

A Change In Stewardship

THE sale of THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER to the Knight interests represents to Charlotte and the Piedmont Carolinas more than the transfer of a considerable property. Along with it goes a delegation of responsibility, a passing on of stewardship in which the community considers itself, and rightfully, we believe, to have a clear proprietary interest. The reputation of Knight newspapers in Chicago (THE DAILY NEWS), Akron (THE BEACON-JOURNAL), Detroit (THE FREE PRESS), and Miami (THE HERALD) is that of well-run newspapers of integrity and a vigorous interest in public affairs. Their standing in the trade is high, not only for aggressive news policies and forceful editorial expression but for adherence to the canons of journalistic ethics as well.

For years Charlotteans have expressed a pride and confidence in their newspapers, a statement which may be made, we trust, without appearing to claim immodest credit for THE NEWS. Both THE NEWS and THE OBSERVER have shown a constant interest in the operation of their local governments, to

which interest may perhaps be attributed the thoroughly wholesome character of those governments, as well as in the whole range of public and civic affairs. In addition the two Charlotte newspapers have constituted themselves promoters of the economic progress of the community, their managements having associated themselves individually and their newspapers with activities which promised growth and progress and betterment for the areas which their newspapers served. The Knights are probably aware of this doubling-in-brass of provincial journalism and may, we feel sure, be counted on to run THE OBSERVER with due adherence to its traditional policies. And come to think of it, it is newcomers rather than old settlers which have made Charlotte the thriving city that it is.

And, ourselves, we bid welcome to this new administration of a noted newspaper, confident that the Messrs. Knight will maintain the same high standards and make new contributions to the welfare of the community in which, and for which, THE OBSERVER is published.

Kill Sectionalism In Tar Heel Politics

IN THE strange lexicography of Tar Heel democracy, sectionalism still retains its old 19th century significance. The artificial balance of power between the east and the west unfortunately has never been blotted from the state's political mores.

This fact is in evidence once more as tight lines are being drawn in the race for president pro tem of the State Senate. Dr. Paul E. Jones of Farmville, returning for his fourth term in 1955, has become a leading candidate for the post and newsmen report that much of his support is based on the east-west divide. Dr. Jones has the almost solid backing of eastern senators.

When is North Carolina going to outgrow its selfish sectional interests? Is it not about time for these ancient rivalries to be forgotten so the state can operate its government along more realistic, intelligent lines?

We have no quarrel with Dr. Jones. He may well be the logical democratic choice for president pro tem—a post which has grown suddenly in importance since the Senate president's chair has been vacated by Luther Hodges. But we do find fault with a threadbare political tradition that has outlived its usefulness.

"The political situation in North Carolina," said the University of North Carolina's Collier Cobb in 1939, "has always been questions of east and west, or the uncourtesy against the lowlands, or of crystalline schisms and granite against unconsolidated clays, sands and cravels."

This is still generally true as the state prepares to move into 1955. North Carolina has tenderer sectional sensibilities than any state in Dixie—including tripartite Tennessee. It has long been the custom for one senator to come from the east and the other from the west—to the

frequent dismay of politicians in the central Piedmont who feel left out of the running. But Kerr Scott of midstate Alamance County ran for governor in 1948 and won—despite cries from his principal opponent that he was violating the rotation system by running from a "western" county. He upstaged tradition again in the 1954 Senate primary. Mr. Scott's political career, however, is filled with one surprise after another.

Political sectionalism extends far back into North Carolina's history. Professors V. O. Key Jr. and Alexander Heard point out that many a crucial vote in the state's past has divided along a fall line which separates the Piedmont from the coastal plain—a diagonal line running northward from Anson County to Northampton. In 1835, the eastern planters battled the west's small farmers over apportionment of legislative seats and, therefore, control of the General Assembly and the state. In 1861, the heaviest opposition to the call of a secession convention came from the west—where large holdings and the more numerous slaves made the secessionist cause more popular. In 1900, the west showed far less enthusiasm for Negro disfranchisement. The east-west divide was even reflected in the 1908 prohibition vote—the mountain counties showing a greater inclination to vote dry.

Sectionalism lives on even though the bulk of the money, productive activity and population has shifted west of the fall line.

The practice imposes an unnatural and undesirable limitation on North Carolina's leadership. It is hardly realistic to suppose that talent for public office will always be distributed equally between the east and the west. Sectionalism, little by little, should be rooted out of Tar Heel politics.

North Carolina: Big Year For Books

NORTH CAROLINA retained its lofty perch near the top of Dixie's literary heap during 1954. A stream of distinguished writing poured into the Tar Heel authors. And not all of it was from the magnolias-in-the-moonlight or two-headed-baby schools of southern fiction.

Among the best of the year's artistic achievements was GOOD MORNING, MISS DOVE by Frances Gray Peltou, a Durham writer already well known to readers of the NEW YORKER. It is the story of a remarkable schoolteacher's impact on a southern community.

Sharing the limelight was RANDALL JARRELL's wise and witty novel, PICTURES FROM AN INSTITUTION, about life in a progressive girls' school. Mr. Jarrell, already hailed as one of America's better young poets and critics, teaches creative writing at Woman's College of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

A third major contribution to the Tar Heel literary scene was THE CALL by HILL STONEWALL, a penetrating study of the Confederacy's Gen. Thomas Jonathan Jackson by Burke Davis, an alumnus of THE NEWS.

Harry Ashmore, another former Newsman (he now edits the ARKANSAS GAZETTE), produced a highly important study of Dixie's segregation problem, THE NEGRO AND THE SCHOOLS, published by the University of North Carolina Press. A second significant book in the segregation series, SCHOOLS IN TRANSITION, was contributed by Robin M. Williams Jr., and Margaret W. Ryan. Mr. Williams, a Hillsboro native, is now professor of sociology at Cornell University.

Another of the year's most distinguished books was NORTH CAROLINA: THE HISTORY OF A SOUTHERN STATE by Hugh Lefler and the late A. R. Newcome. The top bracket should also include THE WIDOWS OF THORNTON by Peter Taylor, a former Greensboro professor; THE END OF INNOCENCE by Raleigh's Jonathan Daniels, editor of the NEWS & THE NEWS.

OVERSEER: THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR ("a de-mythologized account of how the 13 colonies turned the world upside down") by the late James Street Chappell Hill; THE SOUTH IN AMERICAN LITERATURE, 1607-1900 by Duke University's Jay B. Hubbell, and THE GHOST INSURRECTION by Chapel Hill's Doris Betts.

There were many other of note worth books by Tar Heels—POLTROONS AND PATRIOTS by Glenn Tucker, Bane OF THE MACHU by Jan Cox Spears, ROANOK REBORN by Don Tracy, TAR HEEL GHOSTS by John Harden and a string of enjoyable volumes for younger readers by James Street Chappell Hill, Wellman, Melburn Holloman, Burgess, Burgess Leonard, Ruth and Latrobe Carroll, Glen Rounds, James S. Tippet and Mr. and Mrs. Corydon Bell.

North Carolina has no William Faulkner in its ranks and the state's most distinguished writer—Paul Green—published nothing during 1954. But the size and quality of Tar Heel literary achievements for the year were creditable. North Carolina is still one of the bright spots on the map of southern culture.

At least up to now, more birds and animals than hunters have been shot during the current hunting season—GREENVILLE (S.C.) PIEDMONT.

Many a man has learned philosophy from a woman who never heard of it—ELAVILLE (GA.) SUN.

Kitchens of the future will be so equipped that a meal can be prepared by simply pressing a button. This should make good cooks of many husbands who never only think they are—MATTOON (ILL.) JOURNAL-GAZETTE.

An old railroad engineer had just pulled his locomotive up to the water tank. The young fireman mounted the tank and brought down the spout. His cot got tangled and he stepped right into the tank.

Engineer—Son, just fill the tank with water. You don't have to stomp it down.—GREENVILLE (TENN.) SUN.



1954, The Register and Tribune Syndicate

"How much am I losing by not buying now . . . ?"

People's Platform

The Linguistic Battleroyal

Editors, The News: "OUR Motto Is Talk And Let Talk" (News, Dec. 27). I don't know which is really worse, the teenager or the scientist. You didn't mention the latest international language that's been invented. It's called Interlingua and was officially introduced in 1951. It is a curious crossbreed of French, Italian, Spanish and English and it produces sentences like this: "Energia es necessari pro toto que ocure in le mundo. In tempore passate le solun, ha grand pargate del energia applicate eseva fornite muscular del homies e del animales domestic."

"Energia es necessari for that occurs in the world. In past times the sun, has great charge of the energy applied was furnished muscular of the men and domestic animals."

But even with the disarming simplicity of Interlingua and its kinship to Latin, I'm afraid it just won't go. These things never do. Remember all the to-do about Esperanto?

Your Coolspack won't list either. Slang words appear briefly in the language and disappear forever. For instance, who remembers that in an older generation a private judge, "doggie" once meant money, "Banana oil" meant money.

By ARCHIBALD HENDERSON  
In Mark Twain's Journal

MARK TWAIN and Bernard Shaw have two distinctive points in common which invite reflection. Neither attended a college or university, and they were probably a great advantage to both, since a certain naive, forthrightness and freedom of expression would doubtless have been severely clipped by the repressive influence of academic regularization. In the second place, both entered literature through the gateway of journalism, and each wrote with a directness, lucidity, and visible vocabulary.

Shaw's reward in being unlearned was always remain a journalist. His definition of a literary journalist may be found in the following memorable statement: "The writer who aims at producing the platitudes which are 'not for an age, but for all time' has his reward in being unlearned. He has to put things, as I, in such a way as to make people, who otherwise would hang him, believe he is joking."

Several days later, in a note to Mark Twain, Shaw observed: "I am persuaded that the future historian of America will find your works as indispensable to him as the French historian finds the political tracts of Voltaire. It tells you because I am the author of a play in which a priest says, 'Telling the truth's the funniest joke in the world's'—a piece of wisdom which you helped to teach me."

And then, after a reflective pause, he added with a rueful sort of grin: "Mark Twain is in very much the same position as myself. He has to put things, as I, in such a way as to make people, who otherwise would hang him, believe he is joking."

Reminded by newsmen that he, Wilson, had outlined the "single, efficient program" policy in an off-the-record press luncheon in 1953, the secretary of defense grinned and said: "I have held no off-the-record press conference since then."

Secretary of the Navy Charles Thomas on Dec. 16 denied that Vice President Nixon had intervened to demand the security clearance of atomic scientist Dr. Edward U. Condon

Academic Freedom Requires Judgment, Restraint, Taste

By A. HOLLIS EDENS

(Editors' Note: The following are excerpts from a Founders Day address presented recently by Dr. Edens, president of Duke University.)

IT IS DIFFICULT to catch in phrase and sentence the life pulse of an institution which functions not for dollar profit but for service, an institution which deals with the hopes and dreams of men and women, the advancement of knowledge and the betterment of mankind.

And yet the kaleidoscopic change of daily experiences and the hurried national and international movements seem to catapult us along at a most uncomfortable speed, thus making more difficult the problem of retaining perspective.

FREEDOM TO TEACH  
The university is in a healthy state. I would make fleeting reference again to the fact that our faculty remains free to teach and conduct research and the students to experiment and to learn without the intimidation. But reality is not so sure as we get excited about so sure as we of our ground. The student claim that academic freedom is on the wane offers no convincing argument that it is really so. Too often we become excited by the noise of current controversy and assume that the total body of academic freedom is at stake.

Currently we are caught up in the din of discussion about Communism and McCarthyism. But no Duke professor would hesitate to discuss the philosophy and theory of communism and to expose its fallacies. No professor would hesitate to analyze the opposition tactics of McCarthy. Indeed, if one wants to be on the popular side he will oppose McCarthyism.

Of course, if one wants to become a martyr there are always avenues open. But academic freedom was not designed to protect the exhibitionist. It is not intended as a special privilege for

an exclusive group of citizens. Neither is it a bulwark behind which the leftist or rightist in politics is to be shielded. It requires the same sensitivity to men and causes, the same sound judgment, restraint and good taste to be a responsible liberal as to be a responsible conservative.

To be sure there are recurrent incidents which, if unchecked, would lead to restraint. Occasionally someone challenges the right to publish the results of research. Sometimes we get letters demanding that certain books containing controversial points of view be removed from the library. Sometimes the right of a speaker to appear on the campus is questioned, and again the opportunity for open debate is opposed. And mind you, it is not always the reactionary point of view that creates difficulty. The intolerant liberal can be just as oppressive.

Baseball's Most Cherished Ideal Has Been Tarnished

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NOW I believe anything—nearly anything at all—because I read about a week ago that a ballplayer asked for a 20-cent raise. I came to the conclusion that behavior unless he is slightly

terrible. Mr. Ralph Kiner is the gentleman, and he asked the Cleveland Indians, his new employers, to add 20 cents to his salary. He had played 10 years for the Indians, and he had been a ballplayer since he was 16. He was a good ballplayer, and he was a good person.

It is a great deal of honor involved in the pursuit of money, if you are a ballplayer, as there is honor involved in an earned-run average or run batted in. Any ballplayer who feels cavalier about money would not mind if he were traded to Philadelphia, which is where he would certainly go, because he believes in money, or something. In that one case he betrays baseball's most-cherished ideal—money.

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By the same token a good ballplayer believes devoutly that this world is out to defraud him of his rights. He believes that if he paid him a million bucks a game there would be some sort of owner's angle to it, and the player would be getting swindled. There never has been a ballplayer who, in his own mind, did not feel 600 and have an earned-run average of .000 run per game.

I have known a few easy-going ballplayers, and a couple of wasters who threw their dough on horses and booze, but most of the athletes I associated with in the past hung to a nickel as if it were minted of uranium. They fought the clubhouse forer for 100 cents on a new contract, and a manager only had to fire a sinner a few bucks to wound him mortally.

I believe, it is a fine and healthy state, in baseball or out of it. There should never be any sentiment or softness mixed up with money. A man is worth what he is worth, or what he can convince the world he is worth, and to go swimming up to the boss, asking for a cut, is dirty pool.

It seems to me that there nearly always will be a pretty active state of warfare between boss and employee, and that they should go very easy on this good-fellow, good-buddyism. When you are saying is that city editors were made to be hated by reporters, and any time the slaves start dancing with the boss something suffers.

This man Kiner must be controlled. He is next thing you know he'll be eating with the umpires, and the game's gone.

By RALPH KINER  
Don't Bother

Allen Smith as speaker of the California Legislature, as reported in this column on Nov. 28. Mr. Chotiner also denies that Nixon interested himself in the California scholarship race at all.

This denial is significant, and this column is happy to publish it. It is significant because an extremely hot race is taking place in California between the Democrats and the Republicans. Mr. Chotiner is on one side, and Vice President Nixon, Congressman Pat Hillings and the Nixon wing of the GOP on the other side.

At issue are extremely high stakes—control of the big bloc of California delegates to the next GOP convention and eventually the Presidency of the United States. Naturally, control of the California legislature and the speakership is one step in the battle for control.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

OFFICIAL denials, when bandied about by the Truman administration, are used to be scoffed at by Republicans. Now it looks as if the Eisenhower administration had developed some interesting technicalities of its own.

Here are some illustrations: 1—On Feb. 14, 1954, this writer reported that Attorney General Brownell, appearing in Federal court under oath, admitted the truth of what he had denied on Feb. 15.

2—On Dec. 20, Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson denied at a press conference that he had ever favored a "single, efficient program" policy for concentrating military defense orders in a few big companies. His denial was made despite an earlier investigation by Sen. Kefauver into cancellation of Chrysler tank contracts in favor of General Motors, plus the cancellation of various other smaller contracts in favor of large firms.

Reminded by newsmen that he, Wilson, had outlined the "single, efficient program" policy in an off-the-record press luncheon in 1953, the secretary of defense grinned and said: "I have held no off-the-record press conference since then."

Political Air Filled With Hot Denials

However, on Oct. 22, speaking in Butte, Mont., Vice President Nixon openly boasted that he had personally intervened in the Condon case. He made similar statements in other cities during the election campaign.

Technically Nixon's denial was correct because Nixon had intervened through the office of Attorney General Brownell, not direct to the secretary of the navy.

Hands Off? Another interesting Nixon denial has just been received from Murray Chotiner, California campaign manager and chief braintrust for Mr. Nixon in the race for the House of Representatives and the Senate. Mr. Chotiner denies that Nixon telephoned California assemblymen to influence the election of H.