

The Daily Tar Heel

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Wednesday, February 8, 1933

CITY EDITOR FOR THIS ISSUE: J. D. WINSLOW

Trust

Those who object to the staffs of our publications selecting their own editors raise as one of their greatest objections the fear that politics will enter and dominate these selections. The expression of this fear is an expression of lack of faith in the personnels of the publications and it is hoped that these are not the sentiments of the campus. There would be great resentment were it rumored that the captaincies of our teams (excepting football) were being filled by politics. The student body has faith in its teams, faith that they are doing their best for Carolina and that they select able and representative leaders regardless of personal interests. Why not the same faith in the men of our publications? These men are as sincere and as interested in the welfare of their product as the athlete is in the success of the team.

As it now stands the position of editor on any of our publications is openly a political one. Some of the men chosen have been very able, some grossly inefficient, but they all arrived there through the devious workings of machine politics. They represent not the true choice of the campus, but the choice of some few men in the backroom of a fraternity house who parcel out the positions in return for the support of the fraternity whose man receives the editorship. The present editors have all been selected through this method; knowing how it works, they stand flatly opposed to it.

Perhaps the most potent argument against the supposed fear of politics entering is the tremendous effort being made by the politicians themselves to prevent the new plan from going into effect. They are the ones who would delight to see the publications further under the control of politics yet the greatest opposition has come not from the student body at large nor from the faculty which favors the new plan but from those high up in campus politics. They oppose it because they see slipping from their grasp what they have always considered their just property—the valuable political tool of the editorships.

One of these men has made the statement that it is more in keeping with the spirit of this University to keep the inevitable politics on the campus and not confine it to a small group. There are those who are not politicians and who consider this utterance an insult to Carolina. These men believe that a complete absence of politics from publications is the true spirit of this University. They believe that positions of trust and responsibility should not be the property of a few fraternities. They believe that there are men here who are more interested in the integrity of Carolina and the publications that represent her than in the advancement of their fraternities in politics. They believe that there are here men, fraternity and non-fraternity, who are glad to sever all political ties in order to work hand in hand for publications worthy of the principles of Carolina—freedom from the political line-up and the party boss.—J.F.A.

A letter from a drum manufacturer inquiring as to the satisfaction given by his make of drums brings forth the following answer from the University band, 'tis reported: "Dear Sir: We have been using your drums for ten years and find them hard to beat."—U. of S. C. Gamecock.

Please Walk On the Grass

One heritage which present-day landscape gardeners have received from the hands of the husbandmen of old is the knowledge that if a soft, verdant carpet of grass is wanted, no amount of care and artificial fertilization can take the place of a genteel good grinding under the feet of man or beast, occasionally.

Of course a few straggling gardeners of the mid-Victorian school still subscribe to the theory that grass, like other of nature's daughters, suffers from such a castigation, but happily, these old timers are fast going to share the fate of those who advocate woman's equality and all the other absurd and antiquated theories, and Carolina gentlemen pass their suggestions as to how a University campus should be kept with a cynical smile, or, at best, quietly ignore them, for, haven't they seen the farmer's belabored struggle to drive this green intruder from his fields result only in its increased density and verdure? They well know that grass is, by nature, indomitable, and that opposition only serves to heighten its salubrity, so they turn a deaf ear to those whose well meant admonitions are so freely published.

But, granting that grass is susceptible to all the frailties to which natural beings are heir, and would suffer under the tread of number tens, surely no reasoning being would advocate walking a hundred weary yards, over a devious pathway, when only fifty yards away, as the crow flies, lies the destination; time is too valuable and too well disposed of to be wasted thus.

What is better, anyway, than good plain, substantial soil to walk upon? Nature and the so-called beautiful is out of place in this artificial age of technocracy and steel.

After all this is a free country, and this campus a center of liberalism, where such effeminate matters as grass are not to be fretted over. Let us make our campus distinctive with thousands of handy little paths, forming thousands of intersections, and, thereby, live up to the mathematically proven maxim that the shortest distance between two points is A STRAIGHT LINE.—W.A.S.

Another Round

Forward-looking conservatives say that Socialism in America will be forestalled because the two existing major parties will adopt the best of the Socialist reforms before they become acute issues. Most important of these Socialist proposals are government ownership of public utilities and nation-wide monopoly services.

Last week, on the Open Forum lecture series, Dr. W. S. Gruening advocated public ownership of the power industry. Predictions that one of the major parties would soon rip this plank out of the Socialist platform were freely made after Dr. Gruening's lecture. The collapse of the Insull empire, rate investigations in this and other states, and Franklin D. Roosevelt's recent pronouncements favoring stricter power regulations were pointed out as straws in the wind. But the wind is far from becoming a sweeping gale.

Americans are great people for "cycles," business or otherwise. To their way of thinking, anything that can be represented on a graph or chart is economic gospel. Optimistically, they believe that the valleys on depression charts, showing that there has been a business slump every seven years since Satan sold apples on the street corner in Eden, are as natural and inevitable as the Mississippi valley and that if we keep driving a hill is sure to turn up sooner or later.

An industry is assumed, by the *laissez-faire* economists of our capitalist system, to have completed its cycle when it stops making money. It has outlived its usefulness to capitalism when it ceases to return profits. Then it is abandoned to the protection of the government. Take the case of railroads in the United States:

Private capitalistic enterprise built our great railroad system, with considerable help from the government. When railroads became a public necessity rather than a luxury and abuses in rate-making and exploitation became dangerously widespread, the government stepped in with increasingly strict regulation. During the War, complete control of railways was taken over by the government.

The rapid development of motor travel over public highways took a big slice out of the railroads' pie. Unrestricted by government regulation, truck and bus lines have gradually encroached upon the transportation field formerly monopolized by the railroads. Rail dividends were cut, again, again, and again. The government, which is both midwife and undertaker to Big Business, has been called in on the case.

There are many things the government could do to protect the railroads. Already, it has let down its restrictions against consolidations; companies in and near receivership are clinging together, merging for mutual protection. Huge sums from the coffers of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation—called by Dr. Broadus Mitchell a "salvaging, rather than reconstruction, corporation"—have been administered as tonics and body-builders to the railroads.

Next, the Interstate Commerce Commission could extend its control to the regulation of bus and truck lines, putting their rates up to the competition-point for the railroads. Heavier taxes, to pay for the wear on public roads, and stricter regulation are inevitable measures for the bus and truck lines; neither business nor the government has forgotten the regular course of the industry-cycle. Yet, it is hardly logical or fair to tax the bus lines out of existence as long as they give efficient, rapid and cheap service. That, after all, is what the common man wants.

So, if after the government has used all its resuscitation methods on the railroads, little or no favorable reaction to the treatment is seen, government ownership will be the outcome. Already, railroads are conveniently consolidated; government-ownership during the War was a successful precedent; and if the railroads cannot pay their R. F. C. obligations, the government will own many of them anyway.

It must be the same with the power companies. The cycle of development-regulation-federal aid-government ownership must be first completed. The development stage has practically been completed. Recent exposures of power company abuses are bringing on the regulation stage. The beginning of a trend towards public construction of power plants on natural sites, such as the Muscle Shoals and Hoover Dam projects, will within a generation put public plants in competition with private companies.

Then beset by ruinous regulation and competition, the privately owned companies will come to cry on the government's broad shoulder. Then, public ownership.

If the utilities would scare off the bugaboo of public ownership they must either by bold force or contrite stalling prevent the completion of the cycle. Issuing this warning is like shipping sausages to Bologna. The power companies know their business; the decline and fall of Insull gave them a bad bounce and they got up weeping and fainting.—E.C.D.

SPEAKING the CAMPUS MIND

For Staff Elections

To the Editor THE DAILY TAR HEEL:

Not very convincing is the chief argument against the movement to allow the staffs of the respective publications of the University to choose their editors; the argument being, that if the student body subscribes to the publications, they should choose the editor. A man who buys *Time* has no choice of editors. A man who buys Ivory soap has no vote for the election of the company's president. Such a man cannot be intimate enough with the requirements of office. Although he is the one who keeps the company in existence, he does nothing for the betterment of the product.

The staffs of the respective publications on the campus devote most of their spare time preparing them as well as possible for the other students of the University. As a reward (they get no other) they should be awarded the privilege of selecting the man under whom they wish to work. This is owed them for their loyalty and work.

Staff elections would not in any sense limit the student's power. Anyone who can prove himself eligible to write news for a daily paper, or produce literary accomplishments, or think of funny jokes, or tabulate

names, dates, and achievements, as the case may be, can become a member of the staffs of the publications. The editor would still be morally responsible to the student body and would also have a hitherto unknown practical responsibility to the staff.

That there may be an amount of politics within the staff if they elect the editors is only to be expected. But whomsoever is chosen, he will at least be the choice of the majority and will be an experienced man. As campus politics are now controlled, a man who knew nothing of the work of the publications could be 'persuaded' into office by the machinations of some huge political machine backed by large fraternities and a few non-fraternity favorites.

Many students, who are taking an interest in the publications for the first time, show their ignorance of these institutions by their narrow and selfish arguments, and yet they feel that they can choose editors better than those who have devoted four, three, or two years of their college life working on these publications, working with the man they know to be the best fitted for the position.—C.G.T.

A Journalist Speaks

To the Editor THE DAILY TAR HEEL:

The recent discussions regarding the proposed change to place power of electing editors in the hands of staff members have interested me no little. Having had a great deal of experience in journalism, I readily see the innumerable advantages to be gained by the selection by staff members only.

After all what share have we students, directly, in the choice of the basketball, baseball and football managers or the captains and coaches? Or the business managers of the publications? Yet indirectly our money helps to keep their posts in existence.

Again, it must be remembered that the students pay only about fifty per cent of cost of the DAILY TAR HEEL for example. The other half is raised by the advertising staff. We only pay a most reasonable subscription price—a price little more than that charged by many college weeklies.

As students, we necessarily know little about our average fellow students except as regards their personality, their integrity, possibly, and their scholastic standing, maybe. We are possibly qualified, to choose, on this basis, class officers. But the editor of a publication needs vision, fearlessness, executive ability, and above all, mastery of the arts of newspaper writing. Only the men who work in the offices with these men have the intimate knowledge which should qualify them to vote intelligently and fairly. Popularity is no standard by which to measure the eligibility of men for journalistic offices.

"The editors will dictate their successors" shout the political whips (or, more frankly "we can't easily dictate to the staffs")—But the editors have a pride in their respective publications, a sense of professional honor, which demands that the interests of the publication be put first. The staff vote should be by ballot. Always the student body could assert itself, if the situation demanded.

Neither the present plan nor the proposed one is perfect. But the present plan places the control of the choice of the editors of the publications, at worst, in the hands of those who cannot possibly know the best men for the positions; at worst, (and the normal, customary, conditions) the nominations will be in the hands of the political machines

who are rarely guided by the precepts of fairness and justice. The best man will get it if he has the strong machine behind him, but will be crucified if he is not backed by the machine or is not tremendously popular (if he is popular, he meets the prime prerequisite of the politicians—little do their brains cudgel over matters of honor or merit).—F.J.M.

OUTSTANDING RADIO BROADCASTS

Wednesday, Feb. 8

6:15 Columbo, orchestra, WJZ (NBC).

7:45 Boake Carter, news, WABC (CBS).

9:00 Bing Crosby, WABC (CBS).

9:30 Lombardo, Burns and Allen (no brother yet), WABC (CBS).

10:00 Fred Waring, orchestra, WABC (CBS).

11:30 Isham Jones, orchestra, WABC (CBS).

12:00 Ben Bernie, WJZ (NBC).

12:15 Vincent Lopez, WEAF (NBC).

12:30 Mark Fisher, WJZ (NBC) (new and hot).

11:30-12:30 Aragon-Trianon dance hour with Wayne King and Jan Garber, WGN, Chicago.

12:30-2:00 Hal Kemp and Clyde McCoy alternating from WGN. —D.C.S.

ODUM TO SPEAK ON SOCIAL TRENDS

(Continued from first page) where major efforts should be undertaken to deal with them constructively.

A summary of the first part of the full report was published in the January 2 issue of the *New York Times* and copies of this issue have been distributed to the Y. M. C. A. cabinets in order that they may study it. Harry F. Comer, secretary of the local Y. M. C. A., and Professor L. M. Brooks, of the sociology department, spoke to the freshmen and sophomore cabinets respectively Monday night in preparation for Dr. Odum's address.

Following Dr. Odum's talk, an open forum discussion of the subject will take place.

The Bull's Head

Announces


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