

Efficiency Or Organized Chaos?

"An Expert is one who knows more and more about less and less."

—Nicholas M. Butler

Efficiency! Carolina students now realize more than ever the need for such a thing. According to the administrative plan, 5,000 students were to complete the nerve-racking process of registration in one day.

Lines, lines, lines! If this is the result of an efficiency expert, we would prefer the work of a nescient dreamer. We need not enumerate the registration lines, but need only to point out the result of someone's planning.

Standing in one line for an hour, only to find that another line had to be waded through first, is far from efficiency. Many students didn't realize that the unlisted station of obtaining housing cards had to be checked before standing in the fee checking line.

The fee checking line itself was rather unnecessary in many cases. Students having only university, tuition and housing fees needlessly, had to stand in line along with

students having additional fees.

It seems the time element is not so urgent that students are forced to pay fees in two days. Is it necessary to have the whole registration process completed in such a short period of time? If there is a certain administrative reason for the short registration period, its disclosure might help explain the need for a two-day limit for payment of fees.

Many students are unable through various class and work schedules to stand in lines for several hours in order to pay fees. From necessity the payment period had to be extended.

Registration by classes instead of in alphabetical order would enable graduating seniors to obtain needed courses. Many who were in the last registration group (12:30 to 1:30) were unable in most cases to begin registration until after the University lunch hour, by that time, many classes were already filled.

Lines, then, for each individual step in registration do not provide efficiency. Or at least it didn't Monday and Tuesday.

Petty Thievery Increases

It seems that we at the University are encountering a problem common to all colleges, that of petty thievery. The latest outbreak has been on textbooks. This began when the bookstore announced that used textbooks would be bought.

Aside from being inconvenient, it is a little disturbing to carry books everywhere one goes. It is, also, inconvenient to carry a lock and chain to secure books for a short time.

Obviously those persons responsible for thefts of books are few in number. It is unfortunate that they are in our midst.

Certainly they do not belong in an institution of higher learning such as Carolina where honesty is a major part of our moral code.

The money obtained from the sales of used books is extremely small. It is certainly not worth the risk of being caught. Once the stamp of untrustworthiness has been placed upon a person, it remains.

Until such time as we have better methods of apprehension of those persons who make a habit of picking up what does not belong to them, we shall have to watch out for ourselves. It is an unfortunate situation when a person cannot trust his fellow man.

Anthony E. Brown . . .

It's Originality That Counts In Carolina Exam Answers

Shortly after mid-term grades had been posted, there appeared on this page a series of articles either condemning or praising the Department of History for its seemingly rigorous standards. It will not be the intention of this writer to take either side in the matter, but we shall by use of hypothetical examples try to show why many professors are justified in the grades they give, low or high.

It is superfluous to say that History 11 and 12 have from the beginning of written history, as it were, been nemeses for the freshman in college. Probably the vast number of dates and rulers confuses him more than the logical flow of events, but the following example of almost chaotic recollection—or mis-recollection—bears repetition:

"One beautiful night in the tenth century, Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine went into Coventry, and after removing all her clothes rode through the streets on a white stallion. On her way, she bumped into Sir Walter Raleigh, who was embarrassed by her appearance and threw his cloak around her, saying 'Honi soit qui mal y pense,' which means, 'You need it more than I do.' The Queen graciously responded, 'Dieu et mon droit,' which means 'By George, you're right.'"

Dave Bledsoe . . .

New Semester Promises Many Things

Exams have ended, a new semester has begun . . . and the air is full of rash promises about "this time it's going to be different" . . . and it could well be.

We see a lot of new faces in the crowd . . . one transfer from a prominent womens college up north inquired about Maxey monument. We would have told her the truth, except that the Administration has cannily welded the ball to its supporters, hindering honest speculation . . . and after all, what can one say about Maxey Monument except that it's just there?

That dark and devious monster hidden in a part of the administration building called "Machine records" had its moments, too. One student, reveling in the safety of a near "B" average was informed by the machine that he was on academic suspension . . . he revived in time to learn it was a mistake.

Still, all in all, registration wasn't all that painful, we think, though, that Uncle Sam could solve the problem of the draft by including recruiting forms in the IBM packets . . . by the time the cards are filled out one is never really sure what he did or didn't sign.

To squelch an ill-founded and malicious rumor: The history department did not make prospective matriculates swear that they had not, or ever intended to,

"The entire incident is known as the Magna Charta."

Blase Freshman

No professional humorist could have thought up that answer to the question, "Give one example of political strife in medieval England." It would have exhausted him to try. Only the blase freshman is capable of an answer that covers several hundred years while attempting to pin-point one incident.

Examinations have been handed down through generations of students, especially those quizzes in courses that everyone must take and which have had the same professor for thirty or forty years. Sometimes the exams are changed to suit new material, but it is very difficult to make many alterations when the course matter is solidified in undeniable truths and facts. However, one finds exceptions to all generalities.

A professor on the Carolina campus was being visited by a student who had graduated twenty years before. The student, now a famous physicist at Oak Ridge, had taken several physics courses under the old professor, and upon seeing a pile of examination papers on the desk, he was amazed to see that the questions were precisely those which he recalled having answered on his final exam twenty years earlier. He asked the professor

if he didn't know the students would get wise, and pass the questions on from class to class.

Changing Answers

"Sure," answered the prof, blandly, "but in physics, you see, we are constantly changing the answers."

This will work in courses such as economics, chemistry and physics, but not in unchanging fields such as history and music.

Some other answers on examinations this term which amused us are classics of their kind. In reply to the question, "What are acoustics," given in an oral physics quiz, one main street weary student answered: "The long sticks used in playing pool." Another student of many years' standing as a freshman was asked on a music exam to identify an "opus." The answer that particular student gave will be familiar to all beer-drinking students at Carolina. He even gave illustrations!

This could continue forever. There are literally thousands of unique and humorous answers turned in to instructors every exam period, many of which are either too ridiculous or too bawdy to appear in an austere college paper. Others would probably be recognized by their perpetrators or by professors.

Agreeing Students

One last example and we will stop. This proves beyond the least doubt that statistics are often more confusing than they are

Letters to the Editor . . .

Sen. Thurmond Sends Thanks

Dear "Student Body":

Thank you for the kind expression of sympathy from the student body of the University of South Carolina. The thoughtfulness of our friends has helped us all through this sad time.

God never made a finer, nobler woman, or one who was a more devoted companion than Jean. Her tragic passing has left a void in my life which can never be filled.

I send my deep appreciation to all the members of the student body.

Sincerely,
Strom Thurmond

Private Eyes Patrol Dorms

Dear Editor:

Why did the Director of Housing hire a private eye to patrol the men's dorms? Is it because he does not trust the honor and integrity of the men of the University of South Carolina?

Students have had their names turned into the housing authority for little or no reasons such as walking in the halls after 9 p.m. or visiting someone's room and discussing homework or getting a drink from the fountain at night.

If men are treated as men, they will act as men, but if treated as criminals, they will act as such. We believe in proper supervision, but we also believe that this is going to extremes.

Sincerely,
Two Students

enlightening. In an exam in a course in population survey, the professor gave a question which stated that graduates of Princeton, an all male institution, averaged 1.8 children while graduates of Smith, an all female college, averaged only 1.4 children. The last half of the question asked the students to arrive at some logical conclusion resulting from the data given. When the professor was correcting the papers, he discovered that every one of his students had answered: "Men have more children than women."

In this light, it would seem wise to consider carefully the answers one places within the confines of a bluebook; if not, his answers may achieve immortality, of a sort, for it may be found some day that Queen Eleanor, or whoever it may have been, rode bareback best.

The GAMECOCK

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Lines provide a familiar but unpopular sight as students wearily await to have fees computed. (Photo by Allan.)