

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## The Guilty Must Judge Themselves

THE well-helmeted head of bigtime athletics in North Carolina is bloody but unbowed. A stinging rebuke by the National Collegiate Athletic Association and swift punishment by the Atlantic Coast Conference have failed to evoke even the most elementary manifestations of guilt or shame among the current caretakers of North Carolina's basketball and football dynasties.

North Carolina State College has been publicly spanked by the NCAA and fined by the ACC because of the Jackie Morland case. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has been compelled to forfeit nine football games because of the Vince Olenick case (of the nine it had won two tied one).

Seldom, however, has individual virtue been so loudly proclaimed.

"It is not we who are bad," athletic officials seem to be saying. "It is 'the system.'"

Thus, there are no guilty ones. There are only victims of "the contagion of the times."

This is, of course, nonsense of the most outrageous and illusory sort.

Colleges who engage in dishonorable practices in recruiting athletes are victims of nothing more than their own bad deeds. Moral lapses cannot be excused merely because immorality is currently popular or particularly profitable.

Nor can some mystic moral climate called "the system" be the recipient of all collective blame for the deeds of individual institutions.

After all, the individual institutions create "the system."

To maintain that there is no guilt is to maintain that there have been no misdeeds, that there have been no under-the-table deals, that young athletes have not lied and cheated to receive certain benefits, that coaches and alumni groups have not applied improper pressures.

To maintain that "the system" is to blame is to maintain that individual institutions are powerless to plot their own destinies, that they share in the dubious benefits of "the system" but none of the responsibilities.

Of course, "the system" is not going to be reformed until the colleges who create it reform. It will require individual initiative and a sense of individual responsibility on the part of the guilty institutions.

The NCAA and the ACC, by periodic finger-waving and wrist-slapping, cannot perform this miracle. Only the culprits can do that. They can start by admitting that they were wrong, that the situation is bad and that something is going to be done to remedy it.

Then "the system" will take care of itself.

## Amid Yawns, A President Is Elected

WITH an appropriate display of boredom, 14 persons cast North Carolina's 14 electoral votes for Adlai E. Stevenson this week.

It wouldn't have been playing the game had the electors tried to exercise their prerogatives. Some might have been tempted to swing all the votes to Eisenhower. That would have been an outrage, but a neatly legal outrage at that.

For it is the privilege of the electors, not the voters, to choose presidents. On Nov. 6 election was held merely to let the electors know whom the people favored for president.

The electoral college has survived to its present anachronistic state because electors almost always have been guided by the popular vote. But to say it has done little harm is no argument for perpetuating it. The college as presently constituted has within it potential for real trouble. And, in practice, it never

reflects accurately the popular choice between candidates. A proportionate division of North Carolina's 14 votes, on the basis of popular votes, would have been seven plus for Stevenson and six plus for Eisenhower. A similar division in all the states would produce a considerably larger electoral total for Stevenson than the college will give him.

There is a good plan in Congress for reforming the electoral college. The office of elector would be abolished, thus removing the chance for an elector to put his judgment above the popular will. Electoral votes would be divided according to the division of popular vote. And elections in which no candidate won a majority of electoral votes would be decided by majority vote of senators and representatives voting as individuals, an eminently fairer system than electing by states in the House.

Congress should approve this constitutional amendment and pass it on for ratification.

## The Winter: All Brag And No Bluster

WINTER will be here Friday, though luck for winter, it has never made good in the South, and has exceedingly poor prospects.

In millions of places—Revelstoke, British Columbia, and Plentywood, Montana, just to name two—the season commands respect. People there are careful not to cry out of doors, keep-up eye-balls being somewhat painful to them.

But in Charlotte or Savannah, winter is a poor and perpetually puny relation, given to much rainy weeping. It is tolerated but never made to feel at home. A foreboding reputation, made in distant places, can't stand up under a moon sun in the South.

Winter tries, of course, and must sometimes think it has proved its prowess. Ice seeps out of red clay banks and low water in a horse trough occasionally freezes. But even as these minor mira-

cles occur, dogwood limbs show summer green for their undersides, forsythia makes yellow faces and wild onions march greenly across meadows. And camellias, of course, guaranteed a little profusion, deliver the ultimate insult with profuse offerings of blossoms.

In fairness it must be said that some southerners try to make winter welcome. They make burnt offerings of firewood in gas-heated homes, cook heavy stews to protect people against "the chill" in steam-heated office buildings, and give presents of fur-lined gloves, that make the hands sweat even on the "coldest" day.

This is all very polite and praiseworthy, of course. Winter is a guest. But to us winter mostly is a pompous fake. To the bum oughta be kicked out of the house.

### From The Sanford Herald

## A VERY DELICATE THING

WHEN Mrs. Peacock walked into the gift shop, tail feathers grandly spread, there was some fluttering among the clerks. She was known to be a most exacting person.

She went straightway to a counter where Christmas cards were displayed. Miss Goose presided there: She was one of the establishment's older employees and, although somewhat given to vagueness, was a favorite with customers.

"I very much hope," Mrs. Peacock announced loudly as she began to sift the cards, "that this season's selections are superior to the junk you had last year." Her voice was shrill and unmusical.

"But no doubt I am doomed to disappointment," she continued in the same breath. "What's this—a deer leaping over a candle? How silly. The colors in this mangle thing are simply appalling. Is this verse? 'Christmas greetings from our house / To the Lion and the Lamb / Peace on Earth extend to you / How absolutely degrading!'"

Miss Goose blinked. "I think these with the bells are very attractive," she managed to say. "They really are exclusive. If you wish, we can have your name printed on them: we have an arrangement, you know, with Mr. Mole's printing house."

"Exclusive?" Mrs. Peacock shrieked. "Exclusive indeed! Repulsive is a better word, my dear. I would be ashamed to be identified with such litter."

Miss Goose gulped. She was near tears. "Perhaps," she said, "you would prefer to examine what's here without my... er, interference."

Mrs. Peacock blew herself up like a pouting pig.

"My good woman," she said. "I indeed will not require your services.

"Please tell your employer that I am disgusted with both his goods and his assistants.

"These cards are really deplorable. They look either like carnival posters or the scribbles of imbeciles.

"Not one reflects a real understanding of the Christmas spirit. That is tender and precious, you know, very delicate, very refined; these are gross. They have no feeling;—not the true spirit at all."

Mrs. Peacock snatched away.

Miss Goose did not move. "No understanding," she mused. "No tenderness, no Christmas spirit."

She looked very puzzled.

Now that winter has driven us indoors, many of us will be planning next spring's garden. The best advice I know of to follow and to give is this: Don't plan more than the wife can take care of.—LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER.

Pome in which is revealed another angle of fisticuffing:  
If to fighting you resort  
You may spend some time in court.  
—ATLANTA JOURNAL.

## A Tar Heel At Oxford

# Orthodox Ideas Live Hard In This Blazing Autonomy

By EDWIN M. YODER

Editors' Note: In Oxford's halcyon days, nonconformity is a way of life. Rhodes Scholar Edwin M. Yoder, an educational expert from Moham, describes it in a special report to News readers. Yoder, a student at Oxford's Jesus College, was co-editor of The Daily Tar Heel at the University of North Carolina last year.

TELLING stories about teacher is a universal occupation. I heard an interesting one the other day—about a lady from here at Oxford named Enid Starkey, a formidable blue-stocking who was found by a student late one night sitting in an ancient, cobble-stoned Oxford gutter.

She had been hit, but not injured, by a truck and she sat there musing in her striped pajamas. It was all part of her to imagine the colorful Miss Starkey sitting in the gutter and not caring to be seen by a soul, perhaps speaking to herself in Gaelic French, as it is impossible to imagine a typical goldfish-eyed character, since for instance she takes pleasure in lecturing in French with an Irish accent—though she has never been in Ireland—and has been seen ap-

ping during lectures from a pint of bitter beer to make the flow of Gaelic French easier.

### TELLING SYMBOL

What does this bizarre lady have to do with Oxford? There is one important thing, I think: Sitting in that cobble-stoned and dirt gutter in striped pajamas nursing her bruises from the truck—yet seeing everything with detachment—she is a telling symbol of the place's individualism.

This impressive individualism must be set apart, however, from the goldfish-eyed of American bohemia. It is not nourished by being seen; and it is as possible to imagine the colorful Miss Starkey sitting in the gutter and not caring to be seen by a soul, perhaps speaking to herself in Gaelic French, as it is impossible to imagine a typical goldfish-eyed character, since for instance she takes pleasure in lecturing in French with an Irish accent—though she has never been in Ireland—and has been seen ap-



jamas hit by lorries. But there is a corresponding serious side to this blazing autonomy which to an American often discouraged at the sight of smothered self-expression at home is refreshing.

That side came to light, for instance, the day I sat in a chilly, damp lecture room here and heard a lecturer explain that there was an anarchist and tell why. Some object to such candor—especially those who consider it a teacher's first duty to be objective, and his greatest possible sin exposing an innocent to seduc-

tive ideas thought dangerous by the majority.

### IDEAS WELCOMED

But here at Oxford, the system draws its vitality from "dangerous" ideas. Of course, no one presumes that we dwell on a field earth guarded at the corners by serpents or that we can hear the music of the spheres if we listen; but here there is no such thing as a discarded or "dangerous" idea. Every idea has its place in the surroundings, even if it will never rise to high, moss-covered stone walls.

In this vein, Oxford has been called the home of lost causes; but I think that is mistaken. The really impassioned causes are alien here; you have to go to London Hyde Park and the raw music of orators on free love and Marxism to find such causes. Oxford may be imported to Oxford, but orthodoxes are seldom comfortable in an atmosphere where ideas of even the most halcyon have to maintain to demonstrate their own reason for being.

### SHORT REIGN

That many doctrines have little more than a short and uncommandable reign at Oxford was perfectly shown a few weeks ago when Russian suppression of the Hungarian revolution and the course of a small group of student Communists here. Many of them were students of my age whose attraction to communism was the warm magnet of youthful utopianism, their leader a distinguished ex-Europan fresh from that history of English traditionalism.

It is difficult to imagine that little over a hundred years ago Oxford still clung to its medieval genesis from the Church and that dons had to be ordained in its fields. In the present attitude toward religion remains respectful, that respect is almost purely formal. I can imagine how the English got their reputation for hypocrisy—as well in the area of religion as of other. Indifference toward religion seems to have been stoutly entrenched in the mid-20th Century as the church ritual and the meliorated beauty of the old cathedrals and college chapels.

### RELIGIOUS QUESTION

My first trip to the celebrated Oxford Union, the debating hall where the voice of Gladstone and other greats like him first gave signs of concern itself with the religious question gone over in typical fashion. The question: "What does the present attitude toward religion mean to the moral without religion?"

The debate brought up to Oxford the leadership of the bishop of Rochester, who in earlier years, 40 years or so ago—served as librarian of the Union—a post now held, incidentally, by Bob Evans.

### ATTACK OR DEFENSE

It calls instead for a discussion of the view that Henry V was at heart a lawyer. Such a question might be typical of the final examination for honors in history.

Similarly, a philosophy essay does not concern itself with Descartes' philosophical method; it must be either attack or defense. Concern with the interplay of ideas is deceptive—since in fact, before you can handle ideas, especially before you can attack or defend them, you must first have hours to understand them thoroughly.

You may even have to think about them in Gaelic French.



## Frontier Distrust

## The American Trend

By R. B. NYE & J. E. MORPURGO  
In 'A History Of The United States'

THE MOST evident trend of American life since World War II has been the widespread emphasis on reliability, predictability and conformity. There is still in modern America a widespread unconscious suspicion of the thinker and the theorist, perhaps an extension of the old frontier distrust of the specialist. The expressed aim of many educational authorities is the teaching of "adjustment to life." The necessity of social approval, and the ready acceptance of mass values by the individual. Recent thought has proudly proclaimed themselves "new conservatives," dedicated to a cautious evaluation of the new and untried, while the Fifties have been filled with the warnings of intellectuals exercising the liberalism of the Thirties and Forties. The discrediting of the American tradition of dissent seems to be another sign of insecurity, under confidence, and of the trend toward a conformist, outer-directed civilization.

Nevertheless there still exists in present-day America powerful counterbalances to standardization. The United States is a big country so populous that the acts and ideas of a minority may give

a false impression that they constitute a sweeping movement, particularly to European eyes. . . It is also a tremendously diverse country, a tangled skein of sections, localities and groups to which the citizen holds powerful allegiances. There is no such thing as "a typical American," for dissimilarities of background, customary European question, "What are Americans thinking about this or that?" is unanswerable. Americans think in terms of multiple allegiances and not infrequently as individuals—much to the despair of politicians, advertisers, publicists, business men and school leaders. They also possess a healthy skepticism and a stubborn individualism. The rational commercial may go unheeded and the advertising slogan unread, the political exhortation ignored, the sermon in an attic and out of the ether, the chaplain may disappear at the turn of a radio or television dial. No matter what evidence may be cited as proof of American crowd-mindedness, it is significant to note that the single most popular form of recreation in the United States is Walter's lonely sport of fishing.

## People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and a address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

### Restore Rail Service On East Side Track

Editors, The News: Charlotte  
WHY CLEAR one line and overload the other? That is the case that faces the public of Charlotte. The air is high on clearing 17 street crossings on the east side. But what is going to happen to all the crossings on the west side?

What do you get as a relief or premise?

ered engineers' figures and then come down to real facts.

A west side railroad bypass can be built for less money than the cost of tunneling all the streets as planned. Will the City Council and the Southern Railway go for these west side street tunnels? I hope not and furthermore, from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m., there are 8 to 10 hours at night that this east side line can be used to a good advantage to all concerned.

I ask the City Council or the manipulator of the city and the Southern Railway Co. to get together to restore the east side track. The cut-off is scheduled to go into operation Jan. 8. May we ask this question? Why should all the street crossings of the Southern main line get a double load while the east side goes in the discards? Why not make use of this east side line as heretofore?

Anyone can see this plan is a workable one. The trains from Columbia to Charlotte use the east side track for 8 to 12 hours each

### Remember Christ On His Birthday

Charlotte  
Editors, The News:  
I AM sure many are expecting a happy Christmas. But let us be conscientious and give ourselves to Him whose birthday we will be honoring. Let us help to build a better world and walk in His footsteps. Above all, let us put Christ first in our lives. If we do these things we will have a happy Christmas. I want to wish all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

—MRS. MAYME BARGER

### Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Editors' Note: Drew Pearson is on a Christmas tour of our Far North-Bays. During his absence, the Merry-Go-Round will be written by his junior partner, Jack Anderson.

WASHINGTON  
PRESIDENT Eisenhower, whose mother once sold Bible tracts for the Jehovah's Witnesses, is looking for a delicate way to clear the family name of this affiliation.

He is sensitive about the fact that Jehovah's Witnesses don't believe in saluting the flag or serving under arms. At the same time, he doesn't want to appear prejudiced against any religious sect.

### Advisers Consulted

Both Ike and his brother, Milton, have discussed the problem with spiritual advisers. But they haven't quite figured out how to disclaim Ida Eisenhower's relations with the Jehovah's Witnesses without offending the sect and perhaps stirring up charges of religious prejudice.

Inside story is that Ida was influenced in her old age by a nurse who longed

## Mother's Religious Ties Trouble Ike

to the sect. Being Bible-minded, old Mrs. Eisenhower cheerfully agreed to help the Jehovah's Witnesses peddle Bible tracts.

Actually, both of Ike's parents were staunch members of a small sect called River Brethren. They brought the Eisenhower boys up to believe in the Bible.

Ike is a reverent, if sometimes rowdy, household.

One teaching of the River Brethren was that only adults should participate in the formal church organization.

No Hurray

This explains why Ike waited so long to accept church membership. Two of his brothers also waited until after marriage to affiliate with a church.

Now the Eisenhower brothers would like to find a graceful way to announce that their mother was not, at heart, a Jehovah's Witness.

### Bender's 'Available'

Chubby, chipper Sen. George Bender (R-Ohio), voted out of a job last November, is angling for appointment as postmaster general. The White House is trying to coax Bender into a post on the Subversive Activities Control Board.

### Eastland Helped GOP

Foxy Sen. Jim Eastland (D-Miss.), while supremacy champion called out Deputy Attorney General Bill Rogers for a small favor. "You Republicans ought to be grateful to me," droned the Mississippi Democrat. "I gave you five million votes."

### Expensive Operation

The Hungarian airlift will cost the Air Force four times what the independent airlines offered to do the job. Present estimates indicate the cost will run around \$12 million. Yet the independent

### Benson's Feet

Secretary of Agriculture Benson is quietly juggling funds from under the mountain of surplus food the farmers annually dump on him.

For the first time since he became custodian of the annual avalanche, he is unloading food almost as fast as he is storing it. Biggest accomplishment: He has sold over half a million bushels of grain in dangerous areas of government warehouses.

Benson has peddled, bartered, and donated food to almost anyone who would take it. He has given it away to state governments for school lunches, to charities for foreign relief. He has traded some to hungry countries for strategic minerals. He has unloaded vast quantities on the armed forces and Veterans Administration.