jammed with more cars than they can handle. That is why I say Dean Weaver's position is unrealistic. It is fine for him to defend student freedom, but what is he going to do about the traffic problem?

That brings us to the last sentence which I quoted from the report—the sentence which says "genuine and sincere efforts" are being made to handle (I hope that means "solve") the problem. I say that genuine and sincere attempts are not being made to handle the problem—at least not by the office of the Dean of Student Affairs. The reason I make that rather strong statement is that Dean Weaver has refuted the "genuine and sincere" proposition by his own statement that his mind is closed to the suggestion that student ownership of automobiles be restricted.

Any genuine and sincere approach to the traffic problem in Chapel Hill must include serious consideration of restriction of ownership of automobiles by students. I am not saying that such restriction is the only solution to the problem; I am saying that it is a possible solution, and it cannot be ignored by anybody who claims to be making a genuine and sincere effort to solve (pardon, the word was "handle") the problem.

I HATE TO BE PICAYUNISH about these things, but it does seem that members of the Board of Trustees of a great state university could use the English language properly. I quote two brief excerpts from the Visiting Committee report:

" . . . One in every five students now in attendance is married—and the consensus of opinion is that the number will increase . . ." The error here is, of course, the use of the redundant phrase "of opinion" after the word "consensus."

" . . . Except in isolated instances, whether or not a student possesses a car does not seem to affect his college career . . ." There may be room for debate on this point, but it is my impression that here we have a redundancy in the phrase "or not" which follows the word "whether." It is correct to say, "I don't

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What part of YOUR PAY CHECK Goes for . . . SAVINGS?

Are you getting your fair share of the money you earn? Or do you pay somebody else . . . the butcher, the baker, the electric-light maker . . . and fail to keep a cut of your paycheck for yourself? Start now to make sure you do get your share . . . save before you spend. First thing every payday, deposit a part of your earnings with the Orange County Building & Loan . . . get the habit of saving regularly, and see how fast your money grows. Open a Savings Account with us, soon.

Deposits Made By 10th  
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