

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1956

Chapel Hill Writer Pricks Ruark's 'Aggravated Vanity'

By DORIS BETTS
Editor's Note: The journalistic bean ball news columnist Robert C. Ruark fired at Chapel Hill's Doris Betts last week in heretofore returned in kind. Mr. Ruark was snuffed by a literary questionnaire he received from the young Tar Heel writer.

Oddly enough, I have not the free time (nor the interest) to indulge in personal dueling, but the general impression of your column will have to be answered. You see, I was misinformed about you entirely and have acted on incorrect information. It is entirely possible that I owe you an apology for accepting a hearsay judgment about you.

focusing on regional writers or writers with North Carolina backgrounds originated when I added the Chapel Hill News Leader to the group of Tar Heel newspapers for which I do book columns. When your long novel came out, Mr. Ruark, ("Something of Value") I received it for four newspapers, neither of which are housebroken.

Council's Job: Preach As It Practices

ONE OF THE prime issues before City Council is governmental secrecy. The issue is not on the agenda for tomorrow's meeting, and Council itself is remarkably free of the urge to handle city business on the sly.

that hiring standards had been changed drastically. The desire of public officials to handle "controversial" matters quietly is nothing new, of course. It is an impulse felt by the most honorable of men.

The action itself, we believe, was a mistake that should be reversed. The opportunities of free education have prevailed high enough to justify asking a valued school diploma of any applicant for a responsible job.

The whole purpose of Civil Service is to open up municipal standards openly arrived at. Civil Service is supposed to be the antithesis of back-room payoff methods of employment that for so long plagued U. S. municipal government.

'Gee — Do You Really Think He'll Take A Bath?'



Stevenson The Campaigner

Don't Stop Us If You've Heard This

A COMMUNITY like Charlotte, always in search of strong new hands to run the wheels of industry, should not have to be told to hire the handicapped.

within his capacities, can be an exceptionally valuable worker. As a matter of fact, handicapped workers often possess many qualifications the nonhandicapped do not have.

Of equal importance, however, was the manner in which the decision was taken. There was, by agreement of the commission, to be "no publicity" for taxpayers who employ firemen and policemen were to have to acknowledge

Along with our fellow members of Mecklenburg County's Employ the Physically Handicapped Committee, we deeply believe that disabled citizens should be given equal opportunity to choose and prepare for occupations commensurate with their physical abilities and potentials for learning and acquiring skills.

Politico With A Conscience

By MARQUIS CHILDS

EN ROUTE WITH STEVENSON AT THE halfway mark of this campaign the new Adlai Stevenson widely billed as the star of the year resembles to the old Adlai Stevenson. Both the virtues and the defects are in about the same proportion as four years ago.

Coupled with Stevenson's conscientiousness is his self-effacement. Modesty, reticence, by whatever name it is called, comes out when he tells his listeners that he is surprised to see so many of them out to hear him.

All Hail To The Magnificent Yankee

EVEN the dourst Dodgerophile must harbor an ember of secret admiration for Don Larsen, the magnificent Yankee who pitched yesterday's perfect game in the World Series.

double. In the wrought up crowd at Ebbets Field that gray day Yankee fans faintly, some wept. But the Bronx Bombers went on to take the Series four games to three.

Brooklyn fans at least have their memories. Yesterday afternoon, as they were down in the ninth, we could almost smell the longing in the Dodger dugout for another Cookie Lavageto, the aging bench warmer who spoiled Bill

There was no Lavageto anywhere to be found yesterday. And the no-hitter Lan proved that even so much mighty achievement—almost restoring our faith in the athlete as an authentic American hero.

On A Clear Day You Can See Paris

IN AN ERA of global timidity and fearful stand-offishness, our old friend Justin Blackwelder has supplied the spiritfulest reason yet for economic and political ties among nations in the Atlantic community.

adelptha to South Carolina. This is 576 hours to go a distance of some 350 miles as the crow flies, and it figures out to 81 miles an hour.

The idea is not as startling as it seems. It actually comes from Howard M. Fitch of Moline, Ill., a recent Atlantic Union convert.

When it comes, however, to translating his conviction into terms of political attack the inhibitions of the Stevenson-of-the-30s get in the way. Not entirely, it should be added, the Stevenson of '32 would not have talked about the President's "Cradle Cabinet." It is hard to imagine the '32 Stevenson telling crossroads listeners that it was time to take the government away from General Motors and give it back to Joe Smith.

Nothing Good Can Be Said Of Elvis

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In 1776, says the fastest courier needed 24 days to take a copy of the Declaration of Independence from Phil-

delphia to South Carolina. This is 576 hours to go a distance of some 350 miles as the crow flies, and it figures out to 81 miles an hour.

From The Raleigh News & Observer

THE SUPERSTITION IN US

SUPERSTITION is more or less pronounced in almost everyone. Certain business men still hesitate to begin an important job on Friday, and housewives continue to say "bread and butter" when they split a telephone pole between them.

comes senile and supernaturated. Others will chew gum in the field but will place the gum in a neat ball on the top-side cap button while batting. Many ball players make it an inviolate habit always to touch a certain base, or the bat boy, or a portion of the dug-out while changing sides.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON THE Fountain Subcommittee of Congress about to explode a new polio-vaccine scandal. Congressman L. H. Fountain (D-NC) will hold hearings beginning tomorrow on how the polio companies allegedly conspired to overcharge the government for polio vaccine.

Tar Heel To Explode Polio Scandal

Lilly bid \$7.13 for 9 c's. The other four vaccine producers bid \$7.12. From February, 1956 until June 30, 1956, Lilly bid \$6.34 for 9 c's. All other companies bid one cent lower, namely \$6.33. For the June 30, 1956, to June, 1957, period, all five companies bid \$5.70 for 9 c's.

SOME ARE COURTEOUS

But this isn't a contest as to who is best, all writers are, and a good thing. They have to work long hours at the lowest hourly rate imaginable—I know. Some of them are courteous, too, and a desirable trait. If a postcard addressed to me saying "haven't time for questionnaires," might have taken less of your valuable time than two columns of newspaper space?

PERISH THE THOUGHT

Nobody Mr. Ruark wants you to do their work for them. You're thinking so is aggravated vanity. I'm not sure if it's a vice or a sin, but it's a vice. Personalities are not good in this sort of thing, but I must make some comment about amateurs, professionals, and lack of time. I write pretty regularly for six newspapers and several magazines, publish short stories when an editor will buy them (and write them in the a.m. hours),

Discrimination Called All-American Virtue

Editors, The News: IF YOU think your religion is better than somebody else's, don't make you a criminal? Since when did it become "un-American" to prefer your religious faith to that of your neighbor?

Platform Readers Await The Record

Editors, The News: ONE letter in People's Platform Oct. 4 was a masterpiece of confusion.

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