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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1955

Gray Must Be Allowed To Step Aside

THE University of North Carolina needs the courage, broad vision and executive finesse of President Gordon Gray. But it needs these remarkable talents now—today—at this moment in the institution's history.

What ever the personal qualifications of Acting President J. Harris Purks, he cannot logically fill the void, take complete charge of university affairs and attack problems with full presidential vigor.

Thus, at a time when the state university system is confronted with the serious question of segregation, academic issues of some urgency and the need for expansion of facilities in certain important fields, the administrative team lacks the services of a fully accredited quarterback.

Mr. Gray offered his resignation in June to become assistant secretary of defense. At that time the board of trustees refused to accept it and instead gave him a leave of absence.

Even though university affairs clearly demand the services of a full-time president today, there is no apparent possibility that he can respond to the call of duty at home.

Under such conditions, it is the unhappy duty of the board of trustees to accept Mr. Gray's pending resignation. Furthermore, it is the duty of trustees, with as little delay as possible, to appoint a successor who can take up the full responsibilities of office promptly.

Such an act would not be unreasonable. At his inauguration as president of the consolidated university in October 1950, Mr. Gray told trustees: "I accept in all humility the great charge you have given me. I pledge to you that as long as I serve the people of the state in this position I will give the utmost of my energies and of my mind, my heart, and my spirit."

He is understandably unable to fulfill the requirements of that pledge to the university at this time. His heart is with UNC but his energies are centered in Washington. However, urgent problems facing the state's institutions of higher learning will not wait. He must be allowed to step aside.

All Errors In Surveying Are Big

SURVEYING is a delicate business. Any mistake the surveyor makes is a big mistake. A lot line untrue by a matter of inches can become a major battle in the courts and an expense to the general public as well as the property owners involved.

That all the surveying in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County is not plumb true; that, in fact, some is grossly inaccurate, is the repeated testimony of B. O. Vannort, president of Professional Engineers and Surveyors of North Carolina.

Meantime, citizens who need surveying done should remember that cost generally is an index to quality. There is no reason to believe a cut-rate surveyor will give his customer any more than his money's worth.

Memory Smokes On Leaf And Vine

A FINE piece on agrarian delinquency turned up in a recent issue of The Daily Tar Heel. The UNC paper has two editors but we deduce the nostalgic one is Ed Yoder. He was brought up in Mebane, and in Mebane people know about cigarette makin's unsung by auctioneers and testifying celebrities.

Mr. Yoder takes us to the corn patch to look for a suitable cob for a pipe and, while there, we gather silks for storing in a damp place until they are mild and pungent and ready for the pipe. He also tells us to keep an eye open for rabbit tobacco and for a grapevine that, come November, will be brittle and hollow and ripe for breaking into ready-made cheroots.

Reminiscing with Mr. Yoder is fun and maybe we could tell him something about the fine quality of dried figs and other wood leaves that are to be shredded between the hands or forced through screen wire and then rolled in brown paper.

But we part company when he recalls that "the sophisticates always had empty King Edward pipe tobacco tins" to keep their pipe smokes in. The royalty of our childhood was of a lesser rank and we always used Prince Albert cans.

The Quarry

ALTHOUGH we can neither smell, see or fear it as can some unfortunate citizens, we are intrigued by the bilious rock quarry off W. Tremont Ave. Time, effort and large municipal talents have been brought to bear on the problem. Hope of relief grows, and then suddenly the old hole is smoking and blazing again.

We are impressed by Fire Chief Charles proposition: "If we can keep people from bringing this debris in with his Senate colleagues and why he exclude the oxygen from the materials underground, we can end this problem for good."

off their large, most professional, major orchestra sound.

STILL, some audience members from both balcony and parquet seats felt that they still didn't get enough orchestra, that it sounded distant and muffled.

The few events that have taken place in the new hall have at best given us only a partial idea of its sound characteristics.

So about clarity and volume we may ask, "If the Boston Symphony can't fill the hall, sound-wise, who can?"

Several players told us after the Charlotte Symphony concert that the acoustics were very fine from their standpoint; they called it a "players' hall" and were grateful for an improvement in their situation over past seasons.

Let's consider Carnegie Hall for a moment. Its capacity is only a few hundred seats greater than ours. Over a period of years we have sat in just about every location in that hall, and found the acoustics nearly always acceptable.

Perhaps we have some clues.



Backstage Baffling Helped Project Sound of Boston Symphony

Is Anything Wrong With The Auditorium's Acoustics?

By EDWIN S. BERGAMINI

ABOUT the acoustics in Ovens Auditorium, the question is less "How does it sound?" than "How will it sound?"

The main impression has been of a lack of sound volume. The ceremonies of Sept. 11, where several groups participated, gave first indication of this.

At last week's Boston Symphony event, the backstage baffling had been further worked out for the best projection so far.

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stressed that what the performer hears isn't the same as what the audience hears.

From what we are given to understand, no hall's acoustics can be fully predicted and planned.

The margin of "hope and pray" figures after the more mathematical qualities have been figured out to their utmost.

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Carnegie Hall's resident orchestra, the New York Philharmonic-Symphony, has given concerts there since 1922.

Over this 63-year period — with the greatest period of concentration in the last ten years — certain structural alterations have been made on the stage and elsewhere.

The years have also given the Philharmonic an opportunity to work out certain orchestra seating arrangements. Visiting orchestras either take advantage of this seating information, or take their chances with another arrangement, possibly the one they use in their own hall.

EXPERIMENTATION

How does this apply to us? We believe some practical experimentation will be necessary to project better what ever sound—whether from orchestra, chorus, or solo voices and instruments—is on stage.

And a final question: Couldn't the whirr of the air-conditioning system be kept out of the music? Be turned on before the event and perhaps at intermission?

IMPROVEMENT

In summary, we believe the acoustics are good, that they can be improved, and that we should set about improving them as soon as possible.

Few halls are ideal everywhere. What we must strive for is a highly acceptable sound, everywhere.

Once Upon A Time There Was A Beautiful Princess—

Editor: The News: WE HAVE been tremendously impressed with the series of full page ads entitled "SHELL SAFE DRIVING QUIZ," being run in your paper by the Shell Oil Company.

We, at the Carolina Motor Club and through our 75 branch offices, distribute annually some one-half million safety posters dealing with street, highway, pedestrian, driver training, and we know the tremendous value of this type of safety promotion.

That is one of the reasons why we have enthusiastically and heartily endorsed the humanitarian efforts of the Shell Oil Company in the field of street and highway safety.

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HERBLO... CAST THE WINDMILL OF 1955

Estes Suffers From Jealous Rivals

AN eastern newspaper editor phoned me recently to ask why Estes Kefauver of Tennessee was not popular with his Senate colleagues and why he didn't receive more support from the Democratic rank-makers when obviously he had a tremendous following with the voting public.

The answer to the first question is professional jealousy. About 48 of the 96 senators consider themselves potential candidates for president or vice president and none wants to help build up a rival.

Behind The Scenes

The situation is best illustrated by what went on behind the scenes when Kefauver probed the dynamite-laden Dixon-Yates power contract. In the first place, Sen. Lyndon Johnson of Texas, himself a dark-horse candidate, laid down the law to Sen. Kilgore of West Virginia, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, that Kefauver must not be chairman of a Judiciary subcommittee to probe monopolies. Otherwise, Johnson warned, Kilgore's committee would get no funds.

Obviously Johnson did not want the gangling senator from Tennessee getting headlines as a monopoly investigator. Kefauver has been fighting big business and monopoly ever since he was a member of the House Small Business Committee. He had thrown the spotlight on General Motors favoritism in the Defense Department back in 1953 and even helped force the cancellation of some General Motors contracts.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

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Strict Orders

Despite that, Lyndon Johnson just didn't want Kefauver in a key chairmanship. Later, Kefauver managed to get hold of another subcommittee to investigate Dixon-Yates. Whereupon an amazing thing happened. Kilgore wrote an official letter to Kefauver laying down strict orders that he was not to probe Dixon-Yates for more than two days.

In brief, jealous senators did not want Kefauver getting headlines even though he did much of the pioneer battling against Dixon-Yates when other senators thought he was chasing a will-o'-the-wisp.

Courage And Know-How

Whether other senators like Kefauver or not, there is one important fact that has to be taken into consideration regarding his capabilities as a candidate. He has a rare combination of courage, political know-how, and a Davy Crockett flair for the dramatic.

We Preach Our Own Funerals

IF LIFE is what you make it, I have often wondered if people who lived in sin were really happy. I wonder when a boy or girl or men and women come to the end of the day if they are proud over the day just closed.

OUR DECISION

You know life on earth is what we make it and no one can make someone live a Christian life and be happy. Everyone has to make their own decision in life and when you put your life in God's hands and ask Him to be your

Mint Museum Aided By Charlotte Groups

Editor: The News: AS SPOKESMAN for the Mint Museum Board of Trustees, I want to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to the Debenture Club, and those connected with the Tour of Charlotte Homes, for the splendid efforts they have made in behalf of the Mint Museum.

Members of these groups have freely and generously given their time and services to the Mint. It is our hope that the Mint Museum can equally match this expression of their interest in the cultural services it will render the people. We earnestly desire the cooperation of our programs and exhibitions to expand for ourselves. I know that the Debenture Club, and the Tour of Charlotte Homes will share our joy in knowing their contribution has helped make possible the benefits the Mint Museum gives to the citizens of our community.

—SAM GALABOW, President, Mint Museum of Art

Embarrassing Queries

Kefauver was also the only senator willing to ask embarrassing, penetrating questions of Federal Communications Chairman McCleughan—questions that developed McCleughan's connection with the Bell Telephone Co.

Kefauver also was one of the first senators to crack down on his colleague, Joe McCarthy—dating back even to 1946.

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